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Incorporating and directly descended from THE FRIEND OF INDIA -Founded 1817

TWO ANNAS

INDIA'S CONSTITUTION FAREWELL PARTY TO C.R. **SIGNED**

Sardar Patel, who followed the Prime Minister, spoke of the President's "wise judgment and cool tem-

perament." which, he said, were a

sure guarantee that India's prestige

and progress would increase under

and progress would increase under his leadership.
In his reply to the speeches. Dr Prasad referred with modesty to the compliments paid him and said that a more fitting occasion for congratulations would be at his retirement.

Much greater application and sacrifice than in the past were now required as the country faced many problems and he hoped that men and women would be forthcoming to shoulder this burden.

NATIONAL ANTHEM
In his statement on the National

NATIONAL ANTHEM

In his statement on the National Anthem, made earlier, the President said that "Jana Gana Mana" would be used for official purposes and "Bande Mataram" would be "honoured equally" and would have "equal status."

Applause followed his remarks that he hand this surrogament would satisfy

hoped this arrangement would satisfy numbers, some of whom then raised shouts of "Bande Mataram."

shouts of "Bande Mataram."

Two calligraphed copies of the Constitution, in English and Hindi, and a third printed copy in English were signed by 271 members. The first to sign was the Prime Minister, who was followed by the Congress President.

Four members did not sign the Constitution, although they were present in the House. They were Maulana Hasrat

he House They were Maulana Hasrat

the House. They were Maulana Hasrat Mohani, who had earlier voted against its acceptance; Mr Damodar Swarup Seth, the U.P. Socialist leader; Mr Sarangdhar Das. Orissa Socialist; and Sardar Hukam Singh, the Akali repre-

Mr Iengar said: "I have to inform

TASK ACCOMPLISHED

Pandit Nehru, offering his "respectful congratulations" to Dr Prasad, said: "It

is more than three years since we began the work of this Constituent Assembly

under your leadership, and during these three years, much has happened which has changed the face of this country. We nave faced turmoil and crisis re-

We nave faced turmoil and crisis repeatedly but we have gone on with this work of making the Constitution for the Republic of India, and now we have accomplished that task.

"That chapter is closed. Fresh labours await us. Another chapter begins in a day or two. Not only have we had experience of your able leadership during these three years of great difficulty, but many of us have known you for over 30 years or so as a soldier of India, ever in the forefront in the battle of freedom.

"So we welcome you. Sir. as our leader, as the head of the republic of India and as a comrade who has faced without flinching all the crises and troubles that have confronted this country during the part geoporation."

ing the past generation.

"One dream that we dreamt for years past has been realized, but we confront

(Continued on page 5 col 1)

The train will run to Sakrigali Ghat on the EIR broad gauge Saheb-ganj loop. Passengers will then be

transhipped across the Ganges to Maniharighat, from where the metre gauge train will take them to Amin-

gaon via Katihar, Kissenganj Sili-guri, Bagrakot, Madarihat, Hasimara,

The journey from Calcutta to Siliguri is expected to take about 211

hours and from Siliguri to Amingaon

Opened to goods traffic on Dec 9. the event completes the project conceived in 1948.

Alipore Duar and Fakiragram.

about 18 hours.

ASSAM RAIL LINK PASSENGER

SERVICE BEGINS TODAY

By a Staff Reporter PASSENGER train service through Indian territory to Darjeeling

Amingaon (Assam), the first one from Sealdah leaving at noon today.

and Assam along the new Assam rail link will start today.

passenger train will run each way between Calcutta and

FINAL SESSION OF **ASSEMBLY**

FIRST PRESIDENT **CONGRATULATED**

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Jan 24.—India's Constituent Assembly, which first met over three years ago to frame the new Constitution, ceased to function in that capacity this afternoon. On Jan 26, the House automatically becomes the provisional Parliament of the Indian Republic.

LONG ceremony of signing the Constitution, which occupied nearly two hours, highlighted the proceedings.

Loud and continued cheering followed the announcement of the uncontested election of Dr Rajendra Prasad as the first President of the Indian Republic.

The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, walking up to the microphone, welcomed Dr Prasad as the head of the Republic and as "our leader," and pledged his "loyalty and fealty" to the Republic.

Document Weighs Over 40 Lbs

NEW DELHI, Jan 24.—India's Constitution, which was signed today by Constituent Assembly members, weighs over 40 lbs. Printed in English on vellum parchment, the document contains 289 pages for the articles and schedules, and is expected to be indelible for over

Two other volumes, handwritten by special calligraphists, are not yet complete, although signed by members. The borders of their pages are illuminated in gold, like Moghul

These two volumes, one in English and the other in Hindi, will be sent to Santinekatan, where, under the direction of Mr Nandlal Bose, the first pages of each chapter and schedule will be painted with pictures depicting various periods of Indian history.-PTI.

MALAN "LEADING S. AFRICA ON TO ROCKS"

Smuts's Censure Motion

LONDON, Jan 24.—In Capetown today, a motion of no-confidence in Dr Malan's Government was introduced in the South African Parliament by General Smuts, says the

The Opposition leader said the Government failed last year to carry out its policy of racial segregation and could not do so this year. Dr Malan: "You will have more of it this year."

General Smuts said that Govern-ment members had admitted that they could not go on with the Bill to remove Africans from the voters' roll owing to differences among them-

The Government's economic policy had led to a loss of confidence in South Africa overseas and caused rising prices at home. The Government was leading the country on to the rocks.

20 E.B.R. TRAINS CANCELLED

DACCA, Jan 24.—The Traffic Manager of the EBR notified today that as a result of the stoppage of coal supplies by India, it had been necessary to can-cel immediately about 20 trains, includ-ing the North Bengal Express, Dacca Passenger and Goalundo-Sealdah Pas-

Steamer companies have also announced curtailment of several services with effect from Jan 23 "in view of the reduction of through passenger services and in order to conserve coal."—PTI.

Other Pakistan news on page 8.)

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NEW DELHI. Jan 23.-From Jan 26 the Federal Public Service Commission will be known as the Union Public Service Commission as provided in the Constitution, says a Press Note from the Commission.—PTI.

RESUMPTION OF BERLIN AIRLIFT HINTED AT

WASHINGTON, Jan 24.—A resumption of the Berlin airlift is always "in the back of our minds." Mr John McCloy, U.S. High Commissioner, told reporters here last

Mr McCloy, who is visiting Washington, referred to Russian tactics to obstruct road traffic between Berlin and the Western zone "arm-twisting procedure." said: "I do not know what is in the Russians' mind. It is an enigma."— PTI-Reuter.



This group photograph of Mr Rajagopalachari with Government of India Ministers was taken at a farewell party held This group photograph of Mr Rajagopalachari with Government of India Ministers was taken at a farewell party held in his honour on Jan 22. From left to right sitting: Mr Rafi Ahmad Kidwai (Communications); Sardar Baldev Singh (Defence); Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Education); Pandit Nehru (Prime Minister); H. E. Mr C. Rajagopalachari, Sardar Patel (Deputy Prime Minister); Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Health); Dr John Matthai (Finance); Mr Jagjivan Ram (Labour). Standing: Mr N. V. Gadgil (Works, Mines and Power): Mr K. C. Neogy (Commerce): Dr B. R. Ambedkar (Law); Dr S. P. Mookerji (Industry and Supply); Mr Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Railway and Transport) and Mr Jairamdas Daulatram (Food and Agriculture).

BANQUET IN HONOUR OF C.R. BY NEHRU

NEW DELHI, Jan 24.—The Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, gave a banquet tonight in honour of the Governor-General Mr Rajagopalachari, who will lay down his office in another two days.

The guests included members of the Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet Minis-ters and high officials of the Govern-

After the banquet the Prime Minister held a reception at Government House. The guests included the President of the United States of Indonesia, Dr Soekarno, and his wife, chiefs of the foreign missions in Delhi, the Congress President, Dr Sitaramayya, and members of Parlia-

The Government of India is understood to have adopted a resolution placing on record the services rendered by Mr Rajagopalachari, the retiring Governor-General, and expressing its gratitude to him.—PTI.

CONSERVATIVE **ELECTION MANIFESTO**

Full Employment To Be First Aim

LONDON, Jan 24.-The British Conservative (Opposition) Party today made its supreme bid to recapture control of Britain's destinies with an election manifesto naming full employment as "No. 1 priority" if the party wins a five years' term of power.

The 22-page manifesto, called "This is the Road," pinpointed also as chief aims slashed taxes an end to nation.

Sardar Hukam Singh, the Akali representative.

Before the few remaining members left the House at the conclusion of the meeting. Mrs. Purnima Banerjee sang "Jana Gana Mana" and Pandit Lakshmi Kant Maitra followed her with "Bande Mataram." As the House finally dispersed, members raised shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai."

PTI adds: At 11-9 a.m., Dr Rajendra Prasad called upon Mr H. V. R. Iengar, the Returning Officer and Secretary of the Assembly, "to make an announcement." aims slashed taxes, an end to nationalization, homes for all, a fair field for enterprise, and tightening of Britain's bonds with the Commonwealth, the Mr Iengar said: "I have to inform honourable members that only one nomination paper has been received for the office of President of India. The candidate is Dr Rajendra Prasad, and his nomination has been proposed by Pandit Nehru, and seconded by Sardar Patel. "Under Sub-rule (1) of Rule 8 of the President of India Election Rules. I hereby declare the hon'ble Dr Rajendra Prasad to be duly elected to the office of President of India." USA and Europe.

The manifesto proposed to sweep away many Socialist industrial councils and to ease the tax burden by

'axing" Government expenditure.
Calling for an Imperial Conference to consider the problem of "strengthening Empire resources to close the dollar gap," the manifesto held that such a conference would try to reach a permanent settlement of the debts owed by Commonwealth nations to one another, and especially the war-

one another, and especially the wartime debts incurred by Britain "for
defending India and Egypt.

Empire and Commonwealth Governments should consider the need for a
common advisory defence council and
combined staffs to work together for
standardization of equipment and
training

The idea of a permanent Empire and Commonwealth civil liaison staff was put forward in addition. put forward in addition.

Conservatives, the manifesto declared, above all sought to work "in fraternal association with America" to help. by all means, all countries in Europe, Asia or elsewhere "to resist the aggression of Communism by open attack or secret penetration".

of Communism by open attack or secret penetration."

Pledging "active support" to all measures for Empire and Commonwealth welfare, they said: "We will do all in our power to develop new relations in the Commonwealth with India, Pakistan and Caylon"

Conservatives also stood for closer European unity.—PTI-Reuter.

U.N. ALLOWS ITALY TO KEEP

TROOPS IN SOMALILAND

LONDON, Jan 24.—The U.N. Trusteeship Council meeting in

Geneva today voted to allow Italy to

keep armed forces in what used to be

Italian Somaliland when, under the

Trusteeship agreement, she takes over

the administration of the territory

Ten voted in favour; Belgium abstained and Russia was not present.

REPLACEMENTOF **DOLLAR IMPORTS**

INDO-BRITISH TALKS IN DELHI ON FRIDAY

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Jan 24.—The possibility of meeting India's requirements of 1.3m barrels of fuel (furnace) oil with supplies from sterling areas is likely to figure prominently in the discussions at the meeting of the Indo-British Joint Consultative Committee in New Delhi on Friday. REPUBLIC DAY HOLIDAY

The offices of The Statesman

will be closed tomorrow, Jan

26, and there will be no issue

of the paper dated January 27.

A 28-page Republic Day Sup-

plement containing articles by

distinguished Indian contributors will be issued free with all

editions dated Jan 26.

India recently decided, at the instance of the British Government and in line with the policy agreed to at the last London Conference of Commonwealth Finance Ministers, to stop from this month imports of fuel oil from America and other dollar

areas. Her imports of such oil amounted to 1.3m barrels a year.

The meeting will also discuss the scope of replacing India's other dollar imports, such as machinery, medicines and lubricants, by supplies from starling countries with the starling countries. from sterling countries with the object of conserving, as far as possible. dollar resources of the sterling blocs.

The Committee, which meets twice a working of the Indo-British Sterling Agreement, will not concern itself, at its Delhi meeting, with the financial aspects of the agreement as these are stated to have been considered by the economic wing of the Commonwealth Conference at Colombo.

Conference will of the Commonwealth Conference at Colombo.

At these consulative discussions, Britain will be represented by Mr M. Flett of the Treasury and Mr G. Bowen of the Board of Trade, and India by Mr K. G. Ambegaokar, Secretary, Economic Affairs Department, and Mr Keith Roy, Deputy Secretary, Finance Ministry, Government of India, Officers of the Commerce, Industry and Supply and Food Ministries will be present.

Sir Henry Wilson Smith, Secretary to the British Treasury, broke his homeward journey from Colombo in Delhi on Friday when he discussed with India's Finance Minister, Dr Matthai, and the Secretaries of the Commerce, Food and Agriculture Ministries Indo-British trade and financial problems.

AUSTRIAN PEACE TREATY TALKS POSTPONED

LONDON. Jan 24.—The four Foreign Ministers' Deputies drafting an Austrian peace treaty today agreed to adjourn till Feb 15.

Mr Samuel Reber, U.S. representa-tive, said this should give "ample time" for completion of direct negotiations between Austria and Russia regarding Austrian payment for Russian civil supplies and services. This morning's session was the 249th of the series.

The Russian delegate maintained that further progress was impossible until the Austrian payments were agreed to.—PTI-Reuter.

PROPOSALS ON RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan 24.-A group of U.N. experts who have been studying discriminatory problems has recommended that the U.N. take steps to give added protection to minority groups.

By a vote of nine to none, the subcommission on the prevention of discri-mination suggested that the future co-venant on human rights include a new article guaranteeing to minority groups the rights to enjoy their culture, practise their religion and speak their native language.

The sub-commission also recommend

The sub-commission also recommended that the General Assembly seek means to ensure to minorities the rights to use their native language before the courts and to teach it in State-supported schools until the human rights covenant comes into force.

Both must come up for review before the subsidiary organs' parent body the Commission on Human Rights, which meets here in March.—PTI-Reuter.

AFRICAN RAILWAY CRASH DAR-ES-SALAAM, Jan 24.-Eleven people were killed and many injured when a train left the line and crashed down a steep incline here today. All the dead were Africans.—PTI-

EPIDEMIC DISEASES

Sixteen persons suspected to be suffering from cholera were taken to hospital from different parts of Cal cutta yesterday against 15 on Monday Twelve smallpox cases were admitted to hospital yesterday against 11

the day before.

[See also Page 3]

Airborne Units Retake Bandoeng

Westerling's Army Withdraws

BANDOENG, Jan 24.—Commando units of the Indonesian Army, flown from Djakarta and Sourabaya, re-occupied Bandoeng early today. Westerling's troops having withdrawn, says PTI-Reuter. They took over the command posts abandoned by the Indonesians who fled when Westerling's forces seized the city yesterday.

DUTCH troops had controlled the city between Westerling's arrival last night and the arrival of the airborne units this morning. Westerling's army is believed to be in the mountains north-west of Bandoeng.

A Dutch Army spokesman said about 50 Dutch commandos and parachutists who had deserted to Westerling had returned to duty and had been flown to Djakarta for discipli-

nary action. About 100 Indonesian Army men who deserted some weeks ago also reported to the authorities of Pasundan State, of which Bandoeng is the

capital.

Col S. Matupano. Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Armed Forces. said in Djakarta today that the occupation of Bandoeng yesterday was really a mutiny by the large number of Dutch forces stationed there.

He said that the Indonesian authorities he said that the Indonesian authorities had warned the Dutch authorities of the possibility of an outbreak and that the rebels had passed Dutch positions.

An official statement by the Indonesian Government said that among Westerling's army were 300 Dutchmen who described recently and that an argust the state of the described recently and that, as a result of Dutch reassurances of security, the Indonesian Army had moved out of Bandoeng. leaving Dutch troops to maintain order. Officials have arrested two Dutchmen and another eight men in a round-up of

WESTERLING'S CHALLENGE

Observers said that Westerling showed the effectiveness of his military organithe effectiveness of his military organization, but it was difficult to see what he achieved politically. They suggested that he might have wanted to show the Government of Indonesia what they could expect from him. He might also have intended to infiltrate into Djakarta and might have made the attack to draw Indonesian Government troops out of

(Continued on page 5 col 6.)

DARBHANGA'S SUIT

DISMISSED

PATNA. Jan 24.—At the Patna High Court today, Shearer and Fas, JJ, dismissed the suit of the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga challenging the validity of the Bihar Abolition of Zamindaris Act. It was held that in view of the repeal of the Act, the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga had no cause of action to proceed with the suit.—UPI.

W. GERMANY TO **CO-OPERATE** WITH ALLIES

LONDON, Jan 24. - An official statement issued in Bonn says that the Federal German Government decided today to continue its policy of co-operation with the Allies, the establishment of friendly relations with France and support for the idea of a Western European Union, says

The decision was taken after an unofficial statement on the future of Saar territory. The statement says that, in the interest of Franco-German defence, ac-

tion will have to be taken against any dangerous tendency. The German people must learn that their own future is identical with the future of (See also page 8.)

Bond

Tea

he word TEA, like the plant

itself, came from China. Pronounced 'Chah' in Cantonese and 'Tay' in the dialect of Amoy it provided the root of the word meaning tea in almost every language. BROOKE BOND is written ब्रुक बाँड or १९६ 🚞 🤾 🤾 and in many other scripts, but **Brooke**

always means unchanging quality, fine flavour and garden freshness.

Brooke Bond Tea