

Indian Opinion

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SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS

FIFTH SESSION AT CAPE TOWN

THE fifth session of the South African Indian Congress was opened by the Mayor, Mr. W. F. Fish, at the City Hall, Capetown. A large number of Indians were present, the greater portion of the main hall being filled, as well as the many tiers of seats on the platform.

Hundreds of telegrams conveying messages of sympathy and cheer were received from associations and individuals throughout the country as well as India. A sheaf of these cables and telegrams was exhibited and some were read. One cable from Mahatma Gandhi read: "Wish Congress success; have courage." (Loud applause.)

Various telegrams received from Natal supporting the aims and objects of the Congress were included from the associations and individuals viz. Messrs. O. H. A. Jhaveri, Editors 'Hindi,' A. M. Omar, Anand Dawood & Coy, Ebrahim Bissa, M. D. Motala, Timal Bros, Sayed Fakroodeen, Hoosen Khan, A. H. Kazi, Tamil Maha Sabha, Suburban Hindi Sabha, Miankhan and Ennamally, Bassa Ltd, Anand Haffjee, B. M. Singh, M. C. Dula, Osman Bros., Mamoojee Moosa, Patidar Union, Surat Hindu Association, Kathiawar Arya Mandal, Parsuram Tailors Association, Hindu Tamil Institute, Bombay Presidency Association, Indian Women Association, Young Men's Vedic Society, League Non-European Auxiliary, Junction Clauwood Congress, Manning Place Indian Association, Kakni Anjuman, Suburban Retail Dealers, and Zoroastrian Anjuman.

Many letters of regret for absence were also read from prominent citizens. One of the letters was from Mr. Morris Alexander M.L.A. who said—

"I very much regret, that I am unable to be present at the opening ceremony of the Fifth Session of the South African Indian Congress on Monday evening. . . . I wish the Conference every success. I am sorry to see signs of disunion among sections of the Indian community everywhere in South Africa. It is above all necessary to present a united front and to speak with one voice. I heartily agree with the suggestion of a Round Table Conference at which Great Britain, India and South Africa will be represented. The solution of the problem must be sought in the calm atmosphere of the Conference Chamber and a just solution must be found."

In opening the Congress the Mayor of Cape Town said:—

"I have been asked to open this important Congress this evening, and I have consented to do so because, as Mayor, I represent all classes of the community irrespective of race or creed. I need not necessarily be in agreement with you or identify myself with your views because I am performing this ceremony. But I know you represent very large vested interests in the Union of South Africa. I know also that you are part and parcel of the great British Empire, and as such—recognising the liberty of the great British Commonwealth—you have every right to discuss matters concerning your well-being and future status in South Africa.

"The Indians have been in South Africa since

the year 1860, and no one will deny, they have been good and law-abiding people. They are an intelligent and thrifty people. During the Great War India supplied its full quota of men, and these men fought well and bravely. They rallied to the Empire in the hour of need, and acquitted themselves like men, and because of this alone they have earned the right of freely expressing their views and publicly discussing matters in which their interests are involved.

"It is not for me to express an opinion as to the grounds of your grievances; these I must leave to you to discuss fairly, and, I trust, dispassionately, for, I submit, nothing is ever gained by immoderate language. More is achieved by diplomacy and carefully thought-out argument.

Exercise Patience

"I have no doubt a great deal of the trouble is due to lack of understanding, and whilst you ask the South Africans to exercise patience, may not you be reasonably asked to practise the same virtue? Personally, I do not consider our differences are due to prejudice. I am proud to number among my friends many men of Eastern nationality for whom I have the very warmest regard.

"There may be difficulties of immigration, but, surely, these are no more severe than the immigration laws of America? Who of us have not read of the treatment which men receive at Ellis Island? Rightly, or wrongly, nations consider they have the right to restrict the number of immigrants to their respective countries, it cannot be right to allow unrestricted immigration into a country. Governments must protect their people or there is the danger of an alien population squeezing out the sons of that country. There are many Indians born in this country; surely, they, too, must be protected against indiscriminate immigration.

"We must not be too eager to blame the Government of the land. This is a difficult question. Personally, I wish to see justice done to all, but justice does not mean undermining one section of the community for the betterment of another.

South Africa Over-traded

"One of the matters you will discuss is the Licensing Laws. I do not wish to discuss or mention the Indian in this matter, but as a business-man—and I believe a sound business-man—I am convinced that the whole of South Africa is over-traded, and that, sooner or later, legislation will have to be introduced to limit the number of licences issued. One notes with amazement the enormous number of insolventcies in South Africa. We, as a business community, are gaining an unenviable reputation for "Commercial Immorality," and much of this is due to the fact that the whole country—particularly in the larger centres—is hopelessly over-traded, and I care not whether it be Jew or Gentile, Asiatic or European, sooner or later, it will have to be stopped, that is if South Africa is going to maintain any degree of "Commercial Morality."

"Now, gentlemen, I am really here this evening merely to open this conference; I feel that it is my

duty as Mayor to perform this ceremony. I hope you will have a successful Congress—an interchange of ideas is always good—and I feel certain of this: If wrong has been done, that wrong will be righted. But, as I say, discuss everything in moderation. The pitiful plight of some parts in Europe to-day is due primarily to immoderate speech supported by wild fanaticism—the result has been chaos!

"I know the Indian community to be honest, sober and law-abiding. I need say no more." (Applause.)

The Presidential address then followed, the full text of which is published elsewhere in this issue.

The visiting delegates were then welcomed by Mr. M. Y. Hawa, President of the Cape British Indian Council.

Mr. Advocate J. W. Godfrey replied on behalf of the Natal delegates and in the course of his remarks said that notwithstanding that he had the qualifications of an English barrister-at-law he was debarred from exercising the Parliamentary vote. The position of Indians, he said, was rendered very grave by the Asiatic Bill and that a delegation would have to be sent to India to give our Mother-country the truth. "Voteless we may be but voiceless never!" said the speaker amid loud applause. Mr. Godfrey then moved the adoption of the Presidential address.

Mr. A. A. Mirza representing the Transvaal delegates seconded Mr. Godfrey's motion.

Dr. A. Abdurahman

Dr. A. Abdurahman, who next spoke, was enthusiastically received. He warned his hearers not to follow his advice but that of their leader, Dr. Gool, as he, the speaker, was a "firebrand." Referring to the spirit of nationality he said "When Britons sing they 'never will be slaves,' to a very large extent that spirit is a very admirable one; it intends to improve a people, but carried too far it tends to lead to what happened in Europe a few years ago." When there was no softening and tempering influence of religion and Christianity about that spirit of nationality it always led to nothing but war. He assured his hearers that they had the full support of the coloured people of this country. (Cheers).

Mr. A. I. Kajee then moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor which was passed with acclamation.

In accordance with a resolution passed at last year's Conference the President after eulogising the services of Mr. V. S. C. Pather as hon. General Secretary of the South African Indian Congress presented him in recognition thereof with a beautiful leather attache case.

The Conference then adjourned on the motion of Mr. Dawson of Kimberly with the singing of the National Anthem till the following day.

Proceedings Of The Following Days

On Tuesday and Wednesday (10th and 11th instant) with night sittings till 11 o'clock and Thursday till 1-30 p.m. the proceedings of the Conference took place in the Fidelity Hall, Primrose Street. On Tuesday at 10 a.m. the Hall was filled with delegates as well as outsiders who had come to watch the proceedings. After the Minutes of the previous Conference, the Financial Statement and the Secretary's report were read and passed various matters affecting the Indian community were discussed and resolutions passed thereon. (The resolutions appear elsewhere in this issue.)

The most important discussion took place on the Asiatic Bill when speeches were made by the delegates very feelingly. There was difference of opinion not on the principle of the Bill, which was totally rejected by every speaker in the strongest terms, but as to the line of action to be taken against it. After a very heated debate, however, it was agreed that a calmer view be taken and patience exercised until a definite reply was had from the Government.

Resolutions were accordingly passed unanimously totally rejecting the Bill and urging upon the Government for a Round Table Conference to discuss the whole Asiatic question.

Transfer of Headquarters to Durban

Most of the time on Thursday was occupied in the election of new officials and in discussing the transfer of the headquarters of the Congress. Some of the Cape delegates were of the opinion that the headquarters should remain in Capetown, the Transvaal delegates were anxious to have them in the Transvaal and the Natal delegates were unanimous in having them in Natal. It was decided by a majority of vote that the headquarters be transferred to Natal.

The New Election

The election of new officials then took place as follows:—

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu (President), Advocate J. W. Godfrey (Deputy President), Mr. A. I. Kajee (General Secretary), Mr. V. S. C. Pather (Treasurer).

The services of the outgoing Executive were eulogised and a special tribute was paid to the Deputy President Dr. A. H. Gool who at a considerable sacrifice had attended the proceedings and so ably conducted them right through; and to Mr. A. Ismail hon. General Secretary and Mr. V. S. C. Pather whose energetic work was greatly responsible for the success of the Conference, and it was decided to make a suitable presentation to Mr. Ismail in recognition of his services.

The chairman of the Reception Committee was also thanked for having ably fulfilled his unenviable task.

A tribute was paid to Dr. Abdurahman for the invaluable services he had rendered to the cause of Indians. In replying Dr. Abdurahman made a very instructive speech in the course of which he gave some useful advice on conducting meetings and congratulated the Congress for having accomplished their task very successfully.

The Conference was then adjourned until the next year with three hearty cheers for the President Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the Deputy President Dr. A. H. Gool, Dr. Abdurahman and Mahatma Gandhi.

Presidential Address

The following is the full text of the Presidential Address delivered at the Fifth Session of the South African Indian Congress, by the Deputy-President, Dr. A. H. Gool:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This Fifth Session of the South African Indian Congress has been called to consider the grave situation confronting our community as a direct result of the Asiatic Bill introduced last session in Parliament by Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior.

We deeply regret the unavoidable absence of our distinguished and eloquent President Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who is unable to grace this occasion with her inspiring presence. We realise however, that India needs her more and by her great self-sacrificing work there, she is rendering invaluable services to us in South Africa.

First of all I wish to thank you very sincerely for the honour conferred upon me, by having elected me your Deputy President. Though I have not been a member of any of our Societies, yet since my return to South Africa in the year 1910, I have been vitally interested in the problem affecting our people. I have learned the position from Mahatma Gandhi himself, have discussed it with that great Statesman, the late Hon. Mr. Gokhale, and lastly have seen it through the eyes of our able President, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

This the unofficial Parliament of the Indians in

South Africa, will strive to voice in a moderate and sober manner, the grievances of our people who are left without vote and power, in this land of their birth and adoption. We have a just cause and we shall endeavour not to jeopardise our position by violent and revolutionary methods, which can only heighten the tension and stimulate the prejudice against us.

Perhaps it is only proper, that this important Session of our Congress should take place in Cape Town, the mother City of South Africa, and to a certain extent, still the home of liberty and just treatment of the non-European. Here in the Cape, the Europeans still hold sacred the great traditions of the British people—justice and fairplay to the Coloured man—and I trust will never bow their heads in shameless submission to the reactionary and un-Christian Doctrine of the North "No equality in State and Church between Black and White."

Unfortunately the propaganda of hate, calumny and misrepresentation against the Indian is fast spreading Southward. Anti-Asiatic Leagues, associations and societies, supported by the leading newspapers with glaring headlines and leading articles are doing their worst to damage the position of the Indian. All over South Africa the Europeans are being awakened to a sense of grave danger, and even the sane and sober attitude of the Cape European is becoming slowly undermined by this spirit of prejudice and intolerance.

But in spite of this clamour of self-interest, in 1924 Indians looked hopefully to the South African Party Government under the able leadership of General Smuts for protection and fairplay. However, they were disappointed when Mr. Patrick Duncan brought forward his Class Areas Bill. The fall of the Smuts Government, however, prevented that Bill from becoming the law of the land. Hope sprung anew in the breasts of our people, when in the same year the Hertzog Government was formed, but again they were doomed to disappointment. This time the death-knell of their very existence was sounded by the iniquitous Bill fathered by the Rev. Dr. Malan Minister of the Interior.

This hydra-headed Bill enforces compulsory segregation in residence and trade, restricts immigration, curtails domiciliary rights and tightens the Asiatic Registration Act of the Transvaal.

First with regard to the reservation of areas as embodied in the Bill, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that at present an Indian enjoys the right to buy, lease or sell land in Natal and the Cape Province, unlike his poor unfortunate brother in the Transvaal, who can only lease property in certain reserved areas or a location.

The first chapter of this Bill compels Indians to reside and trade in specially allotted areas. No matter what their financial position or social standing, only in these special areas will the Indians be permitted to live, trade or buy and sell property. All businesses existing outside that area shall cease at the expiration of the present lease or at the death of the present lessee.

It further empowers the Governor-General to proclaim, that in the Province of Natal, no Indian shall be able to buy or lease land, except from another Indian, and only within 30 miles of the Coast. But it would appear from the wording of the Bill, that as soon as the Governor-General proclaims this Indian belt, the Urban Authorities, outside the 30 miles limit will lose the power they are given in this very Bill to proclaim class areas. As a result Indians, in Natal, outside this zone, will lose their present vested rights to reside and trade, whether they are in rural or urban areas. It has been estimated that nearly 700 licences will be expropriated. It is expropriation without compensation: in other words, simple confiscation.

Besides this, the Governor-General by proclama-

tion can extend or reduce these class areas. This means that even in these locations the Indians will not enjoy this security of tenure essential to their well-being and development.

The policy of racial segregation has been rightly condemned by all truly civilised men. It brands the segregated race with the mark of inferiority. It interferes with the general progress by stopping the intercourse between race and race and thus closes the only channel through which can come understanding, mutual respect and above all Peace. It unduly restricts the liberty and freedom of man's movements. It accentuates the differences of customs and perpetuates the bad habits, and so increases prejudice and misunderstanding. In the case of the Indian, these areas will be mostly in the slums with all its dire consequences of overcrowding, insanitation, poverty, squalor and disease. This will not only act detrimentally on the Indians but will react disastrously on the surrounding European population.

The safeguard of an advisory board is futile, in that the actual power will still be in the hands of the urban authorities, i.e. the Town Councils composed of Europeans. Already the Indians have been overlooked and neglected and it is easy to foreshadow greater neglect in the future.

Under certain conditions it may be advisable to segregate primitive races, in order to protect them from undue exploitation in commerce and industry. It may also prevent their selling or bartering their land and thus forcing them into urban areas, where dangers of every description beset the path of the simple and unwary. But to segregate a civilised people is a different matter entirely. Let me emphasise the fact that over 70 per cent. of the Indians in South Africa are born, bred and educated here. They are in custom and appearance modern civilised men, some of them are graduates of the great English and Scottish Universities and members of the higher professions. Many of the Colonial born Indians are Christians. Their average standard of living is high, closely approaching that of the European, and where their earning capacity permits, they live in comfort and refinement. Why are Indians then saddled with this invidious distinction? Is it because of their colour? Then why, tell me, are the Coloured people, Mauritians and St. Helenas excluded? Is it because of their religion? Then why are the Malays and Jews also excluded from the Bill?

The only reason why they have been singled out is the fact, that they have dared to compete in trade against the European. Such enterprise on the part of our non-European race, the Government regards, as highly reprehensible and must be stamped out with the iron heel. For the Minister has distinctly said, that he will exercise pressure in order to get rid of the Indians—not force. What a hair-splitting difference, for is not pressure after all a type of force?

As long as an Indian was content to remain a servant and a labourer, a mere hewer of wood and drawer of water, he was considered an asset, treated with patronising kindness, prejudice and this racial antipathy were undreamt of evils. But as soon as he conceived the ambitions of education and financial independence he was denounced as an interloper, regarded as an undesirable alien, fettered with repressive laws and the Government has now added the last blow and has decided to drive him into locations to starve and degenerate.

It is admitted that Indians are able to sell goods cheaper than some Europeans, but that is mainly due to their thrift and the greater amount of work they are prepared to put into their business. And who are the people who benefit in the matter of cheaper goods? Is it not the general public by reduction of the cost of living? The only European

who actually suffer from Indian competition are a few of the small shop-keepers. Is it then for the benefit of these few that thousands of the poor are to be exploited and fleeced? and is it because of a narrow selfish class of white traders, often foreigners and aliens themselves, that the whole foundation of the British Empire is to be endangered?

This Bill also deals the Indian a cruel and unjust blow, in that drastic changes are to be made in the Immigration laws of the country. The general question of immigration of Indians has been practically settled. With the exception of a few Indian teachers and priests for the Transvaal, minor children and wives of Indian settlers, the doors of the country are barred against the Indian for ever. We still feel the injustice of this Immigration law, yet for the sake of those living here, we have tacitly submitted to it. But this Bill gives further powers to the Immigration Officer whose arbitrary and often high-handed actions in the past have been severely criticised by several judges.

Again to keep up this form of oppression against the Indian, the districts of Utrecht and Vryheid, although part of Natal now, are to be considered, as far as the Transvaal, so that the Draconian laws of the Transvaal could be applied to the Indians in these districts. Such Gilbertian legislation is unheard of outside free South Africa. If it is the intention of getting rid of the Indians by hook or by crook, why not apply such hocus pocus legislation at once to Natal by enacting that Natal should be considered part of Zululand, and as no Indians are allowed to trade in Zululand, it follows that all Indians now in Natal, shall forfeit their right to trade. Why stop here, Transvaal could be declared a part of Lapland and all Indians not wearing heavy fur coats and living in ice houses should be immediately deported to Kamchatka which for the purpose of this Act could be declared a part of India. The Government aimed at being diplomatic and clever, but succeeded in being only ridiculous and spiteful.

Besides all these absurdities, the Bill boldly invades the precincts of his private life. It attempts to regulate his marriages by the following clause, that if he intends marrying in India or bringing his wife and children back into the Union he must do so before August 1930 or before 10 years of his first entry into the Union. In future no Indian could go to India marry and bring back his wife. Surely every man has the right to marry whom and where he likes. Some men would sacrifice everything for love, but the majority would like to have their wives, as well as their businesses. Such proscription dates back to the old days of slavery, apparently not this completely eradicated in highly civilised land.

The Bill further affects a large number of Indians, in that they will be compelled to give up their dual domicile in the Union, as many persons hold a domicile, for instance, in the Transvaal by birth, and a domicile in Natal by residence or vice versa. This right of dual domicile will cease to exist in three years, which means that large vested interests in one or other of the Provinces cannot be controlled by the owner and will in many cases spell his financial ruin. The object of this, apparently, is to eliminate Indian businesses that may have escaped the flanking attack of the class areas restrictions.

Again Indians including those born in the Union by merely absenting themselves from the Union for a longer period than 3 years forfeit their domiciliary rights. Where is a South African born Indian to go, who absents himself from the Union for more than 3 years? I have a brother studying in England. If he does not return to the Union before 1928, he is debarred from entering the land of his people. Is this not in conflict with the most elementary principles of justice and fairplay?

This concludes a general analysis of this pernicious Bill, but it by no means covers all the many clauses which detrimentally affect the Indian, now resident in South Africa.

Why do the Europeans consider the Indian unfit for decent society and unworthy of just and equitable treatment? First they contend that the Indians in Natal are sufficiently large in number to become a menace, being 140,000 to 170,000 Europeans. That the small trader has been practically eliminated and Indians will expect to work besides Europeans in the skilled or semi-skilled trades or in offices, which will create in their breasts a feeling of equality with the Europeans, which is largely obnoxious and against the very basis of a dominant White South Africa.

My answer to this is that the Indians have created by their sweat and toil, the foundation of Natal's present prosperity. Sugar, Tea, Fruits and many other commodities have been cultivated by the Indian at miserable wages. The big profits have gone into the pockets of enterprising planters and other capitalists and into the coffers of the Province, turning it from the verge of bankruptcy into that of great prosperity.

The Indian population is practically stationary while that of the European is increasing rapidly and consequently the so-called Indianisation of Natal is purely an imaginary fear.

If some of the old white traders went to the wall against the Indian competition, it was because of their inefficiency and poor business capacity and no fault of the Indians. But now the conditions are rapidly changing. The boycott of Indians by anti-Asiatic leagues and the difficulty of obtaining licences to trade have done everything to handicap the Indian and so given the white trader another chance to come to the top.

We find the Europeans on Railways, in offices and different industries and other spheres of life are gradually displacing the Indians. Many of these Indians have been in work for over 20 years, nay, have given of their best in faithful and honest service and now find themselves without any means of a livelihood. The white boy has the advantage of First Grade college education and efficient technical training, which is denied to the Indian. This is producing efficient white workers and gradually the Indians will have no other choice outside commerce but to become mere menials.

It is also asserted that Indians send their money out of the country.

Indian economists have exhaustively proved how India, which was the richest country in the world, the Golconda of the great Western Navigators, has been systematically drained of her treasure. Since the time of Clive, a never ending stream of treasure has flowed towards England, making England what she is at present and thus indirectly benefitting South Africa, and so this small flow back from South Africa to India is unappreciable. Such argument may not appeal to a South African. But he can understand the fact Indians are not permitted to buy or erect decent buildings in good localities. Immediately he purchases a motor car out goes the cry "What cheek on the part of a Coolie!" The Europeans have made it impossible for him to spend his money in South Africa. Wherever he turns he is confronted with the warning "Europeans only" and yet he is denounced if he journeys to India to spend his money or sends part of it to his dependants.

The Indians are accused of creating slums, of the evils of Eastern cities.

Where in the world can you find worse slums than in London or Glasgow? Economic stress, poverty and ignorance induce people to create slums but the recent legislation in Natal restricts the sale of unalienated lands to Indians and compels Indians

to horde together, rich and poor, vulgar and refined, cultured and ignorant. What power has the Indian to prevent slums? What hope has he of keeping pace with the march of civilisation?

Again the Europeans contend that Indians being of a different creed have lower morals than Europeans.

This kind of religious prejudice is typical of the medieval religious intolerances, and this is no place to enter into religious controversies, suffice it that the same arguments have been used in those times, and have been the cause amongst Christians of centuries of bloodshed.

In all civilised countries the opinion is rightly held, that religion shall not penalise a man from serving and fighting for his country, nor prevent him from becoming a full citizen. Here in South Africa we find the Jews obtaining full rights of citizenship though they are still staunch to their ideals.

It is also maintained that the Indians have different customs, are aliens, and as a coloured race can never be assimilated in a White South Africa.

Let me again point out that 70 per cent. of the Indians in South Africa are Colonial born. They have to a large extent discarded the customs of their fathers in dress and manners, and have acquired all those of the European. Whether this is good or bad is not for me to say. Suffice it that they have been changed by the environment, and in the near future education, and South African climate will create an Indian quite different from that of India.

There is no possibility of ever producing a White South Africa in that every member must be white. The only reasonable aim as enunciated by that Statesman General Smuts can be, a white civilized standard in which every race can take a part. This will not exclude the coloured or even the native. How can it then exclude the Indian born and bred on the soil?

Here I wish to remind you, that the Minister has spoken of Indians as an alien element and as such, he maintained, could never be absorbed by the South African population. It is time that we completely explode this oft repeated fallacy. First of all, the Indian is a useful member of the general community of South Africa. Without his labour many a prosperous and flourishing industry in Natal would collapse. To-day many races have become good South Africans without losing their identity, and without departing from their religious principles or the customs of their forefathers, and the Indian, if given equal facilities, could become equally as good a South African.

In most of the recent wars in South Africa, the Zulu War, Anglo-Boer War, the Native Rebellion and the Great War, Indians of South Africa have made their sacrifices. They have organised Stretcher Bearer Corps and have even offered their services as combatants, but were refused by the Government of the day.

Here in the Cape, it is obvious to all how the Indian has been absorbed in the general community. Not only does he mix on social equality with the Malay and the coloured population, but has inter-married with them. If the love that we bear South Africa and the useful work we have done for her, do not make South Africans forget our colour, and if we are still to be regarded as aliens, then surely the Malays and the coloured people must also be considered aliens, which is absurd. Difference of race and creed should distinguish and not divide the various citizens of South Africa.

Australia, New Zealand and Canada have granted full rights of citizenship to the Indians, and I defy anybody to say that their white standard of civilisation has suffered as a result of this broad and democratic policy!

Does South Africa think so little of her fair name!

and value so lightly the lofty ideals of her English and Dutch forefathers that she would stand amidst this comity of nations, without fear or shame, and refuse to do justice to her subject races? This Asiatic question is more than an Imperial problem, it is a world-wide issue, and if South Africa is not prepared to act honourably, then Indians must appeal for succour outside, and let me warn South Africans, that this policy of expediency and coercion may result in a disastrous war, in which Asia and Africa will stand pitted against Europe and America.

Those, who think by a policy of repression they are safeguarding their future generation, are only handing down to posterity a heritage of hate and bloodshed.

It is not too late to avert a world-wide catastrophe. Let a Round Table Conference be arranged and let us explore every avenue which will lead to conciliation and peace!

Ladies and gentlemen, before I conclude I should like to remind South Africa that eleven years ago in the Gandhi-Smuts agreement, the Government gave its plighted word to administer the laws justly and protect the vested rights of Indians, and to-day White South Africans have treated that sacred declaration as a mere scrap of paper.

Since 1914 the Indian has been systematically robbed of every right he held dear and sacred, and to-day the Hertzog Government has denied him the first inalienable right of man: the right to labour and to live.

I ask you, is this not a direct violation of British truth, honour, and faith? Where in the world must the Indian look for charity and protection if those who consider themselves his rightful guardian and protector, have so recklessly violated that sacred trust?

Why is the Indian so unwanted and ill-treated in South Africa? Let me again remind you that in the time of the Great War, when the very foundations of the British Empire, were threatened with disaster, India did not hesitate to give, not only her gold and grain, but of her bravest and strongest sons in order to help to bring the world-wide struggle to a successful termination.

Has South Africa forgotten so soon? Only 11 years ago, out there, on the battlefields of Flanders, Indians fought side by side with the Europeans, so that these very shores, should remain inviolate and safe. There was no distinction then between East and West, there was no difference then of colour and creed. Beneath the deadly onslaught of shot and shell, black, white, bronze and yellow, fell side by side mowed down like many coloured flowers by the ruthless scythe of war. It was there the blood of East and West, black and white flowed out, intermingling in one crimson stream of sacrifice. It was there again that the agonised groans of the dying went up as one voice to the heavens, the last testimony of service to the Empire and loyalty to British ideals.

Has this faded so quickly from the memory of the Europeans, that the very enemy, the Indians helped to subdue, is allowed the freedom of South Africa while they are being martyred and maligned? Are the fruits of this pernicious Bill but another blighted harvest to be reaped by a people so full of passionate loyalty, heroic fortitude and imbued with such an insatiable spirit for sacrifice and truth?

Let me conclude by saying, if I have not the power and ability to plead the unhappy cause of my countrymen, then surely their service for South Africa and their loyalty to the British Empire must speak for themselves.

Let South Africa in the words of the Psalmist, experience a change of heart, let her tear from above her portals the warning to Indians. "All hope, abandon ye, who enter here" and let her remember the words of the Founder of Christianity: "Do unto others as ye would have them do unto you."

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed by the South African Indian Congress at its fifth Session held in Cape Town on the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th instant under the deputy-presidentship of Dr. A. H. Gool :—

1. That this Congress views with profound consternation and alarm the growing hostility to all legitimate desires and aspirations of the Indian population of the Union, and places upon record that such hostilities are opposed to all the accepted principles of British fairplay and justice, and calculated in their final effect to destroy British prestige. (Proposed by Advocate J. W. Godfrey and seconded by Mr. A. A. Mirza.)

2. That this Fifth Session of the South African Indian Congress in conference views with alarm the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill which is in violation of the 1914 Gandhi-Smuts agreement and has for its object the compulsory segregation of Indians, the deprivation of their proprietary rights and ultimate elimination of the Indian community as openly declared by the Minister of the Interior and begs to submit to the Government that on a matter of principle the Indian community of South Africa opposes this Bill *in toto*. (Proposed by Advocate J. W. Godfrey and seconded by Parsee Mancherjee.)

3. That this Congress urges upon the Union Government to consent to a Round Table Conference of representatives of the Union Parliament, representatives of India and of the Imperial and Indian Governments and representatives of the South African Indian Congress to consider the whole position of Indians here and arrive at an honourable and amicable settlement. (Proposed by Advocate J. W. Godfrey and seconded by Mr. A. M. Chetty.)

4. That Messrs. Amod Bayat, Sorabjee Rustomjee, V. S. C. Pather, E. M. Ally, M. A. H. Moosa, Shaik Himed, S. R. Naidoo, M. M. Gandhi, J. W. Godfrey, Yusuf Hawa, P. M. Dawson, A. E. Haffjee, Shaik Ismail, M. G. Patel, D. M. Narsoo, Hajee Ebrahim Dindar, Vally Mahomed and Goolam Rasool be and are hereby appointed to interview the Minister of the Interior and place before him the foregoing resolutions. That the Executive be empowered to add such other members as the Provincial bodies nominate. (Proposed by Mr. A. I. Kajee and seconded by Mr. L. C. B. Ephraim.)

5. That this South African Indian Congress in Conference assembled, hereby decides upon a deputation to proceed to India, and that the following gentlemen form the deputation viz. Dr. A. Abdurahman, on behalf of the Cape, Mr. A. A. Mirza, on behalf of the Transvaal, and Messrs. Amod Bayat, Pundit Bhawani Dayal, V. S. C. Pather, Sorabjee Rustomjee and J. W. Godfrey on behalf of Natal, with power to the Executive to add or nominate another in place of any of the above gentlemen who is unable to proceed, and with power to the delegates to co-opt in India any person who is a member of any of the constituent bodies. Delegates to proceed immediately the Executive so decides. (Proposed by Mr. A. I. Kajee and seconded by Mr. S. Cassoojee.)

6. That each Province bear the expenses of its own delegates. (Proposed by Mr. A. Ismail and seconded by Mr. A. M. Chetty.)

7. That this Congress reiterates

(a) That it is of the conviction that the deeming order of the Minister for the Interior declaring all Asiatics for the purposes of the Immigrants' Regulation Act as prohibited on economic grounds is insulting, degrading, unfair and unjust to the Indian community and that in its application unmistakable injustice resulted in that children of persons having dual domiciliary and statutory rights have been

debarred from the full enjoyment and exercise of such rights and that it is the source of injustice happening to Indians.

- (b) That inter-provincial visiting can only be obtained under and in compliance with what is considered to be irksome Regulations. It is again asked that the deposit of £10 be dispensed with wherever the Immigration Officer or the Magistrate is satisfied with the education, commercial, professional or social standing of the applicant.
- (c) That the Form D.I. 4. is as complicated and intricate as D. I. 90 and Congress urges that Form D.I. 7 with the elimination of the requirement on the back thereof will meet the cases of applicants who have already filled in D.I. 90 and to whom an Identity Certificate has already been issued.

That an Identity Certificate once granted to an Indian should remain in his possession and be his property like the domicile Certificate issued under the now repealed Natal Immigration Restriction Acts.

- (d) That the executive be requested to ask the Government of India to dispense with Certificates of Identity required by it in lieu of passports as a war measure, as the continuance of such a demand by it for such Identity Certificates is a source of trouble and injustice happening to Indians and as such Certificates should not be demanded of its own Nationals.
- (e) That the Right of Appeal against the decision of an Immigration Officer be extended from three to seven days in the discretion of such Immigration Officer in the event of a ship not leaving at the date on which it was expected to leave when the time limit to appeal was fixed by the Immigration Officer.
- (f) That the Immigrants' Appeal Board should, in view of the jurisdiction of the Courts being ousted, constituted of men of legal training and experience in fairness to applicants.

That an Appeal from the Immigrants' Appeal Board to the Supreme Court be allowed both on facts and law.

That in view of the liberty of the subject being involved in Immigration cases, sittings of the Immigrants' Appeal Board should take place in the Court House and every facility be given for the attendance of the public and for the publication of its proceedings.

- (g) That the holder of an Identity Certificate, if he does not return within three years should not when he does come be subject to further examination as such examination is not required if he returns within the three years.
- (h) Requirement of thumb impressions from Indian women on Immigration Forms be dispensed with.
- (i) That owing to the difficulties arising from delay in the arrival of D.I. 91 form completed from India it is asked that bail be fixed at £10 at the highest pending establishment of the right of the entrant and that in lieu of D.I. 91 for the certification of the relationship of the wife and children of an Indian domiciled in the Union to enable them to enter South Africa, a certificate of such relationship issued by a first class Magistrate in India be accepted by Union Immigration Officers.

That where an entrant is not able to find bail, he or she be detained and given an opportunity to take the matter of his or her prohibition before the Immigrants' Appeal Board without being required to find either bail or appeal or other fees in view of the liberty of a subject being at stake.

That the appeal fee of £30 is unreasonable

and it is suggested that it be reduced to such sum as is found usually to cover the costs of appeals before the Immigrants' Appeal Board.

- (j) That women examiners to the Immigration Department be appointed to meet the religious susceptibilities of Indians in regard to their women.

That Waiting Rooms be provided for women in the Immigration Offices.

- (k) That in regard to transit permits Immigration Officers be instructed to exercise their discretion in the extension of such permits on reasonable grounds and not on medical grounds alone.

- (l) That as was understood at the time of the passing of Immigrants' Regulation Act, Natal-born Indians and Cape-born Indians should be allowed to return to their respective Provinces on the production of their birth certificates.

- (m) That instructions to the Principal Immigration Officer, Durban, to restrict the time limit for the introduction of wives and children of Indians from India, to six months from date of permission be withdrawn.

- (n) That the notice served on a number of Indians in the Transvaal declaring them prohibited immigrants, who were permitted to enter and acquire a domicile in that Province by special exemption certificates is illegal, improper and in distinct violation of the understanding upon which they were issued and this Congress urges the Minister of Interior to withdraw such notice. (Proposed by Mr. A. A. Mirza and second by Mr. D. M. Nursoo.)

8. That this Congress reiterates its objection generally to the principle and incidence of the Indian Immigration Laws on Indians and their descendants introduced to this country, and this Congress asks for the repeal of such laws so that Indians as British subjects may come under the ordinary laws of the country. (Proposed by Mr. A. I. Kajee and seconded by Mr. E. J. Choonoo.)

9. That the South African Indian Congress assembled in Conference strongly protests against the Transvaal General Dealers' Control Ordinance 1925 as an Ordinance intended to curtail the trading rights of Transvaal Indians, and requests that the said Ordinance be either repealed or amended so as not to operate harshly against the Indians. (Proposed by Mr. A. A. Mirza and seconded by Mr. D. M. Nursoo.)

10. That this Congress make representations to the Union Government for the amendment to Act No. 35 of 1908 (Transvaal), known as the Gold Law, which debar Indian goldsmiths from conducting their legitimate calling in the Transvaal. (Proposed by Mr. S. M. Rahim and seconded by Mr. M. D. Barmania.)

11. That the cause of all disabilities which the Indians in the Transvaal Province labour under being by reason of their status held lower than that of the Europeans this Congress records its respectful but emphatic protest against the maintenance and retention of the differential and discriminating laws in that Province and urges upon the Government the imperative necessity of repealing or otherwise amending or altering all such laws so as to divest them of their present discriminating and differentiating character. (Proposed by Mr. D. M. Nursoo and seconded by Mr. T. C. Moodley.)

12. In regard to the Public Health Act and the Public Health Ordinance of Natal, the validity of which is now being tested in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, this Congress instructs the Executive to take such action as it may deem necessary, as soon as the Courts decision is known, to safeguard the interest of the Indians affected by such decision or subsequent action of

the Government. (Proposed by Mr. A. I. Kajee and seconded by Mr. B. Maharaj.)

13. This Congress reiterates its protest against the differential treatment based on race under the railways laws of the country. (Proposed by Mr. Goolam Rasool and seconded by Mr. E. M. Moolla.)

14. That the Secretary make full inquiries into the matter of the Government desiring the registration of Asiatics made compulsory in the districts of Utrecht and Vryheid and place all correspondence before the Executive at the first opportunity. (Proposed by Mr. V. S. C. Pather and seconded by Mr. A. I. Kajee.)

15. That this Congress reiterates that it is of the opinion that in view of an interpreter being expected to be qualified in several languages, and to assist in the administration of justice and to live in ordinary comfort, the scale of salary fixed by the Government is inadequate and beggarly, and strongly protests against the Government disregarding the recommendations of the Public Service Commission on this subject, and urges that the Government's reply that the remuneration to interpreters is not beggarly because interpreters could be found, is not proof that the interpreters are satisfied with the scales of pay allowed to them, as it is known that they are not satisfied with the pay they receive. (Proposed by Mr. A. A. Mirza and seconded by Mr. Jack Moodley.)

16. That this Congress reiterates that the present scale of witness fees paid in the Law Courts of the Union is unfair and degrading to Indians as Indians, and should be based not on racial grounds but on the status of the witnesses. (Proposed by Advocate J. W. Godfrey and by Mr. J. P. Bhaga.)

17. That this Congress makes representations to the Union Government to appoint members of the Indian community in the different Provinces to the offices of Justice of the Peace and Commissioner for Oaths. (Proposed by Mr. V. S. C. Pather and seconded by Mr. Lalkhan.)

18. That this Congress requests that the principle of primary, free and compulsory education should be extended to Indians up to Standard 6; that the qualification, grading, conditions of service and scales of salary of Indian teachers should be the same as those prevailing in European schools; and that facilities for higher, technical and other education should be provided, and that State-aided schools should be taken over by the Government. Resolved that it be an instruction for the Provincial bodies to take action in their respective Provinces and report to the next Conference or to the South African Indian Congress Executive. (Proposed by Mr. A. M. Chetty and seconded by Mr. P. H. Patel.)

19. That this Congress resolves that in the interests and welfare of the Indian community of South Africa it is highly desirable that a South African Indian College for boys and girls for higher education be established, and the incoming Executive of the South African Indian Congress formulate a scheme to inaugurate same, and take such action as it may be able to do. This Congress requests the President, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, to make application to the Bombay Imperial Citizenship Association for the establishing of a South African Indian Education Trust from the funds of the last passive resistance struggle, now in the hands of that Association, and that the Trust shall be for the securing of men and women teachers for the proposed South African Indian College, and for the paying of salaries and other incidental expenses and charges of such teachers, and the trustees of such Trust shall be Mahatma Gandhi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mr. J. B. Pettit, Mr. K. Nataraan and Mahomed Ali, with such others as such trustees in their discretion may co-opt. All other conditions of such Trust shall be in the discretion of such trustees. (Proposed by Mr. E. J. Choonoo and seconded by Mr. D. Nursod.)

20. Having regard to evils traced to alcoholic drink, this Congress includes in its policy of work the lending of active support to any movement for the discouragement of the consumption of alcoholic liquor, and further that each Provincial body with its district committees be called upon to give effect to this resolution wherever possible. (Proposed by Mr. A. H. M. Tilly and seconded by Mr. D. K. Patel.)

21. That the Natal Indian Congress act with full powers as local committee to the South African Indian Congress with the co-operation of the honorary general secretary of the South African Indian Congress for the purpose of making all necessary arrangements for the holding of an Indian Agricultural and Industrial Show in Durban. (Proposed by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee and seconded by Mr. Jack Moodley.)

22. That this Congress resolves that it is desirable in the interests of the Union of South Africa that an Agricultural Experimental School be established in or near Durban for the purpose of training young Indians in Agricultural Science. (Proposed by Mr. A. Sookdeo and seconded by Mr. A. I. Kaje.)

23. That this Congress reiterates that reasonable facilities should be given to Indian farmers, store-keepers and others to possess firearms as a means of protection throughout the Union. (Proposed by Advocate J. W. Godfrey and seconded by Mr. A. S. Mia.)

24. That this Congress adopts the use of English and Hindi as the official language in all proceedings of the Congress, and that whenever any interpretation is asked for then same if necessary shall be made. (Proposed by Mr. R. Singh and seconded by Advocate J. W. Godfrey.)

25. That in the opinion of this Congress it is highly necessary that there should be one official Indian organ in English, Tamil, Hindi and Gujerati languages, voicing the sentiments and feelings of the South African Indian community, and that the matter be referred to the Executive of the South African Indian Congress to take the necessary action for that purpose. (Proposed by Mr. E. M. Moolla and seconded by Mr. R. K. Naidoo.)

26. That Indian women auxiliaries be formed by the Provincial bodies affiliated to the South African Indian Congress, among other things, with a view to Indian women being eventually admitted to membership in the South African Indian Congress. (Proposed by Mr. B. M. Master and seconded by Mr. S. Cassoojee.)

27. That this Congress requests that the principle of equal rights to all civilised people be adopted by the Union Government and the rights of citizenship be extended to all unrepresented people in the Union. (Proposed by Mr. A. M. Chetty and seconded by Mr. N. M. Pillay.)

28. That this Congress makes representations to the Indian National Congress to open an overseas department under its guidance and control for the benefit of the Indians abroad, and the president, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, be requested to do whatever is possible in India with the object of bringing pressure by representation or otherwise upon the Government of India to establish a Ministry for Overseas Indians. (Proposed by Mr. D. Narsoo and seconded by Mr. R. Singh.)

29. That this Congress expresses its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of India, Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, The Indian Overseas Association and people of India for the interest they are taking in and the support they are rendering to the Indian community in South Africa, and this Congress earnestly hopes and prays that they will ever continue to do everything possible in the amelioration and for the betterment of the Indian Community in this sub-Continent and elsewhere.

(Proposed by Mr. E. J. Choodoo and seconded by Mr. B. M. Aji)

30. That the South African Indian Congress now in session, representing the South African Indian community, is grateful to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, its president, for the invaluable services now being rendered by her for and to the Indians in South Africa, and congratulates her on her election as president of the forthcoming Indian National Congress. (Proposed by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee and seconded by Mr. S. M. Ralum.)

31. That this Congress sympathises with the East African Indian Congress in its struggle for the maintenance of the honour of Indians in East Africa and of India and while sending it its cordial greetings records its sense of gratitude for the interest our brethren in East Africa are taking in our cause in South Africa. (Proposed by Mr. Manilal Gandhi and seconded by Mr. M. A. I. Patel.)

32. That this fifth session of the South African Indian Congress records its deep sense of gratitude and sends its love to Mahatma Gandhi. (Proposed by Mr. A. I. Kaje and seconded by Mr. I. C. Ashabhai.)

33. That this Congress records its appreciation to Dr. A. Abdurahman for his kindly help and assistance from time to time to the Indian community and sincerely offers its grateful thanks.

34. That this Congress places on record its sincere thanks to Dr. A. H. Gool Deputy President and the retiring officials for the services rendered by them and more especially the inestimable and invaluable services rendered by Mr. A. Ismail the General Secretary. It further expresses its sincere appreciation for the valuable services of the ex-general Secretary Mr. V. S. C. Pather who undertook the essential work of the Congress and brought this Conference to the success it has achieved. (Proposed by Mr. A. A. Mirza and seconded by Mr. J. W. Godfrey.)

35. That this Congress empowers the Executive to take all necessary measures to give effect to the principles in the foregoing resolutions in so far as such resolutions fall within its scope and generally to act in regard to the resolutions as provided in the Constitution of the South African Indian Congress. (Proposed by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee and seconded by Mr. Goolam Rasool.)

It was proposed to hold the next session of the South African Indian Congress in the Transvaal.

THE DEPUTATION

IN accordance with the resolution passed by the South African Indian Congress held in Capetown, a deputation consisting of influential members of the community interviewed the Minister of the Interior last Monday. The deputation opposed the Asiatic Bill *in toto* on principle, and because it was in complete violation of the spirit of the settlement arrived at in 1924 between Mr. Gandhi as representing the Indian community and General Smuts as representing the Union Government. The deputation did not go into the details of the Bill and urged upon the Minister the necessity of calling a Round Table Conference of representatives of the Indian, Imperial and Union Governments and representatives of the Indian people and representatives of S. A. I. Congress in order to bring about a final and amicable settlement of the Indian question.

The Minister's reply, although disappointing, was very clear. It was in effect this.—That the Smuts-Gandhi agreement referred only to the then existing law, and it was to put an end to any further agitation against the laws of the country; that no Government could make a promise that existing laws would not be changed or new laws made; that the rights of Indians regarding the

the agreement, were respected even when acquired illegally; that the Government were practically unanimous as regards the principle of the Bill which therefore could not be changed; that the Government could not ignore the desire of the Europeans as a whole; that all the constructive criticism received by the Government goes to show that the Bill does not go far enough; that if constructive suggestions were to be made by the Indian community as to the details of the Bill they would receive the consideration of the Government; that it was the intention of the Minister of the Interior to refer the Bill to a Select Committee and Indians would be given full opportunity of stating their case.

With regard to the suggestion of a Round Table Conference, the Minister's reply was that the first suggestion of such a Conference came from Mr. Thomas, during his visit to the Union, but that a good many papers protested against the suggestion, that the Indian Government then asked for a Round Table Conference and the question was not settled, but, that negotiations between the Indian and the Union Governments had not reached finality and it was therefore not possible to make any announcement in connection therewith, that it was expected that the negotiations would conclude very shortly and the result would then be announced. The Minister also stated that the Government considered the Indian question to be one which had to be solved by the South African Government and people without outside interference but that representations may be made from outside.

From this reply there is no doubt left as to the intention of the Government in regard to the Asiatic Bill, but there is a little doubt as to whether it is prepared to call a Round Table Conference or not. The result of the negotiations between the Indian and Union Governments in this respect will be awaited with interest.

We respectfully beg to differ from the Minister when he says that the spirit of the 1914 Settlement arrived at with the Government has not been violated. The spirit of the settlement was that after the Indian community had agreed to the stoppage of further Indian Immigrants entering the Union excepting the entry of ten educated Indians annually, the Government would not introduce any further disabling legislation against the resident Indian population and that the existing laws would be administered sympathetically. The Government now wish to stick to the letter of the settlement and to give it the narrowest interpretation possible suited to their purpose. This attitude on the part of the Government cannot be considered honourable.

We respect the view of the Government that the internal affairs of South Africa should be settled by the South African Government and people, but so long as the Union remains part of the British Empire, the methods adopted to settle those affairs should be consistent with the principles and ideals of the Empire. In trying to settle the Indian question, the Government is completely ignoring the feelings of a large section of law-abiding citizens of the Empire and doing a grave injustice to that section at the bidding of another section whose demands are highly selfish and unreasonable. We realise that the Government does not wish to do otherwise as its existence is dependent upon the vote of that other section. In this case the Government is more concerned about its existence than in acting justly. . . .

We are convinced that the Asiatic Bill and such other

repressive legislation will never bring about a settlement of the Asiatic problem in this country but it will render the position more grave, and time alone will show how grave.

WHAT NEXT?

NOW that the South African Indian Conference has concluded its deliberations and a deputation presented the two chief resolutions personally to the Minister of the Interior, one is inclined to ask, "what next?" The Conference acted wisely, we think, in submitting to the Government that, "on a matter of principle, the Indian community of South Africa opposes the Asiatic Bill *in toto*." It may be that the Union Government will consider such a definite refusal to discuss the details of the Bill as being somewhat curt and contrary to the attitude previously adopted; if so, they have only themselves to blame. When a burglar enters your house and proceeds to rob you of all you possess, he cannot be surprised if you decline to suggest a compromise or strike a bargain as to the precise amount of valuables he should take away. You strongly object to robbery of your goods, and you will use every means in your power to prevent the robbery being carried out. So it is with the Indian community. We feel that we are being robbed, not only of material wealth and important vested rights, but what is worse, our honour and self-respect. That being the case, every Indian worthy of the name must feel the importance of prompt action on the part of those leaders who have been chosen to carry on the campaign. The task they have undertaken is not an easy one. Unless they are backed up by the whole South African Indian community their efforts may fail. It is only with the feeling that the whole of the people are with them that they will be able to go forward without fear. Let it be remembered that, just as a chain is as strong and no more as its weakest link, so the Indian community of South Africa will be successful or otherwise according to the individual moral strength of each of its members. An appeal has been made for a Round Table Conference. What if this excellent suggestion is not carried out? Our hopes naturally lie with the British and Indian Governments. Suppose these hopes are dashed to the ground? We would then have to fall back upon our own resources. Those who are blessed with a goodly portion of this world's goods will need to make a sacrifice; others who have the advantage of education and abilities of leadership will have to use their talents for the cause; and every individual Indian must be ready to back up what has been done in his interests by giving himself, heart and soul. Nothing less will do. Lukewarmness will never win this fight. We are up against the biggest thing we have yet seen in this country. We may, however, console ourselves with the thought that the very hardness of the fight will make the ultimate victory all the sweeter.

Petition Submitted to Union Government by South African Indian Congress

To the Honourable the Minister of the Interior,
Pretoria.

Sir,—We, the undersigned, being Members of deputation elected at the Fifth Session of the South African Indian Congress assembled in Conference at Cape Town from the 9th to the 12th November, 1925, desire to express our sincere thanks for granting this interview.

The South African Indian Congress, which is constituted of elected representatives of the various Provinces of the Union sitting in Conference as aforesaid passed, among others, the following resolutions —

1. That the South African Indian Congress in Conference views with alarm the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill, which is in violation of the 1914 Gandhi-Smuts agreement and which Bill has for its objects the compulsory segregation of Indians; the deprivation of their proprietary rights and the ultimate elimination of the Community as openly declared by the Minister of the Interior, and begs to submit to the Government that on a matter of principle the Indian Community of South Africa opposes this Bill *in toto*.
2. That this Congress urges upon the Union Government to consent to a Round Table Conference of the Union and Imperial Government, the representatives of India, the Indian Government and representatives of the South African Indian Congress to consider the whole position of the Indians here and arrive at an honourable settlement.

The tenor of the resolutions clearly indicates that the Bill is not acceptable to the Indian community because it is against fundamental principles of good citizenship. Consequently it is felt that no good purpose could be served by discussing it in detail while other great difficulties exist, which require adjustment, e.g., questions of Licences, Immigration, Education etc.

The Indian community are thoroughly dissatisfied as the Bill undoubtedly imposes upon them a stigma of inferiority. Further the Bill is contrary to the spirit of the Gandhi-Smuts agreement.

If there is an earnest desire on the part of the Union Government to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the general position affecting Indians in the Union, then we feel that this could be best achieved by a Round Table Conference in accordance with the suggestion contained in the second Resolution.

This being the view of the Congress, we urge its acceptance upon the Union Government as a bona fide desire on our part to discuss generally the whole situation, and bring about a final and honourable settlement.

The Congress is not aware of any reason why the Union Government has not formally declared its intention to agree or disagree to the Round Table Conference although it has intimated that it was in communication with the Indian Government in regard thereto; and that matters had taken a definite course.

The Congress realises the necessity there is for arriving at some satisfactory understanding on these vital questions; and is prepared to do its share in securing a settlement consistent with honour.

We respectfully press upon the Union Government our sincere belief in good results that a Round Table Conference would bring about; and trust that the Union Government will accept and accede to the terms of

the second Resolution aforementioned, and in the meantime stay further progress of this Bill.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,

Yours respectfully,

J. W. GODFREY, E. M. ALLY, VALLEY MAHMED,
GOOLAM RASOOL. AMOD BAYAT, SHAIK HIMED,
M. A. H. MOOSA, D. M. NURSOO, S. R. NAIDOO,
MOOLJEE G. PATEL, V. S. C. PATHER, S. EBRAHIM,
A. A. MIRZA, A. E. HAFJEJEE, M. M. GANDHI,
SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE.

Members of the Deputation of the S.A.I. Congress.

A. I. KAJEE,
General Secretary,
175, Grey Street, Durban.

We regret to announce the sad demise of Mr. Rosan Khan a prominent Indian Merchant at P. M. Burg. who was one of the best workers in the cause of the Indian community and his untimely death at this juncture is very unfortunate. Mr. Rosan Khan was the victim of the great fire at P. M. Burg on Tuesday being very seriously burned about the hands and lower portion of the body and died late Wednesday night. We tender our sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Rosan Khan.

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ટેલીફોન ૧૯૬૯ અને કમીશન એજન્ટ બોક્સ ૩૧૬.

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એમ. આઈ. દાદાભાઈ,
જનરલ મરચન્ટ.
૨૫, વેન હુગન સ્ટ્રીટ, કરોલીના, ટ્રાંસવાલ.
ટેલીફોન નં. ૫