

# INDIAN OPINION

Founded by  
MAHATMA GANDHI  
IN 1903

No. 9.—Vol. XXXVII.

Friday, March 3rd, 1939.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.  
Price Fourpence.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### Indian Question In The Indian

#### Legislative Assembly

It was reported last week that in the Central Legislative Assembly at New Delhi, the President, Sir Abdur Rahim, ruled out of order Sir Syed Raza Ali's adjournment motion to discuss "the proposal before the Government of the Union of South Africa to introduce legislation for the purpose of further restricting the right of Indians to acquire or occupy immovable property." In the course of the debate that preceded the President's ruling, Sir Syed explained that his intention was to censure the Government of India for not taking any action in the matter. Sir G. S. Bajpai, opposing—leave being granted to the motion—referred to the statement made by the Minister of the Interior that nothing had been decided with regard to the legislation to which Sir Raza Ali had referred and that the whole question was still in the air. Sir Girja Shankar added that the Government of India had no information, official or otherwise, of any proposal for a legislation of that character.

Sir Syed submitted that there was a very definite proposal, made by the Union Government, to introduce an anti-Indian legislation. If the Government of India had no information, that betrayed a want of alertness on which he could not congratulate them. If they had no information, they deserved to be censured. What was the use, he asked, of keeping an Agent-General in South Africa if information of these developments was not made available to the Government of India by him? Events marched with great rapidity in South Africa and action might be taken in the current session of the Union Parliament.

Mr. S. Satyamurti supported Sir Syed's plea, but the President held that as the Government stated they had no information the motion was out of order.

We fully endorse the protest made by Sir Raza Ali in the Indian Legislative Assembly in regard to the want of alertness on the part of the Government of India in keeping itself fully informed about the position of Indians

in South Africa. But perhaps it is much concerned about the "friendly relations" between the two Governments being jeopardised. They must indeed be maintained at any cost!!

### Further Propaganda For Segregation

At a public meeting held at Potgietersrust (Transvaal) to consider the so-called infiltration of Asiatics into European areas, an unopposed motion was adopted calling on the Government to hold a referendum of all Europeans in South Africa to discover if they were in favour of separate residential and business areas for Europeans and coloured persons, including Asiatics. Should the referendum favour segregation, the Government, it was urged, should immediately give effect to the wishes of the people. It was added that the proposal did not emanate from a political party, but from the European residents of Potgietersrust. The meeting was addressed by Mr. K. Smit, chairman of the South African Reddingsbond, who said that the Indian business methods are becoming an increasing danger to European civilisation in South Africa and no solution was possible until political parties removed from their programmes the clauses designed to entrench the standing rights of Indians in the Union. Indians, he said, should be allowed to open shops only in native locations. They could also be permitted to act as hotel waiters and to do other suitable work.

In Natal the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce has supported the Ladysmith Chamber in its resolution to the Prime Minister, and the Minister of the Interior, in connection with Indian encroachment. The resolution states that the steady encroachment of Indians to the detriment of Europeans in Ladysmith and other parts of Natal is viewed with alarm, and asks that legislation be introduced on certain lines to ameliorate the position.

Mr. George Sutter, M.P. for Springs, signed the mixed marriages petition after the meeting in Pretoria held in support of the Nationalist candidate in the Pretoria City by-election, Mr. D. J. G. van den Heever. In an interview with the correspondent of *The Star* at Springs, Mr. Sutter said he had been

only too pleased to support the Nationalist demand for legislation to prohibit Europeans and coloureds from living together in the same building, to prohibit Europeans and coloureds from fraternising, and to prohibit by law the marriage of Europeans and coloureds.

### Kenya Highlands And Indians

The *Natal Daily News* Nairobi correspondent states:—The prospects of a vigorously conducted Indian opposition to the reservation of Kenya highlands for white settlement are held out by statements of the executive committee of the East African Indian Congress that secret plans are being prepared for resistance to the Order-in-Council reserving the highlands exclusively for European land ownership. The Order-in-Council was the result of the Carter Land Commission's report published a few years ago, which is now being implemented. A special meeting of the Indian Congress is being held early in March to consider the executive's suggestions for resistance which Congress circles consider will be most effective. Meanwhile, instructions have been given to hold hartals throughout the country on March 1, on which date the order operates. Congress is also planning Street processions.

Our East African Indian brethren are also faced with a segregation measure in the form of the reservation of the Highlands in Nairobi for the exclusive occupation of Europeans. The struggle against it has been going on for many years and it is now intensified owing to the legalisation of this reservation by an Order-in-Council thus placing a stigma on the Indian community in the Statute Book. Indians in South Africa congratulate their brethren in East Africa for the stand they have taken and wish them every success in their just cause.

### The Rajkot Struggle

A Reuter's Message from Bombay states that Mahatma Gandhi, has proceeded to Rajkot on a peace mission, and has ordered the suspension of the civil disobedience movement which has been in progress since the beginning of the month. It is reported that he conferred with Mr. Gibson, the British Resident, on the situation. The Rajkot State's subjects

who are fighting for responsible government have undergone terrible sufferings through the repressive policy of the State. A compromise was arrived at between the State and Sardar Vallabh-bhai Patel on behalf of the people but a breach of the terms of compromise was committed by the State instructed by

the Resident, Mr. Gibson, necessitating the revival of the civil disobedience struggle which is being met by inhuman methods of suppression and repression by the State. Among the distinguished State prisoners is Mrs. M. K. Gandhi who is kept in internment while Mahatma Gandhi is negotiating for peace.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD, 1939

### The Congress And The Youths

**A** MASS meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held last Sunday at the Royal Picture Palace Durban to inform the public about the interviews the delegates of the Congress had with the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior on the proposed segregation scheme. Mr. Hajee E. M. Paruk presided and the meeting was conducted by Mr. J. W. Godfrey. There was present at the meeting a large number of youths who were not members of the Congress but have recently organised themselves with a view to taking a livelier interest in all matters concerning the Indian community. Eloquent speeches were made by the Congress leaders and pledges were made to fight if any legislation aiming at segregation was passed. The meeting was well organised. It remained quiet as long as laurels were being showered upon the Congress leaders. But at one stage Mr. Godfrey as acting on behalf of the President invited the youths to speak and one after the other they spoke. Mr. Fakroodeen (jur.) said they had heard a lot of dictation from the leaders to the youths to join up, but if unity was lacking it was not lacking among the masses who always rallied to the call of the leaders. It was the leaders who were themselves not united and he could not understand why they could not unite. The youths must insist on their uniting. If we were subjected to humiliating laws, he said, it was the fault of the leaders and not of the masses. Mr. Kajee could not sit quiet after this and went to the length of insinuating that the division was caused by personal feelings and because certain members were not given offices. He said those who wanted to rave at the leaders may do so by joining the Congress and coming to the Committee meetings where they would be given all the hearing they desired. This was not the place, he said, for such a discussion. The quiet house was now changed. How well the meeting was organised was realised when no other speaker could get a hearing. He was disturbed from among the audience at every word or sentence he uttered. The chairman, who allowed Mr. Kajee to say what he did, put a check on the freedom of speech of others who failed to sing the praise of the Congress but he could not check those who disturbed them. We cannot help feeling that there

was an utter lack of fairplay. On the other hand the organisers also failed to realise that they were placed in office by the masses and the masses had the right to put them out if they so desired. If there was any sense of responsibility in the leaders they would not have shirked the issue by gagging those who wanted to have their say but they would have faced whatever rebuke they were subjected to bravely and in reply made a satisfactory explanation.

#### Are They Sincere?

The Congress leaders last Sunday indulged in grand eloquence but will their actions be as eloquent? Their past record does not redound much to their credit. On the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act the Congress leaders failed hopelessly in fulfilling their pledge. True that it affected the Transvaal only. But it was the principle for which the Congress leaders had pledged themselves to fight and not only did they not fight but they co-operated with those who were concerned about safeguarding their own vested interests. A similar thing was done with regard to the Colonization Scheme. That it was a pernicious scheme did not weigh with them much. What weighed with them was the great "honour" done to the community in appointing an Indian on a Government Commission for the first time in the history of Indians in South Africa! Their beggarly attitude in regard to the White Women's Employment Bill in giving an assurance to the Government to prevail upon their brethren to refrain from employing white women if only they could be saved from the humiliation of a stigma in the Statute Book was most regrettable. We are quoting these instances to show that while the Congress leaders have been eloquent in their speech they have not been as eloquent in their action. Let us hope that the same will not be repeated in the present instance.

#### The Time To Fight Long Over Due

We Indians are showing a tendency in this country of not objecting to a process of slow-poisoning but of being offended when it comes in a big dose. Do we not experience the humiliations of segregation at every stage? Is not the working of the Slums Act putting the policy of segregation into effect? Has not Mr. Hof-

meyer declared in Parliament replying to Dr. Malan's attack that the Government was achieving through the Slums Act what Dr. Malan had not been able to achieve with his policy of segregation? Is there not segregation on tram cars, on railway stations, post offices, on the beach and in other places of entertainment? Instances of our sense of self-respect being wounded are not wanting and the proposed new measure, if it succeeds in passing, will once for all brand us as Pariahs of South Africa. It is time therefore that we awakened to a real sense of honour and self-respect and shed all false sense of prestige and honour in quarrelling among ourselves. If we showed but half that sense in fighting our common enemy in this country our status would have long been enhanced.

An attempt was made recently to unite the two parties in which the Agent-General took a leading part. But the Congress leaders who do practically all things without a mandate when representations are made on vital questions affecting the community, were careful in taking a strict mandate from their Committee when they entered into negotiations for unity with the leaders of the opposition, that they must not bind themselves to anything. It was for this reason that the negotiations had failed. If unity in the true sense of the term is desired we can only suggest one thing and that is that notwithstanding the fact that one party may be technically in the right—as indeed the Congress is—it must be prepared to give a blank cheque to the other party in order to win that party over, and all sense of pride, prestige, honour and constitutionalism must for the time being be put aside. To say that the Congress cannot change its name if that is what is asked by the other party, it is sheer childish stubbornness. There is far graver danger facing us to be able to afford a house divided. Even Mahatma Gandhi had changed the name of the very Congress that was founded by him and which is still lying dead, into Natal Indian Association. He did this because he considered the cause to be greater than the mere name. This is the only way true unity could be achieved.

The other way is to join the Congress in full force and abide by the ruling of the majority. There is no third course. The battle we have to fight in this country for our existence as self-respecting human beings will be a sacred one and unless we are pure at heart and can show that purity towards one another in our own ranks our fight will not be a clean fight nor can we expect victory. The future lies in the hands of the youths.

### Transvaal Moves For Passive Resistance

**S**INCE the above was in print we received a telephone message from Johannesburg that at the Congress meeting held there to protest against the proposed segregation measure and which was attended by over a thousand Indians, Dr. Y.

M. Dadoo, who had formed a left wing in the Congress, has won the day by carrying by an overwhelming majority an amendment to a Congress resolution, declaring Passive Resistance against the proposed measure. We heartily congratulate Dr. Dadoo for his enthusiasm and in having succeeded in putting a check on the Congress. The time has now come for action. Getting the amendment through does not end our work. It really now begins and those who have endorsed Dr. Dadoo's amendment must realise the seriousness of the responsibility they have voluntarily invited. It is no small responsibility. It will require tremendous courage not to hit but to die without raising even a finger in retaliation for the sake of our national honour. There can be no retreat after having once taken the step. The ruling race in South Africa must be made to realise that there is a limit to our patience and we can no longer tolerate the humiliations constantly imposed on us. No man or woman with any sense of self-respect can tolerate such treatment. Just at this stage a copy of the latest *Harizan* dated February 18 has come to our hand which contains a message for Indians in South Africa from Mahatma Gandhi which we should all take to heart. A question was

put to Gandhiji whether they should carry on the struggle for their rights in South Africa through Satyagraha or through constitutional agitation. This is the reply given by Gandhiji:

"If the South African Indian community had guts in them, I would say Satyagraha, and they are bound to win. I am hoping that some day from among Indian youths born in South Africa a person will arise who will stand up for the rights of his countrymen domiciled there, and make the vindication of those rights his life's mission. He will be so pure, so cultured, so truthful and so dignified in his bearing that he will disarm all opposition. The Whites will say, "if all Indians were like him, we should have no objection to giving them an equal status with us." But he will answer, "It is not enough that there is one representative of the Indian community whom you are ready to recognise as your equal. What I am, other countrymen of mine too can be, if instead of calling them names and putting them under all sorts of disabilities you give them a sporting chance in the matter of educational and other facilities which are to-day denied them. Such a one, when he appears, will not need to be coached by me. He will assert himself by his sheer genius."

In regard to the talk of forming a non-European front we have in these columns not favoured such an idea. We have now Gandhiji's opinion too on the subject which will be instructive. Rev. Tema during his recent visit to India had an interview with

Gandhiji and when asked by him as to what Gandhiji thought about it Gandhiji gave the following reply:

It will be a mistake. You will be pooling together not strength but weakness. You will best help one another by each standing on his own legs. The two cases are different. The Indians are a microscopic minority. They can never be a "menace" to the white population. You, on the other hand, are the sons of the soil who are being robbed of your inheritance. You are bound to resist that. Yours is a far bigger issue. It ought not to be mixed up with that of the Indian. This does not preclude the establishment of the friendliest relations between the two races. The Indians can co-operate with you in a number of ways. They can help you by always acting on the square towards you. They may not put themselves in opposition to your legitimate aspirations, or run you down as 'savages' while exalting themselves as 'cultured people in order to secure concessions for themselves at your expense."

This has come as a timely advice from Gandhiji and we will not go wrong by acting upon it. The Natal Indian Congress has sent Swami Bhawani Dayal to India to educate public opinion. We consider it a waste of time and expense. No earthly purpose will be served by educating public opinion in India if we are not prepared at this end to sacrifice even a little, and the day we are prepared to fight for our just rights in this country help will come to us without our asking. "God helps those who help themselves."

## A GRAVE SITUATION

MR. L. W. RITCH writes to us as follows:—Sir, I should like to compliment you upon your leading article under the above caption and to express my complete agreement with the views expressed.

I have to confess that excepting in so far as its non-adoption must undoubtedly constitute a breach of faith, I am but mildly interested in the "Feetham Report." In conformity with the attitude I have consistently adopted towards legislation differentiating against my Indian fellow-men, I declined to appear before the Commission either professionally or as witness. The Commission was concerned principally if not wholly with vested interests. To me whatever modicum of principle may have been at stake through an attack upon vested interests seemed relatively insignificant beside the vastly more vital principle of segregation. And now that the prospects of adoption of the Feetham Report seem so remote as to be almost hopeless and the threats of both trade and residential segregation very real and imminent, the question naturally occurs to me (having had some humble share in our earlier struggles) as I observe it has to you, what is going to be done about it? Unfortunately, I find myself unable to adopt your form of question "What is the Indian community going to do in the face of all this?" because, unhappily, the term "community" has become little better than a euphemism.

What, of course, should be a community, a solidly constituted harmonious whole, jealous of its honour and concerned primarily for its status, is I regret to say no better than a people divided against itself. How true it is that Mammon can count slaves by the million, but never a martyr!

Do we observe any evidences of community of interests between our Indian "haves" and our Indian "have-nots"? Any concern on the part of the wealthy for the fate or lot of the poorer majority? Is the painful truth of the matter not rather this, that the few rich securely entrenched as they conceived themselves to be, behind the ramparts of their vested interests, had visions of turning the advantages they still enjoy and hope to preserve to their own greater profit at the expense of their less fortunate compatriots? And would it be far wrong to hazard that their concern for the fate of the Feetham Report is largely influenced by just such considerations?

There are times when candour is kindest and best calculated to influence the subjects of one's criticism. This, it appears to me, is just such an occasion. One, who like myself has followed what we were wont to call the "struggle" from the beginning, is compelled to recognise that the Indian cause has been on the retreat the whole time, driven nearer and nearer to the originally planned segregation and farther and farther from the Indian slogan of "status" and "self respect."

It is difficult, also to resist the conviction, however unpalatable it be, that the debacle with which the people rich and poor alike are now threatened is due largely, if not wholly, to the indifference of those who felt themselves secure in their holdings to aught save their own security. Nor, I think, would it be entirely untrue to suggest that some at least of our leaders during recent years shewed themselves somewhat disproportionately concerned on behalf of financial interests involved, as compared with the safety, well-being and uplift of the larger, if humbler, rank and file, who had little, if any, capital to lose, preserve (or increase) save their dignity as Indians and what is left of their self-respect and honour.

To return to the all-important question What now? or if not, "what now?" what? in the event of the Feetham Report being rejected or so altered or even emasculated as to make its recommendations ineffective? And, our old friend the Class Areas Bill (albeit in a new dress and rechristened). Should it make its threatened reappearance pari passu with the Feetham Report disaster shall we perhaps then, and only then, come to realise the importance of welding the Indian peoples of the Union into a real community that at long last shall have learnt the lesson that sectional and selfish interests must for its survival be subordinated to principle? I wonder.

# NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

## MASS MEETING TO PROTEST AGAINST SEGREGATION

A MASS meeting of Indians under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress was held on Sunday, February 26, at the Royal Picture Palace, to protest against the segregation measure proposed to be introduced in Parliament. The Presidential chair was occupied by Hajee E. M. Paruk. The proceedings were conducted by Mr. J. W. Godfrey.

### Chairman's Speech

The chairman, in his speech, stated: "Though the occasion on which we have met is one that is most unhappy I am pleased to see so many of you present. It is a proof that you are conscious of your responsibility.

"I am not exaggerating when I say that these are dark and troublous days. The blind passions of race prejudice and hatred are being whipped up to suit the ends of political expediency.

"In December last, a deputation from an anti-Indian Conference of ratepayers, Parliamentarians, provincial councillors and local authorities waited on the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Stuttaford, at Pretoria and made allegations of Indian penetration in the rural towns of the Transvaal. In reply the Minister said that he would discuss the matter with his colleagues and propose legislation granting authority to register servitudes free of charge in title-deeds prohibiting the lease and sale to and the occupation by Indians where, for instance, 60% of the European property owners agree to it, the implication being that this decision would be binding upon the remaining 40%.

"On February 10 this year a deputation of the Transvaal Indian Congress accompanied by officials of the South African Indian Congress, waited upon the Minister of the Interior at Capetown, and stressed upon him the necessity of the passing by Parliament of the Feetham resolutions in terms of his assurance to Congress and the Agent-General last year. These resolutions were to implement the findings of the Feetham Commission, an impartial commission established under the Transvaal Land Tenure Act under which Act it was agreed that the Gold Law of 1908 of the Transvaal which restricted the occupation and ownership of land on the reef by Indians should be so amended as to empower the Minister to withdraw any proclaimed land from the operation of the Gold Law. The powers were to be exercised after the impartial commission had enquired into the position. Justice Feetham conducted a meticulous enquiry extending over five years and made his recom-

mendations. These recommendations legalise the occupation of proclaimed lands by Indians on the Witwatersrand and remove their sense of uncertainty and insecurity. The recommendations represent the barest minimum required for the Indian community of the Reef area. Above all the question of occupation and ownership of land in the Reef area is a thing apart from all other issues concerning the Indian community.

"The Minister informed the congress that in order to facilitate the passing of the Feetham resolutions it would be necessary to place before his Party Caucus a definite scheme to deal with the occupation and ownership of land by Indians all over the Union and the proposed scheme of his, was to meet the outcry against penetration of Asiatic into European areas. The Minister repeated the scheme as outlined by him to the representatives of the anti-Indian Transvaal Ratepayers' Association, increasing his 60% to 70%.

"The Minister has been interviewed twice by your delegates and has been informed in the most clear language and by a considered statement in writing, that the two questions are in no way connected. The Feetham resolutions affect only the relatively small population on the Reef while the Minister's proposed scheme is Union wide.

"We deny that there is penetration. This has been proved by the evidence that was adduced by various Town Clerks and representatives of the local authorities who appeared before the Murray Land Laws Commission in the Transvaal.

"In fact the Minister of the Interior stated that 90% of Indians have shown no desire to live in European localities.

"In Natal we hear fantastic and hair-raising allegations of Indian penetration. The only fact that has ever been advanced in support of this has been in Durban and the author of this is no other than our so-called friend Mr. H. H. Kemp.

"It has been stated that the value of property owned by Indians in Durban has increased from .178 in 1888 to 7.2 in 1939.

"Let us examine these figures in the light of facts. The Indian population of the borough of Durban in 1939 is 86,000. Before the boundaries of Durban were extended in 1932 the Indian population numbered 17,330. By the extension of the borough boundaries large tracts of rural and semi-rural land occupied by some 64,000 Indians were brought into the boundaries of the City of Durban. This explains the increase

and be it remembered that the increase is over a period of 51 years.

"We admit the expansion into areas contiguous to ours. We admit that we go to virgin and derelict areas, in and around Durban and Pietermaritzburg, clear them of the swamps that breed Malaria, make it habitable, and then pass it on the European so that he may build factories, establish commerce, and build his mansions.

"Surely we have a right to this normal expansion and to serve in this lowly manner, and we have the right to breathe God's good air.

"In Natal where the bulk of our population is concentrated and where some 70,000 Indians belong to the rural population, of the total acreage of 11,000,000 acres in the province the amount owned by Indians is computed to be 100,000 to 120,000 acres, that is approximately one acre in every hundred. Is this sufficient to justify legislation for the segregation of Indians all over the Union?

"The Borough and Township Ordinance gives power to local authorities to prevent Indian purchase of unalienated land. The Private Township Ordinance empowers the township owner to prevent Indian occupation or ownership in new townships.

"As far as trade is concerned the arbitrary operation of the licensing laws relegate the Indian trader to certain areas. We have consistently protested against these disabilities and sought their repeal.

"We declare that this servitude scheme of the Minister is segregation of the direst kind, and its practical effect will be constant friction between the European and Indian communities. Agitation instigated by sectional or commercial interests, or emotionalism stimulated by some national celebration would be sufficient to secure the support of the necessary 75% of the European residents, for a measure of this sort and the scheme provides unlimited opportunities for the stirring up of racial feeling. The imposition of disabilities by means of this measure now under consideration will involve the ruination and humiliation of our community and will disturb the lawful occupation and ownership of land by Indians.

"This scheme of Mr. Stuttaford's has the same if not a more dangerous object in view as Dr. Malan's Areas Reservation Bill of 1925 and is a definite violation of the spirit and letter of the Capetown Agreement of 1926, on the conclusion of which Dr. Malan dropped his Areas Reservation Bill, this was a

testimony that the Union Government had turned its back for all time on the policy of the segregation of Indian.

"Segregation is the peak of repression. It eventually results in reducing the segregated to a state of helotry. It is unjust and it is inhuman. It is the negation of that promise of "uplift" contained in the Capetown Agreement.

"The proposed scheme will result in trade and residential segregation which the Indian community has always consistently and strenuously opposed; it will be a deep affront to our national pride. It casts a stigma on us as a race.

"Owing to the urgency of the situation and the grave dangers that are threatening, the Congress has deputed its president Swami Bhawani Dayal to India to explain the situation to the people of India and to educate public opinion there. He has sailed a few hours ago notwithstanding his failing health in answer to the call of duty.

"Resolutions will be submitted to you which will convey your feelings in measured and dignified language. I am sure that they will receive your unanimous support. Let us fervently hope that our protests will receive the consideration they deserve so that we may be saved from degradation and ruin."

#### Resolution

The following resolution was then passed unanimously:—

"This mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress expresses its deepest concern at the report that the Minister of the Interior has under consideration the

introduction of a scheme of segregation for the whole of the Union "by the imposing of servitudes in title deeds in respect of occupation and ownership of residential properties by Indians, and by demarcation of areas by local authorities for trade.

"This meeting declares that the scheme is in direct violation of the Capetown Agreement both in letter and in spirit and is therefore wholly unacceptable. The Indian community has resolutely and consistently opposed segregation and resolves to continue to do so on the grounds that it is derogatory to its national sentiment, an insult to its racial pride, and it will ultimately reduce the Indian community to a state of helotry.

"This meeting appeals to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior not to proceed with the proposed measure which would be an unjust imposition on a voteless section of the community and which would invariably and for all time prove a source of friction between the Indian and European communities.

"This meeting instructs the Natal Indian Congress as representing the Indian community of Natal to take such action as it may deem necessary immediately the provisions of the proposed measure have become known, to protect the interests of the community."

#### Transvaal Indian Congress

A mass meeting of Indians under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress was held in Johannesburg on

Wednesday night when over a thousand people were present. A resolution on the same lines as passed by the Natal Indian Congress was moved and an amendment was moved by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo which was passed by an overwhelming majority. The amendment reads as follows:—

"This mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress expresses its deepest concern at the report that the Minister of the Interior has under consideration the introduction of a scheme of segregation for the whole of the Union by the imposing of servitude in title deeds in respect of occupation and ownership of residential properties by Indians and by demarcation of areas by local authorities for trade

"That this mass meeting registers an emphatic protest against the proposed segregation legislation approved by the Union Cabinet and desires to oppose by every possible means any such attempt to effect segregation of Indians and Coloureds in South Africa and further resolves to elect a Council of action of twenty-five members to devise ways and means of starting a Passive Resistance campaign

"This mass meeting also further resolves on the urgent necessity of co-operating with all other sections of the non-European communities and for the carrying on of an intensive propaganda campaign to explain the discriminative policy of the Government."

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

## INDIAN SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—I am afraid you have been misdirected in your remarks in your issue of February 24 wherein you stated that the Indian Child Welfare Society was the only institution—the creation of the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri when he was the first Agent-General for India in South Africa—which is doing practical humanitarian work.

You have forgotten for the moment that the Indian Social Service Committee both in Durban and Clairwood, founded by the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri, has justified its existence in the community as a welfare institution.

In Durban, Mr. V. Lawrence, the President, and other officials have done yeoman services, since its inception, in the way of giving free medical attention and food relief to the poorer sections of our community.

We have its branch in Clairwood amidst a population of over 17,000 souls. Among its members Messrs. R. P. Das, N. P. Naidoo and B. Ramchander have

identified themselves among the poor. The number of cases attended for free medical relief etc., can be got from the reports of the Committee submitted at its annual meetings. Recently the branch opened its doors still wider, in the way of giving food relief to destitute cases.

The Indian Social Service Committee, in its efforts to relieve the poor and destitute, receive no financial support from the Government, the Provincial authorities or even the Community Chest for that matter. It solely relies on funds accrued from entertainments or dramas staged by some sympathetic institutions or individuals. These are carried out when funds are low.

In doing its duty towards the community the Clairwood branch has a membership of approximately 30, embracing all shades of opinion, political or otherwise, and truly carrying out the wishes of its founder,

I trust the above are sufficient to enlighten and educate the public with yet another institution that has done and is still doing its regular welfare work.

Yours etc., S. GOPAL.

[We are grateful to the above writer for drawing our attention to the useful work done by the Social Service Committee. We wish both the institutions every success and only hope that they will carry on the good work without mixing up in politics nor having anything to do with our political organisations which are too anxious to exploit them to serve their own evil ends of trying to outdo one another.—Ed. I.O.]

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.

# India Letter

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

16th February 1939.

## Indian Question In The Assembly

ON February 13, Mr. Satyamurti in the Central Legislative Assembly asked if it was a fact that the Capetown Agreement recognised the justice of the Indian claim for full citizenship when Indians satisfied the Government that their standard of life etc. accorded with those of the European white and if so had the agreement been implemented. Sir Gujashanker replied in the negative. Mr. Satyamurti further enquired as to whether Indians in the Union paid the Union and Provincial taxes on the same basis as Europeans but got very little in return in the shape of public services. Sir Girjashanker said that Indians paid taxes on the same basis as Europeans. The Government of India were aware of complaints that as regards public amenities Indians in South Africa did not get an adequate return.

## The Congress And Mr. Bose

It is definitely known now that twelve members of the existing Congress Working Committee have expressed their inability to work with Mr. Subash Chandra Bose, the new President of the All India National Congress. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu is one of the three members of the present Congress Working Committee who will have no objection in serving under Mr. Bose's leadership. The opinion of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is not yet known. The personal opinion of Mahatma Gandhi is believed to be that the extreme left wing of the Congress should be given a free hand to follow their own programme.

After having a talk with Mahatma Gandhi on February 15 at Shegaon, Mr. Subash Chandra Bose issued the following statement to the Press:—

"Mahatma Gandhi received me with his characteristic kindness and affection. In an atmosphere of extreme cordiality, we had a discussion on the burning problems of the day for full three hours. We did not arrive at a final decision, but we reached certain tentative conclusions. It would be premature to give publicity to them. I would, therefore, request the Press and the public to exercise patience till the meeting of the Working Committee on 22nd instant. The Working Committee will meet at Wardha and Mahatma Gandhi has kindly postponed his departure for Bardoli, so that he may be at Shegaon when the Committee meets. I am issuing this statement with Mahatma's approval."

Different interpretations are put to the above statement. But it is agreed that Mr. Bose will not take any precipitate action and that the question of Indian States is engaging the attention of Mahatma Gandhi and it is expected that this will loom large on the horizon at Tripuri eclipsing any tendency for manifestation of differences such as followed Mr. Bose's re-election.

## Trouble In Indian States

"The position in Rajkot and Jaipur has well nigh created a first class political crisis and I would not be surprised if my colleagues and I very soon find ourselves behind the prison bars" said the Hon. Mr. D. P. Mishra, Minister for Local Self Government, Central Provinces and Berar, addressing a crowded public meeting held at Chindwara (C.P.) on February 14. He further stated that as soon as they got a signal from Wardha the Congress Ministers throughout India would resign and lead batches of volunteers to the neighbouring States. It will be only then that the Viceroy will realise the significance of Mahatma Gandhi's request for interference.

"Misgovernment in the Eastern States (Orissa) is a fact," states the *Statesman* of Calcutta. "The miserable pretence of the Talcher Durbar that the refugees in Orissa are not refugees and the suggestion that the *Statesman's* photographs are fakes are themselves an indication of a good deal of disingenuousness. Reforms have to come and very quickly. Several of the Rajas have realised this and are introducing appropriate measures of Reform. No treaties are eternal, for change is a condition of existence and the terms of every treaty should be revised at intervals. Certainly there is no justification for leaving the powers of life and death in the uncontrolled hands of mere zamindars, which is all that some of the petty rulers of small poverty stricken States are" concludes the *Statesman*.

It is understood that sensational disclosures of maladministration in Rajkot have been made by Sir Patric Cadell, ex-Dewan of the State in the course of a lengthy report submitted to the Government of India. Mr. Gibson, the Resident of Kathiawar States has been suddenly summoned by the Viceroy.

Miss Maniben Patel who went on hunger strike as a protest against her removal from Mrs. Gandhi has given up the strike as she is allowed to rejoin Mrs. Gandhi. They are now lodged in a State house at Trumba about three miles from Rajkot. They are given

servants and all other facilities. Mrs. Gandhi was brought to Rajkot on February 14, enabling her to ring up Mahatma Gandhi to inform him of the condition of her health. Afterwards she was taken back under police guard.

The Jaipur administration having failed to defeat Seth Jamal Bajaj's resolve to be in Jaipur territory either as a free man or as a prisoner, have now interned him. They have arrested all the prominent members of the Praja Mandal and put them in detention camp.

## Bombay's Government's Budget

The budget which the Hon'ble Mr. A. B. Latthe, Finance Minister of the Bombay Government, presented to the Legislative Assembly on February 14, is characterised as "Revolutionary" and "Bombshell" by the non-Congress section of the population. The city of Bombay and suburbs are to be declared a prohibition area from August 1 next, thereby involving Government in a loss of Rs. 120 lakhs of excise revenue per year. The Ahmedabad "dry area" will be converted into a total prohibition area. Only Europeans will get liquor permits. All these prohibition measures will decrease the local Government's excise revenue to the extent of Rs. 155 lakhs. The cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad, it is proposed, will be levied with a property tax at the rate of ten per cent. of the ratable value; this will secure Rs. 108 lakhs in Bombay and suburbs and 19 lakhs in Ahmedabad. Items such as sales tax on petrol, on mill-made cotton cloth and silk fabrics and on artificial silkyarn and cloth, an enhanced electricity duty, and a tax on crossword puzzles and other newspaper competitions will bring in about 189 lakhs of the Rs. 220 lakhs required. The Government are considering to tax forward business on the Stock Exchange and the agricultural incomes to make the loss good.

The landlords have vigorously protested against the proposed property tax and the millowners are considering the advisability of going to the Federal Court regarding the proposed duty on mill-made cloth etc. The big hotels and clubs will be hit hard by the prohibition programme of the Government and the small restaurants and toddy shops will close down. Thousands of men will be thrown out of employment. The Government Distillery at Surat alone employs over a thousand hands. Whatever may be the merits and demerits of the Government's prohibition policy, they should have made provision for the poor people who have so far maintained

themselves on the liquor trade and industry. It is stated that the Parsi community who control the liquor trade in the Bombay Presidency will suffer the most. The Finance Minister struck a high note when he said:—"Prohibition is a revolution in the life of our people, a new force which will transform our society into a morally much stronger than we are to-day. Let us not look at it and its corollary of new taxation on property, as a sectional interest or concern.

"We have had a surfeit of these narrow

views, communal interests, class interests, linguistic or divisional interests and what-not interests. Let us think, therefore, of the removal of evils and the bearing of new burdens as duties towards the good of society as a whole. The emancipation of the slave from the slavery, the rescue of the fallen woman from her prostituted life and the protection of the drunkard from his drinks are not merely for their individual benefit.

"The evils themselves are a pestilence in society. Their eradication in indi-

vidual cases is for the good of society as a whole. And for this social good, those who can have got to pay, not necessarily for any individual return to themselves but because their capacity to pay carries with it the obligation to pay. I see nothing but justice in asking the landlords of Malabar Hill to pay for the good of the labour at Worli or Parel, for that good is more a social than an individual good for securing which taxation must be paid by those who have the fortunate faculty for payment."

## The Sporting World

### Jubilee Tournament At Mount Edgcombe

THE 4th Annual Jubilee Tournament for Mr. L. J. Case's trophy, which was open to all Estates, was held at the Sheila Marshall Campbell Park, Mount Edgcombe, on Sunday, February 26. The tournament was patronised by clubs representing all the Estates. There was a large gathering of spectators and an enjoyable day's game was witnessed by all sports enthusiasts present. In all, 15 teams participated in the tournament, which was played under the knock-out system. After a good day's sport, the Rangers and the Natal Estates emerged finalists. The Natal Estates were victorious in the final, by beating their opponents by 3 goals to nil. The success of the day's sports was due to Mr. and Mrs. Urban Campbell, Mr. L. J. Case, Mr. Dove and the Natal Estates' Sports Body. The prizes were distributed to the winners by Mrs. Urban Campbell. The Natal Estates, Rangers, Red Rovers, Blue Stars and Temples football clubs were each presented with a football by the Estate Indian Sports Body for good conduct and sporting behaviour one and off the field.

### Northern Districts Indian Football Association

At the annual meeting of the Northern District Indian Football Association, held at Newcastle, the following officials were elected:—President: Mr. Ramlal-singh; vice-presidents: Messrs. D. Pachai, G. Gopaul, R. Loganathan, G. G. Chetty, M. P. Chetty, D. V. Pillay and A. K. Naidoo; secretary and treasurer: Mr. G. K. Naidoo, Magistrate's Office, Newcastle; assistant secretary: Mr. D. Booderam; auditor: Mr. D. Patchay; delegates to Natal Indian Football Conference: Messrs. G. K. Naidoo and R. Loganathan; nominee: Mr. R. Pachai; selection committee: Messrs. O. Gopaul, N. C. Naidoo G. G. Chetty. It was decided to affiliate with the Natal Indian Football Association. Mr. M. P. Chetty promised to donate a League trophy in memory of uncle.

### Soccer Player Killed Outright

Johann Schaj, a 32-year-old player, was killed outright during a soccer match between two railway sports clubs, at Budapest, when he collided head-on with another player.

### Ottomans In Finals Of Panday's Shield

Playing in the semi-final of the Natal Panday's Shield, Ottomans, of Durban, went to Ladysmith to meet their namesakes of the Klip River Cricket Union,

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on Sunday last. They won on the single innings. The homesters were sent in to bat first and against steady bowling could not make headway with the result that they were all out for 75 runs. The visiting side batted freely to get the useful score of 216 runs, R. Haffajee scoring 61. The home team lost four wickets for 40 runs in the second innings. Ottomans will now have to meet Royals, of Maritzburg, in the final, at Currie's Fountain, Durban.

The competition for Asmal's Cup was advanced a further stage after the loss of two playing days through rain, Greyville, Star, Muslim and Marigold claiming points. The most exciting match for the afternoon was the meeting of Muslims and Sparks, the latter just failing

by four runs with two wickets in hand. Muslims, batting first, could only make 83 runs, while their opponents after a very slow opening lost eight wickets for 79 when play ceased. Stars had no difficulty in overcoming Aryans whom they beat by 61 runs. The winners scored 143, of which H. Akbar made 75, while the losers reached 82. Marigold hit up 114 for the loss of seven wickets against Verulam Temple's 56. The leaders of the log, Greyville, had to struggle against Kismet whom they beat by 30 runs in a low scoring match. Greyville were all out for 89, the batsmen to reach double figures being S. I. Imamally (26), E. Hoozen (26) and H. Singh (13 not out). Kismet could not cope with the bowling of Osman Buckus and A. Nazeer, who claimed five for 35 and four for 11 respectively, to get their opponents out for 59.

### Cricket Fixtures

The Durban and District Indian Cricket Union's fixtures for Asmal's Cup, for the week-end are as follows:—Sunday: Stars vs. Muslims, Main; Verulam Temple vs. Sparks, No. 1; Marigold vs. Kismet, No. 2; Greyville vs. Sastri College, No. 3. Sunday: Stars vs. Marigold, Main; Greyville vs. Sparks, No. 1; Ottoman vs. Schools, No. 2; Aryans vs. Bharst, No. 3.

### Tommy Farr's Fights

Tommy Farr has fought five times in America and lost each time on points. His first was against Joe Louis, whose surname is pronounced Lewis. He then met in order Jim Braddock, Max Baer, Lou Nova and Clarence Burman. The strange fact about Farr is that the more he gets defeated the more popular he becomes. He is one of the richest heavyweights in the world to-day, and his wealth has come from his succession of defeats.

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### Indian Eisteddfod

It is announced by the hon. secretary of the Indian Society for the Advancement of Music and Art, Mr. P. R. Singh, that late entries in connection with Indian Eisteddfod close on March 11, and the entries close on March 18 with the hon. secretary, "India Lodge" 69, Beatrice Street, Durban.

# REPRESSION IN INDIAN STATES

**T**HERE is a strong agitation for responsible government in the Indian States. The following statement issued by the Limbdi Praja Mandal (the people's society of a small state in Kathiawar) will give an idea as to how the people are terrorised by the rulers:

The Limbdi Diwan has stated that exaggerated reports about dacoities in Limbdi have appeared in the Press. He dare not give correct facts under the excuse that the matter is *sub judice*. There is nothing *sub judice*. Here are a few facts about the dacoity at Pansina which the Diwan may challenge, if he thinks fit.

February 5 was celebrated as Rajkot Day at Pansina, and there was a meeting which dispersed at about 10 p.m. About 11 p.m. people heard firing all round in the village and outside. Then one by one, the houses of Praja Mandal workers or sympathisers were raided.

## Batches Of Twenty

About 80 persons appear to have come. They divided themselves into two batches of about 20 persons each, the rest remaining outside the village surrounding it.

They had come armed with all kinds of weapons such as guns, swords, knives, iron rods, green bamboo sticks etc. and had brought motors.

They were dressed to disguise and carried torches and lanterns. The dacoits first locked the Praja Mandal Office from outside to prevent the volunteers from coming out and then proceeded.

One party attacked Chunilal Dharsey. The man is insane since 5 or 6 years and is very poor. His mud house is fallen. He and his wife live in the verandah. His crime was that his son Bhuralal was a Praja Mandal volunteer. The dacoits broke open the outer door and about 20 persons entered. They first asked for Bhuralal. He was sleeping at the Praja Mandal Office. They then belaboured Chunilal and his wife. The mad man shrieked and prayed for mercy. His wife's earnings were removed. Everything in their house was broken and destroyed. Chunilal and his wife have left Pansina.

## Gunmen Face Him

Next came the turn of Nathalal Purshotam, another Praja Mandal worker. His aged parents were sleeping in the outer verandah with his daughter aged 14. His wife was sleeping in the room having delivered about 20 days ago. He was sleeping in the outer verandah. The iron railings of this verandah were broken. Nathalal attempted to fly by the outer door. He met four or five persons facing him with guns. He came back. He was soundly belaboured with sticks. With great difficulty he carried his wife to a neighbour. His father aged 64 and ill was assaulted

and seriously injured. He was wounded on the head and bled. Nathalal's daughter aged 14 was attacked, and all ornaments on her persons removed. She has been so terribly frightened that she is weeping all the while. His two houses were broken open. All boxes, large and small were broken and the dacoits carried away ornaments and cash worth about 8 to 10 thousand. Nathalal and his family have left Pansina.

Then came the turn of Sukhlal Jasraj. Hison Kantilal was also a Praja Mandal volunteer. The outer door was first broken and about 15 persons entered. They first asked for Kantilal. He was sleeping at the Praja Mandal office. Then Sukhlal and his wife and his daughter were attacked and injured. His houses were broken open and many things destroyed. The dacoits carried away booty worth about Rs. 3,000.

Another party appears to have gone the other way. They first went to Nagardas Chhaganlal. His outer door was broken open. He and his wife closed the doors of the house. The dacoits began to break the doors with axes and iron rods. Some time thereafter, Nagardas himself opened the house. He was attacked and seriously injured. He was robbed. Many things were broken. The dacoits then again attacked Nagardas to show his valuables. They threatened to kill his children sleeping in the house. They threatened to attack his wife.

## Praja Mandal Chief Belaboured

Then came the turn of Kalidas Dhanji, president of the Praja Mandal, who lives next to Kalidas. There is a wall in between them. The dacoits went over the wall. Kalidas lives alone. He attempted to fly by the outer door. He opened it and was immediately attacked and severely belaboured by 4 or 5 persons standing outside. He became unconscious. He was thrown in a cot and his house was broken open. Everything in it was destroyed and valuables carried away. Three or four persons sat upon his chest and attacked him with knives and swords. He received serious injuries. He had a sword thrust at the back about 3-4 inches deep and was in a pool of blood. He has been removed to the hospital and has been operated. Kalidas is aged about 55.

Then came the turn of Chhotalal Punjabhai, another prominent Praja Mandal worker. His outer door was broken open. One servant in the gangway was beaten. The iron railings of the verandah were then broken. Chhotalal and his wife were in one of the rooms. The dacoits began breaking it with axes and iron rods. Some time thereafter, Chhotalal himself opened the room. He and his wife were dragged out and severely beaten with green

bamboo sticks. The dacoits then broke open boxes large and small in the house and carried the valuables. A lantern was thrown on his head. There was serious injury. He was wounded on the hand. The clock then struck 12.30. The clock was immediately broken. His wife was then attacked and the ornaments on her person removed. She had silverware on her feet which could not be removed. They attempted to cut her feet but then abandoned. They then broke another room and destroyed a great deal. Then they wanted to go upstairs. The staircase door was locked. It was fired upon and then broken. Three more rooms were broken upstairs and valuables carried away and many other things destroyed. Chhotalal's wife is in bed and removed to Ahmedabad.

## Firing In Air

The dacoits also have broken open five shops, one of them being a small shop of Bhurala, son of Chunilal.

They appear to have left at about 1-30 a.m. All this while there was continuous firing in the air all round.

Everyone who has been attacked, injured and robbed is either a worker or a member of the Praja Mandal. The dacoits met several other persons. They were asked to go away. There were three marriage parties in the village that night. They were not even approached.

## Police Absent

There is a police party kept at Pansina and there are a number of village watchmen. Not one of them came out. No State servant went to make any inquiries even in the morning. News was received in Limbdi at about 9 a.m. next day and immediately doctors were sent and Kalidas who was in a precarious condition was removed to Limbdi and other injured were attended to. About 30 workers of the Praja Mandal from Limbdi went immediately and brought to Limbdi all those who desired to come away.

Darbar Gopaldas came to Pansina on February. He interviewed each one of those who were attacked and wounded and visited each place. At several places the bamboo sticks, pick-axes and iron rods were left by the dacoits. They have been brought to Limbdi. The State is now said to be investigating.

Similar is the tale in other villages. Another village, Ralol, four miles away from Pansina, was looted the same night and only Praja Mandal workers were attacked, injured and robbed.

## Intimidation

Criminal intimidation and threats of personal injury and assassination are held out to all persons who work for or are members or sympathisers of the Praja Mandal. There are dacoits and thefts galore in the villages. Hundreds have fled and are flying. There is absolutely no safety of person or property.



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## “ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન” શુક્રવાર, તા. ૩ માર્ચ ૧૯૩૯.

### કોંગ્રેસ અને યુવકો

આ રવીવારે ડરબનના રોયલ પીકચર પેલેસમાં કોંગ્રેસના ડેલીગેટો સુચવાયલી સેક્રેજેશનની ચોળનાપર વડા પ્રધાન અને મુદ્દી પ્રધાનની મુલાકાતો લઈ આવ્યા તેની વિગતથી શોકોને વાકેફ કરવાને નાટક ઈન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસ ની માસ માટીંગ મળી હતી. હાલ ઇ. એમ. પારેખ પ્રમુખસ્થાને બીરાબ્યા હતા અને તેમની વતિ મીટીંગનું કાર્ય શી. જે. કબલ્યુ. ગોડફ્રે એ ચલાવ્યું હતું. મીટીંગમાં યુવાનો કે જે કોંગ્રેસના સભ્યો નહિ હતા પરંતુ હિંદી કોમને લગતી સઘળા બાબતોમાં આગળ પડતો ભાગ ભેવાને પોતાની એક સંસ્થા સ્થાપેલી છે તેઓ પશુ મોટી સંખ્યામાં હાજર થયા હતા. કોંગ્રેસ ના આગેવાનોએ જુસ્સાદાર બાબતો ક્યાં હતાં અને સેક્રેજેશનનો કાયદો પસાર થાય તો લકત કરવાની પ્રતિજ્ઞાઓ લીધી હતી. મીટીંગની ગોઠવણી હુશીયારીથી થઈ હતી. જ્યાં સુધી કોંગ્રેસના આગેવાનોપર વખાણોનો વર્ષાક વર્ષા-વાદો હતો ત્યાં સુધી મીટીંગે ભારે શાંતિ ભળવી હતી. પરંતુ મીટીંગનું કાર્ય સમાપ્ત થતાં પહેલાં પ્રમુખ તરીકે શી. ગોડફ્રેએ યુવાનોને બાબતુ કરવા નોતર્યાં અને એક પછી-એક તેઓ બોલવા ઉભા થાય. શી. સેયદ દક્કફ દીનના સુપુત્રે જણાવ્યું કે આગેવાનો તરફથી યુવાનોને કોંગ્રેસમાં જોડાઈ જવાની શીખામણો અપાઈ રહી છે. પરંતુ જે એકત્રતાની ખામી હોય તો તે જનતામાં નથી. તે તો જ્યારે જ્યારે આગેવાનો તેમને બોલાવે ત્યારે હાજરજ રહે છે. ખેરી એકત્રતાની ખામી આગેવાનો-માંજ છે કે જેઓ પોતાનામાંને કુસંપ દુર કરી શકતાજ નથી. યુવાનોએ તેઓને એકત્ર થવાની દરજ પાડવાની છે. આપણી ઉપર જે અપમાન ભરેલા કાયદાઓ આવ્યા કરતા હોય તો તેમાં દોષ જનતાનો નથી પણ આગે-વાનોનોજ છે.

આ પછી શી. કાલ્થી મુંબા નાહ એસી રહેવાયું. અને પોતાના રોપમાં ખોટા આક્ષેપો પણ મુકતાં અચકાયા નહિ કે કુસંપ થવાનું હારજી દેલકાક શોકોને અંગત વેરઝેર અને પોતાને હોદા નહિ ગળ્યા એ છે. તેમણે કહ્યું કે જેઓને આગેવાનોના દોષો જોવા હોય તેઓ

એ કોંગ્રેસમાં જોડાઈ જવું અને કમીટી મીટીંગમ આવવું જ્યાં તેઓને સારી રીતે સાંભળવામાં આવશે. આ સ્વજન તેવી ચર્ચાને માટે નથી. સભાજનો જે આટલો વખત સુધી શાંત હતા તે હવે શાંત નહિ રહ્યા. મીટીંગની વ્યવસ્થા કેવી કરવામાં આવી હતી એ સારેજ સમજાવું જ્યારે બીજા એક પશુ બોલનારાને સાંભળવા દેવામાં નહિ આવ્યો અને દરેક શબ્દ અને દરેક વાક્યે તેને ખલલ પહોંચાડવામાં આવી. પ્રમુખશ્રી જેમણે શી. કાલ્ને ગમે તે બોલતાં નહિ અટકાવ્યા તેમણે કોંગ્રેસના ગુણગાન નહિ ગાનારા બીજાઓનાં વક્ત સ્વાતંત્ર્ય ઉપર દુરત જ શ્રેક મુદ્દી દીધી જે કે તેઓને યુમોથી ખલલ પહોંચાડતા હતા તેમને તેમનાથી અટકાવી નહિ શકયા. આ બાબતમાં કોંગ્રેસના આગેવાનોની આપણુદી ટીકાને પાત્રજ ગણાય. બીજી તરફથી મીટીંગની વ્યવસ્થા કરનારાઓ એ વસ્તુ પણ જુલી ગયાં કે તેઓને હોદાપર બેસાડનાર એજ જનતા હતી અને તેઓને હોદાપરથી ઉઠાવી મુકવાની સત્તા પણ તેઓનેજ હતી. જે આગે-વાનોને કંઈ પણ જવાબદારીનું ભાનજ હોત તો જેઓ પોતાના વિચારો બ્યક્ત કરવા મંગતા હતા તેઓને મ્હોડે તેઓએ કુચા નહિ માયા હોત પરંતુ જે કંઈ પણ કપકા મળે તે હિંમત થી સાંભળી તેનો સંતોષકારક ખુલાસો કર્યો હોત.

શું તેઓ સત્યનિષ્ઠા છે? કોંગ્રેસના આગેવાનોએ ગમે રવીવારે વક્તવ્ય શક્તિ તો ભારે બતાવી પરંતુ કાર્યશક્તિ પણ એટલીજ બતાવશે ખરા? તેઓનો આગલો રેકોર્ડ તેઓને બહુ પ્રતિષ્ઠા આપનારો નથી. ટ્રાંસવાલ એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્ચર એક્ટ પર કોંગ્રેસના આગેવાનો પોતાની પ્રતિજ્ઞા પાળવામાં પછાત પડ્યા હતા. એ ખરૂં છે કે એ કાયદો ટ્રાંસવાલનેજ લાગુ પડનારો હતો. પરંતુ કોંગ્રેસ ના આગેવાનોએ તો સિદ્ધાંતને ખાતર લકત કરવાની પ્રતિજ્ઞા લીધેલી અને તેઓ લકયા નહિ એટલુંજ નહિ પરંતુ જેઓ પોતાના અંગત સ્થાપીત લોભોનું રક્ષણ કરવાને ઇન્તેજર હતા તેમની સાથે તેઓએ સહકાર કર્યો. ક્ષોનાઈ-એશન સ્કીમના સંબંધમાં પણ તેઓએ તેવુંજ

કયું. એ અનિષ્ટ હતી એ વસ્તુની તેઓપર અસર નહિ થઈ. આ દેશમાં હિંદીઓના ઇતિ-હાસમાં એક સરકારી કમીશનપર હિંદીને બેઠક ભેવાનું માન મળ્યું એથી તેઓ અંગ્રજ ગયા! ગોરી સીઓને નોકરીપર રાખતા હિંદીઓને અટકાવનારાં બીલના સંબંધમાં જે કાયદા-પોલીમાં હિંદીઓપર કાળા ટીલી નાખવામાં ન આવે તો પોતાના ભાઈઓને ગોરી સીઓને નોકરીપર નહિ રાખવાને સમજાવવાનું વચન આપી તેઓએ બતાવેલી ભક્ષાવૃત્તિ અલત શોચનીય હતી. આ દાખલાઓ ટાંકીને અમે એજ બતાવવા હચ્છીએ છીએ કે કોંગ્રેસના આગેવાનો જે કે બાબતુ કરવે શુરા હતા છતાં તેના અમલમાં અધુરાજ હતા. આપણે આશા રાખીએ કે આ નવા દાખલામાં પણ તેઓ એ પ્રમાણે નહિ કરે.

લકત કરવાનો વખત તો ક્યારનો થઈ ચુક્યો છે

આપણે હિંદીઓ આ દેશમાં એવી વલણ બતાવી રહ્યા છીએ કે જ્યાં સુધી આપણને ધીમું ઝેર અપાયા કરતું હોય ત્યાં સુધી આપણ ને તેની બહુ ચિંતા થતી નથી. માત્ર જ્યારે મોટા પ્રમાણમાં અપાય ત્યારેજ આપણે ખળભળી ટૂકી એ છીએ. સેક્રેજેશનનો અનુભવ શું આપણે ડમ્બે ને પમ્બે નથી કરતા. શું સ્લમ્સ એકટની રૂએ સેક્રેજેશનની નીતી આડકતરી રીતે અમલમાં નથી મુકાઈ રહી? ડો. મહાનના હુમલાના જવાબમાં શું શી. હોદામેવરેજ પાલોમેન્ટમાં જાંઈર નહોતું કયું કે ડો. મહાન પોતાની સેક્રે-જેશનની નીતીથી પ્રાપ્ત કરી શક્યા હતા તેના કરતાં સરકાર સ્લમ્સ એકટની રૂએ ઘણુંજ વધારે પ્રાપ્ત કરી શકી છે. શું ટ્રામોમાં, રેલવે સ્ટેશનો પર, પોસ્ટ ઓફીસોમાં, બીચપર અને બીજાં અનેક વિશ્રાંતિ અને મેજના સ્થળોમાં આપણે એ નીતીનો અનુભવ નથી કરતા? આપણા સ્વમાનના ભાવનાને જખમ પહોંચાડનારા એવા અનેક દાખલા ટૂકી શકાય છે. અને આ સુચ-વાયેલો નવો કાયદો જે પસાર થશે તો આપણી ઉપર “દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના અસ્પૃશ્યો”ની કાયમ ને માટે છાપ પડી જશે. આથી સ્વમાન અને રાષ્ટ્રિય ગૌરવને વિષે આપણામાં ક્યારની ભાવના આવવાની જરૂર છે. અને પ્રતિષ્ઠા અને આબરૂ નો ખોટો ખ્યાલ જે આપણે આપસઆપસમાં લકવાને માટે ઘણીજ કાળજીથી પોપિએ છીએ તેનો લાગ કરી દેવો જોઈએ. જે એથી અરધી ભાવના આ દેશમાં આપણા સમાન શત્રુની સામે લકવામાં આપણે બતાવતા હોત તો આ-પણો દરજને ક્યારનો સુધરવા પામ્યો હોત.