December 15 Last quarter

WEATHER IN SOUTH INDIA

MADRAS, Dec. 13, dency 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 see.

Forecast valid until the evening of De

Forecast valid until the evening of December 14: 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 Nilgrins and Vizag Districts.

Cutlock for next three days: Light rain in and near coastal Tamiinad and fair elsewhere.

METTUR WATER LEVEL Reservoir full on December 12, 1946



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1946

FREEDOM OF RELIGION

THE Conference of Hindu religition to end with the acceptance of that therefore, almost impossible new to can ous heads held at Madras on Thurs- office by Nokrashy Pasha. The day has put forward a demand coalition is a makeshift and, which should receive respectful so long as the forces which and sympathetic consideration at obliged Sidky to resign contithe hands of the Constituent As- nue to be operative, there can be sembly. In a country like India re- no political peace in Egypt. It is ligion has no need to be on the now well known, thanks to the exdefensive. But such is the prevailing Premier's statement on the Sudan, temper of the times that we have that the British attitude regarding not wholly escaped the tendency to the future of the Sudan is such as treat religion as one of the accepted must be wholly unacceptable to the things and to ignore it in practice Egyptians. The Egyptian case is or, worse, use it as a blind for pur- easily stated. The Sudan was an suing activities which represent the appendage of Egypt practically very antithesis of the religious throughout the nineteenth century. impulse. If, as we all hope, India It was never a British colony. Bristands to-day poised on the thres- tain got into the Sudan as the agent hold of a rebirth, she can effectively of Egypt; and, even after the fall with fulfil herself only by attaining to a of the Mahdi, the Government estanew amplitude and a larger wisdom blished in the Sudan, the "Angloin the realm of spirit. What is re- Egyptian Condominium," was not quired is not less religion but more a full-fledged British Administratrue religion; has it not been said, tion. It is true that subsequently in "The truth shall make you free"? various ways, under various pre-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 for the support of anyone—that our free-Hinduism, being the expounders of Sudan, partly by administrative a living tradition which admits of action and more largely by sheer price of freedom, whatever it may be, a rich and fruitful diversity of ex- force majeure. The position she so that the price of freedom, whatever it may be, and to Mr. Churchill and those who pression while the underlying note acquired could not be justified on sake be silent about India and let us the principles of any system of law. fulfil our own destiny."—Reuter. gether to emphasise the place of To the Egyptians, on the other religion in the life of the commu- hand, a certain measure of influnity and the need to ensure that ence over the Sudan is a question its sovereign autonomy in its own of life and death; and in law Egypt sphere is not infringed. Hinduism can claim natural riparian rights. is neither a mere philosophy nor Those who rule the Sudan could In an unseen Power; and it regards remains a living at through and through with this fundamental concept; and much of the ritual that the faith has accreated to itself maintains a living nexus with this culture through and the subject of the home. To lay rude and uncomprehending hands on the vast and song and the simple sanctities of the home. To lay rude and uncomprehending hands on the vast and song and the simple sanctities of the home. To lay rude and uncomprehending hands on the vast fundament of the comprehending hands on the vast and song and the simple sanctities of the home. To lay rude and uncomprehending hands on the vast fundament of the comprehending hands on the vast fundament of the complex of science and placetices which we know as Hinduism, out of deference to preconcived notions deriving their roots from an alien culture, may well have the effect of arresting the spiritual growth of a great people.

It is a say of life permeated by faith in a unuseen Power; and it regards veriable desert by depriving and the simple a sonctines. LONDON, Dec. 13.

DEMAND

LONDON, Dec. 13.

Popular Government may end in that a position, with the great imagination that should accompany great responsibility, and that the same problem that some the string to a definition, with the great imagination that should accompany great responsibility. The farmed soon, Indication of such a possibility and problem that the same problem from Burma soon. Indication of such a possibility and problem in the string to a department may end in them as the sudance of a definition of a such a possibility and problem that the simple sound the problem that the simple sound the problem that the simple s simply a code of practical ethics. It convert Egypt from the fertile is a way of life permeated by faith land that it now is into a Popular Government may end in in an unseen Power; and it regards man's earthly career as one long Egypt of the waters of the Nile.

It is against this danger that the ing entity. memorandum adopted by the Mataducing serious discontent and existed before and those "problems" used by Britain to sustain the will be present at the Convocation of the evolutionary have been set in action and skilfully becausion and native properties conflicting one

1 15 13 33 | with a view to positionally in the case, but in these days a si it it level of uniformity, out of the naive of the "Monroe Doctrine" and geo-2 50 14 48 at 3 8 15 27 belief that only so are nations graphical affinities which none has 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 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, following the resignation of Sidky Pasha as Premier, does not promise 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. of women workers for relief and rehaper 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. on his village-to-village walking tour.rity 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 dum, "is entitled, as a fundamental ambition to dominate the Sudan right, to live its private life accord- politically and that they are preing to its own traditions and tenets pared to accord to the Sudanese Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has at last of faith, untrammelled by demo- absolute democratic rights as Egyeratic legislation which always ptian citizens equal in status in the place tends to infringe and coerce, apply- every way with any person in their independent of the congress working Committee is ing secular standards and consider- country. They are ready to admit ations." Uncompromising as this the Sudanese into the Egyptian shortly. 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, worship, vocation and action, subject to law and public morality."

Growth and change cannot be inhibited in any sphere, least of all hold. In Egypt, as in India, india, in India, in India, in India, in India, in India, in India, thought, expression, belief, faith, nese rights is identical to that hibited 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

Peaceful persuasion and pati- encouraged, parties conflicting one

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER if the benefits are to be lasting. The are interpreted now in one way coercive power of legislation may, now in another, and the whole on the contrary, do untold harm, 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 made, are discountenanced by exploited to better purpose than modern sociological thinking. We Britain, it is idle for her to conhope the Dharma Acharyas' appeal tend 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.

SPINDLES QUOTA FOR MADRAS

ALLOTMENT CAN'T BE

CANCELLED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S

DECISION

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13. reliably learnt that the Government have reached a decision that they cannot accept rejection of the quota of spindles and nowerlooms allotted to Madras Province under the All-India scheme of post-war expansion of Textile Industry.

The Central Government's decision is with particular reference to the recent allotment made to Madras Province of spindles and powerlooms and it is pointed out here in this connection that on the presumption that a certain number of spindles and powerlooms would be made available to the Province, the Textile Industry in Madras had already embarked on concrete schemes of expan-sion and considerable sums of money cel all such schemes of expansion with tral Government's directions and orders in this regard are expected to be issued shortly.

"MASS OF HALF-TRUTHS"

MRS. PANDIT'S CRITICISM OF CHURCHILL'S SPEECH

LONDON, Dec. 13. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, in a statement to-day, replying to Mr. Churchill's speech on India in the Commons said:
"When any nation is passing through of the transition between dependence and freedom, it is up to the people to keep their hands off and not by their

"Every sensible person in India dep lores the sad occurrences which are taking place there. We are all working incessantly to create goodwill and restore normal conditions. If Mr. Churchill is genuine in his anxiety to see the Indian people free he should not aggravate the

words and actions to aggravate the situa-

situation by embittered attacks which contain a mass of half-truths. "There is one thing we have learned and that is that we would no longer look m must come from ourselves. We

DECLARATION OF **INDEPENDENCE**

BURMA INTERIM GOVT.'S DEMAND

Working Committee to-day. The Committee will meet at 9 a.m. to-morrow at the residence of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

MRS. KRIPALANI TO VISIT NOAKHALI CALCUTTA, Dec. 13.

Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani, wife of the Congress President, arrived here this evening by air from Delhi. She will pro ceed to Noakhali on Sunday with a party bilitation work in Noakhali and Tipperah areas. Mrs. Kripalani is expected

MAULANA AZAD FOR

INTERIM GOVT. NEW DELHI, Dec. 12. expected formally to approve this

FRONTIER GOVERNOR TO VISIT HAZARA

PESHAWAR, Dec. 12.
"A few further attacks by fanatical trans-border elements occurred along the Hazara district border, but the general situation has not deteriorated", says an

official communique on the present situa-tion in Hazara district. The communique adds: "Additional

MR. T. PRAKASAM

theds for reformers to handle and promises made to each which sembly,

REPUBLIC FOR INDIA

AIM OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

NEHRU'S SPIRITED APPEAL

LEAGUE'S ABSENCE REGRETTED

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

In the Constituent Assembly this morning Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in one of the greatest speeches of his career and one of the most memorable it is the privilege of anyone to hear, introduced which the future constitution of India labours. The introduction of the resolu-tion and his speech, both in Hindustani and English, took exactly one hour and the House—which since its inauguration, one must admit, had never been in good cheer following the publication of the British Government's statement of Dec. 6 —took heart and was re-vivified after listening to the quiet, solemn and determined words of Pandit Nehru affirming the unbending resolve of the country to march onward to its goal of freedom, whatever the obstacles in the way and through whatever further struggles lay

speech, worship and association.
Introducing the resolution. Pandit

Introducing the resolution. Pandit
Nehru said that much work still lay ahead of the Constituent Assembly by way of settling procedural details and by way of gearing its machinery before they could embark on the high adventure of framing the future constitution of the country. But even before that essential preliminary work was completed, it was necessary to have a guide-post that would indicate to them and to the 400 million people of this country, who were looking upto the Assembly with a construction of the unfortunate legacies of this past has been that there has been no imagination in the underwho were looking upto the Assembly hope, as to whither they with eager howere all going.

A PLEDGE TO BE REDREMED

Pandit Nehru exhorted the Assembly pledge to their people which they should redeem in the constitution they would frame. Appealing to those who should rightly be present in the Constituent Assembly, but who were not, to participate and help in the task that lay ahead of for the freedom of India, none should

should be above his party or group.

Referring to the difficulties ahead,
Pandit Nehru observed they all had struggled and many of their comrades and fallen in the struggle to reach up to the stage where they were at present, on the very verge of freedom, and if it should come about that they who were struggle further to wrest freedom, then he would tell the world that they would unflinchingly go through further struggles.

On such an occasion as the present India hungered for encouragement, spe-cially from Britain. It was from this quarter, however, that no encouragement was forthcoming. On the contrary, new obstacles and new interpretations of procedure designed to make matters harder that legal wranglings were at best feeble things when they stood in the way of a country's freedom. The Indian problem had never been handled with imagination, with the great imagination that should accompany great responsibility. Pandit Nehru also touched briefly on the content of the resolution and additionally in the content of the resolution and the content of the co

mean between two extremes. It was a resolution which no party or group could dispute. Purushottam Das seconded the resolution and further dis cussion was adjourned till Monday after

Lady Cripps was an interested listener in the galleries to-day. A number of representatives of States like Sir Mirza Ismail of Hyderabad were also present

NEHRU'S ADDRESS

The A.P.I. adds: The A.P.I. adds: In moving the resolution, Pandit Nehru speaking in Hindustani, said, "We are of the threshold of a new era. This resolution is a message defining our intentions as to what we propose to do. This is a contrac with the millions of Indians in particular and the people of the world in general This is in the nature of an oath that we mean to keep."

Pandit Nehru said that the Constituent

This is in the nature of an oath that we mean to keep."

Fandit Nehru said that the Constituent Assembly had been meeting for some days and had so far been concerned with details of procedure and other formal business. "We have been clearing the path that we propose to follow and clearing the ground where we propose to erect the edifice of a constitution.

"Before advancing, we must know where we are going and what we intend building. In building, we must note with care each brick that we use But before that we must have a plan of the structure that we wish to erect. We have had various plans for a free India in our minds but now it seems necessary to place that plan in a formal and orderly manner before the people of India and of the world."

It was the aim of the resolution that he was placing before the House to fulfil that need, Pandit Nehru continued "You know that this Constituent Assembly is not what many of us would have wished it to be. It was born under special conditions and the Hritish Government are aiso responsible for its birth. They have attached certain conditions to it. We accepted the Plan after serious deliberation and we shall endeavour to remain within its limits. You must not however, ignore the source from which this are not formed by statements. Governments are in fact the expression of the will of the people. We have met here to-day because of the support of the people who are behind us. We can only go so far as they will allow us to, and we must not forget these facts."

Speaking in English, Pandit Nehru said: "This resolution is not a part of the constitution that we are going to draw up and it must not be looked upon as such, This House has perfect freedom to draw up a constitution sieers in between two extremes—of saying too much and too little—and lays down only certain fundamentals which I believe no group, no party and hardly any individual in India can dispute."

"I wish to make it clear that so far as

Peaceful persuasion and patiencouraged, parties conflicting one
with the other brought into being
the ducation are the proper methe ducation are the proper meand promises made to each which
the ducation are the proper methe ducation are the proper meand promises made to each which
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it does not interfere in any way with any future work that this Constituent Assem-bly may do 'or with any future negotia-tions which it may undertake. Only in one tions which it may undertake. Only in one sense, if you like, does it limit our work, if you call that a limitation. That is, we adincre to certain fundamental propositions which are laid down in this declaration and those fundamental propositions. I do, submit, are not controversal in any real sense of the word Nobody challenges them in India: nobody ought to challenge them If anybody does challenge them, we accept that challenge and we hold to our position." (Cheers.)

NEW DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY BRITAIN

Speaking with some briterness about his recent visit to England and its outcome Pandit Nehru said: "I was reluctant to go, for reasons that the House knows well, but I went because of a personal request from the Prime Minister of Great Britain. I went and I met with courtesy everywhere, and yet at this psychological request in India's history when we want. I went and I met with coursesy where, and yet at this psychological moment in India's history, when we wanted, when we hungered, for messages of cheer, friendship and co-operation from all over the world, and more specially from England, because of the past contact and conflict between us, unfortunately, I came back without any message of cheer and with a large measure of disappointment. I hope that the new difficulties that should aim at and towards which the ment, I hope that the new difficulties that Constituent Assembly should address its have arisen—for new difficulties have arisen. statements that by the statements in authority there—I hope these will not come in our way and we shall not succeed in going ahead with the co-

INDIA'S PASSION FOR FREEDOM

whatever the obstacles in the way and through whatever further struggles lay the bona fides of any person, but I do wish ahead of them.

The resolution specified the objectives before the Constituent Assembly as the creation of an independent sovereign Recommendation of a union of autonompublic consisting of a union of autonomous States and territories and it further
specified in detail the democratic content
of the future constitution in which every
citizen, regardless of religion, sex or
territorial domicile, would have equal
rights before the law and the fullest
freedom, consistent with the law, of
speech, worship and association.

Introducing the resolution. Pandit

intellectually. And one of the unfortunate legacies of this past has been that there has been no imagination in the understanding of the Indian problem.
"People have often indulged in and presumed to give us advice, not realising that India as she is constituted to-day, wants no one's advice and no one's imposition (Hear, hear) and that the only way to influence India is through friendship, cooperation and goodwill. Any element of imposition, the slightest trace of patronage, is resented and will be objected to (Cheers).

(Cheers).
"We have tried honestly enough in the "We have tried honestly enough in the last, few months in spite of difficulties that have faced us to create an atmosphere of co-operation. We shall continue that endeavour, but I do very much fear that that atmosphere will be impaired if there is not sufficient. response from others. Nevertheless, because we are bent on high tasks, I do trust that we shall continue that endeavour and I do hope that we shall succeed too.

"We must continue that endeavour, even though in our opinion some countrymen of

"We must continue that endeavour, even though in our opinion some countrymen of ours take a wrong path for after all, we have to live together in this country, we have to work together and we have inevitably to co-operate, if not to-day, then to-morrow or the day after. Therefore, we have to avoid in the present anything which may create a new difficulty for the fashioning of that future which we are working for.

"So far as our own countrymen are con-cerned, we must inevitably try our utmost to gain their co-operation in the largest measure. But co-operation cannot, does not and will not mean giving up of the funda-mental ideals on which we have stood and on which the nation should stand (Rear, hear). Because that is not co-operation to achieve something, but a surrender of everything that has given meaning to our lives

"MUST NOT SEEK SMALL GAINS"

MONARCHY IN INDIAN STATES

MONARCHY IN INDIAN STATES

Referring to Indian States. Pandit out to me that the mention of Republic in the resolution may somewhat displease the Rulers of Indian States, It is possible that this word may displease them But I want to make it clear that personally I do not believe in the monarchical system anywhere and that in the world to-day, monarchy is a fast-disappearing institution. Nevertheless it is not a question of my personal belief in this matter "In regard to the States our views have been for many years first of all, that the people of these States must share completely in the freedom to come. It is quite inconceivable to me that there must be a matter for this House to consider with representatives of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States will be persentative of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States will be persentative of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States will be persentative of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives will of the people of the States and I hope in all matters relating to the States, this House will deal with real representatives of the second must be through the representatives of the people of the States and I hope in the States and I hope

where, personally I should like a measure of uniformity in regard to the apparatus and machinery of government; nevertheless, that is a point to be considered in co-operation and consultation with the States. I do not wish, I imagine this Constitution that Assembly will not like to impose anything upon the States against their will. If the people of a particular State desire to have a certain form of administration, even though it might be monarchical, it is open to them to have it. The House will remember that even in the British Commonwealth of Nations to-day, Eire is a Republic and yet in many ways it is a member of the British Commonwealth. So it is a conceivable thing. What will happen, I do not know, But there is no incongruity of impossibility about a certain different form of administration in the States provided there is complete freedom and responsible government there and the people really are in charge. If monarchical figureheads are approved of by the people of a particular State, whether I like it or not, I certainly would not like to interfere." SCOPE OF RESOLUTION

Pandit Nehru began by saying that the Assembly had to pass its rules of procedure, to elect committees and the like before it could proceed to its real workenbarking upon the "high adventure of giving shape in the printed and written word to a nation's dream and aspiration." But even at this stage it was surely desirable

(Continued on page 7)

INDIA'S FUTURE **STATUS**

"CHOICE RESTS WITH PEOPLE"

MR. ALEXANDER ON GOVT.'S POLICY

REPLY TO CHURCHILL'S CHARGES

LONDON, Dec. 13. Alexander, Minister desig-Mr A. V. Alexander, Minister designate of Defence, replying to the two-day debate on India in the House of commons to-day, warmly repudiated Mr. Winston Churchill's charge that the Labour Government had committed a Party to nominate members of the Interim Government. He added that he was deeply shocked to hear Mr. Churchill say that that action had precipitated a series of massacres over wide re-

ander, to place any other construction on that "irresponsible statement" than that it was Mr. Churchill's intention to place the blame for these fratricidal disorders on the Government and the Vice-

Mr. Churchill, who entered the Chamber sometime after the Minister began speaking, challenged Mr. Alexander several times to say whether the Labour Government would consider valid the decisions taken by an Indian Constituent Assembly representative of only one political party.

Though Mr. Churchill pressed his

point, Mr. Alexander emphatically reiterated his refusal to answer what he described as a "hypothetical question."

Mr. Alexander also referred to Earl Winterton's statement yesterday that the rupture between the Congress and the Muslim League was final and irrevocable declaring, "I think it is nothing but disastrous that a statement of this kind should be made at this crucial hour." He expressed the view that if the great Indian communities would take a lesson from the manner in which the Indian army had conducted itself during the re-cent communal outbreaks they would

"most ingenious" and expressed the hope that despite many discouraging signs it provide a basis of agreement. Sir John, however, was critical of the

proceedings leading up to the formation of the Interim Government and said that he had no idea that a fundamental change in the constitutional structure would be made. Sir John said he did not regard Pakistan in any form as "intrinsically attrac-

Government's reaction to the debate was probably best reflected in the speech of Mr. Alexander himself who paid a tribute to the moderation of most of the speeches on both sides of the house.

The Secretary of State for India, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, was present towards the end of the debate. Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur also watched the proceedings.

Mrs. Pandit described Mr. Churchill's speech as mischievous. Mr. Jinnah, at his hotel, declined to comment on the debate, saying that he would withhold any observations until his Press Conference on Saturday.

DETAILS OF DEBATE

CHURCHILL'S REFERENCE

TO CRIPPS MISSION

During his speech in the debate yester
MR. CLEMENT DAVIES' APPFAY.

During his speech in the debate yester-day Mr. Churchili (earlier parts of his speech have already been published) referred to the British Government's state ment after the recent London talks and

ment after the recent London talks and said:

"That declaration appears to me to be the most important milestone in this long journey.

"The British Government owed special protection to the Muslims numbering 30,000,000, who comprised the majority of the fighting elements of India, and the Untouchables of anything from 40,000,000 to 60,000,000. They had been outwitted and outmanoeuvred on this question. The pretence was put forward that they were a small part of the vast Hindu community not entitled to be considered as a minority community in Indian life.

"I must ask the Prime Minister to state the Government's view and intentions on this particular point. Are Unitouchables to be considered as an entity by themselves entitled to consideration given to entitles or are they merely to be used to swell.

He said in expressing gratitude to the submary and documents and that the summary and contained no bias regarding the situation or any one of the parties. He asked what good purpose was being served by which will do greater disservice to a settlement than the suggestion or any one of the parties. He asked what good purpose was being served by which will do greater disservice to a settlement than the suggestion or any one of the parties. He asked what good purpose was being served by him, Churchill's speech and his quips. "I am entitled to say this to the Leader of the Opposition: I cannot imagine anything which will do greater disservice to a settlement than the suggestion or any one of the parties. He asked what good purpose was being served by him. Churchill's speech and his quips.

I mentitled to say this to the Leader of the Opposition: I cannot imagine anything which will do greater disservice to a settlement than the suggestion or any one of the parties. He asked what good purpose was being served by had contained no bias regarding the student submary one of the Opposition: I cannot imagine anything which will do greater disservice to a settlement than the suggestion of anything which will do greater disserv

sal suffrage electorates.
"But the Cabinet Mission's proposal of

"But the Cabiner Massion's proposal of May for the setting up of the Constituent Assembly was essentially a proposal that the main political parties of India should meet and through their representatives endeavour to work out the proposed constitution." "WE PULLED UP CRIPPS IN 1942"

Mr. Churchill saked if the British Government considered that the meetings now taking place in New Deihit, which the Muslim League were not so far attending at all, were in any sense meetings of a valid Constituent Assembly. The fact that Muslims were refusing to attend remained a fact, whoever was to blame for it and a meeting of one side without the other was not a conference. "Indeed the text of the proposals of the Government and of Sir Stafford Cripps whose ability had been devoted with such disastreus effects to furthering of the whole of this policy...."

Mr. Churchill was interrupted with loud Government cries of "shame" and one voice called out "Dirty."

In an atmosphere of rapidly increasing excitement, Mr. Churchill said, "I remember when Sir Stafford Cripps went out as representative of the Government of which I was the head and how we had to pull him up because

Mr. Churchill halted amidst the interruption and then said, "I do not want to Mr. Churchill asked if the British Gov-

say anything"—He was interrupted again by loud Government cries of "Shocking."
Sir Stafford Cripps, red in the face, rose from his seat on the Government from bench in the midst of the noise and said, "If Mr Churchill intends to disclose what passed between my and the Cabical and the contract of the c

bench in the midst of the noise and said, "If Mr Churchill intends to disclose what passed between me and the Cabinet on that occasion, I hope he will disclose it all". (Loud Government cheers.)

Mr. Churchill replied: "Sir Stafford Crippe is quite right in what he says and I shall not pursue the point (Laughter) What is all this laughter? No one impugns the conscientious integrity and virtue of Sir Stafford Cripps, but I must say that in the Cabinet Mission of which we have the results published which have taken place under the present Government, his influence has, I have every reason to believe, been used for altogether undue emphasis being placed on advantages being given to Hindus," (Cries of "No.")

"At any rate, Sir Stafford Cripps can defend himself and no one more than he has taken responsibility in this matter because neither of his colleagues could compare in that acuteness and energy of mind with which he devotes himself to so many topics injurious to the strength and weifare of the State" (further interruption).

"To return to the validity of the present Constituent Assembly, on which I trust we shall have a statement, the document of May arranged that if the President of the Assembly should decide that a matter raised is not a major communal issue, the party which objects and maintains it is a

major communal issue may claim that matter be referred for the opinion of the Federal Court. Federal Court,

"Hew is it possible that this procedure should work if the party that objects is not there? Therefore, the meeting at Delhi is not the proposed Constituent Assembly which they put forward.

"Take a more homely analogy; if a bride or a bridegroom falls to turn up in the Church the result is not what is called a unitateral wedding" (Laughter.) "The absolute essence is that both the parties should be there."

party which objects and maintains it is

e there In a sentence that was only partly heard n the Press Gallery, Mr. Churchill said, We hope that this may still be the case."

THREE ALTERNATIVES BEFORE PARLIAMENT

Mr. Churchill, continuing, said, "It is still pertinent to inquire if His Majesty's Government consider that their proposed conference of the Constituent Assembly has pegun. He added, "I feel bound to end on a

positive conclusion although I will expres it rather in terms of negation," (Govern it rather in terms of negation," (Government laughter.)
"In all this confusion, uncertainty and gathering storm which those, who have studied the Indian problem for long years might well have foreseen, there appear at the present time three choices—three proverbial choices—before the British Parliament.

ment.
"The first is to proceed with ruthless logic army had conducted itself during the recent communal outbreaks they would quickly make progress in the solution of their problems.

Sir John Anderson, a former Governor of Bengal, who opened the debate to-day described the Cabinet Mission's plan as the property of the p of millions of humble folk who now stand in jeopardy, bewilderment and fear. The third course is to let the Indian communities go their separate ways as they desire, in or out of the British Commonwealth, whatever happens."

Mr. Churchili concluded: "Those who wish the profession who wish the profession who was the construction of the concluded of the construction who was the construction of the constru

Mr. Churchii concluded: "Those who wish to make their own lives in their own way may do so and the Gods be with them, and those who desire to find in the variety of systems means of association with our great free Commonwealth may also be permitted to take the course which ultimately they may show themselves ready to take.

tan in any form as "intrinsically attractive" and it seemed to him most important that the fundamental unity of India as a constitutional entity should be preserved.

The motion that the House takes note of the statement on India by the Prime Minister on December 11 and expresses the hope that a settlement of the present difficulties would be forthcoming was agreed to without a division.

Attendance in the House, although it dwindled to a handful at lunch time during the afternoon was good for a Friday.

Leading Opposition members at close expressed themselves satisfied with the debate.

"It follows, of course, from this course, this second alternative, that anarchy and massacre must be prevented and that, failing the measure of agreement not now in sight, an impartial administration responsible. The Prime was agreed to without a division.

Attendance in the House, although it dwindled to a handful at lunch time during the afternoon was good for a Friday.

Leading Opposition members at close expressed themselves satisfied with the debate.

"One thing, however, there is that we must not do whatever happens; we must not allow British troops or British officers in the Indian Army to become agencies and instruments of enforcing caste Hindu domination upon 90,000 Muslims and 60,000,000 untouchables, nore must the

MR. CLEMENT DAVIES' APPEAL

Mr. Clement Davies for the Liberal Party said that Sir Stafford Cripps had given a masterly summary of the letters and documents and that the summary

whole.

He said, in expressing gratitude to the British Government for what they were endeavouring to do and especially to the three who had composed the Mission, the House would hope that even now it would be possible for those concerned to come together not only for the benefit of the people of India but for the benefit of the people of Asia and indeed for the peace of the world.

COL. HAMILTON STATES INDIA'S DEMAND

Colonel Hamilton (Labour), who stated he was speaking as one who had been born and had spent a greater part of his life in India and four generations of whose family had served there, said that Mr. Churchill misunderstood the entire position in India. It was evident that he saw India in a state similar to what it was when he (Mr. Churchill) was a young subaltern there. Those days were some It. was when he (Mr. Churchill) was a young subaltern there. Those days were gone. It was perfectly true even now as Mr. Churchill had said, that the number of Indians, who were politically conscious, was a small percentage of the whole population but they could and did influence the mass of Indians and got across to them the simple idea that it was a humiliating position to be dominated by a people of entirely different iominated by a people of entirely different colour and race. They had been given the feeling that one thing they wanted was independence under a Government of their

own.

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

SIR JOHN ANDERSON'S SPEECH

Sir John Anderson, a former Governor of Bengal, re-opened the debate on India for the Opposition to-day.
Alluding to the Opposition's insistence on the debate, Sir John said he thought it important that the people of India should feel that Parliament was alert and allura to every development in the change should feel that Parliament was alert and alive to every development in the changing situation "I would also wish the services to feel that we, here, are mindful of the heavy burdens that they are being called upon to boar (cheers)—burdens which are being aggravated not lightly by the developments that are going on." Sir John said he was troubled about the condition of the administrative machine in India and wanted an assurance that every possible care was being taken to maintain it in condition to discharge effectively the responsibilities which still had to be borne as in the past.

Responsibility for the course of events leading up to the present situation was widely distributed but he did not see the British had anything with which to reproach themselves. "Mistakes there may

(Continued on page 6)