

**SOURCE MATERIAL FOR A  
HISTORY OF THE  
FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

**CONGRESS ACTIVITIES**

**1942-46**

**Vol. IV**

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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

**Source Material for a History of the  
Freedom Movement**

**CONGRESS ACTIVITIES  
1942-46**

**Vol. IV**

(COLLECTED FROM THE MAHARASHTRA STATE RECORDS)

*Edited by*

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BOMBAY  
GAZETTEERS DEPARTMENT,  
GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA.  
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# SOURCE MATERIAL FOR A HISTORY OF THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

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## PREFACE

In January 1953 the Government of India appointed a Board of Editors for the compilation of a History of the Freedom Movement in India. In order to assist and collect material the Central Board of Editors requested all the State Governments to set up State Committees in every State. Accordingly, the then Bombay State formed the Bombay State Committee for a History of the Freedom Movement in India in November 1953. This Committee worked for a few years and in September 1956 was dissolved. It however recommended to the State Government to continue the office and publish the Source Material for a History of the Freedom Movement. The Committee with the Late Prof. Palande as Executive Secretary brought out two volumes on Source Material, one dealing with the period from 1818 to 1885 and the other from 1885 to 1920. Prof. Phatak took charge of the Committee as Executive Secretary in 1958. Under his guidance three volumes were published pertaining to Source Material on Mahatma Gandhi. In 1973 the office of the Committee was discontinued and the staff was merged with the Gazetteers Department which was entrusted with the task of completing the rest of the work. The department has so far completed the series in the Source Material pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi by bringing out four additional volumes. The department now proposes to bring out the Source Material for the most crucial period in the Freedom Struggle viz., 1920-1947. It is envisaged to publish this vast Source Material contained in the records of Home Department, Inspector General of Police, Commissioner of Police, Archives etc., of the Government of Maharashtra in 15 to 20 volumes covering subjects such as Civil Disobedience Movement, Khilafat, Quit India Movement, Revolutionary activities in Maharashtra, Revolutionary activities in Vidarbha, Revolutionary activities in Marathwada, Gandhiji in Maharashtra, and Political Parties and Personalities during freedom struggle etc. These volumes will also contain material from the Archives of the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu on the Freedom Struggle in Goa *vis-a-vis* Maharashtra and from the Archives of the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh pertaining to the districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of the present State

of Maharashtra but which formerly formed parts of these respective States. The material from these numerous sources would be collected subject-wise and individual-wise and would be published as and when the compilation and collection as stated above is completed. As such it would be very difficult to maintain in the publication a chronological sequence in the narration of events in the history of Freedom Struggle. This means that source material pertaining to non-co-operation movement in Bombay City during 1919-25 may not be followed by that of in 1930, 1931 or 1932 or for that matter by the source material on Khilafat Movement. The present volume, the material for which has been compiled from the records of the office of the Commissioner of Police, Greater Bombay, is the first in the series of volumes proposed to be published for the period 1920-47 of the freedom struggle and covers the period 1942-46. It is entitled "Congress Activities" and it deals with the glorious period of the Quit India Movement which was launched after the momentous session of the Congress held in Bombay in August 1942. For the first time the volume places before the public the hidden struggle waged by the people under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Moulana Azad, Sane Guruji, Senapati Bapat, Y. B. Chawan, Jai Prakash Narain, Morarji Desai, Ashok Mehta, Achyut Patwardhan, Ram Manohar Lohia, S. D. Deo, Vasant Rao Patil, Mahadeo Desai, K. S. Firodia, B. G. Kher, N. V. Gadgil, M. D. D. Gilder, Hooli Venkareddi, T. S. Jadhav, K. M. Jedhe, Waman Rao Joshi, Ratnappa Kumbhar, D. K. Kunte, G. V. Mavalankar, K. M. Munshi, Abidalli Jaffarbai, Aruna Asaf Ali, Babasaheb Ambedkar, M. K. Bagal, Jamnalal Bajaj, Vinoba Bhave, Acharya Bhise, Brijlal Biyani, C. K. Chandeli, T. R. Deogirikar, Bhulabhai Desai, V. N. Naik, Bhaurao Patil, Nana Patil, S. K. Patil, V. D. Savarkar, B. D. Shinde, Swami Ramanand etc., and of others, small as well as big in the then province of Bombay. It unfolds the story of the great sufferings of the people and the torments and travails undergone by them when the entire machinery of the Government was arrayed against them to suppress the growing feeling of unrest and discontent. It also shows how the majority of the people under a defiant leadership had risen up in arms against the bureaucracy which had become totally subservient to the authoritarian government. The story unfolded in the volume is,

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therefore, sure to make a very interesting reading as it throws new light upon facts and figures unknown so far.

In the compilation and collation of this volume, I was assisted by Shri B. N. Phatak, Superintendent, Sarvashri K. Z. Raut and D. J. Nawadkar, Research Assistants and Sarvashri R. S. Kumbhar and D. A. Tendulkar, Assistants, to all of whom my thanks are due. I am also thankful to the Commissioner of Police, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and the other staff in the records section of the office of the Commissioner of Police. My thanks are also due to Shri S. A. Sapre, Director of Printing and Stationery, Government of Maharashtra and Shri L. J. Menesse, Manager, Yeravda Prison Press and other staff of the Yervada Prison Press for the expeditious manner in which the present volume was brought out. I am also thankful to my parent department viz., General Administration Department for the kind consideration it has always shown to me in the execution of this important work.

B. G. KUNTE,

*Executive Editor and Secretary.*

BOMBAY :

August, 1977.

# Congress Activities

## 1942

During the fortnight under review, Bardoli was the scene of considerable Congress activity. Large crowds witnessed with enthusiasm the arrival of the more important Congress leaders. The meeting of the All India Spinners' Association was held *in camera* on December 17th, 18th and 19th. It is understood that M. K. Gandhi suggested that war conditions provided an excellent opportunity for the spread of the use of Khaddar. Practical plans were discussed for the extension and improvement of the activities of the Association. The Congress Working Committee sat from December 23rd to December 30th and the resolution which was finally passed has appeared in the press. On December 26th, a public meeting was held at Bardoli which was attended by about 25,000 persons. M. K. Gandhi delivered a brief speech on the importance of the constructive programme and invited a study of his pamphlet on the subject. He expressed himself as not satisfied with the progress made in spinning by local Congressmen. Vallabhbhai J. Patel, Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Abdul Gafar Khan, Dr. Khan, Govind Vallabh Pant and Bhulabhai J. Desai delivered brief speeches in the course of which they explained that the approach of the war to India had created difficulties for the leaders responsible for Congress policy, but counselled faith in the Congress cause and asked their audience to await further instructions. They avoided giving any hint as to the nature of the Working Committee's deliberations. On December 31st, a meeting was held at Surat which was attended by about 30,000 persons. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the chief speaker, referring to the Working Committee resolution deprecated misleading comments which had appeared in the press. He warned his audience against forming the impression that Gandhi had severed his connection with the Congress or that he was no longer interested in India's fight for independence. He described the *Satyagraha* Movement as a complete success in its moral effect. Lakhs of people, he said, were prepared to go to jail, but the Congress did not wish to embarrass Government at this time. In the event of India experiencing the horrors of war, the people should remain

calm and rely upon village and cottage industries. Nehru stated that his sympathies were with the British, but not with the British administration of India and appealed to his audience to follow the example of the people of China and Russia and fight for the country's goal. In conclusion, he advocated the establishment and extension of volunteer organisations, not for the purpose of *satyagraha* but to help the people in times of distress and to carry the Congress message throughout the country. Brief supporting speeches were made by Govind Vallabh Pant, Dr. Khan Sahab, Asaf Ali and Ishwarlal Gulabbhai Desai.

Thirty-five other Congress meetings were held throughout the Province, 16 being in the Belgaum district for which no particular reason is apparent. The two largest of these meetings, each attended by about 1,500 persons were held at Pathardi, Ahmednagar district and Gokak, Belgaum district. These meetings were similar in that P. H. Patwardhan and other unrestrained speakers suggested that men and money should not be provided for the prosecution of the war. The remaining meetings were small and unimportant.

In Bombay City, two huge meetings were addressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on December 18th and one by Moulana Abul Kalam Azad on December 19th. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru paid a tribute to the heroic resistance of China, Russia, Britain and America against aggression. There could be no doubt as to where the sympathies of the Congress lay when Russia, China and America were ranged on one side, but they should not forget their own freedom in expressing their sympathy. When India demanded freedom, he said, British statesmen and those who were responsible for running the Government had denied freedom to India. They were prepared to join hands with Britain as free men but not as slaves. Moulana Abul Kalam Azad pointed out that what really prevented the Congress from co-operation was the attitude of the British Government towards India's demand for freedom. After reviewing the political situation from the Congress stand-point, he said that the Congress would co-operate in the war efforts provided the British Government climbed down from their attitude. The August offer, he said, left the Congress with two alternatives (1) either to obey slavishly the behests of the British Government or (2) to resist its efforts to drag India into the war. The Congress preferred the latter course and requested Mr. Gandhi to take the lead. It would be now for the Working Committee of the Congress to decide the question as to the future policy of the Congress. In the end, he advised the people not to be panicky on hearing rumours of the



approach of the war to India, but to muster courage in the midst of difficulties and danger. Three small meetings were held at Bombay at which *satyagrahis* shouted anti-war slogans. The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee met on December 20th and passed a resolution reaffirming confidence in M. K. Gandhi and expressing the opinion that nothing that had happened since the launching of *satyagraha* called for any change in the Congress policy.

In Maharashtra, G. A. Deshpande and D. K. Gosavi were elected to the A. I. C. C. on December 27th in the vacancies caused by the resignations of the two Royists, V. M. Tarkunde and A. N. Patil.

About 100 women attended a meeting of the women's branch of the Rashtra Seva Dal, Poona, on December 27th over which Mrs. Indirabai Deodhar presided. Speeches were made on the value of the organization and women were exhorted to join. The Alibag Rashtra Seva Dal, Kolaba district, held their annual sports on December 27th, about 60 volunteers being present.

Following recent Congress activities at Bardoli, meetings held under Congress auspices numbered 58, the largest being those held at Malad, Bombay Suburban district (4,000) on January 6th. Two meetings, each attended by about 600 persons, were held at Nasik, on December 21st and at Bhiwandi, Thana district on January 1st. The attendance at the remaining 53 meetings was below 500.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited the Ahimsak Vyayam Mandal at Malad, Bombay Suburban district, on January 2nd and spoke on the present political situation to an audience of about 4,000. Referring to the recent resolution of the Congress Working Committee, he said that some of the facts regarding the session of the Working Committee were being distorted by certain sections of the press. It was not true that there had been a split between Congress and M. K. Gandhi. The Congress in its present form was the creation of Gandhi and could not afford to lose his guidance. Nehru himself had immense faith in Gandhi. He was of the opinion that India could not help Britain in fighting the war unless and until the question of India's freedom was satisfactorily solved. No subjugated country could work for the liberation of other countries. Speaking of defence he maintained that every man should defend himself and his property against aggression. For this reason he was prepared to discard the principle of non-violence in order to achieve freedom. Referring to the *satyagraha* campaign he said that M. K. Gandhi



might continue *satyagraha* on his own initiative and not on behalf of the Congress. He addressed another meeting (10,000) in Bombay on the same day and spoke on similar lines. He emphasised that there would be no change in the Congress policy unless Government revised their attitude.

Babu Rajendra Prasad, addressing a meeting attended by about 1,000 persons in Surat City on January 6th, declared that lasting peace was an impossibility unless every country and every individual believed in non-violence. He then appealed to Congress workers to carry the Congress message into the most remote villages and to represent the benefits of cottage and village industries.

T. S. Jadhav and other local speakers made speeches at a meeting attended by about 1,200 persons which was held at Sholapur on January 2nd. After referring to the Bardoli resolution they stated that Congress and Gandhī were inseparable and exhorted the audience to follow him and adhere to his constructive programme.

B. G. Kher addressed 6 meetings with audiences ranging from 100 to 600 in Thana district when he spoke on the economic condition of India, the present war and other miscellaneous subjects.

S. D. Deo addressed 2 meetings in East Khandesh district on January 1st and 3rd when he blamed Government for not changing their attitude towards India at the present critical stage of the war and advised people not to lose faith in the Congress on account of the Working Committee's decision and Gandhī's *laissez-faire* attitude.

Thirteen meetings were held in the districts of Kolaba (4), Ratnagiri, Poona, East Khandesh (3), Nasik, Ahmednagar, Sholapur and Thana in connection with the annual celebrations of the local Rashtra Seva Dals. At all these meetings the objects of the society were explained and the audiences were urged to strengthen their local branches. People were advised to organise themselves and to eradicate communalism.

At Bhiwandi, district, Thana, on December 28th, S. M. Joshi spoke on the progress achieved by the Seva Dal and said that several branches of the Dal had been established in Maharashtra. He urged the audience to enlist as members.

Private meetings of Congress workers of Ward Committees were held in different wards of Ahmedabad City to discuss the Citizens' Protection Scheme sponsored by the Ahmedabad City

Congress Committee. The workers were requested to canvass the Scheme in their Wards and enlist public support. It is reported that the Scheme has nothing to do with the A. R. P. measures and is designed to work even in peace time.

The Executive Meeting of the M. P. C. C. was held at Poona on December 30th and 31st with N. V. Gadgil in the chair. Fourteen members were present. The meeting adopted 5 resolutions (1) stressing the need for accelerating and co-ordinating the work of the Rashtra Seva Dal, nominating a committee of 5 persons for a period of 5 years to supervise the work of the Dal and appointing a Committee of T. R. Deogirikar, P. H. Patwardhan and S. M. Joshi to frame rules and a constitution; (2) requesting Government to declare a state of famine immediately and grant remission of land assessment; (3) requesting merchants to sell essential commodities at reasonable rates; (4) requesting Government to institute relief measures; and (5) requesting the President of the M. P. C. C. to issue periodical statements to clarify the implications of the Bardoli resolution.

Congress propaganda meetings during the week numbered 33. With the exception of five meetings which attracted audiences ranging from 1,200 to 2,500, the attendance at all these meetings was under 1,000, twenty-six meetings being attended by less than 500.

B. G. Kher, addressed five meetings in Thana district, two in Ahmednagar district and one at Belgaum. Speaking at the largest of these meetings (2,500) at Sheogaon, Ahmednagar district, on January 8th, he advised peasants not to pay land revenue unless Government granted substantial concessions. At the Thana meetings, he suggested measures for the uplift of jungle tribes.

S. D. Deo, addressed four meetings in Sholapur district with attendances varying from 200 to 2,000. He emphasised the identity of M. K. Gandhi and Congress and maintained that the present Congress attitude towards the war would continue until the British Government altered its policy. He also addressed meetings of 800 and 50 persons at Ahmednagar and Bhusaval respectively on January 4th. At the former meeting he adversely compared the might of Britain with that of Germany.

Babu Rajendra Prasad, addressed a meeting of 1,200 persons at Jalgaon, East Khandesh district, on January 9th when he asserted that Congress would not co-operate in the prosecution of the war until India had been promised independence.

N. G. Gore, addressed an audience of 150 at Rajapur, Ratnagiri district, on January 7th when he pointed out that Britain had built up her Empire by treachery and that Germany and Japan were only following her example. He maintained that India would be better off under Hitler.

Rashtra Sewa Dal propaganda meetings were conducted in Ahmednagar and Kolaba districts.

V. J. Patel presided over a private meeting of the G. P. C. C. at Bardoli, Surat district, on January 4th. Some 400 persons, including M. K. Gandhi were present. While dealing with the budget, he revealed that donations for flood relief work had reached a total of Rs. 6,23,000. Gandhi delivered a speech explaining the recent Bardoli resolution and stressing his unity with Congress. He appealed to members of the A. I. C. C. to vote in an independent spirit at the forthcoming meeting at Wardha.

On January 8th M. K. Gandhi performed the opening ceremony of a spinning and weaving class in the Bardoli Swaraj Ashram. Speaking to an audience of some 70 persons, he laid stress on the importance of khadi and Harijan uplift. On January 9th, he left for Wardha accompanied by Mrs. Gandhi, J. B. Kripalani, Mahadeo H. Desai, Babu Rajendra Prasad and Bharatanand (Morris Frajan), a Polish Engineer.

In Ahmedabad City, three Ward Congress Committees held meetings when the Citizens' Protection Scheme was explained in detail and workers were urged to canvass it.

N. V. Gadgil's Civil Defence Scheme was discussed by 50 Congress workers in Poona on January 11th.

The Secretary of the Belgaum District Congress Committee issued instructions to Congressmen to check the spread of false rumours regarding looting of shops. A few Congress volunteers complied with the instructions at three places in the district.

At a meeting of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee on January 9th, a sub-committee of 7 persons was appointed to plan a People's Volunteer Brigade for public service in peace and war. Other resolutions passed at the meeting deprecated Government's refusal to implement the recommendations of the Divatia Committee and suggested standardisation of wage rates for textile workers. The meeting also expressed concern at the rise in prices of essential commodities.

At a small propaganda meeting in Bombay City on January 6th, S. K. Patil commented unfavourably on A. R. P. measures in India as compared with England.

Of twelve Congress propaganda meetings, held during the week, four were addressed by B. G. Kher during his tour of the Karnatak at Hubli (4,000), Dharwar (1,000), Gadag (400) and Khanapur, Belgaum district (400). The attendances at the remaining meetings were below 300.

Kher's speeches were all in the same strain. He emphasised that only a free India could decide for or against participation in the present war and maintained that a neutral policy on the analogy of Ireland's should be adopted if neutrality was going to pay. He then gave a tedious resume of the Congress war policy, reminding the audience of the Working Committee's declaration that only Complete Independence after the war and the immediate establishment of a National Government at the Centre would secure India's co-operation. Explaining the Bardoli resolution he maintained that it had confirmed the Bombay resolution as regards non-violence and the Congress war policy and that it had only relieved Gandhi of responsibility. At the Hubli meeting, he affirmed that recruits were joining the Indian Army as mercenaries and not as patriots. They were fighting not for *swaraj*, but against it.

B. G. Kher also delivered a lecture to an audience of 400 persons at Dharwar on January 11th when he confined himself to advocate the adoption of Basic Education. It is reported that Kher's speeches met with a good reception.

S. K. Kurtakoti addressed a meeting of about 150 persons at Gadag, Dharwar district, on January 8th when he said that every Indian should imbibe the spirit of Jawaharlal Nehru who had asked the British to leave India.

About 107 persons attended the General meeting of the K. P. C. C. on January 10th at Dharwar, Dr. R. Nagangouda was re-invested with presidential powers lately exercised by D. P. Karmarkar, B. G. Kher who was present, gave an address on "The Present Political Situation" when he said that Congress was opposed to participation in the war and gave a resume of the Congress resolutions since the Faizpur session. He also asked the audience to organise A. R. P. measures under the Working Committee's instruction. A. V. Koudi then proposed the acceptance of the Bardoli resolution. D. P. Karmarkar moved an amendment advocating non-violence as a panacea for India's distress and opposing participation in the war. The amendment was passed by 17 votes as against 11. A. A. Mandagi and A. V. Koudi, A. I. C. C. members, favoured participation in the war.

The G. P. C. C. has instructed the Surat District Congress Committee to carry on vigorous propaganda for the constructive programme. A meeting of the G. P. C. C. will be held at Bardoli on January 23rd and 24th when the Bardoli resolution and the constructive programme will come under discussion.

The Secretary, Poona District Congress Committee, has instructed Taluka Committees to revive their activities, increase membership, strengthen the volunteer organisations and organise N. V. Gadgil's Civil Defence Scheme.

At a meeting of the Working Committee of the Daskroi Taluka Congress Committee, Ahmedabad district, on January 11th, measures were taken to give wide publicity to Gandhi's book on the "Constructive Programme".

Under instructions from P. H. Patwardhan, Swami Sahajanand Bharati has organised night rounds by Congress volunteers in Kopargaon town, Ahmednagar district.

Three propaganda meetings with audiences varying from 50 to 200 were held in Bombay City between January 10th and 12th to recruit volunteers for the proposed organisation to afford relief to the public during times of emergency.

A private meeting of the Congress Legislature Party of Bombay on January 18th at which B. G. Kher presided was attended by some 40 members. After brief speeches by the President, V. J. Patel and Dr. Subbaroyan, a resolution was passed condemning the "insolent and dictatorial attitude" of the British Government, endorsing the Wardha resolutions of the A. I. C. C. and urging development of the constructive programme.

An "Independence Pledge" omitting the last paragraph of the 1941 pledge has been issued from Wardha by the A. I. C. C. for adoption at "Independence Day" meetings on January 26th.

Congress propaganda meetings during the week numbered 21, the attendance in no case exceeding 500.

V. P. Limaye presided over a meeting of 300 persons at Poona on January 24th when the A. I. C. C. Wardha resolutions came under discussion. S. D. Deo maintained that India's resources should not be made available for the prosecution of the war unless she participated in the benefits of the Atlantic Charter. The same speaker criticised the retention of troops in England while troops of other nations including India were being sacrificed. N. V. Gadgil made some ill-advised remarks on British courage

and said that Indians in the event of an air raid would have to protect themselves.

At a small meeting at Islampur, Satara district, on January 24th, K. M. Jedhe referred to the bombing of Rangoon and Malaya and said that the Indian army was bearing the brunt of the attack. He then stated that if India were bombed neither the British nor Americans would protect the people and only Congress would come to their aid.

At a meeting of about 150 persons held at Pen, Kolaba district, on January 19th, D. K. Kunte, S. R. Bhise, R. K. Patil, D. P. Tandel and N. S. Limaye outlined the present policy of the Congress. The audience was urged to form "Citizen's Unions" to cope with any emergency. One speaker remarked that the war would result in the fall of the British Empire and its rule over India.

Dayaram Maduram Bharathi addressed four small meetings in East Khandesh district. At Taloda on January 21st, he assured the villagers that only large cities would be bombed. He added that there was no compulsion regarding recruitment to the army, but those who were willing might enlist.

Dr. G. B. Bhutekar presided over a meeting at Sinnar, Nasik district, on January 22nd which attracted an audience of about 400. The speakers included D. B. Khadilkar who urged unity by breaking down communal differences. References were also made to the Jalianwala Baug. The speaker also deprecated the ill-feeling between Congress and the Hindu Maha Sabha and between the Rashtra Sewa Dal and Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh.

Rashtra Sewa Dal propaganda was conducted at a small meeting at Umbaroli, Thana district, on January 20th. Another small meeting at Sangamner, Ahmednagar district, on January 16th was held to congratulate released Congress *Satyagrahis*.

Vamanrao Bidril addressed a meeting of 200 persons at Kunur, Belgaum district, on January 18th when he blamed the Government for exacting revenue and stated that he knew of no reason why Indians should fight Germany and Japan who were attacking the British.

C. J. Ambli, Propaganda Secretary of the K. P. C. C., has issued a leaflet urging the observance of the Independence Day on January 26th and the suspension of the *satyagraha* movement in accordance with Gandhi's policy.

The Working Committee of the G. P. C. C. under the presidency of V. J. Patel met *in camera* at Bardoli on January 23rd.

The meeting was attended by about 60 prominent Congress leaders from Gujarat. They discussed A. R. P. measures and the organisation of Peace Brigades. The delegates to the meeting were instructed to tour their villages and conduct a campaign against panic. A resolution was passed organising a separate Women's Brigade led by Miss Mrudala Sarabhai. Further sums were voted for flood relief.

It is reported that at a meeting of the G. P. C. C. at Bardoli on January 23rd and 24th the Peace Brigade (Shanti Sevak Sangh) formed after the communal riots in Ahmedabad last year was formally placed under the control of the G. P. C. C. It is proposed to extend the Brigade's sphere of activity to include the maintenance of order during an emergency. V. J. Patel and Mahadeo H. Desai were elected President and Vice-President, respectively. Similar Brigades are to be formed throughout Gujarat.

The B. P. C. C. hopes to raise a lakh of rupees to finance the proposed "People's Volunteer Brigade".

In Bombay City two propaganda meetings to ensure the observance of Independence Day were held on January 24th. At the larger of these meetings, S. H. Jhabvala appealed to an audience of 125 persons to keep calm and assist the public in the event of an air raid on Bombay.

Twelve Congress propaganda meetings of the usual type were held during the week. The largest of these were at Bassein (1,500), Poona (1,000) and Rahuri, Ahmednagar district (700). The attendances at the remaining nine meetings ranged from 20 to 300.

S. D. Deo addressed a meeting of about 1,500 persons at Bassein, Thana district, on January 29th when he alleged that the Government followed a policy of "divide and rule". He appealed for an united effort to gain national freedom.

Bhulabhai J. Desai addressed a meeting of some 1,000 persons at Poona on February 1st. In a sober speech, he stressed the gravity of the present situation and emphasised that the achievement of freedom lay with the people themselves and that liberty could neither be achieved nor maintained without sacrifice. Indians must be prepared to pay for their freedom in "tears and blood". Commenting on the Japanese occupation of Malaya within six weeks, the speaker maintained that the people of Malaya were apathetic and had failed to put up a determined resistance. Desai maintained that only the co-operation of the Indian people would



bring about the turn of the tide in the Far East so eagerly awaited by Messrs. Roosevelt and Churchill. Britain's loss in failing to enlist the sympathy of 400 millions of Indians was greater than any loss India could suffer in the event of aggression. After dwelling for some time on various political developments from the Poona offer to the passing of the Bardoli resolution, Desai appealed for the organisation of volunteer bodies to maintain internal order during times of crisis.

P. H. Patwardhan addressed meetings at Ahmednagar (300) and Rahuri, Ahmednagar district (700) on January 24th and 25th, respectively. At the first of these meetings, Patwardhan blamed the British Government for failing to train the people in modern methods of mechanised warfare. He alleged that thousands of people were being killed by the Japanese bombing of Malaya and Singapore and considered it not unlikely that even Ahmednagar might be bombed in the near future. The speech closed with an appeal for the organisation of volunteer bodies to provide for the protection of the public.

At the Rahuri meeting, Swami Sahajanand Bharati warned his audience that the responsibility to be shouldered after the achievement of independence was no small matter. He advocated training in the Congress Seva Dals. P. H. Patwardhan then addressed the audience and maintained that those who joined the army were enemies of India. He urged his audience to render assistance to their own countrymen rather than to the war effort and to perform night rounds in villages instead of leaving this duty to policemen.

K. T. Desai addressed three meetings, each attended by about 100 persons, in Ahmedabad city on January 30th when he explained the Citizens' Protection Scheme and appealed for volunteers. He stated that these volunteers could guard their own streets, prevent crime and the spreading of false rumours, etc.

It is reported that the Ahmedabad City Congress Committee proposes to train 2,500 volunteers in first-aid, nursing, fire-drill, crowd control, etc.

The Ahmedabad Municipality at its general meeting on January 30th declared its willingness to co-operate with Government in A. R. P. measures.

The formation of village protection groups has commenced on a small scale in Ahmednagar and Bijapur districts.



After the meeting of 50 *satyagrahis* at Versova, Bombay Suburban district, on January 25th, B. G. Kher opened a vernacular school. Kher is now devoting his attention in co-operation with D. N. Wandrekar to the formation of volunteer corps in B. S. D.

Congress propaganda meetings during the week numbered 20. With the exception of two meetings at Poona (4,000) on February 8th and Vambori, Ahmednagar district (900), on February 3rd, the attendances did not exceed 500. The slight increase in activity is due to the fact that the formation of volunteer organisations is now under way.

B. G. Kher spoke on the "Present Political Situation and the Work before the Country" when he addressed an audience of 4,000 at Poona on February 8th. Kher maintained that war was inevitable so long as the European nations pursued their present policies. He then referred to the resolution regarding a constituent assembly which had been passed in eight Provincial Assemblies and said that the insulting replies given by the British Parliament during the last 27 months had culminated in the latest statement of the Duke of Devonshire. The message of War-dha was that India could expect nothing from Britain. Kher also pointed out that although Mr. Churchill could declare the unification of the French and British nations within 24 hours, he could not grant India a national government. Referring to the contention that Indians should assist the war effort in order to protect their country. Kher remarked that Indians would not be robbed of their land by the enemy, but at present India's wealth was being drained. The speech concluded with an appeal against panic.

P. H. Patwardhan, addressing some 900 persons at Vambori, Ahmednagar district, on February 3rd, said that Collector and other rich persons had visited Vambori to collect subscriptions to the War Gifts Fund. Patwardhan urged that no help should be given as Germany's attack on England had elicited no sympathy from India. Patwardhan concluded his speech by urging the establishment of village Dals.

At a small meeting of 80 persons at Kopargaon, Ahmednagar district, on February 5th, M. L. Kolhati said that the Japanese were expected to attack India very shortly and added that Japanese raids over Rangoon had caused 6,500 casualties.

A. D. Doddametti addressed meetings at Malwad (300) and Ron (300), Dharwar district, on January 31st and February 3rd, respectively. At both meetings Doddametti emphasised that the

war was no concern of India and at the second meeting, he alleged that Britain had dragged India into the war without consulting her by an act of sheer injustice.

The following meetings sponsored by Congress workers were held for the purpose of organising citizens' protection schemes or volunteers corps as they are variously described:—

Place	Attendance	Date
Ville-Parle, B. S. district	... 40	February 6th
Ahmedabad	... 3 meetings of from 30 to 150	between February 1st and 7th.
Chikodi, Belgaum district	... 2 meetings, each attended by 100.	on January 30th and February 2nd.
Norgaon, Belgaum district	... (Not given)	February 2nd
Hubli, Dharwar district	... 5 meetings of from 100 to 120	between January 30th to February 3rd.
Ron, Dharwar district	... 125	February 4th

Discussions regarding the establishment of volunteer peace brigades are also going on at Pen, Kolaba district, Surat district and in Bombay Suburban district where B. G. Kher is still canvassing energetically.

The Executive Committee of the M. P. C. C. met at Poona on February 7th with N. V. Gadgil in the chair. About 13 members were present out of a total of 16. Resolutions were framed for discussion and adoption at the general meeting which took place the next day and was attended by about 74 members out of 174. N. V. Gadgil, in his address, said that the prestige of Indian rulers was waning and as temporary disorder was probable, Congress would have to step in the breach to serve the people. S. D. Deo in moving the resolution regarding Civil Defence Dal mentioned that although the British Government maintained for the last 150 years that they were ruling the country to give it peace and protection, yet they were unable to protect themselves. He did not regret the calamity that had fallen on British Imperialism which had no right to exist. The news that the American Navy and the Chinese Army had been detailed to defend India was tantamount to a British admission of their inability to protect the country. British prestige had been shattered. B. G. Kher in supporting Deo's resolution said that the British rule was no longer able to maintain peace and order in India and hence it had fallen to the lot of the Congress to form

Civil Defence Corps in order to prevent internal disorder. In all, 15 resolutions were passed at the meeting of which the more important were as follows:—(1) approving the Wardha resolution, (2) urging the formation of Civil Defence Dals, (3) requesting merchants to stop profiteering, (4) advocating that local elections should not be contested, (5) demanding unconditional release or open trial of 21 detenues in Maharashtra, (6) urging the formation of Rashtra Sewa Dals, (7) requesting Government to grant remission of assessment, Tagavi loans, etc.

B. J. Desai presided over a meeting of the B. P. C. C. at Bombay on February 4th when the constitution of the People's Volunteer Brigade was the main subject of discussion. Control of the Brigade was to be vested in the B. P. C. C. with an advisory general body comprising Congress members and representatives of organisations taking part in the activities of the Brigade. Leaflets outlining the constitution and aims of the Brigade together with the pledge and enrolment form have been sent to prominent citizens inviting their co-operation.

The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee has issued a statement asking Congressmen to pay two years' subscription by the 30th June, 1942, in order to ensure continuity of their membership.

Miraben (Miss Slade) paid a visit to Ahmedabad to study the demand and supply of khaddar in Gujerat.

Twenty-eight Congress propaganda meetings with attendances varying from 25 to 500 were held during the week of which 12 were concerned with the formation of Citizens' Unions or similar organisations:—

Place	Attendance	Date
Kopergaon, Ahmednagar district ...	6 meetings with attendances varying from 30 to 200.	From February 6th to 11th
Ahmedabad City ...	2 meetings of 100 and 200	February 8th and 13th.
Kharavli, Kolaba district ...	60	February 9th
Tale, Kolaba district ...	50	February 10th
Thana ...	250	February 11th
Amalner, East Khandesh district ...	200	February 7th

At all these meetings audiences were urged to organise Citizens' Unions for their own protection.

Bhulabhai J. Desai presided over an urgent meeting of the B. P. C. C. at Bombay on February 14th when S. K. Patil reported that about 200 prominent citizens had agreed to join the general body of the Peoples' Volunteer Brigade. S. K. Patil, Dr. M. D. D. Gilder and Ashok Mehta were elected General Secretary, Medical Officer in charge and "G. O. C." respectively.

In addition to the above propaganda meetings 30 condolence meetings ranging from 10 to 400 were held throughout the Province to mourn the death of Jamnalal Bajaj. Partial hartals were observed at several places and the municipal schools at Poona and Jalgaon were closed. In Ahmedabad, primary and secondary schools, the Law College and five important bazaars were closed as a mark of respect.

In Bombay City, Bhulabai J. Desai presided over a condolence meeting of the B. P. C. C. on February 12th when an audience of 1,000 persons was present. Local markets, Stock Exchange and bazaars were closed.

M. R. Desai addressed a meeting of about 200 at Ahmedabad on February 8th. He called upon the Indians to organise for self-defence and reminded his audience that the municipality had decided to co-operate in A. R. P. work and that the G. P. C. C. had organised a Shanti Sevak Sangh. Desai also addressed meetings at Ghogho (150) and Valukad (25) on January 31st when he spoke in a similar strain.

Venibhai C. Buch addressed an audience of about 300 at Patdi, Ahmedabad district, on February 10th. He stated that if Singapore fell, the enemy would find it easy to invade Madras or Calcutta. He urged his audience to sink their minor differences and unite to prevent looting, etc.

S. D. Deo was again in intransigent mood when he addressed two meetings in Thana district at Bhiwandi (100) and Thana (500) on February 12th and 14th. At Bhiwandi, Deo again emphasised that India had not been consulted before her entry into the war and that the war was not for India. At Thana, he began his speech in the same vein and urged Indians not to support the war effort. Indian troops were only mercenaries and the country would be free only when the branches of Imperialism were severed. In the event of attack, Indians would find none to protect them. Therefore they should start volunteer organisations to prevent panic and follow Gandhi's constructive programme. People were asking whether Singapore had surrendered, and they knew that it would be surrendered. In England the public were talking of non-co-operation in the war effort.

V. M. Vedak addressed two meetings in Kolaba district at Kharavli (60) and at Tale (50) on February 9th and 10th. He explained the *satyagraha* movement and asserted that Congress would never co-operate in the war effort until India's demands were granted.

D. K. Kunte and S. M. Joshi addressed an audience of 100 at Alibag, Kolaba district, on February 13th. The speakers urged unity of all parties on a non-communal basis and alleged that the British Government was responsible for the factions in India. Government preparations for the defence of India were strongly criticised and the speakers stated that the people would have to protect themselves.

At a meeting of about 50 persons at Masur, Satara district, on February 8th, V. D. Kulkarni and others asserted that detainees were not properly treated and urged united action for their release.

M. D. Pusalkar and other local speakers were heard by an audience of 200 at Amalner, East Khandesh district on February 7th. They dwelt on a recent murder at Amalner which they suspected to be the work of an Irani gang and asserted that the police were unable to protect the people.

Swami Sahajanand was the chief speaker at six meetings with audiences ranging from 30 to 200 at Kopargaon, Ahmednagar district. The formation of Village Protection Dals was discussed.

M. S. Ranganekar addressed a gathering of 250 persons at Thana on February 11th. He said that there was every likelihood of important cities being bombed and that Thana was in the danger zone. He urged volunteers to enlist and co-operate in A. R. P. measures.

From Surat it is learnt from reliable sources that the All-India Congress Committee in electing office-bearers of the Executive Committee has decided to give preference to (1) those who courted jail as *satyagrahis*, (2) persons arrested under the Defence of India Rules during the individual civil disobedience movement and (3) approved *satyagrahis*.

M. R. Desai visited Surat during the week and instructed the District Congress Working Committee to organise Peace Brigades. A private meeting of the Surat District Congress Committee on February 10th discussed the Bombay Tenancy Act and the Debt Relief Act and requested local workers to explain the Debt Relief Act to the villagers.

## BOMBAY SUBURBAN DISTRICT

Local workers are busy in enrolling volunteers for civil and A. R. P. work.

## DHARWAR

At a private meeting of the Dharwar Taluka Congress Committee on February 10th, S. L. Kurtakoti, A. V. Koudi and R. S. Coelho were appointed to form a volunteer organisation.

## BELGAUM

D. L. Adhyapak issued a leaflet on February 13th urging students to assist Belgaum District Congress Committee in the formation of a volunteer corps. N. A. Tendulkar and L. A. Ajagaonkar of the Lingraj College are the organisers.

## KOLABA

The Pen Taluka Congress Committee has published a leaflet containing the rules and regulations of the proposed Citizens' Unions and T. N. Bedekar, President of the Panvel Municipality is canvassing support.

Ordinary Congress propaganda meetings numbered 12, the largest of these being held at Nipani, Belgaum district (750), on February 23, at Ahmednagar (770), on February 15th and at Uran, Kolaba district (700), on the same date. The attendances at the remaining nine meetings were below 500.

In addition to these, 14 further condolence meetings were held to mourn the death of Jamnalal Bajaj.

Meetings in connection with the formation of volunteer organisations numbered 30 and attracted audiences ranging from 8 to 500. These took place in the districts of Ahmedabad (2), Kaira (3), Thana (3), Ahmednagar (4), Satara (5), Solapur (4), Kolaba (3), Ratnagiri (3) and Bijapur (3).

P. H. Patwardhan was again active and addressed five meetings in Ahmednagar district at Bhingar (150), Ahmednagar City (700), Ashwi (200), Sangamner (450) and Dhandarphal (200). Patwardhan urged that no help should be given to the war effort and advocated the formation of Sewa Dals to replace the ineffective measures of Government. Civic Guards were subjected to strong criticism and the audiences were urged to solve their difficulties by reference to Village Panchayats rather than to Mamlatdars, Police or Civil Courts. At the Ashwi meeting,

Patwardhan said that he could not understand why the "noble donors" to the war fund gave money for worthless paper war bonds.

S. D. Deo addressed a meeting of 700 persons at Uran, Kolaba district, on February 15th and another of 150 persons at Karad, Satara district on February 19th. He emphasised the need for internal unity and stated that India wanted *swaraj*. Criticism was levelled at defence measures and the British policy in India.

Speaking to an audience of 100 at Ratnagiri on February 15th, S. P. Patwardhan said that the mettle of the British had been proved at Singapore and that an attack on Bombay would result in evacuation, unrest and unemployment in Ratnagiri.

J. B. Shetye delivered an objectionable speech to an audience of 60 at Chiplun, Ratnagiri district, on February 18th. He alleged that India was held in slavery and had begun to suffer unemployment and scarcity as a result of the war for which Britain was responsible. Britain had let the Balkans down badly. He maintained that the war was due to Britain's thirst for Empire and would end only with the destruction of the British administration. The "honourable" retreat at Singapore was the end of the British who could not protect themselves, much less protect India.

V. G. Chivte, speaking to an audience of 100 at Haveri, Dharwar district, remarked that the ill-treatment which Jamnalal Bajaj had undergone in jail in 1940 hastened his death.

The Citizens' Union at Pen, Kolaba district, has begun to function on February 16th and the 74 volunteers so far enrolled have been instructed to help the police in performing night rounds.

N. M. Balsing was prominent in three meetings of moderate size in Bijapur district. At all these meetings, he maintained that the British came to India to make their fortunes and lead a life of luxury and compared the salaries of high officials with the average income of Indians.

Shrimant Appasaheb Pant of Aundh opened a Khadi bazaar at Nipani, Belgaum district, on February 23rd in the presence of 750 persons. He confined his remarks to economic problems.

In Ahmedabad there have been discussions on Citizens' Protection Scheme and the Hon'ble Mr. G. V. Mavlankar is said to be contemplating investing Congress funds in the storage of Khaddar, corn, etc. If V. J. Patel approves of the proposals,



Laxmidas P. Asar is to be entrusted with the task. The total funds, including the relief fund, are said to amount to two lacs of rupees.

In Kaira, Gopaldas Ambidas Desai, Raojibhai Manibhai Patel President of the District Congress Committee, and Babubhai Jashbhai of Nadiad have been instructing villagers in ways and means of protecting their property against criminals.

In Surat district, M. R. Desai, K. N. Desai and Dr. C. M. Desai discussed A. R. P. problems with V. J. Patel.

The Executive Committee of the K. P. C. C. met at Dharwar on February 16th and 17th under the presidentship of Mrs. Krishnabai Panjikar, about 35 members being present. Members were apprehensive that Government would restrict the activities of Seva Dals in order to leave a clear field for Civic Guards and A. R. P. organisations.

V. P. Limaye presided over a general meeting of the Poona City Taluka Congress Committee on February 15th when only 15 members were present. A committee was appointed to organise N. V. Gadgil's Civil Defence Scheme in the City.

The Kolaba District Congress Committee met at Uran on February 15th to consider the question of famine relief. Thirteen resolutions were passed putting forward various demands and appointing a committee of three persons to form a deputation to Government.

In Bombay City, Ishwarbhai B. Patel presided at a public meeting of 700 persons held by the "G" Ward District Congress Committee on February 16th. Shankarrao D. Deo after referring to the fall of Singapore stated that India would help Britain when she had been granted freedom. He stressed the need for increased war production and advised workers not to leave Bombay.

At an urgent meeting of the B. P. C. C. on February 19th, 21 members were elected to the Board of Control of the People's Volunteer Brigade and a resolution was passed authorising the collection of funds.

A public meeting was also held on February 22nd to enlist support for the Brigade. It was announced that the organisation had the full support of Government and was on non-party lines.

The Sheriff of Bombay convened a public meeting of 700 persons on February 16th at which Bhulabai J. Desai presided.



The Mayor of Bombay appealed for help in the event of enemy action and a Citizens' Civil Defence Committee was appointed.

Thirty-six Congress propaganda meetings were held during the week, the largest at Nipani, Belgaum district, attracting an audience of 1,500 persons on February 24th. The attendances at four of the remaining meetings ranged from 600 to 800 while 31 meetings were attended by less than 500.

In addition, 34 meetings were held throughout the Province in connection with the formation of volunteer organisations. The attendances ranged widely from 25 to 500.

N. V. Gadgil addressed a meeting of 1,500 persons at Nipani, Belgaum district, on February 24th two days before his arrest. Speaking in the antagonistic manner which he has favoured of late, Gadgil demanded that Government should deliver its powers to the people. He maintained that the great majority of people would have nothing to fear if the British Government lost all power. He maintained that Indians had the talent and ability to rule and that they would not fight until they were free. He remarked that the idea of a free India was "poison" to Mr. Churchill.

Gadgil addressed another meeting of 500 persons at Akol, Belgaum district, on February 24th when he spoke in the same strain. On February 26th, he was arrested at Poona under Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, by an order of the District Magistrate, Poona. In a farewell message to Maharashtra, Gadgil stated that his arrest showed that Government had lost its balance and that Indian Independence was at hand. The following meetings were held to protest against N. V. Gadgil's arrest or to congratulate him:—

Place	Attendance	Date
Nipani, Belgaum District	200	February 20th.
Ahmednagar	500	February 27th.
Poona	600	March 1st.

At Ahmednagar, P. H. Patwardhan criticised Gadgil's arrest as a gross mistake. The Poona meeting was presided over by V. P. Limaye while K. M. Jedhe, R. K. Khadilkar, K. G. Gokhale and S. D. Deo delivered speeches. Limaye, Jedhe, Khadilkar and Gokhale generally expressed pain and surprise at Gadgil's arrest although the last named speaker criticised present methods of recruitment and sarcastically remarked that to ask an

unarmed India to withstand the Japanese aggression was as ridiculous as scaring wild animals by the beating of empty drums. S. D. Deo was more temperate than of late. He dwelt on the necessity for freedom if Indians were to resist aggression. He urged that Jawaharlal Nehru should replace H. E. the Viceroy and Sir Reginald Maxwell and denied that Indians wanted a Japanese victory. India did not want England to be defeated but she wanted British Imperialism rooted out.

S. D. Deo addressed seven further public meetings at the following places :—

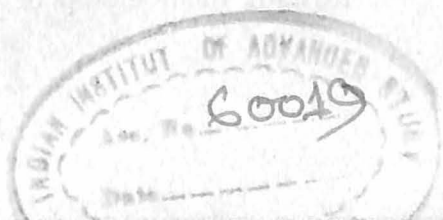
Place	Attendance	Date
Alibag, Kolaba district ...	800	February 22nd.
Kalyan, Thana district ...	300	February 23rd.
Dhulia, West Khandesh district ...	2 meetings of 250 and 700	February 24th.
Shirpur, West Khandesh district ...	400	February 25th.
Nandurbar, West Khandesh district ...	200	February 26th.
Jalgaon, East Khandesh district ...	500	February 28th.

At all the meetings mentioned above except the last, Deo outlined the war situation in defeatist terms and criticised defence measures. At Dhulia, he said that the British were retreating everywhere. He criticised the British Government as irresponsible and incapable of defending India. At Jalgaon on February 28th, he was more temperate and remarked that Indian independence was at hand if Indians could achieve unity.

Vinoba Bhave of Wardha (C. P.) addressed meetings at Ville-Parle, B. S. district on February 23rd and at Jalgaon, East Khandesh district, from February 25th to 28th. He spoke on village industries, non-violence, the economic condition of the country, etc.

B. G. Kher addressed an audience of about 60 at Khar, B. S. district, on February 27th when he urged the public not to panic but to organise themselves for internal security as the police were inadequate.

L. M. Patil and K. B. Antrolikar in Ahmednagar district, B. Y. Deshpande and T. S. Jadhav at Nipani, Belgaum district, G. B. Bhutekar in Nasik district and Arjun B. Lala in Ahmedabad district, addressed small audiences to urge the formation of volunteer organisations. The majority of these speakers were pessimistic as regards Britain's ability to defend India.



N. M. Balsingh made an objectionable speech before an audience of about 75 persons at Bijapur on February 21st when he said that the British during 200 years of unjust rule had robbed India of immense wealth. He held Government responsible for disunity, poor educational standards and growing poverty and concluded by asserting that there would be no happiness until British Imperialism was removed.

S. T. Kelkar and N. R. Patil were the chief speakers at four meetings in Satara district at Lonand, Ahire, Aswali and Lonand between February 21st and 24th. N. R. Patil made objectionable references to the "atrocities" of the British Government and Jallianwala Bagh, hanging of the Sholapur martyrs, the Bhagat Singh affair, etc. He urged that no help should be given to the war funds and stated that ill-trained Indian soldiers were being pushed into the front of the battle. Both N. R. Patil and S. T. Kelkar urged that no recruits should come forward to join the army and that non co-operation should be given in the conduct of the war.

Dr. N. S. Hardikar of Hubli addressed two meetings in that town on February 22nd and 23rd. He stated that Britain had lost Malaya and Singapore because they had not cared to consider the interests of the natives. India wanted neither Japanese nor British domination but independence.

S. S. Banadar, President of the Hubli Taluka Congress Committee, presided over a meeting of 200 persons at Hubli on February 25th when R. S. Golikeri illustrated a lecture on the war by references to a map. He maintained that the British had blundered in not imparting military training to India and were now reaping the fruits of their mistakes.

S. B. Patil and A. D. Doddametti were heard at a meeting at Navalgund, Dharwar district, when the latter stated that refusal to help the war effort was no offence.

The M. P. C. C. has appointed the following committee to guide the activities of the Rashtra Sewa Dal:—Dr. A. V. Ketkar (Ahmednagar), Dr. D. B. Khadilkar (Nasik), Acharya Bhise (Thana). Detailed instructions for the working of the Civil Defence Corps have been issued by the M. P. C. C.

It is learnt that the General Secretary of the A. I. C. C. has issued a circular urging the merits of inter-provincial consultation and collaboration between Provincial Congress Committees.

As a result of his failure to offer *satyagraha*, A. B. Latthe has lost his membership of the Belgaum District Congress Committee,

the Karnatak Provincial Congress Committee and the All-India Congress Committee.

In Bombay City Bhulabhai J. Desai presided at the general meeting of the People's Volunteer Brigade on February 26th when 200 persons were present. S. K. Patil outlined the proposed organisation and functions of the Brigade and added that they would work in co-operation with A. R. P. authorities on honourable terms. March 8th has been fixed as the date for a "mass enrolment campaign" to enlist volunteers.

Congress propaganda meetings numbered 19, the largest of 1,200 persons at Sholapur being addressed by L. M. Patil on March 1st. Of the remaining meetings, the attendances at four ranged from 600 to 800 while the remaining 14 meetings did not attract audiences exceeding 500.

During the week 41 meetings were held in connection with the formation of volunteers organisations. With the exception of two meetings, each attended by about one thousand persons, none of these meetings attracted audiences above 400.

S. D. Deo addressed four meetings in Sholapur district when he spoke in more subdued tones than he has adopted of late. The general tenor of his speeches was to the effect that a free India would resist Japanese aggression.

At Karkamb and Akhuj, Sholapur district, Deo was presented with purses amounting to about Rs. 1,000 for the Congress cause.

Abidalli Jaffarbhay of Bombay was heard when he addressed an audience of 150 at Nandgaon, Thana district, on March 6th. He criticised the British Government which he alleged, had weakened and impoverished India and had failed to render adequate assistance to Indian evacuees from Malaya.

While addressing an audience of about 800 at Hajira, Surat district, on March 4th, Vallabhbhai J. Patel remarked that the defences of Singapore were inadequate and the same appeared to be the case with Java.

B. G. Kher in Bombay Suburban district continues his recruiting activities on behalf of the Citizens' Defence Corps.

L. M. Patil visited Sholapur on March 1st and delivered a public lecture on the present political situation to an audience of about 1,200. In sober mood Patil described the Congress attitude towards the war, eulogised China and Russia and urged

that India should be granted independence. Patil also had discussions with local Congress candidates for the ensuing municipal elections and as a result, two of these candidates have withdrawn their nominations.

A meeting of about 1000 persons was held at Pandharpur, Sholapur district, on March 4th at which D. T. More and others put forward Civil Defence Dal propaganda on Congress lines.

S. P. Patwardhan who has been appointed by Congress to canvass support for volunteer organisations, addressed a small meeting of about 40 persons at Kankavli, Ratnagiri district, on February 26th. He stressed the progress made by Japan since her entry into the war and stated that the once powerful British Empire now had rivals more powerful than herself. He expected attacks on Madras and Bombay and stated that to live in Bombay now was no pleasure. His appeal for volunteers met with no response.

The People's Volunteer Corps at Bassein, Thana district, is gaining ground and some 500 volunteers have been enrolled. In Poona City, 25 doctors and 50 students have been enrolled as volunteers for the medical unit of the Civil Defence Corps.

In Bombay City, five meetings with attendances varying from 100 to 250 were held between March 3rd and 6th to canvass support for the People's Volunteer Brigade. This organisation has secured the support of the mercantile community, students, various labour organisations and the Bombay City and Suburban Car Drivers.

The proposed "Mass Enrolment Campaign Day" on March 8th was rechristened "Self Defence Day" and over 50 street-corner meetings were held throughout the City to explain the aims of the People's Volunteer Brigade. The largest of these meetings, at Chowpatty attracted an audience of 2,000 persons and Bhulabhai J. Desai presided. P. V. B. literature and identification cards were on sale to the public.

It is learnt that under instructions from the All-India Congress Committee, the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee intends to convene the "First Regional Conference" during the third week of March when representatives from Gujerat, Bombay, Maharashtra, Karnatak, C. P. (Marathi) and Vidarbha are expected to attend.

Ordinary Congress propaganda meetings numbered 23 the largest of 10,000 persons at Nadiad, district Kaira being addressed by V. J. Patel on March 9th. Two meetings at Ahmedabad

and Sholapur attracted audience of 2,000 in each case. Of the remaining 20 meetings only three drew attendances of 1,000 while the rest were below 500.

In addition to the above, 60 meetings with audiences ranging upto 600 were held in connection with the formation of volunteer organisations.

V. J. Patel who still occupies a unique position in Congress circles in Gujarat addressed 3 meetings at Anand, Karamsad and Nadiad in his native district of Kaira during the week. He also addressed 3 meetings in Ahmedabad. Patel's largest audience (10,000) was at Nadiad, Kaira district on March 9th. At all six of the above gatherings the tenor of V. J. Patel's remarks was that "those who took the sword would perish by the sword". For this reason Indians would find true victory only in non-violence. He demanded to know how Government could expect help from a nation which they had deprived of all manliness. He advised his listeners to concentrate on preventing internal chaos and to avoid seeking assistance from the Police.

S. D. Deo conducted a tour of Sholapur district and addressed 5 meetings on the present political situation and the need for volunteer organisations. In passing he referred to the continuous retreats of the British army and the superiority of Japan. He prophesied the end of the British Empire and the advent of internal disturbances in India. Deo's concluding speeches were somewhat less defeatist in tone when he maintained that India did not want the Japanese, they wanted the British but not British Imperialism.

At a meeting of about 500 persons at Mahim, district Thana, on March 12th one Bhausahab Ranade delivered an objectionable speech. He maintained that Indians had not fought for Government because the British army had always been kept in the rear. He affirmed that within the last two years there was not a single case in which the British had conquered by their own valour.

S. P. Patwardhan addressed 4 meetings in connection with the formation of volunteer organisations in Ratnagiri district. At Shiroda on March 5th his speech was objectionable. He stated that the Indian Army should be urged not to fight for Britain and alleged that the recent explosion in one of the Bombay mills had been caused by a bomb. At Redi he stated that Indians had no enmity towards Japan and Germany who had done them no harm. It was the British who took away money from the Indian treasury to wage a war outside India.



In Ahmednagar district P. H. Patwardhan was arrested on March 11th and subsequently sentenced to 18 months' simple imprisonment under Rule 38 (5) of the Defence of India Rules. His arrest was the signal for a complete *hartal* by the merchants of various bazaars in Ahmednagar and 3 small meetings were held in the district to congratulate him on his arrest. At one of these meetings Ram Nisal made some intemperate remarks when he asserted that the British were doomed to destruction as a result of their blundering policy. He added that if the Japanese invaded India British officers would run away as they had done in Singapore.

The sentence of death on Gopalan Nambiyar has evoked some agitation in Congress circles and the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee has issued a statement requesting the public to observe March 25th as "Gopalan Day".

The formation of various types of volunteer corps continues briskly in most districts. In Bombay Suburban district B. G. Kher continues his propaganda activities on behalf of the Citizens' Defence Corps, while in Bombay City the total number of volunteers so far enrolled in the People's Volunteer Brigade is in the neighbourhood of 10,000.

Apart from the usual large number of unimportant meetings in connection with the formation of volunteer organisations, there was little Congress activity during the week and only Vallabh-bhai J. Patel at Ahmedabad and Vinoba Bhave at Dhulia succeeded in attracting audiences of any magnitude.

At Ahmedabad on March 15th, Vallabhabhai J. Patel had some pertinent remarks to make when he addressed an audience of 40,000 persons. He expressed his grief and disappointment at the loss of Congress prestige occasioned by the Ahmedabad riots of 1941 and warned his audience against a repetition. The remainder of his speech was devoted to allaying panic and urging the people to protect themselves as the British Empire was breaking up.

At Dhulia, West Khandesh district, Vinoba Bhave delivered an uninteresting speech to "a gathering of 1,000 persons. Apart from an eulogy of Gandhi's principles and constructive programme, he had little to say. Bhave also addressed two small meetings in the same district at one of which he criticised the "scorched earth" policy as being responsible for creating panic amongst the trading community.

Dharwar district has been the locus of some defeatist speeches by N. S. Hardikar who failed to attract much attention. In the course of four meetings at Hubli and Gadag, Hardikar referred to the continuous successes of the Japanese and prophesied that Britain would lose India in six months if she did not awaken. The progress of the Japanese showed the weakness of Britain. Hardikar maintained that the A. R. P. organisations were of no practical use.

Meetings advocating the formation of Citizens' Unions and similar organisations were numerous in most districts.

At a small meeting at Zirad, Kolaba district, on March 19th, J. G. Dhavan made some objectionable and defeatist statements when he predicted the early bombing of Bombay and the precipitate flight of Government officials. He alleged that soldiers in Bombay were outraging women instead of protecting the people.

J. B. Shetye in a speech at Dapoli, Ratnagiri district, on March 17th, stated that the British were responsible for India's present distress. On 20th March 1942, Shetye was arrested under the Defence of India Rules for a former speech made at Chiplun.

On March 20th, the All-India Women's Association started a training camp at Abrama village, Surat district, under the direction of Miss Slade (Miraben), Miss Mrudula Ambalal and Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. The camp is intended to impart training in physical culture, home industries, social work, etc., and 50 women from all over India are attending.

In Bombay City, efforts to popularise the People's Volunteer Brigade continue and student-organisations are lending their support.

With the attention of all political parties centred on the mission of Sir Stafford Cripps, there was comparatively little activity on the part of Congress during the week. Ordinary meetings numbered only 17 while 28 meetings were connected with the formation of Civil Defence Organisation. At none of these meetings did the attendance exceed 600.

S. D. Deo conducted an energetic tour of Ratnagiri district and addressed eight meetings of average size. The general tenor of his remarks was that India was a slave nation dragged into the war by Britain without the sanction of the people. Deo professed to be equally opposed to British Imperialism and Japanese aggression.



K. N. Desai and M. R. Desai, addressed 9 meetings in Surat district between March 24th and 27th. They urged the villagers to stock sufficient grain for a year and to organise Shanti Sevak Sanghs to prevent internal disorder.

At Nizampur, Kolaba district, Vasant Mahadev Vedak had some sarcastic remarks to make when he addressed a small meeting on March 24th. He jibed at the "orderly retreats" of the British and pointed out that nations like France and Greece who had depended on Britain were now ruined.

Dr. K. B. Antrolikar delivered an extremely defeatist speech at Barsi, Sholapur district, on March 21st, when he described the progress of the war with emphasis on British defeats and stated that there were only 36 aeroplanes in India. He affirmed that Britain could neither win the war nor defend India.

At Bhadgaon, East Khandesh district, Bhalchandra Sadashiv Jakatdar adopted a new tactics when he took advantage of a gathering at Military cinema show to deliver a virulent anti-war speech urging his audience to render no assistance in the prosecution of the war. Jakatdar was arrested under the Defence of India Rules and the case against him is sub-judice.

In Bombay City and Ahmedabad the Congress has decided to observe "National Week" from April 6th. It is anticipated that propaganda for the People's Volunteer Brigade and similar organisations will form an important part of the proceedings.

For the second week in succession, Congress circles were pre-occupied with the questions raised by Sir Stafford Cripps' mission and consequently there was comparatively little activity. Sixteen propaganda meetings were held while gatherings connected with the formation of Civil Defence Organisations totalled only 30.

Brijlal Biyani, President of the Berar Provincial Congress Committee, provided the biggest attraction of the week when he addressed a meeting of 2,000 persons at Sholapur on April 4th. In a somewhat hackneyed speech dealing with the present political situation, he alleged that the Cripps' proposals were forced from Britain by the pressure of American and Chinese opinion and Japanese aggression.

M. R. Desai and K. N. Desai, continued their tour of the villages in Surat district and addressed small meetings at which they urged the villagers to organise for protection against possible outbreaks of lawlessness. M. R. Desai was heard at Dohad, Panch

Mahals district, on March 31st when he urged an audience of 500 persons to develop self-reliance and prepare to resist aggression.

At Indapur, Poona district, on March 31st, S. P. Limaye, expressed his relief that Subhash Chandra Bose was safe. He emphasised the need for organising Civil Defence Corps to provide the protection which the police could not furnish.

Swami Sahajanand Bharati was the main speaker at a meeting held at Kopargaon, Ahmednagar district, to congratulate Patwardhan, Girmé and Bogawat on being convicted under the Defence of India Rules. In a somewhat cautious speech, he criticised the arrest of these "leaders".

It is learnt that J. B. Kripalani, General Secretary, A. I. C. C., has appealed to Provincial Congress Committees to make "National Week" a success.

There was again little Party activity during the week except for the celebrations in connection with "National Week". Ordinary propaganda meetings numbered 20 while 29 were held in connection with the formation of Civil Defence Organisations.

V. P. Limaye, presided over a meeting of 1,500 persons at Poona on April 14th when S. D. Deo was the chief speaker. Deo began his address in sober tones by stating that none would rejoice at the failure of Sir Stafford Cripps' mission. Later in his speech Deo stated that Indians were not interested in helping Britain, but they had to defend themselves and resist Japanese aggression. He ridiculed the idea that independence could be achieved after a Japanese victory and affirmed that the best way to gain liberty was to prevent the British from remaining and the Japanese from entering India.

B. G. Kher, V. V. Kirtane and others delivered speeches on the necessity for uplift amongst the aborigines at a meeting of about 1,000 persons at Vivalveda, Thana district, on April 8th.

D. K. Gosavi attracted an audience of about 3,000 when he spoke at Kavathe, Satara district, on April 7th on the necessity for organisation of Civil Defence Dals.

Dr. K. B. Antrolkar urged village organisation to prevent internal disruption when he addressed an audience of 2,000 in Sholapur district on April 3rd.

J. B. Shetye has been sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment by the First Class Magistrate, Chiplun, district Ratnagiri, on 8th April 1942, under rule 34 (6) (g) read with rule 38 (5) of

the Defence of India Rules, for an objectionable speech delivered by him at Chiplun.

Apart from the celebration of National Week, Congress Party activity was again on a comparatively small scale. Twenty-two propaganda meetings were concerned chiefly with post-mortems of the Cripps' mission. J. B. Kripalani, S. D. Deo and others attracted audiences of 2,000 and 600 at Poona on April 18th and 19th respectively. The attendances at the other meetings did not exceed 500. Twenty-four meetings were held in connection with the formation of Civil Defence Organisations, B. G. Kher and others in Bombay Suburban district drawing the largest crowds.

J. B. Kripalani, General Secretary, A. I. C. C., spoke on the subject of "Sir Stafford Cripps' visit and After" before an audience of 2,000 at Poona on April 18th. He stated that the Cripps' proposals were full of communal poison which contaminated the whole country, British politicians were perfidious and had used Cripps as their tool. Kripalani then proceeded to uphold Gandhi's principle of non-violence and stated that India had no quarrel with Germany or Japan. If she had any quarrel, it was with the British Government. He derived hypothetical atrocities which might be committed by the Axis Powers in India and drew attention to the atrocities such as the Jallianwala Bagh which Britain had already committed. The conclusion of his speech was devoted to ridiculing the idea of guerilla warfare in India.

On April 19th, S. D. Deo, Raghavendra Sharma, D. V. Gokhale and S. G. Vaze, addressed an audience of 600 at Poona on the subject of "States Peoples Day". Raghavendra Sharma introduced the subject by stating that the meeting was convened to give assent to the resolution passed by the Working Committee of the All-India States Peoples' Conference. He alleged that the Cripps' proposals had referred to Princes alone and had left out of consideration nine crores of States' subjects. This was done with the object of perpetuating the British Empire with all its vices. D. V. Gokhale said that the Cripps' proposals were full of malice and were rightly rejected. S. D. Deo wound up the meeting with a speech ridiculing the Cripps' proposals as regards the Indian States. The duty of Indians under the present circumstances was to protect the nation by concentrating on the Congress Constructive Programme.

At Ahmednagar on April 20th, A. S. Patwardhan was congratulated on his release before a meeting of about 500 persons. He began his remarks by stating that 18 months ago no one imagined

that a second class Power like Japan could deal an "earthquake shock" to the British Empire which had resulted in the British Government losing their arrogance, over-confidence and courage. Patwardhan then went on to ridicule the suggestion that Japan would liberate India and stated that he totally disagreed with the policy of Subhash Chandra Bose. In conclusion, he advised his audience to prepare to defend themselves as the British were powerless to protect them.

G. A. Deshpande presided over a meeting of the Working Committee of the M. P. C. C. at Poona on April 18th when 11 out of 17 members were present. Of six resolutions adopted at the meeting, the more important stated (1) that the Indian people should resist Japanese aggression "tooth and nail", although the struggle for independence still continued, and (2) that the meeting condemned the repressive policy of Government in arresting prominent Congressmen of Maharashtra despite the discontinuation of the non-co-operation movement.

The Secretary of the Bombay Evacuation Committee appointed by the P. V. B. has asked for the assistance of the Gujarat P. C. C. in preparing an evacuation scheme for the population of Bombay in an emergency.

The Ahmedabad Municipality at a meeting on A. R. P. expressed dissatisfaction with the measures taken by Government for the defence of the City.

With Congress circles awaiting a definite lead from Allahabad, Party activities were on a reduced scale and of 33 meetings held, only one drew an audience exceeding 500.

Meetings in connection with the formation of Civil Defence Organisations dropped appreciably to 9, possibly indicating a wane of the first flush of enthusiasm.

In Bombay City, the P. V. B. was also less active than in past weeks and only two small meetings took place.

In order to implement the M. P. C. C.'s resolution to collect Rs. 10,000 for propaganda purposes, S. D. Deo conducted a tour of Kolaba district and addressed eight meetings with an average attendance of about 400. Deo's address at these meetings reflected the confusion which exists in Congress circles and although he appears to be bearing recent warnings in mind, he could not refrain from some disparaging remarks about the British Empire. After dwelling at length on the failure of the Cripps' mission which he attributed to the Defence question, Deo said that although Congress did not want a German or Japanese victory,

they nevertheless did not want to perpetuate British Imperialism which was responsible for Fascism and Nazism and was holding one-fifth of the world in bondage. He characterised present recruitment as mercenary and stated that only Jawaharlal Nehru and other nationalist leaders could touch the hearts of the people. He favoured the democratic cause rather than that of the Fascist nations. At one meeting, Deo stated that the British Empire was vanishing and its prosperity was at an end. The Sun was setting and the English were today a hollow pillar without money, valour or supplies.

K. N. Desai, President of the Surat District Congress Committee, and M. R. Desai, Secretary of the G. P. C. C., addressed eight propaganda meetings in Surat district. They explained the war situation and urged the people not to panic but to organise for their own protection.

At Bhingar, Ahmednagar district, 500 persons assembled on April 21st to congratulate A. S. Patwardhan on his release from jail. Patwardhan warned his audience that a Japanese success would mean slavery. He then criticised alleged racial discrimination in the evacuation of Burma and concluded with an appeal for unity.

From the Karnatak it is reported that Congress circles consider that the Allahabad conference will result in an appeal for Gandhi's guidance.

Miss Slade, who has been organising the All-India Women's Provincial Training Camp in Surat district, left for Wardha on April 23rd.

S. P. *alias* Appasaheb Patwardhan was arrested on April 21st under the Defence of India Rules for objectionable speeches delivered in Ratnagiri district in March.

Mrs. Krishnabai S. Panjekar of Dharwar has been sentenced to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment on April 22nd under the Defence of India Rules for objectionable speeches delivered in Ratnagiri district.

Bhalchandra Sadashi Jakatdar has been fined Rs. 300 in default 6 months' rigorous imprisonment on March 28th under the Defence of India Rules for delivering an anti-war speech in East Khandesh district.

S. T. Kelkar of Bhore State has been sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment in two cases for making objectionable speeches in Satara district.

The fall in Party activity mentioned last week was again noticeable. 21 propaganda meetings were held of which only two attracted audiences above 500.

13 meetings were held to discuss Civil Defence Organisations and at the large majority of these, the audience was below 150.

In Bombay City, there was practically no Congress activity.

K. N. Desai and M. R. Desai continued their tour in Surat district and addressed four meetings in Bardoli taluka when they urged the villagers to grow more grain and organise civil defence measures.

M. R. Desai left for Allahabad on April 25th.

In Dharwar district, A. D. Doddametti was heard at three meetings. He urged his audience to grow food crops and avoid panic evacuation. He warned them against thinking that the Japanese would free India and said that on the contrary a Japanese victory would be India's doom.

At a small meeting in Bijapur on April 28th, R. G. Dube and N. M. Balsing, both local speakers, referred to the bad treatment meted out by the British to Indians.

Sardar Prithvising inaugurated a Rashtra Seva Dal Volunteers' Training Camp at Poona on May 1st. Some 120 volunteers will attend the camp which is to last for a month. Prithvising stated that while he could profess no liking for the British, he would prefer the volunteers to aid Britain in the war against Fascist Japan who would only exploit India if they succeeded in conquering it.

The sentence on P. H. Patwardhan has been reduced from 18 months to 10 months in appeal.

Congress propaganda meetings during the week showed a further decrease to 15, the majority of which were addressed by S. D. Deo. The general feeling of frustration which is evident in Congress circles manifested itself in a general wave of defeatism on the part of speakers.

The initial enthusiasm which attended the formation of Peace Brigades and similar Defence Organisations is steadily decreasing and only eight meetings in this connection were reported during the week.

In Bombay City, the P. V. B. sponsored a procession in which 100 persons participated. On his arrival in Bombay on May 10th

to collect funds for the Andrews Memorial, M. K. Gandhi was received by some 300 persons.

S. D. Deo continued his "fund collecting tour" in Maharashtra. He addressed eight meetings in Satara district and two in Palghar, Thana district and Poona. As his tour progressed, his speeches have gradually become more defeatist and objectionable in tone. His general theme was that the British should leave India to defend herself by non-violent non-co-operation. He asserted that Indians would defend their motherland to the last, but that was not the case with the British. Lord Linlithgow, General Wavell and Sir Roger Lumley would retreat from India for the good of the world. Deo also insisted that American troops had come to India to preserve British Imperialism. Every Empire had its beginning, climax and downfall and it was no wonder that the Pacific Empires of Holland, Britain and America were vanishing before the rise of the new Japanese Empire.

The largest meeting of the week was held at Poona on May 12th and drew an audience of 1,000. S. D. Deo spoke in his usual strain and N. V. Gadgil declared that the British was mortgaged to America and India was America's insurance that her debtors would pay up.

At a small meeting in Ahmednagar district on April 30th, local speakers referred to the British retreat in Burma, asserted that the police were unable to protect the people and expressed doubts as regards the safety of money deposited in Postal Banks.

A. G. Deshpande was arrested on May 2nd for making a defeatist speech in Belgaum district on March 30th.

Party activity revived somewhat during the week and 23 propaganda meetings of the usual type were convened. M. N. Desai and M. R. Desai continue their tour of Surat district. The great majority of the meetings did not attract audiences exceeding 400.

Twenty-four meetings were held in connection with the formation of Civil Defence Organisations.

In Bombay City, there was little activity of the usual type, the attention of Congress being focussed on the visit of M. K. Gandhi.

N. V. Gadgil attracted the largest audience of the week when he addressed 1200 persons at Barsi, Sholapur district, the occasion being the donation of a plot of land for a proposed Congress House. In a stereotyped speech, he ranged from discussion of the present war situation to the failure of the Cripps' proposals and criticism of Britain's unyielding attitude.



K. N. Desai and M. R. Desai were the chief speakers at five meetings in Mandvi taluka, Surat district, during the week. They urged the villagers to form Peace Brigades for their own protection in the event of internal disruption.

The Surat City Defence Committee observed a "Unity Week" by holding 11 ward meetings which were the occasion for disseminating propaganda regarding Congress Civil Defence measures. At one of these meetings, a local speaker stated that Government would be unable to meet the Japanese aggression at all points and some form of Civil Defence was therefore essential.

Swami Sahajanand Bharati toured Ahmednagar district and spoke at three meetings when he advocated the formation of Civil Defence Units.

S. N. Tendulkar made two speeches in Ratnagiri district when his audiences were very small. While carefully emphasising that India did not wish to be ruled by Germany or Japan, his speeches had a distinctly defeatist flavour. He suggested that the people were doubtful of Britain's ability to protect India as they had been defeated continually for over a period of three years. They had been unable to prevent the recent bombings of Chittagong and it was probable that Bombay would also be bombed.

M. K. Gandhi accompanied by Mahadeo H. Desai and Vallabh-bhai J. Patel visited the Ahimsak Vyayam Mandal conducted by Sardar Prithvising Shadiram in Bombay Suburban district. During Gandhi's stay in Bombay, he was visited by numerous persons including K. M. Munshi, Mrs. Lilavati Munshi, Mrs. Perin Captain, Nagindas T. Master, Yusuf J. Meherally and Morarji R. Desai. His only open activity was when he gave an interview to local journalists. It is reported from Ahmedabad that Gandhi's Bombay visit has a dual purpose and that besides the object of collecting funds for the Andrews' Memorial, he wished to discuss with V. J. Patel the probable response from Gujarat if non-cooperation is revived and Congressmen are asked to court jail. Ahmedabad Congressmen believe that Government are considering banning the *Harijan* and it is thought that such a ban might be made the cause for launching a civil disobedience movement.

The confusion and perplexity which at present reigns in Congress circles becomes more evident daily. The rank and file appear to be so bewildered that they have abandoned even speculation, while local leaders are watching M. K. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru according to their particular allegiances. Further evidence which came to hand during the week confirms the



belief that Gandhi in his disappointment over the "unsatisfactory" Allahabad resolution and to prevent any further desertions from the ranks of his hitherto devoted following, has decided to launch another movement. Despite the fact that such a movement could scarcely be launched at a more unpropitious hour, local Congress circles do not believe that Gandhi is bluffing. Congress prestige and Gandhi's personal prestige no less, have recently suffered severe blows and apparently drastic restorative measures are called for.

Shankarrao D. Deo continues to indulge in veiled defeatism and before a gathering of 3,000 persons at Malegaon, Nasik district, on May 22nd, he declared that India had no reason to declare war on Japan, as Japan had never done any wrong to India. The benevolence of Japan was contrasted with the repressive policy of an Imperialistic Britain. Should Japan by any chance invade India, such an invasion would be designed only to counteract the power of Britain. Deo in his most intransigent mood demanded to know how Britain could claim to be fighting in self-defence when Britain had not been invaded.

On the same day that Deo addressed his Malegaon audience, Babulbhai Mehta in Kaira district urged 1,200 local followers to devote all their attention to spinning.

In Ahmednagar, A. S. Patwardhan struck yet another note when he declared that Indians, emboldened by the creed of non-violence, would never submit to the Japanese and would never assist a Government which had treated them as slaves.

S. N. Tendulkar evidently aware that his recent speeches had been more irresponsible than discreet delivered a mild address at Dapoli, Ratnagiri district, on May 15th. This, however, did not prevent his prosecution for the objectionable speech which he delivered in the same district on May 13th.

Civil Defence Organisations continue to lose ground and interest appears to be steadily decreasing, although local Congress leaders in Ahmedabad are greatly preoccupied with grandiose evacuation schemes.

In Bombay City, there was practically no open Congress activity and the P. V. B. contended itself with the distribution of yet another leaflet.

Party activity during the week showed some increase and N. V. Gadgil, B. G. Kher, Sardar Prithvising and Vallabhbhai J. Patel achieved audiences exceeding 600. Congress circles in

Gujarat, which are usually well informed as to Gandhi's activities, are convinced that a movement of some kind will shortly be launched. The final decision is awaiting the outcome of the meeting of the Working Committee at Wardha and progress reports indicating the amount of support which is likely to be forthcoming. Indications of the exact nature of the movement are lacking, but in Gujarat the surmise is that it will take the form of an anti-war and anti-recruiting campaign by the masses.

N. V. Gadgil, President of the M. P. C. C., presided at the Karad Taluka Political Conference which was attended by 1,000 persons from Satara district on May 31st. Gadgil, in his presidential address, stated that the British Government had no right to seek aid in the war effort from India as they had declared that country belligerent without consulting the wishes of the people. He, however, ridiculed the idea that the Japanese would come as liberators.

B. G. Kher continued to devote attention to the constructive programme which he commended at the closing of the Rashtra Seva Dal Training Camp at Poona on May 31st. To an audience of about 1,000 persons he asserted that any Indian who believed that Germany or Japan would grant them independence was a traitor to the country.

Sardar Prithvising addressed two well attended meetings at Chalisgaon, East Khandesh district and expatiated on the tragic scene presented by the suffering of the Indians under the impact of war. He stressed the need for emulating the self sacrifice of youth of Japan and Germany if independence was to be achieved.

At Bardoli, Surat district, the thesis of Vallabhbhai J. Patel was "non-violence". He derided all talk of warlike resistance and frankly stated that the provision of arms to Indians would be useless, as they had forgotten how to use them. At Vedchhi in the same district, Patel jeered at the "tall British" who had lost Burma to the "stunted Japanese". He prophesied that Gandhi's advice to the British to leave India would result in his imprisonment and added that should Gandhi be arrested the people must be prepared to face a crucial test of their courage.

The Working Committee of the G. P. C. C. met at Bardoli on May 31st *in camera*. According to reports, V. J. Patel explained the present war situation in Burma and the implication of Gandhi's recent articles in the *Harijan*. Presidents of all District Congress Committees are understood to have given assurances that the masses would follow Gandhi.

G. A. Deshpande provided the objectionable speech of the week when he addressed an audience of about 200 in Nasik district on May 25th. He stated that Indians had joined the army because of hunger and that India was being sacrificed to quench the thirst of Imperialism.

D. K. Kunte has been arrested for an objectionable speech delivered in Thana district on April 16th.

In Bombay City, Congress activity was at a discount, but the P. V. B. is contemplating the establishment of a "Blood Bank" under the guidance of M. D. D. Gilder.

Provincial Congressmen continue to await the decisions of the "High Command" at Wardha and activity during the week was not marked. Eighteen meetings were held, only one of which drew an audience exceeding 350.

The formation of Civil Defence Organisations continues to lag perceptibly and only 15 meetings were held of which 11, addressed by T. R. Deogirikar of Poona, took place in Sholapur district.

In Bombay City, the B. P. C. C. held an urgent private meeting on June 2nd when 13 persons were present. Apart from this, the only event of note in Congress circles was the speech made by S. D. Deo on June 5th.

Gandhi's pronouncements in the *Harijan* and the statements of Congress leaders are receiving careful scrutiny by Congressmen throughout the Province. In Gujerat speculation is on the increase. Usually well-informed circles surmise that Gandhi will test the opinion of Provincial Congress leaders during the next meeting of the Working Committee. Acrimonious discussion and differences of opinion are expected, but it is felt that Gandhi will eventually win the support of a majority. V. J. Patel's recent indication that the movement would be initiated in Gujerat lacks confirmation and may possibly have been made in order to arouse local enthusiasm.

N. V. Gadgil and G. A. Deshpande, President and Secretary respectively of the M. P. C. C. have utilised the *Lokashakti* to underline their allegation against the "repressive" policy of Government and urge the enlistment of Congress members in large numbers.

Abidally Jafferbhai of Bombay, addressing an audience of about 1,000 at Nasik on May 31st, remarked on the inefficiency and incompetence of a Government which had failed to take the advice of businessmen and prohibit export of iron to Japan in 1939.

Jafferbhai had much to say on the brother-hood of Hindus and Muslims who were, he alleged, the victims of a Government policy which incited communalism. References were also made to alleged racial discrimination during the evacuation of Burma. After intemperate references to the luxury of Delhi, Jafferbhai concluded with an appeal for implicit obedience to the behests of Gandhi.

T. S. Jadhav, who addressed four meetings in Sholapur district during the week, described the British Government as a black cobra which should be destroyed and characterised the British people as the "worst on earth".

At a meeting of 15 members of Bijapur Municipality on June 1st, a member stressed the need for organising Civil Defence Units, as in Burma the military and the local police had taken to their heels.

The All—India Women's Training Class at Abrama, Surat district, will be visited by Vijayalaxmi Pandit and a private meeting of the Working Committee will be held on June 7th and 8th.

S. P. Patwardhan has been sentenced to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment under the Defence of India Rules for the objectionable speeches delivered by him in Ratnagiri district on March 5th.

A private meeting of the B. P. C. C. at Bombay on June 2nd, held under the presidentship of Nagindas T. Master, passed a resolution generally endorsing the Allahabad resolution of the A. I. C. C. and calling on local Congressmen to prepare for self-defence and sacrifice when the call for action came from Congress.

S. D. Deo continued to adopt an objectionable tone when he addressed a meeting of 400 workers at Bombay on June 5th. After the customary references to the dragging of India into a war which did not concern her people, Deo characterised the British Empire as hollow and about to crack. He desired its destruction. Britain's declaration of war against Japan which had only invaded Malaya, Singapore and Burma and had not attacked Britain itself proved that this was not a "people's war", but a struggle by Britain to preserve her Empire. Deo developed his theme with references to the poverty of English resources and repeated Gandhi's demand that the British should leave India and thus remove any possibility of a Japanese invasion.

Congress circles were still awaiting further elucidation of Gandhi's scheme and displayed little activity during the week. Sixteen meetings were held and attracted very moderate audi-

ences with the exception of a function held at Nasik to congratulate G. H. Deshpande on his release from jail.

Meetings in connection with Civil Defence Organisations were few and little more than a routine attempt to hold the interest of the people.

From Bombay City, no activity of any importance is reported.

Speculation as regards the proposed mass movement continues, but enthusiasm is not marked. Certain sections of the press, which are normally pro-Congress, have expressed doubts as to the wisdom of initiating any movement at this unpropitious hour. From Gujarat it is reported that at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the G. P. C. C. at Bardoli, M. R. Desai, Secretary of the G. P. C. C., and K. N. Desai, President of the Surat District Congress Committee, disagreed with Vallabhbhai J. Patel on the question of launching a movement at the present juncture. Such differences of opinion do not, however, herald a split in Gujarat Congress circles and, in the event of Gandhi taking the final step, Gujarat will furnish unstinted support.

Dr. Shankaracharya Kurtkoti and Dr. D. B. Khadilkar were prominent at a meeting of 5,000 persons convened at Nasik on June 7th to welcome G. H. Deshpande recently released from jail. Kurtkoti asserted that there was little difference inside or outside prison, as India itself was a vast jail. He deprecated Deshpande's censure of the Japanese and the Nazis who had done no wrong to Indians, and waged war only against the British.

T. R. Deogirikar of Poona completed his tour of Sholapur district by addressing 7 meetings. His speeches were generally unobjectionable except at the first and largest meeting when both Deogirikar and Dr. K. B. Antolikar were definitely defeatist in their prophesies regarding the impending Japanese invasion.

The Executive Committee of the All-India Women's Conference met under the presidentship of Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit at Abrama, Surat district, on June 7th when Kamladevi was elected as Vice-President. During the course of the following week, Mrs. Pandit, Mrs. Laxmibai Rajwade, Lady Rama Rao and Miss Mrudula Sarabhai addressed the women attending the training camp. Resolutions were passed on the subjects of molestation of women and hardships suffered by evacuees from Burma.

S. N. Tendulkar has been sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment for an objectionable speech delivered in Ratnagiri district.

Congress activity during the week continued to decline and only 16 meetings were held the largest of which attracted an audience of 700.

Meetings in connection with the formation of Civil Defence Organisations numbered only two and the audiences were negligible.

In Bombay City, the chief event of the week was the mass meeting of 25,000 persons addressed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on June 18th.

Local workers in Nasik district are devoting their energies to a recruiting tour which is headed by G. H. Deshpande whose recent release from jail appears to have stimulated activity in the district. The speeches have so far consisted of dreary reiterations of destructive criticism by Congress of Government.

Ahmednagar City, which specialises in congratulatory meetings for released Congressmen, held another such meeting to felicitate K. R. Garud. A. S. Patwardhan was the chief speaker and had little new to say beyond criticising the National Front which he described as a farce and Rajagopalachari's stand which, according to Patwardhan, was a display of "slave mentality".

The M. P. C. C. at a meeting in Poona on June 17th were chiefly concerned with demands that Government should arrange adequate supplies of staple foods at fixed rates.

From Gujerat come reports of further steps preparatory to any order that may be issued by Gandhi for initiating a mass movement and the G. P. C. C. profiting by the fate of the A. I. C. C. office at Allahabad, has removed important records from Congress House, Ahmedabad. Vallabhbhai J. Patel is bending his energies to the task of reconciling M. R. Desai and K. N. Desai with Gandhi. Meanwhile, M. R. Desai at a meeting held *in camera* reproved the Civil Defence volunteers of Ahmedabad for their slackness and lack of enthusiasm.

Jawaharlal Nehru arrived in Bombay on June 16th and was received at the station by Bhulabhai J. Desai, Nagindas T. Master, Ashok Mehta, Mrs. Nergis Batliwala and others. On June 17th Nehru was interviewed by Yusuf J. Meherally, Ashok Mehta and P. C. Joshi. On the same day he gave a press interview which has been widely reported. On June 18th H. V. Kamath of the All-India Forward Block called on Nehru and later the Pandit attended a lunch given by Walchand Hirachand. The

high-light of the visit was the mass meeting at which 25,000 persons including some 10,000 P. V. B. volunteers were present. Bhulabhai J. Desai opened the proceedings with an appeal for support to the P. V. B. In a characteristic speech, Nehru touched on the war situation, the Cripps' Mission and the forthcoming meeting of the Working Committee. He stated that he would like to use every means in his power to prevent India falling into the Japanese hands, but unfortunately the British performance in Burma and Malaya did not leave much room for hope. Nehru left for Allahabad on June 20th.



1942

**July to December**

A total of 18 propaganda meetings was held during the week. S. D. Deo and G. H. Deshpande, who are conducting tours in Ahmednagar and Nasik districts respectively, were the chief speakers at twelve of these meetings.

Interest in Civil Defence Organisations has waned and only a few meetings were held, attracting meagre audiences.

In Bombay, there was little activity and C. Rajagopalachari's visit was the only event of importance in Congress circles.

In Nasik district the release of local Congressmen has resulted in general activity and enlistment of Congress members and collection of funds occupied the attention of G. H. Deshpande and other Congressmen during the week. Two thousand people assembled to welcome V. N. Naik and W. G. Yardi on their opportune release while G. H. Deshpande, V. C. Powar and M. P. Limaye addressed six meetings throughout the district. These speakers prophesied the approaching downfall of the British Empire which had exploited India. The speeches of V. C. Powar were definitely objectionable and he stressed the continuous retreats of the British Forces and the imperialist nature of the war.

In Ahmednagar district S. D. Deo drew moderate audiences except in Ahmednagar City where 1,000 persons gathered to hear him. Reports at present to hand show that Deo criticised the British "Imperialistic" attitude towards India and emphasised the rise in cost of living due to the war. The Allied Nations, far from being in a position to launch an offensive, were not able to put up even an adequate defence.

In Poona N. V. Gadgil also complained of the inadequate steps taken by Government to control stocks and indeed the question of securing adequate supplies of essential commodities at reasonable price has engaged the attention of speakers in most districts.

All districts are busy enrolling Congress members and it is reported that the Secretary of the M. P. C. C. has requested that the period for enrolment be extended until July 31st.

Deokinandan Shankarprasad Dube, Secretary of the Bhusaval City Congress Committee, was arrested for selling handwritten Marathi copies of the banned A. I. C. C. resolutions. The case is under investigation.

In Bombay City, C. Rajagopalachari arrived on June 21st and after visiting Vallabhbhai J. Patel went to reside with Bhulabhai J. Desai. On June 23rd, P. C. Joshi, the Communist, met Rajagopalachari, while on the succeeding days the latter was occupied in conferences with M. A. Jinnah. Rajagopalachari addressed two meetings, each about 1,000 strong, and the proceedings and attendant incidents have been widely reported. S. D. Deo of Poona addressed a meeting of about 100 residents of Parel on June 24th when he explained the Congress policy and asked how Indians could be expected to have faith in the ability of the British to defend India after the fall of Singapore, Malaya and Tobruk.

In the absence of any decision from Wardha, the lull in Congress activity continued during the week. Fourteen meetings were held only three of which achieved audiences of any size. At Surat Vallabhbhai J. Patel drew an audience of 2,000 persons while at Malegaon, Nasik district, 1,000 persons assembled to hear G. H. Deshpande, W. G. Yardi and others.

Civil Defence appears to be no longer a subject which can arouse any enthusiasm and with the exception of one meeting when G. V. Mavlankar addressed 1,000 Ahmedabad citizens, the remaining gatherings were unimportant.

In Bombay City, the only event of note was the resignation of Bhulabhai J. Desai from the Congress Working Committee and the presidency of the B. P. C. C. on grounds of ill-health.

V. J. Patel, addressing audiences of 2,000 and 200 at Surat, referred to the war in general terms and affirmed that the great European Powers had exploited the whole world and were now fighting over the booty. Britain had lost the sympathy of Gandhi and the people should hold themselves in readiness to join the new movement.

In Nasik district, five congratulatory meetings were held to welcome W. G. Yardi, G. H. Deshpande and V. C. Powar. The speeches were stereotyped and the speakers obviously "safe-guarded" their defeatist utterances by references to Germany as

the enemy of democracy. Nevertheless, V. N. Naik affirmed that Congress had no confidence in the British and would be content to see them defeated. The British rule of oppression must be abolished and he urged his audience to join in agitation to bring about the desired conclusion.

In Kolaba district cyclostyled Marathi copies of the banned resolutions adopted at Allahabad were distributed amongst Congress workers in Karjat taluka. One copy has been seized and appropriate action is being taken.

Only eight Congress meetings were held during the week and in no case did the audience exceed 150. Five of these meetings were addressed by S. S. Khatri, a speaker of little consequence, in East Khandesh district.

Civil Defence propaganda was the subject of 11 meetings, the largest being addressed by Barrister R. K. L. Nandekalair, Inspector of the A. I. C. C. Nandekalair toured the Province and had private discussions with leaders in Poona, Sholapur, Dharwar, Belgaum and Ahmednagar districts. It is reported that he instructed Congressmen to concentrate on the constructive programme and at the same time, to prepare the masses for the impending movement.

Morarji R. Desai expressed his dissatisfaction with the work of Gujerat Congressmen whom he accuses of being more eager to pass resolutions than to do some solid work on behalf of the Party.

In Bombay City, Nagindas T. Master and Jinabhai P. Joshi were elected President and Vice-President respectively of the B. P. C. C.

Enrolment of Congress members continued during the week with some success.

T. R. Deogirikar toured East Khandesh district and addressed eight Civil Defence propaganda meetings. At one of these, at Bhusaval, S. D. Deo spoke while on his way to Wardha. His speech was stereotyped and ineffective.

The People's Volunteer Brigade, Bombay City, shows an income of Rs. 79,420 up to June 30th, 1942, and a balance of Rs. 39,146 in hand.

The long awaited Wardha resolution appeared during the week resulting in a remarkable increase in Congress activities. Local leaders are attempting to whip up enthusiasm and

increase enrolment as rapidly as possible. Twenty-seven meetings with audiences ranging from 20 to 5,000 were held, almost half of which took place in Sholapur district.

The Executive Committee of the M. P. C. C. hastened to meet on July 19th to endorse the Wardha fiat and to suggest that those who did not feel justified in taking part in the movement should at least remain neutral.

The Executive Committee of the G. P. C. C. is to meet next week when V. J. Patel is expected to draft instructions to Congress workers for the conduct of the struggle.

In Sholapur district, Dr. K. B. Antrolikar, T. S. Jadhav and others addressed a total of 13 meetings, but the usual Congress propaganda speeches failed to achieve an audience of any size.

G. H. Deshpande and his colleagues continued to tour Nasik district and speak on the subject of "Distribution of foodstuffs and the war". Meanwhile in Nasik City a disturbance took place when stocks of a cheap grain shop were removed by impatient members of the public. There is some suspicion that the incident may have been deliberately engineered, as some Congress workers rapidly arrived complete with loud speakers to address the crowd of 5,000 which had collected.

T. R. Deogirikar in East Khandesh district and A. S. Patwardhan in Ahmednagar district addressed a total of 10 meetings on the subject of Civil Defence Corps. The speeches were guarded, but K. R. Garud, one of Patwardhan's colleagues, congratulated a local Congressman on being prosecuted for an objectionable speech and remarked that Government servants did not report speeches correctly.

In Bombay City, Congress workers are concentrating on enrolling new members. It is reported that so far some three thousand members have been enrolled. On July 19th, V. J. Patel had an informal talk with Bombay Congressmen, but revealed little of what transpired at Wardha. Meanwhile it is reported that Dr. D. T. Anklesaria, Joint Secretary of the B. P. C. C., has tendered his resignation as he is not in favour of the intended mass movement. From Bombay also comes a report that a new Volunteer Corps to be called "Congress Dal" will shortly be formed.

Following the Wardha resolution local Congressmen are busy emulating their leaders by explaining the implications of Gandhi's latest pronouncements and attempting to whip up enthusiasm for the coming movement. Yusuf J. Meherally,

Shankarrao Deo, B. G. Kher, V. J. Patel and A. S. Patwardhan were the chief speakers during the week. Only 12 meetings were held of which two, addressed by Shankarrao Deo and Meherally, achieved audiences of 5,000 while the remainder did not exceed 600.

Meherally, speaking at Ahmedabad on July 19th, stated that Government had spurned the Congress offer of co-operation and concluded by demanding implicit faith in Gandhi's leadership whatever the consequences might be.

In Bombay, S. D. Deo delivered his usual speech on the impossibility of a "slave nation" fighting for democracy. He concluded with an appeal for whole-hearted response to Gandhi's call.

A. S. Patwardhan and V. J. Patel delivered similar speeches in Ahmednagar and Ahmedabad respectively. Touching on the war situation V. J. Patel asserted that everyone hoped that the Government would lose the war, but could not say so openly.

In Bombay, the Provincial Congress Committee is occupied in counting heads and has asked its members to report urgently whether they individually are prepared to respond to the call for action.

K. M. Munshi from his retirement has issued a press statement supporting the Congress stand.

Fifty-four Congress propaganda meetings were held during the week. The main activity of Congress leaders was the propagation of the Wardha resolution. Among others V. J. Patel was very conspicuous in addressing large audiences in the Gujarat districts which sometimes exceeded 80,000 and he made provocative speeches with a view to encouraging the people to join the Congress mass movement.

Other important speakers were S. D. Deo, A. S. Patwardhan, G. H. Deshpande, Y. J. Meherally, R. G. Dube, W. G. Yardi, V. N. Naik, N. G. Joshi and K. G. Gokhale who made defeatist speeches and exhorted their audiences to support the Congress move.

V. J. Patel, who presided over a meeting of the G. P. C. C. at Ahmedabad on July 26th, asked the workers to tour the villages to propagate the Wardha resolution and to behave as free men disregarding all orders of the authorities. He also addressed nine largely-attended public meetings in Gujarat district at which he said that the movement would not be prolonged and asserted that Congress wanted India to be free before

the advent of the Japanese. He asked his audiences not to wait for any programme as all the tactics including strikes, no-tax campaign, etc., which were tried from 1919 to 1942 would be implemented during the struggle which would not be restricted to the Congress, but Kisans, students and other non-Congress bodies were free to join it. It was better to die fighting the battle for freedom than to die after being completely ruined. Referring to "Quit India" slogan, he said that it would be effective if 40 crores of Indian people asked one lac Englishmen to quit India and further said that the Congress did not seek power for itself and would be satisfied if it was handed over to the Muslim League. He expressed the opinion that members of the Local Self-Governing Bodies and Government Servants, including the Police, would be asked to leave their jobs and join the movement as it was the big campaign for the liberation of India.

S. D. Deo addressed three meetings, two in B. S. D. and one in Bombay, at which he replied to the criticism of the Wardha resolution appearing in the American and British Press. Referring to the reverses in Burma and Malaya, he said that the British should quit India as they were not in a position to protect the country and as long as there was no power in the hands of Indians it would never be possible for the British to defeat Japan. He blamed the Government for having driven the Congress to launch a mass movement which would be mainly designed to cripple the British Administration.

A. S. Patwardhan, while addressing a meeting at Ahmednagar, said that he learnt from a soldier about the discrimination and differentiation made between Indian and British soldiers and alleged that the former were sent to the front without adequate protection.

G. H. Deshpande addressed largely-attended meetings in Khandedh and Ahmednagar districts and accused America and England of having fostered the policy of exploitation of Fascist countries and said that India's administration should be handed over to enable them to assist Russia and China.

In Bombay City, Y. J. Meherally, the Mayor of Bombay, while addressing an audience of 300 persons, said that the British Government would not be in India after the war and its attitude was responsible for the mass struggle now contemplated by the Congress. He stated that repression by the Government would stimulate the movement.

At Bijapur, R. G. Dube made an objectionable speech asking people not to give funds, nor join the military and render assistance to Government.

W. G. Yardi and V. N. Naik made objectionable speeches in Nasik district saying that they had no faith in the British Rule which would collapse in the near future.

D. L. Joshi made an objectionable speech in East Khandesh district, advising his audience not to render any sort of help in the prosecution of the war. Action against him is contemplated by the local police.

During the week which preceded the eventful meetings of the Congress Working Committee and the A. I. C. C. at Bombay Congress propaganda rose to a crescendo and prominent personalities threw aside all discretion to make speeches preparing their acquiescent followers for the coming subversive agitation under the symbolic cloak of non-violence. This agitation was designed to implement the Wardha demand for the withdrawal of British Rule in India under the ingenious plea of enabling the country to stage a national resistance to foreign aggression.

Congress leaders addressed some 82 propaganda meetings which drew audiences ranging upto 12,000 throughout the Province including Bombay City. The general tenor was predominantly anti-British with emphasis of Britain's inability to defend India and exhortations to the people to join the struggle for freedom under the leadership of Gandhi. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, B. G. Kher, Y. J. Meherally, Acharya Narendra Deo, Ashok Mehta, G. B. Deshpande, G. H. Deshpande, N. V. Gadgil, Morarji R. Desai, W. G. Yardi, V. N. Naik, A. S. Patwardhan and S. M. Joshi were prominent at this preparatory stage.

Moulana Abul Kalam Azad presided over the Congress Working Committee Meeting which met at Birla House, Bombay on August 4th, 5th and 6th to consider the Wardha resolution and other non-official resolutions. M. K. Gandhi participated in the deliberations which culminated in the adoption of a resolution for the acceptance of the A. I. C. C. The full text of the resolution has received the maximum publicity. It was on the expected lines and concluded with the threat of a mass struggle on non-violent lines on the widest possible scale.

The A. I. C. C. session commenced on August 7th under the Presidentship of Moulana Abul Kalam Azad. About ten thousand persons including 250 A. I. C. C. members crowded into the pandal which had been specially created and some five



thousand overflowed outside. Some three thousand volunteers of the Bombay National Guards, the Bombay Seva Dal and the P. V. B. were employed to keep order.

Moulana Abul Kalam Azad opened the proceedings with a review of the war situation and the Working Committee's resolution. M. K. Gandhi then addressed the members of the A. I. C. C. in Hindi and piously warned them against supporting the resolution unless they had complete faith in him and realised the responsibility they were incurring. The Congress could recognise no distinction between the "Indian India" of the Native States and British India as it felt that the people of the States were at one with Congress. Gandhi declared that God had presented him with this opportunity and if he did not seize it he would lose himself. He characterised himself as presenting to them the *pros* and *cons* of the whole situation in the manner of a businessman and if they were prepared to pay the full price then only should they adopt the resolution placed before them.

Pandit Nehru then moved the main resolution and affirmed that if their demands were accepted by the British Government the internal and international situation would be revolutionised and China would receive assistance. He bitterly criticised the British Administration and the attitude of England and America towards the resolution. He concluded with a declaration that he did not believe in Dominion Status or any other Status, but wanted only unadulterated freedom.

V. J. Patel supported the resolution in a speech which described the Cripps' Mission as a clear indication of Britain's determination to retain her hold on India. Under these circumstances the Working Committee was forced to adopt this resolution and now to appeal for implicit faith in the leadership of Gandhi. In the event of the Mahatma and other leaders being arrested, every man and woman in India must adopt the initiative and carry on the struggle.

The proceedings on August 8th were marked by several amendments both from Congressmen and Communists. Dr. K. M. Ashraf Sajjad Zahir and S. G. Sardesai moved amendments which were criticised by Congress speakers notably A. S. Patwardhan, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, T. Prakasam and Pandit Nekiram. As was expected the amendments were given short shrift and Pandit Nehru himself applied the *coup de grace* in a speech which underlined the fallacies of the communist demand for Hindu-Muslim unity. Those amendments which

were not withdrawn secured only 12 votes and the main resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority, only 13 members voting against it.

M. K. Gandhi wound up the proceedings with a lengthy speech in which he touched on the question of Hindu-Muslim unity and issued very vague instructions regarding the conduct of the coming movement. In conclusion, the President reminded his audience that the passing of the resolution had only initiated the campaign and that the people themselves must carry it to a successful termination.

It is reported that in pursuance of V. J. Patel's appeal the Ahmedabad Mill Owners' Association and Maskati Cloth Market Mahajan have donated sums upto Rs. 10,51,000 to utilise the same for carrying on the Congress movement.

G. H. Deshpande addressed four meetings in Thana, Poona, Satara and Nasik districts from August 2nd to 6th. Audiences to these meetings ranged from 200 to 950. At these meetings he criticised the British Government for their unwillingness to part with the power and added that Gandhi's "Quit India" move has created an atmosphere of revolution. If the British were not wise enough to quit India they would be driven away.

C. B. Deshpande, speaking at Belgaum on August 5th before an audience of 2,000 persons, explained the implications of the Wardha resolution and criticised British policy in India saying that promises extended to them were never fulfilled. He justified Indian demand of independence which should be granted here and now.

Ashok Mehta, addressing an audience of about 200 students at Juhu, B. S. district, on August 2nd, appealed to them to close all schools and colleges to join the movement and advised them to stop all vehicular and railway traffic and carry news from place to place.

K. R. Garud and Swami Sahajanand Bharati addressed a meeting of 1,000 persons at Puntamba, Ahmednagar district, on August 7th. They explained the Wardha resolution and asked their listeners to put faith in Gandhi and not in men like Ambedkar.

N. V. Gadgil, speaking at a meeting of about 800 persons at Poona on August 4th criticised Barrister Savarkar for stipulating conditions of co-operation with the Congress when he gave unconditional co-operation to the Government which kept them in

bondage for 150 years. He reiterated Congress belief in the principle of self-determination and expressed that Hindus and Muslims should unite to drive away their common enemy.

Morarji R. Desai spoke at Bulsar, Surat district, on August 2nd before an audience of 700 persons and criticised the Government policy of "Divide and Rule" and advised the audience to be prepared for the ensuing struggle.

W. G. Yardi and V. N. Naik addressed three meetings in Nasik district between July 31st and August 3rd which secured audiences upto 300, and said that India wanted only Home Rule and no rule of any Foreign Power. They had no faith in Britain's pledges and it was in their interests that they were asked to quit India.

A. S. Patwardhan, addressing a meeting of about 350 persons at Sangamner, Ahmednagar district, on August 2nd, made a defeatist speech emphasising that free India alone could help the Government and Indians would not get independence until the Britishers were driven out. Patwardhan addressed another meeting the same evening at Sangamner on the occasion of the anniversary of Rashtra Seva Dal of Sangamner at which he urged the public to support the Dal. S. M. Joshi, who spoke next, deplored the differences among the volunteer organisations although their goal was common. They should unite to achieve independence with courage and discipline.

C. B. Purani made an objectionable speech in Broach district and said that Government had lost their sense by sucking blood of Indians. Government would be nowhere if the Patels and Talathis would not work. Referring to the mass movement, Dr. Chandulal M. Desai said that they would have to face the bullets and the youths should come forward with courage to join the movement.

Ravishankar Vyas and Balkrishna Shukla delivered objectionable speeches in Thamna (200) and Matar (100), Kaira district, on August 2nd. At the Thamna meeting Vyas said that during the last world war India assisted the British with money and men but the black-hearted Government did not keep their promise and that Gandhi was asking the British to quit as they were not in a position to defend India. At the Matar meeting, Shukla said that the Government should be given no assistance and all laws and Government orders should be defied when ordered by Gandhi. He appealed to the Government servants to resign and oppose Government repression.

S. R. Rajwade of Poona endorsed the Congress Working Committee's resolution before an audience of 400 persons at Poona and asked Gandhi's opponents not to interfere with his programme but to keep aloof.

K. M. Munshi, speaking at Surat to an audience of 500 persons on August 6th, reviewed the causes of wars in Europe from the fourteenth century to this day and showed how different countries were overpowered by means of superior armaments and scientific progress. India, however, did not believe in violence and had maintained high moral standard. Referring to the ensuing mass movement, he appealed to the audience to make their own contribution.

Sixty-one Congress propaganda meetings which secured audience upto 1,500 were held during the week. One Sona Kautik Patil and Supdu Bhaodu Patil addressed several meetings in East Khandesh district and were responsible for making anti-war speeches.

Revolutionary posters inciting the people to disobey orders of the authorities and carry out the programme of cutting telephone and telegraph wires and sabotaging the means of communication and tampering with the loyalty of Government servants especially the Police, etc., came to be noticed in the districts of Poona, East Khandesh, Belgaum, Thana, Broach, Ratnagiri, etc. In some of the posters non-payment of taxes, picketing Government offices and urging the Military and Police to down arms was also advocated.

In Ahmednagar district two individuals sealed the offices of the Talathi at village Kolgaon, Gram Panchayat, local schools, cattle pounds, etc., of the village and threatened the villagers not to open them. Action is being taken against these offenders.

The R. S. S. Sangh at Padgha, district Thana, has joined hands with the Congress and collected Rs. 110 to carry out the movement.

Thirty-five members of the Congress party in the Surat Municipality resigned *en bloc*. It is expected that an attempt may be made to persuade the citizens of Surat to refuse payment of Municipal taxes. It is reported from Ahmedabad that Sheth Shantilal Mangaldas, President of the Ahmedabad National War Front, has tendered his resignation. Similarly S. M. Nanavati and three others have resigned from the Broach War Committee and other members are considering their resignations.

A booklet entitled "Quit India" by M. K. Gandhi printed at the Associated Advertisers and Printers Ltd., Bombay, and compiled by R. K. Prabhu and U. R. Rao, edited by Yusuf J. Meherally and published by Padma Publication, Bombay, has come to notice.

Congress propaganda meetings numbered 39 with attendances varying from 25 to 1,200. Out of these, 15 were convened in Satara district to defy Government orders and 13 at various places in East Khandesh district. Local Congressmen who addressed meetings in the East Khandesh district incited the people to take part in the mass Civil Disobedience movement. Action against most of them has been taken. One Narayan Daulat Surve of East Khandesh district has taken to inciting out-of-the-way villagers at night and hiding himself by day to avoid arrest. Attempts are being made by the local Police to round him up.

Thirty members of the Congress party in a house of 35 of the Surat District Local Board including the President have resigned.

Rajmal Lakhichand, an M. L. A. of East Khandesh district, has gone on hunger-strike from 22nd August 1942 for a week and decided to observe silence.

As a result of the resignations of the Congress Party in the Surat Borough Municipality, the Municipal administration has been made over by the Collector, Surat, to the Chief Officer until further orders.

Nine Municipal Councillors of Parle-Andheri Municipality and one Municipal Councillor of Ghatkopar-Kirol Municipality are reported to have resigned during the course of the week as a protest against the arrest of Congress leaders.

Police Patel Khusal Jiwan of Khoj village, district Surat, is reported to be persuading Police Patels of Kadod division of the district to resign.

Subversive activities in Uran Pata and Karjat Taluka, district Kolaba, may take the shape of inducing some village Patils to resign. Necessary steps are being taken by the local Police in this matter.

Thirty-four Congress propaganda meetings which drew audiences ranging up to 1,200 were addressed during the week in furtherance of civil disobedience movement. Speakers who indulged in objectionable speeches are being dealt with.

In East Khandesh district six meetings were held at which local speakers asked their audiences not to assist Government in war effort and not to pay land assessment. One J. S. Khadke while addressing a meeting at Ainapur (100) on August 23rd exhorted his hearers to request Police Patils and Government servants to resign their posts. S. S. Khatri and D. S. Khatri addressed a meeting at Lonje (50) on August 25th inciting the listeners to take possession of records of Police Patils and Talathi by driving them away.

In Satara district a meeting of about 150 persons was addressed at Kival on August 22nd by B. A. Salunkhe and Kashinath Tambavekar, at which the people were asked to sabotage Railway lines and means of communications by cutting wires and Police Patils to resign their posts. A similar propaganda was made by Y. B. Chavan and K. B. Deshmukh while addressing a meeting at Tambave (200). The speakers exhorted their hearers even to picket the Mamlatdar's *kacheri* and attack the treasury.

D. R. Lele and P. D. Shende addressed a meeting of 125 villagers at Chinchavali, district Kolaba, on August 24th. Both the speakers criticised Government for their present policy and instigated the audience to acts of violence, such as destruction of forests, cutting of telegraph wires, etc. They also asked the people not to help Government in their war effort and to seize this opportunity against the British while they were engaged in a struggle with Japan and Germany.

At a private meeting held on August 17th at the residence of one Sajan Ragho Patil at village Tembhe, district Nasik, it was decided to advise the villagers not to pay land assessment and render any help to British Government. A proposal to start forest *satyagraha* was also considered.

K. R. Mulay addressed three small meetings in Ahmednagar district at which he asked his audiences not to render any assistance to Government towards war effort or to obey Government servants. He also incited them to burn Government property.

Twenty-two meetings were addressed during the week in furtherance of the civil disobedience movement, audiences to which ranged upto 5,000. D. M. Bidkar, G. R. More and D. G.ulkarni addressed two meetings of about 800 and 125 persons at Satana and Tilwan, Nasik district, on August 29th and 31st and made objectionable speeches. At Satana meeting, Bidkar said that *swaraj* was not possible unless the British Power was

removed and that it was the proper time to do so, since Government was in difficulty. At Tilwan, More accused Government for poverty and illiteracy in India and exhorted the people to offer *satyagraha* and resistance to Government. Kulkarni spoke on similar lines and asked his hearers to cut grass, etc., from the forests, as it was their own property. All the speakers were put under arrest and are being dealt with by Local Police.

Raojibhai Muljibhai addressed a meeting (audience not reported) at Sheri village, Kaira district, on August 30th at which he instigated people to cut telegraph wires, remove rails, loot Government banks and treasuries and added that they should consider themselves as free since the last 20 days. They should oppose the Police when they resort to *lathi* charge or firing. The speaker was arrested by the Police along with three women accompanying him who refused to disperse.

Local Congressmen in East Khandesh district could address five meetings between August 30th and September 2nd with varied audiences up to 700 and advise their hearers not to pay land revenue and other taxes and not to assist war efforts by giving recruits and purchasing war fund tickets. The speakers tried to persuade Police, Patils and Talathis to resign their jobs. All the speakers are being dealt with by the local Police.

Y. B. Chavan spoke before an audience of about 125 persons at Masur, district Satara, on August 28th and exhorted his hearers to unite and take up forest *satyagraha* to carry on the Congress movement. The speaker asked Government servants to resign their posts.

Members of the District Local Board and School Board, Godhra, are reported to have submitted their resignations to the Collector on September 1st. Twelve Municipal members of Dohad Municipality have resigned on September 6th and one member of the Bulsar Municipality, district Surat, has also resigned. Two Municipal Councillors from Juhu and Bandra, Bombay Suburban district, have also resigned. The Police Patel of Bavla village, district Ahmedabad, has also resigned his post and returned his Sanad of the title of "Rao Saheb".

At a meeting of the local Bar at Bulsar, district Surat, attended by about 16 pleaders, a resolution was proposed by Manibhai Narayanjee Desai asking pleaders to suspend practice for two months and dispose of pending cases by arbitration and cases in which the Crown is complainant should only be defended. The resolution was passed, four voting against it.



Sixteen Congress propaganda meetings were addressed with attendances varying between 20 to 3,500 persons in defiance of the Government ban. At these meetings local speakers incited their audiences to raid Taluka *kacheris*, sabotage Telegraphic and Rail communications and to compel Government servants to resign their posts, etc. At a meeting (3,500) at Ashta, district Satara, speakers went to the length of inciting people to counter-attack and assault the Police, if they opened fire on them. Some of the meetings in Satara district were addressed also for anti-war propaganda.

Five members of the Kaira Town Municipality tendered their resignations to protest against the supersession of Municipalities, such as Ahmedabad, Surat, etc., by Government.

K. P. Bhalerao, Public Prosecutor, Ahmednagar, who was appointed during the Congress regime, has also resigned his post.

In furtherance of the civil disobedience movement, 12 meetings with audiences ranging from 20 to 300 were held during the week. A. G. Marwadi, S. W. Sali and G. Y. Joshi addressed three meetings in East Khandesh district inciting their audiences to disobey Government orders and commit breach of Government laws and not to pay land revenue. B. A. Salunkhe, S. A. Nikam, T. B. Kodugale and S. M. Thorat addressed four meetings in Satara district at which they asked their audiences not to pay any taxes and Police Patils and Talathis to resign. Some of these speakers also preached anti-Government propaganda and incited the audience to cause obstruction to telegraph and railway communications, etc.

While addressing a meeting of about 30 persons at Andersul, district Nasik, on September 11th, Y. D. Thatte, K. N. Gujarathi, D. D. Bhavsar and L. A. Thorat said that three years had elapsed since the war broke out, but they were not trained in the matter of self-defence, although Government collected men and money for the war. The speakers further preached disobedience of laws expressing anti-British views for which they are being dealt with.

A Committee consisting of M. K. Firodia and 14 others was formed on or about September 17th in Ahmednagar district to celebrate the 74th birthday of M. K. Gandhi on October 2nd. The main programme is to collect thread bundles prepared on *charkha* and money for the purse to be handed over to M. K. Gandhi on a suitable occasion, on behalf of Ahmednagar district.

Only two propaganda meetings were held in furtherance of civil disobedience movement during the week.

One Amrut Phalak addressed a meeting of about 100 persons at village Kinhi, district East Khandesh, on September 22nd and instigated the people to assault Government servants, burn records surreptitiously and refuse assistance to Government in the war effort. He disappeared when the Police Patil started enquiries about him.

N. K. Golesar, while addressing a meeting of about 25 persons at Sinnar, district Nasik, on September 25th, uttered Congress and anti-war slogans urging the destruction of British Imperialism.

The celebration of Gandhi's 74th Birthday on October 2nd coincided with the present civil disobedience activities. *Prabhat pheries*, processions and partial *hartals* were common features of the celebration. Attempts to organise meetings were also made in certain districts, but they were foiled by the arrest of leaders on the spot.

Demonstrations at Ahmedabad called for more drastic measures, since the processionists indulged in the interruption of traffic, threw stones and electric bulbs at the Police and punctured the tyres of the Police buses, etc. Firing was opened on four occasions to disperse processions but no casualties were caused.

Another programme was drawn up for "Gandhi Week" commencing from October 2nd for the observance of separate "Days" such as "Curfew Day", "Azad Day", "Quit India Day", etc. A circular alleged to have been issued by the "Azad Government Secretariat" asking the public to observe 9th October as "Azad National Day" of prayer was found in circulation at Ahmedabad in which Government servants were asked to strike work for the day and offer prayers individually or collectively for the well-being of arrested leaders. Copies of this circular were also addressed to Police Officers.

The celebration in Satara district was marked by anti-war and anti-Government speeches while in Kolaba and Dharwar it was observed by the reading of anti-Government bulletins and shouting of slogans. At Ville-Parle Railway Station, Bombay Suburban district, demonstrators tried to persuade passengers to travel without tickets.

At Belgaum a gathering of 700 youths including 200 girls attempted to hold flag salutation and burn Mr. Churchill's effigy, but were dispersed by the Police.

Eight Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging up to 50 were held during the week in defiance of Government orders, in the districts of Ratnagiri, East Khandesh, Dharwar and Kolaba.

Gopal Balkrishna Narkar addressing a meeting (50) at Kinhi, district East Khandesh, on October 5th, advised his audience not to become partisans of Government and urged them not to pay land revenue. He further incited them to assault Government servants. The speaker was arrested and is being dealt with.

Shivappa Rudrappa Neswi and Shidappa Kadappa Hiremorab addressed small meetings in Dharwar District at Mellibail, Mula-gaddi, Kalguddi, Kirawadi and Nagond, between 28th September and October 2nd.

Padmakar Ganesh Chachad made an anti-Government speech at Uran, district Kolaba, on October 7th. He was prosecuted and sentenced to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment under Rule 56 (4) and 6 months' rigorous imprisonment under Rule 38 (5) of the Defence of India Rules.

Two meetings were held in furtherance of the civil disobedience movement in Ratnagiri and Thana districts.

Govind Raghunath Sawant addressed about 75 villagers, who had come to the camp of Mamlatdar, Rajapur, at Talavde (Ratnagiri), on October 22nd and advised them not to help the Government war effort, as the money collected for that purpose was being used to maintain a European Army. Keshav Tukaram Narkar, who also spoke, advocated non-payment of taxes and boycott of Government servants.

Madhusudan Baburao Parulekar and Bhaskar Balwant Patil, in their speech at Tandulwadi, district Thana, on October 27th, urged their audience not to give local funds to Government and advised them to defy Government orders.

Action is being taken against the above speakers.

Three Congress propaganda meetings were held during the week at Prantij, Ahmedabad district (50), at Gadag, Dharwar district (25) and at Kharsod, Panch Mahals (60). The speakers made anti-war speeches and have been prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules.

Notable Congress activity during the week was the observance of "Leaders' Arrest Day" on December 9th by partial *hartals* and processions in the districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, Sholapur, Kanara, Kaira, Nasik and Bombay Suburban.

Laxman Ramchandra Shetye addressed a meeting of about 500 persons at Karak, district Ratnagiri, on December 6th, when he read out a speech advising his listeners not to assist Government orders, but to compel Police Patels and other Government servants to resign. He further urged them to join the Congress civil disobedience movement and advocated non-payment of taxes. He was immediately arrested and prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules.

## 1943

On December 20th, Waman Shankar Lele delivered an anti-Government and anti-recruiting speech at Jambhari, district Ratnagiri, advising villagers not to help Government. Action is being taken against him. Similarly, Hiralal Bhilaji Chavan addressed a poorly attended meeting at Chalisgaon, district East Khandesh, on December 21st and advised his listeners not to assist Government in the prosecution of the war, not to pay land revenue and not to accept G. C. notes. Chavan was immediately arrested and prosecuted under the Defence of India Rules.

Ramkrishna Laxman Khodalkar addressed a gathering of about 12 persons at Ukadgaon, district Ahmednagar, on December 26th, and advised his audience not to pay land revenue or help Government in the war effort by providing men and money. The meeting was held under the presidentship of Madhav Lahanu Raskar. Action is being taken against them.

Krishna Chandra *alias* Nana Vishnu Apte delivered an anti-Government and anti-recruiting speech at Kamle Lagwan, district Ratnagiri, on December 22nd. He advocated non-payment of land assessment and blamed Government for the present rise in the cost of living. This individual addressed a meeting at Jambhari, district Ratnagiri, on December 20th, under the fictitious name of Waman Shankar Lele.

On December 24th, Keshav Dnyanu Patil delivered an anti-Government and anti-war speech and preached non-payment of taxes to an audience of about 50 persons at Kurlap, district Satara.

Ramesh Ganesh Shukla delivered an anti-Government speech to about 25 peasants gathered at Dhasai, district Thana, to pay land assessment on January 16th, advising them not to pay land revenue to a Government which was not their own.

This year the celebration of "Independence Day" coincided with the activities of the civil disobedience movement. Sporadic demonstrations, flag salutations, small processions and partial *hartals* were organised, but these functions evoked very little public enthusiasm. The younger irresponsible elements emerged to

play their part in these demonstrations. At Ahmedabad a programme for the observance of this week from January, 20th to 26th was announced and accordingly various "Days" such as "Flag Day", "No-tax Day", "Students' Day", "Females' Day", "Mazdoor Din", "Martyrs' Day" and "Independent Day" were celebrated. On "No-tax Day", contraband salt and matches were secretly sold in Congress circles but the sales are reported to have been very limited and secret. Posters advising the peasants not to pay taxes were also noticed in the city.

Fuljibhai Kesurbhai addressed a meeting of about 60 persons at Nilora, district Broach and Panch Mahals, and advised them not to pay land revenue.

The event of the week was M. K. Gandhi's embarkation on a three weeks' fast from February 10th, which has created a stir in the political circles in the country. Partial *hartals* and suspension of business were the immediate reactions.

Gandhi's fast has been the main topic of discussion amongst the public and in the press.

Sympathetic fasts were undertaken by 30 undertrial prisoners from Surat on February 13th and by a large number of mill workers from Jalgaon (East Khandesh). Political prisoners from Sabarmati jail are also understood to have fasted. Workers from about 26 mills observed a fast and offered prayers and the mills and markets remained closed on February 11th and 12th. Processions and partial *hartals* took place in several districts.

On February 17th, some students from Bombay and Poona attempted to take a procession to the Aga Khan's Palace in Poona, but were dispersed and about 50 arrests made, amongst whom Bar. M. R. Masani was prominent.

Bulletins urging the public to agitate strongly but non-violently for Gandhi's release and proceed to Poona in processions to demonstrate sympathy were noticed in Belgaum and East Khandesh districts.

Public anxiety regarding Gandhi's health has considerably eased since he is considered to have passed the major period of his fast.

Prayers, processions, *hartals* and sympathetic fasts, etc., continue to be staged in most districts to show sympathy and agitate for his release and about 218 persons attempting to lead groups towards the Aga Khan's Palace were arrested in Poona between February 17th and 26th. Telegrams requesting his immediate and unconditional release were also addressed to His Excellency

the Viceroy by numerous institutions and associations in the Province.

A mass meeting of about 15,000 persons was held at Ahmedabad on February 19th which was observed as "The Prayer Day" and a resolution was adopted wishing long life to Gandhi and requesting His Excellency the Viceroy to release him.

The textile workers of Ahmedabad appear to have been affected by Gandhi's fast and about 10,000 workers have so far left the city since almost all mills were closed during the week.

Sympathetic demonstrations such as prayers, partial *hartals*, fasts, processions, etc., continued in some districts.

On February 28th, about 300 merchants offered prayers in the premises of the Merchants' Association, Ahmedabad, and observed silence for 10 minutes. The same day about 300 workers of the Swadeshi Mills, Kurla (B. S. D.) observed *hartal*.

Ten Municipal Councillors of Bulsar (Surat) submitted their resignations *en bloc* in protest against Government's refusal to release M. K. Gandhi.

The Bar Association of Athani (Belgaum), Merchants of Siddapur (Kanara) and citizens of Jalgaon (East Khandesh) addressed telegrams requesting for Gandhi's release to H. E. the Viceroy.

About 260 persons were put under arrest at Poona for attempting to lead processions towards the Aga Khan Palace.

M. K. Gandhi terminated his fast on the morning of March 3rd, much to the relief of the general public.

A meeting was held in the weekly bazaar at Mulher, district Nasik, on April 14th, when speakers delivered anti-Government speeches and exhorted the audience not to pay Land Revenue and not to contribute the War Fund. The audience was also asked to place their trust in the Congress. (Details awaited).

Madhav Balkrishna Joshi and six others are being prosecuted under Rules 38 (5) and 56 of the Defence of India Rules for having made anti-War speeches at Mulher, District Nasik, on April 14th.



## 1944

Congressmen in Gujerat Districts have been returned unopposed during the recent elections to local bodies. A statement issued in this connection by prominent Congressmen of Gujerat like Jiwanlal H. Diwan and Khandubhai K. Desai declares that the underlying intention of contesting these elections is not to work the administration of these bodies but to show the extent of Congress influence over the public, the people's faith in the Congress policy and hatred towards the present policy of Government.

The Gujerat Congress Seva Dal opened a "Workers' Training Class" in the premises of the Gujerat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad, from May 5th. About 100 candidates have joined.

An informal meeting of about 50 Congressmen was held at Bombay on May 9th under the presidentship of Nagindas T. Master when resolutions were adopted (1) reiterating the unflinching faith of Congressmen in Gandhi's leadership and (2) exhorting all Congressmen to continue the constructive programme of the Congress, offer help to the victims of the recent explosions and render assistance in redressing the hardship caused by food shortage, famine and disease. M. R. Masani, H. R. Pardiwala, Joachim Alva, Mrs. Violet Alva and Ishwarbhai S. Patel were prominent amongst those attended.

At Poona about 25 Congressmen assembled on May 21st under the presidentship of V. P. Limaye and appointed a Committee with B. M. Gupte as President and A. T. Dandavate as Secretary to organise collections for the Kasturba Memorial Fund and 5,000 spindles of yarn to be presented to M. K. Gandhi on his next birth-day. The Committee further decided to take up mass spinning and render all possible assistance to Rashtra Seva Dal Branches.

Congressmen in Gujerat Districts are reported to be pre-occupied with the food problem and the Rationing Scheme. Congress workers of Ankola (Kanara) discussed the food situation and formed a Food Committee to approach the local authorities to secure permission to store 10,000 bags of rice for Ankola Taluka,

The Congress Sewa Dal, Ahmedabad, has organised a training class for women at the Gujarat Vidyapith, from May 22nd, and 30 ladies have joined to date.

Babu Laxminarayan, Assistant Secretary, All-India Spinners' Association, Bombay, addressed a private meeting at Hubli, on May 17th and stressed the necessity of opening more Khaddar Production Centres all over the country. T. S. Naik of Sirsi (Kanara) has been touring villages in Kanara District in order to organise "Charkha Sangh" branches.

A private meeting of about 75 Congress workers from Ahmednagar District was held at Ahmednagar on May 21st with K. S. Firodia in the chair. L. M. Patil (ex-Minister of Bombay) and R. B. Girme were prominent among those present. A resolution reiterating confidence in Gandhi's leadership was adopted. A district "Seva Samiti" was also formed with the avowed object of redressing the grievances of the people regarding food etc.

Babu Laxminarayan, Assistant Secretary, All-India Spinners' Association, attended a private meeting of Congressmen at Belgaum on May 21st, when it was decided to start an association of Khaddar Producers with A. B. Lathe and J. V. Yalgi as organisers.

It is reported that the Gujarat Central Food Committee recently formed at Broach will not function without first consulting Gandhi.

The Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Ahmedabad convened a meeting of May 26th and recorded a protest against the alleged unsympathetic and non-co-operative attitude of the Rationing Department.

A meeting of 20 Congressmen of Sholapur held on June 2nd, set up a Committee with M. B. Kadadi (M. L. C.) and V. B. Sathe as President and Secretary to collect contributions to the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund.

Congressmen in Gujarat have been very active in touring villages and enquiring about the food situation. At a private meeting of 12 Congressmen of Surat held on June 5th "the Growth of Food Crops Act, 1944" was discussed and a resolution was adopted pointing out that Government have ignored natural circumstances, material and implements available for agriculture and the economic condition of farmers.

Some Congressmen in Kanara district are similarly occupied in gathering information on the food situation.

At a private meeting attended by Babu Laxminarayan the Secretary of A. I. S. A. and Vithaldas Jerajani and some 22 representatives from Surat, Bulsar, Navsari, Baroda, Nadiad and Ahmedabad at Surat on June 12th, the present policy of the All-India Spinners' Association was explained and it was announced that in future Khadi Bhandars would work on a co-operative basis.

It is reported that the members of the Congress Food Committee have been touring the Jalalpur Taluka (Surat) to study the food situation and collect statistics regarding supply and demand for foodgrains.

The following sums have been raised for the Kasturba Memorial Fund:—

Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association	... 1,00,441
East Khandesh	... 11,500
West Khandesh	... 7,420
Rander (Surat)	... 215
Nasik	... 20

Committees to collect funds have been set up in Thana, Belgaum, Kolaba, Ahmednagar and Bombay Suburban Districts.

The Kasturba National Memorial Committee, Bombay, intends to present a purse of Rs. 75,000,000 to Gandhi, on his 75th Birthday (October 2nd).

The Detenues' Relief Committee, East Khandesh, has collected Rs. 260 to date.

A branch of the Charkha Sangh (A. I. S. A.) has been established at Gadag (Dharwar) with Bhaskar Giridhar Kulkarni of Hippargi as Manager.

At a private meeting of the Nasik District Food Committee held under the presidentship of B. S. Hire, the food situation was discussed and a Sub-Committee with G. G. Soundankar as President was set up to consider complaints.

The Dharwar District Ryots' Conference was held at Hubli on July 2nd, under the presidentship of Anantrao Jalihal of Gadag. About 250 persons attended. Dinkar Desai, Secretary of the Bombay People's Food Council, who was the main speaker condemned the new system of grain purchase which ignored the

needs of agriculturists, but advised them to sell surplus grain to Government. He observed that Government's neglect of irrigation and the poverty of the farmers were the chief obstacles in the way of the "Grow More Food" campaign.

The president said that it was impracticable to collect food grain on a revenue basis. The conference adopted 13 resolutions *inter alia* suggesting the abolition of the "Graded levy System" and recommending collection of grain through committees composed of both villagers and officers, the formation of co-operative societies consisting of representatives of Government and the ryots for distribution of food grains and requesting Government to prohibit the killing of cattle used for agriculture and to lift the ban on public meetings in connection with the food problem, etc.

The People's Provincial Food Council held a meeting at Bombay on July 5th under the presidentship of M. R. Masani. Among those present were :—

1. V. L. Mehta, 2. N. S. Habbu, 3. S. R. Bhagwat, 4. S. N. Kamdar, 5. Fazal I. Rahimtoola, 6. Dr. D. R. Gadgil and 7. M. A. Bhaijee.

The following resolutions were passed :—

(1) Urging Government to check inflation at the root by stopping the issue of fresh currency for the financing of purchases made and operations conducted in India on behalf of the British and Allied Governments and for financing the budgetary deficits of the Government of India, (2) Noting with concern the fixing of a quota of 2 lbs. of food grain per adult per week for certain sections of the population in the province, expressing the apprehension that it would seriously impair the health of the rural population, objecting to the differentiation between the various centres in respect of ration units and demanding a uniform minimum ration of one lb. of food grains per day per adult, (3) criticising the procurement policy of the Government of Bombay and (4) favouring the utilization of co-operative organisations to democratize the control measures.

M. R. Masani, referring to the recent announcement regarding the importation of 400,000 tons of food grains during the next three months, said that this would supply only about half the quantity which the Food Grains Policy Committee had stipulated as the bare minimum. He said that since April last, notes in circulation had gone up by about Rs. 35 crores and the food problem was aggravated to that extent. He was of the opinion that it was not fair to fight inflation by denying the farmer a fair price for

his produce when inflation had been taking place at the rate of Rs. 3,50,00,000 per day. He also referred to the transport of fish from Tasmania to Australia by air and concluded with a declaration that the availability of shipping space was closely connected with the problem of political freedom.

Under the instructions of N. K. Upadhyaya an "Arya Samiti Sangh" has been formed at Nagathan (Bijapur) to watch the working of the Government Rationing Scheme and to protect the interests of the people.

T. R. Nasvi and others collected Rs. 883 in Dharwar District, for the relief of political prisoners.

On July 9th, members of the Ron Taluka Food Committee met at Ron (Dharwar) and decided to approach Government with a request to exempt Ron Taluka from the operation of the "Growth of Food Crops Act, 1944".

A private meeting of 50 members of the Surat Co-operative Stores was held on July 9th when Rajni M. Patel (Communist) explained to them the food situation in the district and advised them to apprise Government of the condition of villagers. He requested Government to help agriculturists by supplying them with agricultural implements at cheap rates.

Miss Prema Kantak continued vigorous propaganda in East Khandesh and Nasik during the week for the collection of the Kasturba Memorial Fund.

Committees to collect funds have been recently established at Poona and Umbergaon (Thana). The collections in the province so far totalled about Rs. 2,22,000 excluding Bombay City where Rs. 4,81,318 have been collected.

Dr. Khan Saheb (Ex-Premier, N. W. F. Province) addressing a meeting of about 75 Bohra youths of Bombay, on July 9th, said that Russians, Germans and Japanese had realised that the freedom of their country was in danger and so were prepared for every sacrifice. He deplored that a nation of 40 crores of people still remained in bondage and alleged that their rulers made them fight amongst themselves. Referring to the question of "Pakistan" he observed that Hindus and Muslims by their united efforts should first regain possession of their country and then consider the question of the division of the country in case there was injustice.

The speaker addressed a mixed audience of 30 persons the same day at Bombay and made a fervent appeal for unity in order to achieve freedom of the country.

On July 10th, the Khan Saheb addressing about 700 students of Bombay spoke in the usual strain about the Congress and complained about the non-application of the "Atlantic Charter" to India. He advised those present to approach the masses in villages, and the workers in mills in cities and make them realise that their condition could be improved only by achieving freedom for their country.

About 30 Congress workers met at Poona, on July 20th to discuss M. K. Gandhi's proposal for the solution of the political deadlock and Rajagopalachari's formula for Congress-League unity. All those present endorsed the former but as regards the latter V. P. Limaye, Dr. R. N. Datar, B. M. Gupte and Dr. B. C. Lagu are reported to have dissented. N. V. Gadgil (recently released), K. M. Jedhe, G. M. Gupte, V. M. Hardikar, H. V. Tulpule were also present.

Miss Prema Kantak continued propaganda for the Kasturba Memorial Fund in West Khandesh District.

Further contributions to the Kasturba Memorial Fund during the week amounted to Rs. 14,533 thus bringing the total collections to Rs. 2,36,229.

G. A. Deshpande, Secretary of the M. P. C. C. has issued a circular to various Congressmen in the districts of Maharashtra calling for their views on Rajagopalachari's formula for communal settlement and Gandhi's proposals for ending the "deadlock".

The District Congress *satyagraha* Committee, Belgaum, has issued a bulletin asking underground workers to discover themselves to the authorities and not to undertake *satyagraha* or any other form of subversive activity hereafter even on August 9th, unless Gandhi is arrested.

N. G. Joshi and six others of the Belgaum District Constructive Committee have issued a statement to the press requesting the public to extend generous help to the families of about 200 political prisoners who are still in jail.

Collections to the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund during the week, amounted to Rs. 1,56,562, thus making a total of Rs. 3,92,791.

C. Rajagopalachari's formula has been the main topic of discussion in the Press and leaders of all shades of political thought

have hastened to air their views on the Pakistan issue and the proposed meeting between Gandhi and Jinnah is awaited in political circles with tense expectancy.

Gandhi's decision to stage a symbolic demonstration in Bombay city on August 9th aroused dormant Congress elements who appeared to be busy implementing the programme scheduled for the day. Details will be reported later.

Congress leaders have been summoned to communicate their opinion on Gandhi's proposals and C. R.'s formula. Accordingly several Congress leaders in Maharashtra districts are reported to have expressed their confidence in Gandhi's leadership notwithstanding the fact that individually they hold their "own opinions."

In pursuance of Gandhi's instructions to underground agitators R. R. Diwakar (Dharwar) and C. J. Ambli (Bijapur) discovered themselves at Hubli and Bagalkot and were duly arrested.

Syed Abdulla Brelvi, Editor, *Bombay Chronicle*, visited Ahmedabad during the week and canvassed support for C. R.'s formula among members of the "Muslim Majlis" and the Rashtriya Yuvak Mandal, Ahmedabad.

All-India Spinners' Association has issued a circular asking various branches to launch a drive for "Gandhi Culture" in addition to their usual sale of Khaddar, during the ensuing "Gandhi Jayanti" celebrations from September 14th to October 2nd.

Collections for the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Fund in Bombay City now amount to Rs. 8,40,000 while the Province has collected Rs. 5,07,524.

A private meeting of 25 leading Congress workers of Gujarat was held at Ahmedabad on August 13th and 14th, under the presidentship of Dinkarrao Desai of Broach when they reaffirmed their complete faith in Gandhi's leadership. A "Central All Purposes Committee" with K. N. Desai as President was established to revive Congress activity in Gujarat and deal with the day to day problems of agriculturists.

At a meeting of 18 Congressmen of Sholapur District held at Pandharpur on August 12th, B. G. Kher (ex-Premier) explained C. R.'s formula and Gandhi's efforts to establish communal amity.

About forty M. L. As. of Bombay, assembled on August 19th and 20th at the Council Hall, Bombay, B. G. Kher presiding. The following were prominent:—



(1) B. G. Kher. (2) Nagindas T. Master. (3) B. M. Gupte. (4) Guljarilal Nanda. (5) L. M. Patil. (6) M. Y. Nuri. (7) S. K. Patil. (8) N. V. Gadgil (9) Dr. M. D. D. Gilder (10) R. G. Soman. (11) Mangaldas Pakwasa. (12) A. B. Latthe. (13) Bhavanji Arjun Khimji. (14) D. N. Chaudhari. (15) Babubhai Patel.

B. G. Kher reviewed the political situation since 1942 and said that, after Mr. Gandhi's release, he had made certain proposals for the solution of the political deadlock. He said that, although there was a strong sentiment among all classes of people in India which refused to visualise a division of the country, they had no alternative plan to suggest. In his opinion, the only way out of the situation was the one taken by Mr. Gandhi and he appealed to the members to support the efforts of Mr. Gandhi to effect settlement. He hoped that the leader of the Hindu Mahasabha would realise the futility of standing aloof and the need for a united demand and that the other minorities would realise where their true interests lay.

The meeting adopted the following important resolutions:—

1. *On Political Deadlock*

This meeting of the Bombay Legislature Congress Party accords its wholehearted support to the demand for the immediate declaration of India's Independence and the withdrawal of the British power from India as made by the resolution of the A. I. C. C. passed on the 8th of August 1942.

## NATIONAL GOVERNMENT NOW

This meeting also records its considered opinion that in the interest both of Britain and India transfer of authority to a National Government having the confidence of the elected members of the Central Assembly is immediately necessary.

Firstly, in order to put an end to the terrible and increasing starvation of the people of this country, to restore their confidence and to check the irresponsible exercise of power rampant in many administrative departments;

Secondly, to put an end to the irresponsible administration in the Provinces under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, so as to stop the growing embitterment, demoralisation and distrust now prevailing and to improve the administration;

Thirdly, in order to secure a fair deal and justice to the proper claims of India at the Peace Conference which will be held at the conclusion of the war by deputing the true and trusted representatives of the people to represent her and to safeguard the future of her industries and economic and general well-being ;

Fourthly, in order that the war with Japan should be carried on with the willing co-operation of the people of this country who are naturally anxious to defend their motherland and not in an atmosphere of sullen indifference and suspicion now prevalent.

This meeting therefore endorses and supports the proposals made by Mahatma Gandhi for the solution of the political deadlock and condemns the attitude of the British Government towards them as revealed by the recent statements of the Secretary of State in the House of Commons and of the Viceroy in his reply to Mahatma Gandhi. This meeting exhorts its members to educate public opinion in their respective constituencies as to the justice of Mahatma Gandhi's demands and the reluctance of the British Government to part with power.

## *II. On C. R. Formula*

This meeting of the members of the Bombay Legislature Congress Party reiterates its faith in the three principles of freedom, democracy and unity on which the future constitution of free India must be founded.

This meeting records its view that the proposals put forward by Shri Rajagopalachari with the approval of Mahatma Gandhi offer a good basis for negotiations to arrive at a communal settlement as they contemplate (1) the prior attainment of independence and a complete transfer to the people of India by Britain of full power and responsibility for the governance of India and (2) a plebiscite of all the inhabitants before any separation takes place and (3) the conclusion of mutual agreements for the safeguarding of defence, commerce, communications and other essential purposes in case a separation is decided upon by the plebiscite which is the only recognised way of ascertaining the will of the people. This meeting further requests all sections and classes of the people to co-operate with Gandhi in achieving complete unity and thus give a fitting answer to the Viceroy's recent challenge.

### III. Re : Food

This meeting places on record the general sense of its members that in the matters of procurement and distribution of food supplies, Government authorities in many districts in the province behave with utter irresponsibility and indifference to public requirement and local conditions. The meeting therefore calls upon its members to expose all incidents of mal-administration and corruption and ventilate the grievances of the public in the press and platform and in all ways open to them with a view to keep public opinion vigilant and to ensure that every member of the community in the remotest parts of the province obtain food and other essential consumers' goods at prices which are within his purchasing capacity.

### IV. Miscellaneous.

Another resolution passed at the meeting called upon the party members to exercise vigilance in safeguarding the interests of the people in matters of procurement and distribution of food supplies.

Two other resolutions, one appealing to members to subscribe and help in the collection of the Kasturba Memorial Fund and the other drawing their attention to the fourteen fold constructive programme laid before the country by Mahatma Gandhi and asking them to work it, were also passed.

At Nasik, a branch committee has been established with M. V. Janorkar (ex-detenu) as President to carry out the constructive programme formulated by Gandhi.

T. R. Nesvi and others who have been moving in Bijapur District, have succeeded in collecting about Rs. 4,400 for the "Detenus' Relief Fund".

Further contribution to the Kasturba Memorial Fund during the week amounted to Rs. 64,722 making a total of Rs. 5,72,246 to date.

N. V. Gadgil of Poona addressing a meeting of about 200 persons at Bassein (Thana) on August 25th remarked that the question of conceding Pakistan according to C. R.'s formula arises only after independence is achieved and urged the audience to give the proposals their support.

K. S. Firodia of Ahmednagar addressed a meeting (200) at Ahmednagar on August 26th. He traced the political history of India, accused Government of violating their promises and said that the post-war reconstruction would benefit only the great

powers. He expressed doubts whether the Anglo-Russian alliance would hold and whether the minor nations would retain independence. He advised his listeners to watch developments and adopt a policy in conformity with the national demand.

A private meeting of about 20 Congressmen of Bombay was held on August 23rd when they reiterated their wholehearted support to the proposals sponsored by C. Rajagopalchari for the settlement of the political deadlock. Nagindas T. Master, S. K. Patil, S. L. Silam and D. R. Gharpure were prominent.

Under the auspices of the Bombay International Fellowship, K. M. Munshi, addressed a private meeting of members at the Indian Merchants' Chamber on August 21st on "The Indian Situation—My personal solution". Prof. P. A. Wadia presided. About 100 persons attended including members and their friends.

After reviewing the political situation leading to the deadlock between Government and the Congress, Mr. Munshi said that unless there was a genuine desire on the part of the British Government to part with power, there could be no solution of the Indian problem. The solution, he said, did not depend on Mr. Gandhi or Mr. Jinnah. Although the British Government professed their readiness to part with power, they stipulated such conditions that it was impossible to come to any understanding. Although formerly the main condition for a settlement was a Hindu-Muslim agreement, the recent speech of H. E. the Viceroy went beyond that and wanted an agreement by all parties, interests and the Indian States. He then explained a six-point programme which he proposed for the solution of the deadlock including (1) British Government's willingness to part with power, (2) release of members of the Working Committee and the removal of the ban on normal activities of Congress, (3) negotiations between Britain and India for the setting up of a National Government, by bridging the gulf between the Cripps' formula and Gandhi's formula, (4) setting up by the British Parliament of an Indian constitution committee representing all interests in India including the States and (5) holding of an All-India convention of all parties and interests to consider the situation.

About 25 Congress workers of Bombay held the monthly flag salutation on August 27th. D. R. Gharpure who unfurled the flag said that although the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee had been declared illegal by Government, the district Committees had not been so declared and were free to hold flag salutations on the last Sunday of each month. He also urged them to follow Gandhi's leadership and work on his constructive programme.

Further contributions to the Kasturba Memorial Fund during the week amounted to Rs. 33,153. The total collections now stand at Rs. 6,05,399.

The Gujarat Central Committee met at Baroda on September 3rd and discussed the food situation in Gujarat following the recent floods. They set up a special, relief committee of the following members:—

- (1) Hon'ble Mr. G. V. Mavlankar. (2) Kanayyalal N. Desai.  
(3) Bhogilal D. Lala. (4) Manilal C. Shah. (5) Dinkarrao N. Desai.

It was also decided to raise a fund of about Rs. 5,00,000 for the immediate relief of distress.

To mark Gandhi's 75th birthday anniversary, the customary "Gandhi Jayanti Week" is being celebrated from September 14th throughout Gujarat and B. S. D. The programme includes mass spinning, flag salutation and prayers for Gandhi's long life. All principal markets, textile mills and private schools in Ahmedabad were closed on September 14th, and on September 16th some students of the C. N. Industrial school held a torchlight parade. At some places in Gujarat, Gandhi Kutirs (huts) have been erected with Gandhi's pictures. On September 14th, students' meetings (120-200) were held in Surat, Kaira and Broach districts at which speeches in eulogy of Gandhi were made and students were advised to follow his teachings.

S. K. Patil addressed one such meeting (500) at Ville-Parle, in B. S. D. on September 14th and expatiated on the significance of the celebrations. He affirmed that Government did not intend to part with power and by setting one party against another was wrecking Congress efforts to achieve unity. Referring to the Gandhi-Jinnah discussions, he added that if they succeeded Government would be forced to grant independence to India.

The Communists of Surat have also been busy in celebrating "Gandhi Jayanti Week".

In Bombay City the celebrations last from September 14th to October 2nd and the programme includes:—

- (1) mass spinning; (2) the celebration of "days" for (a) students; (b) labour; (c) Harijans; (d) Gumastas; (e) Rashtra Bhasha; (f) volunteers; (3) enrolment of members; and (4) collection of Rs. 2,00,000 for the Kasturba Memorial Fund.

This programme was adopted at a meeting of some 150 leading Congressmen on September 10th.

At a meeting (500) held at Bombay on September 14th ostensibly to celebrate Gandhi's birthday, S. K. Patil said that the 1942 Congress movement had collapsed owing to their failure to draw up a proper programme before the arrest of Congress leaders and because Government servants did not join the movement. The British would not transfer power to Indians unless they were compelled to do so. Government contemplated the initiation of a 15 years' programme with the intention of diverting public attention from the demand for freedom in an attempt to crush the Congress. He ended with an exhortation to support Gandhi and the Congress.

\*Patil addressed a similar meeting (500) at Matunga, Bombay, on September 16th and spoke in the same strain.

N. V. Gadgil, President of the M. P. C. C. visited Ahmednagar on September 15th and addressed a private meeting of about 400 persons convened by the local Students' Federation. He explained C. R.'s formula for a communal settlement and advised the students to canvass public support for it.

A private meeting of the Trustees of the Kasturba National Memorial Fund was held at Bombay on September 9th under the presidentship of Mr. M. K. Gandhi. Among those present were Sir Purshottam Thakordas, J. R. D. Tata, C. Rajagopalachari, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, K. M. Munshi, Ambalal Sarabhai, Shantikumar Narottam Morarji, A. V. Thakkar and Devidas Gandhi. Mangaldas Pakvasa and Pranal Devkaran Nanjee were present by invitation.

The meeting discussed certain points regarding the Trust Deed and fixed the minimum and maximum number of Trustees at 15 and 30. It also considered the various activities to be financed from the fund and the institutions to be set up for the purpose.

The total collections for the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Fund in the Province stand at Rs. 15,82,453 to date. The total amount collected will be presented to Mr. Gandhi at Sevagram on October 2nd.

N. V. Gadgil, President of the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee, explained C. R.'s formula to a private gathering of about 60 women at "Sewa Sadan", Poona, on September 22nd.

Miss Prema Kantak visited Pen, Alibag and Mahad in Kolaba District and Khed and Chiplun in Ratnagiri District between September 14th and 20th collecting contributions to the Kasturba

Memorial Fund. She also discussed with local organisers matters relating to the Rashtra Seva Dal.

The "Gandhi Jayanti" celebrations continued during the week in Gujarat, Bombay Suburban District and Bombay City with the usual programme of mass spinning, prayers and other demonstrations.

The Surat Vidyarthi Sangh observed "Vyayam Day" on September 17th when a meeting of some 300 students heard Harsingh Thakore (Baroda) dilate on the necessity of physical training.

At Ahmedabad, September 17th was dubbed "Kasturba Day" and students of the C. N. Industrial School staged a mock meeting of the A. I. C. C. under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Mr. G. V. Mavlankar. It is announced that October 1st will be observed as "Anjali Din" (Greetings Day) when 5 minutes' silence will be observed at 12 noon as a mark of respect for the so called "martyrs".

In connection with Gandhi Jayanti, "Volunteer Day" was observed at Bombay on September 23rd, when about 100 workers were present. Congress leaders like Nagindas T. Master, S. K. Patil, Dr. V. B. Korgaonkar, Dr. T. R. Naravne and P. K. Sawant were prominent in the gathering. It was decided to have only one volunteer organisation in the city and that too under the control of the Congress. Those present were also advised to enlist as volunteers. An appeal for the enrolment of 5,000 volunteers has subsequently been issued by S. M. Patil.

Venkareddi Hooli, President, Belgaum District Congress Committee, has issued instructions to all subordinate committees to commence working and enrol primary members during the Gandhi Jayanti week.

Further contributions to the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund in the province amounted to Rs. 1,97,865 making a total of Rs. 17,86,318 to date.

"Gandhi Jayanti" celebrations continued during the week, the main items on the programme being mass spinning of yarn, flag salutation and prayers for Gandhi's long life. In Poona Gandhi's birthday (October 2nd) was observed in various ways. Municipal schools remained closed, there was an exhibition of handspun yarn and G. S. Deshpande, N. V. Gadgil and K. N. Shirole made speeches on Gandhi's life before audiences of local students.



N. V. Gadgil, ex-President of the M. P. C. C., during the week visited Karad (Satara) and Hubli (Dharwar) ostensibly to boost collections for the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Fund.

Miss Prema Kantak, in the course of her tour of Ratnagiri district, addressed students of Vengurla and Topiwala High School stressing the importance of physical culture.

Further contributions to the Kasturba Memorial Fund during the week amounted to Rs. 2,09,780. The total collections now stand at Rs. 19,90,098.

"Gandhi Jayanti" celebrations continued up to October 2nd. The general features of the programme that was followed in almost all districts were mass spinning, prayer for Gandhi's long life, flag salutation by S. R. Dal volunteers, visits to Harijan quarters, etc.

At Ahmedabad, October 1st was observed as "*Anjali Din*" (*Tributes Day*) and brick monuments were erected at places where the so-called Martyrs of 1942 disturbances died, and complete silence for five minutes was observed. Dr. Chandulal M. Desai of Broach and others paid visits to the relatives of the deceased.

To celebrate the Jayanti five meetings (30-800) were held at Bombay, the largest being under the auspices of the Communist Party of India on October 2nd. The speakers eulogised Gandhi and stressed the importance of winning over the Harijans to the Congress fold.

Dr. Chandulal M. Desai addressed a private gathering of some 60 members of the Rashtriya Seva Mandal, Ahmedabad, on October 4th and advised the youths to conserve their energy and respond to the call of the nation, as the struggle for freedom had not ceased.

Dr. Desai had also an informal discussion\* with about 15 journalists of Ahmedabad when he maintained that the Gandhi-Jinnah talks had not been a failure and advised that the people should endeavour to establish more harmonious relations between the two communities.

G. A. Deshpande, Secretary of the M. P. C. C., has issued a secret circular to District Congress Committees inviting information regarding (1) the work done by them during 1942-44, (2) the number of persons imprisoned and released to date, (3) the general morale and attitude of the released prisoners, and (4) the attitude

of the Congress workers towards the individual civil disobedience as envisaged in Gandhi's statement of July 13th issued from Panchgani (Satara).

Govind Hari Deshpande, Joint Secretary of the M. P. C. C. (recently released), who is on an organisational tour in Maharashtra, visited Jalgaon (E. K.) and Dhulia (W. K.) on October 13th and 14th respectively, where he held private discussions with local Congress leaders, R. S. Dal workers and Rashtriya Kamgar Sangh organisers and urged them to intensify their activities and increase membership.

Similarly Nagindas T. Master of Bombay visited Surat on October 13th, held discussions with local workers and advised them to endeavour to reorganise the Congress.

Ishwarlal Ichharam Desai, a leading Congressman of Surat, inaugurated a "Rashtriya Mandal" on October 12th with the object of rendering medical and financial help to the sick and inculcating national spirit among students.

G. V. Mavlankar, addressing a meeting of about 15 members of the Ahmedabad Rifle Association on October 8th, said that the association which was defunct so long should resume its activities and advised youths to undergo training. About 10 candidates have joined to date.

S. K. Patil has issued a pamphlet entitled "A Note on the Organisational Reconstruction and Future Programme of the Congress" wherein he advocates a united Congress Party with one programme under one leader and urges Congressmen to concentrate their energies on organising labour, students, shop assistants etc. on Congress lines with a view to prepare them for the resistance and sacrifices necessary for the final struggle for freedom.

With this end in view Patil has convened a Conference of leading Congressmen of Bombay City, Maharashtra, Gujerat and the Karnatak on October 28th and 29th in Bombay.

G. H. Deshpande and W. G. Yardi (recently released) attended a private reception held at Dachak village (Nasik) on October 15th, when they urged the villagers to unite and enrol as members of the Congress.

On October 18th, Shridhar Krishna Pai and Babani Sheshgiri Pai spoke before a gathering of about 30 school boys of Ankola, district Karwar, on "Rashtra Seva Dal" and performed a flag salutation. The question of prosecuting the conveners of the meeting is under consideration.

A private meeting of the Executive of the Nasik District Congress Committee was held on October 24th at which G. H. Deshpande urged those present to endeavour to enlist 25,000 Congress members in the district. Resolutions were adopted (1) approving Gandhi's proposal put forward through his interview with Stewart Gelder, (2) supporting the C. R.'s formula, and (3) deciding to eliminate from the Congress, elements who are opposed to Gandhi's principles.

W. G. Yardi addressed a private meeting at Deolali (Nasik) on October 26th and exhorted the audience to unite and become members of the Congress.

A private meeting of Congressmen was held at Bijapur on October 22nd when M. P. Anklikar exhorted the audience to revive normal Congress activities and enrol members.

At a meeting of some of 60 persons held at Jakkli, district Dharwar, on October 22nd, (1) R. M. Kulkarni of Hirehal, (2) Andanappa Doddametti, (3) Mahadevappa Shiddappa Kambli of Abbigeri, (4) Rangarao Kulkarni of Bhadlapur and (5) Bashetteppa Basappa Jakkli of Naregal made objectionable speeches by asking the people not to join the Military, not to co-operate with Government servants and not to sell foodgrains to Government. Action is being taken against them.

The informal Conference of Congressmen from Maharashtra, Gujerat, Karnatak and Bombay City, convened by S. K. Patil was held at Laxmi-Narayan Baug, Dadar (Bombay) on October 28th and 29th under the presidentship of N. V. Gadgil of Poona. About 200 persons comprising of 80 from Maharashtra, 25 from Gujerat, 20 from Karnatak and the rest from Bombay city, were present.

Nagindas T. Master, Mayor of Bombay, inaugurated the Conference and welcomed those present.

N. V. Gadgil of Poona was elected to preside over the deliberations which were held *in camera*.

During the two days' sitting the President Abidally Jafferbhair Pratap Singh, T. R. Deogirikar, Kanjibhai N. Desai, M. Y. Nurie, K. N. Joglekar, D. N. Vandreakar, Govindrao H. Deshpande, Salebhai Abdul Kader, S. K. Patil, M. R. Masani, G. P. Hutheesingh, Umashankar Dixit, Dr. T. R. Naravane, Ramkrishna Jaju, Babubhai Patel, K. S. Firodia, Darbar Gopaldas, G. A. Deshpande, B. G. Kher and G. D. Vartak made speeches in support of 16 resolutions :—

(1) expressing sorrow at the deaths of Mrs. Kasturba Gandhi, Begum Azad, Dr. C. Vijayaraghavachariar, Mahadeo Desai, S. Satyamurti and R. S. Pandit; and expressing satisfaction at the response to the appeal for the Kasturba Memorial Fund;

(2) reviving the memory of all those who lost their lives as victims of Government violence since August 9th, 1942;

(3) congratulating the Indian people and particularly those of the Province of Bombay on bravely facing Government repression and terrorism that followed the arrest of Congress leaders on August 9th, 1942;

(4) reaffirming their faith in the leadership of Mr. M. K. Gandhi, endorsing Mr. Gandhi's latest hints for workers on the constructive programme of the Congress and calling upon all Congressmen to carry out as many of the 14 points of the programme as possible;

(5) (a) endorsing Mr. Gandhi's proposals for the immediate establishment of a provisional National Government in India with the definite declaration now of complete independence at the end of the war, (b) expressing the opinion that, in view of the rejection of these proposals by H. E. the Viceroy and the continued detention of members of the Congress Working Committee, Britain does not want a political settlement and will not part with power, and (c) calling upon the people to be prepared for further sacrifices and to pledge themselves to follow Mr. Gandhi's lead in his struggle for freedom.

(6) (a) accordding support to the stand taken by Mr. Gandhi during his talks with Mr. Jinnah, (b) calling upon the people not to be dispirited by the break-down of the talks but to make efforts to develop closer contact with Muslims and others and (c) assuring Mr. Gandhi of the loyal support of the people of the Province in his efforts to establish communal unity;

(7) expressing the opinion that the Congress requires to be reorganised for speedier attainment of the goal of independence on a sounder, more scientific and broader basis by establishing contact with (1) Students' organisations, (2) Trade Unions, (3) Gumastas or shop assistants, (4) Peasants, (5) Women's organisations, (6) Teachers, (7) Various other professions and (8) Commercial and business interests;

(8) expressing the opinion that there was need for more intensive and practical work among Harijans;

(9) suggesting the enrolment of Congress members in large numbers;

(10) expressing the need for organising an official volunteer corps in every Congress Province based on unquestioning discipline and unadulterated nationalism with one uniform policy for all such volunteer corps both in respect of efficient working and the restrictions put on the volunteer movement by Government from time to time;

(11) (a) cautioning the people in respect of the various economic plans sponsored by Government, (b) describing the Bombay Government's 15 year plan as unimaginative, inadequate and not in the interest of the people and (c) declaring that only a national government responsible to the people could devise and carry out an economic plan;

(12) criticising the food policy of Government and declaring that no Congressmen could co-operate with any agency appointed by Government to carry out that policy;

(13) (a) expressing the opinion that as Congress is an active political organisation fighting a powerful foreign Government it is necessary that no component element of the Congress and no members holding elective post on any constituted Congress body should be allowed to work against the deliberate decisions of the duly constituted Congress authorities (b) noting with regret that several members of the Royist and Communist Parties holding elective posts in Congress Committees have carried on propaganda against the A. I. C. C. resolution of August 8th, (c) suggesting disciplinary action against them, and (d) expressing an opinion that Congressmen ought to desist from any political association with the two parties;

(14) strongly urging the people of the Province in general and the Congress organisations in particular to concentrate on successfully carrying out the constructive\* programme with special emphasis on (a) khadi, (b) Gramodyoga, (c) Talimi Sangh and (d) Popularisation of Hindustani;

(15) appealing to the people of this Province to make serious efforts to mobilise public opinion against corruption and exploitation which were rampant in the country and take all steps to eradicate them; and

(16) expressing the opinion that the A. I. C. C. Resolution of August 8th, 1942, is still in force and governs Congress policy as explained and interpreted by Mr. Gandhi.

With a view to devise ways and means to implement the resolutions passed by the informal Conference of Congressmen of Bombay, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnatak held in Bombay on October 28th and 29th, a private meeting of the office-bearers of these Congress Committees was held at Bombay on October 30th. About 70 persons including B. G. Kher, Nagindas T. Master, S. K. Patil, G. P. Hutheesingh, G. D. Vartak, L. M. Patil, N. V. Gadgil, Keshavrao Jedhe, Mrs. Laxmibai Thuse, Bhaurao Patil, Govindrao Deshpande, K. S. Firodia, Haribhau Joshi, Narayanrao Joshi, Ramkrishna Jaju, Rambhau B. Girme, G. A. Deshpande and H. V. Tulpule attended. N. V. Gadgil presided.

It was decided to start training classes for Congress workers of Maharashtra and Karnatak in Poona with accommodation for 40 students consisting of 25 from Maharashtra and 15 from Karantak. They will be given training by experts for a period of three months in the various activities decided upon at the informal Conference. It is learnt that arrangements for Bombay City and Ahmedabad will be made on similar lines.

As regards Bombay city, the activities relating to the organisation of students, labour, gumastas and volunteers have been divided into 8 groups with a contact committee of 3 members for each group. These committees will be responsible for the activities entrusted to them.

A private meeting of the Central Committee of Maharashtra Congressmen was held at Bombay on October 30th under the presidentship of N. V. Gadgil. About 50 workers, including B. G. Kher, G. A. Deshpande, G. H. Deshpande, L. M. Patil, Haribhau Joshi, Mrs. Laxmibai Thuse, Narayanrao Joshi, D. N. Vandrekar, Appasaheb Patwardhan, V. V. Dastane, Keshavrao Jedhe, Devkinandan, Rambhau Girme and V. P. Limaye attended.

The meeting appointed 14 different Committees to carry out Mr. Gandhi's 14 point constructive programme as suggested by him. B. G. Kher was elected Chairman of the Central Board to co-ordinate the work of all the 14 Committees. G. A. Deshpande and G. H. Deshpande were appointed Secretaries for the executive side of the work and D. N. Vandrekar, Secretary to the Central Co-ordination Committee. It was decided to enrol at least 2 lakhs of Congress members before March 1945 and to carry on normal Congress activities in the different districts,

The following persons were appointed to be in charge of the subject noted against them:—

S. P. <i>alias</i> Appasaheb Patwardhan	... Harijan work.
G. H. Deshpande	... students.
L. M. Patil	... labour.
Keshavrao Jedhe	... peasants.
Devakinandan	... khaddar and Hindi.
V. V. Dastane	... village organisation.
B. G. Kher	... village industries and States people.
V. P. Limaye	... basic education.
Haribhau Joshi	... communal unity.
Haribhau Phatak	... literacy.

In pursuance of the decisions taken at the Bombay Conference of Congressmen of Gujerat, Maharashtra and Karnatak, Congress workers in the various zones have applied themselves to revive District, Taluka and Village Congress Committees in order to carry out the various items of the "constructive plan" and have launched an enrolment drive for four anna members. Poona has fixed a target figure of 25,000 members and Satara 20,000. Efforts are also being made to set up Committees to organise volunteer corps.

N. V. Gadgil of Poona, addressing a meeting of about 300 persons of Thana on November 13th, dwelt on the idea of a Nation, said that language, religion and geography do not make a nation, but the people who live in it and exhorted those present to make sacrifices in order to attain freedom for their country.

A meeting of some 60 workers of the Karnatak Branch of the Charkha Sangh was held at Hubli (Dharwar) on November 16th, S. R. Dhotre presiding. The workers discussed about measures to be taken for the production, distribution and spread of khadi in villages. Dr. N. S. Hardikar, Mrs. Krishnabai Panjikar, T. U. Kini (Kanara) were prominent amongst those who attended.

In observance of the 55th birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, private meetings were held in the districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, Thana, E. K., Nasik, Ahmednagar and Sholapur on November 14th when local speakers including the communists eulogised his services for the cause of the country.



Congressmen continue to be busy in implementing the constructive programme outlined by Mr. Gandhi and are carrying on propaganda in furtherance thereof.

Congress flag salutation was held at private places on 26th November at Poona where 30 to 125 persons were present.

A private meeting of the District Congress Committee, Poona, was held on December 2nd at Dhond (Poona), when the following among others were present:—(1) N. V. Gadgil, (2) V. P. Limaye, (3) G. A. Deshpande, (4) K. M. Jedhe, (5) T. R. Deogirikar, (6) B. M. Gupte, (7) R. K. Khadilkar, (8) Miss Prema Kantak. The meeting accorded support to the resolutions passed at the Bombay meeting and expressed confidence in Gandhi's leadership. It was also decided to co-operate with the food committee established by M. R. Masani, and enrol at least 50,000 Congress members in the district. Various Committees were appointed to carry out the constructive work in the district.

R. S. Dhotre and K. A. Venkatramayya held private discussions with the Congress workers of Kanara district on November 24th and 29th at Kumta and Sirsi, when they advised the workers to do their utmost to spread the use of khaddar, to establish Charkha Sanghs and Gramodyoga Committees etc.

A private meeting of the members of the Maharashtra Central Constructive Committee was held on 26th and 27th November at Manor (Thana). About 30 members including B. G. Kher, T. R. Deogirikar, G. H. Deshpande, Devkinandan Narayan, S. P. alias Appasaheb Patwardhan, B. M. Gupte and Miss Prema Kantak were present. Several sub-Committees were appointed in the meeting to implement various items of the constructive programme.

Similar meetings were held in the districts of Satara and Nasik.

G. H. Deshpande of Nasik addressed students numbering about 300 at Ahmednagar on December 4th and said that they should not trust in Government promises for granting *swaraj* to India unless they first acceded to the demands put forth in the August Resolution. He advised them to observe *hartal* on the 9th of every month and devote the day to Harijan uplift work, communal unity etc. He also held private discussions with local Congress workers at Yeola and Malegaon (Nasik district) and stressed the need of organising students' unions and enrolment of Congress members.

K. N. Desai, Secretary of the All Gujerat Central Constructive Committee, and others toured in Chikhali (Taluka Surat) and

advised agriculturists to oppose the Levy Scheme on the plea of their inability to meet Government quota.

Dr. Jagannath Vohra addressed a gathering of about 300 agriculturists at Ras (Kaira) on December 7th, criticised the Levy Scheme and advised them to establish Cultivators' Associations.

The Sholapur District Congress Committee held a private meeting attended by some 125 persons at Kurduwadi on December 3rd when N. V. Gadgil and others urged those present to carry out the fourteen-fold constructive programme. Resolutions were adopted advising the peasants to retain  $27\frac{1}{2}$  maunds of jowar for each family and sell the surplus to Government, supporting the demand for dearness allowance to the teachers of the Sholapur District Local Board and urging the need of unity among all classes of people.

The Karad Taluka Congress Committee held a private meeting (20) at Karad on December 3rd and adopted resolutions relating to enrolment of members and revival of Congress activities.

A similar meeting of about 30 Congress workers of Kolaba was held at Pali (Bhor State) on December 3rd.

"Leaders' Arrest Day" was observed on December 9th at Ahmedabad and Dharwar by students when flag salutations were held. At Ahmedabad, principal markets and most of the Hindu shops remained closed for a while.

T. R. Deogirikar of Poona presided over the annual gathering of the "Kala Mandir" Ahmednagar on December 10th, and in the course of his address to an assembly of about 200 students referred to the present war and emphasised that illustrations and pictures were incapable of depicting the actual thoughts to the public and advised his audience to write such a literature as would guide the public in these critical times. He strongly recommended the principle of "Ahimsa" as the basic ideology for the literature.

Deogirikar, also addressed an intellectual class of the "Students' Union" and held discussions with local Congress workers.

L. M. Patil presided over the annual social gathering of the Modern High School, Ahmednagar, on December 22nd. He said that Government wanted Indians to help in the present war and for that purpose promised to grant freedom to India after the war. But the experience of the last war showed that Government did not keep their promises.

Miss Anasuya Bhagwat of Poona visited various Rashtra Seva Dal branches in the Kolaba district during the fortnight with a view to stimulate their activity.

On the occasion of the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the "Yashwant Vyayam Prasarak Mandal", Nasik, held on December 10th, Sardar Prithvising advised the youths to build up their physique for self-defence, and indulged in self-glorification.

G. H. Deshpande of Nasik was active during the week. At a private meeting held in the New High School, Nasik, to observe the "Leaders' Arrest Day" on December 9th, he explained to those present, the significance of the day and urged them to enlist more student members to the Congress. He visited Sholapur and addressed a private meeting of some 25 Congress workers on December 17th, and urged them to help the peasants to solve the question of foodgrain, to stop black-marketing, to enrol Congress members and to step up production of Khadi.

The following day he addressed another private meeting of some 150 students whom he urged to study the history of India's struggle for freedom and to devote some time every week for Congress constructive programme.

Deshpande also visited Satara on December 20th and at private meetings continued similar propaganda.

G. A. Deshpande of Poona visited Dhulia (W. K.) on December 13th. He attended a local Rashtra Seva Dal function and advised the audience of about 150 volunteers to increase their membership. He held private discussions with local Congress workers on the Congress Constructive Programme. The following day he visited Shirpur (W. K.) where after discussions with local workers seven committees were appointed for propaganda work regarding the Constructive programme.

A meeting of the Gujarat Central Committee was held at Uttarsanda on December 20th under the presidentship of Dr. Chandulal M. Desai of Broach. Arjun Bhogilal Lala, Narhari D. Parikh, Honourable G. V. Mavlankar were prominent among those present. Resolutions were passed *inter alia* :—

(1) supporting the Constructive Programme of the Congress and deciding to implement it.

(2) deciding to raise a fund of Rs. 10 lacs for Mahadeobhai Desai memorial.

(3) adopting the draft constitution of the "Poor Men's Legal Aid Association", and

(4) Criticising the legality of the Levy Scheme.

A private meeting of the Satara District Congress Committee was held at Masur on December 10th under the presidentship of Vyankatrao Pawar when workers were nominated to implement the Congress Constructive Programme.

A meeting of the Athani Taluka Congress Committee (Belgaum) was held at Athani on December 8th when R. A. Kulkarni and Ningappa Dalvai were elected President and Secretary.

A private meeting of the Belgaum Constructive Committee was held at Belgaum on December 20th when two sub-committees were formed with S. N. Angadi and M. P. Patil as President and Secretary for the collection of funds and to carry out the constructive programme of the Congress.

A private meeting of the Sirur Peta Congress workers (Poona District) was held at Talegaon-Dhamdhere on December 17th at which B. M. Gupte, Organiser of the Maharashtra Foodgrains Committee, criticised the Government Levy Scheme and advised cultivators to retain 27½ maunds of grain for each family of 5 members and report complaints to the authorities.

Gupte has issued a circular regarding the Levy Scheme pointing out that the scheme was unsatisfactory as (1) the demand of grain was excessive due to faulty crop valuation, (2) it was not known whether it applied to Rabbi crop as well and (3) it did not make proper provision for families with more than 5 members. The circular further calls for complaints regarding (1) crop valuation, (2) inclusion of area of vegetable, fruit and barren land for grain assessment, and (3) difficulties arising out of floods, pests etc., in respect of grain crop.

Dr. D. V. Patwardhan (Satara) was served with an order under section 3 (1) (e) of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, read with Government Notification (Political) S. D. V.-1657, dated 29th January 1944, externing him from Ahmednagar District on December 21st for his prejudicial activities and delivery of objectionable "kirtans".

With the idea of issuing instructive literature on the various activities of the Indian National Congress and especially on the

various items of the constructive programme, a "Congress Publication Board" consisting of the following has been established in Bombay :—

President	... Dhirajlal B. Desai.
Joint Secretaries	... (1) G. A. Thakkar, (1) G. B. Mahashabde.
Treasurer	... Umashankar Dixit.
Editorial Committee	... (1) B. V. Varerkar; (2) P. K. Atre; (3) Yeshwant K. Khadilkar; (4) P. V. Gadgil.

The Board intends to issue pamphlets on different subjects in English and vernacular at the cheapest possible rates so that they may be available to the masses.

The Bombay Mill Mazdoor Sangh was recently formed by the Congress Labour Committee to look to the interests of the textile workers with a view to gain their support for the Congress. The following office-bearers who are Congressmen were elected for the year 1944-45 :—

President	... Dr. V. B. Korgaonkar.
Secretary	... Barrister M. V. Vora.
Joint Secretary	... S. G. Athavle.
Treasurer	... Bimla Sharma.

## 1945

Congressmen in Maharashtra and the Karnatak are reported to be mainly occupied in carrying on organisation activities and some of the leading workers in charge of Sub-Committees are touring the districts in order to further the constructive programme. Congressmen in Gujarat appear to be concentrating particularly on lecturing people about the adverse effects of the Government Levy Scheme.

At Uruli-Kanchan (Poona) on December 25th, a private meeting of some 25 Congressmen was held at which Dr. B. C. Lagu, V. P. Limaye, H. G. Phatak and others spoke against the "Levy Scheme". They stated that the demand was excessive and that no satisfactory provision was made in the Scheme for families of more than 5 members. They advised cultivators to report their complaints to the District Revenue Authorities.

L. M. Patil, Organiser of the Maharashtra Provincial Labour Committee, held private discussions at Sholapur on December 27th with some 23 Congress workers and urged them to organise labour through the medium of the constructive programme instead of by forming Congress Unions.

Haribhau M. Joshi of Poona, who had also come to Sholapur, suggested the formation of an organisation to strengthen Congress-League unity.

A private meeting of about 150 Congress workers including Kanayyalal Nanalal Desai, Narahari D. Parikh and Gulam Rasool M. Qureshi, was held at Navsari (Baroda State) on December 27th when the fourteen-fold constructive programme was discussed. A Committee of ten persons with Kanayyalal N. Desai as President was set up to implement it.

G. H. Deshpande presided over the annual social gathering of the New High School, Nasik, on December 23rd: he stated that the present system of education should be overhauled.

The Ahmednagar District Congress Committee and the Constructive Committee met at Belapur on December 25th and

decided to carry on a vigorous campaign for the enrolment of Congress members. Sub-Committees were formed to implement the Congress constructive programme. The Committees also resolved to approach Government in order to obtain a reduction of the quota fixed in the Levy Scheme as the second crop was seriously affected by the weather. B. M. Gupte of Poona was present.

The 9th session of the Karnatak Unification Conference was held at Dharwar on December 25th and 26th under the presidency of Jinaraj Hegde. About 1,000 persons including delegates from Mysore, Bellary and the neighbouring Indian States attended. Thirteen resolutions were passed, demanding the unification of the Karnatak and prosperity for Kannad speaking people, opposing the merger scheme of smaller Indian States and suggesting the re-distribution of areas on a linguistic basis. The Conference further resolved to appoint a committee of 10 persons, including R. S. Hukkerikar, to implement the resolutions and continue propaganda for the unification of the Karnatak.

S. S. Malimath, Chairman of the Reception Committee, declared that the scope of the Conference had now been enlarged and that it proposed to deal with all areas, inclusive of Indian States, where Kannad was spoken. It was the purpose of the Conference to bring a united Karnatak under the control of a single administration.

A meeting of the Belgaum Grain Committee was held on January 1st under the presidency of M. P. Patel. About 70 persons, including Venkareddi Hooli, Raghvendraro Hulgabali, G. N. Kelkar and Bassappa Katkol, attended. The Government Levy Scheme was severely criticised as being highly detrimental to the interests of agriculturists and not in conformity with the principles foreshadowed by Government. The main grievance was that the quota fixed was far in excess of actual production. A deputation with Patil and four others was formed to approach the authorities and it was decided to collect foodgrain statistics from the district.

Arjun B. Lala and Darbar Gopaldas addressed about 70 cultivators of Dhandhuka (Ahmedabad) and surrounding villages on December 31st and advised them to represent their complaints about the Levy Scheme to the authorities.

On December 22nd, Pandurang Govind Patil *alias* Pandu Master of Yedenipani (Satara) delivered a religious sermon at Kokrud



(Satara) in the course of which he urged his hearers not to give corn to Government.

At a meeting of some 250 persons of Palus, District Satara, held on December 31st, N. V. Gadgil expatiated on the importance of the Rashtra Sewa Dal and advised his listeners to strive for the welfare of the poor and to tolerate no injustice.

January 2nd was observed as "Harijan Day" at Nasik under the presidentship of G. H. Deshpande, who explained the Congress attitude towards Harijans and M. K. Gandhi's principles in that connection. About 20 Congressmen attended.

L. M. Patil and three others visited "Changdev Sugar Factory" Puntamba (Ahmednagar) on December 23rd and contacted workers with the idea of bringing them into the Congress fold.

S. P. Patwardhan opened a training centre (Sadhakashram) at Kankavli (Ratnagiri) at which boys from 18 to 20 years of age will receive instruction in (1) spinning and weaving Khadi, (2) oratory and writing, (3) the national language and (4) the history of disturbances (presumably the Congress subversive movement).

R. N. Sidhwa of Karachi addressed a meeting of some 300 persons at Broach on January 4th. He spoke on the industrialisation of India and advised the mill owners who were making huge profits, to set up new factories. He urged his listeners to sink communal differences and to become united.

The following day he addressed a meeting of some 200 Parsees whom he advised to utilise the funds of the Panchayats for the welfare of the needy in their community.

On January 4th, an informal meeting of the Poona City Congress workers was held with V. P. Limaye as President. About 50 Congressmen, including N. V. Gadgil, B. M. Gupte, T. R. Deogirikar, H. G. Phatak, B. C. Lagu, R. K. Khadilkar, G. A. Deshpande and V. K. Sathe, attended.

The President complained about the lack of interest among the workers in the enrolment of members as well as in carrying out various items of the constructive programme.

Khadilkar exhorted the workers that they should convince Government that, in spite of repression, the Congress was not defeated. Gupte and Sathe spoke in a similar strain.

Fourteen resolutions were adopted *inter alia*, (1) affirming confidence in Gandhi's leadership, (2) deciding to observe

"Congress Week" from January 20th to 26th and celebrate January 26th as "Independence Day", (3) deciding to enrol 25,000 Congress members in Poona City, (4) aiming to raise a sum of Rs. 10,000 in Poona District and Rs. 5,000 in the city to assist in carrying out the constructive programme and other Congress activities, (5) deciding not to co-operate with the foodgrain committees appointed by Government.

G. A. Deshpande, Secretary, M. P. C. C., has issued a circular to the D. C. Cs. enjoining Congress workers to observe "Independence Day" on January 26th with the following programme:

(1) Flag salutation, (2) spinning, etc., (3) enrolling Congress members, (4) the hoisting of national flags on buildings, (5) *hartal* by peaceful means, (6) private meetings particularly of students, labourers and women, (7) Congressmen to take the oath, reiterate their faith in Gandhi and explain the significance of the Day.

Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya visited Ahmedabad during the week.

On January 4th, she held informal discussions with local Congressmen, including Arjun Lala, who asked her to give them her views on the national movement, Pakistan and M. K. Gandhi's constructive programme. She said that Government would not part with power unless it was wrested from them by a united effort. Referring to Pakistan, she said that at present India was completely under the control of Britishers and if Jinnah desired to have Pakistan he might have it from the Britishers but not from the Congress. In the event of Jinnah realising his dream, at least half of India would be independent and ruled by Indians even though they were Muslims. She advised workers to implement the constructive programme wholeheartedly.

On January 5th, she attended the annual gathering of the Gujarat College and in the course of her address said that all post-war plans and talks of the new world order were mere conjectures and it was a matter of doubt whether real democracy would be established in the world. The political future of the world rested in the hands of a few such as Mr. Churchill, President Roosevelt and Hitler.

The same day she addressed the local journalists. She said that industrialisation and a high standard of living could not bring political freedom. She declared that the Sapru Committee

would not achieve much unless they secured Jinnah's co-operation. She advocated the forming of Kisan and Majdoor Mandals and advised the avoidance of a conflict with the Communists.

On January 6th, she addressed about 400 students of the Rashtriya Vidyarthi Mandal and asked them to carry on the "Torch of Knowledge" to the villages in order to bring about their social, political and economic uplift.

The same day she spoke to a gathering of local women and urged them to remove illiteracy amongst women-folk and to contribute their proper share to politics. She deprecated the misguided opposition to the proposed codification of the Hindu Law.

Since the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee is still an unlawful body, a Central Board of the Congress organisation in Bombay city has been formed to replace it recently with the following members:—

Nagindas T. Master (President), S. K. Patil, Bhawanji Arjun Khimji, Vishwanath R. Tulla, Manibhai Jemal Sheth, S. L. Silam, Ambalal Tullockchand, V. M. Nagvekar, Bhanushanker Yagnik, Babubhai Chinoy, Narbheram Narsi Popat, Rudra Dutt Singh, Ishwarbhai S. Patel, M. G. Sawant and J. C. Maitra.

At a private meeting of the Central Board of the Congress organisations in Bombay (formerly B. P. C. C.) held at the residence of Nagindas T. Master on January 6th, about 15 Congress representative of the different wards including S. K. Patil, Bhawanji Arjun Khimji, S. L. Silam, Babubhai Chinoy, Manibhai Jemal Sheth, J. C. Maitra, V. M. Nagvekar, Vishwanath Tulla, Bhanushankar Yagnik, Ishwarbhai S. Patel, Narbheram Narsi Popat, Rudra Dutt Singh, Ambalal Tullockchand and M. G. Sawant were present. The meeting passed resolutions expressing sorrow at the death of Mr. Romain Rolland and also urging the Central Provinces Government and the Government of India to consider sympathetically the application for mercy on behalf of the accused in the Chimur and Ashti cases.

The meeting also considered the programme for "Independence Day" on January 26th. It was decided to have flag salutations in private places in all wards and talukas in the morning, *hartal* during the day and reading of the independence pledge at Chowpatty by about a hundred Congress leaders in the evening after the Commissioner of Police had been notified of their intention to do so.

A private meeting of about 50 persons was held in Bombay on January 8th under the auspices of the Congress Labour Committee at the residence of Barrister H. R. Pardiwala. Dr. V. B. Korgaonkar presided.

G. D. Ambekar said that they must try to secure the support of workers in the Docks, on the railways, in the postal department, from the motor industry and also seamen, they must try to organise them properly in accordance with the Congress policy to oppose Government and, if necessary, to hamper the war effort.

Rohit M. Dave said that a Committee of seven persons under the leadership of Amul Desai had already been formed to organise the B. B. and C. I. Railway workers between Broach and Bombay and that a Union of these workers would soon be formed.

The District Constructive Committee met informally at Surat on January 6th to take stock of the work done by various sub-Committees. Ishwarlal G. Desai presided. It was decided to adopt the policy and methods of the Ahmedabad Majoor Mahajan to recruit labour.

At a similar meeting of about 35 Congressmen of Surat, including Dinkarra N. Desai of Broach, held on January 7th it was decided to open Khedut Mandals in the district for the welfare of peasants.

The Rashtriya Viddarthi Mandal, Ahmedabad, has decided to celebrate "Independence Day" by observing a *hartal* in schools and colleges and by sending out batches of students to villages to explain the significance of the day.

A private meeting of about 50 Congress workers from Gokak, Taluka (Belgaum) was held at Gokak on January 7th. G. R. Kadalgikar presiding. It was resolved to send a deputation to the Collector of Belgaum, requesting him to reduce the grain quota fixed under the Levy Scheme.

In observance of the Sholapur "Martyrs' Day" on January 12th, a partial *hartal* was observed by some local cloth and yarn merchants and 35 Congressmen gave a demonstration of spinning.

T. S. Jadhav, S. M. Phulari and K. V. Shah praised the services rendered by the late Mallappa Dhanshetti and three others in the cause of the Congress and its struggle for freedom. Jadhav exhorted those present to enrol Congress members and stated

that only through non-violence would they achieve their independence.

The R. S. Dal, Sholapur, participated in the observance when about 100 persons, including volunteers, attended. Jadhav explained the significance of the day and urged the audience to wear khadi, spin on the charkha and increase the Dal membership.

The following Congressmen have been elected to Nasik District Constructive Committee :—

1. Dattatray Yadav Paingle ... R. S. Dal and Literacy Campaign.
2. D. S. Potnis ... Khadi, handicraft and Rashtra Bhasha.
3. M. W. Janorkar ... Students.
4. V. N. Naik ... Labour.
5. G. H. Deshpande ... Harijan Uplift.
6. P. S. Apte ... Basic education.
7. B. S. Hire ... Communal unity, foodgrains and peasants.
8. Mrs. Kamalabai Janorkar ... Women's Organisation.
9. D. M. Bidkar ... Uplift of aboriginals.
10. W. G. Yardi ... Rural Uplift.

G. A. Deshpande presided over an informal meeting of some 50 cultivators held at Junnar (Poona) on January 5th when complaints against the Levy Scheme were heard and a committee with D. N. Joshi, a pleader of Junnar, was appointed to examine cases. A resolution was adopted aiming to raise the Congress membership to 3,000. B. M. Gupte and V. K. Sathe were present.

The following day, Deshpande held discussions with local women Congressites as a result of which a "Women's Union" was established with Mrs. Vatsalabai Khadke as President.

At a meeting of about 30 persons held at Saswad (Poona) on January 11th under the presidentship of B. R. Khadke, the Levy Scheme was adversely criticised and resolutions adopted endorsing the resolutions passed by the District Committee meeting at Dhond. A committee was appointed to enlist about 3,000 Congress members and to consider complaints against the Levy Scheme. N. V. Gadgil, K. M. Jedhe and B. M. Gupte were present.

L. M. Patil of Ahmednagar presided over a meeting of 15 Congress workers held on 7th January 1945 at Baramati,

P. N. Gaikwad, P. N. Naravane, Gulamali Karimali and D. S. Karandikar were prominent among those present. Speeches were made on the organisation of the peasantry, communal unity etc. Sub-Committees were appointed for:—

- (a) the enlistment of Congress members,
- (b) the organisation of students,
- (c) R. S. D.,
- (d) Food and grain question,
- (e) spinning of Khadi yarn,
- (f) the organisation of the peasantry.

On January 8th a reception was given to L. M. Patil by the Baramati Municipality and other local bodies.

On January 9th, L. M. Patil visited R. S. D. at Dhond and took a study class and explained that national organisation was superior to communal organisation.

He also held a discussion with local Congress workers.

Dr. Syed Mahmud addressed a meeting of about 50 persons interested in the propagation of the Hindi language on January 12th at the premises of the Bombay Provincial Hindi Prachar Sabha, Bombay.

He said that a national language which could be understood by the masses of India would serve the cause of national unity and bring their goal of freedom nearer.

A meeting of the Kanara District Congress Committee, at which about 30 Congressmen were present, was held at Babruwada on January 14th when Constructive Sub-Committees were formed, with the following members:—

- |                               |     |                                      |
|-------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Students' Organisation    | ... | (1) S. P. Gaonkar;                   |
|                               |     | (2) B. S. Mavinkurve.                |
| (2) Rayats Unity              | ... | (1) S. P. Gaonkar;                   |
|                               |     | (2) B. S. Mavinkurve;                |
|                               |     | (3) G. M. Kamat and two others.      |
| (3) Removal of Untouchability | ... | (1) G. M. Kamat;                     |
|                               |     | (2) S. P. Gaonkar;                   |
|                               |     | (3) H. A. Pai.                       |
| (4) Village Uplift            |     | (1) B. S. Mavinkurve and six others, |

A "tilgul" distribution ceremony was performed on "makar Sankrant Day" (January 14th) at Sholapur in order to implement the Constructive Programme for the removal of untouchability but it was given a poor response by the Harijans. About 75 Congressmen and Harijans were present. Similar functions were held at Poona (50), Nasik and Akulj (Sholapur) on January 14th. At Nasik, G. H. Deshpande and Dr. D. B. Khadilkar were greeted with black-flags.

A private meeting of about 20 Congressmen was held at Erandol (E. K.) on January 17th when discussions centred on the production of Khaddar yarn. Miss Prema Kantak, Shrikrishna Jaju of Wardha (C. P.), Balubhai Mehta and Kakasaheb Barve were prominent amongst those present.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, on his release from the Nasik Road Central Prison on January 15th, arrived at Nasik and was accorded a reception by some 300 R. S. Dal boys.

The Hubli Taluka (Dharwar) Food Council met on January 14th with M. R. Patil in the chair. Two resolutions were adopted, requesting Government to withhold the levy of foodgrains until the revision of the graded Levy Scheme was brought into effect and to arrange the levy of foodgrains and pulses in proportion to the total produce.

The Karnatak Unification Committee held a meeting at Hubli on January 15th, six members attending. It was decided to collect Rs. 2,000 for propaganda purposes. Dinkarra Desai presided.

On January 16th, Desai addressed a meeting of some 300 persons at Hubli, and emphasised that the unification of Karnatak was essential for the prosperity of the Kannad people, who would be able to derive all the benefits of the Post-War schemes, if unification materialised before the end of the war.

Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, who arrived in Bombay on January 16th after his release from the Ahmednagar Fort, addressed a private meeting of about 150 prominent representatives of the various District and Taluka Congress Committees there on January 21st.

Dr. Ghosh spoke about the leaders detained in the Ahmednagar Fort and their refusal to have interviews. He declined to express any opinion on the political situation in the country until he had met Gandhi.



A private meeting of the Central Board of Congress in Bombay City was held on January 20th at the residence of Nagindas T. Master to consider the programme for "Independence Day". Nagindas T. Master, who presided, announced, that the main flag salutation under the auspices of the Central Board would be held on January 26th at Sicca Nagar, Vithalbhai Patel Road, where Mrs. Sarojini Naidu would unfurl the flag.

The rest of the programme announced by S. K. Patil consisted of:—

- (1) the enrolment of primary members to the Congress,
- (2) the sale of tri-colour buttons and collection of funds; and the sale of wreaths to Motorists at Rs. 25 each,
- (3) the hoisting of Congress flags on houses,
- (4) flag salutations in private places in the various wards and talukas at 9 a. m. and the reading of the Independence Pledge,
- (5) mass spinning,
- (6) visits to Harijan localities,
- (7) special *sammelans* of Congress workers, students workers, volunteers and gumastas in private places,
- (8) the sale of Congress literature.

The Bombay Mill Mazdoor Sangh held a private meeting on January 15th under the presidentship of Dr. V. B. Korgaonkar. About 50 persons, including (1) Barrister M. B. Vora, (2) Bimal Sharma, (3) Baburao Gholap, (4) S. G. Athavle, (5) Dr. V. R. Shirodkar and (6) G. B. Mahashabde, were present.

The president told the meeting that the Congress was trying to organise the textile workers and to devise a programme for the redress of their grievances.

G. B. Mahashabde said that the *Rastriya Girni Kamgar Sangh* did little during the Congress movement of 1942 and that it was due to the activities of the Congress Socialists that the movement received some support from the workers. He added that the programme of the Sangh would be the organisation of textile workers, formation of mill committees and the holding of political classes.

N. V. Gadgil and Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya addressed two private meetings of 100 and 300 Congressmen, women and

students at Sholapur on January 21st and 27th. They explained the importance of the constructive programme and urged those present to carry it out vigorously. They also addressed two meetings of the Women's Association, Sholapur, on January 21st and 27th when about 75 and 400 women attended. They urged their audiences to take an interest in implementing the Congress constructive programme.

Some 30 Congress workers attended a private meeting at Chikodi (Belgaum) on January 21st under the presidency of Anant Katkol and discussed the constructive programme and the Levy Scheme. The meeting resolved to form a District Women's Organisation under the aegis of the Congress.

Dalsukhbhai Nemchand of Jambusar and Chimanlal Hiralal of Waghra, district Broach, have been touring the villages, advising agriculturists to fulfil Government demand, if they have sufficient grain, and if necessary to approach the authorities to redress their grievances.

At a meeting of some 30 peasants held at Broach on January 28th, Mangaldas, an advocate of Broach, spoke about the difficulties in the collection of grain according to the Levy Scheme, as, on account of untimely rains and frost, crops had failed; he advised the audience to fulfil the Government demand if they had sufficient stocks with them and if not to represent their cases to the authorities.

Madhavrao K. Bagal of Kolhapur addressed a meeting of some 250 persons at Palus, district Satara, on January 21. After witnessing a display of games arranged by the Rashtra Seva Dal volunteers, Bagal, in the course of his speech, advised them to follow the principle of non-violence. He said that the workers and farmers should be the rulers of the country as was the case in Russia, and exhorted the audience to unite to attain freedom.

In order to carry out the Congress Constructive Programme Congressmen in East Khandesh district opened a "Samata Gram Sewa Shibir" at Nadgaon on January 28th; they discussed questions such as Harijan uplift, the enrolment of Congress members and spinning.

The Surat District Congress Executive Committee met privately on January 27th and discussed ways of carrying out the Congress constructive programme. The Committee also decided to celebrate the first anniversary of the late Kasturba Gandhi from February 11th to 20th by holding meetings of women, mass

spinning, observing a fast and implementing some items of the constructive programme.

A private meeting of the Panch Mahals District Congress Committee was held on January 27th; leading Congressmen in that district were present, including Kanayyalal N. Desai (Surat), Dinkar N. Desai (Broach) and Ravijibhai M. Patel (Kaira). Subjects relating to Kisan welfare, the Levy Scheme and present labour problems were discussed.

G. H. Deshpande of Nasik addressed a private meeting of about 150 Congressmen and students at Belgaum on January 29th. He endorsed the Congress policy as laid down in the "August Resolution" and said that British rule was responsible for the deterioration of India in every way. He strongly criticised Government's food policy. He characterised the pre-war policy of England and America as pro-Nazi and refuted the allegations that Congress was pro-Japanese. He finally urged those present to implement the constructive programme and root out the evil of corruption which was so prevalent in the country.

A meeting of some 500 persons was held at Gadag (Dharwar) on January 28th, when S. S. Yalmali, S. S. Malimath, R. S. Hukkerikar, A. D. Doddametti and Professor R. V. Jahagirdar spoke on "The Unification of the Karnatak". They complained that the people of the Karnatak were politically and financially at a disadvantage since various parts of the Karnatak were under different provinces and states; they urged the audience to press for the unification of the Karnatak and to contribute to the fund being raised for propaganda.

The Karnatak Unification Committee, Bagalkot (Bijapur), held a similar meeting (50) on January 31st; S. R. Mangalwedhe, Dr. Nandimath, Principal, Basaweshwar College, and others spoke of the need for the unification of all Kannad speaking people. Mangalwedhe said that the 18 States situated in the Karnatak where various languages were spoken should be brought under a single "Karnatak Province". He added that the Committee aimed at enrolling 25,000 members during the next three months and had deputed representatives to various parts of Karnatak for propaganda work.

The Palghar Taluka Congress Committee (Thana) convened a private meeting on January 27th at V. V. Dandekar's residence and resolved to carry out the constructive programme in the district.

A similar meeting of 15 leading workers was held on February 2nd at Ahmednagar under the presidentship of K. S. Firodia. They decided to intensify the enrolment drive.

Jagpal Balgauda Patil, Sadashiv Bhau Shinde and Namgaunda Ramgaunda Patil, who were arrested under Defence of India Rules 56 (4) at Ankali (Satara) on January 26th for organising an unlawful procession, were convicted and sentenced by the R. M., F. C., Vita, to suffer 1 day's simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50 and in default 15 days' simple imprisonment.

Ramanand Swami addressed a meeting of about 500 persons on January 26th (Independence Day) at Aitawada Bk. (Satara) and stressed the importance of loyalty to the Congress.

A private meeting of the Managing Committee of the Rashtriya Girni Kamgar Sangh, Bombay, was held at the office of the Sangh at Lalbaug on February 3rd. G. L. Mapara presided.

Mapara regretted that the Sangh had no hold over the working class in Bombay and said that this was the reason why the Congress leaders had to form the Mill Mazdoor Sangh. He urged that the Sangh should carry on intensive propaganda as the Communists did.

Sitaram Shinde, M. P. Thorat and V. B. Arolkar said that the Sangh should hold propaganda meetings even if the necessary permission to hold such meetings was not given by the Commissioner of Police. They should enlist members by visiting chawls, conduct study classes, issue handbills and carry on propaganda in this way.

B. M. Gupte visited Dhulia (W. K.) on February 4th. He attended private meeting of Congressmen at which the Levy Scheme was discussed and the present policy of the Congress explained.

N. V. Gadgil, President of the illegal M. P. C. C., addressed a private meeting of 40 Congressmen at Akluj (Sholapur) on February 6th and urged them to implement the constructive programme in Malsiras Taluka for which the following sub-committees were appointed:—

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| (1) Khadi, Village Industries and Unity ... | (1) M. K. Kudale;     |
|   | (2) J. D. Sonar.      |
| (2) Foodgrains                              | ... (1) M.-K. Kudale; |
|   | (2) Swami.            |

( 3 ) R. S. Dal	... ( 1 ) R. R. Mane; ( 2 ) D. R. Kurudkar.
( 4 ) Harijan Uplift	... ( 1 ) Ramsing; ( 2 ) M. Nikumbha.
( 5 ) Primary School Teachers	... ( 1 ) B. R. Bhange; ( 2 ) G. N. Tharve.
( 6 ) Students	... ( 1 ) M. Nikumbha; ( 2 ) K. Waghmare.
( 7 ) Labour	... ( 1 ) M. K. Kudale; ( 2 ) Vasant Joshi; ( 3 ) D. F. Gujar.

Resolutions were passed to enrol 2,000 Congress members and to report to Government complaints in connection with the increase in land assessment. The Malsiras Taluka Congress Committee was re-organised with M. K. Kudale as President and R. R. Mane and J. D. Sonar as Secretaries.

The following day, Gadgil addressed a private meeting of about 60 persons at Pandharpur (Sholapur) and urged his audience to carry out the Congress constructive programme, to help the peasants in defending their cases arising from the Levy Scheme and to bring to the notice of Government the defects in the Scheme.

Dr. J. C. Kumarappa, Secretary of the All-India Village Industries Association, visited Poona on January 31st and addressed an informal gathering of Congressmen at the residence of N. V. Gadgil. He discussed the constructive programme and economic plans *vis-a-vis* the Bombay and the People's Plan.

The Maharashtra Peasants' Organisation Committee met at Poona on February 7th, K. M. Jedhe presiding. V. P. Powar (Satara), P. V. Karmalkar (Ratnagiri), Y. G. Mhaskar (Kolaba), S. B. Patil (E. K.), D. T. More (Sholapur), V. J. Takate (Ahmednagar), G. A. Deshpande (Poona) and T. S. Jadhav (Sholapur) attended.

The Committee passed resolutions urging the removal of peasants' grievances, to increase by legitimate and peaceful means their power of resistance against injustice and to organise them by forming District and Taluka Committees. A programme of work was also outlined to be put up before the coming meeting of the Committee which will be held on February 21st and 22nd in Nasik district.

L. M. Patil visited Nasik on February 4th and held a flag salutation ceremony which was attended by about 200 R. S. Dal volunteers. On the same day he presided over a meeting of about 200 Nasik shop assistants and advised them to unite but not to harass their employers. G. D. Bhat of Bombay narrated his own experiences in Bombay and advised them to adopt, if necessary, such measures as strikes to redress their grievances. Twelve resolutions, relating to the grievances of shop assistants, were adopted.

Patil was presented with an address on behalf of the Bhagur Municipality (Nasik) on February 5th.

The following day he visited Sinnar where he was given a guard of honour by the volunteers of the local R. S. Dal.

The Ahmednagar District Congress Working Committee met on February 8th, L. M. Patil presiding. The Committee decided to enrol 30,000 members by the end of March 1945 and to form Taluka Committees.

The Ahmednagar District Kasturba Fund Distribution Committee met on February 8th and elected the following office-bearers :—

President	... K. S. Firodia.
Vice-President	... L. M. Patil.
Secretary	... K. R. Garud.
Treasurer	... R. B. Girme.

The Ahmednagar District Constructive Working Committee also met on February 8th and reviewed the work done since its inception: a programme for the current year was drafted.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji presided over a function arranged by the old scouts of the "Shivaji Kul" (Scouts' Group), Poona, on February 11th, when D. P. Joshi and Dr. M. N. *alias* Abasaheb Natu, the founders of the Group, were presented with addresses in appreciation of their services. Eulogising the work of Joshi and Natu, Sane observed that the proper development and moulding of the character of the younger generation was of vital importance to India as her future depended on them.

Members of the Karnatak Unification Committee, Bagalkot (Bijapur), have commenced enrolling members on a subscription of four annas and have so far collected a sum of Rs. 400.

The death anniversary of Mrs. Kasturba Gandhi was observed in Bombay on February 11th by holding flag salutations in

various wards in the morning and small prayer meetings in the evening. Both these functions attracted very little attention.

A meeting (20) of local Congress workers was held at Ahmedabad on February 12th. Arjun B. Lala, Manilal Chaturbhai Shah and Niru Bhailal Desai were prominent amongst those who attended. They discussed ways of implementing the constructive programme and appointed a Committee consisting of Arjun B. Lala, Niru B. Desai, Sadashiv V. Inamdar, Parin Behen (Jyoti Sangh) and Nanubhai B. Derasari.

A similar private meeting of 12 Congress workers of E. K. district was held at the residence of Deokinandan N. Marwadi of Jalgaon when R. B. Wadekar, B. R. Deshpande and Nathmal Sagarmal and others reviewed the work done by the E. K. District Congress Committee during the last two months.

An informal meeting of the Maharashtra Constructive Committee of students was held at Poona on February 12th, G. H. Deshpande presiding. R. K. Khadilkar, V. D. Sukhathankar, G. A. Deshpande of Poona, D. M. Sutar of Thana, Madan Athawane of Pandharpur were prominent. The work done by various student organisations was reviewed and it was decided to open a Spring Season Study Class for students by the end of April 1945.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji visited Ahmednagar on February 13th and addressed a meeting of about 300 persons on the subject of "Modern Literature". He attended a flag salutation arranged by the local R. S. Dal and addressed a class of the Dal volunteers. He explained the importance of discipline, and their duty and responsibility in the national struggle.

Mangaldas M. Pakwasa visited Ahmednagar on February 12th and had an interview with security prisoner Vallabhbai J. Patel. He is reported to have discussed the Trust of Vithalbhai J. Patel. He also visited various local Congress institutions and advised workers to carry out the constructive programme. At a flag salutation of the local R. S. Dal, he said that independence was not to be imported from abroad but should be cultivated in the villages.

The Saundatti Taluka Ryot Conference (Belgaum) was held at Saundatti on February 11th, K. S. Patil presiding. About 200 agriculturists and workers including Venkareddi Hooli, M. P. Patil, N. N. Upadhyaya attended. Hooli criticised the Government Levy Scheme as being defective and impracticable, the quota being far in excess of the actual produce and urged the



audience to oppose it unanimously. He advised them to keep sufficient corn for themselves and to sell the surplus to Government. Four resolutions were adopted requesting Government to purchase corn on a voluntary basis, to revise the existing rates of assessment and suspend half the revenue and recommending the use of tractors and improved methods of cultivation.

A Committee with K. S. Patil and 6 others was appointed to ascertain the grievances of agriculturists and to represent them to Government.

At a meeting of the Belgaum District Congress Committee held on February 14th under the presidentship of Venkareddi Hooli, it was decided that no Congressman should contest the ensuing D. L. B. election on a Congress ticket, but there would be no objection to a Congressman contesting it in his individual capacity.

Yayangouda Tallur criticised the Government Levy Scheme as *ultra vires* and proposed that Government should be urged to suspend it. Resolutions were passed emphasising the need of vigorous implementation of the constructive programme.

A meeting of the Karnatak Congress Constructive workers was held at Dharwar on February 12th and D. P. Karmarkar presided. Venkareddi Hooli, R. S. Hukkerikar, Mrs. Krishnabai Panjikar and Bindu Burli were prominent among those present. They discussed the organisation of students, the Ryot Sangh and labour and the best way to bring them under Congress influence.

The Dharwar District Ryots' Conference was held at Hubli on February 14th. Dinkar Desai presiding. About 300 agriculturists attended. The Conference passed the following resolutions:—

(1) that the Levy Scheme should be abolished and that the Mysore Scheme be adopted in its place;

(2) that if the scheme was not abolished the following defects should be removed:—

(a) the scales in the tables should be reduced, (b) levy bills should be prepared on the actual yield, (c) levy on pulses should be reduced, (d) Government should take whatever the agriculturists offered to give, (e) sufficient corn should be left to the agriculturists and only surplus should be demanded, (f) one month's time should be allowed instead of 10 days.

(3) that paddy should not be subjected to the levy.

(a) a voluntary method would be preferable, (b) harvesting four acres or less should be exempted, (c) no paddy should be collected from agriculturists till Government orders were issued to that effect.

Desai said that the scheme should have been based on the minimum productive capacity of the land and not on the land revenue assessed and that enough corn should be left to the agriculturist to cover his needs.

B. R. Tambakad suggested that Government should set up Village Committees of non-officials to collect the corn.

It is reported that T. S. Naik and G. M. Kamat have collected Rs. 100 in Kanara district for the families of political sufferers.

The Maharashtra Provincial Kasturba Memorial Committee met at Poona on February 11th at the residence of N. V. Gadgil and passed resolutions deciding (1) that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the fund collected in each district should be remitted to the Provincial Congress Committee, (2) that expenses for the training of workers at Wardha should be borne by the Central Committee and (3) that responsibility of sanctioning the proposals in various districts should be on the Provincial Committee.

At a private meeting of local Congressmen held at Mehmedabad (Kaira) on February 18th. Mehmedabad Taluka Central Committee was formed with Ramanlal Motilal Gandhi and Manecklal Chunilal Modi as President and Secretary respectively. The Committee is to advise peasants about grain collections under the Levy Scheme and to deal with the question of fixing the rates of purchase of paddy and other foodgrains.

At a private meeting held at Broach on February 17th and 18th, Kanayyalal Nanalal Desai, Dinkarra N. Desai (Broach), Bhogilal Lala (Ahmedabad) and R. M. Patel (Nadiad) discussed the proposals about (1) the establishment of Khedut Mandals, (2) the collection for the Mahadeobhai Desai Fund, (3) the implementation of constructive programme, (4) a vacation programme for students to get rid of illiteracy and (5) Congress relations with the Communists.

The Ahmednagar District Constructive Committee met at Ahmednagar on February 18th under the presidentship of K. S. Firodia. The Committee discussed schemes for village industries

such as the manufacture of oils, soaps and paper. Bapurao Shende, Secretary of the Maharashtra Provincial Village Industries Association, took part in the discussions.

A private meeting of the Chikodi Taluka Congress Workers (Belgaum district) was held at Eksamba on February 18th. Anant G. Katkol (President) and S. D. Kothavale exhorted the audience of some 50 persons to implement the constructive programme.

A private meeting of the Maharashtra Provincial Constructive Committee was held at Borwat (Nasik) on February 21st and 22nd to discuss ways of carrying out the constructive programme. B. G. Kher, S. P. Patwardhan, T. R. Deogirikar, Deokinandan Narayan, Miss Prema Kantak, V. P. Limaye, L. M. Patil, N. V. Gadgil, G. A. Deshpande, G. H. Deshpande, H. G. Phatak, K. M. Jedhe, V. V. Dastane, S. R. Bhise and B. M. Gupte were prominent among those who attended. N. V. Gadgil, B. G. Kher and R. S. Dhotre made speeches stressing the importance of the constructive programme. About peasants and labour organisations, it was decided that a scheme should be drafted in consultation with M. K. Gandhi. A resolution moved by S. P. Patwardhan requesting the Congress-minded Zamindars to grant the just and legitimate demands of their tenants, before the latter forced them to do so on the strength of their own organisation, was adopted at the meeting.

Prior to the above meeting, a private meeting of the prominent workers of the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee was held at Nasik on February 20th, when among other things it was decided that (1) Congressmen should not co-operate with Communists, as the war policy of Congress was diametrically opposed to that of the Communists and (2) Congressmen should not contest elections to civic bodies.

The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavlankar attended a private meeting of some 15 Congressmen of Dhulia (W. K.) on February 25th and after explaining the present policy of the Congress exhorted those present to carry out the constructive programme.

A private meeting attended by about 60 Congressmen was held at Bijapur on February 24th when discussions took place about the reorganisation of Congress Committees, the constructive programme, the levy scheme etc. R. G. Dube, S. R. Kanthi, H. S. Koujalgi and M. V. Kundapur attended.

It is reported that a sum of Rs. 3,500 has been collected from weavers in Bijapur district for the All-India Spinners' Association.

The Bombay Mill Mazdoor Sangh held a private meeting on February 18th. Gulzarilal Nanda presided and about 40 persons including (1) S. K. Patil, (2) S. B. Mahashabde, (3) G. D. Ambekar, (4) Dr. V. B. Korgaonkar, (5) Amul Desai, (6) Baburao Gholap, (7) Raja Kulkarni and (8) Rohit M. Dave attended.

The President said that he had recently interviewed Mr. Gandhi and had a talk with him regarding the working class movement. Mr. Gandhi had said that the Congress, with the co-operation of labour organisations, should try to unite workers under its (Congress) leadership in order to launch a fight for the freedom of India. The speaker said that the peasants and students were already supporting the Congress and he stressed the necessity of also bringing the State subjects and the working classes into the Congress fold within the next two years.

The Bombay Mill Mazdoor Sangh held another private meeting on February 22nd under the presidentship of S. B. Mahadeshwar when discussions took place on the progress made in organising the working classes under the Congress.

The Gujarat Central Congress Committee met at Ahmedabad on February 28th. Workers from all over Gujarat and Kathiawar, including Kanayyalal Nanalal Desai, Dr. Chandulal M. Desai, Din-karrai N. Desai, Hon'ble Mangaldas M. Pakwasa, Darbar Gopaldas, Hon'ble G. V. Mavlankar, Bhogilal Dhirajlal Lala and Miss Mrudula Sarabhai, attended. The meeting appointed the following sub-committees to carry on Congress activities.

(a) Mahadevbhai Desai Memorial Fund Committee.—It was decided to raise a fund of 10 lacs of rupees from the Gujarat and Rs. 15 lacs in Bombay in memory of the deceased, the intention being to utilise the amount in publishing literary works of late Desai and also in training paid workers to carry on Congress activities.

(b) Kasturba National Memorial Fund Committee.—It was decided to open three training centres to train workers to organise women's and children's welfare work etc.

Sheth Ambalal Sarabhai, Sheth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Hon'ble G. V. Mavlankar, Hon'ble Mangaldas Pakwasa, Gulzarilal B. Nanda and Miss Mrudula Sarabhai were appointed *ex-officio* trustees of the Fund and Kanayyalal N. Desai and Pushpaben Mehta were appointed President and Secretary of the Gujarat branch of the Fund.

(a) Kisan Sampark (Contact) Samiti.—It was decided to organise Kisan Mandals and to establish close contact between

students, women and workers among the kisans. Congressmen were also urged to take a keen interest in the activities of the T. L. A., Ahmedabad, the National Students' Organisation and the Harijan Sewak Sangh.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji addressed a meeting held at the Purushottam High School, Nasik Road on February 24th. He stressed the necessity for education and said that the present system of education should be overhauled and new measures adopted to obtain better results.

B. G. Kher, President, Maharashtra Provincial Constructive Committee, who is on a propaganda tour in Maharashtra, visited Sholapur on February 28th. He had a full programme. He performed a flag salutation attended by about 150 Rashtra Seva Dal volunteers, addressed a private meeting of some 75 secondary school teachers and later a meeting of about 100 members of the Padmashali community to whom he advocated the Wardha Scheme of Basic Education. He discussed the Congress Constructive Programme at a private gathering of about 150 Congressmen and at a gathering of about 100 students urged them to implement the constructive programme vigorously.

At a meeting of about 250 women held by the local Women's Association, he pointed out that under the Congress Constructive Programme they had been given opportunity to strive for their uplift and to secure their rights.

At a meeting held under the presidentship of L. M. Patil, he inaugurated the Rashtriya Kamgar Sangh (National Mill Workers' Union) and stressed the fact that the Union should strive jointly for the benefit of the workers and the millowners by mutual co-operation. T. S. Jadhav also spoke in the same strain. About 800 members are reported to have been enrolled by Congressmen.

Hon'ble Mangaldas M. Pakwasa visited Broach and Surat on March 1st and 2nd respectively and discussed with local Congressites about the formation of Free Legal Aid Societies.

With the object of educating children on Gandhian lines and giving an insight into Congress ideology a training class known as the "Jawahar Bal Sangh", has been started at Chandgad (Belgaum) by Ramkrishna Damodhar Prabhu with Balmukund Laxman Deshpande as President and Aba Baburao Mandrekar as Secretary.

It is reported from Bijapur that, under instructions from Wardha, an independent body consisting of (1) members, including

H. S. Koujalgi, S. R. Kanthi, R. G. Dube, C. J. Ambli has been formed in the district to carry out the constructive programme. This body will be independent of the District Congress Committee.

The Bombay Textile Clerks' Union held a meeting of 100 textile clerks on February 27th, when S. B. Mahadeshwar, S. K. Patil and S. G. Athavale asked the audience to secure the support of the textile workers for the Congress.

At the annual general meeting of the Bombay Municipal Congress Party held on March 3rd the following office-bearers and members of the Managing Council were elected for 1945-46 :—

Leader S. K. Patil, Deputy Leader Vasantram Jamiatram, Hon. General Secretary P. K. Sawant, Deputy Secretary Kashi Prasad Singh. Chief Whip K. A. Subramaniam. Deputy Whip B. M. Khandray. Hon. Treasurer P. M. Chinai. Members of the Council Bhawanji Arjun Khimji, N. S. Kajrolkar, Dr. M. D. D. Gilder, R. K. Achrekar, R. M. Gandhi, R. B. Raut, S. L. Silam, Soonderdas Murarjee.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji was accorded a warm welcome at Amalner (E. K.) on March 4th on his first visit to this place after his release from Jail. During his stay he was given receptions by various local institutions at private meetings where audiences did not exceed 500, including Congressmen, Students, and Millhands. Addressing the local R. S. Dal he stated that the Dal was intended to serve the country and that it should devote itself to cleaning the town. He said that the Dals should keep themselves fit by doing physical exercises etc., when Government had banned Military Drill. At other functions he advised his listeners to forge the unity of all classes in order to secure the release of Congress leaders and to achieve independence. He also asked them to vote for Congress candidates in the local Municipal elections. Local Communists tried to disturb the meetings, but without success.

Sane visited some of the families of persons convicted in the Amalner Arson Cases and distributed a sum of Rs. 200 to them, donated by the local merchants association. At a meeting of about 300 persons held at a private place on March 6th, Sane said that the struggle of 1942 reminded him of the Indian Mutiny in 1857, although in the present struggle they were handicapped by the lack of power and weapons. The present war, he said could not be for democracy; and everything was worthless without *swaraj*.

On March 7th, he visited Nandurbar (West Khandesh) and addressed two private meetings attended by about 150 persons. He explained the present Congress policy and urged his audience to strengthen the R. S. Dal.

Presiding over the annual social gathering of about 600 students of the Silver Jubilee High School at Barsi (Sholapur) on March 11th and 12th, Sane advised the students to go to the villages and to study the conditions of the villagers who were the real producers of wealth, but who did not get the benefit of the schools and libraries maintained at their cost. He urged the students to foster communal unity.

V. P. Limaye, President, Poona District Congress Committee, visited Ahmednagar on March 6th. He held informal discussions with local Congress workers about the present political situation. He also had discussions with the workers of the Students' Federation regarding their activities in the District.

N. V. Gadgil, during his visit to Satara, inspected the volunteers of the local Rashtra Sewa Dal and advised them to increase its membership. He had also discussions with Congress workers about the establishment of a Students' Association.

R. G. Dube, C. J. Ambli with other local Congress workers have been touring the villages in Bijapur District and acquainting themselves with the grievances of the agriculturists in connection with the Levy Scheme. They have interviewed villagers, grain and godown keepers and checked quotas given by villagers.

B. G. Kher visited Barsi, Akluj, Ekhatpur and Kurduwadi (Sholapur) during the week. At a meeting of about 1,200 persons held at Barsi on March 1st in connection with the celebration of Shivaji's anniversary, he urged his audience to follow Gandhi's principles of truth and non-violence and to implement the Congress Constructive Programme.

At a meeting of the Grama Sewa Samiti held at Babruwada (Kanara) on March 4th, the following items were discussed:—

(1) Rayats should be made aware of their rights and social status as pointed out by Gandhi;

(2) Persons, who strictly adhered to the Gandhian principles should alone be enlisted as members of the Rayat Sangh;

(3) The agriculturists should get wages proportionate to their labour;

(4) A Group Rayat Sangh of the villages in Ankola Taluka should be formed.



The Gujerat Central Congress Committee held a private meeting at Broach on March 11th. Bhogilal D. Lala, Kanayyalal N. Desai, Gulam Rasul Kureshi, Vaikunthlal L. Mehta, Indulal K. Yagnik, Raojibhai M. Patel and others discussed subjects such as the opening of medical aid centres, the collection for the Mahadev Desai Fund, the formation of Kisan Mandals etc.; the following Sub-Committees were formed:—

Students' Contact Committee:—

1. Iswarlal Chotalal Desai.
2. Maganbhai Parbhubhai Desai.
3. Indumati Seth.
4. Professor M. L. Dantwala.
5. Eabubhai Jasbhai Patel.
6. Yahyabhai Akbar Lokhandwala.

Kisan Mandal Committee:—

1. Kanayyalal N. Desai (Surat)
2. Dinkarra N. Desai (Broach)
3. Raojibhai M. Patel (Ras).
4. Hariprasad Pitambar Mehta (Ahmedabad)
5. Maneklal Gandhi (Kalol)
6. Magan Patei (Ahmedabad).

It was also decided to establish a Majur Sewak Mandal on the lines of the Hindustan Majur Sewak Sangh.

Ravishankar Maharaj, who had returned from Wardha, addressed a private meeting of about 25 Congress workers at Ahmedabad on March 11th and as desired by Gandhi gave a detailed account of the working of the constructive programme in the villages.

At a private meeting of the Chikodi Taluka Congress workers (Belgaum) held at Borgaon during the week it was decided to form a Kisan Kamgar Sangh and to start study classes in the Taluka. A. G. Katkol and D. L. Adhyapak were prominent among those present.

An informal meeting of Congress workers of Bombay and its suburbs was held at Borivli on March 11th to discuss village industries and medical relief. A programme for the village industries in Bombay Suburban District was outlined. B. G. Kher, Naval C. Jerajani, D. N. Wandrekar, S. K. Patil and M. K. Deshpande participated in the discussions.

A meeting of some 50 members of the Khadi Sewa Sangh was held on March 12th at the residence of Deokinandan N. Marwadi of Jalgaon (E. K.). The work done by the Sangh was reviewed and items of the constructive programme were discussed. Deokinandan expressed his disappointment at the fact that only

10,000 members had been enrolled so far out of the quota for the district of 25,000 members.

The Poona City Congress Committee held a meeting on March 15th, V. P. Limaye presiding. The work done by the various sub-committees to implement the constructive programme was reviewed. The President declared that only 5,000 new members were enrolled in the city and urged those present to intensify the enrolment drive to complete the figure of 25,000 which they were aiming at.

G. H. Deshpande who is on a propaganda tour in Ratnagiri district visited the R. S. Dal, Kankavli, on March 8th and advised the volunteers numbering 22 to organise and take an interest in Dal activities. Addressing the students of the Topiwala High School, Malwan, on the following day, he urged students to undertake village uplift work.

On the same day, he addressed a private meeting (75) at Medha Malwan and urged his listeners to do their utmost for the welfare of the country.

An informal meeting of local Congress workers was held at Ahmednagar on March 15th at K. S. Firodia's residence; Firodia asked those present to enrol new members vigorously.

L. M. Patil and Swami Sahajanand Bharati of Naur (Ahmednagar) are reported to be busy enrolling Congress members.

A private meeting of Congress workers was held on March 12th at Malegaon (Nasik) when discussions centred round the present situation and the effect of war on the people. The importance of loyalty to the Congress was also urged. V. N. Naik and W. G. Yardi were prominent amongst those who attended. It is reported that V. N. Naik and G. G. Soundankar are likely to go to Ahmedabad to be trained in labour activities.

Pandit Sunderlal a Congressman of the U. P. addressed Congressmen's Study Classes at Grant Road and Dadar and a meeting of local Congressmen at Koliwady, near Fanaswady (Bombay) during the week. He also addressed about 40 students of the Bombay Students' Union (Nationalist) on March 14th at the Union Office and the members of the Freedom Group in the hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber on March 16th. He explained the importance of Gandhi's constructive programme laying special emphasis on Hindu-Muslim unity.

G. H. Deshpande visited Amalner (E. K.) on March 22nd. Addressing a private meeting of about 150 persons, he described

the pitiable condition of the people caused by the shortage of grain for which Government was accused of being responsible. He referred to the alleged pro-Government attitude of the Communists and said that they too would have to quit India along with the British who would one day turn against them. He explained that the Congress was not for capitalists but for the labourers and kisans and added that the present war was not for democracy since it had gagged the people. He requested the audience to follow Congress. The next day, Deshpande addressed private gatherings (100-400) and exhorted his listeners to support Congress candidates in the local Municipal elections.

On March 24th, Deshpande spoke to a gathering of about 30 students on "The Outline of the Student Organisation" at Congress House, Nasik.

A private meeting of Congressmen was held at Maninagar (Ahmedabad) at the residence of Bhavanishankar Bapuji on March 16th. Ravishankar Vyas of Kaira who presided over the gathering, emphasised the need for constructive work. The meeting decided to establish Khadi-Producing Centres in the district.

A private meeting of the leading Congress workers of Kolaba district was held at Pen on March 18th. D. K. Kunte, Sitaram V. Tilak, S. P. Mahale and Barrister K. S. Dharia were prominent amongst those present. It was decided to contest the local D. L. B. elections and to collect funds for the workers who were to be appointed to carry out the constructive programme.

The Ratnagiri District Congress Committee met privately on March 18th and discussed several matters such as the production of Khadi, the spread of Hindi, the removal of untouchability and the food situation. About 30 persons were present.

A private meeting of 10 Congressites was held on March 18th at the residence of Mrs. Krishnabai Panjekar, Dharwar, when after considering applications of about 200 candidates, Miss Indumati Gunaji and two others were selected as trainees for the Borivli Training Centre opened on behalf of the All-India Kasturba Memorial Fund Committee.

A private meeting of Congressmen (40) was held at Guledgud (Bijapur) on March 20th under the presidentship of Madivalappa R. Pattanshetti. Discussions were held on subjects such as (1) the purchase of corn by Revenue authorities; (2) the increase of handlooms; (3) the supply of yarn at controlled rates to weavers; and (4) village uplift.

The methods of the revenue authorities in connection with the purchase of grain were criticised and it was decided to refer such complaints to the authorities concerned. R. G. Dube, C. J. Ambli and S. R. Kanthi participated in the discussions.

At a private meeting of the members of the Provincial Committee of the Maharashtra Students' Union held at Poona on March 18th, it was decided to hold Study Circles for 10 days at Nasik, Thana and Kolhapur. It was also urged that Students' Unions in Maharashtra should concentrate on implementing the constructive programme in villages during the summer vacation. B. N. Raghansa (Poona), V. D. Sukhathankar (Poona), Palekar (Thana), Khopkar (Nasik), Kulkarni (Kolhapur) and G. H. Deshpande (Nasik) attended.

At a meeting of the Poona District Kasturba Memorial Fund Committee held on March 10th, Dr. B. C. Lagu was elected President and Miss Tarabai Ranade and Miss Prema Kantak Secretaries.

A private meeting of the Thana District Congress Committee attended by about 50 persons was held on March 19th in the Orient High School, Dadar (Bombay), under the presidentship of Appasaheb Kirtane of Thana. Persons in charge of the various items of the constructive programme read out their reports on the work done. The President, however, expressed his dissatisfaction and insisted upon members collecting funds to carry out the programme on a wider scale. The meeting also considered the grievances of the primary school teachers of the District and promised them every assistance to redress their grievances. The meeting also reviewed the work of the Rashtra Seva Dal.

In Bombay City, the usual monthly flag salutation ceremonies were held in various wards by the District Congress Committees on the morning of March 25th. Attendances were very poor and did not in any case exceed 30. Appeals were made to enlist members for the Congress more vigorously.

At private meeting of Ahmedabad Seva Dal workers held on March 24th, it was decided to raise a Dal of trained volunteers to organise a workers' training class, to endeavour to start a Seva Dal organisation in the district and to enrol members. S. V. Inamdar, Kantilal Fulchand Ghia, Shivkumar Girijashankar Joshi and Ramniklal Harjiwandas Shah participated in the discussions and S. V. Inamdar was appointed Captain to organise the activities of the Dal.

A private meeting of the Kaira District Congress Committee was held on March 17th at Nadiad, Raojibhai M. Patel presiding. About 25 Congressmen were present. The meeting decided to establish Khedut Mandals at Itola and Nadiad (the latter being intended for women), in order to train Congress workers to show people the best way of implementing the Constructive Programme. It was also decided to advise people to approach the proper authorities with any complaints of hardships, corruption etc., they might have.

Ahmedabad Congressmen held 9 private meetings on March 25th in order to stimulate Congress activities and to counteract the activities of other bodies. Arjun B. Lala and Manilal C. Shah were prominent amongst those who attended. At these meetings the following matters, among others, were decided:—

(1) Khadi and Rantia Prachar Committee to undertake propaganda to increase Khadi production and to popularise the spinning wheel. A Committee with Nansha C. Thakore, Nalinikant and Krishnalal Shah was appointed to educate the masses in this connection.

(2) Harijan Uplift.—One Manharlal was entrusted with arranging visits of Congress workers to Harijan localities and making every possible effort to remove untouchability.

(3) Municipal School Teachers.—It was decided to organise Ahmedabad Teachers under the guidance of the Congress.

(4) Kisan Mandals.—It was decided that Kisan Mandals established according to the Congress creed should be free from political proclivities.

(5) Village Contact by Students.—It was decided to start village contact work in Modasa Taluka. About 20 students agreed to work for a period of one month.

(6) Student Activities during the Summer Vacation.—It was decided that the Students' Association should carry on the work on the lines of the policy and creed of the Congress.

(7) Organisation of Shop Assistants, Menial Workers excluding Textile workers etc.—It was decided to organise associations of these workers with a Central Body to direct their working.

The Karnatak Congress Mandatory Committee held a meeting at Dharwar on March 25th with D. P. Karmarkar in the chair. Twelve members of the Karnatak Congress Constructive

Committee were present. The Committee discussed the following proposals:—

(1) To hold a meeting of Karnatak workers to co-ordinate constructive work and to send a deputation of 8 workers under the leadership of Karmarkar to see M. K. Gandhi.

(2) To open an All-Karnatak "Gram Sewa Dal" class at Dharwar to train R. S. Dal members for village work.

The Surat District Congress Central Committee held a private meeting at Surat on March 26th, K. N. Desai presiding. A committee of 7 members with Desai as president was appointed to establish Khedut Mandals in important villages of the district. The Committee also discussed the literacy campaign and the collection of the Mahadev Desai Memorial Fund.

At a private meeting of the Maharashtra Provincial Kasturba Memorial Fund Committee held at Poona on March 25th, the following women were selected as trainees at the Borivali Camp:—

Mrs. Ashabai Deshpande (Satara).

Mrs. Anasuyabai Gholkar (Miraj).

Mrs. Anasuyabai Wagh (Poona).

Mrs. Kalantre (Sangli).

The following women have been nominated on the Provincial Committee:—

(1) Mrs. Indirabai Deodhar.

(2) Dr. Nalinibai Pant.

(3) Miss Prema Kantak.

A private meeting of the Maharashtra Congress Women's Organisation Committee was held at Poona on March 25th and 26th. Miss Prema Kantak was in the chair. Mrs. Jankibai Tendulkar (Ratnagiri), Mrs. Kamalabai Janorkar (Nasik), Mrs. Nirmalabai Desai (B. S. D.), Mrs. Jankibai Apte (Ahmednagar), Mrs. Sumatibai Kirtane (Thana), Mrs. Padmavati Harolikar (Sholapur) and G. A. Deshpande attended. The meeting reviewed the work so far done. It was agreed that Satara and Kolaba districts could not do much work owing to unstable conditions and epidemics prevailing there. A programme was outlined resolving to—

(1) open a provincial camp for 25 women for village work;

(2) train them in discipline;

- (3) undertake a literacy drive involving about 500 women ;
- (4) observe National Week from 6th to 17th ;
- (5) study Gandhi's literature ;
- (6) celebrate Gandhi Week by opening an exhibition showing Khadi, village industries, sanitation, child welfare etc.

G. A. Deshpande, Secretary of the Provincial Maharashtra Constructive Committee, has issued a circular to all District Congress Committees informing them that the time limit for enrolling Congress members which was upto 31st March, has now been extended upto 31st May 1945, and asking them to take advantage of the extension to complete the quota of 2,00,000 members for Maharashtra.

The Maharashtra Provincial Majur Samiti (Labour Committee) met privately at Ahmednagar on March 27th under the presidency of L. M. Patil. V. N. Naik, W. G. Yardi, T. S. Jadhav, R. K. Khadilkar, K. S. Firodia and K. P. Bhalerao attended. L. M. Patil spoke on the aims and objects of the labour organisation and explained that Gandhi had, in his circular entitled "Instructions to workers made it clear that farmers who work in the fields should be in the possession of the land. Similarly labourers instead of being slaves to capitalism should be its masters. He added that while working among labourers they should not use the organisation for political purposes. Finally he advised them to carry on their work under the guidance of the All-India Majur Sevak Sangh which has accepted the Congress policy and programme.

The Committee proposed the following additions to the aims of the All-India Majur Sangh :—

(a) The aim of this organisation will be to bring about a democratic Government of farmers and labourers as declared by M. K. Gandhi.

(b) The means of production will be public property.

The Committee also adopted resolutions relating to the organisation of labour, fund, propaganda and training of workers etc.

The Poona City Congress Constructive Work Committee met at the residence of B. M. Gupte on March 26th, and decided to donate Rs. 100 respectively to the work of Village Industries and the Charkha Sangh.



Monthly flag salutation ceremonies were held on March 25th at Poona, Sholapur, Ahmednagar and Kankavli (Ratnagiri). R. S. Dal volunteers numbering 300 and 350 attended the functions held at Ahmednagar and Sholapur.

G. H. Deshpande toured in West Khandesh District between April 1st and 3rd visited Nandurbar, Shahada, Dondaicha and Dhulia where he addressed private meetings and R. S. Dal volunteers. He advised his listeners to implement the Constructive Programme, strengthen the R. S. Dals, establish Students' Unions, Women's Samitis and strive for Hindu-Muslim unity. At Dhulia, he spoke about the Nandurbar Riots and the Ashti and Chimur cases and criticised Government and the Police for their alleged high-handedness. Audience to these meetings ranged from 125 to 300.

B. G. Kher, opened a training Camp for women, organised under the Kasturba Gandhi Trust Scheme at Borivli (B. S. D.) on April 5th. About 60 women from different provinces were selected to undergo training, which consists in instruction in Social work, Hygiene, Medical relief, Village industries etc. The course will last a month. After the course, the women are to return to their own provinces and open similar training centres there.

Kher, in his inaugural speech, thanked the public for contributing generously to the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund, and declared that the whole amount would be utilised for the welfare of women, children and the villages. The essential basis of village development, Kher said, was the provision of adequate clothing, housing and nutritious food and attention to health, education and means of communications. The reconstruction of the villages and the welfare of women and children would help to solve great problems, including that of independence. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Miss Mrudula Sarabhai, Lady Rama Rao, Honourable Mangaldas Pakwasa, Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya and Mrs. Hansa Mehta were prominent amongst an audience of about 700 persons, which included 400 women.

A Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition organised by G. A. Deshpande, Secretary of the M. P. C. C., was opened at Poona on April 6th, by Professor J. C. Kumarappa. Some 800 persons including 200 volunteers of the R. S. Dal were present.

Kumarappa, in the course of his speech, said that the Indian peasantry was exploited by Government inasmuch as Indian raw material was purchased at cheap rates but finished foreign goods were sold in India at exorbitant rates. Khadi and Village

Industries Planning as introduced by Gandhi, he insisted, was the only planned economy calculated to regenerate the villages. B. G. Kher spoke in the same train.

Among those present, the following were prominent :—

Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavlankar, Surjee Vallabdas, Appasaheb Pant (Aundh), N. V. Gadgil, R. K. Khadilkar, B. M. Gupte, B. P. Patil (Satara).

Shrikrishnadas Jaju, Secretary of the All-India Charkha Sangh, opened a "Village Industries Exhibition" at Bandra (B. S. D.) on April 5th.

A similar exhibition was opened at Ville Parle on the same day by the Hon'ble Mr. G. V. Mavlankar.

A private meeting of the workers in village industries in the Maharashtra was held at Poona on April 7th under the presidency of B. G. Kher. J. C. Kumarappa, Deokinandan N. Marwadi (E. K.), V. M. Vedak (Kolaba), P. B. Bhadmal (Ahmednagar), Miss Prema Kantak and G. A. Deshpande attended. Kumarappa spoke on the resolutions adopted by the All-India Village Industries Association meeting held recently. The district leaders gave an account of the work which was being carried out in the Maharashtra.

Shrikrishna Jaju presided over a private meeting of some 60 Khaddar wearers of Poona District held at Poona on April 7th. He spoke on the decisions taken by the All-India Charkha Sangh and urged his audience to intensify the activities of the Charkha Sangh in the district.

N. V. Gadgil, G. A. Deshpande, Miss Prema Kantak, V. K. Sathe, B. M. Gupte, Dr. B. C. Lagu, Bhogilal Jaini, B. M. Shinde, M. S. Shinde and R. M. Kumthekar were prominent amongst those present.

A private meeting of some 8 Congress workers was held at Ekhatpur (Sholapur) on March 30th, when discussions were held on the progress of village industries, spinning and khaddar.

A Hindi School was opened at Motebennur (Dharwar) on April 1st to perpetuate the memory of Mahadev Martand Mailar, who was shot dead during the C. D. Movement in 1943.

A joint meeting of the Gujerat and the Bombay Committees of the Mahadev Desai Memorial Fund was held in the hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, on April 3rd, under

the presidentship of the Honourable Mr. Mangaldas Pakwasa. B. G. Kher, Nagindas T. Master, S. K. Patil, the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavlankar, Mrs. Lilavati Munshi, Miss Maniben Patel, Dr. Chandulal Desai and a few others attended. It was decided to collect a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs to be used for village uplift work, for the training of village workers and for erecting a building in Bombay in memory of the deceased where scholars from foreign countries could have the opportunity of studying Indian culture and in particular Gandhi's work.

A meeting of about 200 persons was held at Mashinal (Bijapur) on April 4th under the presidentship of Sangappa Desai. C. J. Ambli, R. G. Dube and Shamrao Patil spoke in support of resolutions requesting Government to arrange for the supply of agricultural implements; to consult agriculturists in connection with the bunding works; to fix the rates of purchase and sale of grains with a margin of 5 per cent; to make prompt payments etc., for the purchase of grain and to grant remissions in the Government Levy and Assessment for the current year.

A private meeting of some 75 Congressmen of Sholapur and Ahmednagar districts was held at Kurduwadi (Sholapur) on April 9th when Shrikrishnadas Jaju delivered a short speech on the Congress constructive programme and advised the audience to organise the villages by starting Charkha Sanghs and Village industries.

Jaju visited Belgaum on April 12th and discussed the new scheme of "Khaddar Swawalambana" with local workers.

A meeting of Congressmen was held at Ahmedabad on April 15th to discuss the problem of Harijan uplift. Dr. Chandulal M. Desai, Arjun B. Lala, Manhar Bhandari and 7 other workers were present. They reviewed the work done so far and decided to carry on propaganda through the press to eradicate the antipathy of high class Hindus towards Harijans. Harijans were asked to educate their children, observe the principles of sanitation and abstain from drinking, etc.

Dr. Chandulal addressed another private meeting at Ahmedabad the same day. He asked workers to take the lessons of the C. D. Movement of 1942 to heart and to be very cautious if they intended to organise a similar struggle in future. He urged them to carry out the Constructive Programme whole-heartedly so that independence would be achieved within a period of four years. Referring to the question of office acceptance, he said that at this juncture, the position of Ministers would be one of

subordination and that they would merely have to obey orders of higher authority. Finally he appealed for Hindu-Muslim unity.

At a private meeting held at Malegaon (Nasik) on April 13th, G. H. Deshpande stressed the importance of the Rashtra Sewa Dal. The following day he again held a private meeting at which he asked the audience to establish a Gumasta Mandal.

A private meeting of Khadi workers of the Karnatak was held at Hubli (Dharwar) on April 14th. About 100 persons including T. Subramanyam (Bellary), Hanumant Koujalgi (Bijapur), Venkareddi Hooli (Belgaum), S. Vasudeo Rao (Mysore State) and D. P. Karmarkar attended. Shrikrishnadas Jaju who presided, explained the new scheme of village uplift sponsored by M. K. Gandhi and advocated the use of the Charkha.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Sholapur District Congress Committee held at Sholapur on April 15th, proposals to make every village self-supporting in respect of Khaddar and yarn, were discussed and a committee of 11 persons called the "Samasta Gram Seva Committee" was formed with M. M. Sarda as secretary.

The following appointments were also made:—

T. S. Jadhav—Labour Organisation. R. V. Gujar—Foodgrains.  
V. B. Sathe—Nai Talimi. P. T. Utpat—Literacy Campaign.

B. L. Mehta addressed a private meeting of about 25 Congressmen at Dhulia (W. K.) on April 15th. He exhorted them to increase the membership of the Congress and the R. S. Dal.

A fortnightly instructional class (Congress) was held from April 19th at Nagardeola (E. K.). About 20 students attended. N. T. Joshi, A. S. Atre and V. V. Dastane imparted instructions in spinning and the Congress Constructive programme. Flag salutations were also held. Supdu Bhadu Patil and K. G. Lale were the organisers of the class.

Mrs. Jankibai Apte of Ahmednagar addressed a private meeting (200) at Amalner (E. K.) on April 15th and asked those present to eradicate untouchability. She is reported to have collected a sum of Rs. 150 for the Harijan Fund at Chopda (E. K.).

The Executive of the Belgaum District Congress Committee met on April 18th with Venkareddi Hooli in the chair. It was decided to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Congress in the month of December and to raise a fund for the construction of Congress House at Belgaum.

The Surat District Congress workers held a private meeting on April 20th at Chikhli. Gordhandas R. Chokhawala presided. It was decided to establish Khedut Mandals in the district and collect subscriptions to the Mahadev Desai Memorial Fund.

B. G. Kher and A. V. Thakkar attended a conference of the workers of the Bhil Sewa Mandal at Mirakhedi (Panch Mahals) on April 21st and discussed plans for the uplift of the aboriginal tribes. The conference condemned Government's policy of opening cheap liquor shops in Dohad and Jhalod Talukas and the system of alleged forced labour, and resolved to unify the working of all Ashrams of aboriginals in the Bombay Province under one committee; they also resolved to take steps to spread education among Bhils.

A private meeting of the Dharwar District Congress Committee was held at Hubli on April 22nd under the presidentship of R. K. Kabbur. About 30 persons attended. A Committee consisting of 40 members was formed to carry out the constructive programme in the district. S. B. Devapur was authorised to call the next meeting to elect the Managing Body.

A meeting of about 50 local Congress workers was held at Ahmedabad on April 22nd when the Honourable Mr. G. V. Malvankar suggested that the whole of Gujerat and Kathiawar should be divided into zones for collections for the Mahadeo Desai Memorial Fund. Accordingly nine zones were formed and each zone was assigned to a prominent Congressman who would be responsible for the collection in his zone. Ward Committees have also been formed for collections in Ahmedabad City.

V. V. Dastane, Deokinandan Narayan and Kolhe have organised a class at Chinchakhede, District East Khandesh, from April 22nd, to impart instruction to students about the constructive programme.

A similar instructional class was conducted at Nagardeola (East Khandesh) from April 10th to 25th.

N. V. Gadgil of Poona while addressing an audience of about 800 persons at Thana on April 23rd, expressed views about an ideal Granthalaya (Library) and said that India wanted men who could give intellectual food for her uplift.

R. G. Dube, S. C. Mirji and S. R. Kanthi convened three small meetings between April 22nd and 25th at Bilgi, Talkot and Bijapur (District Bijapur) and made speeches requesting Government to supply the ryots with foodgrains, cloth, yarn and iron.

Resolutions were passed about the renewal of Congress Committees, implementation of the constructive programme, etc.

A training camp was organised at Jambusar, district Broach, from April 25th to 30th. About 75 students attended. Chandulal M. Desai, Kamalashankar Pandya and others delivered speeches on Students' Unity, Indian Administration, Untouchability etc., and advised students to make the best use of their vacation.

The Honourable Mr. Purushottamdas Tandon, Speaker of the U. P. Legislative Assembly, during his stay in Poona paid visits to various local institutions on April 23rd. The same day he addressed a meeting of about 300 persons and said that Hindi was the only language which could be called the national language of India. He was not prepared to admit any changes or mixture of other languages to please a certain section of people in India.

K. S. Firodia of Ahmednagar addressed a meeting of about 25 Congressmen at Sholapur on April 25th and declared that according to Gandhi's instructions Congress Ministries would not be formed until complete freedom was achieved. He advised his listeners to implement the constructive programme to attain their goal of freedom.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji while speaking to the High School students of Palghar, District Thana, on April 23rd stressed the necessity of unity amongst various classes and communities of India.

On April 25th he addressed a meeting of about 1,000 persons at Thana under the auspices of the Marathi Granth Sangrahalaya" on the occasion of the "6th Literacy Celebration". Speaking on "Life and Literature" the lecturer stressed the need for the type of literature which would guide the masses, and inspire them to try to remove injustice and poverty. Referring to the present day periodicals he said that they contained astrological prophecies about human beings but the real planets influencing their lives were the English and not the ones in the sky. He advised the audience to produce such literature as would make people fearless and make them conscious about their position and added that the great blood-shed that was going on in the world could very well be avoided by literature teaching the high principles of life.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji addressed a private meeting of about 175 Students at Roha (Kolaba) on April 28th.

and spoke on "Mass Education". He reminded students that they were the pillars of the nation and asked them to educate their illiterate brethren, eradicate untouchability and forge national unity. Later, in the evening, Sane paid a visit to the local R. S. Dal branch and attended a flag salutation.

Sane addressed two meetings at Thana on April 29th. At the first meeting which was attended by about 400 persons, including 300 women and girl students, he complimented the girls on their interest in physical culture and advised them to increase their mental powers as well as their physical powers to free their motherland from bondage. At the other meeting of about 1,000 persons convened by the local "Hanuman Vyayam Shala", Sane distributed prizes to competitors. He exhorted them to be dauntless and be prepared to withstand the lathi charges of the Police, offering their heads as coconuts to their motherland as they offered coconuts to God.

At an informal meeting of Congressmen held at Mashinal (Bijapur) on April 30th, M. P. Anklikar, S. C. Mirji and others discussed the enrolment of members, the reorganisation of Taluka and Group Committees and the supply of foodgrains etc.

R. G. Dube addressed a private meeting held at Bijapur on April 30th and advised students to utilize the vacation to visit villages and collect information about the condition of the cultivators.

About 45 past members of the Gujarat Sewa Dal met at Ahmedabad on May 1st in order to form the Gujarat Rashtriya Seva Dal under the guidance of Dr. Chandulal M. Desai. About 250 members have so far been enrolled and they will assist in implementing the Congress constructive programme.

At a private meeting of the E. K. District Congress Committee held at Jalgaon (E. K.) on May 2nd, it was decided to allot Rs. 100 to each Taluka Congress Committee for annual expenses and Rs. 70 to R. S. Dals in the district for incidental expenses and for libraries opened at various places.

At a private meeting of about 50 Congressmen held at Vitai (W. K.) on May 2nd, S. V. Thakkar and V. N. Barve spoke on village uplift and the removal of untouchability. The following day V. V. Dastane addressed a similar meeting (25) at the same place on village uplift and cultivation of land.

A private conference of all Karnatak Congress workers was held at Belgaum on May 6th with D. P. Karmarkar in the chair.



About 150 persons attended, the prominent being G. B. Deshpande, Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, A. B. Latthe and C. J. Ambli. The former *ad hoc* Karnatak Constructive Committee was dissolved and a fresh Committee was formed with C. J. Ambli as President and R. G. Dube and K. B. Dundur as Secretaries. The Committee will act vice K. P. C. C. which has been banned. The following Sub-Committees were appointed with workers in charge :—

Kisan	...	V. V. Patil	Anti-corruption	M. P. Anklikar
Women's Organisa- tion.		Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya.	Gosewa and food	R. S. Hukkerikar
Harijan	...	Mrs. Nagamma Patil.	R. S. Dal	B. V. Burli
Labour	...	Raghavendra Matti- halli.	Gramodyoga	U. S. Mallya
Khadi	...	Gupta (Bellary)	Adult education	Mrs. Umabai Kundapu
Prisoner's release	...	G. V. Hallikeri	Hindi	V. A. Hodike
Karnatak Unification.		Shrinivasrao Man- galvedhe	States	Basappa Timmasgi
Communal unity	...	M. P. Patil	Legal aid	D. P. Karmarkar

The Conference passed resolutions (1) condemning the alleged atrocity committed by the Kolhapur Police on Kashibai Hanbar, (2) condemning the policy of the Central Government in taking over the control of all key industries in India and (3) requesting Provincial Governments to look to the basic needs of prisoners in jail and to confine them in jails in the Provinces where they resided.

On May 1st, training class of the Congress Dal was inaugurated by S. K. Patil at Om Samarth Vyayam Mandal at Dadar (Bombay). About 25 persons attended. Dr. T. R. Naravane was put in charge of the Dal to carry on the constructive programme and to give assistance towards the preparations for celebrations in connection with Congress Diamond Jubilee in December next.

A study class for Congress workers was opened at the office of the 'A' Ward-District Congress Committee on May 2nd. S. K. Patil and Abidalli Jaffarbhoj gave lectures on May 2nd and 4th on the political struggle of the country, before an audience of about 30 persons.

A private meeting attended by some 400 persons was held at Telod (Broach) on May 8th. Dr. Chandulal M. Desai and Shiva-shankar Chhaganlal of Jambusar were present. The audience was

advised to represent to Government the necessity for a revision of the "Food Grains Act", so that 50 per cent, of the land could be utilized for food crops.

A sum of about Rs. 1,250 was collected towards the Mahadeo Desai Memorial Fund by Congressmen in Broach District.

At a private meeting of Congress workers held recently in Congress House, Nasik, G. H. Deshpande reviewed the work carried out by the various Constructive Committees, deplored that only 9,000 members were enrolled and urged those present to intensify the enrolment drive.

\* The Ratnagiri District Youth Conference was held at Malwan on May 6th with K. N. Joglekar in the chair. P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, during the course of his speech, paid tribute to the Congress workers who participated in the 1942 movement, described the Congress policy and urged the audience to strengthen the Kisan and Kamgar organisations.

Resolutions passed related to the August Resolution, and the Constructive Programme. M. V. Varadkar and Manohar Bhandivadekar also spoke.

An instructional class for students was opened at Wadgaon-Ambe (E. K.) on May 6th. About 21 students mostly drawn from the adjoining villages have joined. Supdu Bhadu Patil, Shripat Dalpat Teli and R. B. Chaudhari who organised the class, explained the Constructive Programme to the students.

An instructional class for students was opened at Chalisgaon (E. K.) on May 10th when Motiram Shamrao Patil, Hari Hanmanta Chavan, Ramsing Bhawsing Ghorpade and Duryodhansing Amratsing explained the constructive programme to about 25 students mostly drawn from the local R. S. Dal.

A similar class was opened at Salve (E. K.) on May 16th when Sitaram Hirachand Birla, the organiser, explained the constructive programme to about 50 students.

D. P. Karmarkar presided over a meeting of about 400 persons held at Tokre (district Kanara) on May 12th to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the "Nadvar Sangh" which had been established there for the uplift of Nadore Community. He complimented the Nadores for their participation in the 1930 movement and asked the audience to prepare themselves to relieve India from bondage of the foreign rule. Referring to war he observed that universal peace could alone be brought about by adopting

a policy of non-violence. B. S. Mavinkurve and S. P. Gaonkar also spoke and urged to establish Charkha Sanghs in villages.

At an informal meeting of about 200 persons held in the Nanavat Congress House, Surat, on May 12th, Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya described the economic and social conditions of various countries and advised her listeners to implement the Congress Constructive Programme if they wanted to be free and happy.

A private meeting was held at Alindra (Kaira) on May 13th, at which Madhavlal B. Shah of Matar discussed the Government Levy Scheme and said that the levy was not fixed according to the production of the crop. He complained that the villagers did not get sufficient cotton seeds, sugar and kerosene and asked them to form a union to represent their grievances to Government.

At a private meeting of 25 Congressmen held at Sholapur on May 16th, V. V. Dastane asked those present to implement the constructive programme and make villages self-sufficient.

On May 19th, B. G. Kher opened a "Khadi and Village Industries Exhibition" in a pandal at Kamgar Maidan, Parel, (Bombay), in the presence of about 500 persons, including some prominent Congressmen.

At a private meeting of some 30 Congressmen held at Vedchi (Surat) on May 19th, Jugatram C. Dave of Bardoli asked those present to establish Khedut Mandals in the villages. A Mandal with 25 members was formed at the meeting.

An instructional class, to which about 45 students, mostly drawn from the R. S. volunteers have joined was started at Pimpalgaon (E. K.) on May 20th.

Ramnath Hiralal Gupta, Jagdeesh Master, Shripat Dalpat Teli, Magan Taniram Jain and Kashinath Bajirao, addressed the class and spoke in general terms on the constructive programme.

Nagesh Parashram Chitale of Ikhatpur (Sholapur) addressed the instructional class held at Salve (E. K.) and spoke on "Village Improvement". This class terminated on May 23rd.

N. T. Joshi, A. S. Deshpande and L. K. Deshpande of Jalgaon (E. K.) addressed an instructional class attended by about 30 volunteers at Chalisgaon (E. K.) and spoke on "Students duty". This class terminated on May 25th.

The usual monthly flag salutations were held on the morning of May 27th in all the wards of Bombay City except 'A' and 'E'. Audiences ranged from 15 to 200 persons.

Private gatherings of released Congressmen were held at Korpargaon, Rahata and Belapur Road (Ahmednagar District) on May 25th, 26th and 27th. About 20 workers attended. Discussions centred round how to intensify Congress work so as to counteract the Communist propaganda in their District. Swami Sahajanand Bharati and R. B. Girmé were prominent amongst those who attended.

At a private meeting of some 20 Congressmen held at Vairag (Sholapur) on May 29th, T. S. Jadhav advocated the importance of spinning and the necessity of establishing Charkha Sanghs.

Hare Krishna Mehtab, member of the Congress Working Committee, arrived at Poona on May 30th. He left for Mahabaleshwar the following day to see M. K. Gandhi. On his return to Poona on June 4th, he held private discussions with local Congress workers at N. V. Gadgil's residence.

A private conference of leading Congressmen of Nasik was held on May 26th with G. H. Deshpande in the chair. About 15 Congressmen including W. G. Yardi and V. N. Naik attended. The conference decided to open "Khadidhari Shibir" (a camp of Khaddar weavers) at Village Panchak for a period of 10 days commencing from July 7th.

An instructional class for students was organised at Raver (E. K.) from May 19th to 21st by R. B. Chaudhary and Govind M. Koranne who advised the students (numbering about 50) to do physical exercises. Flag salutation and Indian games were other items of the programme.

Monthly flag salutations were held on May 27th at Ahmedabad, Poona, Ahmednagar and Ville-Parle (B. S. D.). The attendance at these functions varied from 5 to 250.

G. A. Deshpande of Poona opened a "Khadi-Dhari Shibir" (Camp) at Panchak (Nasik) on June 7th. In his inaugural speech Deshpande exhorted his audience of about 35 workers to rise above caste distinctions, to achieve unity and to follow M. K. Gandhi. He recommended Village Uplift as one of the main items of the Congress programme. V. V. Dastane of Bhusawal said that the main brunt of the Congress movement for emancipation was borne by villagers and the idea of conducting the "Shibir" was to train villagers in the spinning and weaving of Khaddar.

Congress workers from Sangamner area (Ahmednagar) including R. S. Jaju, B. Y. Chayal, R. R. Dighe held a private meeting during the week at the residence of D. M. Pingle of Sangamner and discussed the constructive programme.

"Leaders Arrest Day" was observed at Ahmedabad on June 5th when the Textile Mills, principal markets and most of the shops in the Hindu localities remained closed. A flag salutation attended by 20 persons was held at which Khandubhai K. Desai explained the importance of the Congress flag and exhorted his listeners to co-operate in implementing the constructive programme.

A partial *hartal* was observed on June 9th by a few wholesale cloth and yarn merchants of Sholapur in this connection.

The Summer Physical Training Camp opened at Malad (B. S. D.) by the Physical Efficiency League, Bombay, on May 1st, concluded on May 31st. About 200 persons attended. Sardar Prithvisingh was in charge of the Camp.

Vallabhbhai J. Patel and S. D. Deo, members of the Congress Working Committee were released from the Y. C. Prison on June 15th.

At a private meeting of Congressmen of Bhagur (Nasik) held on June 9th, G. H. Deshpande spoke on the present political situation and eulogised Gandhi's constructive programme.

V. V. Dastane addressed classes of about 20 students at the "Khadidhari Shibir" Panchak (Nasik) from July 9th to 14th and spoke on subjects entitled "The Life of Mahatmaji", "Non-violence", "Harijan Fund", "Harijan Uplift" and "The Constructive Programme."

At a private meeting of some 125 persons held at Upale-Dumala (Sholapur) on June 8th, T. S. Jadhav spoke on the 'gospel of spinning' and advocated its practical application in every day life.

A class for imparting lessons to women in spinning and carding was opened at Saswad (Poona) under the supervision of Miss Prema Kantak on June 15th. Six ladies have joined.

At a meeting of about 250 persons of Bassein (Thana) held on June 10th. P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji said that innocent persons were killed during the C. D. Movement of 1942 and added that at least 10 to 20 lacs would be required to be sacrificed to achieve independence. Concluding he urged his

audience to become members of the R. S. Dal. The following day Sane advised about 150 students of the New English School, Bassein, to unite under the National Flag after completing their studies.

Dr. Chandulal M. Desai presided over the 2nd anniversary celebration of the Bansiwala Khedut Vidyalaya, Mehmedabad (Kaira) held on July 10th. About 80 persons attended. During the course of his address he said that the spirit which prevailed among the students in 1942 was not in evidence today and added that they should cultivate the strength of will to fight by non-violence and see that the English were driven away from India. He pleaded that they should not blame M. K. Gandhi for the present State of affairs. Indulal K. Yagnik was also present.

At a private meeting of about 30 persons held at Mehmedabad (Kaira) on June 17th Indulal K. Yagnik read out the annual report of the (1) Shraddha Bhil Ashram (Kevri) (2) Ranipraj Ashram (Udwada) (3) Bansiwala Ashram (Mehmedabad) and (4) Partappur Ashram (Partappur) giving details of the working of these Ashrams. The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavlankar presided over the function.

A gathering of Khaddar wearers of Ahmednagar District was held on June 16th at Ahmednagar when L. M. Patil, K. S. Firodia, V. S. Chinchorkar and others exhorted their listeners numbering about 200 to do spinning and use khaddar only.

The Ahmednagar District Congress Committee, the Kasturba Memorial Fund Scheme Committee, the District Constructive Committee and the Standing Committee of the Congress Minded Youths' Conference also met at Ahmednagar on June 16th to transact routine business.

Morarji R. Desai, Purushottam Hari Patwardhan and Dr. K. B. Antrolikar were released from jail on June 16th.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress met at "Birla House" in Bombay on June 21st. The following were present :—

1. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (President).
2. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
3. Vallabhbhai J. Patel.
4. Babu Rajendra Prasad.
5. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

6. Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.
7. S. D. Deo.
8. Dr. Prafullachandra Ghosh.
9. Govind Vallabh Pant.
10. Hare Krishna Mehtab.
11. Asaf Ali.
12. J. B. Kripalani (General Secretary).

M. K. Gandhi was present.

Since their arrival in Bombay all the members were busy with informal discussions about the Wavell Plan. M. K. Gandhi, C. R. Rajagopalachari, Bhulabhai Desai and other members were present at these discussions. The actual proceedings of the Committee commenced in the afternoon. At the outset the President reviewed the events following the adoption of the resolution of August 1942 and the arrest of Congress leaders. He then explained in brief what their position was in 1945. In regard to the Wavell Plan it is understood that most of the members entertained a feeling that Lord Wavell's Plan was an advance on the Cripps proposals and that for an interim arrangement the transfer of all portfolios, except that of the Commander-in-Chief had to be appreciated although individually they were reluctant to commit themselves. The Committee decided to issue an instrument of instructions to the invitees before they left for Simla. It also authorised the President to accept the Viceroy's invitation and to issue directions to the Congress invitees to proceed to Simla.

It is reported that the members judged the proposals of Lord Wavell from the point of view of the A. I. C. C. resolution of August 1942 and came to the conclusion that the second part of the resolution dealing with the mass movement did not apply now in view of the changed situation. As regards the first part dealing with its demand for independence, they agreed that the present plan was a step leading to their ultimate goal; and that certain defects and details therein were capable of adjustment. The Committee also discussed about the ban on the A. I. C. C. and other Congress bodies and the detention of a large number of Congressmen.

The adjourned meeting of the Working Committee was held at "Birla House" on the morning of June 22nd, all members



attending. Bhulabhai J. Desai who was specially called upon to explain the background of his negotiations with Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan and Lord Wavell, satisfied those present on several points raised by them and said that the present plan was an advance on his own formula and that it should be accepted. He also pointed out that in regard to the question of parity of representation in the Executive Council between Hindus and Muslims the terms of reference in the Wavell Plan were better than the corresponding clause in the Desai-Liaquat Ali formula. The Committee then gave certain directions to the Congress invitees to seek elucidation on the "Wavell Proposals" and issued the following statement:—

"The Working Committee, meeting after nearly 3 years of enforced isolation, have to consider numerous national and international problems which have taken new shape and form. The Committee will meet again in the near future for this purpose.

"Meanwhile, while recognising the efforts being made to establish a New World Order, the Committee regret these efforts are being obstructed and vitiated by the ambitions and fears of the Great Powers who are often moved by motives of retaining their Dominion over Colonies and Dependencies and preventing or delaying the freedom of these countries. The Committee are convinced that World peace and any new International Order can only be based on the recognition of the freedom of all these countries and elimination of all traces of Imperialist control by whatever name this can be called. The Committee reiterates their policy in regard to this matter laid down by the A. I. C. C. on August 8th, 1942.

"The Committee have noted with deep regret and resentment the recent attacks on Syrian and Lebanese independence, which are violation not only of the specific pledges given to the Syrian and Lebanese people but also a negation of the principle proclaimed by the United Nations."

The following left Bombay for Simla on June 22nd:—

1. M. K. Gandhi.
2. Pyarelal.
3. Miss Sushila Nair.
4. C. Rajagopalchari.
5. The Honourable Mr. Govindlal Shivrul Motilal.
6. B. G. Kher.

7. Dr. Syed Mahmud.

8. Devadas Gandhi.

Bhulabhai Desai, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad with his two Secretaries Ajmal Khan and Professor Humayun Kabir left Bombay on June 23rd.

A private meeting of about 20 persons was held at the residence of Mrs. Krishnabai Panjekar, Dharwar, on June 16th. (1) Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. (2) Miss Mrudulaben Sarabhai. (3) M. P. Patil. (4) D. P. Karmarkar. (5) R. S. Hukkerikar. (6) C. J. Ambli, attended.

After discussion it was decided to open a training centre at Dharwar under the "Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Fund Scheme", for women workers of Dharwar.

The Ahmednagar District Congress Committee at its meeting (private) of June 16th arrived at the following decisions:—

(1) Taluka Committees should open their offices (function), arrange spinning etc., in the Committee's offices.

(2) A sum of Rs. 5,000 should be collected for the purpose of vitalising Congress activities and to meet incidental expenses.

(3) District workers should tour in the district to activate Taluka and Village Congress Committees, and

(4) Debt Relief Act should be explained to the public through the press and also by private discussions.

The "Khadidhari Shibir" which was opened at Panchak (Nasik) on June 7th, closed on June 16th. On the concluding day V. V. Dastane and Dr. K. B. Antrolikar advised the students to propagate amongst villagers what they had been taught in the "Shibir". D. S. Potnis hoped to open similar "Shibirs" in every Taluka of Nasik District.

A private meeting of about 125 Congressmen was held at the "Khadidhari Shibir", Panchak on June 16th. V. V. Dastane (President), G. H. Deshpande, W. G. Yardi and V. N. Naik advocated the use of Indian goods, stressed the need of strengthening the Congress and suggested that each Taluka should produce 500 khaddar weavers.

The monthly flag salutation was held in the compound of King George English School, Dadar (Bombay), on the morning of June 24th. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru unfurled the Congress flag

in the presence of a large gathering. He reminded the people of the significance of the Congress flag and exhorted the audience to carry on their fight for freedom to the finish.

It is reported that Congress workers of Ahmedabad are contemplating appointing a Committee to enquire into the action taken by the authorities to suppress Congress activities. The Committee will tour all over the country and present its report to the Congress Working Committee.

It is reported that a sum of Rs. 200 was collected at Barsi (Sholapur) for the Congress Constructive Programme.

C. J. Ambli and R. G. Dube have similarly collected Rs. 500 to implement the Congress Constructive Programme.

## 1946

Some 69 election propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 25 to 5,000 persons were held between December 16th to 26th in the Gujerat, Maharashtra and Karnatak. Speakers, including J. B. Kripalani, Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani, N. V. Gadgil, Chhannusing K. Chandeli, S. P. Patwardhan, S. K. Patil, B. S. Hire, B. G. Kher, M. P. Patil and S. V. Kamat thanked audiences for their support in the Central Assembly elections and exhorted them to give similar support in the ensuing elections. They urged people to implement the Congress constructive programme and to start R. S. Dal branches everywhere.

Addressing a meeting (1,000) at Nimgaon (Nasik) on December 14th, N. V. Gadgil made a very intemperate speech. He accused Government having used repressive measures to crush the Congress movement but the only result, he stated, was that Congress had been strengthened. He added that the British were their enemies and they would have to make them quit India. All the British were nothing but pigs and they would be sent to clean all the dirty places in Europe. He went on to say that the Mamlatdar's *katcheri* would be turned into a latrine when Congress came into power. Finally he appealed to the people to unite under the Congress and to prepare a list of all Government officers who were harassing the public so that Congress might deal with them.

Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani addressed two meetings of 500 and 300 women at Ahmedabad on December 25th and 29th and advised them to use only Swadeshi goods, to boycott foreign goods and to strive for the eradication of illiteracy amongst women in villages.

Chhannusing K. Chandeli addressed four meetings with varying audiences of about 25 to 3,000 persons in Satara District on December 15th and 16th. He expatiated on the Congress endeavours for the freedom of the country and exhorted the people to vote for Tapase, in the provincial elections. He said that the Hindu Sabha and the Muslim League were communal bodies and

alleged that they had done nothing for the people's advancement. He also asked the audiences show sympathy towards I. N. A. men.

J. B. Kripalani addressed a largely attended meeting (10,000) at Ahmedabad on December 23rd. He said that the British annihilated Nazism and Fascism, but imperialism still survived. He criticised violence and the Communist Party's slogan of "People's War" and the League demand of Pakistan, and explained that Congress stood for the rule of peasants and workers and the masses in general. Concluding he appealed to the audience to be prepared for a C. D. movement irrespective of the results of the elections.

Kripalani addressed about 500 students of the S. L. D. Arts College, Ahmedabad, on December 22nd, on the occasion of the celebration of the annual commemoration day. He said that in independent countries, various parties contested elections to achieve power, while in slave countries people were not able to enjoy real power in Councils or Assemblies, since they had to co-operate with the State functions and hence M. K. Gandhi advocated the boycott of elections. He warned the students that the only real politics for them was to serve the country under the guidance of Gandhi and other leaders, and not to enter Legislatures.

S. P. Patwardhan of Ratnagiri addressed two small meetings at Pandharpur and Vairag (Sholapur) on December 13th and 16th. He advised those present to sink caste differences and forge unity in order to achieve independence.

Addressing a meeting of some 1,500 persons at Pen (Kolaba) on December 18th, S. K. Patil Secretary B. P. C. C., criticised the Allies for their alleged persecution of people on the continent conquered in the 2nd Great War. He remarked that for the safety of all nations the "Atom Bomb" must not exist any more in the world. Referring to the executions of the I. N. A. officials he said that when freedom was won, Mr. Churchill should be done away with and hanged. Concluding he urged people to vote for Congress candidates and advised Hindu Sabha members to join the Congress.

The Khatav Taluka Congress Youths' Conference attended by about 1,000 persons was held at Pusegaon (Satara) on December 15th. M. K. Bagal of Kolhapur presiding. Babasaheb Anandrao Bhosle referred to the police firing on processionists at Vaduj (Satara) during the 1942 movement and said that Government

servants responsible for harassment would have to pay for their misdeeds. Chhannusing K. Chandeli, inaugurating the conference, commended the activities in Satara District and remarked that the Congress Raj and persons like Nana Patil were striving hard there for the attainment of independence of the country, on the principles of truth and justice. He said that the August resolution of 1942 was still in force and that the time would come, when the whole of India would follow the example of Satara District. The President, pleaded the cause of the peasants and workers and observed that they would not be happy unless capitalism and landlordism were abolished. He urged those present to settle their disputes through Panchayats and to achieve independence by adhering to the principle of *ahimsa*. Narayan Mahadu Mane of Khatgun, a released I. N. A. soldier, described the circumstances under which the I. N. A. was formed and made a scurrilous reference to Government about his recruitment. The conference adopted seven resolutions *inter alia* demanding the release of I. N. A. personnel, release of detenus, demanding that Khatav Taluka be declared as a famine area and urging the people to strengthen the Congress.

Congress propaganda meetings with audiences not exceeding 7,000 persons were held during the week when such speakers as S. D. Deo, G. H. Deshpande, Chhannusing K. Chandeli, T. S. Jadhav, M. K. Bagal, L. M. Patil, R. V. Nisal, and Channappa Wali explained the efforts made by the Congress for the achievement of independence of the country and appealed to the people to support Congress candidates in the ensuing provincial elections.

S. D. Deo, addressed two meetings of about 2,000 and 6,000 persons on January 4th, at Kurli and Nipani in Belgaum District. In the course of his speeches he explained the "Quit India" resolution, and "National Government" which would be based on the principle of "Co-operative Common Wealth". He claimed that Congress was the only organisation fighting for the freedom of the country and exhorted the audience to be ready for another fight with the British with such weapons as non-violence and non-co-operation which, he said, would defy even the Atom Bomb. He accused Government of violating their declaration that war was for the freedom of all nations. Concluding he exhorted the audience to join the Congress in large numbers.

To celebrate the 51st birthday of S. D. Deo, a meeting (300) was held at Nasik on January 4th. G. H. Deshpande, in the course of his speech, referred to Deo's services to the country and said that in 1927 he was prosecuted under section 124-A, I. P. C.

and was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment and that the Viceroy and the C-in-C were not ready to accord sanction to the prosecution of its members but they were pressed to do so by "idiot" Indian Civil Servants and brought them notoriety which was spread throughout the world as a result of the prosecution. He hoped that the remaining I. N. A. prisoners, would now be released. Continuing he said that they should now unite on a grand scale and be ready for the next struggle, as they could not hope to obtain anything from the British through their success in elections, they should be so united that Magistrates, Police and Military would be unable to do anything. Even if the latter opposed them and opened fire on them, there should be others to take the place of those killed or wounded. The path of truth and non-violence, he added, would be enough to compel the rulers to leave and retire to their own country.

M. K. Bagal of Kolhapur in the course of his tour in Ratnagiri District addressed several meetings of 100 to 500 persons between December 31st and January 5th. He advised the peasants to rally under the Congress which was the only party striving for the good of all. He exhorted his audiences to vote for Congress candidates in the ensuing elections.

Chhannusing K. Chandeli and T. S. Jadhav, addressed three meetings of 15 to 125 persons in Pandharpur Taluka (Sholapur) between December 27th and 29th, 1945. They said that as famine was apprehended in the Taluka, the people should watch Government "annewari" and advised villagers to sell *jowar* to Government after retaining 25 maunds for their own use. They asked them to report complaints to Congress leaders and also to support Congress candidates in the forthcoming election.

M. Y. Nurie, addressed three meetings of 500 to 7,000 persons at Nipani, Sankeshwar and Chikodi in Belgaum District on January 1st and 2nd the largest audience being at Nipani. In the course of his speeches he referred to the "Quit India" resolution and said that their battle with British Imperialism was not yet finished but would have to be won jointly by Hindus and Muslims. He said that the sworn enemy of the Muslims was not the Congress nor the Hindus but British Imperialism; and that Jinnah and the Hindu Mahasabha were wrong in accusing each other. Jinnah, he asserted, was a "satellite" of the British and had been acting according to their wishes. Pakistan could be obtained from Congress and not from the British and if a common struggle was put up to gain independence, the whole of India would be Pakistan. He exhorted the audience in general



and Muslims in particular to vote for Nationalist Muslim candidates and Congress candidates in the ensuing elections.

Nurie also addressed a meeting (1,000) at Hubli on December 30th, 1945, and spoke on similar lines.

At a meeting of about 1,200 persons held at Kopergaon (Ahmednagar) on January 2nd, Vyankatrao Patil praised Satara District for its activities during the 1942 disturbances and urged that Ahmednagar District should gain fame by fighting against Government on the principles laid down by Gandhi.

L. M. Patil, who spoke next, said that everybody should follow the example of Satara. He advised the audience not to co-operate with Government in the agricultural exhibition to be held at Kopergaon and not to donate to the Thanks-giving and other funds.

Some 44 election propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 60,000 persons were held in the Districts of Ahmedabad, Surat, East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Poona, Satara, Ratnagiri, Belgaum and Dharwar, between December 31st and January 11th. Such speakers as V. J. Patel, N. V. Gadgil, K. M. Jedhe, K. N. Desai, M. K. Bagal, S. D. Deo, Channappa S. Wali and others explained that Congress alone was endeavouring to achieve freedom for the country and urged their listeners to support it in the ensuing elections.

Vallabhbhai J. Patel, addressed a mammoth meeting of about 60,000 persons at Ahmedabad on January 14th. In the course of his speech, he referred to the forthcoming elections and said that Congress wanted to show Government that it had not lost its hold over the masses and that it still had a great following. Alluding to the victory day observance by the Muslim League on account of its success in the Central Legislative Assembly elections, he said, that elections would not bring Pakistan to the Muslim League nor was Government going to grant it. Both the Hindus and the Muslims would have to fight for it. If Pakistan were to be achieved, the communal estrangement would be raised to such a level that it might culminate in a Civil War. But that was not the policy of the Congress. The Congress had decided not to approach the League for compromise as long as it did not change its policy. However, whenever the League desired to approach Congress the doors would be open for negotiations and amicable settlement. The Congress had further decided that alien rule could no longer exist in the country and the Congress would fight for its removal single handed, if necessary. The Congress was sending its men to the Legislatures to work as

watchmen and to guard and to prevent undeserving persons from entering them. If the time came to launch a struggle, this struggle would be a very systematic one and no disorder or chaos would prevail as in the 1942 movement. Most probably they would not have to launch any more struggles now. Concluding he reiterated that no persons on earth would be able to divide India. India was one and would remain so.

S. D. Deo, addressed 3 meetings of 500 to 2,000 persons at Bhoj, Borgaon and Chikodi in Belgaum District on January 5th. In the course of his speeches he explained the Congress principles, eulogised M. K. Gandhi, and exhorted the people to follow the latter's advice, and fight for freedom irrespective of communal differences. He further asked them to eradicate the evil of untouchability and to support Congress.

Deo also addressed a meeting of some 10,000 persons at Ahmednagar on January 6th. He referred to Pakistan and said that it was nothing but a dream of Jinnah. He would get Pakistan from the British and not from the Congress. If the Muslims desired Pakistan they should join the Congress in achieving independence and then only would they solve the issue of Pakistan. He said that Congress would not mind if Britain transferred power either to the League or to the H. M. Sabha, or the Scheduled Castes Federation. The Congress wanted the immediate transfer of power and so the British should quit after fulfilling their promise.

N. V. Gadgil and B. S. Hire were accorded a reception at Dhamari and Hadapsar (Poona) on January 9th and 11th before gatherings of about 1,500 and 2,500 persons. At the Dhamari meeting Gadgil asked the villagers to discard any fear they had of Government servants and laws, and said that because the Indian people were worse than cattle, a few Government servants could rule over them and make them serve. All Government servants were paid from the taxes imposed on the public. Why should they be afraid of them and pay donations? He further advised them to unite and solve their disputes by arbitration as was done in Satara District and to maintain self-respect and honour so that they might be well treated.

K. N. Desai in the course of his tour in Surat District visited several places in Jalalpore Taluka between January 3rd and 5th and at meetings of about 200 persons urged the people to vote for Congress candidates in the ensuing election.

M. K. Bagal of Kolhapur, in the course of his tour in Ratnagiri District visited several places and addressed some 12 meetings of 30 to 1,000 persons between January 3rd and 8th. He appealed

to the people to rally round the Congress which was the only organisation striving for the welfare of the masses.

G. H. Deshpande addressed a meeting of about 500 persons held at Palghar (Thana) on January 6th on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Sakharam Bhikaji Patil of Nandora, Taluka Palghar.

Deshpande lauded the services of Patil and said that he was a good farmer. There was no profit on being good farmers who increased their produce as the produce was not for them but for others. During the last war no one died of hunger in England, but in Bengal 35 lacs of people died of starvation. Government was not concerned and intentionally troubled the people. In the villages, the people were troubled by Government. Farmers were yoked to pull carts. Some of their own foolish men were given title to do the job. People should see that their corn was used for their men only. The Congress intends to establish the rule of Kisans. Finally he praised the creed of non-violence and appealed to the audience to strengthen the Congress.

At a meeting of some 125 persons held at Itai (W. K.) under the presidentship of Motha Tukaram Marathe, on January 9th, resolutions were passed *inter alia*, (1) congratulating the released I. N. A. officers, (2) protesting against the proposed imposition of Sales Tax, (3) demanding the repeal of the D. I. Rs. and application of Debtor's Relief Act to all Talukas, (4) condemning the behaviour of Mr. Masud, I. C. S. for entering a temple at Toranmal with shoes on, and (5) supporting Congress in the ensuing election.

A meeting of the Ahmednagar District Congress Executive Committee was held at Ahmednagar on January 7th with L. M. Patil presiding. The Committee took among others the following decisions :—

(1) a committee with P. H. Patwardhan and 2 others was formed to draft a 'Congress Workers Fund Scheme' for the District.

(2) a committee with D. P. Apte as Secretary was formed to collect information regarding the I. N. A. men of the District and to give them all possible help.

(3) it was decided to request Government to (a) grant exemption from payment of land revenue, (b) introduce total prohibition in the District and (c) stop collection of grain, levy, etc,

The Bombay Provincial Parliamentary Board has selected the following candidates for Provincial Assembly elections at its meeting held at Congress House, (Bombay), on January 10th :—

Bhawanji Arjun Khimji	}	General Constituency— A to G Wards and Suburban.
Sayaji Laxman Silam		
Homi R. Pardiwalla		
Dr. M. D. D. Gilder		
Dr. Jivraj Mehta		
Narayan S. Kajrolkar		
Vaikunth L. Mehta		
D. N. Wandrekar	}	University.
Sawlaram G. Songaonkar		
B. G. Kher	}	Women's Constituency— C and D Wards.
Mrs. Lilavati Munshi		
Mrs. Tarabai Modak	}	Special Constituencies— East India Cotton Association, Indian Merchants' Chamber, Railways.
Ramnath Anandilal Podar		
Chhotalal S. Patel		
R. A. Khedgikar	}	

A "Nyayadan Mandal" has been established at village Dahitane in Barsi Tauka (Sholapur) on December 26th, 1945, with T. S. Jadhav as President. A Committee of 5 persons has also been appointed.

Some 53 election propaganda meetings were held during the week in the Maharashtra and the Karnatak, and the audiences at these meetings ranged from 25 to 8,000 persons. Several speakers including P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, P. H. *alias* Rao Saheb Patwardhan, G. H. Deshpande, L. M. Patil, K. M. Jedhe, N. V. Gadgil, D. K. Kunte and Channappa Wali, endeavoured to impress upon their listeners that Congress was the only organisation striving for the liberation of the country and appealed to them to support Congress nominees in the ensuing elections.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji in the course of his propaganda tour in Thana District, visited several places, between January 5th and 13th and addressed some 11 meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 500 persons. At Bassein, he referred to the 1942 movement and justified the stand taken by the Congress in not withdrawing the August resolution. Referring to the Police firing in Thana District, he said that thousands of innocent people had been killed as a result of it, including V. L. Kotwal. Alluding to the provincial elections, he observed that should Congress

members, be elected, the Ministers would give an ultimatum to Government demanding transfer of power, and, if Government failed to respond to this demand, Ministers of all departments would take the administration into their own hands and start a parallel Government. He advised the audience to go from village to village with Congress propaganda and secure votes for Congress candidates. In conclusion he exhorted his hearers to contribute to the I. N. A. Relief Fund.

At Ambernath, he refuted the allegation of the Communists that Congress was a body of capitalists and said that when Congress assumed power there would be an equal distribution of land among the people and nationalisation of industries.

At Shivle, he referred to Satara District and advised his audience of about 50 to settle their disputes among themselves. He referred to the demand for the transfer of power and said that there would be a big struggle between Congress and the Government if it were not conceded. They should first abolish the "Hitlerism" existing at present which was supported by Viceroys, Governors and Collectors. He said that Congress would not resign as before, but would establish its own Government in every province, after the elections.

At Padgha, he remarked that the Congress would not quit office this time, but would control the Police Department. He added that it would also have some effect on the Military in view of the recent developments in connection with the I. N. Army.

Sane also addressed a meeting of about 1,500 persons at Thana on January 6th, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of a "Kamgar Union". In the course of his speech he said that the Red Flag Union was misleading the workers and hence Congress thought it desirable to establish a separate union. The Congress he said, would look after the welfare of the poor classes and eradicate the cause of poverty.

P. H. *alias* Rao Saheb Patwardhan addressed three meetings of 500 to 5,000 persons in Ahmednagar District between January 15th and 18th. In the course of his speeches, he referred to the British Parliamentary Delegation now in India and said that it was a move to postpone the issue of Indian independence. He added that the elections were a trick to create a split among the people and aimed at killing the Congress. He reviewed various developments in the Congress movement, which he claimed had become stronger and stronger. He exhorted the people to support Congress candidates in the ensuing elections.

A meeting of some 4,000 persons was held at Ahmednagar, on January 17th under the presidentship of K. S. Firodia to congratulate the five accused persons in the Sarosh Talkies Bomb case, on their release and also to welcome one Gulab Memane, an ex-I. N. A. member. L. M. Patil, U. R. Bogawat, T. S. Bharde, Swami Sahajanand Bharati, R. V. Nisal, P. H. *alias* Rao Saheb Patwardhan and others made speeches.

While welcoming the released persons and the I. N. A. members, L. M. Patil observed that in the 1942 movement various ways of securing freedom were followed by various men and Congress followed the method of Satyagraha. Another group under A. S. Patwardhan thought of destroying the centres of powers. Several men from Burma, Sumatra and Java joined the I. N. A. Though these courses appeared different from each other they were linked together with one common object that of removing British imperialism from India. Indians were tired of the rule of White people. They were eager to achieve independence. Every person young or old was eager to take back the throne of Delhi which formerly belonged to the Hindus and Muslims.

U. R. Bogawat eulogised the detenus and other youths and said that they did not care for the gallows of the "satanic Government" when the nation called. He also eulogised Achchut S. Patwardhan and S. C. Bose.

P. H. Patwardhan welcomed these six persons and dilated upon the significance of the political movement from the point of view of non-violence. He added that non-violence included resistance against obstacles in the way of peaceful methods and observed that Congress had progressed from "sedition" to "rebellion".

Patwardhan addressed a private meeting at the S. P. College, Poona, on January 13th under the auspices of the 'Jamkhindi State Students' Association and said that the activities carried on by students or other political bodies, should be such as would lend support to the movement for the country's freedom. He also said that the British Government in India would not last long. India needed a social revolution, but she should attain her freedom first. He added that students coming from States should, after the completion of their education, serve the masses through the respective States Subjects Conferences. There was much more work in States than in British India, since States subjects had now awakened and would fight their rulers and secure their rights. The students should therefore prepare themselves for such an eventuality.

A meeting was held at Uruli Dewachi (Poona) on January 13th to honour N. V. Gadgil. K. M. Jedhe presided.

Gadgil in the course of his speech said that he belonged to Congress which was the representative of peasants and the poor, both of whom had been exploited by the British Government. This Government should, therefore, be driven away as early as possible. Its overthrow lay in the hands of the Congress. Only two lacs of white men were able to rule over 400 million Indians. Jedhe said that strength of Congress had increased in spite of several Congressmen having been put into jails. He exhorted everybody to strive his utmost to get rid of the British Government.

G. H. Deshpande addressed a meeting at Tilwan (Nasik) on January 16th. He said he was glad to see that the whole of Baglan Taluka was under the Congress flag. The Congress would compel the British to quit India. Labourers, motor-drivers, etc., would go on strike and telegraph wires, etc., would be cut. Finally he asked his listeners to vote for Congress and save India from slavery.

A meeting attended by some 4,000 persons was held at Haliyal (Kanara). Channaya Swami dwelt on the poverty of the country and attributed this to the British Government and its policy. The British people were sapping the resources of India. Congress leaders had therefore stiffened their attitude and girded up their loins to fight for *swaraj* which would bring happiness to Indians. They must pool all their strength and power to drive the British from India. Government was equipped with arms, bombs, etc., but they were equipped with the human power of resistance. The present circumstances portended a great fight and this fight would be fiercer than that of 1942, as people would be all out to save the country from the clutches of the British Government.

Channappa S. Wali who spoke next said that if the British would not leave India with mutual good understanding, they would be driven out by force. For that, the people would be called upon within two years or earlier to keep to their posts for the great struggle, which might demand greater sacrifices than on the last occasion. In conclusion he told his audience that they were fighting to drive away the devils that preyed and were preying upon the life of India.

At a meeting of some 25 persons held at Kondabavi village (Sholapur) on January 15th Congress workers Maruti Katkar of Kukurwad village, Taluka Man, District Satara, advised the villagers not to help the Government and not to sell foodgrains



under the Levy Scheme to Government. An offence has been registered and enquiries are in progress.

Some 37 election propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 70 to 1,500 persons were held during the week in the districts of Ahmednagar, Nasik, East Khandesh, Ratnagiri, Kolaba, Belguam and Broach. P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, G. H. Deshpande, D. K. Kunte, Channappa S. Wali, Channaya Swami, and others glorified the Congress and said that it was the only organisation which was endeavouring to achieve independence for the country. They appealed to the people to support Congress nominees in the coming election.

In the course of his tour in Kolaba District, P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, visited several places between January 15th and 19th. He addressed 11 election propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 200 to 1,000 persons and made some very intemperate speeches.

Addressing the meeting (1,000) at Mahad on January 15th, he stated that though there would be a clash between Government and the Congress, Congress Ministers would not resign and the people would have to fight a more serious struggle than that of 1942. To suppress the 1946-47 movement, Government would have to use military force, and the military, following the footsteps of the "Azad Army" would revolt and drive the British from India.

At the meeting (75) held at Medha on January 17th, he said that if India was to be freed from bondage, the British should be forced to quit India. The way to drive the British out of India was by uniting and destroying communications by cutting telegraph wires, stealing arms from the police, etc. They should all be prepared to sacrifice their lives.

At Goregaon, addressing a meeting of about 300 persons on January 16th, he criticised Government administration very bitterly. This administration, he contended, was responsible for poverty, starvation, want of medical facilities, illiteracy, etc. He said that 90 per cent of the population of India was still illiterate which clearly indicated the inefficiency of the present Government. It was, therefore, the people's duty to throw out this Government and to stop its administration. None but the Congress could do this.

Continuing, he said that the Viceroy, Governor, Collector and the Mamlatdar ruled the country without consulting the people and all such rulers might be said to be editions of "Hitler". He

then mentioned various incidents connected with the war, the Cripps' offer, and the Civil Disobedience Movements. He said that Congress Ministers once in power, would not resign from office. If Government used the military to terrorise the Congress nothing serious would happen. Finally he asked his audience to follow the example of those in Satara District.

G. H. Deshpande addressed a meeting of some 500 persons at Nampur (Nasik) on January 17th. He stated that the strength of the British was failing and added that all should unite and finish them. He alleged that the British made false promises during the war of 1914 and were responsible for the Bengal famine and many repressive measures. They had caused disunity between the Hindus and Muslims at the Simla Conference. When Congress assumed power, he said, they would "deal with all Government officers who had harassed the people.

Addressing a meeting of some 2,000 persons, including about 1,500 teachers, held at Nasik on January 22nd, G. H. Deshpande, criticised the local bodies and said that those responsible for the present position of teachers were "criminals" and should be tried as such. He assured them that Congress would support teachers if they resorted to a strike and advised all teachers to obey the call for strike at once.

G. H. Deshpande addressed some 10 meetings in East Khandesh District on January 20th and 21st. The audiences at these meetings ranged from 50 to 400 persons. In the course of his speeches he expatiated on the policy of the Congress and its endeavours for the freedom of the country and vaguely criticised Government administration over various matters. He also censured Communists for their pro-Government attitude.

Finally he exhorted his listeners to vote for Congress candidates and prepare themselves "to do or die" when Gandhi called upon them.

Channappa S. Wali and Chinmaya Murti *alias* Channayya Swami Onkarappa addressed three propaganda meetings (200-300) at Halyal, and Mundgod (Kanara) on January 17th and 18th.

They told their audiences that the British Government had done no good to Indians, but had, on the other hand paralysed Indian industry and encouraged British tradesmen to make the fullest use of India's resources.

During the week, some 40 election propaganda meetings of from 75 to 1,200 persons were held in the districts of Kaira,

Thana, Poona, Kolaba, Sholapur, East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Satara and Belgaum. G. H. Deshpande, Chhannusing K. Chandeli, Shoukat Usmani, Morarji R. Desai, K. R. Pendse, D. K. Kunte, P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji and N. B. Pai, at these meetings, explained that Congress was the only party endeavouring to achieve freedom for the country and exhorted their audiences to support the Party in the coming elections.

G. H. Deshpande addressed some 4 meetings with audiences not exceeding 500 persons in Thana district during the week. He explained that Congress was the only political organisation which was fighting against Government for complete independence. He asked people not to be afraid of Government servants and Sawkars, and to vote for Congress nominees in the coming elections.

Morarji R. Desai addressed some 12 propaganda meetings of 500 to 1,200 persons in Kaira district between January 27th and 31st. He asked people to implement the Congress constructive programme and urged them to support Congress in the coming elections. At Umreth he said that people should consider their honour as a thing of the highest importance and it should be guarded even at the cost of their own lives. In protecting their honour, violence or non-violence should not be considered.

There were 40 crores of slaves in India. How many of them, he asked, would sit quiet when atrocities were committed in Umreth? If women were attacked it would be their duty to save their honour even if in doing so they might have to kill their assailants. He added that preparations on these lines would make the people fit for *Swaraj*.

At the Dakore and Megar meetings he said that prolonged resistance against Government should be continued until Government got tired of it. The people had become impatient for independence and *swaraj* for which they would have to pay the highest price.

K. R. Pendse addressing a meeting (300) at Dondaicha (West Khandesh) on January 31st, explained the situation in Satara district and advised his audience to follow Satara's example.

Chhannusing K. Chandeli addressed a meeting of some 3,000 persons at Nipani (Belgaum) on January 26th. He said that Government officials who had harassed people during the 1942 movement should be treated as traitors and punished when India attained freedom.

N. B. Pai addressed two meetings of about 200 persons at Eksamba and Chandur in Belgaum district on January 24th and 25th. At Eksamba he referred to the 1942 movement, accused the

police of having committed atrocities on innocent persons and sounded a note of warning that when Congress come into power, it would institute enquiries against those concerned. He condemned the action of the Bombay Police in opening fire on the Subhash Day procession.

Shoukat Usmani addressed 3 meetings of from 200 to 3,000 persons at Eksamba, Chikodi and Nipani in Belgaum district on January 25th. He ridiculed the idea of Pakistan and exhorted those present to join the Congress, which, he said, was only a political body fighting for the independence of the country. At Nipani he stressed the necessity of Hindu-Muslim unity and briefly narrated his own activities in 1920, when he said, he had gone to Afghanistan and Turkey to seek help to attain the freedom of India.

At a huge meeting of over a lac of persons held at Ahmedabad on January 27th, P. H. *alias* Rao Saheb Patwardhan praised the sacrifices of the citizens of Ahmedabad during the 1942 movement, and stressed the need of driving the British out of India and overthrowing imperialism in order to improve economic conditions in India and to establish peace in the world. He criticised the policy of the Muslim League, gave an account of the movement in Satara district and finally exhorted the audience to march shoulder to shoulder for the independence of the country.

Gurbax Singh Dhillon, who spoke next, narrated the history of the I. N. A. and its formation. He advised the masses to follow the policy of Congress and strictly adhere to the creed of non-violence. He stressed the need of discipline and finally appealed for a generous contribution to the I. N. A. Relief Fund.

About 25 local Khaksaras gave a salute to Dhillon on January 27th, when the latter praised the Khaksara movement and sarcastically said that the British took with them all communal differences when they left Singapore. Similarly their differences would soon disappear if the British left India.

P. M. Bapat *alias* Senapati Bapat addressed a meeting (450) at Bhusaval (East Khandesh) on January 30th. He explained possible way of achieving the independence outlined by M. K. Gandhi and S. C. Bose and advised his audience to strive for independence in the way they considered best.

On his arrival in Bombay on January 31st, P. M. Bapat was given a reception by the "G" Ward District Congress Committee at a public meeting held at Dadar under R. S. Patel's presidency. About 5,000 persons attended.

The President, S. K. Patil, P. S. Sane and G. H. Deshpande paid tribute to Bapat's services in the struggle for freedom.

In reply, P. M. Bapat said that M. K. Gandhi was a great patriot and the pivot of the national struggle. He advised them not to have different groups or parties in the Congress. He blamed the Hindu Mahasabha for giving undue importance to the Muslim demand for Pakistan. He appealed to the audience to sink their differences and force the Government to hand over power to Indians.

A similar meeting was held at Parel, Bombay, under Waman-rao Joshi's presidentship.

The President, K. N. Joglekar, Suresh Vaidya, Appasaheb Karve and Prof. Atre made speeches eulogising the services of P. M. Bapat in the country's cause.

In reply, P. M. Bapat asked the audience to follow the creed of non-violence in the struggle for the country's freedom.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, in the course of his propaganda tour in Satara district, visited several places between January 21st and 26th and addressed some 14 meetings with audiences ranging from 100 to 8,000 persons. In the course of his speech at Satara he paid a glowing tribute to the Satara agitators for creating a new era in the political life of the district. He glorified the Congress and remarked that it had gained strength and had taught people to break laws and to agitate against injustice. Gandhi expected mass support in the 1942 movement on the strength of the confidence created in them by the Congress, but people did not respond as much as he had expected. Had they done so, the country would have been free by now. Referring to the last war he asked whether the Viceroy himself was not a Hitler, since he dragged them into the war against their will. Government Collectors and Mamlatdars were all editions of Hitler and the Congress had decided to end "Hitlerism" in India. He then justified the Methods employed in the struggle and described how Congress workers outside the jail put various interpretations on the Congress resolutions and conducted the movement according to their own ideas, as Gandhi had asked them to consider themselves free. They did not want to resort to violence as life was sacred to them. They had anticipated that Government would send military to enforce their rule, and to prevent that, they had thought of uprooting railways and cutting telegraph wires to prevent communications. Thus once they considered to be independent, they were justified in opposing

Britishers even with violence by resorting to weapons, if they were to attack their independent regions. He cited instances during the 1942 movement and said that atrocities were committed on innocent people, including young boys who were flogged and hanged. He referred to the impending elections and said that Congress would form Ministries in the various provinces and would give an ultimatum to Government asking for transfer of power. Should this be refused, Ministries would not resign as before, but Congress would launch a struggle which might take the form of establishing a parallel Government in India as had been done in Satara district. Continuing he said that, Government would make use of armed forces to suppress it, and added that, there were chances that a majority of the armed forces might side with the popular Government as had happened in the case of I. N. A. He finally exhorted people to organise under the Congress and to be prepared for the call from Congress.

Sane was presented with purses amounting to Rs. 6,037.

Some 43 Congress propaganda meetings were held during the week, in the districts of Broach, Surat, Thana, East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Ahmednagar, Nasik, Ratnagiri, Poona, Satara, Sholapur, Bijapur, Dharwar and Belgaum. The audiences at these ranged from 50 to 20,000 persons, the biggest being at Poona. Such speakers as G. H. Deshpande, V. N. Naik, B. G. Kher, M. R. Limaye, S. S. More, Channappa S. Wali and others spoke on the effort being made by the Congress to attain independence for the country and exhorted their audiences to support Congress nominees in the ensuing provincial elections.

Kanayyalal N. Desai addressed four meetings with moderate audiences in Surat District during the week. He advised his listeners to carry on the Congress Constructive Programme and vote for Congress candidates in the ensuing elections.

G. H. Deshpande, addressed three meetings with audiences varying from 700 to 3,000 persons at Manmad, Deolali and Nasik during the week.

At Manmad, he remarked that Congress was sure of its success in the ensuing elections and said that before the end of 1946 the present Government would be driven out of India.

At the Nasik meeting, he said that Government was conducting its administration on the policy of divide and rule, and using Muslims and Untouchable for this purpose. He appealed to all classes to vote for Congress candidates.

V. N. Naik, addressed a meeting of some 1,000 persons at Deolali on February 6th. He blamed Government for the death of nearly 30 lacs of people in Bengal due to starvation, and scarcity of clothes. This Government, he said, was also responsible for the deaths of many men in the war which India did not want, and that the Government oppressed Indians for the last 150 years. He finally asked the audience to help to drive the British away from India.

M. R. Limaye, addressing a meeting of about 900 persons at Nandurbar (West Khandesh), explained the situation in Satara District and said that Congress was not responsible for the violent acts alleged by the Government.

Nemanand Swami of Rashiwade (Kolhapur State) delivered a religious sermon at Sholapur on February 6th. He commended the work done by M. K. Gandhi and other Congress leaders in the cause of the country and exhorted his audience of about 4,000 persons, to support Congress candidates in the ensuing elections.

B. G. Kher in the course of his tour in the East Khandesh District visited several places and addressed some 9 meetings attended by about 400 to 7,000 persons between February 6th and 8th. During the course of his speeches, he spoke at length on the efforts made by the Congress to attain freedom for the country, and added that this freedom could not be obtained unless British Imperialism was destroyed. He stated that Congress had grown more powerful in spite of Government repression, and exhorted his audiences to vote for Congress nominees in the coming elections.

Under the auspices of the 'August Group Workers' a meeting attended by some 300 persons was held at Rahuri (Ahmednagar) on February 5th. G. D. Patki briefly narrated the proceedings of the Youths' Conference held at Sangamner, eulogised Sane Guruji and asked the audience to be prepared for the future struggle. He said that as instructed by Sane Guruji, they should establish village Panchayats, and have ready ten volunteers in each village who would rise to the occasion and participate in the struggle. He added that Sane intended to collect a sum of Rupees one lac for the purpose of which Rs. 10,000 would be collected in Ahmednagar District, and appealed to the audience to donate 'generously towards the above fund.

A meeting of some 20,000 persons was held at Poona on February 8th, S. S. More presiding.

S. S. Nikam recited ballads about the 1942 movement.



More in the course of his speech said that India was very near to *swaraj*, but that their own kith and kin, the Police, stood as an obstacle in their way. They were like lice in women's hair and should be done away with. The way to *swaraj* would then be made clear and safe. He urged the people to rally round the Congress and support it in the ensuing elections.

Addressing a meeting of about 400 persons in Poona on February 3rd, G. N. Kanitkar condemned hooliganism on the part of Congressmen and advised people to organise themselves and try for village uplift in order to achieve independence. At another meeting of about 200 persons held there on February 13th, he criticised the policy adopted by Gandhi after the 1932 struggle as being detrimental to the interests of the country. He said that his suggestions for establishing village republics were essential after 1932 but they were rejected by Gandhi who later accepted them in 1942.

V. V. Sathe, addressing a meeting of about 500 persons at Poona on February 10th, said that the activities of the masses after the 1942 August resolution were clearly violent and needed no proof. It was the duty of Gandhi and Congress leaders to condemn them, and blamed both Achchyut S. Patwardhan and Gandhi for acting against the policy and creed of the Congress. He appealed to Congress leaders to stick to their old policy to achieve independence.

Channappa Wali addressed a meeting of about 1,000 persons at Inchgeri (Bijapur) on February 4th.

Referring to the 1942 movement he narrated the arrogant attitude and atrocities committed by Government officials in outraging the modesty of women during the movement. He blamed Government for the famine in Bengal and exhorted the audience to participate in the Congress movement in order to drive the British from India. He stated that their grievances would not be redressed until a National Government was established in India.

A meeting of some 500 persons was held at Bombay on February 4th to accord a reception to P. M. Bapat *alias* Senapati Bapat.

In reply, Bapat said that being a servant of the country he would lay down his life whenever required. He advised the audience to organise 'Sacrificial Squads' of those who would be prepared to lay down their lives if and when required for the Country's struggle. On February 7th, Bapat visited Parner (Ahmednagar) where he was presented with a purse of Rs. 100 which he handed over to the Taluka Congress Committee with his own contribution of Rs. 10.

The "C" Ward District Congress Committee, Bombay, held a public meeting on February 7th. S. K. Patil presided over an audience of about 800.

The President, Bhanushankar Yajnik, Y. K. Parulekar, and four others made speeches in support of a resolution expressing regret at the death of K. S. Kamble and 5 others from Kumbharwada during the disturbances on "Subhash Bose Day", condemning the Police action and demanding an impartial enquiry into the matter.

The President observed that the public of Bombay were not free from blame during the trouble in view of the violation of the principle of non-violence adopted by the Congress. He condemned the rowdy acts and said that Congress would never tolerate such things.

The "C" Ward District Congress Committee, Bombay, held a public meeting on February 5th, under the presidentship of P. V. Gadgil. About 800 persons attended.

The president said that the Congress would form Ministries after contesting the elections to the Bombay Legislative Assembly and if the Congress demand for the Constituent Assembly was not granted, the Congress would launch a struggle in 1946 or 1947 as stated by Vallabhbhai J. Patel.

Wamanrao Joshi said that the intention of the Congress in contesting the elections was to see that the poor did not remain in the hands of the Capitalists and that was why he recommended the people to vote for Congress candidates.

A sum of Rs. 20, collected by children, was given in aid of the I. N. A. Relief Fund.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji in the course of his tour in Ahmednagar District, addressed some 8 election propaganda meetings between February 1st and 8th. The audience at these ranged from 200 to 12,000 persons.

In the course of his speeches he glorified Congress and said that it had progressed from the slogan of 'Vande Mataram' to 'Quit Asia' and was endeavouring to end foreign rule. Referring to the 1942 movement he said that people had tried to establish their rule in a few talukas and if they had tried that experiment in 3,000 talukas in India, they would simultaneously have attained independence. But the Hindu Maha Sabha, Communist and Radical Democratic Party helped Government in arresting the underground leaders whom they treated as traitors. Referring to the future struggle he said that the Ministries would have to announce

the establishment of a parallel Government and should this happen the British Government might use the military to drive out the Ministries. There was a possibility that the Army might side with the popular Government and this could be seen from the example of the released I. N. A. men who were welcomed even by Indian Army men at several places.

Sane was presented with civic addresses at some places and with purses amounting to Rs. 1,325 for the Political Detenu's Relief Fund. He also collected Rs. 2,851 for the Congress Workers' Fund.

Sane presided over the "Ahmednagar Congress minded Youths' Conference" held at Sangamner on February 2nd and 3rd. About 8,000 persons attended.

M. K. Bagal in his inaugural address said that he had no regard for the Ruler of Kolhapur who considered himself a puppet of the British. He further criticised capitalists, money-lenders etc., and said that these would surrender before the peasants and workers if the latter boycotted them and established co-operative societies and village Panchayats.

The President, during the course of his speech, said that he could not visit the place owing to plague and remarked that the plague of British rule was not yet over. A. S. Patwardhan, Ratnappa Kumbhar and 375 men from Satara were still underground and S. M. Joshi, Jai Prakash Narain and others were behind bars. Referring to the 1942 movement he maintained that acts of sabotage, such as removing rails, cutting telegraph wires etc., were non-violent acts and added that Congress was not happy in launching a struggle, if *swaraj* could be obtained without it. In the 2nd day's session, he read out a message from S. M. Joshi (in jail) asking the audience to create a strong brotherhood and to establish a rule of peasants and workers.

The Conference adopted 16 resolutions, important being :

- (1) paying homage to the "Martyrs of the 1942 movement";
- (2) condemning Government for firing in Bombay on January 23rd;
- (3) urging Government to declare famine and exemption from levy etc., in the affected areas in the district;
- (4) demanding the release of Congress workers still in jail and withdrawal of warrants against absconders;
- (5) paying a tribute to those who guided the youths in the country, particularly in Satara district during the 1942 movement;
- (6) condemning Government for still detaining Col. Jagannathrao Bhosale of the I. N. A. and demanding his release or trial;
- and (7) urging people to return Congress candidates in the ensuing elections.

In his concluding speech Sane urged his listeners to create 10 Congress workers in each village.

Some 97 election propaganda meetings were held during the week in the Gujarat, the Maharashtra and the Karnatak. Audiences at these ranged from 25 to 5,000 the largest audience being at Poona. Such speakers as S. D. Deo, G. H. Deshpande, B. G. Kher, Morarji R. Desai, Dr. K. B. Antrolikar, P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, P. H. *alias* Rao Saheb Patwardhan, M. K. Bagal and others explained the importance of the ensuing provincial elections and exhorted their audiences to support Congress nominees.

At a meeting of about 5,000 persons held at Poona on February 13th, S. D. Deo observed that rival candidates to the Congress were bound to fail in the elections and said that the election campaign was undertaken by the Congress in order to organise people and prepare them for the future struggle.

G. H. Deshpande addressed thirteen election propaganda meetings in Nasik district during the week, attended by audiences ranging from 100 to 2,000 persons. During the course of his speeches he said that he would assure his audiences that by the end of 1946 the British would be forced to leave India, bag and baggage. He told the audience that Subhash Chandra Bose would come to India again with the help of I. N. A. He stated that Congress would be contesting the elections not to attain independence but for preventing Government favourites from being elected. He observed that Government was responsible for the deaths of 35 lacs of people in Bengal and held Government responsible for the present food situation in India. He said that the British Commercial Corporation created black markets by selling Indian corn in England at 100 times higher price than it paid for the corn here. He said that the present food situation would not improve until the present administration was removed. He asked his listeners to make note of instances of harassment of the people by Government officials, so that Congress Committees could deal with these officials, when Congress came into power.

B. G. Kher addressed three election propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 500 to 4,000 persons in the district of East Khandesh on February 9th. In the course of his speeches, he criticised other political institutions for their anti-Congress views and particularly mentioned the Hindu Maha Sabha for siding with Government in the last war. He accused Government of having committed atrocities on innocent persons. He reviewed the work done by the Congress since 1921 and asked

audiences to establish Village Panchayats to settle village disputes, to forge unity and to vote for Congress candidates. Referring to the "Quit India" resolution he said that it was still in force. He added that a struggle on a far more extensive scale would have to be launched if independence was not granted.

Morarji R. Desai, K. N. Desai and Indulal K. Yangnik addressed a meeting at Surat on February 11th attended by about 300 persons. They congratulated Chhotubhai B. Marfatia on being returned unopposed and exhorted the audience to be disciplined and carry out the Congress Constructive Programme. Morarji R. Desai said that so long as India remained in bondage there would be no peace in the world and all attempts to establish peace by the "Big Three" would fail. He further said that India would not tolerate atrocities similar to those committed by Government in 1942.

A meeting of about 60 persons was held at Warse (West Khandesh) on February 4th, with Motiram Hari Patil as president. One Damu Dharma Patil in the course of his speech said that they would get *swaraj* within two or three years. Government, he said, was taking grain forcibly, but people should not give any to Government but instead should keep sufficient for themselves and burn the surplus. The president spoke on similar lines.

At a meeting of about 200 persons held at Warasgaon (Kolaba) on February 9th Baburao Jagtap told the audience that all farmers from Satara district were followers of Congress. He said that in every village *nyayadan mandals* were formed and were functioning. Efforts were made by Government as well as by other organisations to break the unity of farmers but to no purpose. He asked the audience to follow Satara's example.

D. M. Bidkar addressed two meetings of about 250 persons on 13th at Satana and Nandgaon (Nasik) and told the audiences that as soon as Congress assumed power it would ask the British to leave India. In case they refused to leave, force would be used to make them go. He said that Congress was determined to break British rule as soon as the elections were over. He also said that the "Victory Thanks Giving Fund" was collected by harassing the public and this was illegal.

In observance of the death anniversary of late Jamnalal Bajaj, a meeting of some 1,500 persons was held at Sholapur on February 11th when T. S. Jadhav, Chhannusing K. Chandeli and others lauded Bajaj's services to the country and observed that

Congress was contesting the elections in order to enforce its "Quit India" resolution through the Constituent Assembly. They urged the audience to support Congress nominees in the ensuing Municipal and Provincial elections.

Appasaheb Pant of Aundh addressed a meeting of about 1,200 persons at Bhadale (Satara) on February 11th when he exhorted the audience to take an oath to boycott foreign goods and said that villagers should prevent grain going out of their villages even if they had to disobey Government orders to do so.

Dr. D. V. Patwardhan of Wai delivered religious sermons at Ahmednagar on February 8th and 9th and urged the audience to be national-minded and to be prepared to answer the call of the nation. He asked them to encourage national industries and to boycott British goods.

At a meeting (50) held at Dondaicha (West Khandesh) under the presidency of B. L. Mehta on February 9th, resolutions were passed *inter alia* (1) condemning the police firing in Bombay on January 23rd and deploring the incident of the burning of the Communist Party office; (2) demanding the release of political prisoners and detenus and cancellation of warrants pending against underground workers.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji addressed some 15 meetings at various places in the districts of Satara, Poona and Ratnagiri between February 12th and 19th with audiences ranging from 50 to 7,000 persons. He glorified the Congress and urged the people to vote for Congress nominees in the ensuing elections. Referring to the 1942 disturbances he justified the movement carried out by the people. He held Government responsible for the food shortage and inflation, which, he said, were due to the export of food-grains to foreign countries through the United Kingdom Commercial Company.

At Wai (Satara), he referred to a press report that the U. P. Police had taken out a procession with the photos of Gandhi, Nehru, etc., and suggested that the Satara Police might follow suit.

He was presented with sums to the value of Rs. 3,200.

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali arrived in Bombay from Wardha on February 14th. She was received at Victoria Terminus by a crowd of about 4,000 persons, including the leading members of the B. P. C. C. and such Congress Socialists as Purshottam

Tricumdas and Ashoka Mehta. She addressed a public meeting of about 15,000 men and about 2,000 women. Nagindas T. Master presided. In the course of her speech in Hindi, she thanked the people of Bombay for the honour done to her and for giving shelter to her and her underground friends whenever needed during the 1942 movement. She reiterated her faith in the 1942 movement, fully justified the underground activities and complimented the people of Ballia, Midnapore and Satara for the attempt to set up a parallel government. She laid stress on the boycott of British goods and disapproved of elections to Legislatures. She suggested that the people should avenge the disgrace which befell their sisters at Chimur and Ashti and asked for the punishment of those who resorted to repression during the movement.

She addressed two more meetings of about 20,000 and 4,000 on February 15th and 16th and spoke on similar lines.

On February 17th she presided over a meeting held to celebrate "Indonesian National Day". About 5,000 persons including 200 Indonesians attended. In the course of her address she said that since India was herself in slavery she was not in a position to send assistance to Indonesians in their struggle for freedom and added that unless all oppressed people joined forces to fight imperialism the regime of exploitation and loot would not end.

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali accompanied by G. B. Newalkar, organiser of the August Group, arrived in Poona on February 20th and was received by a crowd of 200 persons, including P. H. Patwardhan, G. A. Deshpande and some women.

In the evening of February 20th she addressed a mammoth meeting of about 30,000 persons at Poona. During the course of her speech she said that she was grieved to find the Congress leaders trying to absolve Congress for its responsibility in the 1942 movement and remarked that at least she and such associates of hers as Jai Prakash Narain, R. M. Lohia and Achchyut Patwardhan were willing to take the responsibility for the movement. She stressed the fact that freedom could not be obtained by negotiations but only by struggle. She advocated boycott of British goods, the establishment of People's rule in villages on the lines of Satara district, and the formation of a national army recruited from citizens. This was her "blue print" of the next movement.

Next morning (21st) she addressed a rally of about 500 R. S. Dal volunteers and attended a flag salutation. She expressed her satisfaction at the organised work done by the Dal and



asked the workers to become united as part of the preparations for the next struggle. At the flag salutation ceremony she urged the audience to protect the honour of the national flag at the cost of their lives if need be and said that it should fly above the Union Jack. She also had private discussions with local R. S. Dal workers and Congressmen at Congress House.

She is reported to have had prolonged discussions with Gandhi on February 20th and 21st.

She left for Bombay in the afternoon of February 21st accompanied by G. B. Newalkar.

Congress workers continued extensive propaganda to canvass votes for Congress nominees and addressed some 218 meetings in the several districts of this province, between February 12th and 23rd. Audiences to these meetings ranged from 25 to 25,000 and, such speakers as S. D. Deo, P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, G. H. Deshpande, M. K. Bagal, K. M. Jedhe, R. R. Diwakar, S. N. Angadi, Dr. K. B. Antrolikar, T. S. Jadhav, and Y. B. Chavan explained the importance of the coming elections and endeavoured to impress upon their audiences that Congress alone was striving to achieve freedom for the country and appealed for support to Congress candidates at the polls.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji, in the course of his tour in Poona and Ratnagiri Districts between February 15th and 24th, addressed some nineteen meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 1,000 persons. He said that Congress was the only organisation striving for the attainment of Indian independence, enumerated various ameliorative measures adopted by the Congress, and appealed for support to Congress at the coming elections. Referring to the 1942 movement he justified various acts committed during the movement by the people, and the honest belief was that these acts did not constitute violence.

S. D. Deo addressed some twelve propaganda meetings during the week in the districts of Thana and Nasik. The attendances at them ranged from 300 to 15,000 persons. He explained the Congress policy and said that Congress aimed at amelioration of the condition of peasants and workers.

Addressing the largest meeting at Malegaon (Nasik) on February 19th, he said that in Assam and Punjab Congress had secured more votes than the League, although the Muslims were in the majority in these provinces, which indicated that majority of Muslims was behind the Congress and did not favour Pakistan.

G. H. Deshpande addressed some 13 meetings during the week in Nasik District with attendance not exceeding 5,000 persons. At the Nasik meeting on February 17th, he said that Hitler and Mussolini had been killed and Japan destroyed, but Hitlerism and Fascism had not been destroyed as the same existed in Russia, America and England, only under different names and millions of people were in slavery throughout the world. He declared that India was going to throw off the yoke of slavery and would also help other countries like Malaya, Burma etc., to break the chains of bondage. He added that the British would not part with anything easily and so they should start open rebellion in 1946 as in the year 1942.

At another meeting (2,000) held at Nasik on February 20th, G. H. Deshpande said that although the British had won the war they were now only a third rate power and had no credit. He described British rule at present as "death-bed breathing" and said that it only required one more blow to drive them out of India. He asked the people to vote for Congress nominees, who would carry the British administration on their shoulders to the burial ground.

B. R. Jadhav also spoke and warned the audience that they should not expect "*swaraj*" as soon as the Congress ministry was formed and that a desperate fight was still to be fought with the British for which they were going to start an open rebellion in 1946. He asked everybody to support Congress nominees and help them to form a National Government as the present Government was incompetent and must be uprooted.

K. M. Jedhe addressed a meeting of about 2,000 persons at Dhamani (Poona) on February 16th and severely criticised the Mahrattas who joined the British Government's Armed Forces during the war and brought victory at the cost of millions of people who were starved to death. From the Viceroy down to the Patils and Talathis everybody had exploited the Indian people. India would not be happy unless *swaraj* was wrested from the hands of the British, and that Congress had been striving for the same.

M. K. Bagal of Kolhapur addressing a meeting of some 200 persons, at Khed (Poona) on February 16th said that the misery of the masses lay in the existence of the British rule and capitalism in India. If peasants stopped growing food-stuffs, both would surrender.

At another meeting of about 600 persons held at Ale (Poona) on February 17th, Bagal asked the audience to prepare for the

next struggle in which they would have to non-co-operate with Government and to abstain from paying taxes, etc. He further advised them to establish village committees and settle their disputes.

At Junner (Poona) he spoke to an audience of about 1,500 persons the same day and described how badly he was treated in the Kolhapur jail and remarked that Kolhapur State was a satellite of the British Government.

Addressing a meeting (800) at Belgaum on February 19th, R. R. Diwakar and S. N. Angadi warned the people that a great calamity in the form of a food shortage was approaching India and that they should be ready to rebel against Government should they be deprived of their food.

R. R. Diwakar addressing a meeting of some 2,000 persons at Hubli on February 17th said that Congress was contesting the elections on the basis of "Quit India" resolution and hence all those who opposed Congress nominees were indirectly helping the British Government to maintain their hold on India.

In observance of "Jai Prakash Narain Day" three meetings with audiences from 100 to 3,000 persons were held at Nasik and Dhulia on February 17th. Speakers including M. M. Bhavsar, Bhaurao Patil of Satara and Nagindas T. Master made speeches on the life of Jai Prakash Narain and demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali addressed about 300 women workers in the compound of Haji Cassum Chawl, Lalbaug, Bombay, on February 18th. She explained the meaning of "Quit India" resolution and exhorted them to sink their differences and stand united in the coming struggle.

She was received by the Satara District Rashtriya Sangh, Poona District Rashtriya Sangh and the Ratnagiri District Seva Sangh at Kamgar Maidan, Parel, on February 18th. Purshottam Tricumdas, who presided over an audience of about 25,000 persons, mostly mill-workers, remarked that in order to preserve the freedom of India, the neighbouring nations should also be free.

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali explained the reasons for going "underground" during the 1942 movement. She observed that if the workers had followed the footsteps of the workers of Ahmedabad and Jamshedpur during the movement, they would have been free by this time. Their intention was not to kill anybody but to paralyse the government machinery within the orbit of

non-violence. The workers were under the influence of the communists and were thus misled. She further criticised the communists and warned the workers not to fall victims to their machinations again. She also blamed the capitalists who failed to help them during the illness of Mr. Gandhi. She recalled the Ashti and Chimur incidents and the state of the people in Bengal during the recent famine. She paid tribute to Achyut Patwardhan, Nana Patil and others of Satara District and complimented the women for the part they played during the movement. She advocated the boycott of British goods and asked the audience to create their own leaders from amongst them for the coming struggle.

A sum of Rs. 134 collected from the workers of the B. B. and C. I. Railway and the people of Satara was given to her for the I. N. A. Relief Fund.

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali left for Poona on February 20th.

Congress workers continued intensive election propaganda during the week and addressed some 344 meetings with audiences ranging from 25 to 5,000 persons.

Such speakers as S. D. Deo, B. G. Kher, P. H. Patwardhan, L. M. Patil, Morarji R. Desai, Dr. K. B. Antrolikar, M. V. Janorkar, Naval Ananda Patil, V. P. Powar, Y. B. Chavan glorified the Congress, incidentally criticising Government administration, and exhorted their audiences to support Congress nominees in the coming elections.

B. G. Kher addressed about 50 graduates at Surat on February 23rd. He said that during the next Congress Ministry there would be a revolutionary change in the system of education. Congress would ensure that illiteracy was eradicated from the country. Extolling the Wardha Scheme he said that Government had to accept the principles of the scheme. He finally appealed to the audience to support the Congress.

While addressing meetings in Kolaba and Surat districts attended by audiences varying from 300 to 2,000 persons, Kher criticised the Communists and Muslim League for their anti-national policy during the 1942 movement and said that they were hampering the progress of the country.

Morarji R. Desai addressed 20 election propaganda meetings during the week in Surat district. The audiences at these meetings ranged from 50 to 3,000 persons, the largest taking place at Bulsar. He asked the people to implement the Congress constructive programme and not to co-operate with Government

officials who had oppressed them. He advised his audience to strike for communal unity and to observe strict discipline.

P. H. Patwardhan addressed four election propaganda meetings in Ahmednagar district with audiences ranging from 400 to 1,500 persons. During the course of his speeches, he criticised Government for its oppressive policy and accused it of being responsible for the black market, scarcity of food etc. He recounted the circumstances under which the "Quit India" resolution was passed, and asked his audiences to follow the example of the Newasa people, if corn was to be transferred from their villages, and to form Village Panchayats.

At a meeting of about 200 persons held at Waranghushi (district Ahmednagar) L. M. Patil compared the 1930 and 1942 movements and eulogised Subhash Bose and the I. N. A. He said that Congress was struggling to achieve independence and to establish a rule of peasants and workers.

One Dattu Patil and R. R. Shinde (Satara) addressed a poorly-attended meeting (50) at Awale (Thana) on February 24th with P. S. Bhagwat in the chair. During the course of their speeches they remarked that the Communists had undertaken to speak on Kisan welfare as an election stunt, but they would not be able to achieve anything by these tactics. Referring to the Police Department, one of the speakers said that the force was very poorly paid and therefore they too sympathised with the Congress and would be on its side in the next struggle.

Naval Ananda Patil addressing a meeting (250) at Pimpalner (W. K.) on February 24th said that under the British rule they had been rendered homeless and hungry and added that within 2 or 3 months the "British Raj" would come to an end.

At a meeting held at Warse (W. K.) on February 26th, Damu Dharma and Motiram Hari delivered speeches advising the audience not to give grain to Government and asked them to drive away any Talathis who demanded it.

G. M. Patwardhan addressing a meeting (500) at Sirpur (W. K.) on February 25th observed that India soon would be independent, since a great change had taken place in the mood of the people which was evident from the formation of the I. N. A. and the firing of the 'R. I. N.' on European officers. People should come forward and join the Congress in the coming struggle for independence.

M. V. Janorkar addressing a meeting of about 200 persons at Kalwan (Nasik) on February 23rd said that the people must

stand together and put up a bigger fight in 1946 than that of 1942 to oust the British from India and eventually form Asia.

At a meeting (audience not reported) held at Wai (Satara) on February 22nd, G. K. Sohoni (President), K. N. Kapre, G. D. Tapase, D. K. Gosavi, G. E. Sinhasane and Ramanand Swami appealed to the audience to support Congress nominees and added that if the Congress demands were not fulfilled, they should establish a parallel Government and refuse to pay land revenue or contribute to the grain levy etc.

Ramanand Swami, N. V. Ghanekar and D. V. Ekbote addressed a meeting at Shelkewadi (Satara) and exhorted an audience of about 250 persons to organise and prepare for the struggle in next July or August. They must not be afraid of Government officials but should induce Police and other Government servants to join them etc.

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali addressed two meetings of about 5,000 and 25,000 persons at Thana and Nasik on February 28th and March 1st. At Thana she referred to the strike of R. I. N. ratings in Bombay and said that the statement of Vice-Admiral Godfrey was largely responsible for it. She said that she did not wish prematurely to precipitate any conflict or to imperil Congress solidarity but desired to stress the need to prepare for the next struggle, in case freedom could not be achieved by negotiation.

At the Nasik meeting she complimented the underground workers for uprooting the machinery of British administration by carrying on the struggle in 1942 and remarked that the British could never rule in India in peace again. She said that she did not share the optimism of Congress leaders that India would soon be free because of past-experiences and asserted that freedom could not be won without another struggle for which mass organisation of workers and kisans was essential. She further asserted that the people must take revenge on the Police Department, and added that if the necessity arose, the people should be prepared to make every district another Satara and the Army, Navy and Air Force would be on their side.

K. H. Mudvedkar addressing a meeting (250) at Dharwar on February 28th accused Government of being responsible for the famine in India and observed that every year there was famine in India but Government and Governors sat quiet and did nothing about it. This showed that Government was both inefficient and irresponsible. The Supply and Rationing Departments were sources of income to Government, but they



were draining the blood of the people of India. The tyranny of Government had reached its zenith. He exhorted the people to arise and break the chains of slavery.

Dr. N. B. Kabbur speaking at a meeting (5000) at Hubli (Dharwar) on February 28th, referred to the recent R. I. N. strike and observed that it signalled the end of British rule in India and that the British had better quit the country while they were still on good terms with the people. Criticising the food policy of Government he accused the UNO of being at the bottom of the impending famine in India.

P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji addressed three meetings with audiences ranging from 300 to 800 at Nasik, Lonavla and Talegaon (Poona district). At Nasik he advised students to emulate the example of Shivaji, Khudiram Bose and Shirish Kumar who shed their blood for the freedom of the country. He also urged the teachers to take part in the future struggle for independence. At Lonavla and Talegaon he glorified the Congress struggle for independence and urged his listeners to support the party in the ensuing elections.

In connection with the election campaign, the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee held a public meeting at Kamgar Maidan on March 3rd under the presidentship of Nagindas T. Master. About 50,000 persons, mostly workers, attended.

Vallabhbhai Patel described at length the part played by the Congress and expressed the belief that the hour of freedom was drawing nearer and that the ship was approaching the shores. It was upto them to act with great caution and commit no mistakes. After many battles of freedom the Congress realised 3 years ago that it was time for the British to quit India. They were told that a delegation of Ministers of the British Cabinet was coming. He believed that they were sincere in their intention to quit India and were coming here to arrange the details of their departure. Some people were suspicious of this move. They should remember that if negotiations failed, it would be their duty to prepare for the final struggle if forced on them. In the meantime, they would use the Assemblies and Councils in their preparation and would create a situation which would make the withdrawal of the British Power inevitable. In the meanwhile, the people should keep patience. Their fight was unique as India did not fight with guns and revolvers but only with the weapon of truthful and non-violent non-co-operation. He blamed those who misled the R. I. N. Ratings and also those who brought about the strike in the labour area in sympathy



with the R. I. N. Ratings disregarding the advice of the Congress. Regarding the food crisis, the Congress had decided to co-operate with Government but in that he was sure that the only way to tackle the problem effectively was to form a National Government as suggested by M. K. Gandhi.

M. Y. Nurie criticised the Communists. The Communist Party, he said, was more concerned with what happened in Russia than in India.

The Bombay Provincial Congress Committee with the approval of the Commissioner of Police organised a public meeting at Chowpatty on February 26th when about 50,000 persons attended. Vallabhbhai J. Patel presided and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru spoke on "The Tragedy from which the City has just emerged". Most of the members of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee and local Congress leaders attended. Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali was also present.

Vallabhbhai Patel warned the people not to be misled by persons who were out to exploit their anti-imperialist feelings and political awakening by directing them into the wrong channels. He denounced the ugly disturbances and the ghastly crimes committed in the city and declared that those who had a hand in them would not go unpunished. He said that some people posing as Congressmen were evidently determined to create disorder and anarchy and warned the people that they should turn a deaf ear to their machinations. He could not understand why people should think of an uprising when the Congress was against it and was busy with its peaceful and constructive programme. Referring to the wrong lead given to the people by the Communist Party, he said that people had no business to listen to a party which had co-operated with the imperialist forces during the war and were now talking of an anti-imperialist movement with the purpose of regaining its lost popularity. Referring to the R. I. N. strike, he said that the interference of some misguided persons had almost spoiled the chances of a favourable settlement.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in condemning the acts of hooliganism in the city, said that India had no need for violence in her struggle for freedom and if he was satisfied that violence was really needed he would be the first to give the call. He repeatedly affirmed his faith in non-violence which alone could help India to attain her goal of freedom. He warned the people that any lapse on their part would wipe out the tremendous sacrifices which they had made in the cause of freedom during

the last 25 years. He said that unsocial elements had to be found out and ostracised and that the fight for freedom had to be carried on non-violently. He condemned the incident in which an American Flag was stormed and destroyed. He demanded an enquiry not only into the grievances of the R. I. N. Ratings but also into the action of the Police and the Military in Bombay which was of an extra-ordinary character as in place of *lathis* and tear-gas, rifles and machine-guns had been used. Referring to the broadcast of the Commander-in-Chief, he said that discipline was essential in the ranks of the Services but it was an anomaly in a slave country. As a result of his contacts with soldiers of other countries, the Indian soldier had become alive to the delights of freedom and his outlook had changed and his patriotism had been roused. The present unrest amongst service personnel had a bearing on the body politic and was a pointer to the great awakening among them. Their demands could only be met by a National Government. He suggested the setting up of Defence Committees when the Ratings were put on trial. Neither the Congress President nor other Congress leaders could guarantee that there would be no punishment but they could assure the Ratings that they would not be victimised.

At the close of the proceedings, donations of Rs. 301 and Rs. 101 were announced for helping the bereaved families, one of them being on behalf of R. I. A. F. personnel.

Congress in common with other parties started a last hour rush to the hustings and no less than 406 electioneering meetings were held during the week. Audiences varying widely from a mere handful to 10,000 heard well-known Congressmen including B. G. Kher, V. J. Patel, N. V. Gadgil, M. R. Desai and P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji deliver the final appeals for support to party nominees.

B. G. Kher concentrated on Dharwar district where he addressed five election propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 300 to 10,000, the largest taking place at Hubli. He advocated the introduction of Hindi as a national language and the revival of village industries which he accused Government of destroying. He also reaffirmed his party's faith in non-violence and cited Germany and Japan as outstanding examples of nations who had failed to achieve their objects even with the help of modern armaments. The Communist and Radical Parties were accused of bolstering the British rule in India.

N. V. Gadgil addressed two meetings in Poona and two in Kolaba district with audience of moderate size. Gadgil referred to the extreme difficulty of selecting candidates on a fair basis. He alleged that Government's record during the last 150 years showed a sequence of broken promises, but warned his audience to avoid giving any provocation during the next six months which might present British officers with an opportunity to embark on a new campaign of repression. An attempt was also made to convince the audience that the Mamlatdar and the P. S. I. held authority only so long as they were recognised by the people.

P. H. Patwardhan addressed two meetings in Ahmednagar district with audiences of 400 and 4,000. After a routine denunciation of Government repression, he affirmed that the gulf between Indian and British politicians was growing wider and dismissed a constitution-making body devoid of legal statute as a farce. The Cabinet Deputation was characterised as an effort at statesmanship, ruthless repression having failed. He concluded with an appeal for votes.

V. J. Patel addressed some 5,000 persons at Bardoli, Surat district, on March 9th. Opening with a characteristic reference to his connections with the town, he affirmed that the end of the war had not brought World Peace but that British had been reduced to a third-rate power. Referring to the recent strikes of R. I. A. F. and R. I. N. Ratings, he described them as symptoms of a general political awakening which showed that the British could no longer depend on the absolute support of the Armed Forces. The Cabinet Ministers visit showed that Britain had realised that she must quit India and was making an attempt to establish good relations with that country. He advised his audience to refrain from any action which might hinder future negotiations and to hold firmly to Mr. Gandhi's principles of truth and non-violence. He concluded with a dissertation on the food problem which, he alleged could only be solved by a national Government. V. J. Patel's other speech was delivered at Bombay on March 6th to an audience of 2,000 with Nagindas T. Master presiding. After stating that the people of Bombay did not need to be told which party they must vote for, he affirmed that Congress after working for freedom for 60 years had at length made clear to the British the necessity for quitting India and said that a British Cabinet Delegation was coming to India to settle terms for the withdrawal. If the negotiations did not succeed the Indian people would compel them to quit. He warned the people against irresponsible action especially in the form of strikes which did

not have the approval of Congress and urged the necessity of complete non-violence on the election day.

Sane Guruji addressed four propaganda meetings in Sholapur district with attendances ranging from 400 to 8,500 persons. The speeches were stereotyped criticism of the present administration which was held responsible for the starvation of millions of people and alleged atrocities of the Police during the 1942 movement.

G. H. Deshpande addressed eight election meetings in Nasik district with audiences varying from 150 to 3,000. He urged support to Congress candidates who would drive the British out of India and rid the country of real decoits. He also desired the formation of Kisan associations and told the people to prepare for another mutiny. In a reference to untouchability, he dismissed Dr. Ambedkar and Gaikwad as hirelings of Government who would disappear from the picture after the British exodus. Another speaker in Nasik district was N. W. Janorkar who addressed 5 small meetings. His speeches were remarkable only for their intemperance and vilification of the police on whom he urged the people to take revenge.

Morarji R. Desai canvassed votes in Kaira district when addressing five meetings of from 250 to 4,500. He stressed the necessity for non-violence and implementation of the Constructive Programme. He also affirmed that the Armed Forces in Bombay, Bengal and Madras had faith in Congress and that the Police Department would also side with them when the time came.

Tippanna Shastri Kalli addressed three meetings in Dharwar district with audiences ranging up to 2,000. In one of his speeches he affirmed that Subhas Bose and the I. N. A. had given a demonstration of organising ability. He also likened the British Administration to a corpse on its way to cremation.

R. R. Diwakar addressed a meeting of about 2,500 persons at Ilkal, Bijapur district, on March 4th. He advocated non-cooperation with Government servants so that they would automatically resign from their posts.

At Dhulia on March 7th, Rajchariar Gopalan, ex-I. N. A., and Naval Ananda Patil addressed an audience of 1,500. Requesting support for Congress candidates, Gopalan urged that all communities should unite, as in the Azad Hind Army, in order to achieve *Swaraj*.

Pandurang Govind Patil *alias* Pandu Master, a political underground absconder, made a brief appearance at Shirala, Satara district, to address a small secret meeting on February 24th. He urged his audience not to assist Government servants, to refuse to pay land revenue and to deny contributions to the grain levy.

In a speech at Khed, Ratnagiri district, on March 5th, a certain Narayan Jagtap of Satara, during an election speech, threatened that those who failed to vote for the Congress nominees might be punished by the '*patri sarkar*' of which, he avowed, he was a follower.

There were numerous other meetings in all districts including 20 in Bombay City. The speakers delivered the usual electioneering propaganda and there was little deserving of special mention.

Party workers continued their intensive electioneering campaign right upto polling day and addressed 90 meetings with audiences ranging from 30 to 10,000.

S. D. Deo addressed 9 meetings of moderate size in Kolaba district and 9 more in Sholapur district during the week. At one of the latter meetings, Deo gathered an audience of about 10,000. His speeches followed orthodox Congress lines and concentrated chiefly on criticism of the Hindu Maha Sabha, Muslim League, Communist and Royist Parties. He declared that Congress was contesting the Provincial elections in order to demonstrate that it had the backing of the people. He urged that a non-co-operation movement be started if India failed to achieve independence in the next four months.

At Bagalkot, Bijapur district, on March 7th, Channappa Wali outlined the career of Congress to an audience of 1,000. His speech displayed more malice than logical argument. He accused Government with responsibility for the Bengal famine. He made a sneering reference to the effect that the Viceroy, who formerly refused an interview with Gandhi, was now running to the latter for advice on the food problem.

N. V. Gadgil addressed five meetings in Ahmednagar district with audiences ranging from 25 to 6,000. He impressed upon his audience his belief that the result of the elections would govern India's fate in the next 50 years. He alleged that Indian officers were more corrupt and oppressive than their British colleagues and urged the public to maintain a list of officers who were guilty of such offences in the same way as Government recorded the activities of political leaders. Gadgil reaffirmed his faith in non-violence and paradoxically remarked that the British had realised

that their bones would not reach England if they failed to solve the problem of India's independence. He advocated a close organisation in every village to protect the people in the next struggle and urged the villagers to root out from their minds the very thought of British domination. At a peasants conference on March 8th, Gadgil dwelt at some length on the food problem. He explained that Gandhi had been in correspondence with the Viceroy on the food question and had advised Indians to co-operate with Government to solve this problem. The coming Congress regime would remove corrupt officers from the Rationing Department. Gadgil urged the people to help themselves by growing more crops and appealed to the merchants to keep out of the black-market.

D. P. Karmarkar, M. L. A. (Central) addressed a meeting numbering some 10,000 people at Hubli on March 10th. He reviewed the result of the elections in the various Provinces and affirmed that the North-West Frontier Province had unequivocally supported the Congress. He appealed to his audience to support Congress whole heartedly.

Indulal K. Yagnik addressed 2 meetings of 50 and 500 persons on March 5th in Kaira district. After describing the present political situation, he paid a tribute to the I. N. A. and alleged that the time would come when the police would lay down their arms and refuse to oppress their brothers.

G. H. Deshpande presided over a meeting of 500 at Taked, Nasik district, on March 2nd. He declared that following the election Congress would make certain demands on Government and if these demands were not conceded the people would rebel.

In Bombay City, the Provincial Congress Committee took advantage of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's visit to organise a public meeting at Chowpatty on March 16th when N. T. Master presided over an audience of about 50,000. The Congress President made a fervent appeal for perfect discipline and the creation of a peaceful atmosphere during the visit of the Cabinet Mission. He denounced the recent violent outbursts in Bombay and elsewhere and declared that if the negotiations with the Mission failed the Congress would launch a final struggle for independence. He appealed to the people to conserve their energy for such a struggle. About 100 R. I. A. F. and R. I. N. men were seen amongst the audience.

A committee, consisting of G. M. Gupte, President and four others, has been established at Poona to collect fund of one lac of rupees for P. S. Sane *alias* Sane Guruji.

The party devoted its attention to electioneering propaganda meetings. In Sholapur 13 meetings ranging from 50 to 7,000 were addressed by Dr. K. B. Antolikar, C. K. Chandeli, T. S. Jadhav and others. Dr. Pattabhai Sitaramayya, a member of the Working Committee, addressed the largest of these meetings. He glorified the 1942 Congress struggle and urged the electorate to support the Congress candidate.

In Satara district, S. D. Deo addressed three meetings ranging from 50 to 2,000 on March 19th. He told his audience that no compulsion should be used to persuade a voter to give support to any particular candidate and also condemned the social boycott imposed by villagers on the untouchables.

Congratulatory meetings ranging from 50 to 4,000 were also popular during the week in various districts and at Nasik and Poona processions of moderate size were organised.

At Poona, S. D. Deo addressed a meeting of 2,000 and praised the discipline of the people in carrying out Congress instructions regarding the division of their votes. He reminded successful candidates that they were pledged to implement the Congress election manifesto.

At Ahmednagar, P. H. Patwardhan, addressing a congratulatory meeting of 2,500 on March 21st, stated that the overwhelming success of Congress was a proof of the awakening of the masses who were now impatient to gain their independence. Speaking of the Cabinet delegation, he confidently stated that Messrs. Nehru, Azad and Patel were well able to match the delegation in diplomacy. He observed that fresh plans and lists for the arrest of Congressmen were under preparation and the people must be prepared to meet a sudden attack by Government, in the event of negotiations breaking down. P. M. alias Senapati Bapat, speaking at the same meeting, remarked that a fresh movement would have to be launched in the near future.

M. R. Desai, ex-Revenue Minister, addressing a small meeting at Radhu (Kaira district) on March 21st, congratulated the people for carrying out his instructions in non-co-operating with those who had arranged functions in honour of H. E. the Governor of Bombay when he visited the village. Desai referred to the British Cabinet Mission and stated that, failing a settlement, Congress was prepared to fight.

At Amalner and Marwad, East Khandesh, meetings were held to protest against the alleged burning of a Congress flag by the



Mamlatdar at Dangri village on March 15th. The villagers were urged to obstruct any transport of grain from Marwad godown.

S. S. Batliwala, Abidalli Jafarbai and others addressed a few election propaganda meetings at Sholapur when audiences ranged from 50 to 15,000. The speakers severely criticised the Communists and Royists for their aid to Government during the war and their failure to support the 1942 movement. Mill workers were exhorted to vote for Congress candidates.

Nineteen congratulatory meetings with audiences ranging upto 3,000 were held in various districts to celebrate the success of Congress candidates. The speakers emphasised that the Congress success marked another step forward in the march towards independence.

At a meeting attended by about 250 persons at Bawdhan (Satara) on March 23rd, Diwakar Newalkar, Baburao Jagtap and others explained the work of the Congress and the important part played by underground workers whom the audience was urged to support.

A special meeting of the Executive Committee of the M. P. C. C. was held at Poona on March 28th, S. D. Deo presiding. The following resolutions were passed.

(1) Protesting against the antagonistic attitude of the Scheduled Castes Federation in spite of scheduled castes support for the Congress candidate;

(2) Exhorting all Congress organisations and workers to strengthen the drive for constructive work backed by the Congress strength in the Provincial Assembly; and

(3) Expressing sympathy for the teachers who are on strike and for their demands.

At Sholapur on March 26th, S. S. Salunke and K. V. Shah addressed a gathering of about 500 persons held under the auspices of the City Congress Committee. The speakers expressed their sorrow at the death of S. S. Salgar who was fatally stabbed in a fracas which followed a Muslim League meeting on March 22nd. The speakers emphasised that the incident was not the result of communal animosity and should not be made a cause of communal discord.

Damu Dharma Patil and Motiram Hari Patil both of West Khandesh, were arrested for prejudicial speeches delivered by them during a public meeting at Warse (W. K.) on February 26th.

In connection with the election of 25 delegates to the Indian National Congress (who are also members of the new Bombay Provincial Congress Committee), the following were elected from 3 wards in Bombay city :—

'A' Ward 2 (1) F. M. Pinto (Socialist); (2) Sardar Pratap Sing.

'C' Ward 4 (1) Yusuf J.; Meherally (Socialist); (2) G. G. Mehta (Socialist); (3) G. N. Desai; (4) B. N. Yagnik.

'D' Ward 4 (1) S. K. Patil; (2) Purshottamdas Tricumdas (Socialist); (3) C. V. Varad; (4) Nagindas T. Master.

The Vandemataram Hututoo Club, Bombay, held a "Satyanarayan Puja" on March 30th which was attended by some 800 persons. Ashok Metha said that a Congress Ministry would shortly be formed and he expected them to punish officers who had ill-treated the leaders in the 1942 movement.

Some 27 congratulatory meetings with audiences ranging from 75 to 2,500 were held during the week in the districts of Poona, Nasik, Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Kolaba, Dharwar and Bijapur when local speakers congratulated the elected Congress nominees and thanked the people for their support to Congress. Responsibility of the elected members was stressed and they were asked to carry out the duties selflessly.

Speaking at a meeting (50) held at Nasik on the occasion of the opening ceremony of "Arunodaya Mandal", V. N. Naik said that Congress had not yet achieved its goal and its followers would be called upon to make sacrifices. He observed that they should enrol at least 100 men ready for the last struggle and for which they should be prepared to shed their blood.

Kantilal Ghia of the Gujarat Sewa Dal, Ahmedabad addressed a meeting of about 200 students at Nadiad (Kaira) on March 31st. He said that the British Cabinet Mission had come to India to solve the political deadlock. If it succeeded, well and good; otherwise the people should be ready for the struggle that Congress might start. He further exhorted the students to unite and organise themselves.

"Mahadeo Mailar Day" was observed in Dharwar district on April 1st when processions with the portrait of the late Mailar was taken out and flag salutations held.

At Dharwar, Hubli, Gajendragad and Hangal meetings with audiences not exceeding 400 were held when local speakers lauded services of the late Mailar in the cause of the country.

Shantinath Ingle speaking at the Hubli meeting said that Mailar faced the bullets while carrying out the message of the Congress and died a martyr's death.

Venkatrao Chawti, who spoke at the meeting held at Hangal, alleged that Mailar met his death at the hands of the Police and that the Police had done a great injustice in killing him. He observed that police injustice would be avenged during the Congress regime.

At a meeting attended by some 125 persons at Mahur (Poona) on April 1st under the presidentship of Shankarrao Patil, ballads were sung extolling the activities of the "*patri sarkar*". B. V. Takavale urged the audience not to be afraid of Police and Revenue officials, while the President advocated the establishment of village committees for the settlement of their disputes.

At a meeting of 300 persons at Jejuri (Poona) on April 3rd, the speakers criticised the late Government and one Nalawade of Wai urged the formation of a "*patri sarkar*" on the lines of the Satara organisation. He also stated that Patils who assisted Government servants should be bastinadoed.

G. K. Patil, a Congress worker of Kurli, addressed a meeting of moderate size at Adi (Belgaum) on April 9th. He affirmed that no justice could be got from Government offices and courts and asked the villagers to refer their disputes to the village committee established at Adi.

Some 37 Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 4,000 were held in Maharashtra and Karnatak districts. Some of the speakers, who included Messrs. M. V. Kulkarni *alias* Baburao Charankar, Ramanand Swami Mysorkar, K. M. Jedhe and R. D. Bhoge, urged the implementation of the Congress constructive programme, criticised Revenue and Police officers and delivered a warning that any break-down in the Delhi negotiations would precipitate a grave situation.

At a meeting (500) at Poona on April 15th held with a dual purpose of giving a reception to released political personalities and inaugurating the Jai Hind Mandal, Mr. R. B. Ghorpade remarked that the Mandal aimed at improving social relations between different classes of society. Mr. S. M. Joshi urged the establishment of Village Panchayats on the Satara model.

At a meeting of some 3,000 persons at Loni Kalbhor (Poona) on April 17th, Mr. K. M. Jedhe suggested that the popular Government should not introduce prohibition but utilise the Excise income to provide compulsory education on a wide scale.

Another meeting (500) was also held at Loni Kalbhor on April 14th to protest against an alleged insult to the Congress flag by a Police Constable of Lonikhand.

Mr. N. M. Valhekar *alias* Chota Nikam, addressing a gathering of 500 at Ghorpadi (Poona) on April 18th, strongly criticised both Police and Revenue officials. He referred to the bastinadoing of people in Satara district who had helped the Government war effort and warned residents of Ghorpadi, who had similarly helped, to be on their guard. He also urged Patils to resign from their posts.

At a meeting (1,000) at Wagholi (Satara) on April 19th, Mr. Ramanand Swami Mysorkar urged the people to organise, force Government servants to resign and form a parallel Government. He also advocated non-payment of land revenue.

During polling for the K. P. C. C. elections on April 19th at Belgaum, differences of opinion arose between the candidates regarding the accuracy of the voters list and alleged impersonation. There were acrimonious exchanges between the candidates and polling was suspended. Similar disturbances took place at Thalakhwadi, Hubli and Hosur Hosati. At Thalakhwadi the ballot box was burnt.

In Broach district three meetings ranging from 500 to 1,000 were held to accord a reception to Mr. Chotalal B. Purani and purses amounting to Rs. 1,553 were presented to him.

At a meeting (500) at Nadiad on April 15th, Mr. Natwarlal N. Dave urged that revenge should be taken on Government servants responsible for alleged atrocities during the 1942 movement in Kaira district.

Poona, Satara, West Khandesh, Thana and Dharwar were the venues for some 15 Congress propaganda meetings ranging from 40 to 2,000 persons. The speakers, who included Messrs P. R. Shah, Ramanand Swami Mysorkar and S. M. Joshi, eulogised the Congress Party and urged their audiences to organise for a future struggle for independence.

In Satara district the speakers urged the re-opening of R. S. Dal Branches.

A further 32 meetings with audiences ranging from 60 to 11,000 were held to accord receptions to recently released political workers and newly elected members in various districts. Speakers

praised the work of the underground, criticised the alleged atrocities committed by the Police and appealed for unity under Congress.

Mr. C. B. Purani was given no less than 14 receptions in Broach district and was also presented with purses. In his reply he affirmed that the actions of himself and his colleagues were in accordance with the August Resolution. He criticised the levying of new taxes, the spread of corrupt practices amongst Government servants and urged that the British should be driven from India by peaceful means.

At a meetings (1,000) at Morgiri (Satara) on April 24th, Messrs. Vyankatrao Mane and N. V. Kulkarni *alias* Baburao Charankar congratulated the Congress Ministry on the release of political leaders and thanked the public for harbouring absconders. They urged the institution of enquiries into alleged atrocities by the Police.

On April 23rd, Mr. P. V. Gadgil presided over a meeting of 1,000 persons held at Fanaswadi, Bombay, when a purse of Rs. 501 was presented to Mr. P. S. Sane. Messrs. P. V. Gargil, P. S. Sane and S. M. Joshi praised the services rendered by Achchyut Patwardhan in rousing Maharashtra to achieve freedom.

A non-political body known as the Bombay Peace Patrols was formed at a meeting in Congress House, Bombay, on April 25th. A sub-committee under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Y. Nurie was appointed to organise permanent peace patrols designed to assist in the preservation of peace during disturbances.

Twenty-nine miscellaneous Congress meetings were held in various districts, the two largest taking place at Satara. Mr. P. K. Atre addressed two large meetings of 2,000 and 8,000 persons at Wagholi and Satara on April 26th and 30th. He praised the work done by Congress workers of Satara during the 1942 movement and urged the Satara Jai Hind Mandal to increase its members and prepare to drive the British out of Asia. He also indulged in virulent criticism of the Police and Government servants in general.

Mr. Atre also spoke to a large audience which gathered at Poona on April 28th to accord a reception to Congress M. L. As. On this occasion Mr. Atre voiced his approval of the activities of the "*patri sarkar*", explaining that only the wicked were bastinadoed and that the village tribunals meted out justice. He congratulated Messrs. Nana Patil, Kisan Veer, Pandu Master and

others on establishing a people's rule in Satara and added that the motive behind the Lonand Bank Dacoity and the Khandesh Remittance Dacoity was the collection of money to be employed in the achievement of freedom.

At a meeting of about 4,000 at Ashta (Satara) on April 28th, Messrs. V. P. Powar, M. L. A., G. R. Patil, Vasant Patil, A. K. Barde and others congratulated the Congress Ministry on the release of political offenders and absconders. They urged enquiries into the alleged atrocities committed by the Police and Mr. Babu Chandru Khot remarked that they intended to take their revenge and if they had to use violence in doing so, the Congress Ministry should not hold any enquiry.

In Broach district, Mr. C. B. Purani was accorded a reception by some 500 persons. In his reply to the address, he advocated the development of physical culture and affirmed that when people had been so trained they could raid Police Stations, loot Government arms and ammunition and uproot railway lines, even though unarmed. In the next struggle they would be fully equipped and well organised.

Mr. C. K. Chandeli was accorded a reception at Junnar (Poona) on April 25th by some 700 persons. In his speech he observed that the British Government had become impotent and that the Police and the Army were powerless. He added that it was necessary to take revenge for harassment caused by Government during the 1942 movement.

Dr. Dhani Ram Prem, an Indian member of the Birmingham City Council and Chairman of the India League, arrived in Bombay on May 3rd and was received by some members of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee. On the following day he was welcomed at Congress House. In reply to the address, Dr. Ram Prem affirmed that there were no communal differences between Indians in Britain. He added that the Parliamentary Delegation was carrying on mischievous propaganda in favour of Pakistan, but it would not disrupt the solidarity of Indians in Britain.

Mr. K. M. Jedhe has been elected President and Messrs. G. A. Deshpande and V. P. Powar, M. I. A., Secretaries of the M. P. C. C. for the ensuing year. Fifteen members from Maharashtra were elected to the A. I. C. C.

Seventeen propaganda meetings ranging from 100 to 10,000 were held in various districts during the week. Prominent speakers included Messrs. C. B. Purani, K. M. Jedhe, R. S. Mysorkar,

Dr. K. B. Antrolikar and C. S. Wali. An appeal was made for public co-operation with the popular Ministry in eradication of corruption and the black-market. The Village Panchayats established in Satara also came in for praise.

Mr. K. M. Jedhe, addressing a meeting (600) at Lonand (Satara) on May 2nd, condemned the action of the people who had helped in the detection of the Lonand Bank Dacoity which, he affirmed, was committed by political absconders.

In an intemperate address to an audience of 10,000 at Badlapur (Thana) on May 4th, Mr. D. K. Desai of Kalyan affirmed that Government servants should be taught a lesson, now that Congress Government was in power. He also maintained that no information should be given to the Police or any other Government servants, but "*patris*" should be nailed to their feet instead.

Mr. C. B. Purani, addressing a meeting of 500 at Broach on May 2nd, urged the necessity for physical culture and observed that after proper training they had been able to overrun Police Stations, loot Government arms and ammunition and tear up railway lines, although themselves unarmed. Mr. Purani, together with Mr. Chandra Shankar Bhatt also addressed three meetings of moderate size at Nadiad (Kaira). Mr. Bhatt urged the people to disarm the Police if they could not do anything else.

Several condolence meetings ranging up to 1,500 were held in most districts to mourn the death of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai. Speakers praised Mr. Desai's achievements in the cause of the country and his defence of the I. N. A. Mills at various centres in Khandesh and Gujerat were closed as a mark of respect.

In Bombay City, Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier, presided over a large meeting which included some 150 Indonesians and a few ex-I. N. A. In the course of his address Mr. Kher deprecated the lack of discipline during the funeral procession on May 6th.

Some 28 Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 25 to 5,000 were held in various districts. The purpose of the meeting was in most cases the canvassing of votes for Congress candidates in District Local Board elections. The speakers included Messrs. G. H. Deshpande, P. H. Patwardhan and D. P. Karmarkar.

At a reception by 2,000 persons on May 14th at Ahmedabad, Mr. C. B. Purani, claimed that his activities during the 1942 movement were in obedience to the orders of the Congress. He



condemned cowardice under the guise of non-violence and paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Meghaji, an underground worker of Gujarat.

Congress workers, notably Messrs. S. K. Patil, K. M. Jedhe, Ramanand Swami Mysorkar, P. G. Patil *alias* Pandu Master and others, spoke at some 16 meetings with audiences ranging from 60 to 9,000, in Maharashtra and Karnatak districts. They urged their audiences to strengthen the party, establish village panchayats and implement the constructive programme with particular attention to the elimination of untouchability.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil, M. L. A. (Central), addressing a meeting (300) at Gadag (Dharwar) on May 18th, expressed the opinion that the Cabinet Mission were honest in their intentions. He appealed to Hindus and Muslims to frame a united constitution for the whole of India.

The Junnar Taluka Congress Committee has established a camp for training workers and Mr. P. H. Patwardhan performed the opening ceremony on May 21st. Some 70 workers have enrolled and Messrs. P. H. Patwardhan, N. V. Gadgil and Nana R. Patil held intellectual classes *in camera*.

Some 14 propaganda meetings of small size were held in various districts. None of the speeches delivered was in any way noteworthy except for the utterances of Messrs. J. K. Ghadge, D. D. Jadhav and others, who warned their audience at Hati (Sholapur) on May 23rd that they must stop illicit distillation and excessive expenditure on marriages, otherwise they would be bastinadoed.

In Bombay City the Sion and Matunga Taluka Congress Committee held a public meeting on May 28th when some 300 persons attended. Dr. K. B. Menon, surveying events in India since 1942, prophesied that greater sacrifices would yet be demanded. Commenting on the British Cabinet Mission's recommendations he affirmed that the award contained the seeds of disunity.

Messrs. C. K. Chandeli, K. M. Jedhe, P. H. Patwardhan and others addressed 10 propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 500 in various districts. They urged their audiences to unite and eliminate corruption and black-market activities.

Mr. S. R. Nasvi, addressing a small meeting at Tuminkatti (Dharwar) on June 1st, severely criticised local police officers and urged that applications against them should be submitted to Government.

Similarly Mr. M. B. Deshmukh, addressing a meeting at Shahada (W. K.) on June 2nd urged his audience (200) to refuse to pay assessment or contribute to the grain levy. He also urged that no motor bus should be allowed to ply unless it carried the Congress flag. If the drivers objected the bus should be destroyed.

Mr. G. H. Deshpande, M. L. A. addressing a gathering of 150 at the opening of the Jai Hind Mandal at Nasik on June 5th, prophesied that the Congress flag would soon be hoisted over Delhi and requested the audience to support Congress in order to compel the British to quit Asia.

Mr. Nana R. Patil presided over a gathering of 800 at the opening of the Azad Hind Hostel at Islampur (Satara) on June 6th. Mr. Ramanand Swami and others advised the students to emulate the soldiers of Azad Hind and prepare for the next struggle.

There were 21 small propaganda meetings ranging from 75 to 500 in the districts of Sholapur, Satara, Belgaum and Ahmednagar. Fourteen of these meetings took place in Sholapur district, where Messrs C. K. Chandeli, T. S. Jadhav and others conducted canvassing tours in support of Congress candidates for the District Local Board elections.

Some 15 meetings with audiences ranging from 45 to 1,000 were addressed by local speakers who exhorted the people to wipe out black market and eradicate corruption. The largest of these meetings was held on June 17th at Nandurbar (West Khandesh) when Mr. K. R. Pendse eulogised those who had died during the 1942 movement. He urged his audience to unite on the lines of Satara and prepare for the next struggle.

Eight meetings ranging from 125 to 1,000 were held during the week, chiefly in Maharashtra districts. The speakers, who included Messrs. K. M. Jedhe, T. S. Jadhav and W. G. Yardi, appealed for public support to the Congress Government in its endeavour to suppress the black-market and eliminate corruption.

Speaking to an audience of 300 at Dharwar on June 28th, Mr. D. P. Karmarkar, M. L. A. (Central), discussed the Cabinet Mission's proposals for the formation of a Constituent Assembly with particular reference to clauses 15 and 19. He maintained that the Muslim fears of oppression in an independent India were unjustified. Mr. Karmarkar also asked for co-operation in the achievement of a unified Karnatak.

Fifteen meetings with audiences ranging from 60 to 350 were held in various districts during the week. The speakers, prominent amongst whom were Messrs. K. M. Jedhe, G. H. Deshpande and K. R. Pendse, urged the people to abstain from liquor and report cases of black-marketing through the Congress Committees.

Mr. L. G. Kulkarni *alias* Kasegaonkar Vaidya, addressing a meeting (100) at Vechale (Satara district) on June 29th, advised the villagers not to contribute to the grain levy next year and urged them to settle their disputes amongst themselves.

Messrs. K. M. Jedhe and N. V. Gadgil addressed a meeting (125) held under the auspices of the M. P. C. C., at Poona on July 3rd. They affirmed that Goa was a part of an indivisible India and assured Goans of their support in any attempt to get rid of the Portuguese regime. Mr. Gadgil asserted that local leaders should prepare the ground after which Congress would support the struggle.

Eight meetings with audiences ranging from 100 to 4,000 were held in various districts during the week. The speakers included Messrs. C. K. Chandeli, P. H. Patwardhan and G. H. Deshpande who appealed to the public to assist in the eradication of the black-market and to undertake constructive work in order to achieve independence.

At Vairag (Sholapur), a meeting of moderate size was held on July 6th to felicitate Messrs. N. S. Jangam and K. S. Ghongade, who were convicted in the Narsingpur dacoity case, on their release from jail. Local speakers praised their work in the cause of the nation.

At two meetings in Dharwar District on July 8th and 9th Mr. V. G. Angadi narrated his underground activities in Assam and other places during the last movement and his sufferings in jail in the United Provinces.

At a largely attended meeting on July 10th at Shivaji Park (Dadar), Bombay, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made a fervent appeal to the people to avoid internecine strife and prepare for the difficult period ahead. He compared the Congress to an army about to storm a citadel after a long siege and affirmed that although victory was in sight, the citadel would not fall without a mighty and united effort.

On July 16th and 17th, some 160 Congress labour workers from Maharashtra met at Poona under the presidency of

Mr. S. D. Deo. Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Labour Minister, Mr. P. H. Patwardhan and others explained the Congress labour policy and urged workers to press forward with the organisation of labour on the lines of the Hindustan Majoor Sewak Sangh. A resolution was adopted supporting the postal strike.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presided on July 8th over a Conference at Congress House, Bombay, which was attended by about 100 representatives of Provincial Congress Committees and organisers of volunteer corps. It was decided to re-organise Congress volunteer organisations on an All-India basis under the direction of Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan, who would shortly tour the country in order to make a detailed study of the problem. The Conference visualised a highly trained organisation equipped to carry on reconstruction work in the villages. The Congress President made it clear that I. N. A. men might join the volunteer bodies if they so desired.

Twelve meetings of moderate size were held in various districts during the week. The speakers, who included Messrs. G. D. Lad, Deoram Ramji Patil and K. R. Pendse, urged the people to co-operate to liquidate illiteracy and eradicate the black market.

Mr. S. L. Kurtakoti, addressing a meeting of 200 persons at Dharwar on July 14th, condemned the action of the Portuguese Government in preventing the people from flying Congress flags and asked local supporters to go to Goa in order to help the Goans.

The Executive Committee of the M. P. C. C. met at Poona on July 16th, Mr. K. M. Jedhe presiding. The following Committees were established to assist in the implementation of the Congress election manifesto :—

- (1) District Committees to deal with problems in each district.
- (2) Legislative Committee to consider Government Bills and submit draft bills for consideration by Government.
- (3) Relief Committee to propose measures for the redress of public grievances.
- (4) Committee to control and guide self-governing bodies.
- (5) Committee for constructive work.

Pandit J. Nehru, President of the Congress, has issued a circular calling upon Provincial Committees to observe the 9th of August with dignity. He has suggested that the day should be

marked by hoisting Congress flags and adopting a resolution expressing their resolve to achieve freedom. Pandit, Nehru has advised against the organisation of any *hartal* and the delivery of truculent speeches.

Seven meetings ranging from 35 to 3,000 were held in the districts of East Khandesh, West Khandesh and Dharwar.

In East Khandesh local speakers, including Messrs. Rajaram B. Patil and Deoram R. Patil, urged the people to establish *Rashtra Seva Dals* in each village. Mr. Kakasaheb Deshmukh warned liquor addicts and licensees that if they did not stop consumption and sale of liquor, he would establish a *patri sarkar* to persuade them with the bastinado.

At a meeting in Dhulia on July 21st, local speakers deplored the disturbances following the meeting held on the previous day and affirmed that Congressmen were not in any way involved. They appealed to the people to unite to put a stop to disturbances of this type.

At a meeting (100) held on July 19th in the Congress House, Poona, Messrs. N. V. Gadgil, M. L. A., S. D. Deo, G. H. Deshpande and K. M. Jedhe, spoke on the Harijan *satyagraha*. Mr. Gadgil described the campaign as a reaction to the defeat of the Federation's candidates in the Assembly elections and expressed the hope that their problems would be solved by mutual goodwill. Messrs. Deo and Deshpande affirmed that the Ministry was justified in punishing those who intended merely to hinder the administration and were unable to present any concrete demands. Mr. Jedhe who presided was of the opinion that the scheduled castes were justified in revolting against caste Hindus who had repressed them for generations and he appealed to Mr. Deo to make an approach to the leaders of the *satyagraha* campaign in order to effect a settlement.

Only two minor meetings were held in East Khandesh and Dharwar districts during the week. In Dharwar Mr. V. G. Angadi addressed a meeting (200) at Guttal on July 26th when he described his experiences in jail.

A Congress camp was opened at Wai, Satara district, on August 1st. Some 100 persons, including a few ex-I. N. A. men, are receiving instructions from Messrs. L. G. Kulkarni *alias* Kasegaonkar Vaidya and Kisan Veer. The object of the camp is to train youths for any future struggle.

Propaganda meetings of the orthodox type numbered only four and these were very minor. Congressmen throughout the

province were preoccupied with the preparations for the celebration of 9th August Day. The celebrations which took place throughout the Province were absolutely peaceful and the official programme suggested by the Congress President was strictly adhered to. Processions, flag salutations and meetings attracted audiences ranging upto 1,500 and at certain places spinning demonstrations, sale of Congress flags, collection of funds and similar items figured on the programme.

In Poona City some 2,000 volunteers of the Rashtra Seva Dal held a rally in the morning. Mr. A. S. Patwardhan addressing the volunteers affirmed that the August resolution had not yet achieved its object owing to lack of unity and discipline. He urged his audience to sink their differences, discipline themselves and unite to attain freedom.

At Mahad (Kolaba district), some 1,000 persons attended a programme which included dialogues and sketches designed to depict the tyrannical rule of the British in India.

At Ahmednagar, Mr. K. S. Firodia, Speaker of the Assembly, addressed an audience of 1,500. He described the atrocities allegedly committed by Government servants during the movement and paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the national cause. Mr. P. M. Bapat also spoke at this meeting. He expressed his disapproval of the present negotiations as a means of achieving independence.

At Bagalkot (Bijapur), Mr. Imamsab Mohmed Madarsab Kulgeri, ex-I. N. A., addressed an audience of 1,000 persons. He described I. N. A. activities and affirmed that they were not agents of the Japanese but independent fighters for the freedom of India.

At Broach Mr. C. B. Purani comprehensively reviewed India's history from 1857 to 1942 and asked for support for the Congress which was fighting for freedom. The audience numbered 1,300.

At Poona Mr. Y. B. Chavan, (Parliamentary Secretary) presented silver medals to the next-of-kin of "Martyrs who died in furtherance of the August resolution of 1942."

At Dhulia Mr. Uttam G. Patil was the main speaker. He affirmed that the 1942 movement failed because it was not sufficiently organised. Although Congress Ministries were functioning, the Central Government was still in British hands. He did not believe that the British would readily quit India or that independence could be achieved without bloodshed.

In Bombay city the Socialists were manifestly reluctant to obey the directive of the Congress President regarding the observance of August the 9th. Mr. G. G. Mehta on behalf of the Congress Socialist Party applied for permission to take out three processions and Ward Committees of the Socialist Party and Forward Bloc followed his example. Both Communists and Socialists endeavoured to bring mill hands out on strike and succeeded in the case of four mills which closed for the day. Except for a minor incident of stone throwing, the demonstrations were peaceful. The Socialist and Forward Bloc Party processions were small despite their efforts and whip up enthusiasm by inviting Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali and Mr. S. M. Joshi to participate.

The main flag salutation of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee was held at Congress House and the audience numbered about 500, including 300 volunteers and Desh Sevikas. Mr. S. K. Patil described the significance of the Day and emphasised the need for discipline within the party. Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali and Mr. Purshottamdas Trikamdas were present at this function.

In the evening some 5,000 persons attended a public meeting at Chowpatty over which Mr. S. K. Patil presided. The resolution on the "Quit India" demand was adopted.

The Congress Socialist Party held its flag salutation ceremony on the Gowalia Tank Maidan when Mr. Purshottamdas Trikamdas presided over an audience of 500. Speeches forecasting the launching of a future struggle were delivered and the audience took the pledge suggested by Mr. Jai Prakash Narain.

In the evening Mr. Achchyut Patwardhan, Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali, Mr. Purshottamdas Trikamdas and Mr. Sane Guruji addressed an audience of 10,000 workers at Kamgar Maidan. They affirmed that independence could not be achieved without a further struggle launched by the workers and the masses. Following this meeting, Mr. G. G. Mehta led a torch-light procession of 500 to the Esplanade Maidan, departing from the agreed route, along Shaikh Memon Street.

The Forward Bloc procession was led Mr. Madhav Menon and numbered only 100.

There were only 5 meetings during the week audiences ranging from 150 to 3,000. Late reports were also received of 3 small meetings held on 9th August in Nasik, Dharwar and Satara Districts.



Mr. V. N. Naik addressed 2 meetings of moderate size at Bhagur and Deolali in Nasik District on August 9th. He asserted that there would be another severe struggle with the British Government and Congress would enforce a countrywide strike. So long as the British Army remained in India, the "Quit India" resolution would remain in force.

At meetings held at Hirekerur (Dharwar) and Ashta (Satara) on August 9th, Messrs. Shivlingappa Bidarkop and R. V. Nilkanth, during the course of their respective addresses, vilified certain Police Officers by name and, in one case, they threatened vengeance for alleged excesses committed during the 1942 movement. Mr. Bidarkop's allegations were of a particularly obscene nature.

Mr. S. D. Deo addressed the largest meeting of the week (3,000) at Jalgaon (East Khandesh) on 17th August 1946. He explained why Congress had agreed to form an Interim Government and affirmed that they were prepared to seek the co-operation of the Muslim League and the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation. He criticised the Muslim demand for Pakistan and the Federation's demand for separate electorates for Harijans. Mr. Deo also warned his audience that the responsibility for preventing chaos rested with the people.

At Panwel (Kolaba) Mr. S. K. Patil addressed a meeting (500) on August 10th. He affirmed that the Congress had grown to its full-strength after 60 years of struggle and added that the Muslim League and the Scheduled Castes Federation were creations of the British Government which stood in the path of *swaraj*.

At two meetings of moderate size in West Khandesh District, Messrs. V. V. Nene, K. D. Patil and others eulogised the unity of the peasants in Satara District and urged their audiences to establish similar unions and branches of the Rashtra Seva Dal in Khandesh.

Mr. K. R. Pendse, addressing a small meeting at Salve, West Khandesh District, on 10th August 1946, assured his audience that Dr. Uttam Patil and Mr. Nana Patil would help them to establish Dals and Peasants' Sanghs so as to set up a "Gram Raj". He described his underground activities and assured his audience that he would bring pressure on *sawkars* to force the latter to return the land they had acquired.

In Bombay City, the B. P. C. C. held a public meeting at Congress House on August 17th to mark Indonesian Independence

Day. Mr. M. Y. Nurie presided over a gathering of about 300. Mr. Nagindas T. Master and Dr. Syed Hussein congratulated the Indonesian people on achieving independence and criticised the use of Indian troops in Indonesia. A similar meeting was also held at Queen's Road on the same day when Professor P. A. Wadia presided and Mr. S. A. Brelvi, Dr. Syed Hussein and Mr. Purshottam Trikamdas delivered speeches.

There were some 7 Congress propaganda meetings during the week with audiences ranging from 100 to 2000.

At a meeting at Bagewadi, Bijapur district, on August 20th. Messrs. G. L. Kanbur and Basayya Puranik addressed a gathering of 2,000 persons on the subject of "corruption". They emphasised that Congress was an organisation of the people and as it was now in power the people had a right to complain to Government regarding discourteous behaviour of Government servants and corrupt practices.

Mr. S. D. Deo addressed meetings at Adgaon and Jalgaon, East Khandesh district, on August 18th. Addressing a gathering of 500 at Adgaon, Mr. Deo eulogised the life and work of Bhagwan Bhusari whom he described as a martyr in the cause of the country. At Jalgaon he addressed an audience of about 300 on the "unification of Maharashtra". Mr. Deo advocated demarcation of provinces on a linguistic basis and asked the people to forward suggestions to the Jayakar Committee.

Speaking on the following day to a small audience at Bhusaval, East Khandesh, Mr. Deo discussed the present political situation and reasons which led Congress to form an Interim Government. He condemned the policy of the All-India Scheduled Castes Federation and the Muslim League and appealed to his audience to follow and strengthen the Congress party.

Mr. S. K. Patil, President of the B. P. C. C., addressed a gathering of 400 persons at Chalisgaon, East Khandesh, on August 18th. He affirmed that the Congress Ministry would work for the welfare of labourers and amend the Industrial Disputes Act. He advised workers not to resort to strikes but become members of the Rashtriya Girni Kamgar Sangh and set up a committee of 10 members to secure redress of their grievances.

In Kaira district "Adas Firing Day" was observed at small meetings in Adas and Kapadvanj on August 18th. Mr. C. M. Bhatt, who was the main speaker, condemned the alleged atrocities committed by the police and described his underground

activities in Broach district, including the raiding of a police station and the capture of arms and ammunition.

Mr. V. M. Joshi addressed a small meeting at Mahim, Thana district, on August 14th when he eulogised those who died as a result of the police firing at Palghar during the last movement. He requested his audience to follow Congress and prepare for a future struggle.

The Ahmedabad City Congress Committee held a meeting attended by some 20 members on August 19th with Mr. Gulam Rasul Kureshi in the chair. It was decided to suggest to the G. P. C. C. the organisation of a Seva Dal Academy at Ahmedabad in memory of two Congressmen who lost their lives in the recent riots.

The Executive Committee of the G. P. C. C., met at Ahmedabad on August 24th with Mr. K. N. Desai in the chair. The Committee decided to organise a Seva Dal Academy at Ahmedabad and to donate a sum of Rs. 16,000 to the Bhadra Gymnasium. A Sub-Committee was appointed to collect 2 lacs of rupees for the proposed Academy.

Some eight meetings with audiences ranging up to 1000 were reported from Kaira, Ahmednagar and Bijapur Districts. The speeches delivered were generally routine, emphasising Congress's interest in the welfare of the masses and urging the people to co-operate with Government in the eradication of corruption.

The largest meeting (1000) took place at Nadiad, on August 25th. Messrs. Ravishankar Vyas and Babubhai J. Patel who were the main speakers, urged their audience, which was composed largely of backward classes, to co-operate with the National Government and give up drinking. Two resolutions were adopted requesting Government to introduce prohibition in the district and welcoming the new Tenancy legislation. A second meeting took place at Ode, Kaira district, on August 20th. Mr. G. V. Mavlankar, President of the Legislative Assembly, advised his audience not to encourage corruption and black-market dealings.

At Ahmednagar, Messrs. K. R. Garud and Abdul Kadir, (the latter an ex-I. N. A.) dwelt on the recent political struggle and affirmed that Congress was now strong enough to disregard the threats of Mr. Jinnah. They warned their audience (600) that there would be communal strife for which they should prepare. At the same time, both speakers appealed for communal unity.

In Bijapur District, Messrs. G. L. Kanbur, C. J. Ambli and Basayya Puranik, addressed 5 meetings of moderate size, when they spoke on corruption and the efforts of Congress to eliminate it.

Raja Mahendra Pratap was given a public reception by the B. P. C. C. in Bombay on August 27th and also received a purse of Rs. 1000. In the evening he was taken out in a procession attended by some 2000 admirers. Between August 27th and September 1st there were 9 further meetings in Bombay City to welcome Raja Mahendra Pratap. His speeches deplored the disagreement between the main political parties and he appealed for communal unity. He also suggested that the support of the Army and the Police should be enlisted in the cause of independence.

The formation of the Interim Government occasioned a number of meetings in all districts and September 2nd was celebrated with illuminations, flag salutations, processions and meetings. The audiences ranged from 20 to 2500. Prominent Congress supporters addressing the meetings expressed their gratification at the formation of the new Government and criticised the Muslim League and the Scheduled Castes Federation. Audiences were urged to work for Hindu-Muslim unity and the liquidation of illiteracy, untouchability and black-marketing. They were also exhorted to keep the peace.

Mr. D. N. Shikhare of Poona addressed a meeting (2000) at Manmad on September 2nd. He appealed for the abolition of caste distinctions and also affirmed that freedom could not be achieved until the British left India.

At Hubli Mr. R. R. Diwakar addressing a meeting (500) asserted that the British had yielded some power but had not yet given India complete independence, which would in any case be impossible until the two major communities lived in harmony.

At Nipani, Belgaum district Messrs. G. B. Deshpande, G. D. Lad (Satara) and V. S. Page (Satara) addressed a gathering of 500 persons on September 2nd. They recounted the struggle of Congress and expressed the opinion that complete independence was imminent.

At Shirpur (W. K.) Mr. G. N. Patwardhan addressed a gathering (600) on September 3rd. He blamed Mr. Jinnah and the British Government for the rioting in Calcutta. He then warned his audience that India was not yet completely free. He urged

the establishment of defence forces even at remote villages and affirmed that troops should not be asked to protect the villagers.

Thirteen meetings with audiences ranging up to 2500 were held in various districts during the week. The majority of the speakers appealed for support to the newly-formed Interim Government.

The largest meeting (2500) took place at Junnar in Poona District on September 5th, when K. P. Khadke, President, Poona D. C. C., and others made speeches deploring the communal rioting in Bombay and exhorting the audience to exercise self-control and patience in view of the fact that Congress had now assumed power.

Messrs. C. K. Chandeli, M. L. A. (Sholapur), Swami Sahajanand Bharati, (Ahmednagar District), V. S. Page, (Satara District) and T. S. Jadhav, M. L. A. (Sholapur) addressed some six meetings ranging from 500 to 1200 persons in Sholapur District. Speaking at the largest of these gatherings, at Pandharpur, Swami Sahajanand Bharati and Mr. V. S. Page stressed the fact that internal disunity had weakened India and appealed for universal support to the Interim Government. At the other meetings in the district the speakers explained Congress policy and the various measures of social reform sponsored by the Popular Government.

Speaking at Tuminkatti (Dharwar) on September 10th to an audience of moderate size, Mr. Shirdramappa Ajjampur described the 1942 movement and urged the villagers to move the higher authorities to take action against Government servants who were high-handed and corrupt.

Mr. G. L. Kanbur, addressing a meeting (600) at Nidgundi (Bijapur) on September 4th, advocated communal unity and support to the Congress and asked for co-operation in eradicating the black-market.

At Vaduj (Satara) a gathering of 700 persons observed "Vaduj Martyrs' Day" on September 9th. Mr. Babu Kachare, the main speaker, asserted that the police were still corrupt and committed dacoities. He alleged that the Arale-Vaduth dacoity was committed at the instigation of the local Sub-Inspector. He had convinced superior police officers, but subsequently the truth was suppressed.

A similar commemoration took place at Nandurbar (W. K.) in memory of those who were killed by police firing in 1942.

The disturbances at Mahad (Kolaba) in 1942 were likewise commemorated on September 10th. Messrs. D. V. Purohit and A. S. Patwardhan addressed a gathering of 3000. Mr. Purohit affirmed that he had organised the famous march on the Revenue Katcheri. Many workers, who participated in the disturbances, were present in the crowd, but Mr. Purohit asserted that their names were not known to the police. Mr. A. S. Patwardhan asserted that the Congress flag, which had been snatched by the Police in 1942, must now be hoisted on the chest of the Police. The great attempt to paralyse the Government in Kolaba District had unfortunately failed through lack of public support. He warned his audience that although the Central Government was in the hands of Congress freedom had not yet been attained.

Eight propaganda meetings of moderate size were held during the week in East Khandesh, West Khandesh, Sholapur and Ratnagiri districts. The largest of these meetings took place at Shirpur, West Khandesh, where Messrs. R. K. Deshpande and G. M. Patwardhan addressed a gathering of 800 people on September 18th. Mr. Deshpande described the pitiable condition of the peasants and workers and advocated the establishment of Labour Welfare Unions to bring the demands of the labouring classes before the Interim Government. Mr. G. M. Patwardhan affirmed that while the Viceroy, the Governors and the Army remained in India independence could not be achieved.

Mr. K. R. Pendse addressing a small meeting at Pachora (E. K.) on September 17th criticised the Communists and the Hindu Maha Sabha for obstructing Congress progress and warned workers to beware of the activities of these parties.

Celebration in connection with Mr. M. K. Gandhi's birthday anniversary monopolised the attention of Congressmen during the week. Flag salutations, mass spinning, Harijan uplift and prayers were the chief features in most districts. The meetings in connection with the celebration were numerous and attracted audiences up to 1200. Local speakers described Mr. Gandhi's life and teachings and pleaded for Hindu-Muslim unity and the removal of untouchability.

Apart from the above activities, there were 5 minor propaganda meetings. At Poona 800 persons gathered on September 26th to accord a reception to Messrs. K. M. Jedhe and R. B. Ghorpade, M. L. A., both of whom are non-brahmins. Messrs. D. M. Jadhav, D. A. Deshmukh and other speakers referred to an alleged conspiracy by Brahmins with the Congress group to

suppress the growth of non-Brahmins influence within party. They urged the necessity of disciplinary action against mischievous propagandists.

At Hangal, Dharwar District, Mr. S. L. Kurtakoti addressed a meeting of moderate size on September 26th. He prophesied that the Constituent Assembly would fail because the Muslims and Harijans were prepared to sabotage it. *Swaraj* could not be rapidly attained when the country was in a State of turmoil.

In East Khandesh a 'Jai Hind Cultural Group' of six persons from Amalner visited three localities in the district. They stressed the need for Hindu-Muslims unity and sang national songs. Mr. V. N. Kothiwale of Bombay accompanied the group on one occasion. The average attendance at these meetings was about 600.

Further reports have been received of meetings held in connection with the celebration of Mr. Gandhi's birthday. Audiences ranged up to 5,000, the largest meeting taking place at Kirkee, where Mr. K. S. Firodia, Speaker of the Assembly, presided. Speeches were on the usual lines and do not call for comment in any way.

Mr. P. H. Patwardhan of Ahmednagar, addressing a meeting (2,000) at Sinnar, Nasik District, on September 30th, discussed the duty of Congress workers with regard to the food problem. He advised them to go into the villages and teach the people not to be afraid of the Police or any other Government servant. The people should unite to drive the British out of India and to co-operate with the Congress Ministry in its efforts to solve the food problem.

Reports continue to be received of meetings held in connection with the celebration of Mr. Gandhi's birthday. The only one of these meetings which is of any interest was held at Thana on October 9th when Mr. A. S. Patwardhan addressed a gathering of 1500 persons. He outlined Mr. Gandhi's life and asserted that as a result of his leadership India was now on the threshold of independence. He alleged that the present communal disturbances were the direct result of British policy and urged his audience to bring about Hindu-Muslim unity.

Eight Congress propaganda meetings were held during the week. At Nasik Mr. S. D. Deo addressed an audience of 5,000 on October 10th when he spoke on the present situation. He affirmed that there was no need to fight the British, as they intended to leave India as quickly as possible. He asked the people to co-operate in the reconstruction of India.



Dr. Balkrishna Keskar, General Secretary, A. I. C. C., addressed six meetings with audiences ranging from 150 to 1000 at various places in Satara district. Dr. Keskar reviewed the 1942 movement, as a result of which he asserted that the British Government was attempting to come to a settlement with Congress. It should not be thought that with the establishment of Congress Ministries complete independence had been attained. The people should strengthen their organisation and prepare for the next struggle.

"Independence of Goa" was the subject of speakers at a meeting (2000) at Khanapur (Belgaum) on October 9th. Messrs. N. B. Pai, Jogendra Sing Kanoj of C. P., Dr. Hagde of Goa and Mrs. Shanta Nayak (Poona) were the main speakers. Referring to the present movement in Goa, they alleged that Indians in Goa were being treated with cruelty. They also referred to the reported ill-treatment of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and urged their audience to provide men and money in order to help people of Goa in their fight for independence. A resolution was passed demanding the release of all persons arrested in connection with the Goa movement within a period of 15 days, failing which a mass movement would be launched.

Fifteen Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 2000 were reported from Maharashtra and Karnatak districts. At most of these meetings local speakers discoursed on the necessity for communal unity, the eradication of untouchability and the organisation of R. S. Dal. The more important meetings are reported below:—

Mr. S. D. Deo, addressed 3 meetings with audiences ranging from 1000 to 2000 at Dhulia (West Khandesh), Amalner (East Khandesh), and Niphad (Nasik). At Dhulia, Mr. Deo reviewed the political situation and the peaceful transfer of power which he attributed to Mr. Gandhi's policy. He condemned the Communist ideology and assured the people that Congress would implement its pledges. At Niphad, Mr. Deo stated that he had heard complaints that Congress was doing nothing for the people. He assured the agriculturists that Congress would do everything possible to improve their lot and urged them to form a Union. At Amalner, Mr. Deo criticised the Muslim League and the Communists and asserted that a rule of peasants and workers could not be established unless the British left India. Referring to amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act, he asserted that the new legislation was designed to protect the interests of both labour and capital.

In Belgaum Mr. D. P. Karmarkar, M. L. A. (Central), addressed the largest audience of the week (6000) at Nipani on October 16th. He warned them that complete independence had not yet been attained, but that Congress was determined to achieve its aims. He urged his audience to co-operate with the popular Government and follow the principles of non-violence.

Mr. G. H. Deshpande addressing a meeting (2000) at Nasik, on October 17th affirmed that the Viceroy and the Muslim League were creating difficulties for the National Government. The Congress Ministry in Bombay was doing everything possible to improve the condition of the masses.

At Surat Mr. C. B. Purani, and Mr. C. M. Bhatt, addressed a meeting of moderate size on October 9th. Mr. Purani warned his audience that Indian Statesmen had not yet been granted full power, as the Viceroy still retained his power of veto and there were still British troops in the country. They might have to fight again for complete independence and should be prepared to do so. Mr. Bhatt referred to the underground activities of 1942 and urged the people to be prepared for any struggle.

The General Body of the Poona City Congress Committee met on October 14th, Mr. N. G. Gore presiding. A resolution was passed demanding an enquiry into the police firing at Amalner, East Khandesh.

Seven Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 50 to 1000 were reported from Maharashtra and Karnatak districts. Speakers stressed the necessity for communal unity and the eradication of untouchability.

Addressing an audience of 1,000 at Bhagur, Nasik district, on October 23rd, Mr. N. T. Master urged the public to stand together and prepare to send a "Shanti Dal" to Bengal, if necessary. He declared that the present Government of Bengal and the Governor would have to go.

In Bombay City, the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee held an urgent meeting on October 22nd, Mr. S. K. Patil presiding over some 20 members. The Committee adopted a resolution viewing with horror and abhorrence the happenings in Noakhali and East Bengal. It was decided to organise relief measures for sufferers in the affected areas and to convey to the Working Committee the intensity of feeling in Bombay over events in East Bengal. The Committee also decided to contest the ensuing Municipal elections in February 1947.

Eight meetings with audiences ranging up to 2000 were held in various districts during the week. The speakers included Messrs. V. M. Vedak, M. L. C., K. A. Dawoor, M. L. A., G. H. Deshpande, B. R. Jadhav and S. T. Nere. Speeches generally stressed the need for communal unity and support to the party.

The largest meeting (2000) was held at Navde, Kolaba district, on October 27th when Messrs. V. M. Vedak and K. A. Dawoor were the main speakers. They discussed the present situation and condemned communal outrages. Both speakers appealed to their audience to keep the peace.

Mr. Kariappa N. Sangur, speaking at Dharwar on October 25th, emphasised that India was still not free from foreign bondage. He deplored the failure of the 1942 movement and appealed for popular support if another struggle had to be launched. The speaker concluded with an appeal for communal harmony.

Addressing an audience of 350 at Belapur Road (Ahmednagar) on October 30th, Mr. S. T. Nere deplored the present disturbances in the country. He alleged that the British Government were bent upon proving the incompetence of Indians and were creating animosity between the major political parties.

In Bombay the Provincial Congress Committee met on October 28th, Mr. S. K. Patil presiding over some 20 members. A panel of arbitrators for settling labour disputes was appointed and Dr. T. R. Naravane was appointed G. O. C. of the Congress Seva Dal.

Some 11 Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging up to 1200 were held during the week. The speakers, who included Messrs. P. H. Patwardhan, G. H. Deshpande, V. P. Powar, Y. B. Chavan and others, deplored the present communal disturbances for which they held the British Government responsible and urged the need for communal harmony.

The largest of the above meetings took place on November 4th at Ahmednagar. Mr. P. H. Patwardhan reiterated his faith in non-violence and stressed the need for communal unity. At the same meeting Mr. G. H. Deshpande affirmed that whilst the Congress had been fighting for 60 years, the Muslim League was only 10 years old and had not yet taken firm root. He urged his audience to unite under the Congress flag, to drive the British not only out of India but also out of Asia.

Mr. G. H. Deshpande, M. L. A., and Mr. V. P. Powar, M. L. A., also addressed a meeting (800) at Sholapur on November 5th.

They alleged that the British Government wanted communal disturbance in order to prove that Indians were unfit for independence.

Mr. Y. B. Chavan, M. L. A., addressed another meeting (500) at Sholapur on November 4th. He affirmed that the Congress principle of nationalism had been endangered by the present communal disturbances started by a foreign power. If the Constituent Assembly failed, a final struggle would be started.

In Bombay, the Provincial Congress Committee held a meeting on November 9th, Mr. S. K. Patil presiding over a gathering of 20 members. Resolutions were passed (1) deploring the outbreak of communal disturbances in Bihar and endorsing the opinion of the working committee that nationalism was the antidote to communalism, (2) viewing with profound anxiety the possibility of Mr. Gandhi's resorting to a fast unto death, and (3) deciding to form an East Bengal Relief Fund.

Some 12 Congress propaganda meetings with audiences ranging from 35 to 2000 were held in various districts. In addition, 11 meetings are reported to have been held in connection with the Honourable Pandit Nehru's birthday celebrations on November 14th.

Mr. Tippanna Shastri Kalli addressed 4 meetings (100 to 2000) in Dharwar district during the week. He was canvassing votes in connection with District Local Board elections. He blamed Mr. Churchill for manoeuvring to dislodge Congress from the Interim Government and asserted that the disturbances in East Bengal were precipitated not by the Muslims but by the British. He asked for support to Congress candidates.

At Bondshet in the disturbed Mangaon Taluka of Kolaba district, Mr. D. V. Purohit addressed an audience of about 2000. He explained his view on the present disturbances and requested his audience to defend themselves and their property against aggression but to refrain from retaliation. He was supported by Messrs. R. V. Adhikari and B. D. Shinde.

Mr. S. D. Deo, also spoke at the villages of Karjat, Pen, Panvel, Nagothana and Nandgaon, Kolaba district, on November 13th and 14th. He appealed for communal harmony and strongly deprecated retaliation.

Mr. K. M. Munshi spoke in the "New Age Lecture Series" at Sholapur on November 15th. He declared that the Central Government must be strong enough to maintain law and order

and the integrity of India and appealed for unity in order to solve the present crisis.

At Varvand, Poona district, Mr. Ramanand Swami, President of the Satara D. C. C., addressed a meeting (250) on November 5th. Describing his underground activities during the 1942 movement he assured his audience that the proceeds of political dacoities were devoted to the national cause. He urged the people to unite against "goondas" and Government servants and to prepare to attain independence.

Mr. N. G. Hande-Deshmukh, addressing a meeting (500) at Dhamani (Poona) on November 9th, affirmed that Congress was not intimidated by the Bengal atrocities. He urged Muslims and Hindus to unite in order to get rid of the British. He also urged his audience not to sell cattle to butchers.

Nine small meetings were held during the week.

The largest with an audience of 500 took place at Rajapur, Ratnagiri District, on November 16th. Professor S. S. Bhagwat of Poona described how Congress had brought the country to the threshold of independence and appealed to the people not to seek vengeance for the Bengal outrages. The speakers at other meetings appealed for communal harmony and unity.

Speaking at Barsi (Sholapur) on November 19th, Mr. T. R. Deogirikar blamed League propaganda for the present communal disturbances which could only benefit the British. If the Constituent Assembly failed Congress would launch a struggle for freedom.

Five Congress propaganda meetings were held during the week. None of these meetings calls for special mention, except that held at Nasik on November 28th when Mr. G. H. Deshpande, addressed a gathering of 2000. He described the Meerut Congress Session as a complete success and told his audience that the British were preparing to leave India. If they did not go willingly they would be driven out.

In addition to the above meetings, Mr. D. V. Purohit and Mr. Kisan M. Veer of Satara addressed some 13 meetings in Kolaba district, urging the need for communal harmony.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel arrived in Bombay on December 1st and on the same evening was accorded a public reception by the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee at Chowpatty. Some 60,000 persons were present.

The President of the Indian National Congress announced the names of the following members of his Working Committee:—

1. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
2. The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
3. The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
4. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.
5. The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
6. Mr. Abdul Gaffar Khan.
7. Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.
8. The Honourable Mr. C. Rajagopalachari.
9. Mr. Shankarrao Deo.
10. Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya.
11. Mr. Raffi Ahmed Kidwai.
12. Mr. Jaiprakash Narain.
13. Mr. Pratap Sing.
14. Mr. Jugal Kishore.

Six small meetings were held during the week. Four of these meetings took place in East Khandesh where local speakers described Congress efforts to improve the living conditions of the people.

At a meeting at Nadiad (Kaira) on November 27th, Messrs. M. B. Shah and C. F. Shah described the main issues raised at the Meerut Congress Session. They blamed the British for the present communal riots and criticised the Muslim League. The speakers also quoted from the speech of the Honourable Sardar V. Patel.

In addition to the above meetings, Mr. D. V. Purohit addressed six meetings of moderate size in Mangaon Taluka, Kolaba district. He emphasised the need for communal unity. Another struggle would have to be launched against the British in the near future and the people would be required to take possession of Government buildings.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed a gathering of 20000 persons in Bombay on December 5th.

Twelve propaganda meetings with audiences of small or moderate size were held in various districts. Prominent Congress workers including Messrs. G. H. Deshpande, P. H. Patwardhan and B. R. Jadhav urged their audiences to strive for communal harmony and the eradication of untouchability.

Speaking at Mahad, Kolaba district, on December 13th, Acharya S. J. Bhagwat of Poona told his audience of 500 persons that the communal outlook would be the ruin of all. He advised Hindus and Muslims to unite and fight the British when the time came.

Mr. G. H. Deshpande spoke in a similar strain at two meetings in Nasik district.

In addition to the above meetings, Mr. D. V. Purohit addressed three gatherings ranging up to 1,500 during his tour of Kolaba district. He blamed the British for the communal disturbances which were postponing post-war reforms and reconstruction schemes.





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