

Acharya Pramatha Nath Banerjea

oration by

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At

Federation Hall society Auditorium

on

6th day of July, 2019

Saturday at 6-30 P.M.

Dr. Pramatha Nath Banerjea, M.A (CAL). D.Sc. ECON. (London), of Lincon's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, Minto Professor of Economics, Calcutta University: 1878-1960. Dr. Banerjea was all along a true Patriot and a Statesman. Since 1905, young Pramatha Nath became associated with Sri Anandda Mohan Bose and Surendra Nath Banerjee to protect against the 1st Partition of Bengal by the Govt. of Lord Curzon where Rabindranath read out the terms of vow at the laying of foundation stone of federation Hall by Ananda Mohan. Pramatha Nath never forget the task he took on shoulder which he completed during 1950s. Federation Hall Society started in own building on Upper Circular Road, Calcutta-9

He was the 1st Indian to obtain "Doctorate of Science" from London School of Economics. On his return to India, he soon established himself as a recognized authority on the subject.

Dr. Banerjea became so respected and well known a name that 'Aldous Huxley' introduced a character who mentioned the works of Dr. P.N. Banerjea.

Not only in academic pursuits, his spirits yearned after a wider field of activity where he could use his expert knowledge of Indian Economics for the service of his country.

Dr. Banerjea was elected to Bengal Legislative Assembly as a Congress member from 1923 till 1930.

In 1935 Dr. Banerjea was elected to Indian Legislative Assembly as a candidate of the Nationalist Party and remained a member as ' the Leader of the Party till 1946.

As a Scholar Politician, inspired by patriotism of the pursuit and the most enlightened kind, great respect was shown.

Dr. Banerjea's energies was so vast that he found the time for public in other spheres as well.

Alone with a few other likeminded people, he found 'Ram Mohan Memorial Hall and Library' and served as a President from 1944 to 1956.

Connected with "Indian Association" from the youth, he became president from 1944 to 1949.

Closed associated with Dr. Prasanta Mahalanobis right from the inception at Baker Laboratories in Presidency

College, Dr, Banerjea was made the 'Founder Vice President of Indian Statistical Institute'.

During 1940-50, served as a working President of the Federation of Associations for the United Nations.

He presided over the 14th session of the Indian Economic Association and the 2nd session of the Indian Political Science conference.

There were endless streams of Institutions and conferences of National and International Importance.

He presided over for the benefit of his countrymen and the society. By and large on an International front.

Dr. Banerjea participated in "All Parties conferences on Transfer of Power" called by Lord Wavel at the end of 2nd World War.

A great job of appearing as a Barrister at the trial of INA prisoners.

With Sri Prasanta Mahalanabis and Rabindra Nath Tagore, drafted Rules and Regulations for governance of Viswabharati University. Apart from the massive public work in his life, he dedicated his last phase of life for the construction of the building of the Federation hall Society. He remembers his vow taken in 1905 with Surendra Nath and Rabindra Nath to provide a place where Bengali speaking people meet for cultural comradeship and mutual understanding.

In spite of acute scarcity of funds, he was least dismayed and boldly overcame the difficulty.

"Milan Mandir" came up, a permanent place for Federation Hall Society.

Let us all bow our head to pay tribute to a great noble hearted Scholar, Patriot and Statesman who never thought of himself. He was solely for his country, for mankind.

Some important books authored by Dr. P.N. Banerjea are

- (1) A History of Indian Taxation
- (2) Provincial finance of India
- (3) Fiscal Policy of India
- (4) A Study of Indian Economics
- (5) Public Administration in Ancient India
- (6) Indian Finance