

The National Home Rule League

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
(April, 1919 to December, 1920)

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1921

THE NATIONAL HOME RULE LEAGUE

HEADQUARTERS REPORT

IN presenting the first Report of our League which covers from April, 1919, to December, 1920, it is necessary briefly to review the circumstances which led to its formation. In pursuance of the Self-Government resolution of the Madras Congress of 1914, a Home Rule League was founded at Madras on September 1st, 1916, in consequence of an agreement reached at an informal Conference of Congressmen in Bombay, 1915, when it was realised that Congress did not intend to carry on an educative propaganda in favour of Home Rule for India. This League worked very well through 1916 and 1917 under the presidency of Mrs. Besant. Owing, however, to the sharp division that occurred between Mrs. Besant and some of the leading members of the League on the resolutions passed at Delhi in December, 1918, joint work was made increasingly difficult, till the League thought it fit to take the surprising decision of discountenancing any deputation to England for propaganda on behalf of improvements in the projected Reform Bill, for fear of its being a rival to the Congress deputation. Then came the Satyāgraha movement with its law-breaking pledge, which swept away many of

the best workers of the League. Thus all joint political work of the League came to a standstill.

In the meanwhile appeals were pouring in upon Mrs. Besant from people in India to represent them in England, and from England to send her to help the English friends, who were working to get a satisfactory Reform Act for India. It was clear by this time that the League did not intend to work along its original lines, and as some earnest members of the League were organising themselves at Benares, Bombay and Madras to ask Mrs. Besant to represent them in England, she decided to ask those who held to the principles of the original League she had founded, to re-form a Home Rule League on its original lines, elect its officers, appoint its deputation and carry on its work. Her call was responded to and the League was started in Benares on April 14th, in Bombay on April 20th and in Madras on April 25th. Events since the inauguration of the League have more than proved the truth of the following remarks in our first pamphlet :

The apparently successful attempt to isolate Mrs. Besant as a political leader, and thus to destroy her usefulness to the country, has resulted in a powerful movement in her favour and a rallying of strong forces around her. It looks as though the National Home Rule League would be a unifying instead of a destructive factor in Indian politics, for, like its leader, it will be ready to work with other bodies for a common aim, and is open to all who have Home Rule as their goal, who work only in law-abiding ways, who stand by the British connection, and by the Free Nationhood of India under the Crown of George V and his successors. As a step in the right direction, it will work for the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Bill, and will press for the modifications passed in both the Congress and the Moderate Conference in Bombay in 1918.

The serious work of the League began by the selection of a strong Deputation to England, headed by our President to press for improvement of the reforms. Mr. B. P. Wadia was the

Madras League's representative on the Deputation, and Mr. P. K. Telang and Jamnadas Dwarkadas represented Bombay. What work was done and with what success the President herself will relate to the meeting. We might perhaps say here that admittedly not a little of the satisfactory departures from the Montagu-Chelmsford Report and their proposals for reform are due to the ceaseless activity through interviews, lectures and press articles of our Deputation, but mainly of its Head. Mr. B. P. Wadia specially distinguished himself in connection with Labour, spoke at the Trade Union Congress and received its rarely given gold badge, and went to the Washington Labour Conference in the Indian Deputation as Adviser to Mr. Joshi.

While our Deputation was working in England, the Madras Branch of our League organised the sending out of week-end lecturers to villages, but without much success. In a meeting on June 3rd under the presidency of Mr. G. S. Arundale, it passed the following resolutions on the Southborough Committee's Reports and the Government of India Despatches, and sent them to all the Madras journals for publication :

"That this meeting places on record its emphatic dissent from the proposals of the Government of India as regards the Reforms, contained in their Despatch of March 5th and in their Despatches on the findings of the Southborough Committee's Reports on Franchise and on the Division of Functions.

"That the Government of India proposals fall far short of the Congress League demands of 1916, 1917 and 1918.

"That the Government of India proposals are highly retrograde in character, involve the practical abandonment of the more liberal proposals in the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Scheme, deny to the representatives of the people all control over the purse, nullify the spirit of the declaration of August 20, 1917, and practically negative the just demand of the people of India for an ample measure of Responsible Self-Government made at three successive Congresses amidst the enthusiastic assent of the country.

“That this meeting unreservedly deplores the attitude of the Government of India with regard to the Reforms as likely, if carried out by Parliament, to cause a most lamentable effect upon the people of India, and to shake their faith in British promises and in British justice.

“That this meeting calls upon the members of the various Deputations now in Great Britain to carry on an active campaign against the Government of India’s proposals, and to point out that these have been unanimously condemned by all shades of Indian public opinion.

“That this meeting urges His Majesty’s Ministers and the members of both Houses of Parliament to consider what the effect would be in India if the Government of India’s proposals find accepted expression in the Indian Reform Bill, and calls upon them to note that the people of this country will be satisfied with nothing less than a simultaneous grant both in the Provincial and in the Central Governments of a substantial measure of responsible Self-Government, accompanied by an adequate measure of fiscal autonomy, such as, for example, set forth in the modifications proposed by the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League, at the Bombay Session in 1918, in the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Scheme.”

“That this meeting of members of the National Home Rule League, viewing with deep anxiety the measures taken to suppress the disturbances in the Panjab, very earnestly appeals to the Government of India to allay public disquietude by immediately appointing—now that comparative quiet has been restored—an impartial mixed Commission of officials and non-officials, including Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Syed Hasan Imam and Mr. C. F. Andrews, to make a searching public investigation into the recent disturbances and the measures taken to suppress them, and to publish their findings at a very early date.”

“That this meeting protests against the application of the Press Act to *The Hindu*, *Swadesamitran*, and *Hindu Nesan*, as an unwarranted interference with the duties of the Press towards the public.”

“That this meeting places on record its deep gratitude to Sir C. Sankaran Nair for the courageous stand he made in favour of Indian Liberties.”

“That this meeting records its emphatic disapproval of Mr. Montagu's defence of the Rowlatt Act.”

“That this meeting calls upon all public bodies to hold meetings to pass similar resolutions and asks the General Secretary to communicate the resolutions to the Secretaries of the branches of the League.”

The League also adopted the following resolutions on the happenings in the Panjab, including the Indemnity Bill, on October 26th, 1919, in a meeting at which Mr. Arundale presided:

“(1) That this meeting of the N. H. R. League protests against the introduction during the present session of the Imperial Legislative Council of an Indemnity Bill to cover the actions of those concerned in dealing with the occurrences in the Panjab. This meeting considers that the introduction of such a bill at this stage is premature and nullifies the value of the Commission of Enquiry, and must inevitably discredit the Government of India in the eyes of the Indian people as well as destroy their faith in British justice and impartiality.”

“(2) That this meeting is of opinion that a Royal Commission is the proper machinery for conducting the promised enquiry into the occurrences in the Panjab, which must necessarily involve an examination into the acts of the Government of India, and that the appointment of a Committee by the Government of India to report to themselves is therefore not calculated, by the very necessities of the case, to inspire public confidence or to achieve the ends of justice.”

“(3) That this meeting strongly disapproves the composition of the Committee appointed to enquire into the administration and organisation of the Army in India, inasmuch as it includes the name of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, in whom the people of India have no confidence, and does not provide for the proper representation of Indian interests.”

“(4) That the terms of reference of the Esher Committee should be widened so as to enable them to consider and make their recommendations upon the limitations which now exist with regard to the employment of Indians in all branches of His Majesty's Army and especially with reference to the commissioned ranks.”

“(5) That this meeting desires to urge upon His Majesty’s Government the importance of throwing open the Naval and Air services to Indians, and of detailing a certain number of ships of war and airships, aeroplanes and sea-planes to India for the purpose of giving the necessary training.”

The President toured frequently, alone and in company with members, during the first four months of 1920, explaining and advocating the Reform Act up to April, visiting Bombay, both in Marathi and Gujerati districts, Bengal, the United Provinces, and many parts of Madras; in April and onwards her work on the Reform Act was lessened though not discontinued, and she agitated chiefly against Non-Co-operation.

The attitude of the League towards the Khilafat question has been consistently misunderstood and, what is worse, misrepresented. It is therefore necessary to put on record the fact that at a public demonstration held in Madras, on March 20, 1920, the League was represented by Mr. G. S. Arundale, when he made a sympathetic speech, and by the Secretary, Mr. D. K. Telang, and later the following resolution was adopted by the Madras Branches:

“The National Home Rule League Branches in Madras support the demand of the retention of the authority of the Sultan of Turkey in Constantinople, and his Guardianship of the Holy Places as Khalifa; they urge the sanctity of the pledge of the Premier of Great Britain, which drew Indian Musalmans, relying on that pledge, to defend the Empire with their lives; and they promise to support the Musalmans in all constitutional ways of pressing these demands.

MADRAS BRANCH.—D. K. Telang.

MERCHANTS’ BRANCH.—G. Soobiah Chetty.

ADYAR BRANCH.—C. V. Shah.

LADIES BRANCH.—M. Mahadeva Sastri (Mrs.).

New India BRANCH.—V. Gopalachari, *Branch Secretaries.*”

When however the agitation passed away from its religious phase and easily lent itself to employment as a political arm in favour of grievances with which it had no connection, and also threatened to adopt Non-Co-operation as a means of retaliation, the League felt itself bound to make its position clear, and dissociated itself from it in the following resolution of its Council.

Dr. Subramaniam, our Hon. President, sent a splendid communication to the President for publication, which is also attached. Under date *New India*, April 22, 1920, we find :

“ Mrs. Annie Besant wired yesterday to the members of the General Council of the N. H. R. L., asking each if he was willing to sign a protest against the Non-Co-operation resolution of the Khilafat Conference. The matter was also laid before local members. The resolution runs :

“ We, members of the General Council of the National Home Rule League, protest against the resolution of the Khilafat Conference in favour of Non-Co-operation with Government, and the successive steps laid down for such Non-Co-operation, as a policy fatal to the best interests of the country, as likely to lead to civil disturbances, and to the breaking of the connection between India and Great Britain.”

(Sd.) *Hon. President :*

S. Subramania Iyer.

President :

Annie Besant.

Vice-Presidents :

A. Rangaswami Aiyar, Madura.
Purnendu Narayana Sinha, Patna.
Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Bombay.

General Secretaries :

Dwarkanath Telang, Madras.
Kanji Dwarkadas, Bombay.

Organising Secretary :

George S. Arundale, Madras.

Co-opted Members :

B. Sanjiva Rao, S. Kanara.
Leonora Gmeiner, Delhi.
V. R. Karandikar, Madras.

Provincial Secretaries :

N. G. Paranjpe, Cawnpur.
 H. K. Patwardhan, Ahmednagar.
 A. Ranganathan, Andhradesha.
 C. R. Parthasarathy Aiyangar, Chittoor.
 Manjeri Ramaier, Malabar.

“Ratansi D. Morarji, *Vice-President*, and B. P. Wadia, *Treasurer*, are out of the country. We have not yet heard from P. K. Telang and Iqbal Narain Gurtu, *Vice-Presidents*, Benares, and Jamshed Mehta, *Vice-President*, Sindh. The telegram to Provincial Secretary, Hirendranath Datta, Bengal, was accidentally delayed.

“Their names will be added if received . . .

“Telegrams have now been received from the members of the General Council whose answers had not reached the office in time for printing them yesterday.

Vice-Presidents :

P. K. Telang, Benares.
 Iqbal Narain Gurtu, Benares.
 Jamshed Mehta, Karachi.

Provincial Secretaries :

Hirendranath Datta, Bengal.
 Damodar Prasad, Bihar.

“Every member of the General Council, except the two who are in England and the United States respectively has signed. Some add words of emphasis. We are asked to send the resolution for other signatures. If members willing to sound popular sentiment on the subject would write out the protest given in *New India* on April 22nd at the top of a sheet of foolscap and collect signatures, they would be doing a useful piece of work. The sheets as filled can be sent to *New India* Office, Madras, E. Mr. Jamshed Mehta wires that the sentiment of many on the subject is expressed in Mrs. Annie Besant’s article on “Conscience” and in Dr. Subramania Iyer’s message to the Khilafat Conference in Madras.”

Dr. S. Subramaniam wrote :

"In joining the present protest by the National Home Rule League, it is necessary that I should state my reasons for doing so briefly and clearly, in order to prevent misconception as to the course I thus adopt.

"Now, the position of every Muslim Indian subject of His Majesty participating in this Khilafat agitation, judging from the recent utterances of responsible persons among them, is as follows :

"The British connection with the Motherland is tolerable only so long as it is consistent with the real interests of that Motherland on the one hand, and, on the other, with the demands of the Muslim faith in relation to this Khilafat matter, as defined by our Muslim brethren in their representations to the Allied Powers. If the demands just referred to are not complied with almost immediately, our Muslim brethren will find themselves compelled to disrupt the British connection, without reference to the bearing of such connection upon the interests of the Motherland.

"As an Indian subject of His Majesty, not labouring under conscientious scruples, binding upon Muslim brethren as explained above, it is impossible for me to subscribe to the position which they feel themselves called upon to maintain at all risks, so long as I believe that the severance of the British connection would be detrimental in the highest degree to India, even though justice is not done to our Muslim brethren in regard to their demands *re* the Khilafat case.

"In saying this, I do not mean in the slightest degree to suggest that the failure to keep the pledge given by the Prime Minister during the War, on which His Majesty's Musalman subjects have been acting, would be anything but gross perfidy, besmirching the fair name of Britain for all time to come. I should go further and state with all the solemnity I can command, that such a breach of faith will inevitably bring with it consequences most disastrous to the British Empire. It is bound to weld together the Muhammadan world so strongly as to entail the most determined effort to destroy that Empire at no distant date in combination with the Bolsheviki, whom I look upon as the heralds of the Nemesis which will overtake the British race along with others, if they will not abandon their

policy of exploiting the Asiatic. Be this as it may, I cannot, as a Hindu subject of the Empire, consent to co-operate with other subjects in it who would seek to destroy the British Power on grounds not directly connected with the Indian interests, as, for instance, the refusal to carry out the pledge to Islam in relation to the Khalifa. For I believe, as strongly as any one can, that the interests of India are inevitably bound up with the maintenance of that Power, so long as it is possible to preserve it by every legitimate means. No doubt, at the present moment, what it owes to India has been but quite inadequately attended to. It seems to me, however, certain that ample Justice will be done to India in the near future, at all events by that Party which is now daily growing in power and strength. I mean, of course, the Labour Party. It is my unalterable conviction that through the lips of the leaders of this Party, He who two thousand years ago came with the message of peace to men and good will among them, is repeating that message, and will see it carried into effect in spite of all puny human effort to thwart His Divine Will. Entertaining views such as these, I cannot, consistently with justice to my own conscience, remain quiescent when steps are being taken which forebode injury to the Raj whose maintenance, so far as my humble vision enables me to decide, is absolutely essential to the future well-being of India and its teeming millions, who, notwithstanding all their past evil karma, are continuing to enjoy the protection of their mighty Rishis.

“Simple gratitude to these Protectors of ours for saving so far this beloved land of Theirs from the terrible calamities which have befallen all Europe make it our reverential duty constantly to invoke Their blessing in these critical times, in order that we may be enabled to await, with serenity, the completion of the Divine Plan for the uplift of humanity, which is being carried out under the consummate guidance of those unseen Protectors of all. May the New Era opening to all the world soon be ushered in.”

The President also carried on a vigorous propaganda throughout India in the press and on the platform and at local Conferences against the evils of Non-Co-operation, and although it is not possible actually to put a finger on the results achieved, the partial failure of the movement and the success which has

attended the publication of a pamphlet containing Mrs. Besant's and many articles from eminent Indian leaders is some indication of what our propaganda has done; for it must not be forgotten that hardly anyone else has so long—from the beginning of the movement—so persistently and so uncompromisingly put the whole weight of her influence, her talents and the strength of her personality so openly against Non-Co-operation and in favour of co-operation, at such a great sacrifice, as our President, Mrs. Besant. *The Hindu* angrily dubbed her, "the ubiquitous Mrs. Besant".

The general propaganda work may be divided into three sections: (1) Lectures; (2) Publication (Literature); (3) Press. I regret to mention that I was not able to organise a long series of propagandist lectures, but among the successful lectures under our auspices may be mentioned those of our President Mrs. Annie Besant, M. K. Ry. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Avl., Messrs. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, G. S. Arundale and R. G. Pradhan. Among our activities through publication of useful literature may be mentioned Sir Sankaran Nair's Minute of Dissent, Dr. Berridale Keith's Minute of Dissent, and other twelve pamphlets dealing with the Reform Act. The first two were an edition of 2,000 each, the pamphlets on Reform Act 10,000 each for free distribution, and Nos. 13, 14 and 15 for a nominal price to cover the actual cost of production, with 5,000 copies each. The following are the full figures of our publications.

Minute of Dissent by Sir Sankaran

Nair	...	...	...	2,000 copies.
The Report of the Crewe Commission.				
Minute of Dissent by Prof. Keith...	2,000	„		
Indian Reform Act	...	...	10,000	„
Organisation by N. H. R. League	...	500	„	„
N. H. R. League Pamphlets Nos.				
1 to 12	...	...	...	1,20,000 „

N. H. R. League Pamphlets Nos.			
13, 14 and 15	...	...	15,000 copies
Election Programme for 1920	...	...	1,000 „
Address to Mrs. Besant of the			
N. H. R. L.	...	...	200 „
Application forms	...	...	500 „
Admission Tickets	...	...	1,000 „
Programme of N. H. R. L.	...	...	100 „

I must put on record here that Mrs. Besant put her paper *New India* at the service of the League, as she had announced at the inaugural meeting of the League, and by her own articles and by opening the columns of a full page for the exclusive discussion of matters pertaining to Home Rule, did incalculable service to the cause. Her articles in other Indian and English journals also went far in popularising the cause of Home Rule for India.

In the Provinces, also, our work was very successful, as the Provincial Secretaries tell us in their reports. What our propaganda did may be gathered from the fact that our members worked for progressive candidates everywhere as well as for our own members.

This brings us to our Election work. Preparations for election propaganda commenced at the beginning of the year, and *New India* of January 19 and 21, 1920, contained suggestions for a Local Government Bill and asked for discussion. Soon after our Convention in April, 1920, a very broad programme for the election of 1920 was drawn; a copy of it with the later addition is attached below for reference.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO N. H. R. L. PROGRAMME

In addition to the political programme of the League, which programme was warmly approved, it was proposed that

temperance reform should be taken up leading to prohibition by well considered stages, and also the removal of all religious disabilities and privileges enforced by law, leaving to each religion its own rules and customs enforced by public opinion within the religion and by religious sanction only. Mrs. Besant promised to circulate the proposed additions to the branches of the National Home Rule League.

N. H. R. L. BOMBAY CONFERENCE

A Conference of the N. H. R. L. held two sittings at Bombay on April 5th, 1920. The President reported that there were now 13 Branches in the Bombay Province, as well as two in Sindh, and it was ordered that a Bombay Provincial Council should immediately be formed. Councils should also be formed in the Madras and Andhra Provinces in which there were Branches, and where Councils should have been formed nearly a year ago. There were less than seven branches in each of the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar, United Provinces, Delhi and Sindh, so they were not ripe for Provincial Councils. Fourteen leaflets and pamphlets had been issued in English, and were being translated into the eleven important vernaculars, the total number being over a million copies, and several had also been published in English and vernacular newspapers, a huge number of persons being thus reached. Much lecturing on the Reform Act was being done, co-operation for propagandist and election purposes had been established with the Deccan Sabha, the Poona Liberal League, the Poona Servants of India Society, and with some progressive members of the Madras Liberal League. Friendly relations had been established with the Bombay Branch of the All-India Home Rule League, and two members of the N. H. R. L. Council had rejoined the Council of the older body so that they might co-operate in measures with which they agreed. The

younger League, with its two powerful organisations in England and its more representative constitution, cannot merge itself in the elder, ruled entirely from Bombay, but it is glad to work with its elder sister wherever possible, and has therefore consented to the above arrangement. After the President's report, discussion took place on the League election programme and it was ordered that the subjects should be divided under Indian and Provincial headings, that the Rowlatt Act and other coercive legislation should be abolished with the Press Act, and that steps should be taken towards the establishment of a Territorial Army, and that grants in aid of Education should go to the Educational Boards of the Provinces for allocation. It was further considered that it was desirable to outline some of the measures which would lead up to complete Home Rule, so as to indicate, however generally, the road which has to be trodden. The programme could then be amended from time to time, as progress was made. A list of measures was agreed on, and the General Council was requested to put them into shape and then circulate them among the Branches and in the Press for criticism and improvement.

The Conference dissolved. The members of the General Council present in Bombay met on April 7th, and drew up a tentative sketch, to be forwarded to absent members. When completed, the programme was as follows :

ELECTION PROGRAMME FOR 1920

INDIAN LEGISLATURE

Army Reform

1. A Bill to provide all the necessary facilities in India for the complete training of officers and for the establishment of territorial armies.

Legal Reform

2. A Bill repealing the Press Act, Rowlatt Act, and all coercive legislation, which substitutes executive orders for judicial action in matters touching the liberty and property of the subject.

3. A Bill for the separation of Executive and Judicial Functions.

Public Endowments

4. A Bill for the establishment in every Province of a Public Endowments Board, to ensure the better control, supervision and administration of Public and Charitable Trusts, so as to ensure their usefulness to the country, especially in the direction of promoting education.

Financial

5. A Bill embodying Preliminary Tariff Reforms.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES

Local Government

A comprehensive Bill on Local Government, dealing with the constitution and function of (a) the Panchayat for the Ward of a Town and the village, (b) the Tahsil or Taluq Board, (c) the District Board, (d) the Local Government Board for the whole of the Presidency, so strongly recommended by the Joint Committee of Parliament.

Education

An Education Bill dealing with Primary, Secondary and Collegiate Education to be supervised by the Panchayat, the Taluq Board and the District Board, respectively.

Woman Suffrage

A Woman Suffrage Bill, giving the Franchise to Women who have the same qualifications as those required for Men Voters.

Labour Legislation

A Ten Hours Day Bill (with an hour's mid-day recess).
The establishment of Arbitration Boards.

Social Reform

A Bill for the Promotion of Temperance, whether by Local Option, or other restrictions, with a view ultimately to total prohibition.

[Each Province, through its Provincial Council, should adapt the Provincial programme to its own needs, adding to or subtracting from the general programme.]

Principles to be Embodied in Future Bills for the Complete Realisation of Home Rule

The goal of the proposed measures is the building up of autonomous Provinces, linked together by a strong unifying Federal Government, so that India may be one NATION, and not only a congeries of separate States, with provincial jealousies and barriers and therefore weak—the danger to be guarded against.

The proposed measures are placed roughly in the order in which they are likely to be introduced. Those in the Provinces can be carried out at any time, since they do not need, except in the case of Land Revenue, any further statute, as Mr. Montagu pointed out twice in the Joint Committee, and also on the third reading of the Reform Bill. Thus complete Provincial Autonomy may be gained. The Delhi and Amritsar Congresses made a limit of fifteen years for the complete establishment of Home Rule. Many of us think it may come much sooner.

Indian Legislature

1. The establishment of a Court of Appeal for the whole of India.
2. The Introduction of successive Tariff Reforms.
3. State Management of Railways.
4. Introduction of responsible Ministers into the Executive Government of India at the earliest possible date.
5. Establishment of a Territorial Army with all the necessary facilities for the complete training of officers in India.

6. Establishment of a National Navy, and the encouragement of the formation of a Mercantile Marine, of the building of docks and ship-building yards.

7. Conservation of the natural resources of the country for the benefit of the Nation, as against the creation of private or company monopolies, by such means as, from time to time, shall seem good to the Indian Legislature.

Provincial Legislatures

1. Successive transfers of all subjects now reserved, to Ministers, as soon as practicable.

2. Handing over of Land Revenue.

3. Completely elected Councils.

4. Elimination as soon as possible of all special electorates.

5. Complete control of taxation and expenditure.

6. Successive widenings of electorates until universal suffrage is obtained.

7. Delimitation of Provinces on linguistic basis, subject to reference to peoples concerned.

8. The granting to municipalities on their demand the powers to assume control of tramways and such other public facilities as can be better managed collectively than by private enterprise.

A great deal of further propaganda work was carried on by our President by a series of nine articles in *New India* which were later published as propaganda leaflets and were distributed free in all Presidencies in various vernaculars where our candidates were working. I am happy to be able to report that our League has good cause to be proud that every Presidency and the United Provinces have returned some members of our League to the Local and Central Councils. During the later part of the year and a half under report our relations with the Liberal League became considerably closer, and now we are in a position

to co-operate freely with them on all matters on which we think alike.

It will thus be seen that far from being isolated and made inactive in the service of the Motherland, we have taken our share, however humble, of the public work of our country, under the able guidance of our President, Mrs. Besant. We have made ourselves felt, again under the same guidance, in all difficult times, as under Non-Co-operation, and although the danger is not quite past, the back of the danger is well nigh broken.

We have now 100 Branches of the League over the whole of India, but as many of them are composed of old life members of the All-India Home Rule League, having paid their admission fee, we have had no receipts from them, and have asked nothing from the Branches, having had sufficient donations for our work.

We have attached to this Report a separate Statement of our Financial Report. It has yet to be passed by the auditor; we may however mention that it has been specially prepared by a qualified member of our League who will vouch for the papers in connection with the statement. Main items of payment during the time under Report have been those of Mrs. Besant, aided by M.R.Ry. A. K. Sitarama Shastri, B. Renga Reddy, T. V. Gopaldaswami Iyer and a few others. No Provincial Secretary made any demands on the Central office for funds, but all their admirable work was done on the collections of Entrance Fees and such other donations as they were able to collect. This speaks a great deal for the popularity of their work as well as their economical methods of work. Some of the amounts spent on the publication of our literature will be returned by the sales at the T.P.H. We have still a balance of about Rs. 1,300 at the Chartered Bank.

But what of the future? Danger to the peaceful attainment of our goal is not yet past, and continued educative propaganda

lies ahead of us. The League ought to settle along what lines it will proceed, under the guidance of our President. As in the past so in the future our salvation lies in loving loyalty and trust in our Leader.

DWARKANATH K. TELANG,

KANJI DWARKADAS,

Hon. Secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

I may add to the above Report some notes on the work done by me since my election in April, 1919.

A Deputation, consisting of Messrs. P. K. Telang, B. P. Wadia, Jamnadas Dwarkadas and myself, was chosen to go to England to put the Indian case before the British public, and to do all in our power to enlarge and improve the Reform Bill. The Joint Committee appointed to take evidence selected me as a witness on the general questions, and later called Mr. B. P. Wadia to give evidence on Labour in India. A number of questions were sent, before oral evidence was taken, and we all discussed these carefully and drew up answers. They appeared in the Report of the Committee and were also printed separately and widely distributed. Mr. Wadia's evidence on Labour was similarly printed and circulated.

The Home Rule for India League had done much to prepare the way, and was of the greatest assistance throughout our stay in Britain; it organised tours, arranged meetings, and helped generously by sharing expenses; our gratitude is due to them for all their willing help. Mr. George Lansbury was the Chairman, and Mr. John Scurr the Secretary. They sent over Mr. Scurr to India on behalf of Labour, to ask me, as an old comrade, to come over and explain the Indian situation; he met in India several representative groups and explained the need of some one well known in England as a worker in Labour causes coming over, as little was known there of Indian party leaders, Moderate and Extremist. With their help, we organised a Parliamentary Committee, which met weekly, consisting of 188 central and corresponding members and nearly 300 affiliated Labour Associations and Trade Unions. (I invited members of the Moderate and Congress deputations to join it, but they did not like to do so officially, though several of the first-named worked with us unofficially.)

The details as to the organisation, officers and work of the Committee will be found on pp. 52, 53.

The Home Rule for India League was dissolved in the late autumn of 1920, as it considered that its work was finished with the inauguration of the Reformed Councils, placing in India's own hands the power to gain Home Rule. (See pp. 49—51.) The Parliamentary Committee remains as a means of communication, whenever it is needed for work.

I formed a small private company for the foundation of a weekly newspaper, *United India*, which has served admirably for the presentation of India's case. It was sent to every member of the House of Commons and to a selected list of the House of Lords for five weeks gratis, and was sent also to 29 Indian papers weekly. It had a circulation of between 700 and 1,000 a week. But representations have reached me during the last month, that subscribers would prefer to have more direct Indian news, by a weekly paper sent from India. Hence I have decided to issue a weekly edition of *New India* from February 9th, 1921, the date of the opening of the Legislative Assembly and Council of State in Delhi, with which the *New Era* may be said to begin, as all the Reformed Councils will then be at work. *United India* will therefore cease.

I had the great pleasure of introducing Mrs. and Miss Tata to their first English audience at Harrogate, and of placing our organisations, Theosophical and political, at their service for presenting the case of Indian Womanhood before them. They were very much liked everywhere, and did great work for the cause of Indian women.

Many questions were asked in Parliament by the members belonging to the above-named Committee, and they organised for us a meeting attended by some 60 members of Parliament in a Committee Room of the House; this was addressed by the Hon. Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, of the Liberal Deputation, Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar of the All-India Home Rule League Deputation, Mr. M. A. Jinnah of the Muslim League Deputation, and myself of that of the National Home Rule League.

The Deputation was received by Mr. Montagu at the India Office, and was carefully questioned by the Secretary of State and his colleagues. I was also a member of a Ladies' Deputation to him, organised by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. Meetings were organised by several Women's Societies, by "Britain and India,"

and various Labour organisations, and we attended the Labour Conference at Southport—which I addressed—the Trades Union Congress at Glasgow, where Mr. Wadia spoke, and a meeting there of the Home Rule League for Scotland, where I was one of the speakers. A great meeting in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, a tour through Lancashire towns, a big meeting in the Queen's Hall, London, and a lecture in the Kingsway Hall, London, under the auspices of the Fabian Society, were other notable features.

Among the places visited were various parts of London, Southport, Edinburgh (twice) Glasgow (twice), Bow, Stratford, Croydon, Battersea (thrice), Brighton, Preston, Liverpool, Wallasey, Wigan, Rochdale, Burnley, Bolton, Manchester Free Trade Hall, Oxford, Bradford, Harrogate, York, Newcastle, Stone, Cardiff, Bristol, Bath, Leeds, Harrow. We wrote articles in several London papers, gave interviews to the press, and generally took every opportunity to put India's case.

Several large "At Homes" were given in London to the more fashionable section of society, and I also addressed the famous Pioneer Club—the first women's club, I believe—and various Women's Societies.

We left London for Home when the Joint Committee had issued its Report, and a copy of the amended Bill went with us to India. The expenses of the voyages of two of us, the tours, meetings, railway travelling, and published literature were—with the generous help from English friends—paid out of Rs. 10,000 given me in Bombay in April and Rs. 9,000 sent me from the same generous helpers to England. (See p. 46.)

On board ship, I wrote nine leaflets on the Reforms, which were published in India and translated into various vernaculars.

After the Amritsar Conference, I made several tours, lecturing on the Reforms, and from April, 1920, onwards carried on a vigorous campaign against Non-Co-operation in the press and on the platform. During the autumn we worked for the Council elections also, allying ourselves with the Liberal Leagues, they working for our candidates and we for theirs, and lecturing on each other's platforms, with a satisfactory measure of success. This culminated in numbers of our members being elected as delegates to the Third Annual Meeting of the Indian Liberal Federation, on signing the following objects:

1. The attainment of Responsible Government by India as an integral part of the British Empire in the quickest possible time by methodical and ordered progress.

2. The promotion of an Indian Nationality, fostering a patriotic spirit of unity among the different classes and communities of the people.

3. Advancement of the moral and material progress of the Indian people.

4. The attainment by the people of India of a system of Government similar to that enjoyed by the Self-Governing members of the British Empire, and a participation by them in the rights and responsibilities of the Empire on equal terms with those members—objects to be achieved by constitutional means, by bringing about a steady reform of the existing system of administration and by promoting national unity, fostering public spirit and developing and organising the intellectual, moral, economic and industrial resources of the country.

It will be noted that the attainment of Responsible Government as quickly as possible and the addition of the old Congress Creed puts us practically on the same platform, and at our Annual Meeting it was decided (see the Minutes) that co-operation with Societies having objects similar to our own should be made our fourth object, and the Council was given power to make some arrangement with the Federation so as to elect delegates to it in future years. The Indian Association, Calcutta and the Deccan Sabha are also affiliated for the election of delegates, and it is probable that many other Progressive Bodies will do the same, now that the Swarajya Congress has changed its creed and its constitution, and admits only those elected by its own organisations. The Liberal Federation now takes its place, admitting all who agree to the above objects, and it is thus the heir of the Old Congress tradition.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the N. H. R. L. for my re-election, and look forward to widely spreading work in the coming years.

ANNIE BESANT,

President, N. H. R. L.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

THERE are branches of the National Home Rule League at the following places: Poona, Ahmednagar, Thana, Sholapore, Hubli, in the Deccan, and Surat, Ahmedabad, Nadiad, in Guzrath. The Bombay branch has published its report separately.

The various branches have all done their best to explain the Reform scheme and to oppose the propaganda of Non-Co-operation.

The President of the N. H. R. League went on a tour through Guzrath accompanied by Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas; the tour was very successful. The meetings were large, the audiences were appreciative, and branches were formed in most of the places she visited.

The Bombay Provincial Conference met at Sholapore, which our President at the invitation of the R. C., attended. At the Conference our League and the Poona Liberals worked together to press for a proper recognition of the Reform scheme.

When our President went to England on deputation all our other branches joined the Branch at Bombay in giving her a purse, which she has utilised in the work of the League in England.

Several of our members stood as candidates for the elections under the Reform scheme, and their work for educating the electorate was all done along the lines of our League.

Several pamphlets were published in Marathi and Guzrathi and circulated in addition to the English pamphlets sent out from the Head Office.

Our League has made a distinct mark in the public life of our Presidency, and although it is perhaps comparatively small in numbers, its influence is recognised and felt by all. The Deccan Sabha has resolved to work with us in co-operation, and in the coming year we hope to do work outside the Council with a view to help those who will work inside.

H. K. PATWARDHAN,

Provincial Secretary, Bombay Presidency.

BOMBAY BRANCH

THE adjourned Annual General Meeting of the Bombay Branch of the National Home Rule League was held on Monday, the 6th instant, at 6 p.m. (s. t.) under the presidency of Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas.

The President moved the adoption of the Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for the year ending March, 1920.

The Report reads as follows :

GENTLEMEN,—The Committee regrets that it could not hold the Annual General Meeting in June in accordance with the Rules of the Branch. In the year under report much useful work has been done. Immediately after the League was started, Mrs. Besant, President of the League, headed the National Home Rule League Deputation to England and our Branch had the privilege of sending two of its members, Mr. P. K. Telang and Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, on the Deputation. Our Branch also remitted £600 to Mrs. Besant for work in England on the occasion of Mrs. Besant's Birthday.

MEMBERSHIP

The Roll of the Branch shows a membership of 95, A class 7, B class 12, C class 9, D class 62 and Life Members 5.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the Managing Committee and communicated to the Press :

“ 1. That this Committee expresses its deep sympathy with the British Indians of the Transvaal in their struggle for liberty and for the preservation of the ordinary rights of British citizenship against heavy odds, and congratulates them on their courage and patient endurance in carrying on the struggle, and heartily assures them of their continuous help from the Mother country.”

“ 2. The Committee of the N.H.R. League, Bombay Branch, emphatically protests against the proposed Indemnity Bill, as it considers it unrighteous, and therefore urges upon H.E. the Viceroy the necessity of withdrawing it and thus respecting unanimous Indian public opinion.”

"3. The Committee expresses its disappointment that instead of a Royal Commission, the Committee of Enquiry was appointed by the Government of India."

"4. The Managing Committee of the N.H.R. League, Bombay Branch, welcomes the recommendations of the Joint Committee of Parliament in connection with the Government of India Bill, as an advance in constitutional Reforms in India, on the lines of the principle adumbrated in the announcement of August 20, 1917, though not going far enough. The Committee strongly opposes rejection of the Bill and the Recommendations of the Joint Committee."

"5. Resolved that the President should send a radio message of welcome to Lala Lajpat Rai."

LITERATURE

The following literature was issued during the year under report (1919—1920) :

5,000 copies—Letters by an On-Looker, by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore.

2,000 copies—N. H. R. League Memorandum, Question, and Answers arising out of the Government of India Bill and Mrs. Besant's statement before the Joint Committee (English).

10,000 copies—N. H. R. League Memorandum, Question, and Answers arising out of the Government of India Bill and Mrs. Besant's statement before the Joint Committee (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—Proposal for winning Swaraj (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—Reforms Rules Bill (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—Responsibility of a Journal (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—Patriotism (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—The Way Out (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—Wounded to Death (Gujerati).

10,000 copies—Responsibility of a Journal (Marathi).

500 copies—Minute of Dissent by Sir Sankaran Nair.

1,000 copies—N. H. R. L. Why and How Founded.

The vernacular pamphlets were originally written by Mrs. Besant and were received by this Branch from the Headquarters.

RECEPTIONS

1. Our Branch was *At Home* to Mrs. Besant on her return from England.

2. Mrs. Besant was *At Home* to meet Lala Lajpat Rai.

Both these receptions were well attended and were great successes.

3. The League joined the All-India Home Rule League, the Indian Home Rule League, the National Union and the local Provincial Congress Committee in the reception held in honour of Sir Sankaran Nair.

LECTURE TOUR

Mrs. Besant, accompanied by Mr. Jannadas Dwarkadas, President of the Branch, went on a Lecturing Tour to Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Broach and Surat, lecturing on the Reforms.

LECTURES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Our Branch joined the local political bodies in public meetings for the reception of Mr. B. G. Tilak on his return from England and Messrs. Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali.

The following lectures were held under the auspices of the Branch :

July, 1919—Speaker, Mr. R. G. Pradhan, President—Mr. G. B. Vaidya, Subject—The Reforms.

December 20, 1919—Speaker, Mrs. Besant, President—Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji, Subject—The Reforms.

January 8, 1920—Speaker, Mrs. Besant, President—Mr. J. B. Petit.

March 20, 1920—Speaker, Mrs. Besant, President—Mr. Jannadas Dwarkadas.

Speaker—Mr. P. K. Telang, President—Mr. K. Natarajan.

Speaker—The Hon. Mr. Paranjpye, President—Mr. Jannadas Dwarkadas.

Speaker—Mr. Mavji Govindji, President—Mr. Jannadas Dwarkadas.

A RAPPROCHEMENT

In the month of March last, a rapprochement was made with the All-India Home Rule League and Messrs. Jamnadas Dwarkadas and Kanji Dwarkadas, two members of our Branch, were elected members of the Managing Committee of the other League, and the members of our Branch co-operated with them during the Jallianwalla Bagh Memorial Week.

FUNDS

1. As stated above, £600 were collected and remitted to Mrs. Besant on her birthday.

2. A separate list was opened for the Literature Propaganda and Rs. 1,210 were collected.

The Statement of Accounts shows that the total expenditure for the year was Rs. 2,686-15-6, including £600 remitted to Mrs. Besant mentioned in the Report above, leaving a balance of Rs. 379-3-9.

The Report was adopted unanimously.

The Office-bearers and members of the Managing Committee elected for the current year are as follows:

President: Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji, Dr. V. S. Trilokekar and Mr. Mavji Govindji. *Hon. Secretaries*: Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas and Mr. Harjivan K. Mehta.

Hon. Treasurers: Mr. Madhavji D. Morarji and Dr. Yeshwant M. Sanzgiri.

Members: Mr. J. D. Mahalaxmiwala, Mr. J. R. Gilder, Mr. S. V. Rao, Mr. S. V. Mulgaokar, Mr. Ramsing Doongersing, Mrs. Hirabai A. Tata, Mr. A. K. Bawa, Mr. Jalbhoy H. Billimoria, Mr. R. S. Bhagwat and Mr. Govind N. Paranjpe.

A vote of thanks was recorded for the retiring Managing Committee, and another vote of thanks for the President terminated the meeting.

UNITED PROVINCES

THERE are only two Branches as yet formed in the U. P., viz., Benares and Cawnpore. The political situation in the country and specially in the U. P. was very unfavourable till lately for extension of the League. However centres of work have been formed at the following places: Allahabad, Lucknow, Agra, Jhansi, Gorakhpur, Mainpuri, Unao, Bahraich, and I feel sure that we shall very soon have 7 branches formed in the Province, thus securing a Provincial Council of its own.

An appeal has been sent round to most eminent people in the Province who were not pronounced Non-Co-operators, and it has also appeared in the Press. A few leaflets in English and Hindi have been published and distributed.

The members of the N. H. R. L. throughout the Province worked enthusiastically in the election campaign for the various Councils, and most of the candidates supported got into the Councils. The U. P. has sent very eminent men into the Councils, and the League will have much work to do during the coming year to support the Councillors, and to educate the people in matters brought into the Council.

N. G. PARANJPE,

Provincial Secretary for U.P.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

TAMIL DIVISION

I BEG to submit the following report on the working of the Tamil National Home Rule League from April, 1919 to December, 1920.

The change of attitude on the part of the All-India Home Rule League necessitated the formation of the National Home Rule League. It is a matter for gratification that the call was responded to by the formation of a number of branches in the Tamil Districts, a list of which has been submitted to the General Secretary.

The messages of greeting to the President given by the branches of the Tamil National Home Rule League clearly show

the amount of trust placed in their President. It is not possible to express in adequate words the gratitude felt by the branches for the skill and care with which she is helping to steer India towards Home Rule in one of the most critical periods of her history.

I was responsible for the formation of branches of the National Home Rule League in Chittoor, Madanapalle, Dasarapalli, Thungundram, Patnam, Talupulapalli, Perakur-Gollapalli, Nalagamapalli and Palyama-Gollapalli.

The following leaflets in Telugu were published by the National Home Rule League, Chittoor, during 1919 and 1920:

Home Rule; Village Panchayats; Truth; Animal Sacrifice; and three leaflets against Non-Co-operation (Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published in the *New India*).

Ever since January, 1920, I was engaged in travelling throughout the Chittoor District, visiting all the important villages and explaining to the villagers the Reform Act, and the advantages likely to accrue to the people by the proper exercise of the powers thereunder.

The wave of hatred caused by the advocacy of Non-Co-operation swept over the Chittoor District during the month of November. Considerable numbers of voters who would have otherwise attended the polling station were scared away by Non-Co-operators by a continued policy of misrepresentation, etc. The innocent villagers fall an easy victim to tales of this kind, and it requires vigorous propaganda work to counteract the vague fears caused in the minds of the villagers. The best way to minimise the evil appears to me to be the starting of a vernacular newspaper that would give correct information on the several important matters that are now engaging public attention.

Lastly I wish to submit that, living as I do in a Telugu District, it is not possible for me to do properly the duties of a Tamil Secretary.

C. R. PARTHASARATHY AIYENGAR

There are 3 Branches in Madras City, and 2 in Adyar, 20 in the Tamil country; 12 in other Provinces; besides the 45 in Andhradesha, 9 in Malabar, and 9 in Bombay, noted above; 100 in all.

MADURA BRANCH

THE Madura N. H. R. L. did steady work during the period under report. The chief work done by this League was in the direction of popularising the Indian Reforms amongst the masses of our people, and educating them to appreciate and understand that one of the effective ways for the introduction of full Responsible Government lies in taking full advantage of its provisions in the amelioration of the conditions of our people, and enabling them to realise the partial responsibility which has now devolved upon them in the administration of provincial affairs. Its second work lay in the direction of combating the spread of the movement of Non-Co-operation—both as regards the principle and programme now before the country.

Towards the above objects Tamil tracts entitled “Wounded to Death,” showing the passing of power from the bureaucracy to the people, and “The Organisation for Freedom,” giving the principles underlying the Reforms, were printed and circulated free amongst our people.

A Tamil catechism embodying the important features of the new Reform Act was printed, and thousands of copies were distributed amongst the people of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely Districts.

Popular Tamil lectures were delivered in several places in the Tamil Districts on the provisions of the Reform Act.

A Tamil leaflet on the evils of the Non-Co-operation movement was also printed at Sattur with the help of the League and distributed broadcast in the Southern Districts. Whatever be the success or otherwise of the Non-Co-operation movement in other parts of the country, it cannot be said that the movement has any appreciable support in the Southern districts, and this was brought out very prominently in the recent elections.

But it cannot be said that we have done as much work as we should have done in bringing a knowledge of the new Reforms home to our people in time before the last elections which were held 30-11-1920. The work was heavy, the organisation for their popularisation not sufficiently effective, and the time before us was short. To one who was in close contact with the voters who voted on that date of election, it was apparent that

if there had been a combined movement on the part of the different political organisations working in our country and their work had been effectively organised, the elections would have been far more instrumental in the political education of our electorate than they have actually been amidst the differences and feelings of distrust which appeared to separate them.

We hope that our League will be enabled to present in the coming year a report showing greater progress and recording strenuous and earnest work.

Many of the members of the League attended as delegates the Madura District Political Conference held at Sattur in Ramnad District, and the Madras Provincial Conference held at Tinnevely in May and June, 1920, respectively, and actively opposed the proposals for the support of Non-Co-operation brought in those Conferences.

A. RANGASWAMI AIYAR,
Secretary, Madura Branch.

TELUGU DIVISION

I BEG to submit the following report on the working of the Andhra Desha National Home Rule League for the period April, 1919 to December, 1920.

It is well-known that the National Home Rule League was formed to continue the work for which the All-India Home Rule League was originally founded and to enable "the Home Rulers who had made the Reform Bill possible" to have their say on the Reform Bill then under consideration in England. It is a matter for sincere gratification that very many in the Telugu Districts realised the extreme importance of sending Mrs. Besant to England to plead for liberal reforms, and quickly formed many branches of the newly started League to show that Mrs. Besant was still their trusted leader, and that she more than anybody else was competent to represent them in England. For this timely recognition of their duty to the country and unhesitating support of the National Home Rule League, I am profoundly grateful to my Telugu brethren.

When the branches grew in number, a Provincial Council, with the following gentlemen as office-bearers, was formed in December, 1919 :

Members. The Hon. Mr. P. Siva Rao, B.A., B.L., *President.* M.R.Ry. C. R. Parthasaradhi Ayyangar, B.A., B.L., *Vice President.* M.R.Ry. A. Ranganatham Mudaliar, B.A., B.L., *Secretary.* M.R.Ry. M. V. Krishnayya, *Treasurer.* *Members :* M.R.Ry. G. Kodandaramayya Garu, M.A., M.R.Ry. A. Parasurama Rao Garu, M.R.Ry. R. Sivarama Sastri Garu, M.R.Ry. V. Sarvagnacharu Garu, M.R.Ry. Asundi Bhima Rao Garu, M.R.Ry. S. Sivaramayya Garu, and M.R.Ry. V. S. Balakrishnaswami Mudaliar.

The above Council continues to be in office, according to the rules of the Provincial League, for two years from the date of election.

ACTIVITIES

The League gladly availed itself of the opportunity afforded by Mrs. Besant's return to Madras after her great work in England to present to her an address giving her a warm welcome home, and assuring her of its continued love and devotion to her and the cause she represents.

The League has issued four leaflets in the vernacular and one in English as shown below :

<i>What is Home Rule ?</i>	} Telugu
<i>Village Panchayats.</i>	
<i>Worship of Ishvara.</i>	
<i>Firka Conferences.</i>	
<i>Organisation for Work.</i>	English

I spent altogether 110 days in touring and carrying on the Home Rule Propaganda work :

April 24 to 28, 1919 : Visited Cuddappah, Nandalur, Rajampet, Apparazupet and Pullampet.

May 1 to 7, 1919 : Visited Gooty, Bellary, Adoni and Kurnool.

July 28 to August 11, 1919 : Visited Guntakal, Timmancherla, Alur, Kuditini, Hirehal, Adoni and Bellary.

August 23 to September 12, 1919 : Visited Anantapur, Guntakal, Kurnool, Dhone, Nandyal, Koilkuntla, Owk, Maddikera, Pattikonda and Bellary.

October 2 to 22, 1919 : Visited Hindupur, Penukonda Parigi, Dharmavaram, Kadiri, Raptad, Bukkarazusamudram and Anantapur.

November 7 to 13, 1919 : Visited Siddhout, Rajampet and Kodur.

March 11 and 12, 1920 : Visited Nandalur and Rajampet.

March 19 to 28, 1920 : Visited Proddatur, Gooty, Pyapali, Dhone, Kurnool and Panyam.

April 23 to May 3, 1920 : Visited Guntakal, Timmancherla, Kurnool and Nandyal.

May 15 to 25, 1920 : Visited Nandalur, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nandyal and Mahanandy.

In addition to the above, I spent a few days in the Tanjore District studying the village conditions there, and went in December, 1919, to attend the Congress and the National Home Rule League Conference at Amritsar. I had the honour of presiding over the Andhra Mahajana Sabha held at Mahanandi in May, 1920, and over the Divisional Conference held at Gurramkonda in the following month. I also took part in the organising of the Timmancherla Firka Conference, being the first of its kind, held under the presidency of Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, and was very happy to see the interest the common people took in it. I feel strongly that Conferences such as these would go a great way to educate the people, and enable them to take their rightful place in the administration of the country.

I spent practically the entire period from August to the end of November, 1920, in the Bellary District in connection with my election to the new Legislative Council. I visited perhaps 250 to 300 villages and addressed as many meetings on the Reformed Councils, the responsibilities of the voters, and the duties of the elected members. The Non-Co-operation movement has not so far made any appreciable headway at least in the Central Telugu Districts, and if it does I would lay the

blame at the door of the local leaders in their respective districts. It is their apathy to real public life, and lethargy to actively identify themselves with the common people and strenuously work for their welfare, that permits the noxious weeds of Non-Co-operation to take root in the virgin minds of the innocent youth and the ignorant masses.

I hope that the elected members of the new Council who, in my opinion, are pledged against the new programme of Non-Co-operation, will do their duty by the people, be ever watchful of their interests, and always guide them along healthy, though vigorous, lines.

Statements showing the branches of the League, and receipts and charges, with details (vouchers are in office files) for the larger items in them, are enclosed.

I beg, in conclusion, on behalf of myself and of the League I have the honour to represent, to assure you of our profound gratitude for all the valuable work done in the past and of our loyal co-operation in the work yet to be done.

A. RANGANATHAM,

Secretary, N. H. R. L., Andhra Desha. (Telugu).

ANNEXURE :

List of branches of the National Home Rule League in the Andhra Desha

Bellary District : (8)

Bellary ; Hirehal ; Kuditini ; Adoni ; Alur ; Hospet ; Kampti ; and Rayadrug.

Cuddapah District : (7)

Apparazupet ; Nandalur ; Cuddapah ; Pullampet ; Rajampet ; Sidhout and Proddatur.

Kurnool District : (7)

Kurnool ; Dhone ; Nandyal ; Koilkuntla ; Owk ; Pattikonda and Pyapali.

(Applications all received ; entrance fees not yet remitted.)

Madras : (1)

Madras.

Anantapur : (12)

Gooty; Timmancherla; Guntakal; Parigi; Dharmavaram; Kadiri; Anantapur; Raptad; Bukkarayasamudram; Penukonda; Hindupur and Gadekal.

Chittoor : (10)

Chittoor; Madanapalle; Tirumiyachur; Dasarapalli; Thoon-gundram; Patnam; Thalupulapalli; Perakur-Gollapalli; Nilagampalli and Gollapalli.

(Entrance fees said to have been remitted direct by Mr. C. R. Parthasarathy Ayyangar.)

Total number of branches : 45

A. RANGANATHAM

MALABAR DIVISION

Our Division was formed on the Eve of the departure of our President to England, before the passing of the Reforms Act. Malabar is only one by the 25 Districts of the Madras Presidency with a population of about 4 millions of Malayalees. The rest of the Malayalam country is ruled by Indian Maharajas, those of Travancore and Cochin, which as such are not directly concerned with the politics of British India.

We have nine Branches of the N. H. R. L. in our Division. We may say we have done fairly good work for the year. Lectures were delivered in Malayalam in Calicut, Palghat, Kollengode, Manjeri, Edakenna, Arikode, Anakayam, Tiren and other places. Four pamphlets of the N. H. R. L. and one leaflet on the King-Emperor's Message to India were translated and 20,000 copies of the pamphlets and 500 of the leaflets were published. We collected in all Rs. 1,125 and spent Rs. 1,241-4-0 leaving a deficit of Rs. 116-4-0. The chief event of the year was the presence of our President at the Manjeri Conference when the N. C. O. mania was at its worst. Our

vernacular propaganda made it very probable that the majority of the delegates would welcome the Reforms Act as opening the gateway for full Home Rule. The Non-Co-operators tactically took up the Khilafat question first. They claimed themselves to be the only friends of Islam, and Mrs. Besant and her followers were pointed to as the enemy. The sequel showed that Mrs. Besant and her party have worked on reasonable lines for Islam, while the others dropped the subject; some of the ignorant and fanatical Musalmans of Ernad are making angry enquiries as to whether those who pretended to be such great friends of Islam, but who have since performed a complete volte-face, as regards the N.C.O. programme, are likely to come to Malabar again, so that they may have a gentle word or two with them. Many of the then N.C.O. who went the whole way are now mere preachers of the principle, while strongly opposing its practice.

Another event was the lectures, under the auspices of the N. H. R. L., Malabar, of the Hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, the chief Servant of India, at Palghat, Calicut and Tellicherry. A few of the followers of non-violent Non-Co-operation exhibited their dissent by coughing in chorus at frequent intervals, a sure symptom that they were reaching the stage of consumption. The lectures were very well attended by many of the prominent citizens and our heartfelt thanks are due to Mr. Sastri for the splendid work he did in Malabar.

Our thanks are also due to Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, C.I.E., who was kind enough to lecture under our auspices on the "Methods of Organisation". These are cheering signs that the true friends of India with any constructive political programme are joining hands in the common work, and we eagerly look forward to a year of useful work under the lead of our warrior President, the Maharaja of Nilambur.

MANJERI RAMAIAH,

Provincial Secretary, Malabar Division.

MADRAS CITY WORK

BY

PUBLIC INTERESTS COMMITTEE

*(Under the auspices of the N. H. R. League)**President* : C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, M.L.C.*Secretary* : V. R. Karundikar.

I BEG to present the report of the Public Interests Committee for the year 1920. The Committee was started in April, 1920, to carry out suggestion No. 2 made by the Annual Meeting at Amritsar in December, 1919, and confirmed at the meetings in Bombay and Madras in January, 1920. We form a body of people "which people could ask for advice as to procedure on matters affecting public interests".

Our main work was directed towards the bettering of the health and sanitation of the poorer classes. Our volunteers concentrated their energies during the first few months on the investigation of Madras slums. The reports of these investigations appeared from time to time in *New India*. We found out that the best method of remedying these defects was to get the active co-operation of the people in each locality in making it healthy and sanitary. Towards this end we started Panchayats in different streets and gardens and hutting grounds. The Secretaries of the various Panchayats were brought into closer touch with the Health and Engineering Departments of the Madras Corporation. The localities have, as a result, shown a distinct improvement. There are at present eighteen Panchayats of this type working, and they have had the full co-operation of the Corporation and the Government; Sir P. Theagaraya Chetti, Khan Bahadur Habibulla Sahab, Messrs. Paddison, Gwynn, and Tottenham have, among others, taken a great interest in the working of the Committee, and have personally gone round the places to see the situation for themselves.

The supervision of the working of the Corporation Departments was not enough to keep up the interest in the working of our Committee, and so we decided to take up religious and educational work as well. A school was started in Pycroft Cheri. Two schools, conducted by the boys of the National

High School, Guindy, were taken over and the expenses paid during the holidays. Another school was organised some time later for the fishermen and Vaddars. The response from the people in this direction was marvellous. The schools are overcrowded and we had great difficulty in finding the necessary quarters. Two Parsi Theosophists of Bombay have given us Rs. 500 for one furnished cottage and one Jeweller from Baroda gave us Rs. 350 for another cottage. Three cycles have been presented for our volunteers, and while a friend gave a gramophone, another helper gave a kodak camera. Our work has therefore been particularly fortunate in getting helpful support. We have, however, had great difficulty in finding good land for our cottages, but there are Government lands available near the fishermen's quarters and the Vaddars' village and as soon as we are able to secure them our cottages will be built. The Collector of Madras City has also given us Rs. 250 for the construction of a cottage. Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas has contributed Rs. 200 towards our expenses. Thus we are making good progress in the educational direction, and are also helping the Poor Schools Society and other educational institutions.

We organised religious lectures side by side with these activities, and the services of three volunteers were specially engaged for this purpose. Our experience has been very encouraging, as religion appeals to every individual and practical self-sacrifice in the service of the community comes easy when the call is made through religious instincts. Bhajana parties have been our speciality, and we arrange musical concerts for the entertainment of the people in the slums.

We have printed over 20,000 leaflets and circulated them amongst the people. Our business is to try to make the people understand their duties and responsibilities. We find it is not necessary to tell them of their rights; the knowledge of their rights comes to them as soon as they begin to realise their responsibilities. We have also found that real solid public work based on love and co-operation makes a great impression upon the masses. They are enthusiastically responsive, and are more than willing to work with all, irrespective of caste or creed or political opinions.

The Secretary has had an opportunity to move about in the Bombay Presidency, and has held conversational meetings

and given lectures on the kind of work which the Committee has been doing. As a result it is believed that such work will be undertaken by young men in at least six centres in Maharashtra. It is hoped that shortly a whole time worker can be found who will undertake organising work there.

On October 1st, over 750 poor children were fed at the different places where our Panchayats are working, in order to celebrate the birthday of the President of the N. H. R. L. A major portion of the funds was contributed by members of the N. H. R. L., while a few workers contributed their quota.

During the coming year we desire to concentrate on the medical help needed in these localities. We shall arrange for house to house visits by qualified Ayurvedic physicians, and Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines will be supplied free. A friend has volunteered to give Homeopathic Medicines free, and we will introduce that also.

The women's branch has been well organised and our Sub-Committee has done good work among women. They have organised various meetings of women and have rendered very useful service.

V. R. KARANDIKAR,
Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING

THE Annual Meeting of the National Home Rule League was held on 31st December, under Rule 14 of its Constitution, but was adjourned to Saturday, 1st January, 1921, with Mrs. Besant, President of the League, in the chair.

Representatives from all the provinces except Bengal attended. Among those present were :

Mrs. Besant (Chairman), Madras ; Jamnadas Dwarkadas, M.L.A., Bombay ; Kanji Dwarkadas, Bombay ; D. K. Telang, Madras ; A. Rangaswami Aiyar, Madura ; F. Arundale, Madras ; A. J. Willson, Madras ; R. Seshagiri Rao, Madras ; H. Sankara Rao, Madras ; Vasanti P. Dalal, Bombay ; A. Ranganathan,

M. L. C., Bellary ; Ratansi D. Morarji, Bombay ; H. K. Patwardhan, Ahmednagar ; M. T. Vyas, Guindy ; P. M. Advani, Hyderabad, Sindh ; V. R. Karandikar, Madras ; Govind N. Paranjpe, Bombay ; Laxmi Sarabhai, Bhavnagar ; Bhagirathi Shri Ram, Bombay ; H. K. Mehta, Bombay ; V. G. Bhatt, Gujerath ; M. D. Panday, Benares ; P. Thakkar, Gujerath ; Ramachandra Shukla, Cawnpur ; M. B. Kolatkar, Cawnpur ; S. A. Hazare, Madras ; C. R. Parthasarathy Aiyangar, Chittoor ; S. V. Khandekar, Madras ; K. Hanumantha Rao, Madras ; M. Subramania Iyer, Madras ; R. Mudaliyandan Chetty, Madras, V. R. Samant, Madras ; V. N. Gupta, Madras ; R. G. Tilak, Poona ; N. G. Paranjpe, Cawnpur ; G. M. Bhatt, Madras ; A. Herington, Madras ; V. Ramaswami Iyer, Madras ; C. Jinarājadāsa, Madras ; Mavji Govindji Sheth, Bombay ; Yadunandan Prasad, Madras ; J. R. Aria, Madras ; C. S. Trilokekar, Madras ; Hirdaram Mewaram, Hyderabad (Sindh) ; B. Shiva Rao, Madras ; N. S. Rama Rao, Madras ; Jethmal Parsram, Hyderabad, Sindh ; N. Shri Ram, Bombay ; M. V. Krishnayya, Madras ; J. N. Dandekar, Madras ; Sakarbai M. Sheth, Gujerath.

The Annual Reports from the various Provinces were submitted, which the President summarised for the meeting. The Headquarters Balance Sheet for the year and eight months of the League's existence was submitted ; but as it was not duly audited by a certified auditor, the President directed that the same be so audited and resubmitted with the Annual Report to be printed and published.

Before the third item on the Agenda, election of the officers of the League, was taken up, it was suggested that the Constitution and the Rules of the League should be considered in view of the change that had been made in the Congress Creed, which was done and after prolonged consideration passed as follows :

Mr. D. K. Telang proposed and Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas seconded, that the words "as speedily as possible" be added after "for India" and "activity" be changed into "activities," in Object 1. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Ranganatham Mudaliar proposed and Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji seconded that the word "Commonwealth" be substituted for "British Empire" and in view of this "Imperial" be deleted, in Object 2. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji proposed and Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyar seconded that Object 3 be deleted altogether in view of the change in the Congress Creed, as the ideal of the Congress would henceforth be at variance with our own. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas moved and Mr. G. S. Arundale seconded that Object 4, run thus: "To co-operate with such political bodies as are working for objects similar to our own."

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas moved and Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji seconded that the General Council be elected every three years and that this form part of section 6. Passed unanimously.

The President directed that as section 10 was meant to have only temporary effect it be now deleted. It was agreed to.

Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas proposed and Mr. Ratansi D. Morarji seconded that "the next Election" be substituted for 31st December, 1920, in section 12. Passed unanimously.

The President proposed and Mr. Jamnadas seconded that section 13 read as follows: There shall be an Annual Meeting of the members of the League in December. A fortnight's notice shall be given by the General Secretaries to all Provincial Councils and Provincial Secretaries, who shall circulate it to their branches. A Report and Audited Balance Sheet shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting by the General Council. Passed unanimously.

The President proposed and Mr. D. K. Telang seconded that Section 15 be deleted as it was of temporary application only. It was agreed to.

Mr. Jamnadas proposed and Mr. Arundale seconded that the following clause be added to our Rules:

A special meeting of the General Body may be called at any time by the General Council, and must be called if demanded by a requisition signed by not less than 50 members, and sent to one of the General Secretaries. Passed unanimously.

Mr. C. Jinarajadasa reported that during his recent stay in Australia and England he had understood that many old members of our Auxiliary League in England and elsewhere were

desirous to continue their connection with the Home Rule League, and suggested that a clause should be added to our Rules to provide for unattached membership, not involving obligation of giving notices of meetings, etc. After discussion, it was decided to request the President and authorise her to make enquiries during her next visit to England, and then advise the Council on the proper course to adopt in the matter.

The question of affiliation to sister organisations was then discussed, and the following resolution was adopted :

This meeting directs the General Council to consult the officers of the National Liberal Federation as to laying down a basis for a working political party.

The following officers were then elected :

Hon. President : S. Subramania Iyer, LL.D.

General Council for 1921—1923 : Mrs. Annie Besant, Madras, was elected President with acclamation.

The following Vice-Presidents were then elected :

P. K. Telang, Bombay ; R. D. Morarji, Bombay ; Jamnadas Dwarkadas, M.L.A., Bombay ; Iqbal Narain Gurtu, M.L.C., U.P. ; A. Rangaswami Aiyar, Madras ; Purnendu Narayana Sinha, M.L.C., Bihar ; Jamshad N. R. Mehta, Karachi ; Hirendra Nath Datta, Bengal.

General Secretaries : D. K. Telang, Madras ; Kanji Dwarkadas, Bombay, were re-elected.

Treasurer : Ratansi D. Morarji, Bombay.

As there was no longer any special work for the Organising Secretary, the office was abolished.

After a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned to receive the Balance Sheet audited.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

THE Statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the National Home-Rule League for the period ending—31st September, 1920 is herewith enclosed duly certified. The statement is prepared from the entries in the Bank Pass Books, bills, and vouchers. Excepting one or two items all expenses are supported by proper vouchers. As the major portion of the receipts was from the President and as all payments were made by cheque, no cash book was maintained. However, it is essential to have a regular cash book also for recording all receipts and payments with details even if the items are few.

P. R. LAKSHMANRAM,
Qualified Auditor.

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF
PERIOD (FROM APRIL, 1919 TO 31ST**

S. No.	Receipts	Details		Totals	
		Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
1.	Donations			3,968	14 5
2.	Membership Subscription :				
	As per register	163	0 0		
3.	Received from Mr. C. R. P. Ayyangar ...	123	0 0	286	0 0
	Interest from Banks			70	8 8
				4,325	7 1

MADRAS

25th March, 1921.

Hon. Treasurer

THE NATIONAL HOME RULE LEAGUE FOR THE
DECEMBER, 1920) ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1920

S. No.	Payments	Details		Totals.	
		Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
1.	Printing :				
	Pamphlets	1,537	12 6		
	Translation	530	8 0		
	Parcel charges on above	64	1 0		
	Ordinary printing	34	8 0		
				2,166	13 6
2.	Reception to the President on her return from England :				
	Reception	164	2 6		
	Refreshment	122	11 0		
				286	13 6
3.	Poor feeding on the birthday of the President			183	0 0
4.	Postage and Telegrams (Foreign and Inland)			186	9 0
5.	Hall rent,			68	4 0
6.	Stationery			43	0 0
7.	Advertisement			18	0 0
8.	Bank charges			10	1 0
9.	Balance on 31-12-1920 in Bank			1,362	14 1
				4,325	7 1

Checked and found correct.

P. R. LAKSHMANRAM,

Qualified Auditor.

THE N. H. R. L. DEPUTATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mrs. Besant was given the following sums, to use as she wished :

1919	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Bombay ...	666	13	4	Publications ...	705	11	3
„ ...	600	0	0	Meetings ...	116	6	8
England during				Travelling and			
stay ...	1,350	0	0	Hotels ...	512	10	0
				Advertising ...	217	4	0
				Office expenses ...	120	8	4
				Help to establish			
				United India ...	686	10	0
				Postage ...	81	19	2
				Press Cuttings ...	25	4	0
				Miscellaneous ...	150	6	7
Total ...	£	2,616	13	Total ...	£	2,616	0
		4				0	0

NOTE.—The above cannot be said to represent the expenses of the N. H. R. L. Deputation. By the great kindness of English friends, three of its members throughout their stay, and the fourth on our journeys, were treated as honoured guests by generous friends. Travelling and meeting expenses were partially met by those who invited us, and many meetings covered their own expenses. We were in Great Britain for about six months.

A. B.

ALLIED SOCIETIES

HOME RULE FOR INDIA LEAGUE

BRITISH AUXILIARY

THIS body was founded on June 7, 1916, and was energetically carried on till the Reform Act was passed. It held a large number of public meetings through 1916—1919, and carried on a vigorous agitation to free Mrs. Annie Besant, Messrs. Wadia and Arundale from internment in 1917. The pressure put by it on members of Parliament did much in bringing about the declaration of August 20, 1917, and in permeating the Labour organisations with interest in Indian affairs. To Mr. George Lansbury, the President, and Mr. John Scurr, the Hon. Secretary, our most grateful thanks are due. Muriel, Countess De La Warr and Miss Barbara Villiers also deserve warm thanks for the work they have done.

The League sent over Mr. John Scurr to bring Mrs. Annie Besant over to Britain in 1919, to help in widening out the Reforms, and it bore part of the expenses of Mr. E. L. Iyer's tour in Great Britain in 1917, and also part of the tour of the N. H. R. L. Deputation in 1919.

In September, 1920, it was decided that as India had her feet set on the road to Home Rule by the Reform Act, and her progress thereon depended on herself, the special work of the League was finished. That which remained in the way of circulating information would be well done by the Parliamentary Committee with its network of Corresponding Members and its affiliations with Labour organisations. It was therefore resolved to dissolve the League, and this was carried out on September 9, 1920, after four years and a quarter of most valuable work.

The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditure of the League :

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF HOME RULE FOR INDIA
JUNE 7TH, 1916 TO SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1920

INCOME	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions and Donations	4,041	15	9
Special, for Albert Hall Meeting expenses	88	11	0
Sales	56	0	0
Total £	4,186	6	0

LEAGUE (BRITISH AUXILIARY) FROM FOUNDATION
(FOUR YEARS AND THREE MONTHS)

EXPENDITURE						£	s.	D.
Rent, Telephone, Telegraphic Address and Repairs						649	3	3
Salaries						662	2	0
Printing						999	14	6
Stationery						236	13	11
Newspapers and Cuttings						129	14	4
Postages and Telegrams						297	6	5
Organising Meetings						1,085	5	0
Sundries						32	0	1
Balance in hand						94	1	6
Total						£ 4,186	6	0

MURIEL DE LA WARR,
C. JINARAJADASA,

Joint Treasurers.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Chairman

Annie Besant.

Joint Secretaries

John Scurr.

B. P. Wadia.

Council

Sydney Arnold, M.P.	Neil Maclean, M.P.
Mrs. B. Ayrton Gould.	Mrs. J. Ransom.
Chas. Roden Buxton.	Robert Richardson, M.P.
John Cairns, M.P.	F. O. Roberts, M.P.
Muriel, Countess De La Warr.	Dr. Rutherford.
Mrs. C. Despard.	Mrs. Maud Sharpe.
Joseph Devlin, M.P.	G. Bernard Shaw.
William Graham, M.P.	W. R. Smith, M.P.
Major D. Graham Pole.	Philip Snowden.
Major Haden Guest, L.C.C.	Mrs. Philip Snowden.
Jamnadas Dwarkadas.	B. G. Spoor, M.P.
Lt.-Com. The Hon. J. C. Ken- worthy, M.P.	J. C. Swan, M.P.
George Lansbury.	P. K. Telang.
Lady Emily Lutyens.	Ben Tillett, M.P.
Wm. Lunn, M.P.	Miss Barbara Villiers.
H. W. Massingham.	Col. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P.

In addition to these, we had 152 Corresponding Members, scattered over the boroughs of England, Wales, and Scotland, through whom we sent out literature and information, who arranged meetings, spread interest about India, and acted as centres for Indian news. Pamphlets were circulated and large numbers of leaflets were distributed by them before the deputation visited a town. Their work was defined as to :

“ Draw the attention of their local M. P. to any approaching Indian matter in the House of Commons, and urge his attention to it and his vote on the side of reform, or, where needed, redress of wrong governmental action.

“ Influence residents of their locality to write in a similar sense.

“ Circulate information on Indian affairs sent to them by the Central Committee.

“ Correct untrue statements about India made in the local Press, and write to it in favour of reforms, and answering objections.

“ Generally, to give any help, and take any useful action in regard to urging on the British public their duty towards India.”

The following pamphlets were printed and issued for free distribution :

Indian Women's Association, Indian Labour (B. P. Wadia), Suggestions to Corresponding Members, Memorandum to Joint Committee (Annie Besant), Bombay Women's Resolution, Apart or Together (Annie Besant), Personnel of N. H. R. L. Deputation, Questions and Answers to Joint Committee (Annie Besant), Memorandum on Labour (B. P. Wadia), Case for India, Note on Budget (M. Ramachandra Rao), Coercion and Resistance in India (Annie Besant), Congress Speeches (Annie Besant), Home Rule for India Leaflets (1, 2, 7, 10, 13, 14), Note on Rules (M. Ramachandra Rao), *United India* Circular, Statement to Joint Committee on Labour (B. P. Wadia), Why India Wants Home Rule (Annie Besant), The Report, what we have Gained (Annie Besant).

Between 200 and 250 “ Trade Unions and Labour Organisations were affiliated to the Committee, to help in agitation for India's Freedom, to put pressure on Members of Parliament to vote for India's Freedom and Indian interests, and on Parliamentary Candidates to promise to support Indian Freedom and Indian interests”. This was due to the work of Mr. John Scurr, and these bodies ensured the success of our meetings all over India.

NEW ZEALAND AND INDIA LEAGUE

AN ORGANISATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN INDIA, BRITAIN, AND THE DOMINIONS

THE Second Annual Conference was held on January 1st, 1920, at Auckland. Miss C. W. Christie presided, and in her opening remarks made some reference to touching incidents, showing the wholehearted devotion of many in India who are working for their country's upliftment.

The work of the year included the publication of two pamphlets, *From Within the Iron Ring*, by Mrs. Besant, and *The Progress of Education under British Rule*. These pamphlets were distributed to members in over thirty different Centres, accompanied by a request to post copies to local M. P.s, Editors, Clergymen, School Teachers, and prominent Labour men. A number of letters on Indian affairs also were published by papers in various parts of the country.

During the Conference Mr. C. Jinarajadāsa gave an illuminative address; he spoke appreciatively of the work of the League, and inspired us to make greater efforts by telling us about the far-reaching effect of Mrs. Besant's work for India and the Empire.

He also told us how recruiting for Indentured Labour had been stopped in India largely through the efforts of the women; he further encouraged us to try and stop the system now in force in Samoa, for he held that it would be a great mistake for New Zealand in the beginning of her National life to endorse such an evil system. It was resolved to affiliate with "The Britain and India Association," also "The National Home Rule League".

The Conference was attended by members from all parts of the Dominion and many new members were enrolled.

During the year 1920, we issued two editions of our pamphlet on Indentured Labour, a number of copies were sent to members in over 30 centres, and in many cases these district representatives carried out their work effectively.

Miss C. W. Christie took up the suggestion of Mr. C. Jinarājādāsa, and by her untiring efforts arranged for the resident Indians to present an illuminated address to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, during his visit to New Zealand; she was heartily supported by our local Hon. Secretary in Wellington, Mrs. Donaldson, whilst two Indians, Mr. Mapara in Wellington and Mr. Chottalal in Auckland, arranged to get the necessary signatures and financial contributions. At the civic function in Wellington, Mr. Mapara presented the address of welcome, and Miss Christie and he were heartily applauded.

After the new Immigration Restriction Bill had been drafted, a deputation of the League and some Indians waited on Sir W. Herries, the Minister in charge of the Bill, pointing out the danger of the clause which leaves the entire power to restrict or admit immigrants in the hands of the Minister of Customs, if they be not British or Irish born. Further the Bill does not indicate what the qualifications of the desirable immigrant are. Both the League and the Indians favoured a higher education test, if further restrictions were needed. We also pointed out that Indians were vaguely classified as Asiatics, whereas the Indian Immigrants here are almost entirely Aryan and citizens of the Empire.

Finally, after courteously discussing the matter with us, he promised to put our views before the Cabinet.

A few days later a short Conference was held with the Parliamentary Labour Party; the friendly attitude of the M.P.s towards the Indians was gratifying; Mr. W. E. Parry, M.P., remarked that in the flax-milling industry he found the Indians were good Trade Unionists, and he would as soon organise them as Europeans; they held together as well and paid their subscriptions more readily. One point we endeavoured to emphasise was that in raising the status and economic conditions of the Indians here, we were sure to help in bringing about better conditions in India.

Whilst here Mr. C. Jinarājādāsa wrote a fine letter to the press; this encouraged others to try and do likewise. The local Hon. Secretary for Wellington, Mrs. Donaldson, replied to a series of articles written in a Wellington paper from the standpoint of British commercial interests in India. Later on Mrs. Donaldson replied to a Manifesto of

the Returned Soldiers' Association dealing with the Colour Question, and suggested that a public debate be arranged on the question, but the Association discreetly declined. Perhaps the letter in the press helped them to see the weakness of their case. Miss P. Rowley, the local Hon. Secretary for Invercargill, also did some fine press work during the year. We have also been instrumental in arranging for the book, *India a Nation* to be more widely read, and have presented copies of *The Commonwealth*, *United India* and *Britain and India* to several public libraries, whilst Indian Magazines have been circulated amongst the representatives of the League in various large centres; a similar use was made of a number of copies of the pamphlet *Labour Problems in India*, sent to us by Mr. B. P. Wadia. This pamphlet also provided the basic material for a series of articles written by myself for the *Maoriland Worker*.

The utility of the League was manifested in one way by a student of the Victoria University College writing to the League for material to support his side in a college debate, which affirmed that a fuller measure of Self-Government should be quickly granted to India. Another promising sign is the confidence wherewith the Indians approach the League officials for advice and help.

Owing to their short stay in New Zealand, the League was unable to arrange a programme of activities for Mr. Narayan Dup Singh and his clever wife.

JOHN GRIFFITHS,

Hon. Secretary.

WOMEN'S INDIAN ASSOCIATION

THE work has gone on well and steadily during the past year. Most of the Branches have a splendid record of work to show. Two or three Branches have become dormant, but we hope not beyond revival. Five new Branches have been started. So we now have forty-seven Branches and over 1,600 members.

We have now incorporated into our objects a clause to secure for women the vote for all Councils, and the right to be elected as members of all Councils. A great deal of work to

secure these ends has been done by the Association for the last three years, and our members consider that we should now definitely stand to attain these objects added to the original "Objects" of the Association. We have also affiliated ourselves with the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, to link up with the women in all the world.

The Educational work done by many of the Branches has been most excellent and useful. Space forbids going into detail, but in many places the W. I. A. Branch is a centre for education, culture and progress for women. Our journal, *Stri Dharma*, is beginning a new lease of life, Mr. Hebbler of the Kanara Press, Madras, having undertaken to publish it and defray the cost, Mrs. Cousins and myself being the Editors. The paper is now issued monthly, its size largely increased, but it is no longer issued free; members now pay Rs. 2 per annum, and non-members Rs. 4, single copies being As. 8.

I myself have been absent from India during the whole year and have only just returned, but the work has been most ably carried on by Mrs. Cousins, B. Mus., who is now our Joint Secretary. With these two exceptions, the work is entirely carried on by Indian women.

DOROTHY JINARĀJADĀSA,

MARGARET COUSINS,

Hon. General Secretaries.