

FORWARD BLOC

A POLITICAL WEEKLY

Editor : SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

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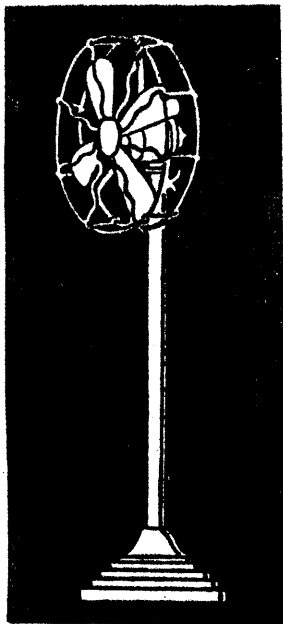
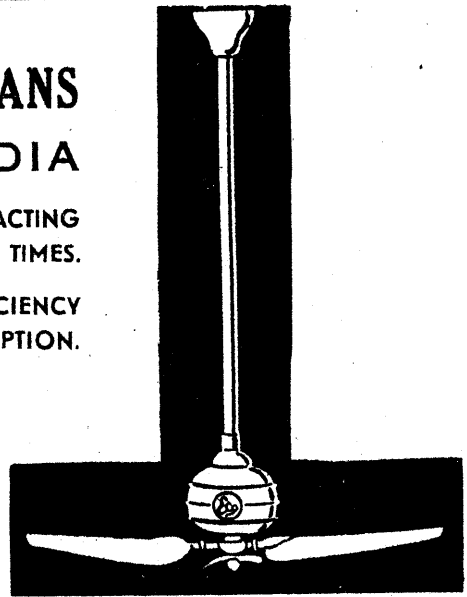
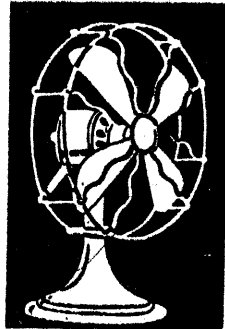


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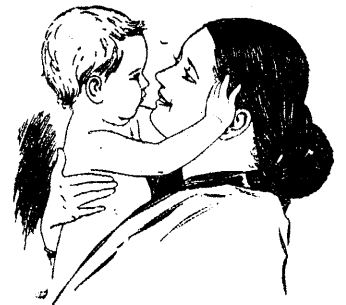
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FORWARD BLOC

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

The Caravan Marches

The political stalemate is now broken. The call of Ramgarh has borne fruit. The bugle that was sounded there was echoed and re-echoed all over the land and from the living hearts of the people has come the response. During the last week, one has been thrilled to read the papers from day to day. No longer are we merely criticising and cogitating. No longer are we engaged in endless controversy and in hair-splitting arguments on Local Struggle vs. National Struggle. We are on the march. Annapurnaiah in Andhra, Senapati Bapat and ex-Civilian Kamath in Bombay, Kisan leader Bhuskute in Maharashtra, Professor Ranga in Madras, Ashrafuddin Chowdhury and Satya Ranjan Bakshi, Secretary of the Bengal Congress and of the Bengal Forward Bloc respectively and a host of comrades—belonging mostly to the Forward Bloc and the Kisan Sabha—are now in prison. They have gone forth first and theirs is the glory. All honour to them.

The problem now is—what are we to do? In 1930, when India was in the throes of a revolution, a body of croakers, then regarded as ultra-leftists, stood aloof from the movement and refused to join it, on the ground that Congressmen were counter-revolutionaries. To call those men and women counter-revolutionaries who were defying alien 'law and order', braving the rigours of prison-life and facing the baton-charges of the police was a bit too much for even the gullible Indian. The movement grew from strength to strength and

inspired the teeming millions of this country and the ultra-leftists were left high and dry and completely isolated from the revolutionary masses.

Today, the same ultra-leftists are in a similar situation. Like truly doctrinaire politicians and bookish revolutionaries, they are standing aloof from the struggle that has begun. By this policy, they will hurt nobody but themselves. The caravan will march on, despite their indifference and possible obstruction. This is the time for action—not for wordy warfare or hair-splitting over the meaning of words.

Reports that have reached us from different parts of the country go to show that everywhere our functions have been an unqualified success. In some places, Gandhites joined hands with Congress Socialists and 'National Fronters' in order to frustrate our work, but they met with miserable failure. There can be no doubt today that the masses are with us.

Is it not an irony of fate that the National Front Group are not coming forward to join the National Struggle? They could at least have come forward to intensify the local struggles and extend their scope, leaving it to others—to the Kisan Sabha and the Forward Bloc, to wit—to work as they liked. But their present policy appears to be almost like a 'dog in the manger' policy. They will neither join the struggle themselves, nor permit others to do so. In 1930, those who had gone in for a national struggle were condemned as counter-revolutionaries: today they are being condemned as disruptors of unity. The ultra-leftists have yet to learn that that unity is real and is worth having which leads to action and struggle. Unity which paralyses action is meaningless and

ineffective and can be described as the unity of the graveyard.

As the hours roll by, excitement and inspiration are on the increase. As if to help us in our mission, the Government struck on the first day and again on the last. The more they strike and the harder they strike, the stronger will be the reaction and the greater the response. The day has gone by when people would be cowed down by repression.

As we march on, many others have to follow, though rather tardily. The Rightists are setting up Satyagraha Committees, War Councils and the like and the leaders are parading in shirts and shorts. This is all to the good. But how long will this prelude last? When will the real drama begin? If only it had begun at Ramgarh, we would have been behind the Rightists and not ahead of them. But destiny has forced us to act as the spearhead of the struggle and as the vanguard of the national army. This is a role which will do honour to anybody and no sacrifice is too great that may be necessary in order to fulfil it.

Let the drums beat and the bugles be blown. Let youthful hearts pulsate with life and the blood dance with joy. The hour of deliverance is at hand—we have only to do our duty and to pay the price. India has arisen from her age-long slumber, reborn and rejuvenated. Her sons and daughters are going forth to fight the battle Royal. Let all join in sympathy and help.

The supreme test is taking place now. The chaff is separating from the grain, the Rightists from the Leftists. Out of this ordeal, Leftism will emerge triumphant. The overthrow of Rightism will mean the defeat of Moderatism, Reaction and Compromise. And when Leftism emerges triumphant, no power on earth can deny India any longer her birthright of liberty.

Subhas Chandra Bose

A Word about Germany

It seems that in modern warfare speed and mobility are exceedingly important factors. There is an old saying—"Well begun is half done." One should, in these days modify it and say—"Quick begun is half done" Germany has been practising this teaching with scrupulousness and precision. Whether in the military occupation of the Rhinehand, or in the annexation of Czechoslovakia or in the invasion of Poland or in the latest inroad into Scandinavia, she has always acted with lightning rapidity. By attacking suddenly the enemy's nerve-centres she has tried to overwhelm or paralyse him before he could realise what had happened. Such swooping tactics presuppose careful planning over a long period and adequate preparation in accordance with it. Nazi Germany has been a past master in this art of detailed planning and careful preparation.

Besides detailed planning and adequate preparation, energy and vigour are needed to fulfil a particular programme according to a time-table. All these qualities the Nazis certainly possess. Owing to their speed and mobility they have invariably caught the enemy napping and overpowered him without much difficulty.

The ease with which Czechoslovakia was overpowered and annexed by Germany came as a surprise to many. The conquest of Poland within three weeks was a still greater surprise, because Poland was reputed to have a powerful army with the necessary modern equipment and the Poles were known to be fearless fighters.

The annexation of Czechoslovakia was necessary on strategic grounds in view of the coming attack on

Poland. The annexation of Poland, or at least of the Polish Corridor, was necessary in order to link up East Prussia with the main portion of Germany. The annexation of Austria, of Danzig, of Memelland—one can understand and account for on grounds of race and nationality among other reasons. But what about poor Scandinavia?

The small Scandinavian countries of Denmark and Norway never constituted a menace to powerful Germany. Why, then, did the latter violate their territorial integrity? The ostensible ground is that Great Britain had laid mines in Norwegian waters Germany acted in retaliation.

But this answer is not an adequate one. If Britain was responsible for laying mines in Norwegian waters, Germany should have struck hard at her in retaliation. Why did she strike at Denmark and Norway instead.

The reason is that Germany had grounds for believing that Great Britain was planning to occupy Denmark and Norway—just as she had occupied Salonika in Greece during the Great War. So Germany forestalled her enemy and herself occupied the two Scandinavian countries. Because of greater speed and mobility, German could do that in advance of Britain. The occupation of Denmark was like a picnic and that of Norway was like a cake-walk. With careful planning and preparation all this could be accomplished with lightning speed.

The occupation by Britain of the Faroe Island which belonged to Denmark, shows that German anticipation of the British occupation of Denmark and Norway was not ill-founded.

Both Denmark and Norway can now be used as a jumping-off ground for a future attack on the

British Navy, as also on the British territory.

Germany may be a Fascist or an Imperialist, ruthless or cruel, but one cannot help admiring these qualities of hers—how she plans in advance, prepares accordingly, works according to a time-table and strikes with lightning speed. Could not these qualities be utilised for promoting a nobler cause?

Sutan Chandrasekhar

CURRENT COMMENTS

A Martyr

The students of Naryanganj (Subdivision of Dacca District, Bengal) recently met in a Convention. Political differences arose in the meeting and there was disturbance and rowdiness. It is reported that some "goondas" made themselves busy in the melee and some students were attacked in the course of the proceedings. Among those who were assaulted and injured was Si. Jyotirmoy Bhowmik, an enthusiastic member of the Forward Bloc. The injuries proved to be fatal and Sj. Jyotirmoy Bhowmik succumbed soon after. From the reports that are available it appears that at the Narayanganj Convention, a dispute arose between the supporters of the Forward Bloc on the one side and those of the National Front Group on the other which led to a physical dash. Apart from the question as to who was legally responsible for the heinous crime, it is not difficult to determine as to who was or were morally responsible for it.

But the Forward Bloc is not interested in the least in avenging the murder. That is not consonant with our creed or with our outlook on life. We are content to suffer and also to immolate ourselves

whenever and wherever necessary —for we believe that vicarious suffering is never fruitless. The blood of the martyr is the seed of the church. The blood of Jyotirmoy will undoubtedly prove to be the most potent inspiration for the Forward Bloc in future and for all time to come. We are proud of him. Every Forward Bloc-er is proud of him. We bow down before his sacred memory and we resolve to enshrine him in our hearts. *Long live the martyr Jyotirmoy Bhowmic!*

Vagaries of Saadullah Ministry

As an adept in the art of dissimulation Sir. Md. Saadullah can hardly be dwarfed and he has fashioned the Government in the manner best suited to serve the interests of his foreign masters and patrons. On several occasions he fooled the people of the province and had to be thrust out but he waited and waited and at last succeeded in returning to his accustomed saddle. Instead of pouring out wealth into the cottage homes of the province he has made inroads upon the civic life of the province and in his fanatical zeal he out-bids the totalitarian. Assam, though differently circumstanced from the rest of India, has a record of gallant fight in the C. D. Movement and the no-tax campaign of Bhanubil unfolds the story of the brave Manipuris who had bared their breast to the bayonets of the British soldiers. Of all these Sir Muhammad is fully aware and the prohibition of meetings and demonstrations on Independence Day in Sylhet was calculated to bottle up the movement of National liberation. Is this not the acme of gullibility? But better late than never. It is all to the good that the Premier has, after all, made a pathetic confession of his folly and has offered to withdraw prosecution

orders against those arrested in connexion with Independence Day.

But the latest report from Sylhet confirms the news that S^r Biresh Chandra Misra and Satyabrata Datta and nine others of Habiganj are called upon to stand the trial. An agent of Imperialism, Sir Muhammad covets the ministerial job and pleases his master by hounding out the undesirables. The People of Assam must exert a vigilant scrutiny upon the Ministry and its policy which if not arrested may bring the province to ignominy and disrepute.

Whither Indian Liberals?

Indian liberalism, though buried in the sweet limbo of oblivion, has startled us by its pointed criticism of both Congress and the League activities. Indian Liberals nursed on English Liberalism, now a *passé* creed, have advocated the theory of gradual evolution and they dream of earthly paradise within the orbit of the British Raj. The Indian Liberal Party composed of the commercial magnates and leisured lawyers has been hanging upon India like a dead weight and its professed abhorrence of direct action for achieving freedom brings out its reactionary character. We are at one with the Liberals on the question of parcelling out India on a communal basis but the prospect of civil Disobedience as the only alternative to foil the game has unnerved them. Let the Liberal Pundits take a lesson from history. European Liberalism has degenerated into Reaction and its possibility as a form of social philosophy is exhausted. India has fought, all through the centuries, the battle of freedom that cost her dear and the most glorious chapter of her history is still to be written. Problems and dangers that encompass our country make men and women of this generation glad and at this hour we rejoice at the responsibilities with which time has honoured us and we are proud of being guardians of the country in an age when she is in the throes of a new order. We ask the Liberals to bury the defeatist doctrine a thousand fathoms deep and march with the times.

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FORWARD BLOC MEN ARRESTED

Bengal Volunteers

CALCUTTA ROUND-UP: RAIDS AT DACCA

Sj. Satya Ranjan Bakshi In Custody

ACTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT

A round-up of Left-wing Congressmen in Calcutta was carried out by the police on Saturday and following extensive searches conducted at about twenty places in different parts of the city in the small hours of the morning. Eleven prominent Left-wing Congress workers were taken into custody under the Defence of India Act. Most of the arrested persons were members of the Forward Bloc.

The following eleven persons were arrested :

- ① Sj. Satya Ranjan Bakshi, Secretary, Bengal Branch of the All-India Forward Bloc. (B.V.)
- ② Dr. Bhupal Bose, ex-Andaman prisoner. (B.V.)
- ③ Sj. Hemchandra Ghosh, ex-detenu. (B.V.)
- ④ Sj. Parimal Ray. (B.V.)
- ⑤ Sj. Bhupendra Rakhit-Roy, ex-State Prisoner. (B.V.)
- ⑥ Sj. Niranjib Roy. (B.V.)
- ⑦ Sj. Kshitiprasanna Sen, ex-detenu, Member, Forward Bloc. (B.V.)
- ⑧ Sj. Moni Roy, Manager, Weekly 'Forward Bloc'. (B.V.)
- ⑨ Sj. Monoranjan Sen Gupta. (B.V.)
- ⑩ Sj. Bhupati Mondal. (B.V.)
- ⑪ Sj. Bimal Nandi. (B.V.)

Among the places searched were the office of the Forward Bloc and the residence of Miss Ujjala Majumder, an ex-convict in the Lebong shooting case. (B.V.)

⑫ Mr. Bhabesh Chandra Nundy, pleader and organiser of the District Forward Bloc (B.V.)
 ⑬ Mr. Nikunja Sen, General Secretary (B.V.)
 ⑭ Mr. Amal Chandra Nundy and ⑮ Mr. Kshitindra Ray, all ex-detenus and members of the Bloc, were arrested last night under Section 129 of the Defence of India Act. (B.V.)

The police searched their respective houses as well as the Forward Bloc Office.

⑯ Mr. Anil Sen who was arrested in the Forward Bloc Office yesterday morning, has been home-interned under Section 26 of the Defence of India Act. (B.V.)

DEFENCE ACT BAN

'Forward Bloc' Workers' Movement Restricted

● Mr. Madhusudan Bhattacharya of Raizdia under the jurisdiction of the Sirajdikhan Thana in Vikramour, who is a member of the Forward Bloc was brought to-day to Dacca where an order requiring him to appear at the Sirajdikhan Thana daily and restricting his movements within home boundaries was served upon him. Dacca, Apl. 13.

SJ. ASHUTOSH MAITY

Comilla Forward Bloc Member Arrested

● Sj. Ashutosh Maity, a prominent member of the District Forward Bloc was arrested this afternoon as a sequel to an alleged anti-war speech that he delivered in a public meeting yesterday. The arrest was made under the Defence of India Act. Comilla, Apl. 13.

"CALL OF THE NATION"

Forward Bloc Pamphlet Seized By Police

● The police carried out a raid on a press at Lucknow and, it is stated, recovered a proof copy of a pamphlet entitled "Call of the Nation" distributed by the Forward Bloc. Lucknow, Apl. 12

DRACONIAN ORDER OF BENGAL GOVERNMENT

BENGAL PRESS GAGGED

NATIONAL WEEK PROGRAMME NOT TO BE PRINTED

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. SUBHAS 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.

