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REPORT
OF THE
Foreign Cloth Boycott Committee

(March 1929—December 1929)

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Report.

The Working Committee of the Congress at its meeting in New Delhi on the 17th and 19th February 1929 appointed the following persons with power to co-opt, to constitute the Foreign Cloth Boycott Committee :

MAHATMA GANDHI (CHAIRMAN)
PANDIT MOTILAL NEHRU
PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA
MOULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD
DR. M. A. ANSARI
PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

The Committee was required to carry out the following item of the Congress programme :

"Inside and outside the legislatures methods suited to respective environments shall be immediately adopted to bring about boycott of foreign cloth by advocating and stimulating production and adoption of handspun and handwoven Khaddar."

The Committee commenced its work on 1st March 1929, A report of its work upto 30th April was submitted to the Working Committee at its meeting in Bombay on 23rd May. At that meeting the Foreign Cloth Boycott Committee coopted the following members :

SETH JAMNALAL BAJAJ
SJT. VALLABBHAI J. PATEL
.. SATISH CHANDRA DAS GUPTA
.. JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM

The following paragraphs briefly describe the main work done by the Committee in the period since then upto the middle of December.

It is not necessary in this report to refer again to the methods of work employed by the Committee to carry out the Congress programme through the agency of Congress Committees and with the co-operation of local bodies. These have been described in the last report.

Propaganda Tours

It was felt as a result of the first two months' experience that the organisation of propaganda tours would speed the progress of the Boycott movement. With that end view propaganda tours were arranged by the Committee. In all seven provinces were covered and the following 25 towns visited during the months of June, July, September and October

SIND

Karachi
Hyderabad
Sukkur
Larkana
Shikarpur
Rohri

PUNJAB

Multan
Amritsar
Lahore
Ferozepur

DELHI

Delhi

N. W. Frontier

Rawalpindi
Peshawar

GUJRAT

Ahmedabad
Surat

MAHARASHTRA

Poona

KARNATAK

Dharwar
Hubli
Bellary
Gadag
Bagalkot
Bijapur
Athani
Belgaum
Gokak

Seth Jamnalal Bajaj and Sjt. Jairamdas Doulatram Secretary of the Committee toured in Sind, Punjab and the Frontier Provinces. During the Sind tour Pandit Malaviya also addressed a public meeting at Karachi on the question of boycott of foreign cloth. Seth Jamnalal Bajaj though alone undertook visits to Ferozepore and Delhi on the completion of the tour in the Frontier Province. The presence of Seth Jamnalal Bajaj in the above provinces had very good effect on the people and the workers. The tour to the Karnatak province was undertaken by Sjt. Gangadharrao Deshpande and Sjt. Jairamdas Doulatram and as a result of the former's special effort a fairly extensive tour programme was gone through in the Province covering nine towns. Sjt. Jairamdas also visited Poona, Ahmedabad and

The intervals. In addition to the above-mentioned, Sjt. Jairamdass, while in Bombay, addressed about meetings on the Boycott question including meetings held at the undermentioned 5 villages in the neighbourhood of Bombay :

Khar
Vile Parle
Santa Cruz
Ghatkopar
Andheri

During the visits to various towns in the above mentioned seven provinces the programme always included a public meeting, a meeting of the cloth merchants and a talk with the Congress workers and the response of the people was, on the whole, encouraging though its full fruits could only have been secured by subsequent sustained activity by local Congress organisations.

Reports from Congress Committees

Despite the Committee's best endeavours, it has not been possible to get the Congress organisations of the various provinces to keep in regular touch with the Committee. Though no doubt many Congress Committees have been fairly active, and they and other organisations put forth special effort on Mahatma Gandhi's Jubilee day, the Committee is unable to assess in concrete figures the work done by Congress organisations in regard to the Boycott programme. In order to stimulate sustained activity by Congress Committees and secure a reasonable measure of regularity in reporting the work done, our Committee issued early in June printed forms for weekly reports. This too has had very little effect and only a small minority of the Congress Committees in the country have been sending weekly or monthly reports of Boycott work done by them. Roughly about 27% of the District Congress Committees addressed by our office have sent in their reports, and several of these too none too regularly. Only about 4 p.c. of the total number of reports due have reached the office of the Committee.

Action by Local Bodies.

The Foreign Cloth Boycott Committee had approached all the Municipalities and District Local Boards in India

To exempt Khadi from tax,

To increase the tax on foreign cloth and

Purchase only Khadi for their use.

The following are the local bodies which have taken one or more of the above steps :

Municipalities.

Arvi (C. P.)	Karachi (Sind)
Akola (Berar)	Kumbakonam (Madras)
Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	Katol (C. P.)
Bhusaval (Maharashtra)	Kamptee ..
Belgaum (Karnatak)	Larkāna (Sind)
Bijapur ..	Lucknow (U. P.)
Ballia (U. P.)	Malwan (Maharashtra)
Bogra (Bengal)	Marwara (C. P.)
Bezwada (Andhra)	Mowar ..
Burhanpur (C. P.)	Nipani (Karnatak)
Benares (U. P.)	Patuakhali (Bengal)
Bhandara (C. P.)	Pulgaon (C. P.)
Chanda ..	Ramtek ..
Drug ..	Sirsi (Karnatak)
Dhulia (Maharashtra)	Sholapur (Maharashtra)
Gadag Betgiri (Karnatak)	Shahada ..
Gondia (C. P.)	Tiruppur (Madras)
Guntur (Andhra)	Tumsar (C. P.)
Haliyal (Karnatak)	Umreth (Gujarath)
Howrah (Bengal)	Ujhani (U. P.)
Hinganghat (C. P.)	Umrer (C. P.)
Hyderabad (Sind)	Wardha ..
Jhansi (U. P.)	Yeotmal (Berar)

District Local Boards.

Amraoti District Council
 Farukhabad District Board
 Kolaba District Local Board

The following Municipalities according to this Committee's information have resolved to impose a discriminative tax on foreign cloth :

Malvan (Bombay)
 Tirupur (Madras)
 Murwara (C. P.)
 Nipani (Bombay)
 Benares (U. P.)

It is quite likely that several more local bodies may have taken some action, but no information is available to the Committee about them.

The U. P. Legislative Council has recently passed a resolution recommending to Government that as far as practicable all Government Departments should make their purchases of cloth in Khadi.

Effect of Propaganda.

It is desirable to form an idea of the effect of this year's propaganda on the consumption of foreign cloth in the country for the period during which the Congress took up the Boycott programme. It is impossible, however, to know by how much the *internal* sales of foreign cloth in India have been affected. A reliable index of the effect of the propaganda, however, is the *imports* of foreign cloth at the various ports of India. The Boycott propaganda assumed a vigorous form from the months of February and March 1929, and as orders placed by India with foreign importers always take about 2-3 months before they are executed, the proper way to measure the effect of the country's efforts since February will be to calculate the fall in the imports of foreign cloth from May 1929 as compared with the previous years. The latest figures available are those upto October 1929. The following table gives the figures of imports of all kinds—textile fabrics and yarns between May and October of each of the undermentioned years.

Value of yarns and textile fabrics (in lakhs of rupees).

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
47,47	38,02	42,06	41,28	39,77	35,58

The result of the comparison between the figures of 1929 and the earlier years indicating the net effect of the forces in operation during the above-mentioned six months is given hereunder :—

	Extent of reduction in 1929	P. C. of reduction in 1929
Compared with average of 1925-28 ...	6,19 lakhs	14·8 %
Compared with 1928 ...	4,19 ..	10·5 %

Taking thus all kinds of fabrics and yarns—cotton, wollen, silken and mixed, the fall in the imports during the months of May to October 1929 as compared with the same period of last year, has been nearly $4\frac{1}{4}$ crore rupees and as compared with the average of the last five years it is over 6 crores of rupees.

Taking however only cotton piecegoods the figures in lakhs of rupees are as under :—

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
34,15	26,22	39,02	27,62	26,15	23,69

The result of the comparison between the figures of 1929 and the earlier years indicating the net effect of the forces in operation during the above mentioned six months is given hereunder :—

	Extent of reduction in 1929	P. C. of reduction in 1929
Compared with average of 1925-28 ...	4,94 lakhs	17·2 %
Compared with 1928 ...	2,46 ..	9·4 %

The above table shows that there has been a fall of 2½ crores of rupees in cotton piecegoods during the last six months.

It is of course true that many factors have combined to reduce the imports of foreign cloth during this year; but the comments in the Lancashire manufacturing circles on the condition of Lancashire trade with India have clearly shown that the Boycott movement has had a share in reducing the imports of foreign cloth in India.

Sales of Khadi.

The progress of the Boycott movement can also be measured, to some extent, by the figures of the consumption of Khadi. The All India Spinners Association has this time also very kindly furnished this Committee with the figures of sales of Khadi during this and the preceding years. The following table shows the sudden rise in the sales of Khadi during the year October 1928 to September 1929 :—

1927-1928	1928-1929
Rs. 33,08,634	Rs. 49,84,170

Percentage of increase between 1927-1928 and 1928-1929... 50·6%

The following table gives the sales of Khadi during the preceding years :—

1925-1926	Rs. 28,99,143
1926-1927	.. 32,88,764
1927-1928	.. 33,08,634

Thus while the total sales of Khadi were more or less in the neighbourhood of 30 lakhs during each of the years from 1925-26 to 1927-28 they have jumped upto nearly **half a crore** during the current year.

The sales of Khadi during the period of March to September when the Boycott propaganda affected the sales were as under :—

	1928	1929
March ...	Rs. 2,64,821	Rs. 4,81,309
April ...	„ 3,28,249	„ 4,89,735
May ...	„ 2,69,631	„ 4,31,616
June ...	„ 2,36,354	„ 3,96,370
July ...	„ 2,48,881	„ 3,97,656
August ...	„ 2,45,876	„ 3,90,682
September ...	„ 2,60,964	„ 4,91,215
Total ...	„ 18,54,776	Total ... „ 30,78,583

Thus while the sales of Khadi during the above period was about 18 lakhs of rupees in 1927–28, they rose by about **13 lakhs** of rupees in the current year, the increase being to the extent of **66 per cent.**

The production of Khadi has increased in the following manner :

1925-26 ...	Rs. 23,76,670
1926-27 ...	„ 24,05,370
1927-28 ...	„ 24,16,382
1928-29 ...	„ 31,86,295

The production was about 24 lakhs in each of the years from 1925–26 to 1927–28 and in the current year it has risen to nearly 32 lakhs, that is an increase of **33 p.c.** It is understood that the Boycott propaganda began to have effect on the production of Khadi in the month of April. The production during the months of April to September 1929 exceeded the production during the same period of the previous year to the extent shown by the following table :—

	1928	1929
April ...	1,59,850	2,17,494
May ...	1,64,365	2,60,739
June ...	1,90,285	2,85,836
July ...	2,01,995	3,29,875
August ...	2,06,428	„ 50,525
September ...	2,32,493	3,63,007
Total ...	11,55,416	18,07,477

The increase in the production of Khadi during the above months of concentrated agitation was thus over $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of rupees, *i.e.* 56%.

The various tables given above indicate the measure of the boycott of foreign cloth and the production and adoption of Khadi during the current year.

Receipts and Expenditure.

The Committee received a grant of Rs. 5,000 from the All India Congress Committee and had a further income of Rs. 1,236-9-3 from collections and donations. The expenditure incurred by the Committee from the commencement to 14th December 1929 amounted to Rs. 2,726-12-6, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,509-12-9. The audited statement of accounts of the Committee from 1st March to 14th December 1929 is appended.

Statement of Accounts

1st March 1929 to 14th December 1929

Receipts.			Payments.			
	Rs. as. p.	Rs. as. p.		Rs. as. p.	Rs. as. p.	Rs. as. p.
Grant received from A.I.C.C.	5,000 0 0		Expenses:			
Collections and Donations ...	1,229 4 3		Propaganda, press and			
Miscellaneous receipts ...	7 5 0		publications... 521 2 6			
	<u> </u>	6,235 9 3	" tours ... 500 5 6			
				<u> </u>	1,021 8 0	
			Salaries of Establishment ...		768 6 0	
			Postage and telegrams ...		450 7 0	
			Stationery and printing ...		216 4 0	
			Conveyance, cooly and			
			miscellaneous expenses ...		112 11 6	
			Books and periodicals ...		33 14 0	
			Bank charges ...		0 6 0	
					<u> </u>	2,603 8 6
			Furniture and Deadstock at cost			113 4 0
			Advances ...			10 0 0
			Cash balance with Messrs.			
			Bachhraj & Co., Ltd. ...		3,488 0 0	
			" " at office ...		21 12 9	
					<u> </u>	3,509 12 9
		<u>6,235 9 3</u>				<u>6,235 9 3</u>

Examined and Found Correct.
(Sd.) SANKARA RAM.

JAIRAMDAS DEULATRAM,
Secretary.