

Indian Opinion

No. 45—Vol. XXII.

Friday, November 14th, 1924.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper
PRICE FOURPENCE

NOTES AND NEWS

WE offer our congratulations to the new head of the Durban Borough Police, Mr. Alexander, who by a unanimous vote was recently elected by the Durban Town Council to succeed the late Mr. Donovan as Chief Constable.

The Public Health Committee South Coast Junction area has the following notice re building plans published in the local press:—

Under and by virtue of the powers vested in the above Committee, notice is hereby given that properly drawn plans must be submitted to the Committee for approval before any work on new buildings of any description, or additions, or alterations to existing buildings, is commenced in this area. A brief description of the materials to be used must accompany the aforesaid plans.

A correspondent under the caption "Durban Trade Review" in the *Natal Mercury*, states:—

I have not said much about Indian insolvencies lately, as I have had so many other things to write about, and space is limited, but the merry game goes on as usual. Last Friday twelve meetings were held before the Magistrate, of which four were in European and eight in Indian estates. It is useless going into details, and giving figures of liabilities, etc., to European and Indian houses, as they are nearly always on the same scale, and I am quite satisfied that it is impossible to bring home to local merchants that they are not making any money out of their trade with Indians, and that they are only keeping Europeans out of Native trading. It is also useless trying to urge Government or the licensing authorities to take any steps; both seem afraid to tackle the question.

In fairness, it would have been of interest had the correspondent given the total amount of the liabilities of the four European and the eight Indian; it is not the number of insolvencies which count but the amount of liabilities which the merchants have to loose.

Mr. William Graham and Mr. Ben Spoor, who were, respectively, Financial Secretary, and Parliamentary Secretary, to the Treasury in the recent Labour Government, have been appointed Privy Councillors.

London, Nov. 7 Reuter.—The choice of Lord Birkenhead as Secretary of State for India in the new cabinet, is an appointment which was received with the greatest satisfaction, or the least dissatisfaction, by the Opposition Press which recalls the anti-Diehard sentiments he voiced on the occasion of the resolution passed by the House of Lords in July, 1920, regarding the Amritsar riots. Lord Birkenhead then declared that anyone who defended General Dyer should be prepared to defend similar conduct in Glasgow, Belfast and Winnipeg. Opposition organs assert that the continuation of that spirit at the India Office will not take Lord Birkenhead far

wrong, and will offer him a reputation more solid than any that is available through "glittering prizes." Conservative commentators welcome what they describe as a new era of British authority in India which they delare was badly shaken during Lord Olivier's regime. The *Morning Post* says if Lord Birkenhead can recover a lost Dominion he will justify his appointment. Lord Derby who was Secretary for War in the last Conservative Cabinet, has authorised the *Liverpool Echo* to say that no post in the new Cabinet was either offered to or declined by him.

Mr. Malan was decidedly not encouraging, states the "Man in the Moon" in the *Natal Mercury*, or helpful with his remarks on the Indian question in Natal. He simply folded his hands and blame the past. In this instance we want the dead past to bury its dead, and a policy that will assist the living. The Indian question is becoming ever more serious for this Province, and unless some means of curtailing the increase be found the white man must inevitably be snowed under, for the Indian must live. He cannot be allowed to starve. The question is how can his brain and muscle be used so as to inflict the least injury on the white race. Dr. Malan has no solution to offer, and I am not surprised, for the problem is complicated by all kinds of outside influences. It is the usual thing to blame the sugar planters for bringing in the Indians, and no doubt the importation was a profound mistake, but no one thought so at the time; but they were not responsible for the Indian traders who form the majority of those who are competing with Europeans to-day. These followed in the wake of the Indian immigrants for the plantations, and are the chief owners of the land. I think that this section could be dealt with by making all licences terminable at death or by insolvency or departure from the country. This would not involve hardship for many and would also go some way towards purifying our commercial procedure. There would be fewer insolvencies, less indiscriminate credit, if bankruptcy meant total extinction from the commercial world. Of course, I know that there would be a hundred efforts to circumvent the law were it passed, as there is in the Transvaal to-day about holding licences and land, but these would be minimised in time.

There was some discussion on the memorial received by the Council from florists and others urging that a stop be put to selling flowers on the kerbstones of the main streets of the town. The memorial said that this competition was unfair and interfered with legitimate business. Councillor Kemp moved: "That the flower sellers be compelled to comply with the conditions appertaining to hawkers's licences as set out in Clause 8 of the Licences (Shops) By-Laws of the Borough of Durban," and said he objected very strongly to anyone, and particularly Indians, utilising the main streets of the town for selling goods. "If they were going to allow these flower-sellers to ply their wares, why not permit the sale of all classes of goods in the streets? Councillor

Smith supported Councillor Kemp, and stated that if the Council were going to permit this flower-selling to continue, then he was going to start selling a variety of goods in the town's best positions. Councillor Mrs. Benson said that she would be very sorry to see the flower-sellers removed; that, however, did not imply that she liked to see the Indians there. Councillor Kemp's motion was carried by 9 votes to 6.

The Indians may well exclaim, *of the Smith!*

The following is the official list of all the members of the new cabinet:

Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister and Leader of the House of Commons.

Lt.-Colonel Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Lord Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India.

Mr. Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Lord Salisbury, Lord Privy Seal.

Lord Curzon, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords.

Viscount Cave, Lord Chancellor.

Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Secretary of State for Home Department.

Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, Secretary of State for War.

Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for Air.

Rt. Hon. W. C. Bridgeman, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Sir Philip Lloyd Graeme, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health.

The Rt. Hon. E. F. L. Wood, Minister of Agriculture.

Sir John Gilmour, Secretary for Scotland.

Lord Eustace Percy, Minister of Education.

Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Minister of Labour.

The Mymensingh District Board will shortly consider a resolution to change the name of the "Lytton Medical School" into "Mymensingh Medical School," in view of Lord Lytton's insulting remarks about Indian women.

Last Tuesday throughout Natal at 11 a m the Armistice Day was observed in silence for two minutes.

The Premier, Mr. Stanley Baldwin at the Guildhall on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's reception, said in referring to India that he did not doubt that with steadfastness and insight a way could be found to preserve the welfare of the peoples of India and assist their peaceful progress along paths of economic and constitutional development. In the prosecution of that task he invited the co-operation of all Indians who believed that the destinies of Britain and India are indissolubly bound.

In consequence of somewhat serious indisposition during the past two months, the Rt. Hon. Edwin Montagu has cancelled his projected visit to South Africa. He is now in a nursing home.

The Transvaal S. A. P. Congress discussed the Asiatic question. Mr. Piet Vermaas said the question in the Transvaal was most serious. He moved a resolution in favour of segregation of Asiatics in bazaars, also that it was undesirable that Europeans should have any trade relations with Asiatics; this to be declared the policy of the S.A. Party.

FRUITS OF THE "PACT" GOVERNMENT

AT the recent last election in South Africa, the Labour Party led by Colonel Creswell threw in their lot with the Nationalists led by General Hertzog to smash the South African Party led by General Smuts. They, to achieve their objects formed a "Pact" and succeeded in overthrowing the S.A.P. Government. South Africa, therefore is to-day being ruled by the Pact Government. The policy of both the pact-parties are to squeeze out the resident Indians either by legislation or by administration. During the first session of the Parliament Mr. Marwick a member of the S.A. Party brought in a motion to get the Pactites to do something drastic against the Indians. He, although failed in his attempts to get the S.A.P. during their regime to carry out his policy of starving the Indians to death, got a promise from the Pact-government that legislation will be forthcoming at the next session to oust out the Indians from this country. This was the first signs of the fruits of the Pact-government and the Indians in South Africa are expecting to be wiped out at the next session of the Parliament by the promised legislation. Meanwhile, we note that Mr. Tielman Roos, the Minister of Justice has issued out his ultimatum to the Messengers of Court and the Lawyers, to the effect that the former should not employ any Indian deputy messenger after the 31st December next, whereas the latter should not allow any Indian to issue summonses. This administrative action of the Minister for Justice (?) is meant to starve out the Indians to death. Everybody in Natal knows that the class of Indians employed by the lawyers or the messengers of court are no less inferior to the whites in their dress, manner, civilisation or the standard of living, yet, because they are Indians they are going to be penalised by the pact-government.

Our morning contemporary writing on the above states, that, "These Indians are undoubtedly of a class to which no objection can be taken save on the ground of race." But, our contemporary forgets that in South Africa it is a crime to be a non-European and the Europeans have the divine-rights to legislate against them. It further goes on to state that Mr. Roos is advised that under the rules of court the only person competent to issue a summons is the plaintiff or his attorney, and he proposes to carry out the law strictly, "unless the practice complained of is desisted from." "In other words," says the *Natal Mercury*, "he is quite willing to wink at a breach of the rules if a European is employed, but both his eyes will be very wide open if an Indian carries out the work. It is hopeless trying to increase the field for white labour by subterfuges of this character." Needless for us to state that this is Pact-Justice or justice of the sjambok-brand.

This is how the Indians in South Africa are being driven to starve to death. We wonder what the Britishers have to say to this cruelty of the pact-government? Or are they powerless and have been made impotent? It seems that the days of the Indian community in this land is numbered. This is a matter which ought not to be left where it is as it will affect a number of persons who will be thrown out into the streets with their wives and children. It is a matter for the Congress to make

representations to the proper authorities. The lawyers' clerks, the messengers and the community will have to put their thinking caps on before it is too late. The Government should reconsider the question in all its aspects; to throw a number of useful citizens in the streets will not benefit the country nor will it enhance the prestige of the Government of South Africa. To create a population of beggars is not wisdom nor will it help to solve the problem which faces the statesman to-day. We would suggest that the Government before launching any legislation detrimental to any section of the community ought to weigh its *pros* and *cons* before introducing same in the assembly and also by consulting the community in question. Why not General Hertzog prove himself a statesman by summoning a round-table conference as suggested by the Right Honourable Mr. J. H. Thomas during his recent visit to South Africa? The present action of the Minister for Justice is not calculated to do any good to the country he represents. In other words it is an action which is not only cruel but is tyrannical and oppressive, an action which indicates that India should not remain dormant but should use all her resources to protect her children in South Africa. The Indians in this country including the merchants ought to take stock of their strength and be prepared for battle. There are only two options left for them, one is either to run away to India and the other to face the pact Government and suffer the consequences before they are made to taste some more fruits of the "Pact"-orchard.

GOVERNMENT AND ASIATIC TRADERS

PERIOD TO BE SET TO TRADING LICENCES

(Special to *The Natal Advertiser*)

In well-informed political circles locally there is much discussion concerning a scheme on which the Government is said to be working for the purpose of dealing with the Asiatic problem. Naturally, much secrecy is maintained, but your correspondent is able, on authority usually well informed, to state that the following proposals are receiving the consideration of the people most directly interested.

The scheme, in the first place, is for the purpose of dealing with the Asiatic trader—the Arab class—rather than with the labouring class or the Indian bori in the Union. The first method of attack is to be through licences, and a proposal is being discussed that during next session of Parliament legislation will be introduced limiting the issue of licences to Asiatic traders and putting a period to the continuance of those already in existence. The proposal amounts to this—that there shall not be considered to be any vested right in a licence. Further, it is said, a definite period—four years has been mentioned—shall be set for the renewal of existing licences to Asiatic traders. To meet the point that goodwill will be thus destroyed, the Government proposes to embark on a scheme of compensation, the basis of which will be municipal valuation in respect of property and current values in the case of stocks.

RAISING THE MONEY

The ingenious part of the scheme, however, is in the method of raising the money necessary. It is understood that the idea is to float a loan, repayable in the period at the conclusion of which the licences expire. Interest would be paid at 4 per cent., and the loan would be redeemable at a premium of 5 per

cent. In the meantime, however, boards to be appointed would be valuing the properties concerned and holders of the loan would have the opportunity of purchasing these properties. The investor would come well out of the scheme. Thus a man taking up £1,000 worth of the loan would be entitled to 4 per cent. per annum, plus a premium of £50 on redemption, a return over four years of 5½ per cent. per annum. If in the meantime, however, he desires to purchase any of the property concerned, he would get an even better return. Take the case again of a purchaser of £1,000 worth of a loan. At the end of a year he prefers to buy a property. He will be able to secure property to the value of £1,000 plus £40 interest for one year, plus £50 premium on redemption of the debt. He would thus secure property to the value of £1,090, which is equivalent to a return of 9 per cent. The Government, on the other hand, saves three years' interest charges. After two years the rate of interest would be reduced to 6½ per cent. per annum, and after three years to 5.23 per cent. per annum, the Government saving two and one year's interest respectively.

It is further understood that the question of a servitude on property held by Asiatics is being considered, as is legislation prohibiting Asiatics acting in partnership with Europeans who would publicly appear as the owners of the property or business.

The Pretoria correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser* writing on Nov. 11, says:—

In *The Rand Daily Mail* this morning there is a story from Durban as to the alleged intentions of the Government regarding Asiatics. I interviewed Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, Public Health and Education, this morning, and he gave me the positive assurance that the Arab story is pure fiction. "I think," he said, "that the correspondent is trying to amuse himself and his readers"—the Minister added as an afterthought—"or perhaps it is an effort to give the Government a few tips." Asked if he could make any statement as to the Government's policy in regard to the Asiatic question, Dr. Malan said he had when in Durban recently for the conference of Administrators investigated the question for himself. The Cabinet had not discussed the Asiatic question as yet. As Minister of the Interior he would lay before the Cabinet the facts he had gathered with other data. Dr. Malan refused to be drawn as to the nature of his report to the Cabinet and the likely decision of the latter. "All I can tell you is that with regard to the Boroughs Ordinance dealing with the Asiatic question and passed by the Provincial Council of Natal the Government will probably come to a decision early next month. Before any decision is taken the Indian community will have an opportunity of laying their case before the Government by means of a deputation. They have asked that a deputation be received and that wish, of course, will be granted." I asked Dr. Malan whether there was any truth in the rumour that the Government intended to reintroduce the Class Areas Bill prepared by the late Government. "Certainly not," said Dr. Malan, "we shall not reintroduce the late Government's Bill. We shall tackle the question on our own lines."

The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs or impede their efforts to attain it. Mankind are greater gainers by suffering each other to live as seem good to themselves than by compelling each to live as seem good to the rest.

—JOHN STEUART MILL.

ASIATIC PROBLEM

Resolutions dealing with the Asiatic question, drafted by the Young South Africa League, (Anti-Asiatic League) have been circularised to the various trade unions of the country for approval.

Unions are asked to pass these, or similar, resolutions and forward them to the Minister of the Interior not later than November 25th.

The following are the suggested resolutions:—

"That, in the opinion of the members of this Society the issue of new trading licences to Asiatics should be prohibited by law throughout the Union; that existing trading licences should terminate at the end of a definite period—say, 10 years—if not previously terminated by death or the insolvency of the holder; that sale to Asiatics in any part of the Union of land or buildings shall be made illegal; and that land and buildings shall be leased or hired to Asiatics only in an area set apart for their exclusive (temporary) use.

"That the schedule of deportable offences be increased to include all crimes and felonies, and that throughout the Union magistrates and judges be instructed to certify for deportation Asiatics convicted in their courts when the criminals are unable to prove that they were born in South Africa.

"All restrictions and penalties imposed on Natives in respect of sexual relations with European women shall be extended to apply to Asiatics.

"That Government be requested to refrain from in any way entrenching the position of Asiatics now resident in the Union; to enable officials to verify the credentials of Asiatics permitted to reside for any period within the Union of South Africa.

"The Union Government is urged to provide, by legislation, for registration and identification of Asiatics now, or at any time, residing in the Union, and of their children in due course."

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS AND DR. MALAN

We publish the following correspondence passed between the Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress and the Private Secretary to the Minister of Interior:

P. O. Box 670, Durban.

30th October, 1924.

The Hon. Minister of the Interior,
Hotel Edward, Durban.

Sir,—I have been advised by my Executive to approach you with a view to availing upon you in a small deputation representative of the Natal Indian Congress which to-day is the official mouth-piece of the Indian population of this Province. The Executive desires to embrace this unique opportunity of your presence in this town as one of the Ministers of the Union, of paying its respects to you and at the same time to lay before you some aspects of one of the most important problems of this Province, that is, the position of the Indian population in Natal.

My Committee, in the proposed interview, will lay before you only the leading features of the question, as, as you may be aware, your Cabinet has promised our community a full and complete hearing before the next assemblage of Parliament.

By your kind reception of the deputation, you will be afforded some advance knowledge and information relative to the all important matter of the Indian settlement of this Province which knowledge must without doubt, come with great usefulness when the matter comes up for consideration of your Cabinet in due course.

Thanking you in anticipation of the interview hereby requested.

Hotel Edward, Durban
31st October 1924

The Hon. Secretary,
Natal Indian Congress.

Sir—In reply to your letter of the 30th instant I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of the Interior to say that he regrets he will not have time to meet a deputation of your Congress as he is leaving for Pretoria this afternoon.

The Minister wishes me to add that it has been decided to meet your deputation in Pretoria towards the end of November.

10th November, 1924

The Secretary,
Natal Indian Congress,
P.O. Box 670, Durban.

Sir,—During the last Session of Parliament the Honourable Minister of the Interior received a letter from you requesting an opportunity for a deputation representing the Natal Indian Congress to lay the case of the Indian community of Natal before the Government. A telegraphic reply was then sent to you by the Minister promising such an opportunity during the recess and prior to the Government decision on the Natal Townships Ordinance which has in the meantime been reserved by the Government for further consideration in terms of the South Africa Act.

The Honourable the Minister now wishes me to inform you that the Cabinet will be ready to meet your deputation at the Prime Minister's Office, Union Buildings, Pretoria, at 11-30 a.m. on Tuesday December 2nd.

NATIVES AND THE VOTE

London, Nov. 9th (Reuter)—Sir Edgar Walton (Union High Commissioner), writing in *The People* urges that a panacea for possible future trouble in South Africa is the extension of the franchise to the Natives on terms similar to those granted in the Cape.

Sir Edgar says this policy is strenuously opposed by the Dutch element, even by British settlers in Natal and by some in the Cape.

At first sight, says Sir Edgar, it seems remarkable that educated and cultured men like General Smuts should be opposed to this policy, but he says it must be remembered that the early atmosphere of General Smuts and his friends was a very narrow and bigoted one, although one in which a high sense of duty was developed and was scrupulously followed.

Continuing, Sir Edgar says the Dutchman is not cruel to the Native; he is, in fact, very kind and considerate, but he has always believed the Native to be an inferior creature akin to the beast of the field, and that he had therefore to be treated politically in this way.

Sir Edgar Walton is of the opinion that there is no cause for alarm in the out-numbering of the whites by the blacks. The Natives have no real grievance, and he is convinced that the best way to secure the future of the white population in the Union is to induce the Native to fit himself by means of the franchise into the civilisation which governs him.

London, Nov. 10 (Reuter)—Sir Edgar Walton was interviewed today by Reuter in connection with the article dealing with the Native question in South Africa appearing under his name in *The People*. Sir Edgar stated that he did not write the article. He said that a representative of *The People* came to him and asked for information on the Native question but took no notes. Sir Edgar Walton declared that if he had written the article personally he would have expressed himself very differently.

GENERAL HERTZOG'S INDIAN POLICY

Sadhu C. F. Andrews writes in *Young India*:—

We have now obtained by mail some definite news about the Indian policy of the new South African Government. It will be remembered that this new administration is based on a pact between General Hertzog and Colonel Creswell. The former is a Republican Nationalist; the latter is a Labour Imperialist.

Some hopes had been raised, that the Labour Party would show signs of not opposing the Indian claim for fair treatment. It is surprising, therefore, to find Mr. Reyburn, the labour member for the Umbilo division of Durban, proposing an amendment to a resolution put forward by Mr. Marwick. (the leader of the anti-Asiatic movement in Natal) which would go further in a certain direction even than Mr. Marwick's own resolution, and would be far more menacing to Indians than anything that has yet been proposed. Mr. Marwick's motion was drastic enough, but it left the power of legislation in the hands of the Union Assembly. Mr. Reyburn proposed to take the power of legislation out of the hands of the Union Assembly and to hand it over to the provincial councils. This would leave the Indians in Natal entirely at the mercy of the Natal Provincial Council. From the very first, the Indian community in South Africa has fought against any such 'provincialising' of the Indian question. For they have learnt, by a bitter experience, that their just cause is doomed, when it is judged by such a provincial tribunal. To me, it is a matter of very sad significance that such an amendment, giving away at the outset the whole Indian position, should have been brought forward by a Labour member for Durban. For on two different visits to South Africa, I had found more sympathy from the leading Labour members in Natal than from any one else; and I was especially struck by the high character of Mr. Boydell, who holds another seat in Durban and is Vice-Chairman of the Labour Party. This news about Mr. Reyburn's amendment means either that Mr. Boydell and Colonel Creswell have been won over completely to the anti-Asiatic side, or else that they are unable to check the members of their own party. I can remember distinctly, in 1920, Mr. Boydell, in his Committee Room, asking me to "give the Labour Party time"; he said that in the end they would see to it, that fair treatment was done to the Indians in Natal. But this new Labour proposal represents the worst possible policy from the Indian point of view.

The attitude of General Hertzog himself can be seen by the one definite statement which the new Cabinet have made. They have accepted the general principle of anti-Asiatic legislation and are evidently prepared to go as far as possible in segregation; but they are relying more on repatriation than on any other weapon. They have therefore announced, that they are ready to increase the bonus given to those Indians, who may agree to be repatriated, from £5 to £20. In addition to this, such persons will receive their full passage from their homes in Natal to their homes in India. In itself, there could be little objection to such a raising of the bonus; but the alarming news is added, that 'recruiting officers' are to be employed by the Government to 'stimulate assisted emigration.' We had bitter experience of such recruiting in Natal in 1920 and again and again we had to protest against the methods used and the mis-statements made. It appears that we are once more to be faced with all the possibilities of intensive and often fraudulent recruiting of very ignorant and illiterate people, in order to drive them back to India.

This method of raising the bonus seems to point to a prolonged campaign to expel the Indians from Natal altogether. The Class Areas Bill had this end

also in view. As far as I can gather, from (i) Mr. Marwick's resolution, (ii) Mr. Reyburn's amendment, and (iii) Dr. Malan's answer on behalf of the Government, the new legislation against the Indians, especially in Natal, when it does come before the Assembly, will be even more drastic than the Bill which the late Government were pressing through when they resigned. Personally I can see no sign at all of any 'change of heart.' It would be of great interest to know what Sarojini, who has just come from South Africa, considers these new resolutions and policies to denote.

The sad news of the death of Mr. P. K. Naidu has reached me while I have writing this article. His loss in South Africa will be incalculable at such a time as this. I hope to write further about him in the next issue.

MAHATMA GANDHI BREAKS HIS FAST

Exactly at noon on Wednesday the 8th October, after Mahatma Gandhi taken his bath, he invited everyone present in the house to come upstairs and join with him in an act of prayer. Before this began, he asked specially that the Doctors, who had so faithfully and devotedly attended on him, might be brought to him and when they came in, he thanked them for their loving services. After this, the whole household assembled while Mahatmaji lay resting on his bed covered with a white Khaddar cloth. He first called upon the Imam Saheb Abdul Qadir Bawazir, who had been his life-long friend in South Africa and at Sabarmati Ashram, to recite a prayer from the Quoran.

The Imam Saheb chose the first 'surah' for his recitation which is a prayer to God in the following words:—

"God, the compassionate and most merciful, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, the one object of worship from Whom alone comes help to mankind, guide us in the right, the path of those who are favoured by Thee and not of those who are misguided and have incurred Thy displeasure."

Mahatmaji next asked Mr. Andrews to sing the Christian hymn which ran as follows:—

"When I survey the wondrous Cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride. See from His head, His hands, His feet sorrow and love flow mingling down. Did ever such love and sorrow meet or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small. Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all."

Mahatmaji also asked Mr. Vinoba to recite some 'slokas' from the Upanishads and Mr. Balkrishna to sing some Gujerati hymns which he had beforehand chosen and which were Gandhiji's favourite hymns describing the Ideal Vaisnava.

Mahatmaji then turned to Hakim Ajmal Khan and Maulana's Mahomed Ali, Shaukat Ali and Abdul Kalam Azad who were seated before him and said:—

"Hindu-Moslem Unity is not a new interest with me. It has been my chief concern for thirty years. But I have not yet succeeded in achieving it. I do not know what is the will of God. You know how, originally, my vow consisted of two parts. One of them is fulfilled. Another part I held back in response to the wishes of friends who were present at Mahomed Ali's house that night. Even if I had retained this second part, my fast would now have been broken in view of the success of the Unity Conference."

Addressing the Mussalmans through Hakim Ajmal Khan and Mr. Mahomed Ali, Mahatmaji said:—

"To-day I beseech you to promise that you will, if necessary, lay down your life for the sake of Hindu-Muslim unity. For me Hinduism would be

meaningless if that unity is not achieved and I make bold to say the same thing about Islam. We ought to be able to live together. The Hindus must be able to offer their worship in perfect freedom in their temples and so should the Mussalmans be able to say their "Azan" and prayers with equal freedom in their mosques. If we cannot ensure this elemental freedom of worship, then neither Hinduism nor Islam has any meaning. I want this promise from you and I know I have it, but as I am about to break my fast, I am so weighed down with the sense of responsibility that I am asking you to renew the pledge."

Hakim Ajmal Khan, replying said that he trusted that all the labours of Gandhiji would bear fruit and that they (the Mussalmans) were ready to work hand in hand with him in such a sacred cause and to give up all other work in preference to the work of Hindu-Muslim unity if that was necessary. He then renewed the promise on behalf of his community.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad said that Hakim Ajmal Khan had spoken and given the promise on behalf of all Mussalmans present. He himself had no doubt that Hindu-Muslim unity would be achieved and achieved soon. One could do no more than lay down one's life for it and this he was prepared to do.

Doctor Ansari then brought in some orange juice which had been prepared beforehand and Gandhiji drank it. This broke his fast. All present, in turn greeted him expressing their joy and thankfulness.

Maulana and Begam Mahomed Ali in celebration of the happy termination of the fast and in token of Hindu-Muslim unity purchased a cow from the Delhi slaughter-house and presented her to Mahatmaji.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sir Hugh G. Levick was questioned by a *Cape Times* representative with regard to the ability of the Union to return to a gold basis. "Can we," he was asked, "return to a gold basis by June, 1925, whether England does or not?" "Most certainly," he replied. "A country which produces three-fifths of the gold of the world should be on a gold basis. I think it is 'possible,' but whether it is advisable to go on a gold basis is another matter entirely."

The magnitude of the Conservative victory in Britain and the overwhelming Liberal losses have surprised the Press, which unanimously agrees that Mr. Baldwin's Premiership will not mean any change in Britain's foreign policy so far as Germany is concerned, and the fall of the Labour Government will not detrimentally affect Anglo-German relations except possibly with regard to commercial negotiations.

The results of the elections in Britain have led to the sterling exchange rising to four dollars fifty-two cents per £; the highest for several months. Stock bonds have also materially improved.

The following is the result in the Berea Road by-election for the Natal Provincial Council—rendered necessary by the appointment of Mr. F. J. Fahey to the Board of Trade:—

Mr. J. P. Whyte (Lab.)	...	...	549
Mr. C. Carr (S.A.P.)	...	...	404
Labour majority	...	...	145
At the previous election the result was:			
Mr. F. J. Fahey (Lab.)	...	...	538
Mr. Leon Renaud (Ind.)	...	...	320
Labour majority	...	...	218

Over £1,000,000 worth of diamonds, pearls, rubi and sapphires, formerly the property of the Russi Imperial Family, will shortly be sold at Amsterdam. The jewels were confiscated by the Soviet after th revolution, and later given in pawn to Poland fo unpaid loans. The Polish authorities have since sent the precious stones to Holland for sale on th Dutch market. Four-fifths of the treasure are said to be diamonds, many of them unusually large.

OPEN LETTER TO AN UNGALLANT LORD

(BY MRS. HEMNALINI DHOLE, M.A.)

My Lord! Your hit at Indian women
Is on the whole so bad
That people say "No business acumen
The ungallant Lord has had!"

Our maidens are without a flaw.
And, my Lord, the others
Are mothers, wives and mothers-in-law,
Sisters, aunts, grandmothers!

We have no boulder! We have no flirt!
No low-cut jacket's grace! -
No byre, nor oak, nor lover alert,
There is no trysting place!

We have no ball nor masquerade
Nor swimming bath nor park
Our marriage is not by courtship made
With men we ne'er skylark!

Our maidens are chaste, body and mind,
There is no adult miss!
There is no foolish chaperone blind
No smack of a stolen kiss!

Our men don't run to divorce court
To fight a correspondent!
Our home is poor, but a real resort
Of love with faithfulness blent!

Our widows to pious work all take
Nor on misfortune brood!
Protected from ogles of every rake
By their grand-mother-hood!

Of honour can lightly we tell?
We are, my lord, no liars!
To protect our honour we dashed pell mell
And jumped into burning fires!

Some died with husbands upon the pyre
There were no British courts
British Rule stopped it, but calls a liar
The woman who outrage reports!

We are all chaste! We are sincere!
And note you, my lord, this:
We had read accounts of women elsewhere
Thanks Reynolds and Havelock Ellis!

A woman may pardon cowardice in man,
Or desertion, elopement, kisses,
But at ungallant "imputation since the world
began
Womankind hisses!

Such ungallantry in Britishers neyer was
known!
Worse than rusty swords!
In esteem of woman, man's training is shown:
So, my lord eat your own words!