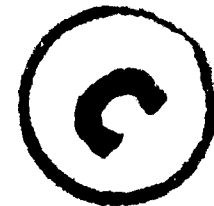


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THE magic breath of the God of cure
Has passed upon this medicine pure;
Whatever your pain, it drives, be sure.
O, have an eye, lest other things lure.

If you want a proof or certificate,
Its highest honor to vindicate,
Harken what the mouths relate
And all the boards and walls narrate.

From North to South and East to West
You can wander Sir, without a rest,
But have this bottle in your chest
Lest any pain your bones infest.

It is but a little that you invest
Upon this famous medicine best,
All coming dangers it will arrest;
To have it is your caution's test.

So cheap, so bottled, so potent,
So nice-looking, with such nice scent,
It is in every home present
As the most honourable guest pleasant.

It is the doctor of our poor peasant
As it cures most for the least that is spent.
The richer too did not invent
A medicine of a more portent.

("The Heart of India"—by S. N. Garimella)

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ON THE COVER: Film star Nirupa Roy.—Photo By R. Krishnan.

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ON THE COVER: In connection with the Sashtiabdapoorthi of Srimathi Saraswathi Bai a function was held at Rasika Ranjani Sabha. Picture shows M. S. Subbalakshmi garlanding Srimathi Saraswathi Bai.

Amrutanjana

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("The Heart of India"—by S. N. Garimella)

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ON THE COVER: Sri Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, who has been awarded the 'Musician of the Year' title by President Rajendra Prasad.

SWATANTRA

VOL. VIII.
No. 5

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1953

ISSUED
WEEKLY

FUTURE OF THE CORPORATION

THE Chairman of the Taxation and Finance Committee of the Corporation of Madras, Sri Radhakrishna Pillai, made in his budget speech on Wednesday a very clear analysis of the financial position of the Corporation. The main problem of the Corporation is to find means adequate to the growing needs of the City. The expansion of the City by the inclusion, within the municipal limits, of suburban areas like Saidapet, Aminjikarai and Guindy has added considerably to the difficulties of the Corporation. The revenue from these areas is extremely low. The cost of the amenities they stand in need of is out of all proportion to the revenue they yield. The excess of expenditure over income in the case of the suburban areas has to be made good with income from the other wards yielding a larger revenue. But these have their needs too which have not been fully met yet. The diversion of a considerable part of the revenue they provide for the benefit of other regions is bound still further to impoverish their existing stock of amenities. In this situation the Corporation Council committed itself, very unwisely in our opinion, to a resolution disapproving of the location of the Andhra capital in Madras City even temporarily. The effect of the location of that capital outside Madras will certainly be disastrous to the finances of the Corporation. For it will mean the departure of six to seven thousand families with loss of the revenue they have been paying, and a considerable diversion of the trade from the Andhra districts, involving necessarily a steep decline in

the revenue accruing to the Corporation directly and indirectly from local trade. If the Corporation's resolution on the Andhra capital is implemented, all dreams of any further expansion of civic amenities to the people of the City will have to be abandoned. We doubt whether the Corporation will then be in a position even to keep its roads in good repair.

Sri Radhakrishna Pillai has

mised,.....and let us hope that his suggestions based on his experiences overseas will surely prove to be useful to our growing City." Sri Narasimham was invited by the British Council to tour England to study at first hand the various post-war civic improvements introduced in that country and spent about six weeks there. It is a pity that the advantage of his study and experience gained in the tour should be lost so soon to the Corporation. Deputations of Indian officers on tours to foreign countries for study ill serve their purpose if the officers concerned are, on their return, shifted to other tasks where the knowledge acquired by them cannot be put to equally beneficial use in practice. It is advisable that permanent officers in Corporation employment are chosen for tours abroad so that their services, with all the experience gained, may continue to be available

to the Corporation for fairly long periods. Adverting to this topic in his budget speech, Sri Radhakrishna Pillai complains that though some officers of the Corporation are being sent to foreign countries, the final selection is made by the Government. "In a large and hoary institution like ours," he insists, "we must take the initiative in the matter." A sum of Rs. 25,000 has been provided in this year's budget "for the purpose of deputing administrative officers who have many years to serve the Corporation to go abroad and learn and study things for themselves." There is much to learn of improved methods of municipal government from advanced countries like the United Kingdom, and provided the right men are sent, the outlay on foreign study by competent officers will yield rich dividends.

Sotto Voce

THE KIND SLEUTH

THE Income-tax Investigation Commission have been modestly patting themselves on the back. They have reason to; in the four years they have been at work they have unearthed a total of forty crores of rupees which had escaped assessment. And the tax levied seems to have been (on the basis of completed figures for three years) as high as fifty five per cent. It would be interesting to know how much bigger the total tax levied might have been if the Commission had been asked to follow the ordinary

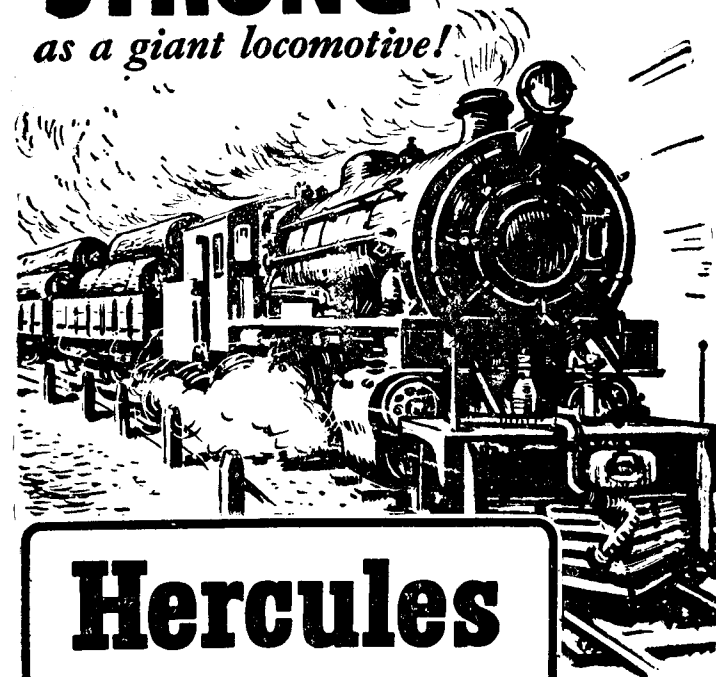
income-tax procedure and assess on the basis of the information at their disposal, after hearing the party concerned.

Instead, the Commission seem to be required, under the terms of their constitution, to be extra gentle with these slim folk. Is it the case that special consideration has to be shown because the concealed income will have been dissipated and little of it can be recovered? This seems unlikely. Conspicuous waste may have frittered away part of these hidden



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SIDELIGHTS :

THE commercial staff of the Southern Railway held their first conference last Sunday. There are some 8,000 employees of the Southern Railway falling under the category of commercial staff. Within a few weeks of starting their Association the organisers were able to enlist as members nearly one thousand out of the eight thousand. Such quick response is an indication of more impressive results in the months ahead, and it is confidently expected that, by the time the second conference is held next year, there will be very few entitled to be enrolled, who would be left outside the fold of the new organisation. Not that there are not trade unions already for employees of the Southern Railway. There are; and their membership is open to the commercial staff. But it would appear that the commercial staff have been feeling that their own particular problems and interests have not been receiving as much attention as they should, at the hands of the labour trade unions, dominated as they are by members of the working class. The top officers in the Railway control everything and look after themselves very well. The bottom strata, consisting of manual workers, get the full benefit of the uplift programmes planned for the backward in response to the new spirit of the times. But the clerks who are neither at the top nor the bottom suffer from all the disabilities of the middle class in modern society, whose peculiar misfortune it is to arouse the sympathies of nobody.

It is the curse of the middle class that it has inherited a way of life that has ceased to be consistent either with its economic means or social consequence. They expend far too much on keeping up appearances. Very little is left for essentials like food. Starvation is rampant. The number of bread-winners is low, the proportion of parasitical dependents very high. In a working man's family, every member, the husband, wife, brothers and even the

children earn wages and bring some grist to the family mill. But in the clerk's family the women and children remain idle as a matter of social prestige. They hire labour for many kinds of work which they can do very well themselves. The burden of penury is very terrible indeed on the middle class, and unless it changes its ways and absorbs the spirit of self-help to a larger degree, it will be wiped out of existence.

Like the middle class in society, the commercial staff is the uncared for element in the Southern Railway service. Some of their demands are so elementary and reasonable that the very fact of their having to make them at all amounts to an indictment on the railway administration. One such is the demand for a van and an armed guard for the protection of staff carrying heavy cash from the office to the bank. The railway management should itself have thought of this in these days of frequent raids by bold dacoits on buses and trains and the cash counters of banks. Another demand is for a day of rest in the week for the supervisory staff who apparently have no holiday and work continuously all the seven days of the week. I was appalled to be told that in the modern civilised world, there exists a species of wage slaves from whose lives the experience of a holiday has been completely eliminated. Other demands that reek of wretchedness are these: the demand for supply of stationery in accordance with present-day requirements of office work, and not as per schedule drawn ten years ago; the demand for chairs to sit on in place of gunny bags; the demand for prompt payment of provident fund after termination of service; the demand for knave-proof arrangements for protection of goods on railway platforms before making goods clerks liable for loss; and the demand to be regarded as innocent till proved guilty and accorded courteous treatment by the police when any clerk is arrested in the

wake of some loss of cash or property on the railway premises; and the demand for time-scales to be made automatic as time goes on, as otherwise there is no meaning in a time-scale.

At present there are two grades, junior and senior, applicable to the commercial staff of the Southern Railway. There are two time-scales for increments under the junior grade, one of Rs. 60—4—120, and the other of Rs. 100—5—180. Two time-scales have been provided for seniors, one of Rs. 150—7½—225 and the other of Rs. 200—10—300. Actually the lowest junior time-scale absorbs 85 per cent of the employees, with the result that for these 85 per cent the higher time-scales exist only on paper. On paper-drawn programmes the impression made is that a clerk entering service at Rs. 60 retires at Rs. 300, but actually only 15 per cent of the staff do so, 85 per cent are

blocked at the Rs. 120 limit. Another enormity is the case of the pre-1931 employees. These do not get the benefit of any time-scale at all. To be entitled to any kind of time-scale you must have entered the service of the Railway after 1931. All the world over, the longer the service, the greater the reward. But our Southern Railway has reversed this universal rule of logic and good sense. It has some unaccountable antipathy to clerks that have been longest in its service and penalises them systematically!

I hope Sri Lal Bahadur Sastri will give his personal attention

two members of Parliament" on the memorandum they have presented to the Prime Minister on the question of the location of the capital of the Andhra State. They seem to be terribly unnerved by the problem of preserving law and order in the event of the Andhra capital being located in Madras City. They ask: What is the residuary Government to do if members of the Andhra legislature or officers of the Andhra Government are in any way attacked by the people of the residuary Madras State or *vice versa*? What does any Government in the world do when some of its citizens attack others? It intervenes with the force at its disposal to keep the peace. There can be no clear definition in advance of the forms in which the peace can be disturbed, but whatever the form, a Government worth its salt will be prepared to do its duty. If any set of people feel that a particular form of disturbance of the peace is such as to paralyse them with dread, they certainly are not fit to meddle with the affairs of Government, they know nothing of the proprieties that should govern administrators, and they should leave such things alone and not meddle with them. It is a gross libel on the Tamils to say that they would fall upon the Andhras and attack them if any recommendation of Mr. Wanchoo, a judge with no bias, is given effect to. I, for one, feel perfectly at home and thoroughly safe in any company of Tamils and even if any of them should injure me with violence, I would not attribute it to their being Tamils and insult the whole Tamil community as the thirty-two members of Parliament are doing. I would ascribe it to an imp of mischief that plays with human nature everywhere, whatever be the language spoken by the people concerned. It is not building up the nation to emphasise these dreads and

specialise in calculations of breach of peace between communities, and that legislators should do so is pitiable.

Andhras and Tamils suffer from no inherent mutual antagonism, and though they speak different languages, they are one people. If the Tamil leaders had said, "The Andhras are in difficulties over a capital for their State, we must help them in every possible way," the Tamils would have responded to the suggestion with acclamation. Unfortunately they are ill served by their present leaders. Sri Bhaktavatsalam is the evil genius of the Tamil community today. Having lost his election he wants to get back on a tide of engineered hatred against Andhras which will divert public attention from his own mean and unsavoury exercises of power for getting his opponent disqualified at the time of the last elections. As for C. R., evidently he has undertaken a task beyond his present strength, and in the strain of it he has lost the correct perspective of a nation-building statesman and shrunk to the dimensions of a parochial wire-puller. I wish the Prime Minister would send out a South Indian delegation to the farthest country in the world on a year's journey. With C. R. leading, its members should be Bhaktavatsalam, Chengalvarayan and Sivagnana Gramani, with Dr. Lanka Sundaram thrown in for the sake of Andhra representation. By the time the delegation returns, all the Andhra-Tamil disputes which now seem so formidable, would have been solved most amicably and in such a satisfactory manner that afterwards no trouble-shooters would be able to spread panic or disturb men's minds in spite of their best efforts.—SAKA.

Hudibras has defined nonsense, as Cowley does wit, by negatives. Nonsense, says he, is that which is neither true nor false. These two great properties of nonsense, which are essential to it, give it such a peculiar advantage over all other writings, that it is incapable of being either answered or contradicted. If it affirms anything, you cannot lay hold of it; or if it denies, you cannot refute it. In a word, there are greater depths and obscurities, greater intricacies and perplexities in an elaborate and well-written piece of nonsense, than in the most abstruse and profound tract of school divinity.—ADDISON.

CANAL WATER DISPUTE

ATTEMPT TO CONFUSE KASHMIR ISSUE

By A Special Correspondent

FOR some time past Pakistan has been carrying on a campaign telling the world that India's intention is to control the Indus river waters at their source and thus deprive Pakistan of water for her own needs.

Such a plan has never been conceived by the Government of India. Nor has Kashmir independently considered the feasibility of such a step.

Pakistan contends that the Chenab river can be diverted at Dhiangarh in Kashmir. Dhiangarh is in mountainous territory. In order to divert the Chenab at Dhiangarh it would be necessary to cut a large tunnel for a distance of seventy miles. Imagine such an undertaking in a region altogether lacking in means of transport and communications. A tunnel under the straits of Dover would be child's play in comparison.

lions on the Indian side of the border with only forty million acres dependent upon the meagre supply of the Sutlej (and its tributary, the Beas) and the Ravi and the three canals fed from them. All these in turn are at the mercy of the variable monsoon rains. Even then, it must be understood that not all the forty million acres on the Indian side of the Punjab are under cultivation.

The disproportion in the distribution of the Indus river-waters (together with the canal system fed by them) is such that against *eighteen million acres under irrigation in Pakistan* there are only five million acres under irrigation on the Indian side of the Punjab.

The Indus, and its western tributary, the Jhelum, carry two-thirds of the total volume of the entire Indus river-system. Further, on account of the extensive river-basin Pakistan has the additional advantage of a sub-soil rich in water resources and which could be tapped by tube-wells.

But as Mr. David E. Lilienthal said in his article in *Colliers* (August 4, 1951):

"Less than twenty per cent of the water of the Indus basin is now put to use for irrigation; most of the waters of the six life-giving rivers of the Indus basin flow to the Arabian Sea unused. If this wasted water, or even a large fraction of it, is put to use, both India's needs and Pakistan's needs could be more than met.... The urgent problem is how to store up now wasted waters, so they can be fed down and distributed by engineering works and canals, and used by both countries, rather than permitted to flow to the sea unused. This is not a religious or political problem, but a feasible engineering and business problem for which there is plenty of precedent and relevant experience.... This objective, however, cannot be achieved by the countries working separately.... The whole Indus system must be developed as a unit—designed, built and operated as a unit, as is the seven-state TVA system back in the U. S."

This is exactly what India envisaged when, during the early stages of the canal waters dispute she proposed the setting up of a Joint Technical Commission of experts from both sides. Before the Punjab was divided Muslim, Hindu and Sikh engineers had worked on these problems side by side. The irrigation system of the Punjab was the result of their joint enterprise and engineering skill. It is only by their coming together again that the Indus river waters can be utilised to the fullest for the benefit of both Pakistan and India. This is what India envisaged when in July 1948 she proposed the setting up of a Joint Technical Commission.

The conferences which considered the Canal Waters dispute make a sad commentary upon Pakistan's unwillingness to co-operate. For example, at one of the conferences in August 1949 Pakistan which had been holding out on the issue that her canals were entitled to the same volume of water as before partition, made still more unreasonable demands. India pointed out that the Indus river system provided sufficient water for the needs of both countries and that the present supply to the Pakistan canals should be replaced by water from sources available in Pakistan. It was at that conference that India proposed a Joint Technical Commission.

A Negotiating Committee was set up to frame the terms of reference of the Commission. It went no further because Pakistan insisted on a neutral Chairman of the Commission.

Besides Pakistan made it a preliminary that India concede Pakistan's claims to the existing arrangement of water-utilization and that India guarantee water-supply to the Sukkur Barrage canals as well as to other new barrages, one of them being the Kori Dam.

India with greater dam irrigation needs has launched two projects. One of them, the Bhakra Dam, on the Sutlej, was started before partition. The Harike Barrage Project, above Ferozepur, had been considered before the partition. Work on this project was started when, in May 1948, the Pakistan

Government began cutting a canal for the purpose of either diverting the course of the Sutlej or connecting the Sipalpur Canal above the present diversion dam at Ferozepur. As the completion of such a canal would have deprived the dam at Ferozepur of its water-supply and laid waste vast tracts in Indian territory the Government of India approved the Harike Barrage project.

Pakistan has sought to confuse the Indus river water utilization issue by making it a part of her demand for Kashmir. At no time has India connected the two issues. Otherwise India could have made a serious issue of the fact that the Madhopur Dam across the river Ravi could be put out of use in the event of Kashmir becoming a part of Pakistan.

In the matter of the Indus river

within three weeks to read simple texts and write short letters, but the whole village decided to build a school and went to work on it at once.

The Senegal Government responded by promising the construction of a permanent building and the provision of a teacher.

Moreover, the inhabitants of the village have subscribed 180,000 francs, and promised to furnish labour, sand and gravel for the building of a dispensary. A male nurse, trained by Dr. Gueye, will meantime give first aid to the sick, and help women in childbirth.

These are not the only promising changes in the village. Others, however, will not become obvious until the trees planted during the last two months have grown to full size. Some will provide fruit, or wood for carpentry, others will be merely ornamental.

Much depends on whether the people continue to water the plants. Most Africans, of all races, have still to learn that trees need careful tending.

Another type of improvement, already noticeable, is in the comfort

and sanitary arrangements in the houses. Refuse, for example, is now being burned.

Lessons in personal cleanliness and in methods of improving agriculture were the counterparts to those given at night. It was, however, the effect of film strips on African arts, and of films on the making of pottery, that aroused the artistic feelings of some of the villagers.

In a village where previously not the slightest trace of decoration existed, potters, carpenters and blacksmiths have suddenly found their vocations and set to work making objects that are not only useful but also attractive.

It is probable that teams like M. Terrisse's will be formed to work all over French West Africa. Thus M'Boumba will not be the only village to benefit from the demonstrations, the conversations under the stars and the 120 films shown during 60 nights when no one in the village slept.

A technique has been found which can help other disinherited villages of Senegal, and directly or indirectly influence the evolution of 16,000,000 human beings.—W. H. O. Newsletter.

LIFE WITH AN ARTIST

By Mrs. D. P. ROY CHOWDHURY

Breaths there the man with soul so dead

Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land,
Whose heart never within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned.

THE truth of these lines which I read in my school days was never revealed to me in its fullest sense till I came a thousand miles away from the land of my birth. My husband, Sri Deviprosad Roy Chowdhury, having been appointed to the post of the Principal of the Government School of Arts, Madras, we had to leave our old home for the new. Novelty has a charm no doubt but up to a certain extent and so long as it does not mean severing all connection with the dear old past. In our case we know it was to be a long separation and therefore could not help feeling the pangs of parting.

For the first few years Bengal seemed to draw us towards her like a magnet before every vacation. The longest one was of course in summer—full two months—and a shorter one during Christmas. Such throbbing of the heart we felt each time before the closing of the school, such bustle to get things packed and be ready to start. Preparation itself had a joy of its own. And then when the actual day arrived, my husband was as excited as a child! We were at the station much before the scheduled time for the departure of the train. If I pointed that out to him, I was curtly told it was much better to be early than late. I sensed the tense feeling of a child in the grown up man and thought it prudent to observe silence.

In those days there were no airways to curtail the hours of journey and to make a long distance appear short. Consequently when we

NEPAL—A DANGER SPOT

By A Special Correspondent

ing to be the outcome of all this one-sided prosperity." "Men did not receive any rations," wrote Sehgal. "Four Garhwalis have died of starvation.....I do not know what is the idea behind this deliberate starvation of my men."

"Ever since the Japanese declared to go on the defensive," lamented a bewildered Sehgal, "I feel a change in their attitude which I find very difficult to explain.....Anyway, one thing is certain that we can expect little help from Nippon authorities in Rangoon."

Sehgal, now a Parliamentary Under-Secretary, made these allegations in his letter, dated June 16, 1944. The I. N. A. continued the struggle for bare existence with Indian funds, for balance of which the *Mainichi* now affects such concern, until middle of 1945.

During his subsequent trial in India Capt. Shah Nawaz Khan stated that when the Japanese field commander offered him the choice

between defence and attack, he chose I. N. A. attack on Allied forces at Imphal. It was a fatal mistake. Imphal is a plain where Allied tanks and dive-bombers could and in fact were used to full advantage with terrible effect, particularly when the I. N. A. itself had no air cover, no tanks, no anti-aircraft or anti-tank guns.

The I. N. A. was lightly armed. It was suicidal for it to become engaged in pitched battles. If it had resorted to true guerilla warfare in the broken terrain of Burma and Assam, where heavy armament cannot be used effectively, it might now have been in control of extensive territory.

But it could not have resorted to true guerrilla warfare successfully as it had no positive programme. Its programme was negative, confined to anti-British sentiments. Its failure to offer the people a new and better social system was its second fatal blunder. It was a repetition of the mistake of the 1857 Revolution ending it in a carnage by British arms.

REPLYING to a question why Pandit Nehru is apparently unconcerned over the latest political developments in Nepal, ex-Prime Minister M. P. Koirala told this writer in an interview in Kathmandu: "Panditji calls this place Khat-pat-Mandu and I guess he is annoyed with the unceasing 'khatpat' over here."

A casual visitor to Nepal is very likely to mistake the apparent calm for the real thing. It is true that in the last two years Nepal has moved to modernize herself. Kathmandu, its capital, is now connected by air with Semra, Viratnagar and Pokhra, points in the Nepal Tarai, and work has started on four motor roads, which will connect Kathmandu to Bhimpedi, Pokhra to Chittore, Shairva to Palpa and Shankuta to Biratnagar.

A hydro-electric power station near Kathmandu, a cement factory near Bhimpadi and a jute mill at Viratnagar are being erected. Kathmandu is now the proud owner of an aerodrome with a 1,260-yard paved runway, 4,500 feet above sea-level. Five more are being built at Shairva, Janakpur, Semra, Viratnagar and Toulhva. Point Four Aid has come into Nepal and several schools have started.

But things are not as hopeful as they seem to be. Not only the rank and file but the leaders of political parties are fearful of a coup either of the right or the left. Common people, for the most part, are sullen. They seem to think that nothing can be worse than the present uncertainty. At 11 every night a cannon is fired announcing the six-hour curfew which is still maintained despite what has happened in the last two years.

However, a silver lining can be traced in the King's anxiety to set up immediately a strong, popular Government so that he may peacefully sail for England to attend the Coronation. This writer can almost say with certainty that in less than

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By V. P. SATHE

WHAT is the real reason for the low attendance at all cinemas? Is it just economic slump and depression which have reduced the purchasing power of the public in general? Have people no money to spend for entertainment?

With unemployment growing and with general slump in all trades the people have no money left for luxuries. But this is only partly true. People do have money for good pictures. The collections of *Aan*, *Anarkali* and *Baiju Banwara* are a proof positive of the fact that if only producers can give good entertainment and especially good music people will come to see pictures. If the pictures are not good people seek other diversions. In Bombay, for instance, the present craze is wrestling. For over a month twice a week wrestling bouts have been held at the Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium. The rates of admission are high—the lowest is one rupee and five annas and the highest Rs. 10 and yet on an average about twenty-five to thirty thousand people come to watch these bouts. On one day when Dara Singh, who is today a greater draw than any film star in Bombay, and King Kong fought, the attendance rose to 60,000 and almost all the cinema houses were empty.

The working class has been the chief patron of these bouts—the class that is also the chief patron of Indian films. When Marathi Sahitya Sangh held a drama festival in Girgaum (Bombay) recently it had a full house for every show, though the rates of admission were higher than cinema rates. Hence it would be

wrong to presume that people have no money for entertainment. It would be more correct to say that people have no money for pictures that do not entertain. And a majority of pictures produced today are not entertaining; that is a fact which our producers are prone to overlook.

Not only that, the taste of picturegoers also has not changed. Today the pictures that are popular conform to old box office formulas. Neither *Aan* nor *Anarkali* depart from the old accepted formula of popular entertainment. Music, rather songs, still play a predominant part in popularizing pictures. Indeed, but for songs *Anarkali* would never have been popular. Love is still the most popular theme whatever the critics may say; and the much maligned musical romance cum melodrama still scores at box office as is evident from the three outstanding successes of the last six months. The fault lies with our producers who are unable to make old fashioned entertaining films or strikingly different pictures which would attract the picturegoers in larger numbers. The people have the money and would see pictures provided they are given the right stuff.

Picture Of The Week

Votary of purposeful pictures, Shantaram has not one but two significant themes in his latest offering *Teen Batti Char Rasta* (Three Lights Four Ways). One of the themes which is underlined in this picture is, of course, inter-provincial amity.

But that is not the main theme. The plot revolves round a plain looking but accomplished girl who finds that no one wants to love her because of her bad looks. This story is intrinsically pathetic. There are thousands of girls in the country whose ugliness has ruined their chances of proper marriage and happiness. But Shantaram's heroine has only one defect—she is black and ugly. She is a gifted linguist and a wonderful singer—a character which seems to have been inspired by Lata Mangeshkar. Had I been a producer of this picture, instead of Sandhya, I would have given this role to Lata—which, in my opinion, would have been a sensational casting.

This plain looking girl finds a job in a house where the head of the family is a Punjabi. His wife is from U. P. Their five sons are married to girls from Sind, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Bengal and South India. Their sixth eligible son, who is a poet, artist and a scholar, is in love with the 'voice' of the plain-looking girl which he hears on the radio. He thinks since the voice is so melodious the girl must be beautiful and paints an imaginary picture of hers. When he finds the truth, he is first shocked and grieved but later realizes his mistake and when interested people give the girl a medicine to ruin her voice, his attitude does not change.

This love story is told against the background of the inter-provincial atmosphere pervading the house in a light-hearted and almost superficial manner. Only in a couple of situations the poignancy underlying

theirs. There is not a single human character with striking individuality. Each character is a type, a symbol. Even the heroine is a type—a plain-looking type and not individual sharp portrait of any particular character. That is why her story is not as poignant or human as it should have been. Moreover, Sandhya's acting is so stylized and her every gesture so jerky and mechanical that she is artificial and unnatural. The rest of the characters are fairly well portrayed by Karan Dewan, Dewan Sharar, Nirupa Roy, Shashikala, Sheela Ramani, Meenaxi, Smriti.

The musical score by Shivram Krishnan is not very striking. At least the first song which the heroine sings on the radio should have been better. The best piece is one line *Piya Milan Ki aas* which Lata sings without any accompaniment. Santoshi's lyrics are also not brilliant. The song in seven languages is noteworthy for the provincial colour evident in each tune and wording and is typically representative of the music in different parts of the country.

All said *Teen Batti Char Rasta* would be more known as a satisfying entertainer than anything else.

Personality Of The Week

Smriti Biswas who celebrated her twenty-second birthday on February 17 is not so new to films though she has not yet become a full-fledged star in her own right. She hails from Bengal but her career began in Lahore before the partition. I remember to have seen her in a picture called *Ragini* about seven years ago. Smriti looked very pretty and slim; but she did not create a big impression, mainly due to her faulty accent. She spoke Hindustani in Bengali manner. The result was that though she appeared in supporting roles in a number of films, she did not become a star. The partition cut short her career and she went to Calcutta and later appeared in many Bengalee films.

It was in New Theatres' *Pahla Admi*, directed by Bimal Roy, that

she returned to the Hindi screen. Groomed under expert direction, she created a good impression on the producers of Bombay. Gyan Mukerjee brought her to Bombay to act in *Shamsheer* which is being released this week in Bombay. She has appeared in *Hamdard* in which she has proved to be a fair competitor to Nimmi for acting honours and in *Teen Batti Char Rasta*. In addition, Smriti has been signed by Navketan to play a dancer's role in *Hamsafar*. This role was originally assigned to Geeta Bali. Smriti got the break she had been looking for. Generally stars have no women friends; but the starlets who worked on *Teen Batti Char Rasta* are exception to the rule. Smriti recently wrote an article about her star-friends in *Filmfare*. The friendship between Smriti and Nirupa, Shashikala, Sheela and Meenaxi has grown even after the completion of the picture. All these stars came to attend her birthday party and felicitated her.

Wishing good luck to Smriti, who is young, pretty and talented, one hopes that she would soon attain her cherished dream of stardom.

News Of The Week

—Prabhat Studio is the latest studio whose management is being taken over by the workers.

—Shakuntala has been signed by Janhavi Pictures to play the lead in *Diya Jale Saari Raat* to be directed by Narendra Trivedi.

—In April Raj Kapoor and his unit are leaving for Kashmir for the outdoor shooting of *Ajanta*, the story of quest for eternal peace.

—Poet and playwright Satyendra Athaiya is leaving for the U. K. in the first week of March for discussing the dialogues and screenplay with British author Rupert Croftcock who is writing the English dialogues for *Last Judgment*. Mr. Athaiya, after three weeks, goes to France to finalise the shooting arrangements with M. Herri Decoin and M. Fano, director and production controller respectively.

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