

[No. 17.]

*Letter, dated Muzaffarpur, 13 April, 1917, from Local leaders, to M. K. Gandhi.*<sup>1</sup>

Dear Mr. Gandhi,

We entirely corroborate your statement made by you today to the Commissioner<sup>2</sup> (Tirhut Division) that you have come to this division at the request of the public men of the province to investigate the question of the relations between the indigo planters and indian *railyats* and give us the benefit of your expert assistance in any way you can. We were party to the invitation. We further corroborate your statement that you were asked by most of us to move the resolution in the matter before the last Congress but that you declined to do so on the ground that you had not studied the question on the spot. We invited you because we thought that having expert experience you would be the best and most proper person to make a thorough constitutional and impartial inquiry into the matter which would be to the interest of the parties concerned.

Yours sincerely,

BRAJA KISHORE PRASAD<sup>3</sup>  
RAMNAVAMI PRASHAD<sup>4</sup>  
GAYA PRASHAD SINGH<sup>5</sup>  
RAMDAYALU SINHA<sup>6</sup>

[No. 18.]

*Note, dated Muzaffarpur, 13 April, 1917, from Arikshan Singh, to M. K. Gandhi.*<sup>7</sup>

I had been to the last Lucknow Congress as a delegate. Nearly all the leading men of this province, numbering about 81, attended the Lucknow Sessions of the Congress as delegates. The Bihar

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

2. Vide No. 15 ante.

3. A lawyer of Darbhanga, a prominent political leader and member of Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council.

4. A lawyer of Muzaffarpur, still living.

5. A prominent public man of Muzaffarpur, living in Babu Maheshwar Prasad's house then. He was Mahatma Gandhi's host at Muzaffarpur.

6. A prominent leader of Bihar, later Speaker of Bihar Legislative Assembly.

7. Political (Special) Department file No. 1571 of 1917.