

instructions and attached a copy of your letter to me¹ on the subject to the order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code.... Mr. Gandhi who had already started on foot for Jassauli had been overtaken by Sub-Inspector Ajodhya Prashad Tiwari who requested him to return and see the District Magistrate before going out to Jassauli. Mr. Gandhi was accordingly returning to Motihari and was then served with a notice under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, by the Deputy Superintendent of Police. Mr. Gandhi took the notice to his lodging and took time to consider his position. He has now about 2 P.M. sent me a letter, a copy of which I enclose. It will be seen that Mr. Gandhi has no intention of complying with the order under section 144 and that it will be necessary in case of disobedience to the order to proceed against him under section 188, Indian Penal Code.

I have further to report that two pleaders Babu Ram Naomi Prashad and Babu Dharni Dhar,² belonging either to Muzaffarpur or Darbhanga, who came to Motihari with Mr. Gandhi and who were going out to Jassauli with him, continued their journey to Jassauli when Mr. Gandhi turned back to see the District Magistrate. Sub-Inspector Qurban Ali is accompanying them to watch their movements and to report daily...

I may add that Mr. Gandhi has not been to see me...

[No. 21.]

*Letter, dated Motihari, 16 April, 1917, from M.K. Gandhi, to the District Magistrate, Champaran.*³

SIR,

With reference to the order under section ⁴ 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code just served upon me, I beg to state that I am sorry that you have felt called upon to issue it and I am sorry, too, that the Commissioner of the Division has totally misinterpreted my position. Out of a sense of public responsibility, I feel it to be my duty to say that I am unable to leave this district, but if it so pleases the authorities, I shall submit to the order, *viz.*, suffering the penalty of disobedience.

I must emphatically repudiate the Commissioner's suggestion that my object is likely to be agitation. My desire is purely and

¹. Vide No. 19 ante.

². Late Babu Dharni Dhar, a prominent lawyer and public man of Darbahnga.

³. Political (Special) Department, file No. 1571 of 1917.

⁴. Vide No. 20 (F.N.) ante.

simply for a general search for knowledge. And this I shall continue to satisfy as long as I am left free.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient Servant,
 M.K. GANDHI.

[No. 22.]

*Letter No. 259 P. M., dated Muzaffarpur 16/17 April, 1917, from L. F. Morshead, Commissioner, Tirhut Division, to the Chief Secretary to Government of Bihar and Orissa.*¹

I have the honour to forward copies of correspondence relating to a visit to Muzaffarpur by Mr. M.K. Gandhi.

As requested in his first letter ² of the 12th April, I gave him an interview on the morning of the 13th, at which I invited Mr. Weston, the Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, to be present.... A brief note of the substance of the conversation is attached.³

I was subsequently informed, from what I regard as a reliable source, that Mr. Gandhi had been approached to move the resolution in the last Congress on the subject, but had declined because he deemed it necessary to see if there were evidence in support of it first. He had said the same at our interview, although I have not mentioned it in my note, and inadvertently made the statement in a way implying that he had come to obtain evidence in support of an adverse resolution. I was also informed that his object was not a genuine desire to satisfy himself, but to foment agitation in support of persons who concern themselves with agitation here.

Accordingly, pending a further communication from Mr. Gandhi, I sent Mr. Heycock, the Magistrate of Champaran, a letter ⁴ to be used if the occasion arose, requesting him to direct Mr. Gandhi by an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, to leave the district if he appeared.

The credentials, ⁵ which Mr. Gandhi promised, were submitted with his letter of the 13th April..

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

² Vide No. 13 ante.

³ Vide No. 15 ante.

⁴ Vide No. 19 ante.

⁵ Vide Nos. 17-18 ante.