

Independence

THE HINDU, FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947.

FREE INDIA IS BORN

UNION CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ASSUMES POWER

CHOICE OF MOUNTBATTEN RATIFIED

RAJEN BABU'S ASSURANCE TO MINORITIES

The new Dominion of India was born on the stroke of midnight on Thursday when the Constituent Assembly, at its historic session, assumed power for the governance of the country and signified its approval of the choice of Lord Louis Mountbatten as the first Governor-General of the Dominion.

Earlier, addressing a hushed House, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, paid a tribute to the memory of those who had sacrificed themselves for the attainment of independence. "Let us also pay our tribute of love and reverence to Mahatma Gandhi who has been our beacon-light, our guide and philosopher during the last 30 years or more," Dr. Rajendra Prasad added.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad assured the minorities in India that they would receive fair and just treatment. "They will enjoy all the rights and privileges of citizenship," he said, "and will be expected, in their turn, to render loyalty to the country in which they live and to its constitution."

"We are embarking on a great task and we shall do our best to serve it," Dr. Rajendra Prasad concluded.

Moving a resolution that members of the Assembly do dedicate themselves to the service of India and her people, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in an inspiring address, declared: "The service of India means the service of the millions that suffer. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us. But so long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over."

The resolution was passed unanimously and members took the pledge at the stroke of twelve. After accepting the National Flag presented by Mrs. Hansa Mehta on behalf of the women of India, the Assembly adjourned to meet again on Friday morning.

world needs it and will welcome it, unless it is prepared to reel back into barbarism from which it boasts to have emerged.

MEMBERS TAKE OATH NEW DELHI, August 15. The Constituent Assembly held an hour-and-a-quarter session last night at which it passed Pandit Nehru's resolution prescribing the oath. All the members took the oath as prescribed in the resolution after which Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Pandit Nehru left for the Government House.

Over 50,000 people loudly cheered Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as, along with Dr. Rajendra Prasad, he left the Council Hall for the Government House.

As the clock chimed 12, speeches and thunderous applause and cries of "Mahatma Gandhi-kat" greeted the birth of freedom. Many members in the House were visibly moved.

Pandit Nehru's resolution, which was seconded by Chaudhri Khaliquzzaman, Leader of the Muslim League Party, and supported by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, was carried unanimously amid great acclamation.

ASSURANCE TO MINORITIES An assurance to the minorities in India that they would receive fair and just treatment and that there would be no discrimination in any form against them, was given by the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at the historic session of the House to-night on the assumption of power.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, addressing a hushed House, expressed grateful thanks to the Almighty and recalled in grateful remembrance the services of all those known and unknown, who had sacrificed themselves for the attainment of independence.

"Let us also pay our tribute of love and reverence to Mahatma Gandhi who has been our beacon-light, our guide and philosopher during the last 30 years or more," he said.

The following is the text of Dr. Rajendra Prasad's speech: "In this solemn hour of our history, when after many years of struggle we are taking over the governance of this country, let us offer our humble thanks to the Almighty Power that shapes the course of men and nations and let us recall in grateful remembrance the services and sacrifices of all those men and women, known and unknown, who with smiles on their faces, walked to the gallows or faced bullets on their chests, who experienced living death in the Andamans or spent long years in the prisons of the British, who preferred voluntary exile in foreign countries to a life of humiliation in their own, who not only lost wealth and property, but cut themselves off from their near and dear ones, who stepped out to the achievement of the great objective which we are witnessing to-day.

TRIBUTE TO GANDHI "Let us also pay tribute of love and reverence to Mahatma Gandhi who has been our beacon-light, our guide and philosopher during the last 30 years or more. He represents that unshakable spirit in our culture and make-up which has kept India alive through vicissitudes of our history. He it is who pulled us out of the Slough of Despond and despair and lifted us into a spirit which enabled us to stand up for justice, to claim our birth-right of freedom and placed in our hands the matchless and unquelling weapon of Truth and Non-violence which, without arms and armaments, has won for us the invaluable prize of Swaraj at a price which, when the history of those times comes to be written, will be regarded as incredible for a vast country of our size and for the teeming millions of our population. We were indifferent instruments that he had to work with. He led us with consummate skill, with unwavering determination, with an unyielding faith in our future, with faith in his weapon and, above all, with faith in God. Let us pray that India will, in the hour of her triumph, give up or minimise the value of the weapon which served not only to rescue us from the clutches of a cruel oppression, but has also proved its efficacy. India has a great task to play in the shaping and moulding of the future of a vast and distracted world. She can play that part, not by mimicking from a distance what others are doing or by joining in the race for armaments and competing with others in the discovery of the latest and most effective instruments of destruction. She has now the opportunity and, let us hope, she will have the courage and strength to have issued orders disbanding all units of the Indian Auxiliary Forces from August 14.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FREEDOM "Freedom and power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon the Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India. Before the birth of freedom, we have endured all the pains of labour and our hearts are heavy with the memory of this sorrow. Some of those pains continue even now. Nevertheless, the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now. "That future is not one of ease or rest, but of incessant striving so that we may be able to take our place as an equal member of the family of nations. The service of India means the service

INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS

INDIAN DOMINION'S STATUS

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL ISSUED

NEW DELHI, August 14. The Dominion of India will be solely entitled to all the international rights to which India was entitled. Moreover the Dominion of India will continue to be a member of international organisations of which India was a member and the Dominion of Pakistan will take such steps as may be necessary to apply for membership of international organisations.

U. P. GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE

MRS. NAIDU ARRIVES IN LUCKNOW

LUCKNOW, Aug. 14. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Interim Governor-designate of the United Provinces, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Lalita Naidu, arrived in Lucknow this morning from Delhi and was accorded a grand reception at the railway station where thousands of people thronged to welcome her.

PAKISTAN CABINET LIKELY PERSONNEL

KARACHI, Aug. 14. The new Pakistan Dominion Central Ministry will consist of six members headed by Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, Premier, who will also be Minister for External Affairs and Defence, it is authoritatively stated.

INDIAN ENVOY IN PAKISTAN

MR. SRI PRAKASA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

KARACHI, Aug. 13. Mr. Sri Prakasa, Government of India's High Commissioner in Pakistan, presented his credentials to Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, Minister for External Affairs, Pakistan Government to-day.

BURMA DEFENCE SERVICES RATES OF PAY ANNOUNCED

RANGOON, Aug. 13. The Government to-day announced the rates of pay and allowances for Burma Defence Services. The minimum basic pay for an army recruit was fixed at Rs. 30 and the maximum pay for a Brigadier at Rs. 1,400.

DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

MAHATMA GANDHI'S SUGGESTION

CALCUTTA, Aug. 14. To-morrow will be the appointed day of deliverance from the foreign yoke and it was, therefore, a great day that was being celebrated, said Mahatma Gandhi, addressing his prayer meeting here to-day.

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

MADRAS, Aug. 14. Sir Birch Brown, I. C. S., Secretary to the Governor, has been granted leave from September 1 for eight months followed by leave for six months and twenty-four days, preparatory to retirement. He will retire from the Indian Civil Service from the date of the expiry of his leave.

NEW INDIAN CABINET

NEW DELHI, Aug. 14. The new Cabinet which will function from August 15, announced to-night will consist of the following: Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru: Prime Minister, External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations; Scientific Research.

EARLDOM FOR MOUNTBATTEN

LONDON, Aug. 14. Viscount Mountbatten, Governor-General-designate of India, was to-day awarded an Earldom.

INAUGURATION OF PAKISTAN

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ADDRESS

KING'S GOOD WISHES

KARACHI, Aug. 14. Amidst unprecedented scenes of splendour and colour in this festive capital city of the new Dominion, the Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, addressed this morning the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan—a Dominion, fifth largest in the world with seventy million inhabitants—on the eve of its attaining complete freedom.

VICEROY'S ADDRESS

The following is the text of the address delivered by His Excellency Lord Mountbatten to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly to-day: "Mr. President and members of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan: I have a message from His Majesty the King to deliver to you to-day. This is His Majesty's message: 'I am speaking to you to-day as your Viceroy. To-morrow the Government of the new Dominion of Pakistan will rest in your hands and I shall be the constitutional monarch of your neighbour, the Dominion of India. The leaders of both Governments, however, have invited me to be the Independent Chairman of the Joint Interim Council. This is an honour which I shall strive to merit.'

AN EVENT IN HISTORY

To-morrow two new sovereign States will be born in the Commonwealth: two new nations, rich in wealth, not young nations, but old and proud civilisations; fully independent States, whose leaders are statesmen of the highest calibre and whose people are brave and warlike, have made their imperishable contribution to the service of mankind; not only to their own Government, but fit to carry their great share of responsibility for the peace and progress of the world.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JINNAH

Here I would like to express my tribute to Mr. Jinnah for his leadership, his contact, and the mutual trust and understanding that have grown out of it. I feel, the best of omens for our future are the fact that Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Nehru are in the same Government, and that Mr. Jinnah is the first Governor-General of the new Dominion of Pakistan.

CHARTER OF LIBERTY

The honouring of these words will mean nothing less than a Charter of Liberty for a fifth of the human race. Some days ago, I went to Lahore to witness a scene of unparalleled devastation. Those of you, who have not visited Lahore, will be relieved to hear that the destruction is far less than I expected. It amounts to not more than eighteen houses per thousand of the whole municipal area. I do not say this in extenuation of the madness which

NOTICE

Our Office will be closed on Friday, August 15, on account of INDEPENDENCE DAY. Consequently, there will be no issue of THE HINDU bearing the date Saturday, August 16, 1947.

MANAGER "The Hindu"

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Table with columns for Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat and corresponding dates and moon phases.

PHASES OF THE MOON

Friday August 15 Perigee 11 50
Saturday August 16 New Moon 12 52

WEATHER IN SOUTH INDIA

MADRAS, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Madras Presidency, Mysore and Madras States: Rainfall was widespread in South Kerala. Fairly widespread thunder-showers occurred in North Kerala, South Kanara, Mysore and Tanjnad, while isolated showers have occurred in Andhra Pradesh.

WEATHER IN NORTH INDIA

DELHI, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh: Fairly widespread showers occurred in Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, while isolated showers have occurred in Himachal Pradesh.

WEATHER IN WEST INDIA

BOMBAY, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Bombay Presidency, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Madras States: Fairly widespread showers occurred in Bombay Presidency, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Madras States.

WEATHER IN EAST INDIA

KOLKATA, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir: Fairly widespread showers occurred in West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir.

WEATHER IN NORTH-EAST INDIA

DISPUR, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Assam, Bihar, and West Bengal: Fairly widespread showers occurred in Assam, Bihar, and West Bengal.

WEATHER IN SOUTH-EAST INDIA

COCHIN, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Kerala, Mysore, and Madras States: Fairly widespread showers occurred in Kerala, Mysore, and Madras States.

WEATHER IN NORTH-WEST INDIA

JAMMU, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan: Fairly widespread showers occurred in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

WEATHER IN SOUTH-WEST INDIA

MADRAS, Aug. 14. Regional daily weather report for Madras Presidency, Mysore, and Madras States: Fairly widespread showers occurred in Madras Presidency, Mysore, and Madras States.

WEATHER IN NORTH-CENTRAL INDIA

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THE HINDU

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1947.

A RED-LETTER DAY

By the grace of Providence India enters the comity of free nations to-day, an equal among equals. It is an occasion for rejoicing not only for her people but for all who value human freedom as an end in itself.

So long as this country with her hoary civilisation and many-sided culture, her wealth of resources and matchless opulence of spirit remained in political bondage, that very fact constituted an implicit denial of those values to which the dominant nations of the West were wont to pay lip service. That India has at long last achieved her independence by agreement with Great Britain is a fact for which the sagacity and statesmanship of Britain is entitled to the fullest credit.

Other Imperial Powers are bound to follow in her footsteps sooner or later; for the heart has gone out of Imperialism. The harrowing experience of two wars within a single generation is to a large extent responsible for this weakening among the ruling Powers. But the way in which the people of India have conducted their struggle for emancipation has not been without its influence in bringing about a change in the world outlook.

The outstanding marvel of this century is the faith inspired in millions of people that truth may prevail, unbacked though it be by the big battalions, that you may win over your adversary by putting him on his honour, relying on his good faith and appealing to his reason. By imbuing his countrymen with this faith and sustaining it through the long night of darkness and despair Mahatma Gandhi has not only won for himself a secure place in our affections; he has placed all humanity in his debt. To him and to the countless men and women who sacrificed themselves cheerfully that others might live to breathe the ampler air of freedom, our hearts turn to-day in reverent homage.

We have achieved freedom; but at what cost! A country and a people that by every test are a unity have been arbitrarily divided. And the wound will take long to heal; for, as Mr. Nehru has sadly remarked, "Division has taken place in the hearts of the people of India". But it is idle to brood over what has happened and foolish to get angry and cast about for scapegoats. Many think that there is bound to be a reunion when there has been time enough for people to reflect coolly on the disastrous consequences of this unnatural partition. That is as it may be. But those who are perpetually harping on it, whether from genuine distress or in a fractious spirit, will not be hastening that consummation. It can only act as an irritant. The temptation for the protagonists of a united India and of Pakistan to talk at each other from a distance should be set aside. And both sides should concentrate on the thousand and one practical tasks that will have to be tackled in a spirit of mutual accommodation if life is not to be unnecessarily hard for large masses of men.