

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Indians In London Demonstrate Their Patriotism

INDIANS in London observed hartal on April 1, in sympathy with India as a mark of protest against the inauguration of the new Constitution. A meeting was held under the auspices of the Indian Swaraj League with Dr. Syed Mahmood as chairman. Amongst those present included representatives of Negro associations, Messrs. Bradley, Bridgeman, Mrs. Saklatvala, Hon. Isardas from East Africa and a number of Indian seamen. Resolutions congratulating the Congress on its stand taken for ending the Constitution for achieving complete freedom were passed. Indian students also held a special meeting to congratulate the congress on its stand and condemn Government.

Cannot we Indians in South Africa justifiably ask ourselves whether we also do not owe any duty towards our brethren in India who are undergoing untold sufferings in their struggle for freedom? And what have we done in the line of expressing even our moral support? To our utter shame we must confess, we have done nothing.

Viceroy's Latest Gesture

To get an idea as to how the Provincial Legislatures under the new Constitution would work in India with Governors exercising their special powers the following need only to be read:

Mr. Satyamurti, M.L.A. has received a letter from the Secretary to the Legislative Assembly informing him that his resolution which reads: "Whereas the provincial elections held under the Government of India Act, 1935, have resulted in a definite popular verdict against the constitutional scheme embodied in that Act, this Assembly recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council not to bring into operation part two of the Act relating to Federation of India and take immediate steps in consultation with the accredited leaders of the Indian people to summon a Constituent Assembly with plenary powers to frame a constitution acceptable to this country," has been disallowed by the Governor-General on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to public interest.

Senator Malan On World Affairs

Senator F. S. Malan, P.C., lecturing to the Royal Institute of International Relations in London on the world outlook as it affects the Dominions gave expression to the following noteworthy sentiment:

"A fairly large section of South Africans feared they were to be drawn into another war. Hence insistence on neutrality, and the suspicion towards any linking up with Empire defence. These people did not sufficiently realise the advantage of mutual assistance in time of common danger. We could not isolate ourselves in a world becoming more contracted, more interdependent than ever. It would be foolish to sacrifice the friendship of other Empire countries for the uncertain advantages of a neutrality which would leave us at the mercy of any strong maritime aggressor."

No Political Peace Without Trade Revival

Mr. Norman Davis, who has been conducting an inquiry into the political and economic conditions of the Old World on behalf of President Roosevelt, after a month's stay in London, has, in the course of an interview with the *Morning Post*, on the eve of returning to New York, expressed the conviction that "there will be no political appeasement in Europe without economic rehabilitation." He is satisfied that "no political settlement, even if it were possible, would hold water unless accompanied by a revival of international trade. Currency control, import restrictions and all barriers preventing the free shipment of goods are bottling up the economic forces of countries. The result is that military forces become more and more active. If you cannot export goods you export arms. That means war. By this time we must all know that we cannot help ourselves by harming others," concluded Mr. Davis.

Bespoke Tailoring

A special public sitting of the Wage Board took place last Monday in the New Government Buildings, Durban. The Board consisted of Mr. F. Macgregor (chairman) Mr. W. H. Windsor, Dr. J. H. Botha, Miss H. P. Pollak and Mr. H. Tindale (secretary). European representatives of the industry complained that their retail bespoke tailoring was "going to the dogs." This was attributed to the fact that nearly half of the work is given out piecemeal to "sub-contractors" by contractors. The contractors, who are not necessarily qualified tailors, receive the orders, supply the material and hand the work over to the sub-contractors, who often work 12 hours a day for wages, which are below those laid down in the determination of employees. It was pointed out that sub-contractors are not employees in law, and therefore do not come under the determination. It was stated that at present no Europeans were being trained as bespoke tailors in Durban because, owing to the sub-contracting system, there is no inducement for young men to want to become a tailor, and the qualified men do not have the time to train them. One tailor said that in the past 27 years the number of European bespoke tailors in Durban had been reduced from 300 to from 30 to 50; he attributed this mainly to Indian competition, and the tendency to employ tailoresses at half the wages of tailors. The wage determination, said Mr. A. R. Savage, did not benefit the employee, because of the widely practised system of sub-contracting. This was carried on to such an extent that it was difficult to define the employee. The employee also sub-contracted and thus became a sub-contractor. "You can never prove the relationship between the employee and employer." He further stated that "tremendous" importation of ready-made suits was seriously affecting the tailoring business in South Africa. Some of these suits were being sold in 300 different sizes which made them almost bespoke. Mr. Peller said there were not enough trained men to maintain the trade in Durban. The Indians, on the other hand, were training apprentices.

White Labour Policy

A survey of the results of the white labour policy on the railways is given in the report of the Railways and Harbours Board, which was tabled in the Union House of Assembly. The report states that from Union until 1924 the number of European labourers on the railways fluctuated from year to year, but never at any time greatly exceeded 5,000. The total of European labourers engaged on railway work during last year was 18,649. "To attain these favourable results it was necessary to explore all avenues of employment where Europeans could economically replace non Europeans," the report goes on. "In addition to placing Europeans at stations, good sheds, loco depots, in maintenance gangs and on works previously carried out by non-Europeans, it has been found practicable to extend their field of employment still further by utilising the services of Europeans as strikers in those mechanical workshops where this class of work had hitherto been done by natives, as members of the crews of harbour craft at those ports where departmental vessels were previously manned by non-Europeans and on certain work in the catering department. The Administration, however, has not only concerned itself with the actual provision of work to European labourers but has devoted special attention to affording them opportunities of improving their positions, with the result that several thousands annually secure advancement to higher grade posts."

This is how the Government's white labour policy is worked at the cost of non-Europeans. It remains to be seen how long this policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul will last.

Imperial Conference

The Imperial Conference opens this (Friday) morning in London when Mr. Anthony Eden initiates the debate on international matters by presenting a survey of the situation and the attitude of the Government of Great Britain towards the problem it presents. The first official act of the Conference will be an address and message of loyalty to the newly crowned King and Queen. Addresses will afterwards be delivered by the heads of the various delegates from the Dominions and India.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MAY 14TH, 1937

Indian Government's Timidity

SIR JAGDISH PRASAD'S reply to Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru in the Council of State at New Delhi on the Indian question in South Africa is as disheartening as it is an eye-opener to the fact that the professed anxiety of the Government of India for the rights and interests of Indians in this country is of no value at all. The question was in connection with the statement made by the Union Minister of Agriculture, Col. Denys Reitz, to a deputation from the Indian community that "Indians should realise that they would ever be a tragic community in this country, because of the temper and temperament of the people of South Africa. We have that temper and that temperament because we are determined to keep this a white man's country." Pandit Kunzru asked if the Government were aware of this statement having been made by the Union Minister and, if so, if any representations had been made against it. Sir Jagdish is reported to have said that the statement came to the notice of the Government through a Press report which was found to be true but the Government had received no representations on the question as they did on the Marketing Bill. As to whether the Government intended now to protest against the statement Sir Jagdish said he was not able to reply to that on the spur of the moment. The spokesmen of the Government of India when queried on the Indian question in South Africa have on several occasions said: "The House may rest assured the Government is zealous of the rights and interests of Indians in South Africa and will do everything

possible to protect them." From Sir Jagdish Prasad's reply one can only come to the conclusion that the Government of India would do nothing on their own initiative and yet, after all, was not this a matter which affected them most in view of the fact that they were participants to the Capetown Agreement which has been vaunted so much as a "Gentleman's Agreement." Does not such a statement, as quoted above, made by a responsible Minister of the Union, constitute a virtual repudiation of that Agreement?

This attitude of the Government of India is disheartening in that it is an indication of their utter helplessness in the face of flagrant breaches of the letter and the spirit of the Capetown Agreement. In spite of the fact that the Indian community in the Union has been recognised as part of the Union's permanent population, and the promise that everything would be done to assist them in becoming full-fledged citizens of South Africa, every endeavour is being made to curtail even their existing rights. And yet the Government of India are timid. How long will this timidity on the part of the Government of India go on? We are not inclined to believe that that would improve even in the slightest degree the conditions of Indians in South Africa. It only keeps the people of India as well as Indians in South Africa under a false sense of security while in reality the position is hopelessly being undermined. Frankness and fearlessness, and not timidity, we feel sure, will pay in the end.

OBJECT OF NEW WAGE BILL

EXPLAINED BY CHAIRMAN OF WAGE BOARD

IN the course of an interview with a representative of the *Natal Advertiser* Mr. F. McGregor, chairman of the Wage Board, now in Durban, explained the object of the new Wage Bill. "It is generally admitted," he said, "that the highest degree of compliance with minimum wage law can only exist where employers and employees organisations combine to ensure effective enforcement. But even the law should in any event be made effective as possible, for it is, to say the least, disconcerting to the employer who prides himself on paying nothing less than the prescribed wages, to find that a competitor is able to evade the law with comparative impunity. The provisions of the Bill now before the House will go far to control the position."

The methods of consultation between the Wage Board and the representatives of employers and employees in industry, together with the protection afforded to all affected parties by the public nature of the board's investigations, had been fully preserved in the new Bill.

In the proposed new Bill a determination might be extended by the Minister after a simple process of involving a short period of publication and consultations with the Board. That was plainly directed at employers who might endeavour to evade wage regulation by moving their factory just beyond.

The duty imposed upon the Court in the event of failure to observe the provisions of a determination to inquire into and determine the amount of an underpayment to an employee, would ensure uniformity in the matter of orders by the Court for the payment of arrear remuneration. In certain circumstances the amount of any fines imposed might be increased to an amount equal to the amount underpaid.

Under the new measure the powers of the Minister to indicate the scope of an interpretation were much broadened. But he could not differentiate on the basis of race or colour. Singularly wide recommendatory powers were given to the Board, but with the same injunction not to discriminate on race or colour.

The attitude of the Wage Act in that respect was not directly stated in the 1925 Act.

The board's scope in regard to what might be included in a recommendation was much wider in the Bill. Matters which might be included covered minimum rates of wages payable to classes of employees, minimum average rates, deferred increases which might come into operation upon the expiration of specified periods, deduction from wages which an employee might make, the method of calculating remuneration, the day, time and manner of payment, piecework rates, the maintenance of piecework records, the prohibition of piecework or taskwork, prohibition of outwork.

"This," concluded Mr. McGregor, "is a formidable and significant list of powers of which not the least important is the power to control the vexed question of outwork and to prohibit piece work or taskwork."

INDICTMENT OF INDIAN FURNITURE MAKERS

ALLEGATIONS MADE BY SENATOR THRASH

A SEARCHING indictment of the non-European section of the furniture trade in Durban was framed in the Senate last week by Senator Thrash, when taking part in the second reading debate on the Wage Bill. He said the Wage Act had left loopholes for employers to evade the law and to enrich themselves at the expense of their employees. The Government was partly to blame for this, because an insufficient number of inspectors had been appointed, with the result that their inspectors were sometimes only very cursory.

Chief Offenders

The offenders against the law in Durban were chiefly Indians, although Europeans had also offended. For example, workers at Indian factories were taken on at £6 a week and received this amount on Fridays—but had to refund £4 to £4 10s. on Saturday mornings. In 22 cases convictions had been secured, but it was very difficult to secure these convictions, and the evasions continued. There was collusion between employer and employee in these evasions of the law, but employers had also made use of intimidation.

The Indian employers had very ingenious methods, such as thrift clubs, into which employees paid their weekly £4, but the clubs never paid anything out, the employer recalling all the money which was paid in. Another method was to get the employees to sign promissory notes for large amounts, and to get the wages back from them in this way.

The number of European artisans in the furniture factories in Durban had dropped to 30, while the Indian artisans had increased to more than 500, proving how strong the competition of Indian manufacturers was.

European factories had been very hard hit by the competition of Indian factories, which did not pay regulation wages. Indian firms could sell dining room suites at £4 10s., which European firms could not sell at less than £12 10s.

The Indians also paid lower rents than European furniture manufacturers, often manufacturing their goods in insanitary backyards. They had not the expense of showrooms and salesmen, but sold their goods by auction. Was it strange that the honest employers were up in arms against this position.

He understood that the position in the clothing trade was even worse than that in the furniture trade, which he had personally investigated.

Nefarious Activities

He would suggest that the principle laid down in the Bill in regard to bogus partnerships to evade wage determinations should be extended to cover other types of evasions. It was no use to provide for stiff punishments where employers were able to cover up their nefarious activities.

"When it is proved that a manufacturer is selling his goods under what is, in the opinion of the trade, a reasonable price," he declared, "that should be *prima facie* evidence of his guilt of failing to pay his employees a proper wage, and the onus should be on him to prove his innocence."

Another method of dealing with evasions of wage determinations was to prohibit the sale by auction of newly-manufactured goods. If this were done the Indian manufacturers would find no sale for their goods.

He hoped the Minister would make a thorough investigation of the furniture

industry, as well as of the clothing industry, in Durban.

Action To Be Taken

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Hofmeyr) said he had instructed the Secretary for Labour to go to Durban and to make a special investigation of the whole question. Action would be taken. He had also had a frank discussion with representatives of the Indian traders in Durban.

Senator Brisker's Reply

Senator S. S. Brisker replied to the charges made against Indian furniture

manufacturers by Senator Thrash. He said that the attack on the Indians was most unfair, especially as there were many Europeans who had been prosecuted on the same charge which Senator Thrash had levelled against Indians.

Senator Brisker also expressed doubt about the accuracy of the figures Senator Thrash had quoted in support of his case. He had given the number of European apprentices and journeymen employed in the furniture industry in Durban at only 30 and the number of Indians at 500, whereas reliable figures

he had obtained showed that there were 160 Europeans and only 390 Indians.

Senator Brisker pointed out that trade was the only means left to an Indian in South Africa to-day. They were excluded from Government service in any form and prevented from joining the professions by the lack of education facilities.

Senator Thrash denied that his figures were inaccurate and maintained that what he had told the House last week was a true reflection of the position.

HOW INDIA GOVERNMENT WATCHES INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN S. A.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN COUNCIL OF STATE

IN the Council of State, New Delhi, on March 30, at question time, Sir Jagdish Prasad answered in the affirmative the question of Pandit Kunzru, in which the latter asked whether a deputation of the South African Indian Congress had waited on the Union Minister of Agriculture in connection with a provision in the Marketing Bill, which affected the economic future of the Indian community, and whether the Minister, replying to the deputation, had said: "Gentlemen, you must realise that you Indians in South Africa will ever remain a tragic community, because of the temper and temperament of the people of South Africa. We have that temper and temperament, because we are determined to keep this a white man's country."

Pandit Kunzru asked what action the Government had taken to protect the rights of the Indian community.

Sir Jagdish Prasad replied: "The main provision in the Bill, which would have

affected the economic future of the Indian community adversely, had it remained unaltered, was Section 19 (1) (a) which, as amended in the Committee, sought to empower a Regulatory Board to refuse registration to a producer of a commodity, the marketing of which it was authorised to regulate. Such a refusal would have had the effect of prohibiting sale by the producer concerned of a regulated produce. With the assistance of the ministers concerned, however, further amendment has been made which makes the refusal of registration by the Board appealable to the Minister. This should go a long way to allay the misgivings and in practice to protect the interests of the Indian producer."

A number of supplementary questions were put by the members. Mr. P. N. Saprú asked: Have the Government of India made any representation to the Union Government in regard to the speech of the Union Minister of Agriculture?

Sir Jagdish Prasad: No; we have made no representation in regard to the speech.

Pandit Kunzru: How is it that the Government made no representation against a speech which lowers the position of the Indian community?

Sir Jagdish Prasad: Well, Sir, we saw the press report, and I understand that the speech as reported in the press is correct, but we have no representation in regard to the speech, though we had one in regard to the Bill.

Mr. Hossain Imam: Do the Government propose to make a representation?

Sir Jagdish Prasad: I cannot on the spur of the moment reply to this question.

President's Ruling

The President ruled that since the Member in Charge could not answer these questions on the spur of the moment, further supplementary questions on the subject should not be put.

THE DRAFT NATAL MOTOR ORDINANCE

ON behalf of the Bus Owners Association, Messrs. R. N. Naidoo, M. Marimuthoo, P. Seebran, W. E. Hoover, K. Seepersad with Mr. A. Christopher submitted the following, among other objections, to the Select Committee last week in regard to "The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulation Ordinance-1927" and their suggestions thereon:

That the definition of "Passenger" is inadequate and would be fruitful of trouble to holders of Certificates and should be amplified by stating at what age a child is a passenger and at what age it becomes an adult passenger.

That among the powers to be granted to the Appeal Board, is the power to exclude all but members of the Board, the clerk of such Board, and the wit-

ness, which means that the appellant, his counsel and attorney, would not be entitled to be present or to examine or cross examine a witness. We would urge that this power contained in Section 1, sub-Section 3 of Act 6 of 1918 be excluded from the powers to be granted to the Appeal Board, or it should be amended to allow the appellant, his counsel and attorney to be present and to conduct the appeal. Public hearing would create confidence in the Appeal Board.

That the power of fixing a number of passengers for a vehicle should provide not only for the fixing of seating accommodation but also for standing accommodation.

That the power to suspend or cancel a certificate of fitness if the holder thereof is convicted on a second or subsequent occasion, creates a third punishment for the holder.

The first in the conviction and punishment inflicted by the Court of Law.

The second is the punishment to suspend or cancel, which under the Motor Carrier Transport Act, 1930, may be inflicted by the Local Road Transportation Board for a contravention of that Act or of any other Motor Law and of certain other Laws set out therein, whether, in some cases, a contravention be by the holder or his servant.

We appeal, in the circumstances, that, in respect of motor vehicles which fall within the terms of the said Act, they be exempted or excluded from Section 46 of the Draft Ordinance before you.

That before Regulations or By-laws are promulgated we suggest that an opportunity should be given to the public to make any representations in connection with them.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. PETERS AND RADIO INDIAN PROGRAMME

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—Mr. A. A. Peters, who arranges the Radio Indian programme on Mondays and Fridays, had last Monday, arranged a message of loyalty and congratulations on behalf of Indians of South Africa to be delivered to the King and Queen on the occasion of their being crowned. Mr. Peters is to be congratulated on the grand idea that occurred to him but I am not inclined to congratulate him on the way the thing was done. Pray who gave the persons who claimed to speak on behalf of the various sections of the community the right to do so? Mr. Uchit Maharaj spoke on behalf of the Hindustani section, Mr. K. R. Naynah on behalf of the Tamil section, Mr. C. R. Naidoo on behalf of the Telugu section, Mr. S. J. Randeria on behalf of the Parsee section, the Rev. Sundram on behalf of the Christian section and Moulvi Abdul Vahed on behalf of the Muslim section.

I do not know that these gentlemen had any mandate to speak in the name of their respective sections of the com-

munity. Another error of judgment on the part of Mr. Peters was this, that he should have known that this message was heard by the whole of the Union and many places outside the Union, and by thus dividing our small community into so many sections he had drawn a very sad picture of our community before the eyes of the world and indirectly he had done an injury to those sections he had consciously or unconsciously left out, such as, for instance, the Gujarati Hindus; and then there are so many sub-divisions, since he has divided even the Tamilians into two sections—the Telugu and Tamilians. It really gives a bad taste when in public matters we do these unthoughtful things of dividing our community. One does not see this in any other community. I am pretty sure the Europeans are not going to divide themselves into Jews, Germans, Afrikaans nor the Natives into their various tribes. But Mr. Peters has allowed Indians to be pictured as lower even than Natives in this respect.

To my mind, if it was at all necessary to do so, it would have been dignified for Mr. Peters to have himself said a few words of loyalty in the name of the community and not deprived Indian listeners-in of their regular music which they have mightily little of in comparison with what the pay in Radio licence fees.—I am etc.,

INDIAN.

Sir,—On May 10, I was listening to a radio, and at 6 p.m. the Indian session began. After introduction, Mr. Peters, the conductor of the Indian programme, announced that several representatives of the Indian community would deliver their loyal address to Their Majesties the King and Queen on their crowning in England on May 12, 1937.

As being myself a Gujarati, I was very much grieved to learn that there was not a person who could give out his loyal address on behalf of the Gujarati section in Durban

GUJARATI.

"THE RULE OF THE SWORD"

TEXT OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S STATEMENT

Only a short report of Mahatma Gandhi's statement on the deadlock in India, owing to Congress members refusing to accept office in the Provincial Legislature unless Governors gave the assurance that they would not exercise their special powers of interference in the constitutional working of the Ministry, was sent out here by Reuter. We reproduce below, for the interest of our readers, the full text of the statement from the Indian exchanges:

"HAVING brooded over the refusal of the Governors' to give the assurances asked by the invited Congress leaders in the majority provinces I feel I must give my opinion on the situation that has arisen in the country.

"I have had three cables from London shown to me asking for my opinion. Friends in Madras too have pressed for its publication. Though it is a departure from my self-imposed rule I can no longer withstand the pressure, especially as I am the sole author of the office acceptance clause of the Congress resolution and originator of the idea of attaching condition to office acceptance.

My desire was not to lay down any impossible condition. On the contrary, I wanted to devise a condition that could be easily accepted by the Gov-

ernors. There was no intention whatsoever to lay down a condition whose acceptance would mean any slightest abrogation of the constitution.

The Congressmen were well aware that they could not and would not ask for any such amendment. The Congress policy was and is not to secure an amendment but the absolute ending of the Constitution which nobody likes. Congressmen were and are also aware they could not end it by mere acceptance of office even conditional.

The object of that section of the Congress which believed in office acceptance was, pending the creation by means consistent with the Congress creed of non-violence of a situation that would transfer all power to the people, to work the offices so as to strengthen the Congress which has been shown predominantly to represent mass opinion.

Honesty Demanded Assurance

"I felt that this object could not be secured unless there was a gentlemanly understanding between the Governors and their Congress ministers that they would not exercise their special powers of interference so long as the ministers acted within the constitution. Not to do so would be to court an almost immediate deadlock after entering upon

office. I felt that honesty demanded that understanding.

It is common case that the Governors have discretionary powers. Surely there was nothing extra constitutional in their saying that they would not exercise their discretion against the ministers carrying on constitutional activities. It may be remembered that the understanding was not to touch the numerous other safeguards over which the Governors had no power.

A strong party with the decisive backing of the electorate could not be expected to put itself in the precarious position of being in dread of interference at the will of Governors.

Courteous Or Discourteous

"The question may be put in another way: Should the Governors be courteous to the ministers or discourteous? I hold that it would be distinctly discourteous if they interfered with their ministers in matters over which law gave the latter full control and with which the Governors were under no legal obligation to interfere

A self-respecting minister, conscious of the absolute majority at his back, could not but demand an assurance of non interference. Have I not heard Sir Samuel Hoare and other ministers

saying in so many words that ordinarily the Governors would not use their admittedly large powers of interference? I claim that the Congress formula asked for nothing more.

It has been claimed on behalf of the British Government that the Act gives autonomy to provinces. If that is so it is not the Governors but the ministers who are, during their period of office, responsible for the wise administration of their provinces. Responsible ministers sensible of their duty could not submit to interference in pursuance of their daily duty.

Promise Broken

"It does, therefore, appear to me that once more the British Government has broken to the heart what it has promised to the ear.

"I doubt not that they can and will impose their will on the people till the latter develop enough strength from within to resist it. But that cannot be called working provincial autonomy. By flouting the majority obtained through the machinery of their creation they have, in plain language, ended the autonomy, which,

they claim, the Constitution has given to the provinces. The rule, therefore, will now be the rule of the sword not of the pen nor of the indisputable majority. Any way, that is the only interpretation, which, with all good will in the world, I can put upon the Government action, for, I believe in the cent. per cent. honesty of my formula whose acceptance might have prevented the crisis and resulted in natural orderly and peaceful transference of the power from the bureaucracy to the largest and the fullest democracy known to the world."

AMERICAN EVENTS

(BY H. STEFAN SANTESSON)

April 1—Hartal Hailed In New York

AMERICAN and Indian friends of the Indian National Congress and its programme, met at a dinner at the Ceylon India Inn, 148 West 49th St., NYC., on March 28, to discuss events in India. Among those present were Miss Ruth St. Dennis, internationally famous dancer, Mr. Ramlal Bajpai, Mr. N. Checker, Dr. B. V. Mukerji, Dr. N. S. Hanoka, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Singer, Mrs. Theodora Rhoades, and Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Santesson. Mr. Santesson, who had issued the call for the meeting, acted as Chairman.

The following resolution was introduced by one of the participants and—after some discussion—unanimously adopted:

"We—friends of India's freedom—most sincerely sympathise with the decision of the Indian National Congress to call a Hartal on the 1st of April to protest against the imposition of an unwanted Constitution, and wish the Indian fighters the fullest success in their struggle for India's Freedom!"

The resolution was opposed at first by Mr. N. Checker, local businessman, and by Dr. B. N. Mukerji—both of these gentlemen objecting to the originally suggested term 'Members of the Hindustani Community and American friends.' They felt the use of this term might give rise to the assumption that the community as a whole had endorsed the resolution and the views expressed therein.

During the earlier part of the evening, Miss St. Dennis discussed her appreciation of Indian art and the dance—citing Uday Shan.Kar as an example of its perfection; Mr. Ramlal Bajpai, recently returned after some years in India, described the Faizpur Congress; Mr. Checker, also recently returned after a visit, gave his impressions of the India that he had seen.

Hindustan Association

The Hindustan Association organized a social on the evening of March 20,

in honour of a number of new arrivals or returned members of the Indian community. The speakers included the returned Mr. N. Checker, local business man, Mr. Ramlal Bajpai, absent for the past three years, Dr. G. N. D. Sufi, former registrar of the University of Delhi, Dr. and Madame R. Naidu. Dr. Naidu, here to carry on researches in the field of raidum and cancer, gave an illustrated lecture on some aspects of these subjects, and Dr. Sufi described his impressions of the Near East.

A Ministry To Face Realities

The Social Frontier, March 1937, reports that "Students at the Episcopal Divinity School will be required to spend at least three months annually in practical work in hospitals, prisons and other social service agencies and institutions. The school's efforts will be directed to the development of a ministry that will be able to meet the pressing human problems of to-day.

American Reaction Speaks Out

One of the forms taken by the rightist element in American minority politics is that of a religious organization, discussing current events as well as religion or metaphysics in its periodical publications. These periodicals, generally monthlies, and half of them claiming to "defend Protestantism," reach an enormous amount of people who—because of the religious aspect of the publications—place implicit trust in them and their truthfulness.

One publication, *The Defender* issued in Wichita, Kansas—is issued by a gentleman who, some years ago, was very much in debt. But, curiously enough—this condition was changed abruptly the other year—the Reverend Gentleman in question not only paying his bills in full but even being able to take a trip to Germany..... *The Defender* recently printed a blank to be filled out by its readers and sent to Washington. The readers of the publication had requested 70,000 additional blanks within the following month.

The Defender includes such interesting articles as the "Harlot Woman of

Greece", "The Great Whore" (otherwise known to us laymen as "The Greek Orthodox Church"). It also discusses "Sit-down Communism"—i.e., the recent strikes, besides advertising brochures on slave labour in Russia, etc.

William Dudley Pelley's *The New Liberation* is quite famous. Mr. Pelley's "Silvershirts" were active in the formation of an anti-Jewish party at the time of the elections of last November. A typical article, dealing with the Presidents Court-Retorm programme, declares that "The Supreme Court Will Go Because The Jews Wish it".....

Mr. Frederick Haberman, of Florida, issues a publication termed *The Kingdom Herald* which has as yet only 10,000 or so readers. Referring to "Spain's Day of Judgment" in the march issue, he writes, "Why blame Italy and Germany for doing everything in their power to prevent a Red Republic in Spain? Whatever Americans and Britains may think of Hitler and Mussolini, one thing they have done; they came in the nick of time to save their respective countries from Bolshevism, from destruction of their churches, from atheism, and from such chaos as we are witnessing in Spain today." Mr. Haberman commenting on Germany, observes that the "German spirit is stronger than the Satanic spirits of the war agitators."

No survey of American opinion is complete without reference to these regrettable—but all too numerous—opinions. Mr. Sinclair Lewis' famous novel "It Can't Happen Here!" deserves careful reading if one wishes fuller understanding of the political cross currents in parts of these United States.

Newspaper Chains

The Hearst papers—26 of them—reach more than 5 millions of people daily. *The N.Y. Daily News* and the *Chicago Tribune* combined—reach two and a half million, and the 23 Scripps Howard newspapers take care of more than 1,900,000 people. Sixty other newspaper chains take care of six million more readers—the 63 chains, as a group, taking care of more than 40% of the newspaper reader in the U.S.A.

Things In General

Appointed Privy Council

HIS EXCELLENCY Sir Patrick Duncan, G.C.M.G., Governor-General of the Union of South Africa, has been appointed a member of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council.

Hostel For Delinquent Indian Boys

Natal is shortly to have a hostel for delinquent Indian boys. The Government has consented to give a grant-in-aid, and a recently appointed Provincial committee is now negotiating for the acquisition of a building near Durban. The hostel is to be conducted on the same lines as the Brandon native boys' hostel at Mayville and the European boys' hostel at Pinetown. At present there is no hostel for delinquent Indians in Natal. The committee is composed of members of the Indo-European Council.

Reception To Prominent Indian Visitor

On Thursday, May 6, at the Surat Hindoo Association Hall, a welcome reception was accorded to Mr. M. Shah of the well-known shippers of Bombay, Messrs. Virchand Panachad & Co. who arrived in Durban by the *Karanja* on Wednesday, May 5. Mr. M. B. Naik, who was in the chair, referred to the activities of the firm of Messrs. Virchand Panachad & Co. and said the object of Mr. Shah's visit was to increase trade relations between India and South Africa. Mr. M. N. Bhoola in garlanding Mr. Shah said that the worthy guest left Bombay on August 5 last year and visited British East Africa, Rhodesia, Belgian Congo, Portuguese, East Africa, Nyasaland, Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius and had now arrived in Durban from Zanzibar. Mr. Shah, in replying to the reception, gave a very interesting account of his travels and referred to business prospects in various parts of Africa. Amongst the other speakers were Messrs. P. G. Desai, S. J. Randeria, K. S. Mistry, A. I. Kejee, S. J. Mehta, V. T. P. Devshi and M. P. Joshi. A selection of musical items were rendered by Master Nanoo Dhupelia and refreshments were provided by Messrs. N. Bhoola and Sons.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The following message has been communicated to the Governor-General by the Nizamia Muslim Society, Maritzburg, requesting him to transmit it to their Majesties the King and Queen, on the occasion of their Coronation:—

"We, the officials and members of the Nizamia Muslim Society, Maritzburg, Natal, desire to send our most loyal and affectionate greetings on the occasion of Your Majesties' Coronation. It is the earnest hope and prayer of our members that, with the blessing of Almighty God, Your Majesties may long be spared to reign over us."

College Students Insult The King

At question time in the Union House of Assembly on Friday May 6, a student song, called "The Regular Royal King," circulating among members of the Bloemfontein Normal College, was the subject of a question by Mr. Derbyshire (Dom. P., Greyville). The question referred to an appeal by the bond to Afrikaans school authorities in Bloemfontein not to encourage their pupils to attend the Coronation celebrations in the town. A resolution to the effect was passed by the bond with the information: "Here is a song which the students may sing to the tune of 'A Regular Royal Queen' from the 'Gondoliers':—

THE REGULAR ROYAL KING

The Studentebond must take no share
In the King's Park Empire show;
We're men of knowledge,
From the Normal College,
And so we ought to know.
The Jingo Jinks we cannot bear,
Nor talk of Crown and King;
This celebration
Of the Coronation
Narks us like anything.

Chorus

Oh, 'tis a mortifying thing
To have to own a British King;
God Save the King we'll never sing,
So to hell with their Regular Royal King.

Mr. Derbyshire asked the Minister of Justice (General Smuts) if his attention had been drawn to the publication of this chorus "containing insulting language towards the King."

The Minister: Yes.

Mr. Derbyshire: Has the use of this chorus in public places come to the knowledge of the officials in charge of the Bloemfontein Normal College?

The Minister: No.

Mr. Derbyshire: What steps does the Minister propose to take to prevent the use of insulting language towards the King in public places or any publication in the Press?

The Minister: The matter will be inquired into.

Stanger Andhra Sabha

The Stanger and District Andhra community celebrated its third anniversary on Sunday May 2, in the Public Hall, Stanger. Included among the present were several women and children. Prominent officials of the Andhra Maha Sabha (S.A.), the parent body, were also present namely Messrs. V. M. Naidoo, B. Naidoo, A. J. Naidoo, D. V. Naidoo, L. Kris. Naidoo and O. R. Naidoo. The president of the Sabha, Mr. Gangarajulu Reddy presided, and the visitors were welcomed by Mr. A. P. Naidoo, the chairman. The programme consisted of songs, hymns and selections from the

Hindu scriptures in which, in addition to the local children, the children of the Stella Hill & District Andhra Patasala also participated. The musical band was in attendance under the direction of the Telugu teacher. Among the speakers were Messrs. V. M. Naidoo, B. Naidoo, D. V. Naidoo, A. J. Naidoo, C. R. Naidoo, B. Veerasamy Naidoo, S. T. Naidoo, A. Veerasamy Naidoo and Veerasamy Padayachee, who spoke on the necessity of the Andhra community taking a keener interest in the teaching of the Telugu language to their children, and establishing more schools for the purpose. A very interesting lecture in Telugu was delivered by Mrs. Atheelutchmee Chetty, a Durban young lady, who is sincerely devoting herself to the advancement of Andhra vernacular education among Andhra girls. Mrs. Chetty said, by the studying their own mother-tongue, the girls would be able to understand their own culture and the beauties of their own religion, much better than in a foreign tongue. It was also important for girls to know their own religion, for a knowledge of religion teaches them the true meaning of what is meant by "love of God". By such learnings, girls would be able to understand and lead virtuous lives and would not be misled from the path of chastity. Life under such conditions would lead to the achievement of an "ideal womanhood." She made a stirring appeal to parents stating that "girls of today are the mothers of tomorrow", and parents must not lag behind in getting their children to learn Telugu. Foreign languages may be also learnt, but not at the negligence of their own mother-tongue. The audience was very much impressed by Mrs. Chetty's lecture, and she was loudly applauded at the conclusion of her speech. The chairman suitably thanked her for the inspiring address, and at the same time expressed the thanks of the Sabha to the president Mr. Gangarajulu Reddy, who had intimated his intention to donate to the Stanger Andhra Sabha a sum of £400 for Telugu education in the Stanger District.

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India Letter

(EXTRACTS FROM A. I. C. O. FOREIGN LETTER)

Have Governors The Power To Grant Congress Demand

MR. BHULABHAI DESAI, leader of the Congress Party in the Assembly and a constitutional lawyer of great eminence, has proved with chapter and verses that the Congress demand from Governors that they shall not exercise their special powers of interference in the constitutional working of the Ministers in the Provincial Legislatures, was neither impossible nor unconstitutional. He says: "It is a commonplace of Constitutional law and practice evinced by the Constitution itself that the existence of a right of intervention by veto or otherwise, is not inconsistent with forbearance from such exercise generally or under given conditions. The most outstanding instance is the right of veto held by a British Constitutional Sovereign. If a question were asked whether that sovereign has a right of veto and if an unqualified answer is demanded, it would have to be admitted that he has such right; but if the correct position was required to be stated it would have further to be added that though such right did exist and is inherent in the sovereign, he has forbore and does forbear from exercising it except on the advice of the Ministers who possessed the confidence of the country." Mr. Desai added that the Congress wanted no more than such forbearance by the Governors as they could show without making the slightest alteration in the Act.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, leader of the Congress Party in the Madras Assembly, has further clarified the Congress position. "We do not want an amendment of the Act or a contract enforceable in law. We wish to begin a Convention.....All Conventions must start with an understanding before the continued observance fixes them into a binding practice modifying the law. The first start of a Convention is a precious assurance such as we now demand."

So the Governors have declined to give even such modest assurance. As a result the majority party in six provinces has declined to form ministries and, in the words of Mr. Rajendra Prasad, "the Constitution has broken down at the first touch of reality and stands exposed as a repository of arbitrary autocratic rule."

Anti-Constitution Day

The Congress had fixed the 1st of April, the day for the official inauguration of the Constitution, for a popular demonstration against it. Remarkable

was the popular response to this appeal of the Congress. There was not a city that did not observe it; even the tiniest village in the remotest corner of the country demonstrated its rejection of the Constitution by closing down the shops and suspending all other business. Persuasion by Congress volunteers was hardly necessary anywhere and spontaneity was the special feature of the observance. The following resolution framed by the President on the basis of the National Demand as formulated by the All-India Convention was adopted uniformly at all public meetings:

"This meeting reiterates the opinion of the people of India that the Government of India Act of 1935 has been designed to perpetuate the domination and exploitation of the Indian people and to strengthen the hold of British Imperialism on India. This meeting declares that the Indian people do not recognise the right of any external power or authority to dictate the political and economic structure of India. The Indian people

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can only accept a constitutional structure which has been framed by them and which is based on the Independence of India as a nation and which allows them full scope for development according to their needs and desires. They stand for a genuine democratic State in India where political power has been transferred to the people as a whole and the Government is under their effective control. Such a state can only be created by the Indian people themselves and through the medium of a Constituent Assembly elected by adult suffrage and having the power to determine finally the constitution of the country.

"This meeting therefore condemns and utterly rejects the New constitution and demands its withdrawal in accordance with the declared will of the Indian people."

A remarkable feature of the anti-Constitution demonstration was that the Muslims participated in it in large numbers in spite of the injunction to the contrary issued by Mr. Jinnah.

National Language For India

Another step ahead towards evolving a national language for India was taken when the All-India Hindi ammelan (Hindi Literary Conference) held its 26th session at Madras. Lady C. V. Raman was the chairman of the Reception Committee and Mr. Jannalal Bajaj presided over the Conference. The Institute for the propagation of Hindi in Southern India held its annual Convocation about that time and the Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad (Institute of Indian Literature) also held its second session. Mahatma Gandhi presided over the latter two functions and also attended the Hindi Literary Conference. The rapidity with which Hindi is being assimilated by the non-Hindi-speaking people of India is amply borne out by the fact that by now more than fifty thousand Indians have passed one or other examination conducted by the Institute for the propagation of Hindi in South India. It is worth mentioning that the Institute of Indian Literature which was organised only last year, has been engaged in the task of effecting a cultural synthesis by bringing together the best in the literatures of the different languages of India.

Mr. Subhas Bose's Future Programme

Over 50,000 men and women representing all sections of the population of Calcutta assembled in a park on April 6 to accord a public welcome to Mr. Subhas Bhowse on his release after five and half years of imprisonment, exile and detention. Replying to the numerous addresses presented by the various Associations, Mr. Bose outlined his future programme of work. He said "A united front against the imperialist force in the country under the aegis of the Indian National Congress for effecting the political and economic liberation of our hungry enslaved millions is the supreme need of the hour. Last but not the least, the method of our struggle should be confined to the limits of non-violent non-co-operation." Detailing his own future programme Mr. Bose said, "In future I intend to devote a good portion of my time and energy to all-India problems and activities. Our salvation, whether in the political or social sphere, will depend on the fight which India as a whole will put up against foreign domination and imperialist exploitation and we may not get immersed in work in one province to the neglect of our duty to other parts of the country."

NEW SCHOOL OPENED AT PENTRICH

THE Superintendent of Education, Mr. F. D. Hugo, emphasised the need of vernacular education when opening the school building at Pentrich, donated by Mr. Koopie Murrie to the Tamil Protective Association. There was a large gathering of people present including the Mayor and Mrs. F. J. Lewis, Dr. Maule Clarke, M.O.H., Mr. J. Macleod, Chief Inspector of Indian Education; Councillor Mrs. E. M. Shirley, Miss Mellor, Secretary of the Indo-European Council; Mr. G. J. H. Anderson, Headmaster of Indian Intermediate School; Mr. T. Fleming, Rev. A. J. Choonoo, Messrs. R. N. Moodley, W. Seethal (Durban), V. George, S. R. Naidoo and others. In declaring the school open, Mr. Hugo said, that the State would have considered the inclusion of a vernacular in the curriculum if there had been no multiplicity of vernacular dialects. Five different dialects had to be taught, and this was impossible. He said the erection of a school building in any locality, not only brought its own usefulness but gave added amenities to a place. He was pleased to learn that the Hall was to be used for social activities. He referred to the magnificent donation by Mr. Koopie Murrie, and said that others in a fortunate position should emulate his example. Mr. M. Chetty, the President of the

Tamil Protective Association, gave a short history of the establishment and growth of the Society. The Indian community at Pentrich were very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Koopie Murrie for the donation of the building. Replying to the presentation of an illuminated address, Mr. Koopie Murrie said he would treasure it in the spirit it had been presented to him. He felt that having regard to the unhealthy condition under which children were taught in the old school building a commodious building was necessary, and this influenced him to do what he did. "I said at another place," he continued, "that it is not so much as what the building or improvements are, but it matters as to what use we make of these buildings. I should like to repeat this again and would like to say that it is not so much as what we are, but it is what we should make ourselves to be in these days of advancement and speed." Referring to the reference made by Mr. F. D. Hugo to the progress of Indian education generally, he said, "the Indian community is thankful for all that has been done for them so far, but the community would like to receive other benefits of education which are withheld from them. If I am right, I see that there are signs of a growing desire on the part of Indians to

get more and more education and the desire in this connection has to be met. Our great founders of religion have said education is a common property to all, and that it is a sin to prevent people, if they desire, from obtaining the best that education can give them. There is no other public Department which comes daily into contact with Indian life as the Education Department does, and to you, Mr. Hugo, the responsibility is greater. I trust, Sir, that your Department will see that as time goes on educational facilities are extended and that no one may be amongst us who can be called illiterate." At the conclusion of his speech, he presented a gold ring to the contractor of the building, Mr. V. N. Chetty. The Mayor, Mr. F. J. Lewis, Councillor Mrs. E. M. Shirley, Messrs. T. M. B. Pillay, R. N. Moodley and S. R. Naidoo congratulated Mr. Koopie Murrie on his noteworthy donation of the building to the Indians at Pentrich. To commemorate the event, trees were planted by Mrs. Koopie Murrie, Messrs. Koopie Murrie, F. D. Hugo and M. Chetty.—Contributed.

Mr. J. R. Hartshorne, late Chief Clerk in the Immigration Office and Secretary of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission which has sent its final report to the Government, has now left the Commission and opened a business on his own account in Standard Building Society Building, 95 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.



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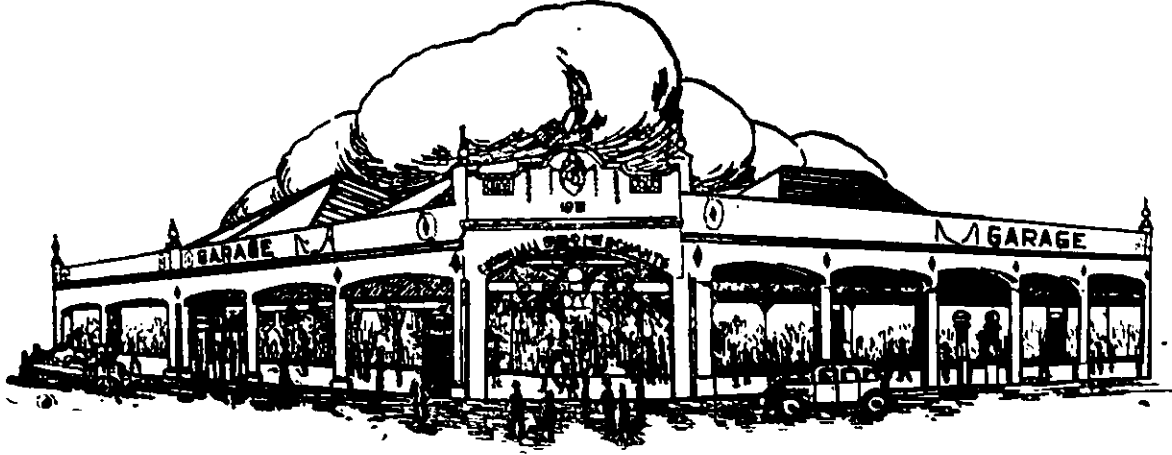
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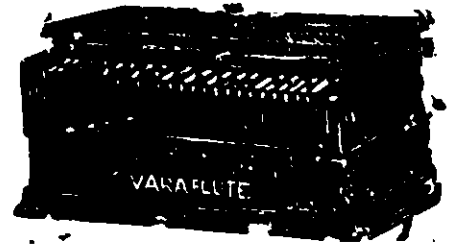
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જો હોય તો

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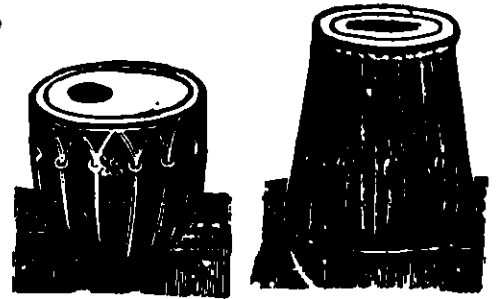
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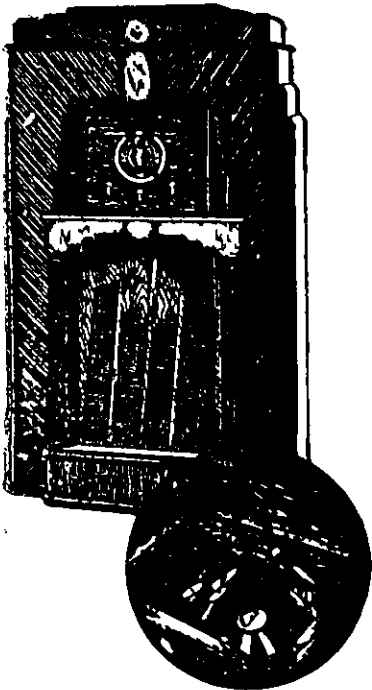
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