

Who Will Lead?

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fact worth having, says Gandhi, unless, in the getting and using of them, men act out of pure love of God, as a Christian might say; selflessly, passionately, as a Buddhist might put it. Non-violence to Gandhi means non-assertiveness, non-aggressiveness of motive.

This is why Gandhi called off (and destroyed), his great non-co-operation campaign when it was, so many observers judged, on the point of success. This is why he withdrew from Congress leadership early in the war when a majority wished, by turning India from a British asset into a liability, to precipitate the offer which Cripps has now brought. This is why he persuaded them to reduce the intended "Mass Civil Disobedience" to a mere token series of speeches (and arrests), against India's "enforced participation in a war for freedom which she herself did not possess." (the exact words in that quotation may not be Gandhi's, but the idea is his). This is why he has for over 40 years done many another deed incompatible not only with ordinary wise leadership but also with pacifism, as that term is often understood (in the sense of spiking all war efforts). And this is why he has become, and will remain, "the Soul of India." For India's historic conviction that the spiritual in life (meaning what Gandhi means by "non-violence"), is man's only true and real being had become, over the centuries, distorted into superstitious and anti-social ways of living — until Gandhi appeared to purge and revitalise and re-beautify it. And to-day, India sees that historic conception of life shine forth through even this little man's most "muddled" deeds. "Failure with Gandhi is preferable to the gaining of a temporary advantage without him," says Nehru. "It is he who has made us what we are,

and raised India once more from the depths to which she had sunk. Gandhi is India."

AND NEHRU?

THE relation between these two men (75 and 50 respectively), is almost that of father and son. Jawaharlal Nehru (accent the wa and rhyme *Neh* with "hair"), calls Gandhi "bapu" (father), and will hear of no attack on him. Gandhi says "Neither of us can do without the other. There is a heart union between us which no intellectual differences can break." Otherwise, they live in different worlds. Gandhi's essential Hinduism is incomprehensible mysticism to the younger man, who finds in the Marxist conception of history the key to current events, and whose talk is not of *ahimsa* and *satyagraha* ("soul-force" and "holding-to-truth"), but of mass-action and economic revolution. Son of a wealthy merchant, who, at Gandhi's call, devoted his life to the nationalist cause, educated at Harrow and Oxford, writing English that is literature (particularly his *Autobiography*, from prison), Nehru can speak a language that is understood by the young British-educated intellectuals who already find Gandhi's thought-forms almost as hard to grasp as do most Westerners.

Wherever he goes, student youth cries "Pandit Jawaharlal-ji-kai." Young India must have a leader, just as any nation in process of formation or re-formation must have one. But this personally very handsome "idol" has nothing of the demagogue, dictator, or fanatic about him. For one thing, Nehru shares all Gandhi's sense of humour. For another (again like Gandhi), he insists on maintaining personal friendship with the men of the system that has imprisoned him so often. For a third, he is (unlike Gandhi now), an inveterate political realist. For what any such prophecy can be worth, if India is to have an Indian leader, it will be Nehru.

LISTENINGS

Perpetrated and illustrated by
KEN ALEXANDER

IT is reported that Mr. Roosevelt is searching for a neat, brief title for the present war. A pressman reminded him that wars are usually not named until they are over; he cited the Hundred Years War and the Seven Years War. It is possible that when this war is over everybody will be too tired of it to call it anything but finished. In the meantime, there are a few names suitable for it. Hollywood, of course, will eventually call it "The Hitler Follies of 1939—" or "The End of the Dead-End Kidders." The United States, Britain, Russia and China might call it "The War of Interdependence." Or, seeing that the last war was "The War to End Wars," this one might be called "The War to End Wars That 'End War.'" Already it has been called the War of the Ruses, The Bore War (premature), The War of Extermination, Hitler's Mistake and The Big Stoush. Two of these titles will have to await confirmation until the time comes to wage peace.



But Mr. Roosevelt wants a short title to cover the whole shooting match. "The Big Shot" might do; and when Hitler is rubbed out, it can easily be changed to "The Big Shot Shot!"

The respective parties to the fracas have different names for it. Early in the game, Goebbels used up all his fortissimos and superlatives. Now he is satisfied to call it maybe "The Defence of Dictatorship—At Home and Abroad." Musso has several good names for it, but his wife won't let him use them.

But whatever officialdom calls it, it will remain for you and me just "The War." A war by any other name—

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