

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Claremont Commission

THE Western Areas Commission, of which Mr. Glen Leary, Magistrate at Springs, is Commissioner, is inquiring into the proposal to establish new non-European townships in the western areas of Johannesburg. The Commission was appointed to hear objections to the City Council's plan to retain certain land in the western areas for the proposed establishment of an Asiatic township at Claremont. Mr. J. G. Kneen, instructed by Messrs. Moodie and Robertson, is appearing for the City Council, and among the objectors are Mr. J. S. Tighy, a Councillor in the districts concerned, Mr. A. Doring, on behalf of the Roodepoort-Maraisburg Town Council, and representatives of various ratepayers' and property owners' associations in the western districts. The inquiry is adjourned until July 5.

What Inconsistency!

The Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, who gave evidence before the above Commission, on behalf of the Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society, is reported to have expressed the opinion that the majority of the poorer class Indians in Johannesburg would welcome any scheme of the City Council of Johannesburg to establish an Asiatic township at Claremont. He said he was appalled by the slum conditions in which the Indian community were living. We can fully appreciate Rev. Sigamoney's feelings for his poorer countrymen, but being opposed as he is to the principle of segregation, we cannot understand with what consistency Mr. Sigamoney can welcome the policy of the Johannesburg City Council of herding Indians in Claremont. The leaders of any section of the community cannot with any sense of their responsibility ask for segregation when the community as a whole is opposed to the very principle of it. We could have well understood Mr. Sigamoney asking for the clearance of slum conditions wherever they exist, but he of all should know better than anybody else that the Slums Act is operated, in so far as Indians are concerned, as a lever to put into effect the policy of segregation. Mr. Sigamoney's stand should have been that, we want neither Clare-

mont nor Orlando; we want our conditions improved where we are.

Mr. Polak On Indians In South Africa

The following letter by Mr. Hy. S. L. Polak, has been addressed to the *Times* (London):—

"Sir,—Your Capetown correspondent reports Mr. Stuttaford, the Union Minister of the Interior, on the third reading of the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Bill, as warning the Indians, "whose future lies in South Africa and who are South Africans," not to look abroad for help, which, he said, would only lead to more trouble. Indirectly, too, he warned India not to interfere on behalf of the Indians of the Union. More than 25 years ago, when I had the honour to work at Mr. Gandhi's side to secure redress of the Transvaal Indians' grievances, that were the subject of an eight years' campaign of passive resistance (which is again threatened), the argument of their opponents used to be that they were immigrants and not South Africans. It is good, therefore, to learn that Mr. Stuttaford now recognizes that the Indian population of the Union, over 85 per cent. of which is South African born, have a future in the Union and that they are South Africans. So far, however, he has failed to convince them (or, I believe, the Government of India, who have an Agent-General in the Union) that they have a future in the country to which they may look with hopefulness. Mr. Gandhi, who has recently charged the Union Government with breach of their own agreement with the Government of India, and who has asserted that their anti-Indian policy has been pursued with progressive stringency, evidently agrees with his South African countrymen. And it is noteworthy that Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Mr. Stuttaford's predecessor in office, has voted against the Bill, at the peril of his political future. As to the fact that the Transvaal Indians are South Africans, Mr. Stuttaford is not clear as to the sense in which he uses the phrase. They enjoy none of the rights of citizenship. They do not possess either the municipal or the

political franchise; they may not own land, with rare exceptions; their trading rights are already closely restricted; they may not proceed to the other Provinces of the Union except for temporary purposes. The new legislation takes away the expectation that the Union Government, who are committed to a policy of white supremacy, have any intention to improve their status or to lessen their growing sense of insecurity. In the circumstances, since the Transvaal Indians cannot, as "South Africans" of an inferior category, look to their own Government for the preservation of their self-respect, it is natural that they should once more, as they did more than 25 years ago, turn to their ancient Motherland for help. The Government and the people of India, always united on behalf of Indians overseas and deeply sensitive to any indignity or disability imposed upon them, will certainly resent Mr. Stuttaford's unwise threat. Nothing more untimely or harmful, in this period of international tension can be imagined than this fresh and unnecessary controversy between India and South Africa."

Rev. C. F. Andrews' Views

In a statement to the Press, the Rev. C. F. Andrews, who is now in Coonoor, referred to the South African Indian crisis, showing how the actions now taken in South Africa and Kenya seriously injured the future relationship between India and South Africa. The ultimate policy was obviously to exclude Indians altogether from Africa as far as possible, and then treat those who could not be driven out as aliens and racial inferiors. Gandhiji, fifty years ago, was the first to realise the gravity of the issue, and for a quarter of a century had fought almost single-handed the battle of Indian freedom. The Gandhi-Smuts Agreement of 1914 was an honourable settlement of the great struggle in South Africa in which Indians from Madras had played a leading part as passive resisters. That victory would be entirely undone, if the proposed legislation segregating Indians in both trade and residential quarters were passed into law for such legislation would finally place Indians in an inferior and humiliating position,

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD, 1939

The Bill Is Passed—What Next?

THAT much talked of and much discussed Bill—the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Bill is passed. It has been passed in the teeth of the strong opposition of the whole Indian community of South Africa as well as the whole of India. The Union Government has not hesitated to flout the opinion and the sentiments of four hundred million people. It must have dared to do so fully realising its responsibility and fully prepared to take the consequences. For a comparatively small country like South Africa to antagonise a whole nation of four hundred million people is a very daring step to take.

Mr. Stuttaford, the Minister of the Interior, who sponsored the Bill and has piloted it through, made qualified statements in the Senate in regard to the operation of the Act, the qualifications verily nullifying the effect of his statements. He said he proposed to exercise his powers under the exemption section in as sympathetic a manner as possible, *subject to the spirit and letter of the law being obeyed*. The issue of new licences must be suspended, he said, except in special cases in which genuine cases of hardship are involved. In such cases the Minister shall act after investigation and recommendation by his department, *provided the Minister approves*.

The transfer of licences, the Minister said, would be subjected to the same scrutiny, *but it was not his intention to extend the scope of this Act beyond the intention of the Bill, which was to maintain the status quo until final legislation was passed*.

The Minister further wished it to be clearly understood that he was the sole judge of the interpretation of the statement he had made. He also wished us to believe that the Bill did not mean segregation. He proposed to keep Europeans and Indians apart, but not to introduce forced segregation.

The only meaning an intelligent reader can adduce from the Minister's statement is that the Indians will have to be entirely at his mercy, and that mercy, too, he will graciously condescend to grant only within the four corners of the letter and the spirit of the Act.

Effect Of The Act

Now the effect of the Act will be as follows:

By Section 1, the period of protection granted to Indians in the Witwatersrand in areas recommended for exemption by the Peetham Commission has been extended for another period of two years from May 1, 1939.

By Section 2, from June 16, the date of the promulgation of the Act, no Asiatic will be granted a new licence nor a transfer of his old licence in the Province of the Transvaal except under the authority of a permit issued by the Minister of the Interior.

Any new licence granted after the 30th April

1939, and before June 16, the commencement of the Act, shall be void unless it has been approved of in writing by the Minister of the Interior within the period of one month after the commencement of the Act. Any transfer of a licence similarly granted will also be void, and if the business for the removal of which the certificate was granted has been removed before the expiration of the said period of one month, the removal shall be deemed to have been effected illegally.

Hawker licences are treated as new licences every year, and protection has been granted to hawkers in that their old licences will be renewed. But no new hawker's licence will be granted.

It is to be remembered here, that hitherto new licences were granted to Asiatics outside proclaimed areas in the Transvaal Province by the licensing authorities, but this new Act prohibits the granting of new licences altogether.

We would quote here what Mr. Blackwell said in Parliament during the Committee stage, to show the hardship Asiatics would have to suffer under the Act. This is what he said:

Under the Transvaal Ordinance of 1931, governing the issue of licences, Asiatics had to obtain a new certificate if there was a change in the personnel of the management of the business, if the premises in which the business was carried on were changed, or if the name of the business was changed. In terms of the clause any Asiatic who, perhaps, moved into better premises would be refused the necessary certificate as in the case of new application. The Bill was introduced as a pegging measure but in this instance it would go further and put people out of business.

Section 2 further prevents the hiring of licensed premises by a European to an Asiatic and also prohibits European nominees from obtaining certificates for licences on behalf of Asiatics.

In this connection it should be noted that hitherto the hiring of licensed premises by a European to an Asiatic outside proclaimed areas in the Transvaal was possible. The new Act deprives Asiatics of that right. In the words of Mr. Hofmeyr this neutralises section four giving the Minister powers of exemption.

We would further quote here the words of Mr. Hofmeyr when he spoke in Parliament on the third reading of the Bill. This is what he said:

Dr. Malan had supported the argument that there was no evidence of Asiatic penetration in the Transvaal in the occupation of land or trading necessitating legislative interference. Clause two actually provided for a decrease in trading licences.

By clause 8 a person is prohibited after the 30th April, 1939 from letting to an Asiatic, or permitting the occupying by an Asiatic of any land or premises in the Province of the Transvaal except on the authority of a permit issued by the Minister of the Interior and no Asiatic will be able to hire or occupy such land or premises except on the authority of such a permit.

It prohibits any person other than an Asiatic holding a lease of any land or premises in the Province of the Transvaal from permitting or authorising any Asiatic to occupy such land or premises unless such Asiatic was actually in occupation of such land or such premises on the 30th April, 1939.

Again, in the words of Mr. Hofmeyr, this clause instead of providing for a natural increase in the Asiatic population, confines them to their present inadequate premises.

Section 4 gives the Minister the power to issue permits.

Section 5 gives authorities the granting of trading licences or the transfers of such licences or the letting to, or the hiring or occupation by, Asiatics of any land or premises situated in areas set apart for occupation by Asiatics such as locations and bazaars.

Section 6 empowers the acquiring of ejectment orders against Asiatics for any contravention of the provisions of the above sections.

In the face of the above, how the Minister of the Interior can say that this is not a segregation Act, is beyond our comprehension.

It is an admitted fact that the Act involves a flagrant breach of the Capetown Agreement. The Government of India has been scoffed and insulted. A statement was made by the Government of India to the effect that it would not enter into any compromise based on the principle of segregation.

It is folly to believe that the mere fact, that this Act is an interim measure, renders it any the less poisonous. It is calculated not only to cause the material ruination of Indians in the Transvaal, but to brand us, as a race, as helots. No price is too great to combat this degrading piece of legislation and, in the absence of any alternative, there is every justification for the Indians to resort to passive resistance which is the only honourable course left open to them.

We would like to know in the meantime what the Government of India proposes to do. We know of no effective protest having been made by it when the Union Government has dared to treat what was known to be an honourable agreement as a scrap of paper. What is the position of the Agent-General for India in this country? Is he not here on sufferance of the Union Government? These are questions for thinking Indians both in South Africa and in India to consider.

A meeting of the Transvaal Indians, to give their reply to the degrading piece of legislation, is called by the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress on Sunday July 9, at the Indian Sports Ground, Natal-spruit, Johannesburg. It is to be hoped that our brethren will rally in their thousands on this grave occasion.

SEGREGATION POLICY IN NORTH RHODESIA

EUROPEANS AGAINST INDIANS BUYING PROPERTY IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

[The following report, appearing in the *Livingstone Mail* dated May 27, has been sent to us. It will be seen therefrom how the germs of race prejudice against Indians are spreading from the Union into Rhodesia. The Afrikaans in the Union are unjustifiably blamed for the anti-Indian agitation. History would prove that the Britishers are in this respect more to blame. Mr. Stuttaford is a Britisher and he has been responsible for a segregation Act, directed against Indians as a race, being placed on the Union Statute Book for the first time in the history of South Africa. Rhodesia is under British rule and cherishes the high principle of Rhodes of equal rights for all civilised people irrespective of race or colour. There too we find anti-Indian agitation to be daily growing.—Ed. I.O.]

THERE was a full attendance of Councillors at the monthly meeting of the Municipal Council presided over by the Mayor, Mr. R. H. Orr.

The first matter of importance was the report of the special meeting of the Council held on May 15, dealing with the local Indian overcrowding question and the demand by the Indians to purchase property in the European residential area.

In this connection the report of the Sub-Committee revealed that the Indian community was definitely opposed to the setting aside of an area of areas within the surveyed township for residential purposes, and demanded the right to be treated in the same way as white British subjects.

Towards the removal of conditions of overcrowding which exists in Queensway, it was recommended, and passed by the Council:

- (a) that Government be asked to set aside an area or areas within the surveyed township where Indians may purchase residential plots;
- (b) that the Council do not approve of the alienation to Indians of vacant plots in various parts of the town; and
- (c) failing an early solution of the problem, the Medical Officer of Health be instructed to enforce the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance.

The Sub-Committee further reported that it was informed that certain property owners had expressed a willingness to dispose of their property in the residential areas to Indians and, in view of the present housing shortage and as a measure of protection to tenants, it was

further recommended that the Government be asked to introduce legislation to restrict the right of possession of persons purchasing property within residential areas.

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S MESSAGE TO S. A. INDIANS

In a message to Indians in South Africa Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru says:—

"I find it somewhat difficult to send a message to my countrymen in South Africa. And yet it is easy enough to pen a message and feel virtuous at a duty performed. But it is not messages that our people abroad want; they want something more. There seems to be a dead set at Indians overseas, more especially in the British dominions and colonies. In East Africa a fresh insult has been hurled at us and now in the Union of South Africa, the pledged word of the Union Government has been deliberately broken and an attempt is being made to segregate Indians. Political rights had been denied us for long; now even human rights are being withheld.

"This is the Empire to which we have the misfortune to be tied. The sooner this Empire ends the better for humanity; the sooner we cut away from it the better for us.

"India is weak to-day and cannot do much for her children abroad, but she does not forget them, and every insult to them is humiliation and sorrow for her. A day will come when her long arm will shelter and protect them and her strength will compel justice for them. Even to-day, in her weakness, the will of her people cannot be ultimately ignored.

"To our countrymen in South Africa, I say that 'we are with you in every act of courage that you perform in honour of India and her dear name. It is never right to submit to evil and national humiliation, and every attempt to impose these must be resisted whatever the consequences. Dead nations submit to dishonour, but we are a living and proud people and I would rather that we faced extinction than submitted to dishonour.'

After discussion in Committee the Mayor reported that the Council Committee did not approve of alienation to Indians of vacant plots in the various parts of the town, and it was agreed to ask the local Member of the Legislative Council to propose a motion in the

House drawing attention to the urgency of the Indian problem in all its bearings with particular reference to the housing aspect.

The Mayor said that he and the Town Clerk had interviewed the Hon. Sir Leopold Moore and asked him to endeavour to get legislation passed that would enable local authorities to deal with matters in bye-laws. Sir Leopold expressed his willingness to do so but thought it might be necessary for the Mayor and the Town Clerk to be available at Lusaka to supply the information necessary.

Mr. Knight enquired whether the Indians had taken any further action in the matter and was informed by Mr. Millar that they had applied for stands but the Council had advised the Lands Department that the Council was not in favour of the Indians buying property in the residential areas.

Mr. Knight enquired what the Council will do in the event of Indians appealing to the Imperial Government and what measures the Council were going to take in any event?

The Mayor drew attention to the fact that the Medical Officer of Health had received the Council's instructions to enforce the Health Ordinance after a certain period.

Both Mr. Knight and Denny appeared not to have read the various Committee recommendations passed by the Council as they were endeavouring to bring before the Council some plan which had already been determined upon, and after the Mayor had explained that the M.O.H. had received instructions in this regard the two Councillors were satisfied with the arrangements.

The Mayor further said that the Council had purposely carried out a "delayed-action policy" in the matter of overcrowding with a view to obtaining a satisfactory settlement, but this had not worked and he thought that the Council should await the outcome of the local Member's endeavours at Lusaka where he would elicit the support of the Ndola and Broken Hill Members to introduce legislation to deal with the matter.

INDIA ON HER WAY TO INDEPENDENCE

IN an interview with Mr. Gobind Behari Lal, the well-known Indian journalist of the U. S. A., winner of the Pulitzer prize of 1937 for the best reporting in America and now Science Editor of the Hearst newspapers, who was in India for the Tripuri Congress, representing the International News Service, Mahatma Gandhi is reported to have predicted that India would soon win political self-rule and that if a world war broke out she, if free, would be on the side of the Democracies.

In reply to Mr. Behari Lal's first question, Mahatma Gandhi tersely retorted: "India is not far from political independence, pure and simple."

This statement, charged with tremendous significance, summed up his prophecy about the destiny of the Nationalist movement in India. For Gandhiji is the only man who can speak with supreme authority from the Indian side. As Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, India's celebrated woman poet said, "Gandhi is the Nation."

Because there is so much confused thinking about the power and direction of the National Congress movement, headed by Gandhiji, Mr. Behari Lal went directly to him to learn how powerful he regarded the movement for India's independence and democracy. He was curious to know how under his guidance, employing a new technique of a non-militant rebellion, Gandhiji had integrated millions of Indians in a fervent struggle for "self-rule."

Despite all difficulties—the might of the Empire, the fanaticism of the religious communities, the dynastic interests of the Indian Princes, the general ignorance of the masses—Nationalism embodied in the Congress party, is considered in America by Englishmen as well as Indians as the most important factor in the Indian Empire.

Equally important as his formal statements on politics is the amazing personal influence of the Mahatma, the father of the non-violent revolution, upon all levels of Indian society. The outward picture of the Saint-Statesman is baffling and paradoxical for the non-Indians observing or meeting him. His apparent simplicity, sedulous avoidance of personal panoply and pomp, really serves a naked sword to cut through political and social fictions and lay bare underlying realities.

Two Centres Of Power

To-day India's destiny is being woven between these two centres of power—the Imperial and the newly formed National powers.

Only a day before my visit, a woman had brought ten thousand rupees in bills, left by her husband who had just died, as an offering to Mahatma Gandhi

"for the cause," says Mr. Gobind Behari Lal.

Mahatma Gandhi was resting on an Indian "woven" bed. He still showed traces of physical strain from his recent "fast unto death if necessary," which had compelled the proud Maharaja of Rajkot to recede from his position. The Prince, as everyone knows, had disliked any attempt on the part of the Nationalists to change his method of government.

There was a modern touch about Mahatma Gandhi in the coloured glasses he wore to protect his eyes against the ultra-violet rays of the Indian spring sunshine. He was dressed in snow white robes, and covered with a sheet of the same material—woven by his devotees on handlooms.

"A very attractive woman, belonging to a respectable Hindu community of the Punjab, now Gandhiji's devoted disciple, jotted down in English the conversation that passed between the Mahatma and myself. There is the strictest order and accuracy in all transactions with Mahatma Gandhi.

"With a smile, Gandhiji started to interview about America and my personal experiences in my adopted country, the great Republic of the New World.

"Marvellous as his command of English is, Mahatma Gandhi talked to me in Hindustani, the national language of India. Said he: "You have not forgotten our language? Not even after a quarter century spent in the United States? That is gratifying indeed."

Mahatma Gandhi said not a word of anger against the British Government. He emphasised the fact that now the real problem of India's freedom and advancement was one of self-organisation. He spoke as a man who was already master of the situation.

Congress Ministries

Broadly speaking, he pointed out: "The outsiders may not realise the fact that the majority of the provinces of British India (as distinct from the parts ruled by the Princes) are now administered by the Nationalists by Ministers of the Congress Party. That roughly shows that the Nationalist movement is already in the seats of political power in this country."

The great question now was of the Government of India as a whole. When the Central or Federal Government came into the hands of the Indians, India would become like Ireland—virtually an independent country.

But according to Mahatma Gandhi and the Nationalists, the scheme of Federation evolved by the British Gov-

ernment in 1935 was not the one to give self-Government to India. "The present federation scheme cannot be accepted without damaging the cause of India's independence."

The Viceroy will try to have the scheme accepted. The Nationalists, many of the Princes, religious fanatics and others will oppose it—for diverse reasons. It is a very tense situation. The Indian atmosphere is in fact heavy with impending storms. Resounding above the quarrels and tussels for power in India are the rumbles of war in Europe.

India And European War

"All India seems to be electrically alert to the international crisis. Mahatma Gandhi and I discussed the world situation. What will Nationalist India do if war comes?"

"To all my questions seeking to learn the role India's nationalistic millions would play in the next war, Mahatma Gandhi said: 'I cannot answer in advance. But this is certain: That a free India will join hands with other real democracies, and will always help in promoting the cause of democracy and humanism throughout the World.'

It was evident on all sides that Gandhiji's powerful psychological medicines, like acid biting into stones, are corroding away the rocks of the old order.

"The British Viceroy treats with the Mahatma as with a great power. The Princes of India have begun to realise that Mahatma Gandhi's "Fasts unto death" are more powerful than invading armies of rebels. The old regime of India is receding fast, and giving up many a citadel of long established privilege.

"The meaning of Mahatma Gandhi's phrase, "Real Self-Rule"—he explained—is: Emancipation from India's own traditional inequalities as well as from those imposed from outside.

"As I left the Birla House garden, the songs of birds in the blossoming trees sounded as prophetic notes of a new age in India which will have many elements of Americanism in its psychology and practice, although cultural forms will remain."

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

GROUPS WITHIN THE CONGRESS

MR. SATYAMURTI'S CRITICISM

MR. S. SATYAMURTI, M.L.A. (Central), addressing the Kumbakonam Taluk Political Conference criticised the formation of groups within the Congress and said that India could have no leader other than Gandhiji, who was a great Avatar. If Federation was thrust on them, he said, he was for capture of all the available seats without acceptance of office. Mr. Satyamurti observed that the huge audience that had gathered there in that hot sun was a proof of the hold of the Congress on the masses and must serve as an eye-opener to those people and newspapers that thought that the influence of the Congress was waning. The Congress Ministry in the Province was doing its best, circumstanced as it was, and he was convinced that their work could not be improved upon. It was likely that they had committed some mistakes. But, then, when they were pointed out, the Congress Ministries would be the first to rectify them. But those critics of the Congress who were continually harping on the deeds of commission and omission of the Ministry in the hope that thus they could drive the Congress out of office were woefully misguided and ignorant of the real situation in the country. He would tell them all that till the attainment of Swaraj, there would be no other Ministry other than the Congress in the country. Even if this Ministry was dissolved, no other Ministry could sit there. He would, therefore, advise those who hankered after these Ministries to join the Congress and work for the speeding up of Swaraj. Otherwise their chances of office were doomed.

No Leader Other Than Gandhiji

The present state of the country, continued Mr. Satyamurti, was such that the people had no need to worry much about their future. In a country steeped in slavery for long as theirs was, the people were never sanguine about anything and were always dispirited and downcast. But he could tell them that the whirlwind of Swaraj was blowing very fiercely in the country and would soon lead them to victory, sweeping away all obstacles before it. Did the people dream that the Congress would hold sway in eight provinces in the country? Did they dream that the safeguards which were forged to check the progress of nationalism would be locked away safely and become rusty? Still all this had been achieved. In the Central Legislature, the Government had sustained numerous defeats and consecutively for five years the Finance Bill had been thrown out in the Assembly and had had to be certified by

the Viceroy. All this had been achieved because of the lead of Mahatma Gandhi and the implicit obedience by the people. They must all pray for his long life. If only he were spared for a number of years they could taste the fruits of Swaraj soon. Without him, they could not achieve much. India could have no leader other than Gandhiji, who, he said, was a great Avatar.

To day, added Mr. Satyamurti, there were many groups and so called opinions in the Congress. The idea of the ultimatum was there. But the speaker would ask the Bengalees to think of the lion in their own den before attempting to tackle the British lion which was admittedly very powerful. Mahatma Gandhi had his own methods of tackling the British and the ultimatum method was not one among them. But the people who were so insistent about ultimatum would do well to concentrate their attention on getting the better of the Fazlul Huq and Sikandar Hyat Khan lions lording over them in the Bengal and the Punjab.

Proceeding, he said that the organisation of groups and parties in the Congress was meaningless and unnecessary. The Congress was common to all and placed no barriers on the entry of any one. It was a democratic organisation where the majority opinion was the ruling opinion. Even so, instead of trying to form parties and groups, it was open to these groups to try to secure the majority to their side and put through their own programmes and policies. He would appeal to these groups not to think of parties in the Congress till the attainment of Swaraj, the common objective.

Solution For Hindu-Muslim Problem

Mr. Satyamurti felt that South India could offer the best solution for the Hindu-Muslim problem. Here they had no such problem even though Hindus and Muslims were living together. A little broadening of the outlook and a little concession to the minority group to allay their apprehensions must solve this question. The Congress was not anti-Islam or un-Islamic. It was common to all religionists. He hoped that the Muslims would realise this and join the struggle.

The establishment of joint electorates, observed Mr. Satyamurti, would pave the way for the establishment of Hindu-Muslim unity and in this respect the Madras Ministry, the Provincial and Town Congress Committees must labour.

Mr. Satyamurti then reviewed the achievements of the Congress Ministry in Madras and said that the half per cent. of tax they were called upon to pay must fetch them the satisfaction that the money was going to save the family of the poor man who was to-day caught up in the whirlpool of drink. This was a sacrifice they could easily make and must make. There was then the land revenue reduction which also the Ministry was contemplating. The Sales Tax Bill had undergone many changes in the light of the opinion prevailing in the country.

Referring to walk-out staged by the Opposition in the Assembly, Mr. Satyamurti said that it was no use protesting against the rule of the majority. No Government run on democratic principles could afford to carry out the minority opinion instead of that of the majority. If the verdict of the majority alone prevailed and the words of the minority went unheeded, it was nobody's fault and the minority had themselves alone to blame. Staging a walk-out just because their minority opinion did not prevail and the majority carried the day was simply meaningless protest. After all, the strength of the present Government lay in the confidence that the people reposed in it and if to-morrow it was found that trade and industry were injured by this tax, the Ministry would do its best to repair the damage. The Premier had been very conciliatory and had clearly stated that if more was realised from the tax than was needed, he would be amenable to the reduction of the percentage of tax. Why then stage all this farce of walk-out and opposition. After all the Congress Ministers and the committees were there to help them in need. Therefore, let them have confidence in the Congress Government and all would be well.

Referring to the introduction of Hindi Mr. Satyamurti said that a knowledge of Hindi would not harm the Tamil language. The Congress party had done more towards the Tamil language than any other party which was to day showing lip sympathy towards Tamil. South India was foremost in point of her culture, civilization and political awakening. If only she learnt Hindi, as well, she could hold her own with the other provinces. Hindi had been made a non-examination subject. This was not good, as it would serve no useful purpose. It should be made a subject of examination, a pass in which alone should qualify for promotion. But he was prepared to concede that conscientious objectors, if any there were, might be exempted from the study. Mr. Satyamurti was sure that they would be few.

APPEAL DISMISSED IN MALAY LOCATION CASE

THE judgment of the Appellate Division was delivered in the Supreme Court, Capetown, on Tuesday, June 13, by Mr. Justice Watermeyer in the case in which the appellant was a Malay named Jajbhay, of Johannesburg, and the respondent one Cassim. The appeal was dismissed.

Mr. Justice Watermeyer said that Jajbhay was the registered holder of a stand licence entitling him to occupy Stand No. 655 in the Malay location at Johannesburg.

In September, 1938, he sub let the stand to Cassim on a monthly tenancy and Cassim had carried out all the terms and conditions. In February, 1939, and during the currency of the sub-lease appellant applied to the Transvaal Provincial Division for an order ejecting Cassim from occupation on the grounds (a) that Cassim's occupation was unlawful by reason of the provisions of Regulation 15 of the regulations dealing with the occupancy of stands in the location and (b) that the sub-lease was illegal in terms of Regulations 8 and 22 and consequently that appellant was entitled to reclaim possession.

The Transvaal Provincial Division refused the application and the matter now came before the Appellate Division on appeal. In terms of Regulation 15 persons other than the registered owner or occupier were not permitted to remain in the location for more than six hours without a permit or pass.

It was contended that respondent was not a registered owner or occupier and consequently his presence in the location was unlawful. It seemed clear that he was an occupier and in terms of other regulations persons other than registered owners would occupy stands.

It had been decided, however, in terms of Regulations 8 and 22 that a sub-lease by a standholder of the whole or any portion of his stand was illegal and void and it was upon this footing that the question which arose in this matter must be approached.

It was clear that the parties entered into an illegal lease and that in pursuance of the illegal lease the appellant gave possession of the leased property to Cassim and now asked the court to relieve him of the consequences of his illegal conduct by restoring possession to him of the leased property.

The question was whether the court would come to his assistance.

Mr. Justice Watermeyer discussed this point at great length, referring to the rule laid down by the English courts which applied the test whether the plaintiff required any aid from the illegal transaction to establish his case. This test, the judge said, in a slightly different form, had been accepted as correct in South African courts. In this case the appeal must fail and the judgment of the trial court must be upheld.

It had been suggested, added the judge, that unless the court came to the appellant's assistance the respondent could remain in possession of the property in perpetuity, but that was not so.

Appellant had not lost dominium in the property or rather his right of occupation. Respondent could not retain possession against the appellant when his right of occupation terminated.

In view of an agreement between the parties there was no order as to costs.

Supporting judgments were delivered by the Chief Justice (Mr. Justice Stratford) and judges of appeal, Mr. Justice Tindall and Mr. Justice Centlivres.

Things In General

C.B. & S.I. Association (Maritzburg Branch)

THE joint hon. secretaries, Messrs. K. Soobramoney and M. Gopaul Naldeo, of the Pietermaritzburg Branch of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, state that the following letter has been forwarded to Major O. E. R. Harris, the Chief Magistrate of Pietermaritzburg, on the occasion of his retirement. The letter is dated June 19: "On the eve of your retirement, our association as representing the Indian community of Pietermaritzburg, takes this opportunity to record and express to your goodness its keen sense of appreciation for the manner in which you carried out your most difficult office of Chief Magistrate of Pietermaritzburg, with the scales of justice equally balanced, irrespective of the colour of those that you have had to deal with. The Indian community is grateful and thankful to you for the sympathetic consideration you have given to its representations from time to time. Pietermaritzburg is losing a sterling man as its Chief Magistrate, and we have the hope that your successor will follow the traditions that you will be leaving behind. Our associa-

tion sincerely hopes that in your well deserved retirement, you and Mrs. Harris will be endeared with good health and long life."

Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union (Transvaal) Indian Section

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union (Transvaal) Indian section, on June 14, it was unanimously decided to donate £10 10s. to the Memorial Fund of the late Dahyabhai Govindji. The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Union: "That the Tailoring Workers' Industrial Union (Transvaal) Indian Section records its deepest sympathy with the relatives of the late Dahyabhai Govindji who laid down his life for the freedom of the Indian community, and pledges to support the struggle of the non-European people of South Africa against oppression."

Indian Women's Reading And Education Circle

The fourth annual meeting of the Indian Women's Reading and Educational Circle was held at the Dartnell Crescent India Girls' School, Durban, on

Saturday, June 17, by kind permission of the headmistress. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and adopted. A large number of guests were present, among them being Mrs. Heap, a prominent social worker, who congratulated the circle on its progress in the great work it had undertaken of uniting the Indian women to work together in the interest of the community. Miss English, the president, in addressing the meeting said, "We women must keep steady minds. One of the men of your community said, 'While our minds are made so restless by political events, we cannot think of social service work!' This made me realize the need of appealing to women to keep steady and to exercise that faith, that every woman who will live a happy life must cultivate—the faith that moves women to battle for the coming generation—that causes action in the hope that those who come after us will have a better world to live in than ourselves." Officials elected for the forthcoming year were—President for the fourth time in succession: Miss E. F. English; hon. secretary: Miss A. M. Ebrahimi; assistant secretary and treasurer: Miss D. Maghraj; committee: Mrs. N. O. Jhaveri, Misses R. Singh and Z. Jhaveri,

A number of organizers were also elected to preside at future meetings, this system being introduced by the president in order to train members for leadership. Music and refreshments provided by the circle brought the meeting to a conclusion.

Indian Youth Council

We are informed by the secretary that the above council is convening a mass meeting of condolence in connection with the death of the late Dayabhai Govindji as a result of the disturbance at a recent meeting in Johannesburg. The meeting will be held in the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustumjee Hall, 140, Queen Street, Durban, on Sunday, June 25, at 2.30 p.m. The council which is inaugurating a fund for the dependants of the late Dayabhai, who sacrificed his life in the noble cause of the Indian community, will be pleased to receive any donation, however small. The council desires to point out that this is the only meeting that is being arranged.

Sir Rama Rau In Durban

A gathering of between 40 and 50 officials and members of the Natal Indian Congress, including the vice-president, Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri, and the secretary, Mr. A. I. Kajee, welcomed Sir Rama Rau, Agent-General for the Government of India in South Africa, and Lady Rama Rau on their arrival by train on Tuesday from Johannesburg. In garlanding Sir Rama Rau, Mr. Jhaveri congratulated him on the recent honour conferred on him. Others present also garlanded him, after which Sir Rama Rau and Lady Rau left by car for the Hotel Edward, where they will be in residence. Mr. S. Ridley, I.S.C., accompanied Sir Rama and Lady Rau.

Indian Women's League

The annual general meeting of the above league will be held in the St. Aidan's Hall, Short Street, Durban, on Sunday June 25, at 2.30 p.m. Agenda:—Minutes, Report, Financial statement, Presentation of tea-set, Election, and General.

School Building Fund

The hon. treasurer of the Arya Samaj of Cato Manor acknowledges with thanks the following cash donations towards the above fund and will be pleased to receive further contributions:—Messrs. M. Lutohman, £5 5s.; B. Basdeo Singh and A. Moonilal, £2 2s. each; R. Ramklass, R. J. Maharaj, B. M. Chitto, R. Karpathi, Gajadhar, Deodaran, J. Roopnarain, Jugroop, J. Rambaran, S. Ojageer and Choonilal Bros., £1 1s. each; Pandit Sewnarain Panday, 15s. 6d.; R. Rajkoomar, Jeeawon, Rambaran, Athmaram Premjee, Lalla, Mohan, S. Gopi, Parboo Singh, Est Dahya Naran, Marie and Gunpath, 10s. 6d. each; S. K. Maharaj, 11s.; Tulsi Saww, 2s. 6d.—Total, £27 4s.

S.C. Dramatic Society

On Wednesday last, in the Sastri College Hall, before a packed audience of prominent Indians and Europeans, the Sastri College Dramatic Society added another success to their list. Two plays, "The International Scourge," being four versions of the "Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens and "The Gods of Mountains," an Eastern fantasy, were produced. In the first play, J. N. Singh as Scourge, the old miser, was outstanding. Although, speaking in a strained pitch of voice, he was audible at all times. He was well supported by I. C. Meer as Oratchit, the old miser's clerk. Meer was at his best when portraying the voluble an exitable Frenchman in the French version of the play. The other scenes were in England of the Shakesperian era and amidst bombs and terrorism in Russia. In the "Gods of the Mountains," E. M. Timol, as the leaders of the seven beggars who impersonated the Gods, gave a sincere interpretation of the part.—Contributed.

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African Mail Steamers

Arrangements have been made for certain of the African Mail Steamers to call at Bedi-Bundar, both inward and outwards, during the monsoon when Porebunder is closed. The following steamers will make these calls: Sailing outward from Durban, *Kenya*, July 30, 1939; *Takliwa*, August 13, 1939; *Tairea*, September 10, 1939. The same passenger and freight arrangements will apply to Bedi-Bunder as obtained at Porebunder.

Death Of Mr. N. L. V. Naidoo

On June 9, at his residence, 83, Old Dutch Road, Durban, occurred the death of Mr. N. L. V. Naidoo, former Indian Interpreter of New Hanover, at the age of 67. His remains were interred at the Queen Street Cemetery the same afternoon. Mr. Naidoo was born in Mauritius and came to South Africa in 1886. He commenced his career as an Indian Postmaster in Durban. In 1899 he joined the Natal Civil Service, and during the Siege of Ladysmith was clerk and inter-

preter of the staff of the Magistrate there. He held similar appointments at Port Shepstone, Howick and finally at New Hanover, whence he retired on pension in 1933. He is survived by his widow, four sons (two of whom are school teachers, the third a headmaster, and the fourth a student at Sastri College), two daughters one of whom is still a scholar, two brothers (Mr. L. M. Naidoo and Mr. Leo. R. Gopaul), a sister and two grandchildren.

The Late Dahyabhai Govindji Memorial Fund

The following is a list of the donors to the Late Dahyabhai Govindji Memorial Fund. The sum so far contributed has reached nearly £1,200:

Johannesburg: I. C. Ashabhai & Co., Japan Bazaar, Master Bros., £35 each; Transvaal Indian Hawkers' Association £26 5s.; Mehta Desai & Co., Patel Agencies, P. M. Master, Jusab Ebrahim Gardee, Palooka Club (through Mr. I. C. Coovadia), Patel & Sons, M. L. Patel & Co., Bhagat Bros., £25 each; Moulvi J. A. Cachalia, Aryen Gymnas: Patidar Hall, City Shirt Co., L. Mistry, N. K. Gopal & Co., Patel Bros., £10 10s. each; Mangalbai V. K. Patel £5 5s., Ramn Bros., C. Chhiba, £3 3s. each; Ramdas & Daloo Mistry, R. V. Patidar, Morar Bhana, A. M. Patel £2 2s. each; M. D. Bharoochi £2. Durban: Jaibhoy and Sorabjee Rustumjee £25, Gosalia Music Saloon £10 10s. Krugersdorp: M. M. Dadoo & Sons, A. M. Billimore £25 each; Parag Prema, Govind Bhikha, B. Bhoola & Co., I. A. Cajee & Co., £5 5s. each; Amol Mayat £3 3s., A. M. & E. A. Saloojee £3 4s., E. M. Dinath, Nathubhai Dhagubhai, A. M. Seedat, E. S. Patel, Hassam Lootat, M. Adam, Hollywood House, I. S. Saloojee, £2 2s. each. Roodepoort: Govindbhai Gosa & Co. £25; Bombay House Staff £5 5s.; Haribhai Icharam, N. S. Ginwalla £2 2s. each. Benoni: (N. Parbhoo, L. L. Dass Bros., J. Singh, Ghazan Sons £15 15s.). Petronela Siding: Govind Bhan £5 5s. Nylstroom: M. Mosam £5 5s., M. M. Bodhania & Co. £3 3s., Ismail Rawat £2 2s. Ventersdorp: Vally Essop £5 5s. Marabastad: I. M. K. Bham £5 5s. P. P. Rust: M. M. Cachalia, A. E. Verachia £10 10s. each; Karolia Mayat & Co., E. H. Hassim £3 3s. each. Louis Trichardt: A. Gokal & Sons, V. Gokal & Co., £25 each; H. K. Gokal £21, C. Sullman & Sons £21, K. Sunderjee & Sons, B. K. Patel & Co., J. Bhanjee & Sons, £10 10s. each; B. S. Rana, Jhinabhai Pravasi, H. R. Khoja & Co., Surat Trading Co., V. M. Ghalani, Harjee Kanjee, Max Breener, C. Breener, M. Haribhai & Co., Mrs. B. U. Mehta £5 5s.; Dave Bros., Kalan Bros., Ayob Abba & Co., A. V. Mahomed & Sons, A. Adam & Sons, A. Aboo & Sons, Kharbhai & Co. C. H. Khoza, Anderjee Nathoo, M. M. Ghadan £3 3s., G. H. Aboo, C. S. Desai, H. K. Patel B. D. Patel, £2 2s.—(To be continued).

MASS MEETING

A mass meeting of the Transvaal Indians will be held on Sunday, July 9, at the Indian Sports Ground, Natalspruit, City & Suburban, Johannesburg, to decide the line of action to be decided against the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act. Gates will open at 12 (noon); meeting will commence at 2 p.m. All supporters of the Nationalist Group are requested to attend. The public is assured of a peaceful meeting.

Y. M. DADOO,
Leader, Nationalist Group of the
Transvaal Indian Congress.

India Letter

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

Potentialities Of Wardha Scheme

THE potentialities of the Wardha scheme of education in bringing about a regeneration of the country were explained by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Congress President, in opening a basic education camp organised by the Provincial Government, which is a prominent feature of the Seva Sangh. Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that Champaran had the privilege of being a pioneer in many movements. While it was the scene of one of the first satyagrahas by Mahatma Gandhi, this district had been selected by the Provincial Government for the introduction of the Wardha scheme and 5 schools were being started. The scheme embodied the entire re-orientation of the educational outlook and policy pursued in the past, with a view to averting the enormous intellectual waste which the past system of education entailed. Although the idea of having a national educational system for the country was fairly old and a number of such institutions had been started, much progress had not been made so far owing to the promoters not having clear and definite ideas about the fundamentals. Various criticisms had been levelled against the scheme, specially by those who were brought up under the existing system of education. But the essential qualities of the scheme had been appreciated even by some eminent Western educationists and in due course the average man would also come to recognise it. The success of the scheme would depend on the quality of teachers who would work under the scheme. Mr. B. G. Kher, addressing the gathering stated that he was proposing to start 60 schools in his province with 100 teachers who were being trained in order to impart education under the scheme which was being worked out on a small scale in his province, and had inspired him with the enthusiasm and belief of its ultimate success. The scheme was pre-eminently suited to the requirements of the country.

Truth And Non-violence

Satyagraha and non-violence meant a spiritual force with which Mahatma Gandhi fought successfully against British imperialism, said Mr. Shankar Rao Deo, member of the Congress Working Committee, addressing a public meeting which was attended by about twenty thousand persons after they had obtained a "dharsan" of Mahatma Gandhi at Brindaban. Mr. Deo added that so great was the change brought about by the political consciousness gradually dawning on the people of the country that the police, who were formerly

looked upon with terror and were a symbol of the might of imperialism, were now under the control of Indians and had to obey their orders. This change was caused by Mahatma Gandhi's faith and pursuance of his principles of truth and non-violence, which should be followed assiduously.

Mrs. Naidu On Duty Of Literary Men

"Critical times are ahead. The men of letters can do what men of politics cannot," observed Mrs. Sarojini Naidu addressing the sixth Literary Conference held recently in Calcutta. She continued: "The greatest function of a *litterateur* is to reconcile, to harmonise and to interpret unity of all lives, of all beliefs, of all dreams and of all ideals. The language of a province is the heart of the province, the language of a people is the soul of the people, no power on earth and no legislation can oust the national language. The question of language should not, therefore, be a question of political controversy." Other speakers who addressed the conference included Mr. Fazlul Huq, the Premier, Mr. Azizul Huq, the Speaker of the Bengal Assembly, and Dr. Suniti Chatterjee.

If Britain Goes To War

It would be dishonest and unfair to India if she refused to participate in any war in which Britain may partake, said Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, Premier of the Punjab, interviewed by the Associated Press at Sholapur. India would feel compelled to participate in such a war for her own sake. Referring to the A.I.C.C. resolution relating to non-participation in war, Sir Sikander said he had no doubt that the Congress would soon modify it when the time came. He would not believe that the Congress would refuse to participate when the time came. Sir Sikander declared: "There is no question of an imperialist war. If we participate in war, it will be to retain what we have and get something more."

Indo-British Trade Agreement

"Despite the fact that the Indo-British Trade Agreement has been refused twice by the Central Assembly and has been condemned by the entire commercial community of India, it is being sought to be foisted upon unwilling India. I am afraid it is an unwise step and the British Government will regret it afterwards. I am also not sure of the smooth working of the Agreement," said Sardar Patel, Chairman, Congress Parliamentary Subcommittee, performing the opening cer-

mony of the new building of the Indian Merchants Chamber at Bombay. Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, leader of the Congress Party in the Central Assembly, declared that if the Agreement were forced upon India, the already strained feelings would be outraged and might lead to the boycott of the 500 million yards of Lancashire cloth imported into India.

Dadabhoj Naoroji's Portrait To Be Installed In House Of Commons

The Speaker of the House of Commons in England has accepted a portrait of the late Dadabhoj Naoroji, "The Grand Old Man of India," to be placed among the many portraits in the precincts of the House of Commons. In response to a general public desire in India that a portrait of the late Dadabhoj Naoroji, once a member of the House of Commons, should be placed among the portraits in the precincts of the House of Commons, Diwan Bahadur M. Javeri, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dadabhoj Naoroji Memorial Prize Fund, recently sent a portrait of the "Grand Old Man of India" to the Speaker of the House of Commons in England with a request that it be included among the collection of portraits in the House. Diwan Bahadur Javeri of Bombay has now received intimation that the Speaker has accepted the gift and that arrangements are being made to instal the portrait along with others in the House of Commons.

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