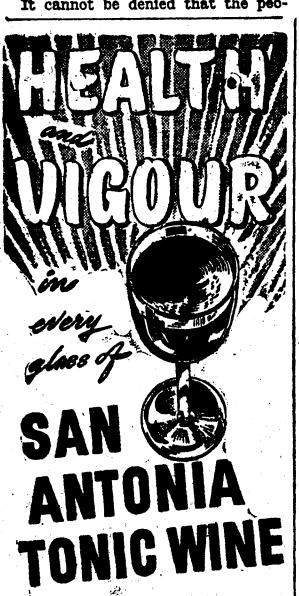
The Battle Of The of English. It remains to be seen Languages how far South India and Bengal

INDIA has at last achieved freedom, and all Indians have a right to rejoice in it. But freedom, even when won without violence, brings in its wake peculiarly difficult problems, and until and unless they are solved freedom may prove more a liability than an

One such problem is that of languages, over which a battle has been waged, and lost in part-for, I believe that the cry for Pakistan was in part induced by the problem of language. Short-sighted nationalism may yet lead to another defeat, leaving India wallowing in the morass of a multiplicity of languages. True Indian nationalism must imply an emphasis on India as a whole in all essentials, while in matters of religion or of social and provincial customs a certain amount of latitude

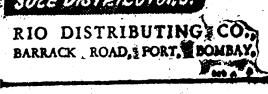
is inevitable. Frank recognition of a few hard facts, however unpalatable they be, will lead to clarification of the problem in hand. That nature has given is anything but dead. a geographical unity to India cannot be denied. That there is a certain cultural unity in India need not be denied, though we shall have to recognise that this unity has had cross-sections, as represented by the old Dravidian culture and by Islam-

It cannot be denied that the peo-



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WANT TO DRIVE ...

By Prof. A. R. WADIA

tically divided into certain wellof provincial nationalism right tion may easily be fifty-fifty.

British Achievement

most distinctive achievement of the understood. British, and they succeeded in their administrative unity only through India and in Bengal Hindi will find realised their religious and cultural the Central Assembly or have to unity through Sanskrit, but politi- work in the Secretariat there. Since cally Sanskrit ceased to be a force the language of a university will be even before the Christian era.

The birth of Indian nationalism in the 19th century was the achievement of the Indian National Congress, and English was the language of the Congress till a few years ago, and even now it has not been completely prohibited in the Congress or the Constituent Assembly, though under Gandhiji's lead Hindi way in recent years as the national language of India. Some of our political leaders are out to do away with English altogether, but they have not clarified for themselves, still less IN these circumstances the unity for others, the exact relationship that we had in the last century between Hindi and the provincial and in this century so far will be languages. This has given rise to the lost I noticed in Calcutta that many Battle of Languages, a most dis- of the street names are in Bengal turbing feature in the life of free characters. If this fashion spreads, an

provinces the language of the pro- less scripts of Indian languages. It vince shall be the medium of in- is appalling to contemplate the idea very difficult to say what the langu- master a new alphabet when we go expected. age of the place is. Bombay and on short visits to other provinces Madras and Karachi are examples. for pleasure or for work. What is the mother-tongue of Bom- I am quite prepared to be told

border districts.

South India's Case

ples of India have been linguis- gaum and there was a risk of ly because of Urdu being its medium disturbance, if not a riot, be- of instruction. A day may come marked divisions, and Hindi- ing created by the other linguis- when an Indian student will find it Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Gujerati, tic group. One can understand why easier to get admission into Oxford Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam even the Congess government in or Cambridge than into any uniand Kannada (Kanarese) have been Delhi, after all the tall talk they had versity in India outside his province. spoken by millions, ignoring the va- indulged in about linguistic provinrious other languages and dialects ces are now hesitating, for they know so common in India. The bond of the troubles they will have to face language has given rise to a feeling in border areas where the propor-

through the history of India, and Even assuming that this hurdle is unfortunately for the complete unity crossed, though it is a big assumpof India this provincial patriotism tion, logically not merely every is anything but dead. school but every college and university will have its own provincial language as the medium of instruction. Hindi may be made compulsory, but IT must also be admitted that, prior will it ever be mastered all over to the advent of the British, India India as English has come to be was never politically one. Neither mastered. South India peculiarly Chandragupta nor Asoka, nor Har- enough took very kindly to English sha, nor even Akbar nor Aurungzeb, so much so that even rickshawwallas nor Shivaji nor the Peshwas ever and coolies in Madras have picked it had their writs run all over India. up, while the man who speaks Hindi The political unity of India was the will find it nard to make himself in these parts, that they would like

We may take it that in South provincial, it is clear that in future we shall never have the students of one province studying in other provinces or eminent professors of one province being appointed in other provinces. It follows that the main qualification for appointment as professors will be their mastery of the provincial language and not the

Tourists' Confusion

Indian from one province will find It is easy enough to say that in himself lost in the mazes of the end-

bay: Gujarati or Marathi? of Mad- that all these difficulties are imagi- WHAT is the way out of the moras: Telugu or Tamil? of Karachi: nary for Hindi will take the place Wrass? That English can never

will accept Hindi and with what degree of success. The experience of Rajaji when he tried to force Hindi on South India is too recent to be forgotten, and I am not sure whether it had not something to do with Sindhi, Gujarati or Urdu? Similar the unwillingness of South Indian difficulties have to be faced in all leaders to have him as a premier last year, even when the High Command threw out very clear hints in that direction. Further, will the degrees of the various universities be DECENTLY a political leader told recognised by one another? So far me that he was invited the degrees of Osmania University by one linguistic group in Bel- have been looked on askance mere-

Standpoint In U. P. TT would be futile to deny that the language problem in India today bristles with difficulties, and they are magnified beyond all proportion by the ridiculous haste with which some politicians, especially in the U.P., are anxious to get rid of English. This haste is intelligible, but not statesmanlike. The language problem in the U.P. is the easiest, because Hindi is the language of the province and the people of the U.P. will not have to face the burden of learning two languages, provincial

The standard of English is so low to do away with it as much as possible, if not altogether. That they have discarded Urdu altogether and the English language. It would be a very subsidiary position except for repudiated even Hindustani in spice futile to deny that Hindus may have those that aspire to be members of whom they profess to follow, does whom they profess to follow, does not speak much for their sense of realism. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that they are anxious to make linguistic capital out of the present situation, oblivious of the conditions in Bengal and in South India, and indecently oblivious even of Urdu which has been the language of the U.P., both of Hindus and Muslims, for centuries.

It is most refreshing to learn that mastery of their own subject, be it the centre of sanity at present in or Hindustani has made great head- Physics or Chemistry, Anatomy or the matter of languages is to be Convocation Address at Patna or in gin? the conference that he had called in January last, he spoke in favour of or optional, and at what stage? not dislodging English from its present position for some years, at ful chaos in our educational system. The irony of it is that he is the one prominent Indian leader who does not care to speak in English, but he has imbibed the spirit of the English struction at all stages of education, of our getting into wrong trams and language much more than others but there are times when it would be buses because of our inability to from whom something better can be

"No Need To Hurry"

SCIENTISTS LEARN "MONKEY-TALK" \{

MOSCOW: Scientists are learning monkey languages \$ at the Sukhumi biological station in Georgia. It is really much easier than learning human languages; \$ the vocabularies are so \$ much smaller. For example, § the hamadryad baboon has only 16 "words"—separate sounds expressing elementary feelings like fear, anger, hunger, or for calling the young, and so on.

None of the monkeys used in experiments at the station has a vocabulary approaching that of the chimpanzee, which according to research workers elsewhere has 33 "words".

But "monkey-talk" is only a sideline of the Sukhumi scientists, whose job is to solve large numbers of biological and medical problems for the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences.

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again occupy the same position in our educational system as it has done for the last hundred years has to be accepted in view of the prevailing sentiment of a narrow provincial nationalism. That it cannot be immediately displaced should also be recognised by the powers that be as a matter of practical politics. We have to find a solution at a point

midway between these two extremes. There is no need to hurry, for haste, even when called patriotism, usually leads to waste. Recently in a private talk the Vice-Chancellor of a leading university said to me with reference to these politicians that we seem to be living today in Bedlam. This is a sentiment which will be echocal by most educationists, whether politicians like it or not. More thought should be devoted to the following problems:

the Government of India, Maulana vincial language in schools. At what Abul Kalam Azad. Whether in his stage should the study of Hindi be-

2. Should English be compulsory 3. What should be the medium of instruction at the University stage? least five, if we are to avoid a woe- If it is to be the provincial languful chaos in our educational system. age, would it not be advisable to have Hindi or even English as the medium of instruction at the postgraduate stage to maintain inter-university contacts?

These are problems which affect all India and they should not be dealt with at the sweet will of provincial fanatics, if India is to justify her claim that she does constitute

(To Be Continued)

By "Sunday News" **Correspondents**

tain a business it is sending letters might not be possible to form a Mrs. Kamalabai Modak, I believe, single Union by the merger of Gwa- the founder, has now several lior. Indore and other States in this branches. Miss Cama, who recently French zone does not seem to hold returned from an overseas tour, gave her impressions to members market smuggling. Not all "fugiof the Women's National Council tives" from the Russian zone are during the week. Mrs. Vivian Bose, who takes a keen interest in social work, has worked out a scheme for Food is on about the same average a haspital in the village of Maho- as in the other three zones, though

> The Balak Mandir, run by the shagini Mandal, has now its own uits own uilding. The Governor of the C.P. Party). Controlled administration Bhagini Mandal, has now its own building. The Governor of the C.P. and Berar, Mr. Mangaldas Pakvasa, is carried out by German SED offideclared this open last week. The institution has made considerable progress during the 12 years of its existence. It now has a training school for teachers. Mrs. Tarabai Modak, M.L.A., (Bombay), declared that more such schools should be started throughout the country. The

An extensive programme for the Mr. Menon's illness has put off a modernisation of station buildings final decision on the question by and schemes for providing additional facilities to the travellng public are now being undertaken by the Nizam's State Railway. Kazipet Station, which is an important Sharp increases in Indo-Pakistan junction on the Madras-Delhi route, postage rates were so suddenly an- is now being remodelled and an en-

pet, which is about two miles from

Hyderabad. SANGLI

A question which has been engaging the attention of Government and the public alike in this part of Bombay province is the formation of a new administrative district of the merged area of Sangli and other Deccan States. Provisionally an administrative district with Sangli as its headquarters has been formed. Sangli stands on the borders of Malarashtra and the Karnatak and is situated nearly midway between Satara and Belgaum districts. So it is likely that Sangli and other merged Deccan States may finally be constituted a district with some

CALICUT

many leading citizens of the pro- cut and decided to urge on the Gov-

Government in licensing the manufacture and sale of "asavas" and "aristas" (fluid tonics) under the Prohibition Act. A deputation will represent to Government the harm-less nature of these tonics, which do not contain alcohol, and urge the immediate withdrawal of the res-Women's activities have received trictions, as otherwise it will discou-

The German Man In The Street

T HAVE known him well for

lived next to him from 1929-

1947, and met him every morn-

ing on his way to office. We

became good friends, and I

came to know his sorrows,

miseries and little joys. Nei-

ther of us ever felt superior

He has varied professions—plum-

ber, school teacher, business-man,

"scratched" appearance.

Fear Of Authorities

IIE will tell you what he thinks

if he knows he can trust you.

The past twelve years taught him

to be afraid. Not of direct death—

poured down from the skies-but

German obeisance to the State.

of "the authorities," rooted in old

at a shop window displaying some

concert advertisements. He remind-

ed me of a very promising young

planist who had been hailed as one

of the foremost interpreters of

modern music. At noon on the day

Some Complexes

after the next change of govern-

ment; be careful, even though the

empts you from "guilt"; remain small in public life, and you fare

fell. "You don't know in what new

form the Nazis may emerge one

themselves and only rarely is the

occupation felt; demarcation between

occupation and government is clear-

Third War: Hope & Fear

execution of what is "duty"

The other day I met him gazing

to the other.

the last eighteen years. I

A PORTRAIT

DR. NAVINKUMAR DALAL

D.Sc (Heidelberg)

shopkeeper, watchman in a museum much concerned about it, for Geror caretaker. He is middle-aged, of mans will be fighting Germans. Anmedium stature, with a once ruddy other concern is, "Who will win, and face, now somewhat lean and hol- what will happen to me if I have low-cheeked, his clothes hanging a previously committed myself?" Minor little loosely. He is not quite as and medium Nazis hailed the Ameimmaculate and spick-and-span as ricans as liberators, but on seeing usual. His shoes are worn out and they did not care for an alliance, their laces are replaced by coloured they felt slighted. The Man in the paper string. His stockings are Street expostulates that it is betmuch-patched, and his brown felt ter to have Germany united, as the hat looks rather fingered. Since he three Western zones are 60 per cent. can't get razor-blades, he uses dependent on food imports, while old ones and so presents a the Eastern zone was Germany's great agricultural reservoir. Crops will be very bad this time because of the unusual weather—four months' severe drought in summer, then a cold spell followed in the south-western parts by almost unprecedented high water and flooding, and blossoms bursting forth in he faced it many times when hell

> The failure of the London Big Four Conference was a grim affair for the Man in the Street, but he reminded me, "I told you so in 1945."

Political Apathy

DOLITICALLY, he prefers a retired life. The violent slogans of his concert—it was a fairly large and crude propaganda of the present town .n the south of Germany, in political parties, who seem to have 1943—paper strips were pasted preserved the Nazi vocabulary, are crosswise over the posters, an more intoxicating than invit-nouncing its cancellation. Money ing. And the Man in the was refunded without explanation. Street can't forget they fail-Two months later there was a short ed once before in crucial times. notice in the press: "Kreiten, a pia- Now the old whiskers and beards nist, who had maliciously uttered are back. The Communist party. deprecatory remarks about the smallest but most active, has be-Fuhrer and attempted to dissuade a come very nationalistic and is orfellow-countrywoman from her ganised along Nazi party lines with staunch belief in the Fuhrer and even the same office ranks; Blockvictory, was sentenced to death by leiter, Zellenleiter, Ortsgruppenleithe People's Court in Berlin and ter, Kreisleiter. That makes him executed." He had severely criticis- cautious Recent elections showed a ed Hitler in the presence of a wo- participation of barely 60 per cent. man at the hotel dinner table. This with the Social Democrats leading. "lady" reported him to the Gestapo, the two rightist Christian-Democrats and before the next morning's and Democrats close second and breakfast he was transported to third, and the Communists fourth. None of the German-licensed newspapers in the U.S. zone followed General C'ay's drive against Communism, and none were forced to do so. "Our newspapers are very In reminding me of this, my friend do so. "Our newspapers are very terse owing to lack of paper and common complexes: never say what thus seem filled with tension. We you really think about politics, not are all in a state of anxious suseven now, you might never know pense. All parties are stressing the how it may be held against you union of Germany, although they clearly see that politicians in the German Eastern Zone are following lines quite differently inspired from those in the other three zones, and reconciliation seems almost hopeless." Here the Man in the Street lit a pipe from which there preay." sently emerged a foul stench. "It is The U.S. zone has more food than a special blend. I call it 'mermaid'." the others. Germans are governing "Why?" "Always camp."

Not Good At Democracy cut and there is no interference. "TYTE have never been good at po-

The British zone does not have litics. Look what a mess was enough to eat. It may now become made of democracy between 1918 and 1932. Thirty-three different political parties, fighting tooth and nail, parliaments rowdy bull-sessions or chatterboxes, all to the advantage of the extremists. Tell me better after the merger. The small much attraction, except for blackgenuine cases. They often have a whether an average German parliament of today shows signs of sound shady background and tell stories. political judgment and sense of responsibility. Democracy won't work, allotments may be irregular. Howbecause we don't know what it really is, we can't just copy, we haven't been brought up to it. It is far more important to have a strong central government at least in economic questions to solve the most urgent problems for us." The new bizonal administration at Frankfurt has THIRD war seems inevitable to painstakingly avoided appearing to A the Man in the Street. "We said be a "government," still hoping for so all the time,"say the Nazis, who unity and not wanting to widen the think it is a good chance. He is gulf.

From All Over India

CALCUTTA

been the strike of Central Govern- link, which will entirely by-pass work. Pandit Nehru's warning and Mr. Rajagopalachari's timely appeal

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Mr. Rajagopalachari's timely appeal Praja Mandal leaders and the Maha. He complained that Mr. Menon have undoubtedly made a great imrajas of Gwalior and Kolhapur visit. had yielded to the wishes of the Restrictions on the passage of conferences were held in connection goods to and from Assam have with the integration of States, big either to Mr. Menon or to the Mahacaused great uneasiness in Calcutta and small, in this area. Mr. V. P. raja of Gwalior, for I interviewed and local merchants voiced their Menon conferred with the Maha-misgivings at a conference of repre-raish of Indore, his Ministers and sentatives of the Bengal National representatives of all shades of pub-Chamber of Commerce and the Col- lic opinion. At a press conference lector of Land Customs. Even the Mr. Menon revealed for the first ordinary public knows how uncer- time that for certain reasons it

The news that work has begun The big news of the week has on a direct West Bengal-Assam rail area.

was apparent by 12 noon on the first day that, as strikes go, it was a lukewarm affair. Twenty thousand workers are affected by Government's retrenchment policy, and of these less than 30 per cent. struck

During the week, high officials of in Gwalior and Indore, he said, fa-

ment's retrenchment policy. The engineers have set themselves is no statement expressed disappointment leaders of the strike claimed that easy one. It entails the bridging of that Mr. Menon had begun to think it had been a great success, but it many rivers and the conversion of in terms of forming two Unions,

During the week, high officials of in Gwalior and Indore, he said, fa-India's States Ministry, Gwalior voured the formation of one Union. ed Indore. A number of high-level Maharaja of Gwalior, in this matter.

been the strike of Central Govern- link, which will entirely by-pass Mr. Gopi Krishna Vijayavargi, ment employees in Calcutta as a Pakistan territory, is therefore wel- President of the Central India States protest against the Indian Govern- come. The task which the railway People Regional Conference, in a

This does not appear to be fair local Prajamandal leaders and, according to them, it is precisely lines. owing to the attitude of Gwalior Praja Mandal leaders that Indore Praja Mandal leaders are now definitely opposed to a single Union. about a week.

KARACHI

nounced that many people were tirely new station building with spacaught napping on either side. The cious waiting halls for passengers, postman who brought an air mail separate accommodation for purletter from my anxious wife at Mad- dah ladies and special booking and ras demanded a penalty of seven parcel offices will be built. On annas before delivering it. He told the first floor of the new station me that many hundreds of such building retiring rooms as well as underpaid letters had been received, up-to-date refreshment rooms are resulting in a rich harvest for the being constructed.

Provincialism, like customs, dies hard, particularly in regard to language. Muslims from respective pro-vinces of the Indian Union have vinces of the Indian Union have formed their own associations and the latest is the "Bombay, Gujarat, Cutch and Kathiawar Muslim Central Anjuman," formed to protect and safeguard the legitimate interests of Muslims from these areas now living in Pakistan. Gujarati is their unifying factor and they will meet often to recapture glimpses of their old life which they enjoyed in their once ancestral homes and try their once ancestral homes and try to re-plant them here. At the first meeting of the Anjuman Mr. A. M. Quereshi was elected President.

LUCKNOW

The event of the week was the biggest ever rally of the provincial adjustments. police held on the flood-lit pologround in Lucknow Cantonment.
The Premier, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, took the salute at the march-past. Among the 10,000 spectators Employees' Association of Malabar were Ministers and their Parliament-were Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries, Judges of the Oudh tors contributing to the diminution Chief Court, high civil officials and of the trade and commerce of Calivincial capital.

Addresing the parade Lal Baha-dur Shastri, Minister for Police, said: "Work hard and unremittingly. This is what matters at the

NAGPUR

an impetus in Nagpur and generally rage the indigenous system and in the Central Provinces. The Sita encourage foreign systems of medibaldi Maternity Home, of which cine.

Balak Mandir is run on Montessori

HYDERABAD

local postal exchequer. Both Dominions have raised the telegraph and port which will bear comparison telephone rates also.

Provincialism, like customs, dies begun on the expansion of Begum-

A conference of the Mercantile ernment of India the need to im-

Five thousand officers and men of prove and expand the port.

the force who had gathered in Lucknow for the rally pledged "their lives to the service of the nation."

Addressing the result of india the need to into the prove and expand the port.

Meetings of Ayurvedic physicians held throughout Malabar have condemned the action of the Madras

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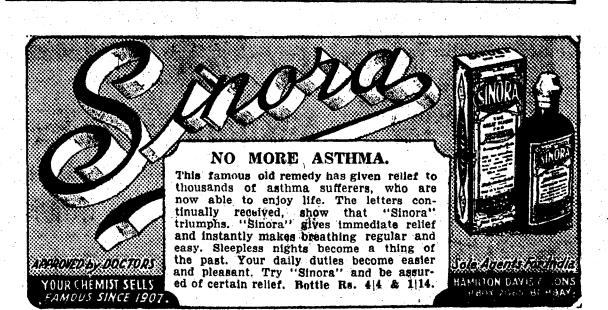
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