WEATHER IN SOUTH INDIA MADRAS, Dec. 12. Daily weather report for Madras Presi-

dency and Mysore: Weather has been dry except for light showers in Madras and Mangalore. Night temperatures have been markedly above normal in the sastern half of the Region.

Forecast valid until the evening of Dec. 13: A few showers in East Tamilnad and South Mysore.

Local forecast: Occasional light showers.
Weather news for farmers: Light showers here and there in South Kanara, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Bangalore, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, Hassan, Kadur, Salem, Nilgiris and Madura Districts. Low temperatures at night in Nilgiris and Vizagapatam districts.
Cuttook for the next three days: Fair Outlook for the next three days: Fair

METTUR WATER LEVEL Reservoir full on Dec. 11.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1946.

A SOVEREIGN BODY THE unanimous election of Dr. Rajendra Prasad as permanent Chairman of the Constituent Assembly is not only proof of the theless happen under the Cabinet universal confidence reposed in him Mission's plan. The Mission's and and the singular esteem in which he the British Government's reply to is need. It is or nappy augury for this is that "individual Provinces its Negotiating Committee to discuss the successful conclusion of the would be free to opt out after the with the Nawab of Bhopal the terms and is held. It is of happy augury for this is that "individual Provinces extraordinarily difficult task which first elections under the new Conthe Assembly has set its hand to stitution." But they are stubbornly If any one man in India can hope silent when confronted with the to reconcile the wide differences, doctrinal, personal and temperamental, that have so long delayed a that the Sections would not rig up united and victorious march to the Provincial Constitutions in such freedom, it is this gentle, wise and patient son of Bihar who harbours the will of the people of any Prono ill-will against a soul on earth and to whose genius for persuasion the magnificent simile of The Ramayana may be fittingly applied, that "when he speaks the foe with sword uplifted and about to strike essential part of the Plan "because of the Government of India. stays his hand." In the brief reply if the agreement of all Provinces he made to the felicitations showered upon him from all quarters, framing of a Group Constitution it is dered significant. It is no secret that the proposition of some during summer several of the Princes Dr. Rajendra Prasad made a feeling reference to the abstention of
the Muslim League representatives
and expressed the hope that they
framed." If the concrete cases that
office by the Indian. Since the assumption of
office by the Indian. Since the assumption of
office by the Indian. would soon be induced to come in are likely to happen are examined begun to dawn on several of Their High"I am hoping also," he said, "that it will be seen that in the Section nesses that after all even the Defence Department is under an Indian, and cations of Pakistan, will know with what scrupulous fairness he has set out the pros and cons and how In the Section comprising the Puntheir willing consent. Mr. Jinnah without any inescapable necessity and other leaders of the Muslim arising for coercing the dissenting DR. JAYAKAR'S SUBSTITUTE League should realise that a last- Province; while if a majority of the ing solution of the communal pro- Provinces in the Section do not agreement and the effort in this point in compulsorily impounding pose drastic changes and even wholedirection, on which the Constituent them together. We fully endorse solution on the declaration of objectives Assembly is embarked, has started Lord Pethick-Lawrence's emphasis to be discussed by the Constituent Asunder the best possible auspices on the need for framing a Constiwith Dr. Rajendra Prasad as pilot. tution which, "because it is based of Mr. Somnath Lahiri, the Communist member, and runs to 1,500 words, Dr.

In his very first utterance the on consent, will be welcomed by He referred to the fact that "this spirit." To coerce any Province to brief one and reads: Assembly has been born with cerdo what it does not want to do is fain limitations" and went on to not the best way of achieving this be prepared by this Assembly for the add, "We may not forget, disregard end. The British Government can future Governance of India shall be for er ignore these limitations in the help best by impressing it on every course of our proceedings and in Party that it is for Indians to come arriving at our decisions." All the to a settlement among themselves more significant is his assertion, by making the fullest use of the "But I know, too, that in spite of forum provided by the Constituent these limitations the Assembly is Assembly. self-governing, self-determining, independent body in whose proecedings no outside authority can interfere and whose decisions no ene outside can upset, alter or modify." The Assembly is, in spite of the peculiar conditions of its prigin, a sovereign body because, is Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar justly observed, "The Constituent been affected by the dislocation of com-Assembly derived its authority, not munications due to recent rains, were from the fact that its authors were discussed at a conference of food officials held at the Secretariat this afterthree members of His Majesty's Government, but from the fact that the proposals made therein had been accepted by the people of this country." Any outside authority, however exalted, cannot claim the right to tell the Assembly how it sticuld achieve its task or regulate the manner of its working. The Pritish Coverament by its recent of the delay caused in the building up of necessary stocks in seven or eight districts affected by floods, there may be some delay in giving effect to the increase in rice portion of the food ration, announced recently from eight to ten cunces. The period of postponetic time manner of its working. The Pritish Coverament by its recent of the delay caused in the building up of drawal of India and take over all banks, industrial and transport concerns, plantations, mines, etc., owned by British capital and nationalise them. The Government is to ten cunces. The period of postponetic time manner of its working. The period of postponetic time manner of its working. The British Government, by its recent fortnight. statement after the failure of the London talks, has given a demonstration of the enormously mischievous effect that such interference may have. In his statement in the House of Lords on Wednesday, the Secretary of State maintained that what his Government was now doing was merely to interpret the Cabinet Mission's plan. And he reiterated a point made for the first time in the British The Viceroy to-day granted an interview to the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancel Government's recent statement, for of the Chamber of Princes.—A.P.I. which said that "the intention of the Mission was that the

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER have always said was their intention." That is as it may be. But so far as the public is concerned, there is not a scrap of evidence to show that it was ever told that this was the Cabinet Mission's intention. The one statement made by the Mission before it left India, by way of interpretation and elaboration, was that of May 25 in which all that the Mission said was that it did not agree with the interpretation put by the Congress on Para 15 of the Statement of May 16, "to the effect that the Provinces can in the ther or not to belong to the Section in which they are placed." This, as we pointed out the other day, is a very different thing from maintaining, as the British Government does now, that the voting in the Sections shall be by a majority vote. the absence of the Muslim League and Voting is a question of procedure Indian States representatives. which is a matter purely for the Constituent Assembly to decide as the debate will be reached only after his return from East Bengal. By that time

the rationale of Grouping as being the Houses of Parliament on India and "that there would be an opportunity, by the adoption of a particular will remove a good deal of uncertainty procedure in the Constituent Assembly, for the Provinces to form are, of course, some who suggest that adoption of such a resolution as Pandit Groups for the administration of Nehru's will make the entry of the Mussuch subjects as it was decided lim League and States into the Constishould be dealt with in common." tuent Assembly much more difficult than it is. Congress leaders on the other hand The important thing in the view of contend that there is nothing in its the British Government is, thus, that an opportunity to form Groups Muslim League cannot be different from should be provided—and not to im- those defined in the resolution and in pose on the Provinces, compulsorily fact the draft takes careful note, both of Muslim sentiment and the basic details of the Cabinet Mission's long-term cial Constitution which may not be plan. to their liking. But that may neverquestion, which has been repeatedly asked: "What guarantee is there a way as to make it impossible for vince to express itself through its gerrymandered legislature?" The Secretary of State says that the Muslim League considers voting by a majority in the Sections is an outside the influence, and even control within a Section is required for the

you would do your best to achieve into which only two Provinces, treaty obligations to the extent that they this great objective." Coming from Bengal and Assam will go, there relate to the maintenance of troops for the protection of States are entirely such a man these are no empty will be no point in forming a Group the protection of States are entirely under the influence of the Interim Gov. words. Readers of India Divided, if one Province, even if it be the ernment. Nevertheless mention of "Rehis monumental work on the impli-smaller one, stands out. You simply public" in Pandit Nebru's resolution has caused a shock to some who wonder cannot have a Group, if Assam has caused a shock to some who wonders what sovereignity derived from the peoobjects, unless you coerce Assam. ple signifies.

Congress leaders will feel their way. genuinely anxious he has shown jab and other Provinces, if one in Committee may decide to meet at himself for a settlement, on the Province should oppose Grouping, some suitable place in East Bengal in basis of a free and united India, to a Group may yet be formed comthe last week of December and review the situation in Gaudhiji's presence which the Muslims would give prising other consenting Provinces with his advice.

INCREASE IN RICE

RATIONS

POSTPONEMENT IN SOME

DISTRICTS LIKELY

The ways and means of replenishing

A number of general administrative

matters also came up for consideration.

It is understood that on account of

STATES PEOPLE'S

CONFERENCE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.
The meeting of the Standing Committee of the All-India States People's Conference, announced for December 22, has now been postponed to December 26 and the two subsequent days.—A.P.I.

BHOPAL RULER MEETS

VICEROY

MR. T. PRAKASAM

taken by a majority vote" and that this is "what the Cabinet Mission ing by air.

MADRAS, Dec. 12.

MADRAS, Dec. 12.

MR. T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, returned to Madras from Delhi this evening by air.

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

MADRAS, Dec. 12.

# RESOLUTION

The Associated Press adds:\_ sembly to-morrow morning. One of the two substitute resolutions is in the name M. R. Jayakar heads the list with the Chairman struck the right key all and worked in a co-operative other substitute resolution which is a

a free and democratic sovereign State; but with a view to securing, in the shaping of such a constitution, the co-operation of the Muslim League and the Indian States, and thereby intensifying the firmness of this resolve, this Assembly postpones the further consideration the representatives of these two bodies to participate, if they so choose, in the deliberations of this Assembly."

## COMMUNIST AMENDMENT

Mr. Lahiri's substitute resolution de-clares India to be an independent counmajority of our people, to act as the Free Provisional Government of India and to function henceforth in the name

The resolution calls upon the Provisional Government to take steps interalia to effect the withdrawal of all Brilists. People are called upon to be vigi-lant and report acts of intransigence and sabotage carried out by bureaucrats and officials in the interest of their former master so that such cases are speedily

.DECLARATION OF **OBJECTIVES** 

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS

CONSTITUENT

ASSEMBLY

TABLED (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, Dec. 13. Notice of over 25 amendments have been received by the President's office to Mr. Nehru's main resolution before the Constituent Assembly defining the objectives of the permanent constitution of first instance make the choice who- India. The majority of these amendments seek to emphasise the need for safeguarding the interests of workers and peasants. Some are designed to eliminate one feature, namely the vesting of residuary powers in the provinces. One amendment standing in Dr. M. R. Jayakar's name questions the wisdom and expediency of bringing up such a resolution before the Constituent Assembly in

Pandit Nehru will move his resolu-Lord Pethick-Lawrence expounds and also Mr. Jinnah. The debates in both Mr. Jinnah's promised statement before leaving London at the end of this week take exception. The objectives of the

### PRINCES' ATTITUDE

The Standing Committee of the States People's Conference will meet during Christmas and at a later stage the Cons tituent Assembly is expected to appoint conditions of States' participation in the deliberations of the Constituent Assembly. States do not seem to he anxious to hasten the negotiations. They want to see whether the Muslim League en ters the Constituent Assembly and for what purpose. They will examine the implications of Pandit Nehru's resolu-tion which the Constituent Assembly will almost certainly adopt.

Pandit Nehru during his recent visit to London made a snarp attack on the Political Department. It is believed in some quarters that it is only a prelude to demanding large-scale changes, in-cluding the replacement of the present Political Adviser to the Crown Representative by an Indian who will not be

Pandit Nehru's complaint that the Interim Government with the Political Department is consihas caused a shock to some

this question to a later date, to enable

try and calls upon the Indian members of the Interim Government, "who, as nominees of the two main popular par-ties and of the minorities, together en-joy the support of the overwhelming of the Indian people and not as hitherto in the name of the British King Emperor."

FRAMING INDIA'S CONSTITUTION

"CABINET PLAN ONLY SOLUTION"

## CRIPPS' APPEAL TO PARTIES

### CHURCHILL'S ATTACK ON INTERIM GOVT.

LONDON, Dec. 12. that despite mutual The hope suspicions and fears, the Congress and the Muslim League might eventually find themselves side by side in the Constituent Assembly and in the Sections was expressed by Sir Stafford Cripps when he opened a two-day debate on India in the House of Commons to-day.

"We are convinced now as we have never been," added Sir Stafford, "that it is only by such co-operation that a satisfactory new constitution for India can be hammered out"

The debate opened shortly before 16-00 G.M.T., (9-30 p.m. I.S.T.) with the House crowded in every part and Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the Ali-India Muslim League and Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, leader of Indian Delegation to the United Nations, were among a number of Indians, who listened to the debate from the Distinguished Strangers' Gal-

lery.
Sir Stafford Cripps also told the House Sir Stanford Cripps also and the stanford that after careful re-examination of the scheme put forward in May last the Government was convinced that it was not only a fair, but feasible scheme, "We not only a fair, but feasible scheme. "We can see no other way", he added, "by which the disaster of civil strife can be avoided."

Sir Stafford Cripps concluded by expressing the conviction that it was essential that all parties in India should call a halt to the violent propaganda that had stirred the people during the last few nonths.

Mr. Winston Churchill, Leader of the Opposition, who followed Sir Stafford Cripps, associated himself with Sir Stafford in his appeal to the Indian parties to discontinue violent propaganda. "All facts and all omens", declared Mr Churchill, "point to a revival in an acute declared Mr and violent form of internal hatreds and quarrels, which have long lain dormant under the mild incompetence of liberal minded British control. To me it would be no surprise if there is complete failure

"Agreement in India which was the basis of all our policy and declarations was an indispensable condition. Instead, the prospect of more and worse to come" Mr. Churchill on behalf of the Oppo-tion, disclaimed all responsibility for sition. the Labour Government's present policy and charged it, through inviting the Con gress to form an Interim Government with "precipitating a series of massacres unparalleled in India since the mutiny of

Mr. Churchill, alluding to his insistence upon a debate, said it would be a pity

the present Parliament opened in a paracular House of Commons to-day with a speech by Sir Stafford Cripps.

Notable listeners included Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the All-India Musiim Lesgue, There were several ladies in bright Indian costumes sitting in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery.

Sir Stafford Cripps began by moving the motion which stood in the names of the Prime. Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, Sir Stafford Cripps, Mr. A. V. Alexander and Mr. Arthur Henderson. It ran as follows:

"That this House takes note of the statement on India made on December 11 by the Prime Minister and expresses its hope that a settlement of the present difficulties between Indian parties will be forthcoming."

Declaring that Britain had now, for over a century and a half, been intimately associated with the development of India, Sir Stafford Cripps said, "We have been largely responsible for shaping her destiny and deciding the course of her history. Whether we have conducted ourselves well or ill, we have carried the responsibility in a large measure and to-day we find that India and her people, like ourselves, are confronted with the most grave problem that arises out of that historical development.

"Do not let us under-estimate the difficultie of its solution. It is sometimes suggested that but for the intransigence of this or that Indian party the matter could be easily solved. That, I do not think is in accordance with the true situation. Everyone, who has shared in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility for the past of India must likewise share in the responsibility and that is why we are all of us most anxious to find a way out of these present difficulti

The time had now come said Sir Stafford The time had now come, said Sir Stafford Cripps, when Britain wanted to band over power to the Indian people. The difficulty was how to accomplish that objective. There were two principles, both democratically sound, but which were very hard to match together in a single process. The first was the right of the majority to determine its own future without any veto or prohibition from any minority. The second was the right of minorities to enjoy freedom and a full voice in the determination of their own future without suppression by the majority.

future without suppression by the majority.

"The only way in which these two rights can be worked out is in a democratic assembly where there is give and take. We know in this House of Commons a degree of tolerance between parties. The fundamental difficulty. I believe, in India to-day is that the principal bodies have not shown themselves prepared to trust one another or work together on a democratic basis. Deepseated contention, accentuated by the approach of handing over of power, has bitterly separated those, who alone can determine the future of India. There is no use our girding at the facts of history. We must try to overcome or get round them."

### "VIOLENT PROPAGANDA" DEPRECATED

master so that such cases are speedily exposed and the culprits punished.

In order to resolve Congress-League differences, the resolution suggests, first, the setting up of a Boundary Commission to redemarcate existing provinces and States into linguistically and culturally homogeneous units, and second, plebiscite of the entire adult population of each such unit to determine whether they will join the Indian Union or form a separate State. The resolution asks for the establishment in Indian States of popular interim Governments which in the establishment in Indian States of popular interim Governments which in turn, should call a Constituent Assembly.

Smaller amendments include two by Mr. Shibban Lal Saksena, (Leftist from U. P.), who opposes the vesting of residuary powers in the units and advocates (Continued on Page 5)

DEPRECATED

Loud cheers greeted a tribute by Sir Stafford Cripps to the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell, for his "hard and unceasing labout" in the task of forming the Indian Union of the said on the task of forming the Indian Union of the are globely and there have been, I am glad to say, no major difficulties within the Government itself. Unfortunately, the positionis not heiped by speeches made in the country by the supporters of the Opposition know, if not impossible, to maintain unity within a Coalition Government in an active and bilter struggle is proceeding throughout the country between partians of the two sides to that coalition".

Since India Union of form the Lake India Union of form the country by the supporters of the Opposition know, if not impossible, to maintain unity within a Coalition Government if an active and bilter struggle is proceeding throughout the country between partians of the two sides to that coalition in had of course been made far worse by the outbreak of violence or a large staff of the proceeding the country by the supporters of the opposition know, if not impossible, to maintain unity within a Coalition Government is functioning satisfactorily to-day and

visiting the areas and otherwise to influence their followers to a more calm and less violent frame of mind.

violent frame of mind.

Referring to the riots, Sir Stafford Cripps said, "This terrible toll of casualties is an index of the intensity of the communal feeling that has come into being and though it will be deplored by everyone who has the interest of India at heart, nevertheless it is a stark and naked fact. It settles nothing. Indeed, it only makes settlement more difficult but is a factor none of us can ignore".

more difficult but is a factor none of us can ignore".

Sir Stafford Cripps recalled that riots broke out in Caicutta after the Muslim League decision to set aside August 16 as "Direct Action Day." These riots, he said, shocked the whole world by their intensity. He referred to the death-roll of some 4,000 and of 10,000 injured. Next came the outbreaks in: Eastern Bengal, when gangs of Muslim hooligans carried the reign of terror into those parts with the result that 50,000 evacuees were driven out and some 200 deaths caused. This was accompanied by abduction, rape and forced conversions and as a result wild rumours circulated, greatly exaggerating that conduct which was already bad enough.

exaggrating that conduct which was alligedy had enough.

"Even worse violence and murder broke out in Bihar and spread to the United Provinces. It was not possible to give the casualities in Bihar with any accuracy, but they were practically all Muslims and many were women and children. It was probably not an exaggration to put the dead hone at 5,000. It was estimated that since September 1, there had been 445 deaths due to serious rioting in the United Provinces."

LONDON TALKS

Referring to the visit of Indian leaders to London, Sir Stafford Cripps said that it was hoped that even at that eleventh hour some accommodation might be possible in the calmer atmosphere of London The lead-

worked out by a Constituent Assembly, in which the Congress would have a clear majority, on the basis of population on which it was constituted on the one side, and Sections B and C in which the Musand Sections B and C in which the Muslims would have their mejority on the
other hand; and in which, of course, provincial constitutions and if so decided.
Group constitutions could be worked out
for the two Groups of provinces. Thus each
party had a majority where it was most
deeply interested. It was, however, provided
that no province could be forced into a
Group against its will."

DISPUTE OVER GROUPING

Sir Stafford added that the dispute which arose, as to how decision should be arrived at in the Sections, was already a matter of difference, when the Mission was in India Could a province vote itself out of a Grouping and itself determine its own constitution for the province or were both these matters to be decided by a simple majority of the Section? The latter view was clearly the correct one in the opinion of the Cabinet Mission, His Majesty's Government and their legal advisers; and this view was supported by the Muslim Legale.

this view was supported by the Alexandre League.

The Congress took the contrary view. The Congress had said that they were prepared to submit this question of interpretation to the Federal Court and accept its decision, but on this, to them, a fundamental point, the Muslim League were not prepared to take that risk, There the matter still remained.

take that risk, There the matter still remained.

Sir Stafford Cripps said that the Government had asserted definitely their understanding of the document and had stated that if the Constituent Assembly desired to refer the matter to the Federal Court then they hoped they would do it quickly so as to remove any doubts in their minds.

But the Government also had to envirage the possibility in the clause in the final paragraph of the Statement. This was perhaps a statement of the obvious—that if the Muslim Lesgue could not be persuaded to come into the Constituent Assembly, then parts of the country where they were in a majority could not be held to be bound by the results. That position had always been realised by the Congress who liad repeatedly said that they would not coerce unwilling areas to accept the new constitution.

now?
Sir Stafford Cripps: "I hope not. We still have hope that despite the mutual fears and suspicions which reign, the two naries may eventually find themselves alde by side in the Constituent Assembly and in Sections, for we are as convinced now as we have ever been, that it is by such co-operation that a satisfactory new constitution for India can be hammered out.

POSITION OF STATES Sir Stafford then told the House how matters stood with the States and the minomatters stood with the States and the mino-rities, Regarding Indian States, the Cabinet Mission laid down two principles as to the relationships of States to the Crown during this period of transition, the first, that during the transitional period of the Interim Government Farmounter, would receive during the transitional period of the Interim Government, Paramountcy would remain with the British Crown. The British Government could not and would not, in any circumstances, transfer that Pavamountcy to any other government of British India, Second, that when the transfer of power takes place in British India, then, if I may quote 'as logical consequence and in view of desires expressed to them on behalf of Indian States His Majesty's Government will cease to exercise powers of Paramountcy'. Sir Stafford said that this quotation was in the Statement made to the States white the Cabinet Mission was in India.

India.

He added, "This means that the rights of the States, which flow from their relationship to the Crown will no longer exist and that the rights surrendered by the States to the Paramount Power will return back to the Paramount Power will return back to the States again. Proposals were also put forward as to the participation of representatives of the States in the Constituent Assembly and also for a Negotiating Committee representing the States which could settle outstanding matters with the representatives of major communities in Bittish India. These arrangements were welcomed by the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes in a press statement on June 19 and the Negotiating Committee has now been set up. In that statement they expressed the view that the Mission's plantonous and the provided the necessary machinery for attaining by India of independence, as well as a fair basis for fubre negotiations."

"Not unnaturally Indian States are most anxious that all major communities should be represented in the Constituent Assembly as they do not wish to be in the position of having to deal with one community only. Their ability indeed, to co-operate must depend to some extent on what happens as regards the entry of the Muslim League into the Constituent Assembly."

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES edia. He added, "This means that the rights of

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Dealing with the minorities, Sir Stafford Cripps said that it would be remembered that in the proposals of 1942, it was laid down that one of the conditions of acceptance by Britain of the new constitution was that there should be a treaty, which among other things would contain a provision for the protection of minorities. "In the proposals of the Cabinet Mission this year the conditions of minorities were stated differently. That is, it was stated that a satisfactory provision for their protection should appear in the constitution and this we believe to be a more effective way and, indeed, it is in line with the demands put forward by Dr. Ambedkar to the Viceroy in 1942 when he stressed the ineffectiveness of treaty protection and the need for incorporation of protective provisions in the constitution itself.

"The second point of interest is the provision supported by the Missier for every

"The second point of interest is the pro-vision suggested by the Mission for seeing that proper protection of minorities should be incorporated in the constitution. At be incorporated in the constitution. At first sight, it might appear that this could be done by giving them weightage in the Constituent Assembly. But when the position is examined it will be found that if sufficient weightage is given to

(Continued on page 8)

REMOVING DISTRUST AND SUSPICION

## GANDHIJI'S MISSION IN EAST BENGAL

## "HAVE COME TO PUT 'AHIMSA' TO TEST"

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) SRIRAMPUR, Dec. 11 "I claim that I am as much a friend of the Muslims as of the Hindus in this part of the world. I have come here to put my ahimsa to an acid test in this atmosphere suspicion," said Gandhiji replying to a question put by your correspondent.

The question was: "Don't you think

that Bengal Ministers may regard you very presence here as an oppression and that whatever they may do out of their own sense of justice towards the rehabi-litation of refugees may be regarded by the outside world as being done under pressure of your presence? Can this accord with your doctrine of ahimsa?"

Gandhiji replied: "In the first place, your assumption is gratuitous. But if it is

not, and the assumption were to accord with the facts, your deduction would be correct and my stay here would not be consistent with ahimsa. Fortunately, I have come here to put my ahimsa to isome accommodation might be possible in the calimer atmosphere of London The lead; ers, at these meetings on both sides, stated that they genuinely desired co-operation in the Constituent Assembly and that they realised that some agreement between the parties was essential as basis for the happy and progressive future of India. Nevertheless, they were unable to come to any agreement as to how the Constituent Assembly should proceed.

Sir Safford Cripps declared, "the object of the Cabinet Mission was to find means whereby they could balance the desire of the Congress for a strong unitary federation on the one hand with Muslim League's desire for autonomy on the other. That balance was obtained by a limited Centre, the constituent Assembly in the result that I was invited to become a member of the official Sly Commission. member of the official Sly Commission and a century-old wrong was removed Here I am among my own countrymer who are in power and some of whom are my old friends. I, therefore, do not see the slightest cause for suspicions such as you fear."

### UNITY OF RELIGIONS **EMPHASISED**

SRIRAMPUR, Dec. 11.
Yesterday's prayer meeting was held
in a particularly peaceful atmosphere
and Mahatma Gandhi took up once more the thread of his talk on a previous occasion, He referred to the saying of Prophet Mohamed quoted on Sunday last and said that in every religion, there was a common fund of spiritual experiwas a common fund of spiritual experience which applied all over the world. Whatever differences struck our eyes, said Gandhiji, were the results of requirements limited to particular epochs of time and places. Indeed, there were as many religions as there were men on earth; for the needs of no two men were wholly alike. In spite of that, the commonness underlying all the religions could never be missed. A tree had a single stem, many branches and innumerable leaves, no two of which were wholly alike; it was even so in the case of religion.

wholly aims; it was even so in the tase of religion.

No religion to-day, continued Gandhijt, was without blemishes. Islam had given rise to the noblest of characters and he counted among his friends men who stood tall and high over their neighbours. But unwanted accretions had gathered in the practice of Islam, which ran counter to the fundamental, tagethings of that religion. upon a ueosee, said it would be a pity of the Fritish Empire in India passed out of the inch history without the House of Commons seeming to take any interest in the affair.

The first Liberals, Mr. Clement Davies each there had been no wars more to the possibility in the clause in the affair.

The first number of the country where they were in as thought be a warning to the results. That position and always been to their times of the other without the House of the country where they were in as thought be a warning to the results. That position and always been to their times of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were in the parts of the country where they were the parts of the country wher

CALCUTTA, Dec. 10. Col Niranjan Singh Gill, former Dic-tator of the Sikh Panthic Board, met Mr. Suhrawardy, the Premier of Bengal, to-day and discussed the present situa-tion in East Bengal.

to-day and discussed the present situation in East Bengal.

Col. Cill told a Press conference that the visit was of a non-political and non-communal nature. It was not being undertaken on behalf of the I.N.A. He proposed to meet the Chief Minister of Bengal again on his return from East Bengal and then decide how he and his co-workers could render assistance in the present situation. Asked to comment on the statement of the President of the Punjab Muslim League that "the Muslim League does not want the biave Khaisa to leave the Punjab, but that the exchange of population was contemplated only with the Hindus," Col. Cill said: "The Sikhs cannot go and are not going elsewhere in any case So the question of their exchange does not arise. As for the Hindus, although I cannot speak for them. I think the prospect of their going is equally unthinkable."

### LOSS TO HARIJANS IN DISTURBANCES CHANDPUR, Dec. 9.

The damage done to the Scheduled Caste community in the recent disturcaste community in the recent disturbances in East Bengal is irreparable. is the impression gained by Mr. Bljoy Krishan Sarkar, a Scheduled Caste M.L.A., from Jessore, who returned recently from a tour of the affected areas of East Bengal.

Speaking of the moleculation of women

Speaking of the molestation of women Mr. Sarker said that although many women had been rescued by the police and the military, many more "are still being ill-treated in some places where the absence of search-warrants stands in the way of the police and the military

to get them rescued."

Mr. Sarkar criticised Mr. Jogendra-nath Mandal's futile attempts to minirise the gravity of the situation.

"The damage done to the H the Harijan community is irreparable. I request the Scheduled Caste leaders to witness the scenes of devastation and to give a correct lead to the Scheduled Caste peonle which would enable them to decide their future", Mr. Sarkar concluded,-

## RESTRICTIONS ON KEEPING ACIDS

By a notification, the Government of Bengal have extended for a further period of two months with effect from December 16, the order issued by the District Magistrate of Dacca, on October 16 last, directing all persons within the Dacca Municipality in possession of sulphuric acid nifric acid, hydrochloric acid and caustic soda to abstain from possessing such materials without declaring the quantity in their possession to the District Magistrate, Dacca.—A.P.I.

### CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

## SIND ASSEMBLY **ELECTIONS**

## MR. SYED DEFEATED LATEST POSITION OF **PARTIES**

AKARACHI, Dec. 12. The results received so far in the general elections to the Sind Legislative Assembly show that the Muslim League candidates have defeated their rivals by an overwhelming majority.

The following is the latest party posi-

tion: Muslim League 28. Congress 16.

Europeans 3. Nationalist Muslims 2. The results of the eleven constituencies.

including four general seats are still awaited. Eight sitting members have een unseated. The counting of votes began to-day and will be completed by to-morrow excepting for Tharparkar district. The result of the Dadu rural Moham-

maden constituency wherein the League went all out to measure its strength was the first to be announced. Mr. G. M. Syed was defeated by the official League caudidate, Dr. Kazi Mohamad Akbar.
The following are the results: Dr. Kazi Mohamad Akbar (League), Mr. G. M. Syed (Progressive Muslim Jamait) 2,865.

In Sukkur West general rural con-stituency, Dr. Gobindram Punjabi (Congress) was declared elected. His oppo-nents, Mr. Lilaram Sherwani and Mr. gress) Harumal forfeited their deposits All the three general seats in the dis-

trict have been captured by the Congress, in the other two constituencies the Congress candidates, Mr. Choithram Valecha and Mr. Holaram Kesyani

valecha and Mr. Holaram Kesyani having been returned unopposed.

The following are further results announced in various constituencies:

Muhammadan urban Karachi city north:
Mahmoud Abdulla Haroon (League) 17,035,
Jaffer Hussanally Khoja (Independent) 47,
Allahbaksii Khudadad Gabol (Independent)

5. The last two candidate lose their day

95. The last two candidates lose their deposits.

Muhammadan urban Karachi city south;
Mahamed Hashim Gazdar (League) 17,189,
Abdul Aziz Akram Khan (Independent) 27,

Abdul Aziz Akram Khan (Independent) 27, Abned Khatri (Independent) 42, Haji Abubakar (Independent) 124, Mahmad Kasim Khudabux Taivi (Independent) 70.
Muhammadan rural Karachi north: Amir Hussain Ghulam Hussain (League) 7.945, Mchamed Usman Mohamed Khan Soomro (Nationalist) 402, Shah Nawazshah Sayed (Independent) 27, The last two candidates lose their deposits.

Nawabshah north Muhammadan constituency: Mr. Ghulamhabi Dehraj (League) 7.380, Syed Mohamed Ali Shah (Muslim Jamait) 2.740.

Nawabshah north-west Muhammadan

Nawabahah north-west Muhammadan rural constituency: Syed Noor Mohammud Shah (League) 6,683. Pir Qurban Ali (Mus-lim Jamail) 119 The latter loses his depo-Nawabshah west Muhammadan rural con-stiftuency: Haji Ghulam Rasoci Jatoi (Lea-gue) 13,194, Mohammund Hashim Mastoi (Independent) 1,526. The latter lost his de-

posit.
Nawabshah east Muhammadan rural consituency: Mohammund Ali (League) 6.652,
Mir Allabhux Taipur (Independent) 598,
Hyderabad suburbs and taluka general constituency: Prof. Ghanshyam Snivdasani (Congress) defeated his rival who forfeits his deposit. The following are the votes: Prof. Ghanshyam (Congress) 2.591, Mr. Halaram Punjani (Independent) 32.

COL. GILL MEETS PREMIER behind the demand of Pakistan and that tion of the Muslim League cause. I con-gratulate my people on this wonderful victory."

## CONGRESS DEPUTATION TO TRIBAL AREA

## NOT ALLOWED TO PROCEED BY POLITICAL DEPT.\*

PESHAWAR, Dec. 12. The Congress deputation proceeding to Malagon in Khyber Agency yesterday was prevented from entering the area by the Political Department, according o Khan Amin Jan Khan, Salar-i-azam of the Red Shirts.

In a telegram to-day to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan at Delhi, Khan Amin Jan Khan says: "Congress deputation proceeding to Malagon, Khyber Agency, yesterday was prevented from entering the area by the Political Department and has come back, Awaiting instructions".

## TRIBAL RAID ON FRONTIER VILLAGE

The trans-border tribesmen raided on Tuesday night the village of Shamdher about three miles from the police station of Oghi. They are reported to have set fire to a few shops, a place of worship

and two houses.

The Frontier constabulary proceeded to the spot by a lorry on receipt of information. The damage has not yet been ascertained. Further details are awaited.

## THIRTEEN KILLED IN LORRY HOLD-UP

Thirteen passengers were killed and 28 injured yesterday when a mail lorry proceeding from Dadar Sanatorium to Shinkiari in Hazara district was held up by a large number of transborder tribes-

## DR. KHAN SAHIB'S VISIT TO HAZARA

THE Frontier Premier, Dr. Khan Sahib left to-day on a four of Hazara district where on December 8, tribesmen from the adjoining territory raided two villages, burning a bazaar and killing fourteen persons. Qazi Atauliah, Revenue Minister, is already there touring the affected areas, Peace deputations formed by the Frontier Congress also left for the tribal area and political agencies to-day as previously scheduled—A.P.I.

## DR. AMARNATH JHA

ALLAHABAD, Dec. 10.
Dr. Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, has, it is learnt, applied to the Government for NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

The meeting of the Congress Working Committee which was scheduled to be held this evening has been pastponed till to-morrow—A.P.L