

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### The Indian Youth

THE first Indian Youth Conference was held last week-end in Durban with a view to unite the various youth organisations existing in South Africa. Hitherto these organisations have really done very little more than indulging in academic discussions of the various world problems. It is to be hoped that this new organisation means to do some practical work. The object of this movement, the President explained, was to advance the cause and improve the conditions of the Indian youth and to plan methods of collaboration and achieve unity for the purpose of establishing harmony between the youth of every section and generally to work towards the upliftment of the Indian community. In the youth lies the hope of the future of the world and the Indian youth has an important part to play in moulding the future of its own community in this country as well as in contributing in the moulding of the future of the world. The Indian youth in South Africa has not to seek a new field for work. It has ample opportunity given it to prove its worth in its own field with the racial antagonism growing all round and measures sought to insult the very manhood of any self-respecting person. It is futile to talk of ending war when such forces are at work. War there must be. It must either be a war based on violence or a war based on non-violence. Our creed has always been one of non-violence and the Indian youth of South Africa will have to be prepared for it if it wishes to live in this country with any self-respect.

### A Timely Warning

The South African Institute of Race Relations has issued a Press statement on the petition being circulated for signatures by the Nationalist Party, demanding the political, economic, residential and social segregation of all non-Europeans. Some home truths have been given in the statement which should serve as an eye-opener to those who are crying for a White South Africa:

"The white community, we dare not forget," states the institute, "constitutes barely one-fifth of the total

population of the Union (without the Protectorates.) To apply to the non-European four-fifths a policy of totalitarian segregation, over-riding traditional differentiations in the positions of different sections of the non-European population, can have in the long run but one effect—namely, to force together all non-Europeans into a single anti-European bloc. In place of the spirit of goodwill and co-operation, without which our race relations will degenerate into sheer race antagonism, and without which the white community cannot hope to maintain indefinitely its leadership and control, we shall have a united front of all non-Europeans against all Europeans as their common enemies. No thoughtful white South African can conscientiously vote for a policy which must have this effect.

A section of the Indian community has been strongly in favour of forming a united non-European front against the humiliations imposed on them. A stern warning against such a step came from South African statesmen like Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr who said it would be a suicidal step for the Indian community to take and that the community would lose the sympathy of even the liberal minded Europeans. Indians have their own identity with a great country with its ancient civilisation and culture behind it. If White South Africa refuses to take this into account and persists in pursuing this antagonistic policy the consequences are sure to be as the South African Institute of Race Relations has pointed out.

### Colour Prejudice Running Rife

Instances of colour prejudice running rife in South Africa are not wanting. It is reported from Dundee that considerable dissatisfaction was caused in the Dundee and Helpmakaar districts recently by the fact that European and non-European candidates wrote the matriculation examination in the same room. Mr. H. Hosking, M.P.C., protested to the Provincial Administration in respect of this procedure and also raised the point at the last sitting of the Provincial Council. Mr. Hosking has now received a reply from the Administration which states that in future,

arrangements will be made for European and non-European candidates to write their examinations in separate rooms.

### Yet Another Instance

Another instance is that of Standerton Municipal Market. The European rate-payers of Standerton, at a public meeting where nearly 500 people were present, passed a resolution against the action of the Town Council in removing the plates demarcating sites for Europeans and non-Europeans at the municipal market hall and requesting that such plates be restored as soon as possible, and, further, that a smaller space be allocated for non-Europeans at the market. The meeting was called by Mr. J. G. R. Cairncross, the Mayor, who explained that the decision of the Council was not prompted by any intention of forcing European women to mingle with Indians, but purely as a business proposition. The market was being run at a loss of about £400 a year and to remedy this it was decided to remove the plates and so put an end to the Indian Boycott. Lieut.-Colonel A. P. van Rooyen said it was not a matter of £ s. d. but one of principle. The Indians must be kept in their place. He was strongly supported by the Rev. T. F. J. Dreyer and other councillors, and many of those present. A proposal was then made that the Council should start a movement to boycott the Indians, but the Mayor pointed out that it was not in the province of the Council to do so. After a number of people had left the meeting it was decided to form a committee of nine members to devise ways and means of effectively boycotting all Indian stores.

### Bar Against Non-European In Industries

When the House went into Committee on the Electrical Women and Contractors Bill, Dr. Van Mirop (Nat., Mossel Bay) moved an amendment to the clause defining persons entitled to registration as wiremen, to the effect that only European citizens of South Africa be permitted to register. The Minister of Labour, Mr. Lawrence, said he was not prepared to accept the amendment, the effect of which would be to bar non-

European persons becoming qualified as electrical wiremen in terms of the Act. Was the motive behind the amendment colour prejudice or a fear of danger to existing wiremen? He had yet to learn that there was any danger to European wiremen from encroachment into their sphere of work by non-Europeans. Was the House to lay down prohibitions based on fear and prejudice in order to bolster up white civilization? Surely this showed a very shallow view of the future of the country. He refused to take this gloomy view. There was no

danger in this case to white civilisation and the amendment could only be regarded as a mischievous one. The Minister said that he was just as anxious to uphold white South Africa, but members should not abuse their civilisation. It would be no credit to Europeans, he said, if they could only hope to survive by shutting out everyone else. He objected to the introduction of the colour bar into the Bill and was not prepared to agree to any amendments which would be merely a sop to colour prejudice.

tic forces working against us we have the sympathy of the European Press with us. But unless we ourselves show some manhood we will very deservedly be kicked.

The only stand we can take with regard to the Feetham recommendations is that they must be passed as they are without the slightest curtailment. There can be no further delay in doing so and no alternative proposals such as suggested by Mr. Schoeman or the Minister of the Interior can be accepted.

In any case the community will have to reserve the right to fight against the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act when it finds it has the strength to do so.

That is in so far as the Feetham recommendations are concerned.

But the much graver question is the measure for the general segregation of the Indian community in South Africa. We cannot support the furtherance of measures that are obnoxious. We must fight for their abolition. We must, in the present instance, therefore, unite to put up a strong fight against the impending danger.

We would like once again to sound a note of warning to those leaders who are at present in Capetown. They are there at a most critical time in the history of Indians in South Africa. They must realise their responsibility and not enter into any compromise of any kind without getting a mandate to do so from the masses. We understand that dozens of telegrams are being sent from Capetown to individuals in Durban about what is happening there and it is rumoured also that a delegation might fly to India direct from Capetown to acquaint the Indian National Congress with the state of affairs in South Africa. We must say it is a most irresponsible way of doing things. This is a time when mass meetings should be held throughout the country and the masses should be informed about the impending danger. Let the leaders then act according to the mandate given them from the masses. It is about time that things were done in the proper way and that all sections of the community united together to fight the common enemy.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1939

### A Grave Situation

**T**HIS week has not improved the position in regard to the Feetham Commission recommendations nor the measure for the general segregation of all non-Europeans asked for by the Nationalists. If anything the gravity of the situation has to a great extent increased. We will let *The Star* of Johannesburg, describe it.

"The more immediate matter on which the feeling of the House will be tested is the extent to which the Feetham recommendations regarding Asiatic occupation in Johannesburg will be implemented. Last session there was a possibility that the necessary resolution might have been passed. To-day, says our Capetown correspondent, there is hardly the faintest possibility of its going through. "The Feetham report," he says, "is dead." With the Feetham Report controversy is being linked the far wider issue of residential segregation generally, with the Nationalist Party in the Cape taking the offensive in a campaign for something tantamount to class areas legislation for non-Europeans in the Cape Province. That this aim is not restricted either to the Nationalist Party or to one Province only is revealed, moreover, in the terms of a notice of motion by the United Party member for Klip River, in Natal, who asks for segregation for coloured town dwellers. That Mr. Friend's notice of motion is merely a private member's view is of less importance than that it is thought to be symptomatic of an attitude of mind that is steadily gaining strength in other than Nationalist circles. These are specific examples of the temper underlying the colour petition that is at present being circulated among members of the Nationalist Party. The petition, addressed to

the House of Assembly, asks for a wide range of segregative legislation, not only in respect of mixed marriages, but in regard to residential contiguity and economic as well as political separation of Europeans and non-Europeans."

The Indian leaders both from the Transvaal and Natal who are in Capetown and who have interviewed the Minister of the Interior have not received a hopeful reply.

The Indian community is faced with two clear issues. One is that of the Feetham Commission recommendations in which the interests of certain Indians are directly involved and the other is the grave danger of the Cape and Natal being faced with another measure of segregation like the Class Areas Bill. There are numerous instances to show what strong forces are working towards this end. What is the Indian community going to do in the face of all this? It must be realised that where there is a question of a great principle concerning the whole community the interests of a few individuals cannot be considered. That is the line of action we have to adopt in regard to the Feetham recommendations. It is argued by our opponents that the recommendations are now stale and cannot therefore be considered. Nothing could be more ridiculous. We should be the last to place the Government in an embarrassing position and we fully sympathise with it for the way in which certain elements are working against it. But we cannot allow ourselves to be made pawns in the game between the United and the Nationalist Parties. It is a consolation to find that though there are antagonis-

# FEETHAM COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

## 'NATAL MERCURY'S' COMMENTS

THE *Natal Mercury* in its issue dated February 14 writes: "We trust that the Union Government will not fail to implement its moral obligations to the Asiatics on the Witwatersrand. There are rumours that the United Party is considering the adoption of another of its so-called compromises in order to appease conflicting opinions within its own ranks. This means one thing and one thing only; the just rights of a politically voiceless minority are to be jettisoned to placate the forces of illiberalism. Settlement of the problem of Asiatic ownership and occupation on the Rand has been delayed long enough, and further delay will only increase the difficulties which sooner or later must be faced. For the Government to give way now would be to encourage the reactionary elements to threaten revolt in future if their wishes are not granted. And who knows where such a policy would lead this country.

"The Feetham Commission, realising that it was dealing with a delicate racial and social problem, conducted its inquiries with infinite care and patience. Its recommendations, which took six years to formulate, must be approved by Parliament by April 30 unless thousands of Indians living on the Witwatersrand are to be exposed to penalties under the law. General Hertzog is reported to be firmly resolved that the Feetham Commission's findings must be upheld. We hope that he stands firm and refuses to be bullied into a change of attitude..."

### Johannesburg City Council's Resolution

An important recommendation from the General Purposes Committee in regard to Asiatic land tenure was adopted by the Johannesburg City Council. It was agreed that having regard to the adoption by the Council of the scheme for the western areas and the Malay Location, which provided for ownership of land in the location and Claremont by Asiatics, the Secretary for the Interior be informed that the Council was of opinion that the townships of Sophiatown, Martindale and Newclare should not be assigned for Asiatic occupation "at this juncture" under the law of 1885. Mr. Leveson drew particular attention to the words "at this juncture" and explained that the matter was to be left open for future discussion when the Council's other problems in the areas concerned had been solved.

### Indian Deputation

A large deputation of Indians interviewed the Minister of the Interior, the Hon. R. Stuttaford on Friday, February

10. "It would be inequitable and unjust to disturb the findings of the Feetham Commission," the deputation stated in a memorandum. "Even the areas as recommended by the Commission are, in fact, inadequate for the growing needs of the Indian and coloured communities, both from a residential and trading point of view, and any curtailment of such areas would aggravate the difficulties and hardships of the coloured people.

"Failure to pass the resolutions would be a breach of faith on the part of the Union Government and the Union Parliament with the Indian and coloured people.

"It would be construed by the Indian community as an act of injustice and a violation of the undertaking given by the Government. An appeal is made to responsible European opinion in this country to view the matter in its true perspective, and not be misled by race prejudice and the misleading arguments resulting therefrom.

"It must be appreciated that the exempted areas are not of the Indians' seeking. It is an accepted fact that the Indian community was opposed to the creation of these exempted areas. Parliament has, in furtherance of its repressive policy as laid down in the Land Tenure Act of 1932, itself created those areas and confined Indians within defined areas.

"The coloured people's freedom of movement, which is the birthright of a citizen of any country and so necessary from a commercial point of view, has been curtailed. It is only fair, therefore, that security of tenure in such areas should be afforded those who are compelled to reside within such areas.

"The Union Government is in honour bound to fulfill its pledge and implement the recommendations of an impartial and judicial commission. The honour of South Africa is therefore at stake; the future of the coloured and Indian people on the Witwatersrand is in jeopardy."

Mr. S. M. Nana, secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, who acted as spokesman of the deputation, told a press representative that Mr. Stuttaford gave no indication that the recommendations would not be adopted.

Mr. Nana considers that Mr. Stuttaford is also bound to see that the Feetham recommendations are adopted. When they were dropped during the last session a telegram of protest was sent to the Minister to which he replied on September 23, 1937: "Owing to imminent close of the session, impossible to deal with resolution. Shall deal with

matter early next session and think this best in your interests."

### A. Compromise

Mr. T. C. Robertson, *Sunday Times* political correspondent writes:—The Indian question is again threatening the United Party with a serious crisis, for a group of forty members of Parliament are in revolt against the adoption of the Feetham Commission recommendations.

On the one side, the Indian community are pressing the Government to make good its promises; on the other side, the Malanites are pressing their anti-Asiatic and anti-coloured agitation with renewed vigour; and in the middle are United Party members who do not want to embarrass the Government, but are nevertheless afraid that adoption of the recommendations will strengthen the Malanite campaign.

All the week long there has been a search for a suitable compromise. I understand that one has now been found.

A Bill will probably be introduced to extend the period of the Feetham recommendations and at the same time another Commission will be appointed to investigate to what extent there has been penetration by Indians into European areas.

An alternative scheme which has been put forward is that the Feetham resolutions should be adopted, but that the Government should at the same time introduce a Bill providing for servitudes that the area shall be for European occupation alone if 75 per cent. of the residents in that area vote in favour of the servitude.

Political observers are attaching great significance to a motion which Mr. A. Friend, M.P., will shortly introduce.

Mr. A. Friend, who is a Government Whip, has given notice of a Bill which seeks to empower local authorities to demarcate residential and trading areas for Europeans only. It is a measure similar to the Class Areas legislation introduced by Dr. Malan in 1925 in a bid to enforce Asiatic segregation.

It is pointed out that the significance in the position lies in the fact that Mr. Friend is a Government whip, and, in the words of Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, champion of liberalism in the House, "it is unthinkable that he should have acted without the knowledge of the Government—since the United Party caucus had not yet met when he gave notice of his motion,"

# SEGREGATION PETITION

## APPEAL FROM SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS

THE following statement has been issued by the South African Institute of Race Relations:—At the request of the Council of the South African Institute of Race Relations, the Executive Committee has prepared the following statement, for the guidance of members of the Institute, and of the general public, on the so-called "Colour Petition" which is being circulated for signatures by one of our political parties:—

For the first time in the history of South Africa, this petition demands the application of the principle of segregation uniformly to all non-Europeans whatever, and in every sphere of life—political, economic, residential, social. Moreover, it demands this application in the name of the "dominance of the European race," promising to the segregated non-Europeans in return the benefits of an undefined "guardianship."

Inevitably, this demand, made in this sweeping form, has already begun to fan race-antagonism into flame. The Coloured community at the Cape—which has still a limited access to the Parliamentary franchise and which, in the past, has been promised by responsible South African statesmen that in political and social status it was to be affiliated to the White community—is already organising meetings of protest and circulating a counter-petition. The more the propaganda for signatures to both petitions is intensified, the more disastrous will be its effects in embittering race-relationships.

The Institute of Race Relations, therefore, feels justified in making an

urgent appeal for a different, more co-operative, more constructive, approach to the problems which have given rise to the "Colour Petition" for which only the signatures of "Adult Whites" are being sought.

The White community, we dare not forget, constitutes barely one-fifth of the total population of the Union (without the Protectorates). To apply to the non-European four-fifths a policy of totalitarian segregation, over-riding traditional differentiations in the positions of different sections of the non-European population, can have in the long run but one effect, viz., to force together all non-Europeans into a single anti-European bloc. In place of the spirit of goodwill and co-operation, without which our race-relationships will degenerate into sheer race-antagonism, and without which the White community cannot hope to maintain indefinitely its leadership and control, we shall have a united front of all non-Europeans against all Europeans as their common enemies. No thoughtful White South African can conscientiously vote for a policy which must have this effect. Vague promises of "guardianship" cannot stave off this hostility; non-Europeans cannot be blamed if they see in "domination" and "segregation" nothing but the exclusive advantage of White South Africa and the permanent disadvantage of non-White South Africa.

To discuss the policy proposed in the petition in detail is not possible in a letter to the Press. The fears for the future of the White community by which it seems to be inspired, and the

maladjustments and frictions in race-relationships for which it professes to seek a remedy, must be examined in a spirit of mutual understanding and give-and-take, with the welfare of the Union as a whole always as our guiding-star. To attempt the solution of these problems in a high-handed way from the White point of view alone, is the sure road to eventual disaster in our race-relationships.

The Institute, therefore, pleads with the organisers of the petition to withdraw it; to take thereby the whole problem out of the realm of party-politics where it has no chance of being thought out on its merits; and to seek instead a solution by the method of consultation and exploration of all possibilities of adjustment, with the co-operation of the responsible leaders of the various non-European communities. History has laid upon the Union the task of making a success of a multi-racial society: in that task it will miserably fail, if the White community, strong in culture and past experience of leadership, loses the co-operation and trust of the non-European majority.

Signed on behalf of the Executive Committee.

R. F. ALFRED HOERNLE,  
President;

J. D. RHEINALLT JONES,  
Adviser on Race Relations.

## CONTROL OF THE PRESS

THERE was a time when we used to talk about government control as a remedy for the abuses of the public press. Those were the days when Hearst was running rampant, and memories of his part in bringing on the Spanish-American War were still vivid. The privately-owned press, so it was argued, was essentially irresponsible. In the field of foreign affairs its influence was especially dangerous, as large profits sprang from war scares and other excitements across the seas. If peace was to be maintained, and good feeling reign, then government must be enabled in some way to exert its moderating control. This seemed a plausible argument, and suited many of us to whom government control was a form of So-

cialism then popular among radicals. But now! well, things have happened. We have a government-controlled press these days in Germany, and Italy, and Japan, and Russia, and look what it is doing to us! Scarcely a day passes but what some vile abuse is poured out by the Fascist journals upon the democratic peoples. In Germany, the newspapers unite in a chorus of vulgar ridicule of Mr. Baldwin and other statesmen high in the public esteem of Britain, and straightway Mr. Chamberlain's policy of appeasement becomes difficult, if not impossible. In Italy, quite without warning, Mussolini's "kept" press shouts a united demand upon France for the surrender of Tunisia, Corsica, and Savoy, and war between Italy and France be-

comes a universal subject of debate. In Japan, according to a despatch in the *New York Times*, "Tokyo Press Calls U. S. Tool of Britain. Ousting of Latter from Asia Is demanded." If there is any weapon more powerful in the hands of the totalitarian states at this hour than the newspapers, we do not happen to know what it is. And if there is any other one thing more menacing to the peace and order of the world, we are again ignorant as to its identity. Among other lessons perfectly learned in recent years is this necessity of a free press, with all its faults, to the health and happiness, indeed the very life of democracy. Let the governments keep "hands off"!

—Unity (Chicago)

# Doings In India

## Sir Radhakrishnan's Warning

IF Britain fails to develop in time a strong and self-governing India, she cannot escape the destruction which has overcome empires as proud and seemingly as firmly rooted as her own," declared Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan at the Annual Convocation of the Benares Hindu University. "Even now a great menace to the peace and safety of our country is growing up in the Far East and its tremors are felt in Siam and Burma. Germany is striving to extend her influence through Asia Minor, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan to frontiers of India. In the dangerous condition of the world, where three great powers are acting in concert, adopting the doctrine of force as the inspiration of their policies, Britain must reaffirm her faith in freedom and democracy, not by words but by deeds and weld together the different dominions into a unity on the basis of devotion to these ideals. Self-interest, international decency and justice demand the establishment of self-government in India. The most urgent problem is to work out a federation not on the lines of the Government of India Act, but on the lines which will foster and further internal unity among the different communities and between provinces and States.

## Malicious Misrepresentation Of India By High Commissioner

The Secretary Foreign Department of the Indian National Congress writes:—The High Commissioner for India, Sir Firoz Khan Noon, has of late been discharging his duties, viz., the duties of the paid propagandist of the British Government, rather efficiently. In his Canadian tour he is reported to have stated that "the best gift of Great Britain to us has been the development of self-governing institutions in India. At the time when Queen Victoria took over the administration of India we only knew the rule of one man; the theory of sovereignty of people was exotic. I found many in Canada who do not realise that to-day excepting the army and foreign relations, we have a constitution in India which gives us full Dominion Status as is the case in Canada. The gift of Great Britain to India namely, of representative institutions is not the result of political agitation in India during the last few years, Britain has continuously followed a set policy of fostering representing institutions in India from the very beginning of her connection with the country." Not satisfied with praising the good work of the British Government in this sphere alone he goes on to say that "British connection has given us a

'lingua franca' for India. That our "system of law courts and justice has ensured peace and contentment." That the Indian Civil Service European or Indian was above corruption or dishonesty and finally the British trustee has handed over to the children of India an enormous amount of wealth intact..." In this age of national self-respect that a person should be found to praise the British rule in India so unreservedly and in such fulsome language is humiliating. It clearly brings out the degrading effect of the foreign rule on the character of a certain type of Indians. To malign one's country, its history and culture in distant lands only indicates the depth of degradation to which the official patronage can reduce some of us. It is hard to believe that the High Commissioner for India is so ignorant of India's history past and present as to have uttered the remarks in good faith. Even a very casual student of Indian history knows that republican governments existed in ancient India. They have existed through the ages up to the time of British rule when everything was centralised under a foreign bureaucracy. It is well known that whoever might have ruled in Delhi, a Hindu, Pathan or a Moghul, the real administration of the country was in the hands of the village panchayats or assemblies, in a land that is predominantly rural. The greatest disservice that Britain did to India was to destroy these centres of self-government and democracy. As for the intention of the government in this respect one has only to read the declarations of responsible officials including the State Secretaries. Some of them in the recent past declared that they could not envisage a time when India could have full responsible government. They have talked of the furcoat that may be suitable for the European and American climate but which could not suit the tropics. Even in the Montagu-Chelmsford report the authors have studiously avoided the mention of Dominion Status for India.

Whatever little of self-government India enjoys to-day has been wrung from unwilling hands by the various movements of non-co-operation, coupled with the foreign complications of England. What has Sir Firoz to say about the hundreds and thousands of Indians who courted 'lathi' charge and imprisonment since 1920? Has he never heard of the shootings of his countrymen, even his co-religionists, in the Frontier? Has he never heard of the cruel confiscation of property some of which the Congress provincial governments have either returned or are returning? Sir Firoz may be an Indian

but in his utterances he is more British than the British themselves. Recently Lord Hailly has said, "I suppose there are now few who would not join in regretting the reluctance showed for so long in admitting Indians to our higher administrative service...If we had been willing at a much earlier date to associate Indians more fully with the administration, we might well have found ourselves able to make political concessions in a form more satisfactory both to them and ourselves. We might have, in any case, avoided that manifestation of racial distrust..." He also says: "There would be many who would readily agree that the conduct of education was one of the less happy features of the rule in India."

In the bureaucratic circles where Sir Firoz moves the 'lingua franca' may be English, but if there is any recognised and fast developing 'lingua Indica' it is Hindustani. The Congress with its membership of 4,000,000 and which controls the governments in eight provinces knows no other language than Hindustani as the 'Lingua Indica.'

The pure loot that was carried on by John & Co. and the systematic destruction of Indian industry and commerce is a story too well known to be repeated. Here we propose to confine ourselves to the staggering figures of the so-called national debt of India and the ever rising and recurring military expenditure.

Before 1857 the following items were debited to Indian revenues:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. 1st Afghan War                             | £12 millions |
| 2. Two Burmese Wars                           | 14 "         |
| 3. Expedition to China, Persia etc.           | 6 "          |
| 4. The Indian Mutiny                          | 40 "         |
| 5. Redemption Company's capital and dividends | 37 "         |

All these above wars and expeditions were undertaken for the interests of the British Empire and not for the defence of India.

Since 1857 Indian revenue has been wrongfully charged on the following external wars:

- |                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. 1867 Abyssinian War             | £600,000   |
| 2. 1875 Parek Expedition           | 47,000     |
| 3. 1878 2nd Afghan War             | 17,500,000 |
| 4. 1882 Egyptian Expedition        | 1,200,000  |
| 5. 1882-92 North-West Frontier War | 13,000,000 |
| 6. 1886 Burmese War                | 4,700,000  |
| 7. 1896 Sonkim Expedition          | 200,000    |

The war of 1914 cost India more than Rs. 3970000000. (Figures quoted from Public Debt of India by J. C. Kunnappa). The Public Debt of India has steadily increased since the Great War.

In 1885-86 the Finance Minister stated that the net cost of the Indian army

(exclusive of the cost of wars) should be Rs. 15,00,00,000. The military expenditure in 1921 was over Rs. 770,000,000 and in the recent years the figure varies between Rs. 700,000,000 to Rs. 500,000,000.

Not only is the Indian army disproportionately large in size but a high proportion of British soldiers are maintained. Each European soldier costs 3 to 4 times more than an Indian soldier. Add to this the monetary and tariff policy which is being persisted in, in spite of repeated protests and which in recent years has drained India of millions worth of gold every month.

It takes one's breath away to know

from Sir Firoz that the Provincial Autonomy that we enjoy and what is sought to be imposed by the Federation are on a par with the Dominion Status in Canada. It is no news to Indians however reactionary except perhaps the High Commissioner that the Federal Legislatures would be at the mercy of the reactionary communalists and the nominees of the Princes; that 80% of the revenues cannot be touched even by these reactionary legislatures; that the railway, the army, industry, trade, commerce and the political departments will be outside their purview. We have yet to learn that the Constitution in Canada works under these manifold

limitations which reduce the Dominion Status that India is enjoying or about to enjoy to an absolute nullity. However none so blind as are sumptuously paid not to see.

### India Seeks Withdrawal From The League

A Congress resolution urging India's immediate withdrawal from the League of Nations was passed by the Legislative Assembly by 55 votes to 45, states a Reuter's message from New Delhi. The resolution states the League had failed to implement Article 16 of the Covenant. Britain has persisted in following the wrong policy in Palestine in contravention of Article 22 dealing with mandates, and openly disregarded the feelings of the Indian nation.

## FIRST INDIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

**M**ORE than 120 delegates from more than 40 organisations met for the first Indian Youth Conference, which opened its session in the M. K. Gandhi Library on Saturday last.

Mr. A. N. Lazarus, B.A., welcomed the delegates and spoke about the movement not being only for people to take leading positions simply for the honour, but for the welfare of the Indians in South Africa.

Mr. A. Christopher opened the Conference and spoke about the Indian youth in South Africa and the world generally.

"Youth had an important part to play in the world torn with disruption, with a war which is for raw materials. The world followed to-day the jungle law clothed in the language of civilisation.

They wanted democracy in the Indian community. Capitalism takes more and gives Labour less. There was a battle between Capitalism and Labour.

"The Indians must stick together in this country he said. They must realise that they are fighting as a whole and forget all religious differences. They must remember that they are Indians first and foremost.

"Unless you fight for yourselves you will be forced to go back to India; you will have no opportunity whatever but to go back.

"You must fight to have a human-being's chance, a chance for manhood, both morally and spiritually," he ended.

### Chairman's Speech

The Chairman of the Conference Mr. S. Rajah after relating the many disabilities the community suffered under said the aims and objects of this movement are to advance the cause and improve the conditions of the Indian youth and to plan methods of collaboration and achieve unity for the purpose of establishing harmony between the youth of every section and

generally to work towards the upliftment of the Indian community. It will also foster and encourage sports, music, education, physical training and other activities which may be conducive to the welfare of the Indian youth; and co-operate with and assist persons and institutions interested in the welfare of the Indian community. Further, it will establish friendly relation with the youth of other races.

"When this Youth Council is established, I am firmly convinced that it would be of tremendous use to the Indian community and particularly to youths in general.....

"Before concluding I want to inform delegates in advance, and at the same time I wish to make an appeal to them. For various reasons and for the benefit of the proposed Indian Youth Council, I have decided not to stand as a candidate for the Presidential position or for any other post, and I earnestly appeal to those delegates who intend to offer their services to consider their positions very carefully, whether they would be able to put in solid work or not, while in the Council.

"It is an honour to be an official of the proposed Council, but that particular position could be abused if it is accepted only for honour's sake. So therefore, I have taken this attitude of advising those who are not in a position to render services to make way clear for those who will be prepared to work conscientiously in the interest of the Indian youths.

"We have drafted the constitution and laid down the principles, and after its adoption and finally when the Youth Council is established, I am confident that the Indian youth will benefit tremendously by its existence, providing, of course, that the youths of Natal throw in their lot with the Council and give their whole hearted support."

The following are some of the important resolutions adopted at the session:—

i. That this conference of Indian youths, views with grave concern the

proposals to introduce legislation to effect the segregation of non-Europeans residentially, politically, socially and industrially; this conference considers such proposals as undemocratic and unjust and calculated to lead to racial disharmony; this conference requests the rejection of such segregation proposals and the repeal of laws discriminating on the grounds of race and colour.

2. That this conference of Indian youths, records its highest appreciation of the noble and efficient services rendered by the Durban Indian Surf Life-saving Club, and urges the City Council to reconsider its decision on the Club's facilities as contained in their memorandum submitted to the City Council so that the club may function even more efficiently and in reasonable comfort.

3. That this Indian Youth conference is pleased to learn of the proposed visit of Prof. Sir Radhakrishnan, and hereby extends to him a hearty and cordial welcome to South Africa; this conference hopes to have the pleasure of inviting Sir Radhakrishnan to address the Indian Youth.

4. That this conference of Indian youths regret to note that, though a vast number of Indian children of school-going age are not attending schools, the Provincial Administration is not endeavouring to make provisions for these unfortunate children; this conference resolves to gather statistics and to send a deputation to the Administrator, if necessary.

At the close of the conference, 20 youth bodies were affiliated to the Indian Youth Council, representing approximately over 1,000 Indian youths.

The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year.

President: Mr. S. Patchay; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. C. I. Amra, B. B. Singh, S. Gopal, G. Ponon, K. Soobramoney and R. K. Naidoo; Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. A. Naidoo; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. I. Timol.

# Things In General

## Maritzburg Indian Flower Sellers

ONE of Maritzburg's Indian flower sellers appeared in the Maritzburg Magistrate's Court to answer to a charge of contravening the City's motor traffic by-laws by selling flowers in a prohibited area. The charge was a sequel to the recent banning by the City Council of the flower stand in front of the City Hall, when the Indians were ordered to move from the site to a temporary stand in the Market Square by the end of January. They refused to do so, and sought legal advice. The man who appeared in Court was P. R. Tommy, aged 40 years, of 14, Thomas Road, Maritzburg. No evidence was led, and the Magistrate, Mr. J. C. Boshoff, adjourned the case until February 21. Tommy was charged with selling flowers at the old stand in front of the City Hall, which was not a site set aside for that purpose.

## Early Friday Night Closing

Durban's new shop hours by-law aiming at the closing of shops at 7 p.m. on Fridays, is being held in abeyance. Notification of this decision of the Administrator in Executive Committee has been received by the Town Clerk of Durban. The reasons, it is understood, are that Parliament will shortly consider legislation on shop hours and conditions and the Natal Provincial Council will consider the report of the commission which recently investigated shop hours and conditions.

## Attorneys And Advocates

Replying to Mr. Louw in the Union House of Assembly the Minister of Justice (General Smuts) said that he was considering the expediency of introducing legislation to provide that in future only Union Nationals should be admitted as advocates of the Supreme Courts and attorneys.

## Afrikaner Economic Front

Three schemes have been put forward for the consideration of the Afrikaner Economic Front which has recently come into existence. The first provides for the establishment of Afrikaner consumers' societies which will support only those firms who satisfy certain conditions; the second provides for the formation of a company to finance and support Afrikaner businesses and the third provides for the organisation of Afrikaner workers in trade unions, "in which they will retain their traditions and ideals." The Rev. Willem Nicol and Mr. I. M. Lombard have been nominated trustees of the Front in the Transvaal. Interviewed in Pretoria, Mr. Nicol denied that one of the objects of the Front was to avoid dealings with all non-Afrikaans business concerns. Mr. Nicol said that details of the working of the organisation had

not been settled and until the inaugural conference in October everything would be very much in the air. "But this much is certain, there is no intention of boycotting anyone," he said. "All we want to do is to improve the economic position of the people."

## Nationalist's Definition Of Democracy

In the *Star* (Johannesburg) George Heard says:—My old friend, Dr. Nico van der Merwe, Free State Nationalist chief, has perpetrated the big joke of the week. He wants Parliament to join with him in a sharp protest against the Government's efforts to undermine Democracy. I grant him at once that there are many undemocratic tendencies

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about the present government, but who are the Malanites to throw stones? For several years past, they have been undergoing a rapid process of Nazification. They even send their propagandists to Germany to collect tips from Dr. Goebbels. But, apart from that, let us consider for a moment how Dr. Van der Merwe and his friends interpret Democracy. Their own conception of a South African Democracy is one which excludes the native, the Indian and the coloured man. It has no room for Jews, Liberals or Imperialists. Indeed, only those Englishmen who completely identify themselves with Afrikaner ideals and traditions (including Republicanism) can expect a permanent place in this Democracy. Dr. Van der Merwe is presumably speaking on behalf of the Democracy that would remain after this careful process of selection. But what would be the value of freedom to such a Democracy? And how long would the freedom last?

## Persons Handling Foodstuffs

At the monthly meeting of the Council of the Federation of Ratepayers'

Associations held recently in Johannesburg a resolution proposed by the Kensington Ratepayers' Association was passed that the City Council be requested to introduce legislation compelling all persons handling foodstuffs anywhere within the Municipal area to wear clean white coats.

## Dundee Senthamil School

Under the able tutorship of Miss Visalatchee Pillay and management of Mr. M. S. Reddy, the pupils of the Dundee Senthamil School, very successfully staged two plays, "Nullathangal" and "Rathamoney," on Saturday, February 4, at the Dundee Temple Hall. The outstanding artists of the evening were Misses Marie Govender, Vatheni Moodley, Anbal Naicker and Master Shunmugam Pillay. The leading role "Nullathangal" was taken by Miss Marie Govender. The musicians ably assisted in making the entertainment a success. The plays were staged in aid of Tamil School and Temple Funds. The play "Rathamoney" was entirely written by the tutor, Miss Visalatchee Pillay.

## The Late Maharaja Gaekwar Of Baroda

A meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held at the Parase Rustonjee Hall on February 9 to mourn the loss sustained to India by the death of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda. Eloquent tributes were paid by Swami Bhawani Dayal who presided and Messrs. O. H. A. Jhaveri, B. M. Patel, I. A. Essack, S. J. Randeria, M. B. Naik and others. The following resolution was passed:—"This mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress place on record its deep sense of sorrow in the sad and irreparable loss that Mother India and Indians the world over have sustained by the death of His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda, Sir Sayaji Rao, and expresses its heartfelt sympathy with the Indian Nation and the family of the departed soul."

## New Gambling Bill For Union

The Gambling Bill, which was introduced in the House of Assembly by the Minister power to declare that any person exhibiting for use "any particular pin-table machine or contrivance" shall be deemed to conduct a lottery. A sub-clause of the Bill states that any particular game or scheme named or described in the Government Gazette, or any game or scheme, or a type so named or described, whether it be played or conducted in the Union or elsewhere, shall be deemed to be a lottery." The Bill stipulates that the following shall not be included in this category: A totalisator conducted in accordance with the law, or a pin-table or game in which the winning of prizes does not depend upon chance at all,

### New Indian School At Mayville

On Saturday, February 11, a new school building for Indian children at Mayville was opened and handed over to the Rev. Mother Mary, the manager of the St. Theresa Schools. The school which consists of four large airy well-lighted class-rooms with a spacious front verandah and adequate out-buildings, was erected out of funds provided by the Rustomjee Trust. It is designed to accommodate 100 children who will be under the control of Sister Mary Joseph, the head teacher of the St. Theresa School. The trust administers funds provided by the late Parsee Rustomjee whose special object was to further the education of Indian children in Natal. Mr. B. M. Narbeth, who presided at the opening on behalf of the Trust emphasised the need for an all-round education. Among those present were Mr. Omar Jhaveri, the chairman of the Trust, representatives of the Rustomjee family, parents and friends.

### Stella Hill And District

#### Andhra Sabha

Mr. L. Kris Naidoo, on behalf of the Stella Hill and District Andhra Sabha wishes to acknowledge with thanks a kind donation of one pound from Mr. A. P. Naidoo of Stanger which was given on the occasion of the betrothal ceremony of his eldest niece Miss. J. Lutchammah Naidoo of Tinley Manor to Mr. P. Applesamy Naidoo of New Germany, on Sunday, February 12 at Stanger. Mr. A. P. Naidoo at the same time has given a similar contribution to about ten other vernacular institutions.

### Tamil Books For East London

#### School Children

Mr. V. Chetty of East London states that books for Tamil pupils have now arrived and they will be handed to the School Board on receipt of the Committee's report of their activities of the past six months. The donor desires that the books should be made good use of to impart vernacular education to the Tamil children in East London.

### The Natal Bantu And Indian

#### Blind Society

The President of the above Society writes:—It is a great pleasure that I report that Mani Vasagam an intelligent blind Indian lad left for the Athlone School for the Blind at Faure on Sunday evening, February 12, by the 8 5 p.m. train. Mani has been a beneficiary of The Natal Bantu and Indian Blind Society for sometime, and Mr. G. Abraham (a Committee member) has been instructing him in elementary carpentry and braille, with excellent results. Mani who is 15 years of age, is a happy little chap and a keen scholar and has endeared himself to a large circle of friends. Mrs. Gordon Cawston, President of the Blind Society and several Committee members were at the station on Sunday to bid him farewell and future God speed. A

large number of his relations and friends were present and Mani was overjoyed at the prospect of being educated, and receiving all the benefits accorded to other blind children. Any donations towards the funds of The Natal Bantu and Indian Blind Society will be greatly appreciated, and monies can be sent to the President, Mrs. Gordon Cawston, 345 Vause Road, Durban.

### Resolution Against Segregation

#### Ordinance In Mossel Bay

At a mass meeting of coloured people a protest was made against the segregation draft ordinance approved in principle by the Mossel Bay Town Council as being "un-Christian, unwarranted and not conducive to good relationship between the white and coloured races of South Africa." It was resolved that a day of prayer and intercession be reserved throughout the Union to beseech the Almighty to guide those in authority so that no further uncharitable measures should be made.

### Riots In Cawnpore

A Reuter's message from Bombay dated February 11 states: Three persons were killed and fifty injured in a Hindu-Muslim riot in Cawnpore this evening, and several shops were looted. Curfew has been enforced and the situation is now under control. The riot is a culmination of tension which has been rising for several days owing to Muslims objecting to Hindus praying and music in front of a mosque.

Another message from Cawnpore dated February 13 states: The casualties since the outbreak of the Hindu-Muslim rioting are unofficially estimated at 40 killed and 400 injured. The arrests number 600. Curfew has been enforced and the military authorities have been given orders to shoot fighters or anyone moving about without a permit after sunset. They have also been ordered to break open doors of houses, if necessary, and arrest persons shouting communal slogans.

### American League For Peace

#### And Democracy

The 5th Annual Congress of the American League for Peace and Democracy took place in Washington, D.C. during January 6 to 8, 1939. It was addressed by many prominent figures in labour and liberal life; representatives of more than 4,000,000 people participated. Preliminary negotiations with the League convinced the Council that spokesmen for Anglo-American "unity against fascism" would dominate the Congress. The Council, in breaking off correspondence, challenged the good-faith of the League as long as they tended to soft-pedal certain issues, India's fight for freedom under the banner of the India National Congress among others!

### Dr. Anup Singh Honoured

More than a hundred people attended the dinner in honour of Dr. Anup Singh, Executive Secretary of the India League of America, who had recently returned from Canada where he had been active in agitation on behalf of the East Indians in British Columbia, long deprived of civil and legal rights. The dinner was organized by Mr. Mirza Jaffer, a prominent member of the League. Prominent participants included Dr. Haridas Muzumdar who announced the forthcoming publication of his new book—the "United States of India," and Lala Har Dayal, former revolutionary writer on psychological subjects.

### American Novelist On India

Mr. Louis Bromfield, prominent novelist who recently wrote about India (after visiting the country.....), addressed the members and friends of the Hindustan Association, at International House, Mr. Krishnalal Shridharani, President of the Association, presided. Asked during the question period whether he thought Socialism was influencing cultural and social thought in modern India, Mr. Bromfield answered—as he had in the case of a similar question about Communism—doubting its importance.

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### 'धन्विअन ओपिनियन' ना

#### सवाजमो कयां लरवा

'धन्विअन ओपिनियन' ना के आठके  
टपाव भारते सवाजम नहि मेकली सकता  
हेम तेओ नीचे ज्युवेलां स्थोओ लेरी शकरो:  
दरभनभां: मेसर्स गांधी ओन्ड कु.,  
११२ वीकटोरीया स्टीट.  
मेसर्स महता थधर्स,  
२१० अ स्टीट.  
युनीवर्सल प्रीन्टिंग वर्क्स,  
१४ सेवील स्टीट.  
बोहानीसभर्ग: मेसर्स पाटीदार ट्रेडिंग कु.,  
४ प्रीचर्ड स्टीट.  
मेसर्स लगत थधर्स,  
१४ कर्टे स्टीट,  
भी. पी. रतनज, ६० भी स्टीट,  
न्युटाउन.  
रज्युओडलाभ कालाबाध परेल,  
(मेसर्स परेल ओन्ड कु.)  
६६ भी स्टीट, न्युटाउन.  
जोडवेकट डी. यु. भीसी,  
इम नं. २०, न्युडेपसी पीलेडिंग,  
इंडस स्टीट.  
भी. ओन. ओम. लट अने भी. ओस. पी.  
भेडेने कोष पञ्च स्थोथी 'धन्विअन ओपिनियन'  
नुं सवाजम आपी शकरो.  
डेपटाउन: भी. पी. डी. यावडा,  
१०४ मेन रोड मोजे.  
पारंओलीओभेथ: भी. दुवललाभ धरीलाभ,  
१४५ वेल्डर रोड.  
लोरेओभाकर्वीस: मेसर्स मजवास लालयड  
ओन्ड कु.  
भी. नाथुलाभ धरीलाभ परेल.



# The Sporting World

## Pillay Gets T.K.O. Over Chin

**W**ILLIE SMITH'S Physical Culture Club, Durban, on a hot night like last Saturday night packed to the door. Shadrach, who claims to be the youngest boxing promoter in South Africa, staged a boxing programme which was watched through beads of perspiration. The boxers fought gamely enough but it definitely was not a night to expect them to reveal their best. It was disappointing that the main fight between Pillay and Midget Chin should end in the second round. Chin started off very aggressively and slung his punches from all angles and then suddenly half way through the second round signified to the referee that his arm was too painful for him to continue. Joe Aron was always too good for the Bloemfontein boxer, Ian Hulley, whose ear was cut in the second round and bled copiously for the remainder of the fight. Just before the bell rang for the end of the fourth round, Aron sent over a perfect right and Hulley was stretched out on the canvas. The interval was not enough and he could not come up again. These were the only two technical knockouts in a programme of five fights. Harry Singh should have won his fight against Young Billy more easily. He had him down for a count of nine in the second round but then could not land a decisive enough punch to finish the contest. In the other bouts Francis Gengan beat Maistry on points and Speedy Gengan, a newcomer, was given the decision over Dicky Barton.

## Ottoman's Unbeaten Record Goes

Playing for the Asmal's Cup, in Durban, Greyville, Sparks, Muslims and Schools won their matches on Saturday afternoon last. The key match of the afternoon was the meeting of Greyville and Ottoman, both sides having an unbeaten record in the competition. By this win Greyville entrenched their position for the trophy, their only rivals being Muslims. Ottomans were sent in to bat first, and in the face of steady and accurate bowling could only score 82 runs when the time limit put an end to their innings. Greyville had to struggle for runs, but ultimately reached 87 for the loss of seven wickets. Stars, of the "A" section, were beaten by Sparks, of the "B" section, by five wickets. The losers were all out for 62, while their opponents hit up 65 for five. Muslims had no difficulty in accounting for Verulam Temple by 77 runs. Muslims made 130 and Verulam Temple 53. Schools beat Marigold in a low-scoring match by 10 wickets. The losers were all out for 24, which Schools passed without loss. On Sunday, Ottoman met Sastri College on the main ground. Sastri College scored 46, while Ottoman replied with

51 for the loss of three wickets. In the Aryans-Greyville match, Aryans were all out for 23 and Greyville scored 27 for the loss of four wickets. Stars beat Bharat by 15 runs, Stars making 81 and Bharat 66.

## Shamrocks Football Club

The eighth annual general meeting of the Shamrocks Football Club was held on Sunday last at Mr. P. Doorasamy's residence, 75, Carlisle Street, Durban, when the following officials were elected for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Dr. Max Byala, Messrs. L. Naidoo, A. S. Pillay, S. N. Pillay and S. Manilal; Hon. Life vice-Presidents: Mr. M. N. Naidoo, A. P. Pillay and Roop Bunssee; President: Mr. P. Doorasamy; vice-presidents: Messrs. J. S. Naidoo, G. S. Mabarajh, C. P. Moodley, G. M. Pillay, S. G.

## Colonial Born & Settlers' Indian Association MASS MEETING

A mass meeting of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association will be held on Sunday February 19 at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, to protest against the movement to segregate Indians.

Roll up and attend in your hundreds. Position is very serious.

A. CHRISTOPHER  
President,

S. L. SINGH } Jt. Hon.  
P. R. PATHER } Secretaries.  
D. S. CHETTY }

Naidoo, N. G. Naidoo, N. S. Naidoo, T. P. James, N. P. Naidoo, George Venktas, S. Patchay and M. G. Naidoo; hon. secretary: Mr. D. V. Naidoo; assist. secretary: Mr. P. Govender; hon. treasurer: Mr. G. Dorrie; delegates to the D.D.I.F.A.: Messrs. D. V. Naidoo and P. Govender; senior captain: Mr. M. Kader; vice-captain: Mr. R. N. Moodley; junior captain: Mr. B. Appalsamy (Sydney); vice-captain: Mr. A. Marrie; juvenile captain: Mr. F. Gengan; vice-captain: Mr. S. Govindsamy; manager and trainer: Mr. Dave Naidoo.

## Social And Personal

Mrs. Manilal Gandhi, who has been in India for over a year, is returning by the *Takshva* and will land in Durban on next Wednesday.

Dr. M. R. Peters, Vice-President of the Maritzburg branch of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, sailed for India on Monday morning and is expected to be away for about four months. He will travel extensively in India and Ceylon. Dr. Peters has been deputed by the South African Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association to represent it at the forthcoming sessions of the All-India National Congress, to be held next month.

## A CORRECTION

In our notes columns in the note on Bar against non-European In Industries the following words appear in the second line, "Electrical Women and Contractors Bill." It should be read "Electrical Wiremen and Contractors Bill."

Everything appearing in this issue of a political nature has been written and edited by Manilal M. Gandhi to express the views of INDIAN OPINION.

## Natal University College Courses For Non-Europeans

Classes leading to the B.A. Degree are to be held at Sastri College, Durban on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings beginning on Friday, March 3rd, 1939.

Fees per half-year for three classes £7 10s. Fees for separate class per half-year £2 10s.

Loans for students, to be repaid after graduation may be arranged.

The Adviser to Non-European Students will attend at Sastri College to interview and enrol students from 9.30 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 25th, from 4 to 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28th and from 4 to 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2nd and at other times by appointment.

Further particulars from the Adviser to Non-European Students, Natal University College, P. O. Box 1525, Durban.

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# ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે  
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પરતક ૩૭ મું.

ફીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૭ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૭.

## “ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૧૭ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯.

### ગંભીર પરિસ્થિતિ

ફીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો કે સંઘના ખીન-યુરોપીયનોના સંયુક્ત સેક્રેગેશન માટે કાયદો લાવવાની નેશનલીસ્ટોની માગણી સંબંધી સ્થિતિમાં હજી કશો સુધારો થયો નથી. હકીકતમાં પરિસ્થિતિની વિષમતા ઘણું દરજ્જે વધેલી ગણાય. બેહાનીસબર્ગનું ‘રટાર’ તેટું વળું આ પ્રમાણે કરે છે:

પાર્લામેન્ટના સભ્યોની લાગણીની કસોટી બેહાનીસબર્ગમાં હીંદીઓના જમીનના ભોગવટા સંબંધી ફીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોનો કેટલો સ્વિકાર થાય છે તે પરથી થશે. ગત બેઠકમાં તે તેને લગતો ઠરાવ પસાર થઈ જવાનો કંઈક સંભવ હતો, પરંતુ આજે તે અમારા કેપિટલના ખબરપત્રીના કહેવા સુજબ, તે પસાર થવાનો છાંટા ભાર પણ સંભવ નથી. તેના કહેવા સુજબ “ફીધામ કમીશનનો રીપોર્ટ તો મરી ગયો.” વળી ફીધામ કમીશનના રીપોર્ટની સાથે સામાન્ય સેક્રેગેશનનો સવાલ સંકળાયેલો છે, કે જેના સંબંધમાં કેપની નેશનલીસ્ટ પાર્ટીએ આક્રમણની નીતી અખત્યાર કરેલી છે, અને કલાસ એરીયાઝ ખીલના ધોરણે કેપ પ્રાંતમાં સંઘના ખીન-યુરોપીયનોને સેક્રેગેટ કરવાને કાયદો લાવવાની જુબેશ ઉઠાવી રહી છે. વળી આ હેતુ માત્ર નેશનલીસ્ટ પાર્ટીને જ અથવા તે એક જ પ્રાંતને માર્યાદિત નથી. એ વસ્તુ નાટાલ માં કલીપ રીવરના યુનાઈટેડ પાર્ટીના સભ્ય મી. ફરેન્ડે શહેરોમાં વસતા રંગવણીઓને સેક્રેગેટ કરવાની માગણી કરેલી છે તેપરથી સિદ્ધ થાય છે. મી. ફરેન્ડેની એ દરખાસ્ત એક ખાનગી સભ્યની જ છે એ વસ્તુનો કશો અર્થ નથી, બ્યારે આપણે જોઈએ છીએ કે નેશન-

લીસ્ટો સિવાયના અન્ય વર્ગોમાં પણ એ માનસ વધતું જાય છે.

નેશનલીસ્ટ પાર્ટીના સભ્યોમાં આજે ફરવાઈ રહેલાં સેક્રેગેશનના પીટીશનની પાછળ રહેલી લાગણીના આ દાખલા છે. પાર્લામેન્ટ સમક્ષ રજુ કરવામાં આવેલાં એ પીટીશનમાં માત્ર મીશ્રલગ્નોના સંબંધ માંજ નહિ પણ વસવાટ, આર્થિક અને રાજકીય આખતોમાં પણ યુરોપીયનો અને ખીન-યુરોપીયનોને તદ્દન ઇલાયત્ત કરવાને લગતો બહોળો કાયદો લાવવાની માગણી કરવામાં આવી છે.

ટ્રાંસવાલ અને નાટાલથી કેપિટલ ગયેલા હીંદી કોમના નેતાઓ જેઓએ સુલકી પ્રધાનની સુલાકાત લીધેલી છે તેઓને કંઈ આશાજનક જવાબ મળ્યો નથી. હીંદી કોમની સમક્ષ બે ચોખ્ખા પ્રશ્નો ઉપસ્થિત થયાં છે. એક તો “ફીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોથી અસુક હિંદીઓના લાભને સીધી રીતે અસર થઈ રહી છે તે અને બીજો કેપ અને નાટાલમાં કલાસ એરીયાઝ ખીલના જેવો સેક્રેગેશનનો કાયદો આવી રહેવાનો એ કરતાં વિશેષ ગંભીર પ્રશ્ન. આ દિશાએ કેટલાં મંજુર તત્વો કામ કરી રહ્યાં છે તેના દાખલાઓ અનેક બની રહ્યાં છે. એ સંઘનાની સામે હિંદી કોમ શું કરશે ?

એટલી વસ્તુ તો યાદ રાખવી જ જોઈએ કે જ્યાં સમસ્ત કોમને લાગુ પડનારો એક મોટા સિદ્ધાંતનો પ્રશ્ન ઉભેલો હોય ત્યાં અસુક વ્યક્તિઓના લાભોનો વિચાર થઈ શકતો નથી. ફીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોના સંબંધમાં એજ ધોરણે કામ લઈ શકાય. આપણા વિરોધીઓ ફલીલ કરે છે કે એ ભલામણો હવે જુની થઈ ગઈ છે અને તેથી તેને ધ્યાન નહિ દઈ

શકાય. એ વાતનો કશો અર્થ નથી.

સરકારને અડચણમાં નાખવાનો આપણો ઇરાદો નથી તેમ હોઈ શકે પણ નહિ. આજે જે તત્વો તેની વિરુદ્ધમાં કામ કરી, તેને રંબડી રહ્યા છે તેમાં સરકાર તરફ અમારી પૂર્ણ દિલસોલ છે. પરંતુ તે સાથે સરકાર પણ અને નેશનલીસ્ટ પણ વચ્ચેના ઝઘડામાં હીંદી કોમને હોળી તું નાળીયર નજ બનાવી શકાય. એટલી વસ્તુ આશ્વાસન આપનારી છે કે આટલાં બધાં વિરોધી તત્વો છતાં પણ યુરોપીયન વર્તમાનપત્રો તરફથી દિલસોલ ભરેલી વલણ બતાવાઈ રહી છે. પરંતુ જો આપણે જાતેજ કંઈ પુરૂષાર્થ નહિ બતાવીએ તો આપણી ઉપર પડતી લાતોને આપણે લાયકજ કરીશું.

ફીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોના સંબંધમાં આપણે એકજ વલણ લઈ શકીએ અને તે એ કે એ ભલામણો જેવી છે તેવીને તેવીજ પસાર થવી જોઈએ. તેમાં જરા પણ કાપકુપ થઈ શકેજ નહિ, તેમ વધુ વખત તેને સુલતવી પણ નજ રાખી શકાય. અને મી. શુમન કે સુલકી પ્રધાન તરફથી સુચવાઈ છે તેવી કોઈ પણ અન્ય ચોજના પણ સમાધાની તરીકે સ્વિકારી નજ શકાય.

વળી એ ભલામણો પસાર થાય તો પણ ટ્રાંસવાલ એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્ચર એક્ટની સામે હીંદી કોમને પોતાની શક્તિનું માપ આવી જશે તે વખતે લડત ઉઠાવવાનો હક તો રહેશેજ.

એટલું તો ફીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોના સંબંધમાં.

પરંતુ એ કરતાં વિશેષ ગંભીર પ્રશ્ન તો દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના હીંદીઓના સામાન્ય સેક્રેગેશનનો છે. અનિષ્ટ કાયદાના અમલનો વિસ્તાર વધારવા કેવાની વૃત્તિ તો આપણાથી નજ રાખી શકાય. તેને નાખુદ કરાવવાનીજ વૃત્તિ રાખી શકાય. એટલે આપણી ઉપર આવી પડનારાં એ