

CONFIDENTIAL.

1931.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
HOME DEPARTMENT

Political.

Subject.

Fortnightly reports on the political situation for
the month of September 1931.

REFERENCES.

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Madras
Bengal
N. P.
Punjab
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FROM THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN RAJPUTANA AND CHIEF COMMISSIONER,
AJMER-MERWARA, No. 1167-C-4-CONF.-31, DATED THE 16TH SEPTEMBER 1931.

Report for the first half of September 1931.

I enclose a Fortnightly Report on the internal situation in Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara for the first-half of September 1931.

MEMORANDUM.

Ajmer-Merwara. Ajmer.—There have recently been some objectionable articles in the "Rajasthan Sandesh" published at Ajmer and edited by Bijai Singh Pathik, President of the Local Congress Committee. Though the writers profess disapproval of revolutionary activities, the tone of the articles is more likely to act as an incentive than as a deterrent. This newspaper is being closely watched with a view to future prosecution.

On the 8th September, on information that proscribed literature was to be found, simultaneous searches of the Bhagat Singh and Sarwanik Libraries, the Congress and Naujawan Bharat Sabha offices and the Sasta Sahitya and Sandesh Presses were made under Section 99 (a) of the Criminal Procedure Code. A certain number of proscribed publications was seized.

Efforts are being made by Congress members to raise funds and enrol volunteers for the picketing of foreign cloth shops.

Two small meetings of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Union were held on 8th and 9th September with Maneklal, a Barrister of Bombay and Vice President of the Parel Railway Union, in the Chair. The audiences which numbered about 100 and 60, respectively, appeared apathetic to his appeal that they should be prepared for a general strike.

Jawahir Lal Nehru, Dr. Sayed Mohmood and Dr. M. A. Ansari passed through Ajmer Railway Station on the 7th September on

their way to Ahmedabad and were met at the Station by about 60 Congress and Naujawan Bharat Sabha workers.

Beawar.—The Extra Assistant Commissioner, Merwara, has recently pronounced judgment in a criminal case, which has been pending for a long time in his Court, against some persons who attacked and threw stones at a Police motor-bus when the Civil Disobedience Movement was in progress. Originally proceedings were instituted against a large number of persons in this case, but after the Irwin-Gandhi pact the prosecution was withdrawn except in the case of six accused. Of these one has now been acquitted, two have been sentenced to imprisonment and three to substantial fines. Apparently this has caused resentment among Congress adherents in Beawar. The Commissioner happened to pass through the town on the night of the 9th September and found a well-attended meeting of protest in progress in the main street of the Bazar. An attempt was made to stop the Commissioner's car but one of the leaders cleared a way for it and also tried to prevent the hostile demonstration in which the crowd indulged.

Jawahir Lal Nehru passed through Beawar on the 7th September. A crowd of about 1,200 people met him at the Station. Addressing them he laid stress on the very unsatisfactory working of the Beawar Congress Committee, which he threatened to disaffiliate as it was not adhering to the principles to which the Congress is pledged.

Rajputana.—Jaipur.—The communal trouble at Ramgarh has at last been settled after an amount of trouble and disturbance out of all proportion to its importance.

The agitation was largely fomented by indiscreet telegrams from outside the State and by the presence of outsiders inspired by the hope of blackmail.

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FROM THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN RAJPUTANA AND CHIEF COMMISSIONERS,
AJMER-MERWARA, No. 1226-C-4-CONF.-31, DATED THE 3RD OCTOBER 1931.

Report for the second half of September 1931.

I enclose a Fortnightly Report on the internal situation in Ajmer-Merwara and Rajputana for the second half of September 1931.

MEMORANDUM.

Ajmer-Merwara.—Ajmer.—The usual small meetings continue to be held at which the facts, as reported daily in the Press, of occasions on which the forces of Government operate in maintaining law and order are generally distorted. Audiences vary in number between 30 and 300 including children and are seldom aroused to any degree of enthusiasm.

Muhammadan leaders continue to urge their community to unite and to be ready for the impending changes in the form of Government.

Up to date although wild rumours circulated when September 23rd and 24th were declared Bank Holidays, there have been no signs of any agitation in connection with Government's Currency Policy, and there was no rush on the Ajmer Branch of the Imperial Bank of India.

One Tara Chand, son of Ram Chand, was arrested under Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code on the 26th September for reciting an inflammatory poem on the 13th September. The case is awaiting trial.

Colonel G. Howson, C.I.E., M.C., as Master of the Mayo College, has been elected as Chairman of the Ajmer Municipality in succession to Mr. May whose departure was mentioned in my report for the first half of July 1931.

Beawar.—The nominal picketing of foreign cloth shops still continues and on the occasion of the Teja Fair on the 21st and 22nd September three liquor shops in the town were also picketed with some slight effect on sales.

A Peasants' Conference was convened on the 21st and 22nd September by Muhammad Jamal Makhmoor with Arjun Lal Sethi in the Chair. At the first session an audience of about 300 of whom more than half

were residents of Beawar town attended. The Chairman explained that peasants did not pay land revenue in other countries except India and that Government should be told that it had no right to share in the earnings from land. He called on the people to help to enlighten villagers and to convey the message of revolution to them. Another speaker Itar Muhammad advised his audience to boycott British Courts and officials and the wealthy merchants who are the main causes of the poverty of the peasants. The remarks of other speakers are not worth reproducing. Subsequently two other sessions before diminishing audiences were held. Messrs. Arjun Lal Sethi and Itar Muhammad are being prosecuted under Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Rural Areas.—The Commissioner reports signs of a spirit of unrest in the District. There are still some traces of friction between Muhammadans and Hindus at Srinagar arising out of the incident described in my report for the first-half of June 1931. In Ajmer the Hindu Sabha and Muhammadans disagreed regarding certain new constructions on a piece of land which the latter claim to be one of their recognised grave-yards. A settlement was effected with the help of leaders of both communities. There have been quarrels in two villages of the Ajmer Tehsil between Rajput Bhumias and Jats with regard to the right of beating a drum on ceremonial occasions. There has also been trouble in the Satna and Barli Istimrari estates, in the former owing to disputes between the Thakur and his tenants and in the latter to ill-feeling between members of the Istimrardar's family which respective adherents have lost no opportunity in exploiting for their own purposes.

Rajputana.—Jodhpur.—On the 16th September Jamaluddin Makhmoor arrived from Beawar and was met by members of the Marwar Hitkarni Sabha and Jodhpur Youths' League. A warning sufficed to prevent him speaking in public against the ban recently imposed by the Vice-President of the State Council on processions through the City. This agitator returned to Beawar on the 20th September.

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