

# Twenty-Second Anniversary

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

1941

By Dr. B. N. DEY, D.Sc. (Eng'g.), Etc.

In his presidential address delivered on the occasion of the 22nd Anniversary Meeting of the Association of Engineers, held on the 27th February, 1941, at the Chamber Hall, 2, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta, Dr. B. N. Dey, D.Sc. (Glas.), F.R.S.A. (London), M.A.E., M.I.E. (Ind.), said,

“Gentlemen, I thank you for your continued confidence in electing me your President for the fourth year in succession.

“Our annual report gives us no cause for anxiety. The Association of Engineers have held together tenaciously close upon quarter of a century as an independent organisation, on its own legs, without subsidy from any quarter, and in the face of disintegrating influences of a decadent age.

With the dawn of a “New Order” signs of which are already apparent—as witness the training of Indian *Mistries* (technicians) in Great Britain alongside the Britishers—one may expect the advent of the long-deferred revolution of Indian Engineering, and with it the rapid vitalisation of Association like ours. It seems that the Indian Engineer will at last get a dog's chance to assert himself.

From now on my presidential address will be brief—briefer even than those of years gone by—as an index to the changing order of things. Too much talk has of late become a national failing with us. The reasons are not far to seek. We have been reduced to so many empty vessels due to dearth of vocations.

Conditions are however changing. There are now enough things to do, particularly for us engineers, if only we would look around and shake off our lethargy born of despair. Henceforward we will find ourselves far too busy to find time for talk, idle or otherwise.

It is a commonplace talk that the war has unsettled everything and that one must wait until peace is restored in this world of ours. I cannot subscribe to this attitude of mind. Peace among the Powers of this world has not meant a thing to us, has only promoted the creeping paralysis with which we have been afflicted due to causes beyond our control. One has only to look back to the past quarter of a century—I mean the years 1914 to 1939—the years that were frittered away mostly in foolish fumbblings.

Let us quit being “copy-cats”. Let us stop playing the fool of a “*barra-sahib* or *chota-sahib*”, a “covenanted hand” or a “gazetted officer”. Let us put our houses in order. If we do not do it in our own way, no one else would. Let us develop *our resources from within profited by the experience, failure and success of the foreigner.* Let us build in the only practical way, Bengal by the Bengalees and India by us all Indians. We engineers can only do it.”

**The Twenty-second Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, the 27th February, 1941, at 6 p.m. at the ‘Chamber Hall’, under the presidency of Dr. B. N. Dey.**

#### Agenda :

1. To receive and consider the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1940.

President called upon the Secretary to read out the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1940.

2. To adopt the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year 1940.

Proposed by Mr. Saroj Basu  
and

Seconded by Mr. A. C. Banerjee

The Annual Report and Audited Accounts were adopted unanimously.

3. To present the Budget for the year 1941.

President called upon the Secretary to read out the budget for the year 1941.

The Budget for the year 1941 as presented was recorded.

4. To elect Auditors for the year 1941.