

# INDIAN OPINION

Founded by  
MAHATMA GANDHI  
IN 1903

No. 10.—Vol. XXXVII.

Friday, March 10th, 1939.

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

### As Others See Us

WE have incurred the displeasure of the Congress leaders for stating what we believe to be true in the interests of the community. We had occasion to criticise them in our last week's issue for their attitude at a mass meeting convened by them in Durban on Sunday, February 26, to protest against the Government's proposed segregation scheme. We have no doubt it was unpalatable to them. We will, on this occasion, allow someone else to speak. Here is an uninvited testimony given them by a coloured correspondent signing himself as C. Rose, in the *Natal Daily News*. This is what Mr. Rose writes:

Sir,—I went to a mass meeting of the Natal Indian Congress at the Royal Picture Palace on Sunday afternoon to listen to the protest against the segregation Bills to be brought before Parliament.

Although not an Indian, but a member of the coloured community, I felt it my duty to be there, for any such measures will affect all non-Europeans.

I listened with rapt attention to what Mr. A. I. Kajee, Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee and others had to say, but in my humble opinion the atmosphere was spoilt by the unfair treatment accorded to those who were not members of the Congress.

I left the hall with the idea that the Indian community was far from united, quite apart from a united front with the coloured and natives.

I, as a coloured man, am eager for unity, but the Natal Indian Congress officials, instead of showing displeasure against those non-Congress members, of whom, incidentally, there were many in the hall, should have acted in a broad spirit.

Why, I ask, should there be jealousy? Remember the Bantu, the Indians and coloureds are keenly watching and waiting for unity among all non-Europeans—Your etc.,

295 Pine Street,  
Durban.

C. ROSE.

### Evils Of The Segregation Plan

Commenting on Mr. Stuttaford's segregation plan *The Star* (Johannesburg) dated March 6, writes:—

"It is the first legislative step in the direction of a race and colour war in the Union, no less serious a war because it is not to be fought with the weapons of ordinary warfare. Its greatest evil lies in the fact that it is a virtual invitation to every European community to keep persistently alive the doctrines of race segregation until a sufficient majority is secured to give effect to changes which, at one time, only a minority wanted. Anyone who has lived in areas where local option obtains in the liquor traffic knows that the battle between temperance advocates and their opponents never ceases. No occasion is omitted to win recruits from one group to the other, and feeling is kept at high pressure in and out of season. This is bad enough when a European community is concerned purely with an affair domestic to itself. If these same local option tactics are to be introduced into South Africa over the question of white and non-white, there can be one sequel only. Colour and race antipathies will become more and more an issue dividing town and town, village and village, and the zeal with which the segregationists will propagate their views will feed hates that some day may recoil with disastrous consequences on this nation as a whole.

A Class Areas Bill—subsequently withdrawn—formed part of the legislative programme of the Smuts Government over 15 years ago. There is a numerous element in this country which for a long time has advocated residential segregation for Europeans and non-Europeans in the Union. The present government, sooner or later, would have to take cognisance of this point of view, either resisting the demand or accepting the responsibility of making some concession to it. The evil in the present proposals lies in delegating to individual communities the power to employ or to withhold principles of race discrimination. It

has hitherto been reserved to the State to apply or withhold this discrimination, for the sound constitutional reason that the individual subject and particularly the unenfranchised non-European, has no other protection but the State. Local option will not only delegate to local authorities a perilous power in respect of a man's race and colour, but, apparently, it will give the individual no higher court of appeal if, under the pressure of colour prejudice, a state of affairs comes into being that Parliament itself would hesitate to endorse.

### Residential Segregation Urged

#### In Durban

A deputation from the Natal Municipal Association met the Provincial Executive at Maritzburg to urge the establishment of European zones in Durban areas with a view to preventing further Asiatic encroachment. The members of the deputation were Mr. C. W. Mackay, of Dundee, acting president of the association, Mr. F. J. Lewis, Mayor of Maritzburg, Mr. H. H. Kemp, of the Durban City Council, Mr. J. Williamson, of the Glencoe Town Council, Mr. T. Gibson, Town Clerk of Stanger, and Mr. J. H. Hardy, of Dundee, secretary of the association. The deputation submitted to the executive a memorandum which stated that European residential areas were being encroached upon to an alarming extent. Figures were submitted to show that there had been a steady increase in the amount of property owned by Indians in the Durban borough.

### Tobacco And Drink Evil

"Only a people which banishes such poisons from its midst will win a place in the sun," declared Dr. Ley, leader of the German Labour Front, in a speech at Frankfurt in which he is reported from London to have urged that all Germans practise total abstinence from alcohol and tobacco. Five years ago he abandoned both because he realised he was faced with the alternative of either doing his job properly or seeing his powers impaired. Moderation was not possible. One must

be radically abstinent. He therefore appealed to German Youths' sense of honour. They should give up drinking and smoking not merely because it

was harmful to the health but because it was unmanly.

We wish our Indian youths would take this advice to heart.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH, 1939

### No Sin In Passive Resistance Resolution

**L**AST week we threw a hint that the time has come when we Indians should cease quarrelling and being over sensitive as regards our prestige, honour and the rest among our-selves and should be more conscious and vigilant in regard to the constant humiliations inflicted upon us by the maladministration of the existing legislation and the enactment of further legislation with a view to restricting our natural rights as self-respecting human-beings. But evidently we have not received sufficient kicks from the ruling race yet to awaken us to our consciousness.

Some of the Congress officials are perturbed over the fact that Dr. Dadoo's amendment to resort to passive resistance, should the proposed segregation measure be introduced, was passed at the mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress held in Johannesburg last week. The President hastily rushed to the Press with a denial, the Secretary communicated with the Secretary of the parent body, the S. A. I. C., to express his willingness to resign because the passing of the amendment amounted to no confidence in the Congress officials and the Secretary of the S. A. I. C., deemed it of the utmost importance to rush up to Johannesburg to persuade Dr. Dadoo not to talk of passive resistance lest we would lose the sympathy of our European friends. Moreover there is a display of hooliganism in the Congress meetings and certain people are assaulted because they have dared to contradict the Congress officials and we are further informed that certain individuals who have supported Dr. Dadoo's amendment have received threats of being assaulted.

All these are not very hopeful signs of the future of our community in this country. If the Congress leaders are lacking the confidence of the people, it

is because of this attitude of theirs and because there are scores of instances when they have failed in their capacity to use their own judgment in matters affecting the community and have let down their brethren by being guided or rather misguided by the so-called friends of Indians.

Why all this fretting over the decision to resort to passive resistance? The correspondent in *The Star*, whose letter we reproduce elsewhere in this issue, is then correct in saying that the leaders of the Indian community are only soap box orators! In all the meetings that have been held to protest against the proposed segregation measure there has been talk of passive resistance and why this fear when the masses are inclined to pass a resolution to that effect? Do the Congress leaders not mean what they utter on the platform? Have they not sufficiently bargained away the rights of the community?

We do not see any harm in letting the Government and the ruling race generally know what we propose doing should they persist in ignoring our united voice and imposing humiliations after humiliations on us. And after all what is passive resistance? It is the cleanest and the most honourable weapon that anybody can use anywhere. We are surprised at the *Rand Daily Mail* suggesting, after admitting that the Indians have a strong case in their favour, that no purpose would be served by the adoption of passive resistance and that "the Indians are likely to achieve more by negotiations and dignified protest, as they have done, in fact, before, than by methods whose only effect would be to harden reactionary opinion against them."

We regret we are unable to subscribe to this view. If there is reactionary

opinion against us at present it is because we are so degenerated that we are thinking of nothing higher than our own material interests. We have shown a tendency of submitting to every humiliation without a murmur and all our protestations have been not because we have felt an insult to our national honour but because we have been concerned about our vested interests. In the circumstances if we are despised by all civilised people we are deservedly despised. If we have now awakened to our sense of self-respect and national honour we stand a chance of acquiring an enhanced status in this country once again. Resorting to passive resistance is no threat of lawlessness or hooliganism. It is merely a determination to refuse to submit to a law or laws which we consider to be offensive and to invite without the slightest retaliation to the penalty for such non-submission. People who are prepared to bear the Cross in preference to being degraded are never a burden but an asset to any country. We Indians in our present state certainly cannot pride ourselves of being an asset to this country. There is no shame, no criminal action in refusing to submit to the ills done to us and to willingly suffer the consequences. There is every shame and a violation of the supreme Law of God, who enjoins us to fear none but Him, if we meekly submit to man made law however revolting it may be to our conscience just out of ear of man.

There is no sin therefore on the part of those who have resolved to resort to passive resistance if the proposed segregation measure is passed. We would urge upon the leaders to look a little ahead. If they believe that things in South Africa for our people are satisfactory if the proposed Bill is not proceeded with they are hopelessly mistaken. The time has come when stock should be taken of our position since the 1914 Settlement. If there is any sincerity in our professed respect and veneration for Mahatma Gandhi the violation of that honourable Settlement arrived at between him and the Government of the Union should rouse our feelings to the core and we should be prepared to stake our lives in getting the Settlement

was honoured thus vindicating the honour of India. Then only would we be true to our salt. If we were to review our position since 1914 or even since the Capetown Agreement of 1926 we would soon realise that if we have at all awakened to our senses we have done so rather late.

In conclusion we would like to utter a note of warning to our brethren. We have a letter before us from a correspondent who vents his wrath upon the leaders and says that they are only working for the interests of the capitalists and further

states that it is for the capitalist to fight and to sacrifice and the poor man would follow him. This is an entirely wrong notion. A conscience is no monopoly of the capitalist. The rich and the poor alike are possessed with a conscience; both have the same sense of self-respect, both have the same national pride. The poor as well as the rich both have to equally fight for these. The fight is easier for the poor man who has not to think of his material interests. His responsibility to fight is no less than that of the rich. This distinction be-

tween the rich and the poor, between the India-born and the South African born, between persons of one Province and another should be buried if we wish to put up a successful fight. Let it also be remembered that whatever distinctions we may create among ourselves our common enemy, whom we have to face in this country, knows us only by one name and has only one stick with which to beat us. This fact should awaken us to our senses to unite and to speak with one voice and to have one line of action.

## RAJKOT DISPUTE SETTLED AFTER FOUR DAYS' FAST BY MAHATMA GANDHI

**A** SETTLEMENT of the Rajkot dispute has been arrived at after Mahatma Gandhi had taken a fast unto death unless Thakore Sahab, ruler of Rajkot, fulfilled the promise he had solemnly made of the introduction of reforms in the State. The fast began at 6-30 a.m. on Friday March 3 and ended on Tuesday on the fifth day. In view of his very delicate health all were stricken with fear as to whether Gandhiji would survive the self-imposed ordeal. In fact Gandhiji was himself somewhat pessimistic as would appear from the following message he had wired to his secretary Mr. Mahadev Desai on the third day: "Little hope. Early end coming."

But "All's well that ends well," and let us hope that Gandhiji is still to be with us a long while. Congratulations are due to the Government of India and all those who have made it possible for Gandhiji to live. Above all we are thankful to the Almighty without whose Grace this happy result would not have been possible.

"If it costs my life, which at the age of 70 has no insurance value, I will most willingly give it" in order to secure the fulfilment of the promise of the introduction of reforms which his own son, Thakore Sahab, ruler of Rajkot, had made stated Gandhiji in the course of a statement before his fast.

Gandhiji's last meal consisted mostly of vegetables and a cup of goat's milk.

Ninety minutes after the fast began the Rajkot ruler's letter arrived expressing his inability to agree to Gandhiji's proposals and giving his reasons.

A congress of Ministers telegraphed an appeal to the Viceroy to intervene in the dispute. The Bombay Congress called a three-day voluntary hartal.

The Congress Party Ministries of both Left and Right sympathies sent telegrams to New Delhi imploring for the intervention, otherwise—as the Bihar

Ministry declared—"the repercussions in the rest of India would be most serious."

Lord Linlithgow decided to curtail his tour in Rajputana and to return to New Delhi. He arrived in Delhi on Monday morning.

An indication that the Provincial Congress Ministries would not remain passive in the face of Gandhiji's fast and a direct hint that the Ministries might resign unless the Viceroy intervened was given by Maulana Kalamazad who, until recently, was an influential member of the Congress Parliamentary Committee and one of the 13 who recently resigned from the Congress High Command.

Feeling ran high in Bombay, where all the merchants observed a hartal as a protest against the Rajkot ruler's attitude according to a Press message dated Sunday. The cotton and bullion exchanges, the cloth markets and other bazaars had stopped selling. Though the Bombay Stock Exchange opened on Sunday, nobody would do business, The Bombay Council adjourned. The Bombay Ministry gave notice that it would resign unless Gandhiji's fast terminated early this week.

All the Nationalist newspapers described the Rajkot situation as the beginning of a fiercer struggle in the Indian States.

A bulletin on Sunday announced that Gandhiji's blood pressure had risen from 168 to 180 and that he had lost two pounds in weight. He spent a slightly restless night and was weaker.

Mrs. Gandhi, who had been detained at a camp near Rajkot since February 3, when she arrived to participate in a civil disobedience campaign, was brought by car to Gandhiji's bedside by the State authorities. She has since been released "within the limits of the State of Rajkot" and is now with Gandhiji.

The British Government received cables from Congress leaders warning

it of the danger of delaying intervention.

A New Delhi message dated Monday March 6 stated that there were distinct signs of an early settlement of the dispute between Mahatma Gandhi and the ruler of Rajkot, Thakore Sahab. A document, believed to have been sent by the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, was delivered to Gandhiji, who replied by telegram. Mr. E. C. Gibson, Crown Representative of Rajkot, told Reuter that he was more hopeful for a settlement than he had been for the last three days. He called on Mahatma Gandhi on Monday night and was closeted with him for half an hour, after which Gandhiji was busy dictating to his secretary.

A bulletin regarding Gandhiji's condition stated that he was becoming more exhausted and nausea and restlessness had made their appearance.

The Viceroy spent the day receiving members of the Executive Council individually, also Bhulabhai Desai, Congress Leader in the Assembly regarding the impasse.

### Terms Of The Settlement

The following message was received by us from Rajkot on Tuesday night:

"Gandhiji broke his fast at 2.30 p.m. following an exchange of telegrams between the Viceroy and himself providing satisfactory settlement. Satyagrah prisoners have been released and fines and confiscations have been restored. Viceroy has promised to refer the issue of the breach of faith as regards the composition of reforms committee in terms of notification of December 26 to the Chief Justice of the Indian Federal Court.

The Paramount Power has given an assurance to see to the implementing of the terms on the part of Thakore Sahab. Other matters will be settled by mutual discussion between Gandhiji and the Viceroy. Gandhiji is rapidly recovering from the effects of the fast.

# MAHATMA GANDHI ON SOUTH AFRICA

THE future programme of action for the emancipation of the Negro race in the Union of South Africa was the theme of a discussion that Rev. S. S. Tema of D. R. Mission, Johannesburg, had with Gandhiji at Wardha. Rev. Tema is himself a Negro and a member of the African Congress. He is engaged in social work among his people. There are ten million Negroes in South Africa as against two million Whites and 75,000 Indians. Like other coloured and oppressed races of the world, the Negro population of South Africa too is developing a race consciousness which has been intensified by the rape of Abyssinia by Italy. The impact of White civilization has done the Negro little good. The Christian missionary went to him with the Bible. But while the Sermon on the Mount has remained a dead letter so far as the conduct of the Whites towards him was concerned, the drink habit and the disease that followed in its wake, have spread like a veldt fire among the native's kraals and worked havoc there. They have realized too, after bitter experience, the utter futility of armed resistance. The growth of consciousness among them has, therefore, only led to a deepening of their despair. "We seem to be up against a stone wall. We are crushed down by a power that is pitiless and inexorable as Fate. There is nothing that can avail us. We seem doomed,"—was the lament poured out to Gandhiji once by a Negro friend who saw him at Sabarmati ten years ago. Since then the success of the non-violence programme of the Congress has brought to some of the leaders a fresh glimmer of hope, and Rev. Tema was anxious to learn the secret of that success. "How can my people make their Congress as successful as the Indian National Congress?" he asked Gandhiji.

"The Congress," replied Gandhiji, "became successful for the simple reason that it was inaugurated by the most selfless and cultured people that could be found in that age. They made themselves the representatives of the people and captured their imagination by reason of service and self-sacrifice. They were from the people and of the people." After describing in some detail the services and the evolution of the Congress as a democratic organization, Gandhiji proceeded, "You have not, as far as I am aware, a band of Africans who would be content to work and live in impecuniosity. Among those who are educated there is not that absolute selflessness. Again, while most of your leaders are Christians, the vast mass of the Bantus and Zulus are not Christians. You have adopted European dress and manners, and have as a result become strangers in the midst of your own people. Politically, that is a dis-

By  
MR. PYARELAL In "Harijan"

advantage. It makes it difficult for you to reach the heart of the masses. "You must not be afraid of being 'Bantuized' or feel ashamed of carrying an assegai or of going about with only a tiny clout round your loins. A Zulu or a Bantu is a well-built man and need not be ashamed of showing his body. He need not dress like you. You must become Africans once more."

## A Non-White United Front

Of late there has been some talk of forming an Indo-African united non-White Front in South Africa. "What do you think about it," asked Rev. Tema. "It will be a mistake," replied Gandhiji. "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."

Rev. Tema: "What sort of relations would you favour between these two races?"

Gandhiji: "The closest possible. But while I have abolished all distinction between an African and an Indian, that does not mean that I do not recognize the difference between them. The different races of mankind are like different branches of a tree—once we recognize the common parent stock from which we are sprung, we realize the basic unity of the human family, and there is no room left for enmities and unhealthy competition."

Rev. Tema: "Should we adopt violence or non-violence as a means for our deliverance?"

Gandhiji: "Certainly, non-violence under all circumstances. But you must have a living faith in it. Even when there is impenetrable darkness surround you, you must not abandon hope. A person who believes in non-violence believes in a living God. He cannot

accept defeat. Therefore, my advice is non-violence all the time, but non-violence of the brave, not of the coward."

"Your example," continued Rev. Tema, "has shed so much influence upon us that we are thinking whether it would not be possible for one or two of our young men, who we are hoping will become leaders, to come to you for training."

"It is quite a good and sound idea," replied Gandhiji.

Rev. Tema: "Do you think Christianity can bring salvation to Africa?"

Gandhiji: "Christianity, as it is known and practised to-day, cannot bring salvation to your people. It is my conviction that those who to-day call themselves Christians do not know the true message of Jesus. I witnessed some of the horrors that were perpetrated on the Zulus during the Zulu Rebellion. Because one man, Bambata, their chief, had refused to pay his tax, the whole race was made to suffer. I was in charge of an ambulance corps. I shall never forget the lacerated backs of Zulus who had received stripes and were brought to us for nursing because no White nurse was prepared to look after them. And yet all those who perpetrated all those cruelties called themselves Christians. They were 'educated,' better dressed than the Zulus, but not their moral superiors."

Rev. Tema had one more question to ask. "Whenever a leader comes up in our midst, he flops down after a while. He either becomes ambitious after money or succumbs to the drink habit or some other vice and is lost to us. How shall we remedy this?"

"The problem is not peculiar to you," replied Gandhiji. "Your leadership has proved ineffectual because it was not sprung from the common people. If you belong to the common people, live like them and think like them, they will make common cause with you. If I were in your place, I would not ask a single African to alter his costume and make himself peculiar. It does not add a single inch to his moral stature."

## Gandhiji's Dream

Rev. Tema wanted to know if Gandhiji had a message to send through him to the Indian community in South Africa. But Gandhiji had none at that time. An opportunity presented itself a few days later when a group of South African-born Indian boys came to see him at Bardoli. They had come to pursue their medical studies in India and sought his help to gain admission to some suitable medical college or colleges in the country. Gandhiji had known the parents and guardians of some of them in South Africa as his clients. These young men also dis-

cussed with him the question of the formation of a non-White united front in South Africa.

"What should we, South African-borns, do to preserve our Indian culture in our country of adoption," they next asked Gandhiji. "What other languages would you ask us to learn besides English?"

Gandhiji answered by first twitting them for giving the first place to English. He advised them instead to learn Hindustani, which should contain all words of Sanskrit as well as Persian or Arabic origin, that are used by the man in the street. The Hindus dared not neglect the study of Sanskrit, nor the Muslims of Arabic, not only because the study of these languages was necessary to give them access to their scrip-

tures in the original, but also because these two tongues contained the grandest poetry that the world has ever produced. "But above all," he concluded, "you should jealously retain the essential simplicity and spirituality which is the hall-mark of Indian culture."

Their other question was whether they should carry on the struggle for their rights in South Africa through Satyagraha or through constitutional agitation.

"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 then 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.'

## A PROTEST AGAINST POLICY OF REPRESSION

OVER the nom-de-plume "Rashid" the following interesting letter appears in the *The Star* (Johannesburg):

Sir,—Of late the Asiatic bogey has come to life again. Consequently the Indian is living in constant fear, not knowing what oppressive law the Government will award him for his share of devoted duty to the State. The Indian unmistakably is between the devil and the deep sea. Recently much disturbing news has emanated from Parliament in regard to the fate of the recommendations of the Feetham Commission. The Minister of the Interior, the Hon. R. Stuttaford, has been meeting much opposition in this matter from his own very rank and file. A vague assurance is given that he will overcome this obstacle. No doubt he will and will most probably triumph and can then afford to be as jubilant as a victorious gladiator of the old Roman days, but at what cost to the Indian community? The price paid will spell utter ruination for the Indians and for the others of the same colour fraternity, while opposition will be handsomely recompensed by the introduction in Parliament of the Segregation Bill.

If one peruses the Union's Asiatic Laws one would, by reading between the lines, find without hesitation that there is in each and every instance that undercurrent of repression and strangulation of Indian freedom and liberty.

The Indians must realise that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. For

the sake of future generations they must cast aside their apathy to local and internal affairs.

Some of the members of the Indian community are great soapbox orators, they feel very humiliated and insulted when an anti-Asiatic decree is passed. Well, it is foolish as well as futile to begin digging a well when the house is on fire. The Government has no doubt subjected the Indians to innumerable difficulties, making the earning of our daily bread more difficult each day. But surely many of the people who are to day devoting their whole time to the pursuance of business can render invaluable services to the Indian community if only they will take to heart the lesson that commercial life has not and will never win our salvation in this country. We have paid dearly for our experience. History and experience have shown in high relief the fact that much reliance cannot be placed on "gentlemen's agreements" and promises of this country's Governments. They seem to be the proud possessors of an inherent habit of honouring their undertakings more in the breach than in the observance. And if by chance a beneficial clause or ordinance is adopted it is within two or three sessions nullified by a Bill producing the reverse effect. And so the vicious circle of persecution and oppression is kept rotating, each racialist lending hand to increase the speed of the circle.

The proposed Segregation Bill, I

think, is the last straw, for if allowed to be passed unchallenged, it will be a heaven-sent to those who desire or who have been anxiously waiting to unsheath the sword of vengeance against us all. The Indians, the coloureds and the Bantu must now or never formulate a bold policy. The leaders must form a higher council where they can meet and contemplate matters affecting such sections. No harm can accrue from such a scheme, but therein lies abundant possibility of invaluable advantages. Remember, "nothing venture, nothing win." The position of Indians has never been so critical as it is to-day and at no time has Indian life been so menacingly threatened as it is now. Much undue advantage has been taken of our pacifist nature and if we do not want to worsen our already disgracefully low status we must adopt a militant attitude.

### Fountain of Wisdom

*The probability that we may fall in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just.*

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

*Modesty in delivering our opinions leaves us the liberty of changing them without humiliation.*

*The best way to refute error is to proclaim truth.—ANON.*

# Things In General

## Transvaal Indian Congress

### President's Refutation

MR. M. E. VALOD, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, who presided at the mass meeting to protest against segregation held in Johannesburg on Wednesday, March 1, made a statement to the Press that the Indian community in the Transvaal will not organise a "passive resistance" campaign to protest against the Segregation Bill which is before the Union Parliament. "At Wednesday night's meeting Mr. S. M. Nana moved a resolution protesting against the proposed servitude scheme and Dr. Y. M. Dadoo moved an amendment in which he asked Congress to organise a passive resistance campaign. After the motions were put to the meeting, I officially declared that the resolution proposed by Mr. Nana had been carried by a majority vote and that Dr. Dadoo's amendment was defeated. I made an offer to the supporters of the amendment to take a fresh count and vote, to remove any doubts as to the result, but this offer was declined. No 'council of action' was nominated by the meeting." The resolution proposed by Mr. Nana embodied an appeal to the Prime Minister not to proceed with the proposed Bill and also empowered the Transvaal Indian Congress to take such action as it deemed necessary to protect the interests of the Indian community.

### Dr. Dadoo's Explanation

Following the above official report made declaring that the Transvaal Indians would not adopt passive resistance methods, if the Government proceeded with the Segregation Bill, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo stated to the Press that the principle of passive resistance had been accepted by the masses. "The people will demonstrate in no unmistakable manner their determination to resist any form of segregation," he said. "I am astounded at the refutation made by Mr. M. E. Valod, President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, in regard to the amendment proposed on Wednesday." At the meeting on Wednesday night a resolution proposing appeals to the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior, and an amendment proposing passive resistance, were introduced. Dr. Dadoo suggested the amendment. "It is true that some officials tried to persuade us to postpone coming to any concrete decision on such a vital question," continued Dr. Dadoo, "but the feeling of the majority of the people ran so high and clear that when a recount was demanded, the audience refused to accept such a request." Dr. Dadoo said he had received telegrams from many parts of the Transvaal pledging whole-hearted support to the

amendment. Further proof that the amendment was not defeated, Dr. Dadoo stated, was that Mr. S. M. Nana, secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, had approached the secretary of the South African Indian Congress in Durban offering to resign "because he felt that the amendment was a vote of no confidence in the officials. This certainly proves that the amendment was carried." Dr. Dadoo concluded: "This goes to prove that the amendment was not an isolated action, but the genuine expression of the Indian community to carry on a determined struggle against all oppressive measures."

### 2,000 Pretoria Indians Attack Segregation

A mass meeting of more than 2,000 Indians in the Empire Theatre, Boom Street, Pretoria, last Sunday passed a resolution protesting against the proposed segregation legislation. The meeting endorsed the attitude of the Transvaal Indian Congress. It was stated at the meeting that the Congress had decided on a policy of passive resistance to the measure. The meeting also decided to send telegrams to Mahatma Gandhi praying for his health and to the ruler of Rajkot not to endanger Mahatma Gandhi's precious and saintly life.

### Indian Women's League

A well attended meeting of the Indian Women's League was held on Sunday, March 5, in the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban. Dr. K. Goonam moved, Mrs. A. Chetty seconded and Mrs. R. D. Sundram supported a resolution protesting against the proposed segregation scheme. The resolution was passed unanimously.

### Klerksdorp Indian Congress

A general meeting of the Klerksdorp Indian Congress passed the following resolution states the Secretary of the Congress: "This public meeting of the Klerksdorp branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress unanimously carries the resolution proposed by the executive of the South African Indian Congress and expresses its full confidence in the present officials of the Congress."

### Andhra Maha Sabha Of South Africa

Messrs. D. V. Naidoo and A. J. Naidoo, secretary and treasurer respectively of the Andhra Maha Sabha (S.A.), returned from a holiday visit to India by the *Inchanga*, on Tuesday, February 28. They were met at the docks by the officials of the Sabha and were presented with bouquets. A large gathering of friends and relatives were also present. Welcome receptions were accorded by the Sabha.

### Asiatic Question In Bethal

#### Town Council

The Asiatic question was one of the subjects discussed at a special meeting of the Bethal Town Council held to indicate to Mr. C. J. van den Berg, the new M.P. for the constituency, its wishes in affecting the town and district.

### South African Born Indian

#### Scores Success As Singer

Ramaswami Rangan, a Durban-born Indian, has had an amazing rise to fame in Italy, where he is studying music. Ramaswami, who is singing under the name of Sonny Rangan, was befriended by Count Agnello in Johannesburg. He arranged to have Rangan sent to Rome to continue his singing lessons. For three years Rangan studied under Madam Olga Ryss, who was a famous European opera singer. He did not, however, have sufficient money to continue his lessons, so wrote to the Italian Minister of Education, who communicated with the Royal Academy at Rome. Ten professors heard Rangan sing and though the term was in its second half they agreed to admit him free. Stracclari, the renowned baritone, gave him personal lessons. Last week Rangan sang on the radio from Rome and his aged mother and brothers, who live in Doornfontein, Johannesburg, listened in. The announcer introduced him as the "First South African Indian singer." Letters received by his family reveal that he is now engaged in making a film with Primo Carnero, formerly heavyweight champion of the world. In the film Rangan is a cafe singer. He is said to be the best tenor singer in the Royal Academy and promises to be a noted operatic singer. Before he left South Africa he was a waiter in a Johannesburg hotel. He often sang at the Bantu Social Club, where Madam Olga Ryss first heard him. She tutored him free of charge and developed his voice, which lacked high notes. He is 26 years old.

### New Master Of Natal Supreme Court

Mr. H. C. H. Welsh, Assistant Master of the Supreme Court, has assumed duty in Maritzburg as Master of the Supreme Court from March 1. He succeeds Mr. F. O. Rodd, who has retired on pension.

### Ten Indians Traded Without

#### Licence

As a result of an inspection of business premises by the police, ten Indians appeared before Mr. M. S. Vermaak, Assistant Magistrate, Dundee, charged with carrying on business as general

(Continued on page 99)

# India Letter

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

22nd February, 1939.

THE Hon'ble V. L. Pandit has recently been to Wardha to see Mahatma Gandhi. She has issued a statement to the effect that as Rajkot is her husband's home, they feel a very strong urge to join the Satyagraha movement and will do so at the proper time. It is reported that Mahatmaji prevented her from going to Rajkot for the present.

## Jaipur

Mr. Bharuka, a Minister of C. P. Government, has offered to go to Jaipur when called upon to do so. Another C. P. Minister, Pandit Dwarkaprasad Misra and the Premier Pandit Shukla have also offered their services to join the Satyagraha in Jaipur.

## Indian National Congress

Owing to Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose's illness the meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress which was to be held at Wardha, has been postponed to the eve of the Tripuri Congress session. Mr. Bose, as the president of the Congress, sent a telegram from Calcutta postponing the meeting. It is understood that twelve members of the Working Committee will submit their formal resignations when the Committee meets at Tripuri. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is not expected to resign his membership of the Working Committee at the present stage but it is reported he will not agree to serve in the new Working Committee. The twelve members who have decided to resign are: Sardar Patel, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, Mrs. Naidu, Acharya Kripalani, Mr. Shankarrao Deo, Mr. Mehtab, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and Seth Jamnalal Bajaj. It seems a few weeks ago Mrs. Naidu was not inclined to resign but recent developments in the country have influenced her decision. Pandit Jawaharlal is reported to have said that he did not consider that Mr. Bose's re-election was a victory for the Leftist or the defeat of the Gandhian group. He expressed his grave concern at the turn events were taking and the crisis towards which the Congress as a political organisation was heading. He doubts whether the new Congress Cabinet formed without the support of the present leadership and approval of Mahatma Gandhi would be strong enough to carry on the "great work" of the Congress.

## Limbdi

Mrs. Leelavati Munshi, M.L.A. and a number of other persons who went to

Limbdi on February to attend the Praja Prashad under the presidentship of Darbar Shri Gopaldas state that the Parishad could not be held as hundreds of goondas employed by the State had virtually imprisoned Darbar Shri in his house, which was surrounded by them armed with lathis. They found Limbdi in a state of anarchy. The authorities seemed to have abdicated in favour of goondas who were enjoying "State hospitality" and were in a "holiday mood." Villagers who had come to attend the Parishad were assaulted and belaboured. According to information about 600 persons were injured. The place fixed for the Parishad was raided and the Mandap destroyed. As it was impossible for Darbar Shri Gopaldas to come out of his house, the Prashad was held

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under the presidentship of Mrs. Munshi and a resolution declaring the determination of the people to attain Responsible Government was adopted.

Sardar Patel, in the course of a message to the Limbdi Praja Parishad, stated that the subjects of Indian States were undergoing a severe test. The people of Limbdi and Rajkot had remained wonderfully non violent. The present fight was not against any one State. Time was fast approaching to measure the strength of the entire nation against the paramount power working behind scenes.

Darbar Gopaldas has arrived in Ahmedabad. He states that a reign of terror prevails in the whole of Limbdi State. Goondas are openly moving about and there is no safety of life or property. He has advised the people to leave the State and migrate to other places.

## Nahas Pasha To Attend Congre

Private advices received in Bombay show that Mr. Nahas Pasha, leader of the Egyptian Wafdist Party will arrive on March 9. He will leave the country after attending the Tripuri session of the Congress on March 18.

## Later News

Twelve right-wing leaders of the Congress Working Committee have decided to tender their resignations of membership of the Working Committee immediately. Mr. Rajendra Prasad has been authorised to draft a joint resignation letter. The letter, it is understood, will categorically repudiate the allegation made by Mr. Bose against the right wing members suggesting that they were "compromising with British Imperialism with a view to accepting Federation and that they had already prepared a list of Federal Ministers etc." Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has decided to resign from the Working Committee almost immediately.

## Earlier News About Rajkot

Before proceeding to Rajkot Mahatma Gandhi issued the following statement to the Press dated February 23:—"I continue to receive daily wires about hunger-strikes in Rajkot over treatment said to be inhuman, of prisoners and others in the villages. The Rajkot matter is becoming daily graver because of the breach of faith on the Ruler's part with which the second struggle was started. Agitated inquirers should know that I am in telegraphic correspondence with the State authorities. I hope to take them in confidence in the near future. Meantime let the Satyagrahis understand that the first thing they have to show is infinite capacity for suffering with inward joy and without malice or anger."

## India's Defence Expenditure

A New Delhi message states:—Sir James Grigg (Finance member), in presenting the Budget in the Legislative Assembly, stated that £3,385,000 would be spent on defence, the same figure as in the current year. He admitted that the figure did not correspond with military necessities or the international situation, but was determined by financial exigencies. He announced only one increase in taxation, namely, the doubling of the import duty on raw cotton. He estimated the final figures of revenues, which just exceed expenditure, at just under £62,000,000. Party leaders all expressed satisfaction with the Budget speech.

# LADYSMITH INDIANS PROTEST AGAINST SEGREGATION

A MASS meeting of the Indian community was held in the Madressa Hall, Murchison Street, Ladysmith, on Sunday March 4, to discuss the proposed scheme of segregation and its pernicious effect. At no time in the history of Ladysmith was the meeting so overcrowded, and so determined to face the danger that threatens the community.

Mr. I. A. Moola presided and the officials of the Natal Indian Congress Headquarters, Durban, namely, Messrs. V. S. C. Pather, Sorabjee Rustomjee, K. R. Nayanah, A. E. Shaikh and S. J. Randeria were present. Mr. I. A. Moola, the chairman of the Ladysmith branch of the Congress, in his opening speech said, "Friends, though the occasion on which we meet 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. You are no doubt aware that the Government intends to introduce legislation very shortly which would be tantamount to segregation of our community both in residence and trade.

"The representatives from the headquarters of the Congress have recently interviewed the Minister of the Interior and the Prime Minister at Capetown on the proposed measure. Some of them who are present here are in a position to give you full information of the implication of the intention of the Government in bringing about the proposed legislation. 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 protest will receive the consideration it deserves so

that we may be saved from this drastic step."

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee addressed the audience at length and appealed to them to stand firm and to unite. He said that segregation was an insult to the Indian's racial pride; it was unjust and inhuman, and was a last refuge under which any democratic country like South Africa should take shelter. Among other speakers were: Messrs. V. S. C. Pather, K. R. Nayanah, A. E. Shaikh, S. J. Randeria and G. H. Vaidya.

A resolution was passed unanimously. The meeting also appealed to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior not to proceed with the proposed scheme which would at all times prove a source of friction between the Indian and European communities.—Contributed.

## The Sporting World

### Natal Indian Soccer Meeting

THE annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Football Association will be held on Sunday next at Ladysmith, commencing at 10.30 a.m. As the headquarters will be in Durban this year and as the Sam China Cup tournament will be played, there should be interest in the elections.

### Glencoe Soccer Meeting

At the annual meeting of the Glencoe Indian Football Club held recently, the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. Harry Styles, C. Francois, J. J. Singh and N. K. Naidoo; President: Mr. N. G. R. Naidoo; vice-presidents: Messrs. T. S. Ince, W. A. Ince and Gopie Singh; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. Bunwarie Maharaj; assistant secretary: Mr. M. N. Naicker; auditor: Mr. S. Manickam; captain: Mr. M. N. Naicker; manager: Mr. Cyril Ince; committee: Messrs. M. N. Naicker, J. O. Maharaj, B. Ramdeen, Bunwaree Maharaj and N. G. R. Naidoo.

### Swaraj Football Club

The Swaraj Football Club handed over the sum of £5 to the General Hospital, Pretoria, as a donation towards Cassim Adam Ward Maintenance Fund. This amount was derived from a drama having been staged by the club. The officials and members wish to express their thanks to those who assisted and supported them in the cause.

By "Rambler"

### Asmal's Cup Competition

The cricket matches for the Asmal's cup were played on Saturday and Sunday last, Greyville, the present leaders of the log, just scrapping home on both days. On Saturday, Greyville and Sastri College met, the former scoring 108 (E. Hoosain 50, S. I. Emmamally 22 and Osman Bux 23). In reply the Collegians just failed to reach their mark, the total being 104. On Sunday afternoon, Greyville met Sparks, the former winning the match. Star scored a comfortable win when playing against Marigold. The latter could only muster 31, Jeenah accounting for five wickets for 7 and Ballim three for 15. Star hit off the required runs for the loss of two wickets: Doerat contributing 34 not out. Bharat beat Aryans by 82 runs, the winners scoring 155 (K. S. Patel 76 not out, H. R. Tavadia 43 not out). Aryans could only reach 73 (V. Daya 41 not out).

### Cricket Fixtures

The Durban District Indian Cricket fixtures for Saturday are:—Asmal's Cup: Mualims vs. Bharat, Main; Verulam Temple vs. Sastri College, No. 1; Kismet vs. Ottoman, No. 2; Aryans vs. Sparks, No. 3. Fixtures for Sunday: Asmal's Cup: Stars vs. Greyville, No. 1; Marigold vs. Sparks, No. 2; Sastri College vs. Muslims, No. 3. Panday's Shield Final: Ottoman vs. Maritzburg, Main 9.30 a.m.

### More Wrestlers For This Country

At a special meeting of the Western Province National Sporting Club it was decided to import two leading American heavy-weight wrestlers, who will arrive in South Africa early in April. The names of the men are not yet available, but they will be in the first flight of American heavy-weight wrestlers. They will be matched with van der Walt and other leading wrestlers.

### Farr Will Fight In London

Tommy Farr, the British heavy-weight boxer, signed a contract to fight the American, Red Burman, in London during April. The date is likely to be Thursday, April 13, or Thursday, April 20, states a Reuter's message from London.

### All Blacks To Tour Union In 1940

The New Zealand Rugby Union has accepted the South African invitation to send a Rugby touring team to South Africa in 1940.

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THINGS IN GENERAL

dealers without the necessary licence. They were all found guilty and eight of them were sentenced to £1. Two, who had pleaded not guilty, were fined £2 each.

The Vedic Conference

The Vedic Conference under the auspices of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (Natal) will be opened on Saturday, March 11, at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban. All Hindus are invited to attend.

Sydenham Ward Indian Ratepayers

The members of the outgoing committee of the Sydenham Ward Indian Ratepayers' Association were congratulated on their work for the past year, as reflected in the report submitted by the retiring secretary, Mr. R. Mahabeer, at the annual general meeting held in Overport Indian School. Steady progress had been carried out in road improvements, sanitary services, postal delivery extension, better police patrolling, extension of water supply and rubbish removal service. The association finished this year financially sound. Mr. J. Roopnarain was re-elected president, with Mr. Latchman Panday, hon. life vice-president. Hon joint secretaries appointed were Messrs. R. Regnath and H. S. Singh, with Mr. S. P. Singh as hon. treasurer.

Leading Indian Contributors Towards A Clinic In Springs

A correspondent from Springs states: A generous offer made by Mr. Bandhu Gangadeen to provide a building for the purpose of clinic services to the Asiatic Bazaar community, has been accepted by the Town Council. An interview took place between the Health Department and Mr. Gangadeen in January as a result of which the former wrote to him, expressing their sincere appreciation at his spirited action. "It now appears that it will be most suitable for all concerned if arrangements can be made for Indians to be treated at the new Payneville Clinic," says the letter. "It is understood, of course, that the Indians will be dealt with at special times set aside for the treatment of Indians only." "It is typical of the fine spirit you have shown that you now agree that, if this is done you will contribute towards the cost of the equipment. It has been agreed that the Council write to Mr. Gangadeen complimenting him upon his kind offer.

Yuvak Arya Samaj (Clairwood)

Nearly four hundred people witnessed "Satya Ki Jai" acted by the students of the Yuvak Arya Samaj Panchala, at the Stanger Picture Palace, on Sunday March 4. The audience was thrilled with many humorous sketches in the play being a success throughout. The

delightful dancing and singing by Master Shaik was worthy of every appreciation. The Samaj wishes to thank Messrs. Sawpaul Bros., and L. J. Pundit who were responsible for the selling of tickets; Messrs. A. P. Naidoo & Sons (Pty.) Ltd., for kindly lending the stage furniture and other requirements; and Mr. Bux, proprietor of the Stanger Picture Palace, for allowing the use of the hall at a very reasonable charge.

Umtali Hindu Association

A meeting of Hindus in Umtali and district was held in the Indian and Coloured School Hall, Umtali, recently to discuss the merging into one association of two organisations the Umtali Hindu Association and the Umtali Hindu Society. The meeting, which was well attended, agreed that the two organisations be dissolved and re-formed under the name of the Umtali Hindu Mandal (Association). The following office-bearers were elected:—Chairman: Mr. V. Moolji; Vice-chairman: Mr. G. Vanmali; Secretary: Mr. K. J. Shingadia; Assistant Secretary: Mr. B. D. Solanki; Treasurer: Mr. L. J. Shingadia. Pundit Tadi Kant Vedalankar, who is at present making a tour of the Colony, presided at the meeting and gave an interesting talk on "Hindu Philosophy."

World Peace Conference Suggestion

Asked in the House of Commons recently whether he would call a world peace conference, the Prime Minister (Mr. Chamberlain) declared that the British Government believed that permanent peace could only be secured by a settlement which included the limitation of armaments and the removal of barriers to international trade. Before a world conference could be summoned a considerable amount of preliminary preparation was necessary. Mr. Chamberlain added that he did not consider the time had arrived when such a conference could be effective but as soon as he thought that a conference had a chance of success he would convene one.

Punctuation

The United States suffered heavily through the wrongful placing of a comma some years ago. Congress drafted a Bill, and in renumeralating the articles to be admitted free included "all foreign fruit-plants." When copying, however, the clerk omitted the hyphen, and placed comma after the fruit, so the clause read, "all foreign fruit, plants, and so forth." As the matter could not be rectified for about a year all kinds of foreign fruits, such as lemons, oranges, grapes, bananas, and others, entered duty free, and the Government lost at least £400,000.

[Continued from page 96]

Golden Rules For The Housewife

- Without cleanliness, and punctuality, good cooking is impossible.
- Leave nothing dirty, clean as you go.
- A time for everything, and everything in time.
- A good cook wastes nothing.
- An hour lost in the morning has to be run after all day.
- Haste without hurry, saves worry, fuss and flurry.

—S. P.

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.

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- बेहानीसभर्ज: मेसर्स पाटीदार ट्रेडिंग कुं,
- ४ प्रीयर्स स्टीट.
- मेसर्स लगत अथस,
- १४ डोट स्टीट,
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- (मेसर्स परेव ओन्स कुं.)
- ६६ वी स्टीट, न्युटाउन.
- ओडवोकेट डी. यु. भीजी,
- इम नं. २०, न्युकेम्परी भीडॉग,
- इंडस स्टीट.
- श्री. ओन. ओम. लट अने श्री. ओस. भी.
- भेडने कोष पखु स्थोथी ‘धन्दिअन ओपिनियन’
- नुं दवाजमे आपी रकरी.
- डेपटाउन: भी. पी. डी. यावडा,
- १०४ मेन. रोड मोवे.
- पोस्टओलीओथेय: भी. दुलबलाभ धरीरलाभ,
- १४५ वीकटोरी रोड.
- दोरे-ओमाडर्विस: मेसर्स वनवास दासयंह
- ओन्स कुं.
- श्री. नाथुलाभ हरिभाभ परेव.

# ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે  
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ મું.

ફીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૦ માર્ચ ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૧૦.

## “ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૧૦ માર્ચ ૧૯૩૯.

### સત્યાગ્રહનો ઠરાવ કરવામાં કશું પાપ નથી થયું

એ અઠવાડિયે અમે જણાવ્યું હતું કે હવે એ વખત આવેલો છે કે ભારે હિંદીઓએ પોતપોતામાં લડવા અથવા ઠરાવ અને માન આપરના સંબંધમાં અતિશય કામળ લાભથી ધરાવવાનું છોડી દેને પોતાની ઉપર હયાત કાયદાઓના ગેરઅમલથી અને સ્વમાનપ્રીય મનુષ્યમતી તરીકેના કુદરતી હકોપર પ્રતિબંધ સુકનારા નવા કાયદાઓ પસાર કરીને જે અપમાનો થઇ રહ્યાં છે તેના પ્રત્યે વધારે ભયભરત રહેવાની જરૂર છે. પરંતુ રાજકર્તાઓ તરફથી હજી આપણને ભય કરવા પુરતી લાતો પડેલી જણાતી નથી.

કોંગ્રેસના કેટલાક અમલદારો ગયે અઠવાડિયે જોહાનીસબર્ગમાં મળેલી ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસની મીટિંગમાં સુચવાયેલી સેક્રેગેશનની યોજના પસાર કરવામાં આવશે તો સલામત કરવાનો ડો. દાદુનો ઠરાવ પસાર થયો તેથી મંબીર ચિંતામાં પડી ગયા છે. પ્રમુખ એ ઠરાવ પસાર થયાની વાત ખોટી ઠરાવવાને વર્તમાન પત્રની આપીસે દોડી ગયા, સેક્રેટરી સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના સેક્રેટરીને જણાવવા મંડી પડ્યા કે આવો ઠરાવ પસાર થયો તેના અર્થ તો કોંગ્રેસના અમલદારોમાં અવિશ્વાસ સુચવે છે અને તેથી તેણે રાજનામું આપી દેવું જોઈએ અને સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના સેક્રેટરીને રખેને આપણા યુરોપીયન મિત્રોની આપણે લાગણી ગુમાવી બેસીએ તેટલા કારણથી સલામતની વાતો નહિ કરવા ડો. દાદુને સમજાવવા જોહાનીસબર્ગ દોડી જવાની બારે જરૂર જણાઈ. વળી કોંગ્રેસની મીટિંગમાં ગુડાસાહી ચલાવવા અને કેટલાક શખ્સોપર તેઓએ કોંગ્રેસના અમલદારોનો વિરોધ કરવાની ધૂણ્ટા કરી તેટલા માટે માર પડ્યો અને હવે જણાવવામાં આવે છે કે કેટલીક વ્યક્તિઓ જેમણે ડો. દાદુના ઠરાવને ટેકા આપ્યો હતો તેમને માર પડવાની ધમકીઓ અપાઈ રહી છે. આ સઘળા વસ્તુઓ આ દેશમાં આપણી કામનાં ભવિષ્યને માટે શુભસુચક નથી.

જો કોંગ્રેસના અમલદારોમાં શોકોને પુરતો વિશ્વાસ ન હોય તો તેનું કારણ તેઓની આવી

વલણ છે અને બીજું કારણ એ છે કે હિંદી કામને લગતી બાબતોમાં પોતાની સ્વતંત્ર બુદ્ધિ ચલાવવાની શક્તિમાં તેઓ નિબળ નીવડેલા છે અને હિંદીઓના કહેવાતા મિત્રોથી ગેરરસ્તે દોરવાઈ જઈને પોતાના દેશબંધુઓનો વિશ્વાસ ધાત કરેલો છે.

સલામત કરવાના ઠરાવપર આટલી ભયભીતતા શાને સાર હોવી જોઈએ? જોહાનીસબર્ગના 'સ્ટાર' માં એક ખબરપત્રીએ લખેલો પત્ર, જે આ અંકમાં અન્ય સ્થળે પ્રસિદ્ધ કરવામાં આવ્યો છે, તેમાં તેણે કરેલી વાત ખરી ઠરે છે કે હિંદી કામના નેતાઓ ખાલી બહુમાં કુકવામાં જ હુશીયાર છે. સેક્રેગેશન સામે વિરોધ દર્શાવનારી આજ સુધીમાં મળેલી સઘળા મીટિંગોમાં તો સલામત કરવાની વાતો થયેલી છે અને ભારે આમ શોકો સલામતનો ઠરાવ કરવા તૈયાર થયા સારે કેમ આટલો બધો ગભરાટ લાગી ગયો? શું તે પરથી એમ સમજવું કે કોંગ્રેસના નેતાઓ પ્લેટફોર્મપરથી જેટલું બોલે છે તેટલું તેઓ પાળવાને તૈયાર નથી?

સરકાર અને રાજકર્તા પ્રજાને આપણા સંયુક્ત અવાજની અવગણના કરીને આપણી ઉપર અપમાનો પર અપમાનો વર્ષાવ્યાજ કરવાની હોય તો તેની સામે આપણે શું પગલાં લેવા ધારીએ છીએ એ તેઓને સ્પષ્ટ જણાવી દેવામાં અમે કશું ખોટું જોતા નથી. અને સલામત માં એવું છે પણ શું? એ એક ચોખ્ખું અને સૌથી માનભરેલું શબ્દ છે કે જેનો કોઈ પણ શખ્સ કોઈ પણ વખતે ઉપયોગ કરી શકે છે. 'રેન્ડ ડેલી એલે' આ બાબતમાં ટીકા કરતાં હિંદીઓનો કેસ ધણેજ મજબુત છે એ વસ્તુનો સ્વિકાર કરીને પણ એવું જણાવ્યું છે કે "સલામતનો માર્ગ લેવાથી તેઓને હેતુ નહીં સર. હિંદીઓ મસલતો અને વિનયભર્યાં વિરોધો, કે જે તેઓ અગાઉ કરતા હતા તેથી તેઓ હજી વધારે મેળવી શકશે. ભારે આ બીજો માર્ગ લેવાની એક માત્ર અસર તેઓની સામેના વિરોધી મત વધારે સખ્ત થવાનીજ થશે."

અમારે સખેદ જણાવવું જોઈએ કે અમે આ મતને મળતા નથી થતા. હિંદીઓની સામે જે વિરોધી મત વર્તેલો હોય તો તેનું કારણ એજ

છે કે તેઓનું પતન થયેલું છે અને પોતાના આર્થિક લાભો સિવાય વધારે હિત્ય વસ્તુનો તેઓ વિચાર કરતાજ નથી. પ્રત્યેક માનભંગને તેઓ મુગે મ્હોડે ગણી જાય છે અને તેઓ નો સઘળો વિરોધ તેઓની રાષ્ટ્રિય આબરતું અપમાન થયેલું તેઓને લાગેલું છે તેટલા ખાતર નથી થએલો પરંતુ તેઓના સ્થાપિત લાભો જોખમમાં આવી પડેલા છે તેની ચિંતાથી થએલો છે. આવા સંજોગોમાં જો કોઈ પણ સુધરેલી પ્રજા આપણે તિરસ્કાર કરે તો એ તિરસ્કારને આપણે પાતળ છીએ. જો હવે આપણામાં સ્વમાન અને રાષ્ટ્રિય ગૌરવનું ભાન ભયભર થયું હોય તો હજી પણ આ દેશમાં આપણે દરજ્જે સુધરવાની આશા રહે છે.

સલામત કરવો એ કંઈ કિતુર કે ગુડાગીરીની ધમકી નથી. એ તો માત્ર એક કાયદો કે વધારે કાયદાઓ જે આપણને અપમાનભરેલા લાગતા હોય તેને નહિ નમવાનો નિશ્ચય કરવો અને તેમ કરવાના બદલામાં જે કંઈ પણ સળ થવાની હોય તે વગર વિરોધે રાજી પુશીથી સહી લેવાને તૈયાર રહેવું એ છે. જે શોકો માનભંગ સહન કરવા કરતાં સ્વેચ્છા એ ગમે તે દુઃખ સહન કરી લેવા તૈયાર છે તેઓ કોઈ પણ દેશને ભારરૂપ છેજ નહિ બલકે મુડીરૂપ છે. આપણે હિંદીઓ હાલની દશમાં આ દેશને મુડીરૂપ હોવાનું અભિમાન લઈ શકતા નથી. આપણા ઉપર મુજરતા જીલ્લો સામે દુઃખ સહન કરવાને તૈયાર થવામાં કશી શરમ કે કશો ગુન્હો છેજ નહિ. પરંતુ હિંદુસ્તાન મહાન કાયદો કે જે આપણને હિંદુ સિવાય બીજા કોઈનો પણ ડર નહિ રાખવા કહે છે તેનો ભંગ કરીને જે આપણે મનુષ્યકૃત કાયદાને તે ગમે તેવો અપમાન ભરેલો હોવા છતાં મનુષ્યના ડરને માર્યે નમવા તૈયાર થઈએ તો તેમાં શરમ પણ છે અને હિંદુસ્તાનનો ભંગ પણ છે.

એટલે જોઈએ સુચવાયેલો સેક્રેગેશનનો કાયદો પસાર કરવામાં આવે તો સલામત કરવાનો ઠરાવ ક્યો છે તેઓએ કશો ગુન્હો કરેલો નથી. અમે કોંગ્રેસના નેતાઓને જરા દીર્ઘદષ્ટિ વાપરવા વિનંતિ કરીએ છીએ. જે તેઓ એમ માનતા હોય કે સુચવાયેલું ખીલ પસાર થવું રાજી શકાય તો દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના હિંદીઓની રિયતિ સંતાપકારક છે તો તેઓની મંબીર જીલ છે. હવે તો એ વખત આવેલો છે કે ભારે ૧૯૧૪ની સમાધાની પછીની આખી રિયતિનું અવલોકન થવું જોઈએ. ગાંધીજી પ્રત્યેના આપણા