

APPENDIX XV.

Letters from certain leaders of the non-Brahman Hindus in Madras declining to appear before the Committee.

(1) Letter, dated the 9th January 1919, from Dr. T. M. Nair to the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter Public Department (Reforms) No. 104-I. R., dated the 7th January 1919, and in reply beg to say that I have neither the time nor the inclination to express my views on questions to be considered by the Franchise and Division of Functions Committees. As I understand that the Committees do not intend to sit in public and to formally record evidence I am most unwilling to take the trouble of appearing before those Committees as I have painful experience of the results of such private and informal investigations. I further take exception to the constitution of the Committee, especially to the non-official Indian section thereof, and I am not anxious to be sat in judgment on by my political opponents.

(2) Letter, dated the 12th January 1919, from Diwan Bahadur P. Theagaroya Chetty Garu, Vice-President, South Indian Liberal Federation, to the Government of Madras.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 9th January 1919, requesting my Association to intimate to you the names of not more than six members of the Federation who will represent it before the Committees.

In reply I desire to state that the members of the Federation are not willing to appear before the Committees as representatives of the Federation. I may be permitted to draw your attention to the resolution passed at the extraordinary session of the South Indian Non-Brahmin Confederation held on October 20th, 1918, and communicated to the Government of Madras and to the further resolution passed at the second session of the Non-Brahmin Confederation held on the 11th and 12th January 1919, copies of both of which are herewith enclosed.

Resolution passed at the extraordinary session.

In view of the partial and partisan character of the Franchise Committee, in view of the studied silence of the Government towards the influential and indignant protest of non-Brahmins in this matter, and in view of the homage paid by Government to the advocate of Brahmin oligarchy in preference to Indian democracy

which depends for its evolution upon British authority, this Confederation solemnly resolves that all self-respecting non-Brahmins should decline to appear before, or in any other way co-operate with, the Reform Committees unless one or more non-Brahmin members representing the views of the South Indian Liberal Federation are appointed to each of the Committees.

Resolution passed at the second session.

In view of the resolution passed at the extraordinary session of the non-Brahmin Confederation declining to appear before or co-operate with the Reform Committees, this Confederation resolves not to depute any of its representatives to give evidence before the said Committees and declares that it will not be responsible for any evidence that may be given by any gentleman connected with the non-Brahmin movement.

**(3) Letter, dated the 15th January 1919, from the Madras
Adi Dravida Jana Sabha, to the Government of
Madras.**

In reply to your letter, dated the 9th instant, we have the honour to state that as representatives of the above Sabha we would appear before the Franchise Committee provided the two persons, Messrs. V. S. Sreenivasa Sastriar and Surendra Nath Bannerjee, to whose presence on the Committee we have already objected, are removed from the Committee during our appearance before it.

We have already stated that Mr. Sreenivas Sastriar, as a champion and apologist of Brahmin oligarchy in preference to British bureaucracy, and Mr. Bannerjee as one who advised our Sabha and the community which it represents "to enlist themselves in the German Army fighting against freedom and civilization," because we said in our address to Lord Chelmsford and the Right Hon'ble Mr. Montagu that "we would fight to the last drop of our blood any attempt to transfer the seat of authority in this country from British hands to the so-called high caste Hindus who had been oppressing us in the past and would do so again, but for the British Government," are unfit to sit in judgment over any representation we may make.

If they continue to sit on the Committee we have no other alternative as self-respecting and loyal citizens of the British Empire, than that of respectfully declining to appear before the aforesaid Committee.

**(4) Letter, dated 16th January 1919, from M. R. Ry. Rai
Bahadur K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu Garu. to the
Government of Madras.**

With reference to the Government intimation, dated 9th January 1919, informing me that my evidence before the Reform Committees, now sitting in Madras, will be heard on the 17th and 20th instant, I beg to state that a recent resolution of the South Indian Non-Brahmin Confederation and considerations of party make it impossible for me to appear before the said committees. I am therefore sorry to state that I am unable to appear and give evidence before them.