

FLAG AND FOUNDER'S DAY

December 9 will be observed by the Party as Flag and Founder's day. This follows a decision of the General Council which met in Bombay last July. The day coincides with Rajaji's birthday. Less than a year after the Patna Convention had adopted the white star on the blue background as the Party's flag, it has achieved considerable recognition all over the country and has come to be associated as the symbol of a Party founded to combat the totalitarian trends that threaten the country.

Why did the Party choose this particular emblem? What does the white star mean? This is what Rajaji has to say on its significance:

"The white star on a blue background has no specific allegory involved in it and that is its best feature. But it has inexpressible beauty and inspiration and I trust it will lead those that gather under it to right action and noble ends. We could not think of any purer or nobler symbol than a white star or a better colour than that of a cloudless clear sky which our forefathers attributed to the all pervading universal Divine Being when they gave to Him a form for contemplation. Many symbols could be conceived with meaning and allegory but such significance as is attached to any of them is apt to get limited and unsatisfactory. Some would be complex enough to appear like illustrations to fables. The white star on a sky blue background carried limitless inspiration with simple nobility of form. Its symmetry and unquestionable beauty cannot be easily paralleled. May the five-pointed star guard us from evil and error and lead us to our noble end, a happy and free society."

Just as the tricolour in the days before Independence was a symbol of resistance to foreign rule, so also our Party flag today, thirteen years after independence, symbolises the struggle of our people against injustices, the corruption and the totalitarian policies of the ruling party. The Party's flag stands for a free way of life, unfettered by the octopus tentacles of a Leviathan increasingly indifferent to the needs of the people.

COMMENTS ON THE PUNJAB ENQUIRY REPORT

As mentioned in our last Newsletter, the Report of the Punjab Enquiry Committee of our Party was widely reported in the Indian press. Subsequently

there have been many comments—editorial and otherwise—on the report. Most of the editorial comment has lauded the impartial nature of the report in spite of the lack of cooperation from the Punjab Government and the many hurdles that the Committee had to face in the course of its labours.

The *Free Press Journal*, in an editorial on October 19, stated that the report of the Enquiry Committee "is by any standards an excellent effort at restoring perspective to the confusion prevailing in the Punjab as a result of the Punjabi Suba agitation." The editorial described it as "a damning indictment of the Kairon Ministry's handling of the situation. Considering the non-official nature of this Committee, sponsored by a political party with an axe to grind against the ruling party, the impartiality of its report is truly admirable." It concludes by saying that "the impression that this report leaves is that the Punjab Government deserves the same treatment as the former Government of Kerala when it was faced with a 'mass upsurge'. The question of immediate importance that the Centre faces today in the Punjab is not whether the Punjabi Suba demand is a legitimate one but whether a State Government could be allowed to run berserk and ride roughshod over a vast section of the people in the name of public peace and tranquility."

The *Tribune* in an editorial on the same day, writing under the heading "Balanced Document", stated that the report is "a balanced document in which different aspects of the situation have been fully taken into consideration. The members of the Committee, who occupy an eminent position in our public life, seem to have studied and sifted the data placed before them with an open mind and arrived at certain conclusions which display objectivity and unbiased outlook." It went on to state that the "Munshi Committee's report appears to be an objective study of the situation obtaining in this State until the beginning of September when the enquiry was started. It is a tribute to the members that they have not allowed themselves to be swayed by prejudice of any kind in their approach."

The *Indian Libertarian* in the course of an editorial in its issue of November 1, under the heading "Feather in Swatantra Cap" said that the Party "has certainly enhanced its reputation by the report now published of its Punjab Inquiry Committee. The Committee consisted of a galaxy of eminent men, with Mr. K. M. Munshi, as its Chairman and Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, Sardar Kartar Singh Campbellpuri, a retired High Court Judge of Pepsu, and Mr. C. B. Agarwala, a retired High Court Judge of Allahabad, among its members. The Committee found the measures adopted

by the Punjab Government in dealing with the Akali agitation to have been "excessive and indiscriminate". It further stated that "the Committee feels that the arrest of the whole staff of the 'Akali' and 'Prabhat' and the continued sealing of the 'Akash' and 'Khalsa' presses showed 'the scant regard in which the freedom of the Press is held by the Punjab Government', and, referring to the provisions of the Ordinance issued by the Punjab Government, comes to the conclusion that 'it is difficult to come across such a drastic law during normal times in any civilised country which respects the rule of law'".

The Delhi weekly *Thought* of October 22 in an editorial commented that the Enquiry report is "notable for the impression of fairness that it conveys. It succeeds in conveying, without undue condemnation or commendation, the different viewpoints of the conflicting parties in that troubled State. The Committee has not dealt with individual cases, first because they are anyway *sub judice*, and secondly because it was concerned primarily with obtaining an overall view of the situation."

RAJAJI'S TOUR OF KERALA (Cont'd)

Summing up the impressions of his visit to Kerala, Rajaji said to pressmen in Bangalore that he had had a very good tour and that he visited all important places where he made good contacts. Referring to the public meetings he addressed at Trivandrum, Trichur, Tellicherry and Calicut, Rajaji who was impressed by the enthusiasm of the large gatherings, pointed out that they easily took rank with the receptions his party received in Bihar and the Punjab. He said that "the Bar and the commercial community I contacted in the State are almost in full sympathy with the Swatantra Party." Referring to the reactions of the Kerala press, Rajaji said "I was glad to note that the Kerala Press gave full coverage for my tour. Press representatives put bright and searching questions displaying remarkable acumen. The Malayalam press is unique. No other language commands so many journals. In fact, there were 31 dailies, going strong, and still more are coming. I enjoyed the press interviews very greatly. They (newsmen) met me at almost all the important centres."

Rajaji had even a word of praise for the Kerala Police who, he said, were "very kind and cooperative". He clarified the statement he had made to pressmen at the start of his tour and said that he had told them (pressmen) that he went to Kerala "not to disturb the Government of the State but to rouse the people from their complacency over the current state of affairs in India under Congress rule". That is to say, he explained, he laid emphasis on the All-India objectives of the Swatantra Party as distinguished from some very acute issues particularly pertaining to Kerala.

PROF. RANGA'S BIRTHDAY

The President of the Party, Professor N. G. Ranga completed sixty years of age on November 7. Prominent leaders of the Party who had gathered at Guntur

for the State Convention, congratulated Professor Ranga on his Shastipoorthi. Rajaji described Professor Ranga as a sword with which he fought his battle. He said "with this sword and your blessings, I am sure I will be able to cut our enemies asunder". Messages of good will and congratulations poured in from places as far off as Canada. The celebrations were held at Vijayawada. A meeting which was called on the occasion was presided over by Shri K. Lakkaraju Subbarao, a former Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University and a member of the Party's General Council. Among those who offered felicitations to Professor Ranga were Mr. M. R. Masani, the General Secretary of the Party, Mr. S. K. D. Paliwal, the President of the Uttar Pradesh Party and Professor M. Ruthnaswamy, a member of the Central Organising Committee.

Professor Ranga was profusely garlanded by many friends and local organisations and also on behalf of the Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra and Orissa State Swatantra Parties.

Rajaji presented Professor Ranga with a silver salver on behalf of himself, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mr. Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh, Mr. M. R. Masani, Sir Homi Mody, Mr. V. P. Menon, Mr. S. K. D. Paliwal, Sardar Lal Singh, Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. A. D. Shroff and Mr. Murarji J. Vaidya.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Readers of the Newsletter will be glad to know that two new booklets have been issued by the Central Office. They are

1. Labour's Friend—Congress or Swatantra?—30 nP
2. What's Wrong With The Third Plan? —30 nP

The booklet on Labour reproduces the full text of two speeches delivered in Parliament by Mr. Nehru and Mr. Masani. It also contains the Swatantra Party's policy on Labour as enunciated in its Statement of Policy, as also a resolution passed by the recent meeting of the General Council of the Party on the Central Government Employees' strike. The book goes a long way in demonstrating to the reader that in the Swatantra Party Labour has a better friend than the Congress which, while indulging in pious platitudes, is actually pursuing policies that are detrimental to Labour.

The booklet on the Third plan focusses attention on three speeches that were made in Parliament during the debate on the Third Plan. Two of them are by Professor Ranga and Mr. Masani, while the third one is that of Acharya Kripalani. The three speeches which have never been reported in full in any of the newspapers, answer certain very important questions as to why the Swatantra Party in Parliament voted against the Third Five-Year Plan, why the Party opposes the concept itself of Five Year Plans and what is the alternative that the Party has to offer in the place of such plans.

Both these booklets are available from the Central Office.

NEWS FROM STATE PARTIES

ANDHRA

November saw the holding of two State Conventions: one at Guntur in Andhra and the other at Nadiad in Gujarat. The popular manifestations at both these conventions gave conclusive proof, if any was needed, of the growing popularity of our Party. Guntur, the venue of the Andhra State Convention, was in the grip of heavy rains — enough to deter even the most stout hearted from venturing out. But this did not prevent thousands upon thousands of peasants, workers and the lower middle class from venturing out to attend not only the various sessions of the Convention but also the public meetings addressed by Rajaji. Among the prominent leaders of the Party who were present there were Rajaji, Professor Ranga, Chairman of the Party whose home-State is Andhra, Mr. M. R. Masani, the General Secretary, Mr. S. K. D. Paliwal, the President of the U.P. Party and many others. The Convention, which took place on the 6th and 7th of November, was presided over by Mr. S. K. D. Paliwal.

The General Secretary of the Party, Mr. M. R. Masani, who inaugurated the Convention, said that the present Government had created two new castes: the Urban and the Rural. He affirmed that villages continued to be exploited even after Swaraj. Warning the people against cooperative farming, he said that it would reduce peasants to the position of serfs on the land. He said it would adversely affect food production. Referring to the coming General Election, Mr. Masani said that the Swatantra Party would have no truck with the Communist Party in the elections. He said that the Party would give the Congress a straight fight, wherever possible, on its own programme and under its own banner.

In his Presidential address, Mr. Paliwal said that even after thirteen years of Congress rule, the country was suffering from a sense of frustration and helplessness. He declared that the Congress had failed to meet the common man's basic needs — food, clothing, housing, education, communication, sanitation and public health. The First and the Second Five-Year Plans had failed to give priority to agriculture with the result that the country was not at all self-sufficient. He characterized the policy of the Government as one calculated to turn India into a Communist country under the guise of Democratic Socialism. Even in the field of Foreign Policy, said Mr. Paliwal, the Congress Government had miserably failed. It had not been able to recover thousands of square miles of our country's land occupied now by the Chinese Communists. Mr. Paliwal concluded by saying that the Swatantra Party had been formed to combat all these evils and to save India's freedom and democracy which were in danger today as a result of the policies adopted by the Congress Government.

Rajaji charged the Congress Government with ignoring the fundamental rights guaranteed to the people under the Constitution and held them responsible for the growing atmosphere of uncertainty. He said that the Government envisaged under the Consti-

tution was a negation of socialism. The most important article, said Rajaji, was that a man's property and acquisitions should be respected by the Government. But the present Government had ignored this directive and made all property insecure. Nobody knew what the rupee would be worth this year or what his land would be worth in the coming year. Comparing Swaraj to a cow Rajaji said "We collected Rs One crore about 40 years ago to buy a cow, *Kamadhenu*, called Swaraj. But we now find that the cow does not give milk. The milk we expected from the *Kamadhenu* was good and honest government. We do not buy a cow merely to paint its horns and exhibit it during Pongal festival. Mr. Nehru has painted the horns all right, but we are waiting for the milk. It seems we have to collect another Rs One crore to make the cow give milk."

Rajaji suggested at the Convention that the Party should raise a fund of Rs. One crore to fight the elections and dislodge the Congress from power.

He promised that the Swatantra Party would do everything to establish such a government. He suggested "we have to change the Government. We cannot allow mad people to govern the country." Alleging that the Panchayats were doing the work of Congress Committees he said that Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads were really intended to do the work of Congress Committees because Congressmen who used to do good work had now lost their reputation. We should end all these conspiracies, asserted Rajaji and the simplest way to do so was to vote for the Swatantra Party in the next Elections. He charged the Government with distributing patronage to Congressmen. He said there was no use of Mr. Nehru disclosing his property. Congressmen in the lower rungs should present an account of their property.

The Chairman of the Party, Professor Ranga who addressed the Convention, stated that the Party had made great strides since its inception 17 months ago. Today its branches were spread in almost all the States and its membership was increasing inspite of the "unscrupulous" tactics of the ruling Party of exploiting the legislative, administrative and financial powers of the Government for its selfish ends.

He referred to the several attempts made by the Congress to "liquidate" the kisan organisations in Andhra as well as other States and said that when Prime Minister Nehru insisted upon imposing ceilings on land holdings alone and refused to extend that principle to other proprietors "we were able to demonstrate his discriminatory antagonism" towards agriculturists and warn the public about the "Soviet nature of his so-called land reforms."

Earlier Mr. J. Chandramowli, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming the delegates, said that if the Congress was allowed to continue its present "bankrupt" policies, democracy would not survive in India for long.

The Convention at Guntur passed a number of resolutions:

A resolution condemned the Central and State

Governments for "utilising the officialdom, the radio and other government machinery to tempt and coerce the peasants into cooperative farming societies."

The Convention expressed concern at the speed with which the Central and State Governments were preparing to create the necessary machinery for introducing cooperative farming on a large scale. The resolution warned the peasants not to be deceived by the baits offered by the Government. Otherwise it said the peasants would allow themselves to part with their lands and lose their self-employment and economic independence.

By another resolution the Convention called upon the Government of India to adopt an effective policy to meet the continued aggression by China on India's northern border and expressed regret at the silence observed by the Congress Party and Prime Minister Nehru on this issue at the All India Congress Committee meeting at Raipur recently.

The Convention also expressed the opinion that politics in the country under the Congress Government was fast deteriorating into a scramble for power and called upon the people to strengthen an opposition party which stood solidly for maintaining the freedom of the individual citizen.

The Executive Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Party met at Vijayawada on October 2. The meeting was held primarily to discuss arrangements for the State Convention at Guntur reported above. Other matters were also discussed and a number of resolutions were passed.

Shri C. B. Chowdhari and Shri C. Bhavanarayana were co-opted into the Committee of the Party.

BIHAR

The President of the State Party, Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh, extensively toured the various areas of Bihar during the months of August, September and October. The tour was part of a campaign to expand membership and to interest the masses in the Party's principles and ideologies. Generally the pattern that his tour took was that he would arrive at a place, would meet active workers of the Party in that area, discuss with them problems of organisation, the various difficulties that they encountered and later the same evening address a public meeting. In August, for instance, Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh who is also the Vice-President of the All-India Party, addressed well attended public meetings at Barh, Bhaktiarpur, Bihar Sharif, Aurangabad, Nawadah, Jahanabad, Narkatiaganj, Adapur, Bagha and Motihari.

In September he toured the districts of Ranchi, Palamau, Hazaribagh and Saran. Party workers' meetings were held at Ranchi, Khunti, Simedga, Gumla, Lohardaga, Latehar, Daltonganj and Garhawa while public meetings were addressed by him at Chatra, Itkhori, Chouparan in Hazaribagh district and Khair, Revilganj, Marhaura, Masrakh, Dhorasthan, Maharaganj and Ekma in Saran District.

In October he again addressed huge public meet-

ings at Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Banka and Deoghar in Bhagalpur division and Barhi, Barakatha, Akta, Bagodar, Bishungarha, Banaso, Chipari, Goumia, Asurbandha, Dumari, Aura, Kujju, Mandu, Ramgarh, Gola, Patarbar, Jaridhi, Barka Gaun, Kerodari, Tehua, Simaria, Jori, Huntarganj, Pratappur, Jai Nagar and Kodarma in Hazaribagh district, Ormaji Silli and Angadda in Ranchi District.

In his tour of the Saran district, he was accompanied by Mr. Ram Binod Singh, Vice-President of the Bihar Party. At Isri a public meeting held by our Party, was addressed by Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh, Shri Ram Binod Singh and Shri Shyam Sunder Prasad. Accompanied by Shri Jaleshwar Prasad, all the above speakers addressed a largely attended meeting at Islampur. Shri Ram Binod Singh later visited villages in the district of Darbhanga and addressed a public meeting at Dalsing Sarai. Shri Jaleshwar Prasad undertook a tour of Hajipur and Siwan where he held workers' meetings.

The General Secretary of the Bihar Party, Shri Janki Nandan Singh also undertook an organisational tour right from August. From October 1, he went on an extensive 32 days' tour of the district of Darbhanga and held over fifty meetings at places like Samastipur, Dalsing Sarai, Tajpur, Mohiddinagar, Waris Nagar, Bahera, Madhubani, Jhanjharpur, Jainagar, Khajouli, Harlakhi, Madhepur and Benipati Thanas of the district.

It would be seen from the above that the Party leadership in Bihar is extremely aware of the need for intensive campaigning right from now and the development of organisation at the lowest levels so as to reach the farmer in the village and the office-goer or the factory worker in the urban areas. The Bihar Party has made rapid strides and there can be no doubt that a major reason for such a state of affairs is due to this awareness to organise the Party from the grass-roots.

The birthday of the State President of the Party, Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh on August 10 was observed by the Party throughout the State as Kisan Day.

In our last Newsletter we had reported the case of certain P.S.P. workers who had joined our Party. We have more news of the same nature to report this month as well; the Bihar Party reports that in the district of Darbhanga several prominent Congress leaders of Khajouli Thana, like Sri Ganesh Chandra Jha, ex-Vice-Chairman District Board and Sri Narottam Jha, a septugenarian Congress leader of Samastipur, resigned from the Congress and joined our Party.

In Muzaffarpur Shri Nandan Prasad Sinha, a prominent P.S.P. leader, has joined the Party with his colleague.

In Patna district Shri Ram Kishore Prasad Sinha, a former Secretary of the Patna District P.S.P. has also joined the Party. Thus there has been a regular flow of leaders and active workers from other Parties disillusioned with the policies of the Parties which hitherto claimed their loyalty and are joining us with the faith that in our Party they would be able to find expression for their legitimate aspirations.

The Party reports that the weekly *Swatantrata* is

gradually attracting more and more subscribers and the results have been so encouraging to them that they are now thinking in terms of acquiring a printing press.

The State working committee held meetings twice in August, September and October respectively. Among the decisions taken were:

1. A sum of Rs 500 was donated to Orissa for flood-relief
2. It was decided to hold the State Convention at Dalsing Sarai by the end of January 1961 in response to the invitation of the Darabhangra District Party.

BOMBAY

Greater time is now being devoted by the Bombay office to the task of organising itself on the basis of constituencies in accordance with the Party's constitution. The method of organisation that has been adopted has been to divide members in a particular constituency into two categories — Party workers and Party supporters. With the help of the latter it has already started collecting small donations from individuals which come in handy and useful for running the constituency units independent of any assistance from the City Office.

Party units in Matunga, Bandra, Malad and Colaba have already taken this work in hand and it is reported that the progress is heartening.

Efficient units are in the process of establishment in Walkeshwar and Mahalakshmi where Mr. Mahindra Lal, Mr. Jayant Mehta and Mr. C. J. Mistree are reported to be doing good work.

The organising committee of the Bombay branch has been expanded with the addition of Mr. A. Vakil who had initiated the Party's activities in Bandra.

The Bombay organising committee has decided to celebrate Rajaji's birthday with an Essay competition. This competition will be held on December 9 and is open to persons below thirty-five years of age. The subject chosen is "Rajaji's role in politics". A panel of three eminent persons will act as judges. The winner will get the Swatantra trophy. Three cash prizes will also be given to the winners of this competition.

GUJARAT

Nadiad was the venue of the Gujarat State Convention on November 20. Large-scale preparations had been made and eye-witness reports state that over 25,000 people attended. The convention was inaugurated by Rajaji and presided over by Shri K. M. Munshi. Addressing the 5000 delegates Rajaji called upon the people to fight for individual freedom if they

wanted to enjoy the fruits of freedom. He urged the people to vote the Congress out of power in the next general elections if they wanted salvation from the "misrule of a rotten party". Government's policy had created a great uncertainty about the pattern of economy in the rural areas and had disturbed the minds of the farmers. Every section of the people attached to agricultural industry experienced unsettled conditions which were seriously hampering production, said Rajaji.

Rajaji said if the Congress Party was allowed to perpetuate its rule agriculture would be totally ruined.

In a State where the proposed Land Ceiling Bill has created considerable anxiety among the peasants, Rajaji said that Government policy had created the impression among tillers that if they continued to neglect the land, sooner or later it would be theirs. Surely, said Rajaji, this was not the way to increase agricultural production.

Rajaji said that a member of the Union Cabinet was trying to revive the dead theory that the Government was the owner of the land. He said that from time immemorial the peasant was the owner of the land.

It would be the duty of the Swatantra Party to see that the peasant remained the owner of the land even in the future, he said.

Describing the Government's plans as "exhibition plans", Rajaji said that they had no bearing to the resources in the country. More and more taxes were proposed, deficit financing on a large scale was being resorted to and the most depressing and dangerous aspect of this planning was that the Government was borrowing heavily from foreign countries when they found internal resources to be inadequate for their ambitious plans.

Referring to what he called "blackmail" of neutrality which was being used to humour the rival blocs, he said "we would be turned into liars and hypocrites in pleasing the two camps to draw on their resources for our development."

Rajaji appealed to the people to understand the implications of the Swatantra Party's programme and support the party in the next general elections.

In his presidential address, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Vice-President of the All India Party said that there was hardly any difference between the deposed Communist leaders of Kerala and the Congress leaders in other States. Both were working for the exclusive advantage of their respective parties and not for the people as a whole. Mr. Munshi listed the failures of the Government in solving the various problems of the country. He said that the law and order situation of the States had considerably deteriorated and fundamental conditions of security to enjoy freedom did not obtain in the country.

Referring to the various enactments by Government against the peasantry, Mr. Munshi said that attempts were being made to deprive the farmers of their rights to own land.

Mr. Bhailal Patel, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in his address of welcome declared, "The farmer of Gujarat will never be a slave. He will live only as an independent citizen of free India or else

he will prefer to be wiped out. This is the challenge of Gujarat to the Congress.

He went on to add that the programme of the Swatantra Party was the same as was planned by Sardar Patel and blessed by Mahatma Gandhi. Declaring that the Party would oppose with all its power legislation such as the Tenancy Act, Land Ceilings Bill and Co-operative farming, Mr. Patel said that these Acts had created class warfare in every village.

The Swatantra Party, he declared, believed in taxation according to capacity and in justice, fairness and equal rights of all citizens.

Prof. Ranga in his address called on the people of Gujarat in general and the peasants in particular to provide a lead to the nation as they did in the freedom struggle and back the Swatantra Party which stood for the protection of property rights. The existing trends in the country, Prof. Ranga said, clearly indicated that the struggle of the Party, the peasants organisations and others was going to be essentially a struggle against totalitarianism and for the protection of property rights and liberty.

Among others who addressed the Convention were H. H. Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur and Shri. Murarji J. Vaidya, Chairman of the Bombay Unit of the Party.

A resolution passed at the Convention opposed the totalitarian tradition established by the Congress one-party rule and called upon the people to protect their freedom and property rights.

By another resolution, the party congratulated the people of Gujarat for achieving a separate State and paid homage to the Martyrs who gave their lives for it and supported the demand for a Martyrs' memorial.

Opposing the proposed Land Ceiling Bill, another resolution declared that the Bill was against the principles preached by Sardar Patel and Gandhiji. The Land Ceiling Bill would lead to pauperisation and slavery of the peasants who would consequently lose faith in democracy. Hence the Swatantra Party calls upon the peasants to fight against these measures.

Earlier Shri Bhailalbhai Patel, Shri Dadubhai Amin and Shri Dahyabhai Patel toured Ahmedabad, Baroda and Kaira districts, carrying the message of the party.

Shri Madhusudan Patel, a leading Congressman from Godhra in the district of Panchmahal, has joined our Party and is now the Joint Secretary of the District Committee. It will be of interest for readers to note that Shri Madhusudan Patel accompanied by five other Congressmen joined the opposition in the Godhra Municipality. As a result the Congress which was in a majority hitherto, is now no longer in that position.

In response to the attention drawn by the State Office to an error in our last Newsletter, we would like to mention here that Shri Bhailalbhai Patel, the President of the Gujarat Party, is not the President of the Khedut Sangh, which position is occupied by Shri Khushalbhaji Patel. The error is regretted.

The Convenor of the Saurashtra division, Shri Maganlal B. Joshi, toured the Junagadh district and contacted leading citizens in Junagadh. At a meeting on October 28, where Maganlalbhaji was present, an

ad hoc committee was formed with Shri Gautamrai P. Majumdar as President, Shri Champakalal B. Doshi as Secretary and Shri Chandrakant G. Malaviya as Treasurer. Ten other Members were also nominated to the Committee. A meeting was addressed at the village of Majevidi, eleven miles from Junagadh, by Shri Doshi, Shri Joshi, Shri Majumdar and others.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

The Convenor of the Himachal Pradesh Party Shri Anandchand of Bilaspur has in the course of a Circular to the members of the State Committee discussed at length his impressions of the meetings of the Central Organising Committee and the General Council which met in Bombay. He states that after participating in the various gatherings in Bombay City he got the impression that the people were now accepting the Party as the main opposition to the Congress and in spite of its being only a year old they hope for great things from the Party. While emphasising that the leadership of the Party was in good hands, the Convenor goes on to give some sound advice. He writes "but there is work to be done and howsoever good the leadership might be we cannot make a mark unless we build up a strong Party from the very foundations. It is to this end therefore that all of us must strive and I am fully confident that you will put in your efforts in the right direction now."

The same awareness for the building up of a sound organisation is shown in a subsequent circular issued earlier this month. Members of the Party are called upon to undertake extensive tours of their respective areas to bring home to the people the message of Swatantra.

MADHYA PRADESH

Professor Ranga's visit to Indore has set many persons thinking, reports the Indore Divisional Party. Mr. Parulekar undertook a visit to several places and Rajkumar Udai Singh of Kaluhera also toured areas not only in Madhya Pradesh but also in Rajasthan.

Shri Parulekar visited the headquarters of the Dewas district Party and reconstituted the District Committee. He also visited Mandleshwar, Maheshwar, Khargone, Sanawas, Barwaha, etc. where he addressed public meetings.

The Indore division of the Party took the initiative in opposing the move by the Madhya Pradesh Government to prevent the State from joining a food zone. Our Party felt that this was detrimental to the kisans and farmers of Madhya Pradesh. It therefore took the initiative and organised a campaign to demand that the Madhya Pradesh Government with-

draw its stand and become a part of the food-zone. Our Party convened meetings, passed resolutions, printed posters and finally launched a signature campaign. In the meanwhile, the A.I.C.C. met at Raipur and the pressure of public opinion was so severe that the Government was compelled to accept a common zone. Our Indore divisional Party claims legitimately that our Party has won the first round.

It has been announced that the Indore Divisional convention will be held at Mandaleshwar in the district of Nimar and a district convention for Ratlam will be held at Alot.

MADRAS

October was a month of meetings for the Madras Party. Right from the first week meetings were held on various occasions in the districts. On October 2, for instance, the young men of our Party in Pallavaram in the district of Chingleput celebrated Gandhi Jayanti. A public meeting was held which was addressed among others by the State General Secretary, Shri S. S. Mariswamy.

A meeting organised by the Taluk Committee of Tindivanam in the South Arcot District was held on the 9th and was addressed by the State President Shri Sa Ganesan and others.

In the city of Madras itself a public meeting was held at the Minerva Hall, Egmore, on 14th October. It was presided over by Dr. M. Santhosham and addressed among others by Messrs. V. P. Menon and Lobo Prabhu. Mr. Menon in his speech strongly criticised the linguistic division of the country which he said would disrupt national unity. He drew attention to the deterioration of the Law and Order situation in the country. He told the audience that had Sardar Vallabhai Patel been alive today, he would not have allowed half the things that had happened under the Congress rule which had led to the formation of the new Party.

Mr. Lobo Prabhu in his address explained how politically, psychologically and economically the Congress was slipping so fast that, if it came back to power during the next elections, it would only be through money.

Similar public meetings were held on the 15th, which was addressed by Shri Sa Ganesan and on the 19th at Triplicane where Rajaji spoke. He said that the common people do not understand the difference between the Congress Party and the Government because even when the Ministers went out for Party work, they are accompanied by Government Officers and the Police.

A unique event took place on the 20th in the city of Madras. The occasion was a public meeting at Gokhale hall to celebrate the 82nd birthday of Shri E. V. Ramaswamy Naicker, leader of the Dravida Kazhagam. Rajaji who has had many occasions to criticise and oppose the policies of the Dravida Kazhagam,

spoke on the occasion and stated that the forty-five-year-old friendship with Shri Naicker known to his fellowmen as "Periyar", would never be affected and that mutual esteem and affection would continue despite the differences of opinion on some political issues.

On the 25th Rajaji addressed the members of the Madras Rotary club on the subject of the United Nations.

The Gandhi Desiga Seva Sangam at Kondithope celebrated Gandhiji's birthday with music performances, processions, feeding of the poor and a public meeting. Among those who participated in the function, were Rajaji, Shri Sa Ganesan and Shri S. S. Mariswamy. The meeting was presided over by Shri M. Audikesavalu, City Secretary.

On October 31 a procession was held at Egmore, to observe Gandhi Jayanti.

A Party unit was formed at Jaganathapuram Cheri in Circle No. 6 of Madras City in the presence of Dr. M. Santhosham, the City Party President.

MAHARASHTRA

The State *ad hoc* committee held a meeting at Poona on October 9 when the Party's progress in Maharashtra was reviewed. Representatives from the various districts who were present at the meeting assured the Committee that greater efforts would be made to enrol more members.

A resolution was adopted condemning the proposed Bill for Ceilings on land which is being introduced at the Nagpur Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

The Party reports that two new members, viz., Shri Dharmaraj Patale and Shri K. R. Deshmukh, have been doing good work in the district of Sholapur.

MYSORE

For Mysore too, it was a period of numerous meetings during the months of September and October. On September 5 a question and answer meeting was presided over by Shri B. V. Narayana Reddi, a member of the Central Organising Committee and Treasurer of the Party. It was held in the Malleswaram extension of Bangalore City and was well attended with several members in the audience evincing keen interest in the proceedings.

The Civil Station area of Bangalore city was the venue of a public meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr. V. P. Menon, a member of the Central Organising Committee. Professor M. Ruthnaswamy addressed the audience, followed by Shri S. S. Mariswamy

of the Madras Party who spoke in Tamil. Sardar Lal Singh who was also in Bangalore in connection with the Two-day Seminar on Land Reforms also addressed the gathering. On September 28 another public meeting was held in the City. Mr. Narayana Reddy again presided over the meeting which was addressed by Shri P. H. Krishna Rao, a former officer of the Mysore Civil Service.

Addressing a meeting on October 10 Mr. Lobo Prabhu referred to the system of controls which he said had created a monopoly for some individuals at the cost of freedom of consumers, trade and industry. Mr. Lobo Prabhu affirmed that there need be no apprehension that the end of controls would be the beginning of distress and shortages. On the other hand he said experience had shown that economic freedom was the basis of economic prosperity and absence of controls would eliminate the middleman—the monopolist.

ORISSA

Orissa reports the formation of more Party units. A committee has been formed at Puri in Chandanpur district with Mr. Khetrabasi Das as President; at Osangara in the district of Cuttack with Mr. Dibyasingh Santra as President; at Kanakapur in Cuttack district with Mr. Nanda Kishore Panda as the President and at Jarasingha in the Angul district with Mr. Dambar Pradhan as President.

The State Committee met on August 25 to discuss the flood situation in the State. By a resolution it called upon the Government to give relief and suggested remedies for the prevention of floods.

A Party meeting was held on October 16 at Nuapara under the Presidentship of Shri Bhatram Patel. Among others who addressed the meeting were Shri Ghasiram Majhi, M.L.A., and Shri Madanmohan Sahoo. It is reported that the meeting met with good response, many persons enrolling themselves as members soon after the meeting was over.

A Party workers' camp was held at Soro in the district of Balasore from October 6 to 8. This training camp began with the hoisting of the Party flag by Shri Baikuntha Nath Mohapatra, Secretary of the Soro Committee. A number of subjects were discussed at this camp. For example Shri Haraprasad Mohapatra, an advocate and a member of the Balasore district committee of the Party dealt with various topics, from the origin of society to the formation of Governments and the rise of political parties. On October 7, Shri Jadunath Das Mohapatra presided over the Conference at the Camp.

On 8th October Shri Haraprasad Mohapatra was elected the President. Party workers distributed pamphlets and visited the houses in the various vil-

lages and launched a door-to-door campaign. The training camp was a great success, reports the Swatantra Party in Orissa.

PUNJAB

As indicated in our October Newsletter, the various gentlemen who were assigned the job of ensuring that constituency units in the State enrolled sufficient members to enable them the formation of Committees, as provided for in the Constitution, viz., Jathedar Udharn Singh Nagoke, Raja Maheshindra Singh, Chaudhri Dharam Singh Rathi and Sardar Basant Singh visited their respective areas. The result has been that there was a significant increase in membership. The State office was thus able to form 98 constituency units out of 154 in the State. The work, was, however, considerably hampered due to the promulgation of Section 144 Cr.P.C. in the major part of the State.

All the four State Party leaders report that their tour has revealed the immense goodwill that exists for our Party and that what is required is to educate and explain to them in simple terms the policies and programme of the Party and of its interest in the people's welfare and betterment of their economic conditions.

A very successful conference was held at Ajnala in the district of Amritsar on October 9. It was attended by Jathedar Udharn Singh Nagoke, Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman, M.P., Sardar Shash Pal Singh and other local leaders.

Sathayala, also in the district of Amritsar, was the venue of another conference on October 25. The meeting was doubly successful for not only was it well attended but also because a Congress meeting, held a couple of days earlier in the same area to counteract our meeting, had flopped miserably.

On October 30 a meeting was held at Muktsar in the district of Ferozepur which was attended by at least 25 representatives of each constituency of this district the largest in the Punjab. Dr. Kehar Singh, a medical practitioner of Muktsar who is also the district convenor, presided over the function. A former M.L.A., Shri S. N. Khosla and several other local sympathisers and well-wishers of the Party attended the meeting.

Sardar Basant Singh visited Faridkot in the erstwhile Phulkian State of the Punjab to arrange for the establishment of a Party Office there.

RAJASTHAN

Although Rajasthan has not figured in our Newsletter for some time now, our Party unit there reports that during this period activity has been slowly but steadily increasing. Party leaders have been under-

taking tours of various areas in an effort to give a fillip to the membership campaign and building up the organisation at the lower levels. For example, in August, H.H. Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur undertook a tour of Bhilwara and Chitor districts where, besides establishing ad hoc committees constituency-wise, three important and well-attended meetings were addressed by him at Bhilwara, Chitor and Begun thus giving the Party a good start in these districts. Shri Kalyan Singh, Convenor of the Party, organised a public meeting at Parbatsar on the occasion of a big cattle-fair. This fair is attended by people not only from the State but from the Punjab and even Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was attended by well over three thousand people and was addressed by Shri Kalyan Singh, Professor Madan Singh and Shri N. M. Shastri. Other public meetings were held during that month at Kekri, Nagola, Champaneri and Delio in the district of Ajmer.

Bundi district is doing good work under its organiser, Shri Ravi Duttji. A public meeting organised by the local unit and addressed by Shri Kalyan Singh and others was also well attended.

Kuwar Amar Singhji, a retired judge who recently joined our Party, and Kuwar Ayuwan Singhji toured the Pachpada and Siwana districts of Jodhpur, whilst Kuwar Shyan Singh toured Jaitaram district. Col. Dhonkal Singhji and Shri Ramnathji Mirdha toured Nagaur district and enrolled numerous members. A branch of the Party was established at Deghana in Jodhpur.

September was a month of satisfactory Party work. Professor Ranga toured Rajasthan that month. He arrived at Kota on 9th when he was given a rousing reception at the Station. He addressed a meeting of the Indian Council of World Affairs at the Umaid club. In the evening he addressed a public meeting at Rampura bazar. On the 10th he left for Bundi where he was given an enthusiastic reception. About twelve gates had been constructed and a huge procession had been organised which ended at the District Party Office. He unfurled the Party Flag and addressed a workers' meeting. Later in the day he addressed a public meeting along with Shri Kalyan Singh where over four thousand people are reported to have been present. On the 11th Professor Ranga proceeded to Ajmer. En route he was given a reception at Deoli, the famous political camp used by the British regime. At Chandthali about sixty villagers representing about twenty villages had gathered on the road and received him with drums and pipes. Kuwar Jait Singhji, their spokesman presented Professor Ranga with a garland made of maize-buthas symbolising the need of the rural people for food and clothing. He went on to Kekri where he addressed a meeting of prominent citizens most of whom were members of the Party. At Geola a roadside reception was given to him where about twenty farmers had gathered to offer tea to the party consisting of Professor Ranga, Shri Kalyan Singh and others. Reaching the outskirts of Ajmer, Professor Ranga was the recipient of numerous wayside receptions and by the time he reached the Circuit House, he had to stop and meet people at about thirty places. That after-

noon he addressed the Indian Council of World Affairs at the Ajmer Club and in the evening a public meeting at the Town Hall. On the 13th Professor Ranga proceeded to Bharatpur where again he addressed a workers' meeting followed by a press conference. The next day he left for Gwalior accompanied by Raja Mansinghji of Bharatpur and Shri Kalyan Singh.

Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur held numerous meetings in the Udaipur division. Five big public meetings attended by an average of three to four thousand people indicated the capacity of the Party to attract the masses. The most important among them were those held at Bawalwara and Kalyanpura. These two areas situated in remote parts of the State have the appearance of a place divorced from civilisation. In spite of this, however, the large gatherings at these places bear testimony to the fact that our Party had something to offer which could not be claimed by the other political parties.

The other meetings at Suratan and Chhani Magri were also addressed by Maharawal Saheb and an independent M.L.A., Shri Bal Mukand.

On Anti-Inflation Day, a very successful meeting was held at Dungarpur where over five thousand people attended. The meeting was addressed by Maharawal Saheb and other prominent citizens. At Ajmer, Anti-Inflation Day was observed with a big public meeting right in the centre of the town and it is reported that over three thousand people listened to the speeches made by Professor Madan Singhji, Shri Kalyan Singh and others. Similar meetings were held at Kekri, Nagaur and Bundi.

On October 12 a public meeting was held at Ajmer which was addressed by Shri Anandchand of Bilaspur and Thakur Nahar Singh of Indore. The meeting was attended by over two thousand people.

The Party feels confident that the tempo of activity in Rajasthan will increase to such an extent that by the time the General Elections are on, we will render a good account of ourselves in the State.

UTTAR PRADESH

With floods causing havoc to Lucknow city and the neighbouring areas, all local activities came to a complete standstill. Water entered the thickly-populated parts of the City with such fury and rapidity that thousands of people were forced to flee their homes abandoning all their belongings. The Uttar Pradesh Party rose to the occasion by organising relief work among the homeless and flood-stricken people. A number of volunteers were sent with a jeep at considerable risk to their lives to rescue the marooned people, save their property and provide them with food and shelter. Thanks to the philanthropy of the State Treasurer, Shri Raghavendra Pratap Singh, M.L.A. and Shri Ram Gopal Gupta M.P.,

Convenor of the Kanpur unit of the Party a Relief Committee appointed by our Party was able to purchase foodgrains, kerosene oil, salt, gur, candles, match-boxes and various other articles for distribution among the flood-stricken people. The Laxmi Cotton Mills contributed 320 saris for the relief of needy women. The relief camp was established under the guidance of Shri Virendra Shah of Jagammanpur, M.L.A., and Shri N. K. Sharma, who along with Shri Brajeshwar Bali distributed food and other necessities for the relief of the unfortunate people.

A meeting of the State Committee was held on October 11 under the Presidentship of Shri S. K. D. Paliwal.

The General Secretary of the State Party, Choudhury Layaq Singh toured Mainpuri and Mathura districts where he addressed public meetings.

Shri Prayag Narain Srivastava, office secretary of the Party after doing some relief work at Lucknow, was deputed to visit the Varanasi division to inspect and organise the Party unit there. He addressed various meetings and made arrangements for a Party camp which was to be set up in the Meerut district. At the Garhmukteshwar Ganges Fair where lakhs of people were present, the State Party distributed Party

leaflets thus ensuring that many who in the normal course may never have known the Party's programme would now become aware of it. Similar arrangements were made at fairs held at Bateshwar, Soron and Moradabad.

The Kanpur district Party held meetings in the various parts of the district to popularise the Party principles. It shortly proposes to publish a Hindi weekly.

A "Swatantra Seva Kendra" (Public Service Organisation) is also being set up by the district Party.

We have a report of a Party workers camp held at the Tigri Mela in the district of Moradabad. This mela which is one of the biggest in Uttar Pradesh, provided an ideal opportunity for our Party to contact numerous people from the outlying villages who had converged to participate in the festivities. The camp which went on from October 31 to November 4 was addressed by various leaders of the U.P. Party, among them being Choudhury Layaq Singh, Mr. M. D. Shastri and Shri P. S. Yadav. On November 2 a procession was organised in the Mela with elephants, cars, band, etc. Of interest to note is the fact that the Party workers camp was visited by leaders of the Congress, P.S.P., Jan Sangh and others.

UTTAR PRADESH

(For Private Circulation)