

[No. 131.]

*Letter, dated Bettiah 13 June, 1917, from M. K. Gandhi to H. McPherson, Chief Secretary to Government of Bihar and Orissa.*<sup>1</sup>

DEAR MR. MCPHERSON,

I went over to Motihari yesterday and formally stopped the taking of statements. I have told the *raiyats* that the Government are about to appoint a committee of inquiry which is likely to commence its work about the middle of July next and which will listen to their tale in so far as it may be necessary for me to take their statements.

I am shifting the headquarter to Motihari where my work and that of my colleagues will consist in studying and analysing the evidence we have already collected and in putting it in a presentable form. The *raiyats* will still continue to come to us for information and guidance. I do notice that to allow them to talk to us in any manner they choose is a great relief to them and they readily accept the advice that is given to them. They are being told not to disturb the existing situation pending the enquiry except where it is manifestly illegal and in no case to take the law in their own hands. I am not leaving for Ahmadabad till the resolution appointing the committee is published and the net controversy going in the Press has subsided a little. If you could please drop in a wire, as to when the resolution is likely to be gazetted, I shall be obliged.

Pray send all letters to Motihari after receipt of this. I am in Bettiah all day tomorrow (Thursday).

I am,  
Your sincerely,  
M. K. GANDHI

[No. 132.]

*Letter, dated Paddamkair, 14 June, 1917, from Herber Cox, Honorary Secretary, Bihar Planters' Association, Champaran district, to H. McPherson, Chief Secretary to Government of Bihar and Orissa.*<sup>2</sup>

I have the honour to point out that the Planters of Champaran most strongly object to and respectfully protest against Mr. Gandhi's

<sup>1</sup>. Political (Special) Department, file No. 1571 of 1917 (Part II).

<sup>2</sup>. *Ibid.*