

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 26.—Vol. XXXVII.

Friday, June 30th, 1939.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

All-India Congress Committee Protests Against Union Government's Policy

THE All-India Congress Committee which met at Bombay has passed on June 25, the following resolution:—

"The committee regrets the attitude of the Union Government towards Indian settlers. It betrays utter disregard for the obligations undertaken by the predecessors of the present Government. The policy just initiated by them is a direct breach of the Smuts Gandhi Agreement of 1914, the Capetown Agreement of 1927, the Feetham Commission of 1932, and subsequent undertakings on behalf of the Union Government.

"The All-India Congress Committee notes with pride and satisfaction the firm stand taken by the Indians of South Africa. They will have the sympathy of the whole Indian nation behind them in their fight for self-respect and honourable existence.

"The committee trusts there will be no dissension between them.

"This committee appeals to the Union Government to retrace their steps, to carry out the promises of their predecessors and to adopt a policy of progressive amelioration of the status of Indian Nationals of South Africa, 80 per cent of whom were born and bred in that sub-continent and to whom South Africa is their only home."

At the instance of Mahatma Gandhi, the All-India Congress Committee dropped a clause in the resolution. It was: "And co-operate with the African inhabitants in South Africa in opposing segregation policies which are directed against all non-European races."

It was explained that Mahatma Gandhi had advised against its inclusion as it would widen the issue in South Africa and possibly hinder South African Indians in their agitation.

Mahatma Gandhi's Views

Mahatma Gandhi's views on the question of a non-European united front were clearly stated in an interview he gave Rev. Tema. Though the interview

has been published in a previous issue of INDIAN OPINION some extracts from it bear repetition here. Replying to a question as to how Indians in South Africa should fight for their rights Gandhiji replied: "If the South African Indian community had guts in them, I would say Satyagraha, and they are bound to win." On the question of forming a non-European front Gandhiji said:

"It will be a mistake. You will be pooling together not strength but weakness. You will best help one another by each standing on his own legs. The two cases are different. The Indians are a microscopic minority. They can never be a 'menace' to the white population. You, on the other hand, are the sons of the soil who are being robbed of your inheritance. You are bound to resist that. Yours is a far bigger issue. It ought not to be mixed up with that of the Indian. That 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."

Former Agent-General On Indian Question In South Africa

Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh writes to *The Times* London, dated June 17, as follows:

"Sir,—As a former Agent-General for India in South Africa I fully endorse the views of my friend Mr. Polak in his recent letter to *The Times*. If the ordinary rights of citizenship were granted to South African Indians in the Transvaal and Natal there would be no necessity for appeals for help to the Government and people of India or even for an Indian Agent-General. It is the absence of any franchise—political or municipal—and other elementary rights of citizenship, in spite of the liability of Indians to the same taxa-

tion as Europeans; that is largely responsible for the continuous attacks against Asiatics by legislation or otherwise. And unless and until the South African Government and the local Europeans—British and Dutch—inspire confidence by a change of attitude Indians in South Africa must inevitably ask for assistance from India. His Majesty's Government, unfortunately, proclaim their inability to "interfere," with the result that attacks on "British Imperialism" are increasing in India, and the examples of South Africa and East Africa (notably Kenya) are cited to show the unwillingness or impotency of the British Government to secure or grant the same rights and privileges to those whom Lord Morley once described as "the King's equal subjects." What adds to the poignancy of the situation is the fact that in French or Portuguese possessions in Africa Indians often receive fairer treatment than in certain British Dominions and Colonies. Unless some equitable settlement of what are perennial sources of tension is arrived at by conferences or otherwise it is quite possible that an increasing number of Indians of all creeds—in the matter of Indians in Africa there is complete unity in India—will wish to seek their future outside the orbit of the Empire.—Yours etc.,

MAHARAJ SINGH.

Bishop Of Capetown Denounces Segregation

That no man has the right even to pretend that he loves South Africa while he supports any agitation for segregation was claimed by the Right Rev. S. W. Lavis, co-adjutor Bishop of Capetown, in denunciation of the segregation movement in the Diocesan Synod on June 23. Bishop Lavis moved a resolution calling upon the Synod to deplore the segregation agitation as disturbing the peace of mind and sense of security of those concerned, and as encouraging the growth of bitterness, resentment and disunion. It asked the Synod to affirm that compulsory discrimination based on the grounds of race and colour were fundamentally opposed to the teachings of the New

Testament, and to urge the Government to reconsider any proposals which would aim at legal segregation and any further discrimination by law between the races. The motion was carried unanimously.

Babu Rajendra Prasad On Indian Question In South Africa

Babu Rajendra Prasad, President of the Indian National Congress, has issued the following statement on the treatment of Indians overseas in general and of South Africa in particular:

"The position of Indians abroad and particularly in British Colonies and dominions, has always been one of anxiety for the people of this country. Although our nationals by their labour and skill have contributed considerably to, if not built up, the prosperity of many of them, they are always treated like outcasts. The Colonies and Dominions have not shown the least consideration for the Indians and have ever treated them like so many beasts and a burden, who needs must be got rid of. Of course the purpose for which they were needed has been achieved. And so, although a great majority of the Indians now living in them were born and brought up there, and may justly claim as being part of the population, various kinds of restrictions and barriers, political, economic and social are imposed just to keep them down, and if possible to force them out of the land which they made habitable and cultivable.

"The Indians naturally have to resist all such action. Most of them know no other country as they never visited India. They possess only its rich heritage, culture and civilisation. Even this is not allowed to remain intact and untouched, and the sorest point is injured when attack is made on their honour and self-respect. The struggle of Indians in South Africa has gone on for much more than a quarter of a century. The latest onslaught casts to the winds the promises and pledges solemnly given, and breaks the pact solemnly entered into, and all this when the excuse of Indian penetration in European areas is admitted to be at least not proved. The Indians have no option but to resist and resist with all their strength and power at their command. Our misfortune is that being helpless at home in India, we are unable to give any effective protection."

"The Government of India owes a duty in the matter and one can only hope that it will not be content with simply registering its protest in this matter the treatment of Indians abroad and at the moment regarding the South African Bill there is absolutely no difference of opinion in India. The South African Government should understand that India is not likely to forget the insult to her nationals and the South African Indians should go forward with the conviction that their cause is just and they have not only the whole of India with them but also a considerable section of others also, who are fair-minded and far-sighted enough to see things in their true perspective, and are not blinded by race prejudice or the present power which they possess.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH, 1939

Encouraging Messages

WHILST Passive Resisters have always to trust only in the righteousness of their cause and in God and march ahead unconcerned about the consequences it is soothing especially when, on the one hand, one finds humiliations after humiliations heaped upon the Indian community by the Government, and on the other those who have resolved to fight the latest piece of legislation by resorting to Passive Resistance are being discouraged by the Agent-General for India, by Europeans and by some of their own countrymen, who have gone to the length of having murderous attacks made on them by hooligans, that very encouraging messages should be pouring in from the Motherland. The last few days have brought messages from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the Indian National Congress, Babu Rajendra Prasad, and the All-India Congress Committee. The President of the Congress asks the Government of India not to be content with simply registering its protest in regard to the Transvaal Bill (which is now no longer a Bill, but an Act). He asks the South African Government to understand that India is not likely to forget the insult to her nationals and asks the South African Indians to go forward with the conviction that their cause is just and that they have the whole of India with them. The All-India Congress Committee has passed a resolution stating that the policy of the Government of the Union is a direct breach of the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1914, the Capetown Agreement of 1927, the Feetham Commission of 1932 and subsequent undertakings on behalf of the Union Government, and asking Indians to present a united front in their fight for self-respect and honourable existence and assuring them that the sympathy of the whole Indian nation is behind them. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's message is the most inspiring message the Indian community of South Africa has yet received. It should sink in the heart of every self-respecting man and woman.

"We are with you in every act of courage that you perform in honou

of India and her dear name," says Pandit Nehru. "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 submit to dishonour."

This should bring life even in a dead man. But alas! it will have no effect on some of our countrymen in South Africa—the spineless ultra-moderates who take pride in being the favoured ones of the Agent-General and some of their European advisers. Well, we can only pray for them that they may have the wisdom to understand that those of their brethren that have resolved to bear the Cross have done so not for any ulterior motive but for the self-respect and the national honour of the whole community.

We regret to have to state that never in the history of South Africa has a deliberate insult been hurled against a nation of four-hundred million people in such cold blood as has been done by the present Government of the Union. It could have well avoided it by deleting the offensive clauses from the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Bill, for which there was no desperate hurry especially in view of the fact that no penetration was proved to have taken place by Indians in the so-called European areas nor had any increase in the licenses taken place.

Moreover there was no justification for introducing these restrictive clauses directed especially against Indians as a race at a time when another measure was being contemplated and negotiations were taking place in regard to it with the Government of India.

Taking all these facts into consideration there can be no doubt whatsoever left in the mind of any sane person that the Union Government is responsible for having deliberately insulted the Indian nation.

All freedom and justice loving people of South Africa, whatever nationality they may belong to, must therefore realise the justification for the wounded susceptibilities of the Indians and sympathise with them in their just cause.

ASIATICS (TRANSVAAL LAND AND TRADING) ACT, 1939

The following Act which is "to make further provision with regard to the restrictions upon trading by Asiatics in the Province of the Transvaal and the occupation by them of land in that Province," has been signed by the Governor-General and assented to on the 14th June, 1939. For the convenience of the reader we give the sections of the Act in one column and comments thereon in the other:—

The Act

Comments

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty's the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa, as follows:—

1. (1) Section *one* of the Asiatics (Land and Trading) Amendment Act (Transvaal), 1919 (Act No. 37 of 1919), as amended, is hereby amended by the substitution in sub-section (5) thereof for the figures "1939" of the figures "1941."

(2) This section shall be deemed to have taken effect on the first day of May, 1939.

2. (1) Whenever after the commencement of this Act and before the first day of May, 1941, any person applies—

(a) for a certificate which in terms of any law must be granted before he is entitled to obtain the issue of a licence to carry on any business or trade in the Province of the Transvaal; or

(b) for a certificate which in terms of any law must be granted before he is entitled to remove the business carried on by him in the said Province under any licence from the premises on which it is being carried on to other premises,

the person who, or the body of persons which, by any law is entrusted with the function of issuing any such certificate shall not, except under the authority of a permit issued under section *four*, grant the certificate, unless the applicant proves—

(i) in the case of an application for a certificate referred to in paragraph (a), that the proposed holder of the licence referred to in that paragraph and the person who will be in actual control of the business or trade to be licensed are not Asiatics; or

(ii) in the case of an application for a certificate referred to in paragraph (b), that he is not an Asiatic.

3. Unless within the period of one month after the commencement of this Act the Minister of the Interior has approved in writing of the grant of any certificate referred to in sub-section (1) granted after the thirtieth day of April, 1939, and before the commencement of this Act—

(a) any licence issued before or after the said commencement in pursuance of that certificate (in the case of a certificate referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) shall be void, if the holder of the licence is an Asiatic, or if at any time before the first day of May, 1941, the person in actual control of the business or trade licensed is an Asiatic; and

(b) that certificate (in the case of a certificate referred to in paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) shall be void, if it was granted in favour of an Asiatic; 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.

(3) Any licence issued in pursuance of any certificate referred to in paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) granted after the commencement of this Act, other than a certificate granted under the authority of a permit issued under section *four*, shall be void, if at any time before the first day of May, 1941, the person in actual control of the business or trade licensed is an Asiatic.

(4) For the purposes of this section a licence shall be deemed to be held by an Asiatic if it is held on behalf of or for the benefit of an Asiatic.

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

By this section, from June 14, 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 14, 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.

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.

Mr. Blackwell said in Parliament during the Committee stage:

"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."

Mr. Hofmeyr when he spoke in Parliament on the third reading of the Bill 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. Section two actually provided for a decrease in trading licenses.

This Section 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.

(5) The provisions of this section shall not apply in respect of the application for a certificate for a licence to carry on in any area the trade of a hawker or pedlar made by any person who on the thirtieth day of April, 1939, was the holder of a licence to carry on that trade in that area.

3. (1) After the commencement of this Act and before the first day of May, 1941—

(a) no person shall, except on the authority of a permit issued under section four, let to or permit to be occupied by any Asiatic; and

(b) no Asiatic shall, except on the authority of such a permit, hire or occupy,

any land or premises situated in the Province of the Transvaal if that land was not, or those premises were not, occupied only by Asiatics or coloured persons on the thirtieth day of April, 1939.

(2) A lease of any land or premises situated in the Province of the Transvaal, entered into before the commencement of this Act, shall not authorize any person to permit any Asiatic to occupy, and shall not authorize any Asiatic to occupy that land or those premises, unless the lessee under that lease was an Asiatic and unless he was actually in occupation of that land or those premises on the thirtieth day of April, 1939.

(3) Any person contravening this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds, and in the case of a continuing contravention, to a fine not exceeding five pounds for every day during which such contravention is continued.

4. The Minister of the Interior may, in his discretion, direct that a permit be issued, to be signed by an officer thereto appointed by him, authorizing—

(a) the person or body of persons referred to in sub-section (1) of section two to grant a certificate referred to in that section; or

(b) the letting to, or the hiring or occupation by, an Asiatic of land or premises referred to in section three.

5. The provisions of sections two and three shall not apply in respect of—

(a) the grant of a certificate authorizing the issue of a licence to carry on any business or trade on; or

(b) the grant of a certificate authorising the removal of any business to; or

(c) the letting to, or the hiring or occupation by Asiatics of,

any land or premises situated in any street, ward or location which, in terms of Law No. 3 of 1885 of the Transvaal, has been assigned to Asiatics to live in, or in any bazaar or other area which, in terms of section ten of the Municipal Amending Ordinance, 1905 (Ordinance No. 17 of 1905) of the Transvaal, has been set apart for occupation by Asiatics.

6. (1) If any Asiatic has removed the business carried on by him in the Province of the Transvaal from the premises on which it was being carried on to other premises, and that removal was illegal by reason of the fact that a certificate referred to in paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) of section two had not been granted to him, or by reason of the provisions of paragraph (b) of sub-section (2) of that section, any court of competent jurisdiction may on the application of the person or the body of persons referred to in sub-section (1) of that section make an order for the ejection of that Asiatic from those premises.

(2) The court which has convicted any Asiatic of contravening paragraph (b) of sub-section (1) of section three, may make an order for the ejection of the person convicted from the land or premises in respect of which the conviction took place.

7. In this Act—

"Asiatic" has the meaning assigned to that expression by section eleven of the Asiatics (Land and Trading) Amend-

Continued at bottom of next column

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.

By this Section 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.

This Section gives the Minister the power to issue permits to Asiatics to trade or to hire or occupy, premises referred to in the previous section and to appoint an officer to sign such permits.

This Section authorises 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. If this is not segregation what is it?

This Section empowers the acquiring of ejection orders against Asiatics for any contravention of the provisions of the above sections.

Continued from previous column

ment Act (Transvaal), 1919 and includes any Asiatic company as defined in the said section: Provided that for the purposes of this definition an interest which is held on behalf of or for the benefit of an Asiatic shall be deemed to be held by an Asiatic;

"coloured person" means any person other than a European or an Asiatic;

"lease means any contract (including the cession of any right under any contract) granting or purporting to grant to any person the right to occupy any land or premises; and "hire," "hiring," "lessee," "let" and "letting" have corresponding meanings.

8. This Act shall be called the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act, 1939.

THE CAPETOWN AGREEMENT

MR. HOFMEYR DEFENDS INDIA

SEVERAL members of Parliament during the debate on the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Bill, referred to the Capetown Agreement and charged the Indian Government with committing a breach of the Agreement. A powerful speech was made by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr during the third reading of the Bill, defending the Government of India, a short report of which has already appeared in a previous issue. A full report of the speech appears in the Hansard from which we reproduce below some important and noteworthy extracts:—

"No case has been made out for the statement that the Government of India has specifically broken this agreement. The agreement still stands. I go further and I say I question whether it is wise for us to lay too much stress on the alleged breaches of the spirit of the agreement by the Government of India. If we cast such aspersions on the Government of India, we may have to face similar aspersions being cast upon ourselves. That agreement fell into two parts. There is firstly the question of the assisted emigration of Indians, and secondly the question of the upliftment of Indians, which by no means was merely taken as a question of the education of Indians in Natal, and the hon. member for Piquetberg knows it. It covered a large number of other points. When those charges are levelled against the Government of India in regard to the first part of the agreement, it is well to remember that we ourselves are not without spot or blameless in regard to the second part. It is not for us to throw the first stone. I say this unwillingly, for I recognise that some of the responsibility for this fact is my own. But where these sentiments have been made on the one side, it is only a matter of fairness and justice that a statement should be made on the other side. I read during the second reading debate, the main clause of the upliftment agreement. It went on to specify certain individual points, and it referred firstly to the point to which the hon. member has referred, namely the question of education in Natal. What has happened there? The agreement was made in 1927. In 1933 I found that in Natal the Provincial Council was still spending considerably less on Indian education than it was receiving by way of a subsidy for Indian education from the Union Government. The rate of subsidy was fixed by a Commission of which I was a member, on the basis of the bare minimum cost of education. The Natal Provincial Council, six years after the agreement was made, was spending less than the bare minimum cost on Indian education.

The hon. member for Piquetberg had done nothing about it. After 1933 representations were made to Natal, and the expenditure on Indian education was increased. Since then, however, Natal has fallen back, and the old position has come about once more. According to the latest available figures of the Natal provincial auditor, that province is spending on Indian education at the rate of £4 16s. per pupil per annum. The subsidy is £5 5s. per pupil per annum. The difference is £10,000. I will not call it profit, but it is something very like profit. The Cape Province gets £5 5s. per head for coloured education and it spends no less on coloured education than £6 11s. per head. Natal spends £4 16s. per head on Indian education. May I suggest that this particular reproach against the Government of India would have come more fittingly from an hon. member who did not represent a Natal constituency. In the second place, this agreement spoke of the establishment of a hostel for Indian students at the South African native college at Fort Hare. That hostel has not yet been established. In the third place, it spoke of the sanitary and housing conditions in and about Durban. Everyone who knows anything about Durban knows how serious Indian housing conditions are there. Twelve years have elapsed since the agreement was made and yet according to the last report of the Central Housing Board, only fifty houses have been put up for Indians out of the Central Housing Fund, at a cost of £13,000. That is what we have done to implement that part of the agreement. Then the agreement spoke of the maintenance of no colour bar in the Industrial Conciliation and Wage Acts so far as Indians are concerned. We have maintained that. Then it spoke of the relaxation of the Provincial licensing laws in regard to trading licences. No single province has relaxed its trading licence laws as it affects Indians. On the other hand, the Transvaal has definitely tightened up its law and hon. member opposite approved of it. And now we have clause 2 of this Bill imposing further restrictions. The matter is as distasteful to me as it is to the House, and I shall say no more about it. We shall, however, do wisely in the future to be careful in throwing stones at another Government in regard to what it has done, or what it has not done in giving effect to the spirit of this agreement.

Government Of India's Interest

Replying to those members who said that the Government of the India had no right to interfere in the domestic

matters of South Africa concerning Indians, Mr. Hofmeyr said:

The Government of India cannot be expected to disinterest itself in what is happening to-day and in these possibilities to which I have referred. The hon. member for Piquetberg (Dr. Malan) has asked what right has the Government of India to interfere in a matter affecting a section of our people, not Indian nationals but Union nationals; why should we have an Indian Agent-General in South Africa? Let me answer that question. The Indians came to South Africa in the first instance because we Europeans wanted them to come.

An Hon. Member: No.

Mr. Hofmeyr: We asked them to come. The Government of Natal brought them here and the Government of Natal paid for their coming here.

An Hon. Member: No.

Mr. Hofmeyr: When the Government of India objected, those objections, with the help of the Government in London, were overborne. Assurances were given to the Government of India as to their treatment here, and most of the Indians in South Africa, not all of them, came either in that way or are descendants of those who came in that way. Originally those Indians had the vote here in South Africa, certainly in the Cape and Natal, though never in the Transvaal. They still have it in the Cape, but very few of them. In Natal they have lost the parliamentary and municipal franchise.

Mr. Deane: Excepting one or two.

Mr. Hofmeyr: Surely, sir, the Government of India cannot disinterest itself in the position of these people in regard to whom it received those assurances in the past, and who have been deprived of the vote which they had when they arrived here. Sir, the important fact is not that both the Government of India and the Government of the Union are governments in the British Commonwealth; the important point is simply that this is a matter of right and equity as between one government and another and the hon. member for Piquetberg recognised in 1927 that it was a question not of Imperialism but a question of justice. In 1927 and in 1932 it was recognised that the Government of India had an interest in these people who are Union nationals and who are a part of our population, and we asked the Government of India to send an Agent-General here. Let me quote from the hon. member for Piquetberg's own

statement in 1927. This is what he said:—

The Government of the Union of South Africa has requested the Government of India to appoint an agent in the Union in order to secure continuous effective co-operation between the two governments.

The government of India, I say, cannot close its eyes to what happens here in South Africa in regard to these people. Of course, that government has troubles of its own, it wants to launch federation, the great experiment of federation next year. Federation is not popular with the congress party which controls eight out of the eleven provinces. In the congress party there is an extremist section and a moderate section. They are very evenly divided. For a time, recently, the extremists took

control but now the moderates have recovered their position. A mere touch may set the balance over in the other direction again, and Indian public opinion is tremendously sensitive on this question of Indians overseas, not merely in South Africa but in other parts of the world. It would be strange if the Government of India did not take a line in regard to what happens to the Indians living here in South Africa. Of course, there are those who would close their eyes to these facts; there are those who will say, "What is India to us or we to India?"; there are those who will say, "What does it matter if we do humiliate India, what can they do to retaliate?" It is true that India can do very little by way of retaliation, but when I hear about humiliating people because they cannot retaliate,

my thoughts go back, as no doubt do the thoughts of the Minister of Justice, to the Peace Conference of Versailles twenty years ago. There were those then also who talked, yes, and acted, in terms of humiliating the people who they thought could not retaliate. Sir, that policy has come back upon them, they are suffering for that policy to-day. You cannot deprive any nation for all time of the weapons of retaliation. Do not let us leave out of our thinking that the time may come when the friendship of the Government of India, yes, and the people of India, who are advancing so fast along the lines of political development, may be a matter of first class importance for us. Let us be wise in the shaping of our policies in relation to that people before perhaps it is too late.

BLACK SUNDAY AFFAIR

MURDEROUS ATTACK ON PASSIVE RESISTERS AT CONGRESS MEETING

Preparatory Inquiry

FIVE Indians, Abdulla Alli, Mahomed Ismail Kajee, Mirza Ahmed Surdubeg, Mahomed Bhana and Mahomed Abed, vice-president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, appeared before Mr. W. F. Nel in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on June 22 at a preparatory examination of an allegation against them of public violence arising out of the brutal assaults at the Osrin Picture Palace in Ferreirastown on Sunday, June 4.

Mr. M. Botha appeared for the Crown; and Mr. V. C. Berrange, with him Mr. I. I. Hazaree, for the Indians.

The evidence taken at the hospital was read over to the five accused before further evidence was presented.

Suliman Mahomed Moolla said he went to the meeting place in Ferreirastown at about 10 a.m. on June 4. When he arrived, Abdulla threatened him. Later he saw Abed and Kajee talking together. Abed handed Kajee a knife.

When he came out of the hall at noon he saw a fight in progress. Abdulla, Kajee and a number of coloureds were chasing a young Indian named Patel. Patel got away from them and they came up to him. He was threatened with a knife and received a blow on the head from a stick.

Kajee then ran up to Daya Govan who was standing at the bottom of the steps. "Kajee stabbed him in the abdomen with a knife," said Moolla.

Cross examined, Moolla said he went to the meeting place early to get a seat. He was a member of the Nationalist Group in the Indian Congress.

Mr. Berrange: You were one of those people who were going to break up the

meeting?—No, I went early to get a place.

You went out of the hall to gather your gang to break up the meeting?—No, I do not know why I went out.

Moolla was asked whether he had been to the police. He said he did not report to the police until he was required on Thursday, June 8, to identify the body of Govan. On Tuesday he had made a statement to an attorney.

Mr. Berrange: Was the reason for your making a statement to prevent Kajee from getting bail?—That is not so.

Moolla said he made the statement on Tuesday and swore to and signed it on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Berrange: Can you explain why the statement did not reach the police until Thursday, at a time when Govan was either dying or was dead and that the defence was applying for bail?—No.

It was suggested to him, said Moolla, that he should make a statement and send it to the police as soon as possible.

Mr. Berrange: Yet the statement only found its way into the hands of the police at noon the following day.

Moolla denied that he attended meetings at Ermelo and Standerton during the week before the rioting to break them up. He also denied that he collected bicycle chains and organised a gang to break up the meeting on June 4.

Mr. Mendel Levin Cross-Examined

During Mr. Berrange's cross-examination Mr. Mendel Levin came into court. Mr. Berrange held a consultation with the prosecutor, and, addressing the magistrate, said he had heard that the

prosecutor might have to call Mr. Mendel Levin as a witness. That being the case, he considered that he should not be in court.

Mr. Nel, the magistrate, adjourned the Court pending a decision as to whether Mr. Mendel Levin would be called.

After a brief adjournment Mr. Berrange announced that he had concluded his cross-examination of Moolla.

Mr. Botha said that before re-examining the witness, he thought it advisable to call Mr. Mendel Levin.

Mr. Levin said he had been instructed to watch the examination on behalf of the three Bhyats, Moonga, P. K. Patel, S. M. Moolla and the widow of Daya Govan. He was instructed on June 4 by some of them and subsequently by the others. He took certain affidavits in connection with the riots and handed them to the police.

Moolla gave him certain facts on Tuesday, June 6, and these were put into affidavit form. The affidavit was sworn to and signed on June 7 before ten o'clock. He handed the affidavit to Detective Nel at Marshall Square between 11 and 12 o'clock on June 8.

Mr. Berrange: As an attorney, naturally you would take all steps to carry out the instructions of your client?—Yes.

Mr. Berrange: Did you receive any instructions to hand this affidavit to the police?—I cannot disclose my instructions, but they were to do anything reasonable in order to see that justice was done.

Were you asked to hand it over to the police as soon as possible?—No.

I ask you that because Moolla has sworn under oath that he asked you to

hand this over as soon as possible to the police.—I do not seem to recollect those instructions.

Questioned further on this point, Mr. Levin said it was possible that Moolla did give him such instructions.

Mr. Berrange: You will admit that you took very active steps to prevent the accused from obtaining bail?—I think it is a question of privilege.

Mr. Berrange: Are you claiming privilege on that question.

Mr. Levin: Yes.

Mr. Berrange: I must then apply to your worship for the Court to adjudicate on this question.

Mr. Levin: I will avoid this splitting of hairs by answering the question. I took steps to prevent the granting of bail.

Mr. Berrange: What steps?—I think I approached the senior public prosecutor and Lieut. Verstet.

At this stage the examination was adjourned until June 29.

The case was heard on the 29th when further evidence of Mr. Levin and Mr. Moolla was heard. The case is proceeding to-day.

NATAL INDIAN YOUTH COUNCIL

A MEETING of condolence was held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Youth Council on Sunday, June 25, in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban, in respect of the late Dayabhai Govindji, who met his death under tragic circumstances as a result of the disturbance at a meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress, held on June 4.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. S. Patchay, president of the Youth Council, who dealt briefly with the circumstances under which Dayabhai met his death. Among others who paid tributes to the late Dayabhai were Adv. A. Christopher, Messrs. K. Soobramoney, Sorabjee Rustomjee, Manilal Gandhi, C. I. Amra, A. S. Kaje, G. Ponen and P. R. Pather.

The following telegram received from Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, leader of the Transvaal Indian Passive Resistance Movement, was read at the meeting:—

"Congratulations for convening mass meeting condolence in sympathy of late Dayabhai Govindji, the gallant passive resister, who met his death at the hands of organised hooligans. Let us not be side-tracked by such deliberate murderous attacks organised by interested class for their own selfish ends, from the rightful path of resolutely resisting oppressive legislation which aims at our utter humiliation and ultimate segregation. Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Bill has been promulgated into law. Transvaal Indians are faced with ruination. The community has rallied under the banner of the Nationalist Group to definitely launch Passive Resistance in the near future. It is the turn of the Transvaal to day, it will be Natal's tomorrow. Concerted and united action by the Union Indians is imperative for success. Let not piecemeal deal policy of obdurate Government bamboozle us into taking up isolated struggle of Transvaal Indians. A fight for all South African Indians. Let Natal Indian youth take up the long

ignored, but just demands of poor Indian labourers for better housing conditions and better wages. Their present living conditions are hellishly miserable. Expect Natal Indians will not lag behind. Hope they will emulate their heroic stand in last Passive Resistance struggle. It is better to die fighting for a righteous cause than live as helots. In the words of Pandit Jawaharlal: 'I would rather that we faced extinction than submitted to dishonour.' Wish meeting and memorial fund a huge success."

BHULABHAI DESAI

HIS SPEECHES

Published in book form. Of particular interest to students of Politics, Law, Economics and Commerce.

The Book contains the great leader's lectures on these and other subjects of national interest.

Price: 8s.

Please write to:

"INDIAN OPINION"

Phoenix, Natal.

Letters and telegrams of condolence were received from the following organizations:—

Natal Liquor and Catering Trades Employees' Union, (Pietermaritzburg); Durban Indian Municipal Employees' Society, Durban Indian Young Mens' Club, Natal Indian Inshore Seine Netters Association, Durban and District Laundry Cleaners' and Dyers' Organisation, Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, (Verulam); City Indian Taxi Owners' Association, Pietermaritzburg; Sanatan Dharum Sabha, Ladysmith; Durban Laundry Cleaners and Dyers Employees' Union, Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, (Pietermaritzburg); Indian Women's League,

(Pietermaritzburg); Verulam and District Indian Child Welfare Society, May Day Unity Committee, (Durban); Liberal Study Group, (Durban); Colonial Born and Settlers, Indian Association, (Stanger); Natal Indian Youth League, (Durban); Natal Indian Physical Culture League, (Durban); Hindu Service Battalion, (Durban); Natal Steel Workers Industrial Union, (Durban); Natal Indian Youth League (Mayville); Maritzburg Indian Municipal Employees' Society, Dundee and District Child Welfare Society, Maritzburg Cricket Union, Hindu Cultural Service Society, (Ladysmith); United Football Club, (Durban).

Resolutions

The following resolutions were submitted to the meeting and were unanimously adopted:—

1. This mass meeting of Indians held on Sunday, June 25, records its very deep sense of regret and sorrow at the loss of Dayabhai Govindji, who met his tragic death as a result of organised hooliganism, at a recent Transvaal Indian meeting.

This meeting conveys its profound sympathy to the dear relatives of Dayabhai and to Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, the leader of the Transvaal Indian Passive Resistance Movement.

2. This meeting of Indians appeals to Natal Indians to support the fund organised in the Transvaal, known as Late Dayabhai Govindji Memorial Fund.

3. This meeting sympathises with those who were victims of brutal assault at the meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress held on June 4, and prays for their speedy recovery.

Our Agents

Copies of "INDIAN OPINION" will be obtainable in Durban at the following places:—

PATEL'S VEGETARIAN TEA ROOM, SUNBRAND TOBACCO WORKS, SINGH'S CAFE, BURMA HOUSE, Grey Street; and NARANJI VALLEBH'S TEA ROOM, Brook Street.

The Sporting World

Memorial Trophy For Indian Soccer Association

THE Indian sportsmen of Transvaal will be pleased to learn that a handsome and costly floating trophy had been presented to the Transvaal Indian Football Association by Mr. K. Thambi and the members of his family in memory of the late Mr. K. Naransamy, the eldest and only brother of Mr. Thambi. The trophy is a silver one and slightly bigger than the Sam China South African cup. It is one of the finest ever presented to Indians in South Africa. The trophy will shortly be competed by the district associations. The late Mr. Naransamy was one of the life vice-presidents of the Transvaal Indian Football Association and held many official positions in the various sporting bodies.

Bodasing's F.C. vs. Mill F.C.

The return match between the Bodasing Football Club and the Mill Football Club was played on Sunday, June 18, at the New Guelderland Sugar Factory ground. The curtain raiser for the day, between the "B" teams of the clubs, commenced at 2.30 p.m. The Mill Factory club had the game well in hand and scored 2 goals within fifteen minutes. There was no further score in the first half. The Bodasing's club, playing with determination, managed to score two goals in the second half. The match resulted in a draw 2-2. In the second match the Bodasing's team beat the Mill team by 5 goals to nil.

Soccer At Tongaat

A large crowd gathered to witness the soccer match at the Tongaat Football Ground, on Sunday, June 18, when the Tongaat Estates Football Club's selected XI met the combined teams of the Hill View Rangers and the Tongaat and District Old Boy's Football Club, under the name of the Tongaat United Football Club for a friendly match. The match ended in a win for the United Club by 3 goals to nil. Other scores are: Red Rovers beat Hill View Rangers 3 nil.

Depot Road School Old Boy's Club

A very keen and interesting Ping-Pong Competition was held by the members of the above club, at the Depot Road Government Indian School, Somerset Road, recently. Those enthusiastic members that competed were: Messrs. Sam Pillay, Daya Naicker, Sonny Maniokum, Allen Thomas, J. Soobiah, Ben Rajah, H. Valoo, Dick Morgan, D. V. Pillay, P. Ganas, A. B. Pillay, T. Chetty, A. S. Pillay, T. C. Ruthunam, Billy Jimmy, P. Harry and E. A. Moollen. In the finals, A. B. Pillay and S. Maniokum met. The game ended in favour of the latter, the scores being 21-17 and 21-19 respectively. All

communications regarding the above club should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. E. H. Moollen, 68, May Street, Durban.

Physical Display In Maritzburg

Young Hercules De Milo O. G. Pillay of Port Elizabeth, the well known South African Weight-Lifter and strongman, will appear in the H.Y.M.A. Hall, Maritzburg, on Sunday July 2, at 2.30 p.m. in a demonstration of scientific weight-lifting and colossal feats of strength. Pillay, who is well known in South Africa, has the unique distinction of having trained nearly 350 European pupils in scientific weight-lifting and physical culture. This will be Pillay's first public display in Natal. Those



G/L.D.O. C. G. PILLAY.

1933-1934 S.A. Light-weight Olympic Weightlifting Champion.

who have had the privilege of seeing him in action in Port Elizabeth and elsewhere in South Africa, will bear testimony to the scientific weight-lifting and feats of strength demonstrations that he is famous for. This is the only opportunity for the youths of the City to see someone who could inspire them to indulge in physical culture also. Together with Pillay, the members of the St. Aidan's Physical Culture Club, of Durban will demonstrate acrobatics, pyramid building, muscle control, posing, etc. They will also stage a play entitled "The Modern Youth Who Lied." This ought to be seen to be appreciated. A weight-lifting contest will be held between W. W. Townsend, a European pupil of Pillay, and L. S. Pillay, a member of the St. Aidan's Physical Culture Club, on 3 Olympic lifts. Since the City has not been fortunate in seeing any physical culture display for a good many years, it is earnestly hoped that this opportunity will not be missed as this display will be the first of its kind ever held in Maritzburg.

Durban And District Table Tennis Union

A meeting of the Durban Table Tennis Club was held recently, when the Durban and District Table Tennis was formed. A feature of this union is that membership is open to all nationalities. After the adoption of the draft constitution, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President: Dr. G. M. Naicker, secretary: Mr. I. S. Amin; treasurer: Mr. H. M. Vahed; record clerk: Mr. C. R. Naidoo; committee: one delegate from each affiliated club. The affiliation fee to the union is 5/3 and the registration fee 6d. per player. All clubs seeking affiliation should communicate with the Secretary, c/o P.O. Box 1773, Durban.

Natal Indian Boy Scouts Association

The fifth annual general meeting of the Durban and District local branch of the Natal Boy Scouts Association was held recently in Durban. The following officials were elected for the year 1939-1940:—Life Patrons: Messrs. O. K. Winterton and Geo. H. Hindson; patrons: Mr. R. A. Banks, M.A. (Inspector of Schools) and The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, M.P.; vice-patrons: Messrs. A. Gray, C. M. Booysene, S. R. Pather, L. Panday, E. Thomas, T. M. Naicker and H. Kisson; president: Mr. H. S. Done; vice-presidents: Messrs. N. Gungat, K. R. Nair, K. M. Govender, E. Shaikh, G. Munger, Boodeeth and A. P. Pahlney; hon. record clerk: Mr. N. Nunnen; Executive members: Messrs. P. G. Moodley, E. V. Naidoo, M. M. Naicker, A. Aidan and C. Munsamy; hon. treasurer: Mr. A. Gray; joint hon. secretaries: Messrs. R. Regnath and R. G. Pillay.

Social And Personal

Mr. V. B. Nagrani, well-known merchant of Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia, has arrived in Durban. He will stay here for a fortnight and will be pleased to meet his old friends. Mr. Nagrani is the guest of Messrs. Bombay Bazaar (Pty.) Ltd., 505, West Street, Durban.

A correspondent from Ermelo writes: "There was a large gathering present on Sunday June 18, at the Johannesburg Railway Station, to bid farewell to Rashid Ahmed, the second son of Moulvi Fazal Ahmed, who is probably the youngest science graduate among the Union Indians. He was here for a short visit from his college in Lahore, India. He intended to proceed to England to complete his graduation in medicine where he had been promised admission by three different Universities, including Edinburgh. But owing to lack of financial support he has had to return to India to join King Edward Medical College, Lahore, where he will have to spend six years for the same Degree, which could have been obtained in four years in England."

Things In General

Transvaal Indian Congress (Pretoria Branch)

A MEETING of the Transvaal Indian Congress (Pretoria Branch) was held on Tuesday night, June 20, at the Asiatic Bazaar to pay tribute to the late Dahyabhai Govindji who died as a result of a brutal assault by organised hooligans at the Transvaal Indian Congress meeting on June 4 at the Osrin Picture Palace, Johannesburg. Mr. Shaik Ahmed, the president, related the tragic circumstances which caused the sad and untimely death of the late Dahyabhai, and said that this sad incident should awaken them to their consciousness and to unite into one body to fight the common enemy. In such difficult times they wanted the strength and support of every brave man. These were days when they must gather their own forces to resist the bad laws of the country by breaking them. Dahyabhai's death at such a time was a great loss to the community.

Among the other speakers were Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, S. B. Mehd, Manilal Gandhi, Joshi, R. Mooloo, Nanabhai Sita, A. Velahi, S. Nayagar and others. Resolutions expressing condolence to the family of the late Dahyabhai Govindji and sympathising with those who had received injuries as a result of the brutal assault on June 4, and praying for their speedy recovery, were passed unanimously.

Pretoria's Response To Dahyabhai Memorial Fund

On Thursday, June 22, Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, accompanied by Messrs. S. B. Mehd and Manilal Gandhi, went to Pretoria and with the support of Messrs.

Nanabhai Sita, Ramlal Mooloo and S. Nayagar, were able to collect over £100 within a few hours.

Students' Union Entertains Indian Graduates

Last Saturday night Sastri College was the scene of gaiety and merriment when the Natal University College Students' Union held a Social to celebrate the recent graduation of five of its members, Mr. A. D. Lazarus in the degree of Master of Arts, Mr. M. B. Naidoo in that of Bachelor of Science, and Messrs. Amir Khan, H. M. Rajub and Morgan Perumal in that of Bachelor of Arts. The president of the union, Mr. Ashwin Choudres, in congratulating the graduates, presented each of them with a book entitled "Hindu View of Life" by Prof. S. Radhakrishnan. He dwelt upon the very good work done by the lecturers and said that the recent successes in the University examinations bore eloquent testimony to their untiring and splendid work. He made special reference to Mr. Lazarus who had obtained his Master's Degree at an American University. Miss G. Lazarus and Miss P. Muthukrishna were responsible for the delightful refreshments served. Games were arranged and both lecturers and students took a keen interest in them. Among those present were Mrs. Mabel Palmer, Miss V. Lawrence, Mr. C. R. Warriner, Mrs. Joseph, Miss P. Govindu, Dr. and Mrs. B. Notcutt, Mr. A. D. Lazarus, Mrs. F. M. Macdonald and Mr. and Mrs. N. G. Hodson. The union desires to thank the following for the assistance rendered: Messrs. Siemens Ltd. for the loan of Radiogram, Radio Record Trading Co. and Roopchand Music Saloon for records,

Whoodoodeen for Crockery and P. B. Maghrajh for musical items.

A Lecture On Late Mr. Dadabhoj Naoroji

At the invitation of the Bharat Social Club, Mr. S. J. Randeria delivered a lecture on the life of the late Mr. Dadabhoj Naoroji, on June 25 which was his twenty-second anniversary. The meeting was held at the Surat Hindu Association Hall. In his lecture Mr. Randeria said that Mr. Dadabhoj was the first Indian to sit in the British Parliament. He was duly elected in 1892 as a member of the House of Commons for Central Finsbury. He was instrumental in organising the Indian Parliamentary Committee in England, which rendered valuable services to India. The most important result of that Committee was the appointment of a Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure in 1895, and Mr. Dadabhoj was the first Indian to be appointed to a Royal Commission. Mr. Dadabhoj in his presidential address to the Indian National Congress held in Calcutta in 1906, claimed self-government for India. The great Indian patriot passed away at the age of 92 years in 1917. He was mourned by the entire Indian people. On the application of the Chairman and Trustees of Dadabhoj Naoroji Memorial Fund, Bombay, the Speaker of the House of Commons has accepted recently a portrait of the late Mr. Dadabhoj, the Grand Old Man of India, and undertook to place it in the House of Commons.

To Club Secretaries

Secretaries are requested to send in their reports for publication to reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

"RESISTO"

Ready Mixed Paint was recently supplied on a year's Government Contract.

A Painter writes:—"I have used "Resisto" for years with excellent results."

Agents For Fongaat and District:

GANDHI & Co.,
TONGAAT.

137b

Books for Sale.

- The Story of Ramayana 6d.
- J. C. BOSE.—His discoveries and writings with a biographical sketch and portrait 5s.
- ESSAYS ON INDIAN ECONOMY—By Mahadev Govind Ranade
Price 4s. 6d.
- ESSAYS ON INDIAN ART, INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION.—
By E. B. Havell Price 3s.
- INDIAN INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.—
By V. G. Kale, M.A., Price 4s.

From: The Manager,
'Indian Opinion'
Phoenix, Natal.

ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ ઇં.

શુક્રવાર, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૩૦ જુન ૧૯૩૬

અંક ૨૬.

“ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૩૦ જુન ૧૯૩૬.

હિંમત આપનારા સંદેશો

જો કે સત્યાગ્રહીઓને તો માત્ર તેઓના સવાલની સત્યતા ઉપર અને ઇશ્વર ઉપરજ આધાર રાખી પરિણામોનો વિચાર કર્યા વિના આગળ ધપ્યા જવાનું હોય. તેમ છતાં, એક તરફથી જ્યારે હિંદી કેમ ઉપર સરકારને અપમાન ઉપર અપમાન લાદી રહેલી નેહએ છીએ અને બીજી તરફથી આપણા જે ભાઈઓએ સરકારના છેલ્લા અપમાનભરેલા કાયદાની સામે સત્યાગ્રહ કરવાનો ઠરાવ કરેલો છે તેઓને હિંદના એન્ટ જનરલ; યુરોપીયનો તેમજ કેટલાક આપણા પોતાનાજ ભાઈઓ જેઓ તેઓનાપર શુક્રાઓ મારફતે યુની હુમલા કરાવવાની પણ હદે ગયા છે, તેઓ તરફથી નાહિમત કરવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે, તેવે સમયે માતૃભૂમિથી ઘણીજ હિંમત આપનારા સંદેશો આવે એ ઓછી માંતિ આપનારી બાબત નથી. છેલ્લા થોડા દિવસ માં પંડિત જવાહરલાલ નેહરૂ, રાષ્ટ્રિય મહાસભાના પ્રમુખ બાબુ રાજેન્દ્ર પ્રસાદ અને રાષ્ટ્રિય મહાસભા સમિતિના સંદેશો આવ્યા છે. રાષ્ટ્રપતિ બાબુ રાજેન્દ્ર પ્રસાદે જણાવ્યું છે કે હિંદુસ્તાનની સરકારે ટ્રાંસવાલનું બીલ (જે હવે તો કાયદો બની ગયું છે) તેની સામે પોતાના વિરોધની માત્ર નોંધ લઈ બેસી રહેવું નહિ નેહએ. દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાની સરકારને તેમણે જણાવ્યું છે કે તેણે સમજી લેવું કે હિંદુસ્તાન પોતાના વતનીઓનું અંગેલું આ અપમાન ભૂલી જવાનું નથી. દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના હિંદીઓને તેમણે કહ્યું છે કે તેઓએ પોતાનો સવાલ ન્યાયી છે અને સમસ્ત હિંદુસ્તાન તેઓની પાછળ ઉભેલું છે એ વિશ્વાસ રાખી પોતાની લડત આગળ

ચલાવે જવી. રાષ્ટ્રિય મહાસભા સમિતિએ એવો ઠરાવ પસાર કર્યો છે કે યુનીયન સંસ્કારની નીતી ૧૯૧૪ ના સ્મટસ-ગાંધી કરાર, ૧૯૨૭ ના કેપટાઉન કરાર, ૧૯૩૨ ના ફીધામ કમીશન અને લ્યાર બાદ યુનીયન સરકાર તરફથી અપાયેલાં વચનોનો ભંગ કરનારી છે. હિંદીઓને સમીતીએ સ્વમાન અને માનભરેલી હસ્તીને માટેની પોતાની લડત સંયુક્ત પ્રણયી ચલાવવા જણાવ્યું છે અને હિંદુસ્તાનની સમસ્ત પ્રજા તેઓની પાછળ ઉભેલી છે એવો વિશ્વાસ આપવા માં આવ્યો છે. પંડિત જવાહરલાલ નેહરૂ નો સંદેશો દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાની હિંદી કોમને સૌથી વિશેષ પ્રોત્સાહન આપનારો છે. એ સંદેશો હરેકે હરેકે સ્વમાનપ્રીય પુરૂષ અને સ્ત્રીના અંતઃકરણમાં કોતરાઈ જવો નેહએ. પંડિતજી કહે છે કે:

“ભારતમાતાનાં ગૌરવ અને તેના વહાલાં નામને ખાતર તમે જે કંઈ પણ હિંમતભર્યું પગલું લેશો તેમાં અમારો તમને સંપૂર્ણ સાથ છે. અનિષ્ટ અને રાષ્ટ્રિય માનભંગને તામે થવું એ કદી પણ અહીં નજ ગણાય અને એવા માનભંગના હરેક પ્રયત્નોને ગમે તે ભોગે પણ સામંતો થવોજ નેહએ. મૃત પ્રજાઓજ માનભંગને શરૂ થાય. આપણે તો એક જીવંત અને સ્વાભિમાની પ્રજા છીએ અને હું તો મુશ્કેલું કે આપણે ભલે કંઈ થઈ જાય પણ માનભંગને તો કદી શરૂ નજ થઈએ.”

એક સુડાને પણ હલાવનારો આ સંદેશો છે. પરંતુ અફસોસ! દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના આપણા કેટલાક ભાઈઓ-રામ વિનાના વિનીતો તરીકે એન્ટ જનરલ અને તેઓનાં કેટલાક યુરોપીયન સલાહકારોના પ્રિય થઈ પડવામાં ગર્વ માન-

નારાઓને તે હલાવી નહીં શકે. તેઓને માટે આપણે એટલીજ પ્રાર્થના કરીએ કે તેઓના જે ભાઈઓએ ડુ:ખો સહન કરવાનો ઠરાવ કરેલો છે તેઓએ તે ઠરાવ કંઈ પણ સ્વાર્થી હેતુઓથી નથી કરેલો પરંતુ સમસ્ત કોમના સ્વમાન અને રાષ્ટ્રિય ગૌરવને માટે કરેલો છે એ વસ્તુ સમજવાની ઇશ્વર તેઓને સદ્ગુણ આપે.

અમારે સખેદ જણાવવું નેહએ કે યુનીયન સરકાર તરફથી આગીસ કરેડની એક મહાન પ્રજાનું ઠંડે કલેજે આવું બાણીકરીને હડહડતું અપમાન અંગેલું હોવાનો પ્રસંગ દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાની તવારીખ માં આ પહેલોજ બનેલો છે. એશીયા-ટીકસ (ટ્રાંસવાલ લેન્ડ એન્ડ ટ્રૂડીંગ) બીલમાંથી અપમાનભરેલી કલમો, કે જેને માટે, ખાસ કરીને, કહેવાતા યુરોપીયન લતાઓમાં હિંદીઓ તરફથી પ્રવેશન અંગેલું નથી તેમ વેપારના પરવાનામાં પણ કંઈ પણ વધારો થયો નથી એ હકીકત ભેતાં, જરાયે વખત વહી જતો નહોતો, તે પડતી મુકી હઈને એ અપમાન થતું તે અટકાવી શકતી હતી. વળી હજુ તો બીજો કાયદો લાવવાના સંબંધમાં વિચાર ચાલી રહ્યો છે અને હિંદ સંસ્કારની સાથે એ સંબંધી મસલતો પણ ચાલી રહી છે એ દ્રષ્ટિએ પણ હિંદીઓની સાથે એક ભલી તરીકે આ ખાસ પ્રતિબંધિત કલમો લાવવાનું કશું વાજબીપણું નહોતું. આ સઘળી હકીકતો ભેતાં યુનીયન સરકારે હિંદી પ્રજાનું આ અપમાન બાણી કરીનેજ કરેલું છે એ વિષે કોઈ પણ સમજી વ્યક્તિને રહેજ પણ શંકા નજ રહી શકે. દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના સઘળા ન્યાય અને સ્વાતંત્ર્ય પ્રીય લોકો, પછી ભલે તેઓ ગમે તે ભલીના હોય, તેઓને હિંદીઓની લાગણીઓ દુભાયાનું વાજબીપણું આ પરથી સમજી શકાવું નેહએ અને તેઓની ન્યાયી લડત પ્રત્યે તેઓએ દિલસોજી ધરાવવીજ નેહએ.