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OF THE

48th ANNUAL SESSION

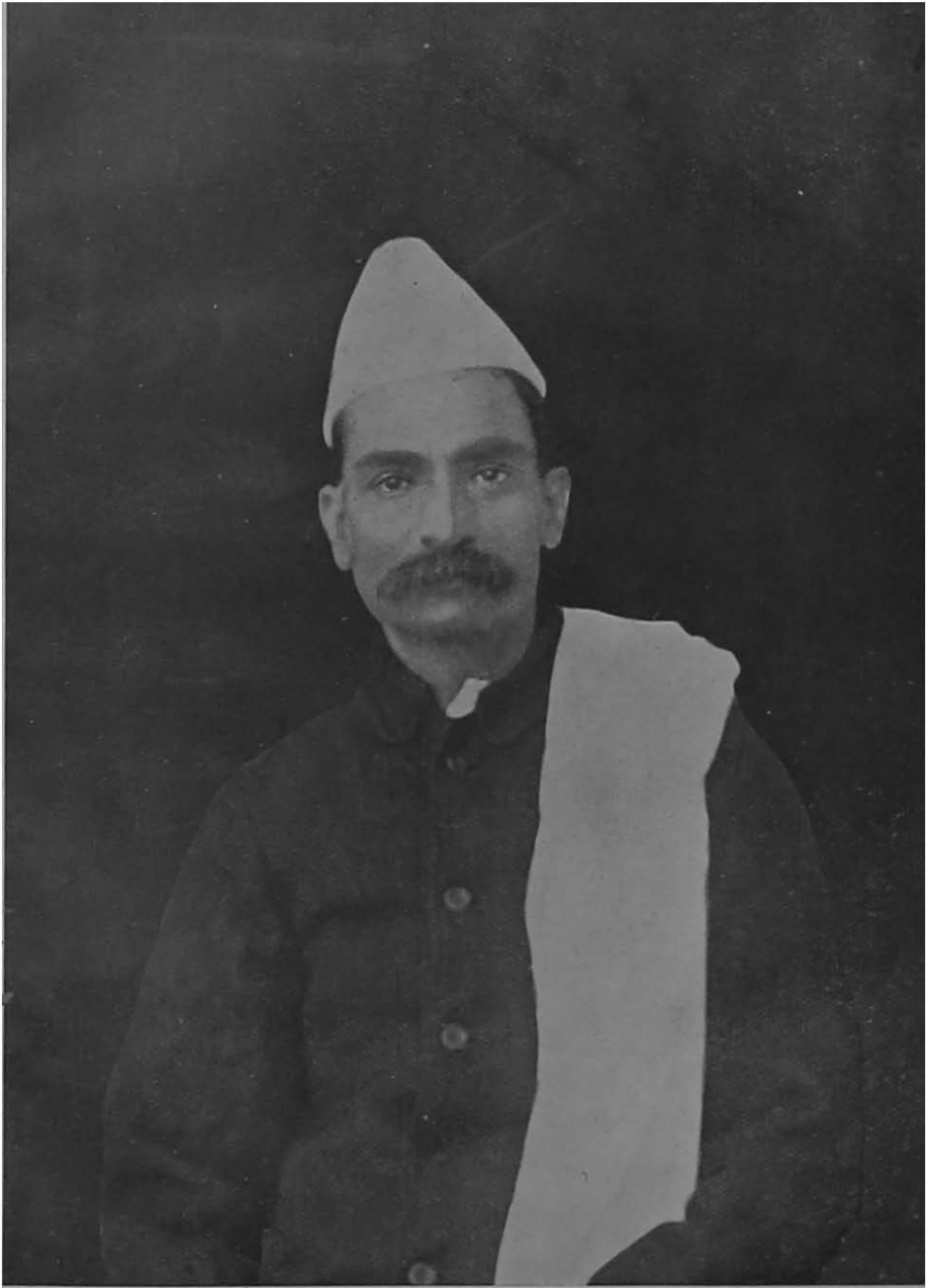
OF THE

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

HELD AT

ABDUL GAFFAR NAGAR, BOMBAY.

IN OCTOBER 1934.



BABU RAJENDRA PRASAD
President of the Session.

ABOUT OURSELVES.

For the sixth time during the history of the Indian National Congress, the City of Bombay had the rare honour of holding a successful session of this premier National Institution. The foundation of the Congress was laid in this city in the year 1885 when a band of gallant patriots met in the spacious hall of Gokuldas Tejpal Pathashala and called that gathering the first session of the Congress. Mr. W. C. Bonnerji was the unanimously elected President of the first Congress. In the year 1889 Bombay had again the honour of holding the fifth session of the Congress under the presidentship of Sir William Wedderburn. Then there was a long gap of fifteen years and once more in the year 1904, Bombay won the laurels by holding the twentieth session with Sir Henry Cotton as its President. A decade more and in the year 1915 the thirtieth session of the Congress was held in Bombay, Sir S. P. Sinha presiding. Within a brief period of three years more, Bombay got the opportunity of holding a special session of the Congress in 1918. Syed Hussan Imam presided over this session. Then followed a long period of awaiting. The Congress during all these years of gradual expansion had become a very live institution and the other provinces and cities in the country had become increasingly politically-minded and jealous of their rights and privileges. For full sixteen years Bombay had to wait till the honour was once again conferred on her of holding an annual session. This time it was the forty-eighth session over the deliberations of which Babu Rajendra Prasad presided.

The five years that preceded the Bombay Session were years of great activity and greater actions.

After good many political experiments, the Indian National Congress had now decided upon a scheme of direct action in the form of Civil Disobedience movement, the first campaign of which was launched in 1930. Hardly

had the nation recovered from the effects of the first campaign the Congress was dragged into a second campaign of Civil Disobedience much grimmer and more sustained than the previous one. It was a severe ordeal through which the whole nation and especially the nationalist India had to pass. The second C. D. movement lasted for about 30 months at the end of which the ban on the Congress organisations was lifted by the Government of India. The regular annual sessions of the Congress could not be held in 1932 and 1933 owing to abnormal circumstances through which the nation was passing. The session of 1934, therefore, had naturally assumed more than ordinary importance coming as it did after such a long time of trouble and anxiety.

There was almost a universal desire in the country that a Congress session must be called immediately after the suspension of activities to review the political situation and chalk out a new line of action. The depression consequent upon the suspension of the C. D. movement was so dense all over the country that it was foolish to expect the usual race among various provinces to invite the Congress session. It was at a time like this that the city of Bombay rose to the full height of its responsibility and at an informal conference of Congressmen held in the Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya Hall, situated next to the birthplace of the Congress, on 21st of April 1934, it was unanimously decided to invite the plenary session of the Congress to Bombay. This invitation was readily accepted by the A. I. C. C. which assembled at Patna on the 18th and 19th of May 1934 and resolved to hold the Congress session in Bombay in the first week of October 1934. The Working Committee that met a month later in Bombay changed the dates of the session from the first week to the last week of October owing to prevalence of monsoons.

The Congress House, Headquarters of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, which was under police

occupation for full two years and a half was reoccupied by the B. P. C. C. on the 17th of June 1934 and it was after this that the B. P. C. C. could think of the arrangements in connection with the session.

We had only four months at our disposal during which to complete all arrangements beginning with the fixing of the site and ending with the colossal structure where later on a mammoth gathering of no less than 75000 people was to meet. The task was stupendous and the atmosphere was depressing. The B. P. C. C. was, however, alive to its self-imposed responsibilities and on the 10th June, the provisional Reception Committee was formed. It was not earlier than the 15th of July that the regular Reception Committee met and elected its office-bearers and the Executive Council.

Shortness of time and the general atmosphere of depression were not the only difficulties which the Reception Committee had to encounter. We had to grapple with the important problem of securing the best and most convenient site for the session. We were all the time banking upon the reclaimed areas near Churchgate station as by far the most suitable site for the Congress. But all this was counting without the host. The reclamation ground was in possession of the Bombay Government and this could not be had without their permission. As early as the 3rd of July 1934 an application was made to the Government requesting permission for the use of these reclaimed plots. For reasons best known to themselves the Government took about six weeks to give their definite reply. On the 14th of August the Working Committee of the Reception Committee had finally to abandon the idea of holding the session on the reclamation grounds, anticipating Government's reply which came the very next day. The Government in their reply turned down the Reception Committee's request on the grounds of "Traffic Difficulties" and "Danger to Public health for want of adequate sanitary

and water arrangements." The difficulties imagined by the Government were, in no sense, insurmountable. The inference is obvious and the less said about it the better. The belated refusal of the Government, however, put the Reception Committee into an awkward position. All plans, drawings, estimates and other preparations made on the assumption of securing the reclaimed grounds had to be scrapped without any relief whatsoever. The labours of the Committee for over six weeks had gone waste. The Reception Committee then fixed the Worli waste land as the site of the session as this was the only available piece of land suitable for the purpose. The Bombay Municipality was approached for permission to use the land on the 15th August and the same evening the permission was granted. We are extremely thankful to the Improvement Trust and other departments of the Municipality for their most timely and valuable co-operation and assistance. The services rendered by Health and Hydraulic Departments deserve unstinted praise.

After having obtained the Worli site, the Reception Committee started preparations in right earnest. All the seventeen sub-committees were set in motion and the result of their devoted labour soon began to be seen. Nearly a month had to be wasted in trying to get a contractor who would undertake to do the work of construction within a reasonable amount. But hopes in this connection could not be realized as the tenders received from various local contractors were much in excess of what the Reception Committee regarded as a reasonable price. A sudden decision had to be taken to do the work departmently and a "Board of Construction" was appointed to do the job. The board had to toil day and night for the whole of the last month. One by one various kinds of structures began to spring up and within less than 30 days what was a mere expanse of barrenness was converted into a veritable dreamland. The citizens of Bombay spared nothing.

Money, materials, and, what was more, the man-power were harnessed ungrudgingly in the service of the Congress.

It is impossible to name individually the names of the persons and the institutions that contributed their mite, big and small, towards the success of this great session. Architects, designers, contractors, engineers, journalists, accountants, decorators, musicians—all vied with one another, to make the session a triumphant success actuated by no other motive than an unflinching sense of service. All honour to these servants of the nation who considerably lightened the burden of the Reception Committee. No wonder then that at the end of this historic session the citizens of Bombay felt justifiably proud of their great achievement.

We are conscious of many shortcomings which were left in our arrangements despite our anxious attempts to serve our numerous guests—the delegates and the visitors—that had come from various provinces in India. We are, however, confident that our guests have pardoned us knowing as they did, the limitations of time and space under which we had to work. May we hope to serve the nation's delegates better when the Congress next comes to Bombay?—Vande Mataram.

RECEPTION 48th Indian National

Income & Expenditure Account for the period

To	Expenditure :	
Construction Board Expenditure (Net) (It includes expenditure on the construction of the A. G. Nagar proper as per plan, with Road, Sanitary and Water arrangements, Decoration and Exhibition.		Rs. 1,30,364 13 11
Disbursement on account of Sub-Committees		
Exhibition (Excluding construction and electric installation and consumption charges).	Rs. 11,130 9 8	
Mess (Including mess charges of volunteers and workers at Worli)	,, 21,749 4 9	
Film Board	,, 359 13 9	
General Purposes	,, 3,247 4 0	
Delegates' Reception	,, 2,443 7 0	
Lighting & Broadcasting	,, 13,118 0 4	
Music & Entertainment	,, 136 11 0	
Medical relief	,, 88 1 6	
Volunteers (Excluding mess charges of Volunteers)	,, 9,760 10 0	
Water-supply & Sanitation	,, 23,087 7 9	
Accommodation	,, 6,522 5 3	
President's Reception arrangements	,, 3,005 4 9	
Decoration	,, 856 6 0	
Ticket office	,, 127 13 3	
Requirements	,, 325 13 9	
Publicity and Propaganda	,, 189 4 0	
R. C. General Office Expenditure and expenditure unallocated to Sub Committees		,, 97,134-4-0
		30,432-12-9
Excess of Income over Expenditure		,, 5,157-4-1
		<u>Total Rs. 2,63,103-3-6</u>

Examined and found correct
(Sd.) **Datal & Shah**
Incorporated Accountants
Registered Accountants
(Sd.) **Nanubhai & Co.**
Registered Accountants

} Hon. Auditors.

Bombay, 30th May, 1935.

COMMITTEE

Congress, Bombay 1934

from 22nd June 1934 to 28th May 1935

By	Income :			
Reception Committee Membership fees			44,825	0 0
Donations			11,493	4 0
Sale Proceeds of Visitors' tickets of admission to the :-				
Subject Committee Pandal		10,875	0 0	
Congress Session Pandal :-				
Rs. 2 Tickets	80,742	0 0		
„ 100 „	11,900	0 0		
„ 250 „	1,000	0 0		
„ 500 „	3,500	0 0		
4 degits „	3,500	0 0	1,00,642	0 0
			1,20,517	0 0
Sale Proceeds of admission tickets of the public meeting held in Congress Pandal			809	12 0
One-fifth part of the Delegates Fees received from All India Congress Committee under Congress Constitution.			2,102	0 0
Sale Proceeds of Camera Permits			200	0 0
Rent of :-				
Stalls in A. G. Nagar	4,975	0 0		
Space for Advertisement in A.G. Nagar (Net)	3,721	10 6	8,696	10 6
Rent of :-				
Delegates' Quarters	3,044	0 0		
Visitors „	1,716	0 0		
Family „	750	0 0		
			5,510	0 0
Interest on current account with Banks			101	14 0
Receipts through Sub-Committees				
Exhibition	54,837	5 0		
Mess	5,477	4 0		
Film Board	5,000	0 0		
General Purposes	2,112	0 0		
Delegates Reception	933	0 0		
Lighting & Broadcasting	397	6 0		
Music & Entertainment	90	9 0	68,847	11 0
			<u>2,63,103</u>	<u>3 0</u>

Velji Lukhamsi
 Govindlal Bansilal
 Mulraj Karsondas
 Vaikunth L. Mehta
 Mathuradas Tricumjee

Abid Ali Jafferbhai
 S. K. Patil
 G. N. Desai
 G. V. Kapadia
 D. S. Babrekar

Treasurers

General Secretaries

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

48th Indian National Congress, Bombay 1934

Balance Sheet as at 28th May 1935

Liabilities :-		Assets -	
Amount payable to two contractors as per award which is not accepted by the Contractors concerned	Rs. 3,114 4 2	Amount due by sundry persons	Rs. 197 8 0
Amount provided for printing the report of the proceedings of the Congress Session and of the Reception Committee	1,000 0 0	Amount due by B. P. C. O. Municipality :-	678 10 0
Amount payable for erection charges of advertisement boards (in dispute)	100 0 0	Estate Agent	Rs. 300 0 0
Excess of income over Expenditure	5,157 4 1	Dy. City Engineer	106 4 0
Total	9,431 8 3	Balance in current account with Central Bank of India Ltd.	8,149 2 3
		Total	9,431 8 3

We have examined the Balance Sheet of the Reception Committee of the 48th Indian National Congress, Bombay, as at 28th May, 1935 above set forth, with Books, Vouchers, and Statements of the committee and find the same to be correct.

(Sd.) Dalal & Shah
Incorporated Accountants
Registered Accountants
(Sd.) Nanubhai & Co.
Registered Accountants

Hon. Auditors.

Velji Lukharni
Govindlal Bansilal
Mulraj Karsondas
Vaikunth L. Mehta
Mathuradas Tricumjee

Treasurers

Abid Ali Jafferbhai
S. K. Patil
G. N. Desai
G. V. Kapadia
D. S. Babrekar

General Secretaries

Bombay, 30th May, 1935

SUB-COMMITTEES
OF THE
RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

- 1 Finance Sub-Committee.
 - 2 Pandal and Delegates Camp Construction Sub-Committee.
 - 3 Volunteers Sub-Committee.
 - 4 Exhibition Sub-Committee.
 - 5 Reception Sub-Committee.
 - 6 Accomodation Sub-Committee.
 - 7 Medical Sub-Committee.
 - 8 Publicity and Propaganda Sub-Committee.
 - 9 Requirements Sub-Committee.
 - 10 President's Reception Arrangement Sub-Committee.
 - 11 Mess Sub-Committee.
 - 12 Music and Entertainments Sub-Committee.
 - 13 Decoration Sub-Committee.
 - 14 Light and Broadcasting Sub-Committee.
 - 15 Water Supply and Sanitation Sub-Committee.
 - 16 Ticket Office Sub-Committee.
 - 17 General Purposes Sub-Committee.
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LIST OF DELEGATES WHO ATTENDED

BOMBAY CONGRESS 1934.

1. Ajmer	96
2. Andhra	177
3. Assam	...	...	...	8
4. Bengal	...	...	...	208
5. Behar	...	...	...	188
6. Berar	...	...	...	47
7. Bombay	...	...	...	23
8. Burma	...	...	...	74
9. C. P. (Hindi)	...	...	...	128
10. C. P. (Marathi)	...	...	...	39
11. Delhi	...	...	...	35
12. Frontier	...	...	...	3
13. Gujrat	...	...	...	165
14. Karnatak	...	...	...	142
15. Kerala	...	...	...	30
16. Maharastra	...	...	...	221
17. Punjab	...	...	...	46
18. Sindh	...	...	...	44
19. Tamil	...	...	...	94
20. U. P.	...	...	...	192
21. Utkal	...	...	...	20
22. Foreign (Japan)	...	...	...	2

Ex-Officio Delegates.

1992

110

Total. 2102



Sjt. K F. NARIMAN,
Chairman, Reception Committee.