CALL AT ALL-INDIA MUTTS CONFERENCE

PURI SANKARACHARYA'S

, ADDRESS

MADRAS, Dec. 12. "Any constitution that is framed for a free and independent India must provide safeguards for the protection of the fundamental right of the Hindus to live their lives according to their ancient well-established Dharma", oblive their lives according to their ancient well-established Dharma", observed His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Govardhana Pectam, Puri, presiding over the first All-India Dharma Pecta (Muits) Sammelanam at the Rasika Ranjani Sabha hall, Mylapore, Madras, to-

iani Sahha hall, Mylapore, Madras, today.

This is the first time in the history of the country that the Hindu religious heads of India meet in conference. A large gathering of pandits from all parts of India attended the conference.

Dewan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, proposing His Holiness to the chair, said that the country was passing through critical times and with the advance of the forces of democracy there were bound to be political and social changes. For the safety of the country, however, the sovereignty of Hindu, Dharma should be preserved at all costs. The Mutts had been the guardians of the spiritual life of the country and the heads of these Mutts must play a leading part in trying to see that this Dharma was not destroyed in any way.

Mr. K Balasubramania Alyar Secretary of the Sammelan, read messages wishing success to the conference from several Mutts all over India.

In a special message to the Conference, His Holiness the Goswami of Badamandir of Bombay hoped that the Conference would impress on the authorities the necessity for providing sufficient safeguards for the preservation of Hindu Dharma and culture.

The President then delivered his address.

the president then delivered his address. The President then delivered his address. First he addressed a few words in Sanskrit thanking the organisers for having asked him to preside over the Conference.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President said: "This is a historic occasion. It synchronises with the historic occasion of the meeting of the first Constituent Assembly at Delhi on the 9th of December 1946 for the purpose of framing a constitution for a free and independent India. Dr. Sacchidananda Sinha, Provisional Chairman of the Constituent Assembly in the following memorable words: "My prayer is that the constitution that you are going to plan may be reared for immortality." We are met here to-day as representatives of are met here to-day as representatives of the religious heads of this ancient land to protect and maintain our immortal Dharma the religious heads of this ancient land to protect and maintain our immortal Dharma which has been already reared by the ancient saints and sages of India for immortality. The Dharma Peetas (Mutts) are ancient institutions established by the great religious Acharyas of the past for the maintenance of the general Dharma of the Hindus and of the particular genominations of which the Hindu religion is composed. They have been for many centuries now the custodians of the Hindu Dharma which has guided the social and domestic life of the individual and family and sustained the great culture of India As such, these religious institutions have a great and vital stake in the country, especially for the preservation of the genius and integrity of the Hindu Dharma.

NEED FOR "DHARMIC SWARAJ" "We are firmly of opinion that without the free and unrettered establishment and enjoyment of our Dharmic Swaraj, any political and economic Swaraj that we may be able to achieve will be of no use in maintaining the individuality of our great country among the commonwealth of nations. Any constitution that is framed for a free and independent India must provide safeguards for the protection of the fundamental rights of the Hindus to live their lives according to their ancient well-established Dharma. We are afraid that without such safeguards, in the exuberance of the newly-found freedom, inroads are likely to be made into the imaging, of these relithe made into the integrity of these reli-cious institutions which have been working or many centuries now in accordance with the well-established traditions and princi-

the well-established traditions and principles."

The President added: "I feel that the time has come for all the religious heads in India to come together, take counsel and establish a permanent rederation of all the Mutts in India which will be entrusted with the task of taking all the steps that are necessary for the protection and preservation of the protection and preservation of the see centuries. The Matathipathis or Dharmapeeta Acharyas have also a special function to perform in the task of the protection of the Hindu religion against the proselything activities of the militant religions of Islam and Christianity and the onslaughts of Western materialism upon Hindu society. The recent forced conversions in Eastern Bengai have brought the contract of the Hindus to continue to practice their ancestory in the function associate viself with any religious faith, but will give freedom to all religions to function Any Government will not associate viself with any religious faith, but will give freedom the time twinch infringes the rule of religious freedom is a bad example. This, I think, represents the Congress attitude in the matter.

Hindu religions can be said to be allowed to "function", only if Hindus are allowed to "function" the live the lives of their faith with indifference, that can be no reason for denying the rights of other Hindus to continue to practice their ances. Mindu society. The recent forced conversions in Eastern Bengai have brought the problem mentioned by me to the forefront. We should make all efforts that are possible for reclaiming our Hindu brethren who are forcibly converted to Helam. We should not shrink either money or resources for doing so and for giving relief to the homeless and distressed people of Eastern Bengai. I feel that we should also make earnest efforts for establishing the solidarity of the Hindu community and for removing all fissiparous tendencies among the members of our community,

CALL TO REPRESENTATIVES OF MUTTS

"We have a great task before us and I earnestly appeal to all the representatives of the Dharma Peetas (Muits) present here and to all other religious heads in India to make joint deliberations for achieving these objects and united efforts for attaining our Dharmic Swaraj. I also appeal to the representatives present here to bring to bear upon our deliberations a realistic and practical mind determined to surmount all difficulties that may stand in 'the way of achieving our objects.

"We know that although Hindi has been declared as a national language of India, for all intents and purposes Sanskrit is and will be a national language of India and all efforts be made to make it a national language. I put it to you in the words of the Sanskrit Professor and Scholar, Dr. Thomas, who presided over the All-India Oriental Conference at Trivandrum in 1937. He exhorted the audience that Sanskrit is the real lingua franca of India and it must be treated as such."

Proceeding, the President drew attention to the subjects to which consideration was to be given at the conference. He enumerated these as follows: Startung a permanent body for the All-India Federation of all Religious Mutts in India and an appointing a Committee for the preparation of the rules and regulations of such a federation. Submission of a Memurandum to the Constituent Assembly at Delhi and nomination of members for presenting the Memorandum (explaining Fundamental Rights).

RECONVERSION OF HINDUS

Concluding the President said, "Further we have to consider ways and means for the reconversion of Hindus in Eastern Bengal and for giving them the necessary help for the peaceful settlement of all of them in their villages without any obstacles to peaceful living and the practising of their religious rites."

STATE NEUTRALITY IN RELIGION

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Mr. K. Balasubramania Aiyar next read the memorandum drafted by a Committee for presentation to the members of the Con-stituent Assembly.

stituent Assembly.

The memorandum states: We are submitting this on behalf of Hindu Religious heads. representing all the Hindu denominations, with their seats spread all over india and with an unbroken history of succession through several centuries. Their traditional function has been, since ancient times, to preserve Hindu religion and culture in addition to upholding the special doctrines of their respective denominations. As Religious Heads they are greatly concerned with the spiritual welfare of the people. As spiritual welfare tan be attained only through religious beliefs and conduct, they hold that freedom out religion is a basic and fundamental need. They believe that the permanent peace and happiness of all can be secured only by following the principles of Dharma.

function will be to report to the Union Constituent Assembly upon the list of Fundamental rights, the clauses for the protection of minorities, etc." (Fara 20, Cabinet Mission proposals). The Congress also has wisely defined us objectives to include "the guarantee of the Fundamental rights of each individual so that he may have full and equal opportunities of growth and further each community should have opportunity to live the life of its choice within the larger framework" (Working Committee's Resolution. May 24 1946). The Muslim League, has secured special recognition of its position in the following words of the Cabinet Mission, viz. "If there is to be internal peace in India it must be secured by measures which will assure to the Muslims a control in all matters vital to their culture, religion and economic or other interests". The League has, in its turn, recognised the "existence of other religious and cultural communities and agreed that "the fundamental rights and safeguards concerning religion culture, and other matters affecting communities will be provided for "in the Group or Provinctal Constitution" (League Memorandum May 12 1946).

We feel the our duty to approach the

stitution" (League Memorandum and an 1946).

We feel it our duty to approach the Constituent Assembly at this juncture, with a statement of the faith and the desires of the Dharmic Hindu community, so that the permanent and basic principles of the new constitution may include protection to Hindu Dharma by observance of State neutrality towards religion, and oreventing prejudicial interference. the same measure and manner as in the case of other religious communities. India with her face set towards freedom and independence, may build and develop a democratic state according to her genius. Her genius and tradition have always favoured freedom in matters of the spirit in the full faith that only in freedom and dispersions. the full faith that only in freedom and di-versity can real spiritual values emerge. Social peace can be secured in this country of many creeds and cultures only by erec-ting tolerance as a major principle of the consilution. In countries with a state reconstitution. In countries with a state re-ligion and church impatient of differences and destrous of establishing uniformity of faith by coercion if need be tolerance has been of slow growth and has been pro-moted by the secular state rather than by the Church Modern thought is in favour of the non-interference of the State in matters spiritual. maiters spiritual.

ELIMINATION OF STATE

INTERFERENCE

Conly by the elimination of State interference from certain well-defined spheres of individual and social life can all communities live and grow in peace and amity. The advantage of the country's ancient faith and its modern needs alike favour a declaration of the fundamental right of each community to pursue its own ideals and develop its own spiritual values, the state practising strict neutrality and non-interference. To the Hindu, this is too obvious a principle to need elaborate arguments. The Congress Working Committee has declared, "All the people of the country should have the freedom and opportunity to grow and develop according to their genius" (Resolution, June 25, 1946). We claim that the Hindus have a special genius of their own, They have cultivated and spiritual ideals in their domestic and social life. They are guided in their inner and private lives by their scripture and tradition. State legislation which affects their private lives, in so far as they are based on the rules of religion, is inappropriate and will prove ineffective in the long run.

According to Hindu conception, State INTERFERENCE

priate and will prove ineffective in the long run.

According to Hindu conception, State authority is not the source of Dharma. Mahatma Gandhi recently in one of his prayer meetings described the sources of correct conduct in the same terms as Manu's precept; "That is Dharma which is enjoined by the holy books, followed by the sages, interpreted by the learned, and which appeals to the heart". Of the four, the second is to be availed of where there are no rules of the first, the third when there are no rules of the second, and the fourth, when there is no guidance from the third. But the fourth and last source tends to take the first place, with those who are aliens to the true Hindu conceptends to take the first place, with those who are aliens to the true Hindu conception. There is real and great danger to Dharma, if the conscience and judgment Dharma, if the conscience and judgment of a cabinet and a majority vote in the Legislature which they control, should be regarded as the final standard for determining Dharma. We are filled with the hope that the framers of the new constitution will be fully alive to the risk, and build the Indian State purely as a secular State. Pandit Nehru has said: "I am convinced that the future Government of India must be secular in the sense that the Government will not associate viself with any religious faith, but will give freedom to all religions to function Any Government which infringes the rule of religious

lority of minority, every section, and every sub-community within the Hindu fold is entitled, as a fundamental right, to live its private life according to its own traditions and tenets of faith, untrammelied by democratic legislation which always tends to infringe and coerce, applying secular standards and considerations.

SAFEGUARDS FOR RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

That secular rights of a fundamental nature should be safeguarded to all individuals and communities is generally conceded by all. We submit that on the same principles of justice and wisdom, cultural and religious rights should be safeguarded against State interference. This principle is equally, if not more, applicable to the Hindu religion—the most ancient and the most tolerant which has survived the vicissitudes of countless ages and which, for these very reasons, is least susceptible to be understood or appreciated by the modern mind. The denominational groups among Hindus have, besides doctriual differences, different Acharas which they have inherited and practised for a long time. The safeguard for religion should be such as to protect even such communities from legislative interference in finer particular religious lives. Indeed Lord Pethick-Lawrence has stated that the Fundamental Rights "would be of benefit both to the large communities and to the small minorities" (letter of Lord Pethick-Lawrence to the Muslim League, May 9, 1946).

There is imperative need for providing full and available safeguards for protecting the religion and culture of conforming Hindus, against interference by composite legislatures or by executive authority which may operate with a communal bias individuals or groups who get control of State machinery by success at elections often assume the exclusive virtue or wisdom of their measures and decide to enforce them, ignoring or vetoing the sentiments and rights or even the religious faith of the affected persons and communities. In enacting safeguards for religious faith of the affected persons and communities. In enacting safeguards for religious faith of the affected persons and communities. In enacting safeguards for religious faith of the affected persons and communities. In enacting safeguards for religious faith of the affected persons and communities. In enacting safeguards for religious faith of the affected persons and communities. In enacting safeguards for religious far as they are regulated by religious in

ship, including family and social life so far as they are regulated by religious injunctions.

There are numerous and ancient institutions which sustain the inner life and maintain and perpetuate the outer structure of Hinduism in its varied forms. The temples and Dharma Peetahs are the most important of such institutions. There are also other institutions, founded or functioning on the basis of religious beliefs, like chatrams. kattalais, bhajana matams, samadhies, etc. Most of these are of ancient origin and are governed by the rules of religion applicable to them and by their own particular traditions. They also hold endowed properties dedicated for their use which they maintain in perpetual ownership. Besides they get current income of various kinds of gifts and offerings made purely dut of religious faith or devotion.

We request that all religious institutions should be immune from State interference, and their integrity and status, which are the only guardian factors of pure religion; should not in any way be allowed to be impaired. It is also necessary and fundamentality just that their properties and their income should not in any manner be drawn away or diverted from their religious uses.

CONVERSIONS

CONVERSIONS

CONVERSIONS

greatly concerned with the spiritual welfare greatly concerned with the spiritual welfare of the people. As spiritual welfare fan be attained only through religious beliefs and conduct, they hold that freedom on versions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to prove and happiness of all can be secured only by following the principles of Dharma.

They welcome the proposal of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution of the Cabinet Mission that "An Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorises, etc." is to be set up by the Constitution to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely to conversions from one religion to another has been productive of much evil, and is likely

have further laid down: "The Advisory Committee should contain full representation of the interests affected, and their strength of their devotion by the results they produce. Hence methods which have no connection whatever with religious conviction are often employed for conversion. The use of schools, hospitals, and charitable protection of minorities, etc." (Para 2) Cabinet Mission proposals). The Congress also has wisely defined its objectives to include "the guarantee of the Fundamenthis too-widely prevalent tendency. Another powerful factor has recently come into play to intensify conversion activities, which are inspired not by religious zeal but by the desire to acquire secular advantages. From the time when State benefits and patternage, besides political weightage and electoral arrangements, began to be based on divisions of communities according to their religion, activities for effecting conversion have become intensified, which in their turn have inevitably produced counteractions. Our main aim in this Memorandum has been to show that social peace and political stability can best be secured by allowing all cultural and religious groups to live their own life, unhampered by external interference or aggression. All organised activities for conversion from one religion to another are forms of aggression, which invariably produce reactions tending to disturb the normal peace of society. We also urge that it should be regarded as a fundamental right of each citizen or group, or community to continue in the faith in which they were born, immune from either fraudulent temptation or outside which they were born, immune from either fraudulent temptation or outside proselytising interference and this can be secured only by prohibiting acts of conver-sion from one religion to another by orga-

secured only by prohibiting acts of conversion from one religion to another by organised agencies or through material aids or inducements.

As the Advisory Committee is to be set up with "full representation of the interests affected" we request that the All-India Dharma Peetah Sammelanam should be given due representation in the Sub-Committee or the Auxiliary Committees that may be formed in connection with the work of framing fundamental rights. If for any reason that is not found feasible, full opportunities should be afforded for putting forward and explaining the viewpoint conportunities should be afforded for putting forward and explaining the viewpoint concerning the protection of traditional Hindu religion and culture. The Dharmacharyas have a special responsibility and duty in this respect, and we hope that their position will be recognised by the Constituent Assembly and the Advisory Committee, by affording facilities for the association and consultation of the Committee of the All-India Dharma Pectahs, Sammelanam. with the work of the Advisory Committee in all its stages.

Mr. Venkoba Rao pointed out that the Constituent Assembly, as at present composed, was predominantly a Congress body and there had been a tendency among Congressment to impose changes not only in the political administration of the land but also in the social and religious life of the people. The Sammelanam must make it clear that the fundamental rights of the people should first be recognised such as the right to worship and to follow a particular religion without interference from outside. He wished that at least the concluding porreligion without interference from outside. He wished that at least the concluding portion of the memorandum should be redrafted. He pointed out that he was not opposed to the principles enunciated in it.

Mr. K. S. Ramaswami Sastri said that the Constituent Assembly had sovereign rights and hoped that it would not interfere with the personal rights of individuals in spiritual matters.

Mr. K. S. Champakesa Ivengar pointed out that religious institutions should be made immune from State interference.

Mr. A. V. Sankara Rao said that the Constituent Assembly must first religious inherent rights of the people inherent rights of the people inherent rights of the people in the constitution.

spiritual.
Mr. T. L. Venkatarama Aiyar said that Mr. F. L. Verikatarania rayas and distribe Constituent Assembly was not competent to interfere with the spiritual and religious rights of individuals.

The memorandum was then approved on the motion of Mr. K. S. Champakesa Iyen-

FEDERATION OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

On the motion of Mr. R. Venkoba Rao. seconded by Mr. Champakesa Iyengar, it was resolved that the Mutts and religious institutions in the country should form themselves into a Federation. Al Sub-Committee was superinted to force a life of the superinted to the sup themselves into a Federation. A! Sub-Committee was appointed to frame rules and regulations for the Federation.

The President and Secretary of the Sammelanam were authorised to make arrangements for the presentation of the memorandum to the members of the Constituent Assembly and the various mutts and institutions were requested to contribute towards the expenses of these arrangements. It was also resolved to translate the memorandum in the various languages for propaganda purposes.

RECLAMATION OF MOAKHALL

RECLAMATION OF NOAKHALI VICTIMS

His Holiness the Chairman moved the fol-His Holiness the Chairman moved the following resolution: "The President of the Conference be authorised to take all measures for the purpose of giving relief to the distressed people in Noakhali and other villages in Eastern Bengel and to reclaim all those converted to Islam."

He said that several thousands of people in the affected areas had lost their all and were in need of immediate help. He wished that the mutts had taken up the matter carlier and afforded relief. As regards reconversion, His Holiness said that it was permissible and quoted a text from the Devasmritt mentioning the methods of the Devasmriti mentioning the methods of reconversion and the prayaschittes to be

The resolution was passed unanimously. In his concluding remarks, the Chairman said that he was gied that the conference had adopted the memorandem giving in detail the position and the demands of the religious and other muits in the country. The present session had been convened only for the purpose of approving the memorandum but they would have to solve more complex questions in the future and he was sure that the Federation would do everything in its power to see that their fundamental rights were recognised and protected.

ed.

Mr. K. Balasubramania Alyar thanked His
Holiness and the other representatives of
the mutis and institutions who attended the
Conference. The Conference was then dissolved.

RESTRICTION ON CEYLON LABOUR LEADER

LABOUR LEADER

COLOMBO. Dec. 11.

The acting Governor, Sir John Howard, has rejected the petition of the Ceylon Trade Union leader, Dr. S. A. Wickremesinghe, for pardon to enable him to contest the forthcoming general elections under the new Constitution, it is learned.

Dr. Wickremesinghe, a former member of the State Council, has served a term of imprisonment during the war under the Defence Regulations and, as a consequence, is not qualified to seek election under the new Constitution which lays down that imprisonment of three months or of ionger duration during the preceding seven years disqualifies a person from being a Senator or member of the House of Representatives.

Under the existing Donoughmore Constitution, however, Dr. Wickremeshinghe, can seek election and is already standing for a hye-election—A.P.I.

BENGAL POLITICALS

RELEASED CALCUTTA. Dec. 12. Mr. Haridas Mitra of Jessore, son-in-law of Mr. Suresh Chandra Bose, elder brother of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, and Dr. Pabitra Rai of Dacca, who were undergoing life imprisonment, were to-day released from the Alipore

Central Jail. Mr. Mitra and Dr. Rai had been sentenced to death on a charge of being enemy agents and their sentences were later commuted to transportation for on the intervention of Mahatma Gandhi,-A.P.I.

ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

CALCUTTA, Dec. 11.

The annual session of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, to be opened by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, here on December 16, will consider for adoption about a dozen resolutions.

"A "special" resolution to be moved by the Chambers' President, Mr. H. D. Townsend, "expresses the earnest hope that the final stage in the transfer to India of her own governance and destiny will be accomplished in an atmosphere of peace, resting on goodwill, tolerance and mutual understanding."—A.P.A.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON DISARMAMENT

AGREEMENT REACHED

LAKE SUCCESS (New York), Dec. 12. After more than four hours' debate 20 nations of the United Nations Sub-Committee to-night finally approved the disarmament resolution unanimously and it now goes before the Politica Committee before passage through the

General Assembly.

As adopted the resolution which is only in the form of a working paper a present contains six paragraphs laying down principles for reduction in arms and control and regulation of all weapons including the atomic bomb. Before it is passed by the General Assembly, however, the historic document may be split into more paragraphs.-Reuter.

MONTGOMERY'S SPEECHES

QUESTIONS IN COMMONS

LONDON, Dec. 12, The Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee, re-plied in the House of Commons to-day to a question from Captain Blackburn (Labour) "whether the Government (Labour) "whether the Government authorised Field-Marshal Montgomery to state to the senior officers in Austria that one of the considerations which weighed most with the Cabinet in its decision to introduce conscription was purposed that rational morale would "They wished that the Section," the helief that rational morale would benefit as a result of the youth spend-ing a year and a half in the services' and to a question from Mr. Wyatt (Labour) "whether the recent statement made by Field-Marshal Montgomery in Venezia Giulia to the effect that demobilisation would be speeded up after the first three months of 1947 had the authority of the Government" and "whether the relevant part of the King's regula-tions which forbid public speeches by serving soldiers has been abrogated in in favour of Field-Marshal Montgo-

mery."
The Prime Minister said: "Field-Mar shal Montgomery did not make any pub-lic speech but he addressed a private meeting of senior officers in Austrid. I have ascertained from the Field-Marshai that it is entirely untrue that he made

that it is entirely until that he made the alleged statements contained in the two members' questions.

Captain Blackburn: "Will the Prime Minister make it plain that in Govern-ment's view both the need for and dura-tion, of conscription is governed by of conscription is governed by strictly military considerations."

The Prime Minister: "Certainly."

TRUMAN REORGANISES GOVT. DEPTS.

MADRAS, Dec. 12.
The Education Committee of the City

The Education Committee of the City Council, at its meeting yesterday, sanctioned the proposal of the Commissioner to construct sheds for opening elementary schools in 14 selected slums, at an estimated cost of Rs. 81,200.

The opening of Standard VII in two Muslim Schools (Dadasa Makhan and Perambur) and in four Girls' Schools (Korakkupet, Madavaram High Road, Amaravathi Kuppam and Vellala Teynampet) was also approved by the Committee.

It was also decided to take over two buildings owned by the Labour Department in Austin Nagar and Narayanaswami Garden, Advar, for the running of schools.

Garden, Advar, for the running of schools.

The Revised Budget of the Elementary
Education Fund consequent upon the Corporation taking over schools in the extended areas of the City was also approved by

SUPPLY OF RE-CONSTITUTED MILK

MADRAS, Dec. 12.

MADRAS, Dec. 12.

As the Government scheme of free supply of milk to school children and priority consumers ceases from January 1, 1947. The Health Committee of the City Council considered yesterday the suggestion of the Government that the Corporation might purchase a part of the re-constituted milk produced. The Government have made it clear that they would not bear any finantial responsibility on this score. The Health Committee expressed the view that its present financial state would not justify the Corporation in embarking upon such a scheme and decided to request the Government to supply free the required quantity of re-constituted milk as hitherto, the Corporation bearing only the establishment and incidental charges.

MAHASABHA WORKER RELEASED

BENARES, Dec. 11.

Pandit Suradev Sharma, a Hindu Mahasahha worker, who was arrested in Benares on November 14, in connection with a speech he delivered on Noakhail Day at Gorakhpur was released unconditionally this evening

Y. M. C. A. CARNIVAL

Y. M. C. A. CARNIVAL

MADRAS. Dec. 12.

The annual Carnival of the Madras Y.M.C.A. in aid of the under-privileged boys of the City will be held on December 26, 27 and 28 in the Royapettah Y.M.C.A. compound. The hon. Lady Nye will open the Carnival A General Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Venkatesa Iyengar has been formed to make arrangements for the successful conduct of the Carnival. A new feature of the Carnival this year will be an exhibition in which the Pachalyappa's College, the Presidency College, the Medical College and the Engineering College are co-operating.

There were 239 visitors to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras and 310 Oriental works were consuited during November 1946, as against 233 and 134 respectively during November 1945, notifies the curator of the library.

Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Director of Council of the Scientific and Industrial Research Government of India, is returning to the Pumjab as wholetime Professor of Physical Chemistry. The Senate of the Punjab University has decided to invite Dr. Bhatanagar to accept this post and to permit him to work as Industrial Adviser to the Punjab Government

FRAMING INDIA'S CONSTITUTION

(Continued from Page 4)

make the representation really effective for each of the minorities in the Constituent Assembly or in the Sections. Ithen 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 minority representatives have been elected to the Constituent Assembly owing to proportional representation and with some assistance from the major parties. These are six Indian Christians, three Anglo-Indians, 29 Scheduled Castes of Congress-sponsoring and two of other sponsoring. The Sikhs, of course, have been dealt with as a major party in the Punjab, which is their stronghold and they themselves have elected their own quota of representatives.

"The Mission felt this was not in itself enough and so proposed an Advisory Committee on, among other things, minorities to attain full representation of all minorities, especially those not otherwise represented in the Assembly and it was the intention that this should be an authoritative body, whose recommendations would carry weight both with the Assembly and

tive body, whose recommendations would carry weight both with the Assembly and the Sections Those are the general provi-sions with regard to minorities.

SIKHS' DEMAND

"I would mention two of the special cases. Sikhs and the Depressed Classes. The position of the Sikhs is a very difficult one because they do not have majority in any single province or area of the country and it is therefore impossible to devise any method of giving them any form of autonomy. They are, however, a very important cotamunity, almost entirely centred in the Puntab "I would mention two of the special cases

Punjab, "They wished that the Section, which contained the Punjab to be given the right to veto any provision, which affected their community, just as the Muslim League had such right in the Constituent Assembly itself That was not possible, because a similar right would have had to be given to the other minorities and if two such vetoes had existed it would have been a certainty that the Section would not have arrived at any decision at all. By avoiding partition which would have divided the Sikhs into two halves they were saved a worse solution from their point of view. The Sikhs were not perhaps in so bad a position as they have thought. Both the other two communities must be anxious for their support. If that very valiant community will exercise patience, they will find they will come very well out of it."

Regarding the Scheduled Castes, Sir

well out of it."
Regarding the Scheduled Castes, Sir Stafford Cripps said, as it turned out they had got two representatives in the Interim Government, one from the Congress organisation and one independent from Bengal who was in fact a sympathiser with Dr. Ambedkar's Federation. In the Constituent Assembly, there were 29 Congress representatives of the Scheduled Castes and two others. He hoped representation would be given to both the organisations in the Advisory Committee on minorities.

"FAIR AND FEASIBLE SCHEME"

In conclusion Sir Stafford Cripps said, "After careful re-examination of the scheme put forward in May last, we are convinced that it is not only a fair but a feasible scheme. Whatever the scheme, it is not only

GOVT. DEPTS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.

President Truman to-day carried out a sweeping reorganisation of the United States Government agencies and consolidated a majority of them in 'the office of temporary controls' under the leadership of Major Philip Fleming, formerly Federal Works Administrator.

The new office is designed to carry out control and economic stabilisation and reconversion - measures still needed.

TRAINING FOR RECRUITS

TO GOVT. SERVICES

ALLAHABAD, Dec. 11.

The U.P. Government have agreed to lend the services of Mr. Bhola Naih Jha, I.C.S., at present Revenue Secretary in the United Provinces, for the Principalship of the proposed training college for recruits to the central administrative Services.

REORGANISATION OF GOVT.

DEPARTMENTS

MADRAS, Dec. 12.

The Cabinet Committee on reorganisation and retrenchment in Government Departments held a meeting to-day and adjourned to reassemble on January 4.

It is understood that the Committee decided to call for reports from the Heads of Departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment in their respective departments, on the plans they may consider suitable for reorganisation and retrenchment of the reconstituent of the proposed of the Committee decided to call for

MR. CHURCHILL'S SPEECH

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Mr. Winston Churchill, Leader of the Opposition, began by saying that the Opposition associated itself with Sir Stafford in his appeal to the various leaders of parties in India to abstain from violent propagands, and invective against each other, which might have the effect of bringing about a recrudescence or intensification of the grave disorders, which had occurred. "Sir Stafford Cripps deplored in moderate terms the fact that we are having a debate on this subject to-day. but 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 interest in the affair, without any record even in Hansard of the transaction."

Declaring that the Opposition would not divide the House, Mr. Churchill said, "We must indulge the hope that an agreement will be reached between the two great Indian religions and their political parties which give modern expression to their, agelong antagonisms".

Apparently referring to his insistence on having a debate Mr. Churchill said. "If we remain silent after all these months, it might be thought that we were in agreement with His Majesty's Government and that the policy they were pursuing was the national policy and not the party policy of the forces they represent. It might be thought that this was the policy which was endorsed and the execution of which was endorsed by the British people as a whole whereas for good or for ill, the responsibility rests with His Majesty's Government."

"On their leads lies the responsibility retarnly for execution but for the force of the party of the force are a whole whereas the hards he to the force of the policy of the incess they have been the two great in the policy which was endorsed by the British people as a whole whereas for good or for ill, the responsibility rests with His Majesty's Government.

"On their heads lies the responsibility, not only for execution but for the impulse they have given to a great many tendencies, which are dominant in this matter today.
"I will say nothing to detagate from any

clay.

"I will say nothing to derogate from any ulterance or statement made by members of the other parties but I would be very sorry indeed that as matters unfold in India there should be any question of our being held accountable at the present time for the course of events. Therefore, we are bound to take the opportunity of bringing the affairs to the light of day."

Mr. Churchill added, "There was and still is a general measure of consent here and throughout the land to the final transference of power from the House of Commons into Indian hands, but that that transference if it is to take place, must be based upon agreement and co-operation of the principal masses and forces among the Indian people. Only in this way could that transference take place without measure it made in the world.

"Those who are acquainted with the general movement of our relations with India over the last 20 years have hoped that the desire of many Indians to be rid forever of British rule and guidance would have brought a melting of hearts among the vast populations inhabiting the ladin continent and that they should have joined together to maintain the peace and unity of India and stride more boldly into their independent future.

CIVIL WAR BOGEY

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"It is necessary to place on record the undoubted fact that no such melting of hearts has occurred. In fact, I think that that would be considered an under-statement. On the contrary, all facts and omens point to the revival in acute and violent form of the internal hatreds and quarrels, which have long lain dormant under the mild incompetence of liberal British control. To me it would come as no surprise if there was a complete failure to agree. As I warned the House in 1931, if we were to wash our hand of responsibility a fierce civil war would immediately break out between Muslims and Hindus. But this warning like others fell on deaf ears."

Mr. Churchill said that he always bore in mind the words used by his father when

Secretary for India 60 years ago in 1885; "Our rule in India is, as it were a sheet of oil spread out over the surface and keeping calm and quiet and unruffied by storms an immense and profound ocean of purentify."

sterms an immense and profound ocean of humanity."

That was a task, commented Mr. Churchill, which with all their shortcomings and through all their ordeals, they had faithfully and loyally pursued since Queen Victoria assumed the Imperial Grown.

"That is the task which we have now declared ourselves willing to abandon abandon completely provided we have such assurance of agreement between Indian races, religious parties and forces as will clear us of the responsibility of leaving India to a hideous collapse and catastrophe. We have no such assurances at the present time." (Conservative cheers).

An agreement in India was an indispensable condition. It was the foundation of the Cripps and Cabinet Missions. There is no agreement yet before us I say yet. There is only strife and bloodshed and the prospect more worse. That is the first point we must take note of—absence of an agreement, which was the common ground between us and would stand as the foundation of future transference of power."

FORMATION OF INTERIM GOVT.

Mr. Churchill said. "The second point was the cardinel error of the British Government when on August 12 they invited one single Indian party, the Congress, to nominate all the Members of the Viceroy's Council (Conservative cheers) thereby precipitating strife and messacres over a wide region (Conservative cheers and Labour shouts of protest) unparallelied in India since the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Indeed, it is certain that more people have lost their lives or been wounded in India by violence since the Nehru Government was installed in office four months ago than in the previous 90 years, four generations of men, covering a large party of five reigns."

That, said Mr. Churchill, was only a foretaste of what might well come in the foretasts of what might well come in the future. It might be only the first few heavy drops of rain before the thunderstorm broke. This "frightful slaughter" in wide regions had in the main fallen upon the Muslim minorities.

COMMUNAL RIOTS

Quoting reports from "high and credible said; "There is no doubt the resolution witnesses" of what had taken place in is a very important one, and I should Bihar, Mr. Winston Churchill said that it not like any member to feel that he Bihar. Mr. Winston Churchill said that it cast into shade the Armenian arrocties with which Gladstone once stirred the moral sense of Liberal Britain. "We are of course, cauterised by all we have passed through ourselves, our faculty for wohder is ruptured, our faculty of reason is numb. The world is full of misery and pathos, but it has not stirred us as it would have done our fathers or predecessors in this House".

He doubted very much whether the official figure of 10.000 lives lost since the Interim Administration of Pandit Nehru took over represented half the total of racial and religious murders to date. "This outbreak of animal fury had ravaged many large districts and may, at any time, resume or spread its devastation through the teening cities and provinces as big as England on the British Isles".

If was some comfort to recall that both Muslim and Hindu leaders had joined together to arrest or at least to mitigate "this appailing degeneration".

Mr. Churchill added, "I have been ineast into shade the Armenian atrocities with

"Mr. Churchill added, "I have been informed that it was Pandit Nehru himself who gave the order, which the Provincial Government of Binar had been afraid to give, for the police and troops to fire upon a Hindu mob who were exterminating the Muslim minority in their midst. That is certainly to his credit. May it be taken as an encouraging sign. Nevertheless, I must record my own belief, which I have long held, that any attempt to establish the reign of Hindu numerical majority in India will beld, that any attempt to establish the reign of Hindu numerical majority in India will never be achieved without a civil war. Perhaps it will not be in fronts of atmies or organised forces but in thousands of different places. Such a war would lead through uncountable agony to an awful abridgment of the population. Any attempt by the Congress Party to establish Hindu rule on the basis of majority, measured by standards of Western civilisation or what is left of it, by proceeding with the forms and formulas of Government with which we are familiar, will at a very early stage be fatal to any conception of the unity of India."

fatal to any conception of the unity of India."

Mr. Churchill added that disputes and deadlock were not the issues at stake. They were only symbols of the passion and haired of thousands of years. The unity of India was a superficial appearance imposed there by long generations of British rule and it would pass away for long periods of time once the impartial element of guidance from outside was withdrawn.

Another new and important fact, said Mr. Churchill, was the declaration by the British Government that a constitution should be framed by the Constituent Assembly, in which each section of the Hindu population had been represented and that the Government could not contemplate forcing such a constitution on unwilling parts of country. "If this at least is the settled policy of Government; it will carry them far. It comprises within its scope the discharge of our obligations both to the Muslim Inhabitants of India and to those who are called Scheduled or Depressed Classes. How this policy will be carried into effect it is not possible to foresee, still less to foretell at this moment. It is indeed a formidable programme.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A Bombay telegraph notification easys: "Inland and foreign de luxe telegrams are accepted in all telegraph offices."

Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India, arrived in Deo-laii from Ahmednagar on Dec. 12 and visit-ed three Indian and five British units.

About 6,000 workers of the Central Ordnance Depot, Cawnpore, went on a stit-down strike on December 10 as a protest against the retrenchment policy of the Ordn ince authorities.

A daring theft was committed on a bank at Dip ipur (Rajabari) on the night of Friday lest The miscreants carried away a large quantity of gold and several thousand rupees in cash. Police enquiry is going on . . . The Economic Adviser's all-India index of wholesale prices of industrial raw materials (Base: year ended August 1939-100) worked out to 357.2 for the week ended November 23, 1946, as compared with 358.8 for the previous week and 2418 for the corresponding week of the last year.

Bhaka Metharam, a Hindu priest, was murdered on December 10 in Tharha village, 20 miles from Hyderabad (Sind) by some unknown persons. Cash and ornaments worth Rs. 50,000 are reported to have been removed (says a Karachi U.P.I., message). . . .

The third tallest man in the world—and still growing—is 22-year-old Edward Evans, of Ashford, Middlesex (says Globe). He is seven feet seven inches tall in his stocking feet. The two other glants are a Czech, who is eight feet three inches, and an Austrian, eight feet two inches. Since he was 15. Evans has been growing at the rate of four inches a year, and specialists who have examined him say that he will continue to grow at that rate until he is more than eight feet. He weighs 24 stone.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

(Continued from Page 4)

declaration that the power and

rity of the State are derived fro vorking people. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh asks addition of a clause to declare u all fermations or organisations of

and cliques, open or secret, on the of any ideology, religion or other for election, administration or any o purpose. Mr. C. E. Gibbon, Angle-Indian mem-

ber from the Punjab, demands freedom for propagation of religion. Mr. Satya Ranjan Bakshi wants the safeguarding of liberty of person and im-munity from arrest without warrant and letention without trial.

Mr. Vishwambhar Dayal Tripati, who

sponsors more amendments than any other member, favours an explicit decla-ration that the Constituent Assembly is ration that the Constituent Assembly is a sovereign constitution-making body deriving power from the people. He asks that India be proclaimed as an independent sovereign Socialist republic, as against the independent sovereign republic 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—APT be pressed and some not moved .- A.P.I.

THURSDAY'S PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

The Constituent Assembly adjourned to-day without transacting any business as some members wanted time to study the resolution on declaration of objectives, which Pandit Nehru was to move. The President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, not like any member to feel that he has not had sufficient time to consider it. So if the House so desires, I am pre-

morrow." As many members seemed to be in favour of the suggestion, the President adjourned the House till to-morrow.

pared to adjourn this discussion till to-

CONGRESS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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.

The Committee, it is understood, also discussed the question of linguistic provinces.

The Rules and Procedure Committee of the Constituent Assembly met to-day and discussed draft rules of procedure.

QUESTION OF LEAGUE'S **PARTICIPATION**

LUCKNOW, Dec. 11 "The recent statement issued by His Majesty's Government on the Cabinet Mission's plan has again elucidated the meaning of the clause relating to Group-ing in clear terms; the Muslim League has all along put the same interpretation on this clause which was in fact the interpretation of the Cabinet Mission also," said Mr. Mohammad Ismail Knan, President of the U. P. Muslim League,

in an interview, to the Associated Press in an interview to the Associated Press of India.

Asked whether the League would join the Constituent Assembly in view of the London statement, Mr. Ismail Khan stated that he could not say anything till the Muslim League Working Committee met.

Questioned about his reaction to Mr. Jinnah's proposal for the transfer of population, Mr. Ismail Khan said he had not yet closely studied the point. He however thought that

Mr. Isinafi Khan said he had not vet closely studied the point. He, however, thought that it would be the last resort if things did not improve, adding. "I think the situation is not beyond control yet and if the well-meaning persons of both the major communities take active steps to bring about peaceful relations between them, such a step may never be contemplated."

To another question, Mr. Ismail Khan replied that political differences were responsible for the present bitter relations between Hindus and Muslims He thought that after a proper solution of the political problem, disharmony ought to disappear.

"CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MUST GO AHEAD"

blem, disharmony ought to disappear

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.

Dr. Taraknath Das, the well-known author in a statement, said:

"I have taken a poll of the most prominent and patriotic Indians in America and find that they are for the Constituent Assembly going ahead with its task even if the Muslim League abstains, Regarding the future Constitution for India, they are unanimous that there cannot be any compromise on three Issues, namely, A Federated Republic of the United States of India; No partition of India in any shape or form; and communal representation should be discarded in favour of joint electorate."—U.P.I.

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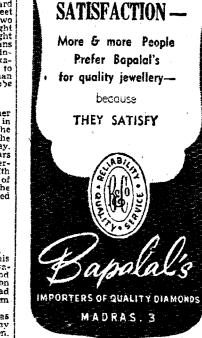
LAHORE, Dec. 10.

An emergency meeting of the All-India
Majlis.i. Ahrar has been called for December 20, 21 and 22 at Lahore. The agenda of the meeting will include consideration of the political situation in the country with special reference to communal riots and the boycoit of the Constituent Assembly by the Muslim League. Other non-League groups such as the Jamiet.ul-Ulema-1-Hind, the Momin Conference, the Krishak Proja Party, Anjuman-1-Watan, Khudal Khidmatgars and the Syed group of Sind have been specially invited to the meeting.

FORWARD BLOC LEADER'S VIEW

WARDHAGANJ, Dec. 12.

Another mass struggle seems inevitable as the present Constituent Assembly is not likely to succeed in implementing the 'Quit India' slogan of Angust, 1942, observed Mr. R. S. Ruiker, Vice-President of the All-India Forward Bloc. addressing a mass meeting last night He added that Westerners are looking up to India for guidance on the moral plane. India has a bright future under the leadership of Gandhiji who stood out prominently amongst the world personalities, he declared.—A.P.I.



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