

Draft Constitution Of India

RADICAL PARTY CAMPAIGN

Inaugurating the campaign to popularise the "Draft Constitution of India" adopted by the all-India conference of the Radical Democratic Party, at a public meeting in Bombay on Wednesday, Mr. M. N. Roy declared that the draft presented a picture of India in the new world that would arise from the melting pot of the war. He admitted that there were certain features in it that might be regarded as innovations and even looked upon as repugnant to orthodox constitutional theories.

The draft, Mr. Roy continued, was based on certain fundamental, social and political principles which must commend themselves to all desiring freedom and progress. It presupposed the transfer of power to the Indian people as a whole. The procedure suggested was to take the fate of the people out of the hands of parties and leaders who had failed to agree and to refer the question to the people themselves.

The constitution drafted by the Radical Democratic Party answered the crucial questions regarding the procedure for the transfer of power, the structure of the state, and the source of authority, and also met the controversial issues like the Muslim League demand and the position of the minorities.

FEDERAL STATE

The draft constitution visualised a federal state, but it avoided the rocks on which the Government of India Act of 1935 had floundered. Having made provision for the separation of the provinces not desiring to be a part of the federation, the draft provided for a federal structure which left no room for fissiparous tendencies. It reconciled federalism and centralism, so essential for economic planning.

The position of the Princes would necessarily have to undergo changes. If power were to be transferred to the Indian people, it would not be fair or logical to deny the same to the people living in the States. For fair, just and democratic considerations, the draft visualised the disappearance of the States and their incorporation with the neighbouring provinces.

The draft constitution also visualised an organised democracy as the source of all constitutional authority. That would avoid the difficulties of holding elections in a vast country, local people's committees, instead of voters, forming the basic units of the State. That would also make a combination of the legislative and executive functions of the State possible, the separation of which had vitiated democratic practice and reduced popular sovereignty to a mere formality.