

BIRTH OF INDIAN REPUBLIC

PROCLAMATION TO-DAY

From Our Own Correspondent

DELHI, JAN. 25

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, the retiring Governor-General, will to-morrow morning read a proclamation announcing the birth of the Republic of India, after which the President-elect, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, will take the oath of office. There will be a State drive through the streets of New Delhi and a ceremonial parade and flag-hoisting ceremony at the Irwin Stadium on the same afternoon. On the following day Mr. Rajagopalachari will drive in state from Government House to the airport, and will leave for his home in Madras.

On the eve of his retirement, the Governor-General has been the recipient of many marks of respectful esteem and affection from Indian public men and the diplomatic corps. He was the guest at an official banquet given by members of the diplomatic corps two nights ago, and again at another banquet last night given by Cabinet Ministers. The Ministers presented Mr. Rajagopalachari with a silver tray, on which were inscribed their names in facsimile.

At a Cabinet meeting held to-day a resolution was passed recording "deep and grateful appreciation of Mr. Rajagopalachari's labours and service to the country." The resolution went on to say that he had enhanced the prestige of India and had endeared himself to his own people. Conveying their affection and good wishes to him, the Cabinet hoped that the country would benefit by his wisdom and experience for many years to come. In reply, Mr. Rajagopalachari expressed his gratitude.

* A special article from our Delhi Correspondent appears on page 5.

THE KING'S MESSAGES

"TIES OF FRIENDSHIP"

The King has sent the following messages:—

TO MR. RAJAGOPALACHARI.—I cannot allow the occasion of your laying down the office of Governor-General to pass without expressing my deep appreciation of the distinguished services which you have rendered as the last holder of that historic office whose highest traditions you have so worthily upheld. I send you my wishes for the future.

TO DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD.—On the occasion of the inauguration of the Indian Republic I send you my warmest good wishes. May you and the people of India enjoy the full blessings of peace and prosperity in the years to come. The foundations of the Indian Republic within the Commonwealth have been well laid. I am confident that the strong ties of friendship which link our peoples will be maintained and consolidated and that they will continue to work together steadfastly for the common good.

Other messages have been sent as follows:—

FROM MR. ATTLEE TO PANDIT NEHRU.—On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom I send to you and your colleagues our warm good wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the Indian people under the new Constitution. It is a source of satisfaction that the Republic is to continue to be a member of our Commonwealth of Nations. We look forward to the continuance of the closest and most friendly relations between our two countries.

MR. NOEL-BAKER TO MR. NEHRU (as Indian Minister of External Affairs).—On this historic day, when India becomes a Republic within the Commonwealth of Nations, I send you this message of greetings and good will. To-day our hearts are full of affection for the people of India and of hope for the greatness of India's contribution to the progress and happiness of mankind.