

# Indian Opinion

No. 46—Vol. XXV. Friday, November 18th, 1927.

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

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

### OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

(Continued from page 305)

#### Establishment of the Permanent League

**F**OR the purpose of linking up all forces against Imperialism and colonial oppression into a world-wide organisation, and to further friendship and co-operation among all workers of liberation, a permanent League was established at the Congress. The Honorary Presidents of the League are Mrs. Sun Yat Sen, Jawaharlal Nehru, George Lansbury, and Professor Albert Einstein. An executive was elected, and Nehru, representing India, was elected a member. It was suggested that the organisation should have its headquarters in Paris. Up to the present time the headquarters are at Wilhelmstr. 48, Berlin, Germany.

The Brussels Congress showed a profound sympathy with India's aspiration. As Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's cable to the Congress, conveying India's greetings and condemnation of the use of Indian troops in China was read, a thrill and a cheer went through the hall. Happily, the cable arrived soon after Jawaharlalji had moved a similar resolution.

The Chinese, British and Indian delegations passed a common resolution by which they bound themselves to make every effort to accomplish the tasks laid down by the Congress. The Chinese appointed to sign for the Chinese delegation were General Lei Tsung Lin and Hansin Liau of the Kuo Mian Tang, and Hsing Kwang Sen of the People's Government of Canton; for the British delegation, Mr. Lansbury, Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. Beckett, M.P., S. O. Davies of the Miners Federation, R. Bridgman, M.P., and Fenner Brockway, I.L.P. Jawaharlal Nehru signed for India. The resolution in full reads:—

We, the undersigned, British, Indian and Chinese delegations, consider that the task of all working-class forces in Imperialist countries is:

- (1) To fight for full emancipation side by side with the national forces in oppressed countries, in order to secure complete independence wherever such national forces so desire.
- (2) To oppose all forms of coercion against colonial peoples.
- (3) To vote against all credits, naval, military and air, for the maintenance of armed force to be used against oppressed nations.
- (4) To expose the horrors of Imperialism to the civil and military populations.
- (5) To expose imperialistic policy, in the light of the working-class struggle for freedom.

#### The Immediate Situation in China

- (1) We demand the immediate withdrawal of all armed forces from Chinese territories and waters.
- (2) We urge the need of direct action, including strikes and the imposition of the embargo to prevent movements of munitions and troops either to India or China and from India to China.
- (3) That estimates relating either to war-like preparations or to war shall be voted against.
- (4) That in the event of armed intervention or

open war every effort shall be made within the labour movement to use every weapon possible in the working-class struggle to be used to prevent hostilities.

(5) We demand the unconditional recognition of the Nationalist Government, the abolition of the unequal treaties and of extraterritorial rights, and the surrender of foreign concessions.

(6) Finally, in the interests of Trade Union and Labour Movements in Britain, India and China, we pledge ourselves to work for their immediate, close and active co-operation.

Although the above resolution was signed by the English delegates present, we as Indians must remember that only the *individual* Englishmen present signed it, and it cannot be said that their organisations are bound to approve of it. In fact, before even the individuals would sign it, there were long and heated debates with the Indians. Since the Congress ended and the delegates returned to their various homes, we learn—but it is so far an unconfirmed rumour—that there are serious quarrels within the British Labour Party and the Independent Labour Party of England about this very resolution, and that there is a likelihood that some of the signatories will either have to retract or withdraw from their parties, or that their parties may split on the issue.

The Indian and Chinese delegations also drew up a joint resolution to renew the old ties of culture, friendship and co-operation that existed as a tradition before the British period. The resolution reads:—  
"For more than three thousand years the people of India and China were united by the most intimate cultural ties. From the days of Buddha to the end of the Mughal period and the beginning of British domination in India this friendly intercourse continued uninterrupted.

"After the East India Company had, by intrigue and force, secured its firm hold on the greater part of India, the English began looking for new sources of revenue and new markets. They not only introduced poppy cultivation into areas where food had previously been grown, but also thrust Indian opium on the unwilling Chinese people by force of arms. Since that infamous Opium War, of 1840-41, Indian mercenary troops have been sent again to China in support of British capitalist brigandage in that country. For 87 years Indian troops have been permanently stationed as policemen in Hong Kong, Shanghai, etc. Time and again they have been used to shoot down Chinese workers and have thus created ill-will in China against the people of India. Even as we make this declaration, Indian troops are again on their way to China in an attempt to crush the Chinese revolution.

"With the strengthening of British imperialism, India was cut off more and more from intercourse with China, and in their cultural and intellectual isolation the Indian people have now become completely ignorant of the condition of China.

"It is this extreme ignorance that makes it difficult today to organise effective means to prevent India's men and man-power from being used for the enslavement of the Chinese people. We think it urgent and essential that active propaganda should be carried on in India to educate the people regarding China and to arouse them to the necessity of immediate action. We must now resume the ancient personal, cultural and political relations between the two peoples. British imperialism which in the past has kept us apart and done us so much injury, is now the very force that is uniting us in a common endeavour to overthrow it.

"With trust that the leaders of the Indian movement will do all in their power to co-ordinate their struggle with that of the Chinese people so that by simultaneously engaging British Imperialism on two of its most vital fronts, China may receive active support in her present struggle, and the final victory of both people may be secured."

#### CONCLUSION

Resolutions dealing with almost all the oppressed countries were passed, but space does not permit me to deal with them all. In passing I can mention the very capable delegation of four men from Indonesia—the "Dutch East Indies"; also the very fine speech made by the Arabio delegate; the intelligence and the ironic humour of the Negro, Lamine Senghor, from Central Africa; the clear and uncompromising address of Professor Guio Miglioni, Member of the Italian Parliament and opponent of Mussolini—and consequently an exile; the untiring activity of the Korean nationalist delegation; the South African delegation, consisting among others of a delegate from the South African Trade Union Congress, and a Negro delegate (a Communist) who did not believe in the professions of his white colleagues. There were also Negro delegates from different sections of Africa.

It is difficult to end this review without mentioning the silent and intense work of Messrs A. Gibati and Virendranath Chattopadhyaya, whose organisational work had been responsible for the success of the Congress. Especially the latter, our own countryman, who, an exile from India for over 25 years, is untiring in his work for India and unflinching in his optimism.

## Notes and News

**T**HE Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri left Durban on Thursday morning for East London, where he will address the Rotary Club. From there he will proceed to Fort Hare, where, in terms of the Capetown Agreement, accommodation is to be provided for Indian students at the native college. At Port Elizabeth, which will be his next destination, he will meet Miss Gordon, an expert in education sent out by the Government of India to assist the Natal Provincial Council in the work of inquiring into Indian education in this Province. Miss Gordon was the principal of the training college at Madras. The other educationist to be sent to South Africa from India is Mr. Kitchlew, the Director of Education of the United Provinces of India, who has been recently organising affairs at Agra University. Mr. Kitchlew will arrive at the end of this month at Durban. Mr. Sastri will return to Durban after visiting Capetown.

Mr Desmond Young, Editor of the *Natal Witness*, who has, during his editorship always shown a sympathetic and friendly spirit in dealing with the Indian question was entertained to tea on the eve of his departure for England by the South African Indian Congress Executive at Mr. E. A. Tyeb's residence.

The Provincial Council which was prorogued to Nov. 16, is now further prorogued to March 21, 1928.

The Natal Provincial Gazette dated November 10 contains Rules relating to Rural Licences i.e., licences coming under the operation of the Rural Dealers Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance (No. 4. of 1923), as made by the Executive Committee under the authority of Act No. 18, 1897. The Rules made in 1926 have been revoked.

## Plea For Springfield Gardeners

Is it necessary that the Town Council having purchased the Springfield Estate, should proceed to evict the Indian gardeners who have been plying their calling on this fertile stretch of land, in some cases for periods up to 40 years?

The question is being asked by many people both within and without the Indian community. The following letters directed to the *Natal Advertiser* suffice to show that there is a considerable sympathy with the market-gardening Asiatics who are in danger of eviction.

"Householder" (a pseudonym that covers the identity of a burgher of Durban well acquainted with the facts) writes:—

"I notice that there is a proposal to let that portion of the Springfield, nearest the town, and situated on the south side of the Umgeni River, for the purpose of sugar planting.

"Now, sir, this will entail a considerable hardship to many hundreds of the Indian community, who are presently occupying this land as market gardeners, and as it is estimated that fully 70 per cent. of the supplies of vegetables come from this particular source it is needless to say that the householder is bound to suffer. Not only will the supply of vegetables be limited, but they will become more expensive, for if the Indian gardeners have to go farther afield, a resultant increase in price must happen. And it is the ground occupied by them that is the nearest to town, and of easy access by fairly good roads.

"If the corporation persist in giving notice to these hardworking gardeners—and they deserve every penny they get for their products—the householder is bound to pay for it in the long run. What we require at the present time is the reduction of living costs, and not to add to them."

### 1,500 Tenants Involved?

Another correspondent, "H.W." writes:—  
"What's happening at Springfield? About 1,500 souls are in suspense, waiting to be turned out of their living, which means also their homes in most cases.

"Some for 40 years have been farming their little bit of land and have learnt when to sow and water, and grow vegetables for the Durban Market. Now one big man wants the land to grow sugar cane. Is there not plenty of land to grow sugar cane in South Africa without turning all these people out of their means of living, making vegetables scarcer and dearer for everyone?

"I understand (when it does not rain) this is where the Durban vegetables come from."

Other protests have been received, but it is sufficient to quote the above representative letters. In addition a strong protest has been addressed to the Town Council by the officials of the Natal Indian Congress on behalf of their threatened compatriots:

### Will Vegetables Go Up?

A serious factor in the problem is that the price of vegetables, already high enough, may increase in

the Durban area if these small agriculturists are turned off their holdings.

It is computed by one of the correspondents quoted hereover that 75 per cent of the vegetables sold at the Indian market are derived from the Springfield Estate. What is more, it is stated that the Indian growers, if evicted, will have to resort to land five or six miles higher up the Umgeni River, where the land is less fertile and where a longer journey into town will be necessary, thus impairing the freshness of the supplies and, of course, adding to the price.

"At the present time," said one of the gardeners' European sympathisers to a *Natal Advertiser* representative, "you can buy vegetables from Springfield at the Indian market literally with the morning dew upon them. Matters will be very different if these poor folk have to travel a further distance of five or six miles in bringing their produce to market."

### Council Must Decide

The matter is one that the Council must decide after hearing all the evidence *pro* and *con*. It is pointed out, however, that a factor that will weigh heavily against the Indians is the natural reluctance of the Town Council to undertake the trouble and responsibility of collecting some hundreds of small rent payments from Indian gardeners when by leasing the land for sugar-raising purposes they would have only a single collection to worry about.

The whole question will be farther considered by the Council-in-Committee at its next meeting.

## Proposed East African Federation

### Personnel of the Commission

A Reuter's message from London states:—

In the House of Commons, Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, announced that the Commission which is to proceed to East Africa to deal with federation and other East African problems, will be constituted as follows:—Sir Hilton Young, (chairman), Sir Reginald Mant, Sir George Schuster, and Mr. J. H. Oldham.

In reply to a question by Colonel Wedgwood (Labour, Newcastle-on-Tyne), why the Opposition was not represented, Mr. Ormsby-Gore said it was not a political committee so much as an expert committee.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore stated that the East African Commission would leave England on December 22, and would travel to Uganda, via Trieste, Cairo, and Khartum. They would then proceed from Uganda to Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, and Northern Rhodesia, and would spend a few days at Salisbury, en route to Livingstone.

The Commission would return via Capetown.

### Mr. Andrews Criticises Personnel

Calcutta, Nov. 15.—The Rev. O. F. Andrews, interviewed by Reuter's representative in regard to the personnel of the newly-appointed East African Commission, expressed disappointment at India's representation on the Commission by a retired civil servant, who was, he said, without experience of the East African situation.

It was, he declared, part of the same fatal policy of excluding Indians which had stultified at the very outset the Simon Commission.

Mr. Andrews added that it was clear that a retrograde period had set in, and that the present Imperial Government was determined to treat India, not as an equal, but as a subordinate.

Sir Reginald Mant, he contended, had not made a serious study of the exceedingly difficult position of Indians in East Africa, and it was too late for him to be coached up by the India Office. He was not an Indian, who would instinctively feel where the Indian interests lay. On the other hand, Sir P. Thakurdas and the Aga Khan had been intimately acquainted for many years with every phase of the East African Indian question. He concluded that the only reason for these men being passed over was that Sir Reginald was British while they were of Indian birth.—(Reuter.)

## The Orient Club

### Opening Ceremony Performed by Mr. Sastri

The opening ceremony of the new premises of the Majmul Ahab Club, which is now known as the Orient Club situated at "Forest Hill," Isipingo, was performed by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri on Sunday Nov. 13 amidst a gathering of over two hundred Indians including a few Europeans.

The Majmul Ahab Club was originally established in 1922 in a small wood and iron building near the Riverside Hotel on the banks of Umgeni by a few enthusiastic merchants. It gradually grew under the able guidance of its chairman Mr. R. K. Khan and latterly the members of the Club have rendered very valuable service to the community. It was mainly due to their efforts that the Congress was able to send their delegation to India in connection with the Areas Reservation Bill and ever since they have shown public spirit which redounds very much to their credit. They have proved by their action the usefulness of a Club and now they have taken a further step with a view to increasing their members and activities by purchasing a magnificent building at "Forest Hill," Isipingo, to which is attached nearly 35 acres of land containing a beautiful garden, fruit trees and a tennis court. The building belonged to the late Mr. Baron Beaumont and is fitted up with modern equipments.

The new Club is the first of its kind in South Africa owned by Indians and well worth being proud of.

Sunday morning was occupied in performing religious rites to bless the Club by Moslem priests. Mr. Sastri who was accompanied by Messrs. Venu, Tyson and Rab was entertained to lunch and the opening ceremony was performed at 3 p.m. Mr. Sastri, in the course of his remarks, paid a high tribute to the members for the zeal they had shown in the past and wished the Club well in the future. Included amongst those present were Messrs. Ebrahim, M. E. Lakhi, E. M. Paruk, M. S. Randeree, Mahomed Ebrahim, J. W. Godfrey, Molvi Pateh Mahomed, Mr. G. W. Dick and others. All those present were served with tea, biscuits and ice cream.

There are at present twenty-two members of the Club. The Entrance fee of the Club is £10-10-0 and a monthly fee of £1-10-0. Country members have to pay only the entrance fee and 5s. whenever they are present.

Mr. Sastri has been made the honorary member of the Club.

With this issue we present our readers with photo supplement of the Orient Club.

## India Dissatisfied With The Statutory Commission

The announcement of the personnel of the Statutory Commission to inquire into the working of Indian reforms has evidently not received the unanimous support of India.

A message from Delhi states:—Colonel Gidney, the representative of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans in the Legislative Assembly, welcomed the Commission. He said that if the Commission were boycotted and Parliament therefore refused to proceed with it, Indians would have themselves to thank for retarding the hands of the reform clock.

On the other hand, Indian circles are profoundly disappointed at the absence of Indians on the Commission. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru declared that the Commission would not inspire nor command public support.

Sir Abdurrahim, a leading Muslim, said that a serious blunder had been committed. He hoped that the British Parliament would refuse to sanction the Commission unless Indians were adequately represented thereon.

The Calcutta newspaper, the *Statesman*, says that the announcement of the Commission was well timed and well conceived, and only the most malicious fate could rob the Commission of success.

Bengal Swarajists, however, have issued a manifesto appealing to Indians to boycott the Commission.

A later message from Bombay says that the Nationalist Press is vehemently protesting against the exclusion of Indians from the Commission, of which it urges a boycott.

The *Bombay Chronicle* declares that India's wounded heart has been lacerated, and describes the Commission as a Machiavellian device of arrogant Imperialists.

The *National Herald* says: "Let India spurn the unclean thing."

At New Delhi responsible party leaders are practically unanimous in condemning the procedure and personnel, but the question of a boycott is reserved for a conference. Sir Mahomed Shafi, President of the Punjab Muslim League, thinks that the exclusion of Indians is a grievous blunder, but attributes their exclusion to inter-communal hatred.

Mr. Sen Gupta, the Swarajist leader in Bengal has refused an invitation to meet the Governor, declaring that as the Government had made up its mind regarding the Statutory Commission, and had also rejected the demand by the National Congress for a round table conference, any suggestions he might make at present would be futile. Moreover, as the question of political prisoners in Bengal was not settled, Mr. Sen Gupta considered that discussion of constitutional questions would serve no useful purpose.—Reuter.

### All Parties Decide To Boycott Commission

A Reuter's message from Madras states:—

All parties of the Indian National Congress have adopted a manifesto in favour of the boycott of the Statutory Commission. The signatories include Mrs. Besant, Srinavasa Iyengar, President of the Congress, and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, the President of the Indian Liberal Federation. A message from Lahore, however, states that the Moslem Executive has resolved to co-operate with the Commission.

### A South African View

The *Natal Witness* in an editorial on the above Commission writes as follows:—

It is clear that in confining its selection of the personnel of the Statutory Commission on the working of the

Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms entirely to members of the two Houses of Parliament, the British Government has committed an error that may prove to have serious consequences if it is not corrected. Indian dissatisfaction with the Commission is widespread, and it does not rest alone on the fact that Indians are not directly represented. With the exception of Sir John Simon, there is no notable statesman amongst the Commissioners, and none of them possess any first-hand knowledge of India. The more responsible section of Indian opinion would undoubtedly have been better pleased, even if not entirely satisfied, had the membership been expanded into a body more representative of the Empire, including, for instance, men of the calibre of General Smuts. But even if the Commission had been so constituted, and in such a form had met with a lessened opposition in India, there would still have been good reason to criticise it.

For it is a generally accepted fact that no man can arrive at a useful understanding of India unless he has spent many years of close study in the country. Comprising, as it does, a diversity of nations which are in turn sub-divided and cut across by a bewildering complexity of castes, creeds, customs, beliefs, methods of government, and social observances, India cannot be summed up in the brief lifetime of a Royal Commission. If the Commissioners were the ultimate tribunal, by whose verdict the future was to be settled, they could be relied on to give a fair decision on the facts as they saw them. But they are not. Their duties are not those of a jury, but rather those of the attorneys for both sides. Their business is to collect and present the facts of the present situation in a scrupulously impartial manner, so that Parliament may be in a position finally to decide on the policy of the future. Knowing nothing of India, the Commission cannot know where to look for its facts, and often it will be at a loss to place the correct construction on those that it succeeds in obtaining. If, as seems probable, the sittings are to be largely boycotted by nationalist politicians, a great amount of relevant information will be withheld from it, and in straining after impartiality it will be certain to err on one side or the other, and consequently to mislead Parliament.

The British Government's anxiety to provide a strictly impartial Commission is understandable. Such serious differences of opinion exist on the working of the Reforms up to date that much will have to be done to reconcile the views of the opposing camps. But it is necessary for this purpose to know accurately what those views are, and for that, both knowledge of the country, and a general acceptance of the Commission by all sections is essential, and these two conditions can only be obtained by appointing a mixed Commission. True, it would not be impartial, but it would possess both knowledge and ability. Nor need it necessarily be unwieldy in size. There are distinguished Indian Moslems who have the confidence and respect of Hindus, just as there are prominent Hindus whose appointment would be acceptable to Moslems. There are numbers of able Civil Servants capable of presenting the British case, who are not unsympathetic, far less antagonistic, towards India and her peoples. It is not to be supposed that such a Commission would be unbiassed. Apart from any race feeling, everyone with a close knowledge of the government of any country must be biassed in favour of a particular form of administration. But it would be perfectly possible to choose a mixed Commission whose several views would be exhaustive, honest, and leavened with some recognition of the point of view of the other side. Such a choice would result in a minority report, or perhaps several, which would matter not at all. From a study of all the reports, Parliament would obtain a clearer picture of the present position in India than it could get in any other way. Based on an enquiry of this sort, its final decision would have a real chance of ushering in an era of peace and prosperity in India, which is most unlikely to be the case if the present Commission is not amended. It is not too much to hope that the Viceroy and the Secretary of State will realise the mistake that has been made, and that their counsels will prevail while there is yet time.

## The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[ BY M. K. GANDHI ]

Part III. Chapter XVIII.

A MONTH WITH GOKHALE—II

Whilst living under Gokhale's roof I was far from being a stay-at-home.

I had told my Christian friends in South Africa that in India I would meet the Christian Indians and acquaint myself with their condition. I had heard of Babu Kalicharan Bannerji and I had a high regard for him. He took a prominent part in the Congress, and I had about him none of the misgivings that I had about the average Christian Indian who stood aloof from the Congress and isolated himself from Hindus and Mussalmans. I told Gokhale that I was thinking of meeting him. He said: 'What is the good of your seeing him? He is a very good man, but I am afraid he will not satisfy you. I know him very well. However you will certainly meet him if you like.'

I sought an appointment which he readily gave me. When I went I found that his wife was on her death-bed. His house was simple. In the Congress I had seen him in a coat and trousers, but I was glad to find him now wearing a Bengal dhoti and shirt. I liked his simple way of life, though I myself then wore a Parsi coat and trousers. Without much ado I presented my difficulties to him. He asked: 'Do you believe in the doctrine of original sin?'

'I do,' said I.

'Well then, Hinduism offers no absolution therefrom, Christianity does,' and added: 'The wages of sin is death, and the Bible says that the only way of deliverance is surrender unto Jesus.'

I put forward the *Bhakti marga* (the path of devotion) of the Bhagavad Gita, but to no avail. I thanked him for his goodness. He failed to satisfy me but I benefited by the interview.

During these days I walked up and down the streets of Calcutta. I went to most places on foot. I met Justice Mitra and Sir Gurudas Bannerji, whose help I wanted in my work in South Africa. Just about time I meet Raja Sir Pyari Mohan Mukerji.

Kalicharan Bannerji had spoken to me about the Kali temple which I was eager to see, especially as I had read about it in books. So I went there one day. Justice Mitra's house was in the same locality, and so I went to the temple the same day that I visited him. On the way I saw a stream of sheep going to be sacrificed to Kali. There was a long line of beggars of course, and even in those days I was stoutly opposed to giving alms to sturdy beggars. A crowd of them pursued me. One of them accosted me: 'Whither are you going, my boy? I told him where I was going to.'

He asked my companion and me to sit down, which we did.

I asked him: 'Do you regard this sacrifice as religion?'

'Who would regard killing of animals as religion?'

'Then, why don't you preach against it?'

'That's not my business. Our business is to worship God.'

'But could you not find any other place to worship God?'

'All places are equally good for us. The people are like a flock of sheep following where you lead them.'

Without prolonging the discussion we reached the temple. We were greeted by rivers of blood. I could not bear to stand there. I was exasperated and restless. I have never forgotten that sight. That very evening I had an invitation to dinner at a dinner party of Bengali friends. There I spoke to a friend about this cruel form of worship. He said: 'The sheep don't feel pain. The noise and the firing having struck dead all feeling of pain.'

I could not swallow this, I told him that if the sheep had speech they would tell a different tale. I felt that the cruel custom ought to be stopped. I thought of the story of Buddha, but I also saw that the work was beyond my capacity.

I hold to-day the same opinion as I held then. To my mind the life of a lamb is no less precious than that of a human being. I should be unwilling to take the life of a lamb for the sake of the human body. I hold that the more helpless a creature the more it is entitled to protection by men from the cruelty of man. But a man who has not qualified himself for such service is unable to afford to it any protection. I must go through more self-purification and sacrifice before I can hope to save these lambs from this unholy sacrifice. To-day I think I must die pining for this self-purification and sacrifice. It is my constant prayer that there may be born on earth some great spirit, man or woman, fired with divine pity to deliver us from this heinous sin and save the lives of the innocent creatures, and purify the temple. How is it that Bengal with all its knowledge, intelligence, sacrifice, and emotion tolerates this slaughter?

## India at the Labour Party Conference

India occupied a prominent place at the proceedings of the Labour Party Conference at Blackpool which met in the middle of last month. The greater part of one afternoon was devoted to two resolutions dealing with the constitutional position and the political prisoners. Both resolutions were adopted unanimously.

Mr. George Lansbury, M.P., the new Chairman of the Labour Party, moved the following resolution on behalf of the Executive Committee:—

'The Conference re-affirms the right of the Indian peoples to full self-government and self-determination, and therefore, is of opinion that the policy of the British Government should be one of continuous co-operation with the Indian people, with the object of establishing India, at the earliest possible moment, as an equal partner with the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.'

The Conference declares that the Royal Commission to be appointed under the Government of India Act should be constituted, and its methods of doing its work so arranged, that it will enjoy the confidence and co-operation of the Indian people.'

He said that despite the distance which divided India from Britain it was the duty of British workers to take an active interest in Indian problems. In the first place, the British Government was still largely responsible for the administration of Indian affairs, and the British workers, in accordance with their belief in democracy and self-determination, must associate themselves vigorously with the Indian people in demanding self-government for India. The political enslavement of India was a humiliation both to the Indian people and to the British workers. The British people would be disgraced so long as they accepted the injustice which was done to the Indian people.

The Royal Commission which was to report on a New Constitution for India must be of such a nature that the Indian people could be expected to co-operate with it. They could not be expected to co-operate unless there was a strong representation of the Indian view.

Mr. Charles Rodd Buxton (L.P.), supporting the resolution, said that Labour should accept the

full consequences of the principle of self-determination as applied to India. They welcomed the frequently expressed view of representative Indians in favour of continued association with the British Commonwealth of Nations, but Labour should frankly recognise the right of India to full independence if it was demanded. The forthcoming Royal Commission ought to consist of Indians in at least half of its membership.

Mr. Fenner Brockway (I.L.P.) moved the following resolution:—

"The Conference re-affirms its declaration that, with a view to a new atmosphere for friendly discussion of the constitutional status of India, all coercive measures and repressive legislation should be withdrawn; it recognises that some steps have already been taken in the release of political prisoners, especially in Bengal, and that the results have admittedly justified action; the Conference, however, urges the Government to use its authority in favour of the immediate release or trial of all those persons now in prison, or detained without trial, who were convicted by Martial Law or Special Tribunals."

He said that in January last, Sir Alexander Muddiman, the Home Member in the Indian Government, had stated that there were 961 political prisoners in Indian jails. His definition of "political prisoners" was narrow, and it was safe to assert that there were now considerably more than 1000 political prisoners in India. He cited three examples of political prisoners. During the war in the Punjab, special tribunals tried political prisoners in batches of 80 and 100. Among those sentenced to death were boys of 21, 18, and 15. Among those imprisoned for life were 11 boys under 30 years of age including two under 15. Forty of these prisoners were still in jail. It was monstrous that twelve years after the war, they should still be denied liberty. Mr. Brockway also made a special appeal for Indians in Europe who were exiled for war-time activities.

The second class of political prisoners were those arrested at the time of the Amritsar Massacre when Martial Law was declared. Eighty Indians sentenced at this time were in jail after 8 years.

The third class were prisoners arrested and imprisoned under the Bengal Ordinance without charge or trial. For these the Labour Party had a special responsibility as the Ordinance was promulgated during the period of Labour in office. Thirty of those prisoners had recently been released without any bad results, but forty remained in prison.

It was of little use to appeal to the Conservative Government on the grounds of justice or humanity. They had shown in their treatment of the British workers that they had neither. And they were not likely to reveal those qualities in the case of Indians thousand miles away. But they might appeal on the ground of expediency. It was impossible for the small white minority permanently to keep 300 million Indians in subjection, and if a New Constitution was to be acceptable to India a new psychology must be created in India. No single Act could help to secure that more effectively than the repeal of all repressive laws and the release of all political prisoners.

To the Labour Party, however, they appealed on the grounds of humanity and justice as well as of expediency. They would look to the next Labour Government to make one of its first acts the withdrawal of all repressive legislation and the opening of the prison doors.

The Labour Party was instructed by the Blackpool Conference to prepare a programme for the next election, and it is hoped that the demands in

these resolutions will occupy a prominent place in it. It is interesting to note that Mr. Fenner Brockway will be visiting India in December and that the National Council of the I.L.P. has asked him to act as fraternal delegate to the Indian National Congress and similar bodies.

## Late Mr. M. Maiter

The deepest sympathy of the entire Mahomedan community in Natal will go out to the bereaved relatives of the late Mr. Maiter of Verulam who passed away at 3 a.m. on Saturday the 12th instant at his residence, after a short illness.

Deceased was a well known merchant and was highly respected by both Europeans and Indians.

The funeral was largely attended by all sections of the community and prior to the interment the "Janaza Namaz" was conducted by Moullana Moulvi Abdool Vadood Saheb, Imam of the Verulam Mosque. As a mark of respect to the deceased gentleman all the business houses of Verulam were closed for the day.

## South African Indian Congress

### PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The Eighth Session of the South African Indian Congress will be held at Kimberley on the 30th and 31st December 1927 and 1st and 2nd January 1928.

A. I. KAJEE,

HON. GEN. SECRETARY.

સાહિત્ય આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસ

પ્રારંભિક નોટીસ

સાહિત્ય આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસની આઠમી વાર્ષિક બેઠક તા. ૩૦ અને ૩૧ ડિસેમ્બર ૧૯૨૭ અને તા. ૧લી અને ૨જી જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૮ ના રોજ કીમ્બર્લીમાં થશે.

કાર્યક્રમ હવે પછી જાહેર થશે.

એ. આઈ. કાજી,

એન. જનરલ સેક્રટરી.

FOR SALE

Cow Peas 27s. Jugg Beans 34s.

Red Mixed Kaffir Corn 21s.

Mealies White 2s 11s. 6d.

On rail O.W.O. Reduction for quantities.

I. M. MATHIR,

Newcastle.

એ. આર. પરેલ

ફરેસ એન્ડ વેલ્ટરબલ ફાર્મર.

ફરેસ બાતની સુકુબાઇ, લીપ્પ, ડેરબી (બાતના બાગીચા), અને ફરેસબાદી બાગીચા સુકુબાઇ પાસે છે.

જીરમના જોડારો પર પુસ્તક બ્યાન આપવામાં આવશે.

બધો:

Telephone 11

P. O. Box 1,  
Warmbaths, T'vaal.