

Proceedings of the Fourth Session of the Second Assam Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 A.M. on Monday, the 8th March 1948.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-five Members.

Oath of Allegiance to the Constitution of India

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Hon. Members will remember that in the last Session certain Members raised a pertinent question as to whether the hon. Members should not take the new oath of allegiance under the new set-up of things. I promised to look into the matter which I did and, in my opinion, hon. Members should take the new oath. I therefore call upon the hon. Members to take the new oath in the prescribed manner.

The following Members were sworn in: —

The Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi,
The Hon'ble Rev. J- J. M. Nichols-Roy,
The Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi,
The Hon'ble Srijut Ram Nath Das,
The Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma,
The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matlib Muzumdar,
The Hon'ble Srijut Omco Kumar Das,
Mrs. Bonily Khongmen,
Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma,
Srijut Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury,
Srijut Bimalaprasad Chaliha,
Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah,
Srijut Sarat Chandra Sinha,
Srijut Motiram Bora,
Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika,
Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan,
Mr. Maniram Marak,
Mr. Larsingh Khyriem,
Srijut Dalbir Singh Lohar,
Srijut Chanoo Kheria,
Babu Bidyapati Singha,
Babu Kamini Kumar Sen,
Srijut Gauri Kanta Talukdar,

Srijut Siddhinath Sarma,
 Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika,
 Srijut Dharanidhar Basumatari,
 Srijut Nilmoni Phookan,
 Srijut Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati,
 Srijut Purnananda Chetia,
 Srijut Bhadra Kanta Gogoi,
 Dr. Jinaram Das,
 Maulavi Abdul Halim,
 Maulavi Abdul Hai,
 Maulavi Saiyid Md. Saadulla,
 Maulavi Md. Abul Kasem,
 Maulavi Md. Maksud Ali,
 Maulavi Mukabbir Ali Mozumdar,
 Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury,
 Shri Satindra Mohan Dev,
 Srijut Bijay Chandra Saikia.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is there any hon. Member present who has not yet taken oath of allegiance ?

(No reply)

Condolence Motion on the death of Mahatma Gandhi

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Friends, we are meeting here for the first time under the shadow of a great national calamity. My heart bleeds to repeat here that Mahatma Gandhi the Bapuji of million bosoms, 'Gandhi Baba' of countless labouring and toiling millions of India is no more! The glorious life of the Mahatma was cut short by the cruel hand of a young assassin last January. My words fail to describe to you the depth of agony and sorrow in which the country is plunged in.

Friends, as you all know Mahatma Gandhi launched non-violent, non-co-operation movement against the "British Raj" more than a quarter of a century ago and since then he led the Indian Nation from victory to victory in all the phases of the non-violent struggle and the most singular feature of the Guru's non-violent campaign was that he won for the Indian people their great *i.e.*, Independence, without alienating the sympathy and goodwill of their great Nation—a unique phenomenon in the history of human relations in the British Empire. To be deprived of the wisdom and guidance and light and inspiration of such a great personality is a tragedy which beggars description.

Friends, Gandhiji has won for us independence, and let us be worthy of it economically, physically and above all morally and spiritually. Friends, we all know that the aim and aspiration of our great Guru was establishment of a Ramraj *i.e.*, a raj or a State in which the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the majority and minority and the so-called high caste and low caste may live in peace and amity. To be worthy of our great teacher let us set ourselves to work for attainment of that ideal. There are many in this House who along with hundreds and thousands abroad contributed their mite towards emancipation of the Indian people by treading the path of non-violent non-co-operation led by Mahatma Gandhi and cheerfully bore the physical suffering and mer-

worry in company with their Guru Bapuji. Forlorn and destitute are they to-day along with millions even as the children of a family on the death of their father and darkness, despair and bewilderment encompass them all.

Friends as we meet after such a calamity it is only meet that we adjourn the House to-day and accordingly I propose that the House do adjourn but before I actually do so, I request the Leaders of the different parties in this House to speak on this occasion.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not make an attempt to paint the lily or to add another hue to the rainbow. The greatest of Indians, nay, the greatest in the world have paid such devoted homage to the greatness of this great departed soul that any attempt on my part to add anything more would be something which, I feel, I am incapable of. The poets and philosophers of the world have tried to describe Mahatma Gandhi and the ideals for which he stood. We have so much of things said in this country and outside in respect of him that I could not add anything more to them. But if it was a question of the heart and of giving full expression to the feelings of the heart, possibly I could take a lot of time of this House. Yet, although it is inexpressible in words, it behoves us to contemplate on the greatness of this great soul in order that we may profit by it. I do not know, Sir, whether we have been able to realise how a person who had not been seen by millions, whose name might not have been fully heard by many, could have commanded a love and respect of them all. Is it not a great power of love that adorned this great soul and attracted the hearts of millions of people? An Abor in the Sadiya Frontier in the Naga Hills in the anguish of his soul said "Who has killed our father." A friend in the world has gone." Similarly said "In the death of Gandhi the peace of the world has gone." What is it that evoked from those hearts those exclamations? Is it not for his great power of non-violence and love which Mahatmaji actually practised in his life? Again, look at those labourers from all parts of India who it seems were more affected by this calamity than many of us did feel. It is all these. Therefore when we try to contemplate Gandhiji in our hearts it is good for us that we do contemplate the power which this great soul wielded and also to think whether a society based on these principles could not be built up to-day. Gandhiji passed away from this world, but he had left for this world such great principles, such abiding relationship of humanity that it will elevate humanity if we do really contemplate and try to follow those principles alone. I would not take the time of the House, as I said, by many expressions, in narrating the ideals of this great personage which the Congress party whom I have the honour to represent in this House, try to follow, in however humble and however poor a manner it might have been possible for them to do. We only hope, Sir, that the same ideals which he preached, the same ideals for which he lived and the same ideals for which he died, will continue to inspire us all, I mean, not merely the members of my party but also all members of this House and the world outside.

With these words, Sir, I join with you, with this heartfelt condolence that you have expressed.

Maulavi SAIYID MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the party that I have the honour to lead and on behalf of myself, I wholeheartedly associate in the condolence resolution which you have brought. But in my opinion we will be doing scant justice to that great soul which has been snatched away from our midst by the most dastardly crime which has the conscience of humanity all over the world, if we do not follow his ideals. Although the frail and mortal body of Gandhiji is no more with us the ideals for

which he stood, the principles of life which he had advocated, preached and practised, are before us. If we are to be the true followers of the Gandhian cult we should try to practise those principles in our daily life—the principles which the Guru of many millions have tried to tread and trod and which have been endorsed by a large number of people who did not follow his lead. The volume of condolence and sympathy which evoked after the dastardly crime of murder of Gandhiji clearly shows that his preachings were acceptable to a very large section of the world. What are his principles? He had been a very simple man but with a deep-rooted affection for religion. And according to all codes of religions a religion is nothing but submission to God and service to His created beings. If we all adopt this very simple code of life we will be following in the footsteps of one whom the people has termed 'the father of the Indian Nation'.

In another sphere, I mean the Constituent Assembly, I had said that the greatest tribute, which a non-Muslim can receive from a Muslim, is the appraisal of the non-Muslim's activities in the terms of our religion and I said there, while speaking in the Constituent Assembly that Gandhiji not merely preached but also practised all the tenets of the Muslim religion. It is his love for the common man, it is his genuine endeavour to uplift the condition of the people at large, it is his love for justice among all communities for which he laid his life, that endeared him even to us though we did not see eye to eye with his politics. In the event of his death all controversies must cease, and if we are to be true to the memory of the great man—Mahatmaji, we must all try to work together for the improvement of the condition of the common man, for bringing in the much needed communal harmony among all the different groups of people living in this sub-continent of India and bring in an era of good will, peace and prosperity. Mere lip service to his principles will be a mockery and, I should say, an injustice to the memory of the great man, whose loss we the people of all religions mourn.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House and on behalf of the European Commerce and Industry, wish to associate ourselves most whole heartedly with this resolution. The news of Mahatmaji's death-dreadful assassination-came as a great shock to us, as it did to you all, and we wish to express our sympathy with the people of India in this sad bereavement. So many distinguished statesmen and men of letters throughout the world had spoken on Mahatma Gandhi's life and achievements that it becomes difficult to avoid a repetition of the sentiment which had already been expressed. There can be little doubt that Mahatma Gandhi was the great man of the age in India and it is equally certain that he will find an abiding place in the world's history. It is perhaps one of the tragedies of fate that the apostle of non-violence and truth should have died at an assassin's hand. We believe, however, that Mahatmaji's ideas and ideals of truth and non-violence will live on and will be a message of peace and brotherly love not merely for India and ourselves, but for all the countries of the world.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I propose that the House should stand for two minutes to show respect and pay homage to the memory of Mahatmaji. (The House stood for two minutes in solemn silence.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1948.

SHILLONG:
The 9th April 1948.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.

