

Indian Opinion

No. 30—Vol. XXVI.

Friday, August 3rd, 1928.

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

INDIAN COMMUNITY'S ADDRESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

ON the occasion of the visit of General Hertzog, the Prime Minister, last Tuesday to Maritzburg an opportunity was taken by the Natal Indian Congress to present an address of welcome to him. The presentation took place on Tuesday afternoon at 2-30 at the Administrator's office. Among those present, besides the Prime Minister and his private secretary, included Mr. Gordon Watson the Administrator of Natal, the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Agent of the Government of India with his secretary Mr. J. D. Tyson, Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, P. R. Pather, B. M. Patel, Shaik Hamed, Advocates Albert Christopher and R. K. Khan, Messrs. V. Lawrence, B. A. Maghraj, M. A. Motala, R. B. Chetty, Hoosen Cassim Coovadia, M. A. H. Moosa, T. C. Moodley, M. M. Gandhi, S. R. Naidoo, M. I. Kujee, D. Bramdaw and the Rev. J. M. Sundrum.

After introducing the members of the Indian community Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee garlanded the Prime Minister and read the address which ran as follows:—

To GENERAL THE HONOURABLE
JAMES BARRY MUNNIK HERTZOG,
PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

"Sir,—We the undersigned, officials of the Natal Indian Congress, a body which represents the Indian community of Natal, extend to you a warm and cordial welcome to the "Garden Colony" of South Africa.

"We beg to assure you, Sir, that in our desire to be law-abiding, useful and worthy citizens of this Union, we have not lagged behind any other community in our loyalty to the Government at all times.

"You are doubtless aware that over two-thirds of the Indians in the Union are South African born, and the rest have spent the best part of their lives in this country. We are therefore South Africans in every sense of the term, and at the same time inheritors of an ancient civilisation which has not only inspired the civilised world with its richness and beauty but has evoked its respect and admiration.

"We note with pleasure that as a result of the Indo-Union Agreement there is every sign of a friendly spirit in the relationship of the European and Indian communities, and we gratefully acknowledge that in the consummation of the Agreement your Government has shown rare courage and wise statesmanship which are in no small measure due to the admirable and inspiring lead you gave to the Round Table Conference in your opening remarks. We are further convinced of your sincerity in the up-

liftment of the Indian community when at Lydenburg in January last you said that, 'Indians represented a very high civilisation and there is no reason why representatives of the race in this country could not develop to the highest standard both morally and ethically.'

"It is our earnest appeal that the Government will give due consideration to the 'upliftment section' of the Agreement and thus afford relief to the Indian community on such outstanding matters as licences, housing and sanitation which still remain for an amicable adjustment and settlement. With fair opportunities given to us to improve our conditions in life, socially, intellectually and industrially, we are confident that we will soon cease to be a "problem" in South Africa.

"Wishing you a long and healthy life with a brilliant and successful career."

We beg to remain, Sir,
Your obedient servants,
(Sgd.) SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,
President.

A. I. KAJEE,
P. R. PATHER,
Joint Hon. Secretaries.
SHAIK HAMED,
B. M. PATEL,
Joint Hon. Treasurers.

The Prime Minister's Reply

Replying to the above address which was presented in a silver casket the Prime Minister said that he wished to thank them very much for their presentation: they might have the assurance that he appreciated it very highly. It was the object of every Government which wanted to do something good to consider the interest of every section of the community. This was an assurance and was the object for which the present Union Government was trying where it considered the well-being of the Indian community and of every other community. If things did not go as fast as one liked them to go one was inclined to spoil things by hastening matters. His advice which the Indian community must take and feel convinced of was that the European was going to look after that community's interests and was going to see that good was done. He felt that interests of the Indian community did not stand isolated. It was that feeling that gave impetus to the Round-table settlement. He felt that in the creation of the State of South Africa the Indian no

less than any other would not only find his proper place but have his interests well looked after.

He wished them all success and assured them that he would not be backward in the future where their interests were concerned.

Notes and News

FROM the Press reports we understand that at a mass meeting recently held in Johannesburg under the auspices of the T.B.I.A., an extract was read from a lawyer's opinion on the condonation scheme to the effect that condonees have to exchange their registration certificates for protection certificates. Nothing could be further from the truth. The protection certificate expressly states that the condonee can retain his registration certificate or other papers. We quote Sec. 1 (c) of the Permit :

"This permit entitles the holder to retain any registration certificate, certificate of domicile, or other document authorizing him to enter, reside, or remain in the Union or any Province thereof, provided that if this permit is cancelled by the Minister such document or documents shall be dealt with under the provisions of section Ten of Act No. 22 of 1913, as amended by section five of Act No. 37 of 1927..."

It is perfectly inconceivable how the lawyer missed the clause and offered the misleading opinion. Our friends on the opposite camp are entitled to their opinions however misconceived, but we beg them to have some respect for facts.

The implementing of the condonation scheme is being delayed by the fact that while the scheme protects the actual illegal entrants, it exposes the abettors of the illegal entry. For every single entrant, there are perhaps several persons who were parties to his entry. Officials and non-officials, Europeans and Indians on both sides of the water may be implicated and they will naturally throw the full weight of their advice and even importunities on the side of leaving the scheme severely alone. Mr. Sastri in his interview published in the *Natal Mercury* said that he was assured that no official or non-official European abettors would be touched by the Government; he failed to include the non-official Indian. He was confident however that the Government would not protect the principle culprit and punish the abettors. An official assurance to that effect is eagerly awaited, and we trust it will not be long in coming.

The Indian bus owners are protesting against the transfer of the bus rank from Prince Edward Street to Alice Street, and to the alteration in the Overport bus rank. By-laws to give effect to these changes were promulgated in the Provincial Gazette last week. A deputation of five representatives of the Indian Bus Board of control, Messrs A. A. Peters, S. Rugbeer, K. Seeparsad, S. A. N. Naidoo, and K. K. Moodley waited last Monday on the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, Agent of the Government of India, and presented their case to him. Mr. Sastri gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing and promised to go into the whole matter very thoroughly.

The Wage Board has issued its draft recommendations for shop assistants' wages with a circular to employers and employees explaining that the draft is submitted as a basis for a recommendation by the Board to the Minister of Labour. It invites alternative suggestions of a constructive nature the same to be in the hands of the Board by August 15. The Board has fixed the minimum wage for male assistants at £5 and for female assistants at £2-15-0 per week. The Board has made no provision for the gradual introduction of minimum wages as

suggested by the Indian community. The draft recommendations of the Board have caused a great deal of excitement among businessmen both European and Indian.

A Native found guilty of assault with intent to commit a serious offence on a young married white woman and also of theft on two counts was recently sentenced at the Native High Court to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour and 15 strokes with the cane. "You Natives do not seem to understand White people," said Judge-President Boshoff in passing sentence. "You seem to think our women are wild beasts to be pounced upon by you Natives at will. This must now come to a stop."

The Hindu (Madras) writes :—Pandit Gopabandhu Das, whose death was announced on the 18th June was a noted Orissa leader who endeared himself to his people by his life-long and devoted services. In the upliftment of the backward people of his backward province, he deemed no expense too costly and no labour too trying. When Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated Khadi movement, Pandit Gopabandhu Das threw himself heart and soul into it and became one of Mahatmaji's trusted lieutenants. In his death, Orissa loses an invaluable worker and philanthropist and the country a tried patriot.

Mahatma Gandhi pays the following tribute to the late Pandit in his *Young India* :—

Gopabandhu Babu had given his all to Orissa. I heard of him and his sterling character and steadfastness when Sjt. Amritlal Thakar was sent to Orissa in 1916 to distribute relief to the famine-stricken. Sjt. Thakar used to write to me how Gopabandhu Babu braved inconvenience and disease in struggling to help the helpless. He gave up his practice and his membership of the Legislative Council during the Non-co-operation days and never wavered. What was more for him was to stake the existence of his dearest creation, the Satyavadi School. He braved the taunts of some of his closest friends and persisted to his eternal honour in what they considered to be his folly. His one ambition in life was to see dismembered Utkal united and happy. He had lately become a member of Lala Lajpatrai's society and was planning to make Khadi an efficient vehicle for the economic relief of poverty and flood-stricken Orissa. The country is the poorer for the death of Pandit Gopabandhu Das. Though he is not in our midst in the flesh, he is in our midst in the spirit. Let that noble spirit guide the workers of Orissa, let his death result in a large dedication to service, greater effort, greater self-effacement and greater unity among the scattered workers who are too few for the national requirements. I tender my condolences to the relatives and the many disciples of the deceased patriot.

Sir Leslie Wilson (Governor of Bombay) is suffering from an obsession that *Satyagraha* is unconstitutional and he must therefore refuse to shake hands with those preaching or practising it. A dictum of the famous English jurist, Dicey, has it that every successful rebellion is "constitutional." But even if you use the word in a narrower sense there can be no doubt that *Satyagraha* is a perfectly legitimate method for getting grievances redressed. Mr. Gandhi writing on this point in *Young India* says:

It is too late in the day to call *Satyagraha* unconstitutional when truth and its fellow—self-sacrifice—become unlawful. Lord Hardinge blessed the South African Satyagraha and even the all-powerful Union Government gracefully bent before it. Both Lord Chelmsford the then Viceroy, and Sir Edward Gait the then Governor of Bihar recognised its legitimacy and efficacy

and an independent committee was appointed resulting in adding to the prestige of the Government and resulting in the ending of a century old wrong. It was then recognised in Kheda and a settlement, reluctant, half-hearted and incomplete as it was, made between the Government agents in Kheda and those who were guiding the movement of the people. The then Governor of the Central Provinces condescended to treat with the Nagpur Flag Satyagrahis and released the prisoners and recognised the right claimed by the Satyagrahis. Last but not least Sir Leslie Wilson himself when he was not yet untouched by the atmosphere of the 'most efficient service in the world' recognised its efficacy in Borsad and granted the Borsad people relief.

Even so scrupulous a constitutionalist as Gokhale blessed the South African *Satyagraha*. It will be difficult therefore to find an Indian politician even amongst the moderates, who will declare *Satyagraha* Taboo.—*The People*.

ON CONDONATION AGAIN

WE have yet again to return to the subject of condonation of illegal entrants. We sympathise with those of our countrymen, particularly those who are ignorant and therefore helpless, who are buffeted with conflicting advices. The Congress and Mr. Sastri advise all those who entered the country illegally, in contravention of its laws, to seek condonation and protect themselves. Our friends of the Federation warn them off condonation. Well may the perplexed individual ask, whom shall I follow?

At the risk of repetition, we shall place certain considerations before our perplexed friends and beg them to give serious consideration to them. Admittedly the condonation scheme is not as good as we would wish it to be. If we had our way, the protection certificate would be permanent in form as it is meant to be in substance, and that it would at the same time preserve the right to bring in wives and minor children. The result would be to legalise the illegal entrant, and put him in every way on the same basis with the legal entrant. It must be obvious to anybody that it is a concession that we may seek, not a right that we may demand. They have a strange sense of justice that demand it. They have an even more strange sense of honour who consider the confession, not the commission, of an illegal act, a dishonour to India. The confession can only retrieve the honour which has been bismirched by the commission.

We have explained in previous issues why the Government insisted on the restriction

on the entry of wives and minor children of condonees not already here, and how they were in consequence compelled to resort to the temporary certificate form, how they sought to make it permanent in substance, and backed it by a promise to make it *pucca* if it should prove defective. Against this it is urged by the opponents of the scheme that it were unwise to trust *bona fides* of the Government, who were only resorting to a ruse to ask for evidence to convict the condonees and deport them at a later date. We admit that there is much in the past relations between the Government and the Indian community to warrant such suspicions. And the Government should not be surprised nor vexed that their more friendlier attitude has not yet been universally recognised. Patience is necessary on both sides and will be amply rewarded. We would put the following consideration to our suspicious countrymen. From the purely South African European point of view, which demands the reduction of the Indian population in this country, does the Government stand to gain or lose by the condonation scheme? Certainly, they would have pleased the Europeans here if they had made full use of the ample powers the law, even as it stood before last year's amending act was passed, gave them and deported as many illegal entrants as they could lay hands on. They could thereby reduce the Indian population without spending large sums of money on repatriation, which is after all voluntary while deportation of illegal entrants could be compulsory and sure. It is moonshine to believe that Government held their hand because they could not produce evidence against illegal entrants. Under the Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913, the Government had power in Natal and the Cape to declare any and everybody a prohibited immigrant and throw the onus on him to prove to the contrary. It was only in the Transvaal that the Government had to prove in court of law that a holder of a registration certificate obtained it by fraudulent representations made by himself. Section 5 of last year's Act brings the Transvaal into line with the Cape and Natal, except that in the Transvaal the onus of proof is still with the Government. The law as it stands to-day gives the Government very ample powers to deport illegal entrants without much trouble to themselves. In the Cape and Natal the Government

need produce no evidence themselves. In the Transvaal where the illegal entrant's position is therefore relatively stronger, it is significant that illegal entrants have already begun to seek condonation. Even the Federation meeting, instead of advocating a unanimous boycott, left it to each individual to decide if he would seek a protection certificate or not. The Government have shown their bona fides by offering to condone and retain in this country the illegal entrants, and thereby running to some extent against their pet policy of reducing the Indians in this country, and exposing themselves to the attacks of their European supporters.

One weighty objection could be urged against the deportation of illegal entrants, and that is the hardship involved to the deportees. However they came, many of them have been here for many years and built up vested interests. To deport them now would be to invite the odium of the civilised world. The Government have put themselves right on this point by promising to condone them and permit them to carry on. If after the 1st November the Government should institute a rigorous search for illegal entrants and ruthlessly deport them, there is no moral force that can stop them. Protests from the Government of India would be out of court. They could not possibly take up the case of those who violated the laws of this country and on top of it spurned the condonation of their action. There is every danger that the provocative language used by some of the opponents of the condonation scheme might provoke the Government to apply the law without mercy or tenderness. We trust and hope that the Government will refuse to be influenced by such language. It is well for our countrymen to realise, if they have not done so already, that any improvement in our conditions is only possible with the goodwill of the Government and the European population; and provocative language particularly when it is impotent, is hardly likely to help.

Impotent we say advisedly. For defective as the condonation scheme is, what is the alternative that the opposition can produce? When after the 1st of November the Government gets hold of a number of illegal entrants and orders their deportation, what is it that the opponents of the scheme propose to do to save them? We shall be only

too delighted if they will obtain better terms of condonation or a legislative general amnesty. They will be better employed if they attempted it rather than the denunciation of Mr. Sastri, the Congress and the Condonation Scheme. May be that if we gracefully accepted the scheme, we may in the next few years when the relations between the Indians and the Europeans have improved much more, hope, with the assistance of the then Government of India, to rectify the defects of the present scheme. But if we reject it what then? Just deportation, and nothing more.

Let us sum up. Those who condemn the Condonation Scheme have not taken the trouble to secure a better scheme. By their provocative language they are simply egging the Government to take drastic action. They are playing into the hands of the anti-Indians and a certain section of the colonial-born Indians who would rather that the scheme was not availed of and the Government had a free hand to deport a maximum number of illegal entrants. If that is their intention, they might as well say so; if not, they know not what they do.

Protection Certificates

For Those Temporarily Absent From Union

The following is a copy of a letter received from the secretary for the Interior in reply to a letter written on July 7 by the Secretaries of the South African Indian Congress:—

No. 53/74.

Department of the Interior,
Union Buildings,
Pretoria, 24th July 1928.

The Joint Honorary Secretaries,
South African Indian Congress,
P.O. Box 5339, Johannesburg.

Gentlemen,—With reference to your letter of the 7th instant, relative to the application of the Condonation Scheme to individuals at present on a visit to India, I have to inform you that when the deputation from the Congress interviewed the Honourable the Minister at Capetown, it was definitely stated that if the 1st October, 1928, was fixed as the closing date, ample time would be allowed to all concerned whether resident in the Union or elsewhere.

It is desired, however, to deal with all applications in a sympathetic manner, and provided, therefore, the application for a Protection Certificate from an illegal entrant, at present temporarily absent from the Union, is received on or before the 1st October, 1928, the individual concerned will be allowed a reasonable time *not exceeding six months* in which to return to the Union and complete the necessary formalities.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) C. S. SCHMIDT,
Secretary for the Interior.

What is The Bardoli Case

(BY M. K. GANDHI IN "YOUNG INDIA")

[The following epitome of the case has been prepared in response to many calls for the barest summary of the case for the busy reader. Though the case has been stated in ample detail in these pages, the following summary will be helpful to those who want to work for the Satyagrahis, but who may not know what the case exactly is and who may have no time to go through the files of papers. The summary is necessary because of the ever growing interest excited by heroic sufferings of the people of Bardoli. M. K. G.]

In the matter of revision settlements there has been calculated flouting of public opinion and of resolutions of the Legislative Council during recent years. In pursuance of the advice of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, "that the process of revising the land revenue assessments ought to be brought under closer regulation by statute," the Bombay Legislative Council passed by a large majority in March 1924 a resolution to the effect that a committee be appointed to consider the question of regulating revision of assessment by legislation, and that "no revision be proceeded with and no new rates under any revised settlement be introduced till the said legislation is brought into effect." The first part of the resolution was carried by Government appointing the Land Revenue Assessment Committee, but the second part was ignored, and revision settlement of one taluka after another was proceeded with in the teeth of the resolution. In the meantime the Land Revenue Committee had sat and published its report, and the Bombay Legislative Assembly in March 1927 passed by a very large majority another resolution recommending to the Governor-in-Council to give immediate effect to the resolution of March 1924 by effecting necessary legislation after taking into consideration the Report of the Land Revenue Assessment Committee, and "pending such legislation to issue orders to the revenue authorities concerned not to collect the assessment enhanced in revision after the 15th March, 1924." The legislation suggested by the Land Revenue Assessment Committee is at present before the Legislative Council, but revision settlements have gone on, almost with the deliberate intention of frustrating the very object of the legislation when it should ultimately come to pass. Bardoli is only one of the several talukas where there should have been no revision and no levying of new rates in the terms of these resolutions. This is a fundamental preliminary objection to the revision settlement in Bardoli, apart from the merits of the case.

I shall briefly discuss the merits. The new Bardoli revision settlement was prepared by Mr. Jayakar who submitted his recommendations in November, 1925. He recommended 30 per cent. enhancement. The Settlement Commissioner, Mr. Anderson, disagreed with the basis on which Mr. Jayakar had made his recommendation, adopted a new basis, and recommended 29 per cent. Government disagreed with the recommendations of both and fixed 22 per cent. The original assessment of the taluka which was Rs. 5,14,762 is under the new revision something over 6,20,000.

As against this the agriculturists of Bardoli contend that the taluka is assessed right up to the full limit and that there is absolutely no case for enhancement. The occupants in the taluka are divided as under according to the size of their holdings:—

1 to 5 acres	10,379
6 to 25 "	5,936
26 to 100 "	829
101 to 500 "	40

It may be safely assumed that all the occupants having not more than 25 acres cultivate their own land and that those with larger holdings lease their land to the agriculturists. This means that 16,315 occupants actually cultivate 1,27,045 acres which is the totally occupied area, i.e., each occupant cultivates on an average something like 8 acres of land. It is inequitable to go on the strength of rents—economic or un-economic—enjoyed by a very small fraction, i.e., 808 large landholders. The land revenue assessment ought to be fixed having regard to the value of the land held by the 16,315 agriculturists and to the profits of agriculture enjoyed by them, under Section 107 of the Land Revenue Code. The agriculturists of Bardoli contend that assuming the average yield per acre and assuming the very high standard of prices adopted by the Settlement Officer as accurate (though the prices have considerably gone down since the report), an agriculturist cultivating 8 acres of land (the average) does not earn profits entitling the Government to make any increase in the existing rate of assessment. They are prepared to prove this statement and they maintain that even if the basis of 50 per cent. of the profits be accepted, no increase is warranted, and if the basis of 25 per cent. of the profits be accepted, a considerable reduction in the existing rates would be necessary.

They thus rely for their contention on the actual conditions obtaining in the taluka, but they also rely on attacking the value and accuracy of the Government reports. They contend, *inter alia*, that Mr. Jayakar, the Settlement Officer, made no enquiry worth the name, visited few villages, afforded no opportunities to villagers of making representations pertaining to the question of increasing the assessment, and prepared a perfunctory survey. He prepared the most essential statistics in his office, without exercising the slightest scrutiny and relied for his recommendations of 30 per cent. on the sole basis of rise in the value of gross produce. The perfunctory nature of Mr. Jayakar's inquiry, if inquiry it could be called, is enough to render it valueless. But Mr. Anderson seriously questioned the value of Mr. Jayakar's report on another and a very substantial ground which was pointed out by the people's representatives also. He rejected the most vital part of Mr. Jayakar's report—*viz.* where he bases his recommendations on the value of gross produce—as 'irrelevant' and 'positively dangerous as affording no justification for his proposals and suggesting arguments against them.' In the circumstances Mr. Anderson's obvious duty was to suggest to Government a fresh inquiry. But he overshot the mark and proceeded to make his own recommendations on the basis of rental statistics—a basis of which the equity has been seriously challenged by several high-placed Government officials, and the statistics themselves have in the present case been seriously challenged as lacking scrutiny. If Mr. Jayakar drove a coach and four through the Settlement Manual, in making no real inquiry, Mr. Anderson went one better in contravening the Settlement Manual which lays down that rent should be only one of the factors to be considered and that even when they are taken into account, 'they can not be used as the basis for definite conclusions.....unless they exist in considerable volume and unless their reliability has been carefully tested.' Mr. Anderson grossly erred (1) in exclusively relying on the rental statistics and (2) in assuming that the two essential conditions for their being of any value had been satisfied. In one place, Mr. Anderson charges Mr. Jayakar with having made 'no attempt to compile statistics showing the area rented and the area cultivated by its owners' and yet proceeds on Appendix H and wrongly arrives at the conclusion that "at least half the total area is held by landlords who do not cultivate it." The error is based on his hastily

assuming seven years' statistics—42,923 acres—as one year's statistics and on his utter disregard of Mr. Jayakar's own estimate of land held by non-agriculturists, which is 23,995 acres, i. e., about 18 per cent of the total area—a more plausible, though not a strictly accurate estimate, because not based on inquiries on the spot.

For these reasons both Mr. Jayakar's and Mr. Anderson's reports are worthless and the rate of 22 per cent. fixed by Government is absolutely arbitrary as it is based on no fresh or accurate data.

The Satyagrahis of Bardoli have therefore pledged themselves to pay no assessment until either.

1. The enhancement is cancelled; or 2. an independent impartial tribunal is appointed to examine the whole case.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part IV. Chapter XXIII.

A PREP INTO THE HOUSEHOLD

We have seen in a previous chapter that though the expenses of the household were heavy, the tendency towards simplicity began in Durban. But the Johannesburg house came in for much more overhauling in the light of the Ruskin teaching.

I introduced as much simplicity as was possible in a barrister's house. It was impossible to do without a certain amount of furniture. The change was more internal than external. The liking for doing personally all the physical labour increased. I therefore began to bring my children also under that discipline.

Instead of buying baker's bread, we began to prepare unleavened wholemeal bread at home according to Kuhne's recipe. Common mill flour was no good for this, and the use of handground flour, it was thought, would ensure more simplicity, health and economy. So I purchased a hand-mill for £7. The iron wheel was too heavy to be tackled by one man, and easy to be managed by two. Polak and I and the children mainly worked at it. Mrs. Gandhi also occasionally lent a hand, though the grinding hour was her usual time for beginning kitchen work. Mrs. Polak now joined us on her arrival. The grinding proved a very beneficial exercise for the children. Neither this nor any other work was ever imposed on them, but it was a pastime to them to come and lend a hand, and they were at liberty to break off whenever tired. But all the children including those whom I shall have occasion to introduce later, somehow, generally never failed me. Not that I had no laggards at all, but most did their work cheerfully enough. I can recall few youngsters in those days fighting shy of work or pleading fatigue.

We had engaged a servant to look after the house. He lived with us as a member of the family, and the children used to help him in his work. The Municipal sweeper removed the night-soil, but we personally attended to the cleaning of the closet instead of asking or expecting the servant to do it. This proved a good training for the children. The result was that none of my sons developed any aversion for scavenger's work, and they naturally got a good grounding in general sanitation. There was hardly any illness in the home as Johannes-

burg but whenever there was any, the nursing was willingly done by the children. I will not say that I was indifferent to their literary education, but I certainly did not hesitate to sacrifice it. My sons have therefore some reason for a grievance against me. Indeed they have occasionally given expression to it, and I must plead guilty to a certain extent. The desire to give them a literary education was there. I even endeavoured to give it myself, but every now and then there was some hitch or other. As I had made no other arrangement for their private tuition, I used to get them to walk with me daily to the office and back home,—a distance of about 5 miles in all. This gave them and me a fair amount of exercise. I tried to instruct them by conversations during these walks, if there was no one else claiming my attention. All my children excepting the eldest, Harilal, who had stayed away in India, were brought up in Johannesburg in this manner. Had I been able to devote at least an hour to their literary education with strict regularity, I should have given them, in my opinion, an ideal education. But it has been their as also my regret that I failed to ensure them enough literary training. The eldest son has often given vent to his distress privately before me and publicly in the press, the other sons have generally forgiven the failure as unavoidable. I am not heartbroken over it, and the regret if any is that I did not prove an ideal father. But I hold that I sacrificed their literary training to what I genuinely, though may be wrongly, believed to be service to the community. I am quite clear that I have not been neglectful in doing whatever was needful for building up their character, and I believe it is the bounden duty of every parent to provide for it properly. Whenever, in spite of my endeavour, my sons have been found wanting, it is my certain conviction that they have reflected not want of care on my part but the defects of both of their parents.

Children inherit the qualities of the parents, no less than their physical features. Environments do play an important part, but the original capital on which a child starts in life is inherited from its ancestors. I have also seen children successfully surmounting the effects of an evil inheritance. That is due to purity being an inherent attribute of the soul.

Polak and I had often very heated discussions about the desirability or otherwise of giving these children an English education. It has always been my conviction that Indian parents, who train their children in thinking and talking in English from their infancy, betray their children and their country. They deprive them of the spiritual and social heritage of the nation, and render them to that extent unfit for the service of the country. Having these convictions, I made a point of always talking to my children in Gujarati. Polak never liked this. He thought I was spoiling their future. He contended with all the vigour and love at his command that if children were to learn a universal language like English from their infancy, they would easily gain considerable advance over others in the race of life. He failed to convince me. I do not now remember whether I convinced him of the correctness of my attitude, or whether he gave me up as too obstinate. This happened about twenty years ago, and my convictions have only deepened with my experience. And though my sons have suffered for want of full literary education, the knowledge of the vernacular that they naturally acquired has been all to their and the country's good, inasmuch as they do not appear the foreigners they would otherwise have been. They naturally became bilingual, speaking and writing English with fair ease, because of daily contact with a large circle of English friends, and because of their stay in a country where English was the language chiefly spoken.

The Indian Question In South Africa

Mr. Kodanda Rao's Address To Students Christian Association

(Continued from page 220.)

The basic principle which South Africa desired and India conceded was that the maintenance in South Africa of western civilisation and standards of life by just and legitimate means must be guaranteed and should be in no danger on account of the presence of the Indians in this country. In consideration of this principle, India surrendered two of her claims—free migration within the Empire and the political franchise. She consented to the prohibition, not by law but by administrative action, of all further immigration of Indians. She would not press for the franchise until the European population felt safe to extend it to the Indians. She went further and consented to a policy of voluntary repatriation of Indians from this country in order to reduce that population in this country. All these were agreed to as long ago as 1914, and by Mr. Gandhi and others. Since the inauguration of the repatriation scheme in 1914 about 25,000 Indians have left the country and gone to India. It was confirmed and improved in 1927 by the Capetown Agreement. The rate of repatriation has increased since then.

The stoppage of further immigration into this country is not, however, absolute. The wives and minor children of domiciled Indians are permitted to enter the country on the principle that husband and wife and their minor children should not be separated but allowed to live together. India further accepted the industrial policy of South Africa—the policy of civilized labour, which is not the same as White Labour.

South Africa for its part abandoned the policy of segregation, which was the basis of Mr. Patrick Duncan's Class Areas Bill of 1924 and Dr. Malan's Areas Reservation Bill of 1925. She has for the first time accepted the Indian population that must remain in this country as part of the permanent population and promised to uplift it to western standards.

The present Union Government has enunciated the new policy in noble words which are worth quoting: "The Union Government firmly believe in and adhere to the principle that it is the duty of every civilised Government to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities, and accept the view that in the provision of educational and other facilities the considerable number of Indians who remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind other sections of the people." Considering the previous policy of the present Government, it has shown great courage and greater wisdom in thus publicly announcing its new policy. It is an exhibition of high statesmanship all too rare in politics. India is profoundly grateful for this, the Magna Charta of the Indians in South Africa.

Of course, it is recognised that it would take long for the policy to be fully implemented. Public opinion has yet to be permeated by the policy. Old prejudices die hard. The task of uplift is always hard and laborious, involving large sums of money, and calling for greater patience and perseverance, and the missionary spirit. Nevertheless, it is the only right policy. It is Christian, it is righteous,

and it is in the interests of the Europeans themselves. Let it be remembered that to a considerable number of Indians South Africa is the land of their birth, and they have to live in this country and what is more make a living. Their degradation will bring down the level of wages, of sanitation and health, accentuate unfair competition, and react unfavourably on the European population.

Since the Agreement was signed two steps have been taken to implement its terms. The Natal Administration has appointed a Committee to enquire into the condition of Indian education in that province. The Committee has reported, and though from the Indian point of view, is not as favourable as it might well have been, it is bound to improve Indian education in that province. The Committee had the assistance of two educational experts from India; and they have also advised the Transvaal Administration as to the needs of Indian education in that Province, and some much needed improvements are expected there.

Again in terms of the Agreement, the Union Government have recently announced the appointment of a Commission to investigate the housing and sanitary conditions of Indians in and around Durban. To this Commission they propose to attach as Assessors, two Indians, representing the South African Indian Congress. The association of Indians in such an enquiry is significant.

The indirect results of the Agreement are by no means negligible. The most important is the change in the atmosphere. It is more friendly now. Thus Mr. Sastri's scheme for a Training College and High School for Indians in Durban, the Durban Municipality's grant on leasehold of two acres of land in the Borough for a Training College, its new building scheme for its Indian employees, the Indian Social Service Committee, and the Indian Child Welfare Society, which have recently been organised and are now engaged in social work among the Indian community in Durban, are all the results of the new spirit since the Agreement.

It is not professed that all the legitimate grievances of Indians have been redressed; such a consummation was not expected so soon. There is reason to believe, however, that the corner has been turned, that the days of bitter and frenzied antagonisms and hatreds are past, and that the future holds promise of peaceful and harmonious progress, however slow it may be.

What is this change due to? How has it been brought about? In some measure it is due to the new status which this country has assumed as the result of the last Imperial Conference. The exultation consequent on the achievement induced the Government of Gen. Hertzog to vindicate the new status of unhampered freedom in the only way it can be vindicated by a more magnanimous attitude towards the weak and powerless peoples resident in the Union. Secondly it is due to the greater knowledge and understanding between the two countries brought about by interchange of visits. The visit of the Paddison Deputation from India and the visit of the Beyer's Deputation from this country to India, the patient work of reconciliation and goodwill carried on unceasingly by the Rev. C. F. Andrews both here and in India, and the visit of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, and the Indian Deputation to the Round Table Conference, all these exchanges of visits and the personal contact and understanding that they brought about, helped to create a new and friendly atmosphere. South Africa and India resolved to look at the issue as a common problem and cooperate in solving it. Each country recognised that the other had a case which could not be lightly brushed aside. They resolved to explore a policy of give and take and meet as far as possible the wishes and exigencies of each other. I may perhaps be permitted to make a reference to the work of my

own chief, Mr Sastri. It is gratifying to see it admitted on all hands that he has been the greatest single influence for mutual understanding and goodwill between the two countries.

The proposed visit to India next December of a South African Delegation to the Students Christian Conference is another very welcome step. Such visits will draw the two countries together and enable us to realise that at bottom human nature is about the same whatever the colour of the skin, and strengthen the links between the two peoples.

There are more links than one that bind us together. India and South Africa are members of the same Commonwealth. There is then the Indian problem in South Africa in which both countries are equally interested. There is besides the trade link. Dr. Meek's Indian Trade Delegation revealed to us the volume and value of trade between India and South Africa, and made us realise what a good customer India was of South Africa. If Dr. Meek's mission results in the appointments of Trade Commissioners and the establishment of direct trade transactions, instead of through London as is the case to a large extent to-day, the trade link between the two countries is bound to grow stronger and enlarge the scope of common interests.

And in this task of reconciliation, of mutual understanding and righteous conduct, the student population of South Africa can even from now, before they assume the direction of public policy a few years hence, play no insignificant part.

(Concluded)

Aiders and Abettors Will Not Be Interfered With

Statement by Department of Interior On Condonation Scheme

While going to Press the following statement was received for publication from the Department of the Interior regarding Condonation applications and immunity of abettors :—

"Though place and date of first entry into Union should where possible be given by applicants for condonation, Department realise that information on these points will in many cases be approximate only, and in any case no applicant is obliged to prove more than that he was in fact in the Union or the Province concerned before 5th July 1924. When Departmental records clearly show that applicant was here before that date no further proof will be required or questions asked. Even where applicant is called upon to adduce evidence that he was here before the critical date there is nothing in form of application to require him to disclose manner in which he originally entered or to name persons who abetted illicit entry or at any time harboured him and he will not be pressed to make such disclosure. Department not desirous of making Condonation scheme means of securing conviction for persons who in past assisted illicit entrants to evade immigration laws."

NOTE :—The above statement removes the doubt that hitherto existed about the position of those who may have aided the condonees in their original illegal entry. The statement of the Department that "it is not desirous of making condonation scheme means of securing conviction for persons who in the past assisted illicit entrants to evade immigration laws" is a clear proof of its sincerity about the scheme. All those concerned who have not yet applied should now no longer delay in applying for consideration.

સરકાર તરફથી મળેલી ખાત્રી

ખેડાને મદદ કરનારને પકડવામાં આવશે નહિ

જાપના જતી વખતે મુશ્કેલીખાતાં તરફથી નીચેનો સંદેશ પ્રસિદ્ધ કરવા મળ્યો છે :

મારીપત્ર માટે અરજી કરનારે પત્રી જકે લાં સુધી યુની-યનનાં તે પહેલી વખત કપે સ્થળે અને કષ્ટ તારીખે દાખલ થયો તે જણાવવું જોઈએ, છતાં ઇમીગ્રેશન ખાત્રી સમજી જકે છે કે, આ મુદ્દાઓની ખત્રી ઘણા દાખલાઓમાં આકરેજ આપવામાં આવશે, અને કોઈ પણ અરજદારને પેતે તા. ૫ જુલાઈ ૧૯૨૪ પહેલાં યુનીયન કે તેના અધિક પ્રાંતમાં દરીકતમાં હતો તે કરતાં વધારે પુરાવા આપવાની જરૂર રહેશે નહિ. જો ઇમીગ્રેશન ખાત્રીનાં રેકોર્ડો પરથી ચોખું જણાય આવશે કે અરજદાર તે તારીખ પહેલાં અહિં હતો તો પછી તેની પાસેથી વધારે પુરાવાની જરૂર નહિ રહે કે તેને સવાલો પણ પુછવામાં નહિ આવે.

વળી અરજદારને પેતે તે તારીખ પહેલાં અહિં હતો એવું સાબીત કરી આપવાની કઠી માગણી કરવામાં પણ આવે તોયે અરજીના ફોર્મમાં એવું કંઈ પણ નથી કે જેથી તે પ્રથમ કેવી રીતે દાખલ થયો, અથવા તેને ગેરકાયદેસર દાખલ થવામાં કોણે મદદ આપી કે કોણે અને કો વખતે તેને છુપાવ્યો એ તેને જણાવવું પડે. અને એવી ખાત્રીઓ આપવાની તેને જરૂર પણ પાડવામાં આવશે નહિ.

આ માત્રીની યોજનાને કુતકાળમાં ખોટી રીતે આવનારાઓને ઇમીગ્રેશન કાયદો તોડવામાં મદદ કરનારાઓને પકડવાનું એક સાધન બનાવવાની મુશ્કેલી ખાત્રીની ઇચ્છા નથી."

[નોંધ—મુશ્કેલીખાતાંના ઉપલા પુલાસાથી મારીપત્ર લેવાની ઇચ્છા કરનારાઓમાં તેઓને ખોટી રીતે દાખલ થવામાં મદદ કરનારાઓ તકલીફમાં આવી પડવાની જે શંકા રહી હતી તે ખીલકુલ દુર થાય છે. માત્રીની યોજનાને એવા લોકોને પકડવાનું સાધન બનાવવાની સરકારની ઇચ્છા નથી એવી સ કારી ખાત્રી માત્રીની યોજના વિશેની તેની સત્ય નિશા પુસ્તાર કરી આવે છે. આ ખાત્રી પછી જેઓને આ યોજના લાગુ પડતી હોય તેઓએ જો હજી સુધી મારીપત્ર માટે અરજી નહિ કરેલી હોય તો હવે તેઓએ તે કરવામાં જરાએ ઢીલ કરવી ઘટતી નથી.—અ. ઇ. ઓ.]

અમારી જાણીતી વખણાએલી ને માનીતી

ટો પી ઓ

આવી ગઈ છે.

અમારા કહરહાન ગ્રાહકોએ હંમેશા મુજબ ઓરડરો મોકલવા.

વેલોર મરૂન કાળી ને ફ્રાન પાકા રંગની

લાવ ૩૦/- પેકીંગ

ફેજ કાળી મરૂન ૨૦/-

ટોપીઓ ડાખામાં પેક કરી મોકલવામાં આવશે.

પેકીંગ પોસ્ટેજ ૨/૬ પ્રહાકોએ વધુ મોકલવી.

ઓરડર સાથે રોકડા પદસા મોકલવા.

મળવાનું ઠેકાણું

BURMA HOUSE ધી બરમા હાઉસ

125 Grey Street, ૧૨૫, ઐ સ્ટ્રીટ, Durban