

In October the Simon Commission discovered the great importance in the polity of India of the Native States, and Mr. MacDonald then saw his way to burking the whole commission. Lord Irwin was instructed to return to India, and to inform the people before the report was published that "Dominion Status" would be granted to them, though the date on which it would be granted was not specified! And the Prime Minister issued invitations to representatives in British India and the Native States "for the purpose of Conference and Discussion."

Thus the Simon Commission *was deliberately set aside before its report was published!* Sir John Simon has never been allowed to explain his proposals submitted in the report (which was signed by all his colleagues representing all those political parties) which is, practically speaking, unknown and thus it is that *the Provisions of the Act of 1919 have been deliberately set aside.*

Lord Irwin made his mischievous speech on the 1st November 1929, and, the Irreconcilables having won the first hand, naturally decided to play again. This time they staged a great meeting of the Congress at Lahore, where they passed Resolutions that they did not want "Dominion Status," and that complete severance from the British Dominion was what they wanted and meant to have. The British flag was torn down and burnt and the Swaraj flag hoisted in its place. They then proceeded to organise systematic law breaking with the object of intimidating the Government. In January Gandhi drew up a new scheme with which to intimidate the Viceroy—this time called "Civil Disobedience" (we know what his "Civil Disobedience" got for him in South Africa) with which he threatened the Viceroy if what he wanted was not granted. Disorders of all kinds broke out all over the country. Passive resistance has always degenerated into violence (Ghandi, when talking to a *Times* correspondent complacently remarked, "Violent and non-violent measures go hand in hand!")

The loyal elements looked on aghast; the Government seems to have adopted an alternating policy—one day sympathising with the "legitimate aspirations" of the Swarajists, and the next day clapping them into jail for "sedition and conspiracy." The Mayor of Calcutta was thrown into jail for a seditious speech which he made at Rangoon; ten days afterwards he was out and calling for a general strike in Calcutta. Gandhi (the cause of all the trouble) was not arrested and was allowed to make his provocative and dangerous march to the sea, where the ridiculous salt-making began, which was to begin his campaign for "Civil Disobedience." Riots broke out all over India. Loyal police were butchered and burnt at Sholapur. British officials were murdered and every form of violence was used in Chittagong; the Afridis descended from the Hills and Peshawar burst into flame. Then, at last, when India was in a blaze from end to end, Lord Irwin took alarm. He revived the Press Act—an Act dealing with seditious and dangerous newspapers, which had been repealed in 1922—and, at long last, Gandhi was arrested and put in jail. Mrs. Sarogini Naidu (sister of the dangerous anarchist and rebel Chhattopadhyaya, the head of the Berlin Bureau for anti-British propaganda and Gandhi's strong lieutenant), with several others, soon followed him into jail.

The Indians made great capital out of these measures, which they exaggerated grossly and utilised in order to gain sympathy in England and also in America, where, owing to the natural ignorance of elementary facts about India, the Indian propagandist could always get a sympathetic hearing for his false statements.