The Swadeshi Movement started as an anti-partition movement in the province of Bengal, but thenceforth it became India-wide and a vital part of the Congress general programme. It was in the Calcutta Congress of 1906, before Dadabhai Naoroji took the President's Chair, Surendra Nath Banerjee expressed a wish to present the President, on behalf of the people, a Swadeshi umbrella as symbol of the economic and industrial regeneration of the country.

While unfurling the Swadeshi umbrella and holding it over the President he said:

"Let us all hope that under the shadow of this Swadeshi umbrella all India may prosper and gather near together."  

With a hearty tribute to Swadeshi the President took his Chair amidst loud cheers and enthusiasm.

He then moved from the Congress platform the resolution on Swadeshi, which since then has formed a most vital part of the Congress programme:

"The Congress accords," said he, "its most cordial
support to the Swadeshi Movement and calls upon the people of the country to labour for its success by making earnest and sustained efforts to promote the growth of indigenous industries and to stimulate the production of indigenous articles by giving them preference over imported commodities, even at some sacrifice.

"Swadeshi", it was further explained, is a goddess who has descended in our midst for the regeneration of India, by the worship of whom we would attain to what our venerable President has called the 'Swarajya'.

"The true Swadeshi", explained Gopal Krishna Gokhale, is both a patriotic and an economic movement. It turns the thoughts of the people to their country, accustoms them to the idea of voluntarily making some sacrifice for her sake, enables them to take an intelligent interest in her economic development for a national end.

"India", wrote Annie Besant during her stay in India, has been steadily losing her arts, crafts, and industries which once enriched her people. Her handicraftsmen perfected by hundreds of generations, are being starved out for lack

1. Report Twenty-Second Indian National Congress, p.98
2. The Presidential address of the Benaras Congress, 1905.
of customers to buy their products. Driven out of their own crafts by a lack of customers they throw themselves to the only possible field open to them — agriculture. Already overcrowded it becomes overcrowded still more. The balance of industries is disturbed, ryots and craftsmen no longer support each other and when a bad year comes the impoverished ryots and the artisans, turned into cultivators, are all affected by the terrible famines. 1

By a resolution at Karachi, the Congress made it clear that in order to end the exploitation of the masses political freedom must include real economic freedom of the starving millions. 2

Ananda K. Coomaraswamy addressed his people in his Swadeshi speech:

"Leave off asking Government to revive our art and industries, all that is worth having we must and can do for ourselves; and when we have achieved all that we can do, no Government would refuse to grant us the political rights we desire for this development of our industrial and artistic faculties. It will infuse into all our undertakings the sense of power and organisation which we lack." 3

1. The Birth of New India — Annie Besant, P-65.
H.H. the Maharaja of Gaekwar in his speech before the Industrial Conference, 1906, tried to make the people realise the importance of the responsibility which was laid on them. "We are at crisis in our national history. The time has come when we must make arduous and united endeavours for securing our industrial independence, or we shall sink again perhaps for centuries to come. We must struggle and maintain our ancient position among the industrial nations of the earth, or we shall be betraying a sacred trust and be false to our posterity." 1

Professor T.K. Gajjar, the Chairman of the Industrial Committee, too expressed his belief that no progress was possible in the absence of material prosperity. No moral development, no intellectual achievement could take place in the country where the material condition of the people was at such a low level.

"We must not rest," declared the voice of the Chairman of the Industrial Conference of 1907, "until the technical colleges and polytechnics, outnumber all the temples, mosques, and churches which minister to the spiritual needs of the people." 2

Our religious charities must be directed towards supplying us with industrial power. On her economic power depends the regeneration of India, her prosperity and integrity and also her salvation.

The third Indian Industrial Conference was held in the Congress pandel at Surat, at 12 noon on Monday the 30th of December 1907. There was a large gathering of delegates and visitors belonging to the different parts of India. The Chairman of the Reception Committee Professor Gajjar, addressed the large gathering of delegates and explained the significance of holding such annual Industrial Conference in the following words:

"We have assembled here to deliberate with view to take practical steps in regard to the vital question of the industrial regeneration of ourselves, on which all other questions - political, social, religious - depend to a greater or less extent.

This platform of science and industry makes room for all classes of the people to meet together, laying aside personal ambition, political animosity, religious prejudices and state officialism, so that they could all combine in one unanimous effort to raise every class in society to a higher

1. Indian Industrial Conference Report, P-5.
condition of personal excellence and usefulness, and extinguish class distinctions by diffusing equal technical education. We have taken in hand this most vital question and "ye cannot", said he very emphatically, "allow any further time to pass by, without organized action to raise our nation to the rank from which it has fallen."

Har Dayal went so far as to say Technical Sciences were the modern Vedas and that metaphysics was a luxury which modern Indians hardly afford. 1

The Industrial Conferences were started by the Indian National Congress at a very favourable moment - a moment when the Swadeshi movement appeal swept over the whole country, literate or illiterate.

"Our industrial helplessness was attracting attention in an increasing measure ", writes Surendranath Banerjee and "it was then readily perceived that the "Boycott" would be a double-edged weapon, industrial and political, in its scope and character". 2 The Resolution of Boycott was thus circulated entreating all to abstain from the purchase of British manufactures and encourage home industries.

Arobindo Ghose said "Boycott of foreign goods is a necessary condition for the encouragement of Swadeshi(national) industries". 3

1. Modern Review, P-46
2. A Nation in Making - S.N.Banerjee, P-13
3. Works of Arobindo Ghose
The Swadeshi Movement was in spirit a protectionist Movement, "only as we had not the power to make laws", writes Surendranath Banerjee, "which was in the hands other than our own. We sought to surround our domestic industries with a tariff wall not raised by the mandate of the Legislature but by the determined will of our people." 1

Those who were responsible for the Boycott resolution reflected the newspaper 'The Statesman', have doubtless been fired by the example of the Chinese and they are optimistic enough to assume that a boycott of European goods could be made as effective and as damaging as the Chinese boycott of American goods has to all appearance been. It would be unwise for the Government to assume that the whole movement is mere froth and insincerity. On the contrary, it has been apparent for some time past that the people are learning other and more powerful methods of protest. The Government will recognised the new note of practicability, which the present situation has brought into political agitation." 2

A further expansion of the Congress programme was made. The Congress proposed to hold industrial exhibitions in connection with every Congress sitting and the industrial conference.

1. A Nation in Making - S.N. Banerjee, P-198.
2. Ibid - P-194.
The Sixth Indian Industrial Exhibition was opened by H.E. Lord Minto at the persuasion of the Congress on the 21st December 1906.

The Industrial Committee had financial support not only from the Rajas of Darbhanga, Kasimbazar and Cooch Behar and Nawabs of Murshidabad but also the support of the big business magnates like Jamshedji Tata and others.

The number of registered exhibits was over one thousand which meant several thousand exhibitors, because in many cases Provincial or District Exhibits which were being forwarded by Local Committee were counted as one unit. The Exhibition covered an area of nearly twenty-two acres.

The most remarkable feature of the Exhibition of 1906 was the hand-loom section of the weaving industry. They formed by far the largest section of all exhibits. The Swadeshi movement gave a new impetus to this home-spinning industry, which was ultimately taken up in the Gandhi-Khadi Movement.

On behalf of the Industrial Committee Maharaja of Darbhanga gave a report of the exhibition and said, that "it meant something more than an advertisement of the articles exhibited and of the parties exhibiting them. It refined and

1. The Bengalee, Dec. 1906. (Mudolker's Speech.)
stimulated the taste of the public and created a demand by offering a supply. It was an index to the condition of the industries which rulers and subjects were alike interested in taking note of.

Lord Minto declared the exhibition open with his words of good will:

"I say to the supporters of Swadeshi that if Swadeshi means an earnest endeavour to develop home industries in an open market for the employment and for the supply of the people of India, no one will be more heartily with them than myself."

The All-India Industrial Conference was also very successfully held this year (1906) with Hon'ble Vithaldas Thackersey as its President.

"The object of the Industrial Conference," he explained in the words of Homesh Chandra Dutt, "was threefold:"


In the first place it wished to collect a body of expert opinions on the different industries of India in series of papers which would be useful for reference and for guidance.

The second object was to make the institution not merely a deliberative body discussing industrial question during...
just one day in the year, but an efficient working body doing some useful work all throughout the year.

And the third object was not to try and do this work from one Central Office but to create provincial Committee in all large province to promote, organize and supervise industrial enterprises and to compile necessary information.

The important sittings of these industrial conferences at the end of each Congress sitting, threw considerable light on the industrial possibilities and bright prospects that awaited new India. The visits of the industrial delegates to different parts of the provinces, and their annual reports showed the real advancement India was making in the field of industrial achievement. India was on the threshold of great and prosperous expectations. The year 1906, was by itself a very remarkable and fruitful year - India seemed to be stirred from one end to end with industrial enthusiasm and enterprise.

In April was held at Jubbalpur, the Second Central Provinces and Berar Provincial Industrial Conference with Congress delegate Mudholkar as President. ¹

On the 15th of May, there was at Poona an Industrial Conversazione, which was held under the auspices of the

¹ Report by the Asst. Secretary of the Industrial Conference.
Congress through the Industrial Association of India.

Tinnevelly, in the south had its Industrial exhibition and the Industrial Conference on the 16th and 17th June. The first Madras Provincial Industrial Conference was held at the end of the month with Congress member G. Subramaniya Iyer as President.

Madura, too was an active industrial centre. There was an agricultural and industrial Association. A weaving factory working with improved swadeshi looms were under construction. "We can claim the Bengal Lakshmi Mill as a standing monument of the revival of the cotton industry by the endeavour of our people" commented the contemporary paper "the Hindu Patriot" ¹

The Congress prayed to the Govt. for the re-imposition of the import cotton duties and removal of the excise duties and thus help Indian production. ²

At Trichonopoly, a Committee was appointed with Rajaram Rao as Secretary. There was a big "National Emporium" with a national capital of Rs. 20,000 of which over Rs. 11,000 had been subscribed from the people.

¹ The Hindu Patriot, October 19, 1909.
² The Indian National Congress - Report.
At Mayavaram was held a big Swadeshi meeting. The Swadeshi resolution was unanimously adopted and the Committee resolved to take steps for the opening of Co-operative Swadeshi stores in the locality.

There were at Conjeveram a Town Bank and an Urban Co-operative Weavers Union, both registered under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act. Improved hand-looms were being introduced among the local weavers.

At Berhampur there were several Swadeshi stores; a small hand-loom factory and a technical school maintained by the American Baptist Mission, where practical instruction was given in weaving, carpentry etc. Rev. Jarrais, the head of the School, was patron of Swadeshi and had keen interest in the success of the Swadeshi Movement.

At Ellore and six other places in the Krishna district Swadeshi meetings were held and Swadeshi resolutions adopted.

The last of these series of meetings was held at Calcutta in August. The Bengal Provincial Committee resolved to hold the next yearly Industrial conference at Calcutta.

It was at this Calcutta Conference of 1907 that T.K. Ghajar gave a new suggestion to his people:
We have undertaken a grave responsibility in meeting in such Conference from year to year. The destiny of India hangs on the practical results of our deliberations. We should not only therefore apply ourselves to the study of the Industrial Conditions prevalent in India but should come to a definite conclusion as to the means and methods to be adopted to improve our condition.

The economic and industrial museums planned on the models of Europe and America were to be established in every important commercial and industrial centre.

Commercial Bureaus must follow as corollary to museums. The reports prepared at these institutions should not only be published in scientific and technical English but also in the vernacular to attract the attention of the people and to interest them in their contents and thereby embark them on the introduction or creation of new and profitable industries.

The ancient Guilds of old which performed important economic and commercial functions must be revived again in a manner to meet the need of the present times.

Next to the want of commercial enterprise and industrial knowledge the obstacle that stood in the way of Indian industrial growth was the absence of indigenous capital.

2. Industrial Conference Report, 1907, p-244
The best solution of the problem, was thought by the Industrial Conference to be the establishment of indigenous scale Banking institutions all over the land. Efforts on a small scale were already being made notably in Poona, Ahmedabad, Benaras, Lucknow and other places. These were tiny beginnings but had very large potentialities; there was no reason why every town of importance should not have had a Bank of its own. These small institutions could establish connections with bigger ones at large Commercial Centres and the whole capital of the country could thus be utilised to the best advantage.

These practical suggestions of the Chairman did not go in vain. Practical responses came from all parts.

A State Industrial Museum was established at Baroda under the generous patronage of the Maharaja of Gaekwar of Baroda. 1

The Kalabhavan of Baroda was established, by T.K. Gajjar, after the models of Zurich and Charlottenburg. It undertook to impart instruction in such subjects as would not only serve the present industrial needs of the people but enable them to start new industries. 2

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1. Industrial Conference Report, 1907. P-11
2. Ibid.
H.H. the Teakore Saheb of Morvi opened a Technical Institute in his State to provide instruction in technological Chemistry and in Mining and Metallurgy for which there was great scope and demand in India. The institute would provide a higher standard of studies than that provided for at the Kalabhavan. In Bengal a Technical Institute was founded by Mr. Palit. The Association for Scientific Education was established by Jogendra Ghose who liberally sent students abroad for technical training. In 1905, he sent abroad seventeen students on scholarships for foreign technical knowledge and no less than forty-four students got grants from him in 1906.

The Swadeshi Movement thus gave a good start to the development of various industrial enterprise and undertakings.

while undertaking these enterprises the Swadeshi leaders tried to remember the country the friendly words of Sir George Birdwood:

"Indian Native gentlemen and ladies should make it a point of culture never to wear any clothing or ornaments but of native manufacture and strictly native design constantly purified by comparison with the models and best examples furnished by the sculptors of Amaravati Sanchi and Barhut."

1. The Curriculum of National Council of Education.
The sources of a nation's wealth are agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and sound financial administration. British rule has given India peace, but British administration has not promoted or widened these sources of national wealth in India. 1 so remarked Ramesh Ch. Dutt, after a sound economic review of the whole Indian administration. He upheld this pungent criticism and confronted his countrymen with the situation.

The colonial measures of Great Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries 'arrested' the economic development in India to a very adverse extent. The natural progress in industries met with Government measures of repression and rigidity. As Anstey puts : "Up to the end of the 19th century the effect of British rule on the prosperity of the people were undoubtedly disappointing" 2

At the turn of the century, as a natural consequence, a great agitation arose from the congress platform against British rule, on the score of its economic results. The various groups of educated Indians, raised a voice of protest against the economic policy or rather the lack of any policy of the Government. The Indian agitators amazed at the fact

1. The Economic history of India in the Victorian age, by Ramesh Ch. Dutt.
2. The Economic development of India, by Vera Anstey.
that Parliament in England, in its settings and economic debates, enquired into the methods for better growing of cottons in India for British looms; but never really thought of improving the conditions of archaic Indian handlooms.  

The Government never planned of introducing large scale scientific production and modern economic equipment and institutions, which have indubitably helped to stimulate economic advancement and raise the standard of living of the Indian people, in general. Instead, by following a self-centred and colonial policy of commercial exploitation, the Government unduly retarded the transitional stage from the medieval to the modern well-balanced economic production.

"Upto the eighteenth century", construed Anstey, "the economic condition of India was relatively advanced, and Indian methods of production could stand comparison with those in vogue in any other part of the world." Towards the end of the 18th century and still more at the beginning of the 19th century, St. Britain, followed by many other western countries, began to forge ahead in the economic sphere.

Long before 1858, when the East India Company's rule ended, India had ceased to be a great manufacturing country.

1. The Economic history of India in the Victorian age, By Ramesh Ch. Dutt.
2. The Economic development of India by Vera Anstey. P-5.
Agriculture had virtually become the one remaining source of the nation's subsistence. British merchants still watched and controlled the Indian Tariff. Even after 1858, Select Committees tried to find out how British manufactures could find a sale in India; not how Indian manufactures could be revived.

During the second half of the 19th century India's total production and trade advanced by leaps and bounds. The growth of looms and factories in Bombay was spectacular and outstanding. But strangely and most unexpectedly was passed the Government enactment for the removal of all the important duties. And consequently, in 1882, all import duties were withdrawn on goods of every description except on salt and liquor. In addition Indian manufactures were subjected to excise duties. The period that followed on, did not present a bright picture at all. In 1896-98 the monsoon rains failed over a wide area in Bombay Presidency affecting 300,000 sq. miles and a population of 63 millions. This caused a havoc and the loss was estimated one million lives and some eighteen to nineteen million tons of food crops. This calamity was still worsened by the outbreak of plague in the Bombay Presidency. Another blastful heat wave caused the draught in

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1. The Economic History of India in the Victorian age
2. The Economic Development - By Ramesh Ch. Dutt
   of India by Vera Anstey, p-5.
1899 and with it severe damages. The Government met the deficit of the budget by imposing fresh excise duty on mill-woven cotton cloth. This compulsory excise tax on Indian products proved very prejudicial to the industrial progress of the country.

Between 1877 to 1900, the amount of Indian Debt rose from 139 millions to 224 millions 1; which was largely due to the construction of railways by guaranteed companies and huge expenses on the Afghan wars of 1878 and 1897.

The first successful cotton mill was started in Bombay in 1853, but the rapid expansion followed only in the last quarter of the 19th century. The prospect of these mills was very promising. The American Civil War waged during this period hindered the production of Lancashire and Manchester. The British Cotton Hills were supplied with cotton from the plantations of America. The export of cotton ceased during the American Civil war due to the belligerent Southern States blockading its ports and stopping normal trade. This led to a hard time for the manufacturers in Great Britain. India, with her ample home-grown cotton, could easily capture the market. But most autocratically the ruling

1. The Economic Development of India by Vera Anstey. 9-6
authority crushed the industries of all their future hopes.

Between 1859 and 1882 imported cotton piece-goods paid 5% and yarn 3½%, but a fear of competition from the Indian mills led to a frightful agitation in Lancashire, which resulted in the removal of practically all these rates of duties by the government of India, between the years 1882 and 1894. 1 India's mill industries met with a tough and severe challenge. On this issue depended the economic future of India: whether it would remain saddled to medieval economic structure and modes of production; or resolve to free herself from the unfair 'arrested' economic stagnation to the new era of industrialization. The brutal challenge, crushing and baffling as it was, proved a test to the nation's strength to survive.

The leading economists and industrialists of this trying period started solving the industrial problems that confronted India. What pained the Indians most was the huge annual drain to England, in the form of home charges, out of the Indian revenues. This economic drainage should be stopped immediately otherwise India could not be saved. 2 For when taxes are raised and spent in a country, the money circulates among the people, fructifies trades, industries and agriculture—

1. The Economic and Industrial Conference — Report.
2. The Congress Resolution — 20th Congress, 1904.
and in one shape or another reaches the mass of the people. But when taxes raised are remitted out of the country, they incur heavy loss and cause ruin to the national finance. As a result the population is famished and the industrial achievement is stunted.

To stop this huge outflow of money was the first step that the congress took. To accumulate the capital in the country, and to utilise it for increased production and the co-ordination of economic control over an ever-widening area, was the incessant demand of the congress. The economic movement that was inaugurated by the congress was not merely by co-operation of individual efforts, but also included Government aid. The success of the movement would bring greater industrial opportunities and help the growth of new centres of commercial and industrial life.

The persistent clamour of the congress to the Government for allotment of financial aid to India's economic and industrial development, led to a parliamentary grant to India.

At the Lahore congress 1900, by the leaders of the congress, a thankful resolution of acknowledgement of the grant was forwarded to the government. In addition, a claim was pressed for the clearance of the past arrears of Indian
Debt. The Resolution XI of the Lahore congress presented the following draft:

That this Congress, while expressing its grateful acknowledgment for the annual contribution of £2,57,000 promised to be made from the British to the Indian Exchequer, in accordance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Indian expenditure, respectfully desires to point out that for doing adequate justice to the claims of India it is necessary that she should be granted the arrears payable on this account for the past many years, and prays that the British Parliament will be pleased to make this grant.

The first and foremost requisite of the industrialists was the supply of big capital. Individual donations from men like Tata and several other industrial magnets pioneered the industrial development of India.

The Congress, more than once, expressed its grateful appreciation of the patriotic and munificent gift of Tata. With the capital, thus acquired, the Indian economists planned to establish indigenous banking system and expected large potentialities of the small beginnings.

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It was at the Lahore Congress of 1900 that a new economic scheme of congress work taken up and it was notified to all its members through the Resolution XII:

"That the Congress hereby approves of the suggestion presented by the Indian Congress Committee for the consideration of this session that at least half a day at each annual session of the Congress be devoted to the consideration and discussion of the industrial and economical problem of the country. At the same sitting was formed an industrial committee with Harkisen Lal as its Secretary."

Since then, it was the regular feature of the Congress to hold industrial conferences. The initiation of the industrial conferences into the general programme of the congress body, was an imperative necessity. It served three main purposes, as explained Swami Ch. Dutt in the industrial conference speech, 1905.

In the first place, it wished to collect a body of expert opinions on the different industries of India in a series of papers, which would be useful for reference and for practical guidance.

1. Resolution twenty-five - Lahore Congress, 1900.
The second object, it wanted to fulfil, was to make the institution not merely a deliberative body discussing industrial questions during just one day in the year, but an efficient working body doing some useful work although out the year.

And the third object was not to try and do this work just from one centre but to expand the work by creating provincial Committees in all large provinces to promote, organise and supervise industrial enterprises and foster help and information, where necessary.

At the 1907 Industrial Conference, T.K. Gajjar the Chairman of the organisation, restated the desirability of holding such annual Industrial conferences and wanted them to grow in volume and number. "We must not rest," addressed he to all present, "until the technical colleges and polytechnics outnumber all the temples, mosques and churches which minister to the spiritual needs of the people."

In the proceedings of the same Conference T.K. Gajjar, remarked: "We have undertaken a grave responsibility in meeting in such conferences from year to year. The destiny of India hangs on the practical results of our deliberations. We should not only, therefore, apply ourselves to the study of the

2. Ibid.
Industrial conditions prevalent in India, but should come to a definite conclusion as to the means and methods to improve our condition.

The Industrial conferences sought profitably to readjust money, men, market and materials, so as to get maximum production.

A well-founded organisation and fair supply of capital facilitated the early phase of the development of the industries. The industrial Committee had financial support from the Rajas of Darbhanga, Kesaimbaezar, Cooch Behar and Nawabs of Kurshedabad and the business magnets. 1

India needed expert technicians, scientific experts and a band of skilled artisans, so the industrial exponents persistently demanded through the yearly congress resolution for the Government grant of higher technical education. The Indians thoroughly disapproved of the existing system of education, and protested against it. The Resolution presented to the Government, reads as follows:

"The Congress places on record its conviction that the system of technical education now in vogue is inadequate"

and unsatisfactory, and prays that having regard to the
poverty of the people and decline of indigenous industries
the Government will introduce a more elaborate and efficient
scheme of technical instruction, and set apart more funds
for a successful working of the same. 1

As the demand did not yield to much successful results,
the Congress embarked on a new development of National Education scheme. The National Education Project with its special emphasis on technical training, was taken up in right earnest by Taramath Palit and a group of extremist educationists. The curriculum of the national technical institution included a wide range of subjects varying from cloth-weaving dyeing and leatherwork, pottery-making, wood carving and all sorts of indigenous handicrafts to highly skilful and specialised knowledge of large-scale industries. 2 It was a spectacular enterprises and unique endeavour. The inertia of the people was shaken off and was instilled with new energy through improved skills, techniques and expert knowledge. The technical competence produced a wider economic enterprise and greater output of production. Earnest efforts were made and vigilant watch was kept to keep the standard of the increasing production high and not let it be vitiated.

1. The annual Congress Report.
2. The curriculum of National Council of Education.
Mrs. Annie Besant wanted "India's handicraftsmen perfected by hundreds of generations" to keep unalloyed and pure their artistic products and make them unsurpassable.

At the Swadeshi of the Industrial conference, 1906, H. H. the Maharaja of Gaekwar gave an inspiring address to the industrial conference.

"The time has come when we must make arduous and united endeavours for securing our industrial independence," said he, "or we shall sink again, perhaps for centuries to come. We must struggle and maintain our ancient position among the industrial nations of the earth, or we shall be betraying a sacred trust and be false to our posterity."

To provide ready market for these finished products was the ultimate aim of the Swadeshi movement.

The Swadeshi Resolution VIII of the Calcutta Congress of 1906, earnestly appealed to the consumer in the following words:

"This Congress accords its most cordial support to

1. The Birth of New India, by Mrs. Annie Besant, p. 68.
the Swadeshi movement and calls upon the people of the

country to labour for its success by making earnest and

sustained efforts to promote the growth of indigenous indus-
tries and to stimulate the production of indigenous articles
by giving them preference over imported commodities, even
at some sacrifice.

The Congress on the one hand appealed to the people
to create markets for these home products; and on the other
hand asked the Government to release the heavy excise duties.

But as the latter did not yield any results, the
people took a firm and sacred Swadeshi vow to use 'Swadeshi'
and Boycott foreign goods. 1

Surendra Nath Banerjee, the proponent of Swadeshi
cult, explained the Swadeshi as a protectionist movement.
"Only as we had not the power to make laws", stated Surendra
Nath, "which was in the hands other than our own; we sought
to surround our domestic industries with tariff wall not
raised by the mandate of the Legislature, but by the determined
will of our people."

1. A Nation in Making - by S. N. Banerjee.