

THE
COLLECTED
WORKS
OF
MAHATMA
GANDHI

VOLUME FOURTEEN



THE PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

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GANDHI

XIV
(1917-1918)

GANDHI - XIV



It seems self-evident to me that there is nothing unlawful if, to express one's sense of injustice, one refuses to pay a tax, in a perfectly civil manner, and lets it be collected [forcibly].

Yours,
MOHANDAS

[From Gujarati]

Mahadevbhaini Diary, Vol. IV

132. SPEECH TO AHMEDABAD MILL-HANDS¹

SABARMATI,
February 26, 1918

Today is the fifth day of the lock-out. Some of you probably think that everything will be all right after a week or two of suffering. I repeat that, though we may hope that our struggle will end early, we must remain firm even if that hope is not realized and must not resume work even if we have to die. Workers have no money but they possess a wealth superior to money—they have their hands, their courage and their fear of God. If a time comes when you have to starve, have confidence that we shall eat only after feeding you. We shall not allow you to die of starvation.²

Some workers say that we can demand more than 35 per cent. I say you can demand even a 100 per cent increase. But it would be unjust if you do so. Be content, in the present circumstances, with what you have demanded. If you ask for more, it will pain me. We cannot demand anything unreasonable from anybody. I think that the demand for 35 per cent is quite fair.³

[From Gujarati]

Ek Dharmayuddha

¹ The workers gathered every evening, during this time, under a *babul* tree on the banks of the Sabarmati. Gandhiji addressed them. Mahadev Desai records: "Very few except those who attended these meetings know what historic incidents occurred under that *babul* tree."

² The workers' advisers had taken a pledge to this effect.

³ The rest of the speech is not available. Reports of speeches were deliberately withheld from the newspapers. Portions of Gandhiji's speeches and discourses on the subjects of the leaflets were given by Mahadev Desai in his book.