

Indian Opinion

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MONSTER MASS MEETING

DURBAN TOWN HALL FOUND TOO SMALL

Natal Indians Protest Against Asiatic Bill

A MONSTER Mass Meeting of Natal Indians was held in the Durban Town Hall last Monday night the 31st August, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress to protest against the Asiatic Bill. There was a very large attendance and the meeting was representative of all sections of the community including delegates from the different parts of the Province. The Hall was packed from top to bottom whilst an overflow meeting of 2000 Indians was held outside under the management of Messrs. A. I. Kajee, G. M. Patel, and Satyadev, and other speakers from the Hall also addressed the gathering from the portico facing Church Street.

Mr. Amod Bayat, President of the Natal Indian Congress, was in the chair, and he was supported by a number of representative Indians and several prominent Europeans, including Mr. F. A. Laughton K. C., Councillor the Rev. A. Lamont, Councillor Dr. Sage, the Rev. Father Mangot, the Rev. Father Tangmayt, Mr. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Linder, Miss S. M. Warner, Miss E. Knudsen, Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Hewett, Mr. Frank Acutt, Mr. S. S. Brisker, M.P.C., Mr. W. V. Webb, Capt. Elliot, Mr. H. R. Rudder, Mr. M. Levine, and Mr. Barnett. Among the native friends were present the Rev. J. L. Dube, and Mr. C. L. Dube.

The Ven. Archdeacon Hodson M.A., who was to have addressed the meeting was unfortunately laid up with an attack of influenza and was unable to attend the meeting.

DELEGATES

The following delegates were present at the meeting:—

PIETERMARITZBURG.—Messrs. R. B. Maharaj, S. R. Naidoo, M. I. Kajee, R. N. Moodley, Rosenkhan, I. A. Haffjee, Guljar-khan, F. R. Ballim, Noormahomed, S. P. Vather, Parbhoo Makanjee, Madhev Kanjee, Kushal Hansjee, D. K. Soni, Amod Mahomed, Sacoor Mahomed, A. K. Osman, Ally Hassan, M. E. Tajoodeen, Shaik Dawood, D. Fakira, Hoosen Allybhai, S. Madrai, M. Runga Nathan, Mahomed Ebrahim, Mahomed Ismail, M. Abdoolla.

UMZIMKULU.—Messrs. M. D. Barmania, Shaikji.

FRASER.—Mr. M. N. Desai.

VERULAM.—Messrs. Amod Kathrada, Maiter, R. Talwantsingh, Dhanji Ramji, C. E. Vawda, Parsee Hormusjee, Doober.

VRYHEID.—Mr. P. V. Henry.

NEWCASTLE.—Mr. I. M. Maiter.

LADYSMITH.—Mr. R. Singh.

COLENZO.—Mr. R. M. Mangal.

HOWICK.—Mr. Ismail Kader Mia.

RICHMOND.—Messrs. Maglisingh, Mahomed Majam.

THORNVILLE JUNCTION.—Mr. Vanker.

STANGER.—Messrs. I. M. Amin, Advocate B. Gabriel, Maganlal Patel, E. M. Moolla.

TONGAAT.—Messrs. Ram Fakir, M. G. Naidoo, E. J. Choonoo.

After the President had led the meeting in prayer, the Secretary Mr. S. Rustomjee, read a few of the many messages received from friends and sympathisers throughout the Union. (The messages appear in another column)

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The President's speech which was contained in seven type-written full-scap pages, explaining the terms and evils of the Bill, was then read by the Secretary Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee. (The full text of the speech appears elsewhere in this issue).

The President's speech was translated by the Joint Secretary Mr. V. S. C. Pather in Tamil and by Pandit Bhawani Dayal in Hindustani.

The President's speech was followed by

MR. F. A. LAUGHTON'S SPEECH

"I want to say to you in the first place," said Mr. Laughton, "that when asked to address you here to-night I was greatly troubled in my mind. I have taken no part in public affairs for a very considerable time. I am living in peace and quietness on the banks of the Umgeni, and I felt that anything I might say would be open to misconstruction, and perhaps hurt the feelings of my fellow-countrymen. I therefore strenuously opposed coming here to-night and I can assure you it is only an absolute sense of duty to you and also to my fellow-countrymen which has overcome my disinclination. First let me say that I deplore as much as anyone that any Indians were brought into this country. It has led to never-ending troubles in the past. There is a great cloud of trouble looming in the future which only wise statesmanship will overcome.

"Years ago before almost any one of you in this hall was born, the Government in their wisdom, or want of it, adopted the counsel of introducing your fathers and mothers into this country to meet a want in the labour market and its ever increasing demand. On applications from almost every section of the community thousands upon thousands of Indians were brought here.

"Indian traders with the full approval of the Government followed and established themselves here. The result is that there are now upwards of 140,000 Indians in Natal, three-fourths of whom, I am told, were born here. Here is

A SERIOUS POSITION

A serious position for this multitude of Indians and a serious position for the Europeans who find themselves in competition with Indians in most branches of industrial life. The position is rendered more complicated by the fact that the great majority of these Indians have no other country but this. They were born here, and, look at the matter as we may, they are British subjects and entitled to protection the same as we Europeans. It must also be borne

in mind that the Indians have acquired much landed property in Natal, have established extensive businesses, and many of them have contributed largely to the rates and taxes without having any voice whatever in legislation

"Here is a serious problem before us, a problem which gets more serious as the years go by. But there is a maxim in law that there is no wrong without a remedy, a fair and just remedy. So there is no political problem without a fair and just remedy if with all our hearts we truly seek it.

A MONSTROUS REMEDY

"To get rid of a man who is a nuisance, a very quick remedy would be to shoot him, but few would be found to say it was fair and just. So to get rid of Indians some have been found to advocate putting them on board of ships, by the police I presume, and deporting them to India. Apart from everything else, they would be strangers in a strange land. This would be almost as monstrous a remedy as the remedy of shooting a man who is a nuisance. Yet this is the remedy in effect advocated by the Minister who introduced the Bill before us, because he frankly admits that he expects the effect of the Bill to be a large reduction of the Indian population by making things so hot for them that they would be compelled to go without the assistance of a policeman.

FREEDOM THE GUIDING STAR

Freedom has ever been the guiding star of English and Dutchmen alike. It was for freedom against the alleged delinquencies of the Cape Government that started the great trek into the wilds of Africa which fills us with admiration. It was for freedom against the alleged oppressive acts of the late Transvaal Government which led to the Boer War. And are we, the staunch advocates of freedom, about to become the oppressed? Are we going to allow history to repeat itself with ourselves as top dogs?

OPPRESSIVE LEGISLATION NEVER SUCCEEDS

"Mr. Chairman, are you surprised when I say that a sense of duty and nothing but a sense of duty to myself, to my fellow-countrymen—both English and Dutch—calls me here to hold up a hand of warning to the advance of oppressive legislation? A study of history shows that oppressive legislation may take its course for a time, accompanied always by the groans of the oppressed, but in the end it never has, and never will be, successful. Let me remind you that in the comparatively minor matter of money we cherish the principle. "No taxation without representation." Are we, after depriving the Indians of any representation whatever, going to take away from them all opportunity of advancement and happiness in life? The Indians have not even been brought into friendly discussion as to the provisions of this Bill. Here they are forced by an overwhelming tide into what they consider the culminating calamity of their lives. It is true that the minister, after saying that the Bill will certainly pass, and after saying in effect that he anticipates that the provisions of the Bill will make it so hot for the Indians that their numbers will be considerably decreased, said that he was ready to receive the remarks of Indians on the Bill. Is he likely to have any? After a murderer is found guilty the judge goes through the formality of asking him if he has any remarks to make as to sentence being passed against him.

SUGGESTION OF A BOARD

"Sir, I wish you to understand that I have not expressed an opinion as to any portion of the Bill. Anything I have said in reference to the Bill has merely given the view of the Indians concerning it. You may ask me what course in my opinion the Government should adopt, and I say to you that the Government should come into conference with the

Indians over this Bill, and hear their objections so that amendments may be made. To do this a board say of three Europeans, should be appointed. One to represent the views of Europeans, another that of the Indians, and a third for an impartial chairman. I know I command your confidence. I would be ready to represent you and to do my best to make the Bill a fair one. But, remember if I were to be appointed I must have a free hand. There are provisions in the Bill which you oppose, but which I see must be allowed.

"Mr. Chairman, I bid you farewell. And I say to you and to this immense gathering of Indians, may you yet find peace and happiness in Natal."

THE REV. A. LAMONT

Councillor the Rev. Archibald Lamont, then rose to speak and was received with loud applause. In the course of his remarks the speaker said, he felt that if every other European voice were dumb, his would speak on behalf of his fellowmen for the Indian community that night. This was no political question at all, said the speaker. It went deeper than all party. It was a matter of the relations of subjects of the British Empire resident in Natal not only to the Union Government but to the Imperial Government as well. "On this question," continued the speaker, "I prefer to follow two eminent public men of different political complexion. I refer to the late Joseph Chamberlain on the one side, and on the other a gentleman who often quoted in this country as an ideal statesman—the late Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, who, had he been living to-day, would have had much to say on this great problem. It is not so much the details of this Bill I do not propose to attempt to elaborate the details—that I am against. It is the spirit of the Bill. It is not a question of one, two or a dozen bricks being out of place, the whole building seems to be cut of plumb altogether. I hope and pray that even yet there will be time to approach the problem on more statesmanlike lines. It is a long way to Tipperary, my friends, and it is a long way from the introduction of a measure into the Union Parliament on to the statute book. It has a long way to go. As a staunch supporter of the present Government on almost every question except the Indian question. I do hope that this measure will not pass the House. If it does, an actual injustice will be perpetuated."

THE REV. JOHN L. DUBE

The Rev. J. L. Dube who was the next speaker said, he was glad to have had the opportunity to represent the Natives before that audience. He knew they were suffering exactly as Natives were under an injustice. Although they heard a great deal of British justice, they had experienced very little of it. "We Natives of South Africa to-day within the history of the last Parliament have been subject to worse conditions than ever before in the history of this country. The last Parliament, which was the first Government of the Pact Government introduced amongst other Bills one which resulted in the displacement of Natives from jobs they had held for years, and jobs of which they were proud, and all because white men said they had built up this country, but forgot to give the Natives even a share of the credit in the building up." Natives had been thrown out of all sorts of jobs to make place for white men and without any consideration. "We Natives cannot stand competition with white men, as you Indians do. We have not the history and experience as traders that you Indians have. You Indians have India and influential people behind you, and have influential friends in the Empire. We have no friends—who are our friends. (Shouts of "Indians" and loud applause). I have come to express my sympathy for you because I feel, those who are oppressed, I know what it is to

oppressed. My people have been oppressed and knocked down so many times. There is the big tax on the Native blanket—all that a Native has to cover himself with. It is a tremendous tax and yet if we put on our 'moochas' and came into town with them on, they would put us into goal. They are taxing kaffir truck, the things we need most. Where else in the world does the government of a country do that? Yes! We have reason to ask for justice. The dark people here are treated badly."

FIRST RESOLUTION

The following resolution was then proposed by Mr. Joseph Royeppen B. A. (Cantab)—

"That this Mass Meeting of Natal Indians assembled in the Durban Town Hall under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, hereby places on record its emphatic protest against the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill now before Parliament which has for its object our compulsory segregation, the deprivation of our proprietary and trading rights, further restriction of our domiciliary rights and the ultimate extinction of the Indian community as openly declared by the Minister of the Interior, inasmuch as it is contrary to all known laws of equity and justice."

In moving the above resolution Mr. Royeppen made some strong comments on Dr. Malan's statement that Indians were aliens and went on further to say, it was difficult in speaking of this Bill to use words of moderation. The Bill was at once the most un-British, the most un-Christian, and the most inhuman it was possible for the mind of man to conceive. It was un-British because it outraged the last principle of fairplay and justice as known among people of British birth and breeding; it was un-Christian because a professedly Christian Government had set aside Christ Himself in this, its diabolical handiwork; it was inhuman because the Bill was a black record of the negation of that one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin. The Bill evidences the beginning of the end of the ruling race. "Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad," continued the speaker, and the Bill "is the work of men who have lost their reason. It is the best evidence of the Union Government's utter disregard of Imperial interests. It is aimed at and strikes at the foundations of the Empire. The question is now put to every Britisher throughout the world: which will you have, this Bill which outrages all the known canons of civilisation or will you still have the great Indian empire, variously described as the brightest jewel in the British diadem, the keystone of the stupendous arch of our world-wide dominions, the pivot of the Empire's vast operations? The choice lies with the British."

MR. B. GABRIEL

In seconding the resolution proposed by Mr. J. Royeppen, Advocate Mr. B. Gabriel in the course of his remarks said, he took it that the reason Mr. Royeppen was asked to propose and he (the speaker) to second the resolution, was because they were two South Africans admitted at Cambridge. They had been educated amongst gentlemen who had always been taught to observe that the Union Jack stands for liberty and justice.

We were told by a responsible Minister of the Government that we were aliens. "Eighty-five per cent. here are South African born. You look on this place as your own. The great majority have never seen India, for we have made this entirely RICHMOND. The Minister has told us he is going to Majam. uncomfortable for us so that we will depart THORNHESSE shores. As sons of the soil we have STANGHERENT right to be here. We have helped to Gabriel, Mp this country. We have been here for 60 and more, and now we are told to go out. It

is up to us to fight this Bill. In one breath they say: "Your standards are not as ours." And in the very next they say: "We will not let you rise to our standards."

"We have come here to-night to show what we think of this Bill, and we are going to stand as one man and fight it to the bitter end. We are united in this determination, and I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution."

Mr. R. Singh (Ladysmith) spoke in Hindustani, Mr. M. I. Kajee in Gujarati and Mr. R. N. Moodley in Tamil in support of the above resolution.

Mr. P. V. Henry delegate from Vryheid also supported the resolution and in doing so said in the Vryheid and the other districts annexed to Natal they were in a very difficult position. The Britishers took us to these districts to work and we have made our homes there. To-day, said the speaker, "we find it extraordinarily difficult and it is going to be worse if this bill comes into force."

The resolution was then formally put to the meeting and was passed unanimously.

SECOND RESOLUTION.

The second resolution was then moved by Mr. J. W. Godfrey which reads as follows:—

"That this Meeting of Natal Indians affirms the suggestion submitted by the South African Indian Congress for a Round Table Conference as the only solution for a settlement of the Indian question, and requests the said South African Indian Congress to again make representations to the Union Government with a view to bring about the Conference of representatives of India, England and South Africa."

In moving the above resolution Mr. Godfrey said:—

"It is not surprising that you have turned up in your thousands to raise your voices against this bill. Outside there is another overflow meeting of nearly two thousand Indians and our countrymen who have been speaking from this platform are going out to address them in the same way as you are being addressed. There is intense feeling on this matter and it is only right and proper that we should come here and speak with one mass voice."

"We wish to ask the South African Indian Congress to impress upon the Union Government the necessity which exists for accepting the suggestion made times out of number for a round table conference. When Mrs. Sarojini Naidu presided at the meeting of the Congress in this hall, it was resolved to ask the Union Government to accept the principle of a round table conference and meet our representatives from India and their representatives of the Imperial Government, so that they might all get together and discuss the difficulties. We Indians are not unreasonable and are not only prepared to discuss the position, but are ready to do what is right. Like the late Mr. Gokhale we recognise that there are difficulties which have to be bridged over, but it requires wise statesmanship, not this class of Bill which Dr. Malan is proposed. If the Minister thinks he has done right, there is the voice of thousands to tell him that he is wrong. Dr. Malan himself said when he introduced the Bill that the Union Government had been approached by the Indian Government with a view to a round table conference on the treatment of the Indians in South Africa. These negotiations were not closed, they had taken a definite course. The Minister had said the introduction of this Bill must not be taken as closing these negotiations. On the contrary, he expressed the opinion that the introduction of the bill and the discussion on the policy would help the negotiation, so even Dr. Malan himself deems that a round table conference would be desirable. Even the Durban Town Council had passed a resolution asking the Government to accept a round table conference. Yet it seems strange that Dr. Malan should have aggravated the position unless his publication of the Bill was an indication of the lengths to which the Union Government was prepared to go. Gentlemen, it is difficult to understand his statement that the bill will not interfere with the negotiations when he subsequently states to the local press that the bill will go through. What man

we make of that gentleman? He also said he was prepared to meet us, yet what is the earthly use of meeting us if he says definitely that this Bill will go through? Can we honestly approach him to discuss such a measure when he has made up his mind in advance. I for one would refuse to discuss it with a gentleman like Dr. Malan. I am not prepared to make a fool of myself."

In the end the speaker said they must interest themselves in this with double force and they must send this resolution through the Indian Congress.

In seconding the resolutions proposed by Mr. Godfrey, Mr. M. Beethasee, who spoke first in Hindi and then in English said in the course of his remarks that we (many of us) were born in this country, but had no political rights. We were restricted even to trade and our Provincial Council has even decided not to spend any more money on Indian education. The speaker favoured the suggestion of a round table Conference and said he was told by many English people: "We are sons of England. We are watching." That at least, said the speaker, was some consolation.

Mr. M. D. Barmania (Amzimkulu) spoke in support of the resolution in Gujarati and Mr. S. R. Naidoo (Maritzburg) in Tamil and before the resolution could be put to the meeting.

THE FIRST DISCORDANT NOTE

was sounded in that peaceful and enthusiastic meeting by Mr. J. L. Roberts who proposed the following amendment to the resolution already tabled:—

"That it is the considered opinion of this mass meeting of the Natal Indians assembled that an emphatic protest must be made against the obnoxious iniquitous, unjust and un-British new Asiatic Bill introduced by the Hon. The Minister of the Interior in the last session of Parliament by the four Indian political bodies, viz: The Natal Indian Association, The Natal Indian League, The Colonial Born Indian Association, and the Natal Indian Congress, after a round table congress between them to weigh the pros and cons in the matter and to take the necessary steps to bring about solid unity amongst the Indian community as a harmonious whole, and to fight the common opponent in the coming life and death struggle for our very existence in this, the land of our birth and adoption and to demand our rights as British citizens unitedly."

Mr. Roberts made a dramatic appeal to his audience when speaking on his motion. He said he had come there that night as a Natal Indian and as a South African, and he asked them to give him a fair hearing. The second resolution spoke about a round table conference. They wanted a round table conference amongst themselves before they had a round table conference with the Europeans. He had not come to antagonise the community. He had not come there to obstruct, but to assist if necessary. He did not want to take up their time, and he would add this as a rider provided the seconder and proposer of the resolution agreed.

Mr. Roberts had made a very lengthy appeal but he was so moved with emotion and indignation that most of what he spoke could not be understood.

No assent was given and Mr. Roberts then put his proposition as a formal amendment.

It was seconded by Mr. Casim Anglia who made an eloquent appeal in Hindustani.

Mr. J. W. Godfrey as the mover of the motion in the course of a lengthy explanation denied most emphatically the suggestion that there was disunion in the community and warned the audience against approving of the proposed amendment for if they did, said the speaker, they would be sowing the first seeds of discord in the Indian community. ~~He said he had not come there to antagonise the community. He had not come there to obstruct, but to assist if necessary. He did not want to take up their time, and he would add this as a rider provided the seconder and proposer of the resolution agreed.~~

to interfere with the legitimate work of the Natal Indian Congress.

Mr. D. S. Chetty, Secretary of the Colonial-born Indian Association explained that Mr. Roberts and Mr. Anglia had been given no mandate by their Association to bring the Amendment and he strongly supported the Congress.

In accordance with recognised procedure the amendment was put to the vote first and on a show of hands being called for, out of all those packed thousands gathered in the hall, only two hands went up in favour. On the original resolution again being submitted, the Town Hall was suddenly transformed by a forest of waving hands, followed by a roar like that of district breakers as the voters gave vent to their acclamations.

VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks to the European guests was proposed by Mr. V. Lawrence and three hearty cheers were given in honour of the guests.

The proceedings terminated shortly after 10-30 p.m., with the singing of the National Anthem.

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO THE CONGRESS

The following are a few of the many messages received by the Natal Indian Congress supporting last Monday's protest meeting:—

MAHATMA GANDHI (CALCUTTA)

"If people prepared suffer they must win."

MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU (PRESIDENT SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS)

"Let wisdom, courage and unity be your watchwords in your struggle for justice. India stands behind you to ensure victory."

PUNDIT MOTILAL NEHRU (SIMLA)

"Your cable full text Asiatic Bill just received is being carefully considered by Swaraj Party. All necessary action will be taken to induce Government of India to protect rights of Indians in South Africa. Meanwhile carry on your agitation relying full support from this end."

(The above message being received late was not read at the meeting.)

THE VEN. ARCHDEACON HODSON M.A.

"I am very sorry that an attack of influenza keeps me in bed to-night and prevents me from coming to speak at your meeting. There are many Europeans in the community besides myself who feel that the Indians are not being justly treated in the proposed legislation put forward by the Government. I hope that the meeting will insist unanimously on a round table conference being held between the Government and the representatives of the Indian community with a view to finding a solution to this most difficult question."

MR. MORRIS ALEXANDER M.L.A., (CAPETOWN)

"Sorry unable attend meeting. Wish you every success. Only just policy for South Africa is equal rights for all civilised men."

DR. GOOL (DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS, CAPETOWN)

"The hour of trial is at hand. Show united front against iniquitous Bill which imposes on us serfdom. The time of talk is past, there is left only action."

DR. ABDURAHMAN M.P.C.

"The injustice and humiliation contained in the anti-Indian Bill reveal amazing stupidity and imbecility. It is a violation of moral principles which are the basis of all religions. If white South Africa follow Government in Colour Bar, Bill and anti-Indian Bill, it will be full and complete disaster to white South Africa. Show united front to

gether like one man and make Congress a success. I have much hope and pray the great Allah will help us."

TRANSWAAL BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

"At a mass meeting of Transvaal Indians held yesterday the following resolution was unanimously passed: 'That this mass meeting of Transvaal Indians hereby strongly support the Natal Indian Congress in its protest against the Asiatic Bill which is outrageous, iniquitous, degrading and most inhuman. Transvaal Indians strongly protest against same.'"

THE BRITISH INDIAN COUNCIL (CAPETOWN)

"Wishing Congress every success. Council behind you wholeheartedly."

PROFESSOR THAELE (PRESIDENT AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS)

"The African National Congress in the Western Province stands in readiness to support you."

THE INDIAN STUDENTS (FORT HARE)

"Birthright negated by proposed legislation. Accept no second place amongst other communities. Strongly support protest and opposition to ensure its rejection."

THE PATIDAR SOCIETY (TRANSWAAL)

"Heartily supporting protest against Asiatic Bill. Indians must be ready for a big sacrifice to oppose the Bill."

Messages were also received from the following Transvaal Hindu Association, the Transvaal Colonial Born Indian Association, Cassim Adam, Pretoria, Transvaal Mamom Association, Transvaal Anavil Mandal, Middelburg Indian Association, Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society, Vereeniging British Indian Association, Potchefstroom Association, Northern Transvaal Indian Association; Pretoria British Indian Association, Kanamia Muslim Association, Pretoria; Pretoria Islamic Society, Transvaal Islamic Congress, Young Muslim Association, Johannesburg, Zeerust Indian Committee, Koster Indian community, Ermelo Indian community, Bloemhof Indian community, Transvaal Darjee Mandal, Balfour Committee, Transvaal Indian Football Association; Breyten community, Carolina community, Springs Association, Witbank Tamil Benefit Society, Sodha, Johannesburg; Piet Retief community, Bethal Association, Ventersdorp community, Lichtenburg community, Greytown community, Brits Moslem Society, Port Shepstone, Frere, New Hanover, Chakas Kraal, Ladysmith, Tongaat, Nottingham Road, Chairman Arya Samaj, Ladysmith; Dundee, Isipingo, Estcourt, Wynberg Indian community, Bharochi, Parys, Ebrahim Kotwal, Johannesburg; Mohamed Gora, Johannesburg; Ahmed Varachia, Johannesburg; M. H. Joosub, Pretoria; M. I. Patel, Johannesburg; J. E. Badsha, Isipingo; Verulam, Chairman Sanathan Dhram Sabha, Ladysmith; Chairman, Moslem Library, Ladysmith; Dannhauser, Richmond, Weenen, Somerset East, Kasandas Sanjee, Johannesburg.

WITNESS' REPORT OF CONGRESS MEETING

We extract the following from report of last Monday's mass meeting appearing in the *Natal Witness*—

"Roll up in your thousands" was the appeal blazoned forth by the organisers of the monster mass meeting of Natal Indians to protest against the Asiatic Bill.

The meeting was held in Durban Town Hall and it seemed to the onlooker that there must have been an invasion of Durban by Indians from all over the Province. From half-past six they came flooding in, representing every class and type. Long before the actual commencement of the meeting the Town Hall was packed from floor to ceiling, while hundreds were still waiting outside.

Obviously the Indians in Natal have been profoundly

stirred by the suggested Bill, and for once all castes and creeds were united in protest. Berobed and turbaned Hindus sat down with the alert Europeanised young men born in this country. The organisation of the meeting was splendid, all crowding being avoided, the doors being closely guarded throughout.

Evidently stringent precautions were being taken to avoid hooliganism. A close scrutiny was exercised on all allowed to enter the hall. There were a handful of Europeans, but for the rest the view from the platform was of a sea of brown faces interspersed with brightly coloured fezzes.

Despite the huge crowd and the evident intense enthusiasm of all present, everything was conducted in perfect order.

The mass meeting had certainly proved a tremendous triumph of organisation, and the sponsors are to be congratulated on the splendid fashion in which it was organised. Despite the huge crowds who clamoured for admission there was no overcrowding whatsoever, and the few Europeans who attended were treated with the utmost courtesy and consideration. All speakers were listened to quietly and attentively. Evidently the most unlettered of those present realised the necessity for upholding the status of his race, and responded accordingly.

Notes and News

LAST Monday night's protest meeting, held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, which had caused a great deal of anxiety to the organisers who had to work against many odds owing to the fact that there is an element at present in Durban which delights in smashing up the good work done in the interest of the community, has proved to the hilt the very representative character of the Congress and it has also proved that when the hour of trial comes the Indian community is capable of rising to the occasion. These are times when this spirit will have to be kept ever awake. As Dr. Malan has said, the Bill will go through, so must the community reply most emphatically that they will fight it through. While we are hopeful that wiser counsel will prevail and the Legislators will not take the drastic step proposed it will, nevertheless, be wise for us to be prepared for the worst.

The work of organising the above meeting was in the hands of a sub-committee consisting of Messrs V. Lawrence, A. I. Kajee, Satyadev and Messrs V. S. C. Pather and Sorabjee Rustomjee (Jt. hon. Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress) together with the able assistance of Advocate Mr. J. W. Godfrey who has recently opened offices in Durban and has proved an asset to the local Indian community. The Committee was at work during the whole of last week daily until late at night making preparations for the meeting and the reward of its labour was in the brilliant success of the meeting.

The enthusiastic members of the Arya Yuvak Sabha who acted as volunteers were responsible for the peace and order that prevailed in the meeting and credit is also due to the Borough Police under the Chief Constable W. Alexander who had played no small part in the work.

The overflow meeting outside the Town Hall in Church Street was most admirably conducted simultaneously with the Town Hall meeting by Messrs. A. I. Kajee, G. M. Patel, and Satyadev who continuously addressed the gathering. A number of Europeans also took an interesting part, in the Meeting on the iniquity of the Bill until the Town Hall meeting had ended.

The fourth anniversary of the opening of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall is to take place on Wednesday next, the 9th instant. There is no doubt that the young as well as old in Durban and outside Durban have very greatly benefited by this most useful institution which is the work of the late Bai Jeebai Rustomjee Trust. Mr. Parsee Rustomjee was the heart and soul of this institution when he was living and each anniversary was celebrated with great enthusiasm. This year the anniversary will no doubt be the gloomier for the absence of the late Mr. Rustomjee. It is nevertheless the sacred duty of every Indian in Durban to interest himself in this institution, if not for anything else, to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Rustomjee who has not only done great service to the community during his life time but is still serving the community in spirit through this institution. We hope the anniversary will be a successful one and that it will have many more such anniversaries.

THE PROTEST MEETING

ALL those who have witnessed the meeting of Natal Indians held last Monday night in the Durban Town Hall under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress to protest against the Asiatic Bill will have to admit without the least bit of hesitation that the occasion was a unique one. The hall may have on many an occasion been crowded to its utmost capacity as it was on that night, the audience may have on many an occasion been so huge as to render a hall twice as large as the Town Hall to be incapable of accommodating it as it was on that night, but never have we at any time witnessed a protest meeting against an iniquitous legislation so over-crowded as last Monday's meeting, nor witnessed such a meeting under similar circumstances conducted so peacefully, calmly and with such solemnity. The *Natal Witness* testifies to this fact in the following terms: "It seemed to the onlooker that there must have been an invasion of Durban by Indians from all over the Province. From half-past six they came flooding in, representing every class and type. Long before the actual commencement of the meeting the Town Hall was packed from floor to ceiling while hundreds were still waiting outside. Obviously the Indians in Natal have been profoundly stirred by the suggested Bill, and for once all castes and creeds were united in protest. . . . The organisation of the meeting was splendid, all crowding being avoided, the doors being closely guarded throughout. . . . Despite the huge crowd and the evident intense enthusiasm of all present, everything was conducted in perfect order."

The President's speech was marked with moderation. It gave a resume of the Bill explaining the effect of it on Indians and dwelt upon the necessity of a round table conference which has already been suggested and entertained the hope that the communication between the Indian and the Union Governments which is said to be still in progress will result in bringing about that conference. The President's speech ended in the following words: "I foresee worse times in store for us, and laxity and want of co-operation on our part will submerge us in a deep sea of misery." These are words which every Indian should take to heart.

Another speech of importance, was that of Mr. F.

A. Laughton, K. C. His speech was very sympathetic and typical of a true Britisher. Mr. Laughton did not express any opinion on the Bill itself but urged that the Indians should be taken into consultation regarding the Bill and that if, as they contended, it was oppressive, Europeans should refuse to sanction it. For this purpose the speaker suggested that a Board, say of three Europeans, should be appointed by the Government one to represent the views of Europeans, another that of the Indians, and the third an impartial chairman. Mr. Laughton himself offered to represent Indians on the Board and to do his best to make the Bill a fair one, but that if he were to be appointed he must be given a free hand. As the suggestion of Mr. Laughton is an important one we are dealing with it separately.

Among the other European speakers there was Councillor the Rev. A. Lamont whose sympathy we were able to enlist. The Rev. Lamont though being "a staunch supporter of the present Government on almost every question except the Indian question," hoped that the Bill would not be passed, for it would perpetuate an injustice.

The Rev. John L. Dube sympathised with the cause of the Indians on behalf of the Natives. The Natives, said the speaker, had to suffer many injustices from the present Government and they had no friends to look to whereas Indians had one consolation of having the whole of India to back them. The resolutions were passed one being a formal protest against the Bill and the other reaffirming the request made by the community for a Round Table Conference. The speakers on the resolutions deserve credit for the restraint observed by them though some of the speeches were just a little tinged with anger.

The meeting would have been a grand success had it not been slightly marred by an unfortunate incident just at the very end for which two of our misguided brethren were responsible and who should have known better. Their object was not to serve the community but to wreck the work that was being successfully carried on in the interests of the community and their huge defeat was sufficient punishment for them.

The work of passing the resolutions is now over and it is to be hoped that the matter will not be allowed to end there. The South African Indian Congress should without any delay make further representations to the Union Government for a Round Table Conference and if the Union Government are at all sincere and wish to treat Indians justly, we feel confident that they will accede to this request which by no means is extravagant.

MR. LAUGHTON'S SUGGESTION

MR. F. A. Laughton, K. C., is well-known to and highly respected by the Indian community. He has taken a very active part in the Indian question in his days and has always stood up for justice. One of his memorable acts in this direction, if we are not mistaken, was to escort Mr. Gandhi in the year 1896 from the boat coming from India in the face of a hostile mob

which was prepared to kill Mr. Gandhi if he ever set his foot on the sacred land of the whites, and together with him of the many other Indians who had come by the same boat. It required a man of courage to face a dangerous mob, such as the one referred to and that courage was shown by Mr. Laughton to whom justice and fairplay was above everything. Mr. Laughton now leads a retired life but whenever he is approached by the Indian community for any assistance, he has rendered it without the slightest hesitation and for this the Indian community is ever grateful to him. In his speech in the Town Hall meeting last Monday Mr. Laughton suggested the appointment of a Board of three local Europeans to settle the difficulty arising out of the proposed Asiatic Bill. We have not the least bit of doubt that Mr. Laughton has made this suggestion in all sincerity and we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Laughton for his willingness to assist us out of the present difficult position. In ordinary circumstances such a suggestion would doubtless be readily accepted by the Indians and the Indians would not have any hesitation in entrusting their future to Mr. Laughton who has indeed sufficiently commanded their confidence. But the present circumstances are exceptional and we will have to think very deeply before we can accept such a suggestion. The question at issue is not one of minor grievances which require redressing. The question is one of vital principle. This is a British Colony and we are in it as British subjects. We are now declared aliens. The object of the Bill is to render our position so unbearable that we may be induced to leave the country. The question to be decided therefore is, what is our position in the British Empire? If we are aliens, what does the position of India become in the British Empire. We are asserting our rights in this country as British subjects and we look to the British Government and the British people, for justice and fairplay. We do not think this is a question that can be decided by a Board of three local Europeans. It is an Imperial question and can be decided only, we think, by a round table conference representative of the Imperial, Indian and United Governments and the Indian people.

THE COMING ELECTION MEETING

THE election meeting of the Natal Indian Congress takes place on Sunday. We are often charged of being biased and we are reluctant therefore to express an opinion. But by not expressing our opinion, we shall be doing a disservice to the community. We repudiate the charge of being biased and if we do seem to be biased, we are satisfied that we are biased on the right side. Looking at the past services of the present Congress, we are able to find nothing that we can point at with a finger of scorn. Of course, here we wish it to be clearly understood that we are speaking strictly of the public life and work of those concerned and not discussing their private life or personal affairs with which we are not at all concerned. There is, however, one thing we can point at and that is that

the present Congress is lacking not in spirit but in funds, and here we blame not the Congress workers but the community in general and the wealthy merchants in particular. We are of opinion that it is extremely difficult if not quite impossible to find abler officials and workers for the Congress than the present ones. The present workers may be added, but to replace them would, we think, be detrimental to the Congress. There is, however, a certain amount of dissatisfaction amongst a few of our brethren against the present Congress workers. What grounds they have for that dissatisfaction we do not know. We are doubtful as to whether they themselves know. We know of no disservice the Congress workers have done to the community. Those who are dissatisfied must then have some personal grievances. If such grievances should be settled in private and not on public platforms. The policy of those who are dissatisfied with the Congress in regard to our political grievances in this country is the same as that of the Congress. Is it not a grave error then to sound two voices of the community and of the same kind merely because of some personal ill-feelings? Is it not harmful to the cause for which we are fighting and to the community? If the Congress workers have erred in communal matters they are certainly liable to be taken to task; but no individual has a right because he has a personal grievance to cause obstruction in the work carried on in the interests of the community. Such an individual or a body of individuals can only be considered traitors to the community. We have heard so much of the "Natal Indian Association" and the "Natal Indian League." There are people who desire the Congress to sink its identity and recognise the above bodies. We would fain ask why? Has the Congress been found wanting in anything from the time of its resurrection? Has it not earnestly served the community ever since it came into existence? A perusal of its past records will clearly show that it has. For what purpose then should a properly constituted body be asked by a few individuals to sink its identity or even to recognise a body that has no past record to show and that has *ipso facto* become defunct when the Congress was resurrected? We do think this is mere quibbling. There should be one and only one political body. If there is any dissatisfaction with regard to the workers of that body it is in the hands of the members who have appointed them to replace them by better men. This opportunity will be had at next Sunday's meeting. Although we have expressed our opinion it will be for the members present at the meeting to use their own discretion in electing their new officials. We can only hope that they will be guided by Providence to do the right thing.

INDIA IN THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT
INDIAN PRISONS
Lord Olivier asked the Secretary for India whether he had any information in regard to a case arising out of alleged occurrences in Multan, Gaol, in which the Judge, was stated, to have held, that grave accusations of inhuman treatment of prisoners by gaolers were proved. He also asked whether the recommendations of the Indian Gaols Committee with respect to the appointment of official visitors had been carried out at Multan and other Indian prisons, and whether he would invite the Government of India to make further investigation into the experiences of prisoners in Indian gaols.

The Earl of Birkenhead, Secretary for India, who

was very indistinctly heard, was understood to say that as an appeal by the Indian gaoler was pending it would be undesirable to enter into any discussion of the details of the evidence produced in the case or of the inferences which might be drawn from them. It was obvious that the findings of the Court were disquieting, and, whether or not they were materially modified as a result of the appeal, it was clear that the matter required, and would certainly have, the closest consideration by the local Government, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State in Council.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

The following is the full text of the President's speech read at the Town Hall meeting last Monday night—

Friends and Fellow-Countrymen,—We are assembled here to-night in our thousands as a first step to protest against the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill popularly known as the Asiatic Bill which is now before the Union Parliament of South Africa.

It is a matter for great concern to us that a responsible Minister of the Government has deemed it proper to refer to us as aliens and he said so because there were many characteristics in which we differ from members of his race. For this reason he states that the Bill under consideration is necessary. His argument is both illogical and contradictory because he exempts the Mauritian Creoles, St. Helenas, the Cape Coloureds, the Cape Malays and the Natives of South Africa from the provisions of this very Bill. We do not grudge these people their proud position, on the contrary we heartily congratulate them for being fortunate to be exempted from the operation of this Bill. Undoubtedly the Bill is designed to operate entirely and wholly against us as Indians and this is even openly admitted by the Minister of Interior.

Let us examine the text of the Bill so that we may understand what the effects would be if it became law.

The Bill is divided into two main portions, one interferes with our rights to own and lease land and trade, and the other deals with Immigration. The first portion creates areas for residential purposes, trading purposes, or for both such purposes. The Minister may appoint a Commission of not more than three persons to investigate and report upon the desirability of declaring an area for any class of persons at the request of an Urban local authority. It goes without saying that any such Commission will be constituted of Europeans who would be expected to decide between the interests of their own class and the interests of another class or race of persons, and as they are human there can be no doubt they would lean towards the interests of their class. Can there be any question that the class of persons constituted of Europeans bring those who make up the Urban authority that they as such authority and being in possession of the vote can always look after their own particular interest but not so with the Indians who will be absolutely at the mercy of the white Government.

The Commission is given extensive powers to report upon the nature of any area for a class, the number, dimensions, the nature of sites occupied or available, whether they would be afforded by the area proper adequate facilities for residential or trading sites, whether due and proper provisions exist for water, lighting and sanitary and other necessary services and whether it is desirable for the provisions of the Bill to be applied in respect of the area of the particular class.

An assurance for an Urban authority for the

provision of the necessary services in a class area is not worth the getting.

In the country districts it is provided that the Governor-General may proclaim that no Indian shall buy or lease land more than thirty miles away from the coast and even within that thirty miles, areas may be proclaimed and we shall have to go into these areas.

I ask is there worse slum than Vrededorp in the world, and segregated areas whether called locations or bazaars in South Africa are no better. It would be an education for anyone to visit the locations and bazaars in any of the Provinces and why are these places in such a neglected undesirable and disgraceful condition, because the white Urban authority, under whose authority they are, give neither time nor money to the betterment of these places. Even here in Durban it is a well-known fact that the Indians receive very little in return for their contribution to the Borough.

It shall not be lawful for any person to acquire immovable property or renewal of lease of immovable property except in his own area and a person of another class cannot live or trade in the area of another than his own class. If a person holds immovable property in an area outside his class area, he may live in it, his children may inherit it, he may carry on a business if he already has a licence. If he does not hold a licence, though he may own business premises outside his own area, he must acquire or tenant a property in his class area and apply for a licence. It does not follow in his own class area he can get a licence for the asking. He is still subject to the discretionary powers of Licensing authority who may or may not issue the licence according to his will or fancy, and we know the Town Council as an Appeal Board on very rare occasions goes against his decisions.

Moreover the Bill empowers the Governor-General not only to proclaim areas but also to deproclaim such areas in part or in whole which means that even after an area has been proclaimed and occupied, no sense of security is enjoyed because the Governor-General can deproclaim such area. It is clear the intention of the Bill is to oust the Indian from his present vested proprietary rights and give him practically nothing substantial in place thereof, but virtually makes him a squatter and that at the wish and will of the Minister.

To-day Indians are by force of circumstances segregated. The Licensing Officer has played an inconsiderable part in it, as no Indians can obtain a licence in a European or semi-European locality. Indians realising that they may, if their luck was in, get a licence in an Indian area, made for it and in this way Indians have come to trade and to live together. Those who live in European areas may be counted on the fingers of the one hand. Europeans in growing numbers are inserting anti-Asiatic clause in the Deeds of Transfer. The Durban Land Alienation Ordinance dealing with the unalienated lands has a provision enabling the Town Council to sell lands in particular areas to particular class of persons, and this principle has been extended to the other Boroughs and Townships. In the circumstance, we fail to see how the Europeans, even on selfish grounds, can ask for segregation of Indians, for, the processes now at work on the part of the Europeans, can, if they are in earnest, achieve their objects, without a Union Bill to complement the processes.

The policy of racial segregation is retrogressive and detrimental to the progress of human beings. It restricts the liberty and freedom of the class of persons and does not make for the development to the highest degree. The class of persons segregated become by restriction and inattention demoralised, feeling that because one class is in power, it imposes its will for its own benefit to the subjection of another class. It creates conditions that make for

the herding of human beings with undesirable consequences of greater impoverishment, insanitation, ill-health and over-population.

The Bill interferes with private property. Indians are being deprived and are restricted directly or indirectly of their existing inherent rights as British subjects, and also in breach of assurances and undertakings given from time to time by the Government in South Africa, that Indians lawfully resident in the country will be fairly and sympathetically treated and the existing rights safeguarded, and this was also the understanding between Mr. Gandhi and General Smuts in 1914.

The Immigration provisions are alarming. At present an Indian who outstays for a period of three years upon entering the port is required to prove his domicile notwithstanding he may already then actually have his certificate of domicile. He is declared a prohibited immigrant and upon payment of a sum of money which by practice £31 (Thirty-one Pounds Stg.) is found sufficient to cover and as up till now accepted, he is allowed to procure the necessary evidence and prove his domicile. Experience has shown that even this amount was not always easily obtained and our community is unaware of any Indians forfeiting this deposit and absconding and remaining in the country; the community therefore sees no reason for the Immigration Officer being empowered to make the deposit anything up to £100 (One Hundred Pounds Stg.) as this Bill provides for.

This Bill further seeks to revert certain two districts of Natal, namely Utrecht and Vryheid to the Transvaal Province. Indians now in these districts will either have to return to Natal proper which to most of them is the Province of their birth, or return to India.

All Indians absent from the Union on the 1st August 1925 will have to return to the Union before 31st July 1928 and after 1930 no Indian will be able to proceed to India to bring his wife or children. If this is not interfering with common law rights and personal freedom I do not know what is? As to domicile, Indians including those born in the Union by their mere absence from the Union for more than three years at a time lose their domicile. This appears to be in conflict with all known laws as regards to domicile because this Bill takes away and does not give effect to a man's legal intention as to his domicile. This also entirely takes away the present established right preserved to an Indian by virtue of his certificate or domicile. What is to be done with a South African born Indian who absents himself for more than three years and thus loses his domicile? Where is he to go?

This Bill speaks of prohibiting any person whose parents were at the time of his birth though lawfully resident but restricted to temporary or conditional residence by any law then in force. Under Act 17 of 1895 large numbers of Indians came here under terms of conditional residence and their off-spring the Natal born Indians numbering thousands born within the past thirty years may possibly be also prohibited immigrants because at the time of their birth their parents were restricted to conditional residence.

With the stoppage of Immigration, free and restricted and with the departures for India, and by the death of India born Indians, the Indian population in the years to come, as a result of environment and education in the country and of the association of Indians with Europeans are becoming more and more South African in character.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will be asked this evening to lend your support to the resolutions which are to be proposed and I have no doubt that they will be passed unanimously. We must be careful not to indulge in any wild or extravagant language, we must not utter unbalanced thoughts. I implore you

to adopt a calm and dignified attitude and show the Government that our objections are based on equity and justice. We are British Indians and we have earned a name by being law-abiding but no one can question our right to quarrel against unjust laws. As British subjects we have the right to claim protection from the Governor-General as representing the King Emperor and we intend to leave no stone unturned in the matter. We are told that the Indian Government is in communication with the Union Government and we sincerely hope that the proposal of a Round Table Conference will materialise into something concrete.

I foresee worse times in store for us, and laxity and want of co-operation on our part will submerge us in a deep sea of misery. My last words to you in this hour of National crisis are, "AWAKE," "ARISE," "and guard your honour and rights." I pray that Heaven's light which has been our guide will continue to be in the ascendant and that our legislatures may see the unrighteousness of this Bill and meet out justice and fairplay to us unrepresented British Indians.

INDIANS OF NATAL

IMPRESSIONS OF A BRITISH VISITOR

To one who had been living in London, and there enjoying the friendship of fellow-students and workers of many races and all colours, it came with a shock of pain and surprise to meet the different conditions that prevail in South Africa.

At first, while coming into contact only with the uneducated Griqua and Xosa workers of the diamond fields, they did not appear to be too unreasonable, but on visiting Natal, with its large Indian population, there was at once apparent the grave lack of understanding which showed itself in the truly astonishing lack of courtesy on the part of Europeans in all their dealings with those very courteous people. As knowledge of the past sufferings of the Indians under the indenture system, and their present only less acute and increasing disabilities grew, amazement passed to deep indignation and shame, so that it was with real joy that the invitation to join in the protest against the Asiatic Bill was accepted.

But it was only just to try to understand the attitude from the other side, for all conditions here are so unlike those of London. In this country there exists a medley of many races, representing every stage of civilisation, and the ruling race have been betrayed by their own habit of judging superficially by externals; a habit born of the materialistic age that is, or should be, of the past. Today, every man must find his own level, not by his complexion, but by his type of mind and quality of soul, each striving to reach the highest standard of his own racial characteristics. But to recognise these qualities, thought and discrimination are needed, and while deep thought requires too much effort for many to make, discrimination is almost impossible for the untravelled acceptor of prejudices.

Again, most Europeans also are suffering, distressed, and harassed by world conditions, and above all, the economic problem, and failing a solution, it is a weakness of human nature to lay the blame on convenient shoulders and then to deal firmly with the scapegoat. Apparently, the Europeans are, on the whole, quite sincere, and believe they have found the correct solution to the problem of the economic salvation of their own race, but they have no imagination, their love is not wide enough, and they have not realised that the world is one, and that no race can know peace and contentment until all have justice.

It is often stated that the Indians of Natal have not reached the white man's level of civilisation, as if white men were all at one level, and Indians all at another. India had reached high levels before the white man had appeared on the earth, but it is true that cultured Indians in Natal are a small minority, and the majority would never have come to these shores had they been in a position to reach culture at home. Responsibility for the

younger members of a family rests on the shoulders of the elder brothers and as the rulers are at present in that position they should make every effort to give opportunities for unfolding the potentialities that lie within the Indian peoples. Every inducement should be held out for far larger numbers of the cultured Indian classes to make their homes in Natal, that they might more easily leave the whole.

To come to the Asiatic Act. To the writer it appears that any Act which not only betrays racial prejudice, but does not discriminate between the philosopher or saint and the depraved or corrupt is wrong in principle and unjust in conception. It is a product of narrow, short-sighted vision and racial selfishness, a relic of a bygone system of thought. Quite frankly, some of the interpretations placed upon details do not appear to be implicit in the wording, but evidently those who have written them have learnt by painful experience how such clauses operate.

The quiet sincerity of individuals, only an occasional flash revealing the deep feeling beneath, and the serious orderly gathering of thousands of Indians, of different types and faiths, was highly impressive. Of interest also to the writer was the appreciation shown of the good programme of organ music which preceded the Protest Meeting.

The laws of crowd psychology cause it to be the rule rather than the exception for a large audience to follow the lead of persuasive speakers, so that any unanimous vote alone is not a conclusive indication of its views. But on that occasion, although the tone of all speakers was moderate, and the strongest expressions of opinion were very quietly received, there was no doubt as to the feeling and thought behind, both on the part of speakers and audience, a feeling which was synthesised in Mr. Royce's short address to the few Europeans present, the flame of strictly controlled passion burning through his words as he warned them that the coming into operation of that Act would be the beginning of their end.

Indians have suffered long and grievously at the hands of Europeans, but the future of civilisation is quivering in the balance. May India, true to her long spiritual traditions, be too magnanimous and see too widely for retaliation, and may Europe voluntarily cast aside her pride, and in all humility seek to understand that each may help the other to progress through the ages, pledged friends and brothers, forgetting self, whether individual or national, in the welfare of the whole.

Of politics and parties the writer knows little, but from childhood she has had a great love and reverence for India and all that she stands for, and of latter years has been added a firm belief that British and a free India—India was *Swaraj*—in free and voluntary co-operation, can and will save the world.

MARGUERITE WARNER.

M. K. GANDHI LIBRARY AND PARSEE RUSTOMJEE HALL

The celebration of the fourth anniversary of the opening of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall and the Third Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 9th September, 1925 at 7 p.m. in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, 140 Queen Street, Durban.

- A cordial invitation is extended to all.
- O. H. A. JHAVERI,**
Chairman.
- B. M. PATEL,**
Hon. Secretary.
- M. K. G. Library and P. R. Hall Executive Committee.

ચીનાઓની પરદેશીઓ વિરૂદ્ધ ક્રિયાદ

શ્રી. પાંધીજીને કેન્ટનની રાષ્ટ્રીય સરકાર તરફથી એક તાર મળ્યો છે. જે ઈન્ડીયાની સંઘના પ્રમુખોને ઉદ્દેશીને ચીનના સમુદાય પ્રત્યે સહાયતા દેવા લખાયેલો છે. એ આપોયે સંદેશો દ્વિંદમાં પ્રબલ્લેગ પ્રકટ થયો નથી. પણ તેમાંના કેટલાક અવતરણો પ્રકટ થયા છે, તે આ પ્રમાણે છે—

ચીનની બંધ સ્થિતિ— દુરમાં પુર્વમાં બમતા બનાવેાં જેઓએ સમાજપુર્વક નીહાળ્યા છે તેઓ ચીનમાં તેની હિંસની અતર રાષ્ટ્રીય સ્થિતિ સામેની વધતી જતી ચળવળ અવલોક્યા વિના નહિ રહી શક્યા હોય. છતાં તમેને એક મનાવવામાં આવ્યું છે કે પરદેશીઓની અને વિષ્વરશાળી આગેવાની તમે આસતોષી માણસોએ આ ચળવળ ઉપારેલી છે. પણ કહીએ તો આ અવસ્થા પ્રજા કે જેને યુ. કેરાંડ ચીની પ્રબળતા કલ્યાણ સાથે સંબંધ છે. એટલું નહિ, પણ જેને તેમના પોતાના રાજદારી અને આર્થિક કલ્યાણ સાથે પણ સંબંધ છે તે પ્રબળ પામતમાં તમેને ઉચે માથે દોરવામાં આવ્યા છે. ચીન સમજી ગયું છે કે તે પોતે રબનવ દેશનથી તે પ તે હીંદ કે ડારીયાની જેમ બેકબ પ્રબળતા આધિપત્ય નીચે નથી.

ચીનોના અંધ યુગ—અરીણ માટે ચાલેલા વિચારો પછી ચીનમાં એક એવા અંધારો યુગ શરૂ થયો. એ યુગ દરમ્યાન વિદેશી રાજ્યોએ અમારી હિપર ભારે દેવ પ્રવર્તાઓ અને તેમાં કેટલાક સંધિઓ કરવામાં આવી કે જેને મરિણામે અમારી આર્થિક તેમજ રાજદારી પ્રગતિ બધાપિ પથેત અટકી પડી છે. અમારા દેશનાં ભયત વગેરે આ પ્રવર્તારોને અસમાનતા, અમ્યાય અને અમાનુષતાનાં ચુરાવા તરીકે રાણું છે. અમારી રાષ્ટ્રીય નાજાણને પ્રસંગે અમારી સાથે આવા કરારો બંધરબસ્તીની કરીને પરદેશી રાજ્યો ચીનના સર્વ દરવાજાઓની કે ચીનોનાં માતેક અર્થ મધ્યા છે અને ચીન પોતાના આયાત નીકાણી વેપાર પણ અધકુશ માં રાખી શકતું નથી. મહારથી આયાત થવા માલતા સાલતા બંધારે સંબંધમાં ચીનોને કરો પાણું અવાજ નથી પરદેશી ઓની રબા વિના અમારા પરદેશી આડતીયાએ ભાધેલા નીચમે પાલ્યો વિના તમે તેમના દેશ છોડી શકો નહિ અંગર તેમ પ્રવેશી શકો નહિ એવું બંધન હોય, તો તમે તેમના દેશ માંથી તેમની સ્થિતિ વિષે શું કારો છતાં આવીજ સ્થિતિ પરેખર અમારા દેશમાં છે. કાઇ પણ વખતે અને અમારા વરમાં પુરાઇ રહીએ અંગર વરમાં ને આવી શકીએ બીજું અમારી આર્થિક ખીલવણીની ભગવની સ્વાધીઓ પરદેશી ઓનાં હાથમાં છે. અમારા બંદરો કે જે કરારથી મેળવેલા બંદરોને તમે આબંધાય છે તે સંપુણ અમે પરદેશીઓના હાથમાં છે. ત્યાં ચીનના કાયદાને નહિ પરદેશી રાજ્યોના કાયદાને અમલ ચાલે છે. ન્યોયની અદાલતોને વડાવડે પરદેશીઓ પોતાના ભાભમાં કરે છે. અમારા સમજતું એવી રીતે રાણુ કરવામાં આવે છે કે જેને વધુ ચીનો બંધારે બંધ થકે કે અમારી શકે નહિ. આ સિવાય બીજા પણ કુદર છટ વિષે તમે સાબળું દશ, જેવી કે extra territoriality, consular jurisdiction વધારાની પ્રદેશીક હકુમત એવી ખાતાવી હકુમત કરે.

સમાન દેશનની માર્ગણી—મેટાં શહેરમાં વસેતાં અમારા લોકો પોતાના નિયમ અનુભવેતા લખને આ લખી (જુને માવું ૩૯૬)