

GOVERNING BODY OF I. L. O. REPRESENTATION FOR ASIA

"MUST BE EQUITABLE AND
ADEQUATE"

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

COLOMBO, Jan. 25. On the eve of the epoch-making event in the history of Asia viz., India proclaiming itself a Republic, Asian countries have won a signal victory, perhaps for the first time in an international conference.

The Asian Regional Conference of the I. L. O. unanimously adopted this morning the motion of Mr. Ghulam Ali Allana, Pakistan Employers' delegate, that Asia should be given equitable and adequate representation on the Governing Body and committees of the I. L. O.

This overwhelming victory for Asia is described as marking a new era in the relationship of the I. L. O. with the Asian countries. It is most significant that almost all European countries supported the motion.

Delegates of the Asian countries expressed their gratitude to Mr. Allana and to his country for having initiated the cause of Asia. The Asian delegates can return to their countries fully convinced that the I. L. O. is really wedded to the cause of uplifting the common man in Asia.

Moving the resolution, Mr. Allana said that the delegates of the non-Asian countries could go back convinced that Asia would pool her resources to serve the common man of the world at large. Mr. Allana said (adds the PTI-Reporter): "We delegates, who have come to this conference are convinced that I. L. O. means business and we are sure of the success of the resolution. The common man of Asia in view of the recent social and political changes a new order had dawned in Asia and it was therefore proper that we, who really represent the countries of Asia demand that in the new order Asian countries must have equitable representation."

The resolution urged adequate representation on both the Governing Body and the Committees. Mr. Allana said that out of about 32 committees Asian countries had representation in only 16. He was confident, however, that the members of the Governing Body would indicate to that Body the feelings of the Asian countries on the problem.

Mr. M. A. Master, Indian Employers' Delegate, supporting the resolution said: "Allana has done signal service by bringing forth this most vital resolution on such a historic occasion. Whatever may have happened in the past, there has been a new awakening all through Asia, new problems are facing us. We want to make our contribution in the deliberations and in the activities of the I. L. O. in solving these problems. That is why we ask afresh that the Asian countries be given adequate and equitable representation."

Mr. R. S. Nair, Indian Employers' representative on the Governing Body, said that although the representatives of the Governing Body were not committed to this or any other resolution, "we can convey the feelings and desires of this Conference to the Body."

He said that for a considerable time that Asia should have adequate representation in the Governing Body and he would do his utmost to support any move aimed at democratic selection of the Governing Body of representatives. The resolution was supported by representatives from the Philippines, Ceylon, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Turkey.

Delegates also adopted a resolution proposed by Faiz Ahmad, General Secretary of the All Pakistan Trade Union Federation and Workers' Delegate at the Conference, recommending the holding of a three-power Maritime Conference of Asian and other countries employing Asian seamen and called for preparation by the I. L. O. of a report on the conditions of employment of Asian seafarers.

The Conference also adopted unanimously a resolution which said: "This Asian Regional Conference welcomes the action already taken by the I. L. O. to establish a field office in Asia and recommends the Governing Body to give consideration to the desirability of establishing at an early date additional such offices in Asia."

Mr. Ghulam Ali Allana moved the above resolution.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S ASSURANCE

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NUWARA ELIYA, Jan. 24. "The I. L. O. is prepared within its limited resources to do all it can to develop Asia," declared Mr. David A. Morse, Director-General of the I. L. O. in reply to the speeches made on the report he submitted when the conference began last week.

Mr. David Morse said, "Every criticism has been carefully studied by me. This conference is proof of the fact that Asia desires to meet the problems through a democratic process. It will be hypocritical to restate the principle that poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere. The I. L. O. serves the world regardless of creed, caste, colour or religion and is dedicated to the cause of humanity and universality. No narrow nationalism will enter the activities of the I. L. O. but it will always be guided by a spirit of broader vision of the world at large. I take note of Asia's demand for the increased representation on the Governing Body. We can give greater voice to Asia in the councils of the I. L. O. but that alone will not solve her problems nor eliminate poverty, disease, ignorance and social unrest which are now prevailing. The task of improving the living standards in Asia is a staggering one. The lot of humanity and world peace hangs precariously in the balance. Although I assure that the I. L. O. would play its full role in the task of tackling Asian problems, in reality the job will have to be tackled by the Governments concerned."

Mr. Morse expressed the hope that during the course of this year the technical assistance programme of the U. K. would come into effect so that the I. L. O. would be able to increase its activities and play a vital, direct and immediate role in assisting the underdeveloped Asian countries. The I. L. O. training centres in Asia would be expanded. Mr. Morse said and appealed to the Governments to make full use of them. The work of the I. L. O. would be publicised in Asian languages in order to gain support among the ordinary men and women of Asia.

Mr. Morse concluding said, "The I. L. O. salutes the people of Asia and assures it will stand by them. It shall not forsake its duties and obligations."

The various committees submitted their reports to the Conference to-day. The session is now expected to close on Friday instead of on Saturday as originally scheduled.

BENEFIT CONCERT IN AID OF SCHOOL

AMBUR (N. A.), Jan. 23.

Srinathi M. S. Subramanian gave a benefit music performance here on January 21 in aid of the building fund of the local Hindu High School, which was attended by the leading officials and non-officials in North Arcot district. Dr. S. N. Ramani Naidu, Secretary and Correspondent, announced that Rs. 50,155 had been collected for the fund by sale of tickets for the concert.

KODAI LAKE WATER FOR IRRIGATION

GOVT.'S ACTION EXPLAINED

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

The Director of Information and Publicity, in a Press Note, issued to-day explains the circumstances in which Government ordered the diversion of the waters of the Kodakal lake for cultivation purposes. The Press Note says:

The Government have noticed with some concern the leading article in a daily (not The Hindu) dated 24th January 1950 alleging coercion on their part in ordering the diversion of some water from the Kodakal lake to save waddy crops in ears withering in the drought. The Government do appreciate the point of the paper and the Kodakal lake is an important amenity of that Hill Station which should be preserved; but the public should know the full facts of the case so that they can judge for themselves.

Towards the end of last December, the Collector of Madurai reported that about 1,000 acres of paddy crops in ears were withering and that they could be saved with one wetting from the storage in the Kodakal lake and that similar action had been taken last year with considerable benefit. The Board of Revenue strongly supported the Collector's proposal and the Government accepted it and ordered the release of some water from the storage in the lake. The crops have been saved and about 500 tons of rice have been preserved. Actually the lake level has dropped only by about 3 ft. and the inconvenience that has been caused for users of the lake is just that they have to descend and go two steps more to enter the boats for their pleasure trips. The lake has a large catchment and any passing shower will replenish it again as did happen last year.

It is our misfortune that the North-East monsoon had failed in the Southern districts for the third successive year. We have survived the last two years without catastrophe and if we should similarly survive this year, we must take certain grim decisions, which may cost a sacrifice from a good many people. The precious storage normally reserved for power generation in the Mettur and Papanasam reservoirs would have to be used to save crops in the deltas. We are consequently enforcing drastic cuts in the use of electricity by our vital industries. People who depend on these industries for their livelihood are accepting these cuts with almost stoic resignation, because they have realised that that is the only way of ensuring a meagre rice ration in this difficult year. The Government have no doubt whatsoever, that all patriotic citizens of Kodakal would willingly agree to give up the pleasures of their lake for a few months, if it is explained to them that they are thereby helping to grow sufficient rice to sustain the ration for that town for over eight months.

The Government had not consulted the Municipality on this matter this year, because it was primarily the Government's responsibility to act in grave emergencies of this kind. Actually, after the event, the Chairman of the Municipal Council raised this matter with the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and the Hon'ble Minister explained to him that only a small portion of the storage was made use of to save crops and since the Province was threatened with famine, the Municipality should not grudge that much of sacrifice in the common cause. The Municipal Chairman appreciated the position and agreed with the Hon'ble Minister. There was, therefore, no occasion to administer a threat on the Municipality or on its Chairman. When crops which could be saved are perishing, the Government cannot look on passively till the issues are discussed and nicely settled to the satisfaction of the Municipal Council. The newspaper could have easily verified these facts by contacting the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and it is unfortunate that a responsible daily should have rushed to press on representations from certain vested interests.

It is not as though the Government are unmindful of the needs of a permanent solution of what seems to be a frequently recurring trouble. The Palar-Kodakal Project which is now under active investigation will protect the area under distress and will also bring under new irrigation about 15,000 acres. The people of Palar have been petitioning for this Project for the last 50 years and it was only after the present Government took over, that its investigation was taken up. This project is likely to be sanctioned soon, but a project of this magnitude will necessarily take a few years for execution. It is no doubt desirable that the fortunate few living in the calm seclusion of Kodakal should continue to have their boating exercises but if that is at the expense of precious crops in the plains, the Government can have no choice except to act as they have done this year.

INCREASE IN GOVT. EXPENDITURE

MADRAS BUDGET ESTIMATES

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

The Madras Budget for 1951, which will be considered by the Cabinet on Saturday and presented by the Finance Minister to the Legislature on February 28, will, it is anticipated, be a deficit one to the tune of a few crores.

Though the deficit in the budget estimates in the current year are expected to be made up by increases in receipts under commercial taxes, etc., it is apprehended that there may be a fall in income under various heads, particularly land revenue, sales tax, etc., during the next year, in view of the deteriorating economic conditions in many parts of the Province.

Expenditure under Revenue Account for financing essential schemes and projects already under operation, will be greater next year. Grants for relief in cyclone-affected areas in the north and for famine relief in the south, will be another contributory factor for increased allotments in spending departments.

In these circumstances, it is generally believed, the budget for the next year will show a much bigger gap between the estimated revenue and expenditure, than provided for by the Finance Minister in the Budget for 1949-1950.

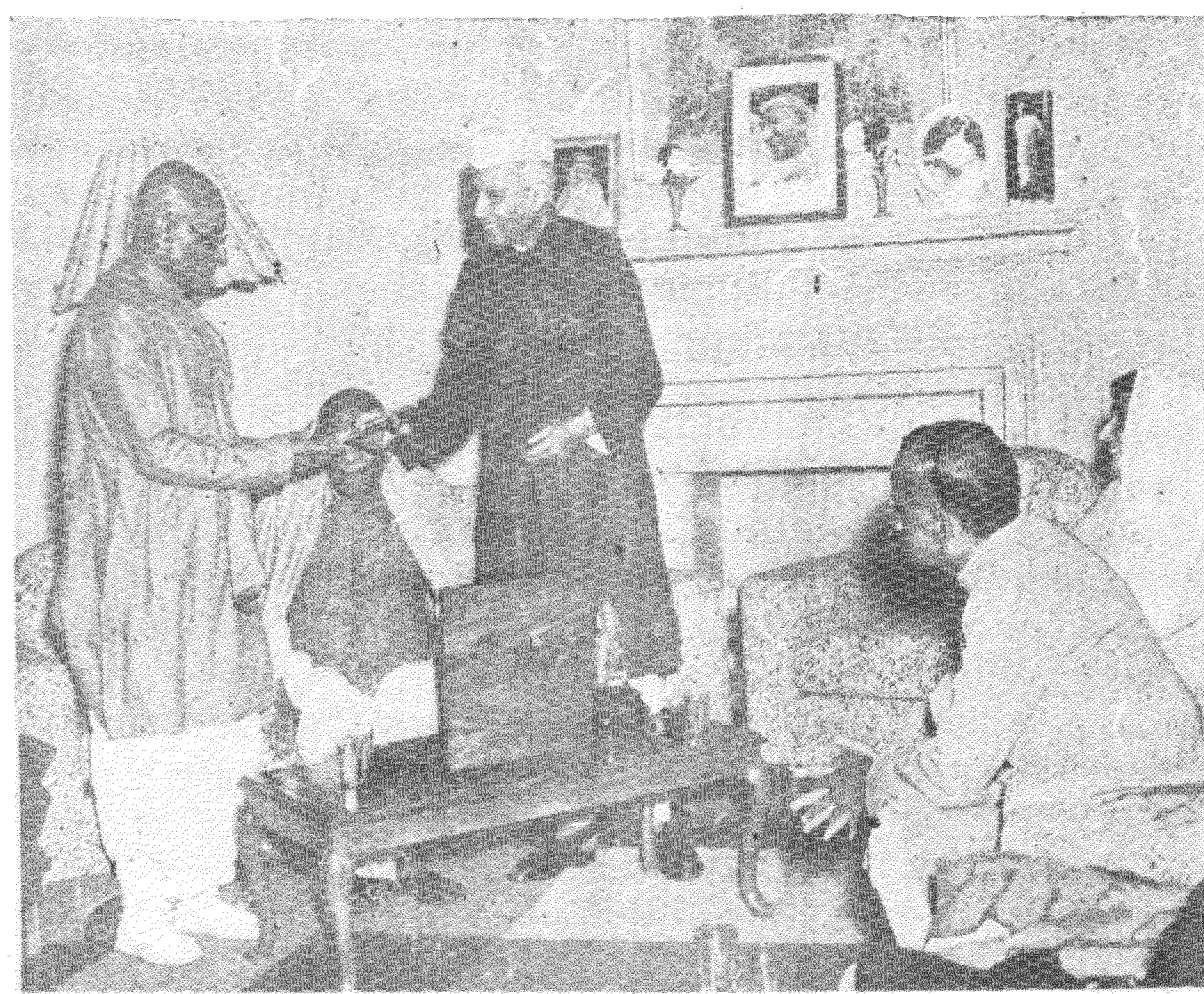
"HABEAS CORPUS" PETITION FAILS

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

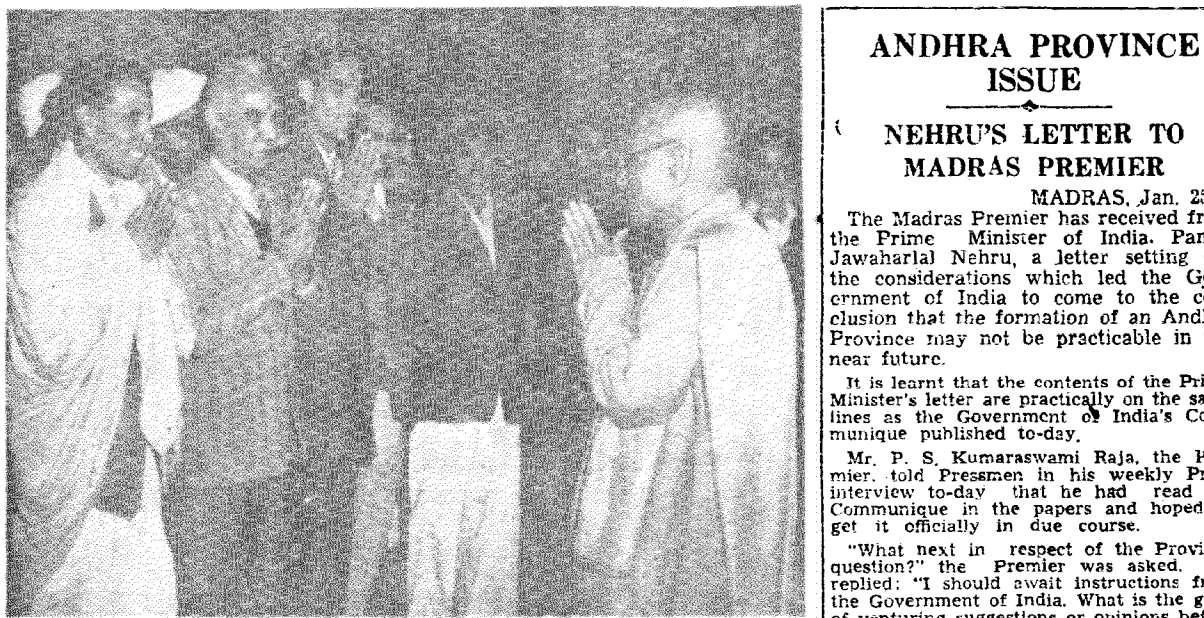
At the Madras High Court to-day, Their Lordships, the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Somasundaram delivered judgment dismissing the application filed on behalf of Mr. A. K. Gopalan, Communist leader of Malabar, for the issue of a writ of Habeas Corpus, for his release from detention.

The petitioner was detained under an order passed on April 22, 1948, by the District Magistrate, Malabar, under the provisions of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act. An application was made to the High Court in which the validity of the order was questioned. As Subba Rao J. who heard the application referred the matter to a third Judge, Satyanarayana J., who heard the application, held that the order of detention was invalid and on that the High Court made an order on November 18, 1948, directing the petitioner to be released. On the same day an order of detention was served on him by the Government. He was supplied with the grounds for his detention. There was a reference to the Advisory Council, who confirmed this order of detention. Thereupon, an application for the issue of a writ of Habeas Corpus was made to the High Court. The application was kept pending till the disposal of the appeal against his conviction filed by the petitioner. The application was finally heard by Their Lordships on January 10.

Their Lordships did not accept the contention made on behalf of the petitioner that the Government acted mala fide in passing the order of detention on November 18, 1948. They held that they could not accuse the Government of mala fide action if what they did was to correct a technical defect in the manner of the original order, if they took advantage of a subsequent amendment to the Act which gave them wider powers.



A silver tray with the signatures of all the Cabinet Ministers engraved on it and an image of Lord Buddha was presented as a memento to Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Governor-General, at a farewell party by the Ministers on Jan. 22.



The Governor-General gave an "At Home" to his personal staff on Jan. 20, in New Delhi. Picture shows him greeting the guests.



Pandit Nehru signs India's Constitution at the final session of the Constituent Assembly on Jan. 24.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad acknowledging the cheers of members of the Constituent Assembly after the session had ended.



Picture taken at the reception given at the airport to Dr. Soekarno, Indonesian President, and Madame Soekarno, who are now in Delhi to participate in the Republic Day celebrations.

ASIA IN WORLD AFFAIRS

INTEGRATED ECONOMY ENVISAGED

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

Addressing a public meeting organised under the auspices of the Indian Council of World Affairs, last night, at the premises of the Servants of India Society, Royapettah, Sardar K. M. Panikkar, Indian Ambassador to China, visualised three major groupings of Asian nations with an integrated economy which would give to Asia a place in world affairs that she could claim as her own by reason of her civilisation, population and resources. The subject of his talk was "Asian Relations." Mr. K. Raja Aiyar, Advocate-General, presided.

Sardar Panikkar said that the most outstanding event in the history of the last few years was the resurgence of Asia as a major factor in world politics. Surveying the position in Asia and South-East Asia in 1914, he said that the influence exercised by European powers in these countries then was the authority which resulted from maritime economy based on sea power. What European nations from the time of Vasco de Gama introduced into India was this maritime economy which based the political relationships in each country, not on its own production, but on its trade. The continental economy broke down and real power, shifted from Delhi to the merchants in coastal towns.

Proceeding Sardar Panikkar said that the tension and pressure created by the world wars showed them a different picture at the end of the second World War. Now, except in isolated places like Malaya, European power in its visible form had disappeared from Asia. The retreat of naval power from Asia brought with it the return of continentalism in Asia and land masses asserted themselves in politics. The capital of India had once again shifted from Calcutta to Delhi and the emphasis in economy had shifted from trade to production. They saw the end of the Vasco de Gama epoch in 1945. The position of India all these 450 years were of consequence to the neighbouring countries because of India's geographical position as a peninsula in the Indian Ocean which made it impossible for Britain to remain in India without manipulating the position in the Middle-Eastern and Far-Eastern countries.

The economy that had now been left to them, Sardar Panikkar observed, was a very large extent with the countries of South-East Asia and consequently a common policy and a common structure, if not a common political system, seemed to be inevitable in the circumstances of Asia to-day. It was possible to think of these countries in terms of one culture and to develop a polity or family of nations. India had been a great deal from the Middle East also while she had given a great deal to the East. India had an extraordinary interest in the continental politics of Asia and her policy must not only be related to the countries of the West but also to the countries of the East. India had to think in terms of their great Asian neighbour, Russia, also. Actually Asian relationship had its axis in three different centres in Asia.

Elaborating his view of Asian relationship, Sardar Panikkar said that the first capital of Asia was Peking. Peking, he said, was going to be a major centre of Asian relationship of the future not merely as a Communist capital, but as the capital of one of the leading nations of the world, with a population of 400 millions and a history of 5,000 years. This was one centre of dynamic power which nobody could neglect. The second centre was Delhi. This centre had exerted influence on the politics of these parts during the last two and a half years, as for instance her intervention in Indonesian affairs. Delhi had become the organisational nerve centre of a great international system. They could not also ignore the third capital, not strictly in India, but in the Middle East, which continuously operated. That was Cairo. Cairo more than any other place was the capital of Islam, after Turkey had withdrawn her interest in Islam and in Asia. Sardar Panikkar said that in world affairs Islam was a major factor in political issues, though not important militarily.

Concluding, Sardar Panikkar said that he had tried to indicate that what he visualised in Asia was something in the nature of grouping of regional interest. To his mind they would have an India which was politically working with China with its centre as Peking's visualised a second political structure associated with the policies of India, Burma, Ceylon, Indonesia and other countries in a manner which would give stability to this area. There was then the third grouping on an Islamic line with Cairo as the main centre which would also operate on world affairs as a major factor. Such a grouping of powers, with a common integrated economy developing in these areas, would give to Asia a place in world affairs which she could claim as her own by reason of civilisation, population and resources, which she had not enjoyed for the last so many centuries.

USE OF JET PLANES IN INDIA

LONGER RUNWAYS NEEDED

NEW DELHI, Jan. 25.

Jet propelled "Comet" planes with a cruising speed of 490 miles per hour are expected to be used, for the first time, in domestic service in the Far Eastern route of British Overseas Airways Corporation, in 1952.

Sir Frank Whittle, inventor of jet propulsion, told Pressmen here to-day that planes in commercial service would undoubtedly revolutionise flying within the next few years.

Sir Frank, who is now in Delhi, will have talks with the Civil Aviation officials of the Government of India on the increased facilities that would be required in Indian airports to make jet flying successful. He would have a general exchange of ideas regarding the extra facilities that will assist on the operation of the jet. He will also meet Air-Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhurst, C-in-Chief, RIAF, and discuss with him regarding jet planes. He said that at least one Indian Airways Company had shown deep interest in jet planes and he might hold discussions with the company's management before he left India.

Sir Frank said that a general improvement in airport facilities would be necessary, to be lengthened to enable the Comet to take off in its full capacity. He said that there was a peculiar difficulty in India caused by the high temperature which prevented the Comet from taking off in its full capacity. In Delhi the jet obtained a working maximum of 40 degrees centigrade which caused a power loss of 20 per cent.

The jet's full capacity to carry 36 to 48 passengers varying with seating arrangements and fly at a height of thirty-six to forty thousand feet. It would cost about Rs. 100 lakhs to build a runway. Its operational cost would be 20 per cent less and its revenue earning capacity 80 per cent greater than that of the Constellation.—PTI.

JUDGES OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

Five Judges of the Madras High Court, who have now been made permanent, took their oath of office this afternoon at the Chief Justice's Chambers. The Judges are Messrs. A. S. Panchapakesa Aiyar, P. V. Balakrishna Aiyar, W. S. Krishnaswami Naidu, Basheer Ahmed Sayeed and P. Chandrasekhar.

Mr. Justice Rajamannar, Chief Justice, administered the oath of office to the five Judges in the order mentioned above. Mr. K. M. Ganapathi, Registrar of the High Court, was also present.

Three of these Judges were Acting and two were Additional. The order from Delhi confirming the appointment of Judges was received this morning.

SHIFT SYSTEM IN SCHOOLS

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

Government have confirmed the draft of an amendment to the rules under the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1939, relating to the introduction of the shift system in elementary schools.

The amendment provides that in the case of schools where the shift system has been adopted with the approval of the Director of Public Instruction, 3 hours in one session, either in the forenoon or the afternoon, shall constitute a full school day. The session shall have five periods of 40 minutes each with an interval of ten minutes at the end of the second or the third period. In such schools, the school work shall be in two batches of nearly equal strength for six days in a week, one batch working in the morning and the other in the afternoon session. Ordinarily each batch will work in three morning sessions and three afternoon sessions in a week alternately.

"MADRAS"

A well-produced souvenir, entitled "MADRAS", has been issued by the Director of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras, to mark the inauguration of the Indian Republic. Running to over 100 pages, the volume is a mine of useful information on various phases of Governmental activity in the Province. The progress of food production schemes, Harijan uplift, rural reconstruction, labour and housing problems, educational policies and programmes and a host of other questions of interest are surveyed. Profusely illustrated with suitable photographs, the souvenir carries a fine reproduction of Gandhiji's portrait as frontispiece. The volume is priced Rs. 1 per copy.

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ANDHRA PROVINCE ISSUE

NEHRU'S LETTER TO MADRAS PREMIER

MADRAS, Jan. 25.

The Madras Premier has received from the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a letter setting out the considerations which led the Government of India to come to the conclusion that the formation of an Andhra Province may not be practicable in the near future.

It is learnt that the contents of the Prime Minister's letter are practically on the same lines as the Government of India's Communiqué published to-day.

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, the Premier, told Pressmen in his weekly Press interview to-day that he had read the Communiqué in the papers and hoped to get it officially in due course.

"What next in respect of the Province question?" the Premier was asked. He replied: "I should await instructions from the Government of India. What is the good of venturing suggestions or opinions before knowing what the Government of India want us to do? Personally, I do not know what is going to be done in this matter. So we are taking no action."

The interview then turned on the Government of India's view that all differences should be settled before further steps could be taken.

The Premier said that he did not think "cent per cent agreement is at all possible in matters connected with the establishment of a new Province."

"So far as the Partition Committee is concerned," he said, "there has been agreement. Only one member dissented on certain points."

A Pressman pointed out that apart from Mr. T. Prakasam's dissenting note, there were differences also "outside the Partition Committee" as for instance the difference expressed by some sections of Andhras, the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, etc.

The Premier said, "If these are also taken into account, the best thing will be for the Government of India to have the disputes arbitrated."

FUTURE OF MADRAS CITY

One reporter asked what the difference was in the Committee over "the status of Madras City referred to in the Delhi Communiqué."

The Premier said that the difference was not about the future status of the City. "Mr. Prakasam," he said, "wanted Madras to be the joint capital of Andhra and rest of the Madras Province. We suggested that the Andhra capital should be inside Andhra area and the place should be named here. Now, a skeleton office kept there, though most of the offices may function in Madras, until buildings are found in Andhra area."

Another Pressman drew attention to Mr. Prakasam's insistence on the postponement of division of Government assets in Madras City till its future was settled.

Replying, Mr. Kumaraswami Raja said that the reference in the Communiqué might be in regard to this point. "But," he added, "the Jawaharlal-Patel-Pattabhi Report had made it clear that the Andhra Province would be formed on the basis that the new Province would definitely have nothing to do with Madras City."

The Premier expressed his feeling that the difference over inclusion or non-inclusion of areas in Bellary district in Andhra Province could be settled through a Boundary Commission even now. "After all the procedure," he suggested, "is to be followed, it is better to have a Boundary Commission for settling disputes about areas and arbitration in respect of other disputed issues."

"So you do not agree with the Centre's views as expressed in the Communiqué?" asked a Pressman pointedly.

"I have got to agree," the Premier replied. "For, the last word in the matter rests with the Government of India. But I do not agree with them in saying that there has been no agreement in the Partition Committee."

"There is a general impression that the question of forming the Andhra Province is postponed sine die. Is that justified?" asked one reporter.

"NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN NOW"

"We are not taking any action now," the Premier said. He added, "We cannot take any further action till we know what the Government of India intend to do, what mode of approach they propose and how they expect us to proceed. Till then, obviously we cannot do anything."

"One thing must be remembered in this connection," the Premier explained. "We did not take up the question on our own initiative. The initiative came from the Government of India. When they asked for our views, we sent them our considered recommendations. If nothing comes out of them, there is nothing further for us to do."

"What about the argument advanced in certain quarters that administration in Madras would become difficult if there is entrance of a large number of Andhras?" asked a Pressman pointing to the observation of Dr. T. S. S. Rajan in the Madras Council at a recent meeting.

"I will go on as usual," replied the Premier. "I do not think anything serious will happen to affect adversely the administration will be all right, with or without a partition."

EXAMINATIONS OF INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES

MADRAS, Jan. 24.

The entrance examination of the Institute of Actuaries will be held on May 4 and 5, 1950. The examinations in Parts I to VI will be held from May 8 to 13. Candidates are required to give ten weeks' notice of their intention to sit. All applications of candidates for the examination and for remittances from them must reach the Assistant Secretary in London before February 23, 1950. Application forms for entrance examination can be had from Mr. P. K. Ranganayakulu, Supervisor, Examinations of the Institute of Actuaries, Madras Centre.