

VAIKOM SATYAGRAHA.

VOLUNTEERS' FIRMNESS.

(Associated Special Service.)

(Delayed in Transmission.)

COCHIN, July 26.

Owing to the heavy floods, Vaikom has been completely cut off from the outsideworld and it has not been possible to ascertain the progress of the Satyagraha campaign for several days now. The floods have risen so high that the routes to the four pickets were submerged under water in several places, and the Satyagrahis have still to wade their way in waist-deep water. At the eastern barricade the water has risen 3 to 4 feet during the week; but the volunteers are offering Satyagraha unmoved by the floods and other hardships incidental to the weather. Their endurance and firmness have evoked the admiration of even a section of the orthodox oppositionists.

At the western picket, which is in a raised level, the water rose at one time as far as the barricade itself. It is alleged that some volunteers were hit with rowing poles by boatmen as the former were offering Satyagraha at the eastern barricade. Statements made by the volunteers show that the boatmen were instructed to hit them by certain old oppositionists. Since two days, the floods have receded a little on the western road while on the eastern, the position remains unchanged. The volunteers have been cheerfully subjecting themselves to these ordeals in spite of the enormous losses which their own kith and kin have sustained in their homes on account of the floods.

A DROWNING FATALITY.

Mr. K. Raghavan, the eldest son of Mr. A. K. Govindan Channar, an old volunteer, who was one of a rescue party, met with a watery grave at Muttom, Karthikapally taluk, under the most heartrending circumstances. He was responsible for saving the lives of a few, but as he was about to rescue the last of the party, the drowning man caught firm hold of him and both were drowned. This sad news reached Vaikom only 3 days later and Mr. Channar wrote back to his people to say that he would return only on the termination of the Satyagraha campaign, whatever tests, human or divine, he might be subjected to in the meanwhile.

Thousands of sufferers who have been rendered homeless and helpless by the heavy floods were fed at the Satyagraha Asram for 5 days during the week when the water was at its highest. Mr. E. V. Mamasawmy Naicker is still detained at the Vaikom Police Station, as he can not be escorted to Kottayam until the floods have abated.

The Eazhavas of Karunagapally have undertaken to run the kitchen for 3 days in the month, at their expense exclusively.

Two issues of the oppositionist journal, the "Dharma Prasthanam" have now appeared.