

# Indian Opinion

No. 4—Vol. XXVI.

Friday, January 27th, 1928.

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

**M**R. and Mrs. Albert Christopher who arrived last Saturday were met at the Durban station by a large number of Indian friends. A welcome reception was given in their honour the same evening at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress. It was announced that a small sum was collected which was to be utilised in purchasing a set of law-books to be presented to Mr. Christopher as a token of love and esteem in which he was held by the community. Mr. Christopher thanked the Congress for the honour done to him and his dear wife and gave some good advice to those present on communal matters.

A welcome reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher was given by the D.D.I.F.A. and D.D.I.C.U. at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban, on Thursday, 26th January 1928, at 7.15 p.m.

The deck passengers of the *s.s. Khandalla* which arrived last Wednesday at Durban have been quarantined and have been removed to the Salisbury Island, where they will be kept till Monday. Two cases of small-pox, it appears, took place soon after the boat left Bombay and they were landed at Mombasa. The passengers number about 104 including women and children. Mr. Christopher (President of the S. A. I. Congress) and Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee and V. S. C. Pather (President and vice-President respectively of the N. I. Congress) approached the Port Health Officer and Dr. Park Ross for the relief of the above passengers. They received a courteous hearing and the only relief granted was that a few representative Indians could go to the Salisbury Island to see to the requirements of the passengers. Steps are being taken to approach the higher authorities for relief in cases of future occurrences of the same nature.

Among the notable passengers arrived per the *s.s. Khandalla* for the Transvaal is included Mr. B. K. Patel an ex-secretary of the late Transvaal British Indian Association and the Transvaal Patidar Society. We extend to Mr. Patel a hearty welcome.

We understand that Mr. B. K. Patel is accompanied by his brother's wife Mrs. D. K. Patel who the Immigration Department has prohibited from entering the Transvaal. We hope to publish facts about this case in a later issue.

We deeply regret to record the sudden and untimely death at a very young age of Mrs. E. M. Ally the wife of Mr. E. M. Ally a staunch worker of the Natal Indian Congress, which took place in the early hours of Thursday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Ally had made all preparations to leave for India and they were only awaiting the arrival of Mr. Ally's brother who arrived by the *s.s. Khandalla* on Wednesday morning. This sudden loss has therefore come as a severe shock to Mr. Ally. Mrs. Ally has left behind her four children to all of whom and to Mr. Ally we extend our heartfelt sympathy in which, we have no doubt, we have the fullest support of the community. The funeral of Mrs. Ally took place at

5 p.m. on Thursday and was attended by a large number of prominent Indians including a few Native friends. Among the wreaths were included one from the S.A.I. Congress and one from the Natal Indian Congress.

## THE LIQUOR BILL

**"W**E 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 jot in it."—*Natal Advertiser*.

**W**HILE these lines are being written the Liquor Bill is before Parliament and a debate on its second reading is proceeding. Mr. Tielman Roos is evidently anxious to rush the Bill through. In protesting against the Bill as we have already done, it is a satisfaction to us to feel that for once we are not the only sinners. The Churches are up against it, and are going to hold prayer meetings that the Almighty may guide the Government to do the right thing. In our last week's issue we reproduced European Press comments on the obnoxious clause of the Bill. The Press, we are glad to note, is practically unanimous in condemning it in the strongest terms. The effect of Clause 104 of the Liquor Bill to which we have objected, if passed in its present form, will be that 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 cleaning the premises. In Natal, however, Asiatics may continue to be employed, save in the bar, but in that event the licensee pays double the ordinary licence fee. In short the effect of the clause

will be to throw out on the streets several thousands of Indians to starve with their families for no other crime than that of their colour. These Indians are practically all Colonial-borns. This is, therefore, their land of birth and they know no other home but South Africa. They have grown in the trade which they are now threatened to be deprived of. They have therefore no chance of finding any other occupation. The promoters of the Bill have made no secret of the clause in question.

However evil it may be they deserve to be credited for being brutally frank about it. They have openly declared that it would be the means of jobs being found for their white "pals." What shocks us is that the Labour Party which professes to stand and work for democracy should associate with a move that is quite contrary to their fundamental principles. Have the Labourites not given the world to understand that they stand for labour irrespective of class, colour or creed? Is it now to be understood that they stand for white labour only? Let them be true to their conscience and let them declare once for all what they really stand for. Let the world no longer be deceived.

It is indeed a matter of the deepest concern that a Bill such as this should be introduced so soon after the conclusion of what is known to be a "Gentleman's Agreement" on the Asiatic question in South Africa. The world was enamoured by the acceptance on the part of the Union Government of high principles of uplifting the resident Indian population. But is the working of those principles consistent with the spirit underlying them? Are steps really being taken to uplift or to exterminate the Indian community? Does this Bill not let the cat out of the bag? We are having enough trouble in reconciling a section of our brethren who are doubting the integrity of the Government and are causing hindrance in the working of the Agreement. Now, if the Liquor Bill is allowed to pass with its obnoxious clauses the Capetown Agreement will have been confined and we shall once again be where we were before the Agreement. God forbid in the interests of the Union Government as well as the Indian community that such a thing should come to pass.

Mr. Tielman Roos in introducing the second reading of the Bill has given the

nope of something being done on the basis of not depriving waiters of their employment. That they should, however, forbid the further employment of Indians and thus gradually reduce their number. If Mr. Roos thinks Indians will be satisfied with this bait he is sorely mistaken. Indians have accepted the principle of equal pay for equal work. In accepting this principle they have taken the authorities to be sincere. They have believed that there is no evil motive underlying this principle—that of driving out Indians and taking white "pals" in their place. Having accepted this principle, therefore, it is only fair to expect that all avenues for earning a livelihood should be open equally to Indians as to any other section of the community. Mr. Roos contemplates closing certain avenues, in so far as Indians are concerned, and that is violating the letter as well as the spirit of the Capetown Agreement and therefore will not be accepted by the Indian community.

The Prime Minister in a speech at Lydenburg (Transvaal) declared that the Government would do what was right and fair. Let us hope that these hopeful words will fructify in the case of the Liquor Bill.

While it is true that those directly affected by the Bill are the Indian Hotel employees let our brethren not be under the misbelief that this is a question concerning only a section of the community. There is a vital principle involved in it. It deals a direct death-blow to the Agreement. If the Bill is passed as it stands or even as amended on the lines suggested by Mr. Roos, the Agreement will have died a premature death and the labour and money spent by the Indian Government will be in vain and even the appointment of an Agent of the Government of India is meaningless.

Let Indians therefore not forget the seriousness of the situation. We understand that a protest meeting against the obnoxious clauses contained in the Liquor Bill will be held in Durban on Sunday and similar meetings are organised to be held throughout South Africa. It is to be hoped that Indians will prove by their very presence at these meetings the vehemence with which they view this latest step which is totally in conflict with the honourable Agreement arrived at Capetown.

## NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

THE annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held last Sunday at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban. We have already dealt in our last week's issue with the report of the Jt. Hon. Secretaries which is a record of the services rendered during the past year by the officials and committee members of the Congress in the interests of their brethren in this Province. The record is worthy to be proud of by those responsible for the work done. The most important factor, however, which had assisted in the carrying out of all the work successfully was doubtless finance, and the financial statement submitted by the Jt. Hon. Treasurers would go to show that not a mean sum was subscribed by the Indian community whenever it was approached to do so. There is no doubt that the work of the Congress would have very greatly if not entirely been handicapped had a generous response not come forth from the community in the shape of finance. Not only does that redound to the credit of the community but it also proves that there is a growing awakening among our brethren as to their interests and status in this country which is a healthy sign for their future.

There was an interesting and at times heated debate on several points at last Sunday's meeting important among which was the question of fee that entitles a person to be a member of the Congress. As will be remembered the fee was originally £3 but was reduced at a later stage to 10/6 the object being to enable the poorer class of our brethren to join the Congress. This reduction in the fee, however, failed to have the effect hoped for and it was further decided to reduce the fee to 2s. 6d. This has increased the membership of the Congress and it has also enabled the masses to interest themselves in the working of their destiny in this country. Nevertheless, however, it has not yet had the effect it should have had and now a suggestion was made to increase the fee to 5s. A great deal of argument was adduced in favour of the increase but those who argued did not do so in the light of the poor man and we are glad to note that eventually the fee was kept at 2s. 6d. as it was originally. Attention was drawn in the course of the debate to one fact which

should act as an impetus to Indians to join the Congress in larger numbers. Native organisations such as the I. C. U., it was pointed out, were fast advancing and the reason was that even a house-boy earning 30s a month did not fail to subscribe towards it. There is no reason why Indians should not take the same interest if not more in their own institutions and become members without being asked or persuaded to do so. Indians throughout Natal should send their 2s. 6d. fee to the Jt. Hon. Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress and become members. Wherever District Branches exist the membership should be paid directly to such Branches. If this would be done voluntarily it would save a great deal of trouble, time and labour.

Perhaps the most interesting part of last Sunday's meeting was that of the election of new officials. Messrs. V. S. C. Pather and Sorabjee Rustomjee have long held the position as Jt. Hon. Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress and their services and self-sacrifice have won for them the esteem and confidence of the Indian community. The honour done therefore to Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee by electing him as the President and to Mr. V. S. C. Pather by electing him as one of the Vice-Presidents is an honour well deserved. In Messrs. A. I. Kajee and P. R. Pather as the Jt. Hon. Secretaries also the members have made a wise election and conferred honour upon those who well-deserved it. Mr. Kajee's services as Secretary of the S.A.I. Congress and Mr. P. R. Pather's services as the Jt. Hon. Treasurer and often as acting Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress have been well-known to and much appreciated by the community. Mr. Shaikh Hamed one of the members of the Majmul Ahabab Club and Mr. B. M. Patel are both active members of the Congress and we have no doubt they will be found equal to their post as Jt. Hon. Treasurers. The other members elected on the Committee are old Congressmen who have won the confidence of the community. The newly elected body has a hard task before them. It is harder than the years gone by and hence their responsibility is all the greater. The outstanding questions that will engage their attention in the immediate future are the question of Indian education and that of sanitation and housing which will be shortly inquired into. The licensing ques-

tion, the position created by Health Boards and under the Wages Act, are all matters of importance which the Congress will have to tackle.

While congratulating the newly elected body in which we have no doubt the hearty support of the community, we would sound just one note of warning to the community that, it will not do only to congratulate the new body and to expect it to do all that we desire. That can be achieved only if it has behind it the hearty support and co-operation of the community.

## Natal Indian Congress

### Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held on Sunday the 22nd January 1928 at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban. Owing to unavoidable absence owing to ill-health of Mr. Amod Bayat, Pandit Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi presided. After the minutes of the last annual general meeting were read and adopted the Jt. hon. Secretaries submitted their report which was adopted unanimously. The report reads as follows:—

Gentlemen.—It gives us great pleasure to submit to you our Annual Report in regard to the activities of your Congress since its last annual general meeting held on the 31st October 1926, and, in doing so, we beg to point out that the year under review has been a very important and interesting one as will be seen from the subjects enumerated hereunder.

#### PERSONAL TAX

In terms of the Personal Tax Ordinance (1926), Indians were also subject to the payment of a tax of £1 per head excepting those who paid Income Tax who were to pay a certain percentage on their Income Tax. As there exists great poverty among the poorer sections of our community, your Congress made representations to the Provincial authorities to give relief to those who were unable to pay this tax. Our representations were fruitful and the Receiver of Revenue at Durban arranged with your Congress that on recommendation from certain officials nominated by your Congress, he would grant exemptions under the Law or extend the time for payment. Your Congress nominated Messrs. J. W. Godfrey, D. S. Chetty, G. B. Chetty, A. I. Kajee, M. Beethasee Maharaj, K. Baijnath, M. Shabally, S. W. Abrahams and the Secretaries to enquire into and recommend either for exemption or extension of time. Some of the above officials had to work night and day to cope with the large number of applicants and thousands of people were dealt with within a space of about ten days. On the whole, Indians paid their tax loyally and earned the approbation of the Receivers of Revenue. It was subsequently known that something like £43,000 was paid by the Indians towards this taxation. The tax is now removed and only those who earn a sum of £250 or more are liable for this imposition.

#### ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

As a result of representations made by the Government of India in regard to the Asiatic Bill, a Conference of the representatives of the Union Government and the Government of India was agreed to. This Conference was held at Capetown at the end of the year 1927. In terms of the resolutions passed

at the Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress, your Congress, as representing the Indians of Natal, sent its representative Mr. S. R. Naidoo to Capetown in order to supply full information to the Government of India Delegation on all matters affecting the Indian community of Natal, which formed part of the discussions between the two Governments. This information was not only helpful but absolutely necessary for the members of the delegation who complimented your representative for his ability in giving them a flood of information. The settlement arrived at at this Conference was fully discussed by your Congress and as same was to be considered by the annual Conference of the South African Indian Congress held at Johannesburg, the matter was left in the hands of the delegates who were appointed by your Congress to attend that Conference. In this connection we beg to state that the South African Indian Congress declared the 19th day of December 1926 as a Prayer Day throughout South Africa for the success of the Round Table Conference. Your Congress held a huge meeting at the Indian Sports Grounds, Durban, and at other centres in Natal on this day, when prayers were offered to the Almighty.

#### CONFERENCES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS

During the period under review, three Conferences of the South African Indian Congress were held, the first being an Emergency Conference held at Durban on the 6th and 7th days of December 1926 for the purpose of discussing the attitude of the Congress which it was to adopt towards the proposed Round Table Conference.

The second Conference was the Seventh Annual Conference of the South African Indian Congress held at Johannesburg on the 12th, 13th and 14th of March 1927, for the purpose of discussing the settlement arrived at by the two Governments at Capetown.

The last Conference was the Eighth Annual Conference of the South African Indian Congress held at Kimberley on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th January 1928, which dealt with important questions such as matters arising out of the Agreement which are immigration, education, sanitation, industrial laws, licences and other matters such as Railway grievances, Liquor Bill and so forth. In all these Conferences, your Congress was fully represented and in the last one, very keen and active interest was taken by your delegates in the discussion of the various matters above mentioned.

Resolutions passed at this Conference which affected the Province of Natal mainly were in regard to :

- (a) The Commission which is about to enquire into the conditions of Indian Education in Natal. The Conference desired that the question of including vernacular education in Government and Government-aided Schools as an optional subject or the extension of the grants-in-aid system to vernacular schools be considered by the Commission. This subject of vernacular education was keenly debated and is therefore one that should receive very serious consideration by your Congress.

(b) LICENCES

The Government was requested owing to the hardships experienced by Indians throughout the country to bring in legislation at the earliest opportunity in terms of the Capetown Agreement.

(c) SANITATION AND HEALTH

In view of the terms of the Capetown Agreement, Conference requested the Government to include one or two Indians on the Commission which is to be appointed in order to enquire into the sanitary and housing condi-

tions of the Indians in and around Durban. Further, the terms of reference of the Commission be extended so as to include the investigation of the present Health Ordinance and see if same could not be amended to place the question of rating and other conditions on a more equitable basis.

#### DANNHAUSER COLLIERY DISASTER

On the 8th day of October 1926, an explosion took place in the Durban Navigation Collieries at Dannhauser, as a result of which ten Indians lost their lives. Out of this number, six had dependants. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, these dependants received in all a sum of £568 as compensation. The Mine authorities desired your Congress to assist them in allocating this money and any further monies that were to be received from the Relief Fund inaugurated by the *Natal Witness*. Your Congress appointed Mr. Raghooonath Singh the chairman of your Ladysmith branch, and Mr. V. Lawrence, one of your vice-presidents to proceed to the scene of disaster and do the needful. Mr. C. F. Andrews who was also present at the time kindly consented to assist these gentlemen and also accompanied them to Dannhauser. The thanks of your Congress are due to these gentlemen for their tact and for their selfless work in properly allocating the funds to the dependants. They were highly complimented by the Mine authorities for the way in which they carried out their duties. A further sum of £450-9-10 was received from the *Natal Witness* Relief Fund above referred to, to be paid to the dependants. The money is now lying in the name of your Congress in County Permanent Building Society. A sub-committee was appointed by your Committee to go into the matter and allocate the money to the dependants. This sub-committee has submitted its recommendations in which it desires that the amount located to each dependant should be deposited in the Building Society in trust and paid out to the respective dependants in monthly instalments. In this connection, one of your vice-presidents, Pandit Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi also visited Dannhauser, interviewed the dependants and submitted a report on the matter. Your Congress is indeed grateful to the proprietors of the *Natal Witness* and to the various subscribers for their generosity in providing a substantial sum of money for the dependants of the unfortunate victims of the Mine disaster.

#### SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE AND INDIAN CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY

As a result of a lecture delivered by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., at the M. K. Gandhi Library, the above two Committees were formed under the auspices of your Congress. Mr. V. Lawrence is the chairman of the Social Service Committee and Mrs. S. Moodaly is the chairman of the Child Welfare Society. Both these committees are doing useful work and are a credit to the Indian community.

#### TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMISSION

The Provincial Council of Natal while discussing the Personal Tax Ordinance (1927), appointed a Taxation Enquiry Commission to enquire as to whether the existing taxation was fair and equitable and what alteration was desirable and also whether the Government grants now made to the Province were fair and equitable, and if not, what steps should be taken to secure grants commensurate with the reasonable requirements of the Province.

Your committee appointed Mr. A. I. Kajee and your joint Secretary Mr. V. S. C. Pather to submit a statement and tender the necessary evidence. It was pointed out to the Commission that while Indians paid their full share of taxation both Union

of the benefits as compared with the other communities. Statistics were quoted in support of this contention. It was further pointed out that Indians would not tolerate any taxation imposed on them as a community for any purposes whatsoever.

The Commission is still making investigations and will report during the next few months when the Provincial Council meets.

#### EDUCATION ENQUIRY COMMISSION

In terms of the Capetown Agreement, the Provincial Council of Natal were to appoint a Commission to enquire into the question of Indian education. Although at first the Provincial Council was not disposed to favourably consider and abide by the terms of the Agreement so far as it affected Natal, the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri, with his tact and statesmanship, brought to bear on the Administrator and members of the Provincial Council Executive the necessity of such an enquiry and as a result of his representations, the Provincial Council has appointed the Administrator and the whole of the Executive with Messrs. Lidgett and Acutt, as members of this Commission. However much we may regret for the non-inclusion of one or two educational experts on the personnel of the Commission, we welcome it as a good faith on the part of the Provincial authorities to enquire into the present unsatisfactory condition of our education and bring about better conditions for the upliftment of our community.

The Government of India has also been kind enough to send two educational experts in the persons of Mr. Kailas P. Kitchlu and Miss Gordon, who are to assist the Commission. Your committee has obtained the necessary statistics in regard to the present position of Indian education throughout the Province and are now compiling the same in book-form. As the Commission will be sitting some time next month, it is for the incoming committee to frame a comprehensive statement on the matter with the necessary requirements of the community included in it for submission to the Commission. We also feel that representatives of your Congress should accompany the Commission from place to place and guide those who would be tendering evidence on behalf of the Indian community.

In connection with education, we beg to record with pleasure the services of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri who has initiated a scheme for building a High School and a Training College for Indians in Durban. The Indian community of Natal has been very generous in subscribing towards the cost of these institutions and a sum approximating £17,000 has been collected. The thanks of your Congress are due to those friends for their energy and sacrifice in going from place to place and collecting the above amount.

The Durban Corporation has granted in leasehold some two acres of ground for this scheme in Centenary Road, adjoining the Indian Recreation Grounds. Your Congress is therefore deeply indebted to the Durban Town Council for its kindly act.

#### BOROUGH'S ORDINANCE

As mentioned in our last report, the matter of the municipal franchise being restricted to Indians was tested in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the case of the Durban Corporation vs. S. W. Abrahams, and we regret to record that the Court held that the Provincial Council had the power to pass the Ordinance empowering the Boroughs of Natal to determine as to who shall form the element to constitute its government.

#### CONGRESS PROPERTIES

We mentioned the fact in our last report that the only way to become re-invested in the Congress

Your secretary Mr. Pather, in conjunction with Mr. A. I. Kajee, mentioned the matter to Dr. Malan who desired full information. Mr. Sastri was also approached and he has also asked for all particulars which we trust the incoming committee will be able to furnish in order to secure the assets belonging to the Congress which are now in the hands of the Receiver of Revenue.

#### FINANCE

As you will notice from the financial statement to be submitted by the Honorary Treasurers, the past year has been a very expensive one. A good sum of money was collected locally for the various receptions and other important work and those who have subscribed towards these expenses have done so liberally. Your sincere thanks are therefore due to the members of your community who have rendered financial assistance from time to time for effectually carrying on with the work of your Congress.

#### RECEPTIONS

During the period under review, your Congress held receptions in honour of the following:—

##### ARCHDEACON HODSON :

This gentleman left South Africa permanently and his services as a friend and sympathiser of the Indian community were duly recorded at a meeting held under the auspices of your Congress at the M. K. Gandhi Library on the 7th of December 1926. Suitable presents were also given to the gentleman on this occasion.

##### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DELEGATION :

Your congress not only extended a cordial welcome to the Government of India Delegation on their arrival in Pretoria, but also held a reception in the Durban Town Hall in their honour on their return to India. The function turned a great success and the Town Hall was filled to overflowing. Silver salvers with suitable inscriptions engraved were presented to each member of the Delegation. A purse containing five hundred and one sovereigns was presented by your congress to the Servants of India Society through Mr. Sastri on this occasion.

##### RT. HON. V. S. SRINIVASA SASTRI, P.C.

The Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri, the first Agent of the Government of India was also given a warm welcome at the Durban Town Hall. A good number of Europeans were present on this occasion and paid eloquent tribute to Mr. Sastri and his able staff.

##### REV. C. F. ANDREWS :

Your congress held a farewell banquet at the Town Hall in honour of Mr. Andrews on the 30th July 1927 at which the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri presided. There were over three hundred prominent Indians present. The function was a very grand one and it was also attended by prominent Europeans of the town. A musical programme was provided by the Lawrence Trio which was much appreciated by all present. The sincere thanks of your committee are therefore due to the Misses Lawrence for their excellent music.

##### PUNDIT BHAWANI DAYAL SANYASI

Your congress accorded a welcome to Pundit Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi who is one of the vice-presidents of your congress and who was a member of your Deputation that visited India in connection with the Asiatic Bill. The function took place at the M. K. Gandhi Library and was well attended. Mr. SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE :

On the eve of Mr. Rustomjee's departure for India your congress held a farewell reception in his honour at the M. K. Gandhi Library. At this function, a purse of five hundred odd pounds was presented to him by friends, which purse was handed over by him to your congress to make use of it as it thought

fit. At a time when your congress was in financial difficulties, this amount stood in good stead and some of the pressing liabilities were duly met.

##### METROPOLITAN OF INDIA :

Bishop Westcott, the Metropolitan of India, who was on a visit to South Africa, was received by the Indian community throughout Natal with kind affection. The reception in his honour was held by your congress at the M. K. Gandhi Library at which the Bishop spoke on the National movement in India. He was also taken round the town by Messrs. Godfrey and Lawrence, two of your vice-presidents, who showed him some of Indian life and activities in Durban.

##### Mr. & Mrs. SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE

Your congress extended a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee who returned married. A very pleasant function and dinner was held at the Durban Town Hall vestibule over which the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri presided. Prominent members of the Indian community were present and spoke very highly of Mr. Rustomjee's services and sacrifices to and on behalf of the Indian community.

##### Mr. & Mrs. ALBERT CHRISTOPHER :

A reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher who have just returned from England was given by your congress last Saturday in the M. K. Gandhi Library. Mr. Christopher who is now a full-fledged barrister has in the past served the community in many ways and is held in the very high esteem by the community. As a token of love, the community through the congress has presented him with a purse on this occasion.

##### MISCELLANEOUS :

##### INDIANS ON TRAMS

An Indian was wrongfully ejected from one of the Durban trams and the matter was brought to the notice of your congress committee. Mr. Godfrey was instructed to take such action as was necessary and as a result, the Indian received relief by way of damages in the sum of £25.

##### MAHATMA GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY

As is customary in the past, Mahatmaji's fifty-eighth birthday was celebrated under the joint auspices of the congress and the Kathiawar Arya Mandal at the M. K. Gandhi Library on the 2nd of October 1927.

##### DURBAN-NORTH BRIDGE

The owners of this bridge secured a perpetual servitude from the Durban Corporation of the land adjacent to the Umgeni River as an approach to their bridge. Your committee protested against granting this servitude as the owners contemplated excluding Indians from using the bridge both for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The matter was also brought before the last conference of the South African Indian Congress at Kimberley. As the Government was also concerned in allowing the use of the river banks over which the bridge stands, we feel that a principle is involved and your congress should instruct the incoming committee to test the matter in the courts of South Africa.

##### DELVILLE WOOD MEMORIAL

As reported in the last annual general meeting, Mr. Albert Christopher, D.O.M., was appointed by the Government to represent the Indian community on this occasion. Mr. Christopher duly attended the solemn ceremony and placed a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of your congress.

##### Mr. AMOD BAYAT

Mr. Amod Bayat, your President, has been indisposed ever since he took up office and it is the wish of the committee that Providence will restore his health so that he will enjoy a long and healthy life in his old age.

**Mr. AND Mrs. MANILAL GANDHI**

We have pleasure in recording that the good wishes of your committee were extended to one of your committee-men, Mr. Manilal Gandhi on his marriage and return to Natal and it is hoped that his married life will be attended with all success.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

There were seventeen committee meetings and six Executive meetings held during the period under review.

**CONDOLENCES**

It is with the deepest regret we beg to record the demise of Mr. Shaik Emammally, one of your vice-presidents. Ever since the resuscitation of your congress, he took a very active part in all its doings. He was the joint secretary of the Resuscitation Committee and afterwards held the positions of chairman of the committee and vice-president. He was a pillar of strength not only to your congress but to the Indian community at large. By his death we have lost a very energetic worker and friend. His loss will be felt for a very long time to come. Your committee held a mass meeting on the 29th December 1926 for the purpose of expressing the community's sympathy towards his relatives. At that time, the sad news of the death of Swami Shradanand reached us and the mass meeting above referred to which was called for this purpose also, passed resolutions of sympathy for his unfortunate and untimely death.

Your committee also expressed its regret at the demise of Mr. Mahomed Asmal, brother of Mr. Ebrahim Asmal of Messrs. B. Ebrahim Ismail & Company, who was a staunch supporter of the congress; also at the demise of Mr. Sewbaluck Panday, the father of Mr. Lutchman Panday, a member of your committee. The sympathy of your congress was duly conveyed to the relatives of the two deceased.

**THANKS**

We beg to record our sincere thanks to the officials and members of the committee of your congress for the assistance given to us from time to time in the carrying out of our duties, and to the Editor of INDIAN OPINION for the publication of the reports and doings of the congress from time to time.

We also tender our thanks to the staffs of Messrs. Pather & Company and Mr. A. I. Kajee and also to Mr. Sookdeo for the amount of clerical assistance rendered by them.

The thanks of your congress are also due to the Executive of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall Committee and the officials of the Hindia Tamil Institute for their kindness in allowing the use of the Hall for many of its meetings and to Mr. A. I. Kajee for the use of his office for holding the committee meetings.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The hon. treasurer then submitted the financial statement which was adopted unanimously. It showed the sum of £2,853-9-6 being handled during the period under review.

**CONSTITUTION REVISED**

The constitution of the congress was then read clause by clause and minor alterations made in some of the clauses. A discussion worthy of note took place on the clause dealing with the membership fee. It was proposed by some that the fee should be raised to 5s. instead of 2s. 6d. which is the present fee. After a lengthy debate however it was decided to keep the fee at 2s. 6d. as it is at present.

The constitution was then unanimously adopted.

**ELECTION**

A vote of thanks and appreciation having been then passed to the out-going officials and committee members for their very useful services in the past the following new election took place :—

President Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee; Vice-Presidents Messrs. V. S. C. Pather, R. K. Naidoo, M. M. Lockhat, E. M. Ally, V. Lawrence, R. K. Kapitan, M. C. Coovadia, B. M. Singh, J. W. Godfrey, Pandit Bhawanji Dayal Sanyasi; Jt. Hon. Secretaries Messrs. A. I. Kajee and P. R. Pather; Jt. Hon. Treasurers Messrs. Shaikh Himed and B. M. Patel; Committee Messrs. Advocate R. K. Khan, M. B. Maharaj, T. M. Naicker, S. L. Singh, M. A. H. Moosa, Satyadev, P. G. Naicker, M. A. Motala, B. A. Meghraj, R. B. Chetty, Ajam Haffjee, Lutchman Panday, Dawood Ebrahim Mall, V. D. Mehta, S. W. Abrahams, K. Baijnath, I. A. Essack, A. Sookdeo, Jack Moodley, Lazarus Gabriel, M. M. Gandhi, Rooknoodeen, S. A. Pillay, S. A. Mahomed, H. H. Dhupelia, M. Sooboo Naidoo, M. A. R. Khan, Asmal, D. S. Chetty, F. C. Pillay; Auditor Mr. S. J. Randeria.

The proceedings which began at 3 p.m. terminated at 8.45 p.m. with a hearty vote of thanks to the chair.

## Asiatics In The Northern Districts of Natal Act, 1927.

### APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

It is hereby notified for general information that under the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section three of the Asiatics in the Northern Districts of Natal Act No. 33 of 1927, the Minister of the Interior has prescribed that all Asiatics resident in the Northern Districts of Natal who are entitled to registration in terms of the said Act shall make application for such registration between the 1st day of February, 1928, and the 30th day of April, 1928. The Minister of the Interior has further prescribed that applications for registration shall be made to the officer in charge of any Police Station in the Northern Districts of Natal or to the Registrar of Asiatics, P. O. Box 244, Pretoria.

The prescribed form of application is obtainable from any Magistrate or at any Police Station in the Northern Districts.

### બહેર ખબર

#### ધી ટ્રાંસવાલ યુનાઇટેડ પાર્ટીદાર સોસાયટી

આ સે સામટીની વાવિષે બહેરસલા વા. ૧૨ મી ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૨૮ ને રવિવારે બપોર બાદ ત્રણ વાગે પાર્ટીદાર હોલમાં નીચે જણાવેલાં ખાસ કાર્યો માટે મળશે. રજાનીક લખા રેન્ડમાં વરતા લખામ પાર્ટીદાર ભાષ્યજોને વેળાસર પધારવા વિગતિ છે.

૧. વાર્ષિક રીપોર્ટ અને હિસાબની રજુઆત.

૨. અખલદારો અને કાર્યવાહક સમીતીની ચુંટણી

૩. પરચુરણ અમલના કામકાજ.

રજુકોલસાઈ બહાલણ પટેલ,

અમ્બાઈદાસ માવણ પટેલ,

જેમન્દ મંત્રીઓ.

વા. ૧૬-૧-૧૯૨૮.

ધી ડા. યુ. પાર્ટીદાર સોસાયટી.

# ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક રૂ ૬.

ફ્રીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૭ નવન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૮

અંક ૪

## નોંધ અને સમાચાર

### મી. અને મીસીસ ક્રીસ્ટોફર

મી. અને મીસીસ આલબર્ટ ક્રીસ્ટોફર જે ગયા શનિવારે ડરબન આવી પહોંચ્યા છે તેમને આવકાર આપવા સ્ટેશને જાણીતા હોદ્દાઓની મોટી સંખ્યા હાજર થઈ હતી. તેજ દિવસે સાંજે ડરબનના ક્વીન સ્ટ્રીટ પર આવેલા પારસી રસ્તમજી હોલમાં તેઓને સત્કારવાને નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના આશ્રય હેઠળ મીટીંગ મળી હતી. તેઓને પુત્રોથી સત્કાર થયા બાદ જલ્દે કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું કે એક નાની સરખી રૂબરૂ કોમર્સિયલ એક્ટી કરવામાં આવી છે કે જેને ઉપયોગ પોતાની પ્રત્યે માન અને પ્રેમના ચિન્હ દાખલ મી. ક્રીસ્ટોફરને બેટ આપવાને ડાયદાના પુસ્તકો ખરીદવામાં કરવા માં આવશે. મી. ક્રીસ્ટોફરે કોંગ્રેસનો આભાર માન્યો હતો અને કોમી કાર્યના સંબંધમાં સારી સલાહ આપી હતી.

ડરબનની સ્પોર્ટ્સ કલબ તરફથી પણ મી. અને મીસીસ ક્રીસ્ટોફરના માનમાં શુક્રવારની સાંજે પારસી રસ્તમજી હોલ માં મેળાવડો થયો હતો.

### ખંડાલામાં આવેલા ઉડના ઉતાડ્ડો.

ગયા શુક્રવારે આવેલી સ્ટી. ખંડાલા પરના ઉડના ઉતાડ્ડોને સોમવાર મુખી કોરનટીનમાં સોલસબરી ટાપુ પર રાખવામાં આવ્યા છે જ્યાંથી છે કે મુંબઈથી સ્ટીમર ઉપકર્તા રસ્તે જે શીતળાના કેસ થયા હતા જેને મંબાસામાં ઉતારી દેવામાં આવ્યા હતા. ઉતાડ્ડોની સંખ્યા આશરે ૧૦૪ની છે જેઓમાં અંગ્રેજો અને બાળકો પણ છે. સા. આ. ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના પ્રમુખ મી. ક્રીસ્ટોફર, નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના પ્રમુખ અને ઉપ-પ્રમુખ અનુક્રમે મી. સોરાબજી રસ્તમજી અને મી. વી. એસ. સી. પથર જે બારામાં પોર્ટ હેલ્થ ઓફીસર પણ અને ડો. પાર્ક રોસ પણે ગયા હતા જેઓના તરફથી તેઓને વિનયથી દાદ મળી હતી. પરંતુ ગદતમાં માત્ર એટલીજ છુટ મળી હતી કે કોમના જાણીતા જે ત્રણ શપ્તો ટાપુ પર ઉતાડ્ડોની મુલાકાતે જઈ શકે છે. લવિષ્ય માં ઉતાડ્ડોને આ સંબંધી હાડમારીઓ નહિ ભોગવવી પડે તેને માટે વડા આધિકારીઓને રજુઆનો થઈ રહી છે.

### ટ્રાંસવાલનાં જાણીતા ઉતાડ્ડો

સ્ટી. ખંડાલામાં આવેલા ટ્રાંસવાલના જાણીતા ઉતાડ્ડોમાં મી. બી. કે. પટેલ જે જુની ટ્રાંસવાલ બોટીંગ ઇન્ડિઅન એસોસિએશનના અને ટ્રાંસવાલ પાટીદાર સોસાયટીના સેક્રેટરી હતા તે છે. તેમને અમે આવકાર આપીએ છીએ.

### ગ્રાહીબીટ કરવામાં આવેલી બાઈ

મી. બી. કે. પટેલની સાથે સ્ટી. ખંડાલામાં તેમના લાઈ મી. ડી. કે. પટેલ જે જોહાનીસબર્ગમાં છે તેમના પતિન આવેલાં છે તેમને ઇમીગ્રેશન ખાતાએ ટ્રાંસવાલમાં દાખલ કરવાની બંધી કરેલી છે. એ કેસની વધુ વિગતો હવે પછી આપવા કૃપા કરીએ છીએ.

### મરહુમ મીસીસ અલી

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના જાણીતા કાર્યવાહક મી. ઇબ્રાહીમ અલીના ધર્મપત્ની મીસીસ અલી જે શુક્રવારે સવારના પહેરમાં અચાનક અને ધણીજ યુવાવસ્થામાં શુભરી ગયાની નોંધ લેતાં અમને અત્યંત ખેદ ઉપજે છે. મી. અને મીસીસ અલી હોંદુસ્તાન જવાને તૈયાર થઈ રહ્યા હતા અને માત્ર મી. અલીના બાઈ આવવાની રાહ જોઈ રહ્યા હતા. તે પણ ગયા શુક્રવારે ખંડાલામાં આવી ગયા. અને અચાનક આવી ખોટ થઈ ગઈ મી. અલીને સ્વાભાવિક જ અવશ આઘાત થાયજ. મીસીસ અલી પોતાની પાછળ ચાર નાના બાળકો મુકી ગયાં છે તેમની તેમજ મી. અલી પ્રત્યે અમારી અંતઃકરણની દિલસોજી જાય છે જેમાં અમને ખાતરી છે કે હોંદી કોમ અમારી સાથે સંપુર્ણ રીતે સામેલ થશેજ. શુક્રવારની સાંજે પાંચ વાગે મરહુમની દફનકીયા થઈ હતી જેમાં પ્રતિષ્ઠિત હોંદીઓની મોટી સંખ્યાએ હાજરી આપી હતી. મરહુમની કબર પર મુકાયેલી પુલની માળાઓમાં એક સાં. આ. ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ અને એક નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી પણ હતી.

## “ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનીઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૨૭ નવન્યુઆરી ૧૯૨૮

આ લીટીઓ જાણીતી રહી છે તે વખતે લીકર બીલ પાર્લામેન્ટ સમક્ષ છે અને બીજા વાંચન ઉપર ચર્ચા લીકર બીલ ચાલી રહી છે. ન્યાય ખાતાના પ્રધાન મી. ટીલમાન રૂમને બીલ જેમ તેમ કરી કપાટાથી પસાર કરી દેવાની ઇન્ટેન્શરી જાણાય છે. આ બીલની સામે વિરોધ ઉઠાવવામાં અમને એટલો સંતોષ થાય છે કે આ વખતે એ પાપ કરનારા અમે એકલાજ નથી. ખ્રીસ્તી ધર્મ ગુરૂઓ પણ જે સામે વિરોધ દર્શાવી રહ્યા છે અને ઇશ્વર સરકારને આ બાબતમાં સહાયુદ્ધ આપે એવી પ્રાર્થના દરવાને સભાઓ બોલાવવાના છે. અમારા ગયા અડવાડીયાના અંક માં અમે અંગ્રેજી વર્તમાનપત્રોની એ બીલ સામેની ટીકાઓ આપી ગયા હતા. અમને નોંધ લેતા આનંદ થાય છે કે વર્તમાન પત્રો મોટે ભાગે બધાજ બીલને સખ્ત શબ્દોમાં વખોડવામાં એકમત છે. બીલની કલમ ૧૦૪ જે હાલની સ્થિતિમાંજ પસાર થાય તો તેની અસર એ થાય કે હોંદીઓ અને નેટીવોથી નાટાલ સિવાય સઘળા પ્રાંતોમાં પરવાના વાળાં કેમ પણ સ્થળમાં બીલ કાયદો બને લાર બાદ એક વર્ષ પછી નોકરી કરી શકશે નહિ માત્ર અટલોજ અપવાદ કે નેટીવો મકાન સાથે કરવાની નોકરી કરી શકશે. નાટાલમાં કાઠના પીડુઓ સિવાયના સ્થળોમાં બીલને અમલમાં લાવવામાં મિલકતી કમીસીઓ