

Constitution Of India

BOMBAY PREMIER PRAISES WORK

From Our Special Representative
NEW DELHI, November 18.

The Bombay Premier, Mr. B. G. Kher, declared in the Constituent Assembly, today, that the new Constitution would ensure for Indians that "measure of social justice, peace and prosperity, which it was their aim to achieve."

Describing the task accomplished by the members as "gigantic and monumental," Mr. Kher said that the provisions were the outcome of compromise, toleration, goodwill and understanding.

The Bombay Premier did not agree with the critics of the Constitution that there had been too much centralisation. In his view, the proposed federation was such that the strength of the centre would not be imperilled, while at the same time the Provinces could be allowed to progress freely.

Mr. Kher shared the fears of a section of the House that adult franchise was risky, but the only safeguard that could be provided was to accelerate education.

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Underlining the need for security, both external and internal, he suggested that the provisions contained in the Constitution would enable the executive to function efficiently and also to safeguard the fundamental rights of people, which were being assailed by those who believed in the cult of violence and anarchy.

Another important contribution to today's debate was from Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power. Mr. Gadgil reminded the House of the circumstances in which partition was forced on India and warned that fissiparous tendencies had not yet been wiped out. He, therefore, felt that India should have a strong Centre for at least the next ten years.

The labour's view-point was voiced by Mr. Khandubhai Desai, who found the Constitution acceptable except for the fact that the salaries fixed for higher officers were out of tune with the average income of an Indian.

The House will resume the third reading tomorrow.

(Details on page 5.)