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CHITRA  
KATHA

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THE MARCH TO FREEDOM — 2

# A NATION AWAKES



Editor  
ANANT PAI

Associate Editor  
YAGYA SHARMA

Reference Assistance  
SHOBHA RAO

Script  
SUBBA RAO

Artwork  
RAM WAEERKAR

Art Consultant  
RAM WAEERKAR

Production  
GOVIND KOTWANI

\*

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## THE MARCH TO FREEDOM—2

### A Nation Awakes

Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal and united the people of India. When appeals and petitions failed, the people of Bengal resolved to fight. The weapon they chose was swadeshi and the blow was aimed at European business interests. The movement spread across the state boundary and soon the cry, VANDE MATARAM, came to be heard from Kanya Kumari to Kashmir.

The swadeshi movement exposed the inherent weakness of a foreign power governing India. It also helped the people to discover their strength. Swadeshi enterprise and national education were the direct offshoots of this movement.

The movement caused a vertical split in the Indian National Congress. The extremists—those who believed in agitating for their rights—parted company from the moderates, who continued to believe in petitions to the government. This period also witnessed a spurt in revolutionary activities. And perhaps, a more tragic development was the communal colour given to the conflict between the landlords and peasants in Bengal.

In spite of these internal differences, the people of India continued the struggle till the partition of Bengal was annulled.

*We have referred, among others, to the following books in preparing this volume:*

1. Communalism in Modern India—Bipan Chandra 1984.
2. Gopal Krishna Gokhale—T.V. Parvate 1959.
3. History & Culture of the Indian People, Volume XI—Gen. Ed. R.C. Majumdar, 1969.
4. History of the Freedom Movement in India Volume III—Tara Chand, 1972.
5. India Under Morley & Minto—M.N. Das, 1964
6. Indian Unrest—Chirol Valentine, 1910
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8. Lokamanya Tilak—Dhananjay Keer, 1959
9. Muslim Politics, 1906—1946—Humayun Kabir, 1969.
10. Speeches of Gokhale, 1966.
11. The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903-1908, Sumit Sarkar, 1973.

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# THE MARCH TO FREEDOM

# A NATION AWAKES

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY BENGAL PRESENTED A PICTURE OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY. RICH AND POOR, EDUCATED AND UNEDUCATED, BROAD-MINDED AND NARROW-MINDED BELONGING TO BOTH HINDU AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES WOULD SINK THEIR DIFFERENCES AND WORSHIP VILLAGE DEITIES...



... WORK IN THE FIELD TRANSPLANTING RICE SAPLINGS...



... AND OFFER PRAYERS AT THE DARGAS OF PIRS\*



AND BENGALIS WERE A HIGHLY POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS PEOPLE.

RAJA MANSINGH, WHO CARRIED THE MUGHAL STANDARD FROM THE PUNJAB IN THE EAST TO KABUL IN THE WEST, BECAME A HINDU GOVERNOR IN THE HEART OF A MOHAMMEDAN POPULATION.

WHERE IS THE INDIAN GOVERNOR OF A BRITISH PROVINCE? WHERE IS THE INDIAN COMMANDER OF A BRITISH DIVISION? WHERE IS THE INDIAN ADVISER OF A BRITISH VICEROY?



LORD CURZON, THE BRITISH VICEROY, HAD OF COURSE NO INTENTION OF APPOINTING OUR COUNTRYMEN TO HIGH PUBLIC OFFICES.

THE HIGHEST RANKS OF CIVIL EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA MUST BE HELD BY ENGLISHMEN FOR THE REASON THAT...

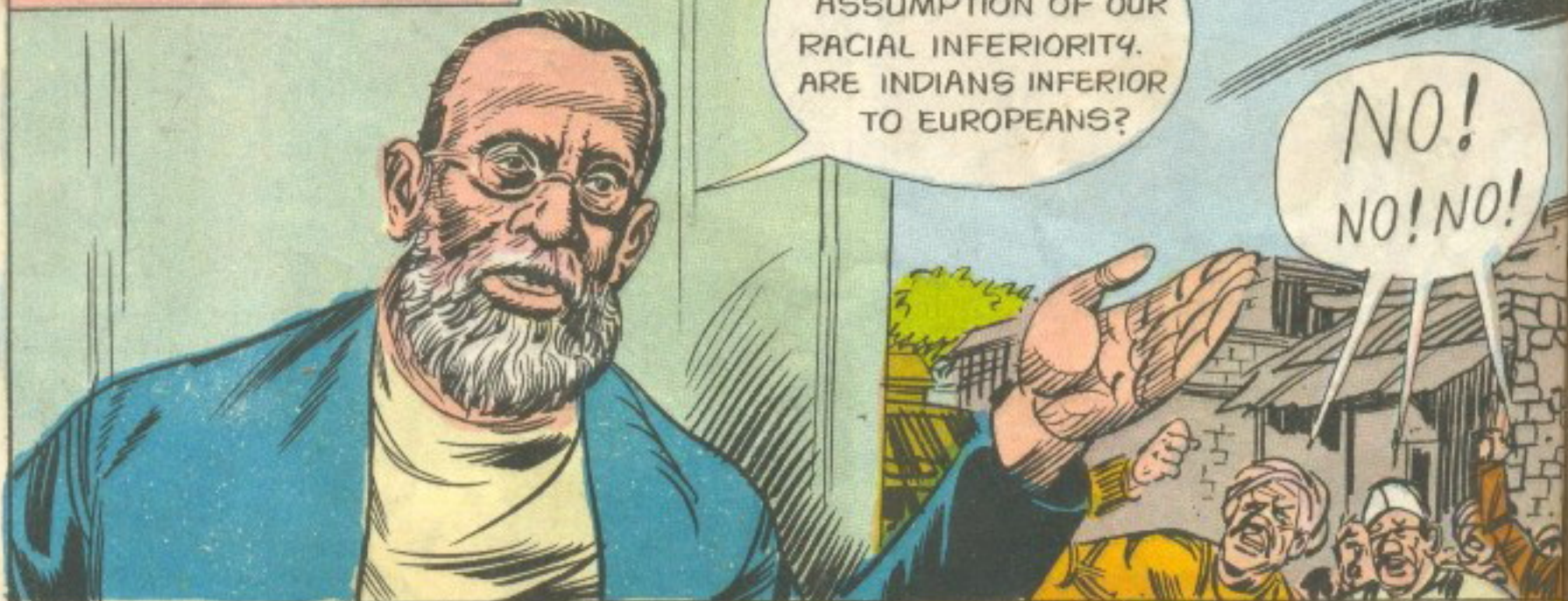


... THEY POSSESS PARTLY BY HEREDITY, PARTLY BY UPBRINGING, PARTLY BY EDUCATION, THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT, THE HABITS OF MIND, AND THE VIGOUR OF CHARACTER WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE TASK.

SURENDRANATH BANERJI — POPULARLY KNOWN AS 'SURRENDER-NOT-BANERJI' THUNDERED —

I PROTEST AGAINST THIS ASSUMPTION OF OUR RACIAL INFERIORITY. ARE INDIANS INFERIOR TO EUROPEANS?

NO!  
NO! NO!



THE GROWING EXPECTATIONS OF OUR COUNTRYMEN CAUSED DISMAY AMONG BRITISH OFFICIALS.

THE REAL DANGER TO OUR RULE IN INDIA COMES FROM THE EDUCATED INDIANS WHEN THEY ADOPT WESTERN IDEAS OF AGITATION...



BENGALIS!  
THEY ARE THE  
CHIEF  
CULPRITS.



THE BRITISH OFFICIALS REVIVED THE PROPOSAL OF REORGANIZATION OF PROVINCES.

TRANSFER EAST BENGAL TO ASSAM AND FORM A NEW PROVINCE OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM. MUSLIMS WILL FORM THE MAJORITY IN THE NEW PROVINCE.

AND  
IN THE OLD  
PROVINCE  
BENGALIS WILL BE  
OUTNUMBERED BY  
BIHARIS AND  
ORIYAS.



BENGAL  
UNITED IS A  
POWER. BENGAL  
DIVIDED WILL  
PULL IN SEVERAL  
DIRECTIONS.

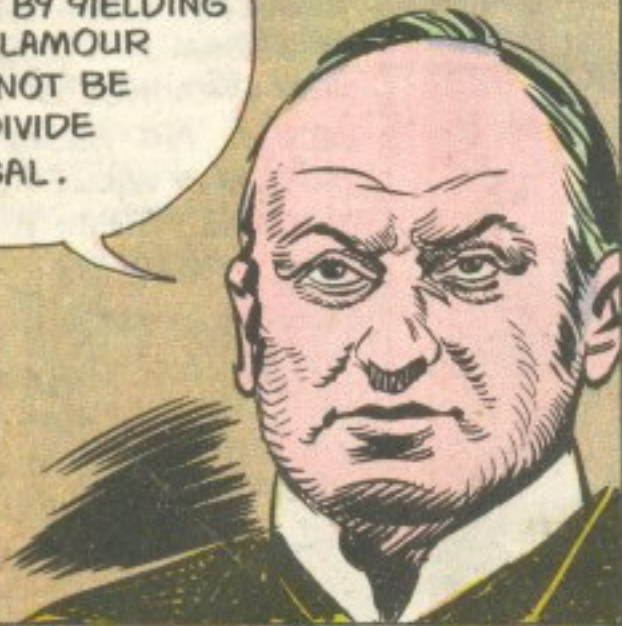


OUR BENGALI BRETHREN HELD PROTEST MEETINGS. THEY SENT A PETITION SIGNED BY OVER 75,000 PEOPLE TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT IN LONDON. THEY TOOK OUT PROCESSIONS.



BUT LORD CURZON REMAINED UNMOVED.

IF WE SHOW OUR WEAKNESS BY YIELDING TO THEIR CLAMOUR WE SHALL NOT BE ABLE TO DIVIDE BENGAL.



BIPIN CHANDRA PAL, ONE OF THE LEADERS, WAS A BITTER MAN.

IF ANYTHING COULD PROVE THE UTTER FUTILITY OF OUR SO-CALLED METHODS OF CONSTITUTIONAL POLITICAL AGITATION... THE HISTORY OF THE AGITATION AGAINST THE PROPOSAL TO PARTITION BENGAL HAS DONE IT.



HOWEVER, POET RABINDRANATH TAGORE REMAINED COOL!

IF A TREE WERE TO PLEAD WITH THE MAN—YOUR BLOWS WILL KILL ME—WOULD IT BE SPARED?

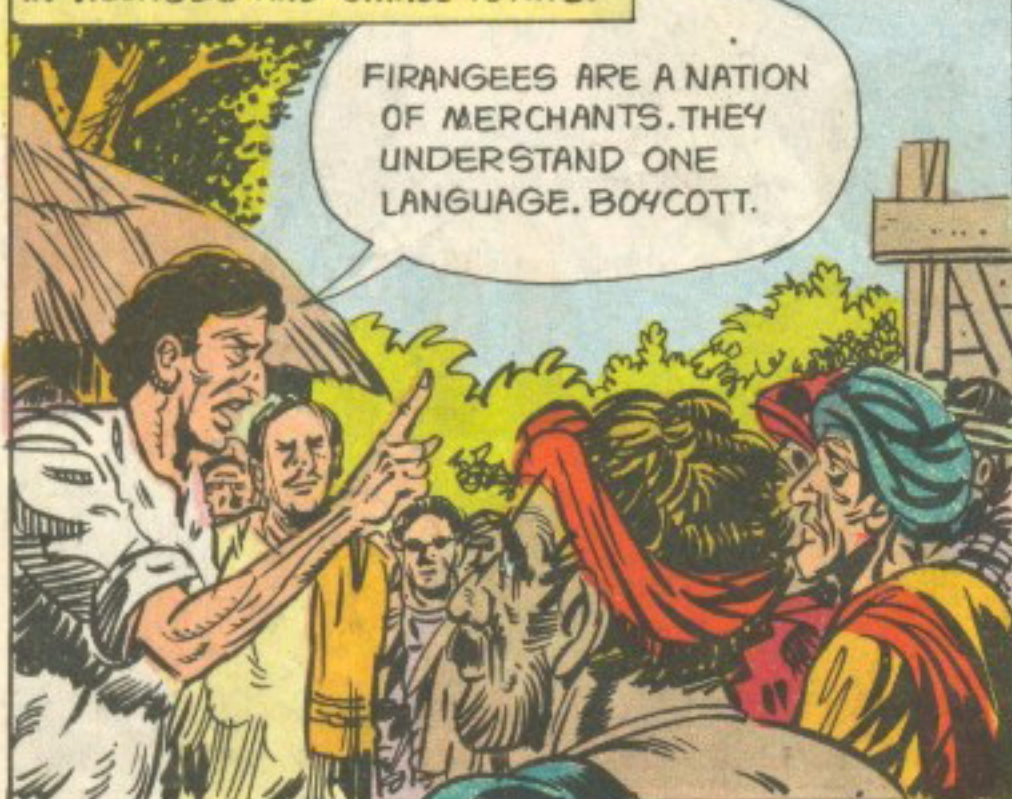
TURN AWAY FROM OLD-STYLE POLITICS, TRYING IN VAIN TO PLACATE THE FOREIGN RULER AND TALKING BIG IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. GO TO THE VILLAGES.



TILL THEN THE USUAL PRACTICE WAS TO HOLD MEETINGS IN CALCUTTA AND OTHER TOWNS. SUBMIT PETITIONS IN ENGLISH AND DELIVER TALKS IN ENGLISH.

VOLUNTEERS BEGAN TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC OPINION IN VILLAGES AND SMALL TOWNS.

FIRANGEES ARE A NATION OF MERCHANTS. THEY UNDERSTAND ONE LANGUAGE. BOYCOTT.



BOYCOTT MANCHESTER CLOTH. PRACTISE SWADESHI... WE WILL UNITE DIVIDED BENGAL.



PRAYERS AGAINST PARTITION WERE HELD IN MOSQUES IN MYMENSINGH, BARISAL AND SERAMPORE...



... AND AT KALIGHAT TEMPLE, CALCUTTA —



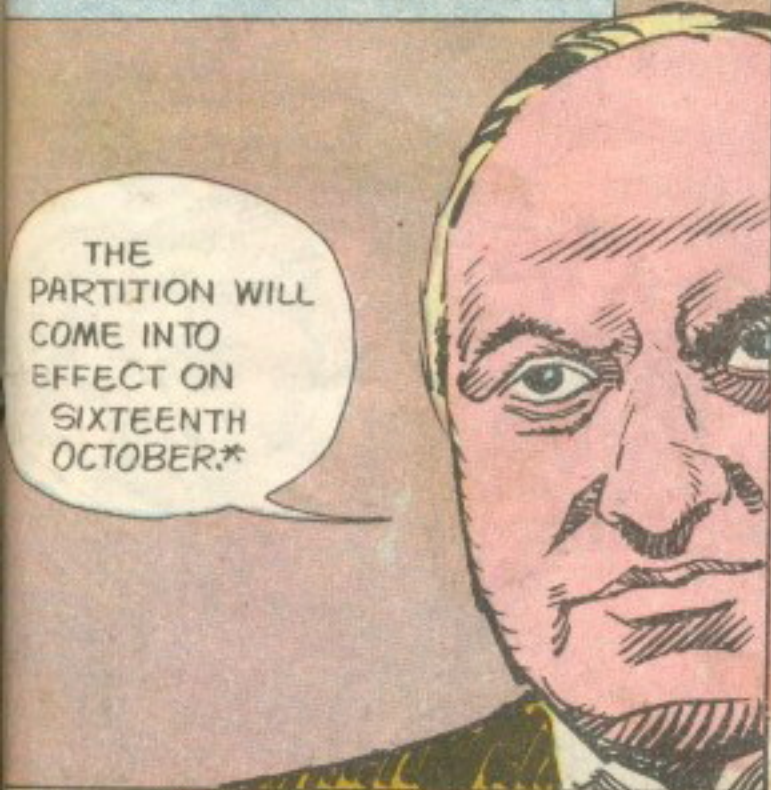
MOTHER, STANDING BEFORE YOUR HOLY PRESENCE I TAKE A VOW TO BOYCOTT FOREIGN GOODS AND ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SWADESHI.

HINDU AND MUSLIM STUDENTS OF CALCUTTA MARCHED HAND IN HAND AND HELD A 10,000-STRONG RALLY WHERE THEIR LEADER, ABDUL RASUL DECLARED —



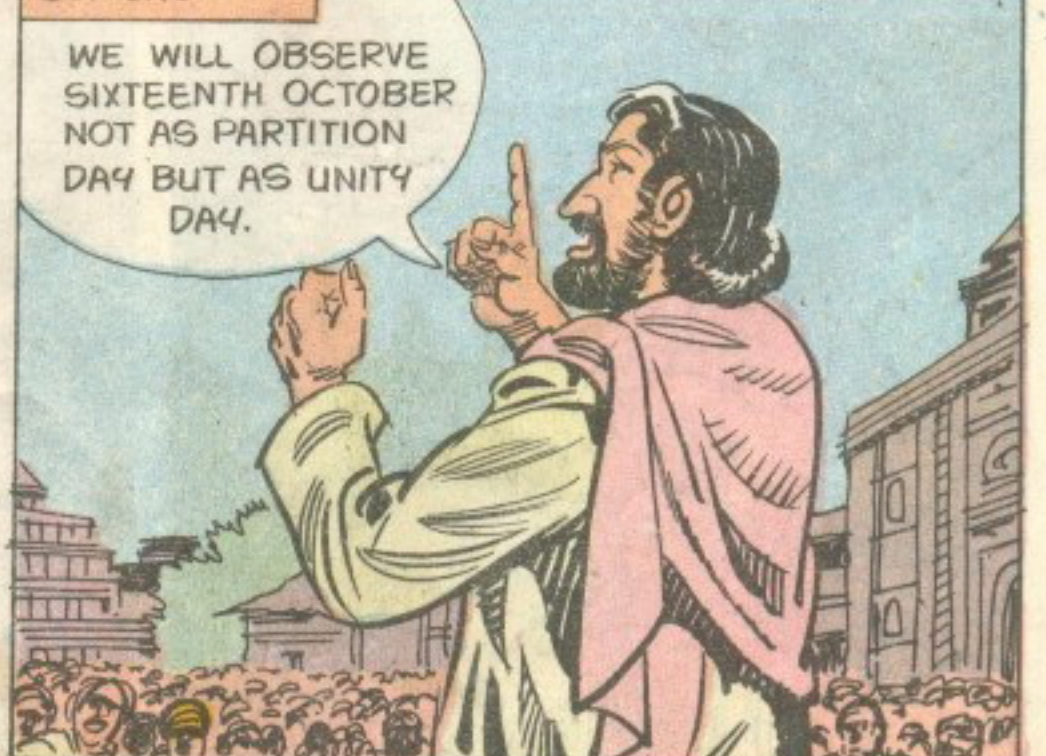
WE, BOTH HINDUS AND MUSLIMS, BELONG TO THE SAME MOTHER — BENGAL.

BUT CURZON HAD OTHER IDEAS.



THE PARTITION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON SIXTEENTH OCTOBER.\*

AND POET RABINDRANATH SPOKE FOR ALL BENGAL —



WE WILL OBSERVE SIXTEENTH OCTOBER NOT AS PARTITION DAY BUT AS UNITY DAY.

16TH OCTOBER, 1905. MEN AND WOMEN, RICH AND POOR, HINDUS AND MUSLIMS WALKED BAREFOOT TO THE BANKS OF THE GANGA AND EXCHANGED RAKHIS.



RABINDRANATH TAGORE DASHED INTO THE NAKHODA MASJID ...



... EMBRACED THE MULLAS AND TIED RAKHIS TO THEIR WRISTS.



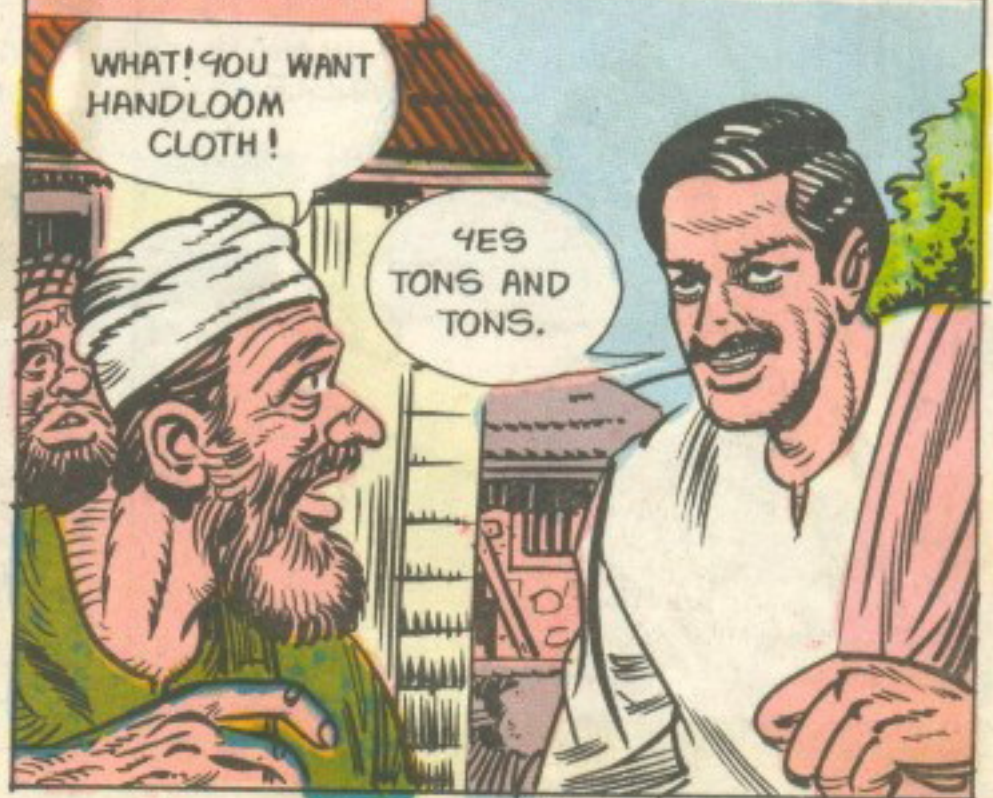
RAKHIS WERE TIED TO THE POLICEMEN AND EVEN TO THE EUROPEANS.



PEOPLE BOYCOTTED FOREIGN GOODS.



MILL CLOTH FROM BOMBAY AND AHMEDABAD COULD NOT MEET THE DEMAND. OUR PEOPLE APPROACHED THE VILLAGE WEAVERS.



WEAVERS DUSTED THE DISCARDED LOOMS AND SET TO WORK.



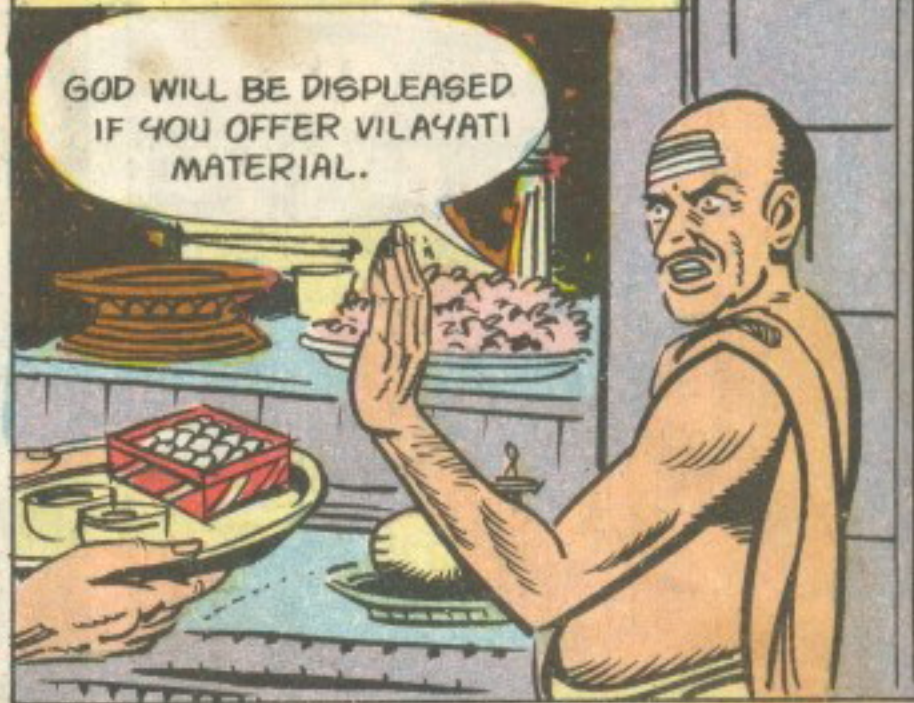
THUS MEN AND WOMEN DISCARDED CHEAP AND FINE MANCHESTER CLOTH IN FAVOUR OF COARSE HANDLOOM FABRICS.



WOMEN REMOVED THEIR BANGLES.



PRIESTS REFUSED TO TOUCH SWEETS MADE OF FOREIGN SUGAR.



MEN GAVE UP SMOKING.



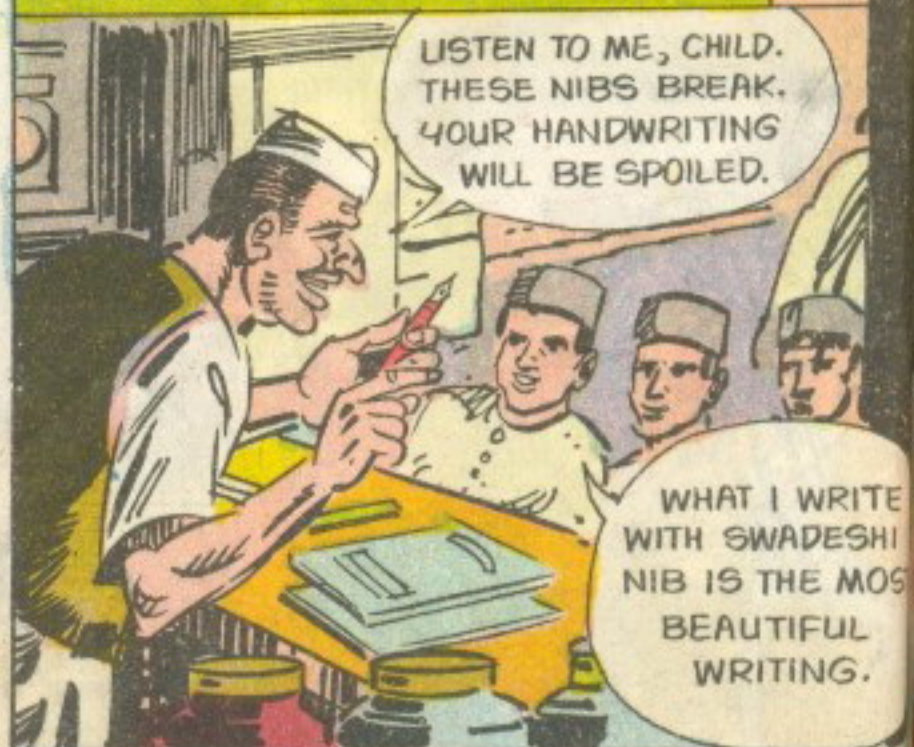
AND THEY REFUSED TO TOUCH FOREIGN LIQUOR.



WOMEN WANTED SWADESHI MATCHES.



CHILDREN WANTED SWADESHI PAPER, SWADESHI INK AND SWADESHI NIBS.



A CHAIN OF SWADESHI STORES CAME INTO EXISTENCE ALL OVER BENGAL. HOWEVER, SOME UNSCRUPULOUS TRADERS DID NOT HESITATE TO HIKE THE PRICE OF SWADESHI GOODS THAT WERE SCARCE.



TO PUT A STOP TO MALPRACTICES SEVERAL SAMITIS WERE FORMED. SCHOOL AND COLLEGE BOYS SOLD GOODS AT COST PRICE.



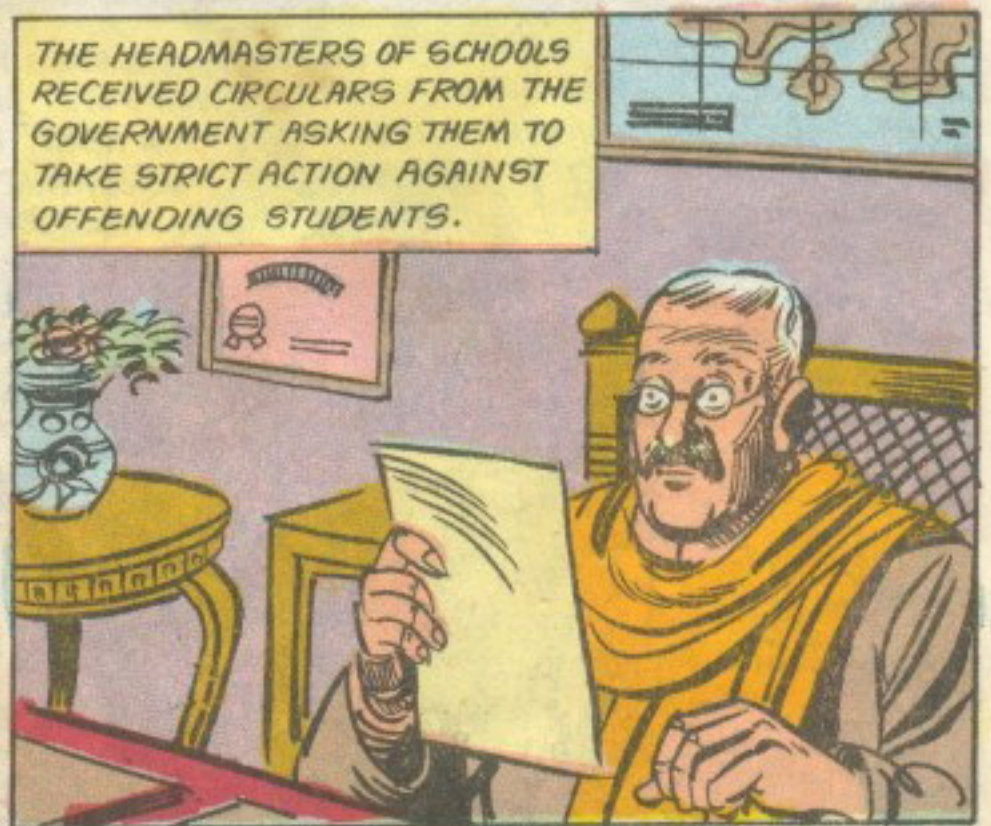
THE SAMITIS ORGANIZED MEETINGS, TOOK OUT PROCESSIONS, DISTRIBUTED PATRIOTIC LITERATURE.



FULLER, THE LT. GOVERNOR OF THE NEW PROVINCE OF EAST BENGAL, WAS ALARMED.



THE HEADMASTERS OF SCHOOLS RECEIVED CIRCULARS FROM THE GOVERNMENT ASKING THEM TO TAKE STRICT ACTION AGAINST OFFENDING STUDENTS.



KALIPRASANNA DASGUPTA, THE HEADMASTER OF MADARIPUR SCHOOL, CALLED A MEETING OF HIS STUDENTS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BANNED THE RAISING OF THE SLOGAN—  
BANDE MATARAM.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED I HAVE ONLY TWO WORDS TO SAY.



BANDE MATARAM.

STUDENTS CHEERED THEIR HEADMASTER AND RESPONDED IN SIMILAR WORDS.

BANDE MATARAM



IT IS NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT DASGUPTA LOST HIS JOB.

AT RANGPUR\* 263 BOYS WHO DEFIED THE GOVERNMENT ORDER AND ATTENDED SWADESHI MEETINGS WERE THROWN OUT OF THE SCHOOL.

WE ARE HAPPY WE DON'T HAVE TO ATTEND THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL.

WE WANT SWADESHI SCHOOLS WHERE PATRIOTISM IS NOT CONSIDERED A CRIME.



RANGPUR HAD THE DISTINCTION OF SETTING UP THE FIRST NATIONAL SCHOOL.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SPRANG UP IN CITIES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES. AT RAMARA IN FARIDPUR, CLASSES WERE HELD AT THE HOUSE OF A MUSLIM...

COME, CHILDREN, COME.



... AND IN DHALGRAM THE NATIONAL SCHOOL WAS THROWN OPEN TO NAMASHUDRAS.\*



IN CALCUTTA TWO INSTITUTIONS CAME INTO BEING — THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATION AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION. THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS BOYCOTTED OFFICIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOUGHT ADMISSION TO NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

OUR COURSE IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT. YOU WILL NOT GET JOBS IN THE GOVERNMENT.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BECOMING A GUMASTA IN A GOVERNMENT OFFICE, SIR.



AND POET RABINDRANATH CONTINUED HIS WORK AT SANTINIKETAN.

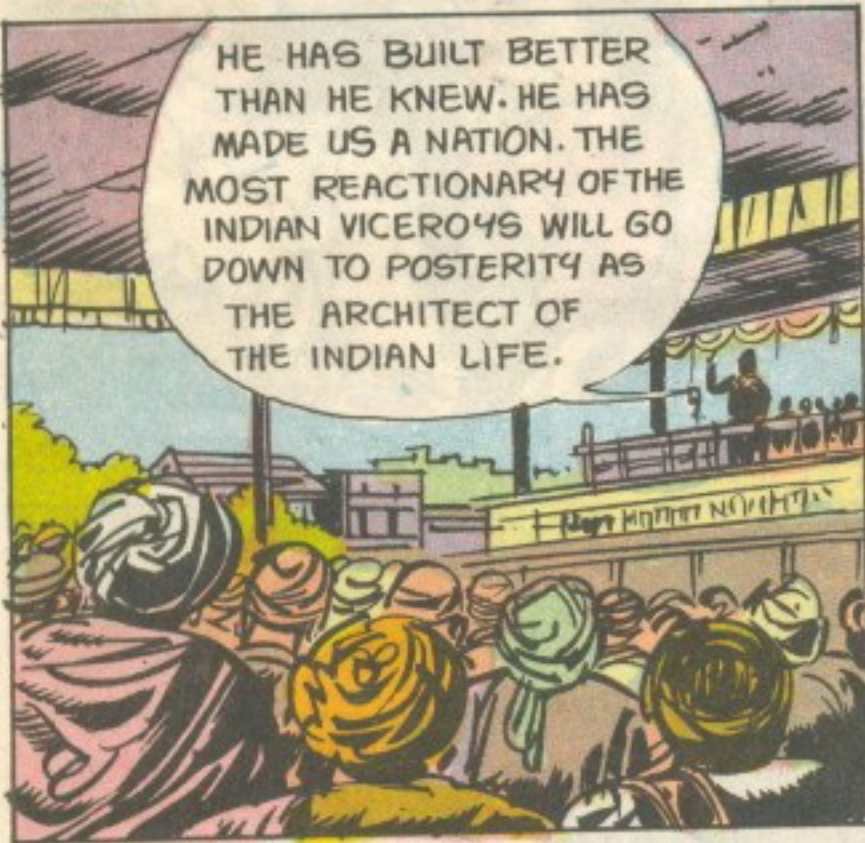


\* A SECT OF SHUDRAS WHO WERE ELEVATED IN THEIR SOCIAL STATUS BY THEIR LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE BRAHMANAS.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS MET AT VARANASI IN 1905. SURENDRANATH BANERJI RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION.



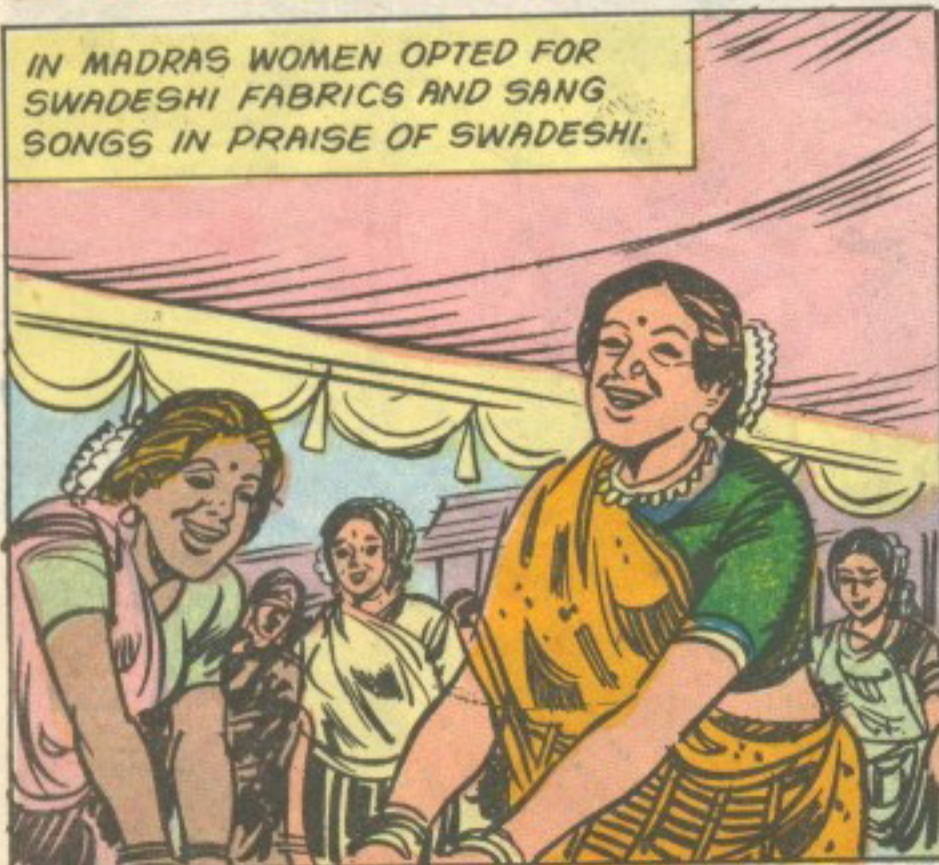
HE HAS BUILT BETTER THAN HE KNEW. HE HAS MADE US A NATION. THE MOST REACTIONARY OF THE INDIAN VICEROYS WILL GO DOWN TO POSTERITY AS THE ARCHITECT OF THE INDIAN LIFE.



YES. THE ENTIRE NATION TOOK UP SWADESHI AND BOYCOTT OF EUROPEAN GOODS.



IN MADRAS WOMEN OPTED FOR SWADESHI FABRICS AND SANG SONGS IN PRAISE OF SWADESHI.



IN PUNJAB, U.P. AND EVEN IN SOME AREAS OF THE SOUTH, VANDE MATARAM BECAME A FORM OF GREETING.

VANDE MATARAM.

VANDE MATARAM.



WHEN LORD CURZON WAS SUCCEEDED BY LORD MINTO, OUR BENGALI BRETHREN HOPED THAT THE NEW VICEROY WOULD TAKE NOTE OF POPULAR DISCONTENT AND ANNOUNCE ANNULMENT OF PARTITION. HOWEVER WHEN A DELEGATION CALLED ON HIM —

I AM EXTREMELY SORRY, GENTLEMEN. PARTITION IS A SETTLED FACT. WE CANNOT REOPEN THE QUESTION.



LORD MINTO'S REPLY MADE PEOPLE EVEN MORE FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY. A HUGE FIRE WAS LIT AT COLLEGE SQUARE IN CALCUTTA.



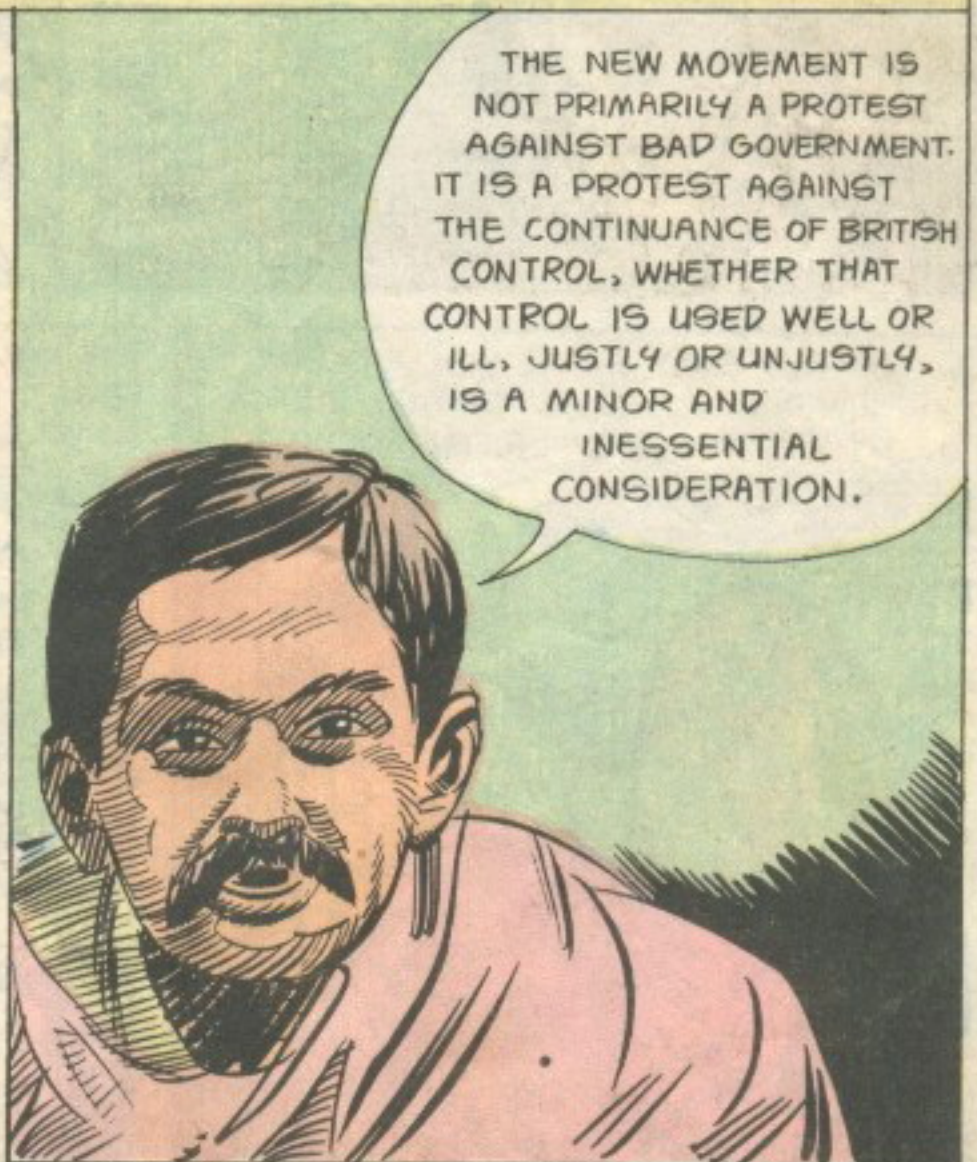
THE ONLOOKERS THREW DOWN INTO THE FIRE CHUDDARS, SALWARS, SHOES, CIGARETTES— ANYTHING MANUFACTURED BY THE BRITISH.

PEOPLE INTENSIFIED THE AGITATION. THE GOAL NOW WAS FREEDOM FROM THE BRITISH RULE AS POINTED OUT BY BIPIN CHANDRA PAL AND AUROBINDO.

OUR IDEAL IS FREEDOM WHICH MEANS ABSENCE OF FOREIGN CONTROL.



THE NEW MOVEMENT IS NOT PRIMARILY A PROTEST AGAINST BAD GOVERNMENT. IT IS A PROTEST AGAINST THE CONTINUANCE OF BRITISH CONTROL, WHETHER THAT CONTROL IS USED WELL OR ILL, JUSTLY OR UNJUSTLY, IS A MINOR AND INESSENTIAL CONSIDERATION.



A LARGE NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN BRITISH FIRMS STRUCK WORK. MUSLIM DRIVERS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY TOOK A PLEDGE ON THE QURAN AND WALKED OUT TO JOIN THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT.



THE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT WAS INTENSIFIED. VOLUNTEERS BEGAN PEACEFUL PICKETING IN FRONT OF SHOPS.



IN CASE THEY SAW SOMEONE COMING OUT OF THE SHOP —



IF THE SHOPKEEPER REFUSED TO TAKE BACK THE GOODS SOLD, THE VOLUNTEER WOULD PAY FOR THE GOODS AND CONSIGN THEM TO THE FIRE.



SOME YOUNG MEN WOULD GET INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH THOSE WHO WISHED TO BUY FOREIGN GOODS —

YOUR MONEY MUST GO TO OUR POOR WEAVERS, NOT TO THE MANCHESTER BARONS.

PLEASE STAND ASIDE AND LET ME PASS.



IF YOU STILL INSIST ON BUYING VILASATI GOODS...



YOU COULD WALK ON OUR BODIES.



THAT WAS THE SIGNAL FOR THE POLICE TO COME RUSHING...



... WIELDING LATHIS.



FULLER, THE LT. GOVERNOR OF THE NEW PROVINCE OF EAST BENGAL, DID NOT HESITATE TO ADOPT RUTHLESS MEASURES TO BREAK THE AGITATION.

YOU WILL SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE RAISES THE CRY BANDE MATARAM.



URCHINS WHO SHOUTED BANDE MATARAM WERE GIVEN A CHASE...



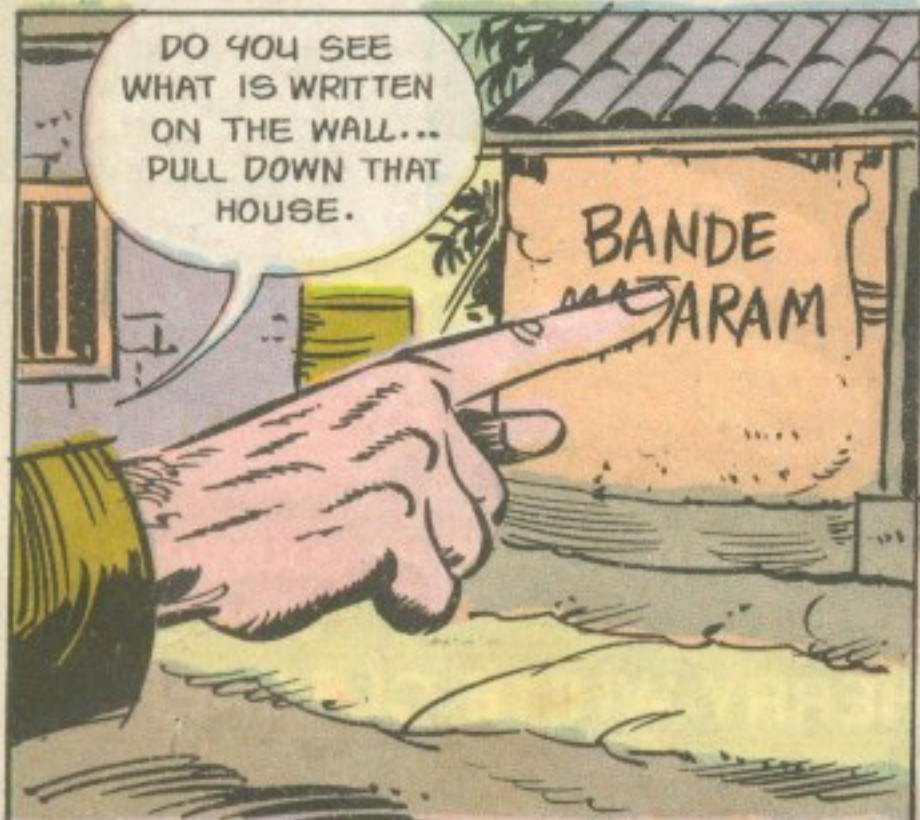
... CAUGHT ...



... AND FLOGGED.



DO YOU SEE WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE WALL... PULL DOWN THAT HOUSE.



IN SPITE OF SUCH HARSH MEASURES PEOPLE REFUSED TO BOW DOWN BEFORE FULLER. AT BARISAL —

WE WILL HOLD A PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON APRIL 14TH AND 15TH.



ON THE 14TH THE DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE TOOK OUT A PROCESSION. BARRISTER ABDUL RASUL WAS TO BE THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS IN A CARRIAGE WITH HIS ENGLISH WIFE. SURENDRANATH AND OTHERS FOLLOWED THE CARRIAGE ON FOOT.



THE POLICE ALLOWED THE LEADERS TO PASS UNMOLESTED. HOWEVER THEY RAISED THEIR LATHIS AS THE YOUNGER DELEGATES PASSED BY.



A VOLUNTEER CALLED CHITTARANJAN WAS BODILY THROWN INTO A TANK FILLED WITH WATER...



... AND LATHI BLOWS WERE SHOWERED ON THE YOUNG MAN STRUGGLING IN THE TANK.



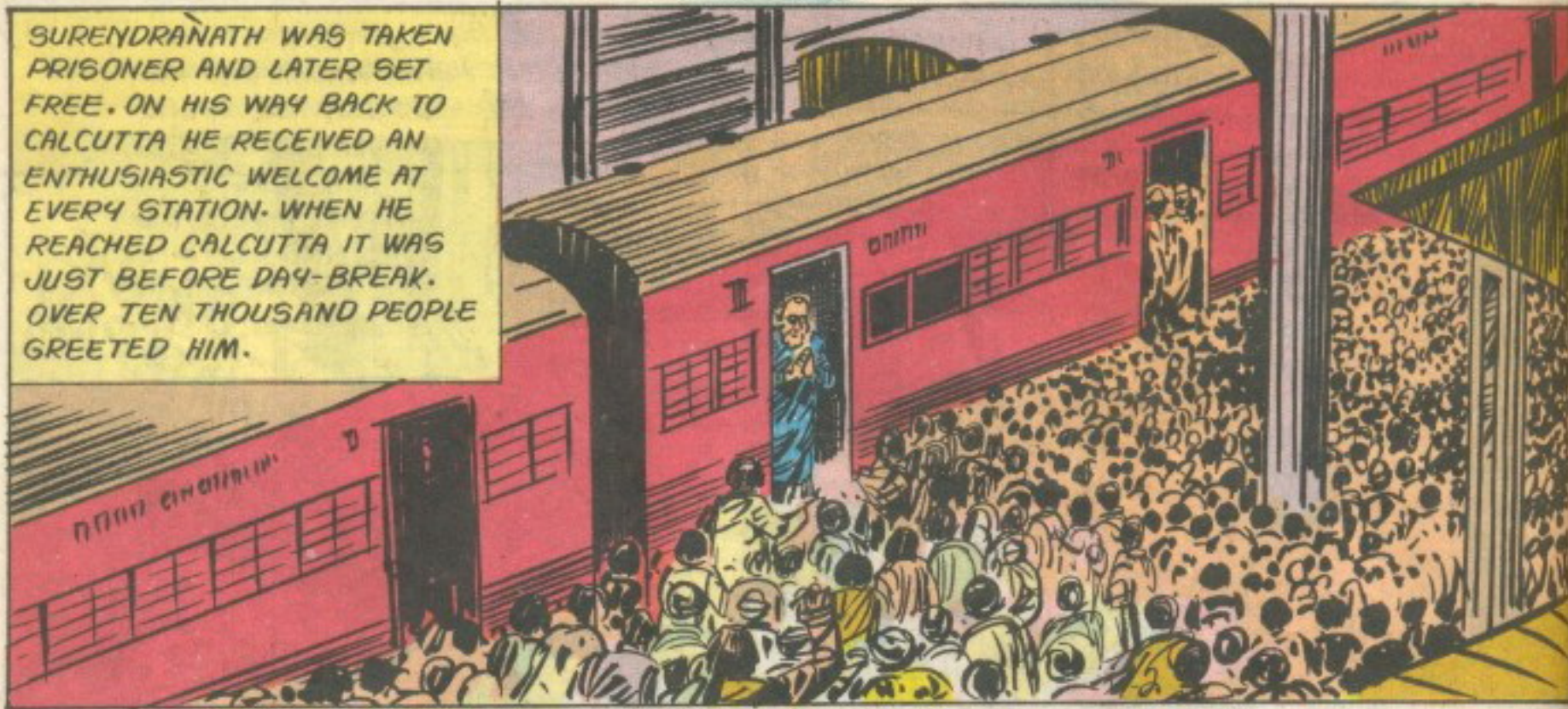
HEARING THE COMMOTION AT THE BACK SURENDRANATH TURNED BACK.

WHY ARE YOU THRASHING THEM? I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR. ARREST ME, IF YOU LIKE.

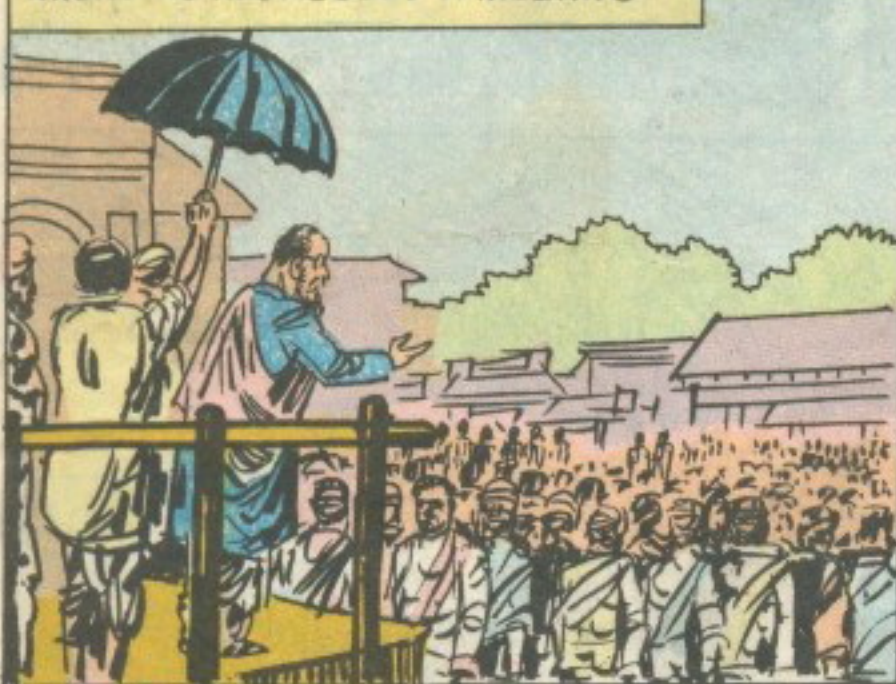
YOU ARE MY PRISONER, SIR.



SURENDRANATH WAS TAKEN PRISONER AND LATER SET FREE. ON HIS WAY BACK TO CALCUTTA HE RECEIVED AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME AT EVERY STATION. WHEN HE REACHED CALCUTTA IT WAS JUST BEFORE DAY-BREAK. OVER TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE GREETED HIM.

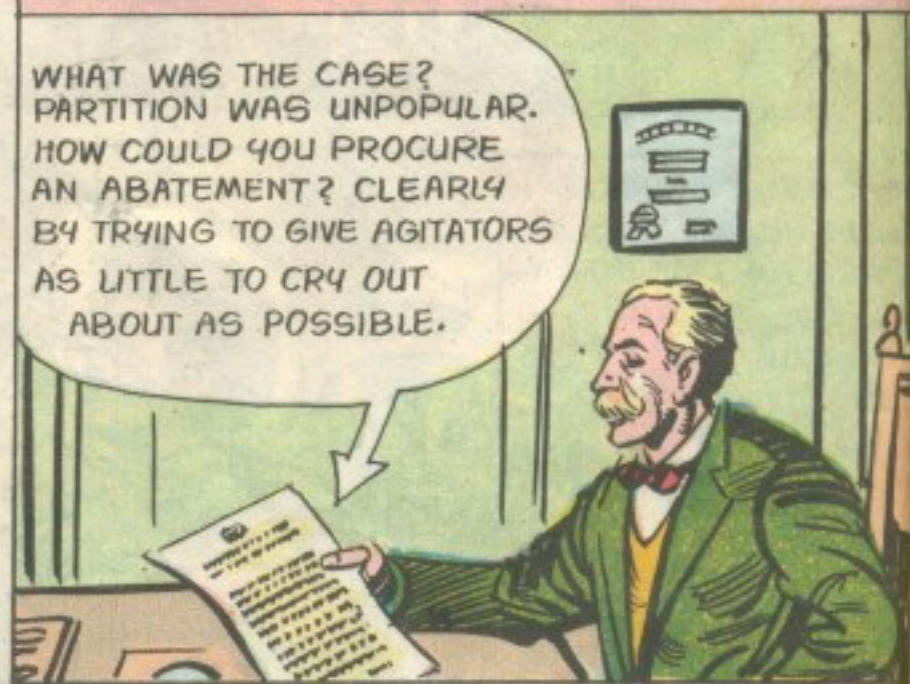


THE EXCITED YOUNGSTERS UNHORSED THE CARRIAGE AND DREW IT TO COLLEGE SQUARE WHERE HE ADDRESSED A MEETING.



THE BARISAL INCIDENT ELECTRIFIED THE NATION. AND LORD MINTO RECEIVED A STRONG NOTE FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND.

WHAT WAS THE CASE? PARTITION WAS UNPOPULAR. HOW COULD YOU PROCURE AN ABATEMENT? CLEARLY BY TRYING TO GIVE AGITATORS AS LITTLE TO CRY OUT ABOUT AS POSSIBLE.



FULLER IS A FOOL.



HOWEVER, THE SITUATION HAD GONE OUT OF CONTROL. LORD MINTO ISSUED AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE RIGHT TO HOLD MEETINGS. BUT THE AGITATORS WERE READY WITH AN ANSWER.

ONLY MEETINGS ARE BANNED. NOT SINGING. NOT FESTIVALS. NOT PLAYS.



THE SPEAKER WAS LIAKAT HUSAIN.

BOYS TRAINED BY LIAKAT HUSAIN, HIMSELF A MELODIOUS SINGER, WENT ROUND SINGING SONGS...

THE TIGHTER THEIR NOOSE, THE EASIER WOULD IT BE TO BREAK// THE EASIER FOR US TO BE FREE// THE MORE THEIR EYES TURN RED, THE MORE OUR EYES WILL OPEN// MORE OPEN WILL OUR EYES BE//

... WHICH THE COMMON FOLK BEGAN TO HUM.

ARE YOU SO STRONG TO SEVER THE CHAIN OF DESTINY?// OH! YOU THINK YOU ARE SO STRONG!// THE PRIDE TO BREAK AND MAKE OUR LIVES AT WILL// OH! TO BE SO PROUD 400 LONG!//

LET THE EARTH AND THE WATER AND THE AIR AND THE FRUITS OF BENGAL BE HOLY, MY LORD!// LET THE LIVES AND THE MINDS OF ALL THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF BENGAL BE ONE, MY LORD!//



LET'S ACCEPT WITH REVERENCE, THE COARSE CLOTH THAT OUR MOTHER GIVES US!// SHE IS DRAINED OF HER RICHES, MY BROTHERS// THAT'S ALL SHE CAN AFFORD TO GIVE US//

THE BEAUTY, THE SHADE, THE LOVE, THE TENDERNESS// IN THY LOVING ARMS BECKONING TO US, SPREAD FOR US// UNDER YOUR TREES AND ON THE BANKS OF YOUR RIVERS!//



FOLK TALES AND DRAMAS WERE SUITABLY MODIFIED.

AND HANUMAN SET THE WHOLE LANKA ON FIRE.



TO SERVE OUR MOTHERLAND EACH ONE OF US MUST BECOME A HANUMAN.



BAIRAGIS AND VAISHNAVIS BEGAN TO SING SWADESHI SONGS.

MUKUNDA DAS COMPOSED JATRAS\* WITH PATRIOTIC THEMES.



AND FOLK POET MOFIZUDDIN BAYAT COMPOSED SWADESHI SONGS IN THE TRADITIONAL FORM.

AND HISTORICAL PLAYS THAT INSPIRED PATRIOTISM WERE STAGED. THEY INCLUDED SIRAJUDDAULAH, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI, DURGADAS, PALASIR PRAYASHCHITTA, SABASH BANGALI, MEWAR PATAN, MIR KASIM AND OTHERS.



SOON GOVERNMENT WOKE UP TO THE REAL PURPOSE OF THESE PLAYS AND SOME OF THESE WERE BANNED.

\* A FORM OF FOLK-THEATRE IN WHICH PERFORMERS COMMUNICATE FREELY WITH THE AUDIENCE.

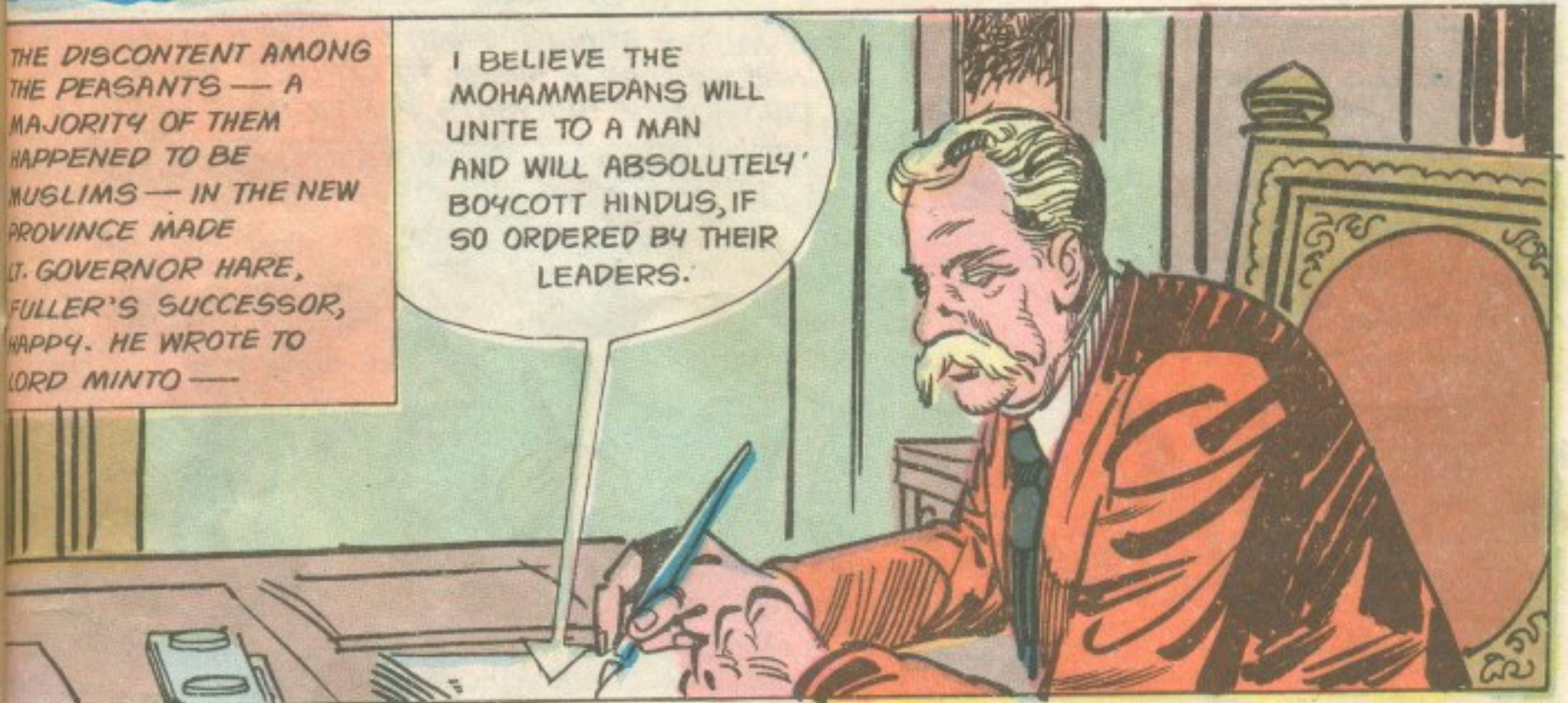
AROUND THIS TIME PEASANTS WORKING FOR ZAMINDARS WERE A WRETCHED LOT ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE EXORBITANT RENTS THEY WERE FORCED TO PAY. SEVERAL PAMPHLETS CAME TO BE CIRCULATED AMONG THEM.

NOW THESE FIRANGEES, SONS OF DEVILS, DIVIDE THIS GOLDEN BENGAL... WE HINDUS AND MOHAMMEDANS JOINTLY WORSHIP THE FEET OF THE MOTHER. ...WE MUST NOT PAY ENHANCED RATES.



THE DISCONTENT AMONG THE PEASANTS — A MAJORITY OF THEM HAPPENED TO BE MUSLIMS — IN THE NEW PROVINCE MADE LT. GOVERNOR HARE, FULLER'S SUCCESSOR, HAPPY. HE WROTE TO LORD MINTO —

I BELIEVE THE MOHAMMEDANS WILL UNITE TO A MAN AND WILL ABSOLUTELY BOYCOTT HINDUS, IF SO ORDERED BY THEIR LEADERS.



HARE MET SEVERAL MUSLIM ZAMINDARS AND MULLAS

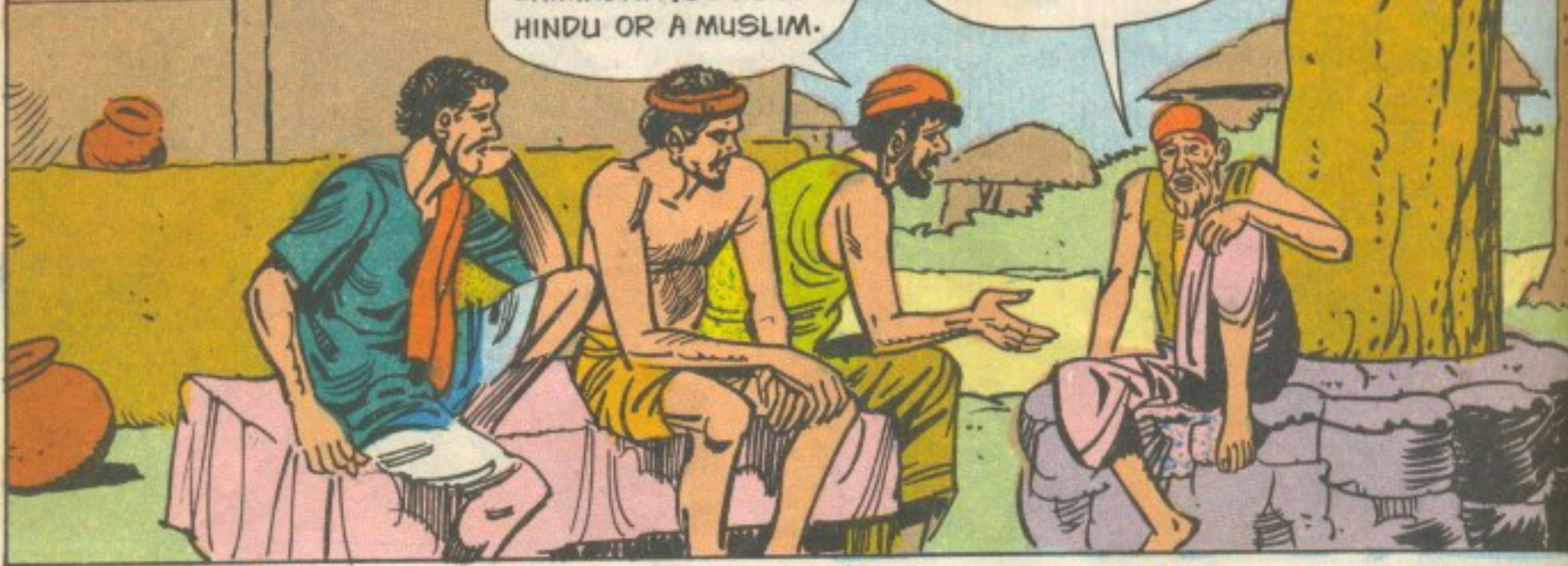
AS CURZON SAAB SAID THIS NEW PROVINCE IS CREATED SPECIALLY TO SAFEGUARD YOUR INTERESTS. YOU MUST SPEAK UP IN FAVOUR OF PARTITION.



THE COMMON PEASANTS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN THE POLITICS OF PARTITION.

ALL NEW SCHEMES BENEFIT ONLY ONE PERSON—THE ZAMINDAR, BE HE A HINDU OR A MUSLIM.

I AGREE. BUT MUST WE PAY ENHANCED RATES? CAN WE AFFORD IT?



HARE WROTE —

THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO FIGHT THEIR HINDU LANDLORDS IF SO DIRECTED.

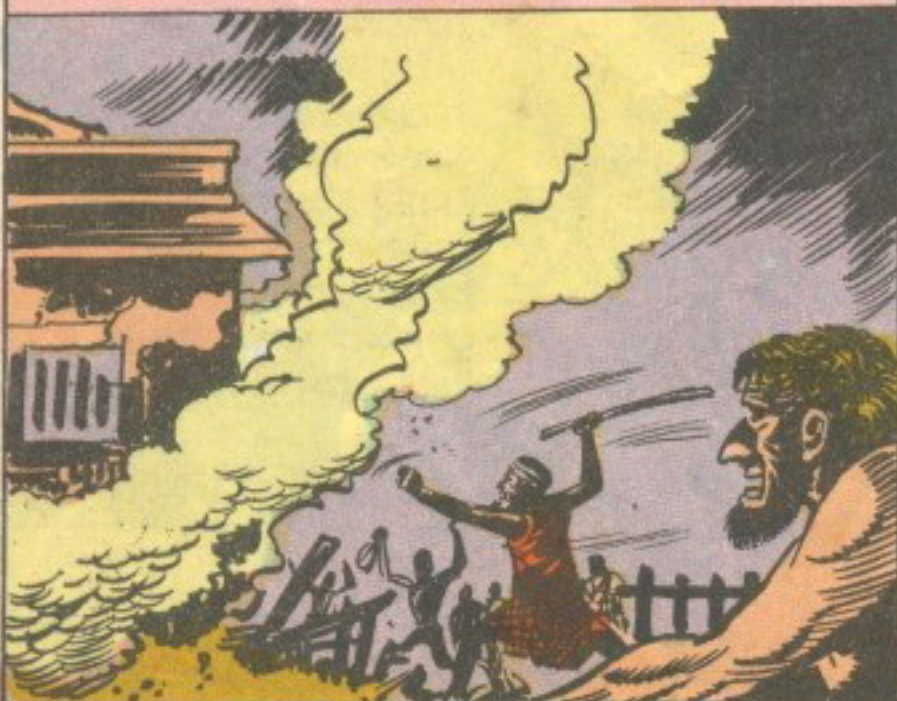


THE ANGER AGAINST ZAMINDARS WAS ALREADY THERE. IT NEEDED ONLY A SPARK TO EXPLODE. AND EXPLODE IT DID. MUSLIM SERVANTS DEFIED THEIR MASTERS—



... AND RIOTS BROKE OUT IN COMILLA, MYMENSINGH AND A COUPLE OF OTHER PLACES.

HOUSES OF ZAMINDARS AND MONEY-LENDERS WERE RANSACKED, GRAIN LOOTED AND PROMISSORY NOTES SET ON FIRE.



IN SEVERAL PLACES PEASANTS HAPPENED TO BE MUSLIMS AND THE LANDLORDS HINDUS. HOWEVER HINDU PEASANTS ALSO JOINED IN THE PLUNDER, AND MUSLIM PEASANTS DID NOT HESITATE IN LOOTING MUSLIM LANDLORDS.



IT WAS A CASE OF PLUNDER OF THE RICH BY THE POOR.

ON HEARING THE NEWS OF THE RIOTS, LIAKAT HUSAIN RUSHED TO MUMBAI.



THE POLICE FOUND URDU PAMPHLETS.

THESE URGE THE MUSLIMS TO STOP ASSAULTING HINDUS AND INSTEAD UNITE TO FIGHT THE COMMON ENEMY — THE FIRANGIES.

THROW HIM INTO PRISON.



THE BRITISH OFFICIALS WERE HAPPY.

THE RIOTS PROVE ONE THING. MUSLIMS ARE IN FAVOUR OF PARTITION.



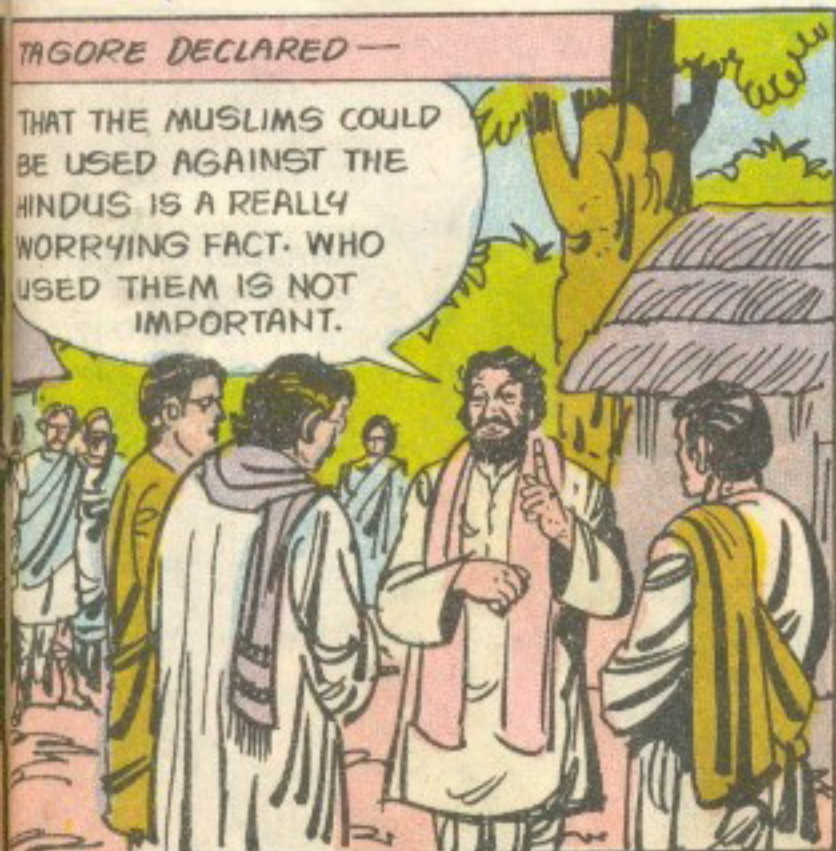
SEVERAL NATIONAL LEADERS BLAMED THE GOVERNMENT FOR INCITING THE MUSLIMS.

THEY WANT TO DIVIDE US SO THAT THEY CAN RULE.



TAGORE DECLARED —

THAT THE MUSLIMS COULD BE USED AGAINST THE HINDUS IS A REALLY WORRYING FACT. WHO USED THEM IS NOT IMPORTANT.



A GREAT OCEAN SEPARATED US EDUCATED FEW FROM MILLIONS IN OUR COUNTRY... COME DOWN INTO THE MIDST OF THE PEOPLE... SO THAT HIGH AND LOW, HINDUS AND MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS CAN COME TOGETHER, MINGLING HEART WITH HEART, EFFORT WITH EFFORT.



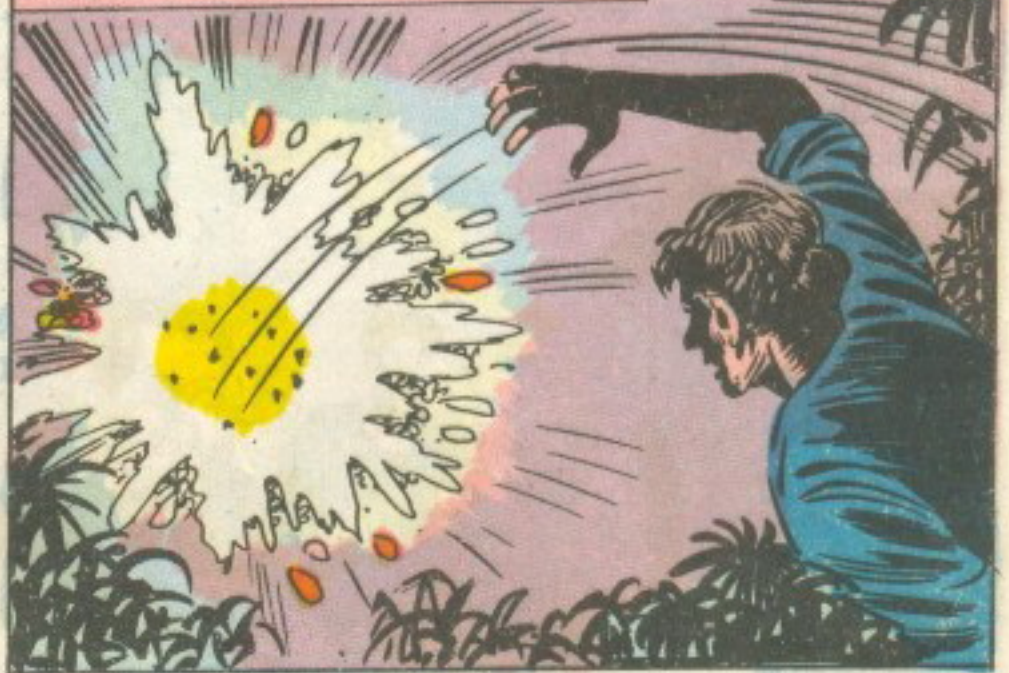
THE BOYCOTT OF EUROPEAN GOODS CONTINUED. THOSE WHO REFUSED TO OBSERVE SWADESHI HAD TO FACE SOCIAL OSTRACIZATION.



MEANWHILE A FEW YOUNG MEN WERE GETTING IMPATIENT. THEY FORMED REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS AND DECIDED TO STRIKE ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE BRITISH POWER.

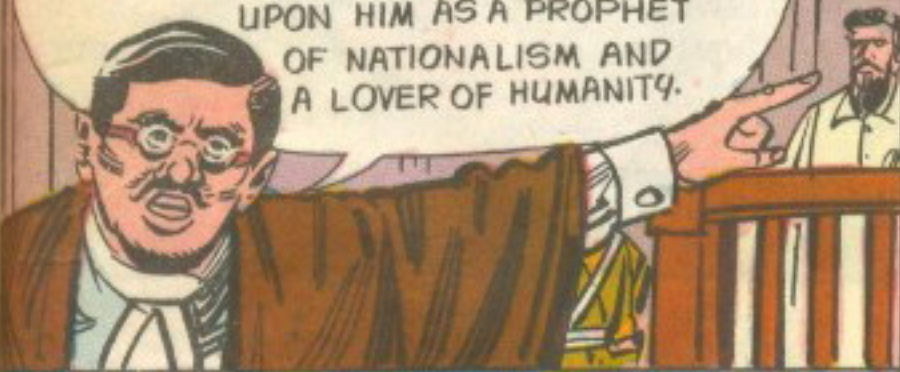


THE FIRST EVER BOMB WAS EXPLODED BY KHUDIRAM BOSE ON APRIL 30, 1908.

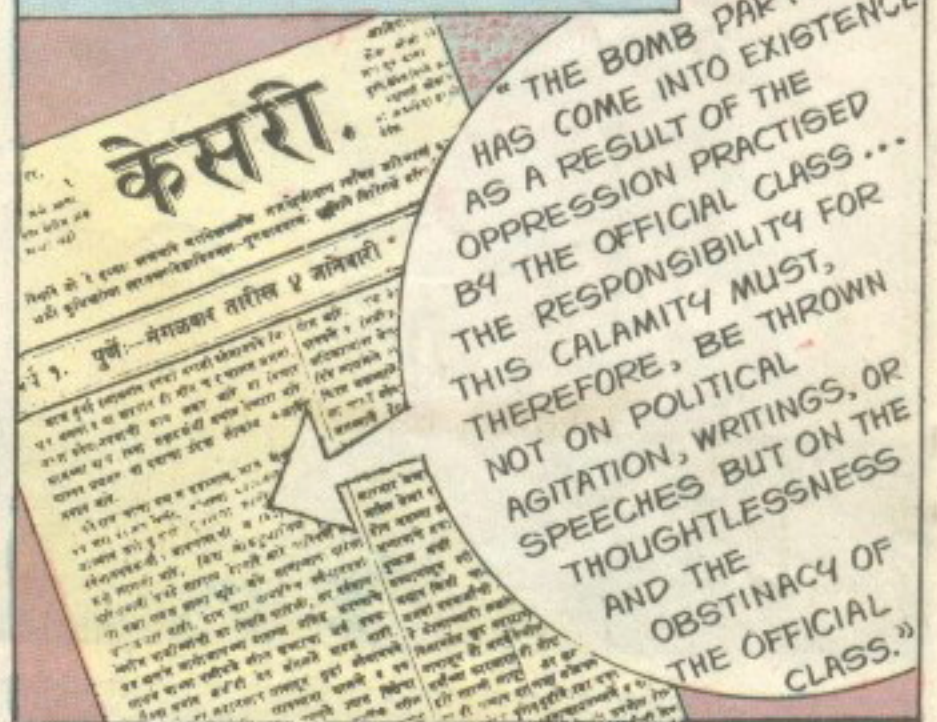


MANY REVOLUTIONARIES WERE ROUNDED UP AND AUROBINDO GHOSH WAS ALSO IMPLICATED IN THE CASE. HIS FRIEND C.R.DAS SAID IN THE COURT.

MY APPEAL TO YOU THEREFORE IS THAT A MAN LIKE THIS... STANDS TRIAL NOT ONLY BEFORE THIS BAR, BUT BEFORE THE HIGH COURT OF HISTORY. LONG AFTER THIS CONTROVERSY IS HUSHED... THE WORLD WILL LOOK UPON HIM AS A PROPHET OF NATIONALISM AND A LOVER OF HUMANITY.

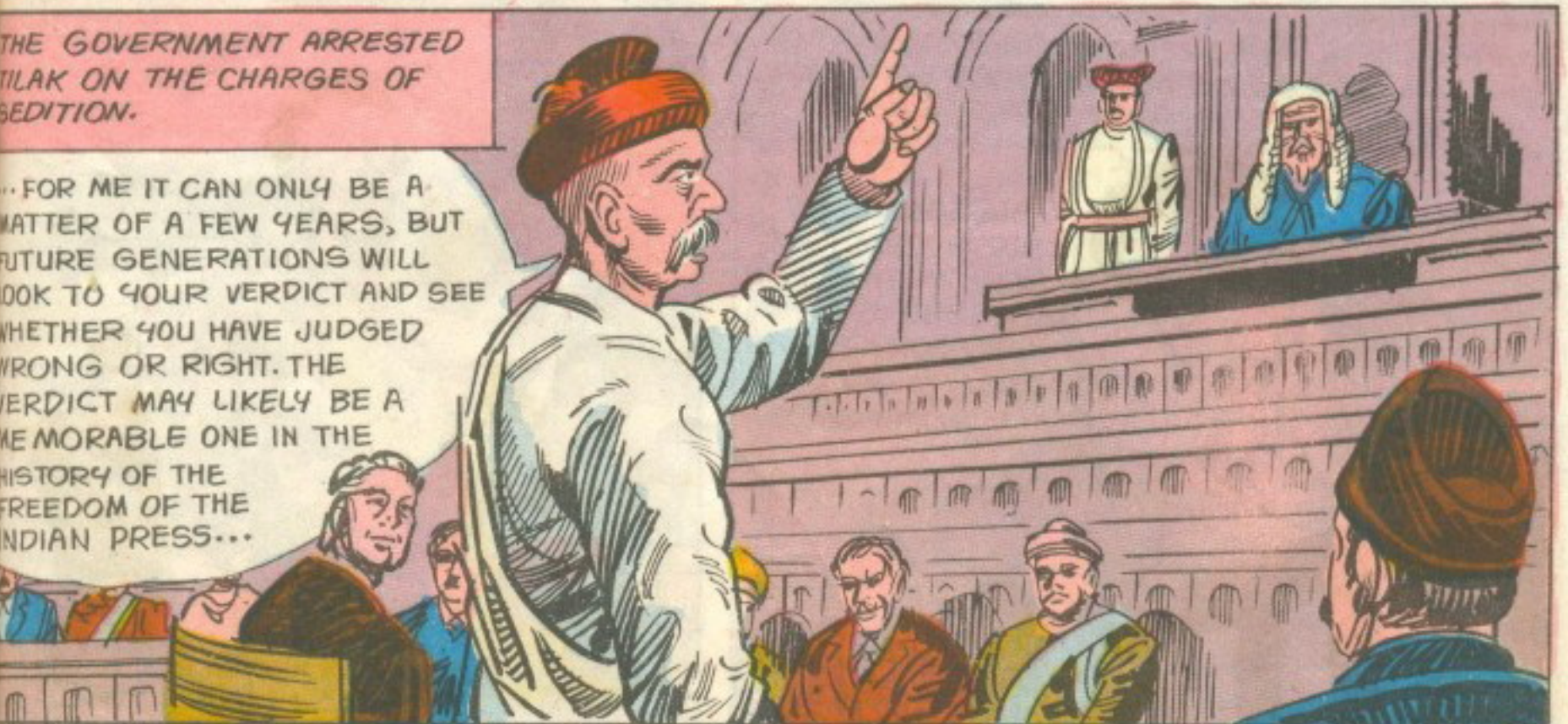


IN PUNE, TILAK WROTE AN EDITORIAL ON THE 'BOMB CASE'.



THE GOVERNMENT ARRESTED TILAK ON THE CHARGES OF SEDITION.

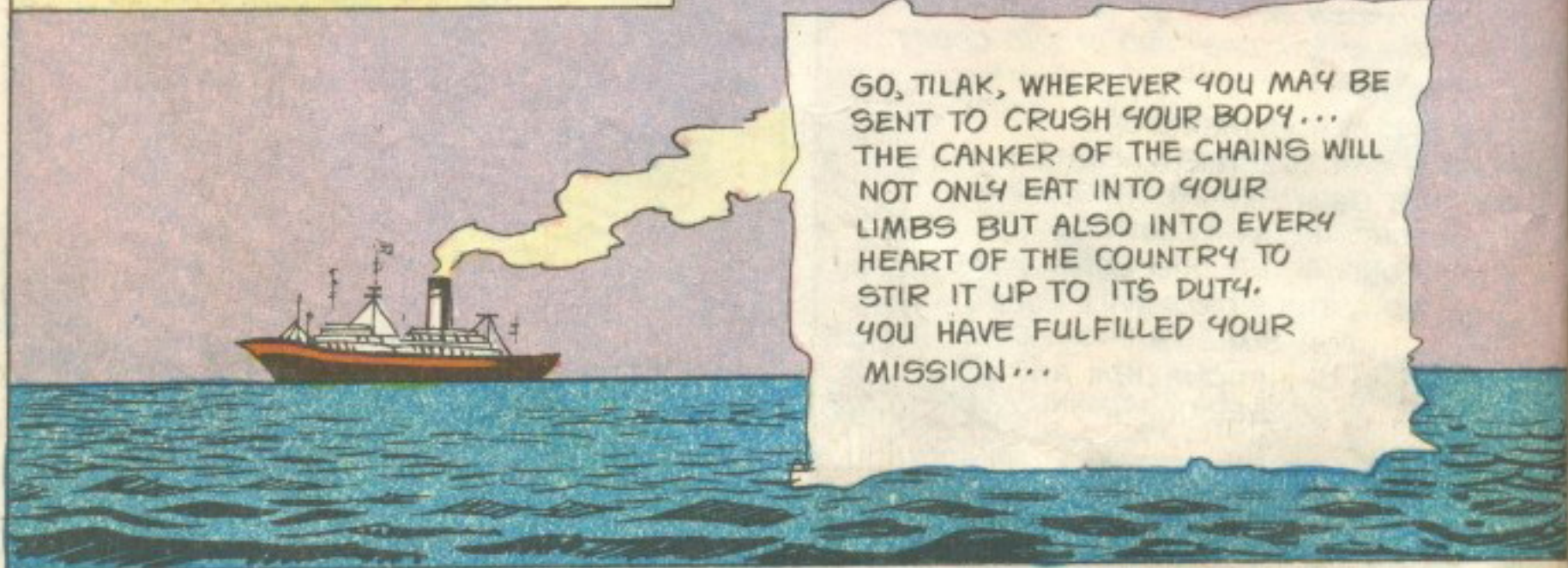
FOR ME IT CAN ONLY BE A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS, BUT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LOOK TO YOUR VERDICT AND SEE WHETHER YOU HAVE JUDGED WRONG OR RIGHT. THE VERDICT MAY LIKELY BE A MEMORABLE ONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIAN PRESS...



TILAK WAS SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS' DEPORTATION. ON THE DAY THE JUDGEMENT WAS ANNOUNCED, MILL WORKERS IN BOMBAY DECIDED TO STRIKE WORK. THE STRIKE LASTED FOR SIX DAYS.



TILAK WAS DEPORTED TO MANDALAY. "VANDE MATARAM" WROTE :



GO, TILAK, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE SENT TO CRUSH YOUR BODY... THE CANKER OF THE CHAINS WILL NOT ONLY EAT INTO YOUR LIMBS BUT ALSO INTO EVERY HEART OF THE COUNTRY TO STIR IT UP TO ITS DUTY. YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOUR MISSION...

SIMILARLY NINE REVOLUTIONARIES OF BENGAL WERE DEPORTED. BUT THE REVOLUTIONARIES BETRAYED NO FEAR. WHEN ULLASKAR DUTTA ON TRIAL FOR LIFE BROKE OUT INTO A PATRIOTIC SONG THE WHOLE COURT STOOD UP IN HIS HONOUR.



BLESSED IS MY BIRTH THAT I AM BORN IN THIS LAND. BLESSED IS MY LIFE, FOR I LOVE YOU, O MY MOTHERLAND.

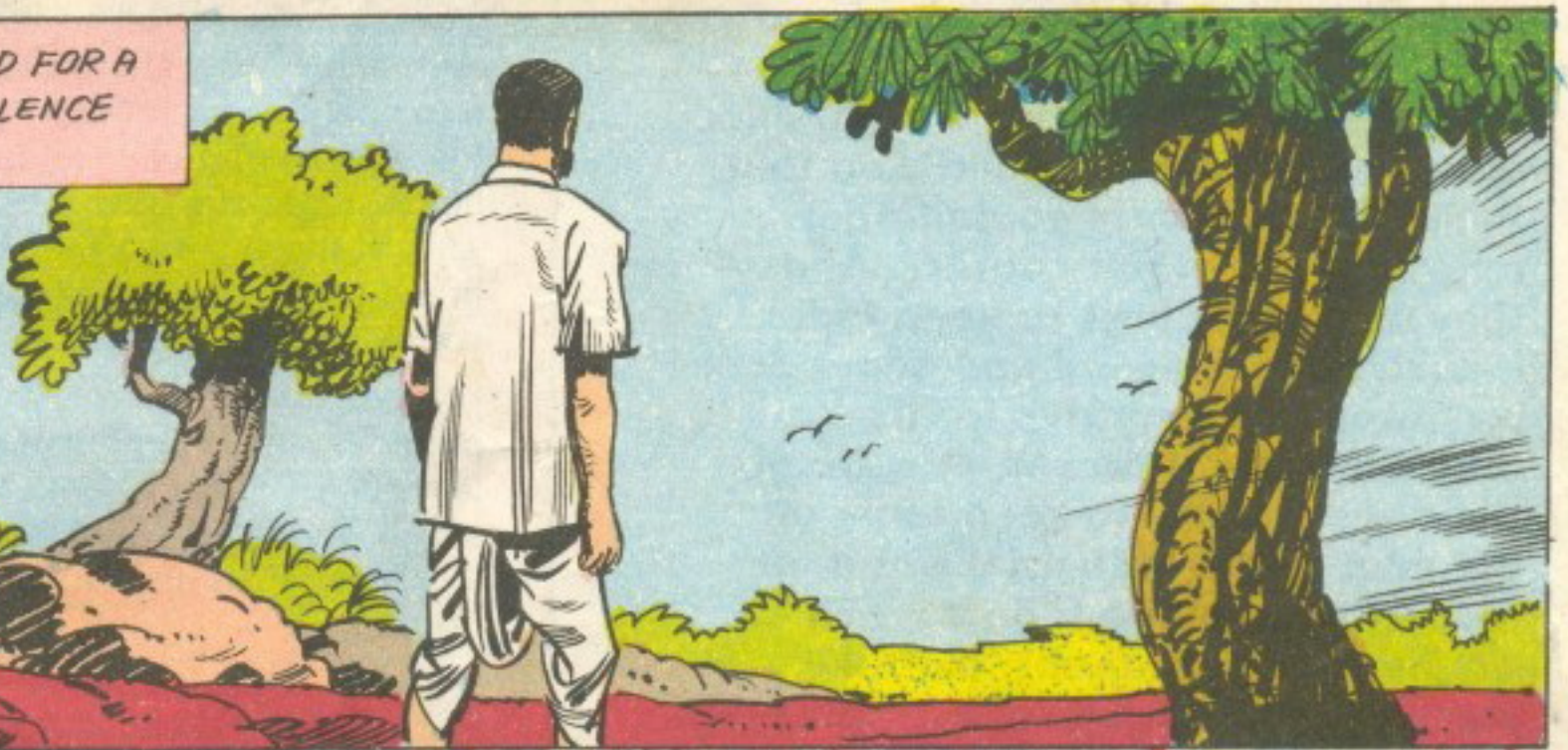
ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY, HEMACHANDRA LEFT FOR THE ANDAMANS WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE.



HOWEVER, THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT GRADUALLY LOST ITS VIGOUR. IN JUNE 1909 AUROBINDO STEPPED OUT OF THE PRISON...



... AND PAUSED FOR A WHILE. ONLY SILENCE GREETED HIM.



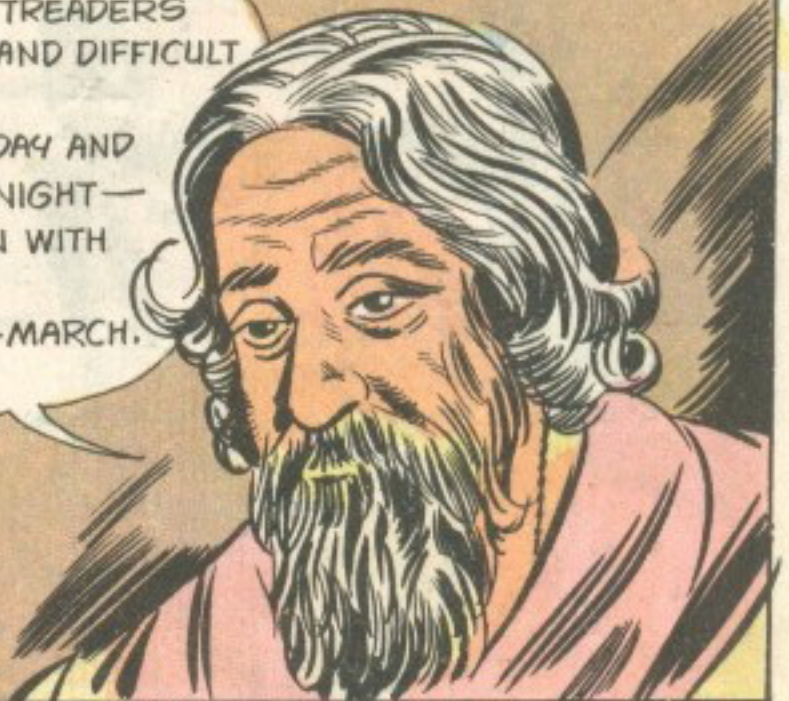
LATER HE SAID —

WHEN I WENT INTO JAIL THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS ALIVE WITH THE CRY OF 'BANDE MATARAM'... WHEN I CAME OUT OF JAIL I LISTENED FOR THE CRY BUT THERE WAS INSTEAD, SILENCE.



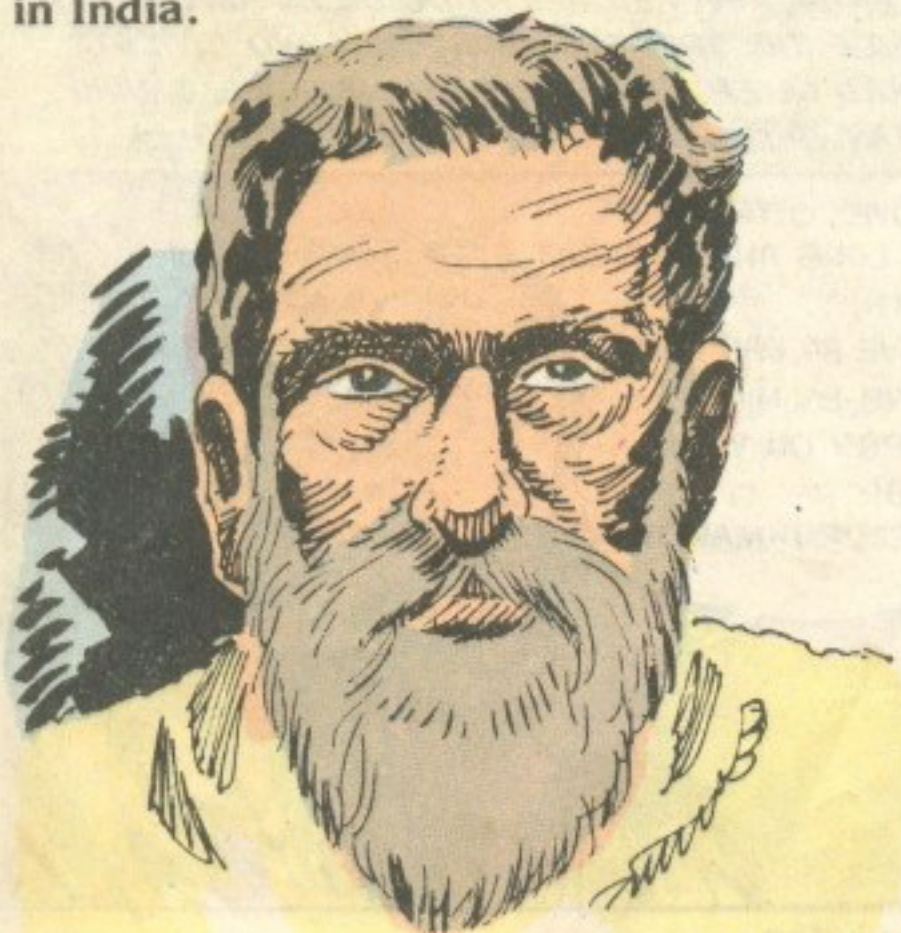
OF COURSE THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT DID ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE WHEN LORD HARDINGE, THE NEW VICEROY, REVOKED PARTITION ON ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE. THE SPIRIT OF SWADESHI AND BOYCOTT WOULD LATER BE REVIVED BY MAHATMA GANDHI. MEANWHILE POET RABINDRANATH URGED —

MOVE, O TREACHERS OF LONG AND DIFFICULT PATH, MOVE BY DAY AND MOVE BY NIGHT — CARRY ON WITH YOUR VICTORY-MARCH.



# The Swadeshi Enterprise

The discovery of the steam engine which could haul railway carriages and run textile looms, marked the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Europe in the eighteenth century. The British killed indigenous industry in India so that their manufacturers could find a ready market in our country. And they tried their best to keep India industrially backward and dependent on European countries for its requirements. However, in spite of their best efforts to keep India off the map of the industrial world, an industrial revolution, on a much smaller scale no doubt, did take place in 1905. If it was the power of steam that launched the Industrial Revolution in Europe, it was the power of swadeshi which launched it in India.



Long before the swadeshi movement was launched, our leaders like Romesh Chandra Dutt had been advocating swadeshi enterprise. Kishorilal Mukherji started the Sibpur Iron Works in 1867, and in the same year, a Hindu Mela was held in Calcutta to exhibit and sell swadeshi crafts. In 1893 Prafulla Chandra Ray started his company, Bengal Chemicals. Later, he said, "Our educated young men, the moment they came out of their colleges were on the look out for a situation or a soft job under the Government, or failing that, in a European mercantile firm. The professions were becoming overcrowded. A few came out of the engineering college, but they too were helpless seekers after jobs. . . . What to do with all these young men? How to bring bread to the mouths of the ill-fed, famished young men of the middle classes?"

Prafulla Chandra Ray made a beginning in providing jobs for educated youth when he launched Bengal Chemicals. And a few mills which produced cotton yarn were functioning in Ahmedabad and Bombay long before 1905.

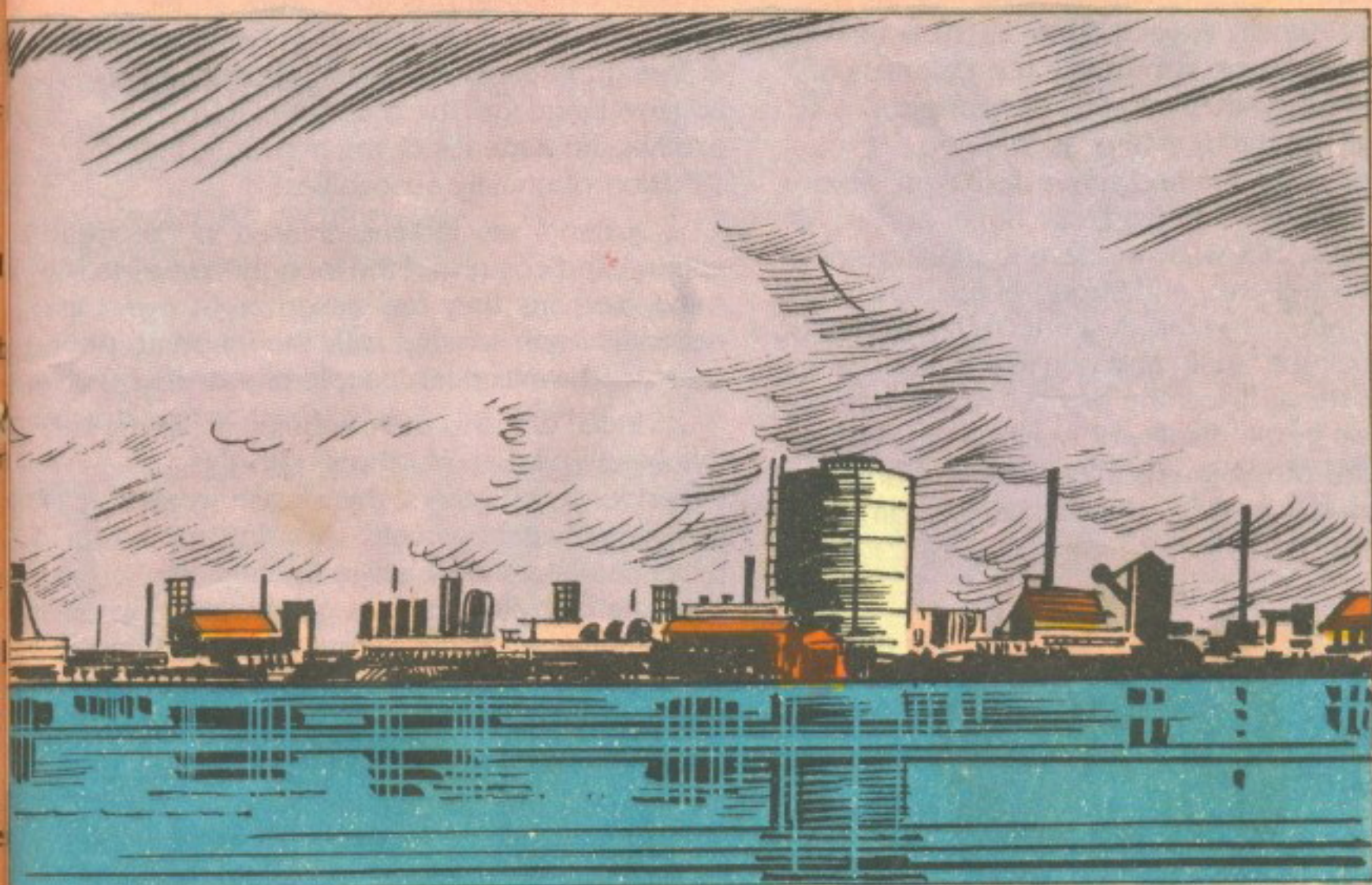
The swadeshi movement came as a shock in the arm for swadeshi enterprise. Our countrymen were convinced that they should patronise swadeshi goods in preference to foreign goods, even if they were more expensive and of inferior quality. With the boycott of foreign goods, there was a spurt in the demand for swadeshi goods, and men with ideas, money and enthusiasm, rose to the occasion. A chain of swadeshi emporiums started marketing swadeshi goods. There was a great demand for the mill yarn of Bombay and Ahmedabad. Brass and bell-metal utensils edged out those made of imported enamelled metals.

In the war of nibs, swadeshi nibs emerged victorious. Swadeshi teacups, saucers, tea pots, inkpots and dolls, not only captured the hearts and purses of our countrymen, they also entered the foreign market! When the mind was full of swadeshi thoughts, could

the body be cleansed with foreign soap? No. So foreign toilet soaps hastily made way for swadeshi soap. And sacred fires in sanctum sanctorums and the fires in kitchens came to be lit with swadeshi matchsticks. Even smokers chose to 'burn' swadeshi cigarettes! Paper, candles, sugar, bicycles began to be manufactured in our country *without* any support from the foreign government. Our entrepreneurs also entered the field of banking and insurance.

government, all combined to bring pressure on swadeshi enterprise. Many of these enterprises died. A few survived. Despite heavy odds, new indigenous companies did surface. One such was the Tata Iron & Steel Company in Jamshedpur.

On the political front, the swadeshi movement proved that Indians could fight injustice. On the economic front, it was proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that Indian scientists, engineers, technologists



But the well-entrenched European companies put up a stiff fight. When Mohamed Kalamian launched the Bengal Steam Navigation Company in 1905, European navigation companies drastically reduced the rate for passengers. Jute mills owned by Europeans refused to buy cargo carried by swadeshi ships! Lack of technical know-how, lack of sufficient capital, stiff and unscrupulous competition from European companies and the apathy of the

and workers were in no way inferior to their counterparts in Europe and America. Yet India remained industrially backward because the British rulers saw to it that it remained so. Our entrepreneurs realized that business and industry could not flourish unless the country became independent. What independence means to industrial growth and prosperity can be judged if we compare the state of our industry under British rule with the progress it has made since independence.

# Vivekananda taught Self-Esteem

Swami Vivekananda played a significant role in shaking his countrymen out of their deep slumber and inspired them with the ideals of freedom and liberty. In his whirlwind tour of the country from Kanya Kumari to Kashmir, he took the country by storm and his

countrymen responded to his call—**ARISE! AWAKE! STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED.** Although he attained samadhi in 1902, his words continued to inspire his countrymen and the courage he instilled in their hearts found expression during the swadeshi movement.

## Excerpts from Swami Vivekananda's writings:

A cloud of impenetrable darkness has at present equally enveloped us all. Now there is neither firmness of purpose nor boldness of enterprise, neither courage of heart, nor strength of mind, neither aversion to maltreatment by others, nor dislike for slavery, neither love in the heart, nor hope, nor manliness; but what we have in India are only deep-rooted envy and strong antipathy against one another, morbid desire to ruin by hook or by crook the weak, and dog-like to lick the feet of the strong. Now the highest satisfaction consists in the display of wealth and power, devotion of self-gratification, wisdom in the accumulation of transitory objects; yoga, in

hideous diabolical practices; work, in the slavery of others; civilisation, in base imitation of foreign nations; eloquence, in the use of abusive language; the merit of literature, in extravagant flatteries of the rich or in the diffusion of ghastly obscenities!

... When I see Indians dressed in European apparel and costumes, the thought comes to my mind, perhaps they feel ashamed to own their nationality and kinship with the ignorant, poor, illiterate, downtrodden people of India!

... India! With this mere echoing of others, with this base imitation of others, with this dependence on others, this slavish weakness, this vile detestable cruelty—wouldst thou, with these provisions only, scale the highest pinnacle of civilisation and greatness?... wouldst thou attain, by means of thy disgraceful cowardice, that freedom deserved only by the brave and the heroic? O India! Forget not...

...that the lower classes, the ignorant, the poor, the illiterate, the cobbler, the sweeper, are thy flesh and blood, thy brothers. Thou brave one, be bold, take courage, be proud that thou art an Indian, and proudly proclaim: "I am an Indian, every Indian is my brother." Thou, too, clad with but a rag round thy loins, proudly proclaim at the top of thy voice: "The Indian is my brother, the Indian is my life, India's gods and goddesses are my God. India's society is the cradle of my infancy, pleasure garden of my youth, the sacred heaven, the Varanasi of my old age." Say, brother: "The soil of India is my highest heaven, the good of India is my good," and repeat and pray day and night, "O Thou Lord of Gauri, O Thou Mother of Strength, take away my weakness, take away my unmanliness, and make me a Man!"

