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KASHMIR ELECTION:

In spite of Pakistan's protests, and the United Nations' disapproval, India has gone ahead with the incorporation of Kashmir into the Indian State. And now, by road and river, the people of Kashmir flock to the polling stations in their first-ever general election. The National Conference Party is unopposed in 38 of the 75 constituencies - so it goes to the hustings with its victory already assured.

The National Conference Party, which supports integration with India, is a secular party, cutting right across the divisions between Hindus, Moslems and Sikhs - divisions which have been bloodshed to Kashmir in the past. The fingers of voters are indelibly marked to prevent voting twice. Particularly the Moslem women who look very much alike in their tent-like "bargas".

A feature of this age seems to be first to annex a country then to promote an election.