

delegates to the Congress at Lucknow requested the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mr. Gandhi to go to Muzaffarpur and Champaran and study the question about the planters and the *raiyats*. They promised to visit Muzaffarpur as early as possible. Mr. Gandhi was also requested by Bihar delegates to move a resolution on the subject in the Congress but he declined to do so on the ground that he had not studied the question on the spot.

ARIKSHAN SINHA.

[No. 19.]

*Letter, dated Muzaffarpur, 13 April, 1917, from L. F. Morshead, Commissioner, Tirhut Division, to the District Magistrate, Champaran.*¹

Mr. M. K. Gandhi has come here, in response to what he describes as an insistent public demand, to enquire into the conditions under which Indians work on indigo plantation, and desires the help of the local administration. He came to see me this morning, and I explained that relations between the planter and *raiyat* had engaged the attention of the administration since the sixties, and that we were particularly concerned with a phase of the problem in Champaran now; but that it was doubtful whether the intervention of a stranger in the middle of our treatment of the case would not prove an embarrassment. I indicated the portentualities of disturbance in Champaran, asked for credentials to show an insistent public demand for his enquiry, and said that the matter would probably need reference to Government.

I expect that Mr. Gandhi will communicate with me again before he proceeds to Champaran, but have been informed, since our interview, that his object is probably agitation rather than a genuine search for knowledge, and it is possible that he may proceed without further reference. I consider that there is a

¹ *Ibid.* This official letter was accompanied with the following demi-official note of even date :—

My Dear Heycock,

The enclosed official communication which I am sending you speaks for itself. It need not be used or published unless the occasion arises, but if Mr. Gandhi should come to Champaran without approval I would be obliged if you would take action. Copy this letter—meanwhile keeping it to yourself.

danger of disturbance to the public tranquility should he visit your district, and have the honour to request you to direct him by an order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to leave it at once, if he should appear.¹

[No. 20.]

*Note, dated 16 April, 1917, from W.B. Heycock, District Magistrate, Champaran, to the Commissioner, Tirhut Division.*²

I was informed at about 10 o'clock this morning that Mr. M. K. Gandhi had arrived the evening before by the afternoon train of the 15th April, 1917, at Motihari, and was putting up with a local pleader Babu Gorakh Prashad. I was also informed that he was making preparations to proceed to village Jassauli which is close to Jagiraha Factory where there was a disturbance some short time ago in the course of which Mr. Kemp was assaulted.³ The case in connection with this matter is still under trial. As soon as I was informed of this I issued a notice under section 144,⁴ Criminal Procedure Code, in accordance with your

¹. The original of this letter in Champaran Collectorate file bears the following note of Collector:—

“The S.P. is away. Dy. S. P. will please draw up an order U.S. 144, I. P. C. for my signature and serve it on Mr. Gandhi at once. The order will be drawn up on the information given in this.

W. B. HEYCOCK.”

². Political (Special) Department, file No. 1571 of 1917.

³. Kemp was manager of Dinamath factory. His assault was followed by an atrocious retaliation on the *raiyats* (See no. 49 *infra*).

⁴. The notice is quoted below:—

“To Mr. M.K. Gandhi (at present in Motihari.)

Whereas your presence in any part of this district will endanger the public peace and may lead to serious disturbances.... I do hereby order you to abstain from remaining in this district which you are required to leave by the next available train.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, This 16th day of April, 1917.

W.B. HEYCOCK,
District Magistrate, Champaran.”