

# INDIA'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION

## Scrutiny Of Articles

**From Our Special Representative  
NEW DELHI, October 30.**

India's draft Constitution, as it has emerged after its second reading from the Constituent Assembly, is expected to be in the hands of the members by November 7, seven days before the House reassembles for the third reading.

The Drafting Committee commenced today the scrutiny of the various Articles which had undergone changes with a view to finalising them and presenting them to the House in the form in which they should be adopted.

Except in the case of a few Articles, the changes which are being made by the Drafting Committee are stated to be formal. It is also possible that two or three Articles may be split up in order to make their meaning more clear. The Committee expects to complete its work by November 3, 1949.

### **SPEECHES TO BE LIMITED**

The third reading of the Draft Constitution, which commences on November 14, will have to be completed by November 26 as the Dominion Parliament is scheduled to commence its winter session thereafter. With a view to expediting the work, it is intended to limit the speech of every member on the Constitution as a whole to 20 minutes. If this time-table is adhered to, about 100 members will be able to participate during the third reading.

No definite decision appears to have been taken about the dates for the signing of the Constitution by the members and election of the provisional President of the Indian Republic.

According to present indications, it is proposed to reserve the last day of the session for the signing ceremony. The President is credited with a desire to have the signatures of members calligraphed for reproduction in the final copy of the new Constitution.

The election of the provisional President may possibly be held on January 25, on the eve of the inauguration of the new Constitution.