

Constitution For India By Indians

DEMOCRATS' PLANS

The "challenge" thrown to Indians by the British Government to produce an agreed constitution will probably be taken up by the National Democratic Union.

A resolution suggesting that, since the challenge has not yet been taken up, a sub-committee should be formed to draft a constitution is before the Standing Committee of the Union, which met at the Servants of India Societies Hall, Bombay, on Friday evening. Sir Homi Mehta presided.

The resolution, which will be finally adopted by the Committee on Saturday, will lay down certain principles, which, in the opinion of the Committee, will promote the progress and prosperity of Indians.

Among those who attended the meeting were Mr. M. Yunus, who will inaugurate the Bombay Presidency Conference of the National Democratic Union on Saturday, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliar, who will preside over the Conference, Mr. M. N. Roy, Mr. E. V. Ramaswami Naicker, President of the Justice Party of Madras, Mr. B. V. Jadhav, Mr. R. M. Palat (Madras), Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder (Madras), Mr. V. N. Tarkunde (Poona), Mr. P. D. Dhole (Amraoti), Rao Bahadur R. S. Asavia (Bombay) and Mr. V. B. Kar-nik (Bombay).

Messages were received from Dr. N. B. Khare, ex-Prime Minister of the Central Provinces, Pandit Godavris Misra (Orissa), Mr. Nilkanth Das, Mr. Jalpal Singh (Jamshedpur) and Dr. Satyapal (Punjab).

On Friday the meeting reviewed the work done by the Union since December last. Mr. M. N. Roy, giving the review, also spoke of his visits to Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Southern India and referred to the efforts made by Pandit Godavris Misra to form a ministry in Orissa. When the ministry was formed, he said, it would be the first ministry formed by the National Democratic Union.

The Committee co-opted a number of prominent public men from various Provinces and appointed a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Yunus, Mr. Palat and Mr. A. K. Pillai to draw up the constitution of the All-India Standing Committee of the Union.

Copies of draft resolutions, which will be discussed on Saturday, were then distributed to the members. Giving an outline of the resolutions, Mr. Roy said that the first was in regard to the framing of a constitution of a free Indian democratic state. The second was in regard to the formation of a volunteer defence corps and the third would press for the formation of emergency ministries in the Provinces and the setting up of anti-Fascist committees in towns and villages.