

THE

INDIAN REVIEW

EDITED BY MR. G. A. NATESAN.

1943
Vol. 44. JUNE No. 6.

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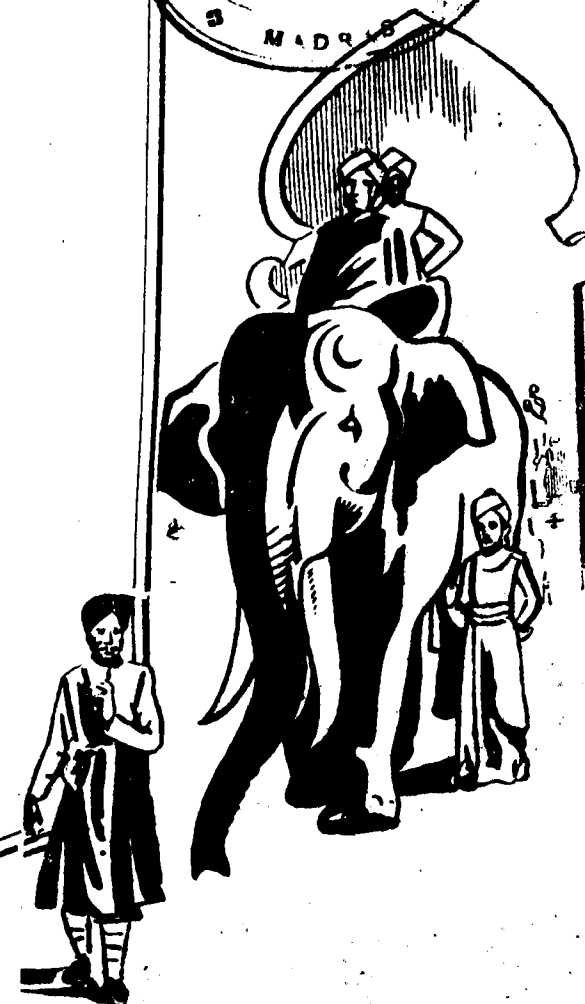
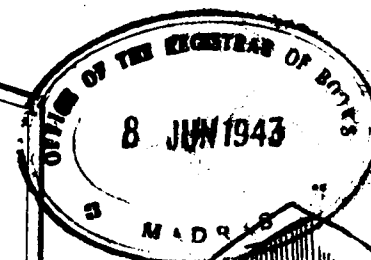
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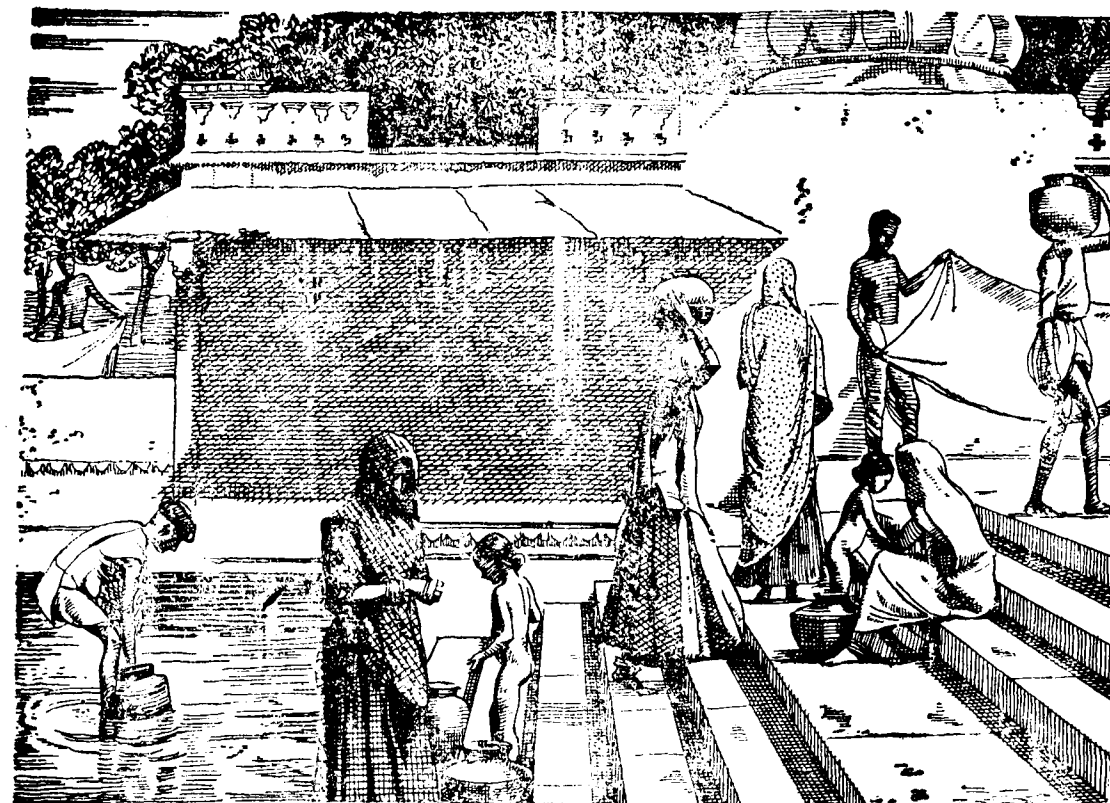
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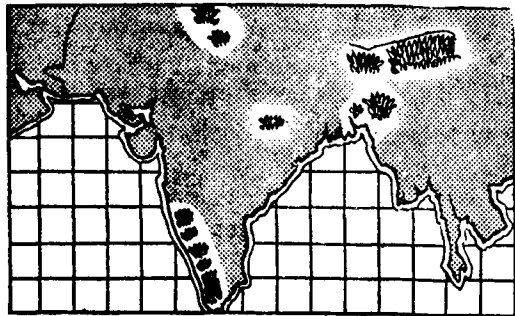
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Edited By Mr. G. A. NATESAN

Vol. 44.]

JUNE 1943

[No. 6.

THE SOVIETS' ANSWER

By MR. KANWAR JOGINDRA SINGH, M.A., LL.B., F.R. Econs.

EVER since Great Britain broke off relations with the Soviet Union in the spring of 1927, Soviet leaders had been constantly proclaiming the existence of a more or less imminent "War Menace" against their country. Their immediate fear sprang from the Nazi programme of aggression as outlined by Hitler in the pages of *Mien Kampf*. The second Five-year Plan, therefore, aimed at a complete mobilization of national resources with a view to achieving the Soviet objective of strengthening the defensive capacity of the country. In February 1941, the Eighteenth Congress of the Communist Party adopted, under the threat of approaching attack by Germany which took place on June 22, 1941, a plan for further expansion in industry, transport and other fields of national economy. Despite losses resulting from German occupation of important territories and abnormal interruption in the production schedules on account of 'scotched earth policy', the national programme embodied in the plan was fairly executed. As a result, the Red Army never lacked supplies of tanks, planes, military trucks, and other vehicles, in addition to artillery weapons, and ammunition of domestic manufacture. The constant supplies of textile goods from the large textile centre of the Moscow area enabled the Soviet forces to beat off the Germans, many of whom were underclothed and ill-prepared for the Russian winter, and to start an offensive by December 1941. "Their own magnificently developed and reorganized munition resources"—these words of Mr. Churchill in the speech heard by the world on May 10, 1942, referred to the great bulwark of Soviet productive capacity which steadily grows more dynamic and

which continually means more to the political and economic future of the world. The Prime Minister's reference is particularly to the industries of the Soviet Union—industries which have experienced most radical changes during one year of shifting fighting fronts and have provided an effective answer to the Nazi aggression without being dependent for their future course upon outside aid. The eyes of the entire world are directed today towards Russia's new offensive after a heroic defence during the entire spring season. The new offensive has been taken not in a limited sense of an attack upon the enemy at one point but in the large sense of further mobilising its man-power, its productive wealth, its farms, its factories, and its homes, so as to be able to carry the war to the enemy wherever he can be met and defeated. Lenin more than once expressed the view that the issue between 'Capitalism' and 'Socialism' would be settled in the long run by superior capacity of production. Russia has shown that in this war of supplies her productive power is definitely superior to that of her enemy. How have the Soviets been able to maintain this superiority in production despite the extent of the German invasion? What effect did the war have on Russia's agricultural and industrial production? What are the sources of Russia's great military strength? Although for the past two years (1941 and 1942) very little exact information has been issued by the Soviet Government, it is possible to discuss the main outlines of Soviet war production on the basis of the latest data available.

The Soviet Union covers a territory far bigger than the United States of America and Canada put together. According to

the 1939 census, the population numbered 170 millions. From 1927 to 1939 the population living in towns increased from 26.3 to 55.5 millions, or from 17.9 per cent. of the total population to 32.4. These figures indicate the speed of industrialisation. The Soviet Ukraine covers only 2 per cent. of the entire territory, but its population numbering 81 millions, amounts to 18.2 per cent. of the total population. The Ukraine is not a 'granary.' In fact the granary of the Soviet Union has moved more and more to the east ever since large-scale industrialisation began in the Ukraine. In the beginning of the present Russo-German war public opinion readily believed that a military conquest of Ukraine and other important parts would enable Germany to carry off vast surpluses of agricultural and other vital products. The actual gains could not be but miserable owing to dislocation and destruction of war-materials. The economic significance of territories occupied by Germany upto December 1941 may be seen from the following figures:—

	Territory (000 sq. km.)		Population (000's)		Urban Population (000's)	
	Total	Occupied	Total	Occupied	Total	Occupied
U.S.S.R.	21,175	1,075	170,467	52,359	55,909	12,590
European U.S.S.R.	4,990	1,075	137,325	52,359	46,328	12,590

It will be seen that the German army had occupied 1,075,000 square kilometers of the territory of the U.S.S.R. or nearly 24 towns, each with a population numbering over 100,000. Absolutely these figures are enormous and no European country would have been able to put up further resistance after such losses and such hardships affecting a large mass of population. But the occupied territory represented only 5 per cent. of the total territory of the U.S.S.R. and about 20 per cent. of the European part of it. And in these territories lived only 30.7 per cent. of the total population of the Soviet Union, or 38.1 per cent. of the European part of it. The urban population in occupied territories amounted

to 22.5 per cent. of the total population of occupied U.S.S.R. and 27.2 per cent. of the European part of the U.S.S.R. In unoccupied territory there are 60 towns with populations numbering over 100,000. Thus there would be a reservoir of about 120,000,000 inhabitants in the free territories even if whole population in the occupied regions remains there. Assuming that Russians in the occupied territories do not shift to free territories the effect of occupation on agricultural production would not appear to be very unfavourable to the U.S.S.R. Occupied territories accounted for about 35 per cent. of the total-sowing area of the Soviet Union and as the population of these areas accounted also for 30 per cent. of the total the loss of these territories from the point of view of food situation is balanced by the loss of population. Moreover the situation in the free territories is far better than in the occupied territories. As regards industrial production, the rapid advance of the German forces during the 6-month drive upto the end of December undoubtedly reduced industrial output sharply. The crippling or loss of many industrial cities, threatened or actually occupied by the Germans, including all Soviet territory west of Leningrad and Moscow, as well as the entire Ukrainian Republic as far east as Rostov-on-Don, deprived the country of the products of iron and steel, aluminium, tractor and airplane plants and those of many smaller industries. Soviet authorities, however, acted promptly to evacuate certain plants in Leningrad, Moscow and other western cities eastward, to similar plants in or beyond the Ural mountain range. It is not known how many and what plants or what number of workers have thus been transferred nor what products are being manufactured. Enough has, however, been reported to justify the assumption that the Ural industrial district represents at the present time one of the most productive sections of the U.S.S.R. drawing on many stores of raw materials and turning out large quantities of metal and mineral products, manufactured in modern plants equipped with the latest machines—manned by a constantly growing force of labour, men and women, rapidly acquiring skill and

training in the handling of complex industrial processes. Adequately supplied with power distributed through a comprehensive network of high-voltage wires; provided with transport facilities which, while now not fully capable of satisfying all needs of the district, are constantly improving their service and adding to their length and connections; and directed by a Federal Soviet plan which looks forward to a complete development of the district's natural resources—the Ural district is not only taking an active part in the present defence activities but also is providing for a post-war revival of its primary manufacturing goals, lost sight of under the pressure of preparations for war. As the entire strength of Soviet Russia during these days is dependent on the steadily growing and ever dynamic economic resources of Urals, we may now briefly examine the industrial production of the district.

Before the Revolution in 1917, the Ural industrial district was hardly worthy of a name though it was known that this mountainous region contained considerable deposits of many metals and minerals, some of which had been worked by primitive methods for many years. Industry was widely scattered and the districts to the west, along the Volga valley, were entirely agricultural. During the 25 years that have passed since 1917, the picture has undergone great changes.

Under each five-year plan the Ural mountains were scheduled for intensive development—both because of their natural riches, and because of their inaccessibility to attack from the western frontier of the U.S.S.R. The Ural industrial district may now be described as an enormous complex of related and co-ordinated modern industrial plants, employing hundreds of thousands of workers engaged in extracting a long list of metals and minerals, in refining and concentrating them and shifting them to plants in other sections of U.S.S.R. The chief cities in the Ural district 25 years ago were small. All the cities have now expanded greatly and a number of new ones have been added.

The Soviet Government is very carefully arranging for the power which is most important for the exploitation of the above

resources. In 1936 the aggregate capacity of the Ural Stations had reached 518,000 kilowatts and the growth has continued since. The entire output of current in 1939 is estimated at 4,000,000,000 kilowatts hours compared with 1,850,000,000 kilowatts hours in 1935. The development of power has made the industrial plants of Urals fully capable of bearing the entire burden of the day-to-day requirements of the present war. The small town of Sverdlovsk, for instance, has become a large manufacturing unit itself. Its largest new plant is the "Uralmashzavod", a series of shops making many types of machine tools, particularly heavy equipment for the metallurgical, chemical and electrical industries and also heavy armaments. It is claimed that "anything Krupp can make" can be duplicated at this giant plant—the planned capacity being fixed at 100,000 metric tons of finished products a year. Though iron and steel plants at Magnitogorsk are working to their capacity, no later figures of production are available than those for 1938. These included 1,535,000 metric tons of pig iron, 1,490,000 tons of steel ingots, 1,200,000 tons of rolled steel and 1,515,000 tons of coke. The eventual capacity is scheduled to be 4,300,000 tons of pig iron a year and of other products in proportion.

The above picture of Russian war production, though very sketchy, explains in part the miracle of her present military strength. The war has united the entire Soviet Union against the invader and has called for the best possible energies of each citizen. All industry is concentrated on defence work, every factory is devoted to some contribution to the war effort. The warnings of the Government, constantly repeated for several years, have unified the national sentiment of the people and their antipathy to foreign domination to a point where restrictions on hours of labour have been suspended and no sacrifice is too great if it helps the army or navy in its work. Plan figures have frequently been exceeded, some plants and mines doubling their various monthly totals. Press reports indicate that Russia is superior to Germany in bringing to the front the latest type of planes. The Luftwaffe which a year ago

was the best in the world is now modestly described by Hitler as "achieving the utmost possible" in the war against Bolshevism menace. In articles and broadcasts German experts admit how strong Russian resistance and morale are and how effective the Soviets' answer has proved can be seen from frequent expressions of Hitler's agony. "In anxious nights", he told his frozen soldiers in his recent New Year Message, "I lay awake and my thoughts were with you . . . how heavy this struggle is and may be in the future. . . and often the balance may tip in favour of the enemy". The remarkable victories gained by Russia since the beginning of the year 1943 also bear testimony to the fact that militarily Russians are better placed, better prepared and better supplied than they had been ever before. In his measured survey of the Russo-German war to the Parliament in October 1942, General Smuts soberly declared: "The defence phase is now ended. The stage is set for the last, the offensive, phase . . . the appalling blood-letting which is necessary for Hitler's ultimate defeat is being administered by the Russians and and they alone can do it." Soviets' answer has shown that the hopes of Allies are being re-written with vastly deeper meaning in Russian blood; the sufferings of Russia are becoming significant victories for the Allies.

The Soviets' answer can be fully effective as well as decisive if the power of the United Nations can be translated into deeds before the German forces can turn

and rest. Stalin, Mr. Churchill tells, has no illusions; he and his people rely on their own achievements to save the Soviet Union. But Russians hope for more in their sufferings they ask for more and, if they are to believe the Allies, they have been promised more. Who can deny Russia's hardships in the present struggle? Mr. Wendell Willkie, who recently visited Moscow, has himself seen Russian wounds. Russian losses in battle are estimated 10,000 a day. In the ruins of Rostov, it is said, the contending armies fought in gas-masks because of the decaying bodies of the citizens in their path and around them. Some months ago the *Economist* (London) echoed a warning wherein it was hazarded that "Russian war potential was nearing its peak; despite the miracles of efforts, endurance, ingenuity and improvisation which the Russians were performing—and are performing—the pace must slacken because of material losses and physical and psychical fatigue". The tragic side of the picture is, therefore, plain enough. The Russian people are dedicated to victory or death; so must their Allies be. It is not simply a question of helping Russia, but of winning the war. The Allied time-table for Russia's help has been continuously subjected to revision—inevitably, but always in the wrong direction lengthening the Road to be travelled. The Russian answer to German aggression can bring an earlier victory if the Allied leaders and commanders search through their schemes anew for opening the much-promised Second Front.

to have had their way; but as has so often happened in the past, it is the last battle that counts and the allied sweep in the last three weeks has been swift and complete. North Africa is now rid of the Nazi or Fascist menace. And with the mopping up of the remnant Axis forces in Tunis and Bizerta, the whole of the Mediterranean sea board is now in complete possession of the Allied forces. In a statement made in the House of Commons, Mr. Attlee announced that

over 150,000 prisoners have been taken, and a great mass of equipment—over 1,000 guns, 250 tanks, and many thousands of motor vehicles have fallen into our hands.

Thus, in less than a week, a great army, strongly placed in good positions, has not only been beaten, but has been completely destroyed. The continent of Africa has been cleansed entirely of all Nazi and Fascist infection.

This campaign, which has driven the enemy 1,700 miles across the continent, culminating in a great battle and the complete destruction of a mighty army will, it is said, "stand out in history as a magnificent achievement." "I am certain," said the Deputy Prime Minister,

that the battle which has now been concluded will be regarded as a classic example of military art, and the honours of this great triumph are shared by the fighting men of the British Commonwealth and Empire, the U.S. and France, whose troops have revived her ancient glory. When we look back to the dark days of 1940, when only a weak, ill-equipped, force stood between a far more numerous enemy and Egypt; when we look back a few months to the battle of El Alamein, when Mussolini thought that, in a few days, he would be entering Alexandria in triumph; we realise the magnitude of the change in our fortunes, and what we owe to the men who have fought and won in North Africa.

The honours of the triumph go equally to the British and American armies working in complete co-operation with the Dominion, Indian and free French forces in North Africa. It must be a matter for special gratification in India that it fell to the troops of the 4th Indian Division to capture Gen. Von Arnim, the Commander-in-Chief of the Axis forces in Africa. It is estimated that the Axis losses throughout the Libyan and Tunisian campaigns totalled 600,000.

But the occupation of North Africa is not an end in itself. It is only a prelude to what is to follow in Europe and elsewhere the success of the allied armies in the dark continent. The liberation of the Mediterranean, said Field-Marshal Smuts,

was only the first stage in the liberation of Europe; and the Armies which have fought their way to Addis Ababa, to Tripoli, to Tunis, and to Bizerta, had all been pursuing a great strategic plan—a plan which would find its climax in the invasion of Europe.

It is the subject of discussions at Washington between the Prime Minister

of England and the President of the United States, in conference with their military, naval and air force staffs. If all goes well, the North African coast will prove to be a

forward base from which will be launched, at the right moment, further attacks at the Axis, so that, in the fullness of time, Hitler, like his German Generals in Tunis, will be forced to accept unconditional surrender.

The final elimination of the Axis from Africa is having immediate repercussions. Italy is restless as the might of the Allied arm is expected to smite her next. The re-taking of North Africa from Morocco to Alexandria has entirely changed the outlook for the Allies. Suddenly it has helped "to restore the Empire's life line, to save Egypt, to protect India and to reinforce the British army in Palestine and Syria" for protecting one of the main supply routes for the Russians. Thus in the words of Capt. Harvey:

The whole southern littoral of the Middle Sea is now in Allied hands. Risks there are and losses there will be, but the Mediterranean is once again open. The Empire's lifeline is restored and the "protective crust" of Hitler's Europe has disappeared. . . . Axis territories everywhere in Southern Europe wait trembling for invasion and Egypt and India are safe from the Hun. When General Smuts proclaimed that the main issue of the World War would be settled in Africa he was not far wrong.

But when all is said, we cannot afford to be over-jubilant. Mr. Eden rightly warns us to be cautious. The enemy is still powerful and ruthless. He may spring a surprise in Spain or Turkey. There are rumours of troop movements in the Balkans, of flare ups in Bulgaria and fleet movements elsewhere. Japan is reported to be contemplating another "Pearl Harbour" against the Soviet. Her submarines are busy blockading the approaches to the Australasian shores while she is strengthening her hold in the South-West Pacific and in the Arakan front. But the Allies, by their infinite capacity for production, have doubtless everything in their favour. By their resounding success in North Africa they have certainly raised the morale of the troops no less than that of the many nations, East and West, pledged to the cause of freedom and democracy.

ALLIED VICTORY IN NORTH AFRICA

IN a message to the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, on May 18, General Alexander announced the Tunisian victory in these terms:

It is my duty to report that the Tunisian campaign is over. All enemy resistance has ceased. We are masters of the North African shore.

Thus ends the war in North Africa which for three years has gone on with alternating hopes and fears for the Allies. Indeed there was a time when Rommel and his panzer divisions seemed

INDIA AND ATLANTIC CHARTER

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[Mr. Louis Fischer, the well-known American journalist and author, who visited India in 1942, delivered a lecture on India to a packed audience on February 28 last in the Town Hall at San Francisco. After discussing recent events in India—Gandhi's Fast, the failure of British statesmanship, the Quit India Campaign, etc.—Mr. Fischer made the following observations on "India and the Atlantic Charter."—*Ed. I.R.*]

SAT in the gallery of the House of Commons in September, 1941, when Churchill, after his rendezvous with President Roosevelt in the Atlantic where they drew up the Atlantic Charter, came to the House of Commons. A member of Parliament arose and said, "Mr. Prime Minister, does Article III of the Atlantic Charter (which gives every country the right to choose its own form of Government), apply to India?" Churchill stood up and said, "No sir," and sat down. Nothing which Smuts or Halifax or Herbert Morrison or Cripps or any British spokesman has said since that day at all mitigates or diminishes the validity of those two words, "No sir." Indeed, Churchill himself reinforced them on November 10, when speaking in London, he said, "England will hold her own. I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside at the liquidation of the British Empire." And by calling the British Empire a British Commonwealth you don't change its spots. Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia are free dominions, but India is an oppressed and unhappy colony. If we are to use India as a base for the defeat of Japan, we will have a sorry time if there is turmoil and bitterness and discontent among the hundreds of millions.

What are our war aims in this war? The four freedoms—freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want (that means prosperity and security), freedom from fear (that means peace). These are the things that we want for ourselves. This is not a war about a map. There may never be a Peace Conference after this war. Peace will not be established by lifting up one country and destroying another or by tearing a piece of territory away from one country and tacking it on to the other. This is not a war about a map; this is a war about ourselves; this is a

social war; this is a war about the fundamentals of the life that we live.

Some people who think in two dimensions say: "Hitler and Mussolini and France and the Japanese militarists made this war." That is correct; but we made them. Hitler, maniac, mad man though he be, is nevertheless the child of our civilization. He is a product of our society. We defeated the Kaiser, we got a Hitler. We could defeat Hitler and get a worse Hitler, unless we destroy the soil and the seed in which Hitlerism grows. This, therefore, is not merely a war against foreign Fascism and foreign Hitlers. This is equally a war against the 50 per cent. Hitlers and the 10 per cent. Hitlers and the 2 per cent. Hitlers who live in the midst of the Democracies and who have helped to make this and other wars. The peace will depend on us, on what we think or what we do during the war. After all, the peace will be no better than the men who make it. Governments create peace in their own image. Peace like charity begins at home, and only to the extent that we prepare for a peace will there be a peace. Some day we may be grateful to Gandhi for having raised for all of us that fundamental question of whether we can purify ourselves during the war as to be capable of making a better world after the war.

On July 4, while I was in India, the British Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, gave a party in his great marble palace in New Delhi to celebrate America's independence from the British Empire. At that party I heard all the arguments against India's independence from the British Empire. A British General who had been in Burma said to me, "But could a free India after the war defend itself?" I said to him: "Could England?" What country nowadays can defend itself single-handedly? Not England, not France, not Italy, probably

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not the United States and Russia. If only those countries which can defend themselves are to be independent after this war then there will be very few independent States, and the General's question only means that after this war there will have to be an international organisation which will defend all countries against all aggressors. At the same party I was asked to sit down next to Lady Linlithgow, a handsome, regal lady, the wife of the Viceroy. . . . I soon got her off on to the subject of politics and India's independence, and she said: "But are these people capable of ruling themselves?" Sometimes I'm blunt in conversation. I said, "Lady Linlithgow, you know that's a very queer question to ask on a night like this. That's exactly what the British Tories said about the thirteen colonies in 1776." And as the President pointed out in his speech: "There were plenty of Americans, the sceptics, the cynics of Washington's day who did not believe that ordinary men and women have the capacity for freedom and self-government." I did not say that to the wife of the Viceroy, but I went on thinking that sometimes when I look at the mess which the so-called 'civilised' nations have made in the world, I think perhaps we ought to call in the so-called 'uncivilised' nations like China and India to help us rule the world. We are very wonderful at making perfect fridges and automobiles and bombs, but we have run ourselves into two world wars in one generation—and that is no proof of our capacity to manage world affairs. At any rate, just as the majority of Americans in Washington's day felt that they were entitled to freedom and independence, so the Indians, so the Asiatics feel that they want freedom and there will be trouble if we try to obstruct them. The capacity to use freedom is learned; you're not born with it. It's learned in the exercise of freedom and independence.

At the same party and elsewhere I heard the final ultimate obstacle, objection to an Indian independence, namely, the Hindu-Muslim question. Here it is important to remember this central fact. One is always told of fights about cows and music, etc. But all British

officials, all Muslim leaders, all Hindu leaders, all unanimously said to me: There is no friction between Hindus and Muslims in the villages of India. But the village of India is 90 per cent. of India. In other words, the conflict between Hindus and Muslims is a man-made, city, political affair. In this connection it is significant that Sir Stafford Cripps, by his own admission in the House of Commons, did not while he was in India discuss the Hindu-Muslim problem with Indian leaders. That seems strange, doesn't it? Here he was in India to settle the Indian problem. Here is presumably the great obstacle to an Indian settlement—the Hindu-Muslim problem—but he never discussed it with Indian leaders. Why? Because when there is no practical solution of the Indian problem, the various parties hitch their demands to a star and make the most fantastic threats and demands and claims, as they are doing to-day, which have no relation to reality. They talk with as little responsibility as some political parties elsewhere and as some political leaders. But when Cripps arrived and for a moment offered the Indians a practical solution of the Indian problem, they got off their high horses, forgot their differences, and talked about the settlement and not about their conflicts. Gandhi has said repeatedly, you'll find it in print, that the Indian Congress Party, of which he is the leader and which consists chiefly of Hindus, but contains many Muslims, would enter an Indian National Government with the Muslims. Mr. Jinnah, the President of the Muslim League, said that he would form an Indian National Government with the Hindus. In other words, the Hindus will enter an Indian National Government with the Muslims. The Muslims will enter an Indian National Government with the Hindus. The only thing missing is the Indian National Government. And that the British have to give and that so far they have refused to give. It is the testimony of all persons who are not prejudiced that there could be political unity in India overnight if the British wished it. Here is a late dispatch in the *New York Times* from its special

correspondent in India, Herbert Mathews. He talks about an interview he had with one of the great Hindu leaders in India, Mr. Rajagopalachari, and he says, "Mr. Rajagopalachari insisted and the writer's own investigations (that is, Mr. Mathews's own investigation) support his thesis that there is no fundamental Hindu-Muslim antagonism. The communities have lived in India harmoniously and will again once political differences are settled. . . ."

DIVIDE AND RULE

Some of you may know that in recent years I have been rather vehement in my denunciation of many phases of Soviet policies, but if there is one problem which the Bolsheviks have solved, it is the problem of national minorities. There were, and are in Russia more national minorities and more religions than in India. Under the Czarist regime they were constantly at one another's throats. When the Bolsheviks came into office they opened the Czar's archives and they found, for instance, that in the Caucasus the Czarist authorities in one year armed the Tartars so that they could slaughter the Armenians and the next year armed the Armenians so that they could slaughter the Tartars on the old principle of 'divide and rule.' If the Armenians and Tartars were at one another's throats they would forget the Czar, who was the oppressor of both. An imperialist government has it within its powers to divide any country it rules endlessly by giving favours, by giving titles, by financing magazines and newspapers, by giving jobs, by encouraging somebody to be ambitious. There are all kinds of devious, honest and dishonest, measures that can be adopted.

I came away from India with the profound conviction that if there were the will, India could be united politically overnight and that of course would be only the first step towards ultimate social and economic union. I came away from India with the conviction that the obstacle to Indian independence does not lie in India. It lies in England. India is a very good thing. Many interests and companies and

families in England have grown rich on India. But the problem is bigger than that. Neville Chamberlain was an appeaser, because he was afraid that if England became involved in a war, his England (the England of caste and privilege and money and aristocracy) would die. But Churchill says, "No. England can fight this war and win it and remain the old England." And Churchill's England includes India and includes the emasculation of the Beveridge report and includes all kinds of reactionary measures.

The question, therefore, is not whether India is ripe for freedom. The question is whether we are ripe for Indian freedom. If there were a new England emerging out of this war, if there were a new England to supplant the old England of Chamberlain and Churchill, it would not wish to hold India. That is really the issue.

THE ISLE OF DREAMS

By Mr. KISHORILAL GUPTA, M.A.,

Lecturer, M.S.J. College, Bharatpur.

A garden was there in the isle of dreams,
Full of the fragrance of visionary flowers
That languished beside pale desolate streams,
And dreamt in the silence of lingering hours.

And inside those arbours and shadowy dells,
Green vapours were rising that looked like trees;
And musk and sandalwood mingled their smells,
With the spray of the springs that hummed in
[the breeze ;

And visions and fancies with pinions white,
In that dream-lit air were fluttering free;
And the garden was steeped in a silvery light
And circled by the murmur of a saffron sea.

No man in the wide world knew of this isle,
Nor ever had seen those desolate streams;
And often I roamed for an endless while,
With a dark-eyed girl in that isle of dreams.

But a chill wind blew from the neighbouring
[shore
Of the world's vast, frozen and frosty sea—
And the garden of dreams is now no more,
And the isle is a desert without a tree,

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VETO POWER

By MR. C. V. H. RAO,

(Editor, "The Indian Nation.")

THE Governor-General's veto power has received innumerable references in recent Indian constitutional discussions and has proved, decisively an insuperable obstacle in the way of a political settlement. The main demand of the political parties at the time of the Cripps negotiations was for the establishment of a National Government which would function as a Cabinet and it was contended that the existence of the Viceregal veto, whose effect is to place the Viceroy in the position of an autocrat, was inconsistent and irreconcilable with the freedom of action of that Government or its capacity to function effectively as a guardian of national interests. There was no inclination either to believe or to accept that the veto would automatically fall into desuetude when the Viceroy has to work in co-operation with a fully Indianized Council, because, it was argued, no Viceroy could continually place himself in conflict with his Council or could attempt to circumvent its viewpoint through the exercise of his extraordinary powers. Such a position would be untenable, if not impossible, and the entire administrative machinery would come to a standstill if these powers were so exercised by the Viceroy. This argument was unconvincing to those who counter-argued that in the absence of a statutory abrogation or at least drastic limitation of the powers and the right of veto the temptation for a Viceroy to utilize it to override the Council would be irresistible.

On the other hand, Mr. Amery and others who think with him, argue that the Governor-General's veto is an indispensable safeguard against the political waywardness of an Indianized Executive Council composed of representatives of the various political parties working as a Cabinet. Suppose, it is argued, the latter does not display sufficient enthusiasm for the prosecution of the war effort or supposing that some of its actions are such as are likely to inspire apprehensions in the minds of the minorities or supposing in some ways the Council's

policy is such as would interfere with the United Nations' plans for annihilating the Axis designs, what is the safeguard against these contingencies? The Viceroy's veto is expected by them to afford a safety valve in any of the contingencies referred to or in others. It is not intended, they argue, to be flourished like the Damocles' sword over the head of the Council or to be used in an indiscriminate manner. It is intended to be made use of only in extraordinary circumstances when there is sufficient justification and need for it.

ELEMENT OF DISTRUST

In ordinary circumstances, and when there is complete mutual trust and goodwill between the parties concerned, arguments like these might provide a convincing answer to objections raised against the veto. Unfortunately, however, Indo-British political relations are not grounded on the solid foundations of mutual trust and confidence. There is an undisguisable, though unfortunate, element of distrust on which the superstructure of those relations has rested so far. Nevertheless, the contentions against the abrogation of the veto betray on the whole an attitude of (1) utter unwillingness on the part of Britain to part with real power to any war-time Indian Government of any complexion that may be constituted, and (2) an inexplicable distrust of the protestations, honestly felt and unhesitatingly expressed, of the Indian political parties, or at least of one of the more important of them, that they are determined to fight the Axis aggressors and are prepared wholeheartedly to co-operate with the United Nations in seeing the war through to a successful conclusion in the event of their demand being conceded. It is this distrust or lack of trust that was perhaps mainly responsible for the final instructions issued by the War Cabinet to Sir Stafford Cripps not to commit himself to the principle of a National Government, though apparently he carried on all the preliminary negotiations on that basis. It is the existence of the

same feeling also which is revealed by some of Mr. Amery's subsequent statements in Parliament that Parliament's was the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the war and that responsibility it could not abdicate so long as the war lasted.

One cannot and need not accept Mr. Amery to rise above the essential human instinct of self-preservation and agree with a beaming countenance to a proposal which would involve, ultimately and logically, his own exit from office. The consequence of the abolition of the Viceroy's veto would be directly to render the post of the Secretary of State for India superfluous or at least to deprive that office of its *raison de etre*; and Mr. Amery may not be prepared to contemplate that prospect with equanimity. But the needs and demands of the situation are imperious and inescapable and personal predilections and conveniences should not impede the inexorability of essential changes. So long, therefore, as Mr. Amery vouchsafes evasive replies to that demand, it will be taken only as evidence of a grave reluctance on the British Government's part to transfer power to Indians. As for the Indian parties—Congress included—willingness to resist Axis aggression, it exists in an abundant measure, both from the standpoint of the need for an Allied victory as essential for the preservation of world freedom and international security and from that of safeguarding India's national security. The Viceroy, it may be affirmed, would not find it necessary to exercise his veto to override his Government's actions in this respect and it is not, therefore, necessary to retain it only for this purpose. The demand for the statutory abolition of the veto power should not, in any case, be interpreted as an escapist device either to facilitate an Indian Government adopting policies, which will be inimical to the interests of India or of the United Nations, or otherwise to be exploited by the majority community in India to oppress the minorities unrestricted by the restraining influence of a superior authority.

USE OF VETO IN THE PAST

That the apprehensions entertained by Indian politicians about the probable

exercise of the veto power to stifle freedom of action on the part of a would-be Indian Government are not entirely without foundation is confirmed by the use to which it had been put in the past. Belief that the temptation to exercise it will be irresistible unless there is a formal announcement that it will not be exercised to override the wishes of the Government of India is also encouraged in the Indian mind by the strenuous manner in which the issue was evaded during the Cripps mission, so that when it came to a break-up of negotiations over the question, the British Government non-chalantly preferred that deplorable consummation to acceptance of the Indian demand. The periodical statements made by the Secretary of State and by some members of the expanded Executive Council at different times that the Viceroy very rarely, if ever, brought out this omnipotent weapon in his constitutional armoury do not serve to discourage doubts on this score. The latter category of statements are in some cases inherently and mutually conflicting and testify that each member of the present Council regards the position from a different angle. Mr. Amery, for example, had recently emphasized in a number of his statements that the policy to be followed by the Government of India or more correctly by the Governor-General in Council was either negated or decided upon by him. That these assertions are incompatible with the constitutional position that the Governor-General in Council has the final say in matters of Indian administration did not obviously worry him in the least. Loose statements by responsible British ministers about the status and functions of the Executive Council make the Indian public suspect the correctness and justifiability of the position enunciated, for example, by Indian members of the Council like Sir Feroz Khan Noon that that body, after its last expansion, had been functioning as a Cabinet and that the Viceroy was acting as a constitutional monarch.

The problem of veto has thus rightly assumed a place of indubitable importance in the discussions about an interim constitutional settlement in this country.

By those who demand its formal abolition, it is asked why so much bones was made over it when, during the Cripps negotiations, the Congress put forward the demand for its abolition and for the release as a result of the would-be Indianized Council from the obstacles it would have had to encounter in its working. Mr. Louis Fischer, the American journalist, in his inside story of the Cripps mission, which had aroused widespread interest in this country, has exposed the workings of the minds of those in authority in England over this issue. Sir Stafford, he writes, made an offer in his first press interview in New Delhi on March 29, 1942, that a good deal would be done by changing the conventions and adopting new ones—he particularly mentioned that the Executive Council could become a 'Cabinet.' It was only later when he discovered or when he was pulled up from London and informed that he went beyond his instructions in making that suggestion that he backed out of it and criticized the demand therefor by maintaining that "a Cabinet Government would require constitutional changes which are impossible in war time" and that such a "Cabinet nominated presumably by the major political organizations would, in fact, constitute an absolute dictatorship of the majority." Mr. Louis Fischer's comment on this observation of Sir Stafford is that by making it "Cripps was introducing the Hindu-Muslim issue into the negotiations. The issue had never been previously discussed in the talks on the immediate war-time arrangements and it did not have to be discussed." On the other hand, we have Mr. Amery's own specific statement to corroborate the idea that the British Government never intended to offer a National Government to India in the usually accepted sense of the term. In a wireless discussion with Mr. Morrow, U.S.A., he was reported to have said: "What he (Sir Stafford) offered for the war period, over and above full freedom after the war, was the fullest possible share in the Central Government under the existing constitution," whatever that may mean. He further described the Viceroy's Council in the same discussion

as being "composed of the heads of the great administrative department"!!!

COUPLAND'S ANSWER

A question that inevitably suggests itself in this connection is: Can the Viceroy, even if he wishes, modify the existing position with regard to the veto by allowing it to fall into desuetude? In his book on *The Cripps Mission*, Professor Coupland, who came out to India to study constitutional problems here and then joined the Cripps mission, writes that "the Viceroy is specifically entitled by the Act (of 1935) to dissent from the majority opinion of his Council." To the proposition that to meet the constitutional difficulties the Viceroy might, if he could be prevailed upon to do so, enter into a gentlemen's agreement not to exercise his veto, Professor Coupland's answer is that "such an undertaking not to use the overriding powers would be a breach of the law." Place this categorical statement in juxtaposition with Mr. Amery's amazing and unqualified description of the members of the Viceroy's Executive Council as mere "heads of the great departments of State" and the essential need for the demand for the statutory limitation or abolition of the veto, if an Indian Government is to function with any degree of real freedom, would become self-evident. The all-important question, already stated, is, why if, as it is repeatedly claimed, the Viceroy has rarely exercised his extraordinary powers and why if there is already collective responsibility of the Executive Council, why if the Secretary of State is merely a non-interfering functionary, there should be any insurmountable difficulty in publicly giving an assurance on this point, even if it is accepted that there may be some difficulty in introducing a constitutional amendment for the purpose in war time? Lord Linlithgow had himself set a striking precedent in this connection when he made his declaration in 1937, in response to a Congress demand, that the provincial Governors would not exercise their special powers and responsibilities to override or interfere with ministerial initiative in the whole field of provincial administration.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CABINET

Inevitably when the demand for abrogation of the Viceroy's veto is made, the question is asked: To whom will the Indianized Council be responsible? It is a ticklish question in the existing circumstances but not wholly unanswerable. The Council may be made responsible to a new Indian legislature, brought into being either as a result of fresh elections or by indirect elections from the existing provincial legislatures. Two other procedures which also suggest themselves in this connection are first, to make the Indian Government answerable to the present Central Legislature and secondly, and this I suggest as a last resort, to make it answerable to the Governor-General himself. The last-mentioned one requires a little explanation. The elimination of the veto and the abrogation of the Viceroy's extraordinary powers will inevitably mean that the Indian Government will not be subject to the guidance, supervision and control of the Secretary of State as now, but will be answerable only to the Crown through

the Governor-General, whose function in that case will be more or less approximate to those of the Governor-General of a Dominion. Since Parliament has already accepted the principle of permitting the Governor-General to act on his own responsibility in case there is interruption of communications between India and London as a result of enemy action, the last proposal will only involve an extension of a principle already endorsed and approved to meet unforeseen constitutional exigencies.

There is, in fact, no obstacle which can be considered insurmountable in this respect, as is apparently considered by Sir Stafford Cripps, Mr. Amery, Mr. Churchill, all of whom profess to regard the Indian question as insoluble and the Indian demand as unacceptable only because they choose to regard it so. Now that there is a move in some quarters to resuscitate the Cripps proposals, without of course their bad features, the need for a sober view of the problem of the Governor-General's veto and overriding powers being taken by the British Government cannot be over-emphasized.

THREE SOUTH INDIAN BATTLES

BY MR. T. G. SUBRAMANYAM, M.A.

THE BATTLE OF VENNI

OR

THE RISE OF THE CHOLAS

THE battle of Venni marks the beginning of a connected history of South India, and its importance can hardly be over-estimated. The traditional account of the Cholas begins with the battle of Venni, between Karikala Chola and the Chera and Pandyan kings.

The beginnings of the history of South India or more aptly the Tamil-Akam, lie still enveloped in a mist and historians have to fall back upon the Tamil literature of the Sangam age for a reconstruction of South Indian history. "The Sangam literature is the oldest native source that supplies relevant material for the construction of a reliable account of the times and is now freely acknowledged to be an indispensable, and in some cases, the only, source of

historical information, in regard to early Tamil kingdoms." (*The Cera kings* by K. G. Sesha Iyer.) The Sangam literature is classified under two broad divisions based on the subject-matter of the poems. Certain collections of lyrics relate to Puram, the Purapporul, concerned with the external relations of men such as war and politics. Certain other collections deal purely with Akam, embracing matters relating to states of mind, particularly of lovers.

The Sangam collections form the only source of information for the battle of Venni. Puram 65 and 66 of the Sangam collections, known as Purananoru, give us an account of the victory of Karikala Chola over the Cheras and the Pandyas at Venni. Akam 55 also gives an account of the battle. Porunaratrappadai-I, 143-148 and Agam 246 also give us an account of the battle. Venni is identified with the modern village of Koilvenni, 15 miles

to the east of Tanjore. No definite date can be assigned to the battle, but it cannot be gainsaid that it was one of the earliest and most decisive battles of India.

Karikala Chola who was the victor, was the earliest Chola ruler known to tradition. He is called "Valavan" in Tamil literature and is said to have established the Chola power in South India. "The name Chola is given to a people as well as to a dynasty of rulers. The Cholas, as rulers, find mention in the second and thirteenth rock edicts of Asoka. Further references to the Cholas are also found in foreign literature such as *Periplus Maris Erythrae*, and Ptolemy's geography, etc. The land between the two modern streams of the same name Vellar, formed the first Chola territory. The Cholas had their capital at Uraiyur, with Puhar or Kaveripattinam, as their alternative capital and chief sea-port." A tangible historical account of the Cholas is to be had only from the Sangam age and its literature. Karikala Chola, the victor at Venni, is said to have established and developed Puhar as the chief port; Puhar was the great emporium of the East. Karikala Chola's grandfather's name appears to be *Verpaharadakkai Perunarkilli* and his father's name was *Uruvapparar Ilaiyon* or *Ilanjet Chennai*. His father seems to have died at an early age and it is inferred that Karikala succeeded his grandfather as a boy. "Karikala Chola was ably assisted by his uncle *Pidarthalaayan* and he contracted a marriage alliance with the *Nangur Vel* family." (Dr. S. K. Iyengar—*Ancient India*—p. 93.) "Karikala Chola was a remarkable sovereign, who in many ways contributed to the permanent welfare of his subjects and has consequently been handed down to posterity as a beneficent monarch."

For a clear understanding of the significance of the battle of Venni, a knowledge of the Pandyas and the Cholas is essential. "South of the Chola kingdom lay that of the Pandyas which extended from coast to coast, and embraced within its borders the modern districts of Madura and Tinnevely and the State of Travancore, taking also a part of Coimbatore and Cochin." (*Ancient India*;—61). The existence of the Pandya kingdom and the

dynasty can be traced back to several centuries before the Christian era, as they are noticed in the Asokan inscriptions and the Mahawanse. The Pandyas had Madura as their capital and Korkai as their chief sea-port and the seat of a vice-royalty. The emblem of their house was the fish. The name of the Pandya King who sustained a defeat at the hands of Karikala Chola at the battle of Venni is not definitely known at present.

"North of the Pandyan kingdom lay the territory of the Cholas", a territory stretching right across the Palghat gap through Salem and Coimbatore. The Cheras had their capital at Vanji and their primary port was Thondi. All these three kingdoms, i.e., the Chera, the Chola and the Pandyan kingdoms, comprised the Tamil *Akam* of the Sangam age and the literature of this period mostly deals with the vicissitudes of these three dynasties.

The battle of Venni marks a turning point in Karikala Chola's career, "for in this battle, he seems to have broken the back of a widespread confederacy formed against him. Besides the two crowned heads of the Chera and Pandya countries, eleven minor chieftains took their side in the campaign against him and shared the defeat at his hands."—(The Cholas by Prof. K. A. N. Sastriar.) The name of the Chera King, *Cheraman Perum Cheralatan* is mentioned in the colophon of the poem and a footnote gives another reading of the name as *Perum Tolatan*. Mr. K. G. Sesha Aiyar—(*Chera Kings*)* identifies *Adu Kodpattu Cheralattan*, as the Chera King.

The battle of Venni established Karikala Chola firmly on the throne and secured for him some sort of hegemony among the three crowned monarchs of the day. After his victory Karikala seems to have cemented an alliance with the Chera King, by giving one of his daughters in marriage to the son of his vanquished rival. The name of the Chola princess is mentioned in *Silappadikaram* as *Nachchonai*.

The battle of Venni is of special interest, as Puram 65 and 66 mention a peculiar practice among famous warriors

* *Tamil Eighteen Hundred Years Ago* by V. Kanakasabhai, p. 66-67.

in those early days. "We are told that the Chera King, while facing the foe in the battle, was pierced by a shaft which ran through his body, wounding also his back; and as a wound in the back was regarded as a blot on heroism the Chera sat facing north and courted death by starvation. Starvation unto death as a penance has always been regarded in India, especially in ancient times, as an act of supreme fortitude and merit, and by this act the Chera wiped out the humiliation that the wound in the back implied. Akam 55 shows that the act evoked the sympathy and admiration of several, who also gave their lives along with him; and brilliant as his victory was, Karikala Chola seems to have felt that the heroism of the vanquished Chera's self-immolation surpassed his own as the victor of the day, and he had to be consoled with the assurance that the Chera King was not greater than he in glory." (The Chera Kings by K. G. Sesha Iyer.)

The bard Kalath-thalaiyar, who was with the Chera army at the engagement, mourns over the defeat of his king, and describes the gloom of his subjects, in the following verse (puram 65). "The drum no longer thunders. The lute has no music. The large milk-pans now lie empty. Nor is honey gathered by the busy bees. No longer the farmers plough their fields. No more is there any festive gatherings on the village lawns. Like the sun who sets behind the hills, when the fullmoon rises in all its splendour, our valiant king wounded on the back by a rival monarch, has laid aside his sword in disgrace (and seeks death by starvation) alas! How sad and cheerless are these days."

Another bard Vennil-Kuyathiyar who was with the Chola King appears to have been also struck with the unlucky fate of the Chera and addressed Karikala as follows: "Oh! descendant of that warrior who sailing on the wide ocean compelled the winds to fill the sails of his ships. Oh! Karikal Valava! Lord of mighty elephants who hast displayed thy valour in this battle. Is not he, even nobler than thee, who ashamed of the wound on his back, starves without food, to gain a glorious death?"

THE BATTLE OF SRIPURAMBIYAM

LIKE the battle of Venni, the battle of Sripurambiyam is yet another landmark in the history of South India. Sripurambiyam, also known as Tirupurambiyam, is a place close to Kumbakonam. The Udayendiram plates furnish us with the information about this battle. These plates were issued in the 15th year (A.D. 921) of Madurai Konda Parakesarivarman Parantaka I. by Prithvipathi II. of the Ganga dynasty, also known as the Hastimalla. The plates state that Prithvipathi I, the ally of the Pallava King Aparajita, defeated the Pandya King Varaguna and lost his life in the course of that fight, having made his friend's title Aparajita significant. Thus it is evident that a battle took place between Varaguna Pandya on the one side and Ganga Prithvipathi and his over-lord on the other. Scholars fix the date of the battle somewhere about 880 A.D., which agrees with the facts so far known.

This battle marks the beginning of the decline of the Pandyas and also the revival of the Chola power, which had hitherto been kept under the control of the Pallavas of Kanchi. The significance of the battle is best understood by a study of the position of the Pandyas, the Gangas and the Pallavas, at the time of the battle.

At the time of the battle of Sripurambiyam, Varaguna Pandya, also known as Maranjadayan was ruling over Madura. His date of accession to the throne has definitely been fixed up by scholars to be 862-36 A.D. We find in the Tamil literature mention of his aggressive rule and the spirit of his aggression is evidenced by an inscription of his reign found in the upper caves of Trichinopoly, in the Chola country.

"At this time the enterprising chieftains, known to history as Muttaraiyars, were in possession of a part of the fertile delta land in Tanjore; their inscriptions at Sendalai clearly describe them as ruling Tanjore also." (Prof. K. A. N. Sastriar—The Cholas.) In Varaguna Pandya's time these chieftains threw in their lot with the Pandyas and consequently their neighbours, the Cholas, under Vijayalaya

threw in their lot with the Pallavas. The Pallava with his help emboldened the Chola monarch to march against the Tanjore Chiefs, captured Tanjore from the Muttariyar chieftains and annexed it to his dominions. And the Pallava little suspected that, "in employing his Chola subordinates he was, as the Indian saying has it, training the tiger cub to a taste of blood". (*Ibid*) Nor did Vijayalaya dream that his victory would sow the seed of one of the most splendid empires known to Indian history.

Varaguna Pandya of Madura little expected his subordinates the Muttaraiyars to be defeated by the Chola. And when he heard of the capture of Tanjore by Vijayalaya he led an expedition into the Chola country with the avowed object to chastise the Chola monarch and incidentally to extend his power and dominion. Varaguna attacked Idavai, stormed the fortress of Vembil, the modern Vembarur on the river Kaveri successfully. He then seems to have advanced beyond the Chola country and occupied a portion of Tondainadu, for, we have a grant issued by him from his camp at Araisur, on the river Pennar, in Tondainadu. His advance into Tondainadu brought him into conflict with the Gangas and their over-lords, the Pallavas, mistakenly called by some scholars Ganga-Pallavas, and considered as a separate dynasty.

"The Pallavas began as officers of the Satavahanas and ultimately rose to undisputed possession of the territory of Kanchi, the right to which they strengthened by an alliance with the heiress of the southern block of the Satavahana territory, thus in a way becoming the titular descendants of the Satavahanas over the whole of the southern regions of Satavahana territory including in it their own new conquests, the territory of Tondaimandalam, dependent upon Kanchi". (The Pallavas by S. Gopalan, Introduction—p. 16.) In the course of their occupation of Kanchi and its surrounding districts, the Pallavas seem to have driven further south, a tribe known to history as Kalwar or Kalawar, who in their turn brought about the disorder in the territory lying immediately to the south of the Nellore district extending southwards to the banks of Kaveri. It is this

disturbance that is called the Kalabhra interregnum in South Indian history. The Pandyas and the Pallavas soon put an end to the disturbances and in the act extended their power and position while the Cholas seem to have succumbed to it. The Pallavas taking advantage of the Kalabhra disturbances brought the Cholas in the south under their subjection and so came into conflict with the Pandyas, who also attempted to extend their territory at the expense of the Cholas.

In the north the Gangas and the Kadamabs accepted the Pallava over-lordship which in turn brought the Pallavas into conflict with the Chalukyas, who claimed over-lordship over the Gangas. The constant hostilities of the Chalukyas on the northern frontier and the activity of the Pandyas in the south made the position of the Pallavas in the middle one of extreme anxiety. "The maintenance of the Pallava power intact meant a 'Janus-faced' fight, south against the Pandyas and north against the Chalukyas." (The Pallavas—Introduction, p. 29.)

Thus it was in the later years the Pallavas, though nominally rulers over an extensive land, were really not powerful enough to check the dismemberment of their empire. Hence it was the Pallavas allied themselves with their subordinates, the western Gangas who were compelled to continue their alliance because of the Chalukyan aggression on the northern frontier.

That the Pallavas were in a decline is clear from the fact that the Pandya King Varaguna was unopposed in his march into Tondaimandalam. Varaguna Pandya because of disturbance at home was unable to take advantage of his march into Tondaimandalam and had to return to his capital. Taking advantage of Varaguna's withdrawal, the Pallava King Aparajita, got together his allies, chief among them being western Ganga Prithvipathi I and Aditya Chola, and attacked Varaguna at Sripurambiyam. The battle ended in a complete victory for the Pallava King and his allies.

The battle stemmed the rising power of the Pandyas on the one hand and the decline of the Pallavas on the other.

"The Pandyas never recovered from this staggering blow. And the Pallavas, though victory remained with them in the battle, owed it more to their allies than to their own strength. Thoroughly exhausted by incessant warfare on the two fronts they were themselves in no position to pursue the advantage gained. (Sastriar—Colas, p. 130.)

Apart from stemming the success of the Pandya and the decline of the Pallavas, the battle is important as marking the beginning of the revival of the Chola power under Aditya. "More lucky than the Ganga monarch, Aditya lived to share the spoils of the victory" and he was not slow to take advantage of the times. Freed for the moment from the dread of attack or annexation by the Pandya, he turned his attention to strengthen his position and eventually to oust the Pallava Aparajita from his throne and territory.

THE BATTLE OF VELLUR

OR

THE CONQUEST AND ANNEXATION OF THE PANDYA TERRITORY BY THE CHOLAS

THE battle of Sripurambiyam stemmed the power of the Pandyas and the battle of Vellur altogether extinguished it. We have a clear account of the battle of Vellur in the Mahawanse. Moreover two inscriptions of the 12th year of Parantaka make casual references to the battle. The Udayendiram plates issued by Prithivipathi II, Hasthimalla of the Ganga dynasty in the 15th year (A.D. 921) of Madurai-konda Parakesari Varman Parantaka Chola I also refer to the battle. Parantaka I was the son and successor of Aditya Chola I who took part in the battle of Sripurambiyam. Parantaka ascended the throne in the year 907 A.D. and he followed up his father's victories by putting an end to the Pandyan independence and extending his empire up to Kanya, Kumari in the south.

Soon after his accession Parantaka invaded the Pandya country and capturing Madura, took the title of "Madurai Kondan". The Pandya King, Rajasimha,

was not strong enough to check Parantaka's progress and so sought the aid of the Ceylonese ruler. Rajasimha sent messengers after messengers to the Ceylonese ruler. The Mahawanse says, "While thus the sovereign of Lanka (Kassappa V-913—23) held sway in justice, the Pandya King was vanquished in the battle by the Chola King. To gain military aid, he sent numerous gifts. The king, the ruler of Lanka, took counsel with his officers, equipped military forces, appointed his Sakkasenapathi as leader of the troops and betook himself to the Mahathitta. Standing at the edge of the former kings and thus arousing their enthusiasm, he made his troops embark. With his army the Sakkasenapathi, thereupon, safely crossed the sea and reached the Pandya country. When the Pandya King saw the troops and him, he spake full of cheer, "I will join all Jambudwipa under one umbrella". The king took the two armies, but as he could not vanquish him "the king, of the Cola line set out once more. . . . with the purpose of fighting further". (The Colas—p. 144).

The battle described above relates to the battle of Vellur, where Parantaka I completely routed the combined Pandyan and Ceylonese armies. The Udayendiram plates referred to above, narrates an account of the battle thus: "Having slain in an instant at the head of a battle an immense army despatched by the Lord of Lanka, which teamed with brave soldiers (and) was interspersed with troops of elephants and horses he (Parantaka) bears in the world the title Sangrama Raghava (i.e., Rama in battle), which is full of meaning. When he defeated the Pandya (king) Rajasimha, two persons experienced the same fear at the same time; (Kubera) the lord of wealth on account of the death of his own friend (and) Vibhishana on account of the proximity (of the Chola dominions to Ceylon)"—S. I. I. II No. 76.

It is clear from the above statements that a great and decisive battle took place between Parantaka I and Rajasimha in which Parantaka was successful. "The victory of Parantaka at Vellur, paved the way for the progressive conquest and annexation of the Pandya country". Moreover the Pandya King fled to Ceylon

leaving his ancient heritage to fall into the hands of his enemy. The Mahawanse records of his flight as follows: "At that time the Pandya King, through fear of the Chola (King), left his country, took ship and came to Mahathitta. The king had him brought to him, rejoiced greatly when he saw him, gave him an abundant income, and granted him a dwelling outside the

town". The Thiruvellangadu plates confirm the above facts in a verse, which is translated as follows: "Encircled by the fire of his (Parantaka) prowess, the Pandya, as if desirous of cooling the heat caused by it, quickly entered the sea (embarked to Ceylon), abandoning his royal state and the kingdom inherited from his ancestors."

SRI SADASIVENDRA

BY THE HON. MR. JUSTICE N. CHANDRASEKHARA AYYAR

IN almost all early literatures, it is not uncommon to find attempts by authors to pass off their compositions of poor quality as productions of great poets and writers. Sanskrit literature is no exception; on the other hand, it abounds in instances of such spurious stuff masquerading as genuine, Sankara and Kalidasa being the most notable to be thus victimised. Sri Sadasivendra, known to the world as a scholar of vast learning, and even more, as a yogi *par excellence*, is apparently one other victim of the kind, to whom the stotra called "Sivamanasika Puja" is attributed. There is no sublimity of thought in the work; the composition rarely rises above the standard of versification; there is no lilt or charm in the poetry; and some of the verses are cheap imitations of what is found in Sage Durvasa's *आर्याविराति*. It is not even a patch on the simple but grand *परापूजा* associated with the name of Sri Sankara.

Twenty-three kirtanas form the second part of the booklet* under notice. They may be handy and useful to musicians on those rare occasions when the audience calls out for Sanskrit melody; but, either as poetical compositions or as outpourings of the heart in praise of the Lord, most of them are commonplace. It is hard to believe that Sri Sadasivendra, a writer of renown who had attained God-realisation, composed such mediocre songs—highly artificial, alliterative and verbiage. The twelfth, the fourteenth and fifteenth kirtanas (*चिन्तानास्तिकिल; सर्वे ब्रह्ममयं*; and

तद्वर्जीववं) seem in all probability to be his. A part of the ninth kirtana *खेलतिपिण्डां* is possibly his. It is open to much doubt whether the rest do not represent the efforts of some pedestrian composer who was more intent on the mere padding of words and saw no faults in repetition of ideas and language.

Atmavidya Vilasa, which is the third part of this publication, is one of the masterpieces of Sri Sadasiva Brahmendra. The sixty-two verses are so many gems of poetry and sublime philosophic thought. Sri Sadasivendra was probably portraying his guru, Paramasivendra, or himself, in these Arya verses of supreme beauty. Every person who wants to realise his own self, and thereby the One Supreme, can do no better than make these limpid and mellifluous slokas his own by constant study and the contemplation of their underlying thought.

Mr. V. Narayanan, M.A. M.L., is a keen and discerning scholar in Sanskrit and Tamil. It is no easy task to elucidate in simple Tamil the meaning of philosophical truths couched in Sanskrit terminology; and it is even more difficult to translate them into correct and flowing English. Mr. Narayanan has achieved both these tasks remarkably well. Publications of this kind, containing transliterations of the original, Tamil meanings of words and English renderings, issued out with benedictions of sages like Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi, the pontiff who now presides with great distinction over the Kanchi Kanyakot Peetam, are sure to benefit a wide circle of readers and wean away many of them from paths of materialism and unbelief into the high road of spiritual evolution and progress.

* Sri Sadasivendra Brahma's Sivamanasika Puja; Kirtanas; and Atmavidya Vilasa. Sri Kamakoti Publishing House, Sri Sankara Mutt, Kumbakonam; (1943); Annas 10.

PSYCHOLOGY AND WAR

BY MR. SAROJENDRANATH ROY, M. Sc.,

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BELLUM nec timidum nec provocandum' (war is neither to be feared nor provoked) goes the Latin sermon. If one traces the origin of wars in the past it will be found that there had always been in the background a provocation—direct or indirect, legitimate or illegitimate on one side or other which ultimately led to those tragic catastrophies. And who will deny that the huge loss of human lives and properties, scarcity of indispensable commodities and vital foodstuffs, famine, arson, etc., which are the inevitable consequences of war may make even a daring person, not to speak of the ordinary run of people, get unnerved, momentarily, though it may be? Sermons are worthy of reverence no doubt but the grim reality cannot be overlooked. Provocation of war is as natural as is the fear resultant of war and sermonising can never be the way of checking the one or relieving us from the other.

Some may still believe that an international adjustment of a socio-political-economical nature will effect a permanent peace, but History is the best witness of the repeated failures of these types of attempts and undertakings. There are the sceptics, the theologians, the spiritualists and others who, according to their respective beliefs, suggest different ways for bringing about this ever-demanded peace. It will, however, be apparent on reflection that these traditional views may have logic in them but hardly are they based on psychological foundations. Or to be more precise, some maladjustment in any of the spheres—political, social, economical, etc., may hasten the advent of war but these should always be considered as secondary factors. The primary cause of war is psychological. It is the mind with all the characteristic complexities of its constitution that is functionally and fundamentally responsible for war. So long as the psychological determinants of war are not properly diagnosed and controlled, any pact or legislation will be of little avail for eradicating war from the face of the earth.

I have already stated that provocation of war is as natural as is the fear resultant of war. What are the causes of this provocation? Can not these be remedied? Again, if war happens at all it does evoke fear amongst the belligerents as also the non-belligerents. How to combat such fear in an efficient and effective way? These are some of the humane problems which have been of late receiving the closest attention of the psychologists. The vigorous researches that they have been conducting and their respective findings are really novel and stimulating. We shall discuss these two questions one by one.

Psychologists of different schools of thought are more or less unanimous as regards the causal factor of war. They say that it is excessive patriotism, mingled with some emotional complexes, that is fundamentally the cause of war. Their respective approaches, however, are at variance with one another. Of the various early concepts, Le Bon believed in the inheritance of different 'racial characters' by different nations and according to him when the nation was in peril, it was the racial mind of an individual that dominated his ultimate behaviour. Assumption of such a racial inheritance, however, is questionable. The psycho-analysts trace patriotism to the Oedipus complex. Thus according to Hopkins the homeland is symbolically a mother substitute and the rape of the mother country fits patriots with indignation. Freud's concept of 'death instinct' is still a controversial issue amongst some psycho-analysts who, however, concur that aggression occurs and that it can be sublimated in other ways than through war. Again Stratton emphasises that delusion about 'our' nation and 'other' nations are at the background of waging war. Doob has forwarded his viewpoint of frustration and aggression, while Handmann offers the argument that much of the alleged economic conflict between nations is really a question of power for national leaders. In this way psychologists of international repute have presented to

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the world their findings regarding the cause of war.

Is it not worthwhile to pay some attention to these psychological findings? Can not the delusions, emotional complexes, aggressive or frustrative impulses, etc., of the patriots be properly analysed and adjusted accordingly? It is pertinent to assert that so long as mass sublimation of the human nature and a thorough emotional re-education of the people do not become an actuality war will ever remain a potentiality in this earthly earth of ours and permanent peace shall remain eternally imprisoned in the dark vaults of nether lands. Can not this task be undertaken? It is upto the philanthropists to take into consideration these psychological facts and findings and formulate relevant and requisite plans so that these findings may be utilised in the interests of permanent peace amongst nations and orderly progress of mankind. But before such sort of peace gains a material shape, which obviously is a matter of some future date—near or remote, there is every likelihood that war will continue to happen. It is quite relevant therefore to look at the other side of the picture—if war happens at all the second item of our subject on war.

Apart from the extreme sacrifices and unusual jeopardies which nations in hostilities are subjected to, the emotional unbalances in the nature of fear, anxiety, etc., the natural resultants of war, add more to the sufferings of the people. Speaking generally, human beings experience two kinds of fear, which may be termed as individual fear and panic fear. Individual fear is always related to certain object and it is quite in conformity with mental activity of the best kind. The latter, on the other hand, is not directly related to any object but is generated in the experiencer by the reactions of his immediate fellows. It results in the weakening of rational judgment, obliteration of individual consciousness and stolid deviation from sound common sense. It throws people into a riotous situation, drives them to spread wild rumours and making others believe in those rumours. These rumour-mongers infect others with their theses mostly unfounded

and when questioned about the validity of their information, the commonest replies are 'from a very reliable source', 'take it from me' and so on. In this way rumours spread and spread like a bonfire. The demoralising effect of panic becomes so acute that insomnia, loss of appetite, constant nervous tension and other physical and psychical disorders find easy victims amongst the people. The established social order reaches a vacillating stage of collapse and preservation of individuals and race is threatened beyond limits. What a sad picture the nations in war present to us!

The keynote of human survival lies in facing the reality, in enduring its onslaughts and in overcoming all the obstacles that one may have to confront. The most important practical question therefore is, how the varied emotional difficulties generated by the war may be effectively controlled so that psychological adjustment of individuals may not be too difficult a problem to solve. Or to put it differently, how the morale of the people during war can be successfully maintained? The psychologists consider the preservation of the morale as one of the essential requisites for maintaining the civilian existence of a nation. They have carried on and still been conducting valuable researches for ascertaining facts which improve morale and factors which are the determinants of high morale. Let us have a glimpse of the findings they have already arrived at.

The psychologists ascribe different meanings to the term 'morale' according as it refers to individual as an independent organic unit or to individual as a member of a group. In the former case they say that morale relates to a " . . . condition of physical and emotional well-being in the individual that makes it possible for him to work and live hopefully and effectively. . . . to perform his task with energy and enthusiasm and self-discipline, sustained by a conviction that in spite of obstacles and conflict his personal and social ideals are worth pursuing". And in case of the latter they define morale as a " . . . condition of a group where there are clear and fixed group goals (purposes) that are felt

to be important and integrated with individual goals; where there is confidence in the attainment of these goals, and subordinately, confidence in the means of attainment, in the leaders, associates and finally in oneself; where group actions are integrated and co-operative".

According to D. C. Miller whose findings have been mostly corroborated by other investigators, the following factors have been found to be closely related to the morale of an individual:

(i) Occupational level and income: Persons who hold high posts and earn very decent sums are superior in morale to those who do not.

(ii) Economic security: Persons who are not well off economically or whose economic positions are quite unstable or who are in employment of a temporary nature having the possibility of being discharged any moment or those without any employment at all, are inferior in morale to the persons who do not belong to any of these categories.

(iii) Conditions of living: The morale of persons who live in their own homes is much higher than those who stay away from their homes.

(iv) Religious conviction: Strong belief in religion is a criterion of high morale.

(v) Realistic approach: Persons having the capacity to make realistic approach for solution of difficulties are superior in morale to those who resort to wishful thinking.

(vi) Leisure activities: Enjoyment of leisure activities is indicative of high morale. Morgan is of opinion that hobbies and outside interests yield much happiness to persons in their old age.

(vii) Intelligence and education: Less intelligence and more education tends to go with high morale.

To put it in brief, it may be said that that man has ideal morale who has received a good education, holds a high post and has a good income, who lives in his own home and is financially sound, who enjoys his favourite activities and leisure interests without any feeling of opposition, who can conform himself to the

reality of the situation and who has got deep religious convictions.

But we are totally disillusioned when we look at the actual reality of the situation. There is not much to dispute about the relevance of the determining factors of morale mentioned above. Had it been possible to group individuals in such a way that they somehow or other would closely cluster around one or other of those determinants, the problem of maintenance of high morale would have been solved then and there. But a graphical representation of a nation achieved by plotting the human units as variables against high morale determinants as constants, would reveal a completely different picture. Some individuals will be found to be at the topmost occupational level, a few to be enjoying the ideal, economic and home security and similarly in the other spheres of the determinants. This type of distribution of human beings is a normal phenomenon and it is natural in all fields, whether of biology, psychology or sociology. Even still, in spite of this natural limitation it will not be too dogmatic to assert that if efforts are made in the right direction, some improvement, may not be the ideal one, in the morale of individuals can be made effective. But how, that is the question. The psycho-analysts will say that fear may be overcome if the ego of the individuals can be subjugated to a common ideal and the call of duty. Some may point out that familiarity with the fear-situations will lead to the conquest of fear. And there are others who will say that confidence in leadership or in certain authority, shall improve morale of the individuals and propaganda is the method that is suggested for this. The method of propaganda is followed with profit of course in other types of social crisis and has also to some extent been found to be effective for heightening morale of the people during war. But the point is this that if the propagandist does not give due consideration and emphasis to the degree of emotional instability through which the people pass their days during war, his whole plan is bound to be frustrated. Only parrot-like utterances of the propagandist may on the reverse generate an unexpectedly hostile attitude in the general

mass against the persons in authority. Propaganda will yield the desired result only when it is properly organised and when it generates in the public mind a sense of emotional security.

On the question of the morale of the civil population as a whole, however, nothing concrete and conclusive has as yet been offered by the psychologists. Their findings in this respect are still too scanty to rely upon. The difficulty arises from the fact that the civil group cannot be considered as a homogeneous unit. It consists of different sub-groups each of which has a separate character and definite aim of its own. Factors affecting the morale of an individual as a member of a group therefore are bound to vary with the respective variation in the nature of the group. It is when comprehensive studies are made of the different sub-groups and the respective results are collated together that certain deductions can be made regarding the factors by which the morale of the civilian population as a whole can be improved. Some studies have been made of the morale of groups of children and adolescents in certain specific situations. The conclusions are that morale improves when the individual members of a group mutually like one another, when discipline is imposed democratically by the group as a whole and not by any external agencies

and when individuals participate in organised group activities. There are also some studies on the problem of morale of industrial workers. Various researches are still being conducted by the leading psychologists in other parts of the world for discovering factors leading to improvement of civilian morale. It is India that is lagging behind in conducting researches of this type.

The degree of reliability of the findings already achieved may be a matter of dispute, but that should certainly not prevent us from undertaking similar investigations. And it is really high time that we did. India is becoming more and more involved in the war and we ought to make vigorous preparations on the psychological front to be able to cope with the intensive attacks of mental disorders that are bound to come. There are dark days ahead but why be discouraged?

The moment however we realise that the possibility of permanent peace depends to a certain extent at least on the control of psychological tendencies of man, a faint ray of hope glimmers in our weary heart. Let us, therefore, with firm faith and patience await the dawning of that bright golden day when amity between the different nations of the world will be permanently established and universal brotherhood amongst them inaugurated for all time to come.

THE HIMALAYAS IN MYSORE CITY

BY "AN ART CRITIC"

THE giving of an exhibition of forty large paintings by the famous Russian artist, Nicholas Roerich, and his gifted son, Svetoslav Roerich, under the patronage of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore during the last Dasara celebrations, was a tactful and appropriately topical compliment to the great ally, Russia, of the United Nations, including India. The famous painters are Russian, and they have shown their appreciation of India by living and painting their masterpieces for twenty years at both ends of the Himalayas. Professor Consins, who founded the Chitrasala (Art Gallery) in the

Jaganmohan Palace for His late Highness the Maharaja in 1924, and has watched its development, spent a number of days in hanging these great pictorial creations in two galleries recently extended, by the building up of old arches, into 50 feet long walls, lit from ceilings which ideally suit the austerity and large mass effect of these representations of the elemental powers of the longest and highest range of mountains in the world which are characteristic of both artists.

On entering the impressive central hall, the eye is immediately attracted to a

noble symbolic picture entitled "Victory," which fills the middle position of one side of the gallery. The foreground represents the roofs of a town on the top of a hill, in gloomy darkness, while a great cloud mass in the sky above glows with the brightness of the rising sun. The shape of the cloud causes it to look like an archer shooting arrows of light into the night and conquering the powers of darkness. The light of knowledge and the glow of beauty are, in Professor Roerich's estimate, the natural future victors over ignorance and ugliness.

Directly opposite, on the other wall of the gallery, the central position is given to an oblong narrow presentation of the spreading Himalayan range with the snow-clad Kunchinjunga mass in the centre above a foreground a deep-darkish blue. Above this picture is placed a vertical composition in which a single inspiring white peak rises into the "intense inane" of a cloud blue sky. This picture reaches the highest point of the arrangement of these 25 pictures of Nicholas Roerich, all of which are shown in this central gallery and a small ante-room. Other paintings comprised in it have been seen before, such as the "Song of the Waterfall," with the figure sitting near it playing the song on a lyre; the picture of the horse bringing the Teachings of the Buddha radiating on its saddle across the vast eastern Himalayas; the picture of the Rishi in front of his dark cave on the road to Kailasa to whom pilgrims are paying reverence, the whole mountain side glowing as if lit from within its own substance, a *tour de force* of the painter. All this gallery shows the hills, and immobile masses with a minimum of human subjects. Yet they do not weigh on one as mass production. So varied are their shapes, so contrasted their colour compositions, that they have a sense of aliveness of a purpose in their own realm, and they exude strength, immortality, beauty and aspiration such as is badly needed in these days of instability and changing and cruel human values.

One section of this Nicholas Gallery has two outstanding Chinese pictures of Russia and China in quite different colours and

a particularly lovely picture which shows St. Sergius, over-tired by his labours in building a small church, being joined by a bear out of the woods and snow who picks up one of the planks and carries it, following the saint, to help in the Holy Work.

In the parallel gallery the pictures by Svetoslav Roerich have a different appeal. He also uses large canvases and subjects right out of nature, but he is equally interested in portraying these as inter-linked with the daily life of humanity.

He has painted nothing better than the fleecy clouds of one most inspired picture, the wind-driven clouds of another, the back-ground of great cumulous clouds to the human toil of ploughing the ridge of a hill. In another masterly creation the joy is infectious of a monk who is ringing his bell and singing to the rhythms of his small drum. One can see happiness swelling up in him and flowing over in song, while near him are some goats who look the essence of dumbness; but a little white kid is so appealing and lifelike that it looks as if it could walk right out of the picture.

Mr. Svetoslav has chosen three Biblical themes for three new large canvases which are very striking in their portrayal of divine and human nature. But it is impossible to convey in a few words the inspiring effect of this exhibition. All is in the grand manner, nothing is trivial or casual. The touch of the master, the vision of a consecrated soul, shines through these pictures, and the experience causes one the better to realise why and how the Himalayas are the magnet which attract the pilgrims of India to their heights.

It is understood that six of the paintings, all by the father, and all of Himalayan scenes, have been acquired for the Jaganmohan Palace public gallery, and after permanent framing will, with one previously acquired, make a special Roerich Room that will be a source of delight to the thousands of visitors who go through the 'Chitrasala' annually, and an inspiration to Indian artists to express in their own way the beauty and meaning of nature.



The WORLD of BOOKS



(ONLY SHORT NOTICES APPEAR IN THIS SECTION)

TWENTY PORTRAITS. By Mukul Dey. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta. Price Rs. 5.

Mr. Mukul Dey's "Twelve Portraits" have already won for him deserved appreciation from artists of repute. The present attempt is a continuation of the series which must have equal appeal to the public. The sketches represent persons in different walks of life with whom the artist had come in contact during the last five and twenty years. What a gallery of great men and women we have in that collection which includes portraits of Aurobindo and Rabindranath, Besant and Andrews and Pearson, Albert Einstein and Sven Hedin, Abanindranath and Sir Dorab Tata and Mahatma Gandhi. They represent men and women who have made their mark in different spheres of public life and the memory of the faces portrayed so faithfully and delicately by one of the most distinguished artists of the Bengal school must be a cherished possession. Here are some of the outstanding personalities of the time preserved in an album which must prove a veritable treasure to this and succeeding generations.

CHRISTMAS, 1935 AND OTHER VERSES; CHANDIDAS; VIDYAPATI; EXEGI MONUMENTUM. By D. C. Datta, M.A. Published by Stephen Allen, 47, New Theatre Road, Calcutta.

Professor D. C. Datta, Head of the Department of English in the Maharajah's College at Jaipur, has done a service to the general public by popularising the two great Bengali poets Chandidas and Vidyapati by publishing in separate pamphlets their poems in English lyrical verse. Exegi Monumentum is the tribute in poetry he pays to his father acknowledging his greatness and influence on him. The other verses indicate a variety of interest and deal with many topics. Peace on earth and goodwill to all men is the message he would pass on to his readers.

BEGAMS OF BENGAL. By Brajendra Nath Banerjee. With a foreword by Dr. Sir J. N. Sarkar. S. K. Mitra & Bros., 12, Narkel Bagan Lane, Calcutta.

The royal house of Murshidabad produced some remarkable women of attainments which, in the words of Sir J. N. Sarkar, are full of human interest, 'tinged with tragedy of the deepest dye' and which have been culled by the author from authentic contemporary news-letters, histories, etc. The daughter of Nawab Murshid Kuli Khan, an only child, Zinat-un-Nissa, enjoyed pre-eminence at court even in the days of Alivardi Khan. The latter's wife, Sharf-un-Nisa, was a heroine in the field and a great lady in every sense. Lutf-un-Nisa, the faithful wife of Sirj-ud-daula, ended her days in dire poverty, but faithful to the memory of her husband. Munni Begam, widow of Mir Jafar, was known as the Mother of the Company and a friend of Hastings. She died as late as 1813 and exercised authority over the Nizamat for close on half a century. The interesting account of these ladies here given, is worth careful study.

MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION. By S. N. Agarwala. Published by Kitabistan, Allahabad. Price 12 as.

A vigorous plea in English for the adoption of the vernacular languages in India as the media of instruction in all stages of education is put forward in this brochure by Mr. S. N. Agarwala, Principal of the G.S. College of Commerce. His thesis is that the medium of instruction in all stages of education, including the universities, should be the mother tongue of the students. He emphasises the importance of encouraging the study of the vernaculars as the only possible media of mass education in this country and points out that the lack of this is the cause of the great gulf that exists between the highly educated few and the uneducated masses in the country.

PROTO-INDIC RELIGION. By S. Srikantha Sastri, M.A. Published by the author, D. Subbiah Road, Mysore. Re. 1-8.

This thesis examines the nature and affinities of the Proto-Indian religion in the light of the seals, figurines and pottery discovered in the Indus valley sites. It attempts to draw parallels, if not coincidences, with the elements of the Atharvan civilisation. Many of the terracotta figurines and amulets are held to possess magical or astrological significance. The treatment of the dead and their disposal are elaborately analysed from the material afforded by the funerary figurines and pot paintings; and the Indus funerary customs are interpreted to prove the predominantly Aryan character of that civilisation, particularly as it is postulated that the vedic funeral customs, studied in the light of the Atharva Veda, show that the Aryans observed not merely cremation, but various other modes of disposing of the dead. From these and from other data held to show that the Aryans were as great traders, as they were warriors, it is concluded that the Proto-Indian civilisation could not be non-Aryan, as has been usually held, but is perhaps similar to the Atharvan phase of Vedic civilisation.

RABINDRANATH THROUGH WESTERN EYES. By Dr. A. Arousan. Published by Kitabistan, Allahabad. Price Rs. 4-8.

In his preface to the book, Dr. Ameya Chakravathi says it provides an entirely novel perspective as one follows Rabindranath in a panoramic literary tour through Europe. It is a carefully thought-out, and vividly expressed study of the reactions of the Western world to Rabindranath Tagore from that day in February 1913, when the sudden award of the Nobel Prize to an Indian came as a shock to most intellectuals even, when almost overnight Rabindranath became the most illustrious representative of India down to the present day. The author makes a discriminating selection from the very large number of writings that have grown up in the West about and around Rabindranath. Rabindranath's main thesis was that the East and the West must collaborate in order to create a new and better civilisation. His intense desire for social reform, the spiritual awareness, his mysticism in Art, Religion and Philosophy provided new integrity of thought and purpose. Rabindranath offered the West a unique linguistic synthesis of poetic flights and common sense—with the simplicity of a child and the intuitive genius of a prophet.

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS. By V. K. Narayana Menon. Oliver and Boyd, Ltd., Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh. 8-6.

RATIONALE OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION. By V. Sundaramurthy, The Bangalore Press, Bangalore City.

THE DHAMMAPADA. Text in Nagari, with an English translation by U. Dhammajoli. Maha Bodhi Society, Benares.

DROUPADI. A Drama in five Acts. By Dewan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, Lloyd's Road, Royapettah.

COMPLETE INCOME-TAX-READY RECKONER. Compiled by R. C. Doodhmal, F.I.S.A. Empire Terrace, Lamington Road, Grant Road, Bombay.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR INDIA. By N. Gangulee, George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., London.

ECHO AND EGO. By Roop and Mary. Ramakrishna & Sons, Lahore.

PRICE CONTROL AND FOOD-SUPPLY. With special reference to Bombay City. By C. N. Vakil. J. J. Anjaria, D. T. Lakdawala, N. M. Tripathi & Co., Princess Street, Bombay.

THE NAYAKS OF TANJORE. By V. Vriddhagirisai, M.A., M.Litt., L.T. Edited with Introduction and Supplementary notes by Rao Bahadur C. S. Srinivasachariar, M.A., Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar.

CENSUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 1941, Vol. XXIII, Parts I & II. Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

REGULATION OF WAGES AND OTHER PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL LABOUR IN INDIA. By D. R. Gadgil. Gokhale Institute of Politics, Servants of India Society, Poona.

THE GOSPEL AND INDIA'S HERITAGE. By Dr. A. J. Appasamy, S.P.C.K. Press Madras. Rs. 2-4.

THE WELL OF THE PEOPLE. By Bharati Sarabhai. New Book Company, Bombay. Rs. 2.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BY "AN INDIAN JOURNALIST"

Non-Party Leaders' Plea for a Tribunal

SIR Tej Bahadur Sapru and the non-party leaders have returned to the charge again. In a further statement issued in the last week of May, they urge the appointment of an impartial tribunal to investigate the charges made against Mr. Gandhi and the Congress leaders now in detention or in the alternative, the immediate release of those leaders with a view to end the deadlock. The prolonged detention of leaders without investigation is causing grave dissatisfaction and a keen sense of injustice, coupled with a grievous sense of helplessness and frustration, which bodes ill for the future of the good relations between England and India. "Whatever the legal position," they say, "the Government of India must seek a moral basis for its actions and it is with that object in view that we suggest an investigation by an impartial tribunal."

In this connection, they draw pointed attention to the Federal Court's decision which invalidated the arrest under the Defence rule.

Instead of availing themselves of the opportunity to restore those men to freedom under the sanction of a decision by the highest judicial authority in India, we regret that the Government of India have tried to legalise their action by a validating ordinance.

The imprisonment of Gandhi, says Mr. Bernard Shaw frankly in a special message to a contemporary, is the stupidest blunder the Government has let itself be landed in by its right wing incurable dishards. It and the unpardonable dogging business associated with it have wiped out our moral case against Hitler. The King should release Gandhi unconditionally as an act of grace unconnected with policy and apologise to him for the mental defectiveness of his Cabinet. That would do what is possible to save the Indian situation.

Mr. Amery has told the House of Commons with indecent haste that the Government of India have no intention of staging a trial of Mr. Gandhi and other detained Congress leaders. What then did the Viceroy mean when in his letter of February 5, 1948, he wrote thus to Gandhi?

If we do not act on all this information or make it publicly known, it is because the time is not yet ripe but you may rest assured that the charges against the Congress will have to be met sooner or later, and it will then be for you and your colleagues to clear yourselves before the world if you can.

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The Viceroy's New Council

There was a time when the prospect of the expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council was looked forward to with the sensation of a big event. That time is past. The Council, since its expansion, has had a chequered career. Its shuffling and re-shuffling has of late aroused little interest. And now, after the resignation of Sir H. P. Mody and Messrs. Sarkar and Aney over the issue of Gandhi's fast, even the little interest it worked before, has disappeared. The public knew that Government would choose the personnel acceptable to them. Government took two months to fill up the vacancy, and it does not appear to have made any difference. In the reformed Council the Muslims gain an additional seat: there are now four Muslims, four Hindus, one Sikh, one for the Depressed Classes, one non-official European and two official Europeans. Whatever the composition of this body, it does not seem to inspire much confidence in the public in regard to its capacity to shape Government's policy. It may be recalled that only the other day that the London *Times* observed that the then existing Central Council "has failed to fulfil the aspirations of the people." If that is so, it is difficult to think that the present Council has a better chance. It is evidently the realisation of this that has impelled the *Times* to advise the Government beforehand "not to neglect further efforts to solve the political deadlock."

The death of Allah Bux

Allah Bux, ex-Premier of Sind and President of the All-India Azad Conference, was shot dead at Shikurpur. The news of his death under extraordinarily tragic circumstances came as a rude shock to every one. The sudden termination of such a promising career was all the more regrettable as he was one of the pillars of the Azad movement for unity among Hindus and Muslims in that distracted province. It will be remembered that Allah Bux renounced his title of Khan Bahadur, as a protest against the repressive policy of the British Government.

Gandhiji's letter to Mr. Jinnah

Apart from the leaders' continued efforts to solve the deadlock, Mr. Gandhi himself seems to have been no less indefatigable in his endeavours even from his place of detention in the Aga Khan Palace. His letters to the Viceroy and the Government of India in August last, followed by his fast, all of which have been recorded in these pages, give ample proof of his earnestness and determination to leave no stone unturned to get to grips with the realities of the situation. But it was all to no purpose. Even Mr. Phillips, Roosevelt's personal envoy in India, was denied permission to meet Mr. Gandhi. And now we learn that Government had turned down Mr. Gandhi's request to forward his letter to Mr. Jinnah expressing a wish to see him. Doubtless the desired interview is not a social call, to discuss the weather! Everybody knows that it is to seek ways and means of ending the deadlock.

It will be recalled that Mr. Jinnah in the course of his presidential address to the Delhi session of Muslim League made a striking gesture, inviting direct contact with Gandhiji. He said:

Nobody would welcome it more than myself if Mr. Gandhi is even now really willing to come to a settlement with the Muslim League on the basis of Pakistan. Let me tell you that it will be the greatest day both for the Hindus and Mussalmans. If he has made up his mind, what is there to prevent Mr. Gandhi from writing direct to me? He is writing letters to the Viceroy. Why does he not write to me direct? Who is there that can prevent him from doing so? I cannot believe for a single moment—strong as this Government may be in this country—you may say anything you like against this Government—I cannot believe that they will have the daring to stop such a letter, if it is sent to me. It will be a very serious thing, indeed, if such a thing is done by the Government. But I do not see evidence of any kind of change of policy on the part of Mr. Gandhi or Congress or the Hindu leadership.

Gandhiji seems to have taken the hint and lost no time to get into touch with the leader of the Muslim League. But they evidently reckoned without the host. They cannot get over the hurdle in the shape of the Government of India. In a *communiqué* issued on May 26, they say that they have decided that this letter cannot be forwarded and have so informed Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah.

They are not prepared to give facilities for political correspondence or contact to a person detained for promoting an illegal mass movement which he has not disavowed and thus gravely embarrassing.

Can't they see how such an attitude is bound to be interpreted? It will give credence to the belief—mistaken it may be—that Government is by no means keen on resolving the deadlock. In the words of C. R.,

It is not right to treat national leaders of India as implacable enemies of the Allied nations, with whom a treaty should be concluded only along with the Peace Treaty with the Axis Powers. Yet this is plain implication of the policy now followed in India.

As the *Manchester Guardian* observes truly:

Mr. Jinnah can now say that he has appealed to Mr. Gandhi to establish Indian unity—as the British and Indian Governments are always telling them both to do—and that he has had the door which might have led to it shut by the Indian Government. Mr. Gandhi will say that when, for his part, he was anxious to respond, the Indian Government kept the door shut. Is it wise to antagonise everyone? Why should not the Indian Government allow other leaders to see Mr. Gandhi and find out what comes of it?

Mr. Jinnah, however, has not reacted in the way that the *Guardian* thought he should. The absence of the Congress from the field seems to afford him ample opportunities to consolidate his position and that of the League, and he has evidently thought fit to "play the game of imperialism" as a Muslim leader has said. With a skill worthy of a better cause he has changed front and tried to wriggle out of his Delhi stand. "This letter of Mr. Gandhi", says Mr. Jinnah, "can only be construed as a move on his part to embroil the Muslim League to come into clash with the British Government." Commenting on this strange somersault on the part of a nimble politician, Mr. Abdur Rahman Mitha observes:

To-day when Gandhiji has responded to his call and the British Government has most contemptuously ignored his threat, Mr. Jinnah has proved himself to be the greatest hoax of the day. He not only shirks the issue, but stoops so low as to attribute motives to Gandhiji's move. . . . It is now beyond doubt that Mr. Jinnah cannot tolerate the release of Congressmen. He is obviously prepared to put up with the present Ordinance Raj and shelve his Pakistan issue indefinitely, so long as the Congress does not satisfy his vanity and submit to his whims. If not by choice, potentially Mr. Jinnah is playing the game of imperialism.

The Independence Pledge

Much of the sting that used to be attached to the independence pledge adopted by the Congress has by now disappeared. For one thing it no longer connotes subversive action. It is taken to be the expression of a national and legitimate aspiration. Authoritative exponents of the Congress as of the Government have taken it to be equivalent to Dominion Status with or without the right to secession. Time and usage have blunted the edge of acrimony in the use of that expression. It is therefore in the fitness of things that it be given the imprimatur of a judicial pronouncement.

Acquitting two students and two ladies sentenced to imprisonment by a first-class magistrate on a charge of having in their possession the Independence Pledge, Mr. J. R. Mudholkar, Sessions Judge, Wardha, observed:

Reading the Independence Pledge as a whole, I cannot say that it is likely to incite people to attempt by violence or public disorder to subvert Government for the time being established in British India. This pledge, I am told, is read every year on the 26th January and no one has been prosecuted upto now. If this is the case and Government has not banned it or taken any action with regard to it, it must be inferred that it did not cause any uneasiness to it. For these reasons the exhibits (about Independence Pledge) cannot be regarded as prejudicial reports.

Common sense about India

Common sense is becoming so uncommon in British discussions about India that we welcome Lord Huntingdon's thesis on the subject, which has been extracted copiously in the Indian press. His Lordship's discussion of the Indian problem is at once dispassionate and sympathetic. British rule has been in India for 150 years, and he contrasts its poor results with the glorious achievements of the Soviet rule in Russia during the last 25 years. He might well have also drawn attention to the equally beneficent results of Chiang's work in China during the last decade. He meets the objections urged by interested parties' regarding communal and linguistic differences squarely

and plainly. Supporting the demand for immediate self-government for Indians, His Lordship says:

In the first place the Government must at once release the Congress leaders and reopen negotiations. This is absolutely essential. . . . In the second place Britain must offer to invest real power in an Indian National Government. The operational control of the war and the armed forces must obviously remain in the hands of a British Commander-in-Chief, and the higher strategy of defence must be decided in Whitehall, or wherever the military headquarters of the United Nations may be. This condition . . . has already been fully conceded by the Congress leaders.

He meets the objection to the release of Congress prisoners in these words:

To those who say that by so doing the British Government would lose face, the answer is, which face do they prefer to lose? The Imperialist, *herrenvolk* face, which cannot endure to relax its authority over a subject people, or consent to free and mutual co-operation with a coloured race? Or the face which is turned towards freedom, and in whose honesty of expression we have asked the world to believe?

INDIA'S SACRED SHRINES & CITIES

This book gives a vivid account of Important Cities and Sacred Shrines in India, together with the history and legend connected with them. An attempt is made to cover notable Shrines and Cities all over British India and the Indian States as well. It will be found indispensable not only to the pious pilgrim but to the foreign tourist interested in art and architecture. But it is no mere guide book for the pilgrim tourist only. It is literature of a novel kind, making available to the English-reading public the rich treasures of the *shala purana*, with copious descriptions of places and temple architecture.

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

By "CHRONICLER"

Mr. Churchill on Washington Talks

MR. CHURCHILL at a Joint Press Conference with President Roosevelt held on Tuesday the 25th May, announced that it is indisputable the tide of war has turned. British and American leaders have arrived at good conclusions for prosecuting the war in the Pacific with the greatest vigour.

Mr. Churchill declared the growing might of the Allied war machine would be cast increasingly against the enemy on every front where he was to be found. The Allied production superiority would be utilized to the last ounce. We shall follow the principle that all our enemies must be engaged on the widest possible front.

Admiral Yamamoto

Admiral Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Naval forces, was reported killed in action. The death has come as a surprise, particularly to American naval authorities, who say that they are unaware of any combat in April of sufficient importance to warrant the presence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Navy. It is suggested that Yamamoto committed harakiri as he suffered many naval reverses.

Disbandment of the Communist International

The Moscow Radio broadcast, on May 22, a decree by the Executive Committee of the Communist International, recommending the disbandment of the Communist International. The Presidium of the Communist International appeals to all members of the organisation to

concentrate all their strength on full support and active participation in the war of liberation waged by the peoples and States of the anti-Hitlerite coalition, for the speediest rout of the most cruel enemy of workers—German Fascism, its Allies and vassals.

Japan's Warning to the Soviet

Urged by the fear of the possibility of the bombing of Japanese cities from Russian bases in Siberia, Tokyo War-Lords have broadcast a threatening warning to Russia. The broadcast said:

Russo-Japanese relations are governed by a Neutrality Pact, but if Russia ever gives its bases in Siberia for the use of the United States, then the army of Japan will deliver "Blitzkrieg" blows which Russia will not forget for some time. Japan is ready to meet every emergency. In its history, many such events have occurred which have taught her that in international relations nothing is certain. Japan is ready to take the next step.

Allied Offensive in Asia

The hope that in the very near future, the Allied armies, in co-operation with the Chinese, would launch an offensive in Asia is expressed in President Roosevelt's reply to Marshal Chiang Kai-shek's message on the Tunisian victory.

Axis Generals Bagged by Allies

It is learnt that since the outbreak of the war, the Allies, excluding Russia, have captured no fewer than 19 German and 92 Italian generals, including 3 Italian Air Force Generals and 2 Italian Rear-Admirals. Some of the Italian Generals, including the Duke of Assta, have died since their capture.

American Landing on Attu

United States commentators regard the attack on Attu in the Aleutians as a prelude to operations against Kiska and Japanese shipping and later Japan proper.

The *New York Daily News* welcomes the American landing on Attu as a good sign that the United States leaders are beginning to realise that the Pacific war is a major war too.

U.S. Overseas Strength

United States Army strength overseas is expected to total 27,00,000 men at the end of 1948, and 47,50,000 at the close of 1944. These figures were revealed by Major-General I. H. Edwards, Assistant Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He also said that an Army air force of 900 squadrons with a personnel of 24,50,000 is projected for 1948. He points out this would give the United States air forces equal to those of Germany, Italy and Japan, and would give the Allies two-to-one air superiority over the enemy.



TOPICS From PERIODICALS



THE INDIAN SITUATION

Hon. Mr. P. N. Saprú writing on the "Background of Indian Situation" in the *Twentieth Century* for April observes that the main issue today is: "What should be done to end the present deadlock, establish harmonious relations between the Government and the people and encourage the people of India to concentrate their energies upon the task of helping to win the war and achieve a just and stable peace in the world!"

Both the British and the Indians must be prepared to shed old prejudices and view the problem afresh. The position that faces us is that the unfortunate utterances of British statesmen have encouraged many fissiparous tendencies in this country. A frontal attack which has no constructive alternative to offer to the vista of heaven and earth, which will be established for the Muslim community if Pakistan materialises may not, one apprehends, enable us to achieve independence for our country and maintain its integrity at one and the same time.

Life, he says truly, is a continuous process in which one has often to choose the lesser evil in order to ward off greater perils. On the part of Indian nationalism, therefore,

a more constructive approach towards the problem raised by the problem of self-determination of provincial or communal units is needed, for one of the evil legacies which the Cripps proposals which did not represent a decision by His Majesty's Government but were merely in the nature of a suggestion for acceptance by Indian political parties has left behind, is that it has made many Muslims believe that Pakistan is within their reach. Indian nationalism cannot, if it is to save itself from wreckage, adopt a purely negative attitude towards the minorities problem. It has, therefore, become essential for us to examine the schemes based on the so-called principles of self-determination of provinces with open and unprejudiced minds. It may be that the unity which we have so far failed to achieve may become more easily realisable if we go deeper into the details of constitutional contrivances so devised as to assure the communities living in this land that they all shall all have a fair deal in the India of tomorrow. For this reason the action of the Viceroy in refusing the request of the Bombay Conference leaders to interview the Mahatma, who has immense influence with millions of people in this country and whose assent is essential for any lasting settlement, is to be deeply deplored. It places an obstacle in the way of an improvement of the Indian atmosphere.

Britain, too, cannot escape her responsibility for the continuance of the present unrest in the country. It is her policies, which dating from 1905, have brought about the present *impasse* in India.

Canada, Australia and New Zealand were able to evolve an agreed constitution because they had clean slates to write upon. They did not have in their country the problem complicated for them by British decisions and utterances calculated to split up sections of their population by the method of communal representation. So far Britain has not even been prepared to state that with agreement reached, India will have a government which can be said to have a national status even during war-time, subject to such adjustments as may be necessary in the interests of unified allied strategy.

SCIENTISTS' CONTRIBUTION TO WAR

"When a man of science is called upon to help defend his country against wanton aggression, he can scarcely be considered as doing a sinful act if he brings his superior knowledge to bear upon the problem of defeating the enemy," says Sir C. V. Raman, writing in 'the *Holkar State Sentinel*', in reply to the charge that science and scientists are contributing to the horrors of war by the invention of new weapons and engines of destruction.

"It is also worthy of remark", he proceeds,

that the inventions and discoveries which are made for promoting the arts of peace often prove deadly weapons in warfare. Alfred Nobel invented dynamite for use in road-making and mining. Indeed, it also often happens that scientific inventions of the most abstruse character made without any thought of practical application make a vital contribution to defensive and offensive warfare.

Quoting an instance of this kind from recent experience, he says:

A few years ago, a research student, working in my laboratory, developed and published a method by which thin metallic films bounded by a very sharp straight edge may be deposited on panes of glass. The technique was developed for using such films in an optical investigation of purely theoretical interest. Quite recently, a request was received from the United States for full details of the process for use in connection with the manufacture of sighting devices for artillery.

RESOLVE THE DEADLOCK

"In spite of the repeated statements that the Cripps offer remains open, the feeling is growing that the offer has lapsed with the end of the threat from the East which really originated it, says Mr. R. K. Patil who has been "permitted to resign from the I.C.S." in the course of an article he has contributed to the *Hitavada* of Nagpur.

There is a feeling of frustration pervading the whole country and it is the duty of every thoughtful and public-spirited Indian to devise ways and means to solve the deadlock.

And no patriotic Indian can consider with equanimity even the thought that after all even after the war India may not be free.

But why does not Mahatma Gandhi do what is asked of him? That surely is one way of solving the deadlock.

In the correspondence that took place between His Excellency the Viceroy and Mahatma Gandhi the latter was asked to fulfil certain conditions, which no person, however great could do on his own authority.

As claimed and rightly too, that if the Viceroy wanted a change of his personal view he should be convinced beforehand and in case any change was required in the views of the Congress he should be put amongst the members of the Working Committee.

How is the deadlock to end? The Government has no mind to solve it, says Mr. Patil, and apparently it is doing its best to see that it is not solved."

It is probably axiomatic that what India will gain by a satisfactory solution of this deadlock now will be of great value in the future.

It is clear that a little effort now in organising and making public opinion felt will have more fruitful results from the point of view of the objective, than Herculean attempts after the war.

A great responsibility thus rests on leaders of public opinion and the country is looking to them for guidance.

Past experience has shown that without some sort of sanction there can be no effect on Government's policy. It is therefore necessary that the whole country should concentrate on this and the only issue.

Our case is clear and so well founded on justice and reason, he says, that it cannot be controverted. And if public opinion expresses itself in an organised manner Government is bound to concede absolutely reasonable demand of establishing contact with the imprisoned Congress leaders.

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONS

This is the subject of a paper published in the current issue of the *Modern Review*. The writer Mr. A. N. Basu of the Calcutta University suggests that vocational guidance has to be scientifically organised. This means two things: analysis of the person for whom the vocation is meant. It means a scientific study of the requirements of different vocations. A complete vocationing survey is therefore necessary. It must be based on national resources in the present and in the future.

On the basis of a complete vocational survey of the nation national trade and industry must be regulated, the different vocations co-ordinated and correlated. The next step will be a study of the vocations or vocation analysis. Then we shall study the individuals. We shall study his abilities, aptitudes, temperaments, his likes and dislikes, his intellectual possibilities and emotional requirements, in a word the entire personality of each individual. We must obtain a personality profile. Then by correlating this with the requirements of the different vocations we shall find out which particular vocation he should take and try to place him there. It will then be the task of the educators to give him the particular training that that vocation demands.

But these factors can be co-ordinated only by the State. The State alone can undertake the vocational survey. The State alone can induce the trade and industry to organise the vocations. It is also the State that alone can organise vocational guidance for the individual and complete and build up a well-rounded system of vocational education for all.

So the State must take up the responsibilities not only of selecting a vocation for the individual but also of providing him with the necessary training for that particular vocation and how it will discharge these responsibilities I have just discussed.

In India as yet we have no comprehensive vocational survey of the nature I have envisaged, the essential co-operation of the State on one hand and trade and industry on the other is as yet to be achieved, we have not yet built up an efficient system of general and vocational education and we have no agency for vocational guidance even with regard to the limited number of vocations open to our youth. Need we wonder that there is widespread vocational maladjustments in this country? Perhaps better times are coming and coming soon. Let us be ready for that. Then with the occasion for reorganisation of our national life in all its aspects will come, we shall not be found wanting.

JAPANESE THREAT TO INDIA

"Japanese threat to India was decisively removed," declared Sir Reginald Maxwell, the Home Member, in the Assembly recently.

"I do not challenge those facts which led the Home Member to these conclusions, but certainly dispute the assumption regarding the removal of the external danger, when we realize that India also occupies a place in the Japanese map of further conquests, of which these preparations are a positive prelude," comments Salar Jung in the course of an article entitled, "The Next Target is India," in the current issue of the *National Review*, and adds:

In a previous issue I wrote: "It is inconceivable now that Japanese power, which swept through all the South-western Pacific Islands in less than four months, could crouch into insignificance receiving constant hammerings, from the Allies, and not being able to retaliate in the least!"

The truth was just the opposite. The Japanese High Command wanted its opponents to be lulled into a false sense of security, and then to fling a surprise at them.

The same may be the policy in Bismarck Sea battle, which appears precisely a foolish Japanese move at suicide.

Japan is partly successful in this policy, for there are not only politicians like Maxwell, but Military Commanders, who honestly believe that Japan is no more a fighting force. These developments should open the eyes of such ill-informed optimists.

We again give another warning that India still occupies the second, if not the first, place in Japanese sphere for conquests.

It may be an attack on India at the same time, or in most remote case, first on Australia and then on India. Japan, we believe, has entered the war with full and up-to-date preparations, and now when she holds sway over all the Southern and Western Islands in the Pacific, she cannot allow any challenge to strike at her flanks from India and Australia. If she is unmindful of this, then all her conquests are meaningless, or a foolish attempt at national suicide.

She, therefore, cannot have any rest till she is secure on these two sides. But this threat she wanted to remove in her traditional cowardly manner by keeping her opponent completely in the dark and "striking at a place where it is most unexpected."

Thus India is as much in peril as Australia.

FASTING

Sir Douglas Young writing in the *Northern India Observer*, points out that fastings for various purposes is not a new thing. Historically it is ancient. It has been used mainly by the devotees of various religions to induce a high degree of spirituality and to curb the lusts of the body. Fasting has been recognised for ages as a method of prevention and cure of disease.

Nature provides the remedy for a toxic condition by producing acute "disease" such as fevers, which, being the natural method of driving out poison, ought to be welcomed. If nothing is done to suppress this natural crisis, and elimination is assisted by fasting, sweating, hot baths and other natural methods, including massage, a fatal termination is not to be expected. Equally, periodical fasting while in health will prevent poison accumulating and so make unnecessary the intervention of Nature.

It is not only stout people who benefit from fasting.

I have seen thin and old people fast with great advantage to themselves. There is the recent example of the fast successfully undergone by Mr. Gandhi who, I am certain, benefited greatly by his Nature Cure. There is nothing like a fast for renewing one's youth and energy and I noted with pleasure that a Nature Cure specialist attended Mahatmaji—a fact which relieved me of all anxiety on his behalf. Gandhiji also suffers from high blood pressure for which a fast is clearly indicated.

Apart from major fasts, a fast of one day a week, observes the writer, can be undertaken with great benefit by anyone.

WAR AND PEACE PROBLEMS

"Myriads of Chinese, Russians and multitudes of conquered peoples in Europe, hundreds of millions of Indians will survive the war. Will they not be entitled to a full share of the benefits of peace and progress?" Thus asks *John Bull*, the British Conservative weekly, in an editorial discussing the problem of War and Peace. Continuing, the journal says:

Would not our war effort gain if we secured the full support of the Indian people? The time to consult our Allies is now. The time to reach an agreement is now. The time to plan has come. We must win the confidence of all freedom-loving peoples of the earth to win both War and Peace, concludes the journal.

DIARY OF THE MONTH

- May 1. May day celebrations in Russia: Stalin's message.
—President Roosevelt orders seizure of coal mines.
- May 2. Germans recapture Sidi Abdullah and little Argoule.
—Three new members appointed to Viceroy's Council.
- May 3. U. S. coal mine workers agree to suspend strike.
—Allies capture Mateur.
- May 4. Mr. Attlee says in the Commons defines British attitude to Anti-Indian law in S. A.
—U. S. Government order a six-day week for coal mining industry.
- May 5. Sir Nazimuddin says his ministry is ready to obey the mandate of the Muslim League Council.
—Madras High Court holds new ordinance rated.
- May 6. Madras Government decides to participate in standard cloth scheme.
—Mr. Philips is back in America.
- May 7. Allies occupy Tunis and Bizarta.
—Roosevelt's letter to Stalin.
- May 8. Mr. Eden hails Tunisian victory.
—Stalin receives British Ambassador.
- May 9. Sir Sultan Ahmed announces setting up of Publicity Advisory Board.
—Dr. Ambedkar, speaking at Bombay, aims at the establishment of a labour government in India.
- May 10. Cape Bon peninsula closed and blockaded.
- May 11. Jap village shelled by allied submarine.
—Mr. Attlee reviews Tunisian campaign in the Commons.
- May 12. Mr. Churchill confers with President Roosevelt at Washington.
—General Von. Arnim taken prisoner at Cape Bon.
- May 13. Award of Victoria Cross to Havildar Parkash Singh.
—Viceroy's broadcast call for celebration of Tunisia day.
- May 14. Mr. Allah Bux, Ex-Premier of Sind, shot dead at Karachi.
- May 15. Russians cross the Donetz.
—Gen. Alexander announces complete victory in North Africa.
- May 16. Justice Rowland of Patna High Court is appointed Judge of the Federal Court.
- May 17. Roosevelt promises offensive in Asia.
—Sir Jeremy Raisman announces new ordinance and defence rules.
- May 18. Dr. Sir Nilratan Sircar passes away at the age of 82.
—U.S. pincer move in Attu Isle succeeds.
- May 19. Mr. Churchill addresses U.S. Congress.
—Lord Keynes expounds British currency policy in the Lords.
- May 20. Pacific War Council summoned.
- May 21. Tunisia day celebrations in India.
—Death is announced of Admiral Yamamoto "killed in an aircraft in the course of combat with the enemy."
- May 22. Non-party leaders demand setting up of an impartial tribunal.
—Air battle over Chittagong.
- May 23. French National Committee accepts Giraud's proposals for unity.
- May 24. League Ministry formed in the Frontier Province.
- May 25. Government rejects Gandhi's request to meet Jinnah.
—Dusseldorf raided.
- May 26. President Roosevelt orders rubber shikers back to work.
—Mrs. Vijayalakshmi rearrested.
- May 27. Whitehouse statement announces complete agreement between Churchill and Roosevelt on future operations.
- May 28. Tributes to Mr. V. D. Savarkar on his 61st birthday celebration at Madras and Poona.
- May 29. Stalin explains dissolution of the Comintern.
- May 30. De Gaulle arrives in Algiers.
- May 31. Communist Party Congress meets at Bombay.

INDIAN STATES

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Hyderabad

CONTROL OF BANKING

A regulation has been enforced by the Nizam's Government regarding the flotation of new banking concerns in Hyderabad State in order to safeguard the interests of the public. The regulation comprises provisions relating to banking companies, which closely follow the lines of the Indian Companies' Amendment Act of 1936.

The regulation makes it obligatory for every new banking company to obtain sanction of the Nizam's Government before such a company is registered in the Hyderabad State under the Hyderabad Companies Act, or the branch of a bank registered in British India is opened in the Nizam's Dominions.

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

About 108,000 looms are now weaving cotton, silk and mixed fabrics in the State, it is learnt. The "Nander-sela" produced in the Dominions, it is claimed, approaches the famous Dacca Muslims in point of fineness. The hand-loom industry provides employment to 3 per cent. of the total population of the State and clothes half of it.

As an encouragement to hand-loom weavers, a working capital of Rs. 4 lakhs was set apart recently to enable the weavers to produce fabrics required for war purposes and other cheaper kinds of cloth for the public.

CRICKET IN THE STATE

When asked to give his impressions about Hyderabad Cricket, Col. C. K. Nayudu said: "The cricket in Hyderabad has definitely improved a lot in all departments of the game. I think that with better grounds to play on, the standard could be improved much more. Hyderabad needs the immediate revival of the Moinud-Dowla Tournament on all-India basis. With newcomers from outside the State participating in the tournament, cricket in the State will derive much benefit. There is enough material in Hyderabad to be moulded into a perfect team."

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Mysore

TRAINING COURSE IN JOURNALISM

At a meeting of the Senate of the Mysore University last month at the Central College, Bangalore, Mr. E. G. McAlpine, Vice-Chancellor, presiding, a proposition moved by Mr. B. Puttiiah, recommending the opening of a Post-Secondary Course in Journalism was adopted by a majority, after some discussion. Several members supported the proposition as it stood, while others, including the Director of Public Instruction, opined that a higher initial qualification than a Secondary School Certificate was necessary for admission to the course.

GRATUITY TO PRISONERS

Prisoners who come under the remission system are now being given a small gratuity every month according to the class to which they belong. The Committee recommended that such prisoners should be permitted to dispose of a certain portion of their gratuity not exceeding one-half, for their own needs and comforts in jail, and that the rest should be accumulated for their benefit and made over after the expiry of the sentence. This recommendation has been accepted.

MYSORE TO EMPLOY HAND-LOOMS

The Minister for Industries and Supplies, Mysore, Mr. M. A. Srinivasan, said that local textile mills were producing standard cloth and fairly substantial quantity of standard cloth were expected to arrive shortly in Mysore State. In addition, the Government of Mysore were contemplating measures to augment the production of cloth suitable for the masses through hand-looms.

TRANSPORT OF COTTON SEEDS

The Government of Mysore have, under the Defence of India Rules, passed orders prohibiting the transport of cotton seeds from any place within the State to any place outside either by rail or road or otherwise, except under a permit issued in this behalf by the Director of Civil Supplies in Mysore.

Baroda

THE MAHARAJA'S AMBITION

His Highness was following the magnificent example of highmindedness and ameliorative administration set by his predecessor Sayajirao Gaekwar who was one of the makers of modern India by reason of his farsighted advocacy of reforms many years before they found general acceptance. The present young Ruler had no less progressive ideas and had the great advantage of retaining the services of one of the wisest and most experienced of Indian statesmen, Sir Krishnamachari. In providing for the squadron, the Maharaja was showing attraction for intrepidity and daring in warfare natural to a Prince of Mahratta blood—people from whom sprang Shivaj the Great and who had control of a large part of India right upto early part of nineteenth century.

His Highness the Maharaja Sahab has recently finished his tour of two districts—Mehsana and Navsari. He had visited Baroda and Amreli districts about a year ago. This tour will live long in the memory of the people, for it has left them a legacy, among other benefits, of special donations totalling Rs. 6,75,000.

WAR EFFORTS IN BARODA

The Information Officer of the Baroda Government issued the following summary of some of the important activities in the State during the month of December 1942:

The war gifts fund stood at Rs. 2,84,852. The various war effort committees continued their activities, including publication of the weekly news bulletin.

The Baroda Squadron of all ranks had a hilarious dinner party "Somewhere in England" as guests of H. H. the Maharaja Pratapsingh. H. H. the Maharaja Sahab had sent 500 sterling to Sir Frank Brown requesting him to expend it at Christmas and New Year for the benefit of the squadron.

MEDICAL RELIEF FOR WOMEN

During the year 1940-41 Shri Maharani Shanta Devi Trust received donations of Rs. 88,250 for opening maternity wards in Vyara, Dhinoj, Chanasma and Sinor.

Travancore

SHIPPING CORPORATION

At a meeting held some time back at the Dewan's residence, the commercial and mercantile interests in the State were urged by the Dewan to constitute a Shipping Corporation for Travancore to take charge of the operations connected with coastal and other waterborne traffic in the State with the assistance of the Government. Representatives of the Government, Business, Shipping, Producing, Exporting and Importing interests attended the meeting.

Giving a bird's eye view of the seriousness of the transport and food problems in the State and the urgent need for reviving coastal trade, the Dewan stressed how the Government were now face to face with the problem of transport of supplies of rice, pulses, millets, etc., from places as far removed as Baluchistan, Bahawalpur, Sind, Orissa and the Central Provinces. They had therefore placed orders for four sailing vessels which were under construction in Alleppey and in addition had bought four sailing vessels costing 9½ lakhs of rupees. The Government were also taking steps to secure safe harbourage for this fleet and keep in fairly good trim ports like Quilon and Alleppey.

POLICE INSTITUTE

In the course of opening the Police Institute in Trivandrum, the Dewan Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer said:

"I look forward to the days when this Institute—the Travancore Police Institute—will serve not only as a clearing-house of information but as the home of a library in which topics appertaining to police administration and medical jurisprudence can be studied and people will come and refresh their memory. Under the inspiration and stimulus of His Highness, I am sure this institute will be a most useful instrument for the good of the State."

General

NEW RESIDENT FOR MADRAS

Mr. H. J. Todd of the Indian Political Service has taken charge of the Residency of the Madras States at Bolghatty from Lieut.-Col. G. P. Murphy, who has since retired.

Bharatpur

OIL-MILLS IN BHARATPUR

The question of establishing oil-mills in the State was discussed so long ago as 1935 and certain concessions were promised. The question was revived in 1940. Latterly on the 21st November, 1942, an application was received. The Government discussed the matter with Messrs. Ram Kumar Agarwal and Company, Meerut city.

The Government consider it desirable and necessary to encourage the establishment of oil-mills in the State. They have therefore been pleased, after full consideration, to grant permission for the registration of a Company by the name of 'Sri Brijendra Oil-Mills, Limited', and the establishment of a factory by it at Bharatpur.

Indore

MR. RICHARDSON ON SANSKRIT

"Sanskrit is an international language," suggested Mr. H. B. Richardson, Education Minister, Holkar State, speaking at the annual prize distribution of the Maharaja Holkar Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Indore.

"To-day when people said that all that was necessary was a knowledge of Hindi or Marathi they forgot the source from which these languages had sprung—Sanskrit. The glory of Sanskrit was that though it embodied Hindu literature in it, it was not purely a Hindu language. It was the language of Buddhist and Jain literature. It was related to Greek and Latin, it was an international language."

Kashmir

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

A demand for the establishment of Responsible Government in Kashmir was made by a deputation of the Muslim Conference headed by Mir Waiz Yousaf Shah, which waited on Sir Maharaj Singh, Prime Minister, Kashmir. The deputationists placed before him the grievances of Muslims laying special stress on the repeal of the Arms Act and the Cow Slaughter Act and inadequate representation in the Services.

The Premier promised to give his best consideration to their demands.

Jaipur

COMPULSORY LIFE INSURANCE

The Jaipur Government have sanctioned a scheme for the compulsory life insurance of all Government servants getting Rs. 15 and upwards. Premium at the rate of 5 per cent. of pay will be deducted from the salaries of all policy-holders and credited to a fund to be named the Jaipur State Life Insurance Fund.

The Government have also guaranteed the payment of benefits and other sums payable under the insurance contracts out of their revenues. A special feature of the scheme is that "money payable to the life assured or to his nominees or legal representatives under any policy issued by the committee shall not be liable to attachment under order of a court of law prior to the payment of the same to the persons to whom the payment is to be made under these rules." The policy will not cover war risks in the event of any such person, on whose life policy has been issued, taking up service in the armed forces of the State.

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Subscribed Capital	Rs. 3,36,26,400
Paid-Up Capital	Rs. 1,68,13,200
Reserve and Other Funds	Rs. 1,48,32,000
Deposits as at (31-12-1942)	Rs. 59,65,34,000

DIRECTORS.

Sir Homi Mody, K.B.E., Chairman, Ardeshir B. Dubash, Esquire, Haridas Madhavdas, Esquire, Dinshaw D. Romer, Esquire, Vithaldas Kanji, Esquire, Noormahomed M. Chinoy, Esquire, Bapuji Dadabhoy Lam, Esquire, Dharamsey Mulraj Khatau, Esquire, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Kt. H. F. Commissariat, Esquire.

LONDON AGENTS:—Messrs. Barclay's Bank Limited and Messrs. Midland Bank, Limited.
NEW YORK AGENTS:—The Guaranty Trust Co. of New York.

Banking Business of every description transacted on terms which may be ascertained on application.

H. C. CAPTAIN,
Managing Director.

Dec. '43.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

South Africa

INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Indian Congress scheduled to be held on June 2 and 4, is likely to be postponed until shortly after the election on July 7. The feeling has arisen that it would be unwise to hold the Congress in the middle of an election campaign turmoil when it would be difficult for some delegates, particularly from the Cape province to attend. Meanwhile, apart from election of office-bearers the Congress is likely to deal with highly controversial matters.

The recent Indian legislation will naturally be a great issue before the Congress and motions arising therefrom are expected to produce stormy debate. One motion will propose that South African Indians should link up with the Africans and coloured men in the latter's existing united front. A strong faction will urge that only with unity with other non-European races in the political field can there be any hope of eventual satisfaction of Indian aspirations.

The more conservative section, however, is likely strongly to oppose. The second controversial subject is a proposal that Indians should boycott the proposed judicial commission to enquire into the living and housing conditions of Natal Indians. This is likely to receive powerful support.

TRANSCAAL INDIANS' REQUEST

The Working Committee of the Transvaal Indian Congress has passed a resolution urging the Government of India to sever diplomatic relations with the Union Government and recall the High Commissioner as a tangible protest against the Indian Peggling Bill and "in order to maintain India's izzat in the eyes of the world". The Committee recorded a strong and emphatic protest against the Bill which it regards as violating the letter and spirit of the Cape Town Agreement and wholly inconsistent with the principles of the Atlantic Charter and democratic spirit of the Government. The renewal of the Transvaal Act completely disregards the findings of the Broome Commission, says the Committee.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

While the Government is wrestling to find a satisfactory formula that will protect the minorities of India when she obtains home rule, the authorities in South Africa appear to be concerned with the opposite problem, viz., the protection of the majority, says *The Bombay Diocesan Magazine*. "In Durban, the European majority is in danger from an Indian minority! They are being 'encroached upon'. The whole affair appears to us to be a deplorable example of racialism. We hope the Church of South Africa will associate itself with those statesmen, who have protested against the proposed 'pegging' legislation. If it fails to do so, we believe that in this matter it will have failed to uphold the Christian truth of the brotherhood of man."

What makes the position so tragic is that those who are fully cognisant of the South African situation have advised the Indian community not to resist lest worse befall them. That this is good advice from a practical standpoint we have little doubt. At a time when we are engaged in war with the evil of racialism exemplified in the Nazi and Fascist doctrines, it is alarming to find the same evil in our midst. However we consider it the duty of the Church to protest at this denial of our faith whether it arises in the camp of friend or foe."

U.S.A.

INDIAN SAILORS' CLUB IN U.S.

The first British Club for Indian merchant seamen in the U.S. named after Sir Girija Shankar Bajpai, Indian Agent-General in Washington, was opened on 14th May with talks by Mr. Godfrey Haggard, British Consul-General in New York and Sir Ashley Sparks, Resident Director Cunard in U.S.A. The Bajpai Club will provide curry and rice for seamen, native musical instruments, a curtained prayer room, a roof garden and games room.

MULTUM IN PARVO

NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL

NOTES

QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE

UTTERANCES OF THE DAY

DEMAND FOR IMPARTIAL TRIBUNAL

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. M. K. Jayakar, Dr. S. Sinha, Sir Chunilal B. Mehta, Raja Maheshwar Dayal Seth and Kunwar Jagdish Prasad have made a statement urging the appointment of an impartial tribunal to investigate the charges made against Congress leaders now in detention or, in the alternative, release of those leaders so as to enable them to review the situation and attempt a solution of the present deadlock.

Taking the situation as it is, we urge that the *ipse dixit* of the Executive Government should not be regarded as sufficient to justify the prolonged detention of imprisoned leaders without impartial investigation. Let those *ex parte* accusations be investigated by a tribunal of unchallengeable status and impartiality—a tribunal so constituted as to satisfy all reasonable men that it will carry on its investigation without fear or favour, and that its decisions will in no way be influenced by the published views of the Executive Government. We consider that the setting up of such a tribunal is in the highest interests of the Government itself. . . .

To the objection that the setting up of a tribunal will lead to public excitement, our reply is that the continued detention of these leaders has already caused and is causing grave dissatisfaction and a keen sense of injustice in the public mind. If Mahatma Gandhi and his colleagues are not allowed to meet the charges against them until after the war and are to be kept in prison till then, the plain implication of this is that some of the most prominent Indian leaders will be kept in jail without trial for may be five years and some of them may even die during this long interval. Mr. Amery's tauntingly provocative description of such detention as 'innocuous isolation' has only increased public resentment. Government may think that they are strong enough to ignore all such feelings and that they are the sole judges as to when and whom to arrest and detain without trial for an unlimited period. Whatever may be said of such action on the part of a government of the people, it cannot apply to a government carried on by an irremovable executive irresponsible to the people of this country or to its legislature and in which the key positions are still in British hands. Whatever the legal position, the Government of India must in the circumstances seek a moral basis for its actions and it is with that object in view that we suggest an investigation by an impartial tribunal.

SIR MAURICE ON FEDERAL COURTS

"The unifying influence" of the Federal Court was stressed by Sir Maurice Gwyer, Chief Justice of India, in his farewell speech at the Federal Court.

I have always hoped that the Federal Court may become like the city of Delhi itself, a symbol of that kind of unity which, all politics apart, can emerge out of diversity, for the Court in the respect also like the city of Delhi belongs to no province, race or community, but to the whole of India. It has, I hope, been able to play some part in developing the principles which must underlie any Indian constitution, whatever form it may take and I do not doubt that it will have opportunities in future for playing a more important part. I remain as firmly convinced as I have ever been of the future of India, and I am no less convinced that the constitution-makers of the future will not be able to dispense with legal help or the legal principles which it has been the privilege of this Court to expound.

IN DEFENCE OF SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS

Sir C. V. Raman, F.R.S., ably came to the defence of science and scientists the other day when he dealt with the commonplace charge that these must be blamed for contributing to the horrors of war by the invention of new weapons and engines of destruction. "It may be remarked," said Sir C. V. Raman,

that when a man of science is called upon to help defend his country against wanton aggression, he can scarcely be considered as doing a sinful act if he brings his superior knowledge to bear upon the problem of defeating the enemy.

MR. AMERY ON INDIA'S WAR EFFORT

The importance of the part played by the Dominions and India in the present war was emphasised by Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, in a speech at Birmingham.

She has already played the part of the main arsenal of the Middle Eastern campaign and is now preparing to play an even greater part in the supply and equipment of forces destined to relieve China and bring Japan's ephemeral conquests tottering to the ground.

NEW MINISTRY FOR FRONTIER

A *communiqué* from Government House, Peshawar, announced on May 25, that the Governor of the N.W.F.P. has been pleased to appoint the following to be members of his Council of Ministers:

Hon. Sardar Mohd. Aurangzeb Khan, Premier and Minister-in-charge of Law and Order and Revenue Departments, Hon. Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, to be Minister-in-charge of Finance Department, including Medical and Local Self-Government, Hon. Khan Samin Jan Khan to be Minister-in-charge of Education Department, including Jail and Legislative Departments, Hon. Sardar Ajit Singh to be Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department, Hon. Raja Bahadur Rahman to be Minister-in-charge of the Information Department, including Development Department.

TERM OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

A *communiqué* says: "His Excellency the Governor-General has decided to extend the life of the existing Council of State and Legislative Assembly for a further period of one year from 1st October 1948, when the extensions effected in his orders, dated the 15th June, 1942, will expire."

This is the seventh extension of the Central Legislature's life since 1938, when its normal term of three years was due to expire.

MR. PHILLIPS' FINDINGS

The proposal that President Roosevelt's Personal Envoy to India, Mr. William Phillips, be permitted to make public his findings, was made by Sirdar J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, at New York on May 16. "A settlement on India is of sufficient importance to free men everywhere to warrant the full revelation of all the facts available."

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIA

The total number of people imprisoned for offences in connection with the Congress campaign in India upto March 15, is 84,895, while 11,628 have been subject to detainment. The number in the prison on March 1, was 23,071 and the number indefinitely detained slightly in excess of 8,000. These figures were given in the Commons on May 20 by the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Amery.

AN UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

A plan for the establishment of an United Nations University, in London, to help students from all over the world to carry on their studies, against an international, rather than a purely national background, is being discussed by educationists. The University will invite professors from all over the world to London for short periods, thus affording an opportunity to students, to hear lectures by important men in every field of learning. A suggestion that the new university should not issue degrees is also under consideration. An Executive Committee with Prof. Glaser of Poland, President; Prof. J. Timmermans of Belgium, Vice-President, and Prof. Ifor Evans of Wales, Secretary, is now working on the plan. Representatives of all Allied Governments are on the Committee.

THE OSMANIA UNIVERSITY

Sir Ardeshir Dalal delivered the convocation address to the Osmania University. He said one or two things which though addressed to Osmania students, have a lesson for the whole of India. Analysing the cause of India's poverty, he said, the whole economy of the country was unbalanced and unsound because her economy was preponderantly dependent on agriculture in which 67 per cent. of her population was engaged. That is the reason why she lacked the amenities of civilization enjoyed by advanced industrial countries and this rendered her incapable of self-defence in modern warfare.

NATIONAL EDUCATION

Presiding over the All-India National Educational Conference at Haridwar on April 12, Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji of the Lucknow University said that national education should minister to the moral and material needs of the nation in consonance with its indigenous ideals and traditions. National education must be rooted in the heritage of the past. Education in ancient India was not education on a large scale, like mass-production in industry. It was not mechanised but personal education, aiming at the production of the personality like the artistic products of the Indian home industry.

CEYLON COMMISSION'S REPORT

A first-rate political sensation in the recent history of Ceylon was caused by the publication recently of the report of the "Bribery Commission" appointed by the Governor to enquire into and report whether gratification had been paid to the members of the State Council for the purpose of influencing their judgment or conduct in respect of their work as members of the Council. Mr. L. M. D. De Silva, the Commissioner, finds eight members to have received gratification within the meaning of that term in the commission issued to him.

Among these are three nominated European members, Messrs. H. E. Newham, H. F. Parfitt and E. C. Villiers, who the Commissioner finds, received allowances from certain associations who had submitted their names for nomination and who regarded them as their 'representatives' in the Council. These three have now resigned from the Council following the receipt of a letter from the Governor.

The other members against whom the Commission holds are Messrs. E. W. Abeygunasekera, C. Batuwantudave (who died recently), H. A. Gunasekera, E. R. Thambimuttu and D. D. Gunasekera who, the Commissioner says, received certain gratifications from members of the public.

Simultaneously a Gazette Extraordinary publishes a Bill to enable the State Council to expel any member on the ground of acceptance of pecuniary reward or other gratification.

UNLAWFUL COMMUNICATION WITH ENEMY

The first case of its kind in India was tried in the Court of the District and Special Magistrate, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, on May 14, when at the instance of the Army authorities Kenneth Ray Blackwell of Malayan Civil Service and Mrs. Dorothy Dennison Smith were prosecuted under Section 38 (1B) of the Defence of India Rules for unlawfully communicating information likely to assist the enemy. The case was heard *in camera*. Both the accused having been found guilty were sentenced to six months' and one month's simple imprisonment respectively.

SICKNESS INSURANCE SCHEME

Professor Adarkar, Special Officer appointed by the Government of India for investigating the question of instituting sickness insurance for workers in India, met the Labour Sub-Committee of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce at Madras on May 19.

Mr. Adarkar observed that the idea behind the Government's scheme was to bring in cotton, jute, heavy engineering, mineral and metal factories under its operation and that the question of bringing in seasonal factories also was under consideration. No Governmental contribution to the sickness fund was proposed. Both employers and workers were expected to contribute, the workers contributing a day's wage each month. Medical relief would be given to all workers alike but only workers who had been in employment for six months or more would be entitled to join the scheme for securing cash benefits.

The Chamber emphasised that the Government should contribute equally with employers and employees to the fund, that factories, mines or plantations in which employment led to certain specific diseases should alone be included to start with, in the scheme. Plantations should be among the first to be brought under the scheme. It added that the piecemeal tackling of labour welfare schemes was undesirable and suggested that any fund which might be started should be utilised for all welfare purposes, such as unemployment insurance, housing facilities, children's and adult education and retirement benefits. It also suggested that medical relief should not be merely allopathic but other systems favoured by the workers.

SECURITY PLAN FOR U.S.A.

Recommendations for a "Beveridge" plan for unemployment pay, old-age pensions, health insurance and social services are made in the Social Security Plan presented by President Roosevelt to the United States Congress recently.

The proposals go far beyond anything America has ever had. One of the outstanding points is that Congress is asked to approve of the creation of a Special Ministry of Social Security.

CONTROL OF PAPER PRICES

In connection with the revised maximum retail prices of paper fixed and published by Government in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on March 2 last, a Press Note issued subsequently states that every dealer in paper shall furnish to every purchaser of paper a memorandum in the prescribed form. He shall display and keep displayed in a prominent position in his shop or place of business to the satisfaction of the Collector a copy in English of the list of maximum prices (obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Press, on payment of cost) of paper fixed by the Government and a correct list of stocks held by him. He shall not withhold paper from sale to any person who demands it in reasonable quantities and offers the price fixed by the Government.

The control prices apply only to certain important varieties of paper made by Indian mills. They do not apply to hand-made paper.

INDO-AMERICAN TRADE

Asserting that the United States is now the second best customer for India's exports, Sir Girja Sanker Bajpai declared at New York on May 15, that India's industrial development is likely to increase rather than restrict or diminish this trade.

Addressing the India Chamber of Commerce of America, he said: "India is not afraid of competition—only unfair competition or economic pressure. Our lovely handicraft still awaits a fuller market in this country."

Referring to immigration restrictions of Indians to America, Sir Girja said: "If there is to be a greater flow of goods between the two countries, there must be freer human intercourse."

Sirdar H. S. Malik, Indian Government Trade Commissioner in New York, said India's trading position with the United States was complementary rather than competitive. "The general picture of Indo-American trade is encouraging. India is going to provide a wider market for American machinery which we shall need for our expanding manufacturing industries."

WOMEN'S PAGE

WOMEN IN NEW JOBS IN U.S.A.

The variety of jobs which women in the United States are taking over to release men for active service in the war is increasing every day. They work as front desk clerks and night auditors in hotels; street-car and bus operators and conductors; space buyers, layout experts and art directors for advertising agencies. In restaurants, they work as chefs, food checkers and bus boys. Women tellers work in many banks. Women are even taking over such unusual occupations as delivering milk from door to door, news photography, answer as Fire Department aides to alarms and tend accident cases, and as copygirls on newspapers.

Women have worked for many years in various capacities in banks. But only recently have the larger banks used them as paying and receiving clerks. Hotels have always employed women as maids and waitresses, and for clerical work—but have just lately given them the responsibility of dealing with customers, receiving cash and preparing bills at the front desks. This is true of almost every other kind of business employing an increasingly large number of women.

WOMEN AND HINDU LAW

At a well-attended meeting of the Delhi Provincial Council of Women, resolutions were passed welcoming the Rau Committee Bills as a beginning in the right direction and accepting the broad principles of the same. It was of the opinion that the time had arrived for the entire modification of Hindu Law and elimination of all sex inequalities. The Council strongly supported the passage of these Bills in the Central Legislature with such modifications as would ensure absolutely equal rights to both men and women.

The Council urged the deletion of the provision in the Hindu Intestate Succession Bill, excluding agricultural lands from its operation. The Council also urged for more representation of women's point of view in the Central Legislature and asked the Government to nominate at least one more woman to the Legislature at the next session and appoint women to help in the work of the Select Committee.

NEHRU'S "GLIMPSES OF WORLD HISTORY"

"Throughout these thousand pages there burns a consuming fire of his devotion to India. The book is a mirror of Nehru's mind and feelings. Here is manifested one of his noblest and most appealing traits, his universal understanding and complete lack of bitterness in his indictment of British Imperial domination of India", writes Mr. Adam Morgoshes in *Current History* in a review of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's book "Glimpses of World History."

At the outset, Mr. Morgoshes compares this book with Mr. H. G. Wells' "Outline of History" and says: "Somehow, Nehru's book is better. Behind it one feels the workings of a more impatient, more vital spirit, the spirit of one who has taken a living part in the history he writes."

Continuing, he says: "Again and again, Nehru cautions Indira, his daughter, against hating individual Englishmen. He points out they are a part of a system and Indians have acted similarly when they exercised Imperial power. The most striking of all is his ability to admire the qualities of great Empire builders whd, he (Nehru) believes, are largely responsible for India's present low state."

Sj. R. CHATTERJEE'S 78TH BIRTHDAY

The Bengali journalist and publicist, Sj. Ramananda Chatterjee, was presented with an address by the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, a premier literary association for the advancement of Bengali language and literature, in Calcutta on Sunday, 16th May.

The presentation ceremony took place at the residence of Dr. Kalidas Nag, where Sj. Chatterjee is now convalescing after his recent illness. He is 78.

In the morning, members of the Parishad, headed by their President, Sir Jadunath Sirkar, gathered at Sj. Chatterjee's bed-side and offered him garlands and bouquet. The address was then read by the President and presented in a casket made of sandalwood.

THE LATE DR. SIR NILRATAN SIRCAR

Dr. Sir Nilratan Sircar, who was lying ill for some months past at Giridbi, passed away on May 18.

Sir Nilratan was a well-known consulting physician. He was one of the Founders and President of the Carmichael Medical College and Hospitals and Medical Club, Calcutta. He was also President of several other institutions, such as the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan, Jadarpur Tuberculosis Hospital, Chittaranjan Hospital and the Post-Graduate Department of the Calcutta University. He was for some time Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and Member, Legislative Council, Bengal.

Sir Nilratan took an active interest in starting industries. The National Soap Factory and the National Tannery Co. were founded by him.

He attended on Mahatma Gandhi as his medical adviser during some of his fasts.

GEN.-SMUTS ON GANDHI

"It is curious how in these days of European confusion and decline, Asia is steadily moving to the front. Among the greatest men on the public stage of the world to-day are two Asiatics—Gandhi and Chiang Kai-Shek, both moving immense masses of men along noble lines to a destiny which in essence is one with the high Christian ideal which the West has received but no longer seriously practises."

DR. K. T. BEHANAN'S DISTINCTION

It is learnt that Dr. K. T. Behanan, formerly a member of the faculty of Yale University and presently the Deputy Director of the Central National War Front, has been listed in the latest edition of the "American Men of Science" which is a biographical directory of scientists who have made original contributions in their respective fields.

TRIBUTE TO INDIAN V.C.

"That Havildar Parkash Singh should have so loyally and gallantly served his regiment, his country and His King-Emperor will be an inspiration to the Indian Army during the difficult times that lie ahead." This was part of a message sent by Lt.-Gen. N. M. S. Irwin, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Army, to Havildar Parkash Singh, who has been awarded the Victoria Cross,

ALL-INDIA MEDICAL CONFERENCE

The All-India Medical Conference concluded its three-day session at Patna after adopting a number of resolutions, one of which deplored the absence of Dr. Jivraj Mehta, the President-elect of the conference, due to his detention under the Defence of India Rules.

Another resolution welcomed the recent Government *communiqué* regarding the constitutions of the I.A.M.C. as a medical service for the Indian land forces and throwing open its commissioned ranks to Licentiates, but regretted the perpetuation of class distinction between the Licentiates and the Graduates in the matter of recruitment to the Army Medical services in so far as the former would be recruited to the I.A.M.C. while the latter to the I.M.S. and in pay, allowances, etc.

BEVERLEY NICHOLS ON INDIAN DOCTORS

Telegraphing to the *Sunday Chronicle* from one of the principal hospitals in Peshawar, where he is a patient, Mr. Beverley Nichols says: "I should like to pay here and now a warm tribute to those Indian doctors and nurses I have met. The first was called to see me in a remote village. He had few facilities; he had to sterilise his instruments on a charcoal burner and to work on me by candle light. Nobody could have been more skilful, more delicate, or scrupulous. He would not have been out of place in Harley Street.

"In my small experience and that of my friends, Indian doctors seem to be second to none in skill and intelligence. But doctors alone cannot give the nation a clean bill of health. Nurses are just as necessary—indeed in a primitive society even more so. And in India—in the India of to-day there is only one trained nurse to every 65,000 inhabitants; indeed in some Provinces there is only one to every 100,000. India compared to Britain is the microbe's paradise—the continent abounds in diseases—disease due to climate, to appalling insanitation, to centuries of ignorance and superstition. Her need, even on the strict basis of population, must always be greater than ours."

PLANT MEAT

A new food, which will be made from yeast derived from surplus sugar crops, has high vitamin and protein content and can replace meat, fish and eggs in the war-time diet. It can be mixed with water or milk or added to stews soups and bread.

Experiments completed in Great Britain by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research showed the product rich in vitamins, particularly the B vitamin. The food so far is unnamed except for the chemists' label, "Torula Utilis."

It will also be valuable after the war for feeding liberated countries until their depleted cattle and poultry stocks are restored to normal.

Two ounces of this new food has the same nutritive value as a quarter pound of beefsteak or two eggs.

SULFA DRUGS FOR FIGHTING TROOPS

American soldiers going into battle are given a first-aid packet containing five grams of crystalline sulfanilamide and the directions "to open envelope, sprinkle evenly over wound before applying first-aid dressing." Each soldier entering combat also receives a package of sulfa tablets which he is directed to swallow, if wounded. Quick application of these miracle-healing drugs is saving many American lives. By warding off gangrene and other complications until further aid arrives, this emergency self-medication is helping many soldiers to recover from wounds that would otherwise prove fatal.

USES OF MILK

Milk is the most nearly perfect food. But it is also the most prolific contributor to the modern miracles of synthetic fabrics and plastics. After we make cheese, we can make butter from the whey; after we skim the whole milk for cream, we can separate the casein or milk curd from the skimmed milk, and it is this casein that forms the basis of many new products,—glossy paper coating of magazine paper, cold water paint for interior decoration; film, shoe polish, necklaces, bracelets, jewellery, floor covering, cosmetics, medicines, etc.

SOARING PRICE OF GOLD AND SILVER

The *Times'* city editor says that the soaring prices of gold and silver in Bombay doubtless are mainly due to the growth of the agricultural population's purchasing power coupled with reduced quantities of purchaseable commodities, particularly imports. Traditionally the agricultural population invests its savings in gold and silver. The upsurge found fresh stimulus in recent weeks in two new factors affecting gold and silver respectively.

The British and United States currency plans each implying gold will have a future monetary role having values at the sort of figure current in India which is more than double the official London price. Silver has been influenced by the British Government's request for lend and lease silver from Washington from which Bombay apparently infers that British stocks (whereof part were obtained from India) are smaller than had been supposed while prospective replacement of lend and lease silver in kind is considered bullish for after the war. Here, too, however, the price has gone to a level equivalent to about 56'8 pence an ounce which seems to emphasise the very artificial conditions in the Bombay Market. Any relaxation of existing restrictions or purchase of United States silver by the Government of India would probably have sharp repercussions on the Bombay price.

CALCUTTA BANKERS' REQUEST

A request to the Government of India not to undertake any steps for a comprehensive banking legislation which might be considered controversial under the present abnormal conditions due to war was made in a resolution adopted at a meeting of a number of bankers of the city held under the auspices of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce on May 5.

The resolution urged Government to drop the proposal of the Reserve Bank of India for the amendment of Section 277 (1) of the Indian Companies Act.

Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, former Chief Minister of Bengal, presided over the meeting.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

Judging from the traffic receipts earned during April, the State-owned Railways appear to have started very well indeed during the current financial year, says the *Capital*. The approximate gross earnings for the month amounted to Rs. 14'16 crores, or Rs. 8'64 crores and Rs. 2'02 crores, respectively, more than the actuals of 1941 and 1942. Compared with last year, the present increase is 16'6 per cent. and on 1941 standards 84'6 per cent. It is, of course, too early to base future trends on these figures, but it is reassuring to know that our railways have commenced their year with a substantial increase in receipts.

RAILWAYS AND DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

The Government of India have decided that with effect from February 1, 1948, dearness allowance given to railway employees shall be increased to Rs. 16 in Bombay, Calcutta and Cawnpore to those drawing up to Rs. 200; Rs. 14 in other towns of over 250,000 inhabitants to those drawing up to Rs. 175; Rs. 11 to those in towns of 50,000 inhabitants drawing up to Rs. 125 and Rs. 8 to those in other areas drawing up to Rs. 90 per month.

One railway provided quarters for 2,500 men of the Technical Training Scheme personnel. The Bridge and Signal Workshops of the same railway fabricated for the War Department, 90 large steel sheds, 700 special steel doors, 93 girder spans and a very large number of signal equipment items.

WAGON PRODUCTION

The question of railway wagon production was discussed between Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, and Mr. J. C. Mahindra, Iron and Steel Controller, Government of India.

Sir Edward also met the Director-General of Munitions Production, and some other high officials of the Supply Department. Earlier, he saw Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Minister for Civil Supplies, Bengal, and discussed with him the food transport question.

ART IN TILES

The art of tile-work, says Wahida Aziz, was introduced into India from Persia, where it formed the chief decoration of brick buildings for many centuries. The term "kashi" by which tile-work and faience is indicated, is derived from Kashan, a town in Iraq. It was imported into Europe by the Arabs and adopted by the Italians under the name of majolica. The tile-work of Lahore is evidently derived from the type of Persian faience which was in vogue in the 16th and 17th century under the great rulers of the Satavi dynasty who were contemporaries of the Great Moguls of India. The growing use of square tiles during the 17th century was evidently due to the greater facility of this process compared with the laborious, but much more effective art of tile-mosaic, in which each piece had to be cut to its proper shape. In the latest examples of Indian tile-work also we find the faience mosaics replaced by square tiles.

BHARATHI COMPOSITIONS

Gopala Krishna Bharathi was a pioneer in Tamil musical and literary composition. His eclecticism was obnoxious to his contemporaries who looked upon his methods with unconcealed derision. But convinced in the ultimate triumph of his cause he persisted, and, as occasionally happens, lived to become popular in his own day and to see his erstwhile critics vie with each other for the honour of his association. He was typical of the Tamil genius for eclectic æstheticism and his opera "Nandan Charitram" is a monument to his strength of conviction and fluency of expression.

THE DEBASEMENT OF CLASSICS

The Incorporated Society of Musicians has unanimously adopted a resolution viewing with apprehension "the continued debasement and mutilation of the classics by dance-band leaders and others. Such a habit, contrary to both good taste and good manners, should not be tolerated in an enlightened community," adds the resolution.

And so say all of us

SPORT

LYON'S INNINGS

An entertaining innings by Lt.-Col. M. D. Lyon, the Somerset bat, who knocked up 101 runs in less than 3 hours, enabled the Anti-Aircraft Command to beat the R.A.F. Balloon Command by 57 runs at Lords. It was twenty years ago that Lt.-Col. Lyon, now 45 years of age, hit up a century for the Gentlemen against the Players, but he still showed despite age and lack of practice that he has lost little of his skill. With Major Sellers of Yorkshire also scoring 57, his side were able to declare at 229 for 8. The Balloon Command were unable to do much with the left-arm slows of Major Skene, the Oxford player, and were all out for 172 runs, the last five wickets falling for 24 runs. Major Skene took 3 for 24. Parker of Surrey hit up 60 for the Ballooners.

MILLS RETURNS TO RING

On the Leeds United football ground Sgt. Freddy Mills, British and Empire cruiserweight champion, signalled his return to the ring after seven months by knocking out Sgt. Al Robinson the Leeds giant, in the first minute of the second round of a 10 round contest.

Although Mills weighed only 18.2 and was 4 inches shorter, he attacked with hay-makers from the bell and soon opened the old wound over Robinson's right eye. The knock-out blow was a perfect left uppercut to the jaw.

At the previous meeting last October Robinson retired in the sixth round with a cut eye. Both boxers are in the R.A.F.

OOTACAMUND GOLF

The finals of the amateur golf championship of Southern India and the Calcutta Challenge Cup were played on May 21.

In the former J. Montgomery beat J. B. Brigle, 5 and 8.

For the second time the Calcutta Cup was won by an Indian, M. V. Bobbjee, who beat G. L. Orchard 5 and 4. The first winner was Mr. C. R. Pattabhiraman year before last.

SCIENCE

INDIAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO ASTRONOMY

Dr. Chandrasekhar, 80-year-old Indian mathematician, has contributed further to the knowledge of astronomy by demonstrating that the average life of the composition of a cluster of stars is between 3,000,000 and 5,000,000 years. Dr. Chandrasekhar has been working for the past five years in the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago.

By mathematical computation Dr. Chandrasekhar reached the same conclusion regarding the life of the earth as geologists, who have established that our planet has been existing for at least 2,000,000 years.

Dr. Chandrasekhar explained that he had taken the Pleiades as the subject for his observations. He said: "My conclusion is, first, that friction is the predominant factor for the stability of the cluster and second, that we have indications that the life of the galaxy does not very greatly exceed 5,000,000 years. This last conclusion is in agreement with the age of the universe which derives from the expanding universe theory of Einstein's general theory of relativity."

TO MAKE SEA WATER DRINKABLE

For shipwrecked airmen and sailors, lack of water is a greater danger than lack of food. Now a U.S. scientist, Dr. Alex Goetz of the California Institute of Technology, has perfected a chemical designed to make sea water drinkable over a period of weeks. The purifier is a combination of colloidal materials, but its exact formula is a military secret.

The sea water is purified in two steps. The first precipitates certain poisonous constituents from the salt water. About two hours later the sea water remaining is further clarified and is then ready to drink. A water-proof container the size of a package of cigarettes holds enough of the chemical to purify two quarts (about two liters) of sea water.

BULLET PIERCES BULLET-PROOF TANK

A recent entry in the unending race between projectiles and armour is a bullet to shoot holes in so-called bullet-proof petrol tanks, according to a recent issue of *Time* Magazine.

These petrol tanks have rubber linings which close holes made by ordinary bullets.

FILM WORLD

SUPPLY OF RAW FILM

Arrangements are being made by the Government of India, for substantial supplies of raw cinematograph film for 1948, says a *communiqué*. This is possible only on the understanding that the new film supplies to India will be used for the advancement of war effort. It is necessary for the Government of India, therefore, if the above conditions are to be satisfied, to ensure that part of this raw film supply is used for the production and exhibition of films, designed to promote the war effort.

The Government of India have, therefore, decided that from September 15, all cinema theatres should include in their programme, films approved by the Information and Broadcasting Department of a total length of not less than 2,000 feet.

A Defence of India Rule has been made to this effect.

NEW INTERPRETATIVE DEVICE

A new method for simplifying language difficulties in the films has been introduced by Walter Gould, foreign manager of United Artists, motion picture producing company. Using Somerset Maugham's "The Moon and Sixpence" as a test picture, he has woven into the drama brief summaries and dialogue in Portuguese, delivered at key points by a narrator. Dubbing is considered clumsy; too many titles in a film are a constant distraction. The new method has a smoother flow.

According to Mr. Gould, the language barrier has prevented American films from attaining maximum distribution. For instance China, with a population of 400 million, has only about 50 million cinema followers.

U.S. STATESMAN PLAYS CHURCHILL

A retired American Statesman plays the role of Churchill in a Hollywood film!

To work as a cinema actor went portly, playful Dudley Field Malone, 60, once wealthy, long-famed attorney for the glittering great, once Assistant Secretary of State under Wilson, reports *Time*.

The film: Hollywood's version of friend Joseph E. Davies' *Mission to Moscow*. The role: Winston Churchill, for whom Malone, from the skull down, is a ringer.

ECONOMY IN PETROL

Latest all-India returns to hand show that 6,776 buses and 2,210 load-carrying vehicles have been converted from petrol to gas operation. With car and other conversions added, the grand total is 10,843.

The above bus and lorry conversions enable 16 million gallons of petrol a year to be saved for essential war purposes. Much leeway, however, remains to be made before conversions are effected to the maximum possible extent, which will enable India to save many more million gallons of this precious fuel for winning the war. Conversion to producer gas is a patriotic duty and an act of essential national service; it also enables us to use our cars to better advantage, in these days of petrol rationing.

The Madras Presidency continues to head the list with about 3,707 conversions. Bombay follows with 1,859, Bengal has to its credit 888, U.P. 882 and Punjab 507. Of the Indian States, Mysore heads the list with 474. The relatively small State of Pudukkotta has 98 conversions to its credit, all through the efforts of Messrs. Simpson & Co. and other gas plant manufacturers.

"SLIP COVERS" FOR TYRES

"Slip Covers" that fit over worn car tyres, developed by Martin Casticum of the United States Rubber Company, offer a new answer to the problem of rubber scarcity. Woven of cotton pile like bath-mat material, and treated with asphalt emulsion, they are said to add from 2,500 to 8,000 miles of life to old shoes. Their makers recommend having a competent tyre-service man apply them; carrying 40 pounds of pressure in the tyres; and limiting speed to 30 miles an hour.

OLD MOTOR TYRES

To keep a motor tyre or tube which has been rendered unserviceable for more than ten days in one's possession is an offence under the D.I. Rules, says a Press Note. The owners of such tyres are advised to hand over these tyres and tubes to a local supplier recognised by the Government of India who will pay the price fixed for them.

DEAR LITTLE COBRAS

The Russians have a pet name for the American-made Airacobra, the powerful ground-strafting fighter plane armed with cannon as well as machine guns, which is being delivered in quantity to the Russian battlefront. According to Colonel Peter S. Kiselev, of the U.S.S. R. Air Forces, who is now in the United States inspecting American airplane factories, Russian pilots call them Cobrastochkas, or "dear little cobras." He reported that Russian pilots who ferry Airacobras are anxious to try the craft's new 37-mm. cannon on the Germans. Most of the pilots have flown Airacobras in combat against the Nazis, but only with 20-mm. cannons for armament. These have since been discarded for the weapon.

SKIDLESS AIRPLANE TYRE

A new type of winter airplane tyre designed to resist skidding on icy airport runways has been announced by a U.S. rubber factory. The tyre is provided with parallel rows of steel coils imbedded in the tread so that the edges grip on ice and snow. The steel coils are bonded to the rubber around the circumference of the tyre during vulcanizing, a new method of tyre construction which has been developed to accomplish the skidless innovation.

NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Keeping pace with American airplane production, the aircraft carrier strength of the U.S. Navy is expanding rapidly. The Monterey, newest of the Navy's carriers has been launched just 13½ months after laying of the keel. This vessel was the fifth of the Independence class of airplane carriers to slide down the ways from the same shipyard since August 22, 1942—an average of one every 36½ days.

PLANE TRANSPORTED IN A PLANE!

A 26,000 pound American Skytrain transport plane, which carries wounded men from the Tunisian front to rear-base hospitals, had made aviation history by carrying an entire fighterplane to a secret U.S. air base deep in Africa for repairs. This is the first recorded instance of a major aircraft being flown *in toto* by another plane.

INDIA'S NEW OIL PIPE-LINE

"It is now disclosed that working against time from dawn to dusk, with materials shipped from the U.S.A. under lease-lend, engineers have recently given India a great new pipe-line which winds across hundreds of miles of hills, valleys and plains and daily speeds many thousands of gallons of vital fuel on its way", states the special correspondent of *The Statesman* of New Delhi.

The last joint of the new pipe-line was welded almost on the anniversary of the demolition of Burma's 275-mile pipe-line to the Rangoon refineries and, by a rare piece of poetic justice, the same engineers who were entrusted with that melancholy task of destruction were gathered together from all parts of India to undertake this great constructional job which now figures among the assets on the United Nations' strategic balance-sheet for India.

It was a notable triumph of "combined operations". Army, railways, oil companies, local authorities, Government Departments and many engineering firms, all played their part—lending, equipment, assembling stores, providing transport and generally co-operating in building out of nothing a widespread specialized engineering organisation capable of coping with this formidable task.

STANDARD CLOTH FOR MADRAS

The quota of standard cloth for Madras Province fixed by the Central Government is 189 lakhs of yards for the quarter ending June 30 next, it is officially stated. The quota for this quarter is expected to be on the market in Madras before the middle of this month.

The cheap cloth made by handlooms in Madras Province is also expected to be on the market in June. It is understood that more handlooms have been brought into the Government scheme for the production of cheap cloth. The prices at which this type of handloom cloth is to be sold are being worked out by the Yarn Commissioner. It is understood that the cheap handloom cloth, which will include shirting, dhoties and saris, will bear a distinctive marking so as to enable the public to identify it easily.

MADRAS GROUNDNUT CROP

The yield of groundnuts in Madras Province during the 1942 season is expected to be 1,207,600 tons of unshelled nuts as against 1,225,310 tons in the previous year, a decrease of 1¼ per cent., while the yield in an average year is estimated at 1,710,550 tons according to the final forecast report for the Province in 1942, issued by the Board of Revenue. The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 74 per cent. of the average.

The area sown with groundnut in the Province in 1942 is estimated at 3,260,600 acres. When compared with the corresponding estimate of 2,762,500 acres for the previous year and the actual area of 2,784,441 acres according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year, the present estimate reveals an increase of 18 per cent. and 17¼ per cent. respectively. The estimated area for this year is less than the average area of 3,422,210 acres by 4¼ per cent.

CULTIVATION OF CINCHONA

In order to encourage the cultivation of cinchona, the Government have, with effect from fasli 1352, reduced the assessment on all lands cultivated with cinchona on the Anamalais in the Coimbatore district to 8 annas per acre. They have also remitted for the first five years the assessment on all lands newly planted with cinchona on the Anamalais; provided that, in the case of lands cultivated with cinchona before fasli 1352, the assessment will be remitted only for the balance of the period of five years remaining at the commencement of fasli 1352.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT POOL

The International Wheat Council composed of representatives of the Argentine, Australia, Canada, U.K. and the U.S.A. have taken steps to set up a 100,000,000 bushel wheat pool for relief and use in Europe, Africa and Asia and have authorized the Executive Committee to call upon member countries for their contributions previously agreed upon as soon as an international relief agency had been established.

ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Over three hundred delegates representing over 350 thousand workers attended the Nagpur Session. The public was not present as the meeting was held in the private hall of the City College. Mr. N. M. Joshi, General Secretary, submitted the annual report for last year which was adopted. He hoped that by next year the membership of the Congress would rise to over one million workers. Dr. Pillay extended the greeting of the International Labour Office to the Congress. Mr. Bankim Mukherjee then moved the first resolution extending the May day greetings of the Indian workers to workers of the world, particularly those in Soviet Russia. The resolution was passed.

Fourteen demands of the workers were enumerated by Dr. Charuchandra Bannerjee who presided over the twentieth session of the All-India Trade Union Congress. These were (1) release of political prisoners, (2) dearness allowance to the workers in proportion to the rise of the prices of food-stuffs and other commodities, (3) general reduction in the abnormal prices of food and clothing, (4) war bonus, (5) unemployment, war and sickness insurances, (6) maternity benefit, (7) one month's leave with pay, (8) security of service, (9) stoppage of all retrenchment, (10) civil liberties, freedom of speech, press and organisation, (11) recognition of trade unions, (12) sufficient protection during air raids, (13) proper compensation to the wounded and to the families in case death is caused from injuries due to accidents from war effects and (14) transference of power to a National Government.

STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

Establishment of joint labour management committees on the U.S.A. model in undertakings engaged in war production, for labour legislation and labour welfare during war time and insertion of fair wages clause in Government contracts came up for discussion at the third meeting of the Standing Labour Committee which was held in Bombay on May 7 and 8. A proposal for the establishment of employment exchanges for skilled and unskilled workers was also considered at the meeting.

GENERAL

INDIAN TRIMMER'S COURAGE

The courage and fortitude of an Indian trimmer named Shamsher, at present in a hospital in Capetown, has been commended by the Royal Navy. His gallantry has been reported to the Admiralty.

Shamsher's merchant ship was torpedoed in the Atlantic, and the force of explosion threw him into the sea, fracturing his leg. After he had been two hours in the water, an U-Boat which sunk the ship picked up Shamsher. The U-Boat came to the surface near the life-boats and threw Shamsher aboard. Despite great pain, Shamsher kept his wits and transmitted useful information to the authorities when he landed after several days of floating. His courage and cheerfulness were unflagging.

CENSUS FACTS

The average expectation of life at birth in India is 26½ years for females and 27 years for males, whilst at the ages of 4 and 5 years the expectation of life rises to 36½ for females and 39 for males.

At least 86 per cent. of Bombay's population suffers from gross overcrowding, for of the tenements 81 per cent. have only one room with an average accommodation of four persons.

Madras Presidency has 1,025 females per 1,000 males and the Punjab the smallest proportion at 831 per 1,000.

There are 8,313,773 Hindu widows at the reproductive ages, and the Census authorities think that not fewer than 1,250,000 married females of under fourteen returned themselves as unmarried owing to the fear of the Sarda Act.

COSTS OF U.S. WAR MATERIALS

The American people are spending \$238,000,000,000 to finance one of the greatest military programs in history. All but a little more than \$44,000,000,000 of this sum is going directly into the production of aircraft, Navy and Army vessels, ground ordnance and signal equipment, motorized equipment, chemical warfare materials, merchant vessels and non-industrial war construction.

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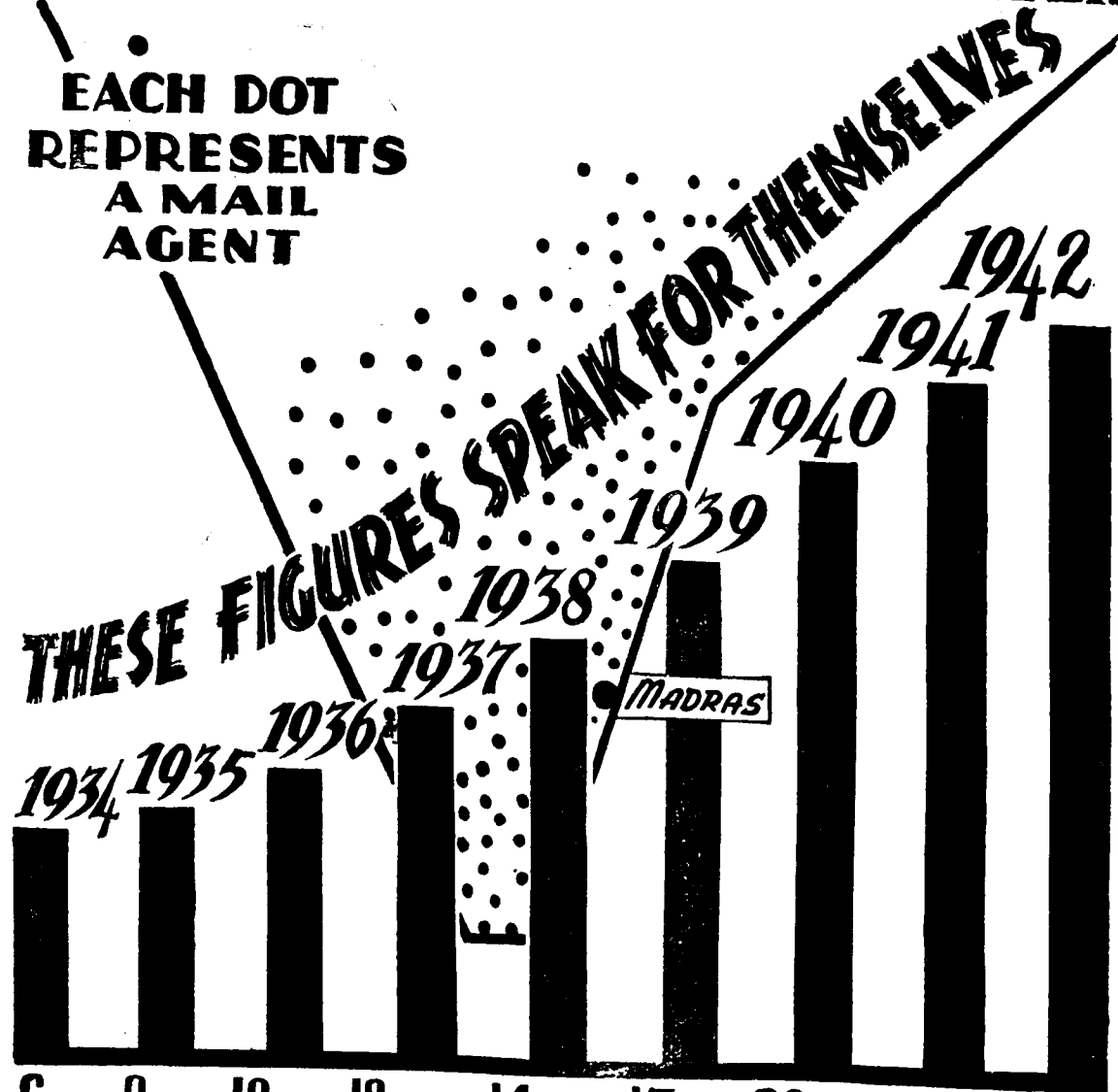


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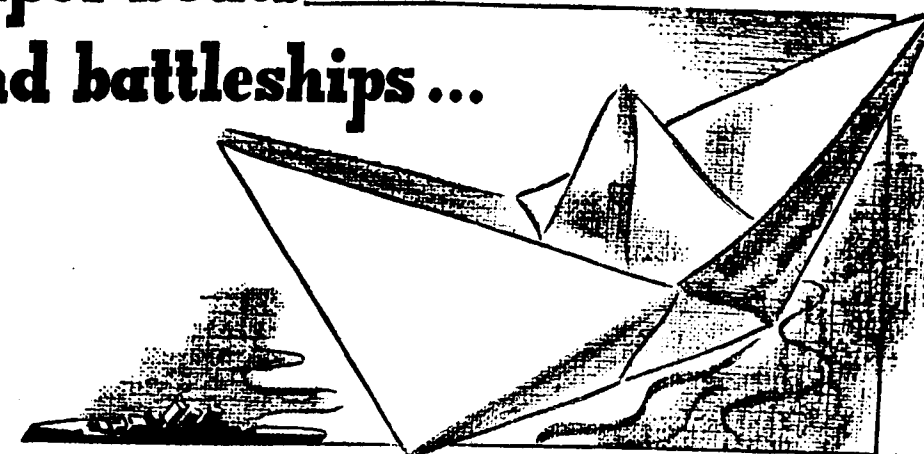
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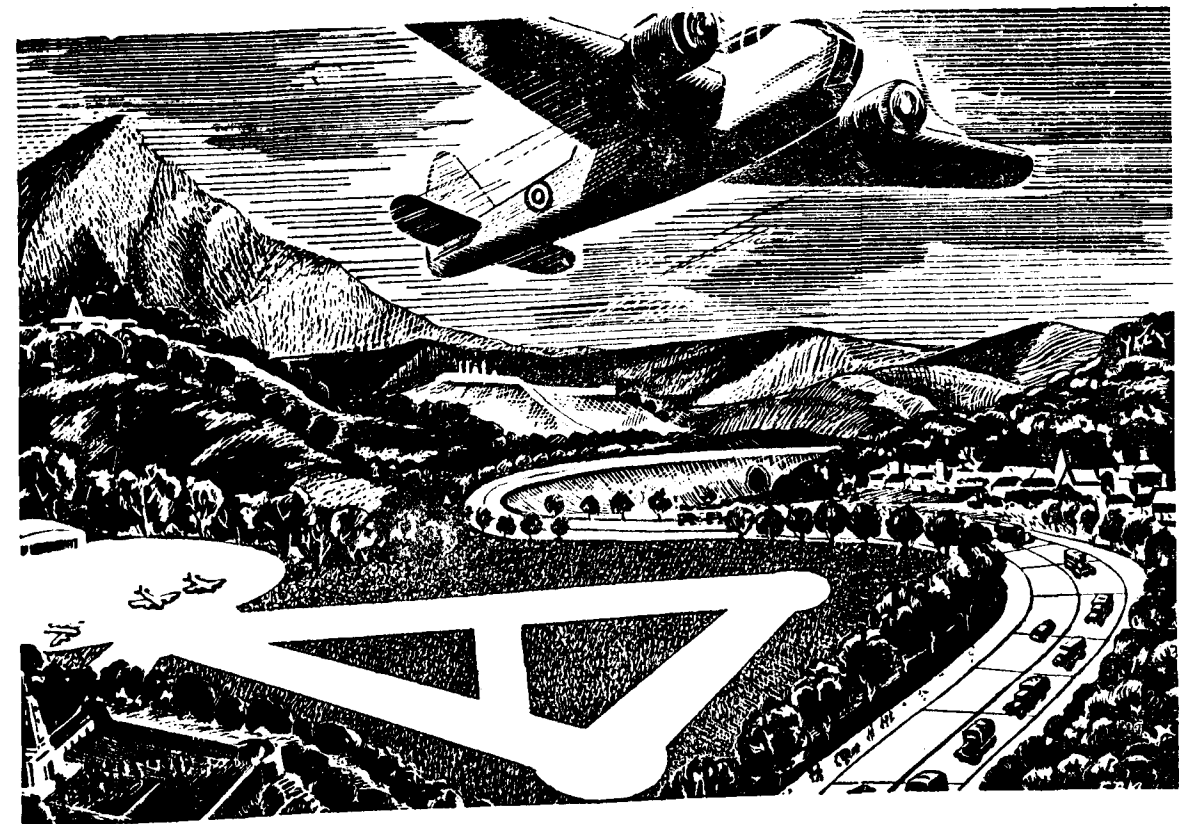
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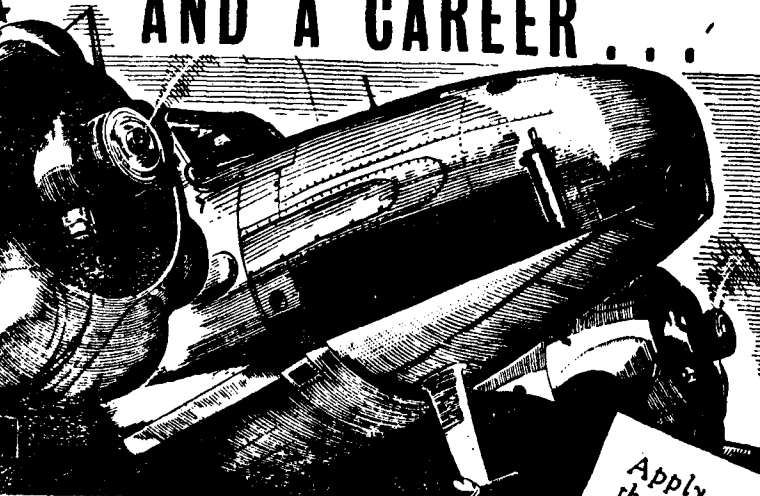
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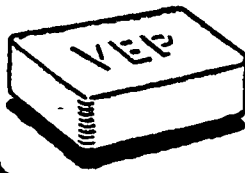
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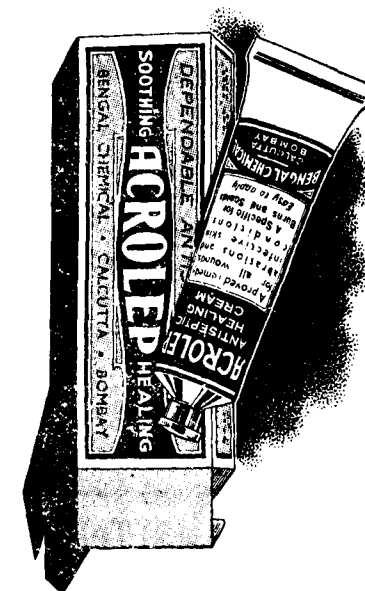
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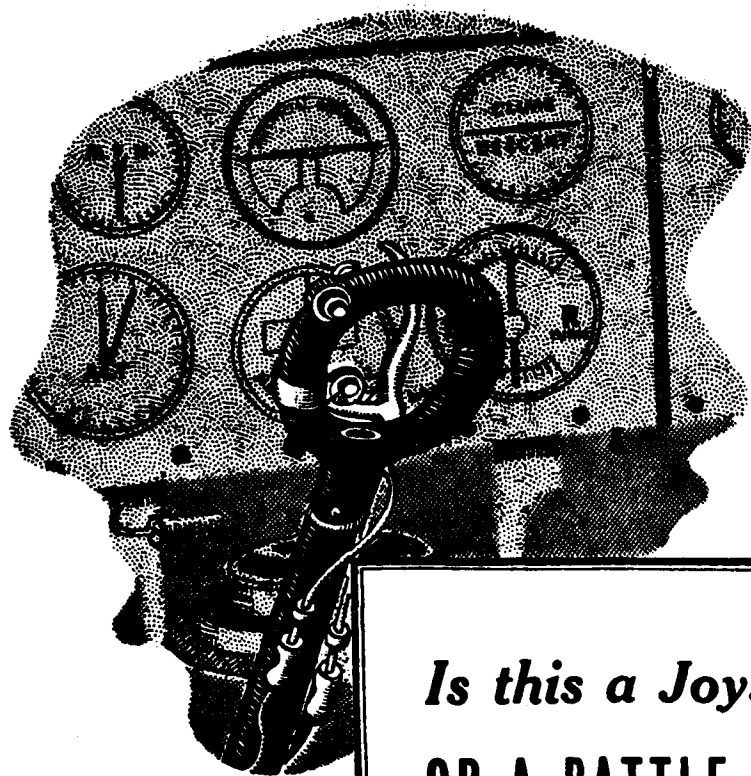
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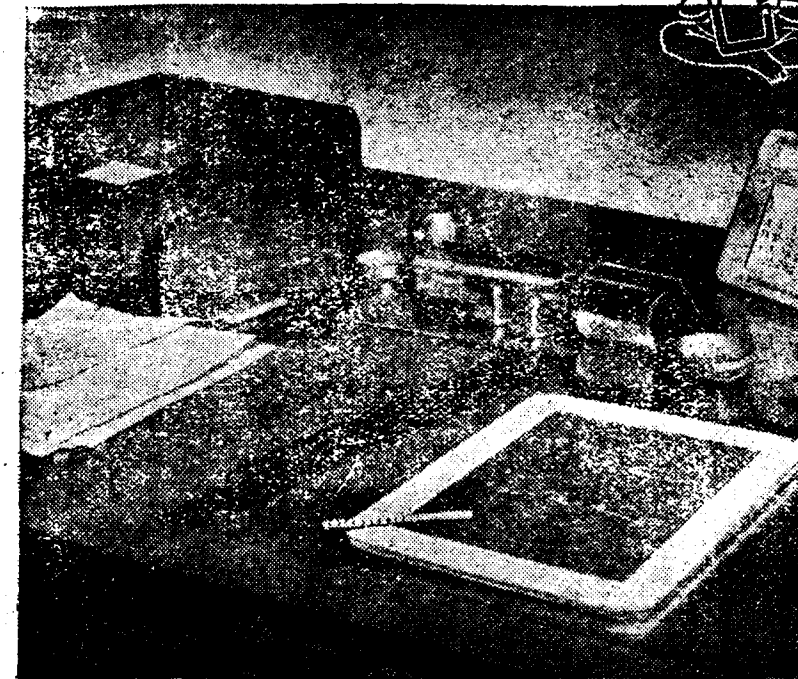
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The best hair dresser.

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Kaminia Sandal Soap. Dilbahar Soap. Kaminia White Rose Soap.

Keep skin smooth and fresh throughout day.

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