

## FROM THE **Times** ARCHIVES

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### **FREEDOM**

### **ONE ERA ENDS: NEW BEGINS**

Today the people of India achieve their freedom. That freedom is complete. By passing the Indian Independence Act, the British Parliament transferred to the two new Indian dominions full powers to look after their own affairs, and as dominions they have the right, if they so desire, to leave the British Commonwealth of Nations at any time in the future.

Thus ends a long political struggle marked by many varying phases. On this day it behoves the people of the two new States to remember with gratitude those giants of the past who sowed what their descendants are reaping. No brief list of their names can pretend to be complete, but among them we would recall Dadabhoy Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta, Gokhale, Tilak, Annie Besant, W.C. Bannerji, Surendranath Banerji, C.R. Das, Motilal Nehru and a host of others. Today we happily have with us many who see the fruition of their life's work, including Mr Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, to mention only a few. Mr Jinnah has got Pakistan. Nor must we forget the tremendous service rendered by Lord Mountbatten in the final stages.

But it is Mr Gandhi whom the vast majority of his fellow-countrymen will regard as the architect of their freedom and the object of their veneration. Before Mr Gandhi became the dominant influence in

the Indian National Congress, the men who advanced the country's political claims were a group of what might be termed intellectuals. To Mr Gandhi must go the credit for making the movement for political freedom a mass agitation; it was he who took it out of the hands of the few and gave it to the many. From the day that Mr Gandhi broad-based his appeal, its success -- despite mistakes and reversal -- was eventually certain.

### **THE FUTURE**

What of the future? On this great day, amid their rejoicings, the people of India must dedicate themselves to the solemn tasks which lie ahead. Problems connected with the welfare of the masses, with food and clothing, with black-marketing and corruption, with social injustice, crowd heavily upon our future rulers. It must be their task to see that these grievances are remedied as speedily and as completely as is humanly possible.