

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS IN BENGAL

WHERE THE RED FLAG IS OPPOSED BY LEAGUERS AND NATIONALIST MUSLIMS

From Nikhil Chakravarty.

CALCUTTA, March 8.

THE RED FLAG is fighting two Muslim seats in Bengal—one in Comilla, in Tippera District, where YAKUB MEAH is the candidate, and the other in Kishoreganj, in Mymensingh, where WALI NAWAZ is the candidate. In these two constituencies, the League is stubbornly opposing the Communists and behaving in exactly the same way as the Congress in the general constituencies. Here are typical examples of how the League is running its election campaign.

In Tippera

In Kishoreganj, the League ticket has been given to a local zamindar, Maulvi Syed Habibul Huq. In his speech on February 27 he said:

"Muslims demand Pakistan and for that we will have to file a suit with the British Government. It is only those holding the League ticket who can file a suit. By voting for the League candidate you file your suit for Pakistan and for this you must vote for the League nominee, no matter whether he is a zamindar or boarder. Only if the League candidate wins, can the Pakistan demand be instituted. Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah is a famous Barrister and by his legal acumen he will secure Pakistan."

"There are 53 Muslim seats in East Bengal and the Communist Party did not care to put forward its candidates anywhere except here in Kishoreganj North, because it is only here that the Muslims suffered more in their hands than under the Sahibs. The Communist Party is a body of Congress spies, of Hindu spies."

"Muslims have only two-pice worth of zamindari and if this bit of zamindari had not been in the hands of the Muslims, then the Muslims would have suffered worse oppression. Besides, it is Khuda's (God's) blessing and to abolish zamindari is to exercise authority on God, which means giving up the Muslim's creed."

The speech naturally amazed the Muslim kisans present at the meeting.

At another meeting, the League candidate said: "The British are ma-baap (parents) of this land of ours and the Congress and the League are two sons. Now that the British are going away it is time to divide up our property and the Muslims must have their proper share, otherwise after the departure of the ma-baap, the elder brother, the Hindu Congress, will cheat the younger brother, the Muslims. Therefore, for securing the full share of the estate it is necessary to place all papers and deeds before the Latsahab's (Governor's) Durbar. This vote stands for all our claims as a document."

Such is the type of propaganda the League is doing among the Muslim masses.

Mr. Jinnah on his way to Assam passed through Kishoreganj and at the station spoke for five minutes before a crowd of over 5,000. "Do you want Pakistan? If you do, then you must vote for the League candidate even if he is a lamp post." Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy translating lamp-post said banyan tree. The crowds were disappointed, and a Muslim garriwalla (hackney driver) coming back to Kishoreganj bazar remarked, "This time the banyan trees are going to the Lat Sabha (Governor's Assembly)!"

Communist Campaign

The Communist election campaign puts before the Muslim people the path of united struggle against the common enemy for common freedom. Communist leader SAJJAD ZAHHER speaking at a Kishoreganj meeting attended by 5,000 on March 2, said:

"Pakistan will not come on the

strength of votes. Only a united struggle of Hindus and Muslims can achieve Pakistan. The League leaders are saying that even if a banyan tree is decorated with the League ticket, you should vote for it for Pakistan. My Muslim brothers, remember the Wahabi heroes, remember the Muslims who with open swords fought the British during the mutiny. Remember the Muslims who declared jihad against the British during the Khilafat movement. These brave Muslim brothers of ours fought the British Government by standing shoulder to shoulder with their Hindu brothers. Pakistan can come only by following their road.

"Today, the Congress and the League leaders are counting the days, waiting wistfully for the British Ministers and picking among themselves. Our Party says: Don't put your faith in the British Ministers. Close up your own ranks and stand as one against the British. Only that way can freedom and Pakistan come. It is with this policy and by raising this demand for struggle that the Communist Party puts up WALI NAWAZ as its candidate. A vote for Wali Nawaz will be a vote for achieving freedom for the Muslims, for achieving a free Pakistan in a free India, a vote against the enemies of the Muslims—the zamindar and the mahajan. Therefore, it is the duty of every true Leaguer to vote for Wali Nawaz."

The local officials in Kishoreganj are helping the opponents of the Communists in the coming elections. In three Unions where the Red Flag is strong among the Muslim kisans they have shifted the election booths from originally fixed centres (which were in the proximity of the overwhelming bulk of voters in those three Unions) to spots which are a long way away from Kisan bases and will hamper the coming of a large number of voters. Despite formal protests nothing has so far been done to change this.

It is understood that the Sub-Divisional Officer of Kishoreganj, Mr. Rizvi, himself has made these changes over the head of the Election Officer. It may be noted here that Mr. Rizvi is the founder and chairman of the notorious Kishoreganj Multi-Purpose Society against whose bungling and corruption, the

PANIC AMONG REACTIONARIES

Every Party in Bengal is panicky at the prospect of Communist candidates being elected to the Assembly.

In the Congress Election campaign, an argument that is being broadcast everywhere is: If five Communists are elected, they will be able to prevent the Congress from smashing up the formation of a Muslim League Ministry. Therefore, the defeat of every Communist candidate is necessary if Pakistan has to be fought!

League circles, on the other hand, fear that the Communist M.L.A.s will prove a thorn in the formation of an anti-Congress one-party Ministry.

The European Bosses of Big Business—Olive Street—are most panicky and do not want a single Communist inside the Bengal Assembly. The European Association apprehends that the return of even half a dozen Communist M.L.A.s will upset the key position of the European bloc inside the assembly acting as a "balance" between Hindus and Muslims; and that if a Communist bloc gets elected, the Europeans will no more be able to maintain their dominating role inside the Bengal Assembly, playing the Congress against the League and the Hindus against the Muslims.

Communist Party raised a mass campaign and the Communist candidate Wali Nawaz took a leading role in that campaign. The League candidate Syed Habibul Huq is the salaried treasurer of this Multi-Purpose Society.

In Comilla

In Comilla, YAKUB MEAH is being opposed by the League candidate, Abdul Momin, and the Nationalist Muslim candidate, Asimuddin, who is being backed by the Congress. The well-known Congress leader, Maulvi Ashrafuddin Chaudhury, who is canvassing for Asimuddin, said at a meeting on March 5:

"Yakub Meah is standing on the Communist ticket. He is an intelligent worker, but the Communists do not observe religion and it is on that issue that I differ from Yakub Meah. It is for that that Yakub Meah cannot have our vote."

Asimuddin himself spoke so filthily about the Communists at a mosque meeting at Barura that the audience strongly resented it and trouble was about to start but for the intervention of some of Yakub Meah's supporters. They are also issuing leaflets attacking the Communists as agents of God-less Russia. This obscurantist propaganda is the only weapon with which the Nationalist Muslims are fighting Yakub Meah.

So also is the League candidate, Abdul Momin, who is an Honorary Magistrate and local secretary of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce. In his election meetings, one speaker asked: "Do you want the Koran or abolition of zamindari? If you stand for the Koran, then vote for the League candidate." The Communists are being damned as Congress dalals and to vote for them is to give up the right to say namaz (prayer).

Momin himself speaking at a meeting said, "At the Assembly, after this election, only Pakistan will be decided. It is only at the next election, one

and a half years later that legislation against zamindari can be taken up."

League Maulvis are propagating, "Khuda has created the rich and the poor. What can Momin Sahib do about it?" To reinforce their propaganda they are getting the League Secretary, Maulvi Abul Hashim, to come and campaign just before the election day.

Call To End Slavery

Against this, Sajjad Zaheer in a speech on March 6 said:

"You are being told that Pakistan will be decided this year in the Lat Sabha (Governor's Assembly). The real meaning of Pakistan is freedom for Muslims in a free India, and this is a just demand. But the verdict on it will be passed not in the Lat Sabha, but outside in the struggle against British Imperialism. The League leaders of today are waiting on the British for justice. We ask them, did the British come to this country to dole out justice to the Muslims? Muslims have suffered most from British oppression."

"Muslims want Azadi, Muslim kisans want land. To ask if you want the Koran or land is the question of a hypocrite. Unless and until ghulam and gharibi are ended, Muslim civilisation, culture, education and religion will be extinct. Muslims want both deen (religion) and dunya (the material world). Freedom, land and the end of the mahajan—with only these can the Muslims stand erect. Hazrat Abubakar, Hazrat Omar and Hazrat Ali fought all their lives against the Zaim (tyrant)."

"Those who bow their heads to the Government, ally themselves with the zamindars and help the blackmarketeers, are leading the Muslims and the League to ruin. Those who themselves being Muslims grab the lands of the Muslim kisans and talk of fighting the Hindus in the name of Muslim freedom are doing the greatest harm to the Muslims."

"Today there are people who call Yakub Meah, a man who has never lowered his head and fought against all oppression all his life, the enemy of Islam and a dalal of the Hindus. Today you will have to pronounce your judgment on such people and deliver it in the ballot box on polling day."

Paid hirelings are trying to terrorise the kisans attending the Red Flag meetings, by actually attacking some of the village meetings, but Muslim kisans are getting disgusted and trouncing them more and more.

HOW CONGRESSMEN FIGHT COMMUNISTS — Glimpses

From Nikhil Chakravarty

CALCUTTA, March 9.

AS the election battle in Bengal enters the final fortnight, the Congress campaign against the Communists is concentrated only on undiluted calumny and nothing else. Their latest weapon is Batliwala's recent lying statement.

Reports from MYMENSINGH East, where the Communist candidate MONI SINGH is being opposed by the Congress nominee Amulya Adhikari, reveal a shocking performance by the Congress. While the Congress election manifesto is not much in evidence, the local Congress election office is understood to have printed 30,000 copies of Batliwala's statement for this constituency alone and this has become almost the election manifesto of the Congress candidate!

Little school children are already being trained on a mass scale to shout "Communist Party Dhansa Ho" (Down with the Communist Party). They are going to be used in creating mass anti-Communist frenzy on election day.

There are other types of slanders too! At Madhukhalbandar, Congress canvassers told traders that it is the Communists who have brought control. Therefore, "Votes for the Com-

munist will perpetuate control!" "So vote for Amulya Adhikari." In a number of Brahmin-dominated villages, their propaganda is: "The Communists eat meat; they have no scruples about food."

Even Anti-Congress Elements Put Up

An interesting sidelight on the Congress election campaign in Mymensingh East is provided by the internal situation of the Congress: There are two Congress candidates in East Mymensingh—one for the General Seat, Amulya Adhikari, the other for the Scheduled Caste seat, Prafulla Sarkar. But there are two Congress election offices in Mymensingh town; one is run by the official Congress (Jugantar Party) who are working for Prafulla Sarkar; while the other is run by the Anusilan Party who are working for Amulya Adhikari. So far there has been no joint election manifesto,

while each blames the other for not doing enough for the other group's nominee.

In JESSORE where the Communist candidate KRISHNA BENOUE ROY is, contesting the nomination papers of two Congress nominees were rejected on technical grounds, leaving the Mahasabha candidate to face the Red Flag. But this week the Congress officially has given a Congress ticket for this General constituency to Bholanath Biswas who is a Hindu Mahasabha candidate for the Scheduled Caste seat from this constituency. This Bholanath Biswas left the Congress two months ago when he was not nominated and joined the Mahasabha issuing an open slanderous statement against the Congress. In the recent primary election Bholanath got the lowest number of votes. Blind anti-Communism is driving the Congress to seek such weathercocks for its Assembly team.

Pandit Nehru Mobilised

PANDIT NEHRU reached Calcutta on Friday ostensibly to preside over the Science Congress Executive

meeting and address the Calcutta University Convocation on Saturday morning. In his statement on arrival, Pandit Nehru said, "Electioneering was not my objective," but one has only to look at Pandit Nehru's programme to see why he has really come to Bengal.

On Saturday he will undertake a hurricane tour through the Labour belt addressing five meetings: one at Metiabruz for Suresh Banerji who is opposing the Communist candidate SOMNATH LAHIRI, one at Barrackpore for Niharendu Dutta Majumdar who is opposing the Communist, CHATURALI, one at Howrah for Sibnath Banerji who is opposing the Communist, BANKIM MUKERJI and two in Hooghly for M. A. Zaman who is opposing the Communist, MOHAMMED ISMAIL.

Then on Sunday Pandit Nehru goes by plane specially chartered by the BPCC and speaks at Chittagong and Darca to help the Congress candidates against the Communists.

It shows the enormous pains Congress is taking to defeat the Red Flag in the election and Pandit Nehru has only been mobilised as their chief propaganda agent. (Continued on last page, col. 4.)

IS THIS FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY OR TO KILL PATRIOTISM AND PUBLIC DECENCY?

By wire from Nikhil Chakravarty Calcutta, March 7.

In Chittagong, where Communist candidate, KALPANA DUTT, is opposed by the Congress candidate, Mrs. NELLIE SENGUPTA, the Bengal Congress had an opportunity to fight a straight political battle on the patriotic bonafides of the Communists and seek the verdict of politically one of the most advanced constituencies in the Province.

BUT this is not how they are running the campaign. Instead, all traces of patriotism and public decency have been thrown overboard by the Congress leaders.

The Chittagong Congress, it is understood, has confidentially warned the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee that the contest "will be a tough one." From Gandhiji and Pandit Nehru downward, many of the top Congress guns have been invited to Chittagong and though they could not come, they sent special messages in support of Mrs. Sengupta, which hardly any other Congress candidate has received in Bengal.

But it is not so much on the political issue, that Congress is banking in Chittagong. Even the fashionable slander of "Communist betrayal of August" is not exactly paying, for Chittagong having been right in the front-line, the Communist call for defence and resistance against the invader all through appealed to the people. Besides Congressmen in Chittagong themselves did not actively participate in the August movement.

Any Fabrication Good Enough

So such fabrications as that the Communists burnt Subhas Bose's effigy were trotted out by Congressmen like Charu Bikas Dutt at a public meeting in Chittagong on February 19th last. Sjt. Suren Ghose, President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee (B.P.C.C.), too repeated it without caring to investigate and shrieked: "This must be avenged, this must be avenged."

Suren Babu warned against "completely repudiating the Indian philosophy of Indian social and economic conditions for theories imported from abroad"; this was supposed to be a warning against the Communists. He referred to the raid on the South Calcutta Communist Party Office on the last Independence Day (when a cracker was thrown by some miscreant and the occasion made an excuse for planned and brutal assaults on Communists). And although he knew perfectly well that the whole thing was a put-up show, the B.P.C.C. President unscrupulously added, "The depth of this popular fury gives us the indication as to which way public support is going." He also contemptuously spoke of the Chittagong Communists as "a body with unknown antecedents—an amazing reference to such freedom-fighters as Ananta Singh and Ganesh Ghosh—leaders of the Chittagong Armoury Raid—now Communists, whose patriotic record the Bengal Congress President himself cannot equal."

Defending Corrupt Officials And People's Enemies

In the forefront of this slander campaign is the paper Panchajanya, the recognised mouthpiece of the Chittagong Congress. It has put out that the Communists misappropriated famine relief funds, though actually, during the famine days there was not one Congressman in Chittagong who dared to speak so—including Mrs. Sengupta.

But the Congress has also issued a notice warning the public against donating to the

I.N.A. Defence Fund opened by the Communist Party saying that it was unauthorised, and even hinting at defalcation. Actually all collections by the Communists are made in the name of the Communist Party itself and duly acknowledged by Mr. Asaf Ali.

Panchajanya's blind anti-Communism has sometimes gone to preposterous lengths. It has been shielding the corrupt officials of Chittagong. It did not at first say a word about the powerful anti-corruption drive by the Communists against the misdeeds of the notorious Circle Officer of Patiya and when, under public pressure, it had to criticise the Circle Officer, it actually rebuked the Communists for going too far!

Panchajanya attacked the Communist demand for the abolition of the zamindari system. "Until real power comes to our countrymen, this burden, like many other ills, cannot be avoided... It might be easy to deceive our peasants. But those who intensify their sufferings can by no means be called friends of the peasantry." Equally intolerant is its attitude towards working-class actions: "Posing as friends of the workers to incite workers to strike and push them along the road to ruin and misery is not at all a difficult job." This is how the local Congress wants to fight

for Kisan-Mazdoor Raj!

Answering the open challenge by the Communist leaders to the Congress to explain why the Congress had to fight Kalpana, while offering a couple of seats to Shyamaprosad, Panchajanya says, "The Hindu Mahasabha and the Congress never greatly differed on the ideals of freedom, and the Mahasabha (the party of Khare and Srivastava—N.C.) in the past never joined hands with British Imperialism." (1)

Respected Citizens Vilified

Individual personalities supporting Kalpana Dutt are openly abused. Sjt. ATUL DUTTA, veteran President of the local Bar-Library, and widely respected in the town, is attacked by Panchajanya as "anti-Congress and a doddering old lawyer," and it "refuted" the claim that Atul Babu's support meant the support of the entire Bar—a claim which the Communists never made!

Throughout the last three months, Panchajanya has been regularly publishing letters and statements supposed to be made by "ex-Communist supporters," disillusioned and disgusted with Party activity, the examination of which reveals interesting results.

One such is a three-and-a-half column letter from Nani Sengupta, who concealed the fact that he was expelled from the Party in the underground days for cowardice and dereliction of duty, and splashed the "news" that important comrades used to confide in him their charges against one another. Like a true renegade he makes the charge that "inside

the District Party leadership there is a clique which have done no work in this district, who destroy their opponents by slanders and have entrenched themselves by submitting wrong reports to higher bodies and have maintained their leadership by suppressing those inside the Party, who have real contact with the masses." And like all other such renegades, he warns the Party ranks against the leadership!

Slanders Against Communist Workers

In the Congress election meetings, speakers have nothing to say except to speak foully of Kalpana. For instance, they have made up the story that Kalpana in 1940 attended a reception given by the Police Superintendent where she denounced terrorism! The story is baseless and fake, but that has not prevented Congressmen from spreading it.

But such slanders are nothing compared to the appalling personal vilification that has become a dominant feature of the election campaign against Kalpana. The story of Joshi having divorced Kalpana has been spread with such assiduity that during the recent tour in Chittagong, I was staggered to hear it even in remote villages and among all sections of people.

This is how the slanderers put across their filth against the most respected Communist leaders. Loose morals, they propagate, is the one thing which is enjoined by the Communists; it is not that these Red boys and girls by themselves are to blame, but so long as they adhere to Communism, they have

to subscribe to debauchery as a part of the Communists' religion!

The tragedy is that all this has either been acquiesced in or it has been helped on its way and no one has protested against it. Panchajanya is furious at the open indictment of this slander by Joshi, during his election tour, but it did not find it necessary to condemn such slanders. It only pooh-poohed it by saying that it is quite unknown in Chittagong, which Panchajanya knows is not a fact, because it is the most talked-of gossip in the whole district and the biggest weapon in the armoury of anti-Communists, who today are ardent canvassers for the Congress.

Local Police Intelligence Help Them

The local Police Intelligence branch too is taking a hand. Manindradas Gupta, the District Police Inspector, who has an "eternal" grudge against the Communists and who earned notoriety in hunting down the Armoury Raiders 15 years ago, seems to be quite active nowadays in spreading slanders against Communists and helping Congressmen to do it.

The attack is not directed against Kalpana alone, but is directed against Communists in general. In the course of a week's tour in the district, we came across a number of printed and typewritten leaflets and posters, whose contents show the depth of depravity to which some Congressmen of today could stoop.

Pornographic Leaflets Too

In a poster pasted in Chittagong on the eve of Joshi's arrival, the question was asked: "Who are the culprits taking advantage of the simplicity of Chittagong girls and taking them away to the path of sure destruction?" "Which is the Party where most of the girl workers are suffering from diseases and why?"

Worse still is at Dhalghat where we found a printed leaflet very widely distributed which shocks one by its unashamed pornography. It is in the form of a handbill announcement of a Play to be staged soon "On the initiative of the Communist Party" called "Progress of Womanhood." The whole "cast" is given, mentioning names of prominent local Communists and even elderly persons are not spared.

Against each name, such appellations as "prostitute in secret," "pregnant before marriage," "fallen," "gone astray," "expert in embraces," "lovetorn," "infatuated," "whore," "experienced in the school of prostitution," "winner of women's desires," "Fellow of Female Abortion Committee," "harder," "zemindar, oppressor of peasants," "waster of father's fortune," "shame of parents' name," "expert in birth-control," "fond of kisses," etc. etc. The 'price' of the leaflet is marked as "Lal salaam and kisses." Distributors are mentioned as the "Dhalghat Publicity Syndicate," with a bogus name and the printers' name is not given!

When this bill was first distributed, it came as a source of terror to many families, loyal to the Red Flag. Even those who have braved police repression in the past were afraid to let their daughters, sisters or mothers go about where such scoundrels as the authors of these perversions prowl about. It was only our comrades who took it up and exhorted every decent citizen of Chittagong to fight against such degeneracy that whole villages came forward boldly to fight it out.

(Continued on last page col. 2.)

In Defence Of Their Heritage PROMINENT CHITTAGONIANS SPEAK OUT

On February 19, the Chittagong District Congress Committee had organised an election campaign meeting to be addressed by Sjt. Surendra Mohan Ghose, President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. In the course of his speech, Sjt. Ghose referring to the Communists said—"These people had hanged Subhas Babu's effigy by the neck. The people will give them the answer they deserve for this insult they have hurled on Netaji Subhas—for this great sin they have committed.....

"I want to give a proper answer to their misdeeds. I want revenge—I demand revenge."

WHAT the Bengal Congress President said about the Communists in his speech is a pure invention. The answer to it and to the unbridled slander campaign that the District Congress leaders are running against the Communist candidate, Kalpana Dutt, has come from a number of leading prominent citizens of Chittagong, who have issued the following public appeal:

The Protest

"On 19th February last, an election meeting was organised just beside Lalghat by the Chittagong Congress Committee. In that meeting, Charu Babu while speaking on behalf of the District Congress Committee criticised the Communists and alleged that they had hanged Subhas Babu's effigy by the neck in the Muslim Hall. We have been hearing such talk right from the beginning of the Congress electoral campaign. But we never believed such talk, as we have never witnessed such a thing in Chittagong nor has anyone reported any such thing to us.

"Right from 1942, we have never come across in any Communist meeting an effigy of Subhas Babu being hanged or any picture suggesting that idea.

"We have seen with our own eyes the picture exhibition that the Com-

munist had organised in the Muslim Hall. We did not see any picture of that sort that the Congress leaders are alleging today had been exhibited.

"Every party has the democratic right of criticising other parties.

"But it is beneath an organisation like the Congress to distort that right and dress up criticisms with downright lies in order to prejudice and inflame the neutral masses. No peace-loving and freedom-loving citizen will endorse the manner in which no less a person than, the President of the Bengal Congress attacked the Communists on the basis of such a blatant lie.

"We do not want political differences to lead to physical clashes.

Beyond All Limits Of Honest Journalism

"The way in which Panchajanya, the daily of the local Congress, had been attacking Mr. Joshi, the leader of the Communists, even up to the other day is to say the least crossing all limits of honest journalism.

"The remarks which some Congressman under the non-de-plume of 'Sri-Divakar' has made about Sjt. Kalpana Dutt in Panchajanya are in our opinion sufficient evidence of a complete lack of any sense of decency and civility taste.

"To use expressions such as "rotting goods" "aged in one's teens," and worse about a person of her standing is only to betray one's own utter degeneracy. And what is still more reprehensible is the eagerness with which Panchajanya gives publicity to such articles and news.

"Propaganda of such a type shows how far blind and sectarian partisanship can go. One should take care not to poison the healthy atmosphere of our country for the sake of electoral campaigns.

Refuse To Tolerate Such Degeneracy

"We disapprove of weapons of lies and slanders not only against the Communist Party but against every party. That is why we appeal to our people that they should remember the patriotic heritage of Chittagong and should refuse once for all to tolerate any such contemptible degeneracy."

Appeal signed by—

- (1) Nishichandra Majumdar (Vakil);
- (2) Dhirendralal Nandi (Vakil); (3) Kalipada Das (Vakil); (4) Nagendralal Choudhury (Muktair); (5) Jayanta Kumar Das Gupta (Kabitraj); (6) Pradhir Chandra Das Gupta (Kabitraj); (7) Fazl Karim (Vakil); (8) Abdus Sallam; (9) Saifuddin Ahmed Siddiqi B.A.; (10) Dr. Nirmla Chandra Bhattacharya; (11) Dr. Banopriya Bhattacharya; (12) Dr. Krishna Prosad Ghose; (13) Sikandar Hussain; (14) Syed Ahmed, (member District Jamiat-ul-Ulema); (15) Kamud Bihari Choudhury (merchant); (16) Ratal Chandra Roy (Vakil); (17) Dr. M. A. Hashem, M.B.; (18) House Surgeons of Chittagong General Hospital; (19) Dr. Mrs. Indubala Choudhury; (20) Dr. Paresch Chandra Chakravarty; (21) Dr. Haripada Choudhury; (22) Dr. Arimesh Majumdar; (23) Dr. Chittaranjan Roy; (24) Dr. Indu Bhushan Dutt; (25) Rafiq Ahmed Choudhury.

Use Your Time And Limbs!

Calcutta Comrades' Example

Literature sales over the past three months have been good in some areas, bad in others. Worst of all has been the reporting about them. Few units have bothered to send information and stories of how sales were organised. Only this week, some good news has come through—which should help comrades all over India to understand how literature CAN be sold.

HARIPADA KUSARI works in the office of the Provincial Committee of our Party in Calcutta; here is his diary, giving the way in which he sold 55 copies of the pamphlet—WHO IS THE CULPRIT? (giving the facts of the cracker incident in South Calcutta and the subsequent attack on the Communist Party Office there).

"As soon as I got into the railway compartment in the Howrah Station I started selling the pamphlet. The train stops only for two or three minutes at each station, and I went from one compartment to another and sold these books.

Within an hour and a half, that is, long before I reached

Kharagpur, I had sold off 55 copies of the pamphlet.

"In the beginning I had a doubt. I thought that I might meet stiff opposition, but that single day's experience opened my eyes. Of all the people who took the book from me to glance through, only one middle class gentleman returned it.

"Of the buyers about 7 or 8 appeared to me from their clothes to be real peasants. They had come to sell vegetables in Calcutta. They bought the books as soon as they heard that there was something about the Communist Party in them. They took the books and kept them neatly folded. Perhaps they cannot read themselves and when they get home they will get hold of someone to read the books out to them. I cursed myself: why did it not strike me to bring other pamphlets such as "Battle for the Land" etc.

"One gentleman asked me, 'Did the Communists really throw that cracker?' As soon as I answered that the book proves conclusively what a false slander that is, about 6 copies were sold on the spot. The buyers being the other people sitting by his side.

"And at the end of my journey, I really thought of two things:

(1) Many comrades travel here and there for election work. If there are no obvious and insurmountable difficulties, they should all have a bunch of books with them and should try and sell them during their journeys.

(2) Whether we can arrange to have some sort of bookstalls of ours in all the markets in Calcutta, particularly on the special days in the week."

Calcutta tramway workers form perhaps the most solid base of the Communists in Calcutta; their union is the strongest union in the city that has always given the lead to Bengal's working-class. And it is among Calcutta's tramwaymen that new methods of selling literature have been organised.

There has always been the tradition that on pay day union representatives stand by in the depots and after the workers get their pay, they pay up their union subscription also and then go home.

On the February pay-day, however, there were not only the subscription-collectors there; in addition right inside the office-room where senior staff (inspectors and jamedars) was being paid off, there was a book-stall, at it was JYOTI MUKHERJI, literature sales organiser. And on that day 50 copies of pamphlets and 10 copies of the Bengali Communist daily, Swadhinata, were sold.

So also in the Rajabazar tram depot; REZZAK and two other comrades were selling literature; Rezzak made a short speech on the importance of buying and reading the election manifesto of the Communist Party. Immediately 30 workers came up and bought—one started reading it aloud while two or three sat around him listening intently. Here too literature-sale was good, 80 copies of the election manifesto were sold.

It was when the Kalighat and Tollygunge conductors and drivers were being paid off that the best sale was done; 75 copies of the manifesto, 7 copies of 'Revolutionary Surya Sen' (the famous Armoury Raid leader), and a number of copies of a Bengali pamphlet on "The Struggle for Unity Against a New Partition of Bengal".

A real experience—February's pay-day for Calcutta's tramway workers; and an experience whose lessons can be learnt by Communist trade unionists everywhere in India.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN CHITTAGONG

(Continued from page 2.)

From investigations, it is clear that the miscreants who had been hit by the Communist anti-corruption drive, sponsored this leaflet, emboldened by the prevailing anti-Communist Congress propaganda. Even some Congressmen are reported to be involved in it by paying for its printing and distribution. And most significant of all, not one Congress leader from Mrs. Nelli Sengupta downwards has cared to denounce it in public.

Forgeries Being Cooked Up

It is against such propaganda that Joshi declared at a public meeting that a vote for the Red Flag candidate was "a vote for the good name of the Congress and for stopping the dirty doings that are being carried on to-day in the name of Congress."

But Fanchajanya seems to have lost all sense of decorum when in its special article, it indulged in comments like this: "The Chittagong Congress candidate is but an elderly lady. At this old age, Mrs. Sengupta, despite her own reluctance, is now forced to enter the lists for the chastity of outraged womanhood with a young lady grown old before her age. We are

commanded to give our verdict. We could as well have requested the Congress to select some slim young lady in place of Mrs. Sengupta."

In such a campaign nothing seems to be impossible, nothing too low or degrading to be used against the Communists. Rumour has it that some fresh slanders are being hatched in conjunction with the notorious District Police Inspector, Manindra Das Gupta. Letters addressed to Communists are tampered with, and we would not be surprised if on the eve of the elections, some forgeries are released with signatures of important Communists copied from the censored mail!

Such is the nature of the "democratic" elections that the Congress is running against the Red Flag in Chittagong. It is through such a campaign they hope to prove that the Communists are "counter-revolutionary!" No word is strong enough to express one's horror at such depravity in our political life. Such tricks might succeed in deceiving people for sometime and fetch votes, but will they help in the building up of democratic traditions, or in recruiting soldiers for freedom's battle?

It was time that the Bengal Congress leaders paused and thought it over.

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How Congressmen Fight Communists

(Continued from page 1.)
gandist. Thus Pandit Nehru's only role in the Bengal elections will be to act as specialist in Red-baiting.

Not only that: It appears that the objective of the Calcutta University authorities (who under Shyamaprasad lean heavily towards the Mahasabha) in inviting Pandit Nehru to address the Convocation this year is to use him as a very helpful tool in spreading anti-League and anti-Muslim feelings. It naturally had its repercussions and Muslim students en bloc decided to boycott the show and bring out counter-demonstrations. This also perfectly suits the reactionary anti-Hindu elements inside the League who viewed with misgivings the recent upsurge of Hindu-Muslim amity among Muslim students and they hope to cash in on Nehru's anti-League outbursts during the elections.

Significant was the whispering campaign that is being spread by anti-Communists, both Hindu and Muslim, during the last few days that the Communists have been "egging on Muslim students" to acts of hooliganism. The Bengal Committee of the Communist Party therefore issued a statement on March 7 warning the public against this mischievous attempt to rouse anti-Communist frenzy, and appealed to the Muslim students to desist from all indiscriminate acts, as they would harm their cause, however genuine their feeling might be.

Similar fabrications that the Communists would try to break up Nehru's labour meetings are also spread. But against this too, the Bengal Committee of the Communist Party has issued a statement on March 8 appealing to the workers not to fall a victim to any provocation.