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WEATHER IN SOUTH INDIA

MADRAS, Dec. 13.

Daily weather report for Madras Presiency and Mysore: The weather has been dry over the region except for light showers in S. E. Tamil-nad. The temperatures continued above normal, night temperatures being markedly

so.

Forecast valid until the evening of December 16: Light showers are likely along and near the Coromandel Coast and in South Kerala chiefly during morning hours. Local forecast: Fair, except for chances of light showers early morning.

Weather news for farmers: Light showers here and there in Trichinopoly and South Arcot Districts and in Cochin and Travancore States, Low night temperatures in Nilgris and Vizag Districts.

Outlook for next three days: Light rain in and near coastal Taminad and fair elsewhere.

METTUR WATER LEVEL Reservoir full on December 12, 1946.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1946.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION THE Conference of Hindu religitored to end with the acceptance of that our heads held at Madras on Thurstonesh has put forward a demand which should receive respectful and sympathetic consideration at obliged Sidky to resign conti
The Conference of Hindu religitored to end with the acceptance of that office by Nokrashy Pasha. The following are the results: Dr. Kazi Mohamad Akbar (League), 4,115; Mr. G. M. Syed (Progressive Muslim Jamait) 2,865.

In Sukkur West general rural contituency by Cohindren Punish: (Contituency Victoria) (Contituency V defensive. But such is the prevailing temper of the times that we have not wholly escaped the tendency to treat religion as one of the accepted things and to ignore it in practice or, worse, use it as a blind for pursuing activities which represent the very antithesis of the religious the future of the Sudan is such as the Congress candidates, Mr. Choithram Kesvani having been returned unopposed. The following are further results announced in various constituencies: Muhammadan urban Karachi city north: Mahmoud Abdulla Haroon (League) 17,035. Jaffer Hussenally Khoja (Independent) 47, Allahbaksh Khudadad Gabol (Independent) 47, Allahbaksh Khudadad Gabol (Independent) 48, The last two candidates, Mr. Choithram Kesvani having been returned unopposed. The following are further results announced in various constituencies: Muhammadan urban Karachi city north: Mahmoud Abdulla Haroon (League) 17,035. Jaffer Hussenally Khoja (Independent) 47, Allahbaksh Khudadad Gabol (Independent) impulse. If, as we all hope, India stands to-day poised on the threshold of a rebirth, she can effectively fulfil herself only by attaining to a new amplitude and a larger wisdom in the realm of spirit. What is required is not less religion but more true religion; has it not been said, "The truth shall make you free"? It is, therefore, in the fitness of texts and owing to various exigenthings that the Matadhipathis who cies, Britain managed to jockey play a somewhat unique role in Egypt out of all authority in the play a somewhat unique role in Egypt out of all authority in the three candidates and the voting was: Pir Hinduism, being the expounders of Sudan, partly by administrative Ali Shah (League) 9,977, Mohamed Yousif Chamdio (Independent) 1,277, Haji Arab a living tradition which admits of action and more largely by sheer (Independent) 1,271, Haji Arah Kebar (Independent) 423. Mr. Kebar lost a rich and fruitful diversity of expression while the underlying note is oneness, should have come together to emphasise the place of religion in the life of the community and the need to ensure that its sovereign autonomy in its own sphere is not infringed. Hinduism is neither a mere philosophy nor simply a code of practical ethics. It

It is against this danger that the ing entity. memorandum adopted by the Matarity or a minority, every section and The Egyptians, it must be said in every sub-community within the fairness to them, have made it Hindu fold," claims the memoran- abundantly clear that they have no ing to its own traditions and tenets pared to accord to the Sudanese cratic legislation which always ptian citizens equal in status in tends to infringe and coerce, apply- every way with any person in their ing secular standards and consider- country. They are ready to admit ations." Uncompromising as this the Sudanese into the Egyptian demand may seem, the prin- Parliament on the same franchise ciple underlying it is one that as that enjoyed by Egyptians; and, has been accepted by all civilised if, perchance, the Sudanese prefer communities and which all parties to this French method of equal dein India are vowed to implement. mocratic rights the British device of The draft declaration of objectives Dominion Status, the Egyptians are being considered by the Constituent ready to concede it to them. Egyp-Assembly proposes to guarantee to, tians argue that Britain's pose in the all the people of India "freedom of Sudan as the champion of Sudathought, expression, belief, faith, nese rights is identical to that worship, vocation and action, sub-adopted by her in Ireland, in India, ject to law and public morality." in Palestine and wherever she birth of Fascism in this land."—A.P.I. Growth and change cannot be in- wished to secure or retain a foothibited in any sphere, least of all hold. In Egypt, as in India, in in that of the social and cultural Ireland and in Palestine, problems life of communities, without pro- have been created where none ducing serious discontent and existed before and those "probdamage. But in order to be fruitful lems" used by Britain to sustain Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has at last they should come about as a sponta- her domination. Centrifugal forces been persuaded to accept nomination to here is expression of the evolutionary have been act in action and ability.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER if the benefits are to be lasting. The are interpreted now in one way, on the contrary; do untold harm, made, are discountenanced by modern sociological thinking. We hope the Dharma Acharyas' appeal heard in its deliberations and to influence its decisions will not go unheeded. At the same time we would invite the spiritual heads of the community to remember that the only effective way of safeguarding against the improper encroachments of the secular State is for them effectively to reassert their rights by showing a constant readiness to inspire as well as to instruct, to lead as well as to guide. 'What is old is not necessarily good, even as what is new is not always to be rejected," said the poet who represents in a pre-eminent degree the genius of the Indian people. It should be regarded as the privilege of the pontiffs of Hinduism to interpret this truth creatively in accord with the spirit of the times.

The Turmoil in Egypt

THE political crisis in Egypt, fol-THE Conference of Hindu religi- to end with the acceptance of that Syed was defeated by the official League impulse. If, as we all hope, India It was never a British colony. Bri-"The truth shall make you free"? various ways, under various preis neither a mere philosophy nor simply a code of practical ethics. It is a way of life permeated by faith in an unseen Power; and it regards man's earthly career as one long sacrament. The superb culture it has evolved through the ages is shot through and through with this funtable. The superb culture it the insistence by Egyptians on the "unity of the Nile Valley" as the sheet-anchor of their external results of the superb culture it the insistence by Egyptians on the "unity of the Nile Valley" as the sheet-anchor of their external results of the following are the vote:

Those who rule the Sudan could stit. Nawabshah west Muhammadan rural constituency: Haji Ghuiam Rasool Jatol (League) 13,194, Mohammund Hashim Mastol (Independent) 1,526 The latter lost his deposit.

Nawabshah west Muhammadan rural constituency: Haji Ghuiam Rasool Jatol (League) 13,194, Mohammund Hashim Mastol (Independent) 1,526 The latter lost his deposit.

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Nawabshah west Muhammadan rural constituency: Haji Ghuiam Rasool Jatol (League) 14,000 (Independent) 1,526 The latter lost his deposit. through and through with this fun- as the sheet-anchor of their exterdamental concept; and much of the nal policy. The Egyptians are preritual that the faith has accreted pared to recognise up to a point, to itself maintains a living principally in order to ensure connexus with this culture through art tinuity of administration and avoid and song and the simple sanctities a violent break in it, the continuof the home. To lay rude and un- ance for a reasonable period of the comprehending hands on the vast Anglo-Egyptian Condominium. Bricomplex of socio-religious beliefs tain, however, insists on Egypt and practices which we know as accepting a policy of "Mands off the ning the carrying of weapons.

Sudan" agreeing to acknowledge The Khaksars were armed with bel-Hinduism, out of deference to pre- Sudan", agreeing to acknowledge conceived notions deriving their only the nominal sovereignty of roots from an alien culture, may Egypt till such time as the Sudanese papers and other articles. The arrested well have the effect of arresting the are trained to run the Government spiritual growth of a great people. of their country as a self-govern-

It is natural that Egyptians should dhipathis' Conference utters a feel that this policy means a deterwarning when it points out that the mination on the part of Britain to use of the legislative power by a make a mockery of the Condomisecular State to effect reforms in nium. Egypt considers Britain's this sphere, on the plea that they policy an attempt to proclaim are essential to promote the well- the Sudan a British Protectorate at being of the community, is impro- the earliest convenient opportunity. per because it is inappropriate and Control over the Sudan will, she may result in grievous damage to thinks, enable Britain to rebuild the social fabric. "Whether a majo- and vitalise her African Empire. dum, "is entitled, as a fundamental ambition to dominate the Sudan right, to live its private life accord- politically and that they are preof faith, untrammelled by demo- absolute democratic rights as Egy-

coercive power of legislation may, now in another, and the whole country thrown into the vortex of not least by calling out the barren chaos. confusion and conflict. spirit of resistance. Changes effected Sudanese nationalism may certainwith a view to promoting a dead ly have a case, but in these days level of uniformity, out of the naive of the "Monroe Doctrine" and geobelief that only so are nations graphical affinities which none has exploited to better purpose than Britain, it is idle for her to contend that she of all Powers has any to the Constituent Assembly to give justifiable claim to act as arbiter their viewpoint an opportunity to be between the contending nationalisms on the Nile Valley.

SIND ASSEMBLY **ELECTIONS**

MR. SYED DEFEATED

LATEST POSITION OF **PARTIES**

KARACHI, Dec. 12.
The results received so far in the general elections to the Sind Legislative Assembly show that the Muslim League candidates have defeated their rivals by an overwhelming majority. The following is the latest party posi-

Muslim League 28.

Congress 16.

Nationalist Muslims 2. The results of the eleven constituencies including four general seats are still awaited. Eight sitting members have

een unseated. The counting of votes began to-day and will be completed by to-morrow excepting for Tharparkar district.

The result of the Dadu rural Mohamlowing the resignation of Sidky madan constituency wherein the League Pasha as Premier, does not promise was the first to be announced. Mr. G. M

the hands of the Constituent As- nue to be operative, there can be stituency, Dr. Gobindram Punjabi (Con sembly. In a country like India reno political peace in Egypt. It is gress) was declared elected. His opponents, Mr. Lilaram Sherwani and Mr.
Harumal forfeited their deposits.

5. The last two candidates lose their de-

In the Karachi Muhammadan rural south constituency Pil Ali Shah (League), defeated the sitting member, Mr. Mahamed Yousif Chamdio (Independent). There were

his deposit. The following are the votes: Prof. Ghanshyam (Congress) 2,591, Mr. Halaram Punjani (Independent) 32.

KHAKSAR OFFICE SEARCHED

About 300 Khaksars who came from the Punjab and other places during the Assembly elections in Sind were arrested at Hyderabad yesterday for breach

chas. The authorities searched their office at Fakiro-jo-pir and seized some Khaksars were later released.

An order under Section 144, Cr. P. C.

has been promulgated in Hyderabad (Sind), prohibiting public meetings and demonstrations for one month.

Syed Jiandali Sah, a prominent porter of Mr. G. M. Syed, who had been arrested recently and detained under the Sind Frontier Regulations has released on bail and furnish two securi-

ties of Rs. 5,000 each.

Mr. Yusuf Haroon, President of the Sind Provincial League, in a statement from New Delhi on Mr. G. M. Syed's defeat in the elections says "Sind has once more proved that it stands wholls behind the demand of Pakistan and that Mr. Syed's defeat is due to his desertion of the Muslim League cause. I congratulate my people on this wonderful

MR. MAJID DEMANDS **ENQUIRY**

KARACHI, Dec. 12. Sheikh Abdul Majid, President of the Sind Muslim Jamiat, in a statement demands an impartial inquiry into the manner in which the elections to the Sind Legislative Assembly were conduc-

"The Assembly elections", he says, "held in Sind have been just a huge farce. All imaginable corrupt practices were resorted to—coercion, undue infi-ence and official terrorism were com-mon means adopted by the League to

beat its opponents." After detailing incidents of alleged official interference, Mr. Majid adds:
"I challenge Government to institute an independent and impartial inquiry into all allegations relating to their own and their officers' misconduct. It is now for the Province and the country to decide

MAULANA AZAD FOR INTERIM GOVT.

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

neous expression of the evolutionary have been set in action and skilfully of Mr. Asaf Ali, who has been appoint. urge. Peaceful persuasion and pati- encouraged, parties conflicting one ed India's Ambassador in Washington. ent education are the proper mewith the other brought into being The Congress Working Committee is
the for reference to handle and remains and the congress working committee is thods for reformers to handle and promises made to each which shortly.

FRAMING INDIA'S CONSTITUTION

"CABINET PLAN ONLY SOLUTION'

CRIPPS' APPEAL TO PARTIES

CHURCHILL'S ATTACK ON INTERIM GOVT.

LONDON, Dec. 12. The hope that, despite mutual suspicions and fears, the Congress and the Muslim League might eventually find themselves side by side in the Constituent Assembly and in the Sections was expressed by Sir Stafford Cripps when he opened a two-day debate on India in the House of Commons to-day.

Sir Stafford Cripps concluded by exressing the conviction that it was essen tial that all parties in India should call a halt to the violent propaganda that had the people during the last few months

Mr. Winston Churchill, Leader of the Opposition, who followed Sir Stafford Cripps, associated himself with Sir Staf-ford in his appeal to the Indian parties to discontinue violent propaganda. "All facts and all omens", declared Mr. Churchill, "point to a revival in an acute and violent form of internal hatreds and quarrels, which have long lain dormant under the mild incompetence of liberalbe no surprise if there is complete failure to agree.
"Agreement in India which was the

basis of all our policy and declarations was an indispensable condition. Instead, there had been strife and bloodshed and the prospect of more and worse to come". Mr. Churchill, on behalf of the Opposition, disclaimed all responsibility for the Labour Government's present policy and charged it, through inviting the Con-gress to form an Interim Government, with "precipitating a series of massacres unparalleled in India since the mutiny of

Mr. Churchill, alluding to his insistence upon a debate, said it would be a pity if the British Empire in India passed out of life into history without the House of Commons seeming to take any interes

For the Liberals, Mr. Clement Davies said that there had been no wars horrible in Europe in the past than those caused by religious differences. should be a warning to the Indian people to do their utmost to act in a states manlike manner remembering responthey represent, but for India as a whole. Sir Stanley Reed (Conservative), formerly the Editor of The Times of India, said that the Government had approached this great problem bristling with difficulties with courage, wisdom and imagination. On the broad outlines of their policy he gave them cordial sup-

Mr. Godfrey Nicholson, Conservative Member of the British Parliamentary Delegation to India, disagreed with Mr. Winston Churchill and strongly support-

ed the Government. The debate was adjourned until tomorrow morning.

DETAILS OF DEBATE CRIPPS EXPLAINS CABINET STATEMENT

The first full-dress debate on India of

The first full-dress debate on India of the present session of Parliament opened in a packed House of Commons to_day with a speech by Sir Stafford Cripps, Sir Stafford Cripps began by moving the motion which stood in the names of the Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attiee, Sir Stafford Cripps, Mr. A V. Alexander and Mr. Arthur Henderson, It ran as follows:

"That this House takes note of the statement on India made on December 11 by the Prime Minister and expresses its hope that a settlement of the present difficulties between Indian parties will be forthcoming."

Declaring that Britain had now, for over a century and a half, been intimately associated with the development of India, Sir Stafford Cripps said, "We have been largely responsible for shaping her destiny and deciding the course of her history. Whether we have conducted ourselves well of ill, we have carried the responsibility in a large measure and to-day we find that India and her people, like ourselves, are confronted with the gravest problem that arises out of that historical development.

"Do not let us under-estimate the difficulty of its solution. It is sometimes suggested that but for the intransigence of this or that Indian party the matter could be easily solved. That, I do not think, is in accordance with the true situation. Everyone, who has shared in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the present and we as a people share that responsibility and that is why we are all of us most anxious to find a way out of these present difficulties."

The time had now come, said Sir Stafford

The time had now come, said Sir Stafford The time had now come, said Sir Stafford Cripps, when Britain wanted to hand over power to the Indian people. The difficulty was how to accomplish that objective. There were two principles, both democratically sound, but which were very hard to match together in a single process. The first was the right of the majority to determine its own future without any velo or prohibition from any minority. The second was the right of minorities to enjoy freedom and a full voice in the delermination of their own future without suppression by the major future without suppression by the majo-

"The only way in which these two rights can be worked out is in a democratic assembly where there is give and take We know in this House of Commons a degree hetween parties. The fundaknow in this House of Commons a degree of tolerance between parties. The fundamental difficulty, I believe in India to-day is that the principal bodies have not shown themselves prepared to trust one another or work together on a democratic basis. Deep-seated contention, accentuated by the approach of handing over of power, has bitterly separated those, who alone can determine the future of India. There is no use our girding at the facts of history. We must try to overcome or get round them."

"VIOLENT PROPAGANDA"

DEPRECATED

Loud cheers greeted a tribute by Sir Stafford Cripps to the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell. for his "hard and unceasing labour" in the task of forming the Interim Government. After recalling the events which had led up to this event. Sir Stafford said. "The Government is functioning satisfactorily to day and there have been. I am glad to say, no major difficulties within the Government itself. Unfortunately, the position is not helped by speeches made in the country by the supporters of the two parties. It is difficult, as members of the Opposition know, if not impossible, to maintain unity within a Coalition Government if an active and bitter struggle is proceeding throughout the country between partisans of the two sides to that coalition."

Sir Stafford Cripps declared that the position had of course been made far worse by the outbreak of violence on a large scale throughout many provinces. It was right to say, Sir Stafford added, that the leaders on both sides had roundly condemned these disturbances and had tried by visiting the areas and otherwise to influence their followers to a more calm and less violent frame of mind.

Referring to the riots, Sir Stafford Cripps said, "This terrible toll of casualties is an index of the intensity of the communal feeling that has come into being and though it will be deplored by everyone who has

the interest of India at it is a stark and naked fact. It settles nothing. Indeed, it only more difficult but is a factor none of us can ignore". Sir Stafford Cripps recalled that riots

more difficult but is a factor none of us can ignore".

Sir Stafford Cripps recalled that riots broke out in Calcutta after the Muslim League decision to set aside August 16 as "Direct Action to set aside August 16 as "Direct Action Day." These riots, he said, shocked the whole world by their intensity. He referred to the death-roil of some 4,000 and of 10,000 injured. Next came the outbreaks in Eastern Bengal, when gangs of Muslim hooligans carried the reign of terror into those parts with the result that 50,000 evacuees were driven out and some 200 deaths caused. This was accompanied by abduction, rape and forced conversions and as a result which rumours circulated greatly exaggerating that conduct which was already bad enough.

"Even worse viclence and murder broke out in Bihar and spread to the United Provinces. It was not possible to give the casualities in Bihar with any accuracy, but they were practically all Muslims and many were women and children. It was probably not an exaggeration to put the dead alone

not an exaggeration to put the dead alone at 5,000. It was estimated that since Sep-tember 1, there had been 445 deaths due to serious rioting in the United Provinces." LONDON TALKS

Referring to the visit of Indian leaders to London. Sir Stafford Cripps said that it was hoped that even at that eleventh hour mons to-day.

"We are convinced now as we have never been," added Sir Stafford, "that it is only by such co-operation that a satisfactory new constitution for India can be hammered out"

The debate opened shortly before 16-00 G.M.T., (9-30 p.m. I.S.T.) with the House crowded in every part.

Sir Stafford Cripps also told the House that after careful re-examination of the scheme put forward in May last the Government was convinced that it was not only a fair, but feasible scheme, "We can see no other way", he added, "by which the disaster of civil strife can be avoided."

We are convinced now as we have was hoped that even at that eleventh hour some accommodation might be possible in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the Constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the constituent Assembly and that they genuinely desired co-operation in the calmer atmosphere of London. The lead-ers, at these me

Centre, the constitution of which was to be werked out by a Constituent Assembly in which the Congress would have a clear majority on the basis of population on which it was constituted on the one side, and Sections B and C in which the Muslims would have their majority on the other hand; and in which, of course, provincial constitutions and if so decided, Group constitutions could be worked out for the two Groups of provinces. Thus each party had a majority where it was most deeply interested. It was, however, provided that no province could be forced into a Group against its will."

DISPUTE OVER GROUPING

Sir Stafford added that the dispute which arose, as to how decision should be arrived at in the Sections, was already a matter of difference when the Mission was in India Could a province vote itself out of a Grouping and itself determine its own constitution for the province or were both these matters to be decided by a simple majority of the Section? The latter yiew was clearly the correct one in the opinion of the Cabinet Mission, His Majesty's Government and their legal advisers; and this view was supported by the Muslim League.

League. The Congress took the contrary view. The Congress had said that they were prepared to submit this question of interpretation to the Federal Court and accept its decision, but on this, to them, a fundamental point, the Muslim League were not prepared to take that risk. There the matter still remained

take that risk, There the matter still remained.

Sir Stafford Cripps said that the Government had asserted definitely their understanding of the document and had stated that if the Constituent Assembly desired to refer the matter to the Federal Court then they hoped they would do it quickly so as to remove any doubts in their minds.

But the Government also had to envisage the possibility in the clause in the final paragraph of the Statement. This was perhaps a statement of the obvious—that if the Muslim League could not be persuaded to come into the Constituent Assembly, then parts of the country where they were in a majority could not be held to be bound by the results. That position had always been realised by the Congress who had repeatedly said that they would not coerce unwilling areas to accept the new constitution.

ng areas to accept the new constitution,

LEAGUE COUNCIL TO MEET

in Sections, for we are as convinced now as we have ever been, that it is by such co-operation that a satisfactory new constitu-tion for India can be hammered out."

POSITION OF STATES

Sir Stafford then told the House how marters stood with the States and the mino-rities. Regarding Indian States, the Cabinet maters stood with the Sistes and the Inflorrities, Regarding Indian States, the Cabinet
Mission laid down two principles as to the
relationships of States to the Crown during
this period of transition, the first, that
during the transitional period of the Interim
Government, Paramountey would remain
with the British Crown. The British Government could not and would not, in any
circumstances, transfer that Paramountey
to any other government of British India,
Second, that when the transfer of power
takes place in British India, then, if I may
quote 'as logical consequence and in view
of desires expressed to them on behalf of
Indian States His Majesty's Government
will cease to exercise powers of Paramountey'", Sir Stafford said that this quotation was in the Statement made to the
States while the Cabinet Mission was in
India.

India.

He added, "This means that the rights of the States, which flow from their relationship to the Crown will no longer exist and that the rights surrendered by the States to the Paramount Power will return back to that the ingular statements by the States to the States again. Proposals were also put forward as to the participation of representatives of the States in the Constituent Assembly and also for a Negotiating Committee representing the States which could seitle outstanding matters with the representatives of major communities in British India. These arrangements were welcomed by the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes in a Press statement on June 19 and the Negotiating Committee has now been set up. In that statement they expressed the view that the Mission's plan provided the necessary machinery for attaining by India of independence, as well as a fatt basis for future negotiations."

"Not unnaturally Indian States are most anxious that all major communities should be represented in the Constituent Assembly

anxious toat all major communities should be represented in the Constituent Assembly as they do not wish to be in the position of having to deal with one community only. Their ability, indeed, to co-operate must depend to some extent on what happens as regards the entry of the Muslim League into the Constituent Assembly."

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Dealing with the minorities, Sir Stafford Cripps said that it would be remembered that in the proposals of 1942, it was laid down that one of the conditions of acceptance by Britain of the new considution was that there should be a treaty, which among other things would contain a provision for the protection of minorities. "In the proposals of the Cabinet Mission this year the conditions of minorities were stated differently, That is, it was stated that a satisfactory provision for their protection should appear in the constitution and this we believe to be a more effective way and, indeed, it is in line with the demands put forward by Dr. Ambedkar to the Viceroy in 1942 when he stressed the ineffectiveness of treaty protection and the need for incorporation of pretective provisions in the constitution itself. "The second point of inverest is the pro-

meorphication of precently provisions in the constitution itself.

"The second point of interest is the provision suggested by the Mission for seeing that proper protection of minorities should be incorporated in the constitution. At first sight, it might appear that this could be done by giving them weightage in the Constituent Assembly. But when the position is examined it will be found that if sufficient weightage is given to make the representation really effective for each of the minorities in the Constituent Assembly or in the Sections, then it places the majority parties in an impossible position. It would, for instance, deprive the Muslims of their majority in Sections B and C. In fact quite, a lot of tions B and C. In fact quite a lot of minority representatives have been elected

(Continued on page 6)

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

DECLARATION OF OBJECTIVES

NEHRU MOVES RESOLUTION

LEAGUE'S ABSENCE REGRETTED

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13. The Constituent Assembly debated this morning Pandit Nehru's resolution on the creation of a sovereign, indepen-

dent Republic of India. Moving the resolution, Pandit Nehru pleaded for the co-operation of all secions of opinion in the country in framing a constitution.

Pandit Nehru said that while much still remained to be done by the written and printed word to give shape to the aspirations of the people, it was desirable to give some indication to the people of India and of the world of what they were seeking to achieve. The resolution he was moving was more than a mere resolution. It was a declaration of a firm resolve, a pledge and an undertaking, and, for all of them, a dedication. He hoped, therefore, that members would not look at it in any narrow or legalistic spirit.

Referring to the absence of the Mus-lim League, Pandit Nehru said that this was particularly to be regretted. It was regrettable because the Constituent Assembly had undertaken a task in which he co-operation of all the people was necessary because the future they envisaged did not comprise any group, social or religious, but comprised the four hundred millions of India. He hoped that the benches now empty would soon be filled. Meanwhile the duty was cast on them to function, not for one party or group, but for the welfare of all the four hundred millions.

Referring to the various amendments, Pandit Nehru said that this was not the time for being technical or legal, wher they had big things to say and to do. They should look at the spirit of the resolution and not lose themselves in words. The main difficulty in framing the resolution, said Pandit Nehru, was to avoid saying too much or too little. He was pressing his resolution as a mean between two extremes. It was a resolution which no party or group could dispute.

Referring to the omission of the word 'democratic' in the resolution, Pandit Vehru said that their whale past was a testimony to their faith in democracy. They had always stood for democracy. Whatever Government they might set up must be in keeping with the temper of the people. They had given the content of democracy, both political and economic, in the resolution.

Speaking about the position of the States, Pandit Nehru emphasised that so far as the resolution was concerned it did not interfere with the future work of the Assembly in its negotiations with he States. It was their determination that the States should also share equally in the freedom of the country. Pandit Nehru expressed the hope that when the final constitution was framed, it would be done with the co-operation of the real representatives of the people of the States.

Sir Stafford Cripps continued. "I do not wish the House to gain the impression that the position is, therefore, hopeless. We understand that Mr. Jinnah is prepared to put the matter before his Council with a view to ascertaining whether on the basis of the Statement of December 6 they are now prepared to enter the Assembly and we hope that the Constituent Assembly will show their statesmanship and desire for accommodation with the Muslim League by not committing themselves irrevocably to anything that will make it more difficult for the Muslim League to come in at a later date. For the moment, therefore, I cannot take that matter any further.

"It is perhaps a little unfortunate that at this tense and delicate moment we should have been induced to stage a debate in this House."

The States.

DISAPPOINTMENT OVEE CABINET

STATEMENT

Pandit Nehru then referred to his recent visit to London and said that it was made at the special request of the British Prime Minister. He had received the ulmost courtesy during his stay. Unfortunately he had come back without any measure of cheer, but with a large measure of disappointment. The difficulty that had arisen was mainly because of the latest statement issued by the British Government. It was a blow to him that just when they were striking ahead, obstructions were placed in their way, new limitations announced and new procedures suggested. Pandit now?"

Sir Stafford Cripps: "I hope not. We still have hope that despite the mutual fears and suspicions which reign, the two parties may eventually find themselves side by side in the Constituent Assembly and in Sections, for we are as convinced now as Recalling India's past struggle for freedom, Pandit Nehru emphasised that if the necessity arose, they were ready for action. It was nevertheless a matter for regret that new obstacles had been placed in the way, which had to be cleared.

WARNING TO BRITAIN.

The main difficulty, he said, was that was no imaginative understanding of the Indian people in Britain. It was not realised in Britain that the only way to influence India was through friendship, co-operation and goodwill. For their part, Pandit Nehru said, they had seen trying to create an atmosphere of co-operation not only among their own countrymen, but also with Great Britain. In spite of their continued endeavour they could not succeed in this higher responsibility. Co-operation with Great Britain, Pandit Nehru declared, did not mean and would not mean giving up of the things they had stood for. India sought co-operation with England. If that co-operation was denied, it be injurious net only to India would

but to England, perhaps more to England, and also the world at large.

Earlier, Pandit Nehru paid a tribute to the men who had fought for India's freedom. Mahatma Gandhi, he said, was the Father of the Nation and architect

of all that had been achieved. Pandit Nehru's resolution was second ed by Babu Purushotham Das Tandon.

AMENDMENTS TO PANDIT NEHRU'S RESOLUTION

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) NEW DELHI, Dec. 13.

Notices of over 25 amendments have been received by the President's Office to Mr. Nehru's main resolution before the Constituent Assembly defining the objectives of the permanent constitution of India. The majority of these amendments seek to emphasise the need for safe-guarding the interests of workers and peasants. Some are designed to eliminate one feature, namely the vesting of residuary powers in the provinces. One amendment standing in Dr. M. R. Jayakar's name questions the wisdom and expediency of bringing up such a resolution before the Constituent Assembly in the absence of the Muslim League and Indian States representatives. The final stages of the debate on Pan-

Nehru's resolution may be reached only after his return from East Bengal. By that time Lord Wavell will be back from London, and also Mr. Jinnah. The debates in both the Houses of Parliament on India and Mr. Jinnah's promised statement before leaving London at the end of this week will remove a good deal of uncertainty which is prevalent at this stage. There are, of course, some who suggest that adoption of such a resolution as Pandit Nehru's will make the entry of the Muslim League and States into the Consti tuent Assembly much more difficult than it is. Congress leaders on the other hand there is nothing in its contend that terms to which anyone can with reason take exception. The objectives of the Muslim League cannot be different from those defined in the resolution and in

fact the draft takes careful note, both of Muslim sentiment and the basic details of the Cabinet Mission's long-term

PRINCES' ATTITUDE

The Standing Committee of the States People's Conference will meet during Christmas and at a later stage the Constituent Assembly is expected to appoint its Negotiating Committee to discuss with the Nawab of Bhopal the terms and conditions of States' participation in the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly. The States do not seem to be anxious to basten the negotiations. They People's Conference will meet during ous to basten the negotiations. They want to see whether the Muslim League enters the Constituent Assembly and for what purpose. They will examine the implications of Pandit Nehru's resolu-

Pandit Nehru during his recent visit to London made a sharp attack on the Political Department. It is believed in some quarters that it is only a prelude to demanding large-scale changes, in-cluding the replacement of the present Political Adviser to the Crown Representative by an Indian who will not be outside the influence, and even control of the Government of India.

Pandit Nehru's complaint that the Interim Government has nothing to do with the Political Department is considered significant. It is no secret that during summer several of the Princes took the extraordinary step of informing the Viceroy that they would prefer a British Officer as Political Adviser to an Indian. Since the assumption office by the Interim Government, it has begun to dawn on several of Their High-nesses that after all even the Defence Department is under an Indian, and treaty obligations to the extent that they relate to the maintenance of troops for the protection of States are entirely under the influence of the Interim Government. Nevertheless mention of public" in Pandit Nehru's resolution as caused a shock to some who wonder what sovereignty derived from the people signifies.

Congress leaders will feel their way. It is possible that the Congress Working Committee may decide to meet at some suitable place in East Bengal in the last week of December and review the situation in Gandhiji's presence with his advice.

DR. JAYAKAR'S SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

Forty amendments tabled to-day propose drastic changes and even whole-sale substitution of Pandit Nehru's resolution on the declaration of objectives to be discussed by the Constituent Assembly on Friday. One of the two substitute resolutions is in the name of Mr. Somnath Lahiri, the Communist member, and runs to 1,500 words. Dr. sembly M. R. Jayakar heads the list with the other substitute resolution which is a other substitute resolution wares heref one (says Associated Press) and

"This Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve that the constitution to be prepared by this Assembly for the future Governance of India shall be for a free and democratic sovereign State; but with a view to securing, in the shaping of such a constitution, the cooperation of the Muslim League and the Indian States, and thereby intensifying the firmness of this resolve, this Assembly postpones the further consideration of this question to a later date, to enable the representatives of these two bodies to participate, if they so choose, in the deliberations of this Assembly.'

COMMUNIST AMENDMENT

Mr. Lahiri's substitute resolution declares India to be an independent country and calls upon the Indian members of the Interim Government, nominees of the two main popular parties and of the minorities, together en-joy the support of the overwhelming majority of our people, to act as the Free Provisional Government of India and to function henceforth in the name of the Indian people and not as hitherto in the name of the British King Emperor."

The resolution calls upon the Provisional Government to take steps interalia to effect the withdrawal of all British troops from India and the with-drawal of Indian troops from outside unions and penalise defaulting capita-lists. People are called upon to be vigilant and report acts of intransigence and sabotage carried out by bureaucrats and officials in the interest of their former master so that such cases are speedily

exposed and the culprits punished.
In order to resolve Congress-League differences, the resolution suggests, first, the setting up of a Boundary Commission to redemarcate existing provinces and States into linguistically and culturally homogeneous units, and second, plebiscite of the entire adult population of each such unit to determine whether they will join the Indian Union or form a separate State. The resolution asks for the establishment in Indian States of popular interim Governments which should call a Constituent Assembly which in turn, should elect delegates to the All-

India Constituent Assembly Smaller amendments include two by Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena, (Leftist from U. P.), who opposes the vesting of residuary powers in the units and advocates a declaration that the power and authority of the State are derived from the

vorking people.
Mr. Ram Narayan Singh asks for the addition of a clause to declare unlawful all formations or organisations of parties and cliques, open or secret, on the basis of any ideology, religion or otherwise, for election, administration or any other

purpose.
Mr. C. E. Gibbon, Anglo-Indian member from the Punjab, demands freedom for propagation of religion.

Mr. Satya Ranjan Bakshi wants the safeguarding of liberty of person and immunity from arrest without warrant and detention without trial.

Mr Vishwambhar Daya! Tripati, who sponsors more amendments than any other member, favours an explicit declaration that the Constituent Assembly is a sovereign constitution-making body ieriving power from the people. He asks that India be proclaimed as an independent sovereign Socialist republic, as against the independent sovereign repub-

lic envisaged in the original resolution.

The hope was expressed to-night that many of the amendments tabled will not be pressed and some not moved.

CONGRESS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.
The Advisory Committee, which has been re-named as the Consultative Committee of the Congress bloc in the Constituent Assembly, met this evening and discussed certain amendments which have been tabled to Pandit Nehru's resolution on the declaration of objectives. discussed the question of linguistic pro-

of the Constituent Assembly met to-day and discussed draft rules of procedure.

STATES PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE

The Rules and Procedure Committee

The meeting of the Standing Committee of the All-India States People's Conference, armounced for December 22 has now been postponed to December 26 and the two subsequent days,—A.P.L.