

# Indian Opinion

No. 3—Vol. XXVI.

Friday, January 20th, 1928

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ब्रिटिश इन्डिया

स्टिम नेवगेशन कु.

वोस होवसभां मुंयर्ष पहोंयाइनारा

स्टिमरे

स्टी. "अंडाला"

जान्युवारी ता. ३०मीमे मुंयर्ष जवा उपलब्धे.

टीकटना आवे

सेकंड क्लास: पाई २४-०-०

धन्टर: पा. १५-०-०

डेक पा. ८-०-०

मुसळमानी वीथी इ. ४० ना हीसाजथी अने स्पेसी-  
बलना इ. १०० ना हीसाजथी बेवामा आवरो. इंडु वीथी  
इ. ३५ ना हीसाजथी अने स्पेसीबलना इ. ७५ ना हीसाजथी  
बेवामा आवरो

जुयना—उताइमोचे पोताना मोटा हागीना कनीवार ११  
वाच्या अगाडि कस्टमभां पहोंयतां करवा.

सेकंड अने धन्टर माटे जोक भडिना अमाडथी अ'होपस्त करवे.

इरेक हीडी पेसीन्जरे पोतानी टीकट अमारी जोशीसभांथी  
बेवी अने लहार भाभवाणा लाडजोचे अमारी साथे पत्र-  
पहार करवाथी पक्ष बर्ष बडरो. स्टीमरने बमतु इरेक काम-  
ज अमारी जती देभरेभ नीचे बाय छे.

वधु प्रवास माटे बपो वा भवे:—

शेअल हीमेड जेन्ड सन्स,

Tel. Add. ३७० पाइन स्ट्रीट, डरबन.  
"Karamat Durban"

अडवाडीक पंचांग

वार	धीरती	हीडु	मुसळमान	पारसी	सुर्योदय	सुयस्ति
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बुध	२१	" १४	२७	१५	५-१७	६-५८
बुध	२२	" ३०	२८	१६	५-१८	६-५७
शुक्र	२३	सुदि १	२९	१७	५-१८	६-५७
शुक्र	२४	" २	३०	१८	५-१९	६-५७
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कडरो.

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रेडीनेल ३५१६.

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डेकस एपर प्रभावे

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નહિ કરો

જો તમારાં બાળકથી પહેલેન વર્ષે બોલી શકાતું હોત તો તેના બોગક વિશે તે કેટલું કહી શકત!

તમે પ્રમાણીકપણે તેને ખાત્રી કરાવી શકશે કે તેને સારામાં સારો બોગક મળતો હતો અને તમે કેવળ "અખતરો" નહોતા કરતા?

"લેક્ટોજન" શુદ્ધ માથનું દુધ છે કે જને સુકવી એવું બનાવવામાં આવ્યું છે કે જ્યાં તેમાં માતાના દુધના સઘળા ગુણો આવી બધ અને તેટલીજ સહેલાઈથી પાચન થઈ શકે.

તમારાં બાળકને

# લેક્ટોજન

કેરતી દુધનો બોગક આપે.

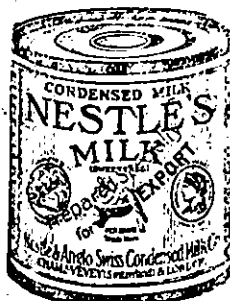
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COMBINED IN : :  
NESTLE'S : :  
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જો નેસ્ટલેસ દુધનો તમે ઉપયોગ કરશો તો ખાત્રી પૂર્વક તમને ચોકખું દુધજ મળશે.

# નેસ્ટલેસ દુધ

ચોકખું દુધ અને ચોકખું ખાંડજ નેસ્ટલેસ દુધમાં આવે છે.

આ દુધ સુંદર મસાઇ વાળું છે અને તે દરેક સંજોગોમાં વાપરી શકાય છે.

# Indian Opinion

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Friday, January 20th, 1928.

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## THE EUROPEAN PRESS ON THE PROPOSED LIQUOR BILL

THE *Natal Mercury* in a leading article writes :—  
There is a very general anticipation that during the early part of the now rapidly approaching Parliamentary Session the attention of the House of Assembly will be devoted to the remaining stages of the Liquor Bill. Of the many controversial clauses of the Bill few need more careful consideration than that which restricts the employment of Natives and Asiatics on licensed premises or in connection with the liquor industry generally. There probably will be fairly general agreement that there should be some restriction. It is obviously undesirable that a Native, the consumption of liquor by whom is totally prohibited, should be employed in any capacity in a bar; it is almost equally undesirable that an Indian, who is only permitted to have liquor under certain restrictions, should be employed as a barman. But the restrictions on the employment of Indians and Natives go much further. If Section 104 is adopted as it is at present framed, Natives and Indians will cease to be eligible for any employment in any part of licensed premises in all Provinces save Natal twelve months after the Bill becomes law, the only exception being that Natives may be employed in cleansing the premises. In Natal, however, Asiatics may continue to be employed, save in the bar, if the local Licensing Board approves; but in that event the licensee pays double the ordinary licence fee. In other words, the hotel proprietor in Natal will be permitted to continue to employ Indians on his premises for an annual fee of £150, payable in advance. The result, of course, will be that the larger establishments, employing a considerable staff of Indian waiters, will probably pay the fee and continue them in their service; but the small man, to whom the additional fee is prohibitive, will be compelled to dismiss the few who now assist him.

This is almost as unjust to the employer as to the employee. No valid reason can be advanced why, merely because premises are licensed for the sale of liquor, Natives may not be employed in the kitchen to peel potatoes and wash up dishes, or Indians may not wait at table. They are employed in these and similar capacities over a great part of the country, and the fact that they are employed upon premises occupied by a person who holds a liquor licence should not make the slightest difference, provided, of course, they are not employed in the sale or handling of liquor. It is also difficult to justify the prohibition on the ground that it will provide further suitable openings for the employment of Europeans. Hitherto there has been little inclination on the part of Europeans to undertake the duties now carried out by Indians or Natives, and there has certainly been no demand that waiting and bottle-washing shall be regarded as exclusively White occupations. The Englishman—and, for the matter of that, the Dutch Afrikaner—has never shown much inclination to undertake the occupation of waiter. Under all the circumstances the mere convenience of the community, if there is no other reason, should make it undesirable that Parliament should virtually ban the employment of Indians in

an occupation for which apparently they are particularly adapted.

But there is a far more important reason why the proposed prohibition should not be applied to Indians. This particular section of the Bill was framed when Dr. Malan was preparing the Areas Reservation Bill, when tempers were running high, and it was the avowed policy of the Government to endeavour to discover means by which the Indian population in South Africa could be reduced. Since that date a great change of feeling has taken place. The Union and Indian Governments have negotiated a Gentleman's Agreement; a system of voluntary emigration for Indians has been set up; and the Union has agreed to take steps to bring about the uplifting of the sections of the Indian population which remain in South Africa. Apart from the expediency of the restriction of the Bill, it is altogether out of keeping with the the sentiment and policy expressed in the Agreement. Certain Indians who have constituted themselves critics of the Agreement have opposed the system of assisted emigration on the ground that such emigration would not be voluntary, as it was professed to be, but that such pressure would be brought to bear on certain classes of Indians that they virtually would be compelled to emigrate. That criticism was not justified at the time it was made, but if this section is approved by Parliament there will be substantial ground for it, as the Act will deprive of their vocation a very large proportion of the 3,000 Indians now employed on licensed premises and thus give legal sanction to a most effective form of economic pressure upon the Indian population. Many of those who are so dispossessed of work will probably find it impossible to obtain other employment, and, as a consequence, will feel compelled to take advantage of the scheme of assisted emigration. If this occurs it cannot but lead to the allegation being made both in South Africa and India that the Union Government is not honouring the Agreement. The Union Government rightly attaches very great importance to the Agreement. It would be not merely a lack of statesmanship upon its part but an exhibition of criminal folly if it were to continue its endeavours to force legislation through the House the enactment of which would have the effect of wrecking the one diplomatic success it has achieved during its term of office.

### “Natal Advertiser”

In the course of a leading article the *Natal Advertiser* writes :—

In a few days from now Parliament will have re-assembled and the country be once more plunged into all the vexatious disputes that wait upon that happening. One of the earliest measures the Assembly is to be called on to deal with is Mr. Tielman Roos' Liquor Bill, and around this a fight is to be waged that will find the House dividing from time to time on quite non-Party lines.

(Continued on page 19)

## ANOTHER YEAR PASSES

WE appreciate the courtesy of the Joint Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress in permitting us to peruse in advance their Annual Report to be presented at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday. The report is a comprehensive one and covers a wide ground. The last Annual Meeting was held in October 1926 and within the fifteen months that have passed by, the Congress has been concerned on a multitude of matters affecting the community. That the South African Indian Congress met in Conference on three different occasions within this period is evidence of the tremendous amount of work that has been carried on.

Foremost amongst the huge programme of work that the Natal Indian Congress was confronted with, was that connected with the Round Table Conference. The activities of the Conference centred mostly in Natal. The collection of the necessary data naturally fell upon the Natal Indian Congress. The Conference is now a chapter in history but the community is deeply indebted to the officials of the Natal Indian Congress for their services at the Conference. For the Government of India Delegation would have found it difficult to negotiate with the members of the Union Government Cabinet without the help of the Natal Indian Congress. In thus stating we are not unmindful of the services rendered by the Paddison Deputation. The Agreement reached at the Conference is now in operation and we have every hope, judging from the manner in which it had been received throughout South Africa, that the community will give it a fair trial. The Union Government has made a serious blunder in its introduction of Section 104 of the Liquor Bill, which is not in keeping with the spirit and letter of the Agreement but we have every reason to believe that when Parliament meets, wiser counsels will prevail. It is a happy augury that in this connection the European Press in South Africa have taken a bold stand against the inclusion of this section of the Liquor Bill. Elsewhere in this issue we have published the views of the leading European Press of this country.

The most interesting part of the Secretaries' Report is that dealing with Indian Education. Indian education in Natal has been neglected to an astonishing degree. The first matter to be dealt with under the uplift-

ment clause in the Capetown Agreement is education. The burden of enquiry into the condition of Indian education in this Province fell upon the Natal Provincial Council - a body that has been antagonistic to the Agreement. The Report pays a glowing tribute to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P. C., whose winning personality, coupled with his remarkable statesmanship, was the main factor in the Provincial Council appointing the Education Commission. We have amidst us two Educational Experts from India, Mr. Kailas P. Kichlu and Miss Gordon, who will assist the Commission. Here again considerable data is to be collected by the Natal Indian Congress to enable the two experts to be thoroughly acquainted with the conditions prevailing in Natal. The present officials, we learn, have drawn up a programme whereby the experts will be able to get in touch not only with the Indian teachers throughout the Province but also with members of the Indian community connected with education. We hope that the officials that will be elected on Sunday will carry out the programme to its entirety, for, the crux of the Indian question in South Africa centres on education.

Two important subsidiary bodies to the Natal Indian Congress have been formed during this important and interesting period. These are the Indian Social Service Committee and the Indian Child Welfare Society. Both these bodies, as the Secretaries very aptly describe, have been the result of the lectures delivered by Mr. Sastri. These two bodies are vying with each other in their services to the community.

There are several other important matters which the Report deals with. On the whole the period has been a very strenuous one for the officials. That they have been able to carry out successfully the various work entrusted to them is a testimony to their zeal and energy.

Whilst congratulating the retiring officials on their very able stewardship, we would utter a word of warning to the Indian Community. The Indian question is by no means settled. Considerable tact is required to push forward the work that is ahead of us. And it therefore rests with the community to place the best in us at the helm of affairs.

In our next issue we shall publish the Secretaries' report.

(Continued from front page)

The provisions of the Bill are well enough known by now. There is however one part of the measure which we consider so monstrously unfair and so wholly unnecessary that it can only become law by the sheer partisan weight of men who are putting class and sectional interests before those of justice and straight dealing. This is the notorious clause 104, which purports to drive the Asiatic out of all hotel and other licensed premises employment, the idea being, we suppose, to supplant him with Europeans.

This proposal, we say, is monstrously unfair, and can only be inspired by some absurd doctrinaire hope that, at a stroke of the pen, employment is going to be found for three thousand white men while an equal number of Indians are thrown on the streets. It is not suggested for a moment that the Indian is not a fit person to wait at table, serve in a bar or cook in a hotel kitchen. No one claims he is other than extremely competent in these directions, having a distinct flair for work of this kind. His honesty is neither greater nor less than that of other men who make their living in the liquor trade. His sobriety is probably a little more pronounced than that of a great many Europeans who have unrestricted access to alcohol at all times of the day. It may be true that the white fanatic groans when he sees an Indian doing work that is not so menial as washing clothes, hawking fruit or cutting cane. But he cannot say that the Indian in the hotel, the bar and the kitchen is there in virtue of anything else so much as his peculiar aptitude for the work he is doing. He is paid much the same wages as the whiteman doing kindred toil; and he does it better. He is not being boycotted under the Bill for any of his vices save his colour. He is being turned out of employment simply in order to make way for whites, though it is extremely doubtful if there are whites in South Africa capable of replacing him.

It is not a proposal that has anything to do with temperance. It certainly does not pretend to promote efficiency in bar or kitchen. It begins and ends with being a deliberate and calculated attempt to drive the Colour Bar principle home in just the same unabashed way it has been driven home on the mines of the Transvaal. It persecutes a class—a class largely South African born—merely because that class is brown and not white. And it does it at the very moment when, with pious sentiments of goodwill on their lips, the Ministers of a British Government had entered into a gentleman's agreement at Capetown on the whole Asiatic question in South Africa.

We know the defence that will be put up for this measure. Labourites will get very wroth, splutter at the mouth and rave about finding more employment for their white brothers. We care as much about our white brothers as even do the Creswells, the Madeleys and the Boydells of the Red Flag battalions. But it seems a sorry way to put the world to rights when you can only give to the white by stealing from the brown. Why stop at debarring the Asiatic from hotel employment? Why not decree that no Indian shall work more than four hours a day, shall receive less than a pound a day, or be in possession of more than ten pounds altogether? We do say in all earnestness that the proposals in this Liquor Bill are infamous, are tyrannical, are palpably of a persecutive kind, and are the negation of the most elementary sense of British fairplay. If the Government can put its hand to the Capetown Agreement and then, less than a year after, sanction the introduction of proposals of this kind it no longer merits the regard of fairminded men. Whether we like brown men or not in South Africa; whether we want to see our whites find

more employment or not; it is a thing unheard-of and a travesty of all that is fair and honourable to legislate employment out of the keeping of one class of people in order to give it to another class. It is the sin of David all over again on a large scale; and it is a double grief to us to think that a so-called British Labour Party has any part or lot in it.

### "Natal Witness"

The *Natal Witness* in a leading article headed 'Our Autocratic Democrats' severely commenting on the policy of the Union Government with regard to the non-European population writes:—

Modern democracy claims to pursue as its aim the greatest happiness of the greatest number; and, consistently with this, to watch over and safeguard the interests of all sections of its population. In all truly democratic countries such phrases as 'class legislation,' or 'a rich man's Budget' are hurled and rebuffed as epithets of reproach, and legislation is commonly defended by its authors as being in the interests of the nation as a whole. With her British and Dutch traditions South Africa claims to be a democratic country. We have referred to policies which are avowedly sectional before in these columns to the recent Ordinance of the Transvaal Provincial Council whereby natives are restricted from driving motor vehicles in which Europeans are travelling, though they may continue to drive natives and coloured persons. We have also referred to the policy now being pursued on the railways of replacing native and Indian labour, a change involving the taxpayer in a vast additional expenditure for no appreciable gain in efficiency. The object in view in both cases is the substitution of white labour for non-European labour—the reduction of unemployment among the poor white population at the expense of the non-European elements of the population. That is an amazing policy for a civilised Government to pursue; yet the Government of South Africa has adopted it without a qualm, and proposes to give further effect to it in the Liquor Bill which will shortly be before Parliament for a second reading.

Section 104 of the Liquor Bill debar natives and Asiatics from employment in any licensed premises—hotels, clubs, breweries and the like. The Asiatic is to be eliminated altogether from all licensed premises within one year in the Cape Province and in the Transvaal; in Natal within the period during which each man continuously employed throughout 1927 remains in the same employment. And even this concession to Natal is subject to stringent conditions and the payment of a doubled licence fee.

We have heard no complaint against the Indian waiters and cooks who are thus, without compensation, to be deprived of their means of livelihood. They are efficient, experienced and polite, and they do not get drunk. If the complaint is that they accept low wages, why cannot the wage be fixed by the Wages Board and the best man be allowed to get the post? The real object of the section is to make posts for "poor whites"; to dislodge one set of contented and efficient workers in order to force upon reluctant employers and, we believe, a reluctant public, another set, unwanted and unwanted.

We pass over the fact that such a measure ill accords with the spirit and letter of the Agreement concluded by the Government of the Union with the Government of India in Capetown a year ago. We pass over the fact that the small hotel proprietor will be quite unable to pay for the luxury of employing white waiters, and that where such waiters are employed the extra cost will be passed on to the public. We prefer to base our criticism on the broad ground that it is unjust to turn one set of men out of employment in order to make room for another set of men who differ from the first only

in their colour and in the possession of the franchise. If these are the first fruits of our new status, the non-European is hardly likely to welcome the change or to look forward with any confidence to his future under the Dominion Parliament. It is time that statesmen and politicians in South Africa began to have a just appreciation of their duties.

### The "Rand Daily Mail"

Commenting on the Indian agitation against clause 104 of the Liquor Bill, the *Rand Daily Mail* considers the clause to be a breach of the upliftment clause of the Capetown Agreement, and says that it establishes another Colour Bar against the Indians and closes the occupation of waiting on licensed premises against the Indian community.

"Not unnaturally," the paper proceeds, "Indians feel very strongly upon the matter, and at their recent Congress expressed resentment by lodging an emphatic protest against the clause on the ground that it seeks to deprive thousands of them of an honest livelihood. Where they are employed in South African hotels, Indians perform their duties with admitted efficiency and without the slightest disadvantage to the European community. Moreover, Indians have accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work, notwithstanding the attendant risk of unemployment, and this should be sufficient protection for the Whites who desire to usurp their places on licensed premises.

"In any case," says the paper, "there is no justification for closing against the Indians a calling which they have long followed with credit. It is a curious kind of uplift that is founded on the infliction of a permanent hardship. Indians have the right to ask that Mr. Tielman Roos shall drop the obnoxious clause of this Bill. It would be an act of wisdom if he consented to do so."

### The "Star"

The *Star*, in a leading article, hopes that the Government will drop Clause 104 from the Bill. The paper says that, in principle, such legislation is unsound, and in practice likely to do much more harm than good. It asks what justification there is for "this harsh and wholesale discrimination," and comments upon the absence of complaints against Indians employed on licensed premises.

"The real motive behind the proposal," the *Star* continues, "is, otherwise, a laudable desire to find fresh openings for Europeans. We doubt whether this particular field of labour will ever be monopolised by White South Africans, or whether they are suitable for it, except within certain limited spheres which already exist and are recognised. But even if the case were far otherwise, we could never see the justice of excluding men of a certain race and colour from a calling which they have long exercised, in order to provide employment for another section of the community. If, as we assume, the Labour Party is mainly responsible for the clause, we are unable to follow their line of argument, whether economic or ethical. We could understand the Labour Party here, as elsewhere, insisting on a standard of wages payable to all men engaged in the same class of work; indeed, the principle has already been applicable, and representatives of the Indian community have accepted it, in spite of the risks of unemployment, but arbitrarily to exclude any particular body of men from employment, on the grounds of race alone, would be an obvious, and in this instance, a particularly flagrant, violation of democratic principles, upon which the Labour Government is supposed to be founded."

Finally, the paper urges that the clause in the Bill is against the spirit, and inconsistent with, the Capetown Agreement.

## The Liquor Bill

### Important Modifications Unlikely

Although some time has yet to elapse before the Tielman Roos Liquor Bill comes before Parliament, the "Sunday Times" says that it has good reason for predicting that the measure as it appeared in its draft form will go forward.

Judging by the information available as the result of correspondence between the Minister of Justice and certain interested parties, it is extremely unlikely that there will be any modification in respect of the principal provisions embodied in the Bill, though it is possible that changes of a minor character may be made.

It is an interesting and significant fact that the majority of hotelkeepers believe that the proposed measure will operate to the benefit of the country. It is known that the Minister has paid patient attention to their views on the subject, not the least important point having relation to the question of the security of tenure.

### Indian Deputation to Mr. Sastri

Representatives of the Maritzburg branch of the Natal Employees' Union waited on Mr. Sastri on Tuesday afternoon. A statement submitted by the Union showed the effect of Clause 104 of the amended Liquor Bill on the livelihood of Indians employed in the liquor trade.

It was pointed out that the Bill, in its ramifications, was worse than the Asiatic Bill, for it tended to rob the Indians of a legitimate means of earning a living and the right to contract services.

The Bill, it was submitted, was a deadly weapon which, besides creating further unemployment, would throw into poverty thousands of men, with their families and children.

The provisions of the Bill particularly affecting Indians were against the spirit of the Capetown agreement, which by promises and implication guaranteed to the Indian community full opportunity towards their progressive development as part of the permanent population resident in the Union, and their gradual upliftment towards attaining a Western standard of life, and was, in their opinion, a serious breach of both the letter and spirit of the agreement.

### British Justice

It was contended by the Union that it was a negation of British justice to deprive Indians of employment in lawful trades and to make their employment in such trade a crime.

They urged Mr. Sastri to make representations of their views to the Government, and consider that they had done nothing to merit this uncharitable act on the part of the Government.

Mr. Sastri, in the course of his reply, said that he had done all things which could possibly be done in the matter. He was not altogether without hope. The Prime Minister of the Union, General Hertzog, assured them at Lydenburg in his first public utterance on the Indian settlement that the Government would do what was right and fair. The Liquor Bill was opposed to what was right and fair.

Mr. Sastri said he was entitled to interpret General Hertzog's statement to mean that nothing in the Bill against these principles would be passed.

Mr. Sastri, in conclusion, assured the Union of his support against the measure. ✓

## Premier and the Indian

Lydenburg gave the Prime Minister and Mr. Piet Grobler a magnificent reception. The village was gaily decorated and a large arch of welcome had been erected at the show ground, where a bazaar was opened by Mr. Piet Grobler.

On arrival at the show ground various addresses were presented to General Hertzog. Replying to these and touching on the Indian question, the Prime Minister said it was not for him to say that the Indians further complicated the colour question, and it was often felt that South Africa would have been happier if the Indians were not present. He was convinced, however, that if the Indians concentrated more on following the ethical and moral standards of the Europeans in business and other matters the relations between them and the Europeans would be greatly eased.

The Indians represented a very high civilisation, and there was no reason why the representatives of the race in this country could not develop to the highest standard, both morally and ethically, of their millions of compatriots in India. The Government had undertaken to help those Indians who chose to remain in this country to attain not only the highest degree of European civilization but also to develop as far as possible on their own lines. The Government would do what was right and fair, but the Indians were expected to do their share.

## Annual Report of the Hon. General Secretary of the S.A.I.C.

Mr. Deputy-President and Gentlemen,—

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report covering the workings of your Congress for the last nine months since the Annual Session (seventh) held at Johannesburg on the 12th, 13th and 14th March. The period under review was needless for me to say, one of the most important and momentous in the history of our community in South Africa. Attitude, outlook and a change of heart had come about and the initial stages of the Capetown Agreement was in process, and therefore this report if found wanting in any respect whatsoever, it must be pardoned on the score of the unparalleled time we have passed through.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The resolutions of condolences passed were conveyed to the proper quarters and replies have been received from the Japanese Consul and from the families of the late Swami Shradanand and Mr. S. Emanmally, our late Treasurer.

The resolutions referring to the conclusions of the Round Table Conference were conveyed both to the Government of the Union and to the Government of India and reference was made to them by Dr. Malan in the House when the Immigration and Indian Relief (Further Provision) Bill was before Parliament.

### THE RT. HON. V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI

Undoubtedly the most important event that has taken place during the period under purview was the arrival of the Rt. Hon. Mr. V. S. S. Sastri. In the first place the Congress ought to congratulate itself that its request and prayer as per its resolution No. 11 of the last Annual Conference held at Johannesburg has been granted by the Government of India in appointing Mr. Sastri as the first Agent to South Africa and our grateful thanks are due to Mr. Sastri for his great sacrifices when in ill-health, in responding to our call from Congress and accepting the appointment as Agent to South Africa.

July 1927. Your officials proceeded from headquarters to meet and welcome Mr. Sastri. Your officials took part in the welcome meeting organised by the Pretoria Indians. After a short stay Mr. Sastri came down to Natal when our constituent body the Natal Indian Congress gave him a reception and arranged a series of meetings in the country districts. Ever since his arrival Mr. Sastri has been our friend, guide and philosopher, he has been and is one of us, his sagacious advice has always been available and has been fully availed of by your officials. It is needless for me to narrate here what a wonderful change his winning personality and sweet and eloquent pleading of our cause has brought about. He and his secretaries have remained in the closest touch with our affairs. His intercession with the Government has been of great value to us, in fact it is to him we owe the postponement that the Government allowed before operating Section 5 of the Act. Our everlasting gratitude and thanks are due to him and I am sure Congress will take due recognition of his sacrifices and services to us. While we are grateful to Mr. Sastri we are not unmindful of the sacrifices of Mr. K. Rao, his private secretary, better tribute could not be paid than to say that he has been and is a true and faithful servant of India in South Africa. At the same time we must express our thanks to Mr. J. D. Tyson, I.C.S., and Mr. Ricketts the secretary and assistant secretary respectively to Mr. Sastri, for their interest and regards for our affairs.

### IMMIGRATION AND INDIAN RELIEF (FURTHER PROVISION) BILL AND ASIATICS IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF NATAL BILL

In terms of Resolutions No. 5 and 6 passed by the Johannesburg Congress, an executive meeting was convened on the publication of the Bills implementing the Agreement at Durban in April last. At this meeting the Cape and Natal Provinces were represented. The Transvaal was not represented and this unfortunate absence led, as will be seen later, to considerable misunderstanding and feelings being incited by interested persons and to steps being taken which has done incalculable harm to the community.

In terms of these resolution and as decided by the Executive Mr. Andrews, Mr. V. S. C. Pather and I left for Capetown and were met by Mr. Ismail on behalf of the Cape and Mr. Camay on behalf of the Transvaal. Along with these gentlemen and with the assistance and advice of esteemed friends like Mr. Advocate Morris Alexander and Mr. Walter Snow, a Memo (Annexure No. 9) was prepared and submitted to the Hon. the Minister of Interior on the 24th April 1927 and a long interview took place when the memo was gone into point after point and it gives me great pleasure in saying that the Minister, his secretary Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Pring the Under-Secretary were courteous and considerate and kindness itself met us practically on all points, save on Section 5 as regard which the Minister gave the Rev. C. F. Andrews and us an assurance that he will grant administrative relief. This matter is still pending and it will be for this Congress to bring the matter to a finality. It may not be out of place to mention that at all the interviews and conversations all the representatives of Natal, Cape and Transvaal were present. Correspondence with the Department of Interior have been the result of our memo and interviews and on some points the matters are still the subject of correspondence. All the important letters are included in the annexures herewith (Annexure No. 11).

I would be failing in my duty if I did not state that since the holding of the Capetown Round Table Conference, the heads of the Department of the Interior have been approachable in a degree that has gone to avoid misunderstanding, to the effect of your officials in Pretoria was without holding any

possible for our calling on the Department of Interior and discussing matters informally which has facilitated our work and also to understand the viewpoint of the Government. Since Mr. H. Venn's appointment as the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs he also has shown every courtesy and consideration to any matters submitted to him. I am sure I have the delegates with me when I express that we are grateful to these gentlemen, namely, Messrs. Schmidt, Venn and Ping.

At the time when we were in Capetown, we took the opportunity of having an interview with the Hon. the Minister of Labour (Mr. T. Boydell) on the question of the Industrial Conciliation Act and the Wages Act as pertaining to the Indian community. We received from Mr. Boydell a very sympathetic hearing and he gave us to understand that the difficulties and hardships which we had pointed out to him would receive his earnest consideration. Among other points that we raised the most important were:

- (a) That it was a very gross hardship and injustice to operate the Industrial Conciliation Act on the Indians and then deny to them the voice in its operation which was the case with the Printing Industry as Indians have been refused membership by the Typographical Union;
- (b) That whenever in future any industry is sought to be brought under the operation of the Industrial Conciliation Act opportunity should be given to Indians to have a voice in the deliberation of the Conference of employers and employees, that the Minister convenes as a first step before the industry is brought under the Act;
- (c) That the Wages Board, should consult and as far as possible, invite Indian witnesses, before it during its enquiry in any trade or industry affecting the Indian community.

It is noteworthy that since this interview with the Minister and an interview that some members of the Wages Board had with the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri in Durban, the Registrar of the Board communicated to me as follows:—

"The Wage Board, directs me to thank the Executive of the South African Indian Congress for its representations, and to state that the Board will welcome any assistance which the Board may be able to give.

You will be duly notified as and when each investigation is undertaken by the Board, and will thus be in a position to know when any inquiry is likely to affect the interests of Indians. Any representations which the Congress may make in connection with any investigation, will receive the Board's very careful consideration and every opportunity will be afforded to representatives of the Congress of discussing matters with the Board.

The Board is not at present contemplating any inquiry into wages and conditions of shop assistants throughout the Union, but only of such workers on the Witwatersrand and in Pretoria. You will be notified when the Board commences this investigation.

(Sgd.) C. E. N. BELL, d/15/8/27.  
This gentleman has been supplying me with draft copies of the Board's recommendations in connection with the Tailoring, Tea and Coffee Packing, and Laundry industries, and he has asked me to ascertain and forward to him the viewpoint of the Indian employers and employees. These draft recommendations have been circularised to all the constituent bodies and to the branches thereof calling upon them to do the needful. It is sincerely hoped that all constituent bodies and their branches will actively cooperate with my successor in the various matters connected with the Wages Board as I am of the opinion that until we have organised Indian labour

trade unions, this work will have to be performed by the Congress and its constituent bodies and their branches.

#### THE SECESSION OF THE T. B. I. ASSOCIATION.

This matter has been so widely discussed and even reference has been made in the Presidential speech that I feel no good purpose will be served by my saying anything at length here, nevertheless I cannot but make some reference to it. In the first place I would like to draw the attention of all delegates to the letter received from the Transvaal British Indian Association and my reply to them which forms part of the Annexure Heredof (No. 5). I am not anxious to shift any blame that Congress may feel disposed to put on to me in this matter, but I must say that it must have become obvious to all; that the men who are still adamant and are holding to their view of disunion are doing so from purely personal and selfish reasons. The harm that these countrymen of ours, because of their disunion, are doing to our cause, is of such magnitude that it is likely to retard the progress we all look forward to. During the turbulent times that we have passed in the Transvaal, some members of our community like Messrs. Mangalbhaj Patel, A. A. Mirza, D. M. Narsoo and others at Pretoria stood steadfastly with your Congress. To them are due the thanks of our Congress for their faith and trust in us. While expressing my thanks to these gentlemen, I am not unmindful of the services rendered for the cause of reunion by Mr. Baroochi, Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Messrs. Suleman Desai, Thambi Naidoo, P. K. Desai, S. B. Medh, W. Ernest and a host of others, to them all I wish to express our grateful thanks.

REV. C. F. ANDREWS.

During the first few months of the period under review, your Executive had the honour and privilege of the assistance of the Rev. C. F. Andrews in its activities. He was present at all the Executive meetings held while he was in Durban and needless to say that his advice was of great value. The success of the interview with the Ministers of the Interior and Labour at Capetown was due to his efforts, assistance and advice. He never spared himself, the cause and the work attached to it was his one and only concern. His appeals to reconcile the secessionists in the Transvaal were many; the promises made to him by the Transvaal British Indian Association have also been broken. Again today we have a message from him to be united, so you will observe, his heart is still with us. For all this, the gratitude of your Congress is due to him.

MESSRS. PRAGJEE AND MEDH.

I feel it will not be out of place for me to mention that after a lengthy absence we have amidst us Messrs. Pragjee and Medh two very staunch passive resisters and lieutenants of Mahatmaji. It is a matter of regret that the Authorities thought fit to question the right of the entry of these gentlemen in South Africa; this matter is before the Court and therefore sub-judice; nevertheless for the information of delegates Annexure No. 13 which is a letter addressed to the Department of the Interior in their matter, will be of interest. Their case raises the question of educated entrants in the Transvaal which, I think, should form part of your deliberations this session.

VISIT OF THE METROPOLITAN OF INDIA  
DR. WESTCOTT.

His Lordship the Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Westcott paid a visit to South Africa during the months of September and October last, to study things as pertaining to the Indian community. His Lordship's interest in our affairs is well known, and to him our everlasting thanks are due for the stand he has taken from time to time. Meetings were arranged



by the constituent bodies at the various centres visited by His Lordship, and at Durban the members of your Executive had discussions with him. His Lordship at all the meetings arranged for him, took the opportunity of stating the Church standpoint and I am sure this must have done a great deal of good.

#### INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Your Executive felt that as an affiliated body of the Indian National Congress, it should be represented at the Madras session. In pursuance of this policy, it cabled and appointed your President Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the Rev. C. F. Andrews and Mr. Ragoonath Singh of Ladysmith, as your delegates to the Indian National Congress. I have at the time of confirming these appointments written a letter to the Secretaries of the Congress which forms part of the Annexures hereof (No. 19).

#### NON-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

This Conference was held at Kimberley on the 23rd June 1927, and your Congress as the recognised voice of the Indian community of South Africa was invited by the convenor Dr. Abdurahman to participate. Your Executive, in the absence of any policy laid down by Congress, decided to send delegates with restricted powers. The report of these delegates is attached hereto (Annexure No. 17). The second session of the Non-European Conference is to be held in Durban and at that Conference, the constitution and policy will be discussed. In view of all these circumstances this item has been included on the Agenda.

#### MAHATMA GANDHI AND OUR PRESIDENT MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU

Both Mahatmaji and Sarojini Devi have been kept in touch with our Congress by regular correspondence. In fact, no mail is without something being received or despatched to and from them.

Our President Mrs. Naidu is, truly a tower of strength to us in India. At her Hotel every South African is welcome and above all, it was only fitting that she along with Rev. C. F. Andrews and Mr. Ragoonath Singh, shall represent us at the Madras National Indian Congress. I trust that Congress will again take cognisance of their love for us by expressing its sense of gratitude.

#### IMPERIAL INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ASSOCIATION AND THE INDIANS OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION

These Associations also, deserve our thanks for their interest in our affairs.

#### CORRESPONDENCE, TELEGRAMS AND CABLEGRAMS

The number of letters written and received has been larger than ever, in fact, some three hundred telegrams, seventy cablegrams and over six hundred letters have been sent during the past nine months. All this will go to show the vast amount of work involved. All the files of correspondence which include the wires with receipts attached to each, with the Government Departments, Overseas bodies, and the constituent bodies, are all placed on the table for information of delegates.

#### CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS

This is one of the items on the agenda and, I am of the opinion that while it is under discussion it should be borne in mind that the Constitution of the constituent bodies should also be brought in line with the parent body's Constitution.

#### FINANCE

I need make no remarks as the Joint Honorary Treasurers are putting up a Report with their financial statement (Annexure No. 4).

#### STATISTICS

A series of information and statistics collected by the Department of Census and issued by it in a

special form at the time of the Round Table Conference has been made available to your Congress, and I have much pleasure in submitting it as one of the annexures hereof (No. 23). I am sure it will be of immense use to all the delegates in their deliberations; your thanks are due to the Census Department for the courtesy shown by it at all times to your officials.

It was the intention of Mr. V. S. C. Pather and myself to prepare a digest of all the laws applying to Indians and attach to this report, but this has not been possible on account of the cost involved in getting the required law books. However a note on the Licensing question is attached herewith which I trust will be of some use (Annexure No. 15).

#### THANKS

Your Executive has the honour to again record its sincere thanks to Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Gool for their kind hospitality to the Rev. C. F. Andrews and to the members of your Executive on the various occasions of their visits to Capetown and to Mr. S. J. Randieria for his valuable services rendered as Auditor to your Congress.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my personal thanks to all those that helped me by their advice and assistance in my work as Secretary to your Congress for the past twenty-five months. I fully realise that were it not for the assistance of these gentlemen among whom I would particularly like to mention, our Deputy-President, Advocate, J. W. Godfrey for his advice and guidance and to the Joint Honorary Treasurers Messrs. V. S. C. Pather and E. M. Ally who have been a tower of strength to me in my work, in fact Mr. Pather has performed his share in all my work, and to Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, P. R. Pather, V. Lawrence, A. Sookdeo and others and above all to the members of my staff particularly Messrs. A. Harry and J. Maganlal and also to the staff of Messrs. Pather & Co., for their ever-ready assistance and courtesy at all times.

To the "Indian Opinion" and the "Natal Witness" my grateful thanks are due for their publication of matters pertaining to the work of the Congress and especially to Mr. Manilal Gandhi and Mr. D. Brim-dow for their personal help and assistance.

Were it not been for all these friends who have rendered invaluable services in making my task as light as possible, it would not have been possible to achieve even the little I have been able to do.

In conclusion I wish to place on record my deep and sincere gratitude and thanks to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Sastri, the Rev. C. F. Andrews, Mr. P. K. Rao and to Mr. V. S. C. Pather for their goodwill co-operation and for their sagacious advice to me at all times.

I beg to remain,

Yours truly,

A. I. KAJEE.

The Hon. Secretary of the Hindu United Service League writes that on the 23rd to the 29th inst this League is organising a 7 days religious campaign, where songs and dialogues will be rendered by Tamil and Hindi scholars and prominent men, both from Durban and locally will address the audience. Religious, Educational and Social subjects will be tackled.

We learn that Mr. Albert Christopher, Barrister-at-law D.C.M. and Mrs. Christopher arrive at the Central Station Durban, on Saturday the 21st inst at 10 a.m. The Natal Indian Congress is according them a public reception the same evening at 7.30 p.m. at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street.

# ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક ૨૬ મું.

ફ્રીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૦ નવમ્બર ૧૯૨૮

અંક ૩

## નોંધ અને સમાચાર

દારૂના કાયદામાં ફેરફાર ન થાય

જોન. મી. ટીલમાન રૂસનું લીકર ખીલ પાલમેન્ટમાં આવે તેને માટે હજી થોડા દિવસો બાકી છે. 'સન્ડે ટાઇમ્સ' પત્ર જણાવે છે કે તેને એવું માનવાને કારણ છે કે ખીલ ને સ્વરૂપમાં બહાર પડ્યું છે તેજ સ્વરૂપમાં પસાર થશે. જે પક્ષના એમાં લાભ સમાજેલા છે તે પક્ષ અને ન્યાય ખાતાના પ્રધાન વચ્ચે જે પત્રવ્યવહાર થએલો છે તે જોતાં આ ખીલની અંદર જે મુખ્ય ટલમો દાખલ કરવામાં આવી છે તેમાં ફેરફાર કરવામાં આવે એવો ખીલકુલ સંભવ નથી, જો કે નાની નાની બાબતોમાં થોડો ફરજી ફેરફાર થાય એવો સંભવ છે. એ વાત અત્યંત મહત્વની અને આશ્ચર્યકારક છે કે હોરબોના માલીકોનો મોટો ભાગ એમ માને છે કે આ કાયદાથી દેશને લાભ થશે. આ વિષયના ઉપર પ્રધાને આ લોકોના વિચારો શું છે તે ઉપર કાંતિથી ધ્યાન આપેલું કહેવાય છે.

વડા પ્રધાન જન. હર્ટ્ઝોગ અને હોદીઓ

વડા પ્રધાન જનરલ હર્ટ્ઝોગ, મી. પીટ ઓબર સાથે લીકનબર્ગ થોડા દિવસ ઉપર ગયા હતા. જ્યાં થોડો તરફથી તેમનો ભારે સત્કાર કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. ગામને ક્રુદ્ધ રીતે શબ્દમારવામાં આવ્યું હતું અને શો આઉન્ડના ઉપર એક મોટી આર્થ ખડી કરવામાં આવી હતી. મી. પીટ ઓબરે આ બહાર ખુલ્લું મુક્યું હતું. જનરલ હર્ટ્ઝોગ શો આઉન્ડ ઉપર આવ્યા ત્યારે તેમને અનેક માનપત્રો આપવામાં આવ્યાં હતાં. તેનો જવાબ આપતાં હોદી સવાલ વિષે બોલતાં તેમણે દર્શાવ્યું હતું કે રમબોદના સવાલ ઉપર હોદીઓએ વધુ યુગ્મવાડો કર્યો છે એ વિષે હું કશું કહેતો નથી, પરંતુ દેશમાં એવું તો લાગતું રહ્યું છે કે હોદીઓ અહીં ન હોત તો દ. આફ્રિકા વધુ મુખી હોત. જ્યાં મારી ખાતી છે કે હોદીઓ જે વેપાર ધંધામાં અને ખીલ બાબતોમાં યુરોપીઅનોની નીતિનું ધોરણ સ્વીકારવામાં ધ્યાન આપે તો યુરોપીઅનો અને તેમની વચ્ચેનો સંબંધ ધણેજ સુખમ થઈ પડે.

હોદીઓની સંસ્કૃતિ ધણા ઉંચા પ્રકારની છે અને હોદી પ્રબળ જે પ્રતિનિધિઓ આ દેશની અંદર છે તેઓ હોદીમાં પોતાની બાબો દેશમધુઓની માફક ઉંચામાં ઉંચા નૈતિક જીવનના ધોરણ ઉપર ન આવી શકે એમ માનવાને કારણ નથી. તેઓ આ દેશમાં રહીને પાશ્ચાત્ય સંસ્કૃતિ સ્વીકારે એટલુંજ નહિ પરંતુ તેમની સંસ્કૃતિને અનુસરીને આગળ વધી શકે તે વિષે તેમને મદદ આપવા આ સરકારે માથે લીધેલું છે. સરકાર સભ અને ન્યાય પરાયણ જે હશે તે કરશે ખરું હોદીઓ પણ પોતાનો કામ બજાવે એવી આજ્ઞા આપવા માં આવી છે.

શાસ્ત્રીજી પાસે રૂબુટેશન

નાટાલ એગ્રીમેન્ટ યુનીઅનની મેરીટજર્જની શાખાના પ્રતિનિધિઓનું એક મંડળ તા. ૧૭ મીએ ના. શાસ્ત્રીજીને મળવા મથ્યું હતું. દારૂના વેપારમાં નોકરી કરી હોદીઓ પોતાનું પ્રમાણિક જીવન ગુભરે છે તેમને દારૂની ખીલની ૧૦૪ થી કલમથી કેટલી અસર થશે તેને લગતું એક સ્ટેટમેન્ટ તેમને આપવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ ખીલ એશીયાટીક ખીલના કરતાં પણ ખરાબ છે કારણ કે પ્રમાણિક જીવન ગુભરવાનાં સાધન અને નોકરી કરવાનો હોદીઓનો દક્ષ એથી જીનવાય છે એમ તેમને દર્શાવવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ ખીલ એક લખકર હાથમાર છે કારણ કે એથી બેકારી જીવન થાય છે એટલુંજ નહિ પરંતુ હજારો માણસોને તેમનાં કુટુંબ અને બાળબચ્ચાં સાથે ગરીબીમાં ધકેલી મુકવી જેવું એથી થશે. આ ખીલની કલમ કેપટાઉનના એગ્રીમેન્ટના આશયની વિરુદ્ધ જાય છે. તે એગ્રીમેન્ટમાં જણાવ્યું છે કે હોદીઓને આ દેશની જમીન વસ્તીના એક ભાગ તરીકે લેખવામાં આવશે અને તેમની ઉત્પત્તિ માટેની દરેક તક તેમને આપવામાં આવશે. તેઓએ શાસ્ત્રીજીને તેમના આ વિચારો સરકાર પાસે રજૂ કરવાનું દર્શાવ્યું હતું અને દર્શાવ્યું કે તેઓએ એવું કશું કર્યું નથી કે સરકાર તેમની જોડે આવું અયોગ્ય વર્તન ચલાવે શાસ્ત્રીજીએ જવાબમાં જણાવ્યું કે આ બાબતમાં મારાથી બની શકે તેટલું કરવામાં મેં પાછી પાની કરી નથી. હું તદ્દન નિરાશ થયો નથી. હોદી સમાધાનીના ઉપર લીકનબર્ગ ખાતે જનરલ હર્ટ્ઝોગે પહેલીજ વાર પોતાના વિચારો જાહેર કર્યાં છે કે સરકાર જે ચોગ્ય અને ન્યાયી હશે તે કરશે. શાસ્ત્રીજીએ જણાવ્યું કે જનરલ હર્ટ્ઝોગના બાબતોને હું આ અર્થે કંઈ છું કે આ ખીલમાં આ સિદ્ધાંતોથી વિરુદ્ધ કરવામાં ન આવે. શાસ્ત્રીજીએ આ કાયદાની સામે એગ્રીમેન્ટ યુનીઅનને પોતાની મદદ આપવા દર્શાવ્યું હતું.

લાઇસેન્સો કઠાવી લેા

ગ્રેટમાં જણાવવામાં આવ્યું છે કે સર્વ વેપારના, પ્રોફેસનલ અને એગ્રીકલ્ચરલ લાઇસેન્સો સન ૧૯૨૫ ના ૩૨ મા કાયદા પ્રમાણેના સન ૧૯૨૮ ની સાલ માટે કઠવી લેવાનો સમય આવી રહ્યો છે. સન ૧૯૨૮ ની નવમ્બર ૨૦ માસની ૩૧ તારીખ પહેલાં લાઇસેન્સો લઈ લેવાં જોઈએ. સન ૧૯૨૬ ના નંબર ૪૬ માં કંપનીઝ એક્ટ પ્રમાણેનાં લાઇસેન્સો પણ સન ૧૯૨૮ ના જાનેવારીની ૩૦ મી તારીખ સુધીમાં લઈ લેવાં જોઈશે. ઉપર જણાવેલી તારીખ પહેલાં કાંઈ પણ શખ્સ લાઇસેન્સ ન કઠાવશે તો લાઇસેન્સની વાર્ષિક ઠ્યુરીના દરેક પ્રમાણે તેને દર માસે અગર તો મહિનાના કાંઈ દરમાં કાંઈ સુધી લાઇસેન્સ ન કઠાવેલું હોય આ કાયદાની મુજબ કાંઈ કરવાની જગ્યા નથી.