

Gleanings from
GOLDEN PAST

The illustration shows three pieces of newspaper that have been torn from a larger sheet. The pieces are scattered and overlap. The top-left piece is irregularly shaped and contains several lines of text. The middle piece is rectangular and features a small drawing of a person's head and shoulders, possibly a portrait, with text above and below it. The bottom-right piece is also irregular and contains text. The overall style is a simple line drawing.

This is An Unparalleled Enterprise

Dr. Shyamaprasad Mookherjee

[Presiding over the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Bangabasi College on Monday, the 29th, November, 1948. at the Senate Hall, Calcutta, The Hon'ble Dr. Shyamaprasad Mookherjee, the then Minister of Industry and Supply, Government of India, said that he was extremely happy to be associated with the Celebrations. He described the foundation and growth of Bangabasi College under the able guidance of that great pioneer in the field of education in our country, Acharya G. C. Bose, as "an unparalleled enterprise."]

The following is the full text of Dr. Mookherjee's speech .—

In Bengal thousands and thousands of schools and colleges were built up and run by non-officials for spread of education. This was an enterprise the parallel of which could not be found anywhere in the world. The founder of Bangabasi College, Acharya Giris Chandra Bose. was one of those very few pioneers who took the lead in this direction. He was a man of outstanding personality and a patriot. He always used dhoti and chaddar. He did so to emphasize that he was a Bengali in heart and in all his activities.

Bengal had awakened the rest of India both politically and culturally. The stream of patriotism had flowed from Bengal. Bengal again had to bear the brunt of all that was associated with a freedom battle. Nobody could ever dream of partition of Bengal. But Bengalees were a virile people. Although, Bengal had been divided politically, the soul of Bengal could never be divided ;

it remained one, and it would remain so always. Acharya Jagadish Bose, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, to name a few of the many illustrious sons of Bengal, never worked for East Bengal alone from which part they came, but they worked for the whole of Bengal and the Bengalees and for the whole of India.

BENGAL WILL LEAD AGAIN

Bengal had faced many serious problems. Storms of unrest and calamities had swept her people. But on every occasion the genius of Bengal had solved her problems. Today the peculiar problems facing this province would again have to be solved by her own genius. Bengalees would never go any where with a beggar's bowl. The duty of every Bengalee was to strengthen the province and do everything possible to be self-supporting. This province would not only solve the peculiar problems but also solve them in such a way that she would again be a leader province in India (*Applause*). West Bengal was sure to take a leading part in making India a prosperous and peaceful country in the world (*Renewed applause*).

India to day was free. But freedom had also brought along with it a vast number of problems—social, economic and educational. If these problems were to be solved satisfactorily, the students of India must play their part well and creditably. Any difference in the ranks of the students was not only undesirable but would definitely undermine the growth of India to its full stature. Therefore, if the students loved their country, their constant endeavour should be to prepare themselves so that they might shoulder the responsibility.