

THE LAST PAGE

Conducted by
"CHRONICLERS"



MR. AMERY.
The Secretary of State for India, is one of those British politicians who have had . . ."

LET us begin by modestly disclaiming any particular journalistic originality or literary quality for this feature. It is merely what it calls itself—The Last Page!

All the odds and ends, scraps and bits of news and views and gossip, occasional personal paragraphs and, sometimes, even verse—or worse!—which cannot be accommodated on the other more serious and pretentious pages will find an asylum here. "Something for everyone", fairly sums up the purpose and the purport of this page.

And we dare to hope, in due course, "The Last Page" will come to be regarded as "the last-but-not-the-least" feature of the Sunday "Chronicle."

"Have Had"!

Eight commercial concerns in Britain have been closed under the Defence Regulations because, in the opinion of the Home Office, the persons in control of them "have had sympathies with a system of Government of a Power with which Britain is at war."

Now read the following:
"I have always said that if Great Britain were defeated in war I hoped we should find a Hitler to lead us back to our rightful position among the nations."

Who do you think uttered these words in a speech on November 11, 1938? Oswald Mosley? Lord Haw-Haw? Or, perhaps, the late Mr. Chamberlain? No. No. No.

These words were spoken by a man called Winston Churchill. He is to-day the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Others Too!

Indeed, several prominent British politicians "have had sympathies with the system of Government of a Power with which Britain is at war." Here are a few samples, culled from not-so-ancient records, quoted by "New Leader" of London.

LORD BEAVERBROOK: "We certainly credit Hitler with honesty and sincerity. We believe in

his purpose . . ." (Oct. 31, 1933)

Mr. AMERY: "Whatever we may think of Mussolini's Abyssinian adventure, we must in fairness recognize that no one in recent years has made a greater practical contribution to the peace of Europe than Signor Mussolini" (1935).

SIR SAMUEL HOARE: "We have always understood, and well understood, Italy's desire for overseas expansion . . . We admit the need for Italian expansion." (1935).

Which all goes to show the danger of the Home Office using thoughtless phrases like "have had."

By the way, perhaps the clue for Britain's reluctance to arrive at an understanding with Soviet



WINSTON CHURCHILL
He is also one of those who "have had . . ."

Russia may be found in the following words uttered by Mr. Churchill in 1927, after visiting Italy:—

"If I had been an Italian I am sure that I should have been wholeheartedly with you (the Fascists) from start to finish in your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism."

"I will say a word on an international aspect of Fascism. Externally your movement has rendered a service to the whole world."

"She (Italy) has provided the necessary antidote to the Russian poison. Hereafter, no great nation will be unprovided with an ultimate means of protection against cancerous growths."

Mystic Or Marxist?

Was Sir Mohamed Iqbal, a Knight of the British Empire, the bard of Muslim India, the mystical Poet "par excellence", a deeply and genuinely religious person, whose poems recreated the glories of Islam and who, more than anyone else, interpreted in his work the spiritual content of the Islamic faith, a Marxist?

This question is raised by M. Jawhar Meeruthi in "Jamia", the well-known Urdu literary journal. The article is sure to raise a storm of controversy in Urdu literary circles, for Iqbal with his many-sided prism-like genius, has been variously represented—and misrepresented—as a nationalist, a communalist, a romanticist, a mystic, a socialist—and even an intellectual fascist!

Anti-Capitalist

Leaving aside the discussion of the philosophic concepts of Karl

Marx and Iqbal which would land us in deeper waters than we can safely negotiate, we would like to quote some of Iqbal's verses with which Mr. Meeruthi concludes his article.

"Jis men nah ho
inqilab maat hai woh zindagi
"Rooh-e-umam ki hayat
kashmakash-e-inqilab".

(A life in which there is no revolution is like Death; the spirit of the peoples endures due to the conflict of revolution).

"Utho meri dunya ke gharibon
ko jagado
"Kakh-e-umara ke dar-o-divar
hilado."

(Arise, and awaken the poor of my earth; shake the foundations of the citadels of the rich).

"Sultani-e-jamhoor ka ata hai
zamana
"Jo naqsh-e-kohan tum ko nazar
ae mitado."

(The era of the rule of the people has come; wipe off whatever you see any trace of the old order.)

"Gaya daur-e-sarmayah dari
gaya
"Tamasha dikhakar madari
gaya."

(Gone is the age of capitalism gone is the juggler after his show.)

Marxist or not, it is clear from these verses that Iqbal was cer-



POET IQBAL
Was the bard of Islam a follower of the atheist Marx?

tainly an anti-capitalist and a champion of the under-dog.

Will He?

Almost as paradoxical as the view that Iqbal was a Marxist is the suggestion that Shantaram, the man who made such thought-provoking sociological films as "Unexpected", "Admi" and "Padosi" should produce stunt films.

This seemingly fantastic proposal is made by V. P. Sathe in the columns of a film magazine. The article is challengingly headlined: "Will Shantaram Do It?"

And one of us is in a position to state that Shantaram is "quite capable—and willing—to take up the challenge."

The suggestion, indeed, was first made to Shantaram rather facetiously over a year ago and the Frabhat Director retorted: "What do you think I can't make a stunt film? Alright, one day I will show you."

He added (as V. P. Sathe also now points out) that he began his film career as a producer of stunt pictures and that, with the technical knowledge he had acquired

since then, he could now make a stunt film that would be popular but also one that would be sensible.

Shantaram's "Stunts"

Says V. P. Sathe in his article:—
"To support my statement, I ask the readers, in the first place, to recall the opening scene of 'Admi'. The whole gambling-raid scene, (though reminiscent of action-melodrama film, is presented by Shantaram with the necessary polish and technical refinement. Notice the oblique angles for instance, the way Moti leaps on one of the gamblers, the way the old policeman strikes every gambler who attempts to put off the lights, and ultimately how Moti tries to protect Kesar by throwing his overcoat on her; every action, every camera angle is smart and polished. The 'taking' and editing of this one scene is enough to prove that Shantaram knows how to handle such action-melodrama sequences far better than those who direct stunt pictures. But, then there is that famous duel scene in "Branded Oath" which is as remarkable as the "Admi" scene described above for its smartness and polish in presentation. And apart from these two examples of the talkie era, almost all the silent pictures testify to the fact that Shantaram even in those days had mastered the technique of the direction of action-melodramas, especially the historical picture "Thunder of the Hills" in which Shantaram himself played the role of young Shivaji."

To which we may add that the climax of "Padosi", where the dam bursts, is as thrilling and exciting—and synthetically melodramatic—as the most action-packed "thriller."

Italian Papers, Please Copy!

Here is an interesting sidelight on the war from Srinagar in far-off Kashmir.

An establishment formerly known as "Italian Stores and Cafe" now bears a freshly-painted sign board which reads "Anti-Italian Stores And Cafe."

The Last Laugh

Overheard at the Bureau of Naturalization in New York.

"Where is Washington?"

"He's dead."

"I mean the Capital of the United States."

"Oh, they loaned it all to Europe."

"Do you promise to support the Constitution?"

"Me—how can I? I have a wife and six children to support."



SHANTARAM
Will the creator of "Admi" and "Padosi" now make stunt films?