

Called a 'Racket'—

500,000 Sick, Dying Indians Seek Divine Powers of Boy

Roads to Village Jammed With Lame, Blind Hoping to Be Cured by 'Miracle Herb'

By GEORGE T. RICE, United Press Staff Correspondent
CUTTACK, India, Dec. 29—Nearly 500,000 sick and dying Indians are putting their lives into the hands of a 12-year-old shepherd boy whose father decided was endowed with divine powers when he started crawling at the age of only 12 days.

Roads through Orissa state to the small, hilly village of Rantalai are jammed with the halt, lame and blind. They hope to be cured by a few grains of a chocolate-colored herb which has been billed as a "miracle healer," despite medical testimony that it has little or no medicinal value.

Three days a week, Nepal Baba, clad in a saffron-colored loin cloth, administers to this horde. More than 1000 of them already have died from epidemics resulting from the crowding of so many persons into the village. Five hundred deaths have been attributed to cholera.

Thousands Seek Cure

The Indian press has been giving much publicity to the "miracle boy" and his "divine" herbs. Special busses have been put into service to cope with the 50,000 persons who flock to the village every week.

Nepal Baba works at lightning speed. He handles about 100 persons a minute—about 50,000 for each three-day week he works. Only a few particles of the

Aussie Police 'Thorough' In Crime Detection

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec. 29 (CDN)—Nobility can accuse this city's police of not being thorough when they set out to convict a crook.

They had the goods on Fred Roberts, 35, all right. They also supplied the court with a detailed list of his past and many crimes.

Then came the clincher. Roberts announced the prosecutor, had also been expelled from grammar school for smoking.

says, Nepal Baba, as he now is called, claims he stood up and found himself cured. The saint then is said to have shown the boy what had cured him and the tree from which the medicine was obtained.

Ban Alcoholic Drink

The saint, according to the story, told the lad to administer the herb to the sick and they would be cured. He stipulated that treatment was to be free and the patients must have faith in it, the father said. Distribution of the herb was to be only on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

"Patients" are required to follow a vegetarian diet and not to drink any alcoholic beverages for three weeks. In addition they must perform a special religious rite.

Nepal Baba started his ministrations four months ago. The Orissa state government now is being besieged with pleas to order him to stop.

Hope Revived For UN to OK Peace Patrol

Evacuation Of Korean Port Proves Stimulus

By HAL O' FLAHERTY

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (CDN)—Successful evacuation of North-east Korea today had revived fading hopes that a United Nations security force might be set up for further use.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson, in a speech before the United Nations Central Assembly on Sept. 29, proposed that each member nation designate within its armed forces one unit or units to be specially trained and continuously maintained for prompt service on behalf of the United Nations.

The proposal was promptly accepted by the General Assembly with the result that 23 nations joined the United States in meeting the Korean aggressors. Some, such as Sweden, sent medical units but many that have troops available still are procrastinating.

Strongly Urged

Among the United Nations members who have failed to train units to meet aggression are at least 20 that are capable of organizing a full division or smaller units for that purpose. Several South American nations would contribute forces if pressed.

A suggestion has been made here that in the forthcoming assembly of the Pan-American treaty powers, the need of immediate special training for United Nations service be strongly urged.

Experience in Korea clearly indicates the efficiency of the combined naval task force in the Asiatic theater.

It may inspire the United Nations members who have recoiled from the picture of their military units being thrown into land warfare against superior hordes, now to designate special units for amphibious operations against named aggressors.

United Nations circles are confident the present debate within the United States on aid to Europe with its implications of isolationism will emphasize the need of collective security.

Beyond Korea

Many here also are convinced the support provided the United States in Korea will grow rapidly if there is continued resistance and an opportunity to take part.

Beyond Korea is the vision of many combined task forces placed strategically from the Mediterranean to the China Sea ready at all times for immediate service.

Crews for the ships and amphibious tanks, for the planes and the landing forces should come from all members of the United Nations.

Pressure upon member nations to supply the men to be given the techniques of task force operation, it is believed here, would now bring response where a few months ago so many refused or made specious excuses for not joining the common effort.

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U. S. Emergency Treated Lightly

Europeans 'Picture A 'Bright 1951'

By JOHN BARTH

GENEVA, Switzerland, Dec. 29 (CDN)—If written notes passed around the Geneva cafes are any criterion, Europeans are not taking a serious view of the grim emergency in America.

One typewritten sheet entitled: "Predictions of American Life in 1951" was the "hit" of this week among cafe customers. After reading it, Europe's fantastic idea of rich American living becomes more understandable.

The author is a Don Iddon, called on the sheet "a leading British and European columnist."

Here it is: "Good friends, life in America in 1951 will be dim and blood chilling. There will be only two dozen pairs of nylons per female. Only 2-inch-thick steaks. Only 5 million instead of 8 million new cars. Only enough petrol (gas) to drive 1000 miles per day. Only two television sets and three radios per home. Only 1 billion chocolate-malted ice cream sodas and strawberry sundaes."

N. Y. Shines in Luxury

"About the only luxury that American people have given up is the lavish fashion magazine *Fiari*. New York shines in luxury. Women walk in silks and satins, cushioned against the cold by mink."

There is a new gold cloth here, a 24-carat gold film, which transforms fabrics into shining armor. There are jewels on stockings, rhinestones on nylons and tiny flowers trimming ankles. American girls glitter more brightly than Christmas trees."

The Swiss businessman next to me, who passed on the note, seemed to believe every word of it. But he said: "Of course, sir, we don't believe any of this."

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Aussie MPs Form Bike Club to Reduce 'Paunch'

CANBERRA, Australia, Dec. 29 (CDN)—Already famous as a former world champion cyclist, Hubert Opperman may win new fame for streamlining portly Australian politicians.

Mr. Opperman, elected to parliament last year, has organized fellow MPs into a bicycle-riding club. All hope that pedaling around this federal capital will help reduce their "politician's paunch."

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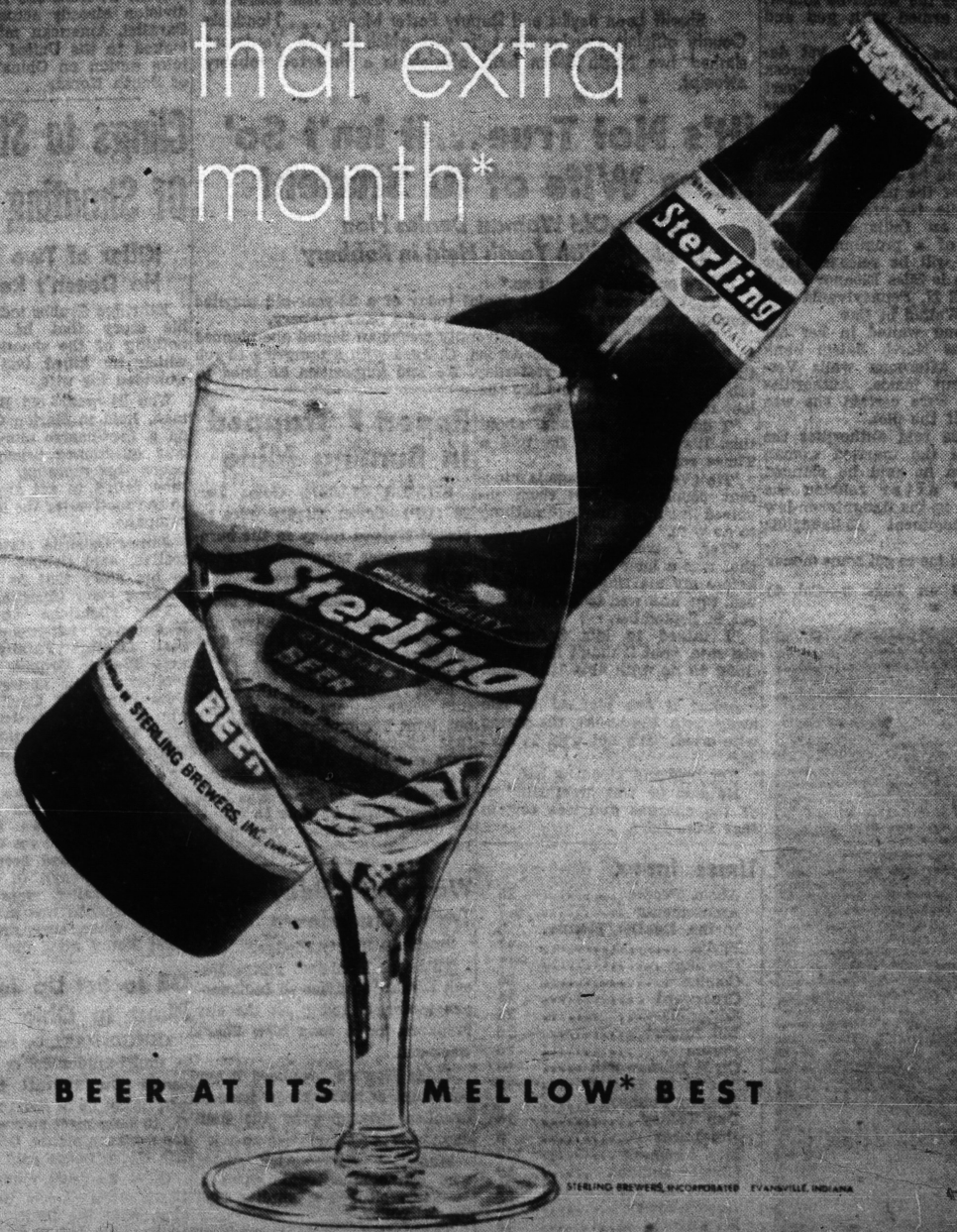
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