

# FORWARD BLOC

A POLITICAL WEEKLY

Editor : SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

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ONE ANNA

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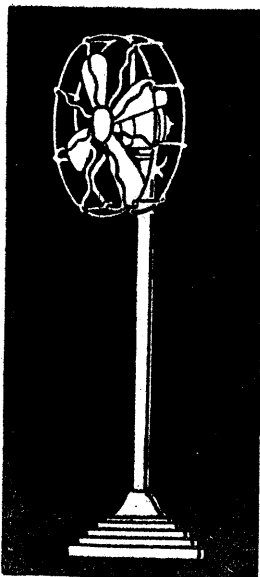
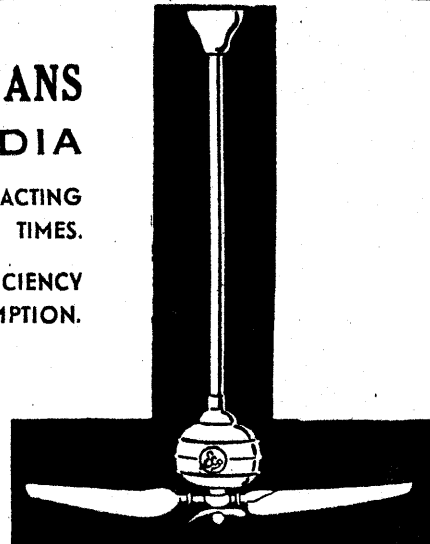
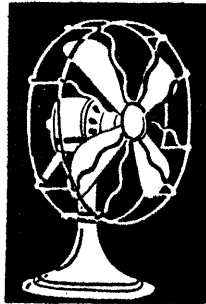


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## FORWARD BLOC

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

*The Call of Ramgarh*

In the last issue we published in full the resolutions passed at the All-India Anti-Compromise Conference which met at Ramgarh on the 19th and 20th March, at the time that the Indian National Congress assembled there. The Conference was organised in the teeth of opposition on the part of Right-wing Congressmen. Till the very last, unscrupulous methods were employed by them in order to frustrate our Conference. Nevertheless, the Conference proved to be an unqualified success. Not only was the attendance phenomenal, surpassing that of the Congress itself—but the Conference afforded a much-needed platform to all genuine anti-imperialists who gathered together from every corner of the country.

The main resolution passed at the Ramgarh Anti-Compromise Conference on the 20th March dealt with the question of our National struggle. That resolution was passed unanimously, amid wild acclamation and frenzied enthusiasm. As soon it was declared carried, the bugles were sounded and one hundred thousand people jumped to their feet, mad with joy and holy inspiration. It was a sight which human memory will never forget.

Ramgarh gave the call and we who were there at the Conference, responded to a man. Our fight has already begun. It is now for the nation to take it up.

On the 6th April, will begin the annual observance of the National Week. That week is a week of humiliation in the recent history of India, for in 1919 the Jallianwala

Bag massacres took place at Amritsar in the Punjab. But it is often necessary to remind a subject nation of its humiliation in order to rouse it to a sense of self-respect and honour.

This year the National Week will have a unique significance, because the Anti-Compromise Conference has ordered that on the 6th April, all local struggles should be intensified and a struggle should be commenced on an All-India basis and on an All-India front. Today we stand on the eve of the National Week with hearts pulsating with new life and inspiration.

Who knows what the future has in store for those who stand on the brink of a precipice? Will they win swaraj or will they not? Will they be able to overcome enemies abroad and croakers at home, both on the Right and on the Left?

They may win Swaraj or they may not. But one thing is certain. They will have the satisfaction of having done their duty when others failed. They will be upholding the honour of the Indian Nation at home and abroad. And what is more, they will be ensuring the future of the Left Movement in this country. Whether Independence is won by one stroke or not, the grave of Rightism will be dug once for all and Leftism will be firmly rooted on Indian soil.

The bugle has been sounded. The die has been cast. Let nobody falter at this hour. We have to leap ahead and ever ahead. Out of the unborn future will spring the light that will bring us all that we have been striving for throughout the ages—liberty and Equality; peace and bread and above all, the Holy Grail of joy sublime.

*Sukhdev Dutt*

## REV. C. F. ANDREWS

After a protracted illness Rev. C. F. Andrews breathed his last the day before yesterday. India has lost in him one of her true friends and benefactors. Since the time when he came to this country more than three decades ago, he made it his home and has been thoroughly unstinted and unsparing in his services to it. He was so much with us and of us that we seemed to forget that he bore a white skin on his person: For the fallen and the lowly his pity and kindness flowed in unceasing stream and it was quite deservedly that the epithet of *Dinabandhu* came to be associated permanently with his name here in our country. A friend and disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath, he was a visionary in every fibre of his being. He dreamt fervently of universal love and brotherhood, alas, to find his dreams and hopes dashed to pieces on the rock of realities. It can truly be said of him as of very few others, that he was a man of sorrows. He lived and died as such. And when after deep travails the world will be re-born in a spirit of justice and love, men like Andrews will be remembered with gratitude as the devoted torch-bearers of that truly enlightened order.

## MOLOTOV'S SPEECH

A Ruter message dated Moscow, April 1, reports that an increase of 40 P.C. in defence expenditure has been provided in the Soviet Budget for 1940. The question arises: why this increase? The Finnish War has ended in a glorious victory for the U.S.S.R.; the Soviet has, within the recent past, achieved

no mean successes in safeguarding the security of the country and maintains a position of strict neutrality in the War of the Great Powers. Why then this provision for increased military expenditure? The answer will be found in M. Molotov's recent address to the Congress of the Soviets: "During the past five months there have been many instances of Franco-British hostility towards the Soviet Union. The Finnish War was indeed a welcome opportunity for a number of Imperialist States to embark on a War against the Soviet Union," and, Britain and certain other states availed themselves of the opportunity so far as they could not because they had any respect for Finnish freedom but because "Finland was a ready-made base for military operations against the Soviet Union." Failing to stop the Soviet-Finnish Treaty which they denounced as ruinous to Finland, the imperialists are now steadily endeavouring to drag the Soviet into the European War. This hostile attitude of Great Powers to U.S.S.R. is evident from Britain's refusal to fulfil long-standing Soviet orders and her seizure of Soviet ships in Shanghai (?), from the Souritz affair, which is an artificial pretext of the French Government to emphasise their unfriendly attitude to the Soviet and, lastly, from the U.S.A's refusal to raise the moral embargo against the Soviet Union, even though the Russo-Finnish War has come to an end. On top of all these, the proposed military alliance of Norway, Sweden and Finland, cannot fail to rouse our suspicions.

The Soviet has, therefore, good reasons to enhance her military expenditure for defence. That she is not arming for aggression, as imperialists would have us believe,

is clear from her policy of neutrality and non-participation in the War of Big Powers, as well as from her relations with her neighbours. From M. Molotov's speech we come to know that there is absolutely no basis for rumours that Soviet Union claimed ports in Sweden and Norway, or that she intended campaigns in India, Egypt and the like. M. Molotov has also declared that the Soviet Union does not mean to regain Bessarabia, over which a controversy is going on between Rumania and Russia, by War. These would amply prove the charges against the Soviet Union as disgraceful falsehoods.

## CURRENT COMMENTS

### Scavengers' Strike

For days Calcutta lay buried amid dirt and the people were oppressed by the fear of epidemic in the city. The Calcutta Corporation, though saddled with the responsibility of keeping the city clean, sat idle and breathed out hot threats at the strikers and the out-going Mayor addressed some winged words to the Strike Committee. The Corporation made organized efforts to sabotage the strike, and police aid was requisitioned to speed it up. But the scavengers rose superior to the forces of barbarity and darkness and their heroic struggle has challenged our admiration. Their demands are legitimate and cannot be pooh-poohed by any rational being. Scavengers, truly speaking, are captive to perpetual squalor and filth and their life is an Iliad of woes. Socially ostracised, politically reduced to nonentity, they are a race of nomads without home, without social responsibility. Notwithstanding the humanitarian phrases parroted by the guardians

of the society, scant justice has been doled out to the disinherited children of land. And the society has poleaxed them like a locomotive rolling in blind indifference to grind man from limb to limb. The primitive methods of scavenging is a reproach to the civilization that we enjoy, love and seek to preserve. The high officials of the Corporation live chatting, sporting, amused from day to day by cinema and the night clubs. The last meeting of the Corporation recorded fabulous increment for the officials that are not essential to the existence of the Corporation. Do the officials really merit the increment? This increment is a wastage of public money and negation of democratic principles. Citizens must not brook it and the principles of increment must be worked out in the equitable manner. The question of 25 per cent for the scavengers can be made possible only by the organized diminution of the highly salaried officials. What is important for the defenders of civic rights is to substitute for the advantages which the despotic officials gain in the field of action, a lively comradeship that enables them by the co-operation of all sorts and kinds of citizens to produce a more democratic organization.

### "The China Incident"

The Sino-Japanese War is very irregularly reported. From all that we come to know through press about it, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Japanese in China are facing a hopeless economic, political and military situation. Ever since the Soviet came to the aid of the Chinese Government, China has remarkably developed her determination and power to fight the aggressors. Every Chinaman now firmly believes in the ultimate victory of his country, so much

so that the Puppet Government set up by the Japanese on behalf of Wang Ching-wei, has signally failed to achieve its real object of influencing the resistance of the Chinese nation. Indeed, it is so intensely hated all over China that even the most reactionary of her statesmen must henceforth think twice before proposing to the people any peace that they may deem derogatory to the honour of the Chinese nation. China has immense man-power to fight Japan for years; her moral strength, inspite of the stray cases of Kuomintang-Communist clashes is, unlike Japan, not only unimpaired, but daily growing. Material assistance from the Soviet has fairly made up her military deficiency. The War is causing Japan serious nervous strain. Face-saving is her only problem now. Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek, the Chinese Premier and Commander-in-Chief, does not, therefore, appear to us unduly optimistic in his recent address to the Political Council.

### The Scottish Church College Imbroglia

The approval that the College Section of the Church of Scotland Mission, Bengal, has accorded to the attitude and action of Principal Cameron, has put out the last taper of hope for a settlement in the College bearing the name of the Mission. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee tried his level best to bring about a happy termination of the unfortunate deadlock in the College, but all his laudable efforts have now broken on the proverbial Scottish obduracy. Mr. Cameron has circularised that the College will re-open after a couple of days, but we have no doubt that he and his professors will find empty benches staring in their faces. The

real source of the trouble, as we have understood it and pointed out before, is that these Missions, basking in official patronage, can hardly pull themselves up to the level of Indian students' awakened aspirations. In these circumstances, the students cannot be advised to make an abject surrender to the authorities and thus abdicate the very role that students play all the world over. Dr. Mookerjee has addressed an appeal to the guardians of the students of the College to meet and decide their course. We hope the response to this appeal will be spontaneous and full. We further hope that the decision that they will take will not compromise the honour of their wards in any way.

### Defence Act Amended

Numerous are the bills piloted through the Central Assembly since the outbreak of war and some are really dangerous weapons forged to maim the normal life of the people. And the extension of the Defence Act to the areas that have hitherto enjoyed some sort of immunity from its rigorous application is no happy augury for the future. Words of nationalist members angered the Co-ordination Secretary and his show of nervousness and haste is baffling to us. Have the Indian States and the excluded areas sent any challenge to British rule? Britain will have to bank upon the States in the event of a protracted war and the States are being armed with extraordinary power to whip the unruly lads into good behaviour. British Government looks upon the excluded areas as addition to its strength for services of the Nagas and other tribes had been widely appreciated in the last War. India is most truly united and the present is the most glorious chapter of history.

Strip of the empire, deprived of the sovereignty of the seas, loaded with debt taxation, Britain would sink to the level of a fifth rate power and nothing would remain of her glory. And it would be most unwise to pursue any policy that does not take account of the growing forces. The Defence Act cannot chill the love of freedom nor would the arsenal of repressive measures cow down the masses.

### Let people judge

Lest the Indian public miss the thread and get bewildered, we present once again the sequence of outstanding events that have figured in the political scene recently. Even after Ramgarh Mahatma Gandhi has continued to blow hot and cold in the same breath—talking of satyagraha and compromise simultaneously. Lord Zetland has obdurately clung to his old position that Hindu-Muslim reconciliation must precede any settlement with India *on the basis of a promise of dominionhood*. The Muslim League, under the captaincy of astute Jinnah, has found the moment opportune to develop into a vociferous exponent of the Pakistan plea. It is reported that His Highness the Aga Khan is coming once again to this country with a "mission" from London. And to cap all, Mr. Birla from his visit to Wardha had gone to the Viceroy to explain to him what Mahatma Gandhi really stands for. This, we believe, is a true chronicle of what is happening here today. Let people judge for themselves where things are drifting to.

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**FORWARD BLOC NEWS****WAR COUNCIL FORMED****Delhi Forward Bloc Meeting**

The Provincial Forward Bloc, Delhi, at a meeting held recently constituted a War Council of three members in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Anti-Compromise Conference held at Ramgarh.

**War Council Formed**

New Delhi, Apl. 1.

It is understood that the Leftist Leaders who recently met under the presidency of Sj. Subhas Chandra Bose at Calcutta constituted a War Council with Sj. Bose as convener in pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Anti-Compromise Conference.

**GANDHINAGAR FORWARD BLOC****Office-Bearers and Executive elected**

In a meeting of the members and sympathisers of the Gandhinagar Ward (Cawnpore) Forward Bloc, held under the presidentship of Mr. Jagdish Prosad Agnihotri, Secretary of the City Forward Bloc, the following office-bearers and executive were elected for the current year.

President— Sj. Jagdamba Prosad  
Johri.  
Vice-President—Shivashanker Verma.  
Secretary— „ Pransanker Misra.  
Asst. Secretary— „ Raj Beharilal Srivastava.  
Treasurer— „ Debi Prosad.

**BRITAIN FIGHTS FOR "DEMOCRACY" >**

(Cont. from page 10)

**SJ. DEVEN SEN GETS ONE YEAR'S R. I.****Conviction Under Defence Act**

Deben Sen, President of the Calcutta Electric workers Union, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment under the Defence of India Act by the S. D. O. Howrah, on Tuesday.

Two other workers of the same Union were sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment each.

**PROF. RANGA CONVICTED  
One Year's R. I. And Rs. 500****Fine For Kisan Leader**

Madras, April 2.

Mr. N. G. Ranga, M. L. A., (Central) and Vice-President, All-India Kisan Sabha, was produced before the Third Presidency Magistrate at Egmore this afternoon, on a charge of having defied the Local Government's order served on him on Sunday last under the Defence of India Act.

Mr. Ranga was given a chair during the trial.

The special C. I. D. Inspector who arrested him was the only witness examined.

Mr. Ranga pleaded guilty to the charge against him.

The Magistrate convicted and sentenced Mr. Ranga to one year's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 500/- in default to undergo six months' further imprisonment.

**SJ. SATYA GUPTA ARRESTED (B.V.)**

-5440

Sj. Satya Bhusan Gupta, M. A. an ex-state prisoner, member of the Executive Council, B. P. C. C., one of the founders of Bengal Volunteers of which SJ. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE was G.O.C. a prominent member of Forward Bloc, was arrested this morning at Dinapore and taken to Comilla to stand his trial, in connection with his speech delivered at Comilla.

**SENTENCE UPHELD****Prison For Peshawar 'Forward Bloc' Secretary**

Peshawar, Apl. 1.

The sentence of six months' simple imprisonment was upheld by the Additional Sessions Judge to-day in the case against H. C. Chatterji, General Secretary, Frontier Sweepers' Union and Secretary of the Peshawar Forward Bloc, who had been convicted in the lower court on a charge of defaming the police in connection with the Gnalladher peasants' agitation.

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# **NATIONAL WEEK BAN ON BENGAL PRESS**

## **NO PROGRAMME TO BE PRINTED**

### **DRASTIC ORDER OF BENGAL GOVERNMENT**

The following is the text of the order :—

Government of Bengal, Home Department Political (Press).

Order to all Printers, Publishers and Editors in Bengal.

No. 2097P.—5th April 1940.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules, the Governor is pleased to prohibit absolutely the printing or publishing within the Province of Bengal of :—

(1) any document containing a reference by way of statement, advertisement, notice, news, comment or otherwise to—

(a) the whole or any part of any programme for the so-called "NATIONAL WEEK, 1940", issued by or on behalf of the (suspended) BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE or ANY BODY AFFILIATED THERETO or CONNECTED THEREWITH or Mr. SUBHÁS CHANDRA BOSE and SWAMI SAHAJANANDA or either of them or ANY ORGANISATION WITH WHICH THEY ARE OR EITHER OF THEM IS CONNECTED, or any programme identical with, or based on, or substantially similar to, or reproducing part or the whole of, any such programme ; and

(b) any procession, meeting, assembly or demonstration held, speech delivered, or thing done or omitted to be done in connection or in accordance with or for the furtherance of any programme referred to in sub-clause (a) or part of such programme ; and

(2) any document containing a reference by way of comment to this order.

By order of the Governor,

**H. J. TWYNAM**

Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

