

FEDERATIONS OF THE T.S.

I. T.S. FEDERATIONS IN INDIA

IN December, 1902, the Annual Convention of the T. S. was arranged to be held at Benares, and as there was no function at Adyar, some T. S. members in the Ceded Districts arranged to meet in Conference in the first week of January, 1903, at Gooty, Anantapur District. The Conference proved so very helpful that it was then decided to make it an Annual Function. The Federation was named "The Central Districts T. S. Federation". It has met regularly every year and its last session at Cuddapah was its twenty-fourth.

In May of the same year, T. Ramachandra Rao happened to be travelling in the Tamil districts, and he, with the co-operation of K. Narayanaswami Aiyar, Provincial Secretary, S. India, and P. Narayana Aiyar and A. Rangaswami Aiyar of Mudura, organised "The Tamil Districts T. S. Federation".

In 1905, the Bihar Federation was started and later many other Federations. The Karnataka Federation was started in 1910. The Federations are now organised on a linguistic basis.

The Federations that are now working are :

South India : seven Federations :

The South Tamil Districts Federation }
The West Tamil Districts Federation } Tamil.
The North Tamil Districts Federation }
The Central Districts Federation. Telugu.
The Northern Circars, Nellore and Hyderabad Federation.
Telugu.
The Karnataka Federation. Kannada or Canarese.
The Kerala Federation. Malayalam.

North India : eight Federations :

Bengal, Assam and Orissa Federation. Bengali.
Bihar Federation. Hindi.
U. P. Federation. Hindi.
C. I. and Rajputana Federation. Hindi.
Sind and Baluchistan Federation. Urdu.
North-Western Federation. Urdu.
Maharashtra Federation. Marathi.
Gujarat and Kathiawar Federation. Gujarati.

The Federations in South India are grouped into one central organisation known as the South Indian Conference, with the Joint General Secretary, Indian Section, at its head; similarly the Federations in North India form the North Indian Conference, with the General Secretary of the Indian Section at its head.

Each Federation area is, for purposes of effective work, further divided into smaller Groups, each comprising Lodges in a district or a smaller area, each with a Group Secretary.

II. FEDERATION OF THE EUROPEAN SECTIONS

The Federation of European Sections was inaugurated at the Annual Convention of the British Section on July 23rd, 1903, at 28 Albemarle Street, London, with the consent and under the chairmanship of the President, Colonel Olcott. Delegates from the British, French, Dutch, German and Italian Sections attended, and the proposal was warmly supported. Mr. Johan Van Manen was elected Secretary and Editor of any papers that might be published. An invitation from the Dutch Section to hold the next meeting in Holland was accepted, and accordingly the Federation met at Amsterdam in June, 1904, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Besant. Delegates from eleven countries were present, and a distinctive feature was an exhibition of Arts and Industries, the contributors to which were members of the Society. In the following year the Federation met in London, again under Mrs. Besant's presidency, and in June 1906 in Paris, when 450 delegates were present, representing fifteen countries. The chairman, Colonel Olcott, remarks, "This third Congress with its predecessors accentuated that feeling of reciprocity and brotherly friendship which exists to a great degree between the Sections and Branches of our Society throughout the world."

The next Congress was held in Munich in May, 1907, Mrs. Besant being, as she styled herself, President of Honor, and Dr. Steiner, General Secretary of the German Section, President of Work. The artistic side of Theosophy was brought into great prominence, as was natural in one of the chief art centres of Germany. It was decided that henceforth the Congress should be held biennially, and in May, 1909, it met at Budapest, where the ten European Societies were all represented.

The seventh Congress was at Stockholm in 1913, as the proposed meeting in Genoa in 1911 had to be abandoned, owing to an outbreak of cholera. Fourteen General Secretaries were present, and the General Secretaries-elect of Norway and Poland. It was intended that the Federation should meet in Paris in 1915, but the war prevented this, and the eighth Congress was held at Vienna in July, 1923. The growth of the Federation was shown by the fact that thirty countries were represented, and under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Jinarājādāsa, Vice-President of the T.S., a most successful six days series of meetings were carried through, in the course of which many and various aspects of Theosophy were dealt with. A marked feature was the harmony and brotherhood prevailing among the representatives of the Sections who had so lately been at war with each other.