

REPORT

OF

THE SIXTEENTH

INDIAN

NATIONAL CONGRESS,

HELD AT

LAHORE,

On the 27th, 28th and 29th December,

1900.

THE Sixteenth Indian National Congress,

HELD ON

THE 27TH, 28TH, AND 29TH DECEMBER, 1900.

LAHORE.

RESOLUTION I.

Resolved—That Rule 4 of the Constitution of the Congress Committee be amended as follows :

Amendment
of the Con-
stitution of
the Indian
Congress Com-
mittee.

“ Its affairs shall be managed by a Committee styled the Indian Congress Committee consisting of, besides the *ex-officio* members referred to below, 45 Members elected by the Congress, 40 of whom shall be elected upon the recommendations of the different Provincial Congress Committees, and, in the absence of such Committees, by the delegates of the respective Provinces in Congress assembled, in the manner hereinbelow laid down, that is to say :—

For Bengal including Assam	...	...	...	...	7
“ Bombay including Sind	...	...	...	...	7
“ Madras	...	...	...	...	7
“ N.-W. P. including Oudh	...	...	...	...	7
“ Punjab	...	...	...	...	6
“ Berar	...	...	...	...	3
“ Central Provinces	...	...	...	...	3

The *ex-officio* members shall be the President of the Congress and President-elect from the day of his nomination, the Ex-Presidents of the Congress, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Congress, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, the Secretary of the Reception Committee to be nominated by the Reception Committee.

The term of office of the Members of the Committee shall be the period intervening between two ordinary meetings of the Congress.”

RESOLUTION II.

Resolved—That having regard to the oft-recurring famines in India, and the manifestly decreasing power of resistance on the part of its population in the face of a single failure of harvest, leading as it frequently does to human suffering, loss of life, destruction of live-stock, disorganisation of rural operations, and interference with the legitimate work of the administrative machinery, the Congress hereby earnestly prays that the Government of India may be pleased to institute at an early date a full and independent enquiry into the economic condition of the people of India with a view to the ascertainment and adoption of practicable remedies.

Enquiry into
the economic
condition of
the People of
India.

RESOLUTION III.

Resolved—That having regard to the devoted and loyal services rendered by Indian soldiers in the service of the Empire, the Congress again urges on the Government—

Employment
of natives of
India in
higher grades
of Military
Service and
the Establish-
ment of
Military
Colleges.

- (a) The desirability of throwing open to them the higher grades of the Military Service; and
- (b) The establishment of Military Colleges in India, at which Natives of India, as defined by Statute, may be educated and trained for a military career, as Commissioned or Non-Commissioned Officers, according to capacity and qualifications, in the Indian Army.

RESOLUTION IV.

Resolved—That this Congress notices with satisfaction the support of public opinion, both in England and in India, which the question of the separation of the judicial from the executive functions in the administration of justice has received; and this Congress, while thanking Lord Hobhouse, Sir Richard Garth, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Charles Sergeant, Sir William Markby, Sir John Budd-Phear, Sir John Scott, Sir Roland K. Wilson, Mr. Herbert J. Reynolds and Sir William Wedderburn for presenting a petition to the Secretary of State

Separation of
the Judicial
from the
Executive
Functions.

in Council to effect the much-needed separation, earnestly hopes that the Government of India will give their earliest attention to the petition, which has been forwarded to them, and will take practical steps for speedily carrying out this much-needed reform.

RESOLUTION V.

Employment
of Indians in
Minor Civil
Services.

Resolved—That the Congress regrets the practical exclusion of natives of India from the higher appointments in the Police, the Public Works, the State Railways, the Opium, the Customs, the Telegraph, the Survey and other Departments, and prays that full justice be done to the claims of the people of India in regard to these appointments.

RESOLUTION VI.

Elective
principle in
Universities.

Resolved—That this Congress regrets the suspension of the privileges accorded to the graduates of a certain standing, of the Calcutta University, to return Fellows to the University, and the fact that effect is not given to the provisions of the Act constituting the Punjab University with regard to the election of Fellows by the Senate, and is of opinion that it is desirable, in the interests of sound education, to confer the privilege of electing Fellows upon the graduates of Indian Universities where it does not exist, and of extending it where it does exist.

RESOLUTION VII.

Thanks to His
Excellency
the Viceroy.

Resolved—That this Congress desires to record its gratitude to H. E. the Viceroy for the benevolence of his famine policy, and for his firm resolve to uphold the interests of order and justice, as evidenced in the regulations recently issued regarding the grant of shooting passes to soldiers and his proceedings in connection with the Rangoon and O'Gara cases.

RESOLUTION VIII.

Technical
Education.

Resolved—That this Congress places on record its conviction that the system of technical education now in vogue is inadequate and unsatisfactory, and prays that, having regard to the poverty of the people and the decline of indigenous industries, the Government will introduce a more elaborate and efficient scheme of technical instruction, and set apart more funds for a successful working of the same. And this Congress desires to express its grateful appreciation of the patriotic and munificent gift of Mr. Tata for the promotion of higher scientific education and research.

RESOLUTION IX.

Laws for
Berar.

Resolved—That this Congress is of opinion that so long as Berar is administered by the Governor-General in Council, all laws and orders having the force of law, intended for Berar, should be enacted by the Supreme Legislative Council in the same way as those for British India proper.

RESOLUTION X.

Omnibus.

Resolved—(i) That this Congress concurs with previous Congresses in strongly advocating—

- (a) A modification of the rules under the Arms Act so as to make them equally applicable to all residents in, and all visitors to, India, without distinction of creed, caste or colour; to ensure the liberal concession of licenses wherever wild animals habitually destroy human life, cattle or crops; and to make all licenses, granted under the revised rules, of life-long tenure, revocable only on proof of misuse, and valid throughout the Provincial jurisdiction in which they are issued.
- (b) The authorizing and stimulating of a widespread system of Volunteering, such as obtains in Great Britain, amongst the people of India.
- (c) The discontinuance of the grant of Exchange Compensation allowance to the non-domiciled European and Eurasian employees of Government.
- (d) The establishment of a High Court of Judicature in the Punjab.

(ii) That this Congress, concurring with previous Congresses, records its protest—

- (a) Against the scheme of reorganization of the Educational Service which has received the sanction of the Secretary of State, as being calculated to exclude Natives of India, including those who have been educated in England, from the superior grade of the Educational Service to which they have hitherto been admitted, advocating that the scheme may be so recast as to afford facilities for the admission of Indian graduates to the superior grade of the Educational Service.

- (b) Against the present rate of the Salt Tax, which produces great hardship to the poorer classes of the country, a hardship which renders it incumbent upon the Government to take the earliest opportunity to restore the duty to its level of 1888.
- (c) Against the retrograde policy of the Government of India in nominating a gentleman for the Central Provinces to the Supreme Council without asking local bodies to make recommendations for such nomination, entertaining the earnest hope that the Government will be pleased to take early steps to give to the Central Provinces the same kind of representation that it has already granted to Bengal, Madras, Bombay and the North-Western Provinces.
- (d) Against the labour laws of Assam, *viz.*, the Inland Emigration Act I of 1882, amended by Act VII of 1893.
- (iii) This Congress, concurring with previous Congresses, expresses its conviction—
- (a) That, having regard to the opinion of the Jury Commission as to the success of the system of trial by jury, and also the fact that with the progress of education a sufficient number of educated persons is available in all parts of the country, the system of trial by jury should be extended to the districts and offences to which at present it does not apply, and that the verdicts of juries should be final.
- (b) That this Congress is of opinion that it is desirable in the interests of the people of this country that the Criminal Procedure Code should be so amended as to confer upon accused persons, who are Natives of India, the right of claiming, in trials by jury before the High Court, and in trials with the aid of assessors, that not less than half the number of the jurors or of the assessors shall be Natives of India.
- (c) That the action of the Forest Department, under the rules framed by the different Provincial Governments, prejudicially affects the inhabitants of the rural parts of the country by subjecting them to the annoyance and oppression of Forest subordinates in various ways; and these rules should be amended in the interest of the people.
- (d) That the minimum income assessable under the Income Tax Act should be raised from five hundred to one thousand rupees.
- (e) That no satisfactory solution of the question of the employment of Natives of India in the Indian Civil Service is possible, unless effect is given to the resolution of the House of Commons of June 1893 in favour of holding the Competitive Examination for the Indian Civil Service simultaneously in India and England.

RESOLUTION XI.

Resolved—That this Congress, while expressing its grateful acknowledgments for the annual contribution of £2,57,000 promised to be made from the British to the Indian Exchequer in accordance with the recommendations of the majority of the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, respectfully desires to point out that for doing adequate justice to the claims of India so far as admitted by that Commission it is necessary that she should be granted the arrears payable on this account for the past many years, and prays that the British Parliament will be pleased to make this grant.

Grant from the British Exchequer.

RESOLUTION XII.

Resolved—That the Congress hereby approves of the suggestion presented by the Indian Congress Committee for the consideration of this Session that at least half a day at EACH annual Session of the Congress be devoted to the consideration and discussion of the Industrial and Educational problems of the country. Further resolved that annually two Committees be appointed by the Congress, one for the Educational and one for the Industrial subjects, to consider and suggest means for the Educational and Industrial improvement of the country and to assist therein, and that to each Committee a Secretary be annually appointed. These Committees shall divide themselves into Provincial Committees with power to add to their number.

Half a day of the Congress Session reserved for Industrial and Educational problems.

RESOLUTION XIII.

Resolved—That the following Memorial be submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy in Council by a deputation consisting of the following gentlemen:—

Memorial to the Viceroy.

Hon'ble P. M. Mehta.
 „ W. C. Bonnerjee.
 „ Ananda Charlu.
 „ Surrendro Nath Bannerji.
 „ Munshi Madho Lal.
 Mr. R. N. Mudholkar.
 „ R. M. Sayani.
 „ Harkishen Lal.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, on behalf of the delegates assembled at the 16th Session of the Indian National Congress at Lahore in December last, have the honour to submit most respectfully for the consideration of Your Excellency in Council the accompanying Resolutions passed by that assembly, and specially the following questions which have long been before the country, and which, in the opinion of the Congress, now await a speedy solution of a practical and beneficent character.

1. The question of the extreme desirability of separating judicial from executive functions has now been so well recognised, and there exists such a strong consensus of opinion on the subject, official and non-official, that your Memorialists are earnestly of hope that the Government will be pleased at an early date to introduce this popular reform in the administration of the country.

2. The increasing poverty of the peasantry in the greater part of the country, and their consequent inability to maintain themselves without State and private benevolence at the very outset of scarcity or famine, is another pressing problem. Your Memorialists are fully aware of the fact that the serious attention of the Government has been engaged on it, and they trust that some efficacious remedy will be soon found which may greatly contribute to mitigate that severe poverty and enable the peasantry to better resist the strain which years of bad harvests or scarcity may entail on them.

3. That in view of the condition to which the recent famines have reduced the ryots the Government will be so good as to cause an exhaustive inquiry to be instituted into their growing impoverishment by means of an independent Commission.

RESOLUTION XIV.

Punjab to be made a Regulation Province.

Resolved—That the Congress respectfully urges upon the Government that in its opinion the time has come when the Punjab should be constituted into a Regulation Province.

RESOLUTION XV.

Liquor Laws and Temperance.

Resolved—That this Congress views with grave alarm and deep regret the rapid increase in the consumption of intoxicants, specially liquor, in this country, and the Congress is of opinion that the cheap supply of liquor, &c., is alone responsible for this. The Congress, therefore, fervently appeals to the Government of India to pass measures like *the Maine liquor law of America*, and introduce Bills like Sir Wilfrid Lawson's *Permissive Bill* or the *Local Option Act*, and impose an additional tax upon intoxicants not intended to be used as medicine. The Congress records its firm conviction that if the Government do not take these practical steps immediately, the moral, material and physical deterioration of those classes, among whom liquor, &c., have obtained a firm hold, would be inevitable; and as intoxicants have already affected the great labouring class, the benevolent intention of the Government to help the growth of the Indian Arts and Industries would bear no fruit. The Congress gives great importance to this question, which, it strongly believes, is intimately connected with the material progress of the country, and emphatically protests against the cheap supply of liquor, &c.

RESOLUTION XVI.

Expression of confidence in Mr. W. S. Caine.

Resolved—That this Congress offers its sincere and hearty congratulations to Mr. W. S. Caine on his election to Parliament, and expresses its confidence in him as a trusted friend of the people of India and a promoter of their best interests.

RESOLUTION XVII.

Expenses of the British Committee.

Resolved—That a sum of Rs. 30,000 be assigned for the expenses of the British Committee and the cost of the publication of "India."

RESOLUTION XVIII.

Engineering Colleges.

Resolved—That, in the opinion of the Congress, the new rules restricting the number of Indians eligible to qualify themselves for employment in the Engineering Branch of the Indian Public Works Department, through the Cooper's Hill College, to a maximum of two only in a year, should be withdrawn as a matter of bare justice to the people of this country, and that the said College should be made available equally for the use of all subjects of Her Majesty; and the Congress is further of opinion that the invidious distinction made between Indians and Anglo-Indians as regards the guaranteed appointments in connection with the College at Roorkee should be withdrawn and that these appointments should be made available to all Her Majesty's Indian subjects in all parts of the country.

RESOLUTION XIX.

Appreciation of services of Messrs. Naoroji and

Resolved—That this Congress begs to record its high and grateful appreciation of the services rendered to this country and the Congress movement by Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, and Mr. A. O. Hume, and to express its regret at the retirement

of Sir William Wedderburn from Parliament, where he rendered great and valuable services to ^{Hume and} this country, and hopes that he may soon return to Parliament to renew his labour of love for ^{Sir Wm. Wed-} the people of India. ^{derburn.}

RESOLUTION XX.

Resolved—That this Congress once more draws the attention of the Indian Government ^{Disabilities of} as well as of the Secretary of State for India to the grievances of the British Indians in South ^{Indian settlers} Africa, and earnestly hopes that in view of the re-arrangement of the boundaries in that ^{in South} Continent and the incorporation of the late Boer Republics into the British dominions, the disabilities under ^{Africa.} which the Indian settlers laboured in those Republics, and as to which Her Majesty's Government owing to their independence in internal matters felt powerless to obtain redress, will now no longer exist, and that the serious inconvenience caused to the settlers in Natal, among others by the Immigration Restrictions and the Dealer's Licenses Acts of that Colony, which are manifestly inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the British constitution as also the Proclamation of 1858, will be materially mitigated, if not entirely removed.

RESOLUTION XXI.

Resolved—That the Congress begs to suggest to the Government of India that ^{Indian Mem-} qualified Indian members, representing the different Provinces, may be nominated to the Com- ^{bers on the} mittee, recently formed, in connection with the proposal of starting Agricultural Banks in India. ^{Agricultural} ^{Banks Com-} ^{mittee.}

RESOLUTION XXII.

Resolved—That this Congress desires to put on record its deep sense of the loss ^{Regret at the} sustained by the death of Bakhshi Jaishi Ram, who was one of the staunch supporters of the Con- ^{death of} gress for many a year and rendered valuable services to it in connection with his own Province. ^{Bakhshi} ^{Jaishi Ram.}

RESOLUTION XXIII.

Resolved—That while thanking the Government of India for its intention to investigate ^{Land Assess-} the question of the incidence and pressure of the land assessment as affecting the well-being and ^{ment.} resources of the agricultural population, the Congress respectfully urges upon the Government the desirability of including within the scope of the contemplated investigation the question of periodical settlement of assessments and the necessity repeatedly pointed out by the Congress of making it permanent. This Congress further prays that the Government of India may be pleased to publish the opinions invited from Local Governments and Administrations, on the subject referred to in para. 4 of the Resolution of the Government of India (Revenue and Agricultural Department) published in the *Gazette of India* dated 22nd December 1900, and allow the public an opportunity to make their representations thereon before the Government decides whether further investigation is necessary or not in the terms of the said Resolution.

RESOLUTION XXIV.

Resolved—That the Congress respectfully submits that the provisions of the Indian ^{Mines Bill.} Mines Bill, so far as they impose restrictions on the employment of labour, be omitted, and that the penal provisions thereof may not be put in force for a period of 5 years, and that, in the meantime, mining schools be opened in suitable centres where young men may qualify themselves for employment under the Act.

RESOLUTION XXV.

Resolved—(a) That this Congress appoints Mr. A. O. Hume, C. B., the General ^{Secretaries} Secretary, and Mr. D. E. Wacha the Joint General Secretary, ^{for 1901.} for the ensuing year.

(b) That the following gentlemen do constitute the Indian Congress ^{Indian Con-} Committee for 1901. ^{gress Com-} ^{mittee for} ^{1901.}

Ex-officio Members.

1. The Hon'ble W. C. Bonnerjee (1885).
2. The Hon'ble Dadabhai Naoroji (1886).
The Hon'ble Budrudin Tyabji (1887).
(Now Judge, Bombay High Court).
- (Dead) (1888).
3. Sir William Wedderburn (1889).
4. The Hon'ble Pheroz Shah Mehta (1890.)
5. The Hon'ble Ananda Charlu (1891).
The Hon'ble W. C. Bonnerjee (1892).
(Second time).
The Hon'ble Dadabhai Naoroji (1893).
(Second time).
6. Alfred Webb, Esq., (1894).
7. The Hon'ble Surendro Nath Bannerji (1895).

8. The Hon'ble R. M. Sayani (1896).
9. The Hon'ble C. Sankaran Nair (1897).
10. The Hon'ble A. M. Bose (1898).
11. R. C. Dutt, Esq. (1899).
The Hon'ble N. G. Chandavarkar (1900).
(Now Judge, Bombay High Court).
12. D. E. Wacha, Esq., General Secretary.
13. Alfred Nundy, Esq., Assistant Secretary.
14. Chairman of the Reception Committee, Calcutta.
15. Secretary of the Reception Committee, Calcutta.
16. President-elect of the Congress, for 1901.

General List—

Mr. J. Ghosal.
Pandit Bishambar Nath.
Mr. R. N. Mudholkar.
Hon'ble Vyra Raghava Chariar.
Mr. W. A. Chambers.

Bengal—

Hon'ble Baikunthanath Sen.
Mr. Saligram Sing.
„ Ambica Charan Mozamdar.
„ Motilal Ghose.
Rai Yatindranath Chowdhury.
Mr. Bhupindranath Basu.
„ Prithwis Chunder Roy.

N.-W. P. and Oudh—

Hon'ble Munshi Madho Lal.
Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.
Mr. Bishen Narayan Dhar.
Munshi Gunga Pershad Varma.
Mr. S. Sinha.
Pandit Pirthi Nath.
Hafiz Abdul Rahim.

Madras—

Mr. P. Rungiya Naidu.
„ G. Subramania Iyer.
Hon'ble Nawab Syed Mahomed Bahadur.
Mr. P. Ram Chunder Pillai.
„ V. Ryrn Nambiar.
„ P. Resava Pillai.
„ G. Srinavas Rao.

Bombay—

Mr. Rustom K. R. Karna.
„ Daji Abaji Khare.
„ C. H. Sitalwad.
Hon'ble Professor G. K. Gokhale.
Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
„ R. P. Karandikar.
„ Tahil Ram Khemchand.

Berar—

Mr. M. V. Joshi.
„ Deorao Vinayak.
„ G. S. Khaparde.

Central Provinces—

Mr. Buparoodwada.
„ Krishna Rao Vaman.
„ Raoji Gobind.

Punjab—

Rai Bahadur Babu Kaji Prasunno Roy, Pleader, Chief Court.
Lala Harkishen Lal, Barrister-at-Law.
Rai Sahib Sukh Dial, Pleader, Chief Court.
Lala Lajpat Rai, Pleader, Chief Court.
„ Dharam Das Suri, Pleader, Chief Court.
„ Kanhaya Lal, Pleader, Chief Court.

c) That the following gentlemen do form the Industrial Committee, with Mr. Harkishen Lal as Secretary, for 1901. The Industrial Committee for 1901.

Bengal—

Hon'ble Baikuntha Nath Sen.
Kumar Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdry.
Mr. Pulin Bihari Sarkar.
" Radharaman Kar.
" J. Chowdhry.
" Bhupendra Nath Bose.
" Akhoy Kumar Moitra.
" Gaganendra Nath Tagore.
" Mohini Mohan Chakravarti.
" Akhoy Kumar Majumdar.
" Kali Prosunno Kayvabisarad.
" Lalit Chandra Sen.
" Promode Gobinda Chowdhry.
" Tarapada Banerji.

Punjab—

Mr. Harkishen Lal.
" Lajpat Rai.
" Balak Ram.
" Dwarka Das.
" Kashi Ram.
" Duni Chand.
" Lal Chand.
" Prabhu Dyal.

Bombay—

Professor Gajar.
Mr. J. N. Tata.
" D. E. Wacha.

N.-W. P. and Oudh—

Mr. Bansilal Singh.
" Ganga Prasad Varma.
" S. Sinha.
" K. P. Basak.
" Bipin Bihari Bose.
Pundit Madhan Mohan Malaviya.

Central Provinces—

Mr. Raoji Gobind.

Madras—

Mr. C. Sankaran Nair.
" G. Subramania Iyar.
" P. Kesava Pillai.
" K. P. Achyuta Menon.
" T. Rangachari.
Hon'ble P. Ratnasabhapati Pillai.
" V. Venkataratnam.

Berar—

Mr. D. V. Bhagawat.
" R. N. Mudholkar.
" Devrao Vinayak.
" Ganesh Nagesh.

(d) That the following gentlemen do form the Educational Committee, with Mr. Harkishen Lal as Secretary, for 1901. The Educational Committee for 1901.

Bengal—

Hon'ble A. M. Bose.
" S. N. Banerji.
Dr. Nilratan Sircar.
Mr. Heramba Chandra Moitra.
" Aswini Kumar Dutt.
" Peary Lal Ghosh.
" Raghu Nath Das.
" Prithwis Chandra Roy.
" Krishna Kumar Mitra.
" Syama Churn Roy.

(4)

Punjab—

Mr. Harkishen Lal.
„ Lajpat Rai.
„ Balak Ram.
„ Ishwar Das.
„ Lal Chand.
„ Shadi Lal.

Bombay—

Hon'ble Professor G. K. Gokhale.
Mr. Chiman Lal H. Sitalwad.
„ Rustom K. R. Kama.
„ B. G. Tilak.

N.-W. P. and Oudh—

Mr. A. Nundy.
„ Madan Mohan Malaviya.
„ Bishen Narayan Dar.
„ G. L. Moitra.
„ Ganga Prasad Varma.
„ Ramananda Chatterji.
„ Bipin Bihari Bose.
„ K. P. Basak.
Pundit Hari Ram Pande.
„ Tej Bahadur Bapru.

Central Provinces—

Mr. S. B. Gokhale.

Madras—

Hon'ble Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu, C. I. E.
„ C. Vijayaraghvachariar.
„ Rai Bahadur C. Jambulingam Mudaliar.
Mr. V. Ryrn Nambiar.
„ C. Karunakara Menon.
„ V. C. Desikchiar.
„ S. Kasthuriranga Iyengar.

Berar—

Mr. M. V. Joshi.
„ R. N. Mudholkar.
„ G. S. Khaparde.
„ D. V. Bhagawat.

LAHORE :

The 30th December 1900. }

N. G. CHANDARVARKAR,

President, 16th Indian National Congress.