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R. T. C. TALKS ON INDIA END Meeting Lasts One Hour Ten Minutes STATEMENT TO BE MADE IN PARLIAMENT

LONDON, December 6.
THE Indian leaders met in conference tonight with the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, and members of the Cabinet Mission at No. 10, Downing Street.
 The conference, which began at 6 p.m. G.M.T. (11.30 p.m. I.S.T.), ended at 7.10 p.m. G.M.T. (12.40 a.m. I.S.T. on Saturday). It lasted exactly an hour and ten minutes.
 The Muslim League leader, Mr. Jinnah, was the first to emerge from the meeting. He told reporters: "If you want a statement, go to Parliament." He was followed almost immediately by Pandit Nehru, who replied to reporters: "What do you expect so quickly?"
 The Viceroy, Lord Wavell, Mr. A. V. Alexander and Sir Stafford Cripps all left the meeting place 20 minutes after the Indian leaders. It was later learned that a statement would be issued "some time tonight."

The conference came as a climax to a day of strenuous activity, aimed at saving the constitutional talks from collapse.
 The impelling factor in the negotiations was the fact that Pandit Nehru has to leave with Sardar Baldev Singh by air tomorrow morning to Delhi in order to be in India for the opening of the Constituent Assembly on Monday.
 Today's sequence of events concerning the Indian constitutional talks was:
 A morning meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, and members of the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy at No. 10, Downing Street.
 An India Office meeting in the morning between the Muslim League President, Mr. Jinnah, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and the members of the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy, and an afternoon meeting between Pandit Nehru and the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy.
 While the development, even at this late hour, said an earlier message, has raised some hope informed sources were against too high a significance being set upon the Round Table Conference, which, it is pointed out, has desperately short time in which to accomplish any vital work.
 At the same time, the general tendency is to hail the development as welcome evidence of the statesmanship being displayed on all hands and of the sincerity of all the parties involved for accommodation in every way possible.
 The Constituent Assembly, while it starts in Delhi next week, in the first instance, will concern itself only with the preliminary business of creating its various instruments, committees, procedure and so forth.

"NO BOYCOTT WILL BE TOLERATED" Government's Assurance To Muslims

An assurance that Government would see to it that no threats of a boycott of Muslim business men were carried out, was given by Mr. I. I. Chundrigar, Commerce Minister in the Interim Government, in Bombay on Friday.
 Government, Mr. Chundrigar disclosed, were considering the question of sending trade delegations with a view to expanding India's export trade. (Details on page 5).

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY All Set For First Meeting

NEW DELHI, Dec. 6.
The inaugural meeting of the Constituent Assembly will begin at 11 a.m. on Monday.
 From 8.30 p.m. the same day, All-India Radio, Delhi, will give a composite sound picture of the proceedings during the day. This document, which will include recordings of eye-witness description of the proceedings, beginning at 11 a.m., leading up to the election of the President and including extracts from the presidential address. It will cover all the highlights and include available vivid sound effects.
 The Constituent Assembly Chamber—originally the library of the Central Legislature—is now ready for the meeting. Members will sit massed in semi-circular rows facing the presidential dais. The desks are placed on sloping green-carpeted terraces. Each desk can be electrically warmed. The Chamber is lighted by a constellation of domed lamps, hanging from the 70-foot ceiling and from brackets on the walls.
 Press representatives and visitors have seats in galleries, some 30 feet above the floor of the Chamber.
 The life-size paintings of past Viceroy have been removed from the frames in which they had formerly been fixed on the panelled walls.

PAPERS MISLAIN
 It is gathered that a number of members of the Assembly have mislaid their identification papers, which they are required to present on the opening day. The Assembly Secretariat has to make an appropriate change in procedure to help them.
 Congress members of and Congress nominees to the Constituent Assembly will meet tomorrow evening at "Constitution House", which is the main residence for members. It is intended to be an informal social gathering, at which members from different provinces will have an opportunity of meeting and making or renewing another's acquaintance. Acharya Kripalani, the Congress President, is likely to give a brief address on the work on which they will enter on Monday.
 The Congress Experts' Committee on the Constituent Assembly adjourned sine die today after four hours' deliberations. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Acharya Kripalani, Sir N. Gopalaswamy Ayyangar, Mr. M. Munshi, Mr. K. Santanam and Mr. Krishna Kripalani attended the meeting.
 With reference to the London report that Sir John Colville would represent Lord Wavell at the opening of the Constituent Assembly, it is learnt from the Constitutional Adviser in Delhi that His Excellency the Viceroy never intended to take any part in the opening of the Assembly.—A.P.I.

Dr. Ambedkar To Attend
POONA, December 6: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar will attend the Constituent Assembly under protest, according to Mr. P. N. Rajbhoj, General Secretary of the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation.
 Mr. Rajbhoj stated that the Federation had already expressed its strong disapproval of the Cabinet Mission's proposals through resolutions and the "satyagrah" movement in different provinces of India, but Dr. Ambedkar had been requested by some leaders to attend the Constituent Assembly "to fight for the rights of the Scheduled Class minority."
 Dr. Ambedkar is expected to fly to New Delhi on Sunday, December 8.—A.P.I.

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PERSIAN CABINET RESIGNATIONS

Ministers To Stand For Elections

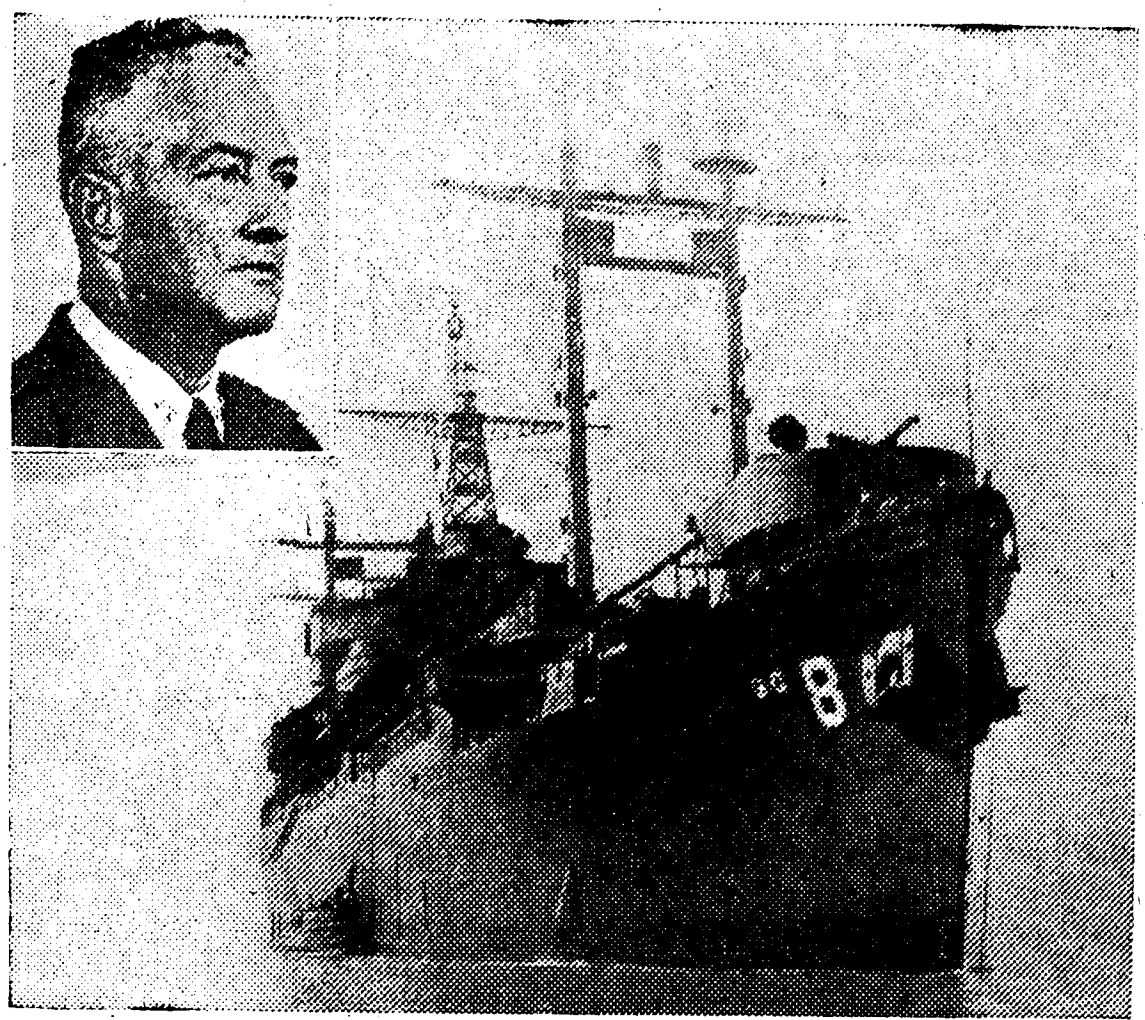
TEHERAN, December 6.
 Three members of M. Ghassem-Sultaneh's Cabinet have resigned, according to reports in reliable quarters today.
 They are M. Mohamed Vali Farman Farmaian, Minister of Propaganda, M. Mussavi Zadeh, Minister of Justice, and M. Ezzaz Nipkey, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs. Two Under-Secretaries are also reported to have resigned.
 The resignations were in accordance with the Persian constitution, which does not permit members of the Government to take an active part in elections or to stand as candidates.
 In some quarters it was believed that the five members who have resigned will be candidates of M. Ghassem's new Democrat Party at tomorrow's elections.—Reuter.

Tabriz Report Denied

TEHERAN, December 5: A Persian military spokesman tonight denied Tabriz Radio reports that the Central Government troops had crossed the Azerbaijan border and that fighting had broken out.
 He said that Government forces were still on the Azerbaijan border "in excellent discipline" and with modern weapons and would not fight without orders which so far had not been given.
 He added, however, that according to reports just received there was a 10-minute clash yesterday when Zolfagharin tribesmen, "known as loyal to the Central Government," attacked Azerbaijan nationalist troops near the border of Azerbaijan and Khamsin provinces.
 Jafar Pishavari, the Azerbaijan Premier, tonight said over Radio Tabriz: "The Persian army has again launched an attack on an unprecedented scale with tanks and grenades in the locality of Tazekha. We repelled the attack and there were heavy casualties on both sides."—Reuter.

Moscow: Latest developments in the tense Iranian situation received considerable attention in Moscow newspapers today. A long dispatch from Tabriz quoted a statement from the President of the Azerbaijan Provincial Council warning the Iranian Premier that "dispatch of troops to Azerbaijan means a declaration of war on the democratic movement."—A. P. A.

U. S. ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION



The MOUNT OLYMPUS, the flag ship of the U. S. Expedition to the Antarctic, which sailed on December 2, under the command of the veteran polar explorer, Rear Admiral Byrd (inset).

NO SUBSIDY FOR MILLETS

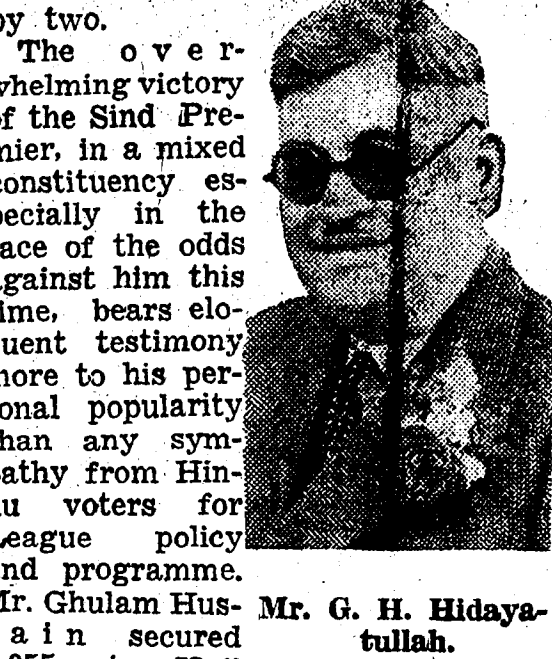
Decision Of Bombay Government

POONA, December 6.
 The payment of subsidy by the Bombay Government towards the prices of millets has stopped with effect from December 1.
 Revealing this at a press conference, Mr. V. T. Dehejia, the Collector of Poona, stated that the prices of millets were being revised and economic rates would come into force soon.
 A supply officer said that the prices of jowar, bajra, maize and barley were likely to go up as a result of the Government's decision.
 Inquiries show that in the Poona district alone the Government had to pay a sum of Rs. 21,68,000 on subsidy over the consumption of 1,500,000 to 1,600,000 maunds of millets during the five months from May to October, 1946. In November the Government suffered a further loss of Rs. 2,00,000.—A.P.I.

SIND PREMIER RETURNED

Two Congress Hindus Defeated

From Our Own Correspondent KARACHI, December 6.
 The Sind Premier, Mr. Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, was elected today to the Sind Assembly from the Landholders' constituency.
 The other seat for the constituency, hitherto held by a Hindu, was secured by Haji Maula Baksh Somro, (Nationalist Muslim), defeating Mukhi Gobindram.
 The Congress lost yet another supporter in the legislature by the election today of Kazi Mujtaba (Muslim League and Communist nominee) defeating Mr. Naraindas Bechar.
 Both these elections were fought bitterly and the League has secured one additional member for its Assembly Party while the Congress Hindu strength has been reduced by two.
 The overwhelming victory of the Sind Premier, in a mixed constituency especially in the face of the odds against him this time, bears eloquent testimony more to his personal popularity than any sympathy from Hindu voters for League policy and programme.
 Mr. Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah secured 2,055 votes, Haji Maula Baksh 1,647 and Mukhi Gobindram 1,502.



Mr. G. H. Hidayatullah.

LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION

Leaguers demonstrated in front of the Revenue Commissioner's office, where votes were counted, urging Haji Maula Baksh to join the Muslim League, but the latter left the premises under police escort.
 Mr. Naraindas Bechar lost his seat because of his divided loyalty to the Congress and Labour. It was a neck-to-neck fight as Kazi Mujtaba won by a margin of 600 votes, each scoring over 3,000.
 The following were the results:—Kazi Mohamad Mujtaba 3,670; Mr. Naraindas Bechar 3,070; Votes invalidated 300.
 These first results enhance the League's chances of forming a more stable Ministry than in the past.
 The general elections for the territorial constituencies in Sind will begin on Monday.
 In the Landholders' constituency (the A.P.I. adds) there was a triangular fight and the Congress had set up a candidate to defeat the League nominee, Mr. Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, the Premier, but the Hindu zamindars in Lower Sind appear to have voted solidly for the Premier.
 The party election programme is scheduled to be completed on December 19 and a new Ministry is expected to be formed before Christmas.
 The party position at present stands as follows: Congress 13; Muslim League 6; Europeans 3; Nationalist Muslim 1.
 Mr. Arthur Henderson, Under-Secretary for India, explained that since the allowance were originally fixed in 1936 the Governor of Sind had had to move his quarters from his bungalow to the official Government House that was completed in 1942.
 Another factor was the Governor's Military Secretary. Amounts had been very carefully scrutinised by the Viceroy who advised that he was satisfied that they were necessary.—Reuter.

SIND GOVERNOR'S ALLOWANCES Increase Sanctioned

LONDON, December 6: The House of Commons today approved the India (Governors' Allowances and Privileges) Order whose object is to increase certain allowances to the Governor of Sind.
 Mr. Arthur Henderson, Under-Secretary for India, explained that since the allowance were originally fixed in 1936 the Governor of Sind had had to move his quarters from his bungalow to the official Government House that was completed in 1942.
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Britain Cuts Many Passenger Train Services

BREAD & BACON RATIONS MAY BE REDUCED: U. S. STRIKE SEQUEL

LONDON, December 6.
LESS than two days after the Government had announced compulsory five per cent. fuel consumption cuts for all industrial plants to conserve coal and power, British railways were today ordered to withdraw a number of passenger trains on local and main line services.
 The aim is to free locomotives for the movement of coal and other vital freight.
 The cuts take effect from Monday next and many of the trains withdrawn had been just restored after the war emergency.
 While the Government were announcing this latest back to "austerity" move, London evening newspapers printed photographs showing long lines of railway engines "parked" in sidings at the Ministry of Supply depot in Kent.
 Engines built for the War Department were said to be slowly rusting away. The official explanation is that the locomotives are awaiting "disposal".
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India's Ambassador In U. S.

MR. ASAF ALI APPOINTED

NEW DELHI, December 6.
"His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Asaf Ali as His Majesty's Ambassador for India in the United States of America," says a communique.
 Mr. Asaf Ali is the first outstanding Ambassadorial appointment to be made by the Interim Government. Two remaining embassies to which the Interim Government are understood to attach equal importance are one at Moscow and the other at Chungking. These appointments are expected to be made as soon as possible.
 It is likely that Mr. Asaf Ali will leave for America early in January. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Indian Charge d'Affaires in Washington, is expected to be in India before Mr. Asaf Ali leaves.
 Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for Railways in the Interim Government, has been actively associated with the Indian National Congress for over a quarter of a century and has been jailed several times in connection with the various campaigns launched by the Congress.
 He was a member of the Congress Working Committee, until recently and was Secretary of the Congress P & Rliamentary Board and also of the Mr. Asaf Ali Congress Assembly Party.
 Political circles consider that Mr. Asaf Ali's place in the Government may be taken by Maulana Azad, Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan or Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.—A.P.I.



Mr. Asaf Ali.

Another Gold Bar Found

The Port Trust dredger, "Chelura", dug up another gold bar from the Victoria Dock basin, Bombay, on Friday. This brings the number of gold bars so far recovered to 10. The bars, numbering 14, were lost in the explosions at the docks in 1944.

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