

The Alumni Forum



PHANINDRA NATH MUKHERJI (1899)



KARUNA KUMAR DATTA GUPTA (1899)



RAI BAHADUR ANUKUL CHANDRA MITRA (1900)

*We pay homage to the
seniormosts amongst us*



I am glad indeed to hear that the present students and ex-students of the Bengal Engineering College are holding a Congress on Saturday, 18th of August. As an engineer myself I have taken a deep and constant interest in the progress of engineering and technical education here. During my visit to the Sibpur College I was much impressed with the standard of education there, but I believe that a much higher standard is needed to turn-out engineers who would hold their own with the best trained engineers from Europe and America. I hope and believe that the plans for the future that are now being worked out will have this effect - and I will watch the working out of these plans with the greatest interest.

I welcome this effort of students and ex-students to combine and hope that out of it will arise a new enthusiasm for the engineering profession in Bengal.

W. Casey.

Government House,
CALCUTTA.
The 30th July 1945.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL

BENGAL ENGINEERING COLLEGE ALUMNI CONGRESS

The Alumni are a galaxy of stars in the vast expanse of the horizon of an Institution. It was found necessary to harness them in a corporate body for joint concerted action for the benefit of the Institution.

There had been stray contemplations regarding its formation for quite a long time until in March 1945, a definite formation took place in a Re-Union meeting with the following persons to form a provisional committee, which led to the birth of the Congress.

Provisional Committee

Shri T. Mitra, the then Engineer,
Government of Bengal (Chairman).
Shri B. N. Chaudhuri.
Shri G. S. Mitter.
Shri Mazharul Islam.
Shri Partha Kumar Ghosh.
Shri D. K. Chakravarti (Convenor).

This Committee undertook a colossal amount of work. Its foremost duty was to compile a register of all its students, so that they may be contacted.

This committee had also to prepare a constitution which can be taken up by the proposed Congress.

All the items were fairly elaborate and painstaking. The names of the ex-students were obtained from the University calendars. The then Librarian of the Calcutta University helped much by extending his co-operation in all possible manners. After a strenuous work, a list of ex-students with addresses could be compiled.

Whole-hearted appreciation and promises of co-operation started pouring in. This gave the members of the provisional committee a good amount of fillip to move forward.

The constitution received very careful and cautious checks and many came forward with their suggestions.

It was then printed and circulated amongst ex-students. Sufficient time elapsed before it was considered, so that every point could be given its due share of consideration.

It was on the 18th day of August, 1945, that the first meeting of the Congress was held at Calcutta in the Indian Association Hall of haloed memory. On the day of the meeting, the Hall was packed to its capacity,—everyone was eager to contribute his share to the constitution. It was here that the Congress was

conceived with high hopes and aspirations. The then Governor of Bengal, His Excellency Mr. R. G. Casey blessed the proposed Congress and wished it god-speed. Amidst affectionate applause and throbbing enthusiasm the Congress saw the light of the day with the following committee to guide its destiny.

Shri S. K. Chakravarti—*President*.
Shri N. N. Sen—*Vice-President*.
Principal, B. E. College.
Rai S. K. Guha Bahadur—*Vice-President*.
Shri T. Mitra—*Vice-President*.
Shri D. K. Chakravarti—*Honorary Secretary*.
Shri Akshoy Bose—*Honorary Treasurer*.
Shri P. K. Das—*Assistant Secretary*.

MEMBERS

Shri J. N. Das Gupta.
Shri B. N. Chaudhuri.
Shri P. B. Ghose.
Shri M. A. Bari.
Shri S. R. Sarkar.
Shri Partha Kumar Ghosh.
Shri Mazharul Islam.

This committee decided to register the Congress under the Indian Companies Act with the following objects:

- (1) To foster closer relationship amongst the students and ex-students of the B. E. College.
- (2) To safeguard the interests of Engineers in general and those of the B. E. College in particular.
- (3) To bring about social and professional intercourse amongst the present and past students of the B. E. College.
- (4) To advise the College and the University authorities in the matters of improvement of teaching and curriculum and also to suggest means about students' welfare in all aspects.
- (5) To maintain a register of employment and help the members in securing training and work.
- (6) To secure recognition of our degrees abroad.
- (7) To establish and encourage research fellowships for advancement of engineering science and to grant scholarships, stipends, etc. for studies in India and abroad.
- (8) To create a fund for certain scholarships to deserving students for prosecution of their studies.
- (9) To establish and run a library, magazine, museum, laboratory, exhibition, etc. for the benefit of the profession.
- (10) To take over, amalgamate or co-operate with such bodies or associations as are conducive to the best interests of the Congress.

- (11) To do and perform such other acts and things as may be incidental to or conducive to attainment of the aforesaid objects or any of them.

The membership of the Congress was divided into four classes (a) Honorary Members, (b) Ordinary Members, (c) Teacher Members, and (d) Student Members.

On the 7th day of November, 1945, the Congress was registered with 67 members on its roll and with the following Honorary members:—

1. P. N. Banerjee,
Dean of the Faculty of Engineering,
University of Calcutta.
2. John Chambers,
Chief Engineer,
C. & W. D.,
Bengal.
3. Rai Bahadur P. L. Gupta,
Chief Engineer,
East Indian Railway.
4. Khan Bahadur Q. Z. Hussain,
5. P. C. Bose,
Chief Engineer, Public Health, Bengal.
6. E. A. Nadirshah,
President,
Institution of Engineers (India).
7. P. N. Banerjee,
Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University.
8. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar,
Director, Scientific & Industrial Research.
9. Dr. S. Dutta,
Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.
10. Sir Biren Mookerji, Kt.
11. Sir L. P. Misra, Kt.
12. S. C. Banerjee, M.I.C.E.
13. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar,
Chairman, All-India Council for Technical
Education,
Government of India.
14. W. C. Kelland,
Chief Engineer B.N.R.

The first issue of the monthly Bulletin was issued in January, 1946. It was usually a four-page Bulletin and circulated to members giving information about the various items of interest to members particularly giving a special stress on the activities of the Congress in details.

To bring all Alumni into the fold of the Congress a membership drive was undertaken and was considerably successful. Since then the membership has been persistently on the increase. It may be of interest to note that the present Editor of the Souvenir Volume



H. C. MUKERJI, OUR DYNAMIC SECRETARY

was also the Editor of these Bulletins at the earliest stages.

A membership badge was ordered in England and they had arrived in the country on the 20th of October, 1947, when the then Secretary, Shri P. K. Das had brought it to the notice of members.

Every year it was usual for the Congress to publish a list of members and in 1947 the membership list was nicely printed in a brochure form.

The office of the Alumni Congress was, from the inception, situated at 1/1B Mission Row, Calcutta. The office was moved to 12, Old Post Office Street, Calcutta, in June, 1950 and the present office is also situated in the same place.

Since then, in addition to having only an Annual General Meeting at the end of the year, which was the usual practice so long, social gatherings, such as garden parties, dramas, amusements and variety performances by Alumni children, Autumn Socials, meeting the outgoing students of the College, etc., have been held and all these have created a vast platform for better understanding and closer relationship amongst the Alumni of our College. The present Hony. Secretary, Sri H. C. Mukerji, deserves our heart-felt gratitude for all the spade work done by

him in this respect. Whatever success the Alumni Congress has achieved today is due to the untiring zeal and energy of Sri Mukherjee, ably assisted by his worthy lieutenant Sri Siben Sen.

It is quite in the fitness of things that all alumni have joined hands magnanimously and have eagerly undertaken to shoulder the responsibilities of the Centenary Celebrations of the College.

The Celebrations Committee is now headed by our illustrious alumnus Sri J. N. Das Gupta, an ex-President of the Congress. Sri S. N. Gupta, a Vice-Presi-

dent of the Congress at present, is the Hony. General Secretary aided by others from the Alumni Congress.

Sri T. P. Marik, the present President of the Congress, has been elected the treasurer of the celebrations, and it is heartening to note that the success of the celebrations has been largely due to his untiring efforts towards fulfilment of the onerous responsibility that has developed on him.

It is gratifying to record that out of the earnest endeavours of the Alumni the seed of a long cherished Alumni home within the college campus is going to be sewn on this historic occasion,—the CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE COLLEGE.

THE PRESENT COMMITTEE

President :

Sri T. P. Marik.

Vice-Presidents :

Prof. A. C. Roy (Ex-officio),
Principal, B. E. College.
Sri K. C. Banerjee.
Sri S. N. Gupta.

Hony. Secretary :

Sri H. C. Mukerji.

Hony. Asstt. Secretaries :

Sri Abani Banerjee.
Sri P. K. Ghosh.

Hony. Treasurer :

Sri R. N. Banerjee.

Members :

Sri Siben Sen
.. P. N. Basu.
.. D. K. Bose.
.. B. N. Chaudhuri.
.. D. K. Chakravarti.

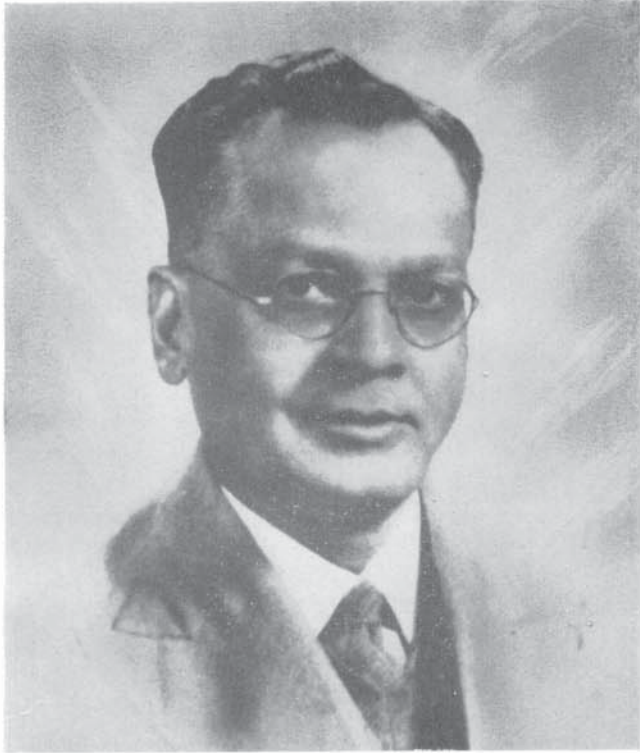
List of Presidents :

Sri S. K. Chakravarti (1945).
Sri J. N. Dasgupta (1946).
Rai S. K. Guha Bahadur (1947).
Sri S. C. Dam (1948).
Sri T. Mitra (1949).
Sri Akshoy Bose (1950-51).
Late T. P. Datta (1952).
Sri J. Ganguly (1953).
Sri B. N. Chaudhuri (1954).
Sri T. P. Marik (1955).

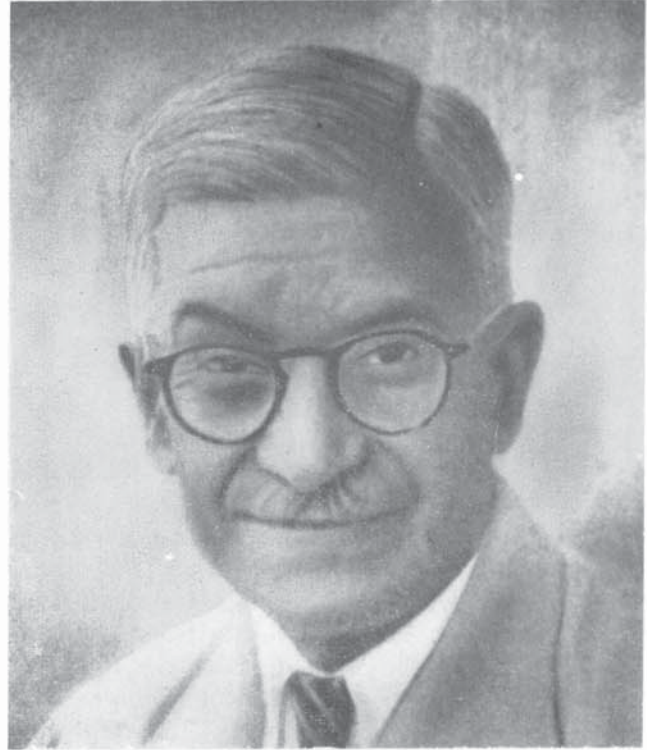
List of Honorary Secretaries :

Sri D. K. Chakravarti (1945-46).
Sri P. K. Das (1947).
Sri H. P. Dev (1948—resigned in Nov.
due to ill health).
Sri A. M. Banerjee (1948).
Sri M. L. Dutt Roy (1949).
Sri S. C. Chakrabarty (1950-51).
Sri R. N. Banerjee (1952-53).
Sri H. C. Mukerji (1954).

Past Presidents



S. K. CHAKRAVARTI 1945



J. N. DAS GUPTA 1946



RAI BAHADUR S. K. GUHA 1947



T. MITRA 1949



AKSHOY BOSE 1950-1951



J. GANGULY 1953



B. N. CHAUDHURI 1954