

# Indian Opinion

No. 8 - Vol. XX. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 1922.

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

A DEPUTATION representing Indians in Kenya (says Reuter), has forwarded to Mr. Churchill a strong protest against his speech at the East African dinner last month. The protest alleges that Mr. Churchill did not consult the deputation as arranged, and challenges his assertion that a pledge was made to European settlers that the highlands of Kenya would be reserved for them. The protest further cites Lord Elgin's dispatch of 1908 as containing an unequivocal pledge to Indians, and describes the regulation of Indian immigration as a "fraud upon the Imperial Conference." Concluding, the deputation says that it is fortunate for Imperial interests that His Majesty's Government has not yet pronounced itself in favour of Europeans being placed in a paramount position, and declares that Indians in the four territories will oppose a territorial amalgamation which will relegate them to a position of racial subordination, and says the inclusion of Tanganyika in such a scheme was not contemplated by the League of Nations.

Sir Valentine Chirol, in a letter to *The Times* (London), dealing with Mr. Montagu's speech at the 1920 Club, says it sheds a further light on Mr. Churchill's baneful ascendancy in the Cabinet. He declares that Mr. Churchill played directly into the hands of the Indian extremists by his speech at the East African dinner, which was made without previous consultation with Mr. Montagu. Sir Valentine declares that unless the Imperial Government promptly disavows that pronouncement the moderates in the Indian Legislature, who hitherto supported the Viceroy, will be left powerless against the arguments of the non-co-operators. He further declares that Mr. Churchill seems bent on placing Lord Reading in a scarcely less difficult position than that in which Lord Allenby has already been placed.

The Imperial and Indian Governments are subjected to severe criticism in the British Press for the part which they have allowed the situation to come in India. The *Times* (says Reuter), declares that the combination of Lord Reading and Mr. Montagu is not working well, adding: "There must be a separation. Nobody suggests that a change of Viceroy is necessary. The alternative is to appoint a new head of India Office, preferably a statesman of stronger fibre."

A Reuter's message from Bombay dated Feb. 13, states:—Gandhi announces that he has begun a five days' penance for the Chaurichaura tragedy, which he regards as another warning against the hasty embarkation on mass civil disobedience, and his bitterest cup of humiliation. He advises the criminals responsible for the affair voluntarily to surrender to the authorities.

Readers of this journal will regret to learn that Mr. Vere Stent, the late editor of the *Pretoria News*, who whenever he saw a wrong done to His Majesty's British Indian subjects did not hesitate to use his able pen fearlessly, is a patient in the Pretoria Hospital, suffering from five fractured ribs. Mr. Stent met with

an accident in the Waterberg about a month ago says the *Pretoria News*. The effects of that accident were not fully ascertained, but Mr. Stent, who afterwards came into Pretoria, has since been incommoded through not having the full use of his right arm. Further examination was made last week, when it was found that no fewer than five ribs were broken. He received the necessary treatment, and is now convalescent. He hopes to be about again shortly. We sincerely hope that Mr. Stent will soon be restored to his normal health again.

The Union Parliament opened its session last Friday, Feb. 17.

A Reuter's message from London says:—During question time in the House of Commons, Mr. Montagu said that the Government of India had informed him that it regretted the present financial position precluded them from contributing to the establishment of an Imperial airship service.

And another one says:—It is reported from Bombay that the Indian Princes intend to present the famous "Jubilee" diamond valued at £400,000, which is now in the Bank of England, to the British Crown.

A recent number of the *Saturday Westminster Gazette* (London) has the following note:—

The manner of the Prince of Wales' reception in the East increases in the warmth of the welcome. Now that he is in Siam his journey is practically a triumphal progress. Admittedly this visit has been a daring test of Indian sentiment, and on the whole it has been more than justified by the reception in the greater centres of India. Mr. Gandhi's movement is far from failure, but it has not been effective in killing the attachment which India has to the Royal Family. We may note in passing that Lord Lytton is to succeed Lord Ronaldshay as Governor of Bombay. He will go to India in difficult times, but with a name that still has magic for the Indian people. His task, however, will not be the easier as the successor to a Governor whose term of office has been marked by real distinction.

London, Feb. 16.—With the question of India looming large in the public eye, an opportunity was taken of interviewing Mr. Sastri for his opinion of the present state of affairs, with special reference to his speeches in the United States on the subject of India's status, in which he emphasised that India's political salvation would be reached as a Dominion within the British Empire. Mr. Sastri said he would be much surprised if the party wishing to separate India from the Empire would become strong enough to be a serious factor. He said all seemed well on the British side except for Mr. Churchill's recent pronouncement at the Kenya dinner, the effect of which in India must be unfortunate. India, explained Mr. Sastri, regarded Kenya as a test case for the bona fides of the resolution of the Imperial Conference regarding the equality

of races in the Empire. Mr. Sastri added that he was unable to believe that Mr. Churchill was fully informed of the state of feeling in India.—Reuter.

Interviewed by Reuter on the Indian question in Kenya, Mr. Sastri anticipated that the difficulty would soon be settled. Mr. Churchill, he declared, did not seem to recognise that the fate of India hung on an equitable settlement of Indian difficulties in East Africa and elsewhere. Mr. Churchill was considering only the interests of Englishmen, and even then not their best interests. Mr. Sastri urged the Indian community to accept the interim arrangement regarding representation in the Kenya Legislative Council and Executive, as there was still hope that the Cabinet would decide the issue on a basis of justice and equality. Nothing should be done which would prejudice such a decision, counselled Mr. Sastri.

London, Feb. 13.—The news of Gandhi's decision to suspend the civil disobedience campaign has caused astonishment in London, in view of his letter to the Viceroy a week ago, in which he offered to do so until the whole situation had been revised, but on the stipulation that the Viceroy changed his policy, liberated political prisoners, and restored freedom of the Association and of the Press. Considerable impatience in regard to the immunity enjoyed by Gandhi has been manifested in the British Press recently, and not least by Radical organs, who welcomed Lord Reading's reply to the effect that Gandhi's offer could not be discussed. Their attitude is summed up by an article in the *Westminster Gazette* to-day, which says it is impossible any longer to take seriously Gandhi's hesitations and temporary repentances. His policy has constantly resulted in riot and bloodshed, and the journal reminds the British Liberals that Gandhi's movement is not democratic, but reactionary. The Government of India, it says, cannot allow Gandhi to keep the pistol levelled at its head without defaulting in its duty to the Indian people and surrendering to anarchy. The *Daily Telegraph* says it is unable to understand why Gandhi is still at large.—Reuter.

In the course of the debate on the Conservative motion censuring Mr. Montagu's administration, Mr. Montagu announced (says Reuter), that the Indian Government a few days ago ordered Gandhi's arrest, but in view of the decision of Gandhi and his colleagues not to pursue non-co-operation and other illegal activities, it was decided to postpone the proceedings, with a view to ascertaining how far this decision meant the complete cessation of illegal activities.

The Nationalist leader, Mr. C. R. Das, whose arrest was reported sometime ago by Reuter is now reported to have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

#### SUSPENSION OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

INDIA is at present undergoing disciplinary training as perhaps no nation in the world has ever done. To train up an army to wage war against an enemy by the use of arms and ammunition is an easy matter. It is only required to learn the art of using arms and to cultivate the brutish spirit. Every human being is possessed with evil and the good spirit and to subdue the evil by the good is a task that is achieved only by a few in this world and to train up a whole nation to do so is extremely difficult if not impossible. India is engaged in that task. She is faced with a powerful enemy—one who has deliberately become an enemy. She does not propose to use

modern methods of warfare to fight the enemy by retaliating but wishes to suffer the blows of the enemy without a murmur even unto death until the enemy comes to his senses and realises the wrong that he is doing. Thus India is being trained to control its passions, to love her enemy and to face the enemy with absolute calmness and even under the most provoking circumstances not to lift a finger against him. And, to-day, though there are reports of acts of violence being committed here and there in India, not without unnecessary and deliberate provocation on the part of the authorities, there is no nation that can proudly say as India can that she has tried successfully—no matter if the success is not a complete one—to achieve her object. India is being disciplined as an army is disciplined for war. If an army does not know how to use its weapons it has to be trained to do so; similarly, India each time she is found wanting in making use of her weapons she has to be trained before she faces her enemy.

Thus we see from recent reports from India that the campaign of Civil Disobedience has once more been postponed temporarily owing to acts of violence committed at Chaurichaura where two police officers and fifteen constables were killed and how many other lives killed one does not know. After the recent Bombay riots and the ultimate quiet that was restored as a result of Mr. Gandhi's fasts the people had given reason for confidence that such acts would not be repeated, and it is extremely regrettable that the Gorakhpur and Madras incidents should have happened when Civil Disobedience was to have just begun. Though it is regrettable, yet the temporary suspension of Civil Disobedience is not a bad sign. The people of India have, as it were, failed in their examination and have once more to commence from the beginning. As one who having failed in his examination the first time is much stronger the second time, so will India be the stronger when she next commences Civil Disobedience. India has ample time now to strengthen her forces, and as it would appear from a resolution reported to have been passed by the Indian National Congress Committee, while Civil Disobedience has been postponed it has been decided to concentrate their energies in enlisting ten million supporters of the National Congress in the more conscientious observance of the creed adopted by the Congress.

A lengthy debate took place in the British Parliament on the present Indian situation and Mr. Montagu and Mr. Lloyd George are reported to have made some statements worthy of note. Mr. Montagu in the course of his statement has said:—

"if the existence of our Empire was challenged and the discharge of the responsibilities of the British Government to India prevented, and demands made in the very mistaken belief that we contemplate retreat from India, then India would without success challenge the most determined people in the world, who would once again answer the challenge with all the vigour and determination at its command."

If the existence of the Empire was solely dependent on India then it is undoubtedly challenged in so far as India is now awakened from her long sleep and wishes no longer to be exploited at the expense of her starving millions. The oft-repeated causes that have led to the present non-co-operation movement in India are in

themselves sufficient proof that the British Government have grievously failed in the discharge of their responsibilities to India and further proof of that is in the treatment His Majesty's British Indian subjects are subjected to in some of the British Colonies, particularly the African Colonies. The demands made by India are for bare justice that all human-beings are entitled to and which a Government that stands for freedom and justice should unhesitatingly accede to; and, for putting into practice those great principles for which the recent great war was said to have been waged against Germany. The question is whether the war was waged to safeguard the rights and freedom of all small nations or was it waged merely to uphold the prestige and to maintain the supremacy of the British.

The British Premier is reported to have "detailed the various causes of unrest in India, including the ferment caused by Western education and the effects of the war, particularly the war with the greatest Mahomedan power in the world." Mr. Lloyd George could have said in short, that the unrest was greatly due to the breaking of the pledge he had given to Indian Muslims. The Premier is further reported to have said, "it would undoubtedly be an enormous advantage if peace could be made with the Turkish Empire," and that "he hoped shortly to be able again to take the matter up with our allies." These are words of hope, and no one will be sorry to see once for all a final and a satisfactory settlement of the Khilafat question.

#### MARITZBURG TOWN COUNCIL

WE reproduce in another column a report of an appeal heard before the Maritzburg Town Council, of a Colonial born Indian against the decision of the Licensing Officer in refusing to grant a transfer of a retail dealer's licence in respect of premises at No. 209 Relief Street. It represents a clear case of a glaring injustice on the part of the Town Council. The transfer was refused by the Licensing Officer on the ground that the applicant was an Asiatic and the Town Council after considering the appeal unanimously upheld the Licensing Officer's decision. So far as we are aware, this is a case first of its kind in which a transfer has been refused of a licence held by an Asiatic. The present holder of it is a Chinaman who has held the licence for the last 32 years. It is the Anti-Asiatic cry that transfers of existing licences should not be granted to Asiatics and that they should be allowed to expire with the present holders, and the Town Council of Maritzburg seems to have decided to put that into practice even without having acquired the powers to enable them to do so. What is painful and most regrettable is that the Town Council, a body of responsible men, who are supposed to give justice to all alike should completely forget their responsibilities, their sense of judgment and be led away by public feelings. In the present case it is not that a new licence was sought for, it was not a question of transferring a European licence to an Indian. It was only an Asiatic licence to be transferred to another Asiatic and on the same premises where the licence had existed for the last 32 years, the premises also belonging to the holder. Moreover the applicant was

a colonial-born Indian who has a right to claim this country to be his just as much as any South African black or white man has. All these considerations do not seem to have weighed with the Town Council. They have been led by public prejudice and in doing seeming justice in favour one section have done a grievous injustice to another. We understand that the property in respect of which transfer was applied was recently purchased by the applicant, but having failed to obtain a transfer the property purchased will be idle, and will be useless to the purchaser who bought it for the purpose of carrying on business therein. The decision of the Town Council has naturally occasioned a great deal of surprise among the Indian community. It is, thoughtless acts such as these, on the part of the authorities, that go far to break the peace of a people who have lived as peaceful and law-abiding citizens without the slightest inclination to cause trouble. If the Indian community will accept this decision of the Maritzburg Town Council sitting quietly they are doomed in this country. We hope the matter will not be allowed to rest where it stands.

#### MARITZBURG TOWN COUNCIL'S HIGHHANDEDNESS

##### ASIATIC APPEAL AGAINST LICENSING OFFICER DISMISSED

At a special meeting of the Maritzburg Town Council held last Friday afternoon, His Worship the Mayor (Cr. D. Sanders, J. P.) presided over an attendance that included Councillors Gillespie, Mrs. Campbell Watt, Mrs. Bradbury, Mrs. Theodore Woods, H. Doull, J. C. Hill, T. C. Linscott, Leonard Line, H. Brown, A. E. Harwin, and J. Johnson.

An appeal was heard of S. Nohar against a decision of the Licensing Officer in refusing to grant a transfer of the retail dealer's licence in respect of premises at No. 209, Relief Street.

Mr. H. H. Janion appeared for the applicant, and said that this was an application for a transfer of a retail licence from a Chinaman named Longtoon to the present applicant, who was a colonial born Indian. Longtoon had held the licence for 30 years. The objections had been raised by a memorial signed by 32 residents of the neighbourhood.

The objections were based on the grounds that the applicant was an Asiatic, and that there were already sufficient licences of a similar nature held by Asiatics within easy distance to serve the requirements of the community in that neighbourhood. Further that the present holder was an Asiatic and that the objectors considered this a favourable opportunity for allowing the licence to lapse, failing the transfer of same to a European.

On the other hand there were three memorials, one signed by 55 European residents of the vicinity, supporting the application for the transfer of the licence.

Mr. Janion said that this was merely a renewal of a licence that had existed for 30 years. The Council was there to see justice done to all sections. The Licensing Officer had refused to extend the licence, yet the memorials showed that there was actually a majority of people living in the neighbourhood who had signed the petition in favour of the renewal of the licence.

The applicant was colonial born, educated in Maritzburg, and his money would be spent here. Counsel submitted that he had a very strong case. Major Tomlinson, who appeared on behalf of the objectors, said that these objections were based on the fact that the applicant was an Asiatic and that there

were already sufficient licences of that nature. The portion of the town in which the licence was situated had recently been much improved, whilst there was no doubt that a Chinaman was in many ways preferable to an Indian as a trader. There was a decided objection to the continuance of Asiatic dealers in the residential quarters of the town, and counsel also contended that many of the people who had signed the memorial in favour of the applicant did not live anywhere near the District—some resided in Fort Napier.

Counsel submitted that the views of persons who had a considerable stake in that portion of the town deserved consideration. The Asiatic was encroaching too much on the rights of the European.

Mr. Janion replied to the effect that the Supreme Court had decided over and over again that the mere fact that an applicant was an Asiatic was not sufficient ground for refusing a licence. The law treated everyone alike.

The Council adjourned to discuss their decision, and on resuming Councillor Johnson moved that the decision of the Licensing Officer be upheld.

Mrs. Bradbury seconded, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*—*Natal Witness.*

## SOUTH AFRICANS' LEAGUE

### TOWN GARDENS MEETING

About 200 people assembled in the Town Hall Gardens on Thursday, Feb. 16, when an anti-Asiatic meeting was held under the auspices of the South Africans' League.

Mr. F. J. Fahey, M.P.C., who presided, said he was not anti-Asiatic; that was to say that racially he had no antagonism to an Indian because of his colour or of his race, but he was opposed to him economically, socially and politically, three aspects upon which he touched at length.

Amongst those present were Mr. R. I. Darby, chairman of the Durban branch of the South Africans' League; Mr. Nicholson, vice-chairman; Mr. Leo Macgregor, hon. secretary, and Mr. J. W. Coleman, M.P.C. Apologies for inability to attend had been received from Mr. F. C. Hollander, M.P.C., Mr. W. Cox, M.P.C., and Mr. H. H. Dugherty, chairman of the Durban branch of the S.A.I.F.

During the course of the evening the following resolutions were carried:—

"That this meeting of residents and ratepayers of the Borough of Durban demands prompt legislation prohibiting any further sales, leases, or rental of land or buildings to Asiatics, except within such areas as may be reserved exclusively for their trades and residential purposes; that where Asiatics have already acquired landed property or trading rights in European areas, they shall be required strictly to conform to the same laws of sanitation, trading and building conditions as apply to European landowners, residents and traders."

"That no new licences or transfers of existing licences shall be granted to Asiatics except within such reserved areas as may be allotted exclusively for their trading and residence."

"This meeting calls upon Government to provide during the ensuing session of Parliament legislation enforcing desirable white standards of payment and working conditions in all skilled trades, commerce, industries, and other spheres of employment suitable for Europeans in South Africa, and thereby ensure that preference given to Indians, Natives, and other coloured workers shall not be based, as at present, upon lower wages and less desirable conditions of employment than white people can be asked to accept."

"That legislation concerning the wages and employment for European apprentices shall be also applicable to Asiatics and other non-Europeans who

are employed in a similar capacity."

"That Government should promptly take action to prevent Asiatics and other non-Europeans from owning shares or any financial interest in any business, property or landed registered or conducted in the names of Europeans. Also that Asiatics and all persons not of European descent be no longer permitted to assume European or trade titles which disguise their true nationality."

"That this meeting, recognising the serious nature of the Asiatic menace to the future of South Africa, and especially to the Province of Natal, earnestly commends the resolutions adopted to the attention of Government, our representatives in Parliament, Provincial Council, and the Mayor and Councillors of Durban Borough, as being fair in principle and the minimum necessary to safeguard the rights and standards of white civilisation."—*Natal Mercury.*

## INDIA IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT

### MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S STATEMENT

#### NO WITHDRAWAL OF SOVEREIGNTY

London, Feb. 14.—Speaking in the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India said he did not believe the British Parliament would ever jeopardise any opportunity India had for obtaining self-government, but the exhibition of separatist tendencies and disloyalty to the King-Emperor, and the futile attempts to mar the welcome to the Prince of Wales, must postpone or prejudice British goodwill towards Indian aspirations. Given goodwill and partnership, no rights would be denied India by the British Parliament, but if the existence of our Empire was challenged and the discharge of the responsibilities of the British Government to India prevented, and demands made in the very mistaken belief that we contemplate retreat from India, then India would without success challenge the most determined people in the world, who would once again answer the challenge with all the vigour and determination at its command.

Proceeding, Mr. Montagu said the position of Indians in Crown Colonies was under discussion, with a view to a decision being reached by the Government. He hoped, in the interests of the peace of the Empire, that a happy solution would be reached, and declared that the Government had the fullest confidence in the Government of India. He had every reason to believe that they were worthy of that confidence, and that we would win through in India to happier times.

The above statement by Mr. Montagu was made during the debate on the amendment of the Address moved by Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, who expressed the opinion that the unrest in India was the result of Mr. Montagu's administration, and hoped that immediate steps would be taken to restore law and order.

Commander Kenworthy appealed for a status of equality with whites for Indians.

Sir George Elliott also urged equal rights for Indians throughout the Empire, and said there was a practical denial of the rights of Indians in Kenya.

Mr. Lloyd George said there was much in the present state of India to justify grave concern, but he deprecated any alarm. The situation was well within the compass of our strength without adding to our burdens. The Premier detailed the various causes of unrest in India, including the ferment caused by Western education and the effects of the war, particularly the war with the greatest Mahomedan power in the world. He said it would undoubtedly be an enormous advantage if peace could be made with the Turkish Empire, and said he hoped shortly to be able again to take the matter up with our Allies. It must, however, be a just peace. We must be fearlessly just to both religious races. The Premier concluded by

saying that the educated classes in India must be given the best opportunity for making the experiment initiated two or three years ago a success, but further reforms must await the result of the experiment. After dwelling on the mischievous propaganda carried on in India and Britain, which would spread the idea abroad that we intended to give up India, the Premier declared, with grave emphasis, that we wished to make it clear that under no circumstances or conditions did the Government propose to withdraw or impair the full sovereignty of the King-Emperor.

The amendment was rejected by 248 votes to 64. The address in reply to the King's Speech was agreed to.—Reuter.

## INDIANS IN KENYA

FURTHER STATEMENT BY MR. CHURCHILL

London, Feb. 14.—In the House of Commons to-day replying to Mr. J. C. Weagwood (Labour member for Newcastle-under-Lyme), Mr. Churchill said he would be happy to meet a delegation from Kenya Indians if they desired an interview. The application of the resolution adopted by the Imperial Conference as regards equal rights for Indian subjects throughout the Empire to any part of the Empire must depend on local circumstances. The first part of the resolution presented in the case of Kenya as much difficulty as the second.

He had long been in closest consultation with the India Office, and he thought his recent statement at the East African dinner would be found to fall within the general limits of the policy which would ultimately be agreed on between the two departments. He had very carefully framed the statement in such a way as to embody what he believed to be the real present position.

He had not yet consulted the Cabinet on specific points, but he did not think there was any serious difficulty in bringing the policy which the needs of Kenya required within the ambit of the very general resolution passed by the Conference.

Earl Winterton (Coalition Unionist member for Horsham and Worthing) declared that there was a third party to the question, namely, the Natives of East Africa. Those interested in white settlement resented the attack on their co-settlers.—Reuter.

## TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIA

Mr. Gandhi writes in *Young India* dated Jan. 19:—

The following is the translation of a letter received from Mr. Mahadev Desai on his way to the Agra jail. It is possible that the posting of the letter is a breach of jail discipline. I hate any breach of discipline but in this instance I have no choice. Duty compels me to publish the letter as it has compelled Mr. Desai to post the letter. I do not mind Mahadev Desai being rewarded with flogging for the indiscipline which is certainly more mischievous than the refusal to wear lousy clothes or the innocent shouts of *jais*.

Near Etawa,

En route to Agra,

Dated 10th morning.

I feel like one who has been pent up in a dark and ill-ventilated cell and who all at once finds himself inhaling deep draughts of the fresh air of heaven. You can easily imagine what longing I must have had to write to you, I who was in the habit of writing to you almost daily and of thus easing the many troubles of my mind. We are permitted to write one letter in a fortnight; the letter again must be in English and must be forwarded through the Superintendent. How then could I hope to tell you everything that was happening

behind the prison walls? But yesternight we were set free, at least till we reached Agra. And this morning we are on our way thereto.

Yesternight 39 of us started from Naini in a prison van comprising four barred compartments each being 3 cubits long and 5 broad. The bars were apparently not considered to be an adequate safeguard; for the prison van has no doors and no windows. Only there are crooked holes one inch broad by the side of the carriage for the passage of air. I asked the Sergeant who escorts us whether there was any intention of repeating the Moplah tragedy. The poor fellow naively replied that there was no fear as it was winter and that it would have been intolerable had it been summer. Besides the four prisoners' there was a fifth which was like ordinary third class and was meant for our friends, the guard. Should they not have sufficient light and air to be able to keep us in a suffocated condition?

Devdas and Durga (Mrs. Desai) were at Allahabad Station to see us. They could not have a view of our faces, but they stood outside near the place where I was, and we could have a hearty talk. From this prison van I could inform Devdas of the many horrors about which I had been unable to tell him anything in the jail; for the police who escort us do not act as jailers. So some of the things in this letter will have already appeared in Devdas' *Independent* before this reaches you.

We had had hardly a wink of sleep from about one or two o'clock, when at four we were roused at Cawn-pore. The Sergeant said, 'Desai, Govind and Krishnakant Malaviya, Shahsahab and two others, follow me. We shall seat you elsewhere so that there might be more room here.' I could not understand how this selection was made, but it looked like segregation and so I said that any seven of us would come but not the seven that were named. The Sergeant replied that only those whom he named must come as he did not know the rest and therefore could not take the risk of seating any of them in an ordinary compartment. As 'political' prisoners some of us had our own clothes on; with these three or four the rest were in jail dress and in irons, so that our *shame* (even as it was) was boundless. To it was now added the insult of being considered more 'trustworthy' than the rest. I thought that three out of the seven would be ordinary prisoners and that with the aid of light I would have an opportunity of writing to you, an opportunity not lightly to be allowed to slip as I could not hope to have it anywhere else; and so we came out. I am writing this in an ordinary third class compartment. Seven policemen are mounting guard over us seven!

But I must cut this story short, as there is little time and much to write. How can I give you an idea of the perplexities we have suffered on account of your injunction that we should obey all orders in jail? Every moment we are troubled by doubts as to what to obey and what not to obey, as always the sun sets on novel experiences and on various oppressions. So I am not at all certain as to the propriety of my conduct on every occasion when I have been anxious to obey.

I am not going to detail here all the experiences in jail. That would take many letters like this, and this is hardly the time for it. I am going to give such select information as I think ought to be placed before the public.

I was taken to Naini jail on the 24th and was at once taken in the presence of the Superintendent, who said angrily, 'Look here, you may be a non-co-operator or anything you please but here you are a prisoner like all others and will be treated accordingly. You will tire of your life out here but I can't help it. We will not trouble you so long as you do not trouble us.'

This homily over, I was soon taken to my own cell. I had previously resolved that I should accept everything cheerfully including jail dress and irons. So I put on jail dress as soon as it was given to me. Fifteen members of the Provincial Committee had

arrived here a week before me, and their cell was adjoining mine. I got the news, after I had changed my dress, that one of them had refused to put on jail dress and had consequently received a flogging. The jail authorities were somewhat surprised to find that I had accepted the change without demur. I was given a rough woollen coat worn almost threadbare by long use, a shirt worn out by some prisoner of twice my size and emitting horrible stink, an equally dirty pair of shorts and loincloth along with two blankets as bedding. In a few minutes I felt an itching sensation, and an inspection at one or two places resulted in the finding of a pretty big louse. It was difficult to say whether the vermin lived in the blanket or the shirt, but as there was fairly bitter cold, I had to choose between lice and offensive smell. I elected against the smell, placed the coat as a pillow, put away the shirt, and decided to pass the night under the sole protection of the blanket. I had thought that as I was dead tired I would sleep soundly. But the lice in the blanket never ceased troubling me. My friends in the adjoining cell gave me from their place an account of the misbehaviour of the jailer and the superintendent. One of them was flogged for the grave offence of not standing up and pushing his hand out through the bars when the jailer arrived! Another suffered the same punishment for refusing to wear dirty clothes! Add to the stings of lice the noisy cries rending the heavens with which prisoners were counted every quarter of an hour from 6 p. m. to 6 a. m. and you can understand that I got hardly any sleep. But I knew that sheer physical necessity would induce sleep on the following days, no matter if I was unable to sleep on the first.

I took no food in the evening as I did not feel inclined. I was given a large iron bowl for eating and drinking. In spite of all the scrubbing I could give it, I found in the morning that the water in it had turned blood-red with rust. We were taken out thrice in the day for drinking water and for natural purposes. There was a paved reservoir from which all of us were to have our water by putting our bowls into it. Filtering the water was out of the question as we were not provided with any extra piece of cloth.

[At this point the Sergeant sees me writing and gives me notice that I should not pass it to any of my friends. So I must be brief.]

(To be Continued)

## BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban.

The Hon. Mr. Gokhale and the Indenture System	2 0
Essays on Indian Art, Industry and Education, by E. B. Havell,	2 0
The Indian National Congress, its Origin and Growth	2 6
My Indian Reminiscences by Dr. Paul	2 6
Life Irrigation	3 9
The Swadeshi Movement	9
Speeches on Indian Affairs by John Morley	3 6
Hindu Psalms and Hymns	2 0
The Hon. Mr. Gokhale's Tour in South Africa : Special <i>INDIAN OPINION</i> Souvenir.	2 6
The Ethics of Passive Resistance	0 3
Indian Home Rule, by M. K. Gandhi	1 6
A Book—and its Misnomer	1 0

## વેચવાના પુસ્તકો

નીચેનાં પુસ્તકોનો રોક હમણાજ હિંદવી આવેલો છે. ભાવે કમ્પેલા છે તે પાટ્ટેજ સાથે છે. મંભાવનારાઓને ખાસ વિનંતિ છે કે તેઓએ ઓરડર મોકલતી વખતે ખરસા સાથે બીડી મોકલવા અને નામ અને શીરનામું ચોખ્ખા અક્ષરે લખવાં. વી. વી. ના ઓરડરોને ધ્યાન દવામાં આવશે નહિ. ઓરડર મોકલવાનું ઠેકાણું નીચે મુજબ છે :

Manager,

INDIAN OPINION,

Phoenix, Natal.

	શી. રે.
પહેલી ચોપડી	૧ ૦
બીજી "	૧ ૩
ત્રીજી "	૧ ૬
પાંચમી "	૨ ૬
છઠી "	૨ ૬
સાતમી "	૩ ૦
બાળપોથી	૦ ૬
પહેલી ચોપડીના અર્થ	૦ ૬
બીજી " "	૦ ૬
ત્રીજી " "	૧ ૦
પાંચમી " "	૧ ૬
છઠી " "	૧ ૬
સાતમી " "	૨ ૦
બાળપોથી " "	૦ ૬
સેન્ક ફ્રેન્ચીસ્ટીયર	૩ ૩
કમ્પીલેટર રાષ્ટર (કાંગ્રેસ લખતાં કમ્પીલેટર નારી સહેલી ચોપડી)	૩ ૩
ગુજરાતી ફ્રેન્ચીસ્ટ પોષ્ટ ડીક્ષનરી	૫ ૬
ફ્રેન્ચીસ્ટ ગુજરાતી " "	૫ ૬
મધ્યમ કદની ફ્રેન્ચીસ્ટ ગુજરાતી ડીક્ષનરી	૧૫ ૦
ભોટી ફ્રેન્ચીસ્ટ ગુજરાતી ડીક્ષનરી	૧૭ ૬
આંકની ચોપડી (દેશી હીસાબ)	૧ ૬
પરમાર્થસાર	૧ ૬
મ્યુઝીક માઇડ (વાલુ વગાડતા શીખવાની ચોપડી)	૫ ૬
કૃષ્ણ ચરીતી	૩ ૬
પતિવ્રતા સતીઓ	૬ ૬
અનસુયા નાટક	૩ ૬
નીતી શિક્ષણ	૩ ૬
કલિતક માળા અને બોધવચન	૨ ૦
મહસ્થાત્રમ	૫ ૬
ઇંસપનીતી ભાગ ૧.	૨ ૦
" ભાગ ૨	૩ ૦
અનંત ભરમ	૧ ૬