

REPORT

OF THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH



INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

V2,41185p

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38654

HELD AT



GA YA

ON THE

26th, 27th, 29th, 30th and 31st December, 1922.

PATNA

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Muradpore, Patna and Published by RAJENDRAPRASAD,

Secretary, Reception Committee.

1923

INTRODUCTION.

When the Indian National Congress met at Ahmedabad in the month of December, 1921, a large number of delegates from Bihar attended it, and at a private meeting of their own decided to invite the Congress to hold its next session in Bihar. But the Congress, on account of the then political situation in the country was unable to fix the place of its next session and left it to be decided by the All India Congress Committee or its Executive body, the Working Committee. The question was ultimately decided by the Working Committee at its sittings in Calcutta in April 1922. The Bihar Provincial Congress Committee met at Gaya under the Presidentship of Sjt. Deep Narayan Singh on 4th May, 1922, and formed a Reception Committee for making arrangements for the Congress. It considered Gaya as the most suitable place for the Congress for the year in Bihar. The reception Committee held its first meeting on the following day and provisionally appointed the Treasurer, the General Secretary and his assistants and an Executive Committee to carry on its work. Later on the election of office bearers with certain additions was confirmed and Babu Brajkishore Prasad was elected Chairman of the Reception Committee. The work of collecting funds for the Reception Committee commenced early but on account of the monsoons having commenced and lasted rather longer than usual, much progress was not made until October. At a subsequent meeting of the Reception Committee it was decided to hold an Exhibition along with the Congress. It was further decided that the Exhibition should be confined to Khaddar, including a practical demonstration of all the processes of preparing silk, woollen and cotton Khaddar of all descriptions, coarse as well as fine.

Apart from the collection of funds the preparation of a plan for the Pandal and residential quarters for delegates was also taken in hand, and the lease of plot of land at the foot of the Brahmayoni hill was taken. On a survey of the plot it was, however, discovered that it was too small to accommodate the Congress and Khilafat camps and the other national assemblies which are held in the Congress week. The site at which the Congress was actually held was ultimately secured on the bank of the Phalgu and a plan of the Pandal and residential quarters following the Ahmedabad model was prepared by Mr. H. K. Banerjee, Engineer of Calcutta who voluntarily placed his services at the disposal of the Reception Committee. It was felt that in the severe cold of Gaya, it was not possible to accommodate the delegates in huts covered only with Khaddar, and that we must have straw huts. On account of the rather unusually heavy and prolonged rains, the work of construction could not be taken in hand until about the middle of October. The foundation stone of the Pandal and Swarajyapuri, as the Congress grounds were named, was laid by Maulvi Haji Syed Khurshad Husnan and Babu Rajendra Prasad with due Muslim and Hindu ceremonies. The work of construction of the Pandal was entrusted to Messrs. B. C. Dutt and Co. of Calcutta while that of Swarajyapuri to Messrs. Buxi and Sons of Patna. The Gaya Municipality was approached and gladly consented to supply water to Swarajyapuri without any charge and the work of laying out pipes was entrusted to Messrs. Anjum and Co. of Gaya.

It must be mentioned here that the difficulties of arranging a session of the Congress in a place like Gaya without the facilities of big cities like Calcutta and Bombay are enormous. Suffice it to say that we had to build a city of our own, with its own arrangements of water supply, conservancy, lighting, conveyance etc.

As the site of the Pandal was some three miles off from the Railway station

and about a mile and a half from the main town, and as it was not possible to find sufficient accommodation for all the delegates and visitors in houses in the town, the Reception Committee had decided to erect huts. We had 36 blocks of huts of 192'x24' each, containing 12 rooms of 16'x24', each accommodating 8 persons. We had also 5 blocks for accommodation of families each having 8 rooms and a separate kitchen and a block of separate privies reserved for ladies staying in them. Besides these there were blocks of different sizes, for accommodating the large number of volunteers, and one block for the various offices of the Reception Committee. On both sides of the residential blocks and at some distance from them was a series of trenches partitioned off into compartments for privies. There were also water pipes for bath near the privies, and on the north side there was also arrangement for hot water for bath. The reception Committee undertook to supply only the two principal meals to the delegates and had erected a number of rooms each for kitchen with a large quadrangle in the middle. The Provincial Congress Committees were given the option to make their own messing arrangements for delegates from their own Provinces, the Reception committee supplying them with accommodation and provisions and they engaging their own cooks to prepare food to suit the delegates of their respective Provinces. The Reception Committee of the Khilafat Conference had very kindly undertaken to arrange for the lodging and boarding of the Musalman delegates to the Congress. The Reception Committee had also arranged to lodge the President and some of the distinguished guests in the town. In Swarajyapuri itself a bazar was opened for the sale of food stuffs and other necessaries.

The Pandal was made of a wooden and bamboo structure covered entirely with Khaddar. It was elliptical in shape and the extreme length and the breadth of the ellipse were 370 ft. and 255 ft. respectively. It was divided into blocks for the various Provinces, visitors and members of the Reception Committee etc. and was tastefully decorated with flags, festoons and portraits of distinguished leaders supplied by the firm of Goras studio of Benares and Mr. Mahulikar of Ahmedabad. A life size portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, specially painted for the occasion by Mr. C. Nageshwar Rao, and another of Rana Pratap Singh were also hung in two very prominent places on the platform. The main entrance to the Pandal was a gate after the pattern of the Buddhist gate of Sanchi and a round pillar standing in the middle with a lion as its capital was an imitation of one of Asoka's Pillars in which the Province abounds. In the Pandal compound there were shops and windows for tickets, the hall for the Subjects Committee, the electric power house and a press which had to be set up to cope with the large amount of printing required for the Congress. Just behind the main gate was a beautifully laid out garden with four marble fountains.

The Exhibition was held in the separate compound of a bungalow lent by Babu Mohan Lal Pathak of Gaya. The compound was tastefully decorated and apart from the stalls for the sale of Khaddar, silk, wool and cotton goods, there were several demonstration Stalls, each for showing the actual processes of making Khaddar. The process of dyeing Khaddar was demonstrated by Volunteers from the School of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray of Bengal.

Under the constitution of the Congress the minimum fee for becoming a member of the Reception Committee was Rs. 25/- and there were 2666 members enrolled. The same amount was fixed as the lowest fee for visitors. It had been decided early to encourage ladies of Bihar, where strict Parda prevails to attend the Congress, and the Reception Committee had fixed the admission fee for them to be Rs. 10/-. It had also been decided to reserve a separate block for the free accommodation of 1,000 persons who had suffered imprisonment in the country's cause and to admit one hundred Sadhus, fifty Ulemas and two

hundred Akalis free of charges. To enable poorer kissans (agriculturists) to see the Congress, it had been decided to admit 1,000 of them at the reduced entrance fee of Rs. 5/- each. As for others the admission fees for various classes of visitors were Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 500/-, Rs. 250/-, Rs. 100/-, Rs. 50/-, and Rs. 25/-. For admission to the Exhibition the fee was four annas daily, while for admission to the Pandal ground when the Congress was not being held or to enable visitors to attend public lectures by such distinguished leaders as Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya a similar fee of four annas was charged. The fee charged for the two meals supplied in the Reception Committee kitchens was Rs. 1/8—per day per head, and the seat rent for staying in the residential blocks for the season was Rs. /3—per head. It need hardly be pointed out that many persons had for various reasons not only to be admitted free to the Congress but also to be lodged and sometimes even fed free in the kitchen.

The number of persons joining the Reception Committee was 2666 including 28 ladies. The total number of ladies attending the Congress in their various capacities of members of the Reception Committee, delegates, visitors and volunteers cannot be exactly given, but is believed to be not less than 500 by no means small and a number when the rigour of Parda in this Province is borne in mind. The accommodation for about 200 ladies on the balcony in the Pandal was insufficient and quite a large number of them sat in a block reserved for them in front of the dais. The number of persons attending the Congress was estimated to be over 12000. There were 3848 delegates registered in all, but under a ruling of the President declaring those elected after the 15th December and those in substitution of others, are not to be treated as delegates but only as visitors.

Apart from the ex-prisoners, the Akalis, the Sadhus, the Ulemas and the agriculturists, another special feature of the Congress was the presence of about 250 persons belonging to the aboriginal tribes of Chotanagpur, most of whom had walked all the way, about 150 miles or so, from the interior of the district of Ranchi, with their own rice, fuel and earthen cooking pots to have a sight of the great national assembly. The Reception Committee had to do very little for them, as they had brought all that they needed with themselves, and were quite content to live in an orchard reserved for them and to squat on the passage floor in the Congress Pandal.

The Reception Committee had to encounter great difficulties in collecting funds part from the natural causes, such as the rains which made it impossible for us to make tours, particularly in the District of Gaya. It may also be mentioned that the myrmidons of the bureaucracy did all they could, especially in the District of Gaya but in some other places also, to prevent rich people from giving pecuniary aid to the Reception Committee. At one time the Reception Committee felt so hard pressed for money that it had to adopt a resolution authorizing the members of the Executive Committee to borrow Rs. 50,000 on their personal responsibility for the expenses of the Congress. This Resolution stung all the Congress workers and people throughout the province to the quick, and it must be noted with gratitude and gratification that all our financial difficulties were over in less than a fortnight's time and while we were not without misgivings until after the end of the Congress, we felt assured that after all we could manage to keep ourselves above water.

The organisation of volunteers was one of the most difficult things. It was also undertaken rather late. It may be pointed out that at Gaya most of the volunteers from Behar were from amongst the villagers, men most of whom had no English education, many not even much of Hindi education, but

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all inspired by the ideal of service and sacrifice for the country. There were some people belonging to the educated middle classes, such as pleaders, students, particularly of national institutions, merchants from Jharia and other places. There were also volunteers who came to help the Reception Committee from outside the province, such as, the volunteers from Delhi, from Bombay, from the Kashi Vidyapitha and the Benares Hindu University and the boy scouts from Raipur. Our thanks are due to all for the very heavy and onerous work they had to do. The first thing to which the volunteers had to put their hand was the construction of the pandal itself. The contractor being unable to complete it in time, the Reception Committee had to take it up departmentally and had it not been for the willing and ungrudging service rendered by the volunteers of all classes who did not hesitate for a moment to do the work of coolies, the Pandal could not have been made ready for the Congress.

It remains only to thank all the gentlemen who helped the Reception Committee. Special mention must be made of the heads of the various departments to whose zeal and untiring efforts is due what little success can be claimed on behalf of the Reception Committee. Also thanks of the Reception Committee are due to Chairmen & Members of the District Board & Municipal Board for rendering such assistance as they could.

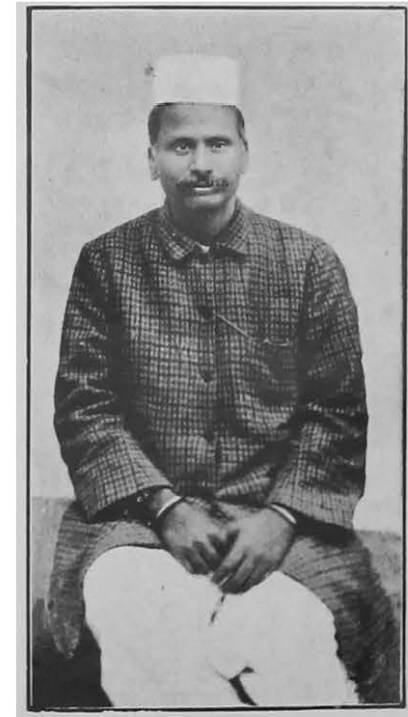
RAJENDRA PRASAD,
General Secretary.



Deshbandhu Chitranjan Das,
*President, 37th Indian National
Congress, GAYA.*



Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in the Rostrum.
(Modern Review.)



Srj. Brajakishore Prasad,
Chairman, Reception Committee.

APPENDIX. I

List of the Office bearers and members of the Executive Committee Office bearers.

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. | Babu Braj Kishore Prasad | ... | ... | <i>Chairman.</i> |
| 2. | „ Rajendra Prasad | ... | ... | <i>Secretary.</i> |
| 3. | „ Anugrah Narain Sinha | ... | | <i>Joint Secretary.</i> |
| 4. | „ Mukutdhari Varma | ... | | „ |
| 5. | M. Bashirul Haque | ... | | „ |
| 6. | Babu Gauri Shanker Sharan Sinha | ... | | „ |
| 7. | Nawab Syed Mubarak Ali, M. L. C. | ... | | <i>Treasurer.</i> |

Members of the Executive Committee All the office-bearers Ex-officio.

1. Babu Mahendra Prasad.
2. M. Mir Shafayet Husain.
3. „ Latifur Rahman.
4. Babu Nemdhari Sinha.
5. Chaudhary Karamat Husain.
6. Babu Chotelal J. Jani.
7. M. Quazi Ahmad Husain.
8. Babu Rambinod Sinha.
9. „ Jamuna Prasad Sinha.
10. „ Dasarath Lal.
11. „ Manik Chand.
12. „ Nripendra Chandra Mitra.
13. M. Abdul Bari.
14. Babu Ram Charitra Sinha.
15. „ Rajkishore Lal Nandkeoleyar.
16. „ Arunjay Sahay Verma.
17. „ Amir Prasad Sinha.
18. „ Dip Narayan Sinha.
19. „ Gorakh Prasad.
20. M. Mazharul Haque.
21. Babu Banarasi Prasad Jhunjhunwala.
22. „ Nageshwar Prasad Sharma.
23. „ Shiw Nath Prasad.
24. Rai Hari Prasad Lal.
25. „ Suraj Prasad Mahajan.

List of the members of the Exhibition Sub-Committee.

1. Babu Mahendra Prasad.
2. „ Banarasi Prasad, Jhunjhunwala.

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3. Babu Ashutosh Chatterjee (Secretary)
4. „ Deep Narayan Sinha.
5. „ Lakshmi Narayan Varma.
6. „ Suraj Prasad Varma.
7. „ Madan Gopal Joshi.

**Names of gentlemen in charge of the various departments
noted against their names.**

Mr. Manthreshwar Sharma	...	Publicity work.
Babu Mukutdhari Prasad Varma	...	Water Supply.
„ Badarinath Varma	...	Captain of Volunteers.
„ Mahendra Prasad	...	Kitchen.
„ Banarasi Prasad Jhunjhunwala.	...	Exhibition
„ Anugrah Narayan Sinha		Office.
„ Shiwnath Prasad	...	.. Lighting.
„ Deep Narayan Sinha	}	Reception, Decoration of town and music.
„ Krishna Prakash Sen Sinha		
„ Gorakh Prasad	}	... .. Pandal.
„ Mathura Prasad		
„ Baidyanath Prasad Sinha.	...	Decoration of Pandal.
„ Bepin Behari Varma.	...	Superintendent Swaraj puri.
„ Narayan Prasad Sinha.	...	Conservancy.
„ Ramkishore Lal Nandkeoleyar	...	Transport, and conveyance.
Dr. Arunjay Sahay Verma	...	Medicine.

List of members of the Finance Committee.

1. Babu Deep Narayan Sinha.
2. Babu Banarasi Prasad Jhunjhunwala.
3. Babu Anugrah Narayan Sinha.
4. Chairman Reception Committee.
5. Secretary. Chairman Reception Committee,

APPENDIX. II
37th INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
RECEPTION COMMITTEE,
G A Y A.

Statement of accounts
Balance Sheet as on 4th December 1923.

Receipts.	Disbursements.
1 Membership fee ... 73950 0 0 (2666 members)	1 Kitchen ... 20526 14 3
2 Delegate's fee (including rejected delegate's fee) 38480 0 0	2 Swarajyapuri ... 28209 14 3
3 Donation ... 38332 13 9	3 Pandal ... 20283 7 9
4 Visitor's fee ... 28215 15 0	4 Transport ... 14186 0 3
5 Rent and taxes ... 9111 0 0	5 Light ... 13008 2 3
6 Exhibition ... 2485 15 3	6 All India Cong. Com. ... 16215 0 0
7 Interest ... 82 11 9	7 Printing and Paper ... 9643 2 9
8 Lost property ... 45 1 0	8 Water supply ... 8355 4 0
190703 8 9	9 Volunteers ... 7449 9 3
	10 Hire on Khaddar ... 6660 0 0
	11 Reception of guests ... 4156 3 9
	12 Miscellaneous ... 3207 10 0
	13 Office
	Pay 1877 1 0
	Messing 1084 6 0 2961 7 0
	14 Travelling ... 2443 11 3
	15 Music ... 2452 8 6
	16 Badges ... 1394 13 0
	17 Decoration... 1336 2 0
	18 Stationery ... 1728 0 6
	19 Stores (stretchers &c.) 1507 2 0
	20 Railway freight ... 1103 4 6
	21 Refreshments ... 1833 8 0
	22 Reporting ... 1057 0 0
	23 Suspence ... 985 0 9
	24 Postage &c. ... 374 0 3
	25 Medical relief ... 46 7 0
	26 Conservancy ... 1020 6 0
	27 Commission ... 181 3 3
	28 Dt. Cong. Com. ... 1175 8 0
	29 Loan ... 1667 15 9
	Difference ... 0 11 0
	30 Bank of Bihar ... 38 0 3
	Balance with P.C.C. 15495 7 3
	190703 8 9

I have examined the above statement of a/c with the books and vouchers of the above Committee and I beg to report that I have obtained all the informations and explanations that I required. The above statement exhibits a true and correct state of the above committee's affairs. Kitchen Dept. accounts were audited by the local auditor and certified statement of a/c of the Kichen Dept. submitted to me.

Sd. C. H. Supariwalla

Anugrah Narayan Sinha,
Asst. Secretary, Reception Committee.

APPENDIX. III

Kitchen Department.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.			
1.	From the General Fund of the Reception Committee	36300	15 0	To Purchase of food materials	...	...	8461 3 0
2.	From Sale of materials	...	...	To Purchase of Ghee &c.	...	...	9853 14 0
	Meal coupons	3818	3 10½	To Purchase of Sugar	...	...	764 3 0
	Food stuffs	3428	4 9	To Purchase of Spices &c.	...	...	931 15 3
	Oil	11	2 6	To Purchase of Vegetables	...	...	1261 4 0
	Utensils	486	6 9	To Purchase of Utensils	...	...	3152 11 0
	Surplus materials	6812	4 9	To Purchase of fuel	...	...	1565 12 9
		14556	6 7½	To Cost of building materials	...	...	3009 8 0
3.	Suspense Account	...	...	To Servants wages	...	...	4065 1 3
			477 9 0	To Transport	...	...	851 2 9
				To Refund of meal Charges	...	...	2 4 0
				To Arrear of meal coupons	...	...	533 3 6
				To Miscellaneous expenses	...	...	420 7 1½
				To General office Reception Committee	...	...	806 4 9
				To Suspense account	...	...	228 2 3
							35907 0 7½
						Balance	15427 14 0
							51334 14 7½
			51334 14 7½				51334 14 7½

AUDITOR'S NOTE:—I am satisfied that the above statement of accounts is correct to the best of my knowledge and information and in the light of the books and Vouchers supplied to me.

PATNA,

20-11-23

H. B. CHANDRA,

Hon. Auditor.

ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA,

Asst. Secretary,

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

MAHENDRA PRASAD,

(Incharge Kitchen Department.)

APPENDIX IV.

Exhibition Department.

Receipts.	Rs.	A.	P.	To Price of Exhibits and * travelling charges of De- monstrators and their re- muneration	Rs.	A.	P.
From sale of visitor's tickets and stall rent. ...	6478	5	3	... ..	3992	6	0
				Balance ...	2485	15	3
					<u>6478</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>

* This item does not include the sum of Rs.1500/—which was paid to contractors for building the exhibition stalls and demonstration sheds shown under head Pandal nor does it include the cost of medals certificates, and prices which have not yet been incurred and which may come to nearly a thousand rupees. Taking the two figures together the net result is that there was practically neither loss or gain under thishead.

ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA,
Assistant Secretary.

B. P. JHUNJHUNWALLA,
Incharge of Exhibition.

**Statement showing the number of delegates
who were enrolled from the various Congress Provinces.**

Serial No.	Names of Provinces.	No. of delegates returnable.	No. of delegates actually enrolled.
1	United Provinces	960	575
2	Andhra	360	299
3	Gujrat	185	196
4	Bengal	986	555
5	Keral	160	25
6	Maharashtra	292	142
7	Karnatak	320	199
8	Bombay	18	16
9	Burma	100	99
10	Punjab	540	274
11	Sindh	71	48
12	Delhi	100	69
13	Rajputana and Ajmer	400	228
14	Utkal	300	120
15	Central Provinces (Marathi)	50	43
16	Assam	63	55
17	Berar	61	43
18	Madras	410	175
19	Central Provinces (Hindi)	209	161
20	Behar	588	526

N. B.—Out of 3848 delegates who were enrolled 600 delegates were rejected under the ruling of the President of the Congress, being returned either in excess of the number allotted to the Province, as in case of Gujerat or returned after the 15th of December, which was the case with almost all the Provinces. They were admitted in the Pandal as visitors and were not permitted to exercise the right to vote on the resolutions.