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Sunday December 15 Last quarter

### WEATHER IN SOUTH INDIA

MADRAS, Dec. 10.

Daily weather report for Madras Presi-Daily weather report for Madras Presidency and Mysore:
The depression in the Bay has moved away north-westwards, Rainfall has been widespread in Rayalaseema, Mysore, South Kanara and Kerala, Showers have also occurred at a number of places in Tamilined and at a few stations in South Andhradesa, The chief amounts are: Mangalore 1.5 inches, Anantapur and Calicut 0.7 inch each and Cuddalore 0.5 inch. Day temperatures were generally below normal while night temperatures were appeciably above normal.

night temperatures were appeciably above normal.

Forecast valid until the evening of December 11: Fairly widespread thundershowers in South Kanara, Kerala, Coorg. Mysore and Rayalaseems and showers in a number of stations in Tamilnad and at few places elsewhere in the region.

Local forecast: Occasional showers.

Weather news for farmers: Light to moderate showers in South Kanara, Coorg. Trichinopoly, Chingleput, Chittoor, North Arcot, South Arcot, Anantapur, Malabar Cochin, Travancore, Cuddapah, Guntur, Kistna, Coimbatore, Salem, Madura, Bellary, Kurnool and Nilgiris districts and in Mysore State Outlook for next three days: Showers will decrease along the West Coast, Mysore and Rayalaseema after one day.

METTUR WATER LEVEL Reservoir full on Dec. 8, 1945.



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11, 1946.

VERDICT AGAINST SMUTS Sunday was a great day for India in the United Nations Assembly as it was, a day of discomfiture for General Smuts. The great majority with which the Assembly carried the French-Mexican resolution on the Indian dispute with South Africa must have been a surprise as much to the Indian delegation, which had so gallantly fought for the Indian cause, as to General Smuts and his powerful supporters, Britain and the United States. India had an uphill task from the outset. General Smuts first sought to get the issue deleted from the agenda; when that failed, he tried to get it shelved by reference to a committee of jurists; he failed again, when the Legal and Political Committee passed the French-Mexican resolution, which India accepted as a compromise and as commanding the largest measure of support among the members. When the resolution came up on Sunday before the plenary session, General Smuts made a last desperate attempt to get the "legal aspects of the case" referred to the International Court of Justice. His sole anxiety was to prevent the Assembly from expressing an opinion on the massive indictment made by Tadio As the South African and Provincial Governments.—U.P.I. India. As the South African amendment was backed by the United States, which took a purely technical and legalistic stand, and Britain and the Dominions, it seemed doubtful till the very end whether India would muster the necessary two-thirds majority to get the resolution passed. The United Nations Assembly vindicated itself and the cause of India by rising above affiliations of various kinds and declaring in such decisive terms its condemnation of the policy pursued by South Africa. India is profoundly thankful to the Soviet Union, China and France, who lent their support to her at every stage, as well as to all the other nations who rallied to her side in the final voting. Some thanks are also due to the States who abstained, inasmuch as if two or three of them had voted against the resolution, it would have been technically lost although as many as thirty-two nations had voted for it. Against this must be set the lamentable role of the British delegation, whose spokesman, Sir Hartley Shawcross, thought fit to indulge in a cheap and irrelevant gibe at the communal strife in India in the course of an entirely specious argument in defence of the South African amendment. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit gave a fitting answer to him. The least the British could have done in a dispute between two nations of the British Commonwealth was to have remained neutral, but their open partisanship in favour of South Africa shows that British Labour has still not shed the legacy of the past.

dissolution of the Assembly in July last by the Governor of Sind.

Reports from the districts state that very keen election fights were seen in constituency has let a very keen election fights were seen in constituency hustim June and the strip that the pagits were seen in constituency hustim July last by the Governor of Sind.

Reports from the districts state that very keen election fights were seen in constituency hustim June League Party have been concisted upon and the progressive Muslim League Party have been concentrated against Mr. G. M. Syed, leader of the Muslim League Party have been concentrated against Mr. G. M. Syed, leader of the Coalition Party in the last Sind Assembly will meet by the Governor of South Africa hustim League Party have been concentrated against Mr. G. M. Syed, leader of the Coalition Party in the last Sind Assembly well and Assembly will meet by the Governor of Sind.

Reports from the district state that very keen clear in the district state that very keen clear in constituency aparty have been concentrated against Muslim League for the Coalition Party have been concentrated against Muslim League for the Coalition Party have been concentrated against Muslim League for the Labour constituency has already re to the States who abstained, inas-

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER basis and the denial of fundamental human rights, is a matter of vital concern to it. South Africa is now given an opportunity, in consultation with the Government of India and the Indian community in the Union, to revise its policy so that it may be in accord with the repeated pledges given in the past by principle of racial equality proclaimed in the United Nations Charter. The first step towards implemenobnoxious Asiatic Land Tenure Act, but I hope a statement will be made towhich would enable India to with- morrow. and to resume normal diplomatic date? relations. We cannot believe Geneknow General Smuis has to deal which I have not in my possession.

which I have not in my possession.

Major Woodrow Wyatt (Labour): Why But he cannot miss the significance opportunity for this House to of the General Assembly's vote on India fully for a long time indeed? the Indian issue or of the Trusteeship Committee's rejection of the South African demand for annexation of South-West Africa and its approval of the Indian resolution proposing that this mandated territory about the Indian resolution to greatly the sound that the statement is made, but I understand that Major Wyatt is a keen advocate of India taking care of its own affairs. I do not want to prejudice the issue at all. I do not have the statement before me and it would be premature for me to decide even in my own mind whether the debate would be appropriate should be brought under or not.

Whether the description of the side have made to

United Nations Trusteeship. The Trusteeship Committee's reversal of mind that we on this side have made no an earlier decision of the Sub-Committee, which left the annexation us as suitable. question to be settled in the future, seems to have been largely prompted by the strong feeling in the Committee against South Africa's racial policy. The Union whites must realise that the days of white domination are passing and that progressive opinion the world over wishes to see an end of those ideas of racial and national superiority which have led to international conflicts. If South Africa desires to live on friendly and honourable terms with the rest of the world, she must learn to treat the Indians and other coloured people in the Union in a manner radically different from the past. That is the warning implicit in the resolution passed by the General Assembly.

TORY ATTITUDE

TORY ATTITUDE

Tolky ATTITUDE

Political circles in London are awalting with some anxiety news from India of Congress and Muslim reaction to the statement at the conclusion of last week's talks with Indian leaders.

In London, uncertainty is the keynote of the situation. The Prime Minister, Mt. Clement Attlee, will probably make a statement on the negotiations in the House of Commons to-morrow. It is understood that the statement will be short and will consist largely of the history of the negotiations and a reiteration of the British Government's statement has been received in India, Moreover, Conservatives will wish to hear the Prime Minister's statement and consider it before deciding to ask for a debate. In the meantime official Conservative circles refuse to comment. Unofficial Conservative sources are not displeased with the final paragraph of the British Government's statement, which they consider ensures that the British Government's statement will wish to hear the Prime Minister's statement refuses to be committed to enforce on the Muslim minority a constitution framed by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Winston Churchilli, in light of reactions from India, Conservatives are not likely to press for a debate at the present monnent might lead the speakers on either side to say things which would not help the already strained. seems to have been largely promp-

#### DECISION TO BE TAKEN THIS MONTH

NEW DELHI, Dec. 9. It is reliably understood that the abolition of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service will be announced before the end of this month. It is further understood that the Se-cretary of State for India has already answered the Interim Government's reference to him regarding the early termination of these Services and has forwarded a scheme of proportionate pension and compensation which will cost the Indian Exchequer some twelve

#### KNIGHTHOOD GIVEN UP SHAFAAT AHMED KHAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW DELHI, Dec. 10.
Dr. Shafaat Ahmed Khan has authorised the A. P. I. to announce that in view of the changed feelings on the subject of titles in India, he has given up the title of Knighthood which was conferred on him in 1925 and the title of knighthood which was a large of knigh ferred on him in 1935 and that he has communicated this decision to the proper authorities.

Henceforth he should like to be addressed as Dr. Shafaat Ahmed Khan.

## SIND GENERAL ELECTIONS

KARACHI, Dec. 9. The general elections to the Sind Le gislative Assembly were held to-day throughout the Province following the dissolution of the Assembly in July last

#### INDIA POLICY PREMIER TO MAKE STATEMENT

#### COMMONS DEBATE DOUBTFUL

LONDON, Dec. 9. A British Government statement on the Union Government and the great India may be made to the House of Commons to-morrow, but whether there will be a debate this week is doubtful. Asked in the House of Commons toter. The first step towards implementing the United Nations resolution is for South Africa to abrogate the Shorving Asiatia Land Tenure Act

draw the economic embargo she has Does Government contemplate having a Reginald Sorensen (Labour): imposed on trade with the Union debate on the statement at an early

Mr. Morrison: I cannot tell: It depends on the nature of the statement. ral Smuts, whatever his personal re-actions to the United Nations deci-sion, can think of flouting it. We

with a white population which is not allow Friday to be used for the denotoriously reactionary and among bate on the statement, because very whom colour prejudice is strong. grave events are taking place in India

whether the debate would be appropriate

#### TORY ATTITUDE

The Government view is that a statement or a debate at the present moment might lead the speakers on either side to say things which would not help the already strained atmosphere. Broadly speaking, the Government's view is that the next move lies with the Congress. Authoritative circles expressed the hope that the Congress in the Constituent Assembly will adopt a moderate and reasonable attitude and give a careful consideration to Muslim claims. It is officially stated that both Pandit Nehru and Mr. M. A. Jinnah were aware of the contents of the British Government's statement before it was issued, thus disposing of reports that Pandit Nehru was unaware of the nature of the Statement before he left London. No official meeting has been arranged between representatives of the arranged between representatives of t British Government and Mr. Jinnah

### CABINET SUPPORT TO LEAGUE

#### IRISH PAPER RECALLS BRITISH "BETRAYAL"

DUBLIN Dec o

Referring to Mr. Attlee's statement on Saturday the paper says: "It was a statement that sounded ominously to Irish ears, Reading it, years fell away because it was a period in which the great boundary betrayal was accomplished. According to the statement the British proposals for India are not now to be interpreted in the way the Congress Party understood but in a quite different way and in a way favourable to the Muslims. We do not propose to argue the point but recall our own experience which may be of benefit to

The paper says that the national territorial unity provisions of the Irish Treaty were given two meanings in the British Government-Irish negotiations. Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Collins (two prominent Irish leaders of that time) being told one thing, whilst Mr. Lloyd George announced another interpretation of the partition clause and adds the Treaty was used to destroy the unity of Ireland and "the people were left powerless to prevent the most callous betrayai of history."

The paper adds: "All who witnessed that piece of trickery will sympathise with Indians who now find at the eleventh hour—and it happens by a strange coincidence on the very date Ireland was betrayed—that what they accepted also had two meanings and that the meaning favouring the minority is that which the British Cabinet Ministers now pronounce to be the only valid one."

### "SCOTSMAN'S" CRITICISM

defence of the South African amendment. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit gave a fitting answer to him. The least the British could have done in a dispute between two nations of the British Commonwealth was to have remained neutral, but their open partisanship in favour of South Africa shows that British Labour has still not shed the legacy of the past.

After the clear verdict of the General Assembly, it remains to be seen whether General Smuts will revise the policy which, as Mrs. Pandit put it, has now been condemned by "the conscience of mankind." The resolution has declared that the "treatment of Indians in the Union should be in conformity with thin ternational obligations under the agreements concluded between the two countries and the relevant to report to the next session of the Assembly the efforts made to settle Assembly the efforts made to settle the dispute. The Assembly has thus recognised that the issue raised by Indian, viz., the treatment of Indians in South Africa on a discriminatory.

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In Mrs. Jinnah and Mr. Liangt Ali Kannot of the Mrs. Jinnah has been discussing with the constituent makers questions of recreating the formation of the U.K. branch of the Assembly to refer the matter to the Federal Court even if that Court to be seeded when he professed to received private callers at their Court sould agree with the Capital Ali Kannot of the Court sould reverse the constitution making to proceed, though the constitution making to proceed, though the constitution making to

# CONSTITUENT **ASSEMBLY**

#### CHOICE OF PERMANENT **CHAIRMAN**

#### RAJEN BABU ONLY NOMINEE

#### DISCUSSION ON **PROCEDURE**

Acharya Kripalani formally moved the resolution and Pandit Nehru seconded Two verbal amendments were suggested by Mr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh. Mr. K. Santanam invited the Chair to interpret what would be the effect of

he amendments.

Dr. Sinha: I am not here to interpret interpretation is a most dangerous thing

After a brief debate in which Mr Ananthasayanam Iyengar and Mr. C Rajagopalachari took part, the resolution

Rajagopalachari took part, the resolution was passed in its original form with the addition of a clause to enable any nominee to withdraw, if he liked.

At 2-30 p.m., the time-fixed for receipt of nominations for the permanent Chairmanship of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the only name received. His unanimous election will be announced by the tempotion will be announced by the tempo rary Chairman at to-morrow's session of

the Constituent Assembly.
Dr. Rajendra Prasad's name has been suggested in two sets of nomination papers. In the one, Acharya Kripalani is the proposer and Sardar Patel seconder In the other, Mr. Harekrishha Mentab is the proposer and Mr. Nand Kishore Das is the seconder.

#### RESOLUTION ON RULES COMMITTEE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 10. In the second day's sitting of the Constituent Assembly, a full and animated debate arose regarding the framing o rules of procedure and the setting up of a committee of fifteen on rules of procedure and other matters.

An amendment to the effect that the Committee should be empowered to frame rules not only for the Assembly but for the Sections was moved by Dr. Suresh Chandra Bannerjee and was

the resolution, with the amendment was passed with only Dr. Ambedkar voting against,

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Babu Purshettamdas Tandon, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Mr. B. G. Kher and Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram supported Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjij's amend-ment which sought to make it clear that proposed Committee should have power to make rules of procedure not only for the full Assembly but for the Sections and Committees.

Acharya Kripalani, moving the resolution, pointed out that in the form is which it was circulated it provided that the Committee should report on "rules of procedure of the Assembly, Sections and Committees." He decided to drop the words "Sections and Committees", because Sections and Committees were a part of the Assembly and the addition of those words was therefore superfluous. Dr. Suresh Chandra Bannerjee: Is it the intention of the mover that the rules should also apply to Sections? In my opinion, Sections should be specifically mentioned here, because you know there are difficulties with particular Sections.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mockherjee, sup porting Dr. Bannerjee, said it would b safer to specify clearly that the rules of procedure of the Assembly should ply to Sections and Committees.
Mr. Kripalani: I think the rules of

procedure of the Assembly include rules of procedure of the Sections and Committees.

Dr. Mookheriee said that the resolu-The Irish Press of Dublin, regarded as an organ of Prime Minister De Valera's party, in an editorial to-day contrasts the partition of Ireland with the latest developments in India.

Dr. Mookherjee said that the resolution as it stood left it in doubt whether, when the Sections met, they would frame their own rules of procedure. The developments in India.

Constituent Assembly had authority to constituent Assembly had authority to frame rules of procedure for the Sections at all. It would then be a question of interpretation whether the Rules Committee was entitled to frame rules for the Sections. As it was the intention that this Committee would frame or the Sections, he said that they should make that clear now, so that there might be no ambiguity when Sec-

tions were formed. Mr. K. M. Munshi said it would be extremely unwise to omit reference to Sections and Committees. That would how that this Assembly was not self-governing and self-determining body that we insisted it was. Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose said that far

from introducing any conflict, the am-endment would resolve many a conflict Mr. B. G. Kher said that after the debate on the point, it would be impo-

itic to omit references to Sections and committees. Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram said it would be dangerous to leave anything to fu-

ture interpretation.
Sardar Harnam Singh supported the amendment, which was eventually ac-cepted by the House.

Dr. Jayakar supported by Mr. Prater attered a warning against any action which might look like taking anything out of the hands of those "absent

out of the hands of those "absent friends" who might later decide to join the Assembly or the Sections. Dr. M. R. Jayakar said that rules for the Assembly included rules for the Sections as well and he suggested it was not necessary or desirable to mention expressly what was included in the word "Assembly" He urged the House to remember the "absent friends" who might join the Assembly and the Sections at a later stage. We should do no-thing to suggest that we were taking

things out of their hands.
The House adjourned till to-morrow

#### FIRST DAY'S SESSION MR. KRIPALANI'S TRIBUTE TO DR. SINHA

At the opening meeting yesterday, proposing Dr. Sinha to the chair. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President. made a brief speech in Hindustani. He said that on this historic and auspiciou occasion none was better fitted for the position than Dr. Sinha, who was not only great in age, but great in the political life of the country. Dr. Sinha had been from 1910 onwards intimately associated with political and educational affairs, first as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council, then of the Central Legislature and as Vice-Chan-cellor of the Patna University and in other ways. Above all, Dr. Sinha was an old Congressman. He had been in the Congressman. Acharya Kripalani walked up to the

dais and conducted Dr. Sinha to the presidential chair. The gathering rose as Dr. Sinha took the chair.

Among those who watched the pro-Party in the Constituent Assembly and Gwali.

#### "NO SATELLITE OF ANY POWER"

#### MRS. PANDIT ON INDIA'S ROLE IN U.N.

PRAISE FOR SOVIET ATTITUDE

LAKE SUCCESS, Dec. 9.

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, in an in-terview, with the United Press of America, to-day praised the Soviet Union for its "more liberal approach" to most problems, but correct-what she said were erroneous NEW DELHI, Dec. 10.

The Constituent Assembly spent the first half hour of its sitting on the second first half hour of a lengthy resolution said. "This is not correct. We have actional in an independent position and have actions of the said." first half hour of its sitting on the second day to discussion of a lengthy resolution prescribing procedure for the election of prescribing procedure for the election of correct. We have ed in an independent position and have sided with those countries which were sided with those countries which were nearest to our point of view on various subjects. The Soviets' approach to most problems has been somewhat more liberal than that of Britain and the United

Mrs. Pandit feared, however, that all the Big Powers were still retarded in reaching full co-operation by suspiction of each other's motives. She said: "Power policy still influences the approach of these Powers to such major issues as disarmament."

ment."

Mrs Pandit declared that most United Nations delegations had recognized the change which had occurred in India since last year and the fact that "We are not now being guided by Whitehall", but added that Americans themselves seemed yet to have little understanding of this. She hastened to add, however, that "We do not want to be ungrateful to the United Nations. We were gratified to find that the Indian delegation received its due respect.

... In many Committee meetings we tried to guide the discussion and our lead has been accepted more than once." Returning to the theme of Soviet-Indian relationship which impressed most delegations by the similarity of their stand on major issues. Mrs. Pandit said: "India has no intention to become the satellite of any power, no matter how powerful. We desire the frieadship of all nations of the world."

Mrs. Pandit and other Indian delegates believed that Britain had lost a great deal of Indian triendship during the current Assembly session. She said that the British started out with "velvet glove methods but their veiled attacks on our weak spots have been "ANDIE I E A VIPS" Mrs Pandit declared that most United

#### MRS. PANDIT LEAVES FOR INDIA

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Leader of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations, left New York this morning by air for London, wherefrom she will leave almost immediately for New Delhi, which she expects to reach on December 13. She will attend the Constituent Assembly and then resume her duties as a Minister in the United Provinces.—U.P.A

#### ELECTIONS TO FRENCH UPPER HOUSE

#### M. R. P. LEAD COMMUNISTS

PARIS, Dec. 8.
Latest Ministry of Interior figures for election to 214 seats in the French Up-per House, including 14 North African seats are: Popular Republicans (M.R.P.) 62, Communists 61, Socialists 37, Radicals 25. Independent Republicans 12, Right Wing Party of Liberty, 8, other French Metropolitan parties 2, Algerian Manifest Party 4 and Franco-Mussalmans Party 3. To-day's results reverse the position

existing in the National Assembly or Lower House, where the Communists ousted Popular Republicans from the first place at the October elections and claimed Premiership.-Reuter.

### H. E. THE GOVERNOR

MADRAS, Dec. 10. H. E. the Governor is paying a visit to H. E. the Governor is paying a visit to Vizagapatam on Friday.

His Excellency will leave St. Thomas Mount Aerodrome by air at 1-39 p.m. on Friday (December 13) and reach Vizagapatam Aerodrome at 4-30 p.m. He will leave the Vizagapatam Aerodrome on the return trip on Saturday (December 14) at 1-30 p.m. and arrive at the St. Thomas Mount Aerodrome at 4-30 p.m.

tinguished Visitor's galleries were Mr. Terence Shone, British High Commissioner in India, Mr. George Merrell American Charge D'Affaires, Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, and a number of Indian States Ministers.

Special police arrangements were made to prevent unauthorisari persons from gathering near the Council hall.

After the signing of the members, the Constituent Assembly adjourned till 11 a.m. to-morrow.

# PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

The signing of members which lasted about an hour and a half, provided an interval of informality friendly banter and cheering. The Provisional President, Dr Sinna, prefaced this part of the proceedings with the observation that in order to save time he had decided to cut out the formality of members shaking hands with the Chairman.

"We tested the matter yesterday." Dr. Sinha said, "and found it took about a minute and a half, if not two minutes, if each member after signing his name ascended the platform by the circuitous route, shook hands and descended to go back to his seat. So, I think that that formality may be dispensed with."

The first member to present his credentials and sign the register was Mr. C. Rajagopalacham, He was followed by Dr Patiabni Sitaramayya, Mr. Prakasam Sir N. Gopalaswami lyengar and others.

Mr. Rajagopalachari was cheered as he walked up to the table in front of the Presidential platform, presented his authorisation paper to one of the Secretaries, signed his name in the register and went back to his seat.

All leaders received cheers, the loudest of which greeted Maulana Azad and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan as they were called one after the other.

Lighter moments came when Mr N V

Abdul Ghaffar Khan as they were called one after the other.

Lighter moments came when Mr N V. Gadgil, Secretary and Mr. Satyacarain Sinha, Chief Whip of the Congress Party in the Central Assembly, absent-mindediy left their papers on their desk, went to the table and hurried back to their desk to get them.

to get them.

The Chairman desired to make an exception in the case of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and in a mock serious tone of authority the desired to the desire

called upon her to come up to the dais and shake hands with him. Quietly, ignorand snake hands with film. Quietly, ignoring the request, she proceeded to sign the register waved defiantly to the Chair and went back to her seat amid loud laughter.

Mr Das from Assam, suffering from the effect of an accident, signed from his seat, where the register was brought.

#### CONGRESS MEMBERS' DECISION

NEW DELHI, Dec. 9. At a meeting of the Congress Party members and other Congress nominees in the Assembly held to-day it was decided to set up a Committee of 30 members to advise Congress members in the Assembly on the many issues that will come up for discussion. The Committee includes, besides all the members of the Congress Working Committee, Dr. M. R. Jayakar, Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar, Mr. Frank Anthony, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Mr. Jagii Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. the path of independence. His formal membership of the Congress ceased thereafter, but in his heart he remained Dr. Frofulla Chandra Ghosh, Dr. Goodchand Bhargava and Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram. Mr. Satyanarain Sinha, Chief Whip of

#### MAINTENANCE OF ORDER

#### PROVINCIAL GOVTS. RESPONSIBLE

#### MR. HENDERSON'S REPLY IN THE COMMONS

LONDON, Dec. 9 Mr. Arthur Henderson, Under-Sccretary of State for India, stated in the House of Commons to-day in reply to Mr. Godfrey Nicholson (Conservative) that it was the responsibility of the Provincial Governments to maintain law and order in India.

and order in India.

Mr. Nicholson had asked when the Commission set up by the Bengal Gov-ernment in September last to inquire into the riots in Calcutta in August last was expected to report; whether this Commission or any other had also inquired into the disturbances in Eastern Bengal in October; and whether the Government of Bihar had set up a Commission to inquire into the disturbances of October and

November in that Province,
Mr. Henderson replied: "I am informed that the Commission of Inquiry into the Calcutta disturbances is not yet to forecast when its report will be ready. Its work is proceeding as expeditiously as possible, but there is still a large number of witnesses to be examined. The Commission's terms of re ference cover the disturbances in cutta between August 16 and 20 only. I am informed that the Government of Bengal do not intend that this or any other Commission should investigate the disturbances in Eastern Bengal. As the House was informed on however, two senior judicial officers of the Indian Civil Service were deputed by the Governor of Bengal to visit the areas affected and report on what had

#### "NO ENQUIRY INTO BIHAR INCIDENTS" "I am informed that the Government of

Bihar do not contemplate setting up a Commission of Inquiry into the recent disturbances in that province," Mr. Henderson

Mr. Nicholson asked: Is Mr. Henderson aware that his reply will cause some anxiety in this country because we in this House bear the final responsibility for law and order in terms of the India Act?

Mr. Henderson: This House of Parliament has conferred the authority for law and order under the said Act on the Provincial Governments and it is not possible for His Majesty's Government to withdraw the powers that Parliament has conferred upon a Provincial Government.

Mr. Nicholson: There are special responsibilities attached to the Government.

Mr. Henderson: There may be special responsibilities in respect of the situation I described in a former reply where the security of the country is gravely menaced, but over all questions involved under the label of law and order, it is the responsibility of the Provincial Governments.

Mr. Nicholson: Does he not consider that the state of law and order in these provinces was very gravely affected indeed by the large number of the King-Emperor's subjects that were massacred?

Replying to a further question, Mr. Henderson said: "I rided in make it clear Mr. Nicholson asked: Is Mr. Hendersor

subjects that were massacred?
Replying to a further question, Mr. Henderson said: "I tried to make it clear that it is the responsibility of a Provincial Government to maintain law and order. When conditions arise which infringe upon law and order, it is the responsibility of a Provincial Government to order, if they so desire, an investigation into the situation and that is exactly what they have done Mr. Nicholson: When the Viceroy and the Governor intervene and British troops are employed—I am not saying they were employed—this House cannot acquit itself of responsibility. It may be a remote responsibility, but I assure the Under-Secretary that Indians regard this House as

ponsibility, but I assure the Under-Secretary that Indians regard this House as having the responsibility.

Mr. Henderson: Troops were asked for under the provision of the Civil Criminal Code which permits civil authorities to ask military authorities for assistance when the situation permits. It is not a fact that the Vicercy has exercised his special responsibility. This has been done in the normal way through the Provincial Government.

#### EXPORT OF GRAINS FROM U.S. CRUCIAL MEETING OF

TRUMAN'S CABINET

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. man's special Cabinet Sub-Committee on anti-famine operations-representing the Secretaries of State, Commerce, and Agriculture—was held behind closed loors for a final decision on the amount of wheat and other grains the United States will aim to send to Britain and other European countries in the first quarter of 1947.

This conference followed the inconclusive sessions of the International Emergency Food Council's Cereals Committee over the week-end, where Brithin and India as well as a majority of the other importing countries, protested at the inadequacy of the overall allocations for the 1946-47 harvest-year offered to tem. The British and Indian delegates are understood authoritatively to have urged the United States to esties so as to ensure plentiful supplies of speedily to ports.

#### QUESTION IN COMMONS ON SITUATION IN INDIA

LONDON, Dec. 9.
In the Commons to-day, Mr. Godfrey Nicholson asked questions about the food situation in India—the number of persons rationed for grain and what the rations were

Mr. Henderson replied: More than 150 million people in India are now subject to various schemes of cereal rationing. The basis of the cereais' ration for adults in India is 12 ounces. There have, however, been cases recently of inability on the part of some Provincial and State authorities to provide the cereals' ration in full.

Mr. Nicholson: Can the Under-Secretary assure the House that both the Indian Government and the Government in this country are fully aware not only of the bad

try are fully aware not only of the bad situation, but its future menacing nature and that the case of India is not alture to go by default in international food

orreles?

Mr Henderson: Yes, Sir, If Mr. Nicholson read the statement I made last week, he would see that that assurance was footbecoming. orthooming.

Mr. Hector Hughes (Labour) asked how ar this rationing went to prevent famine Mr. Henderson replied that the object of

# rationing was to avoid famine, but without notice, he could not answer his question.

STATES ADVISORY

COMMITTEE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 9. The States' Constitutional Advisory Committee, at a meeting held to-day under the chairmanship of H.H. the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, reviewed the conctitutional position in the country to-day vis-a-vis the States and discussed the broad outlines of the policy to be followed by the Negotiating Committee set up by the Chamber of Princes.

Among those who attended to-day's meeting were: Their Highnesses the Maharaja Scindia of Gwallor, the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar and the Maharaja of Bikaner; Sir A. Ramaswami Muda-liar (Mysore); Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aivar (Travancore); Sir T. Vijaya raghavachariar (Udaipur); Sardar H. S Malik (Patiala): Raja Bahadur Arava mudu Iyengar (Hyderabad): Sir Joseph Bhore (Bhopal); Mr. C. K. Shinde (Gwalior) and Sardar K. M. Panikkar ceedings of the Assembly from the Dis-lauthorised to nominate five more whips. (Bikaner).

#### CONGRESS AND **GROUPING**

# "MATTER PREJUDGED

## BY AUTHORS"

#### REFERENCE TO FEDERAL COURT UNLIKELY

NEW DELHI, Dec. 9. Three points appear to have become clear at the end of a full day of discussion among Congress leaders gathered here for the Constituent Assembly and for the Working Committee. Firstly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad is assured of virtually unanimous acceptance as permanent Chairman of the Constituent As-

Secondly, any idea of moving the Federal Court on the interpretation of the State Paper is receding into the background. It is felt that though Congress may contend that His Majesty's Government's latest statement is not an interpretation but an interpola-tion, the matter has been so prejudged, prejudiced and vitiated by the authors themselves assuming the role of interpreters of their own words that referan unprofitable proceeding, even if the reference is entertained.

Thirdly, it is now as good as certain that the Congress Working Committee will make no statement on H.M.G.'s interpretation. It is pointed out that there is no need for any fresh or formal expression of Congress views. The Congress action should be left to speak for itself. From the fact that the Constituent Assembly is proceeding with its appointed task and from the earlier Congress declaration of acceptance of the State Paper of May 16 in its entirety, the Congress attitude should be self-evident. Questions relating to Grouping should be left to be tackled when the Constituent Assembly reaches them in the actual course of its work.

#### ADVICE TO ASSAM It is gathered that the Congress Work ng Committee to-day devoted a good

part of its session to hearing the of Assam on the question of Grouping. Assam's fierce opposition has af-ready been publicly declared and has been reasurmed by the Pre-mier, Mr. Bardoloi, since his armier, rival in Delhi. The Committee is believed to have counselled against precipitate or premature action. The main reply to Assam's case is that it is open to that province to refuse to accept any scheme of Grouping which did not satisfy it. After all even under H.M.G.'s latest statement, no constitution is to be forced upon an unwilling part of the country. Assam is, therefore, being advised gainst inflexible adherence to past decisions and urged to take a realistic view of existing conditions.

The Congress Working Committee

will meet again to-morrow evening to continue discussion, which it is pointed out is bound to be prolonged and somewhat patchy in view of preoccupation with details of the Constituent Assembly procedure.—A.P.I.

#### GANDHIJI INFORMED OF FAILURE OF TALKS

SRIRAMPUR, Dec. 9 News of the failure of the London talks has been received quietly at the Srirampur camp. Gandhiji was apprised of a brief broadcast paragraph giving the news and no indication about Gandhiji's reaction to it was available

#### MR. T. R. V. SASTRI ON ASSAM'S POSITION.

MADRAS. Dec. 9:
Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri writes:
I dare say that the Congress will carefully consider whether after the recent pronouncement by His Majesty's Government, it is worth while to pursue it before the Federal Court. But one cannot help desiring to exhibit the enormity of the result reached by their interpretation.

Assam a Hindu majority province on the Statement itself is included among Muslim majority provinces. (I will not pause to ask or state how that came to be.)

Assam is to be forced into a group cons-

titution with Bengal against its majority votes overborne by the Bengal votes.

Assam's constitution is to be imposed by the same Bengal majority.

The new Legislature of Assam convoked, under this imposed constitution is to try, if it can, to opt out.

If the fetters imposed by that constitution is to the fetters imposed by the fette tion are too strong to break and prevent opting out. Assam is to be treated as hav-ing by its own choice come into the group.

group.

This is according to the Cabinet Mission.

His Majesty's Government and their legal advisers the meaning of the words: "Provinces are free to form groups" in Paragraph 15 (5)

In justice to Wis Majesty's Company and

# graph 15 (5) In justice to His Majesty's Government I must say that Paragraph 15 (5) is not referred to in their pronouncement and may not have been in their minds. The legal advisers, however, must have had the words in front of them.

MR. GHAZNAFAR ALPS TALK

TO PRESSMEN LAHORE, Dec. 9 Mr. Ghaznafar Ali Khan, Health Member in the Interim Government, who arrived here to-day from Karachi on his way to Delhi, in the course of a talk with Pressmen stressed the urgent need

with Pressmen stressed the urgent need for a sympathetic appreciation of the viewpoint of the Muslim League.

"India" he said, "cannot make any headway politically unless a sense of mutual understanding is fostered between Hindus and Muslims, and unless a sympathetic approach is made to the vital problems confronting us to-day. A sense of understanding between the two communities can only be created if the Congress leadership takes a realistic view of the situation in the country and earnestly tries for a settlement with the Muslim League as the sole representative organisation of the Indian Muslims."

üslims." Mr. Ghaznafar All Khan maintained that

Muslims."

Mr. Ghaznafar Ali Khan maintained that the only practicable and permanent solution of the most tangled Indian problem lay in an outright division of the country into Fakistan and Hindustan.

Referring to the opening of the Constituent Assembly, he said: "It is the greatest political farce ever staged in any country in the world. In spite of the clear-cut declaration of the British Government regarding the legality of any constitution framed by a single party, the Congress under a great delusion, proposes to go ahead with its design, in the Constituent Assembly. The result of all their ridiculous endeavours can easily be foreseen. For Muslim India, a constitution thus devised by the Congress shall be no more valuable than a scrap of paper. The Congress, of course, can frame a constitution of their desire for Group A only We know fully well how to look after our own interests in Groups B and C."

Mr. Ghaznafar Ali Khan characterised the recent utterances of Sardar Vallabhuhai Patel as "provocative and vicious", and said "I repeat Mr. Jinneh's words that strong words break no boues."

Mr. Ghaznafar Ali pointed out that if the Congress leaders continued such trend in their speeches he could very confidently see a day in the near future when there shall not be left a single Muslim in the Congress. The plain speaking by the Congress High Command, he added must bring realisation to the handful of stray elements in the Congress.

Mr. Ghaznafar Ali Khan expressed satisfaction at the latest statement of the British Government on India and said that it was a great tactical victory for the Muslim League vis-a-vis the Congress.

Mr. Ghaznafar Ali Khan is leaving for Delhi to-morrow evening—A.P.I.

## LADY CRIPPS \*

NEW DELHI. Dec. 3.
Lady Cripps, accompanied by her deuchter, arrived in New Delhi to-day. They are expected to spend a couple of days here as the guests of Pandit Jawaharlai Nehru.—APL