

SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Sub-committee appointed by the Central Organising Committee to reconstitute Executive Committees in the State Units and the General Council of the Party met in Madras on January 9 and 10 and took a number of decisions. The Sub-committee, in the light of inspection carried out in all State units throughout the countries reviewed the working of the Party in various States and acted upon the recommendations made by State Presidents and Convenors in respect of the reconstitution of their committees and the general council. The General Council of the Party which now numbers 116 after expansion has been made more representative of the various units.

SYMBOL FOR SWATANTRA PARTY IN NEXT ELECTIONS:

Addressing a Press Conference in Bhopal on January 10 Mr. V. K. Sundaram, the Election Commissioner of India dealt with the question of allotment of symbols to various Parties including the Swatantra Party. Following is an extract of the Press Trust of India report of the Press Conference:

Allotment of Symbols

"Regarding allotment of symbols to political parties for the general elections, Mr. Sundaram said recognition to the parties was granted on the basis of their performance at the elections and not on the claims made by them. Any party which wanted recognition for allotment of symbols should justify the claim by contesting the elections, he said.

Swatantra Party

"On the demand of the Swatantra Party for allotment of symbol for the ensuing general elections, the Election Commissioner said that since this Party had

not contested any elections so far it would not be possible for the Commission to judge its electoral strength for considering its claim for symbol. The performance of this party would be judged at the ensuing elections to enable the Commission to consider its claim for a symbol, he added.

Mr. Sundaram disclosed that the Election Commission had made it clear that identical symbols would be allotted to all those candidates who contested the election on behalf of the Swatantra Party and they would be cumulatively taken into consideration for future allotment of symbol for the party.

This suggestion was communicated to the leaders of the Swatantra Party who had discussed this question with the Commission he added."

(National Herald, Jan. 11, 1961)

MOTILAL NEHRU CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The organisers of the Motilal Nehru Centenary Celebrations Committee have approached our Party with a request to co-operate and participate in celebrating the Centenary Celebrations of Pandit Motilal Nehru.

The Central Office calls upon all units of our Party from the primary to the State level to extend their cooperation to the local Centenary Committees which have been set up for the purpose by participating in the various programmes like public meetings, kavi sammelans, mushairas and seminars that are being organised between the 6th April and 6th May 1961, the birthday of Pandit Motilal Nehru.

JAIPUR MAHARANI JOINS THE PARTY

We are happy that Her Highness Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur has announced her joining the Swatantra Party as a member. Maharajkumar Pritham Singh has also joined the Party.

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

ANDHRA

The last two months of 1960 witnessed a definite acceleration in the tempo of Party activity in Andhra. Party leaders in the various districts of the State busied themselves with meetings at the primary levels, many of which resulted in the formation of basic units of the Party.

In Srikakulam, Shri G. Latchanna, M.L.A., a mem-

ber of the General Council and Vice-President of the State unit, presided over a meeting of party workers in the Brahmantharla Constituency. A Constituency Committee was formed with Shri. G. Chandriah Naidu as President and Sri Penta Janardana as Secretary.

Sri Bendalam Ramamurthi President of the Sompeta Taluq Party, and Sri Kondappa Bheema Rao, Secretary of the Sompeta Town Committee toured the villages in Sompeta Taluq with the result that ten

Village Committees of the Party were formed. Similarly following a tour of various villages in the Vishakapatnam district by Sri Beeseti Apparao several village Committees were formed.

The Panchayat Board Presidents of Kesavarapaddu, Kodavarivalipalem and Santharur in the Bapatla Taluk were present at a meeting held in Swarna. The meeting resulted in the formation of a Swarna Village Committee of the Party.

A Kanchikacherla Constituency Committee was formed with Sri Dammalapati Venkateswararao as President.

Village Committees sprang up as a result of a tour of the villages of Nujella, Argalur and Gudlavalluru in Gudivada Taluq by Krishna District President, Dr. Gullapalli Gopalakrishnamurthi.

At Kavali in the district of Nellore, a taluq Committee was formed with Sri Chillari Chalapathirao, Advocate, as President.

Soon after a meeting at Rayalpet Cheruvu in the Chittoor district addressed by Puttur Taluq Committee Secretary Sri K. B. Siddiah, a village Committee was formed with Sri M. Rangareddi as Convenor.

Medak District has one more primary unit with the formation of the Gajewel Constituency Committee with Sri Venkatareddi as its President.

Over 2000 Party workers and sympathisers were present at a meeting held at Repalle Taluq in Guntur district under the Presidentship of Dr. Nadella Krishnarao. Sri Venigelli Subbiah, organiser for the Taluq, welcomed the gathering while Dr. N. Krishnarao in his address pointed to the maladministration of the Congress and affirmed that the Swatantra Party alone would save the country. Speeches on the occasion were also delivered by Mr. T. Krishnamma and Mr. J. Chandramowli, General Secretary and Vice-President of the State Party and Mr. B. V. Siviah, M.L.A., Secretary of the Guntur district Committee.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Krishnarao accompanied by Mr. P. Balaramaiah and Mr. Subbiah organised meet-

ings at Pesarlanka, Nallurivaripalem and Voleru in Repalle Taluq. Among those who addressed the meetings were Shri P. Kotiswararao, Joint Secretary of the State Party and Shri Virachari, organiser in the area.

Over a thousand workers attended a conference at Vemur in the Guntur district on November 17. It was presided over by Shri Yallapati Venkatarao, President of the Tenali Taluq Committee. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri T. Krishnamma. Shri J. Chandramowli, Dr. Krishnarao and Shri K. Rosiah, Secretary of the Merchant's Committee participated in the proceedings.

On the last day of last year a conference of the Bapatla Taluq Committee was held under the Presidentship of Shri Bandla Bapiiah Chetty at Vetapalem. Participants were welcomed by the President of the Reception Committee, Tatikonda Ramaniah Guptha. Among those who addressed the gathering were Shri T. Krishnamma, Shri B. Sivaiah, Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu, M.L.A., and Deputy Leader of the Party in the State Legislature, Shri P. Kotiswararao and Shri G. M. Khan Lodhi, Joint Secretary of the Party. Professor Ranga addressed the gathering. Earlier he had been taken in procession to the venue of the public meeting where he addressed a gathering about 10,000 strong. The State Party reports that Mr. Rathaiah, one of the Secretaries of the District committee has been doing very active work not only in his Taluq of Bapatla, but throughout the district.

At Nellore, in the district of the same name, a meeting of Swatantra Party workers and sympathisers was held on December 27 under the chairmanship of Mr. V. Sanjeeva Setty, Vice President of the District Committee. Over 400 people attended this meeting which was addressed among others by Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, President of the State unit, Mr. M. V. Sastry, M.L.C., East Godavary District President and Shri Pelleti Venkatakrishnareddi, Nellore District President.

Public meetings were also held at Vepagunta and Parameswara villages in the district of Chittoor. Shri P. Rajgopal Naidu and other leaders from the Puttur Taluq addressed the meeting and called on the people to join the Party in large numbers.

A meeting was convened at Damalacheruvu to condemn the Andhra Government's policy of distributing waste lands. Shri Ramanadham Chetti, Joint Secretary of the Pileru Constituency Committee presided over the meeting which was addressed by Mr. P. V. Siddiah Murthi, Secretary of the District Committee.

Professor Ranga's Tour

The President of the Party, Professor Ranga toured various parts of Andhra in the month of January. On December 27, accompanied by Mr. J. Mohammed Inam, M.P., a member of the Central Organising Committee he addressed a workers' meeting at Ranga Bhavan at Hyderabad and later met pressmen.

At Buchireddipalem he met State President, Shri B. Ramachandra Reddy on December 28 where they discussed with an American team of experts the pro-

Swatantra Series

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| 1 — Towards Doom? | .20 nP. |
| 2 — Why Swatantra? | .20 nP. |
| 3 — To Prosperity through freedom
(Swatantra Party's Statement
of Policy) | .30 nP. |
| 4 — Labour's Friend — Congress or
Swatantra? | .30 nP. |
| 5 — What's Wrong with the Third Plan? | .30 nP. |

(Towards Doom is available in English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. The others are available in English only). Copies can be had from the Central office of the Swatantra Party 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1.

posed rural and agricultural university. At Nellore he addressed a meeting of Party workers that night and more party workers at Gudur on the 30th. Meeting pressmen there, Prof. Ranga affirmed. "The Planning Commission had no constitutional authority to dictate to the Andhra Government that its Land Ceiling Act should be amended to have retrospective effect upon partitions and alienations that took place before the Act comes into force". Prof. Ranga hoped that the State Governments would assert their autonomy granted to them by the Constitution.

On New Year's Day Prof. Ranga addressed a rural public meeting at the Swarna village in the taluq of Bapla at the close of two day long convention-cum-political school. State General Secretary, Shri T. Krishnamma, and Secretary, C. R. Rao, Shri Lodhi and Assemblymen Raja, Sivaiah and State organiser Virachari and others took part in the deliberations. Over 10,000 kisans had assembled to hear Prof. Ranga. In the course of his speech he asked them to note carefully the frequent confessions made and admonitions offered by Nehru about groupism, casteism and corruption in Congress ranks. He also drew attention to the phenomenon frequently observed of charges and counter charges hurled at each other by Congress ministers, and rival groups and asked the audience how such a self-confessed, politically corrupt, and demoralised Party could be allowed to prolong its rule. He said the cure was for the Congress to be thrown out of power and to be given time to reform themselves.

Earlier on December 9 the President participated in the Flag and Founder's Day celebrations at Secunderabad. The following day he attended a reception in his honour held by the Prof. Ranga Shashtipoorthi Celebrations Committee on behalf of the Legislative wing of the Party and Organising Committee of the Hyderabad-Secunderabad Region. The Andhra Chief Minister, members of the State Cabinet and members of the opposition in the State Assembly were present. He was at Gajewal on the 11th where he addressed a public meeting and opened the Party's taluq office. In his visit to this constituency, which is in the district of Medak he was accompanied by Shri S. N. Reddy, Shri R. V. Subba Rao, Shri G. Latchanna, Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu, Shri P. Dwarka Das and Shrimati Rajya Lakshmi Devi. At Siddepeth, where he proceeded the next day, Prof. Ranga met many merchants and discussed with them their problems. At Sunigaram in the district of Karimnagar, he opened an office of the Party and attended a reception by the District Bar Association. Later that night he addressed a public meeting at the Grain Market premises under the Presidentship of Shri Masud Ali of the district Party. He went on to visit Warrangal and a reception by the Students Union of the Arts and Science College. Later that evening, he opened the district Party office and addressed a three thousand strong public meeting under the Presidentship of Shri Jayagopal Rao of the district Party. Among others who addressed this meeting were Mr. Rajagopal Naidu, M.L.A., and Mr. G. Ramanna.

ASSAM

The Flag & Founder's Day celebrations in Shillong was the occasion for the participation of some important leaders in the Hills district like Mr. G. Kaji, the Chief Executive member of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. The Party reports the satisfactory manner in which the local press publicized the observance of the day and a gradual realization of the ideal for which the Swatantra Party stands.

Later, in December, Mr. Kailash Pati Singh, M.L.A., a Secretary of the Bihar Party visited Shillong where he discussed with local leaders problems of Party organisation.

BIHAR

Bihar Party leaders continued to be on the move, with the President addressing largely attended public meetings at places like Barharawa Sahebgunj, Udhawa and Radhanagar in the district of Santhal Parganas. In addition he addressed a public meeting and Party workers' meeting on 4th December in Patna. Directly as a result of the Party workers' meeting, three Councillors of the Patna Municipal Corporation, Viz. Shri Mannalal Vyas, Shri Moghul Mian and Shri Imanath Mukhtar, joined the Party. Representatives of the Patna City Vyapar Mandal, Mansoor Sabha and Querishi Sabha announced their intention to co-operate with the Party.

In another part of the State Mr. Ram Binod Singh went on a fortnight's tour covering a distance of over 1,200 miles and practically passing through all the thanas of Saran district. Starting from his home village of Dighwara on 8th December, he visited Sonapore, Muffasil, Marhowrah, Masarak, Baikunthpur, Barauli Gopalgunj, Mirgunj Bhore, Kataiya, Siwan, Darauli, Guthani, Raghunathpur, Siswan, Ragipur, Mahara-gunj, Basatpur and Baniapur thana concluding with Chapra on 31st December. Giving his impressions of the tour, Shri Ram Binod Singh talked of the tremendous response for the Party all over the countryside. He drew attention to the fact that in certain very remote parts of the district people had on their own initiative formed local committees, and commenced Party activity.

Accompanied by Shri Jaleshwar Prasad and Shri Janki Nandan Singh Shri Ram Binod Singh addressed a public meeting at Phulwari Shari. Similarly another public meeting was held at Akbarpur in the district of Patna which was addressed among others by Shri Ram Binod Singh, M.L.A., Shri Shyam Sundar Prasad M.L.A., and Shri Moti Ram, M.L.A.

Flag and Founder's Day was observed in Bihar with great enthusiasm and gusto, reports our Party office from Patna. At a function held in the State Party office glowing tributes were paid to Rajaji by a number of persons including Shri Janki Nandan Singh, Shri Jaleshwar Prasad, Shri Shyam Sunder Prasad, Shri Jagdish Pande, Shri Motiram and Shri Ram Raksh Brahmachari. Shri Ram Binod Singh presided over the function. The office of the Party was illuminated with multi-coloured bulbs for the

occasion. Earlier in the morning a Prabhat Pheri was organised by Party workers. Mr. Shyam Sunder Prasad hoisted the Party flag and the Party's weekly journal, *Swatantrata* (Hindi & Urdu) brought out an illustrated special number on the occasion.

Similar functions were held in Patna town at the residence of Shri Jaleswar Prasad and in Patna City with Shri Bhuvaneshwar Mishra 'Bhuwan' in the Chair. The day was also observed in Bhagalpur, Pusa, Sonapur, Chapra Khagaul, Bihar Shariff, Nawada Palgunj and Rafigunj.

The first State Convention of the Bihar Party will be held at Dalsing Sarai in the district of Darbhanga. To this end a meeting was held on 25th December at Dalsing Sarai where over 500 active workers including Presidents and Secretaries of thana committees were present. An *ad hoc* Reception Committee was formed with Shri Janki Nandan Singh as President. The Venue of the Convention will be named Ramanand Nagar in memory of the late Pandit Ramanand Choudhury and two main gates have been named as the Dharnidhar Gate and the Wadood Gate after two great sons of North Bihar.

BOMBAY

In keeping with the Party's Constitution the Bombay City unit is readjusting its ward units on the basis of Constituency Committees. For instance the D ward Committee of the Party is being dissolved and members residing in Walkeshwar and Mahalakshmi will now jointly set up a Constituency Committee for that area. The Matunga unit of the Party reports greater interest shown by its members. Every Saturday there is a Party workers meeting held in Matunga and attended by active workers from other areas as well. A welcome development of this unit has been the decision of active workers to donate a certain amount every month for carrying on the Party's work on a basis of self-sufficiency.

The unit in Bandra has the reputation of being among the most active in the City and the Bombay unit reports that this is in a large measure due to the efforts of Mr. Koppikkar.

On February 5 a training camp is scheduled to be held for the benefit of Party workers in Bandra and Khar. Party leaders will conduct lectures followed by group discussions.

The Malad unit of the Party now has the privilege of a strategically located office, thanks to the offer of Mr. Manilal Patel, a prominent resident of Malad.

Arrangements have been finalised for the setting up of a Ghatkoper unit of the Party and Mr. Bhagwan-das Seth has offered the use of his house for the purpose.

The Colaba unit organised a meeting recently which was addressed among others by Mr. Murarji Vaidya and the Mr. B. K. Mistry.

Maharashtra Land Ceilings Bill

The Chairman of the Bombay branch of the Party,

Mr. Murarji J. Vaidya, has in the course of a statement criticized the proposed Maharashtra Land Ceilings Bill of 1961, as "just one more instance of the dangerous drift of the Congress towards the extreme left and towards unrealistic economic policies in the name of Socialism or Socialistic Pattern of Society. Under the pretext of providing land for the landless, the country is being taken on to the path of State Capitalism. The very fact that the Bill conceives of the idea of State Farms, may be in certain cases only, is an irrefutable commentary on the motivation of the Party in power."

The statement characterizes the Bill as "theoretically unsound, economically disruptive and politically provocative," and charges that "the whole thought underlying the concept of land ceiling, however much one may seek to justify it, in the name of public interest and all that, is a negation of the fundamental principle of the sanctity of property rights of every citizen embodied both in the preamble to, and the fundamental rights chapter of the Constitution and is destructive of human values that we cherish so much as the *fons et origo* of our existence."

"The Indian farmer", asserts the statement, "has a filial attachment to his farm which he will not part with willingly. To disrupt it will be suicidal in character. The proposed Land Ceiling bill is creating a host of new problems, where there were none before."

Comparing it to such legislation elsewhere, the statement adds, "the irony of it is that, whereas in the whole world, not excluding Communist countries, land reforms have been more through consolidation rather than disruption of large farms, the Land Ceiling Bill of Maharashtra, true to the traditions of the Party in power, would first disrupt the farms and then cooperativise them. This philosophy of robbing Peter to pay Paul may pass muster as an electioneering device, but will not deliver the economic goods."

"It is not understood why, if countries like Japan with an average holding of 2 acres could do wonderfully, in the field of production, India cannot do the same."

Cautioning the people against the final objective of the State, Mr. Murarji Vaidya states, "The Bill speaks of first fixing a ceiling on land holdings and then cooperativising under joint farming societies knowing full well that collective farming under the guise of Cooperative Farming has been a dismal failure even in those areas in which it has been tried. This so-called cooperative farming cannot be worked except under coercion. As for compensation, the authorities cavalierly content themselves with offering a nominal compensation with the full knowledge that it is no longer justiciable. Even for this nominal compensation, from whom is the money to come to the State Exchequer? Inevitably the tax-payer has to foot this bill which means more taxation."

Characterising the Maharashtra Bill as being "the most sweeping of all" similar bills in other parts of the country, the statement opines that "there seems to be a competition amongst the States to outbeat each other in land ceiling legislation, each State working itself up to a flattering unctious that it is more

loyal than the King himself. Indeed, the Maharashtra Bill bids fair to be the most sweeping of all."

The statement concludes by saying "Behind the economic and social facade of this latest piece of so-called land reform in Maharashtra apparently lies a deep political objective. The General Election is just round the corner. Otherwise, why all this hurry? Land Ceiling today, Cooperativisation tomorrow and Col- visation the day after and Communes in the last—this seems to be the logic behind the whole policy of the Government. If this is not the Chinese way, what else could it be?"

GUJARAT

The enthusiasm generated by the first State Con- vention at Nadiad was followed up by intense orga- nisational activity by Party workers in their own Taluka units. Special mention must be made of Kaira district where the enthusiasm displayed for the Party has surpassed all expectations.

Shri Bhailalbhair Patel, President, toured the Borsad and Patlad talukas with local Party members. A wel- come development has been the phenomenon of more and more women workers in Nadiad coming forward for the task of enrolling members.

In Ahmedabad, Flag and Founder's Day was observed with a public meeting in the evening and a prayer meeting in the morning. The former was held at Sarangpur under the Presidentship of Shri Harishankar Vyas. A learned scholar, Shri Ishwar Sharma, spoke on Rajaji's life.

Shri Bhailalbhair Patel attended a Party workers meeting at Viramgam in Saurashtra on December 17. He went on to Rajkot where he addressed a huge peasants conference near Gondal. Members of the Rajput Sabha and the Khedut Sabha who were pre- sent at the Conference assured the State President of their full support for the Party. Shri Maganlal Joshi, Convenor for the Party in Saurashtra, accompanied Shri Bhailalbhair Patel.

State Vice-President, Mr. Dadubhai Amin, is devot- ing his energies for the development of the Party in the district of Mehasana. He has been successful in scouting out active workers to whom he has entrusted the responsibility of organising the Party there.

MADHYA PRADESH

At Alot in the district of Ratlam the Party held its district Convention. This Convention which took place in the small town of Alot was treated to a deluge of Party posters and pamphlets. Hundreds of villagers from neighbouring areas flocked to the venue of the Convention where a modest but beautiful pandal had been put on. Delegates came from Ratlam, Jaora, Pip- loda and Tal and other areas. Shri Hirwe, the district President and Rajkumar Udai Singh of Kaluhera, the Joint Organiser for Indore Division were welcomed by enthusiastic citizens. Among others who partici- pated were Shri T. W. Pandit, Col. Dilip Singh, Thakur Nahar Singh, the other Joint Divisional Organiser,

Shri Chhajed, Shri Chhajalani, Shri Kanoongo, Sardar Fadnis and others. The young chairman of the Recep- tion Committee who welcomed the delegates describ- ed the Congress as the Rich man's Party and cata- logued the appointment of various undeserving poli- tical leaders to big posts by the Ruling Party. In the course of his speech he took an oath that in so far as Alot was concerned, he would personally see that the Congress was routed. The Convention was inaugurated by Rajkumar Udai Singh of Kaluhera who explained to the assembled delegates the necessity for an opposition.

In his Presidential address Shri Hirwe criticised the evils of hero-worship which he said inevitably lead to a dictatorship. He explained the background to the emergence of the Swatantra Party and said that it was the only Party which had a definite policy unlike the other opposition Parties.

Later that night a large public meeting was held in Rajendra Chowk under the Presidentship of Rajkumar Udai Singh. Shri Chhajed, Thakur Nahar Singh, Shri C. W. Pandit, Shri Hirwe and Shri Parule- kar delivered speeches. The next day various resolu- tions were moved and unanimously adopted.

MADRAS

On December 4 State President Sa Ganesan declar- ed open the Party office at Vellore in the district of North Arcot and later attended a meeting of the District Committee. This meeting decided to conduct a district political conference at an early date. Later that evening Mr. Sa Ganesan addressed a public meet- ing at the Barracks Maidan under the Presidentship of Shri W. S. Sreenivasa Rao. Among others who addressed the gathering were Dr. M. Santhosham, Mr. Kupuswamy Reddiar, Mr. P. M. Krishnaswamy of the Tirupathur Swatantra Party and Pagalmedu Gnana- murthy.

On 17th December the 9th Circle of the City orga- nised a meeting at Mylapore addressed by Rajaji. In the course of his speech, Rajaji said that the Congress tree should be totally pulled down as if by a cyclone and not merely felled by an axe. He called upon the people to disprove the Congress pipe-dream that it could win elections with money, power and a count- ing of the opposition's weakness. Referring to the pro- blems of the hut-dwellers he called upon Government not to uproot the dwellers from their present abode but to take proper steps to ensure an improvement in their living conditions. Messrs K. M. Subramanian and Arumugam also addressed the meeting.

On 11th a public meeting was held at Pallavaram in the district of Chingleput with Mr. V. K. Rama- swamy Mudaliar as President. Among others who spoke at the meeting were Mr. K. M. Subramanian, Treasurer of the Madras City Party and Mr. M. R. Shanmuga Sundaram, Secretary of the Chingleput district Party.

At Tiruthani a public meeting was held under the Presidentship of Mr. Nagaswamy Naidu.

Public meetings were held at Athur in the district of Salem on 12th with Dr. S. Krishnamurthy Rao

presiding; at Mettur that same day under Mr. R. Arunachalam's Presidentship; on 13th at Kumarapalayam with Mr. Veerajinnu Chettiar presiding and Mr. Rajamadam Ramamoorti addressing the meeting and on the 23rd at Vellore when a public procession from the Travellers' Bungalow under the leadership of Mr. R. Raju culminated in a public meeting with Mr. A. P. Maruthe Gounder presiding. Shri Sa Ganesan and others addressed this gathering.

A public meeting was similarly held at Cuddalore in the district of South Arcot under the Presidentship of Mr. Venkataswamy Reddiar; Messrs Ramaswamy Padayachi, Dr. V. Krishnamurthy and N. Venkatarama Naidu addressed the meeting.

Janab K. Mohammed Mohideen presided over another public meeting at Madurai on the 22nd of December.

State General Secretary, Mr. S. S. Mariswamy addressed a public meeting at Bhavani in the district of Coimbatore. Similar meetings were at Peelamedu, Irumbarai and Pappanaickenpalayam.

State President Sa Ganesan accompanied Rajaji on his tour of Tirunelveli district. After being with him for four days Shri Sa Ganesan went on to tour the district of Ramnad, Trichy, Coimbatore and Nilgiris where he addressed public meetings and helped in the formation of an *ad hoc* committee for the district of Nilgiris.

Anti-Inflation Day was observed throughout the State. A report of the All-Party meeting held in the city has already been published in our last Newsletter. Arkonam celebrated Rajaji's birthday by distributing sweets at a public meeting. An All-Party meeting at Tirupathur felicitated Rajaji on his birthday. Flag hoisting ceremonies and Abishegams in temples were performed throughout Salem district. At Madurai in the district of the same name, they observed Rajaji Jayanti with a public meeting addressed by Shri Sa Ganesan, Shri Mariswamy, Dr. M. Santhosham and Dr. Devasagayam, Chairman of the Madurai Municipality. Similar meetings were held at Mayuram, Tiruvarur, Sirkali and Kumbakonam. The latter meeting which was presided over by Shri Palaniswamy Chettiar was addressed by Prof M. Ruthnaswamy who hoisted the Party flag on the occasion. Among others who addressed the meeting were Messrs Swayam Prakasam, Balkrishna Murthy and others. Flags were hoisted at over half a dozen places and puja performed for Rajaji's long life at Rock Fort in Trichy. Over a thousand persons were given free lunch. Tirunelveli, as reported in our last Newsletter, had the privilege of having Rajaji with them on his birthday. He toured the entire district and addressed as many as 18 public meetings besides numerous flag hoisting ceremonies, workers' and Rotary Club meetings.

MAHARASHTRA

On the occasion of Flag and Founder's Day members of the Sarasvati Mahila Mandal were addressed by the Convenor of the Maharashtra Party, Shri Koshti, who in the course of his speech dwelt on the

need for supporting this Party in the next General Elections.

Nasik observed the Day with a meeting at the Party office in Talekar Sadan, under the Presidentship of Shri S. D. Bell. Shri Ganpatrao Goenka, Dr. Tolani and Mr. R. D. Kulkarni, spoke at length on the role of Rajaji in the political life of our country especially in the context of the formation of the Swatantra Party. On behalf of the District unit a message of good wishes was sent to Rajaji.

On December 17, Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Party addressed public meetings at Ghoti and Igatpuri in Nasik district. Mr. R. D. Kulkarni presided. Among others who addressed this meeting were State Convenor, Shri K. R. Koshti, and Shri Walvekar.

As a result of these meetings, there has been an expansion of our activities in the Nasik district especially in the area being organised by Mr. J. A. Pinto, Convenor in Igatpuri.

Mr. B. B. Walvekar and Mr. B. V. Marathe of the Maharashtra unit undertook a tour of Marathwada visiting Aurangabad, Jalna and Parbhani between the 2nd and 8th of January. As a result of their tour they have been able to activate Party work in the areas visited. Mr. J. L. Salvi was appointed to enrol members and do active Party work in Aurangabad. While the Party has an office at Jalna, an office will shortly be set up at Parbhani where Mr. Boralkar is taking keen interest.

Mr. Hukumchand Vyas, a former member of the Congress in the Katol taluq of Nagpur and who is now President of the Katol Taluq Swatantra Party, was elected a member of the Sahakari Shetki Bank defeating the Congress Candidate.

MYSORE

Shri Jinaraja Hegde, from the current month the new State President, addressed a public meeting at Vishveswarapuram in Bangalore City on December 24. Speaking in Kannada, Shri Hegde explained to the audience the reasons why the Party came into existence and drew the attention of the assemblage to the various acts of omission and commission of the ruling Party. He called upon the people to vote for the Party in the next General Elections if at all they were serious about improving their living conditions. Next day Shri Hegde visited Hosakote 17 miles from Bangalore city where he addressed three public meetings.

It will be of interest for Party members and readers to know that the Municipal Council and Taluq Board in Hosakote have a majority of members belonging to the Swatantra Party. In fact while Mr. Hedge was in Hosakote, he had the pleasure of seeing a Swatantra Party member who stood as an Independent, defeat his Congress opponent by a majority of 2331 votes.

On January 1, a public meeting was held in the Malleswaram extension of Bangalore city. Among those who addressed the gathering were Messrs. G. Basavaiah, Mr. S. K. Ramanuja, Mr. B. K. Venkatakrishna and Mr. H. Subramanian.

On the occasion of Flag and Founder's Day, Mr.

D. V. Gundappa Secretary of the Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs addressed a meeting at Bangalore. He paid tributes to Rajaji who he said represented the highest norm of the country's mind and conscience today as authentically as Mahatma Gandhi did in his days. He expressed the firm opinion that Rajaji is indispensable if India's Independence is to bear good fruit.

In the December issue of the Newsletter we had inadvertently referred to Mr. N. Ramarao who addressed a Flag and Founder's day meeting at Mangalore as the late Navaratna Ramarao. We much regret the error.

PUNJAB

A representative Conference at Chhajli in the district of Sangrur ushered in Party work for December. The Chhajli meeting accelerated the tempo of Party activity generated at the conference in Malerkotla in the last week of November. Among those who addressed the Conference at Chhajli were State President Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Sardar Basant Singh, Shri Surendranath Khosla and Patiala district Convenor Pandit Bansi Lal. The conference was presided over by Raja Maheshindra Singh, M.L.A.

There was State-wide observance of Flag and Founder's day. At the State office the office-bearers and the local unit officials offered prayers and prasad in the local Kali Mandir and the Gurudwara Dukhniwaran in a body and performed special prayers for the long life and happiness of Rajaji. The Party flag was also hoisted on the State office premises. In the district of Amritsar, flag hoisting on that day was followed by the widespread distribution of Party Flags.

On 10th and 11th December, two well-attended public meetings were held at Bhavani and Hansi addressed by Choudhury Dharam Singh Rathi State General Secretary and Major Karan Singh Malik. A highlight of the Bhavani meeting was the announcement by Pandit Devidutt Sharma of his resignation from the Jan Sangh and his joining the Swatantra Party. Another important public meeting was held at Ludhiana on 18th December. It was addressed by Dr. Kali Charan Sharma. Members of the State *ad hoc* committee including the State President Jathedar Nagoke, Joint Secretary Sardar Basant Singh, Sardar Maheshindra Singh, Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, M.P., Shri S. N. Khosala and Pandit Bansi Lal from Patiala attended the meeting.

The month was rounded off with a Party Conference at Fatehgarh Sahib on 26th December.

The conference was a roaring success and was attended by over half a lakh of people who are reported to have heard the proceedings, in pin-drop silence. Keen interest was evinced in the policies of the party. Jathedar Udham Singh Nagoke, Shri S. N. Khosala, Dr. Kali Charan and Sardar Basant Singh besides several poets addressed the Conference. The result of these conferences and public meetings has been a growing awareness among the people that there is a Party which has come into being which

is capable of providing a democratic alternative to the ruling Party and drawing the country away from their ruinous policies.

RAJASTHAN

Party activity is reported from many areas of Rajasthan. The division of Udaipur and the districts of Bharatpur, Bundi, Ajmer, Dungarpur, Nagpur and Jodhpur are being organised.

Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur since the New Year the new President of the State unit, toured the division of Udaipur and addressed largely attended public meetings at Sanghmeshwar on the 9th October, Dewal on the 11th, Chhain on the 12th, Rishabhdeo on the 14th and Bhilaura on the 16th. The meetings were uniformly well attended. Particular reference may be made to the Chhain meeting where over 3000 villagers attended and six reception arches decorated with Party flags had been constructed. Of interest to readers would be the fact that while this meeting was in progress, former Congress President, U. N. Debhar, currently Chairman of the Scheduled Tribes Commission passed by followed by a motorcade. But hardly anyone took notice of him or his procession. The Rajasthan Party reports further that none of the meetings addressed by Mr. Dhebar in the two days of his tour in the areas which were then being visited by the Maharawal Saheb attracted even half the audience that the latter was able to obtain. At Rishabhdeo, the Maharawal Saheb was received with great eclat by the rural population. He addressed a meeting of over 6000 men and women. Similarly the Bhilaura meeting was very successful. He received a deputation of over a 1000 members of the Bhil tribe who inhabit this region.

The Rishabhdeo Convenor, Mr. K. H. Sharma, and Lt. Thakur Shri Rewat Singh accompanied by three other members met Mr. Dhebar and explained to him the futile measures that Congress had taken for the amelioration of the economic conditions of the tribal people.

The Maharawal Saheb addressed a meeting of Party workers and a press conference at Jaipur on 27th December.

In fact the Delhi weekly *Thought* confirms that the tours of the Maharawal Saheb are bearing good organisational dividends, for, the journal in its issue of 14.1.61 commented;

"The Swatantra Party, though numerically small, has emerged as a reckonable force in the western districts of Rajasthan. In these districts the Swatantra Party has a well-knit organisation, largely due to the efforts of the Maharaja of Dungarpur."

Later during the month Maharawal Laxman Singh continued his tour and visited the district of Ajmer between 28th and 30th November, accompanied by Shri Kalyan Singh of Bhinai. At Ajmer he attended a reception given by members of the Party and addressed Party workers' meetings and a press conference. On November 28 he addressed largely attended public meetings at Kekri and Bhagera. He called upon the

audience to strengthen the hands of the Party by enrolling themselves in large numbers. The next day, right in the heart of the city of Ajmer, the Maharawal Saheb addressed a huge meeting which was presided over by Dr. Bal Mukund, Chairman of the City *ad hoc* Committee.

Raja Kalyan Singh and Prof. Madan Singh also toured various districts of the State. A public meeting was addressed by Shri Madan Mohan Shastri and Prof. Madan Singh at Deolia on 30th December.

The month of November was the month of the Panchayat Elections in Rajasthan. Although our Party did not contest the elections, many of our members stood as independents and were successful. In Udaipur division and other parts of Jodhpur division, our members were elected in a majority as Sarpanchas. The credit for the successful outcome in Udaipur division goes entirely to the strenuous work put in by Party workers guided by the Maharawal Saheb. Although the Congress declared that it was not putting up any official candidates, in reality it did so. In fact they tried to place every kind of obstacle in the way of non-Congress candidates. For example, some intending candidates who were on their way to fill in nomination papers were picked up by Congress workers in jeeps with the promise that they would be taken to their destination but in reality were driven in the opposite direction, thus preventing them from filling their nomination papers in time. Several Sarpanchas were kidnapped after the election by Congress Party workers and taken away to Hardwar and other places so that they would not be present to cast their votes for coopting other members and pradhans for the bloc panchayats.

At some other places our members who were seeking election were attacked by Congress hooligans and at a couple of places even ballot boxes were taken away. This, writes our Rajasthan office, is the manner in which the much flaunted Panchayat elections were conducted and this is the base for the highly glorified Panchayat raj.

Flag and Founder's Day was celebrated throughout Rajasthan at Ajmer, Kekri and Bhagera by public meetings. At the State office in Ajmer, the flag was hoisted by Shri Kalyan Singh who described to the audience the meaning behind the Party flag. Similar meetings were held at Jodhpur and at the headquarters of the other districts. In the Jodhpur office a flag hoisting ceremony was held in the presence of Messrs. R. C. Bhandari, Mehimal Dhariwal, R. R. Bhandari, Kartar Singh Sodhi and Misri Lal.

UTTAR PRADESH

The State Committee of the Party met on 12th December to discuss important matters of organisation. A resolution criticising the new policies of the U.P. Government with regard to the election of the Chair-

man of Zila Parishads was adopted. Members of the Committee volunteered to tour the State in order to inspect the working of local units, to help in improving the methods of organisation as also to gauge prospects of the Party in the coming General Elections.

Choudhury Layaq Singh, M.L.A., General Secretary of the State Party toured Farrukhabad district, addressing meetings at Farrukhabad, Sibraman, Kamalgunk, Tirwa, Gurshai Gunj, Saurikh and Kannuj. He made arrangements for the appointment of a Party organiser in the district. He was successful in persuading a well wisher of the Party to contribute a monthly donation of Rs. 250 to the local Party Fund. A Kisan Conference will be held on the occasion of a fair at Saurikh.

The Party observed Flag and Founder's day throughout the State. Meetings were held at Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur, Moradabad, Hardoi, Badaun, Meerut, Azamgarh, Agra, Shikohabad, Sitapur, Rampur and other towns and villages in the State. Party flags were hoisted at these places, small paper flags sold and meetings held to explain to the people the significance of the Party flag and to pray for the long life of Rajaji.

WEST BENGAL

Returning after a 500 mile tour of Assam, Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, President of the West Bengal unit of the Party, narrated his impressions of the tour at a meeting at Chinsurah in the district of Hooghly on December 28.

Mr. Chatterjee expressed the opinion that in the State of Assam the fundamental rights of the citizens had been "cast to the winds". The unfortunate people who had been compelled to evacuate their home towns and villages five months earlier had not been rehabilitated and the authorities were behaving in a most deplorable manner. Mr. Chatterjee recalled that earlier after touring the affected villages in certain areas of Assam he had issued a statement that the army would be entrusted with the work of rebuilding the houses burnt down during the disturbances in Assam. He states: "I was depressed to find the poor progress made in this respect and it is no exaggeration to say that only about ten per cent of the houses burnt have been rebuilt in the Goreswar area and that they were really chantis or howels.... What is more depressing is that small traders and shopkeepers who had come back to their villages are not being given possession of their shops and tenements where they used to conduct their business before the disturbances".

Mr. Chatterjee called upon the Central Government to take up immediately the task of rehabilitation in the State of Assam which, he said, was an all-India problem.

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