

The
Bombay Provincial Liberal
Conference.

Report of the proceedings of the
1st Session held at Bombay,
1922.

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Bombay on 6th and 7th May 1922.



BOMBAY.



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The Bombay Provincial Liberal Conference.

RESOLUTIONS

Passed at its first Session held at Bombay at the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall on the 7th and 8th May 1922,

UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF THE

Rt. Hon. Y. S. Srinivasa Sastri P. C.

Organisation of the Liberal Party.

1. (a) That it is essential that effective measures should be taken on behalf of the Liberal Party to organise and educate the electorate of this Presidency.

(b) That with a view to carrying out the work as early as possible in an efficient and practical manner this Conference hereby appoints a Standing Working Committee consisting of the following with power to add to their number.

Proposed by—Mr. Chunilal M. Gandhi, M.L.C. (Surat).

Seconded by—Mr. H. V. Chinmulgund (Poona).

Supported by—Mr. V. N. Barve (Dhulia).

” ” Mr. N. S. Marulkar (Satara).

” ” Mr. M. D. Altekar (Bombay).

(Carried unanimously).

Reform Proposals.

2. This Conference earnestly urges upon the Secretary of State for India and the British Parliament the necessity of accelerating the pace for the attainment of complete Self-Government and towards that end the taking of steps for the immediate introduction of—

- (i) full responsible Government in the Provinces and
- (ii) responsibility in the Central Government in all departments except the military, political and foreign.

Proposed by—Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, M.L.A. (Bombay).

Seconded by—Mr. P. K. Telang (Benares).

(Carried unanimously).

Maintenance of Law and Order.

3. This Conference declares its staunch adherence to the policy of attaining Self-Government by constitutional means and is of opinion that towards that end it is essential that law and order and security of life and property should be maintained in the country by all legitimate means.

Proposed by—The Hon. Mr. Phiroz C. Sethna (Bombay).

Seconded by—Rao Bahadur Ramanbhai M. Nilkanth, M.L.C.
(Ahmedabad).

Supported by—Prof. V. K. Jog (Poona).

Khan Bahadur Dr. Nanavati (Ahmedabad).

(*Carried unanimously*).

The Meston Award.

4. This Conference wishes to record its strong protest against the unfair treatment meted out to the Presidency of Bombay in the financial arrangement made under the Reforms with special reference to taking over as Imperial Revenues practically the whole of the growing income-tax revenue. To saddle a Province which contains two important industrial centres and two important sea-ports with the entire resultant cost of higher standards of efficiency in the direction of maintenance of law and order, improved sanitation, technical and other forms of education, etc., and to deprive it wholly of the sources of revenue which are largely fostered by such special expenditure, cannot but be regarded as wholly inequitable. This Conference is of opinion that it is necessary for a fair financial settlement that the Presidency of Bombay should have a substantial share of growing income-tax revenue.

Proposed by—Mr. N. M. Samarth, M.L.A. (Bombay).

Seconded by—The Hon. Mr. Chunilal V. Mehta (Bombay).

(*Carried unanimously*).

Indianisation of Services.

5. This Conference strongly urges that it is essential on the grounds both of progress and of economy, that the pace of Indianisation of the Services should be accelerated.

Proposed by—The Hon. Mr. R. P. Paranjpye (Poona).

Seconded by—Rao Bahadur R. R. Kale, M.L.C. (Satara).

Supported by—Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas, M.L.C. (Bombay).

(*Carried unanimously*).

Economy in Administration.

6. This Conference urges that the Government of Bombay will continue to make strenuous efforts to economise expenditure in the administration so that a financial equilibrium may be reached as early as possible and larger sums made available for nation-building departments.

Proposed by—Mr. G. C. Bhate, M.L.C. (Kolaba).

Seconded by—Mr. S. K. Bole, M.L.C. (Bombay).

(Carried unanimously).

Status of Indians Abroad.

7. The Conference accords full support to the Resolutions adopted by the Indian Legislative Assembly in February last with regard to the equal status of Indians in South and East Africa and emphatically disapproves of the unfair policy foreshadowed by the Colonial Secretary in reference to the future administration of Kenya Colony as far as the rights and privileges of Indian settlers are concerned.

(Put from the chair and carried unanimously).

Mr. Montagu's Services.

8. This Conference puts on record its deep appreciation of the great services rendered by Mr. Montagu to this country during the period of his official connection with it, as Secretary of State and regards his resignation as a misfortune to India. The Conference further expresses its conviction that any departure from his policy towards India will have dangerous political consequences.

(Put from the chair and carried unanimously).

Removal of untouchability.

9. This Conference trusts that all possible efforts will be made to remove the stigma of untouchability which at present attaches to the so-called Depressed Classes and urges on the Government to make strong efforts for providing special facilities for education and equal chances of employment both to them and the backward classes.

Proposed by—Mr. R. G. Pradhan (Nasik).

Seconded by—Mr. S. S. Dongre (Bombay).

Supported by—Mr. Karandikar (Chiplun).

(Carried unanimously).

Military Expenditure.

10. Viewing with the greatest alarm the enormous growth of military expenditure during the last three years, which has been the principal cause of the unprecedented deficits in the budgets of the Central Government, necessitating the intolerable burden of new and enhanced taxation of 30 crores, this Conference places on record its considered opinion that it is imperative to bring down that expenditure to the level of the pre-war period. Unless the Government of India makes strenuous efforts in this important direction there will be no escape from a condition of bankruptcy, wholly calamitous to the moral and material prosperity of the country and its people.

Proposed by—The Hon. Sir Dinshaw E. Wacha.

Seconded by—The Hon. Mr. Gulam Hussein Hidayatullah, M.L.C.

Supported by—Dr. P. N. Daroowala.

(Carried unanimously).

Turkish Peace Terms.

11. This Conference strongly supports the demands of the Indian Mussalmans in regard to the revision of the Peace Treaty with Turkey and urges upon Parliament the necessity of meeting the religious requirements of the Indian Moslem Community.

(Put from the chair and carried unanimously).

Spread of Primary and Technical Education.

12. This Conference urges on the attention of Government as also the public the great need for accelerating the process of nation-building and in particular emphasizes the need for adequate financial provision for the following:—

(a) The spread of primary education on a steadily widening basis so as to meet the requirements of all sections of the people specially the communities still backward in education and the depressed or untouchable classes, accompanied by facilities of hostels, scholarships and free studentships;

(b) Spread of industrial and technical instruction among the artisan classes;

(c) Systematic improvement of agriculture in this presidency by expediting the construction of the larger irrigation works now proceeding, and by undertaking similar works;

(d) Encouragement and stimulation of Cottage industries on co-operative lines which would supplement small agricultural incomes.

(e) The development of forests and the exploitation of their products for industrial and commercial purposes.

Proposed by—Mr. G. K. Devadhar (Poona).

Seconded by—Mr. T. A. Kulkarni (Bombay).

Supported by—Mr. Katkade (Bombay).

(Carried unanimously).

Vote of thanks to the President.

Proposed by Sir Gokuldas K. Parekh (Bombay).

Seconded by the Hon'ble Mr. Cowasji Jehangir (Junior)
(Bombay).

(Carried with acclamation).
