

any list of agitators. ...I have wired to the Under-Secretary, Political, saying that this man's visit is reported by you to be the most undesirable and likely to cause trouble and that I have communicated with you recommending that Government be consulted before any action is taken against the man. He has a biggish following and one needs to be very careful in dealing with men of his notoriety.

As for action, the best course is for the District Magistrate to call him and talk to him and warn him that if his visit results in any way in trouble, action will be taken against him and that he should notify the time and place of any meeting at which he intends to speak. To such meetings two responsible police officers should be sent to record the proceedings and speeches. He may also be warned that apart from public meetings it is quite possible to stir up trouble in his private relations with people he meets and that though we do not in the least credit him with any desire to create trouble, he should realize that it is not always possible to foresee what effect one's utterances may have on people who are already under the impression that they have grievances, etc.

If Gandhi does anything after this warning, which of course the District Officer will report to Government, he can be proceeded against most suitably by an eviction order under rule 3, Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules, but as I said before in dealing with men like Gandhi one has to be careful. ...

[No. 13.]

*Letter, dated Muzaffarpur, 12 April 1917, from M. K. Gandhi to L. F. Morshead, Commissioner, Tirhut Division.*¹

Dear Sir,

Having heard a great deal about the condition of the Indians working in connection with Indigo plantation, I have arrived here to ascertain so far as is possible for myself the true position. I would like to do my work with the cognizance and even co-operation, if I can secure it, of the local administration. I shall be obliged if you will kindly grant me an interview so that I may place before you the object of my inquiry and learn whether I may receive any assistance from the local administration in furtherance of my work.

I am,
Yours truly,
M. K. Gandhi.

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