

Indian Opinion

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND GUJARATI

No. 38—VOL. XIII.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 1915.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE ONE PENNY

A NEW ORGANISATION

A MASS Meeting of British Indian Mahomedans was held on Sunday last, at the Star Picture Palace, Vrededorp, Johannesburg, when the Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress was formed. The large hall was packed to its utmost capacity and many were unable to obtain admission. Mr. E. M. Aswat, of Vereeniging, was voted to the chair. Delegates representing the following districts were present: Zeerust, Rustenburg, Krugersdorp, Pretoria, Roodepoort, Evaton, Vereeniging, Heidelberg, Klerksdorp, and Germiston. Besides the delegates, on the platform were Messrs. E. I. Aswat, A. M. Caenalia, S. R. Sarfudin, A. S. Mia, Amod Moosajee, M. D. Bharoochi, M. A. Chotabhai, M. S. Dangor, E. Hassim, A. G. Fajindar, S. E. Bhayat, A. M. Bhayat, A. K. Sacoor, and others. Letters and telegrams of support were read from Rustenburg, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Phokeng, Ventersdorp, Warmbaths, Potgietersrust, Heidelberg, and Vereeniging. After the chairman had addressed the meeting, several speakers supported the movement.

Chairman's Speech

Fellow-Countrymen and Brethren,—Many prominent Mahomedan members of the Indian community have for some time past felt a growing need for the creation of an organisation that would adequately represent the Indian Moslems of the Transvaal, instead of their interests being left to the care of irresponsible individuals having no authority of any kind to represent them. Until about two years ago those interests were safely guarded by the Hamidia Islamic Society under the able and self-sacrificing chairmanship of Imam Abdul Kadir Bawazeer, but since that Society fell into the hands of certain irresponsible persons it has ceased to represent Indian Mahomedan opinion and its activities have done grave injury to the Mahomedan Indian community especially and to the entire Indian community in general. I cannot call to mind during the last two years one single useful thing done by that Society, and its handling of the Marriage question especially was such as to cast ridicule and humiliation upon our brethren resident in this Province. That Society no longer has the confidence of the respectable and responsible members of the community, and it is hoped by the formation to-day of a new organisation, the interests of Mahomedan Indians in this Province, religious, social and political, will be more widely represented than they have hitherto been, and that, instead of the Mahomedan name being used in a manner detrimental to the general welfare of the Transvaal Indian population, the new organisation, by its strict regard for that welfare and for the valuable tradition created by the Hamidia Islamic Society in its palmy days, will be enabled to exercise a wholesome influence both as regards the welfare of its members and that of other sections of the Indian community, with whom they have always cordially co-operated and with whom in

the very nature of things they are bound to work together.

The organisers of this Conference a few days ago advertised that we should meet together to-day for the purpose of forming a body to be known as the Transvaal Moslem League. It can hardly be a matter of coincidence that within twenty-four hours of the issue of leaflets advertising this meeting and its purpose, certain persons, whose activities had best remain without description, announced the formation of a body bearing the same name as that which had been at first selected for ours, and all this was done, as we learn from the objects of that egregious body, in the name of Mahomedan brotherhood and fellowship. We have no concern with spurious mushroom growth like these, and shall ignore them except in so far as their activities may be calculated to injure the good name and reputation of Mahomedan Indians here.

I have reason to believe that attempts are being made at the present time, as they have on various occasions in the past, to show that the interests of Mahomedan Indians are different and separate from those of other sections of the Indian community. Those attempts are doomed to failure, as they have always failed before. There can be no injury befalling Mahomedan Indians that does not equally harm the non-Mahomedan element of the Indian community, and nothing can hurt them that does not injure us. The national existence of the Indian people depends upon the unity of all the elements of Indian society, and I earnestly trust and believe that this new organisation of ours will help on that work of national unity and that it will co-operate cordially with all bodies in South Africa that have a similar object in view and notably the Transvaal British Indian Association, which, in the opinion of all of us here and those whom we are authorised to represent, has always acted in the best interests of the Indian community of this Province and which deserves and is entitled to the support and help of Transvaal Mahomedans. With these few words, I leave in your hands the business of the day, namely the formation of an organisation to be called the Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress.

Resolutions

"This meeting representative of Mahomedan Indians resident in the Transvaal hereby forms an association to be called the Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress and those present hereby constitute themselves the first members of the said Congress."

"The objects of the Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress shall be the promotion of the religious, social and political welfare of Indian Mahomedans resident in the Transvaal and authorises a committee of the following, with power to add to their number, to frame rules and regulations for the furtherance of the objects of the Congress and for the guidance of the trustees and the permanent committee to be hereafter

appointed in the conduct of the affairs of the Congress."

"There shall be three Trustees of the Congress namely a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, two joint honorary secretaries, a Treasurer, and twenty-one members of the permanent committee, and the Congress as at present formed hereby appoints and elects the following persons to the above offices, namely:—Chairman, Mr. E. I. Aswat; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Abdool Gafoor Fajandar; Joint Secretaries, Messrs. Ahmad Saleh Mia and Shaikh Rasool Sarfudin; Treasurer, Mr. Amod Moosajee."

"The Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress hereby expresses its appreciation of the services hitherto rendered to Indian Mahomedans in the Transvaal by the Transvaal British Indian Association, and offers its support and co-operation to that body in further activities on behalf of the Indian population of this Province."

The above resolutions were passed in a group, and were proposed by Mr. Goolam Nabee, seconded by Mr. M. D. Bharoochia and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chair terminated the proceedings.

The Imperial Conference

London, Sept. 23.—Reuter's Simla correspondent says that India's place in the councils of the Empire was discussed at an important meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council to-day, when the Hon. the Khan Bahadur Main Mubamed Shafi moved that a resolution be sent to the Secretary of State for India urging that India in future should be officially represented at the Imperial Conference.

The Viceroy (Lord Hardinge) affirmed that the Government of India gladly accepted this important resolution, which had his warmest sympathy, and, if the Council accepted it, the Government would readily comply with the recommendation.

The motion was unanimously adopted, amidst applause.

The Viceroy in the course of his speech said that the ultimate decision upon the question of the representation of India at the next meeting of the Conference rested with the Conference itself. If India were admitted it would appear reasonable that she should be represented by the Secretary of State for India and one or two official representatives from India.

The Viceroy sincerely hoped that the Dominions would give sympathetic consideration to India's claims. Much, he said, had happened since the last Conference, and India's size and population, wealth, military resources, and patriotism demanded suitable representation. She could not be disregarded when great Imperial issues were debated in which she was vitally concerned. He declared that to discuss questions affecting the defence of the Empire without counting on India would be ignoring the value of the greatest military asset outside the United Kingdom, and to discuss trade questions without India would be disregarding England's best customer.

To concede India direct representation at future Imperial Conferences would be no revolutionary or far-reaching concession to Indian opinion or her just claims. The Viceroy concluded by saying: "I feel confident that when the question is placed before the Governments of the Dominions they will regard it from the wider angle of vision, from which we hope other Indian questions may be viewed in the near future, so that the people of India may, in the words of Mr. Asquith, feel they are conscious members of a living partnership all over the world under the same flag."—Reuter.

Transvaal Registration Appeal

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

On Tuesday, the 14th inst. at Pretoria, before Major Dixon, the Appeal Magistrate, the appeal of a Chinese named Sing Kooong was heard, the Registrar of Asiatics appearing to oppose the appeal and Dr. Reitz for the appellant. Evidence was led to show that the appellant had been in the Transvaal in 1897 and that he had remained there till towards the end of 1902, when he returned to China upon the invitation of his parents, with the intention of coming back to the Transvaal after a short visit. Subsequently he had remained in China till this year, when he returned to South Africa.

Major Dixon raised a question as to the meaning of the word "resident", in the expression "resident and actually in the Transvaal on the 31st day of May, 1902", as it was not sufficient merely to prove that an appellant was there on the 31st May, 1902.

Dr. Reitz argued that it was purely a question of intention. The appellant had sworn that, on that date, it was his intention to remain in the Transvaal, and that even when, some months later he went to China, he intended to return to the Transvaal. Upon that evidence, it was clear that the appellant was entitled to have his appeal upheld on the ground of residence.

Major Dixon decided that, as he was in doubt as to the interpretation of the term "resident," he would reserve judgment on the appeal until after the decision of the Appellate Division had been given at Bloemfontein in the case of Nuormahomed Moga, and postponed the appeal *sine die*.

Indian Bearer Company

The following has been officially communicated from Defence Headquarters:—

The Indian Bearer Company to be recruited in the Union will be of mixed Hindu and Mohammedan constitution, and will consist of a double company establishment, comprising one European medical officer, two Indian sub-assistant surgeons with the rank of warrant officers, four non-commissioned officers, four orderlies, a hundred bearers, two cooks and two sweepers. In regard to the pay and allowances of these companies, Indian Native Army rates are proposed, the rations issued will be according to the field service scale for Indian troops. The companies will be mobilised by the Director of Medical Services, Pretoria, with the assistance of Mr. Dunning, Assistant Protector of Asiatics, Pietermaritzburg. The mobilisation camp will be near Durban.

The brief announcement from Defence Headquarters giving details of the Indian Bearer Company to be recruited in the Union, will doubtless (says *The Star*) be hailed with delight by an important section of the South African community, which as yet has not had an opportunity of attesting its patriotism by sharing in the common burden and the common glory of Empire service. Many and notable have been the evidences of profound loyalty alike to the land of their adoption and the larger State of which they are subjects; and the only cause for regret, we presume, will be the smallness of the scope to be offered to the Indians—only just over 100 men being asked to give their services. It does not follow, however, that this is the limit for all time, or that no further appeal will be made to render aid which the Indians have proved themselves very well able to give. The recruitment nevertheless will assure the volunteers of the confidence the Government places in them; it affords, as it were, a seal to the compact which put an end to delicate political differences a year ago or more; and it enables the Indians to realise that they, no less than their brethren in the East, are active partners in a cause which touches India as closely as any other part of the King's Dominions.

From the Editor's Chair

TRANSVAAL INDIAN MAHOMEDAN CONGRESS.

A NEW body has come into existence in the Transvaal which we cordially welcome. It has long been noticeable in thoughtful quarters that Transvaal Indian Mahomedans were not as keen as they should be in seeing that their views on public questions were not misrepresented. Certain bodies and persons have presumed with no real authority to speak on behalf of Indian Mussulmans in the Transvaal, and only this week have presented an address to a retiring Transvaal official in the name of the Mahomedan residents of the Transvaal, though by far the great bulk of these boycotted the whole of the proceedings, and were not invited to take any part therein by reason of their known objection to the procedure adopted and the purposes that the organisers had in view. The new body, which is to be known as the Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress, will be a source of strength to the Indian community, especially as we observe that it has by special resolution undertaken to co-operate with the Transvaal British Indian Association. We believe that, politically, Mahomedan Indians have no special interests from those of other Indians, and this is evidently the view taken by the Transvaal Indian Mahomedan Congress. It has been suggested in certain quarters that the British Indian Association does not represent the Mahomedan community of the Transvaal. The formation of the new body, however, is clear evidence that these allegations have no substance in them; and that, with the exception of a few noisy persons of no substance in themselves, and less influence in the community, practically the whole of the Transvaal Mahomedans are desirous that their political interests should be represented by the British Indian Association. We wish the Mahomedan Congress every success and that its activities will be rewarded by a strengthening of the purposes of the Transvaal Indian population.

A White Labour Experiment

A special correspondent of the *Rand Daily Mail* contributes a column on the subject of a white labour experiment on a sugar estate in Natal. Unfortunately, he says, it has only been conducted on a small scale, and the war has interfered with an extension. But the result has nevertheless been distinctly encouraging, in the opinion of the gentleman who controls the estate, and one came from him with the impression that the sugar industry affords greater scope for the employment of white labour than has hitherto been considered possible.

Twelve months ago or thereabouts eleven white men, with no previous experience of sugar estates, were put to work. To-day half a dozen still remain on the property, and this fact in itself is regarded as an excellent indication. Most of the men were British, and they were given jobs previously performed by Indians. They were provided with free quarters, and as regards pay they were started on twice the wages that the Indians had been receiving.

To-day the six who are still there are getting considerably higher remuneration than when they commenced their engagement. No figure was given, but it was inferred that the men could not be altogether dissatisfied with their lot. And as sugar planters are not philanthropists, but regarding things from the practical point of view, it has to be assumed that in this particular case the replacement of the Indians was not unsuccessful.

A branch of the White Labour Department has recently been established at Durban, and doubtless the matter will be given further attention.

Naturally there are those connected with the white labour movement who hold that the sugar plantations should be worked for the benefit of the white man rather than for the Indian:

[NOTE:—This is the first time we have seen it suggested that the sugar estates were run for the benefit of anyone but the planters themselves and the shareholders of companies.—Ed. I.O.]

News in Brief

The Johannesburg Municipality is recommending the alteration of the Municipal By-laws with reference to Asiatic tea-rooms and eating-houses, so that the hours during which such establishments shall not be open are altered from between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 7 a.m. in order to conform with the Shop Hours Act, 1914.

On Sunday, the 29th August, the West End Hall, Johannesburg, was the scene of a pleasing little communal function. The occasion was the presentation by the British Indian Association, to Mr. Suliman Bhikjee of the well-known firm of Amod Moosajee and Co., of a handsome ink stand and clock, on the occasion of his departure for India. Mr. A. M. Cachalia, Chairman of the British Indian Association, was in the Chair. Mr. Bhikjee's services to the community are well known and his popularity was testified to by the various speakers of all sections of the community, amongst whom were, Mr. E. M. Patel of Vereeniging, Mr. Abdool Rahman of Ventersdorp, Mr. S. B. Medh, Mr. U. M. Shelat, Mr. T. S. Vassen. Mr. Polak also spoke and gave a message from Mr. Thambi Naidoo, who was too ill to attend. Mr. Bhikjee, suitably responded.

We are informed by Mr. M. E. Seedat of Newcastle who is now in India, that his son (Mr. Dawood Mahomed Seedat) has passed the following examinations, in book-keeping; National Union of Teachers (Advanced 1st Class) and the Midland County of Birmingham (Advanced). He is now in India studying for the higher course.

At Germiston on Sunday last, a meeting was held in honour of Messrs. Lalbahadur Singh and Hazura Singh, who are shortly leaving for India after many years absence, in which they have performed many public services to the Indian community. Mr. Polak presided, and referred to the public work of the two guests, to whom addresses were presented on behalf of the Germiston Indian Community and the Transvaal Hindi Pracharini Sabha. Among the speakers were Messrs. Thambi Naidoo, P. K. Naidoo and Bhawani Dayal. A Bande Mataram Song was sung by the students of the Hindi School, and Mr. Devi Dayal sang a song specially composed by him in Hindi.

In the Durban Court the other day Mr. Bernard Hodson fined an Indian named Dharam Singh 10s. for alighting from a train in Durban Station while in motion. Let us hope that this will be a lesson to others not to practice such a dangerous habit. But is it not strange that hundreds of Europeans, including ten-year-old school-boys, jump from the train while it is in motion and are never prosecuted?

The removal of the Asiatics from the ground previously known as the Asiatic Bazaar, Burgershoop, has now been completed (says the *Rand Daily Mail*), and one claim outstanding for compensation has been met. The General Purposes Committee of the Town Council report that the total amount paid out in respect of the

area for compensation, legal expenses, advertising, etc., amounted to £758 10s. 9d., and the amount realised in respect to the sale of the buildings was £289. It is considered that the Council has settled all claims for compensation in a satisfactory manner, and a far less sum has been expended than was anticipated when the question of the closing of the location was first dealt with.

In these times of volunteering for the front it is interesting to note that Colour-Sergeant R. A. Nee-muchwalla, of the Poona Volunteer Rifles, the famous Parsi Marksman, is proceeding to England to be enlisted in the 5th Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Arrangements are now being made (says the *Pombay Chronicle*) by Khan Bahadur Padamji for the Parsi Marksman's departure to England to join the Regiment, in which connection Bombay's well-known philanthropist, Sir Dorabji J. Tata has offered to defray all the expenses.

A report from Pallipuram in South Malabar states that a class of agents are at work actively in the locality, enticing away young girls by offering presents to them and their relations and by promising remunerative employment to those who are prepared to emigrate. The destination of the emigrants is not mentioned, but the report says that in several instances the girls have managed to get back to their homes after experiencing bad treatment and being altogether sadly disillusioned.

The same meeting of the Senate of the Bombay University at which the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji was notable also (says *India*) for the award of a like honour to Sir Phero-zeshah M. Mehta, K.C.I.E., Vice-Chancellor of the University. The resolution was moved by Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, who briefly reviewed the Vice-Chancellor's public career, which, as the audience was reminded, began under the direct influence of Mr. Dadabhai in England. It was in 1871 that Sir Phero-zeshah opened the fight for the re-constitution of the Bombay municipality. His views were then unpopular, and his vigorous manner of stating and defending them aroused a storm of opposition. But they had conquered, and the personality of Sir Phero-zeshah Mehta had been the dominant influence in the building up of the civic constitution which had long been regarded as the model for other Indian cities. The bestowal of the honorary degree at this time was the more appropriate because the present year marked the completion of the half-century since his graduation from the University of Bombay.

There is no more dangerous class (says the *Englishman*) than the people who go about claiming that this and that concession should be made in return for India's assistance to the Empire. Apart from the fact that this sort of claim is usually put forward by the political agitator who has not rendered much help to the Empire in this crisis, it is a grave reflection upon the courage and loyalty of the Indian troops to even suggest that they have made the sacrifices they have made in any huckstering spirit.

The report on the Indentured Emigration submitted by Messrs. McNeill and Chiman Lal was circulated (says the *Bengalee*) among Local Governments for their opinion which are now reaching Simla. The re, lies from Madras and Bengal, the two Governments mainly concerned, are being awaited. This question which is one of great political and economic interest is receiving careful consideration of the Government of India and possibly it will be brought to a definite issue this cold weather. Mr. Gokhale raised this question in the Imperial Legislative Council after the publication of the report of the Committee presided over by Lord Sanderson to which Lord Minto's Government returned a sympathetic but non-committed reply.

અઠવાડીક પંચાંગ

ચીસ્તી	હીંદુ	મુસલમાન	પારસી	સુર્યોદય	સુર્યાસ્ત	
૧૯૧૫	૧૯૭૧	૧૩૩૩	૧૨૮૫	ક. મી.	ક. મી.	
અકટો.	ભાદરવા	જલકાદ				
પુક	૧	૧૬	૨૧	૨૦	૫-૩૯	૫-૫૯
શની	૨	"	૨૨	૨૧	૫-૩૮	૫-૫૯
રવી	૩	"	૨૩	૨૨	૫-૩૭	૬-૦
સોમ	૪	"	૨૪	૨૩	૫-૩૬	૬-૦
મંગળ	૫	"	૨૫	૨૪	૫-૩૫	૬-૧
બુધ	૬	"	૨૬	૨૫	૫-૩૩	૬-૨
ગુરુ	૭	"	૨૮	૨૬	૫-૩૨	૬-૨

Indian Opinion

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The new subscription rates for the Union of South Africa will be 5s. 6d. per annum, post free. Elsewhere the subscription with postage will be 6s. 6d. Unless otherwise notified we shall extend the time of present subscriptions according to the period still to run and notify subscribers in the usual way before the subscription expires. We shall be glad if subscribers will kindly accept this notification without a personal note being sent to them. Single copy 1d. By post 1½d.

ગ્રાહકોને વિનંતિ

હવેથી ઇ. ઓપીનીઓનનું લવાજમ ૬. આફ્રીકાના યુની અનને માટે એક વરસના પોસ્ટેજ સાથે ૦-૫-૬ રાખ્યું છે. યુનીઓન બહારનું લવાજમ પોસ્ટેજ સાથે ૦-૬-૬ છે. જેમનું લવાજમ અમારી પાસે જમા છે તેમને આ નવા લવાજમના દર પ્રમાણે મુદતમાં વધારો કરી આપવામાં આવશે. આ જાહેર ૧ બરથી અમારા ગ્રાહકો કે જેનું લવા જમ અમારી પાસે જમા હશે તેમણે સમજી લેવું કે અમે તેમને મુદતમાં વધારો કરી આપ્યો છે.

છુટક નકલ એક પેની, પોસ્ટેજ અરધી પેની.

હીંદુસ્તાનની સ્ટીમરો અને ટપાલ

સુરત -તા. ૯ અક્ટોબરના અરસામાં આવવા વડી છે. સ્ટીમર કેકોન માર -તા. ૪ અક્ટોબરના અરસામાં આવવા વડી છે.

સ્ટીમર દીલવારા -તા. ૫ અક્ટોબરના અરસામાં જંગમાર રસ્તે મુંબઈ જવા ઉપડશે. યજ કાલે આ સ્ટી. આવવાની હતી.

સ્ટીમર ગુજરાત -તા. ૪ અક્ટોબરે કાલબો યજ કલકત્તા માટે ઉપડશે.

સ્ટીમર અમલોદી -તા. ૧૯ સપ્ટેમ્બરે કલકત્તાથી ઉપડી છે.

સ્ટી. અમકુઝી - તા. ૬ અક્ટોબરના અરસામાં કાલબો રસ્તે મદ્રાસ અને કલકત્તા જવા ઉપડશે.

સ્ટીમર ચકદીના -તા. ૧૪ અક્ટોબરના અરસામાં જંગ માર રસ્તે મુંબઈ જશે.