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Resolutions adopted by the XXIInd Indian National Congress.

T

Condolence.—This Congress desires to place on record its sense of the great loss which the Congress and the country at large have sustained by the death of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Mr. Justice Budruddin Tyabji and Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose, ex-Presidents of the Congress and Mr. M. Viraraghava Chariar of Madras. Their great public services and the example of duty and of self-sacrificing devotion which they presented in their lives entitle them to the lasting gratitude of the country.

A copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the families of the late Messrs. Bonnerjee, Tyabji, Bose and M. Viraraghava Chariar, over the signature of the President of the Congress.

II.

Indians in the Colonies.—This Congress, while noting with satisfaction the action of the Imperial Government in disallowing, for the present, the proposed Ordinance against British Indians in the Transvaal, desires to give expression to its grave apprehension that unless the Imperial Government continues to extend its firm protection to the British Indian community, the policy of the Ordinance is almost certain to be enforced as soon as arrangements under the constitution recently granted are completed.

This Congress also places on record its sense of deep regret and indignation that the people of this country should be subjected to harassing and degrading restrictions and denied the ordinary rights of British citizenship in His Majesty's Colonies, and the Congress expresses its firm conviction that such a policy is fraught with serious danger to the best interests of the Empire.

III

Retrenchment in Military Expenditure.—This Congress renews its protest against the excessive and alarming growth of military charges in recent years and their undue preponderance in the public expenditure of the country.

This Congress is of opinion that as the military expenditure of the country is determined, not solely by its own military needs and requirements, but also by the exigencies of British supremacy and British policy in the East, it is only fair that a reasonable share of such expenditure should be borne by the British Exchequer.

This Congress strongly urges that, by a substantial reduction of military expenditure and by a steady substitution of the Indian for the European agency in the Public Services, funds should be set free to be devoted to the promotion of education in all its branches, to improve sanitation and to the relief of the Ryot's burdens, such as, a further reduction of the Salt-tax, a reduction of the land-revenue demand of the State and measures for dealing with agricultural indebtedness.

IV

Separation of Judicial from Executive Functions In the opinion of this Congress the separation of Judicial from Executive Functions, which is admittedly necessary in the interests of good government and sound judicial administration, should no longer be deferred.

V

Validity of wakf-i-ala-aulad. In view of the general opinion amongst Mahomedans that the recent decisions of the Privy Council against the validity of the wakf-i-ala-aulad are against the Mahommedan Law, this Congress is of opinion that a Commission should be appointed by the Government to enquire whether the Privy Council has not erred in its decisions, having regard to the law, usage and sentiments of the Mahommedan people; and if it be found that the decisions are erroneous, this Congress urges that steps should be taken to give legal effect to the right view.

VI

The Partition of Bengal.—This Congress again records its emphatic protest against the Partition of Bengal and regrets that the present Government, while admitting that there were errors in the original plan and that it went wholly and decisively against the wishes of the majority of the people of Bengal, is disposed to look upon it as a settled fact, in spite of the earnest and persistent protest of the people and their manifest disinclination to accept it as final.

This Congress, composed of representatives from all the Provinces of this country, desires earnestly to impress upon the British Parliament and the present Liberal Government that it will be not only just, but expedient to reverse or modify the Partition in such a manner as to keep the entire Bengali-speaking community under one undivided administration and thus restore contentment to so important a province as Bengal.

$\mathbf{v}II$

Boycott Movement.—Having regard to the fact that the people of this country have little or no voice in its administration, and that their representations to the Government do not receive due consideration, this Congress is of opinion that the Boycott Movement inaugurated in Bengal by way of protest against the partition of that province was and is legitimate.

VIII

Swadeshi.—This Congress accords its most cordial support to the Swadeshi movement and calls upon the people of the country to labour for its success by making earnest and sustained efforts to promote the growth of indigenous industries and to stimulate the production of indigenous articles by giving them preference over imported commodities even at some sacrifice.

IX

Self-Government.—This Congress is of opinion that the system of Government obtaining in the self-governing British Colonies should be extended to India and that as steps leading to it, it urges that the following reforms should be immediately carried out:—

(a) All examinations held in England only should be simultaneously held in India and in England and that all higher

appointments which are made in India should be by competitive examination only:

- (b) The adequate representation of Indians in the Council of the Secretary of State and the Executive Councils of the Viceroy and of the Governors of Madras and Bombay:
- (c) The expansion of the Supreme and Provincial Legislative Councils, allowing a larger and truly effective representation of the people and a larger control over the financial and executive administration of the country.
- (d) The powers of local and municipal bodies should be extended and official control over them should not be more than what is exercised by the Local Government Board in England over similar bodies.

\mathbf{x}

Education.—This Congress repeats its protest against the policy of the Government in respect of high and secondary education as being one of officialising the governing bodies of the Universities and restricting the spread of education. The Congress is of opinion that the Government should take immediate steps for (i) making primary education free and gradually compulsory all over the country, (ii) assigning larger sums of money to secondary education (special encouragement being given, where necessary, to educationally backward classes), (iii) making the existing Universities more free from official control and providing them with sufficient means to take up the work of teaching, and (iv) making adequate provision for technical education in the different Provinces, having regard to local requirements.

XI

National Education.—In the opinion of this Congress the time has arrived for the people all over the country earnestly to take up the question of National Education for both boys and girls and organise a system of Education—Literary, Scientific and Technical—suited to the requirements of the country, on national lines and under national control.

XII

Thanks to the British Committee.—This Congress desires to convey to Sir William Wedderburn, Bart. and the other members of the British Committee, its most grateful thanks, for their disinterested services in the cause of India's political advancement.

XIII

Condolence:—That this Congress desires to place on record its sense of the deep sorrow and of loss to India of the sudden death of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Samuel Smith and that a copy of the fore-going resolution be communicated to the members of his family.

XIV

Land-Tax.—This Congress is of opinion that the prosperity of an agricultural country like India cannot be secured without a definite limitation of the State demand on land, such as was proposed by Lord Canning in 1862, or by Lord Ripon in 1882; and it regrets that Lord Curzon, in his Land Resolution of 1902, failed to recognise the necessity of any such limitation and declined to accept the suggestions of Sir Richard Garth, and other memorialists in the matter. The Congress holds that a reasonable

and definite limitation of the State demand is the true remedy for the growing impoverishment of the agricultural propulation.

This Congress respectfully protests against the view that the Land-Revenue in India is not a tax, but is in the nature of rent.

xv

Thanks to Mr. Gokhale.—This Congress records its sense of high appreciation of the eminent public service rendered by the Hon'ble Mr. G. K. Gokhale, C.I.E., during his recent visit to England, as the Delegate of the Congress.

XVI

This Congress adopts tentatively for one year the following recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Congress appointed at Benares last year:-

I. Provincial Congress Committee

- (a) The Committee recommends that each Province should organize at its Capital a Provincial Congress Committee in such manner as may be determined at a meeting of the Provincial Conference or at a special meeting, held, for the purpose of representatives of different districts in the Province.
- (b) The Provincial Congress Committee should act for the Province in all Congress matters and it should be its special care to organize District Associations throughout the Province for sustained and continuous political work in the Province.

II. Central Standing Committee of the Congress

The Committee recommends that the Congress should appoint every year a Central Standing Committee for all India ito carry out the Resolutions of the Congress, and to deal with urgent questions which may arise and which may require to be disposed of in the name of the Congress, and that this Committee should consist of:-

12 members from Bengal, Behar, Assam and Burma Madras 8 Bombay 8 ,, United Provinces 6

" 97 Punjab 6 ,, "

Central Provinces ,,

Berar

the President of the year and the General Secretaries being exofficio members in addition.

III. Selection of President

In the matter of the selection of President in future years, the Committee recommends that the following scheme should be adopted :-

The Provincial Congress Committee of the Province in which the Congress is to be held should organize a Reception Committee in such manner as it deems proper for making arrangements for the Congress Session, and the choice of the President should in the first instance rest with the Reception Committee, if, after consulting Provincial Congress Committees, the Reception Committee is able to make the choice by a majority of at least threefourths of its members. If, however, no such majority can be obtained to support the nomination of any person, the question should be referred to the Central Standing Committee of the Congress, and the decision of this Committee should be final.

[v]

IV. Subjects Committee

The Committee recommends that the Subjects Committee, appointed at each Session of the Congress to settle its programme of work, should consist of:—

25 representatives of Bengal, Behar, Assam and Burma

~0	robroson		
15	- ,,	"	Madras
15	"	,,	Bombay
10	**	"	United Provinces
10	**	**	Punjab
6	***	' 33	Central Provinces
4	44		Berar

and 10 additional members for the Province in which the Congress is held, elected by the delegates attending the Congress from the respective Provinces in such manner as they deem proper; and that the President of the year, the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the year, all ex-Presidents and all ex-Chairmen of Reception Committees who may be present at the Congress, the General Secretaries of the Congress and the local Secretaries of the Congress for the year should, in addition, be exofficio members of the Subjects Committee.

XVII

This Congress resolves that the next Congress assemble at Nagpur.