

I AM ANXIOUS MORE THAN MR. JINNAH...

“Dr. Ambedkar To join Muslim Celebration Deliverance Day”: Support of Many Parsis.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, leader of the Independent Labour Party, has decided to join in the celebration of “Deliverance Day” on Friday next.

A number of Parsis have, already expressed their eagerness in their individual capacity, to cooperate with Mr. M. A. Jinnah, President of the All India Muslim League, in making the day a success.

The sub-committee appointed by the Parsi Community a few months ago at a meeting held at Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Hall to protest against the Congress policy of prohibition will consider on Tuesday, the invitation extended to it to participation in the observance of “Deliverance Day”. The sub-committee consists of nearly 50 leading Parsis including Mr. M. P Khareghat, President of the Parsi Panchayat, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir H. P. Mody and Sir Byramjee Jeejeebhoy.

Dr. Ambedkar, in a talk with a representative of this Paper on Monday said:

“Eversince The Times of India published my cryptive reply to its representative only last week, supporting Mr. Jinnah’s appeal for the observance of “Deliverance Day”, I have had numerous inquiries from friends as well as foes to explain what I meant. I am, therefore, obliged to explain my position.

“When I read Mr. Jinnah’s statement, I felt ashamed to have allowed him to steal a march over me and rob me of the language and the sentiments which I more than Mr. Jinnah, was entitled to use.

“Harijans’ Position”

“Whatever anyone may say with regard to the tyranny alleged to have been practised by the Hindus over the Muslims during the

Congress regime no one can entertain any doubt as to the position of millions of Untouchables who had the misfortune to be ruled by the Congress Government in this province in common with some others. If Mr. Jinnah and the Muslims can prove five out of 100 cases of oppression, I am prepared to place 100 out of 100 cases before any impartial tribunal, I, therefore, am anxious more than Mr. Jinnah can ever be, for the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate the cases of tyranny and oppression by the Congress Government.

“Although the oppressors, so far as the Untouchables are concerned, are Hindus, I can assure my Hindu friends that this is not an Anti-Hindu move, it is Anti-Congress, and, therefore, purely political. If attack on the Congress is interpreted by the Hindus as an attack on them, they have to thank themselves then for the consequences. It proves two things, that the Congress is a Hindu body and that the Hindus are attached to the Congress and are not prepared to put that organization on its trial.”¹

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¹: The Times of India, Tuesday, 19-12-1939, P-9

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