

MAHATMA GANDHI'S PORTRAIT Unveiling In Assembly

NEW DELHI, August 28: Mahatma Gandhi's portrait, presented to the nation by Mr. A. P. Pattani as a bequest of his late father, Sir Prabhshankar Pattani, was ceremonially unveiled in the Constituent Assembly at a special session held this afternoon by Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

The portrait, 50 inches by 40, was painted 17 years ago by the famous painter, Sir Oswald Birley, during Mahatma Gandhi's presence in London for the second Round Table Conference and was bought by the late Sir Prabhshankar to be presented to the nation when it became free.

The portrait has been placed high up on the wall behind the President's chair and gazes down on the members sitting in the House.

Mr. A. P. Pattani, presenting the portrait to the House formally, moved that "the Constituent Assembly of India do accept a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi by Sir Oswald Birley bequeathed to the nation by Sir Prabhshankar Pattani."

"DISCHARGING TRUST"

Mr. Pattani said it was not possible for him to adequately express his happiness in discharging a trust and fulfilling the wishes of his late father. Sir Oswald had painted the picture for his own use and agreed to sell it to Sir Prabhshankar only because he wanted it for the nation.

"Before his death, he often used to tell me that I should bear in mind the portrait and his wishes regarding the same. When the new Government was to be established under the Act of 1947, I spoke of the message of my father to our Premier Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. That is the history of the picture."

Accepting the gift, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, amidst cries of "Mahatma Gandhi ji jai", unveiled the portrait.

Thanking Mr. Pattani, Dr. Prasad said it was a happy inspiration of the late Sir Prabhshankar Pattani to have preserved the beautiful portrait for so many years to be handed over to the nation on the occasion of her independence. It was a happy moment for all of them to have lived to see the portrait unveiled in the House.

Dr. Prasad said there was hardly any field in the life of a human being which had not in some way been touched and brightened by Mahatma Gandhi. Whether one went to a village or a city slum, or to the palace of a Maharaja or a millionaire, there was hardly any place where his influence had not been felt and felt well.