

Constituent Body Adjourns

MIDNIGHT MEETING ON AUGUST 14

From Our Special Representative
NEW DELHI, July 31.

The Indian Constituent Assembly concluded its July session today to meet again at midnight on August 14 to usher in India's independence at that hour.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, announced to the House that an elaborate programme of the celebration of transfer of power on August 15 was being chalked out, the details of which would be announced in the press.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that when the Assembly met at midnight on August 14, it was intended that the Assembly would authorise the leader of the House to proceed to Viceroy's House and formally request Lord Mountbatten to accept the Governor-Generalship of the Dominion of India. The next day, on August 15, at 10 a.m. the Assembly would meet again when Lord Mountbatten, the Governor-General, would address the Assembly and formally transfer power from Britain to the people of India.

IMPORTANT WORK OVER

During the 14 sittings of the July session, the Constituent Assembly disposed of the most important part of the task of constitution-making—it adopted the National Flag for India, it adopted the principles of a model provincial constitution and it also passed the major portion of the report on the principles of the Union constitution. Half-a-dozen clauses, including the question of language to be used in the Federal Legislature and the distribution of legislative powers between the Federation and the Units, were left over for consideration to the next session meeting in August.

Two other important subjects that will come up before the next session of the Assembly are the reports on Union Powers and Minorities Rights.

The procedure contemplated is that the various sub-committees' reports—provincial constitution, Union constitution, Union Powers, Minorities Rights, Tribal Areas and Fundamental Rights—will first be adopted by the House individually and thereafter incorporated in the draft constitution. The final draft will then be brought before the Assembly for consideration and detailed scrutiny in its proper perspective. The entire task of constitution-making is expected to be completed by the end of October.

(Details on page 2)