

Indian Opinion

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MAHATMA GANDHI SENTENCED

SIX YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

SOUTH AFRICA'S PROTEST

The beginning of the week has brought from India the startling news that Mr. Gandhi has been sentenced to six years simple imprisonment and Mrs. Gandhi has voluntarily accompanied Mr. Gandhi.

THE TRIAL

The following Reuter's report dated March 10, comes from London with reference to Mr. Gandhi's trial:—

Particulars of Gandhi's trial according to Reuter's correspondent at Ahmedabad show that the notorious leader of the non-co-operation movement pleaded guilty to all the charges and assumed the blame for the recent disorders, but he said that if he was freed he would still play with fire. Gandhi disclaimed any ill-will against officials or disaffection towards the King's person. The judge's speech was noteworthy for the high terms in which he spoke of the accused, but he said he had committed a great offence against the State. The judge passed the same sentence as that passed on the notorious agitator Tilak, namely, two years' imprisonment on each count. Gandhi, replying, thanked the Court for the courtesy shown him, and expressed the opinion that the sentence was the lightest any judge could inflict. The crowd learnt the sentence very calmly.

OFFICIAL TRIBUTE

A despatch from Delhi states that in disallowing a motion for the adjournment of the Council of State to discuss the imprisonment of Gandhi the Home Secretary explained that the prosecution of Gandhi did not imply any change in the Government's attitude. He paid a tribute to Gandhi's high personal character, but said the followers of the non-co-operation movement had not taken the opportunity offered them revising of their attitude after the Bardoli resolution.—Reuter.

DURBAN INDIAN'S PROTEST

Ever since the arrest of Mr. Gandhi the Durban Indian community has not been at rest. No sooner the activities in connection with Mr. Gandhi's arrest were over the news of his sentence came forth which was received with great alarm. The Natal Indian Congress activities were in full swing and a meeting of protest was held on Tuesday (a report of which appears in another column). As decided by the meeting, Thursday was observed as "Mahatma's Day."

MAHATMA'S DAY

The programme for the day, as drawn up by the officials of the Natal Indian Congress, was that all Indian business places should close and no work except in "the humanitarian and essential services" be done. A procession of all children should take place at 9-30 a. m. and that a prayer meeting for the peace and good-will of India be held at Rawat's Hall at 2-30 p. m. To the credit of the officials and some of the active members of the Congress, and especially the inexhaustible energies of Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, the programme was most successfully carried out.

THE PROCESSION

Over 1,000 Indian children congregated outside Rawat's Hall in Victoria Street at the appointed time

and formed in a procession which was over a quarter of a mile in length. In front of the procession were over four hundred girls and right in front was a banner with the inscription "Long Live Mahatma Gandhi" carried by two volunteers. A little after 9-30 the procession marched through Victoria Street via Field Street, continuing through Commercial Road, Grey Street, Queen Street, and returning through Victoria Street to Rawat's Hall. The Procession which offered a most impressive scene attracted crowds of people including Europeans who left all their work and stood outside their offices and firms to watch the procession. After the procession was over the children gathered at Rawat's Hall where they were addressed by the president of the Natal Indian Congress, who referred briefly to the life of Mr. Gandhi.

Messrs J. Royceppen, B. L. E. Sigamoney, S. R. Pather, S. Emamally, C. V. Pillay, M. M. Khanderia, Naik, Shaikh Amod, M. B. Maharaj, Pandit Bhawani Dayal, Sorabjee Rustomjee and others also made short speeches instructive to the children.

Sweets were then distributed to the children which were generously presented for them by Mr. R. K. Kapitan, the proprietor of the Kapitan's Tea-room in Grey Street. Each child was also presented with a portrait of Mr. Gandhi. The children were dispersed at about 12 o'clock.

PRAYER MEETING

At 2-30 in the afternoon a prayer meeting was held, and the President, in his preface remarks, said that "we are observing this day as a day of prayer for Mahatmajee, our leader in India, and for our people in India and abroad, and for all those who have a say in the government of our native land, that God may endow all with love and understanding that lasting peace may be wrought for India and her children in the world. We believe we are but acting in the spirit and according to the teachings and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in offering our prayer this day to God, and adopting peaceful methods to demonstrate our sentiments, and when necessary, suffering in our own person for the betterment of ourselves, our people and our countrymen, and for any great cause in this world, thus contributing to the peace and happiness of all."

The Rev. Mr. Choonoo conducted a short service. The Mahatma's favourite hymn, "Lead Kindly Light" and also "Oh! God our help in ages past" were sung. Mr. W. Joseph presided at the organ. Moulvi Fateh Mahomed offered prayers according to the Islamic religion. Pandit Pravin Singh did likewise in Hinduism, and Parsee Sapurjee according to Zoroastrianism. Mr. V. S. C. Pather also contributed to the service, which was shortly afterwards concluded. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to patriotic songs sung by well-known members of the Indian community in the different vernaculars.

INDIAN WOMEN'S MEETING

The Indian women also held a meeting on their own account, at which references were made to the lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Gandhi.

DANHAUSER INDIANS

A correspondent from Danhauser writes:—

The news of the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi in India, was flashed through the wires on the 13th inst., and instantly, Mr. D. Lazarus the Secretary of the Northern Natal Indian Association, set out to call a mass meeting of the Indian community. There was a wonderful response and the gathering was the largest seen here since the historical Indian strike in 1913. Mr. Shaik Ameer was in the chair, and the Secretary read out the telegraphic communications. In the course of his speech the chairman said, "the arrest of our beloved leader Mahatma Gandhi, is a sure sign of the success of the movement in our motherland. One step nearer the Government's goal is twice that nearer the goal of our Motherland." A prayer was offered by the meeting standing for the strength and courage of Mr. Gandhi. It was decided to close all Indian business places on the 15th as a mark of respect to Mr. Gandhi. All stores including fruit shops and native eating houses were accordingly closed on Wednesday.

BLOEMHOF INDIANS

On receiving the news of Mr. Gandhi's imprisonment Bloemhof Indians closed all their stores for the day on the 21st instant and a meeting of the British Indian community was held under the chairmanship of Mr. M. D. Bharoochi. It was decided to send the following message by cable to the Indian National Congress:—"Protest against unjustifiable sentence on Mahatma Gandhijee and others. Pray brothers and sisters of Hind will follow Mahatma's last message."

BOKSBURG

A correspondent from Boksburg informs us that on receipt of the news of Mr. Gandhi's arrest all stores closed last Wednesday, but two of our wealthy merchants kept theirs open.

PRETORIA INDIANS

A mass meeting of Pretoria Indians was convened on the grounds of the Queen Street Mosque, in sympathy with Mahatma Gandhi, on arrival of the news of his sentence to six years imprisonment. The Chairman, Mr. M. H. Jeetab, in opening the meeting in a lengthy speech, dwelt fully on the present political unrest in India. He exhorted all present to be calm, united and to quit themselves like men. After various other speakers had spoken resolutions expressing regret at the harsh sentence passed by the Indian Government on Mr. Gandhi, condemning the Imperial and Indian Governments' actions, and requesting Mr. Gandhi's release including the two following were passed:—

"That this mass meeting conveys its deepest sympathy to Mahatma Gandhi, his saintly wife, and other National leaders, and further prays that Almighty God, in His infinite mercy, strengthen them in this the hour of their greatest trial and humiliation, so as to enable them to withstand the whole might and tyranny of cruel and autocratic government.

That this mass meeting emphasises strongly on all Indians whether Mahomedans, Hindoos, Parsées, or Christians, to stand shoulder to shoulder and with one heart take to heart the Mahatma's last word "Work hard like me."

TRANSVAAL BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

The following cable messages have been forwarded to the Editor of *Young India*, Ahmedabad and to the Rt. Hon. Mr. Lloyd George respectively by the Transvaal British Indian Association in connection with the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi and the resignation of Mr. Montague:—

"Transvaal Indians heartily congratulate Mahatma and Shrimati Gandhi on their cheerful arrest serving freedom's cause India and exhort each and every dutiful son follow their courageous example and emphatically declare the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi the indelible apostle of non-violence in the world, as a gross political blunder of bureaucracy."

To The Honourable Mr. Lloyd George Prime Minister, London:—

Transvaal Indians emphatically protest against forced resignation of Mr. Montague, Secretary India, for courageous conviction publication Indian Government's views for righting Turkish wrongs pacifying seventy millions moslems.

EAST AFRICAN PROTEST

We learn from a Reuter's message from Nairobi that as a result of Mr. Gandhi's arrest in India, a *hartal* was proclaimed for March 23. The *hartal* was observed in Mombasa for four days.

NOTES AND NEWS

SEVERAL important resolutions were passed at last Sunday's mass meeting held in Durban under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress. Amongst them was one deploring the deaths during the recent great strike on the Rand and appealing to the Government for protection for the defenceless non-European people against any future occurrence of such unfortunate incidents. A resolution was passed deploring the action of the Indian Government in taking Mrs. Gandhi to gaol and congratulating Mrs. Gandhi for the noble example set by her. Two other resolutions were relating the two ordinances (1) "The Rural Dealers' Licensing Ordinance, 1922" and (2) the "Townships' Franchise Ordinance, 1922," proposed to be introduced in the present session of the Natal Provincial Council, and a resolution was also passed urging upon the Government to protect the rights of minor children of parents resident in the Union possessing dual domiciliary rights.

The strike on the Rand which ultimately turned into a bloody revolution was one the like of which has never been heard of in the history of the Union of South Africa. Not only did it affect the businesses, in South Africa and outside, but it caused considerable uneasiness in the minds of the people especially on the Rand, where the lives of men, women and even children were in constant danger. Many innocent lives have been lost during this great upheaval and some of the acts on the part of hooligans were such that they surpassed even those reported to have been committed by such people in India. But the Union Authorities, unlike the Indian authorities, did their utmost to subside the trouble without adopting violent methods and in performing their duty they risked their own lives rather than taking any. It was not before all their efforts had completely failed and they had no other course left but to use force that they took those measures; and for a time it became a show of brute force vs. brute force. The trouble is now over and one is able to heave a sigh of relief that things are once more beginning to come to their normal conditions. It is understood that a Commission is to be appointed to enquire into the matter and it is hoped that apart from the grievances of the strikers the question of the innocent sufferers will also be enquired into and redress given them irrespective of class, colour or creed.

The Natal Indian Congress has done well in tendering a timely protest against the Rural Dealers' and the Townships' Franchise ordinances. The Indian community is already suffering great hardships under the present licensing system. Licensing laws are meant for general application but their strict administration against Indians makes one to believe that they are meant only for Indians. Times out of number applications of Indians have been unjustly dealt with by the Licensing Officers of the Province and they have refused them on the only ground of applicants being Indians. And this decision of the licensing officers has been upheld by the Town Councils. A case in instance is that of a Colonial-born Indian in

Maritzburg who recently applied, not for a new licence, but for a transfer of an Asiatic (not European) licence which was in existence for over twenty years. And this was refused by the Licensing Officer and his decision was upheld by the Town Council. In addition to these hard hips now comes the Rural Dealers' Ordinance which, if it is allowed to pass, will render it hopeless for any Indian to obtain a single licence outside the boundaries of Boroughs and Local Townships of Natal. The most objectionable feature of the ordinance, as has been explained in last Sunday's Chairman's speech, is the creation of Licensing Boards whose decision will be final and no higher courts will have jurisdiction over them. This Board will be of five men, and the qualification of the persons appointed on the Board will be that "he is a resident, owner or renter of a house or land in the county or area and is enrolled as a voter for Parliament." When justice cannot be had from a responsible body such as the Town Council it could least be expected, under the present circumstances when racial prejudice is running so high among the white race, from a Board composed of men of the above qualifications. The final decision should be in the hands of the courts of justice and none else. It has always been the demand of the Indian community that there should be the right of appeal from the decision of the Licensing authorities to the highest court. Situated as they are in this country Indians can only hope and expect to get justice from the courts.

Readers of INDIAN OPINION are fully acquainted with Mr. Hulett's Townships' Franchise Ordinance. Its deliberate object is to dispossess Indians, for ever, of their right to vote at municipal elections, in the manner they have been debarred from the right to vote at Parliamentary elections. If both the above Ordinances are allowed to pass they will prove fatal to the existence of Indians in this country as a self-respecting community.

Another important point discussed at last Sunday's meeting was the question of the rights of minor children of parents who are domiciled in more than one Province of the Union. A glaring injustice, in our opinion, has been done in the case of Mahomed and Yusuf, in preventing them from entering Natal notwithstanding their father Goolam Rasool possessing domiciliary rights both in Natal and in the Transvaal. What is most surprising is that even the Supreme Court should have upheld the decision of the Immigrants' Appeal Board. It is true that the Minister has declared that Asiatics on economic grounds are prohibited immigrants. But in the present case firstly Mahomed and Yusuf being born in the Transvaal are Colonial-born Indians. And secondly their father has a right in Natal. How ridiculously unjust it is that the parents would have the right to remain in a Province whilst their minor children could not. Apart from its injustice it appears to be the height of cruelty on the part of a Government who professes to represent a liberty-loving people. The entry of fresh immigrants from India has long been put a stop to and that those that are resident in this country and especially cases like the one under discussion would receive fair consideration and be given that freedom to which all human beings are entitled, is the least that one should expect.

It is understood from a Reuter's message from London dated March 18, that Viscount Peel has been appointed, in place of Mr. E. S. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India. Lord Peel has been leading the Coalition in the House of Lords during Lord Curzon's illness.

In the House of Commons, replying to Col. Wedgwood (Labour, Newcastle-under-Tyne), Mr. Churchill

said no exact interpretation of the resolutions accepted by the Imperial Conference as regards equal rights for all British subjects had been attempted. The rights of Indians in Kenya must be considered in the light of the interests of the four existing communities. The determining factor was the welfare of Kenya as a whole. Col. Wedgwood asked if the divergences of opinion in this connection between the Colonial and India Offices had ceased since Mr. Montagu's resignation. Mr. Churchill said the differences between those concerned had been reduced to a very narrow compass prior to Mr. Montagu's resignation.—Reuter.

Dispatches from Bombay show (says Reuter) that while Mr. Gandhi's arrest has caused no stir, Mr. Montagu's resignation has resulted in intense excitement. A message from Delhi says that the matter was raised in the Assembly, when Mr. Satiarthi moved the adjournment and voiced the general apprehension lest the resignation should indicate a reversal of policy. He withdrew his motion on a Government spokesman promising an early day for discussion. An exciting Budget debate followed. There were 321 motions on the agenda, all urging a reduction of expenditure. The Democratic Party and most of the non-official Indians voted solidly, and carried a reduction of three and a half lakhs in the Customs vote, and 5 per cent. reduction in the expenditure of the Income Tax Department, against a strong Government opposition. The new National Party, which has been formed with the object of the constitutional attainment of full self-government for India, as part of the Empire, supported the Government.

The Indian women of Durban met last week at the Tamil Institute, Cross Street, for the purpose of expressing their feelings of sorrow at the arrest of Mrs. Gandhi. Mrs. Khandaria presided. She eloquently dwelt on the present Indian situation, and was followed by Mrs. V. R. R. Moodaly, who also gave a very elegant exposition of the position and the duties devolving on them as Indian women. Mrs. Bhalai M. Patel, Mrs. Dhupelia and Mrs. Joseph were the other speakers. A letter of apology was received from Mrs. J. M. Francis for her inability to attend. The following resolution was submitted to the meeting and was unanimously passed: "Indian women of Durban extend their deep sympathy to you (Mrs. Gandhi) on the arrest of Mahatmajl, and pray Providence may grant you strength to endure your great trial, and pray for the safety and protection of our great leader."

The Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) has presented to the Natal Provincial Council a petition in connection with the above ordinances. We hope to publish same in our next issue.

The Secretary of the Northern Natal Indian Association School Committee (Mr. D. Lazarus) informs us that Mr. G. S. Vawda has offered a most valuable piece of ground free of rent. This generous gift of Mr. Vawda has been accepted with a feeling of gratitude by the Committee who are already making steps to have the school built.

We have received the following wire from the Transvaal British Indian Association:

"Indians in the whole Transvaal closed their businesses on receipt of Mahatmaj's sentence."

The Parliamentary correspondent of the Daily Mercury says:

Mr. Mackeurtan yesterday (13 instant) said absent of approval from all sides, gave notice that for the time being he would withdraw his motion in reference to Asiatics in South Africa, but reserved the right to reintroduce it at a later date. In the course of a chat,

Mr. Mackeurtan told me that his reason for doing so was that he did not consider the present a suitable time for the discussion of a subject like this Asiatic question. The House, under prevailing conditions, did not take the slightest interest in anything except the position on the Rand, and he, therefore, preferred to wait with his motion until the atmosphere had become more favourable, when he would move ahead. Mr. Mackeurtan's motion is as follows: "That this House requests the Government to consider the advisability of the early introduction of legislation which will provide for the allocation to the Asiatic community of any one or more of the Provinces of the Union separate and distinct areas, rural and urban, within its province, where that community may develop in accordance with its needs and standards of civilisation, due regard being had in such legislation to the interest of the present and future European and Native population."

MASS MEETING AT DURBAN

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCES EXHIBITION OF SPINNING WHEEL

A mass meeting under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress was held last Sunday at Rawat's Bio Hall, Durban, to protest against the new ordinances proposed to be introduced in the forthcoming session of the Natal Provincial Council and to discuss Immigration and other important matters affecting the Indian community. In spite of bad weather the hall was packed with Indians representing all sections. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the president (Mr. Ismail Gora) Mr. Amod Bayat was elected to the chair and he was supported by Messrs. Bhawani Dayal and R. B. Chetty (Vice-Presidents), A. Christopher and Sorabjee Rustomjee (Secretaries), V. S. C. Pather (Treasurer), M. M. Khandaria, M. A. Motala, V. Lawrence, M. B. Naik, S. Emmamally, M. M. Gandhi, B. M. Patel, B. A. Magrajh, L. Gabriel, and other representative Indians. The meeting was commenced with an exhibition of the *Charakha* the spinning wheel which to-day plays so large a part in the life of India. This spinning wheel which was worked at the beginning and end of the meeting by Mr. N. P. Bhoola who has recently returned from India, greatly interested the audience and formed the subject of much enthusiasm.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

The Chairman referred to the death of Mr. H. O. Ally, who, during the early stages of the Passive Resistance Struggle in the Transvaal played a very important part but later his ill-health prevented him from taking an active part in the activities of the community. His death has been a matter of regret and they would be asked to give expression to the sympathy to be conveyed to his wife and children.

TRANSVAAL STRIKE

The Chairman further observed: "I know I am but giving expression to your sentiments when I say that we grieve at the number of lives lost during the continuance of the strike in the Transvaal. Our sympathies must be with the bereaved; not only the members of the governing race have sustained losses, our people, as well as other people of colour, have grievously suffered. We hope that the Government of the day will seriously consider what protection can be afforded to the non-European peoples as a precautionary measure against like happenings of a strike in the future. We are encouraged to believe that as the Government has already indicated that a commission will be appointed to enquire into the strike it will include the incidental happenings of the strike."

MRS. GANDHI'S ARREST

Since our last meeting, we have heard of the arrest of Mrs. Gandhi, and we have, and I am sure, each of

you have been exercised with thoughts of how best we can express our feelings at the noble example of Mrs. Gandhi. In South Africa she suffered for us in gaol and now in India she has been taken to gaol. Brief as the message by Reuter was in the local papers, to us who have some knowledge of Mr and Mrs. Gandhi, of their ideals, their work, and their life, and of the present home in Ahmedabad on the banks of the calm Sabermati, the arrest of Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi in the dead of night, in their simple home, their emergence from it, clad in the simple style of the East, the faithful God-fearing servant and his gentle dutiful wife ever ready to serve, with their followers simple in thought and simple in dress as their leaders, and then just before the parting the singing of Mr. Gandhi's favourite hymn 'Lead Kindly Light' a hymn so simple in itself and yet so full of the human heart, make us feel that in all this there is something incontestable, but to us, with faith, it gives hope of the dawn of a brighter day for India and her children abroad. To-day we propose to convey to India our feelings of joy that Mrs. Gandhi, as an example of the noble womanhood of India, may be an inspiration to every son and daughter of our country. But another day we know we will come again to consider how best in a practical manner we can prove what we now say in words.

THE ORDINANCES

We are again threatened by the people who are in power in this country with ordinances which are intended to deprive us of our existing rights. We are disappointed time and again that the majority in a British country should ever thus threaten the existence of a minority of their own fellow subjects, who are powerless in this country, having not the electoral vote to use in safeguarding what they possess.

LICENSING ORDINANCE

So far, in the Gazette appear two ordinances. The first is an ordinance to amend the laws relating to the grant of licences to wholesale and retail dealers in the rural districts of Natal. Let us briefly examine it for a minute. It *inter alia* deprives applicants of existing rights of appeal to an Appeal Board from a Licensing Officer's decision and supersedes the present licensing system by the creation of Licensing Boards. These Boards may be for each of the counties or for parts of a county. Every Board to be appointed by the Administrator will consist of a Chairman and four other members. These five men shall be residents, owners or renters of a house or land in the county or area in respect of which the Board is appointed, and these members must be enrolled as voters for Parliament. You know gentlemen what this means. A voter for Parliament is a person of European descent and a board constituted of these men, if they elect themselves as a board, may tacitly decide against every Indian applicant and it would thus follow that no Indian will be able to get a licence in any area so controlled by such a Board and Indians will have no means of remedy. There are other objectionable features in this ordinance and you will no doubt make yourselves acquainted with them.

TOWNSHIPS ORDINANCE

The other ordinance is intended to amend the local Townships Law No. 11 of 1881 in regard to the qualification of voters in townships. Gentlemen, the object of this ordinance is simple, it provides that no person shall be qualified to have his name entered on the Town Roll referred to in Section 7 of Law No. 11 of 1881 or to be a voter within the meaning of the said Law who, not being of European origin, is a native or descendant in the male line of natives of countries which have not, prior to the coming into force of the South Africa Act of 1909, possessed elective representative institutions founded on the Parliamentary franchise, and there is a saving clause that any person who was on the Town Roll on the 1st day of January 1909 and who still possesses the qualification referred to in

Section 7 of Law No. 11 of 1881, shall continue to be entitled to be enrolled as a voter and, further, the Governor-General-in-Council may grant exemption to any such person who is not entitled to be a voter to be so enrolled. Gentlemen, the passing of this ordinance will reduce our position to helotage in this land. As it is, we have little or no rights. Though both the ordinances referred to, were passed by the last Provincial Council and vetoed by the Governor-General, they are again brought forward. It is for us to oppose both these ordinances and to take all such means as we can to keep our rights from being taken away.

DUAL DOMICILIARY RIGHTS

Another matter of great interest which has disturbed us in this country, is the interpretation placed by the Natal Division of the Supreme Court in the case of Mahomed & Yusuf vs. The Immigrants Appeal Board, in which the rights of minors born in one of the Provinces, whose parents hold Dual Domiciliary Rights in the Union of South Africa, have been taken away. Without wearying you with a statement of the intricacies of the Immigrants Regulation Act and the regulations framed thereunder, suffice it to say that in view of the Minister's declaration of August 1913 Asiatics on economic grounds are prohibited Immigrants. The Court has held that notwithstanding that the father is a Natal-born Indian but carrying on business and now a resident in the Transvaal, his children, though he himself is entitled to domiciliary rights in Natal and in the Transvaal, cannot take their Natal rights and in this case both the sons are under sixteen years of age. Even if we desire we cannot submit the matter to the highest Court in the land. We can but appeal to the Government to consider the hardship following upon the application of the provisions in the Minister's declaration of prohibition against Indians on economic grounds especially where those affected are children born in South Africa.

I am sure, you will give us your full hearted support in the resolutions that will be submitted this afternoon to you.

RESOLUTIONS

1. "That this mass meeting of Natal Indians regrets the death of Mr. H. O. Ally of the Transvaal and hereby places on record his public services to the community and desires the sympathy of the community to be conveyed to his wife and children."

2. "That this mass meeting of Natal Indians convened by the Natal Indian Congress at Durban deplores that Mrs. Gandhi has been taken to gaol and is subject to its restrictions and at the same time rejoices that Mrs. Gandhi is a noble example of India's womanhood, an inspiration to India and to her sons and daughters abroad."

3. "That this mass meeting of Natal Indians assembled at Durban, hereby protests against the proposed Rural Dealers' Licensing Ordinance in that *inter alia* it deprives applicants of existing rights of appeal to an Appeal Board from a Licensing Officer's decision, and supersedes the present licensing system by the creation of a board of five voters for each county or part thereof and such voters being of European descent and there being no recourse to the courts in the land, Indians will be helpless against decisions of such licensing boards."

4. "That this mass meeting of Natal Indians strongly takes objection to the proposed ordinance disqualifying Indians from the enjoyment of votes in Townships, and thus deprives Indians of an existing right."

5. "That this meeting of Natal Indians deplores the deaths during the continuance of the strike in the Transvaal and tenders its sympathy to those who have been bereaved, appealing to the Government for protection for the voteless and defenceless non-Europeans against the like unfortunate incidents of a strike in the future, and that all matters arising out of the strike

will be enquired into by the Commission of Enquiry and redress given to all those who have suffered."

6. "That this meeting of Natal Indians is disturbed by the interpretation placed by the Natal Division of the Supreme Court in the case of Mahomed and Yusuf vs. The Immigrants Appeal Board in which the rights of minors born in one of the Provinces whose parents hold dual domiciliary rights in the Union of South Africa have been taken away, and in respectfully bringing the interpretation in this matter to the notice of the responsible Ministers prays that the declaration of prohibition against Asiatics on economic grounds be withdrawn."

MR. GANDHI SENTENCED

PROTEST MEETING AT DURBAN

Following the receipt of the news of Mr. Gandhi's imprisonment, a mass meeting of Indians was held at Rawat's Bio Hall, Victoria Street, Durban, on Tuesday evening. The Hall was again overcrowded with Indians, and Mr. Ismail Gora the President of the Natal Indian Congress presided supported by Messrs. R. B. Chetty, Pandit Bhawani Dayal (Vice-Presidents), A. Christopher, Sorabjee Rustomjee (Hon. Secretaries), Omar H. A. Jhaveri, V. S. C. Pather (Hon. Treasurers), Ismail Bhayat, J. Royeppen, S. R. Pather, M. A. Motala, S. P. Butler, M. B. Naik, C. A. Bassa, Sheikh Amod, S. Emammally, I. E. Essack, B. L. E. Sigamoney, B. A. Magrajh, M. B. Maharaj, S. L. Panday, Rev. E. Choonoo, L. Gabriel, B. M. Patel; and other representative Indians.

At the commencement of the meeting Master Mayet chanted appropriate verses from the Alkoran and the Chairman in addressing the meeting said:—

Friends and Countrymen,—The happenings in India during the last fortnight and more have been brought nearer home to us by the arrest of Mahatma Gandhiji for though he left these shores for the mother country some few years ago, he bequeathed to us the feeling that he was always very much in the spirit with us. Sub service as he gave and such love as he had for us can never die. It is a precious legacy to us, would we be but men. His life story is the saga of the Indian household, his quest for the truth as his dedication to the service of humanity is ours, and his name is on every man's tongue. None who know what is good and noble on earth grudge him his due. And he is to us, as to every rational being a man among men, worthy of emulation. Even as he has been, so has Mrs. Gandhi been an inspiration to every one of us, giving no less of herself for us.

Whatever may be the reasons that prompted the Government of India to cause his arrest, we cannot but view that he whose life was love is guiltless, however it may appear in the sight of men who made law having the backing of brute force, and more often than not lacking humanity. We know that time and again he has proved his loyalty to the British Empire and his patriotism to his native land. And we view with sorrow that he who was so great an influence for good has been sentenced to so long an imprisonment as six years. The wheels of God grind slowly, but surely, and none dare say "stop" and so the spirit of Mahatmajee is free and knows no confines and works its will for the freedom of man and the brotherhood of the children of God.

And we who have faith must need be true in our daily life and thought to him who has become so much a part of our very existence; let us, as he has been doing, strive to win by love those who would have us to be less than men; let us not hesitate to suffer for our manhood; let us by our love prove that we are worthy sons and daughters of India and no mean South Africans.

I would urge upon you all as a community to observe Thursday next as a day of protest closing your busi-

nesses and only performing work in the essential and humanitarian services.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. "That this mass meeting of Natal Indians assembled at Durban, strongly protests against the imprisonment of Mahatma Gandhi and the severe sentence of six years for being true to his conscience in the service of his country.

2. "That this mass meeting of Natal Indians assembled at Durban hereby resolves that all Indian places of business be closed and that no work except in the humanitarian and essential services be done on Thursday next the 23rd March 1922 in order to mark the community's protest against the imprisonment of Mahatma Gandhi."

3. "That this mass meeting authorises the President to forward the resolutions passed thereat to the proper quarters.

Mr. Shaikh Mehtab sang patriotic songs eulogising Mahatmasjee.

અહવાલો પંચામ

વર્ષ	મીટિંગ	સુભવચન	પરમી	સુવેદન	મુખ્યત્વે
૧૯૨૨	૧૬૦૮	૧૩૪૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૩	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૪	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૫	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૬	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૭	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૮	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૨૯	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.
૧૯૩૦	૧૫૦૦	૧૨૦૦	૧૨૬૧	૬. મી.	૬. મી.

NOTICE

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

The annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress will be held on Sunday the 23rd April, 1922 at 2-30 p. m. at Rawat's Hall, Victoria Street, Durban.

Business:—

1. Report and Financial Statement

2. Election of officials

N. B. Members and intending members must in terms of the Rules pay their subscriptions at once to take part in the meeting.

A. CHRISTOPHER

SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE

Hony. Secretaries,

Natal Indian Congress.

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જાહિર સ્વર

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ કિ વારસિક જનરલ મીટીંગ તા. ૨૩ એપ્રિલ, ૧૯૨૨, રવીવાર કો રુપર અરહ મજે સ્વેન, વીકટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટકા રાવત હોલમે મીલેને.

કાર્ય:—(૧) રીપોર્ટ ઓર આર્થિક સ્ટેટમેન્ટ (૨) અધિકારીઓની ફેલેક્શન.

સ્વાસ: મેમ્બરો ઓર જો મેમ્બર હોન ચાહતે હેં ઉન્હેને મીટીંગમેં હાજર હોનેકે હિચે અપના ત્યાગમ ધારાકે અનુસાર દુરંતહિ મર વેના ચાહિષ.

ઈ. ક્રીસ્ટોફર

एस. इस्तमजी.

ઓ. સેક્રેટરી

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ.

બહેર ખબર

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસની વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ તા. ૨૩ એપ્રિલ, ૧૯૨૨, રવીવારના રોજ બપોરે ૨૧ વાગે ટરબનમાં વીકટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ પર આવેલા રાવત હોલમાં મળશે.

કાર્ય:—

૧. રીપોર્ટ અને આર્થિક સ્ટેટમેન્ટ,

૨. અમલદારોની ચુંટણી.

નોંધ: મેમ્બરો અને મેમ્બરો થવાને ઇચ્છનારાઓએ મીટીંગમાં હાજર લેવા માટે પોતાનાં લવાજમો ધારાની ફેલે દુરંતજ ભરી દેવાં.

ઈ. ક્રીસ્ટોફર,

સેક્રેટરી.

ઓ. સેક્રેટરીઓ,

તા. ઇ. કોંગ્રેસ.

બ્રીટીશ ઇન્ડિઆ સ્ટીમ નેવીએશન કંપની

સ્ટીમરોની ખબર

સ્ટી. "કારાપારા" તા. ૩૭ એપ્રિલના અરસામાં ઉપરશે.

સ્ટી. "કરોઆ" તા. ૧૭ એપ્રિલના અરસામાં ઉપરશે.

વધુ ખુલાસો

શેખર હીમંદ, ૩૭૦ પાર્લન સ્ટ્રીટ, ટરબન,

એ સ્થળે મળવાથી અથવા લખવાથી મળી શકશે.