

most

unmitigated blackguards ~~blackguards~~ in their own States. Naturally they do not wish to give up any powers and privileges now possessed. Confederation is bound to curtail very considerably their present rights; they are not averse to having some say in the government of British India which Confederation would give them. They are bound to lose much of their power, their place and their income by Confederation. You will ask why they spoke in favour of confederation at the Conference, they did so because they did not wish to appear as the stumbling block, though it is believed that in their heart of hearts they said what they did not mean.

The Congress, a most influential body, self chosen and representing God only knows whom, are out for God only knows what. Every concession Britain has made has been unsatisfactory, they are the ones most responsible for the growth of Indian Nationalist feeling, but they are also responsible for all the sand that has been put into the Government machinery in the last 10 years. They were determined that it would not work and I am inclined to believe that will be their attitude in the future. If it does not work there will be a crash; if the crash comes can Britain control it, for by that time the latter may have given up control of the Army and the Police, the only power, with the Indian Civil Service, which makes government possible now.

You will be told, of course, that "untouchability" is disappearing, that is not so, there are 50 million untouchables, or lowest caste people in this country. What say can they have in the government. Are these illiterate, suspicious, superstitious, degenerate people to be given the vote, in fact 90% of the Indian people are illiterate. The Civil Service and the Army believe that a long period of transition must take place. It is the length of this period on which there is such a violent difference of opinion.