

VERY NEBULOUS PLAN**Dr. Ambedkar On Consultative Committee**

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Leader of the Independent Labour Party has issued the following statement:—

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Independent Labour Party held on the 21st October, under the Presidentship of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the following resolution was passed:—

The Executive Council of the Independent Labour Party confirms the statement issued on the situation arising out of the present war.

The Executive Council of the Party has taken into consideration the declaration made by H. E., the Viceroy on the 27th October.

In the opinion of the Council a better and a more satisfactory response with regards to the aspirations and demands of the people of India would have come from His Majesty's Government if the Congress had tried to bring about a unity between the different communities and sections in this country.

In view of the assurance given by H. E., the Viceroy that immediately after the close of the war His Majesty's Government will enter into consultations with representatives of communities, parties and interests, in framing modification in the Constitution of India and in view of the fact that His Majesty's Government have declared their adherence to Dominion Status as the goal of India and further in view of the fact that the development of the war may take such a turn that the question of defending India may become more important than the question of helping Great Britain the Executive Council feels that the present is not the proper occasion for withholding its co-operation from Great Britain.

In the opinion of the Council, however, the proposal regarding the formation of a Consultative Committee is unsatisfactory. Apart from the question that the proposed Committee will have no powers of any sort either to take

decisions of to give directions the Committee will be composed of a fluctuating body of people. The Council is of opinion that the panel system is the most objectionable feature of the proposal. Before, however, any final or considered view of the Party is expressed on the said proposal, it is necessary to have a detailed scheme with particular reference to the constitution, function, powers and scope of the proposed Committee.—A. P.”¹

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1. : The Bombay Chronicle, dated 24th October 1939.