

ASIATICS PEG THEIR CLAIM

New Delhi today is the nerve-centre of Asiatic affairs. India has sounded the clarion call, Asia for the Asiatics. Viscount Mountbatten took oath as Viceroy in the Durbar Hall, while the capital city was the mecca of delegates from almost every nation of the vast continent. ~~In Durbar Hall, however,~~ Only the affairs of India itself, occupied the attention at this ceremony, dignified by the commanding presence of His Majesty's new representative. The Chief Justice of India administered the oath of allegiance, after which Viscount Mountbatten appealed for the help of all in uniting India before Britain relinquishes control in June next year.

Meanwhile, to the Old Fort of Delhi, built fifteen-hundred years before Christ, came representatives of almost every country in Asia to the Asian Relations Conference, held in a huge tent, set up in the grounds of the Fort. The 250 delegates came from 33

countries. Dressed in civilian clothes was Field Marshal Auchinleck, ^{arriving 8} ~~seated among~~ the ten thousand spectators.

Mrs. Naidu was elected ^{of the} Conference President, which Pandit Nehru ^d summoned. From the great variety of peoples represented, conspicuously absent were the Japanese, whom Allied Military Government does not allow to leave Japan. Pandit Nehru declared that the Asiatic nations must throw off the ~~dominance of the Western World.~~ off the domination of the Western World.

After the Conference, in the gardens of Viceroy House, Lord and Lady Mountbatten received Mr. Ghandi, in the first of the Viceroy's informal conferences with Indian leaders. Rioting in Bombay and Calcutta is greatly distressing the Mahatma. He promises utmost cooperation in working for the peaceful transfer of power to India.