

Suresh Vaidya

writes this week on

1885!



I have no love for dates in history, but 28th December 1885 will always remain inscribed in my memory. Little did that Englishman Alan Octavian Hume imagine that on that day he was founding an institution that would breathe a new life into India. Little did the world realise that here was planted the seed of a movement that would one day symbolise the aspirations of the down-trodden in the colonies. The institution Alan Octavian Hume founded was the Indian National Congress.

It happened sixty years ago! In the life of a nation this is not a long time. But to traverse the distance of those sixty fateful years is a thrilling experience, each year echoing the memories of great deeds, unrivalled sacrifice, and glorious courage. It is as if a pilgrimage begun at one end of the hemisphere is about to reach its destination at the other. The land where it began is now the dim memory of a distant and hoary past.

Every Indian remembers Buddha, Shankaracharya, Alexander, Mohammed Ghor, Babar, Akbar, Shivaji, Bajirao, Tipu Sultan, Panipat, Plassey, 1857. These are landmarks which will be recounted every time history of India is written. And yet the Congress towers above them all. It has for us more than a historical meaning. It is something living and dynamic, manifests our noblest and highest creative urges. Like the wheel in the hands of the potter, the Congress in the hands of the people is moulding India into a new and vigorous nation.

THE CONGRESS REMAINS

The landmarks in our past history represent single, unrelated events, a victory, a reign, a reform, a personality. They are the achievements of a king, a vazir, a general, an architect, a saint the importance of which cannot be divorced from the individual behind it. The National Congress is unique in as much as it represents the collective creation of a people. If ever a movement was popular the Congress is. Even the greatness of its leaders cannot be judged outside the context of its mass movements. Leaders, one greater than the other, have come and gone. But the Congress remains.

There is an explanation for our attachment to the Congress (even

when we differ from it). It is something akin to filial relationship. There are and have been political parties in other parts of the world. In the course of a generation or two these parties and movements have lost their original vitality and become the caricatures of their former selves. Some have been battered into new shapes by the overwhelming force of circumstances. Others have been ossified, and survive only in their ritualistic forms. To compare their present with their past is to mistake the mask for the face. The face of the Congress has also changed, as everything that lives must. But that change is like the work of nature. It reflects growth, from childhood to adolescence, thence to manhood and maturity.

The philosophic and intellectual contribution of the Congress to the existence of 400 millions is immense, although travelling as we are on the crest of the wave we scarcely notice how much water has passed underneath us. Our past, in spite of its period of glory and attainment, somehow failed to

fundamentally alter the static nature of Indian society. Kings came and ruled, some benevolently, others tyrannically. But no one ever made an attempt to weave afresh the social fabric of the country which passed on from reign to reign, and century to century.

The Congress revolutionised the popular outlook by tearing us away from the past, and imbuing us with a new concept of collective life known as nationalism. We began to feel the strength of nationhood, not of the aggrandising capitalist European type, but of the internationally collaborative pattern. It was a nationalism that did not conflict but increasingly harmonised with the international spirit.

Often British rulers boast that nationalism came to India only after their advent. That is true, but only partly so. The British power never wanted, on the contrary obstructed, India's development as a nation. In its rise they foresaw the doom of their power. If to-day India has reached the stage of national consciousness it

has been in spite of them. The Congress painstakingly and laboriously hammered this national unity among our people.

TRUE FREEDOM

A philosophic faith is not all that the Congress has contributed towards our upbringing. Freedom from foreign rule is the goal towards which this teaching is inspiring the nation. Freedom is the cherished goal of every people not because it connotes lack of control by others, but because it enables the people to grow to the stature their genius and physical powers entitle them.

No nation in the world has reached freedom by the short-cut. It has meant ceaseless toil, suffering, sacrifice, struggle, and in the last resort war of liberation. It has its sordid aspect of cruelty and bloodshed. But the war of liberation has also its positive, edifying aspect, that of regeneration. It is only in the fight, through the fight, that the spiritual backbone of a people is tested. A nation desiring freedom has also to deserve it. A nation that shrinks from the highest sacrifices and risks can never be free.

By and by India's common man has become conscious of the gravity and urgency of the freedom fight. He has made his weight felt in the political life of the country. This is to be witnessed in the very growth and nature of the Congress movement.

Originally, for instance, the Congress was the organ of the rich and the influential, and every delegate was required to possess

Congress his own preserve. It belongs to the people, and the people only.

The reason why it is difficult, although not impossible, to evaluate the Congress in terms of history is because it rather reminds one of the future than of the past. The nation is too impatient about freedom to spare even a thought for what has already been achieved. All along the chequered avenue of sixty years the Congress has collected its following, galvanised the nation, and passed swiftly from milestone to milestone. Every year has been a year of growth, every adversity a source of strength.

1942 was unique inasmuch as it revealed the unexpectedly high qualities of daring and willingness which the people possess, and which always remain at the disposal of the Congress. It has also indicated that the country need not take measured and cautious steps to achieve its objective, but that the people are ready for an all-out effort. Just as the civil disobedience of 1930 marked an advance technique over 1920 non-co-operation movement, so does 1942 over 1930. The technique of the movement to come will have to be still more advanced, of the highest order.

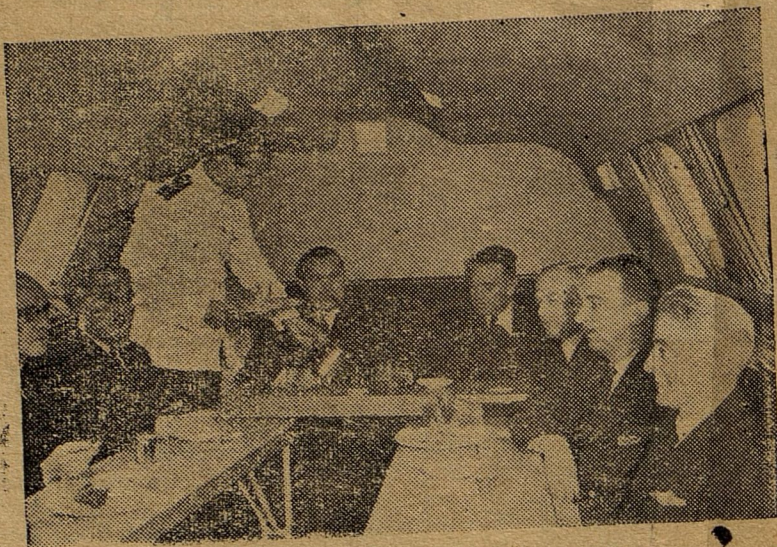
There cannot be any prescribed rules and restrictions according to which the Congress has to move as its whole history of 60 years shows. It is not a religion that aspires to perpetuate its forms into posterity. It is a movement with a mission and an objective, and its attainment is all that counts. Once the goal is reached Congress will cease to be a living force, and will pass into the realm of history.

INDIAN STUDENTS IN LONDON



This is a lunch meeting at London when the Indian students were represented by a few. Above is seen one of the students responding to a toast made on behalf of them.

FIRST OF NEW FLYING BOATS



The 24-seater Sandringham flying boat, the first civil aircraft to be produced in Britain since the war by a big aircraft company, was launched on the Medway recently. Picture shows the interior of the luxury flying boat, the dining room which occupied the aft part of the upper deck.

and fish were very costly, especially during the war. In the hills only the richer classes could afford to buy even the poor quantity of fish available there. The price of coconuts and oil also increased very much. On account of the high prices, the settlers were unable to buy rice for consumption. They took to tapioca as a substitute but it was ill-balanced for want of coconuts and fish. In the uplands mangoes and jack fruits were largely consumed in their season. Such malnutrition and the prevailing Malaria caused various diseases among the settlers.

We have seen above a short description of the colonies, the advantages the colonists hope to reap and the many disabilities they have had to work under. What are the conclusions that one can arrive at concerning this colonisation scheme?

1. It must be said in the first place that the enterprise was undertaken without due preparations and precautions.

2. The governments and community leaders who came to understand the grave situation the colonists had fallen into, did nothing to help them or warn others from following their example in due time.

3. Even now much can and should be done to help and improve the condition of the survivors.

4. Learning from their errors and mishaps, new efforts should be made to render the enterprise a success.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

A company may be formed

The Americans who had a number of their soldiers working in the Assam areas, took with them their new chemical invention D. D. T. and sprayed miles and miles of the forest and other infested areas from aeroplanes. They are said to have achieved a large amount of real success in making their area safe for their troops to work. It is time that our Government adopt seriously and on an adequate scale this method of anti-malarial campaigning. What is wanted are a few planes, enough supply of D. D. T. and a few medical officers and subordinates who have received sufficient training in this method under American army units. Instead of spending millions of rupees on the show and different methods now at hand, let the sum be diverted to this better tried method.

Another acceptable American product is the "Jeep"—a vehicle that can negotiate all areas, as cotton soil, sandy soil, hill-sides, low channels, irrigated fields and country tracks. Every planning body should have an adequate number of "Jeeps". With this quick and useful vehicle, the jungle areas can be explored. Workmen may be taken from healthy settlements to the places of work and back daily so that the danger of infection might be small. Medical helps also can be thus easily and quickly rendered.

The reason for the large number of deaths among the settlers has been their settlement in jungles before the clearance of the area. If they had stayed in habitable areas and only the workers went interior to clear up the jungles, level the grounds, and put up the huts before any settlement was made, the number of deaths would have been much less. Government and the public ought to have prevented in time the imprudent settlement of the ignor-

closed many of its dispensaries for want of doctors and medicines.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

The settlers had not the necessary funds to put up proper homes against cold and rains nor had they enough warm clothes for the hilly areas. They had little credit-facilities to raise short or long term crops. Neither did they get any help to market their produce profitably. Again credit facilities to buy goats, cows and fishing nets would have been great help to them as a means to balance their diet.

The attempts made so far by Government for developing colonies among the landless classes have not been successful. The settlements organised and assisted by Government in Coimbatore and Salem districts are a miserable apology for assisted colonies. If Government really wanted to make a success of settlements, here are a fine set of men who are struggling to develop undeveloped areas with their little resources, unmindful of the death of their dear ones, their monetary and material losses and their own deterioration in health. The future of agricultural development in this country, rests on the building up of a bold peasantry of this type. These should be helped in all ways to grow more food. This will lead to minimise famine, deaths and diseases when such occur. Government and the Syrian Christians of Malabar will do well if they take an active interest in these settlements and thus save human lives and promote agriculture and common welfare.

Attempts were made some two years ago in February 1944 to form an organisation of settlers who flocked to and domiciled in Malabar from Travancore and Cochin. This was a move in the

home region also much can be performed to ameliorate the condition of the settlers. Much will depend on the generosity and goodwill of the estate-owners and company directors now proving interests in Malabar and other well-wishers. I earnestly appeal them to express their views in the 'Malabar Herald' and to correspond with A. K. C. C/o Editor.

First I. N. A. Trial

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Captain Shah Nawaz Khan, Captain Sehgal and Lieut. Dhillon have stood their trial by Court Martial on charges against all three of waging war against the King Emperor, Lieut. Dhillon being also charged with murder and the other two with abetment of murder. The findings of the Court are that all three are guilty of the charge of waging war, while Captain Shah Nawaz Khan is also convicted of the charge of abetment of Murder. Lt. Dhillon is acquitted of the charge of murder and Captain Sehgal of the charge of abetment of murder.

Having found the accused guilty of the charge of waging war, the Court was bound to sentence the accused either to death or to transportation for life; no lesser sentence was permissible under the law. The sentence of the Court on all three accused is transportation for life, cashiering and forfeiture of arrears of pay and allowances.

No finding or sentence by Court Martial is complete until confirmed. The confirming officer, in this case the Commander-in-Chief, is satisfied that the findings of the Court are in each instance in conformity with the evidence, and he has therefore confirmed them.

The confirming officer is however competent to mitigate, commute or remit the sentences. As already stated in the Press it is the policy of the Government of India to bring to trial in future only such persons as are alleged in addition to waging war against the State, to have committed acts of gross brutality; and it has been announced that in reviewing sentences in any trials the competent authority will have regard to the extent to which the acts proved offence against the canons of civilised behaviour.

Lieut. Dhillon and Captain Sehgal have been acquitted of the charges of murder and abetment of murder, and it has not been alleged that they were guilty of other acts of brutality. Although Captain Shah Nawaz Khan has been found guilty of abetment of murder and the acts proved against him were harsh, the prevailing circumstances have been taken into account by the confirming officer.

The Commander-in-Chief has

decided, therefore, to treat all three accused in the same way in the matter of sentence, and to remit the sentences of transportation for life against all three accused. He has, however, confirmed the sentences of cashiering and forfeiture of arrears of pay and allowances since it is in all circumstances a most serious crime for an officer or soldier to throw off his allegiance and wage war against the State. This is a principle which it is essential to uphold in the interests of the stability of any government by law established, present or future.

Lead, Kindly Light

ENGLAND NEEDS IT

IN 1934, when a conference of world religions was held in Chicago, the organisers ransacked the sacred music of the world to find a hymn that could be sung without offence to the delegates of any of the religions represented. Finally they chose Newman's *Lead Kindly Light*, and it was chosen and accepted by Christians, Jews, Mohammedans, and Hindus, as a complete expression of the trust which the Almighty demands from all humanity.

The hymn had been composed by Newman 100 years earlier while returning to England from a visit to Italy. He had been taken ill with fever during his visit and throughout his delirium had been repeating the word:

"I have a work to do in England;" but he began the return journey without any clear vision of the kind of work he was to do.

He sailed from Palermo on a small boat carrying oranges to Marseilles and, in the straits of Bonifacio, between the island of Corsica and Sardinia, the little vessel was becalmed. Newman was impatient at the delay, but one evening as he sat on deck after sunset a solitary star blazed suddenly in the Mediterranean sky. It shone as brilliantly as the star which had guided the Wise Men on their journey 2,000 years earlier. Inspired, Newman began to write:

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,

Lead Thou me on.

The night is dark and I am far from home.

Lead Thou me on!

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see

The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I can think of no more appropriate hymn for these times of difficulty and confusion. In 1946 even more than in 1834, the people of England need encouragement and hope.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still

Will lead me on

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent till

The night is gone.

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THE TRIAL AT NUREMBURG

Have you been following the reports of the trial of the Nazi leaders at Nuremburg? If journalistic reporting is being prostituted for propaganda purposes, it seems to be there. Only those parts of the proceedings are reported which help to sustain the prosecution's case. The rest is brazenly blacked out. The press is behaving like the auxiliary of the prosecution team.

For instance I read how Field Marshall Hermann Goering, the former Chief of the Luftwaffe, admitted in cross examination that some Allied airmen may have been executed, although he pleaded the executions were carried out without his knowledge and while he was on leave. His main speech of defence which was supposed to be impressive and designed to perpetuate 'the myth of the Nazi mission', however, was carefully held back.

Of course there are comments on the speech by the 'observers' in press gallery, which in the absence of the speech, only help to prejudice the reader's mind. They did the same thing in the case of Udham Singh, the London Indian who shot dead Sir Micheal O'Dwyer of Jallianwalla Baug notoriety in Caxton Hall at the beginning of the war. The judge asked the reporters not to mention Udham Singh's last speech, and the reporters sheepishly obeyed. Surely in an open trial the accused has as much right to be heard as the prosecution, especially in historical trials.

The newspapermen and news agencies (and I have been looking at English and American newspapers also) who are attending the Nuremburg trial, are so over-doing their part, that it nauseates the reader. If the English proverb 'Give a dog a bad name and hang him' has ever been portrayed into life, it is at Nuremburg.

The Nazi leaders are clever and capable men. They played ducks and drakes with the statesmen of the world for thirteen years and beat them at the game. They scarcely needed outside help to defend them. I for one have no desire to be briefed on their behalf. But the procedure of the trial makes a mockery of justice and fairness.

For all I know they may have wilfully executed Allied airmen, exterminated Russian population in occupied territory, and razed the mining Czechoslovakian village of Lidice to the ground. But are the Allies such innocent and conscientious men? Did not the British authorities, look

the defeated side. That is why to-day they are in the dock.

The Allied charge that these trials are being staged because the accused committed 'crimes against humanity' is pure nonsense. There is no question of onesided breach of international law; neither the Nazis nor the Allies adhered to it. In love and war, so goes an English saying, everything is fair.

What is international law anyway? If you think international law is something superior to municipal law, or that it is universally respected, applicable, and observed—you are mistaking the mule for the horse. The Court Martial of Shah Nawaz, Dhillon and Sehegal of the INA has exposed its utter hollowness. As against Bhulabhai Desai's quotations from American jurists, the Judge Advocate maintained that only that part of the international law is valid which a country incorporates as a part of its municipal law. In other words international law is subject to municipal law, not the other way round.

In his defence, Goering demanded that several important statesmen from Allied countries who are guilty of the same charges as he, should be brought to trial along with him. The judges disallowed his request. The trial was only of the persons who were in the dock. Paraphrased that meant: you will be penalised only if the Allies want to penalise you. No independent moral obligation rests upon them to bring to book every one who has broken the law. What holds sway to-day in the name of the international law is the will of the conquerer.

If the world is round and not square, our job is secure the best accomodation on its round surface. In conditions where strength alone guarantees your national existence, it is necessary for India to garner and increase her strength. But when I look at the youth of our country, I begin to become pessimistic. Manhood must be restored to them. They are frittering away in effimacy and foppishness, and individual advancement seems to beckon them with ever greater attraction. The thought of working for the nation hardly touches them.

Free India should resort to conscription of our youth into the armed forces. Let them begin life with two years in the Army. The essence of military training (often overlooked) is that it shears you of an exaggerated sense of individualism. You are constantly reminded

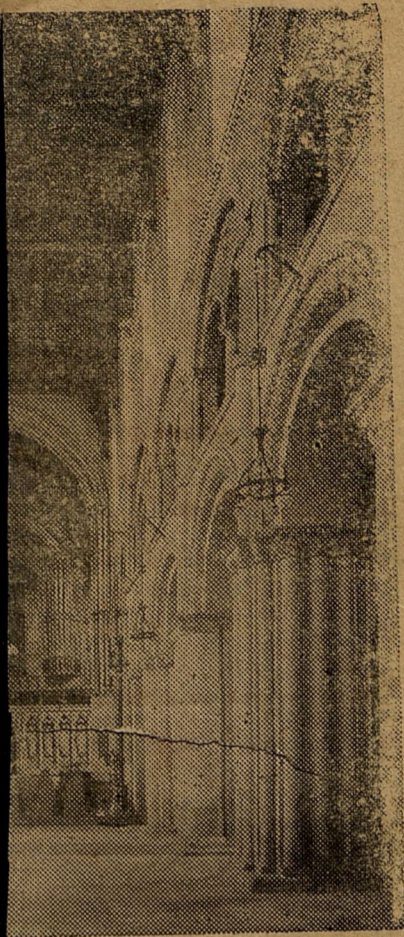
One morning I saw a squad prepare to capture a hill. The sun was beating down hot, and the trainees stood perspiring, listening to Captain Uddhav Sitaram Vaidya, their military instructor, a thorough, efficient, and seasoned soldier. A little longer, training and the squad I saw, composed of middle class soft sops, would be fit to fight in any war.

The NCO asked the squad: "Please get ready". Capt. Vaidya pulled him up. "No 'Pleases' in the Army" he warned, "Say 'Get ready'. You must command your men." The squad charged, short, swift rushes by the main party, while the scouts moved along the flanks, taking shelter of bushes and hollows.

It's a pity the students will not have more than 6 weeks' training. It should be 3 months at least. In any case they will go back much fitter in body and healthier in mind.

Capt Vaidya has been a regular soldier for 18 years, and was commissioned in 1936. Mild-mannered off the parade ground, he has seen active service in the Middle-East, the Nile Valley, and Southern Europe. In Eritrea his jeep was blown up by an Italian road mine, severely maiming his right arm. This arm is still in bandage, and he has been invalided out of the Army. He thinks very highly of the Indian soldier, and believes that the average Indian has a natural aptitude for military training and warfare.

INSPIRATIONS.



chester Cathedral, the nave of many to great heights. The by St. Augustine, and the most famous Bishop of Rochester by VIII and canonised by Pope

saw people with exceptional shrewdness, and could exhibit their characteristics vividly, but he had not Shakespeare's mediumistic power of feeling and living his creations, and a great deal of Shaw's own kindness and common sense is given to some of his characters where it is utterly out of place.

True Greatness

(BY WILTON HACK)

In reading Lytton's "Zicci" I came across a passage so true, so apt that I cannot refrain from quoting it for your benefit and guidance and making a few remarks about it. Mejnour is speaking to the Englishman Glyndon, and as the latter is seeking admission to occultism, the sage is giving him some preliminary advice. The sentence I admire for its truth is this: "Not in the knowledge of things without, but in the perfection of the soul within" lies the empire of man aspiring to be more than men.

I would ask you to give close attention to these words for they contain great truth and a message of warning. There are many in the world at this moment who are seeking for this empire Mejnour speaks of; but the hard road, the narrow path, the thorny way does not please and does not satisfy. The process is too slow, too tedious, and requires such constant watchfulness that these seekers of power have almost one and all taken the left hand path, and are seeking the powers that are to be obtained without and not within.

You have only to examine the records of the American schools of occultism, and I know not one that is not on the left hand path; and what success they have met with is Black Magic pure and simple. "Perfection of the soul within," that is the watch-word that guides one to the right hand path, where the White Magi dwell in their holiness, purity and power. I have personally known more than one, who although starting aright and having made an effort to conquer the self, destroying the evil desires that originated them, yet finding their progress slow have finally accepted the left hand road in preference to the right. I would preserve you from making this mistake. We live under conditions of absolute freedom and man can choose the path they desire; no hindrance is put in their way. But you are warned.

THE ROYAL ROAD

The one royal road to the right hand path, the way that leads you to White Lodge is the way of self-abnegation, the path of self-sacrifice, the conquest of the lower self. Better it is to spend our whole energy on the top of this one which we are now living in to make our "calling and election sure", than by tremendous effort here and now neglecting the soul progression for

the time being in order to acquire here and now powers at which the world will gape, stare and wonder and perhaps accord to you the fame of a magician.

Such eagerness to acquire abnormal powers is due almost invariably to self-love and the love of admiration and adulation. As you value the great Peace, the Light and Glory which come through association with the noblest men and women that have ever lived, beware how you attempt unprepared through uncleanness of soul to acquire the powers that only can safely be used in the hands of Purity and Love. So deeply do I feel this to be true that though I am fully persuaded such powers as I have hinted at are to be obtained by those who discover their clues and are afraid of nothing. Yet would I willingly forego their acquisition each of which should be to me as sorrowful as that which I am now passing through, in order that I might approach the gateway of this fearful knowledge, having the pass-word, and having fulfilled the prescribed conditions.

With these the way is plain, the future unclouded. For, in acting as I am proposing to do, I am walking in harmony and in line with the Great Ones who are now guiding humanity in this strenuous march to the goal.

"Perfection of the soul within." That is the task that has been set us to do and this would not have been so arranged unless purity of heart and mind were regarded as absolutely essential for the attainment of true nobility, that obtained on the left hand trail being only a bastard imitation of the real thing. Think for a moment what abnormal power means in the hands of a man still full of passion, hate, lust, greed, and all uncharity! A devil is the result and not a saint, an evil spirit and not a good one. Better far to leave these Powers, all of them, entirely alone, than pervert their uses for selfish ends. In due time as the soul becomes purified from all sin, these abnormal powers and faculties will unfold in their own order, and then they will be no hindrance to further progression. May the Christ within guide you to a right conclusion and determination.

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