

# Indian Opinion

No. 49—VOL. XX. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 1922.

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

MR. E. D. Morel, Editor of *Foreign Affairs*, writing in an English contemporary recently, points out how the statements one reads in newspapers about the wickedness of the Turks in siding with Germany and about their having taken up arms against the Allies "unprovoked," are simply ridiculous. "It is really amazing," he writes, "how the average man persists in overlooking the fact that we went into the war not—as Lord Loreburn happily expresses it—as principals in any quarrel or our own, but as accessories in the third degree," and that we went to it as the allies of Imperial Russia. Now, as Signor Nitti and other eminent personages are kind enough to tell us—eight years too late—and as the Russian Imperial archives, which the Soviet Government is having the bad taste to publish, most abundantly confirm, it was Imperial Russia that primarily "made the war." And what had been the main purpose of Imperial Russia's diplomacy in the years immediately preceding the war? What was Imperial Russia's chief objective in the war? The answer to these questions is—to achieve her traditional ambition, the seizure of Constantinople and the Straits. Nothing else could rehabilitate the Tsardom and damp down revolutionary fires. Every Foreign Office in Europe knew what Russia's policy was before the war; those of London, Paris, and Rome, were privy to it. Every student of international politics knew it. Indeed her officially inspired organs proclaimed it aloud. The Turks were well aware of it, and just as they had leant on England during the preceding half century, and on one occasion had fought with England, to preserve themselves against the danger when it was England's policy to keep the Muscovite out of Constantinople, so they turned to Germany when England's policy changed, as the only power that could help them to avert the danger. For them the matter was one of self-preservation. It is, therefore, the height of absurdity to denounce their wickedness for joining the Central Powers in 1914. We really cannot have it both ways. I am not discussing whether our choice was right or wrong, wise or unwise, forced upon us by events or of our deliberate seeking."

Mr. Morel proceeds:—

"But assuredly an alliance with Imperial Russia was incompatible with the preservation of our friendship with Turkey. How singular is the story which unfolds itself as one turns over the pages of the recent past! Alarmed at Russian enterprise in Persia, we made an alliance with Japan in order to ensure the smashing of Russian imperialism in the East. That object is attained. Thanks to the Alliance Japan is able to deal with Imperial Russia single-handed. But no sooner is that end secured than our Foreign Office becomes disturbed at the weakening of the "Balance of Power" in Europe arising from Russia's overthrow. Imperial Germany immediately replaces Imperial Russia as bogey-chief, and, in their wisdom, our "statesmen" begin, in secret, that complete reversal of policy which divides Persia into British and Russian spheres, and eventually, by way of Paris, binds us in obligations of honour to the Tsardom. Under cover of this unwritten bond, Imperial Russia renews her traditional

move southwards upon Constantinople and the Straits from which she had been temporarily diverted by the lure of the China seas. Well and good. But if you ally yourself with the deadly enemy of a third party, an enemy who has pursued that third party's destruction for upwards of a century, you cannot reasonably complain if that third party takes out insurances—which is what the Turks did, by way of Berlin. He had no alternative. Within six months of the outbreak of the war, the Liberal Government secretly, of course, consented to the annexation by Imperial Russia of the Straits and of Constantinople. Yet, to-day, our "Statesmen" are prepared to sacrifice the youth of the country on behalf of what they term the "freedom of the Straits"!

The *Bombay Chronicle* dated Oct. 27 writes as follows:—

Next to Mr. Lloyd George, the most pitiable figure in the British Empire to-day is Lord Reading. He came to India with a great European and American reputation, which has been irretrievably lost after a few months' "rule of justice." The *Daily Express* is responsible for the statement that Lord Reading came here under an arrangement made at the time of his appointment that he should be allowed to return to England after being in office two years. If there is any truth in this statement, it is evident that Lord Reading and those responsible for his selection imagined that his diplomacy would succeed in scotching the Non-co-operation movement within a very short time and reconciling the Indian people to the Reforms toy. The pursuit of diplomacy has led Lord Reading from blunder to blunder to a stage when he finds the Non-co-operation movement as strong as ever, the Mahatma more powerful in prison than when free, the Reforms never more discredited and, bitterest humiliation of all, he, the great Liberal and ex-Lord Chief Justice of England, not merely dubbed the head of a subordinate branch of a Department of British Government but treated as such by a Winterton and a Peel! Could there be a more cruel disillusionment! It will not be surprising if, now that Mr. Lloyd George is not there to press him to remain, Lord Reading, a sadder and, we trust, wiser man, should feel that what little of his reputation has survived would be safer in England than as Viceroy of India.

### ANTI-ASIATIC PROPAGANDA

WE have devoted a large portion of our present issue to reproducing from the *Rand Daily Mail* a series of articles on Asiatic Traders. We reproduce them exactly as they are published in the above named paper with all the headings. More than anything else these articles are a specimen of the unscrupulous manner in which the Anti-Asiatic propaganda is carried on in the country and how it is supported by one of the responsible organs of the country. To attempt to disprove the charges laid against the Asiatic trader would be a worthless waste of

energy and space. Moreover, the articles are full of false allegations without the slightest proof behind them. How void of any scruples the Anti-Asiatics are was amply proved at the time of the findings of the last Asiatic Enquiry Commission. They had a rebuke from the Commission for their unscrupulous and wild allegations which should have put them to shame, but it has apparently had no effect on them and they have advanced further in their old game. They are blind to the fact that they are doing a great deal of damage to the prestige of their own people and their country. We do not believe that the Criminal Investigation Department will be prepared to accept the humiliating charge laid against it that it is incompetent to deal with offending Indian traders. In the course of our daily life we see quite differently to what is being alleged by Anti-Asiatics. The number of Anti-Asiatics could be counted on one's finger-tips and what they say and cry affects none but themselves and those who have engendered, by their influence, a natural hatred towards the Indians for their colour. But the vast majority of especially the poorer class of the White people and the Native population is thoroughly satisfied with the Indian trader and prefers to deal with him than any other. We have witnessed also on innumerable occasions travellers of large European firms begging Indian traders to do business with them. This proves that to the large European firms and to the poorer class of the White people and the vast Native population the Indian trader is not a curse—and in the case of the two latter classes, we have no hesitation in saying that, he has been a blessing to them. It has been the case that, while the petty European trader has failed in business the Indian has invariably been successful. The failure of the former has been due to his laxness and carelessness towards his customers. The latter's success is due to his diligence and his care for his customers; and it is wicked and cowardly to curse him and lay false charges against him because of his virtues. Only the other week we reproduced some figures of insolvencies that took place in the Transvaal from January to September last showing that 604 Europeans went insolvent during that period while the Asiatics numbered 157. This would show that the allegation with regard to insolvencies is also without foundation. We are prepared to believe that there are some unscrupulous traders amongst Indians, but that cannot be held as an argument to denounce the whole community. Because there is one or a half-dozen Bottomlies in the European community and some arch-criminals in the European prisons, it does not necessarily mean that the whole European community is worthless. To say so would be foolish and unjust. There are Bottomlies and arch-criminals in every nation and they are to be judged individually on their own merits or demerits. But to brand the whole nation as such is totally unworthy of any civilised people.

#### ANTI-ASIATIC PROPAGANDA

[We reproduce below a series of articles from the *Rand Daily Mail* dealing with the Asiatic trader in the same form as they have been published in that paper. They go to show how unscrupulously the Anti-Asiatic propaganda is being carried on. We refer to the subject in our leading article.—ED. I. O.]

#### I

### ROGUES IN TRADE THE NEW ASIATIC DANGER SOME OF THEIR TRICKS

#### AIDED BY DISHONEST TRUSTEES

"They toil not; neither do they spin."

This was the remark made to a representative of the *Rand Daily Mail* recently by one of the leading merchants of Johannesburg in reference to those members of the Indian community in our midst who are bent on securing wealth in the easiest manner possible, and in a minimum of time.

Much has already been said about the dishonest practices of a certain type of trustee in this country—particularly on the Rand—who, in order to secure business, is ready to commit any kind of illegality. At the same time, it must be confessed that the great danger that confronts the commercial community, and one which is undermining commercial morality, is to be found in the nefarious practices employed by a large section of Asiatic traders.

Indeed, it is time for the country to realise fully the immensity of this menace. On the whole, the Asiatics are not a producing class in South Africa. They are certainly not an asset to the Transvaal—whatever they may be to any other province of the Union.

#### "SOURCE OF DANGER"

"It is strong language," remarked a European merchant, "but in reality, the Asiatic trader on the Reef is nothing but a blood-sucker and a parasite, and apart from contaminating the black population here, he has been a continual source of danger to the European commercial community. That was so in the days when trade was brisk and money was plentiful; it is particularly true at the present time, when trade is quiet and money is scarce."

Another European merchant remarked that a certain type of trustee here was to a very great extent responsible for this unsatisfactory state of affairs. "Certain trustees have fought among themselves to secure Asiatic patronage. They have handled Asiatic liquidations, sequestrations, assignments and insolvencies, not from the point of view of the interests of the European merchants and creditors—and all of the genuine creditors are invariably Europeans—but with the clear and avowed intention of pulling these fraudulent Asiatic insolvents through their self-made 'troubles,' in order that they may be enabled to start once again, fresh and experienced, on their mission for mischief and commercial immorality."

Few people realise the extent of the feeling that now exists on this matter. Various attempts are being made to counteract the evil influences and fraudulent actions of the Asiatic traders, but the success so far encountered has not been very great. "They are far too cunning for us," declared a merchant whose losses in the past have been enormous. "On occasions, despite the strongest of suspicions, it is simply impossible to catch them at their little games."

"And this difficulty is also being experienced by the Criminal Investigation Department in Johannesburg. The Asiatic, when he is up to all his tricks, never works alone. There is invariably a smaller or bigger syndicate, every member of which works on his own, but all of whom have one common aim, and act unitedly, directed from a particular centre."

#### NO CASH

A number of Asiatics become interested in a certain business which is started practically with no cash. One of their compatriots secures quantities of goods from other Asiatic traders. On the strength of these stocks, several merchants in other parts of the country are induced to furnish further stock. Then a bank is approached, the manager of which is asked to inspect the goods in hand and show taken books and papers.

A letter is secured from this bank manager declaring that the credit of this particular storekeeper is good. On the strength of this letter of commendation, other European wholesale houses are led into the trap, and persuaded to supply enormous quantities of goods of great variety, the usual terms, or even easier terms than usual terms, being at once granted.

Once the position has been carried thus far, the Asiatics put into operation a system that is peculiarly their own, and which, owing to the success it has encountered in the past, is being copied by a certain section of the European storekeepers anxious to get rich quick. It is a system of accommodation bills which, simple as it appears to be on the surface, is difficult to stop once it is in operation.

A passes on to B a bill for a certain sum of money. The amount in question is, of course, backed in the first instance. From B it passes on to C, and so on, according to the number of those interested in the syndicate. Eventually, the bill returns to the original backer and one fine day, one of the syndicate is compulsorily sequestered either by the one who first passed the accommodation bill, or by another confederate.

**A SYNDICATE AT WORK**

At the same time each member of the syndicate opens a small store on his own account in different parts of the town or country, and all of them draw their supplies from the main store connected with the wholesale houses, and which is used as a distributing centre.

Each of the stores indulges in a periodical well-managed fire or burglary, and, being well insured against all possible "risks," those concerned have no scruples whatever in doing what they deem essential for the carrying out of their schemes. Large quantities of goods are constantly removed from one of the stores to the other; fictitious liabilities are carefully planned and arranged, and are duly entered into books which give not the slightest genuine reflection of the actual state of affairs of the businesses concerned.

These very books are kept by the Asiatics in an Asiatic language, and more often than not there are double sets available. This method is exceedingly convenient the moment trouble is suspected.

Recently, when a member of the C.I.D. inspected the books of a certain Asiatic storekeeper against whom suspicions were entertained, many of the pages of the books in question were initialled by the detective quite unknown to the prospective insolvent.

When, however, this detective called at the Asiatic's store on the following day to complete his investigations, he found that another set of books had been put in the place of the set inspected on the previous day. In that particular case, the Crown succeeded in bringing home the charges of fraudulent insolvency and arson, and the Asiatic is at present in the Pretoria prison, where he will be for some time.

Nevertheless, here is revealed a state of affairs which is a terrible menace to the commercial community of South Africa, and about which more will be said another day.

**II**

**DUPED BY INDIAN**

**STORY OF BOGUS BUSINESS**

**ASIATIC MENACE**

**HOW BIG FRAUD WAS CARRIED OUT**

(By The Rand Daily Mail's Special Correspondent)

In a recent issue of the Rand Daily Mail certain illustrations were given of the extent of the Asiatic menace, principally so far as the commercial community of the Rand is concerned. The extraordinary state of affairs there revealed has, however, only partially disclosed the malpractices of some of the

Asiatic traders in the Transvaal. As a matter of fact, sufficient could be said upon the subject to fill a big volume.

The average manager of a bank or a wholesale firm is generally under the impression that he is so wide-awake and so keen a business man that he could quickly detect any suggestion or intension of fraud or double-dealing on the part of an Asiatic client. But, judging by what has been done by Asiatic traders during recent years, one is justified in coming to the conclusion that bank managers and merchants are ignorant of the methods employed by wily and unscrupulous Indians.

**ASTOUNDING EXPLOITS**

Indeed, the commercial exploits and adventures of some Indians have been of so astounding a nature that European firms who have been the victims would, it is considered, be justified in deciding to have no further dealings with Asiatics. If such an unlikely thing were to happen, it is still a matter of opinion whether such Indians would be effectively checkmated. Unfortunately, in the system of bogus trading adopted, a certain type of trustee is a willing and ready tool. Of course, for the trustee, money can be made—plenty of money. Thus there is invariably a headlong rush to administer estates in which the insolvents are Asiatics. The trustee who undertakes business of this questionable character is, of course, no better than the Asiatic.

**EUROPEANS DUPED**

To emphasise what has been said, a story from "real life" may be given to show not only the easy way in which Europeans may be duped, but also the futility of the law.

A few years ago, an Indian was working as an assistant in the store of a compatriot in Johannesburg. He was at the time young and penniless, but ambitious. Recently he had at his command capital and credit amounting to well over £200,000. How was this accomplished?

Taking a few of his countrymen into his confidence, the wily young Indian armed himself with a number of accommodation bills, purchased large quantities of goods from merchants in different parts of the Union, and opened a wholesale warehouse on his own account. The foundation having thus been laid, he drew up a fictitious balance sheet, on which some scores of Indians figured as debtors. This, together with his stocks, apparently impressed certain bank managers to whom they were exhibited.

**BANKING FACILITIES**

At once the banks' cash was at his disposal, and facilities amounting to about £10,000 were granted to this commercial Napoleon.

The road being now fairly clear, he got into his clutches a number of illiterate compatriots, and opened in various parts of Johannesburg and districts retail stores, in each of which was placed one of these innocent tools. The books of each branch were kept in duplicate, and each store traded on its own account entirely. In fact, those who looked after them were put there as "proprietors," although, of course, they were bound hand and foot to the Indian in control of affairs.

Every one of these small "proprietors" possessed a banking account in his own name, and drew his supplies from the central warehouse. On each occasion that purchases were effected the values were considerably overstated in the bogus books of the branches.

The originator of the scheme was *persona grata* with the banks so far as facilities were concerned. He was considered a wholesale merchant of undoubted integrity both by the banks and by European merchants. Taking advantage of this position, he instructed the so-called "proprietors" of his branch businesses to call on the managers of the bank branches in their neighbourhood and request facilities for overdrafts.

Each of them he armed with a letter of introduction from himself and recommended that the required assistance be given. They were also sent to various merchants in the same way, and, practically everywhere, their requirements were sympathetically considered.

No reason existed for suspicion, as each branch "proprietor" carried on his business in his own name.

#### BOGUS ENTERPRISE

This monumental bogus enterprise for several years proved a big success. It was a piece of consummate bluff from beginning to end, and the ingenious methods employed enabled the ambitious young Indian to command stock, cash and credits amounting approximately to £100,000.

And all the time he was only, so to speak, manoeuvring for position. When everything was in readiness, he suddenly pounced upon one of the bogus "proprietors" of his branches and demanded a settlement of his outstanding. This, of course, was impossible, and the "proprietor's" estate was compulsorily sequestrated. The "prime mover" became his own creditor and sequestrator combined, and nominated his own trustee.

The same methods were adopted in the case of all the other branches, and in every instance the young Indian added to his wealth. Altogether, the banks and the wholesale houses suffered to the extent of roughly £30,000.

Finally the Indian's wholesale warehouse went into sequestration. His personal outstandings amounted to about £12,000, and the most remarkable feature of the whole unsavoury business was that these huge outstandings were sold by the trustee for less than £50,000.

### III

#### THE GENTLE ART OF BANKRUPTCY

##### MORE ABOUT INDIAN TRADERS

##### A FRUIT HAWKER'S BID FOR WEALTH

Discussing the Asiatic menace with a prominent member of the European commercial community recently, a representative of the *Rand Daily Mail* was informed that the danger from that direction was twofold.

"On the one hand," he said, "the Asiatic trader is able to thrive on the 'smell of an oil-rag,' and for that reason he is in a position to compete with the European on the most unequal terms. On the other hand, many of these traders resort to unscrupulous methods whereby they may get rich quick.

"It should be remembered that the Asiatics in our midst do not contribute in the slightest degree to the wealth of the country. They contaminate the black races and contribute towards the degradation of the Europeans by lowering the standard of living."

Reverting to the aspect of the Asiatic question about which so much has already been written in the *Mail*, our informant commented on the fact that so many of the Indians who had contravened the Insolvency Act were still at large. Indeed, very few of them had been brought before the Courts and tried, simply because so many of the trustees, when reporting on affairs in connection with insolvent estates, did not act impartially.

There is the wife of a trustee who has been receiving handsome presents from Indian merchants who had gone insolvent. This sort of thing requires little comment, and is a sad commentary on the commercial invalidity and honesty of Europeans whose main business it is to act on behalf of creditors.

What is also lamentable is the fact that many an Indian trader who had no thought of going insolvent has been coached in the art of bankruptcy by a type of trustee in our midst—a type that is as great, if not

a greater danger to the commercial community in particular, and to the community in general, than the dishonest Indians. Let us take the following case for instance.

An Indian merchant casually remarked on his business troubles to a certain trustee here. The Indian in question was very well off financially. He was the owner of many a property, and had at his disposal ample cash resources. Trade, however, was stagnant, and he made the usual kind of complaint.

"Business should not be bad," interrupted the trustee.

"What can I do?"

"Well, call at my office in the morning, and we will have a chat about it," was the rejoinder.

The following morning the Indian called at his office, and with little hesitation a plan was unfolded to him. Less than a fortnight later it was made known that the Indian in question had been compulsorily sequestrated, and at the first meeting of creditors in the Court the same European was recommended as provisional trustee.

Apart from this aspect of the menace, it is quite unnecessary for many of the Asiatic traders in South Africa, and particularly those on the Rand, to be coached in the principles of fraud, dishonesty, perjury and double dealing.

#### WHAT GOES ON

The stories that have already been given in the *Mail* about the fraudulent practices of Indian traders and merchants are not fabrications. They are actual incidents that have occurred in "real life." Here is another one of these frauds.

A few years ago an Indian came to this country from Madras to join an uncle of his in his business. After they were together for about six months, a dispute arose between them, and the nephew was dismissed. It did not take very long before the uncle—quite a notorious character—discovered that his newly-arrived nephew was playing "Jack and Jill" with his till.

The nephew, when he was sent away, commenced to trade as a fruit hawker. Not satisfied with results, he determined to do something on a more ambitious scale. He discussed his plan of operations with several other fruit hawkers who had accumulated small savings, and an agreement was arrived at.

This precocious young Indian forged the signature of his uncle to a cheque, which he exhibited to several European storekeepers. On the strength of this, in addition to the small stocks that he had managed to purchase, credits were given to him. With no loss of time, he opened a wholesale business in soft goods, and commenced trading on a big scale. With the same forged cheque mentioned above, which he used as a bait, he succeeded in securing further credits from several European wholesale houses in Market Street.

On making inquiries from the banks, it was found that the budding Indian wholesaler was a man of no financial substance, but facilities were granted to him by the merchants, the transactions being regarded as a business speculation—a bad business speculation it turned out to be.

Accounts were paid promptly—even before they were due. Much impressed, heavier credits were granted him. One day the wily Indian, in accordance with his pre-arranged plan, called on the merchants to express a thousand regrets for his inability to meet certain bills. Almost apologetically, and impressed by his seemingly candid manner, the merchants promptly agreed to extensions of time. Naturally, they thought it wise to "keep sweet" with a client who, in their mistaken opinion, was a gilt-edged security.

The extensions of time elapsed, and, as no more regrets were forthcoming for inability to meet the payments, one of the merchants paid a surprise visit to the Indian's place of business. Much to his disappointment, he discovered that this "gilt-edged se-

curity" was a fraud. The stock had mysteriously disappeared, and the Indian had vanished. Up to the present not a trace of him has been found.

Not only were these European merchants heavy losers, but the bank had also suffered heavily. It is believed that the rascally Indian left South Africa immediately after his disappearance. Perhaps in a few years' time he will reappear under a different name.

## IDEAL OF BROTHERHOOD

### MRS. NAIDU'S LECTURE IN COLOMBO

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu addressed a mammoth gathering recently in Colombo on the grounds of the Zahira College. The meeting was originally intended to be held in the hall, but the building could not accommodate one-tenth of the gathering. Eleventh hour arrangements had therefore to be made for an open air meeting. The Hon. Mr. Abdul Cader presided and introduced Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in the course of her speech said:—

When I was asked to deliver a little informal address to a little gathering of College students, I ought to have realised that the subject is of so much importance and necessity, that a generation not of students but of men connected with the vital affairs of to-day must be interested and drawn towards hearing what I or any man or woman might have to say about the new world of Islam. I took the title, or rather my son suggested it to me when I was pressed for a title, this title of a book I have not read. But I need not read any book of Islam, when day after day unfolds page after page of living history that the new world of Islam is in truth descended from that older and greater world of Islam that gave democracy to the world. (Applause.) I see before me a large audience of non-Muslim people, and I always rejoice when I find non-Muslims in a Moslem gathering, for this reason especially, that there is so much misconception in the heart, alike of the Christians, the Hindus, the Buddhists and the Parsees, about the true ideals of the greatest and youngest of the world religions. I advisedly say the greatest and as well as the youngest of the world religions, not with a view to disparaging my own religion or the religion of the Christians or the Buddhists, but I mean the greatest in this one sense: that there is one significance, that it has brought to the modern world, the true gift of democracy, for the trend of the civilisation to-day, the sum total of the world's aspirations to-day, is to reconstruct the new world towards the brotherhood that was preached in the desert by a camel driver more than thirteen hundred years ago. (Applause.) I hardly think it necessary to talk of the new world of Islam because Islamism itself belongs to the new world. Centuries ago when my forefathers were evolving great philologies and sending to the younger nations a message of enlightenment, Arabia was still uncultured. Arabia was still nothing but a desert of wild hordes. While the great Buddhist message of Nirvana was being enunciated from the Bo-Tree by Buddhagaya and Sarenath there was no conception of what the world democracy meant. When Christ was crucified upon the Cross by the unbelievers even then the ideal of brotherhood was not accepted. It was challenged; it was trampled in the dust.

### IDEAL OF BROTHERHOOD

It was necessary that a camel driver from Arabia should give to the world in the ultimate form the most perfect definition of brotherhood, of the republic of equality of all men, of all classes, of all ranks. (Applause.) Who was this camel driver, why was it that this camel driver tending his animals in the desert was able to give to the world this message of hope? Why? Because the world surfeited with the corruptions of the other great religions, the tyrannies of the priest-

hood of other great religions sought deliverance from the bondage, from the tyrannies that were at once an infamy and an insult to the Faith. And then God, who moves in his mysterious ways to re-deliver age after age, His people from the bondage of the preceding ages, sent to the heart of this simple man in the desert the Revelation of the One God that alone is great, a revelation and a conviction that all creatures that are made by Him are brothers bound together by indivisible kinship. (Applause.) That is the real message of Islam. And, if to-day we quote a title from an American writer and speak of the New World of Islam, it is merely to bring back to the world that has forgotten the message that came to them, that while there is one heart that seeks an ideal, while there is one man that can follow logically to its ultimate issue the ideal of brotherhood, then Islam and the Flag of Islam must always reign. (Applause.)

### PLEA PER UNITY

Mrs. Naidu, after dealing with the need for unity, addressing the Muslims said: I want you Mussalmans here to realise your great responsibility. You are the heirs of a great heritage. What are you doing Mussalmans to hold aloft the banner of your Prophet who came to bring brotherhood, and yet you stand divided from the other communities in the places you live in. (Shame.) He came to teach compassion, but you have begun to wall yourself round with barriers that are a menace and an insult and a lie to what your Prophet came to preach. You carried in a litter the torch of learning to the cities of Europe and yet to-day your people are sunk in the darkness of ignorance and specification. Is it for this that the Prophet was born? Is it for this that the holy shrines are reminding you of the great men and Saints of your greater religion? Therefore, you who would construct the new world of Islam, you must adhere to that world-wide ideal that was preached by the Prophet of God. He preached in his day in his fashion; as the Lord Buddha preached in His day in His fashion and Christ preached in His day and in His fashion; and to-day a man not claiming divinity, not claiming apostleship, not arrogating to himself the greatness of an apostle, preaches. That is peace through self-suffering, harmony through unity, faith exalted by self-sacrifice, and your own creed uplifted to the stars by the vitality and the nobility of your own race and your own co-religionists. That is what you have to do. It is true that the Mussalman can never look only to his territorial position. He can never say, he should never say, "Only here is my home." For the Hindu, yes. For the Sinhalese, yes. But never for the Mussalman. It is his duty to direct his vision, now in danger of growing too insular, too narrow, too selfish, too self-satisfied, across the geographical and mental barriers to his own province and island; and say that "no race can live unto itself or die unto itself." He must exist side by side with the others, and direct his vitality, his sympathy, his help, his understanding to that larger vision to which the eyes of the entire Muslim people are directed. I believe that with this great vision of nationalism before us, when we are in the throes of our agony, struggling for national freedom, we might so easily forget that our Nation is Not All.

### WIDER VISION

As an Englishwoman shot by the Germans said when dying, "Patriotism is not enough," patriotism often is no more than the seed that brings destruction to other nations. What you want is a bigger thing than patriotism. Bigger than a nation is a commonwealth of the world, and higher than even a national ideal is an international vision that binds up every race, every culture and every creed. Yours is that wise and great portion to direct the eye in your island of the Buddhists, Christians and Hindus, even as your brothers in India have directed the eye of the conservative and mystical Hindu population, to something

that is beyond the Himalayas and the seas. Your contribution must always be dynamic, must always be to give vitality to dreams. Yours must be the sword that is forged in the fire, and your sword must be the sword of the living fire, and your armour and weapon of courage and power to endure. Yours is the privilege, yours is the duty of leading in this great battle of world reconstruction. It is for your womanhood to say to the world: "Behold we gave in our Prophet's day to the women of the world that status which helped them not to be counted with your cattle, with your flocks, your horses and your cooking pots; but I am she who co-partnered with you to the glory of God, I am she of the race of Bees whose dowry was the spinning wheel and the grinding stone." (Applause.)

You must teach simplicity, you must teach austerity, you must teach charity, you must teach peace—the very salutation that every Mussulman gives to his brother is that salutation, that peace which comes from fulfilling the will of God. And you my brothers, my Muslim brothers who are the followers of the Prophets, will then and then alone earn right to turn towards Mecca and say: 'We praise Thee all compassionate master of life, of time, of fate. Lord of the labouring minds and seas—Thou art the gold for which we long. Thou art the Silence whose name is known from star to star—Thou art the burden of our peace. Thou art the life of the sun-beam—Thou it is who guide us, transmutes our weakness into power our bondage into victory—We are the creatures of Thy might. We are the shadows of Thy light, the vision of Thy primal dream.'

The solemn hush that fell on the audience as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu recited the prayer with the Arabic words of invocation was broken by loud and continued applause. And she took her seat. Mr. T. R. Jayah proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Naidu which the Chairman conveyed to her.—*The Morning Leader*, Colombo.

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Printed and Published by Manilal M. Gandhi at Phoenix, Settlement, Phoenix, Natal.