

GANDHI WITH THE CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA

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ABSTRACT

The historical accounts tell us that there were rebel and revolts by farmers rich and poor with different interests, but the situation had not improved to any significant extent.

The Government of India felt perturbed at Gandhi's presence in Champaran and the possibilities of a Satyagraha struggle developing in the indigo farmers in Bihar. At the suggestion of Craddock, the Home Member, the Viceroy write to Edward Gait, the Government of Bihar suggesting the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry on which a seat could be offered to Gandhi as well.

With the help of material gathered by Pyarelal, Sushila Nayar has written about Champarna Satyagraha in volume five. Hers is perhaps the largest account attempted so far. It begins with history of indigo production in India by the British planters. The account describes earlier resistance, rebel and protests before Gandhiji.

Acceptance of inquiry by Gandhiji and his being the sole representative of the rayats is also criticized by Dhanagre. It was against the wishes of many among raiyats and it was simply arbitration whose decisions were to be final and binding for both the parties.

The letter is clear. Gandhiji at once had understood the gravity of the problem. He also became certain that the inquiry will have to be thorough. He also sensed that he may be apprehended if he persists for conducting the inquiry. He was clearing seeing the scope to work in Champaran on the lines of South Africa.

KEYWORDS: *Non-Violence, Gandhi's Legacy, The Ahimsa*