

FAITHFUL SERVICE TO INDIA

Assembly Members To Take Solemn Oath

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, August 11.

AT midnight of August 14-15, members of the Indian Constituent Assembly gathered in the Assembly Chamber will take a solemn pledge to dedicate themselves to the service of India and her people "to the end that this ancient land attain its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind."

Immediately thereafter Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of the Assembly, will move from the chair "that it should be intimated to the Viceroy that—firstly, the Constituent Assembly of India has assumed power for the governance of India, and, secondly, the Constituent Assembly of India has endorsed the recommendation that Lord Mountbatten be Governor-General of India from August 15."

The resolution will instruct the President and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Leader of the House, to convey this message "forthwith" to Lord Mountbatten. The two leaders will drive from the Assembly Chamber to Government House to convey this momentous message to Lord Mountbatten—a distance of about half a mile.

The historic ceremony will open with the singing of the first verse of the famous national song *Vande Mataram* by Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, wife of the Congress President.

After a brief address by the President, Dr. Prasad, the entire Assembly will rise and observe two minutes' silence, "in memory of those who have died in the struggle for freedom in India and elsewhere."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru will move the following motion: "Resolved that after the last stroke of midnight, all members of the Constituent Assembly present on the occasion do take the following pledge: 'At this solemn moment when the people of India, by their suffering and sacrifice, have secured freedom and become masters of their own destiny, I a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, do dedicate myself to the service of India and her people to the end that this ancient land attain its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind.'"

SHORT CEREMONY

The entire "assumption of power" ceremony will last one hour and a half and will conclude with the singing of the first few lines of the famous song *Sare jahan se achcha Hindustan Hamara*, written by the Muslim poet Sir Mohamad Iqbal, and the first verse of Poet Tagore's popular song *Jan gan gana abhinava* yak jaya he.

The interior of the Assembly will be decorated with tricolour flags and banners and clusters, while the exterior will be floodlit.