



REPORT
OF
THE SEVENTEENTH
Indian National Congress

HELD AT
CALCUTTA,
ON THE 26th, 27th & 28th DECEMBER,

1901.



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SOME OF ENGLAND'S PLEDGES TO INDIA.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT OF 1833.

That no native of the said territories (India), nor any natural-born subject of His Majesty resident therein, shall, by reason only of his religion, place of birth, descent, colour, or any of them, be disabled from holding any place, office, or any employment under the said Government (Act 3 and 4, Wm. IV., c. 85, s. 87, 1833).

Her Majesty's Proclamation in 1858.

We hold ourselves bound to the natives of our Indian Territories by the same obligations of duty which bind us to all our other Subjects; and those obligations, by the Blessing of Almighty God, we shall faithfully and conscientiously fulfil.

* * * * *

And it is our further will that, so far as may be, our Subjects, of whatever Race or Creed, be freely and impartially admitted to Offices in our Service, the Duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge.

LORD NORTHBROOK ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

"There is one simple test which we may apply to all Indian questions; let us never forget that it is our duty to govern India, not for our own profit and advantage, but for the benefit of the natives of India."

LORD LYTTON'S SPEECH AT THE DELHI ASSEMBLAGE ON 1st JANUARY 1877.

"But you, the natives of India, whatever your race and whatever your creed, have a recognised claim to share largely with your English fellow-subjects, according to your capacity for the task, in the administration of the country you inhabit. This claim is founded in the highest justice. It has been repeatedly affirmed by British and Indian statesmen, and by the Legislation of the Imperial Parliament. It is recognised by the Government of India as binding on its honour and consistent with all the aims of its policy."

LORD RIPON IN THE VICEREGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"The document (Her Majesty's Proclamation) is not a treaty, it is not a diplomatic instrument, it is a declaration of principles of Government which, if it is obligatory at all, is obligatory in respect to all to whom it is addressed. The doctrine, therefore, to which Sir Fitzjames Stephen has given the sanction of his authority, I feel bound to repudiate to the utmost of my powers. It seems to me to be inconsistent with the character of my Sovereign and with the honour of my country, and if it were once to be received and acted upon by the Government of England, it would do more than anything else could possibly do to strike at the root of our power and to destroy our just influence. Because that power and that influence rests upon the conviction of our good faith more than upon any other foundation, aye, more than upon the valour of our soldiers and the reputation of our arms."

LORD DUFFERIN'S SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF HER MAJESTY'S JUBILEE IN 1887.

"Glad and happy should I be if, during my sojourn among them (the people of India), circumstances permitted me to extend, and to place upon a wide and more logical footing, the political status which was so wisely given, a generation ago, by that great statesman, Lord Halifax, to such Indian gentlemen as by their influence, their acquirements, and the confidence they inspired in their fellow-countrymen, were marked out as useful adjuncts to our Legislative Councils."

LORD LANSDOWNE IN THE VICEREGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, 9th JANUARY 1891.

* * * "the Proclamation of 1858, which Government of India regards as in the highest degree obligatory upon it." * * *

CONTENTS

	Pages.
Summary of the Resolutions passed at the Seventeenth Congress ...	1—9
Detailed Report of the Proceedings of the Congress ...	10—186
First Day's Proceedings ...	11—73
Preliminary Remarks ...	12—15
Miss Ghosal's Songs ...	12—15
Speech of Maharajah Jagadindra Nath Roy Bahadoor (<i>Chairman of the Reception Committee</i> , ...)	15—24
Election of the President ...	23—24
Speech of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee (<i>Proposing Mr. D. E. Wacha as President</i>) ...	23
" Mr. Ananda Charlu ...	23
" Mr. Mudholkar ...	23—24
" Maharajah Jagadindra Nath Roy Bahadoor (<i>Chairman of the Reception Committee, declaring Mr. D. E. Wacha duly elected</i>) ...	24
Inaugural Address of the President Mr. D. E. Wacha ...	24—70
Appointment of a Subjects Committee ...	70—73
Assembly adjourned	
Second Day's Proceedings ...	74—109
Remarks of Mr. J. Ghosal (<i>About the Rules for the conduct of business</i>) ...	74
Rules read out and adopted by the Assembly ...	"
First Resolution put from the Chair ...	"
Death of the Late Queen Empress Victoria ...	"
The new King Emperor ...	"
The Late Mr. Justice Ranade ...	"
Moulvie Kodabux's Letter ...	"
Mr. W. S. Caine's Letter ...	75—76
Second Resolution ...	76
Speech of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee (<i>Proposing 2nd Resolution as to London Committee</i>) ...	76—78
Speech of the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta (<i>Seconding 2nd Resolution</i>) ...	
Speech of Mr. Ananda Charlu (<i>Supporting 2nd Resolution</i>) ...	78—79
" Pundit Madan Mohan Malavya (<i>Supporting 2nd Resolution</i>) ...	79—81
" Chiste ...	81
Third Resolution (<i>The poor in India</i>) ...	82—97
Speech of Mr. Mudholkar (<i>Proposing 3rd Resolution</i>) ...	82—88
" Mr. G. V. R. Pantalu (<i>Seconding 3rd Resolution</i>) ...	88—95
" Mr. B. Palchowdhury (<i>Supporting 3rd Resolution</i>) ...	95—97
Fourth Resolution (<i>Judicial and Executive Functions</i>) ...	97—105
Speech of Mr. Gour (<i>Proposing 4th Resolution</i>) ...	97—100
" Hon'ble Mr. S. Rao (<i>Seconding 4th Resolution</i>) ...	100—101
" Mr. Ambica Charan Mazumdar (<i>Supporting 4th Resolution</i>) ...	101—105
Fifth Resolution (<i>The Privy Council</i>) ...	105—107
Speech of Mr. K. C. Banerjee (<i>Proposing 5th Resolution</i>) ...	105—106
" Mr. P. S. Iyer (<i>Seconding 5th Resolution</i>) ...	107
Sixth Resolution (<i>The Indians in South Africa</i>) ...	107—109
Speech of Mr. Gandhi (<i>Proposing 6th Resolution</i>) ...	107—109
" Mr. A. Pillai (<i>Seconding 6th Resolution</i>) ...	109
Third Day's Proceedings ...	110—186
Seventh Resolution (<i>Police Reform</i>) ...	110—121
Speech of Mr. S. Sinha (<i>Proposing 7th Resolution</i>) ...	110—112
" Mr. V. R. Nambiar (<i>Seconding 7th Resolution</i>) ...	113—114
" Mr. Tara Pada Banerjee (<i>Supporting 7th Resolution</i>) ...	114—117
" Mr. G. N. Misra (do.) ...	117—119
" Mr. Hem Chander Roy (do.) ...	119—120
" Babu Rajani Kanta Sircar (do.) ...	120—121

Eighth Resolution (<i>Famine in India</i>)	131—144
Speech of Mr. Subramania Iyer (<i>Proposing 8th Resolution</i>)	121—129
" " Mr. S. N. Samartha (<i>Seconding 8th Resolution</i>)	129—131
" " Mr. N. Ramasami Aiya (<i>Supporting 8th Resolution</i>)	131—142
" " Mr. Jadu Nath Majumdar (do.)	142—143
" " Mr. Joseph Benjamin (do.)	143—144
Ninth Resolution (<i>Wider Employment of Natives of India</i>)	144—152
Speech of Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee (<i>Proposing 9th Resolution</i>)	144—151
" " Mr. Abal Kasim (<i>Seconding 9th Resolution</i>)	151—152
Tenth Resolution (<i>Cost of British Troops in India</i>)	152—157
Speech of Mr. Dixit (<i>Proposing 10th Resolution</i>)	152—153
" " Mr. C. Y. Chintamani (<i>Seconding 10th Resolution</i>)	154—155
" " Mr. Smedley (<i>Supporting 10th Resolution</i>)	155—157
Eleventh Resolution (<i>Cadet Corps for Indian Princes</i>)	157—160
Speech of Dr. Sarat K. Mullic (<i>Proposing 11th Resolution</i>)	157—159
" " Mr. M. A. Chiste (<i>Seconding 11th Resolution</i>)	156—160
Twelfth Resolution (<i>Education of India</i>)	160—164
Speech of Mr. N. R. Pundit (<i>Moving 12th Resolution</i>)	160—161
" " Mr. Tilak (<i>Seconding 12th Resolution</i>)	161—162
" " Mr. A. Chowdhuri (<i>Supporting 12th Resolution</i>)	162—163
" " Mr. Maheswar Prasad (do.)	164
Thirteenth Resolution (<i>Coolie's Wages in Assam</i>)	164—168
Speech of Mr. Jogendra Chander Ghose (<i>Moving 13th Resolution</i>)	164—167
" " Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal (<i>Seconding 13th Resolution</i>)	167—168
" " Mr. Lolit Mohun Ghosal (<i>Supporting 13th Resolution</i>)	168
Fourteenth Resolution (<i>The Medical Profession in India</i>)	168—170
Speech of Mr. M. N. Banarjee (<i>Moving 14th Resolution</i>)	168—170
" " Dr. Nilratan Sircar (<i>Seconding 14th Resolution</i>)	170
Fifteenth Resolution (<i>Agriculture in India</i>)	170—172
Speech of Rai Yatindra Nath Chowdhury (<i>Moving 15th Resolution</i>)	170—171
" " Mr. Carama (<i>Seconding 15th Resolution</i>)	172
" " Mr. N. K. Ramaswami Iyer (<i>Supporting 15th Resolution</i>)	171
" " Moulavi Khoja Mohamad Noor (<i>Supporting 15th Resolution</i>)	171—172
" " Dr. Sureshwar Mukerjee (<i>Supporting 15th Resolution</i>)	172
Sixteenth Resolution (<i>Economic Questions in India</i>)	173—175
Speech of Mr. Murali Dhar Roy (<i>Moving 16th Resolution</i>)	173—175
" " Mr. Pyari Lal Ghose (<i>Seconding 16th Resolution</i>)	175
" " Mr. Hur Kissen Lal (<i>Supporting 16th Resolution</i>)	175
Seventeenth Resolution (<i>Currency Legislation</i>)	175—179
Speech of Mr. Wadia (<i>Proposing 17th Resolution</i>)	175—179
" " of Mr. Khare (<i>Seconding 17th Resolution</i>)	179
Eighteenth Resolution (<i>Mining College</i>)	179—180
Speech of Kumar Ramessur Malia (<i>Moving 18th Resolution</i>)	179—180
" " Babu Suresh Chunder Roy (<i>Seconding 18th Resolution</i>)	180
Nineteenth Resolution (<i>The Omnibus</i>)	181
Reappointment of Mr. A. O. Hume as General Secretary and of Mr. D. E. Wacha as Joint General Secretary Mr. P. M. Mehta (<i>Proposing the Resolution</i>)	182
Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee (<i>Seconds</i>)	182
Carried unanimously	182
Vote of thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Reception Committee by the President	182
Vote of thanks to the President	182
Speech of Lal Mohun Ghose	182—184
" " Moulvi Abul Kasim Seconds	184
The Presidents concluding Remarks	186—187
Appendix I. List of delegates who attended the 17th Congress	1—xxiv