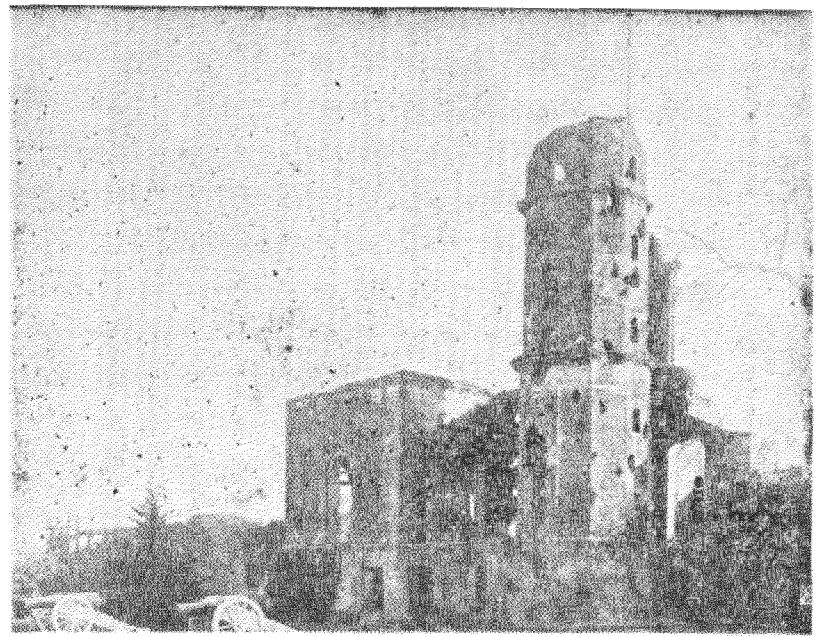


# FREEDOM'S PROGRESS THROUGH THE YEARS



1756 : Clive, acclaimed the founder of the Empire, was also its first administrative reformer. But his scheme of Salt monopoly was not approved by the Directors.

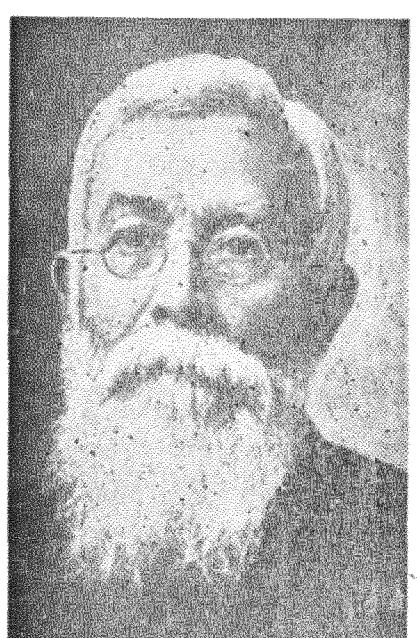
1773 : By a Regulating Act, Parliament hoped to control the Company's administration but during Warren Hastings' term its ineffectiveness was clearly seen.

1830 : India was rapidly changing from muddle-headedness. One of the first Indians to visit England, Raja Ram Mohan Roy championed the cause of the peasants and the freedom of the press besides other social reforms.

1857 : The rapid spread of Western civilisation caused a general ferment in the country which culminated in open revolt by the Army which was led by the Rani of Jhansi and others.

1857 : Delhi, Cawnpore, Gwalior and Lucknow were the storm centres of the Mutiny. Many heroic fights and defences took place. The defence of the Residency at Lucknow was a notable one.

1858 : One direct result of the Mutiny was the assumption of the Government by the Crown and the recognition of Paramountcy by the Indian States.



1876 : The Queen's Proclamation raised many aspirations. When these proved futile they led to agitations. One concerned admission of Indians to the Civil Service. Surendranath Banerjee was the leader.

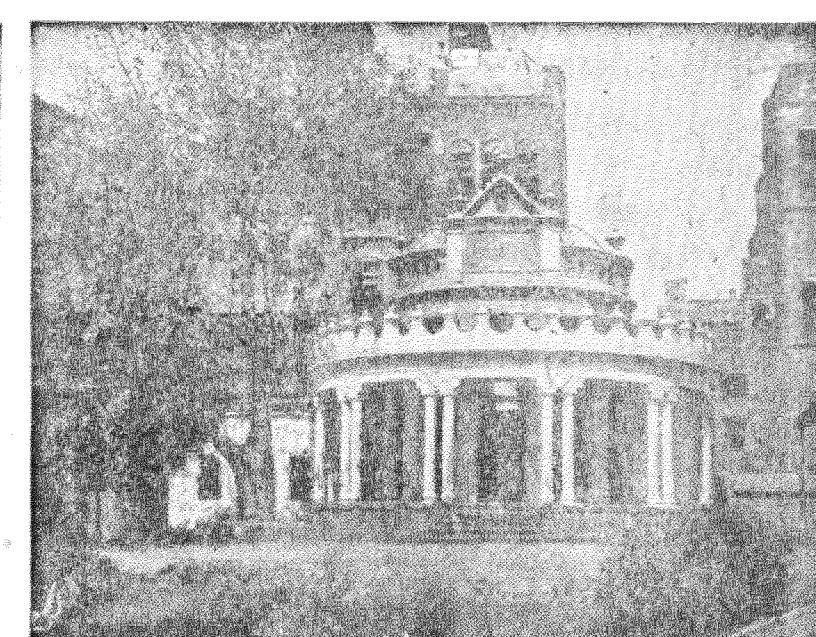
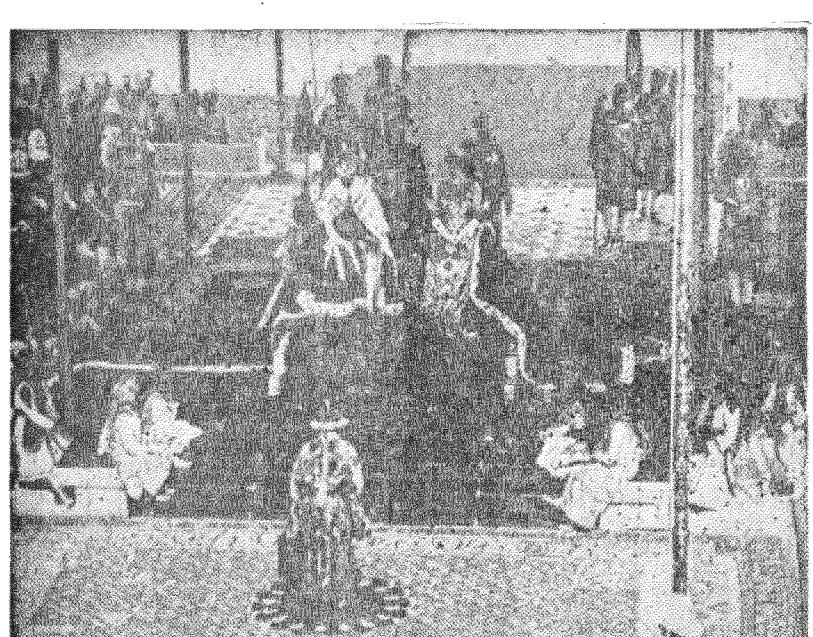
1885 : The political agitations and the economic status of the country led to the National Congress which met for the first time in Bombay under the presidency of W. C. Bonnerjee.

1892 : Charles Bradlaugh who attended the Congress in 1889 drafted a Bill for reform and expansion of Legislative Councils. To counter it the British Government introduced the India Councils Act.

1905 : The reactionary policy of Lord Curzon led to a stiffening in the ranks of the Congress. It also led to the growth of the Swadeshi Movement and the boycott of foreign goods.

1907 : A section of the Congress was not satisfied with passing resolutions only and lost faith in the efficacy of the Congress programme. They were ably led by B. G. Tilak.

1909 : With a view to meet strong nationalist demands the Morley-Minto reforms provided for associating Indians with Government and introduced communal representation.

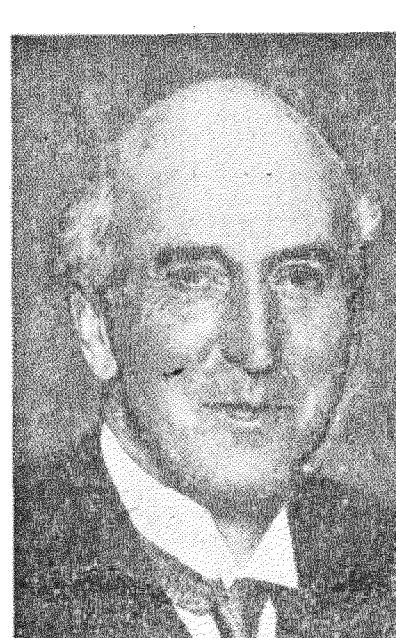
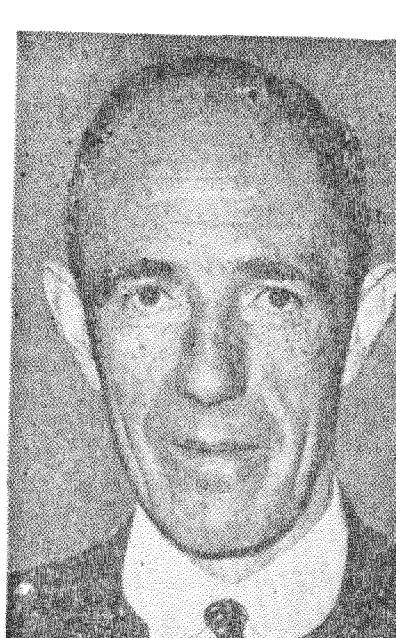
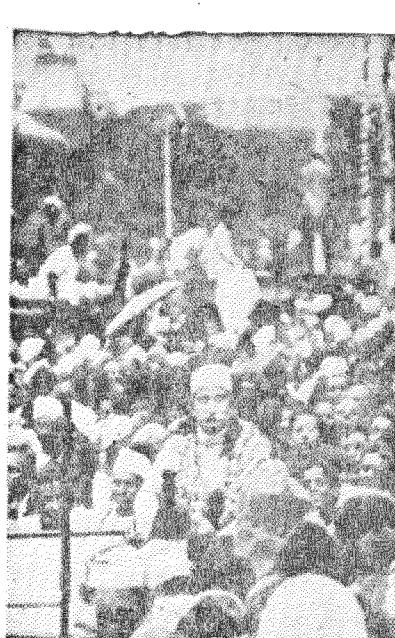


1911 : The Morley-Minto reforms seemed to conciliate moderate nationalists for the time being. The boons announced at the Coronation Durbar at Delhi, tended to pacify the situation.

1916 : The reforms were soon found inadequate and country-wide agitation was carried on under the auspices of the Home Rule League started by Dr. Annie Besant.

1918 : To allay the discontent the Government announced the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform proposals. Direct election on a comparatively wide franchise was introduced.

1919 : The Rowlett Act and the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi led to widespread unrest. At Jallianwala Bagh, fire was opened on a crowd and many hundreds died.



1920 : The National movement gained a new orientation under the leadership of Gandhiji who started the Non-co-operation movement.

1923 : Led by C. R. Das, Motilal Nehru and N. C. Kelkar a group of nationalists organised themselves into the Swaraj Party. They favoured the Irish tactics of "mend or end" the constitution.

1924 : For the first time in February Mr. T. Rangachariar moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly to secure Dominion Status together with Responsible Government in Provinces.

1927 : Indian politics took a serious turn owing to many factors like the Capetown agreement, etc. The Congress which met in Madras under the presidency of Dr. Ansari adopted Independence as the goal.

1929 : Lord Irwin declared the attainment of Dominion Status as the natural issue of constitutional progress. He also announced a Round Table Conference in London.

1930 : As Indian demand for independence became insistent a Commission under Sir John Simon visited India to report on the political progress and the working of the reforms. There was no Indian on the Commission and it was boycotted.



1930 : Scepticism about Britain's intentions became pronounced. Mahatma Gandhi started his great Civil Disobedience movement. The Dandi Salt March was the main feature.

1931 : The Round Table Conference was summoned in London and Mahatma Gandhi who was released from prison attended its second session as the sole representative of the Congress, but had to return without attaining his purpose.

1932 : Mahatma Gandhi was arrested soon after his return from England. Lord Willingdon proscribed the Congress and carried on a repressive policy in putting down political agitation.

1932 : Following the agitation over the "Depressed Classes" Award the Poona Pact was concluded. The integrity of the Hindu community was saved.