

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Indians' Request Refused

A REQUEST by the Natal Indian Association for co-operation on the part of the Durban City Council on the question of Indian penetration was turned down by the General Purposes Committee of the Council. The Association suggested that it should appoint a sub-committee to work in close co-operation with the Housing Committee of the City Council. The Association believed that this step would enable the Council to obtain a closer insight into the housing needs and difficulties of the Indian community. The General Purposes Committee considered that past experience of similar co-operation had not been a happy one, and it was decided that the Minister of the Interior be asked to appoint a "fact finding" departmental committee of inquiry to investigate the question of penetration.

Xmas Treat By Mayor

The Mayor of Durban proposes to give a Xmas Treat for needy Indian children which act will be profoundly appreciated by the community. Sports for children under 14 years will take place at the Indian Sports Ground, Currie's Fountain, on Sunday, December 24, commencing at 9 a.m. Sports and mid-day meals will be provided for the children by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. R. Ellis Brown, who will address the children during the afternoon. Mrs. Ellis Brown has kindly consented to distribute the prizes.

The Hindu Sporting Club (Johannesburg)

We have received the following letter from the Secretary of the Hindu Sporting Club (Johannesburg):—"Sir, I have been directed by my club to inform you that at a special general meeting held on December 3 it was decided to donate a sum of £3 3s. for the promotion of the ideals of your newspaper. We hope that you will accept this as a token of our appreciation."

We thank the Club for its support and patronage.

General Smuts On Republicanism And Secession

Addressing an open-air meeting of between 2,000 and 3,000 people in his Standerton constituency on December 20, the Prime Minister, General Smuts said, had the Union Government under General Hertzog not acted swiftly in April by taking over control of the South-West African Police Force and strengthening it, the war might have broken in South Africa instead of in Poland. Dealing with republicanism and secession, the Prime Minister observed that the independence of the small South American republics was guaranteed by the Monroe Doctrine of the United States, which stated that an attack on one of these States would be an attack on the United States. No small nation could preserve its independence on its own feet. If South Africa were to commit the folly of seceding from the British Commonwealth of Nations she would have to seek a guarantor—and the only possible one was Britain.

Britain's Attitude Towards India

Political differences in India had in no way diminished the universal abhorrence of Hitlerism and all that it stood for, declared the Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, in the House of Commons on December 14. "Nowhere in India is there any disposition to let these differences hamper the common effort to win the war," Mr. Chamberlain said. "Money continues to flow into the Viceroy's war purposes fund. There is no lack of men ready to answer any call. The production of essential war materials is steadily growing." Speaking in the House of Lords, the Marquess of Zetland, Secretary for India, appealed to the Congress and the All-India Moslem League to try and adjust their differences. Recalling that the Government had taken over the administration of seven Indian Provinces, Lord Zetland said that although the transition had been made smoothly this development was wholly contrary to British desires. "In our opinion no constitution could be expected to function successfully which did not meet with the general consent of the

minorities who had to live under it. What we have to aim at is a state of affairs under which a legislator will think for himself as an Indian first and as a Hindu or Moslem afterwards." Lord Zetland added that if Herr Hitler and his associates imagined that they could hope for aid from India they were due for one of the greatest disillusionments of their lives. In spite of the efforts of the German Propaganda Department by broadcasting and other means the Princes and people of India continued to express in no uncertain terms their detestation of the crimes perpetrated by Nazi Germany against all laws of God and man.

And What Of Britain's Crime?

Would it not be well for Britain too to realise that India just as much abhors the crime Britain is perpetrating in India by keeping that vast country under bondage for her exploitation and by making hypocritical professions of being concerned about the rights of the minorities whenever the question of independence is raised. Britain is trying in vain to solicit friendship and help of India in her hour of trouble by withholding from the world the truth about India. Here is another utterance of the Viceroy reported by Reuter in a message dated December 18 from New Delhi:

The support of all parties in India for the Allied cause was stressed by the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, in a speech to the Indian Chambers of Commerce. Speaking of the difficulties which had arisen over federation, he said he hoped that all parties and communities, considering their positions at the moment, would face the realities of the situation. He prayed they would recognise the gravity of the international crisis from the point of view of India and so come together on a basis of harmonious co-operation and progress.

These words can no longer stir the heart of India. The time has come when the British Government should face realities and grant India what it is pretending to be fighting for against Germany. Then and then only can it expect India's whole-hearted co-operation.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 1939

Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association

WE very gladly publish elsewhere in this issue, a letter from Mrs. A. W. Hoernle, chairlady of the Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association, in which exception is taken to the remarks recently made by us while reviewing the annual report and the financial statement of the institution, that the cost to run it appeared to be altogether too heavy compared to the results. We do not know that even after the explanation made by Mrs. Hoernle and her defence of the expense incurred in running the institution, we have anything to withdraw from what we have already said in our leading article on the subject.

The writer of the letter refers to what we have ignored under clinic expenses. In fact we have ignored nothing. We have included all the items referred to by the writer of the letter including the £100 spent on the repayment of money borrowed for the purpose of a car for the Social Worker from Mr. Jajbhay, as having been spent in running the Clinic and it has appeared to us to be rather too heavy a cost to run a public institution which is supported by public subscriptions. It would be different if it were a Government institution. The appropriation of £101-2-11 collected in the name of the Quetta Relief Fund by the Transvaal Indian Congress towards the running expense of this institution is also questionable.

We have not questioned the efficiency of the Social Worker or the energy she puts in her work nor have we questioned the sincerity and the zeal of the officials and members of the Indian Social Welfare Association. Far be it from us to desire to throw stones at those who are trying to do good work. Above all it would be the height of ingratitude on our part not to appreciate the services rendered to us by our European

friends. We must appreciate the fact that so long as we cannot rely upon ourselves in doing social and other work for the benefit of our own people and have to be dependent upon foreign agencies the cost must needs be high and one cannot begrudge it.

It was for this reason that in our article written under the caption "social service work" we suggested that to carry on social service work economically and beneficially there must be a band of voluntary social workers assisted by our own medical men who are turning out in good numbers in South Africa and who could make a very useful contribution in this direction. We also deprecated the idea of having to seek financial or other aid from Europeans (although we are always grateful for the voluntary and willing help they are good enough to offer us) to carry on the upliftment work of our people, when we have quite a large number of wealthy people in our own community. It does not redound to the credit of our community's sense of public duty.

We would like incidentally to refer to the reference made in Mrs. Hoernle's letter about the Social Worker visiting Health Authorities to report on insanitary conditions in Municipal area. We would like to know how much of these insanitary conditions have been removed. We have no hesitation in saying that the Municipal and Health Authorities' negligence in this respect is criminal. Both these Departments are negligent in the performance of their duty in localities where Indians reside for the simple reason that they happen to be Indian localities. But here again we must blame our own people who

could greatly improve the insanitary conditions in places where they live by their own efforts. That can only be done, however, by voluntary social workers.

Now, to compare the social service work done in Natal with that done in the Transvaal. One should bear in mind that the population to deal with in the Transvaal is about 20,000 whereas in Natal it is 200,000. The Durban Indian Child Welfare Society does the same kind of work in Natal that is done by the Johannesburg Indian Welfare Association in the Transvaal. The Child Welfare Society runs four clinics in Durban and district where according to its 1937-38 report a total of about 7,955 people were treated. The Society in addition secured a Mother's Grant for 43 families representing 165 children. The Society has voluntary workers as investigators and numerous cases were investigated by them and attended to. Mothers and children requiring hospital treatment were recommended for free hospital treatment, needy children for exemption from school fees etc. To cope with all this work the Society's income was £278-15-11 and the items under expenditure were: medicines and drugs £52-0-6, reliefs £67-4-8 and salaries to clerk and attendants £108-0-0. The clerk is a very efficient and energetic young gentleman who has to attend to the work of three clinics and has to put in much of his own private time too. The car expenditure is included in this £108-0-0 as no extra allowance is given under that head.

The reader will see that very much more work is put in by the Indian Child Welfare Society in Durban than that put in by the Indian Welfare Association in Johannesburg and the expense of both the institutions is beyond comparison. The same picture could be presented were we to describe the very valuable social service work done by the

Arya Yuvak Sabha in Durban and the Hindu Young Men's Association in Maritzburg.

Yes, we do appreciate very much the efforts of the Indian Social Welfare Association in bringing into existence the Indian Girl's School, but can it be gainsaid that even for that the community had to pay a very heavy price, for is it not the duty of the State to provide education for all its children?

We admit that the Indo-European Women's Association and the

Indian Welfare Association represent efforts at inter-racial co-operation. While we are grateful to our European friends for their co-operation, we cannot help feeling that this co-operation is only to the extent of keeping us happy in the inferior status we are subjected to in South Africa. What we seek from enlightened Europeans who believe in democratic principles and in the high principles of justice, freedom and righteousness

claimed in defence of the present war against Germany, and who believe that all mortals are created of the same blood by the Creator, no matter what their race or colour may be, is that they should be unsparing in their condemnation of the scourge of race prejudice that has taken such deep root in South Africa and in their advocacy not merely in word but in deed for equality of status for us in the eye of the law.

SOME REASONS FOR PACIFIST OPTIMISM

TOWARDS the close of the war of 1914-1918 General Smuts said, "Mankind has struck its tents and is once more on the march." That remark is a partial clue to the meaning of the present series of wars. What we are witnessing is fundamentally not several wars but the day of reckoning of an entire civilization and its recasting into new forms and modes. War is the inevitable accompaniment of such change, but of the two phenomena that change is the deeper. If so, our primary questions should be not how long will the war last or how great will the losses be, but what will be the nature and extent of the changes? What can we do to help bring a better civilization to birth and successful life?

In the long run, man is guided by subtle, intangible forces such as hope, faith, self-respect, and love. We hope we will continue to live; we hope for happiness; we have faith in certain ways of living or in certain goals and powers; our self-respect and love may be limited but we cannot do without them. The apparent slightness of these forces in relation to our environment and all the rest of life provides ground for belief in one aspect of the analogy between society and an organism such as the human body. In the human body, the supply of energy, the balance of forces, the effectiveness of action, even the intelligence, are largely dependent upon the circulation of extraordinarily minute quantities of hormones, oftentimes less in volume than one part in tens of billions, that is to say, a smaller ratio than that between one man and the entire remaining population of the world. So in society, very small numbers of certain kinds of people may play a far greater part than is usually realized. This fact is what lies back of the story of God promising Abraham to spare the City of Sodom if only ten good men were found in it; of Jesus' words, "Ye are the salt of the earth;" and in modern times, the amazing influence of one man, Gandhiji.

By

RICHARD B. GREGG

In "Unity" (Chicago)

If this be so, pacifists must not be discouraged just because they are few. The central ideas of their faith are not political in the sense of depending upon the instant support of a great majority. What counts is not the quantity of present acceptance of such ideas and actions, but their quality. The influence of such ideas and actions will be apparently smothered for a while. Pacifists will be like caisson workers down in the dark and the muck, far below the surface, unseen and unhonoured. But if they are faithful to their trust, they will be laying the foundations for a future civilization. By this I do not mean any smug self-righteousness. The activating ideas of non-violence are desperately difficult to live up to. Any trace of smugness is so completely inconsistent that the moment it enters in, the influence of non-violence flies out of the window and is gone completely. Any individual pacifist may be as inconspicuous and should be as humble as were the original disciples of Jesus or Mohammed, but the central ideas and practices of pacifism are of incalculable importance.

As to the nature of pacifists' work, it seems to me that the forces of society are so complex and their interplay so largely unknown that nobody can draft a correct blueprint of the structure of the new order. But relying on the axiom that the nature of the means determines the nature of the ends actually achieved, pacifists should devise and practise social, economic, educational and political processes which express in daily action such forces as tolerance, a conviction that the similarities between people are more important than their differences,—that is, a belief in the unity of mankind, mutual respect, and self-respect, a belief that there is

in every person a potentiality for good, a spark of the divine which can be stimulated and made to grow into controlling power. These must be the characteristics of a better civilization. Such processes, because of the circumstances of wartime, can operate only on a small scale. They must be humble and simple and related in an easily understandable pattern so that when the time comes they can, by example, percolate among the masses. These processes should include activities which give immediate satisfaction of sense, emotion, intellect and action. They must be such as will act not from the top down, but from the grass roots up. At present the energies of people are too much frustrated and diverted into channels of resentment, fear, anger, pride, greed and divisiveness. The energy cannot be destroyed. We must provide adequate, socially desirable channels for it. That is the way to make enduring peace.

It seems to me that pacifists have good grounds for optimism when the war ends. The attitude of the masses of all countries towards war for the past two or three years makes it probable that even stronger than the vast hatreds and bitterness which war engenders, is the desire for some significance to life. The totalitarian nature of modern war as well as its indiscriminateness and monstrous destructiveness will mean, I believe, that only a civilization which has non-violence as one of its major emphases can, after the war, appeal as an ideal to mankind and give significance to life. Perhaps one of the greatest gifts of science and modern machine technology will be the dramatization of the complete folly and futility of organized violence. The choice between non-violence and the barbarism and chaos of modern war may be precarious, but I incline to believe that mankind will prefer non-violence, and will set about making it a practical reality. The responsibility and opportunity for making easy such a choice rests upon pacifists.

"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN" ON BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S INDIAN POLICY

LACK OF VISION AND INITIATIVE

"THE Viceroy's discussions with leaders of Indian parties and groups have after all ended in failure," says the *Manchester Guardian* in a leader. "What is required now," says the paper, "is, in the first place, a fresh approach to Indian public opinion through the various doors that have fortunately been left ajar. Secondly, we must keep untarnished throughout the coming difficulties our vision of a free Indian Dominion. Whatever the consequences of the Congress withdrawal into the wilderness of opposition, it remains the cherished objective of the British people to transform imperialism into partnership. Unless that aim is reached in India, victory in the field would remain a barren achievement.

"On his part the Viceroy has emphasised that he will try again, in due course, to obtain a basis for an agreement between the great Indian parties, which in effect means between the Congress and the Muslim League. Dr. Prasad has stated in his letter to the Viceroy that his party will continue its efforts to settle the differences between Hindus and Muslims by agreement. It may be that the severity of the dangers arising from the war in Europe are not easily conceived in the rarified atmosphere of the Indian capital.

"Looking as we do upon the recent Indian controversy from a point several degrees closer to the enemy, no amount of sincere sympathy with the aspirations of Indian patriot, nor the realisation that the Government response to their proposals has been slow and grudging, can prevent us from deploring the breakdown as a defeat of common sense. From the first the Government have shown a decided lack of vision and initiative. From the first by set administrative orders India was declared a belligerent country and its administration was placed on a war footing, without any consultation of Indian parties and public opinion.

"That error may have been committed, as there were similar errors in this country from a hasty urge for bureaucratic efficiency rather than from any real lack of understanding for the dignity of the Indian people. But the action inevitably provoked resentment. The Congress then asked for a declaration of the war aims especially with regard to India. The Government's first reply was an irritated complaint that such a demand should have been raised at all. Lord Linlithgow then began to consult leaders of Indian parties and communities and found, as he was bound to find, very serious difference of opinion, especially between the Congress and

the Muslim League. The Muslim League is an organisation which has in the last two or three years become a popular party and it must be said that the reason for its expansion has been the genuine anxiety among the Muslims of being outvoted and neglected by the Hindu majority under any genuinely democratic system. Whether these fears are justified or not, Mr. Jinnah has gone so far as to object to any British promise of full Dominion status for India except with predetermined safeguards for the Muslim community.

"To provide such safeguards should be the first task of the Congress as a party, which is most likely to hold an almost permanent majority in the Central Assembly, once full responsible Government is achieved.

"But though these problems are real and acute, there is some strength in the Congress complaint that the Government has by its method of approach stressed rather than circumvented the communal rift. If the Government had been from the first more generous in its response to the Congress request, if it had offered at once what it did propose after a good deal of punishing and heckling there might have been some prospect of success."

THE SPHERE OF SOCIAL WORK

IN the orbit of social service may be included all aspects of life and living. The service includes welfare of man, woman and child. They also include social evils such as, to quote a few, drunkenness, gambling, undernourishment, malnutrition, housing, sanitation, hygiene and delinquency.

Let us see how Indians picture in this country in the vast expanse of social work. Indians generally consider it their religious duty to do, in their lifetime even small acts of charity. To feed the hungry, it is said, is the highest performance of Dharma. Educational, religious and social calls on the purse of the Indian community are always met with response and the average Indian pays according to the measure of his capacity in various ways, which call for admiration. To close the door against the calls of charity he would consider a sin. In my experience I have never failed to enlist the sympathy and financial aid in a good cause.

By

S. R. NAIDOO

The existence of Sastri College, the numerous schools, both English and vernacular, the temples and mosques, are but the outcome of collective efforts of Indians in their respective sphere of work. The Aryan Benevolent Home at Maritzburg and at Mayville is another instance of self-help. But the question is asked why with all these exemplary efforts and successes, social work among Indians has not advanced to an appreciable degree? The answer is that anti-Indian measures in the form of segregation, trade restrictions, labour and industrial policies, displacement of Indian labour, exclusion of Indians in the enjoyment of social amenities, and numerous other obstacles, racial and artificial, compel Indians to utilise all

their energies to protect themselves from these onslaughts, and within the circle of these handicaps the Indian has to make progress.

I recollect that when some of us met the members of the Paddison Deputation which came from India in 1925 to investigate the Indian problem on the spot, and related our grievances and disabilities, a member remarked that he would not tolerate these conditions for a day. No community is able to lead a life of resistance and expect to show progress at the same time. That some progress has been made by Indians as a whole under the enormous weight of difficulties is proof of our traditional spirit of retaliation and resistance and even sufferance. Mahatma Gandhi could not have been a Mahatma if South Africa had not adopted a policy of oppression towards Indians.

Social service is no easy work. It has in these modern days, become an art,

a profession. Only men and women of training and experience are able to carry on the work with success. The trouble is that the State has not shown aptitude to encourage the training of Indian social workers. The State considers the subsidising to a small extent of child welfare work is all but sufficient. The State ignores, as far as Indians are concerned, the vast field of social work which cries for organisation and adequate financial aid. It cannot realise that its neglect is producing a C3 nation of Indian children. It is true that Indian children attending schools receive, for the past few years, milk and cheese and also meals at soup kitchens as an aid to nourishment. But this is not sufficient. If physical fitness

and the enjoyment of robust health by its people are regarded as falling within the care of a State, the Government should adopt an all-embracing policy of extending its social service to all irrespective of colour.

We cannot claim that social work among Indians has appreciably advanced. We have not touched the fringe of social work. Isolated and limited sphere of social work is not going to bring us the millenium. The work has to be nation-wide and all-embracing. Groups of men and women who carry on or are interested in child welfare society, children's clinic, soup kitchens, benevolent home and other charitable work are to be praised for the work they have so far done.

The Indian community should on a co-operative and a consultative basis collect information in regard to: (a) Wage and living conditions, (b) the problem of undernourishment among children, (c) the problem of malnutrition, (d) infant mortality, (e) children's disease, and collate the information so collected and publish same to focus public attention.

I would like to see the problem of social work placed in the forefront of our programme of work, and within a measurable time the convening of a Social Service Conference, to which Indian women would be invited, will be a welcome sign of our eagerness to combat our social problems even to some extent.

INDIAN SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

WE have received the following letter from the Chairman of the Indian Social Welfare Association (Johannesburg):—

Sir,—Your leading article on "Social Service Work" in your issue of December 7, criticises the Johannesburg Indian Welfare Association in a way which is liable to mislead seriously those of your readers who are not able to study the financial statement of the Association (published by you elsewhere in the same issue) in the light of the annual report as a whole.

Your article accuses the Association of extravagance and wasteful expenditure. This charge is summed up in the sentence: "It has cost the Johannesburg Indian Welfare Association £732 2s. 1d. to supply £28 15s. 8d. worth of medicines to 937 persons." This conclusion is supported by the argument that, towards the total expenditure of £732, the Clinic patients contributed in fees £71, and the Municipal grant £45—which two sums together all but equal the total expenditure during the year on rent and water at the Clinic (£89 9s. 5d.) and on medicines (£28 15s. 8d.) These two items being thus covered, your readers are asked to conclude that the balance of the expenditure (£616) was wasted under the guise of providing a Clinic service which, between patients' fees and Municipal grant, all but paid for itself.

This picture is so unfair and misleading that I am compelled to ask for space in which to put the facts in their proper light.

In the first place, the writer of the article chooses to ignore, under Clinic expenses, the charges for cleaning (£12), and the Honoraria to the two Doctors (£50) without whom the Clinic would be merely an empty room. He ignores, too, the share of overhead expenses which must be debited to the Clinic—

telephones, stationery, secretarial expenses. Between them, and omitting for the present any share of the Social Worker's salary, all these extra items must be put at £70-£80 for the year. Deducting this amount from £616, there remains a sum of, say, £540 to be accounted for.

£100 of this was spent on the repayment of money borrowed for the purchase of a car for the Social Worker. It is due to Mr. Jajbhay to state that he never asked the Association for the repayment of this loan. Repayment was made on the sound financial principle that debts ought to be discharged as soon as funds are available for the purpose. (Incidentally, as the balance sheet in the report shows, Mr. Jajbhay has since then increased his subscription to the Association.)

From the figure of £440, now reached, we must next deduct £37 10s. being a contribution to the Rand Aid Association for the support of destitute Indians. We are thus left, in round figures, with £400.

How was *this* sum spent? The report shows that almost the whole of it was required for two big items of expenditure, viz., the Social Worker's salary (£252), and the running expenses of the car, including garaging, insurance, licence and repairs (£93.)

The question, thus, comes down finally to this: Was *this* expenditure extravagant or wasteful? The answer, I submit, is No.

As your article itself states, the Social Welfare Worker paid during the year 4,317 visits (over 600 more than in the previous year.) This is equivalent to about 350 visits per month, or from 12 to 15 visits on each working day of the month. It would have been a physical impossibility for the Social Worker to pay this number of visits without the help of a car. The expenditure under this head is thus hardly open to criticism.

Moreover, what were the purposes of these visits? They were for following up cases assisted at the Clinic; investigating new cases to be brought at the Clinic; investigating cases to be helped by the Hospital, the Children's Aid Society, the Rand Aid Association; visiting the Indian Girls' School; visiting the sick, the blind and the destitute; investigating and presenting claims for the payment of Old Age Grants (of which 92 aged Indians are now in receipt), and visiting Health Authorities to report on insanitary conditions in municipal areas.

When I add that the Social Worker Miss Katz, is highly trained and recognised by the Government as a qualified Social Worker, and that no one could be more unsparing of herself or devoted to her work, I think I have said enough to show that the money spent on her salary is money well-spent in the service of the Indian community.

Thus, so far from it being true that "£732 2s. 1d. was spent to supply £28 15s. 8d. worth of medicines to 937 persons," your article should have said (a) that the Clinic service, *not counting any portion of the Social Worker's salary or car towards Clinic expenditure*, cost the Association about £200 during the year, towards which patients' fees and Municipal grant contributed £126; and (b) that the services of the Social Worker in her 4,317 visits cost, including car expenses, about £350.

This would have been a true picture of the Association's activities and expenditure. To write as if the running of the Clinic, which is open only twice a week, were the main work of the Association, and to ignore the heavy schedule of daily visits paid by the Social Worker, is to represent both the work and the expenditure of the Association in an utterly misleading light.

Incidentally, your article does not say a word about the Indian Girls'

School which the Association has brought into existence, and for which it has been fighting for years, until now, at last, the Provincial Administration has recommended the purchase of a better site on which an adequate building is to be erected. Nor does it men-

tion the two Girls' Clubs started by the Indo-European Women's Association, which assists the Indian Welfare Association.

Both Associations represent valuable efforts at that inter-racial co-operation for which you, Mr. Editor, yourself plead. We welcome informed and con-

structive criticism. But biased and misleading statements, like those to which I have replied in this letter, only harm the cause of co-operation which we all have at heart.—Yours etc.,

A.W. HOERNLE,
Chairman.

A HOLY WAR!

THE Unity (Chicago) writes:—The drive to make this war a Holy War is on. Indeed, it began some time ago, before the war itself had begun, as Professor Charles A. Beard points out in his *Giddy Minds And Foreign Quarrels*. Says Professor Beard (pp. 53-54):

His (President Roosevelt's message to Congress in January 1939, vibrated with emotions connected with foreign tumults and asserted that the United States is directly menaced by "storms from abroad." These storms, the president said, challenge "three institutions indispensable to Americans. The first is religion. It is the source of the other two—democracy and international good faith." Evidently he was clearing the way to make the next war a real holy war.

What the President was then preparing is now at hand. Poland, for

example, is being presented as a holy cause. It would seem to be well-nigh impossible to make a case for Poland. The spawn of the villainous Versailles Treaty, Poland was a despotism of the most cruel and terrifying description. Its people were ground down into the most abject ignorance and poverty. It persecuted the Jews with an even more ghastly ruthlessness than the Reich itself. And when Czechoslovakia was seized and subjected by the Reich, it was Poland which jumped upon the helpless nation, like a hungry jackal, and tore away Teschen for its own devouring. All this is not to justify Hitler for his wanton invasion of a neighbour state. It is only to disclose the facts about a land now sentimentalized beyond all recognition by the Allied propagandists. As a matter of fact Poland plays the same role in

this war that Belgium played in the last war; it is Britain's moral cloak for her latest imperialistic war. And now, in the Congress debate, are we getting the first "guff" about this European fight being a struggle for democracy, civilization, and every other precious thing that can be named. It is the old trick that worked so beautifully a quarter of a century ago. Senator Borah, of course, stated the real truth of the situation when, in his speech opening the neutrality debate, he declared that "the present war in Europe is nothing more than another chapter in the bloody volume of European power politics." But we will not have it so. It is a holy war, a crusade to save the world! If this idea prevails, sooner or later America will be seduced into the war. Nothing can keep us out. Hence, the necessity of scorching this holiness business early!

Things In General

Bloemfontein Decision On Colour Bar

An appeal by N. B. Seneque against a decision of the Natal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court refusing an order calling upon the Natal Provincial Administration to readmit his three children to the Stamford Hill Government School, Durban, was dismissed with costs in the Appellate Division, Bloemfontein, on December 14. Appellant's three children had been attending the school for four years, two years and 18 months respectively, but were denied further admission when appellant refused a request from the headmaster to furnish proof that they were of pure European descent for three generations on both sides. Seneque stated that he was born in Mauritius in 1886 and had lived in South Africa since 1898. He and his family had at all times lived as and associated with Europeans and their status had never been questioned. He submitted that the onus of proving non-European parentage rested on the Administration. In its judgment the Appellate Court, while expressing sympathy with appellant, whose children had been regarded as Europeans until a new headmaster requested proof of their European descent, said that the onus rested on

him to prove European parentage and he had not discharged this onus and had not established legal right to have children admitted to the school.

Bazaar In Aid Of Vernacular Education

Maritzburg Hindu Young Men's Association held a bazaar in aid of vernacular education on Saturday, December 16, which was opened by the Mayor, Mr. A. T. Allison. In opening the bazaar the Mayor said, "carry on calmly and courageously during the present stress of war and by pulling your weight together you will be doing your duty as members of the Empire." Mr. Allison emphasised the importance of education in developing a sense of civic pride. He hoped that as time went on there would be no children, whether European, Indian, Coloured or Native in Maritzburg without education. Mr. Allison went on to refer to the various amenities that the Council was providing for the Indian community. There were 50 new houses as a part of the municipal housing scheme, there was also the extension of the Indian sports ground and a plan to straighten the Dorp Spruit at a cost of £37,000. This would eliminate the flood waters destroying the gardens of the In-

dians on the banks of the river. Mr. S. R. Naidoo, a former president of the H.Y.M.A., said that the object of the bazaar was to raise money for the teaching of their vernacular language, Tamil. If their language was dead he felt that their all would be lost, but he did not mean to say that Indians should not learn English or Afrikaans. In fact, they had a great aptitude in learning these languages. Mr. R. N. Moodley, the president of the H.Y.M.A., reviewed the activities of the Association and thanked all those who had contributed towards the bazaar funds and at the same time towards the cause of education. After the opening the sale of goods proceeded, which resulted in a substantial addition to the H.Y.M.A. funds.

Natal Indian Association (Sea View Branch)

At a meeting of the members of the Sea View branch of the Natal Indian Congress, held at Sea View, on Sunday December 17, at which more than 150 members were present, it was unanimously resolved to merge the branch into the Natal Indian Association. The following officials were elected:—Chairman: Mr. W. Ballaram; vice-chairmen Messrs. A. M. Moodley, R. K. Naidoo

J. B. Daniel, B. Sookaye and B. K. Naidoo; hon. secretaries; Messrs. C. D. Babania and P. Appleton; hon. treasurer: Mr. P. Harry Govender; committee: Messrs. S. C. Maharajh, V. Reddy, Abdool Carrim, D. P. Desai, G. M. E. Limalie, Ebrahim Dhooma, Gopal Naidoo, R. K. Reddy, A. M. Jack: Tillack Singh and S. C. George.

Mr. V. S. C. Pather's Health

We are pleased to note that Mr. V. S. C. Pather, president of the South African Indian Congress, who recently suffered a paralytic stroke and had gone to the Tongaat Beach to recuperate, is now very much better and is expected shortly to be back in Durban.

Inanda Tea Estate Indian School

Messrs. K. Soobramoney (assistant organising secretary of the South African Railways and Harbours Indian Employees' Union and the Durban Indian Municipal Employees' Society) and P. Moonsamy, A. N. Moodley and Narainsamy Moonsamy, of the Inanda Tea Estate, have left Durban by car last Tuesday for the Transvaal for the purpose of collecting funds for the school which is being erected to cost in the neighbourhood of £1,000. The committee appeals to the public in general and the Indian community in particular to contribute to this worthy cause. The above mentioned gentlemen are expected to return on December 31.

Indian Elected President For Furniture Industry In Natal

The annual general meeting of the Furniture Workers' Union, Natal, was held in the Oaxton Hall, Durban, on Sunday, December 17, under the chairmanship of Mr. G. C. W. Ridley. Mr. J. C. Bolton was secretary. The members took a very keen interest in the debates and discussions. Seeing that the non-Europeans were 100 per cent. united, the European candidates declined to oppose and the result was that Mr. Ramchuran was the first Indian elected as chairman.

Two Men Sentenced To Death For Rand Murder

Essop Mohamed and Moosa Ahmed Bagas were sentenced to death and Sydney Hendricks to 20 years' imprisonment with hard labour at the Rand Criminal Sessions on December 15 on charges of murdering an Indian, Cassim Pahad, and a Native, Joe Mbele, at Boksburg on August 17. After an absence of 2½ hours the jury returned verdicts of guilty, with no extenuating circumstances in the case of Mohamed and Bagas, but found extenuating circumstances in the case of Hendricks. At the conclusion of the defence evidence three other men, David Schultz, Cassim Adams and Abdulla Bates, who were also charged with murder, were found not guilty and discharged.

Indian Women Backward In Education

The backwardness of the Indian community in Natal in imparting education to their girls is attributed to the fact that Indian parents give preference to their sons, and also, because of economical and financial reasons, the girls are neglected. This opinion was expressed by Miss J. Matthews, a non-European social worker

Amalgamation Meeting

Of The Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) And Colonial Born And Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch)

under the name of
NATAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION
(with which are amalgamated the Natal Indian Congress and Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, Maritzburg Branch) will be held at the

Veda Dharma Sabha Hall
On Sunday, January 7, 1940,
at 2.30 p.m.

Members of both the branch bodies whose names appear on the membership Registers of the respective organisations as at 8th October, 1938, will be entitled to participate at the Amalgamation meeting.

New members who desire to enrol may do so on payment of membership subscription of 1/-

Each member already enrolled, and any new member must produce his admission Card at the entrance of the Hall.

Mr. G. Zachariah, c/o Mr. S. R. Naidoo, Fraser Lane and Mr. K. Soobramoney, 471a Church Street, have been authorised to receive applications for enrolment from new members.

J. M. DAVID, President,
K. SOOBRAMONEY, } Jt. Hon.
M. GOPAL NAIDOO, } Secretaries,
T. RAMKLOWAN, } Jt. Hon.
M. NAIDOO, } Treasurer,
Colonial Born and Settlers'
Indian Association.
(Maritzburg Branch)

S. R. NAIDOO, President,
V. K. PILLAY, } Jt. Hon.
G. ZACHARIAH, } Secretaries,
S. I. RAWAT, Hon. Treasurer,
Natal Indian Congress.
(Maritzburg Branch)

of Capetown, who was entertained at a welcome reception by members of the Arya Yuvak Society of Durban. The position of Indian women in South Africa, said Miss Matthews, is quite different from that in India, where women hold responsible positions in the affairs of their country. Mr. Rintoul, a Coloured social worker, of Johannesburg, who was also present, said that if Indians were given free education like the Euro-

pean children there would not be so much poverty and illiteracy as at present.

Warning To Public

The general public is hereby notified that no person has been authorised to collect any funds for the following institutions:—Glencoe Indian School Society, Glencoe Hindu Community, Glencoe Hindu Young Men's Association.

To Prevent Increase In Unemployment In S. Rhodesia

To prevent any unnecessary increase in unemployment the Southern Rhodesian Government are controlling immigration into the Colony. The Government Gazette contains a notice declaring that people entering the Colony to take up employment, or in search of employment are prohibited immigrants, and can only remain if prior to entering the Colony they have obtained the permission of the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The secretary of the Nizamia Muslim Society reports that several new applications for membership have been received by the society. The society has been approved by the Minister of Justice and registered under Act 46 of 1926. The constitution is in the hands of the printers and members should make application for copies to the secretaries. The cost is sixpence per copy. The society aims at building a Muslim home for the aged and disabled people and the secretary appeals for funds for this purpose. Contributions however small will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged. The treasurer acknowledges with thanks a donation of £1. 1s. from Mrs. A. E. Harwin and 10s. from Dr. Ingle.

Obituary

Death Of Mr. V. Moothookrishna Pillay

We regret to record the sad death of Mr. V. Moothookrishna Pillay the founder and chief partner of the Mercantile Printing Works, Cathedral Road, Durban, which took place after a prolonged illness at his residence at Mansfield Road, last Thursday. Mr. Pillay's name is associated with Phoenix for he had for several years settled and worked at the Phoenix Settlement in Mahatma Gandhi's time and even after. It was in the year 1918 when the influenza epidemic had taken a big toll all over the world that Mr. Pillay lost his dear wife at Phoenix. We are indebted to Mr. Pillay for the very willing services he had rendered to us during recent years. The late Mr. Pillay was of a very happy disposition. He was an ardent nationalist and took a keen interest in the struggle for freedom in India. Mr. Pillay is survived by only one son who is studying at the Sastri College and a brother to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

Doings In India

What The League Is Composed Of

THE representative character of the All-India Muslim League to speak on behalf of the Mussalmans of India was questioned by the Muslim Congress members during the discussion on the Congress war resolution in the Legislative Assembly of the North-West Frontier. Emphatically repudiating this claim Qazi Attaullah Khan, Education Minister, said that the N.W.F.P., which was inhabited by 94 per cent. of Muslims, was a Congress province and how could the Muslim League, constituted as it was, of Knights, reactionaries, landlords and titleholders, represent the poor Mussalmans. He declared that the All-India Congress was always ready to settle communal questions with the Muslim League, but the difficulty was that the Congress, which was a non-communal organisation and could speak on behalf of the whole of India, was unable to recognise the representative character of the Muslim League. Mr. Abdul Rab Khan Nishtar said freedom was their birthright and it was difficult to attain independence by arguments and statements. They must make sacrifices and create such conditions in India under which Britain will be compelled to part with power. The Premier, Dr. Khan Sahib, addressing British statesmen said, "We shall fight for you; we shall give you recruits for the freedom of Poland, but what will we get after the war, not freedom but continuance of slavery, because somebody in India is not satisfied. Let us be one nation, let us not be in league with those who want to keep us in bondage." Concluding the Premier appealed to the members not to be misled by the bogey of religion in danger and unite for the common cause of the freedom of India. Mr. Amin Mohd. Khan and Arbab Abdur Ghaffur Khan, Parliamentary secretaries, severely criticised the Muslim League, which they defined as a body of vested interests and refuted its claim to represent Muslims.

Wild Allegations

"The Muslim League has been hurling wild and unfounded allegations against the Congress Ministries and the Governors without ever formulating any definite charge or grievance despite repeated invitations to do so. I, as an ex-Minister of the Bombay Government, can assure my Muslim League friends that nothing would be found against the Congress Ministry of this province which would show that either they acted against the interests of Muslims as such, or they did not give due consideration to the grievances of Mussal-

mans whenever they were brought before them," said the Hon'ble Mr. M. Y. Nurie, ex-Minister Local Self-Government of Bombay in the course of a statement. Mr. Nurie appealed to the leaders of the Muslim League, who claimed to represent the whole of Muslim India, to convene a conference of all Muslim bodies to examine the problems dispassionately and make contribution to their solution.

Muslim League Responsible For Rejection Of India's Demand

"The British Empire is not a democracy. A vast majority of the people within it live in bondage and have no voice in its affairs," declared Khan Abdul Qayum, Bar-at-Law, M.L.A. (Central), addressing a mammoth gathering of Pathans in Peshawar under the auspices of the local Congress Committee. Mr. Abdul Qayum added: "I do not believe that this war is really being fought for the liberation of Poland because Poland was an inflated state with Russia on its east border and Germany on the west, and it was created to keep in check the growth of Germany after the last war." Speaking on the situation in India, the speaker went on to say: "The Viceroy's declaration leaves no alternative for the Congress but to give up constitutionalism in the first instance and, if our demand for freedom is not conceded in practice forthwith, to wage immediately a nation-wide non-violent war to secure freedom for India. Referring to the attitude of the Muslim League, Mr. Abdul Qayum observed: "The Muslims in the League must have realised that their attitude has resulted in one thing, namely, that it has furnished British Imperialists with a very good excuse for not parting with the substance of power in fact and relegating all such matters till the end of the present war. They have not gained anything but the country has lost what it would have most surely gained without a struggle." In conclusion the speaker said, "In the Frontier the masses are fully prepared and eager for a struggle knowing full well that the issue of freedom is at stake and that if they do not strike for liberty here and now, they will not be able to do so effectively again."

Momins Disown Muslim League

Mr. A. Quaiyum Ansari, vice-President of the All-India Momin Conference, has sent telegrams to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Rajendra Prasad stating that the Muslim League does not represent the Momins and any agreement concluded between the Congress and the League by ignoring the Momin interests will not be acceptable to the Momins.

Gandhiji's Statement To "News Chronicle"

Following is the text of a statement cabled to the *News Chronicle*, London, by Mahatma Gandhi on November 14:

"I observed that the main issue between Britain and India is being confused in the British Press. Does Britain intend to recognise India as an independent nation or must India remain Britain's dependency? This question has not been raised by the Congress to gain advantage over Britain, but to enable the people of India to decide how they should behave during the world crisis. The issue thus becomes purely moral, for owing to her material and military control of India, Britain is able to regulate the Indian and British garrison and drain India's wealth at her will. Eight provinces out of eleven have said in emphatic language that they cannot participate in the war if it does not mean, among other things, India's complete freedom. All other issues are subordinate. The question of minorities is purely domestic for the majority and the minorities to settle themselves. The proposed constituent assembly is the only body that can evolve a proper and lasting solution. Any other can only be a makeshift, carrying no popular sanction. To fling the minorities question in India's face is to confuse issues. To raise the question of Princes is still more untenable. They are part of the Paramount Power. It is painful to think that British statesmen do not so much as mention the millions of people of States. Have they no voice in their own government? Are they to remain serfs, which they are? No wonder Herr Hitler has challenged the British Government to prove her sincerity by recognising India as a free nation. Whatever may be his intention in issuing the challenge, it cannot be denied that it is pertinent. Anyway, let the British public know that the Congress demand is unequivocal and capable of being satisfied if there is the will to shed imperialism."

23,000 Congress Members In N.W.F.P. 90 Per Cent. Being Muslims

The total number of primary Congress members in the Frontier province for this year stands at 23,364 showing an increase of 3,000 members as compared with last year. Among them are 90 per cent Muslims, 10 per cent Hindus and one per cent female members. Peshawar district tops the list with 8,900 members.

The Sporting World

Indian Fighters Aid Charity

DURBAN'S Indian boxers and wrestlers have done a very fine thing, for as the result of the charity tournament staged at Pinetown recently, under the promotion of Benny Singh, a sum of £173 ls. 11d. will be handed over to charity. The purpose of the tournament was to aid the fund that had been established for the benefit of those Indian market gardeners who had suffered considerable financial loss from the severe hailstorm, and that object has been splendidly achieved. The total receipts amounted to £213 17s. 9d., and as the fighting men gave their services free and expenses were kept down to a minimum, the fund will benefit appreciably. The tournament was sponsored by Mr. M. G. Fannin, Magistrate at Pinetown, and special thanks are extended to Mr. Rose-Innes, Assistant Magistrate, Mr. Bill Latham, and Messrs. R. M. Naidoo, Peter Moonsamy and Mooideen for special efforts and to the fighters who gave their services.

Intertown Cricket

The semi-final of the intertown cricket fixtures was played at Ladysmith on Saturday and Sunday last between Northern Districts and Durban, and resulted in a win for the latter by nine

wickets. The Northern Districts scored 91 and 86, respectively, in their first and second innings. Durban replied with 158 and 24 for one wicket. The leading scorers on the Durban side were R. Haffajee (16), G. Mahomed (34), Osman Backus (22), H. Singh (22), and I. E. Akoojee (18).

The Royal Athletic And Cycling Club (Springfield)

The 9th annual general meeting of the above club was held at Mr. J. Bharuth Ram's residence, Springfield Estates, on Sunday last. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. Councillor Fleming Johnston, J. H. Morse, B. M. Ramouther, A. Ballim, M. Domun and B. Bodhie; hon. life vice-presidents: Messrs. A. Durjan, J. Mungal, N. S. Lallie, M. Baldewpersadh, T. Rughabur, B. Jugmohan, O. Sewchuran Singh, R. Heeralall, B. Umraw, B. Rajoomar, B. Gobin Singh and O. Sewgulamsingh; president: J. Bharuth Ram; vice-presidents: Messrs. M. C. Naidoo, S. B. Stephen, V. K. Mannie and B. Sreeram; hon. treasurer: Mr. R. Naipaul; joint hon. secretaries and record clerks: Messrs. J. Rajbally and V. Madray; committee and members: Messrs. R. M. Naipaul, J. B. Rathipaul, R. Ramdhany, B. J. Ram, P. J. Ram, M. Moonilall, B. Sewnarain, H. M. George, P. M. Govender, M. D. Reddy, G. R. Naidoo, S. C.

Aboobaker, H. Mahabeer, B. S. Peter B. Ram, P. Sewganans, S. Dayaram and M. Kaliwan.

Indian Athletic Meeting

The Durban Indian Athletic and Cycling Union held their first athletic and cycling meeting since their revival on Sunday last at Currie's Fountain. There was a large and enthusiastic crowd present, which witnessed an exciting day's sport. C. Julio, a member of the Rosebank Athletic Club, carried off all the cycling events.

Play By Sastri College Students

There was a large attendance at Sastri College Hall, Durban, last Thursday, when the dramatic section of the Sastri College students staged two plays "The Hoop of God," an ancient Eastern play produced by C. R. Warriner and "The Truth Machine" a one-act farce by R. Godfrey. Most of the leading roles were played by the senior students and the acting was good. The entire proceeds of the evening will be devoted to the Sastri College Bursary Fund.

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ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ મું.

ફીનીકચ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૨ ડિસેમ્બર ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૪૯.

“ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૨૨ ડિસેમ્બર ૧૯૩૯.

જોહાનીસબર્ગ ઈન્ડિયન સોશીયલ વેલફેર એસોસિએશન

જોહાનીસબર્ગ ઈન્ડિયન વેલફેર એસોસિએશનના પ્રમુખ તરફથી અમને મળેલો કાગળ આ અંકમાં અન્ય સ્થળે અમે ધણીજ ખુશીથી પ્રસિદ્ધ કરીએ છીએ. એ કાગળમાં એસોસિએશનના રીપોર્ટ અને હિસાબ તું અવલોકન કરતાં અમે ઠરેલી ટીકા સામે વીરોધ દર્શાવવામાં આવ્યો છે. અમે એવી ટીકા કરી હતી કે એ સંસ્થા ચલાવવાનો ખર્ચ તેના પરિણામની સરખામણીમાં ધણેજ વધારે પડતો ગણાય. એસોસિએશનના પ્રમુખ મીસીસ હન્ટેલીએ ઠરેલા ખુલાસા પછી અને સંસ્થા ચલાવવામાં થયેલા ખર્ચના તેમજ ઠરેલા ખર્ચાવ પછી પણ એ વિષયપર અમારા અગ્રણ્યમાં અમે જે કહી ગયા છીએ તેમાંથી કંઈ પણ પાછું ખેંચી લેવાતું અમે કારણ જોઈ શકતા નથી.

એસોસિએશન તરફથી ચલાવાતી કલીનિક જેટલા ખર્ચમાં અમે અસુક આખતોની અવગણના કરેલી હોવાતું પત્રલેખક તરફથી જણાવવામાં આવ્યું છે, પરંતુ વસ્તુતઃ અમે ક્યાની અવગણના કરીજ નથી પત્રલેખકે જણાવેલી સબંધો બાબતો અમે ગણેલી છે અને કલીનિકને ચલાવવામાં સોશીયલ વર્કરને માટે એક કાર ખરીદવાને મી. ઝાઝબાઇની પાસેથી લેવામાં આવેલી પા. ૧૦૦ની ઉછીની રકમ પાછી ભરવામાં આવી એ પણ ગણેલી છે. એ સંબંધુ ગણતાંજ અમને લાગ્યું કે જહરે કાળથી નહતી; એક જહરે સંસ્થા ચલાવવામાં આ ધણેજ વધારે પડતો ખર્ચ ગણાય. જે એ સારકારી સંસ્થા હોત તો જુદી વાત હતી. વળી ટ્રાંસવાલ ઈન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી કનેદા સંકેટનીવારણ માટે ઉપરતપાયેલા ફન્ડમાંની પા. ૧૫૨-૨-૧૧ની રકમનો આ સંસ્થામાં શી રીતે ઉપયોગ થયું છે એ પણ એક ટીકાને ખમ્ખા બાબત છે.

સોશીયલ વર્કરની કુશળતા અને પોતાના કાર્યમાં પોતે જે મહેનત ઉઠાવી રહેલાં છે તેને વિશે અમે શંકા ઉઠાવેલીજ નથી તેમજ ઈન્ડિયન સોશીયલ વેલફેર એસોસિએશનના અમલદારો કે સભ્યોની શુભનિષ્ઠા કે ઉત્સાહ

ને વીશે પણ અમે શંકા ઉઠાવેલી નથી. સાફ કાર્ય કરવાનો પ્રયત્ન કરનારાઓ સામે પથરા ફેંકવાની અમારી જગ્યાએ ધ્રુજા નથી અને અમારા યુરોપીયન મીત્રો તરફથી અમારી કામની યદ્ય રહેલી સેવાઓની જે અમે કહર ન કરીએ તો અમે નવાં કૃતાદિજ ગણાઈએ. આપણે એટલી વસ્તુ તો સ્વીકારવીજ પડશે કે આપણી કામના હીતને ખાતર સામાજિક કે અન્ય કાર્યો કરવામાં જ્યાં સુધી આપણે સ્વાલંબી ન બની શકીએ અને પરદેશીઓપર નીભર રહેવું પડે ત્યાં સુધી એ કાર્ય ચલાવવાનો ખર્ચ મોટો થવાનોજ અને તેની ધર્ષા કરવી નીતર્થકજ ગણાય.

આટલાજ કારણથી સમાજ સેવાકાર્યના મથાળાં હેઠળ લખાયેલા અમારા અગ્રણ્યમાં અમે સુચન્યું હતું કે આપણે જે ખરેખર કરકસરથી અને ફામલકારકરીતે સમાજ સેવા કાર્ય કરવા ઇચ્છતા હોઈએ તો આપણે એ કામને માટે સ્વયંસેવકોતું એક દળ હોવું જોઈએ અને આપણા પોતાના દાકતરો, જેઓ દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકામાં મોટી સંખ્યામાં ઉપનન થતા જાય છે, તેઓ આ કાર્યમાં ઉપયોગી શબ્દો આપી શકે.

વળી જે યુરોપીયન મીત્રો તરફથી સ્વેચ્છાએ આપણને મદદ મળતી હોય તેને માટે આભાર માનવા સાથે આપણી પોતાની કામના ઉત્કૃષ્ટ કાર્યમાં, આપણી કામમાં માલદારોની મોટી સંખ્યા પડેલી હોવાં છતાં, આર્થિક તેમજ ખીજ મદદને માટે આપણે યુરોપીયનોને હાથ લંબાવે પડે એ વસ્તુને અમે વળોડી કાઢી હતી. આપણી કામી કરજ વિશેના આપણુ બાનની એ બહુ સારી જાણ પાડનારી બાબત ન ગણાય.

પ્રસંગવશત પત્રલેખકે સોશીયલ વર્કર તરફથી મ્યુનીસીપલ લતાઓમાં વર્તતી અનારોગ્ય સ્થિતિ વિષે તંદુરસ્તી ખાતાને રીપોર્ટ કરવાને લેવાયેલી મુલાકાતો વિશે સુચન્યું હતું. એ બાબતમાં અમે જણવા ઇચ્છીએ છીએ કે ઉક્ત અનારોગ્ય સ્થિતિમાં સુધારા કેટલા થયા છે? અમે વગર સંક્રાએ કહી શકીએ છીએ કે આ બાબતમાં મ્યુનીસીપાલિટી તેમજ તંદુરસ્તી ખાતાની પોતાની કરજ બજવવામાં નિષ્કાળજ અતહદ છે.

આ ખન્ને ખાતાઓ જ્યાં હોદીઓને વસવાટ હોય તેવા લતાઓમાં પોતાની કરજ બજવવા માં બેદરકાર રહે છે અને તે એટલાજ ખાતર કે એ હોદી લતાઓ છે. પરંતુ આ બાબતમાં પણ અમારે અમારા પોતાનાજ ભાષ્યોને દોષિત કરાવવા પડશે કેમકે જ્યાં જ્યાં તેઓ વસવાટ કરી રહ્યા હોય ત્યાંની ધણી ખરી અનારોગ્ય સ્થિતિ તો તેઓ સ્વપ્રયાસથીજ સુધારી શકે. પરંતુ એ વસ્તુ ભારેજ યદ્ય શકે જે સમાજ સેવા કરનારા સ્વયંસેવકો આપણી પાસે હોય.

હવે નાટાલમાં સમાજ સેવા કાર્ય યદ્ય રહ્યું છે તેની ટ્રાંસવાલમાં યદ્ય રહેલાં કાર્યની સાથે થોડીક સરખામણી કરીએ. તેમ કરતાં આપણે એટલું માફ રાખવું જોઈએ કે ટ્રાંસવાલમાં ૨૦,૦૦૦ ની વસ્તીને ખ્યાન દેવાનું છે ભારે નાટાલમાં જે લાખને ખ્યાન દેવાનું હોય છે. જોહાનીસબર્ગ ઈન્ડિયન સોશીયલ વેલફેર એસોસિએશન તરફથી જે કાર્ય ટ્રાંસવાલમાં કરવામાં આવે છે તેવુંજ કાર્ય કરવન ઈન્ડિયન આઇલ્ડ વેલફેર સોસાયટી તરફથી નાટાલમાં કરવામાં આવે છે. આઇલ્ડ વેલફેર સોસાયટી કરવન અને ડિસ્ક્રીક્ટમાં ચાર કલીનિકો ચલાવે છે, જ્યાં તેના ૧૯૩૭-૩૮ની સાલના રીપોર્ટ મુજબ ૭૯૫૫ જેટલા લોકોની સારવાર યદ્ય હતી. એ ઉપરાંત સોસાયટીએ ૪૩ કુટુંબો જેમાં ૧૬૫ બાળકોનો સમાવેશ થાય છે તેઓનો મધસ ટ્રાન્ટ અપાવી હતી. સોસાયટીને મુલાકાતો લેનારા અને તપાસ કરનારા સ્વયંસેવકો છે અને તેઓએ સેંકડો કોસોની તપાસ કરી હતી અને તેને ખ્યાન દેવાયું હતું. માતાઓ અને બાળકો જેઓને ઇસ્પીતાલમાં સારવારની જરૂર હોય તેઓને ઇસ્પીતાલમાં મક્ત સારવારની સગવડો કરી આપવામાં આવી હતી, બાળકોની સ્કુલ શીઓ માફ કરાવી આપી હતી તેમજ ખીજ એવી અનેક સેવાઓ સોસાયટી તરફથી યદ્ય હતી. આ સંબંધુ કરવાને માટે સોસાયટીની પાસે પા. ૨૭૮-૧૫-૧૧ની આવક હતી અને ખર્ચ જેટલીને વીજતો આપવામાં આવી હતી. ક્વા દાફ પા. ૫૨-૦-૬, રાહતો અપાઈ તેના પા. ૬૭-૪-૮ અને કલાક અને એટેન્ડાનો વાર્ષિક પગાર પા. ૧૦૮-૦-૦. સોસાયટીના સેક્રેટરી તરીકે એક કુશળ અને ઉત્સાહી નવનુવાન છે કે જેમને ત્રણ કલીનિકોતું કામ સંભાળવું પડે છે અને પોતાના કામને પહોંચી વળવાને પોતાના ખ્યાનની વખતનો પણ મોટો ભોગ આપવો પડે છે. કારને ખર્ચ પણ પા. ૧૦૮-૦-૦ માંજ આવી જાય છે કેમકે કાર જેટલી રકમ આપવામાં આવતી નથી.