

"We Will No More Look To London"

MR. NEHRU ON FRAMING OF INDIA'S CONSTITUTION

BENARES, December 15.

WHETHER Britain accepted it or not, the form of constitution that the Constituent Assembly would evolve would become the constitution of free India, declared Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing 100,000 people gathered on the Town Hall grounds today.

"We have now stopped looking to London. We have advanced far on the path of freedom that it is not possible for us to retrieve," he added.

"We know there are differences among us, but we shall settle them ourselves; we cannot and will not tolerate any outside interference."

Pandit Nehru added that India's relations with Britain henceforth would depend on how the British acted at present.

Pandit Nehru added: "We want to be friendly with all countries of the world, even with Britain, but only if Britain did not put hindrances in our march towards complete freedom. We want to forget British misdeeds of the past. If British behaviour towards India at present improves, Britain would reap favourable results, but if their behaviour remained bad Britain could not expect good results."

Pandit Nehru continued that India's honour had risen in the estimation of the nations of the world. That was clear from India's grand success at the United Nations Organisation in her case against South Africa. India was establishing connections with many other nations by sending Ambassadors. India was going to occupy a high place in the comity of nations. But with the advance, India's responsibility had also increased. We should think of our problems now with a cool mind. By entangling ourselves today in quarrels we should not destroy our future. We have not yet attained our freedom. We should, therefore, not slacken our efforts until we have achieved it completely.

"PAKISTAN NOT SOLUTION"

Pandit Nehru declared that Pakistan was not the right solution of the Indian problem as millions of Hindus and Muslims would have to live in Pakistan and Hindustan without any rights of citizenship. Moreover the communal problem would remain still unsolved. He ridiculed the idea of exchange of population on such a scale.—A.P.I.

Constitution Club

NEW DELHI, December 16: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru opened this evening "the Constitution Club" meant mainly for the use of the members of the Constituent Assembly and others. Pandit Nehru said that the club would be managed by the Indian Council of World Affairs and that a house committee had been appointed to frame rules and regulations of the club. The membership of the club would also be open to the members of the Central Legislature, and the Indian Council of World Affairs was arranging classes for the teaching of foreign languages such as Russian, Japanese and Chinese. The club would also provide a meeting place for the members of the Constituent Assembly and the representatives of foreign Governments who are in Delhi or who may visit in the near future.—A. P. I.

Three Candidates Refuse Chiefship

WASHINGTON, December 15.

A position worth 30,000 dollars (£7,500) tax-free per year is being ally going a begging here. It is the post of successor to the retiring President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation.

Three men have so far turned down the proffered job, the first and favourite candidate of both Britain and the United States was Mr. Graham F. Towers of the Bank of Canada, who decline the post yesterday.

The United States Government, seeking to keep the post in American hands, is also understood to have approached Mr. William L. Clayton, Under Secretary of State and Mr. A. A. Berenson, Secretary of Commerce, but both refused because they were already carrying out tasks of equal, if not greater, importance.

The matter is now becoming urgent because the present occupant of the post Mr. Eugene Meyer is due to leave it on Wednesday and the Bank is in danger of being left without leader in the midst of preparing its first loans and floatation of bond issues.

Private American bankers are also known to have been approached, but there is general unwillingness to accept the post in an organisation which has already aroused some hostility among bank interests, a hostility which is making the issue of securities by banks a difficult task.—Reuter.

LATE NEWS

PANDIT NEHRU

ALLAHABAD, December 16: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government accompanied by Miss Meitula Sarabhai arrived here by plane this evening from Calcutta.—A.P.I.

SIR S. CRIPPS'S VIEWS

CRITICISED

AMRITSAR, December 16: Bitterly criticising Sir Stafford Cripps's speech in Parliament, Master Tara Singh, the Akali leader, in an interview with me today said: "Though the situation has grown worse for the Sikhs, yet having once joined the Constituent Assembly we must leave no stone unturned now in order to achieve our end by constitutional methods. Let us wait how the Congress tries to get us out of this difficulty."

LONDON'S COLDEST DAY

LONDON, December 16: Shivering in the grip of icy winds, Britons today faced their coldest day for nearly a year, with the biggest electric fuel and powers cut yet made. At breakfast time officials of power stations were ordered to "shed load" and all England and Wales was affected for 40 minutes.—Reuter.

BRITISH BACON RATION CUT

LONDON, December 16: A cut in British bacon ration from three ounces to two each person a week was announced in the House of Commons today by the Food Minister, Mr. John Stacey. The reduction begins on January 5.—Reuter.

POP

IT'S VERY NICE OF YOU TO SPARE MY FEELINGS—

—BUT I KNOW YOU ONLY GET UNDER THAT

BLACK VELVET CLOTH—

TO HAVE A JOLLY GOOD LAUGH!

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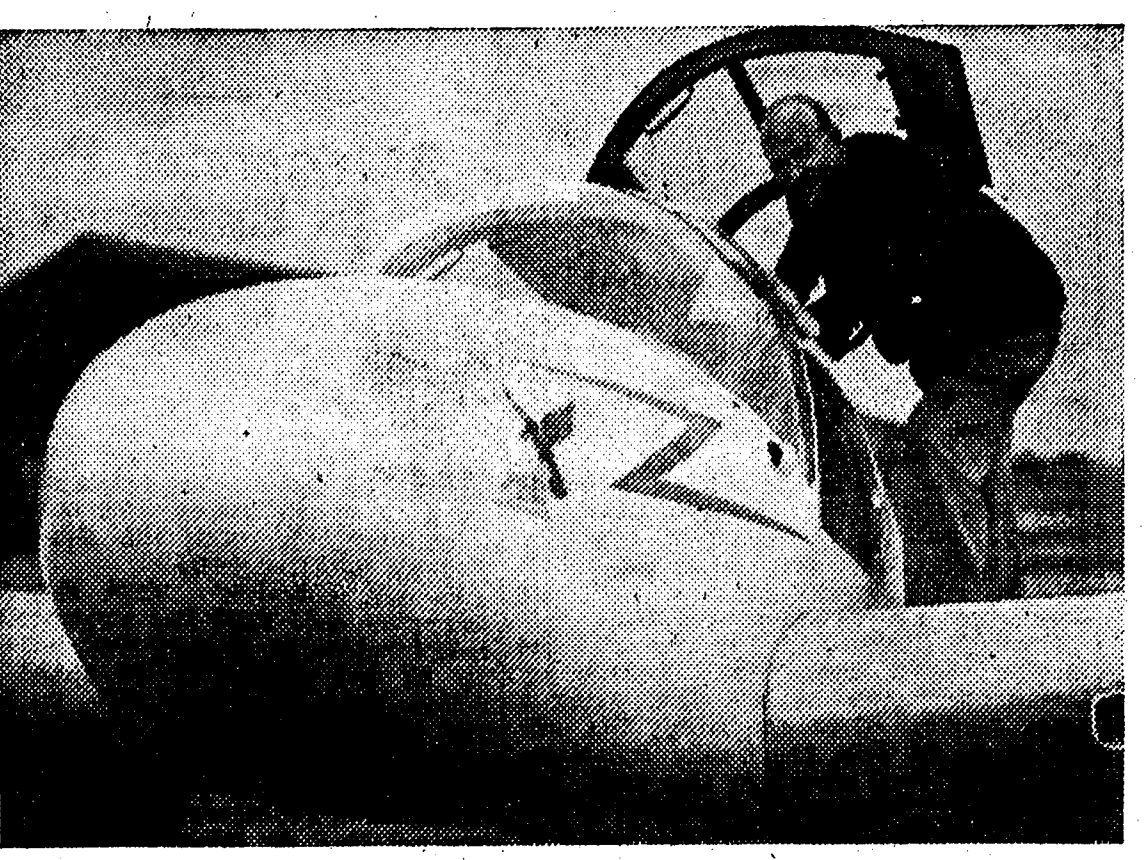
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NEW ATTACK ON EVEREST



Group Capt. A. F. Bandit, an Australian, who is planning to lead an expedition to Mount Everest in 1948, has arrived in India, after a solo flight from Britain, on his way to Australia. Here he is seen with his monoplane at a British aerodrome during last-minute preparations for his 13,000-mile flight.

M. Blum Fails To Form Cabinet

NO GOVERNMENT OF ALL PARTIES

PARIS, December 16.

M. Leon Blum, France's 74-year-old Premier, has failed to form an all-party French Cabinet after four days of intensive consultation. He will probably select an all-Socialist administration by tonight, quarters close to him announced today.

According to the Daily Telegraph and The Times of India correspondent, the point of view of Popular Republicans is that M. Blum has been given a mandate by the Assembly to form a national Government from the extreme left to moderate conservatives. There is no reason, they state, why they should make concessions to the Communists who now demand a four-party Government without the moderate conservatives.

M. Herriot's Radical Party is of the same opinion as the Popular Republicans.

The Communists are also insisting on retaining all portfolios which they hold in the Blum Cabinet and on having the Ministries of War and Agriculture. Other parties are not prepared to make these concessions which they consider would give the Communists undue influence over the country.

Radicals and Popular Republicans want M. Moutet, Socialist Minister for Overseas Territory, removed from that post as they advocate a stronger hand in Indo-China. The Socialists headed by M. Blum and the Communists advocate negotiations with the Annamites to avoid a virtual war.

OVERSEAS RADIO TELEPHONE India Linked With U. S.

NEW DELHI, December 16: The overseas radio telephone service between India and Great Britain and northern Ireland has been extended to the United States of America with effect from today, it is officially announced. The service is available from 1 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. daily.

The present charges for each call to and from India and the U. S. A. will be Rs. 50 for the first three minutes and Rs. 18.11 for each subsequent minute. The report charge will be Rs. 2.11.—A.P.I.

BENARES 'VARSITY' CONVOCATION

Dr. Rajendra Prasad On Coming Struggle

BENARES, December 15: "I really feel that the times ahead are perhaps most difficult, because we have to go through a struggle," said Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Member in the Interim Government, delivering the Convocation address of the Benares Hindu University today.

"The difficulties that you have to face hereafter," Dr. Prasad added, "will be of a different kind. They will require all our constructive imagination. They will require all the strength that we can muster for fulfilling a great task. After all the removal of the rule is not all that we need. We need real freedom."

When the convocation began, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, read a few verses from the "Bhagvat Gita," and there was two minutes' silence to mourn the death of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

There were repeated cheers and shouts of Congress slogans when the Doctorate in Letters was conferred on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru by Dr. Al-takar, head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture.

ADDRESS IN HINDI

For the first time in the 30 years' life of the Benares Hindu University, the Convocation address was printed and delivered in Hindi.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that within the last 30 years, Hindi literature had made tremendous progress. Today, it could be said without fear of contradiction that they could get good text-books in almost all subjects in the Hindi language, and if there were subjects in the Hindi language and there were subjects on which Hindi text-books were still not available, that deficiency could be made good without much difficulty and without waiting for long.

As a matter of fact, Nagpur University, which was a much younger university, had already decided to give instruction and to hold examinations only in the Indian languages—in Hindi and Marathi, the languages of that province. He wanted the Benares Hindu University to take similar decision.

Addressing the outgoing students, Pandit Nehru stressed the necessity for receiving the right type of training to shoulder the burden of India tomorrow. The time was fast approaching when India would need a large number of first rate men.

MADRAS PREMIER'S CALL TO YOUTH Need For Tolerance

WALTAIR, December 14: "To rescue our India from this morass of poverty and make the country once again happy, smiling and prosperous once again, we need a nation with honour and dignity in the comity of nations is your plain duty, and you should deem the doing of that duty a proud privilege," observed Mr. T. Prakasam, the Premier of Madras, delivering the convocation address at Andhra University today.

Mr. Prakasam condemned the present system of education which, he said, instead of breaking the barriers between man and man, based upon caste, colour, creed or religion, fomented strife and widened the gulf between people.

He deprecated educated people thinking themselves a class apart from the uneducated.

His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye, Chancellor, conferred the honorary degree of D. Litt., on Mr. T. Prakasam, Prime Minister of Madras. The honorary degree of D. Litt. was also conferred by the Chancellor on Sir S. V. Ramamurthi in absentia.

The Sir C. R. Reddi National Prizes were awarded to Lt.-Col. Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey, Director of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, for eminent merit in medicine and to Prof. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhattacharya, Director of the Scientific and Industrial Research Institute, New Delhi, for eminent merit in chemistry.

The Brigadier, Southern Area Command, Vizagapatnam, presented to the University the high-level water tank of the military, known as the Victory Water Tower. He said he had been asked by the Commander-in-Chief of India to convey to the University his appreciation of the University's cooperation in the war efforts.

VISCOUNT SIMON'S APPEAL

"Co-operate To Frame Constitution"

(Continued on page 7).

ferent major communities would be associated in certain proposals?

"Secondly, do the British Government regard the Assembly, now meeting at Delhi, which contains no representative of the Muslim League, as a meeting of such a Constituent Assembly? If the Muslims continue their refusal to take part, will the conclusions, reached by those who do take part, be regarded by the British Government as a Constitution settled by Indians for Indians?"

"Thirdly, is the Assembly, now sitting at Delhi, restricted in its efforts to frame a Constitution to the basic form recommended by the Cabinet Mission, or is at liberty to disregard the Mission's recommendation and frame a Constitution on other lines?"

PANDIT NEHRU'S CLAIM

Recalling that Pandit Nehru was reported to have claimed that the meeting at Delhi was a Constituent Assembly, that the Congress members attending it would draw up any Constitution they liked, and that that would thereupon become the Constitution of India, Viscount Simon said: "Surely we ought to ask the Government now what their attitude to this momentous declaration is. Surely, this reinforces my question whether this meeting of caste Hindus at Delhi can be regarded by the Government as the Constituent Assembly they mean at all."

"It is terrible to think of misunderstandings and of charges of bad faith that may arise if the Government remain mute on this matter or say, like the Minister without portfolio (Mr. A. V. Alexander), that this is a hypothetical question. There was not much hypothesis about it at Benares yesterday."

Viscount Simon added: "Such claims make nonsense of the Cabinet Mission's efforts. It threatens India with a Hindu raj. I am measuring my words as carefully as I have ever done in my life, and I speak under the greatest sense of responsibility; but I say this that an attempt to establish a Government in India not by co-operation between the major communities but by reliance on the Hindu majority threatens India with civil war and bloodshed on an unlimited scale, and I feel it is our duty in Parliament to make an appeal to both sides—not to judge between them."

"To the Muslims, I think, we should say that we beg them to forget the old feuds; to place some reliance in the British sense of fair-play, and to do anything they feel they can to join in a united Indian effort to frame a Constitution under which Indians of every class and creed may live at peace."

Viscount Simon continued: "To Hindus, I think, we should say that the British Parliament well understands the inspiration that is drawn from the prospect of complete freedom, but that that freedom must be for others—for 50,000,000 of the Muslims as well as for themselves. "We should beg them to realise that a free and happy India can never be built up except by co-operation between the main Indian parties, and that is the only road by which the consummation of their purpose can be reached."

LORD SAMUEL'S PLEA

Viscount Samuel (Liberal) said that it could only worsen the situation if the Government declared now *ex-cathedra* whether the present Assembly was valid or not.

He wanted to know in what respect the Government's policy had departed from that laid down by Mr. L. S. Amery and Sir Stafford Cripps.

Viscount Samuel declared: "I think Mr. Churchill's statement in the House of Commons can do nothing but mischief as indicating to the Indian people that, whatever settlement may be arrived at, a new Government may come into power in this country and undo it because the present Government is not entitled to act on behalf of the nation as a whole."

He did not think that there was any other course open for the Government than by forming the first Interim Government from the Congress alone.

He regretted the Muslim abstention, remarking "those who refuse to discuss are in my judgment always in the wrong."

Viscount Samuel asked what part the British Parliament Government and arms would take if a widespread civil war should take place in India.

Viscount Samuel asked: "Are we quietly to slip away and leave anarchy behind? After 150 years of British rule that would be a course of dishonour."

"On the other hand, are British armies to intervene in order to maintain peace and order? That would mean that young men from this country would have to lay down their lives in India in order to put an end to a quarrel which is not of our making."

"Why should we be put ourselves in that dilemma of choosing between dishonour or disaster? Yet such seems to be the situation now shaping, unless Indian parties can wisely concur in framing their Constitution."

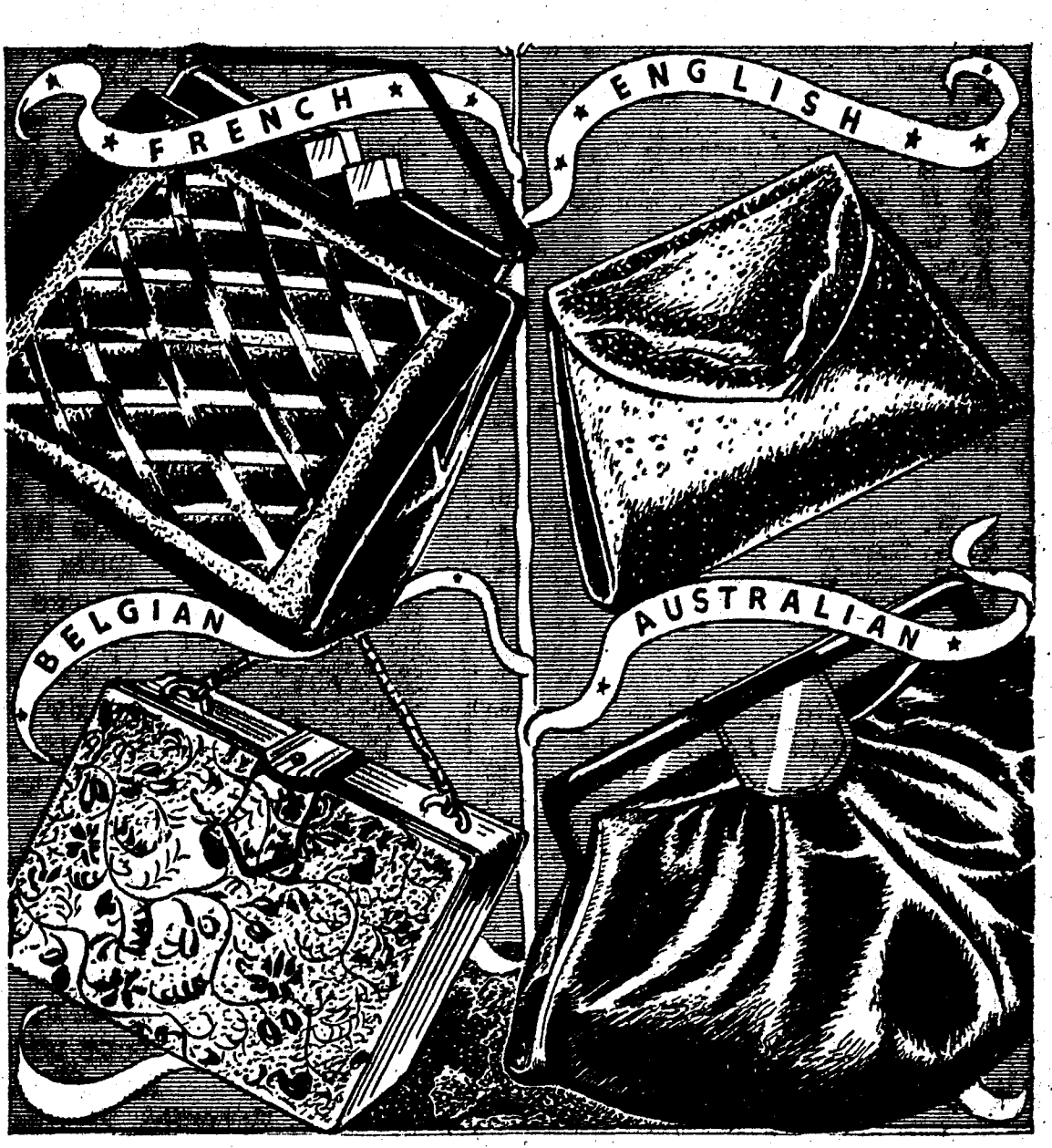
Bombay Incidents

"Nine persons were wounded and one died in the knife-attacks which occurred on Monday. The incidents were reported from Dongri, Pydhoni, Byculla, Naggada, Maharabari and Parel areas," says the Director of Publicity, Bombay, late on Monday night.

"Eight persons were rounded up in connection with the stabbing incidents in Pydhoni, Dongri and Naggada. "Three minor incidents, two of acid-throwing and one of soda water bottle throwing, were reported from Byculla and Maharabari areas. One person was arrested for possession of knife in Maharabari."

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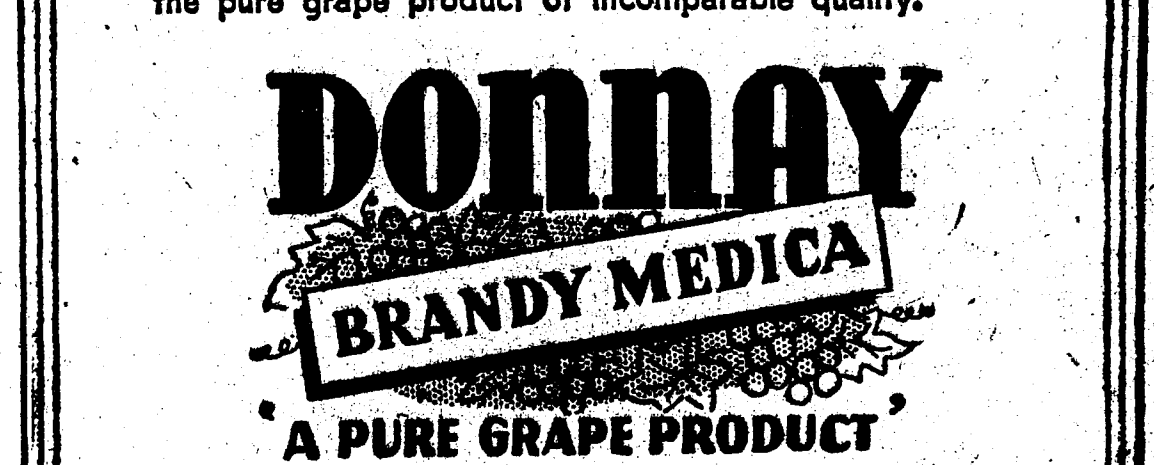
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