

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE sad news of the sudden death of Mrs. Wodson, wife of Mr. Harold Wodson, Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, which took place last Tuesday was received with no less a shock by the local Indian community than the many European friends of Mr. Wodson. The funeral which took place on Wednesday afternoon was very largely attended and among the many wreathes was included one from the Natal Indian Congress on behalf of the Indian community. The late Mrs. Wodson leaves behind her two daughters to whom and to Mr. Wodson we extend our deepest sympathy in their very sad bereavement.

We have been requested to announce that applications for condonation in the Natal Province will be received by Immigration Officers stationed at the following centres:—Maritzburg, Stanger, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Dundee, and Port Shepstone. Applicants will receive every assistance by representatives of the Natal Indian Congress at any of the above mentioned places.

At the British Association meeting in London, last Tuesday, Professor W. Fitzgerald read a paper on the population problem in South Africa. He is reported to have said that, "without a policy of segregating the Whites and the Blacks in two distinct zones, so that each group would be, as far as possible, self-supporting, the ultimate submergence of a White State was assured. The aim of South Africa should be to check the flow of Bantu labour into the towns."

Professor Fitzgerald's suggestion taken to its logical conclusion would mean that the whites should remain in entire seclusion and not have anything to do with the black races. We doubt if that sort of non-co-operation would preserve the white race on the face of the earth long. If the supremacy of the British people has existed so long it has only existed because of its sense of justice and fairplay. It is only that and their friendly attitude to the subdued races that will yet preserve that supremacy. If there are signs of that supremacy diminishing they are not due to the intermingling of the black races with the white but it is because of the unfriendly attitude and the selfish policy of the latter.

A cordial invitation is extended to the general public by the officials and members of the Arya Yuvuk Sabha of Durban, on the occasion of the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Benevolent Home building at Mayville, near Durban, on Sunday, 23rd September, 1928 at 11. a. m. Needless to say that this Home was established by the Arya Yuvuk Sabha on 1st May, 1928, and since then it has accommodated at an average of twenty inmates per mensem. The Home which is a very old wood and iron building is practically on the verge of collapse, and the inmates housed within are in need of better accommodation. The Sabha has, therefore, finally resolved that a new Home be built.

At the present moment there are seven males, nine females and four children catered for at the Home which is more or less congested on account of the increasing number of destitutes seeking admission. Mr. B. M. Singh has very kindly consented to lay the Foundation Stone of this new Home.

THE CAPE CONFERENCE

WE would have wished that a Conference convened on an important occasion such as this and by members of the community who profess to have the welfare of their compatriots at heart would come forward with some concrete proposals which would help the people out of the present difficulty of having to take out protection certificates. But, alas! to our utter astonishment we find that the Conference has had no concrete proposals to make but only to indulge in a little abuse of the Government, Mr. Sastri and the Congress. The president in his speech bemoans the attitude of the Government in introducing a section in the legislation which was not discussed at the round table conference and makes statements which are far from the truth. 'The Minister has power, the president states in his speech, to deport all Indians "alleged" to be illegal entrants, no matter how long they have lived here, nor how faithfully they have adhered to the laws of the Union.' The Minister has not the power to deport alleged illegal entrants but those who are in reality illegal entrants. The Minister had that power and it was actually made use of in the Cape and the Natal Provinces but the Court in the Transvaal differed to a certain extent and hence it was found necessary to amend the existing law. It is made drastic in effect no one denies. But if a drastic step is taken by the Government to deal with people who have entered the country by evading the law that has been expressly enacted to keep them out, we do not know with what justification we can take exception to it. We cannot take exception to it but we can ask the

Government to be merciful. To what extent such mercy is to be shown lies also in the discretion of the Minister. Now, it is a matter of general knowledge that both the Congress and Mr. Sastri have done their very best, in the circumstances, to get the illegal entrants condoned and to get as many rights as were humanly possible secured to them. The president of the Cape Conference would have wished that illegal entrants were left untouched; and because the Congress and Mr. Sastri have not been able to achieve that, 'Mr. Sastri is a puppet in the hands of Dr. Malan' and 'the Congress is traitorous.' Let us for a moment consider what would have happened had the Congress and Mr. Sastri sat quiet without doing anything. The Minister would have enforced the law and deported every illegal entrant that he could lay hand upon. Would that have been better or is the present scheme better by which the illegal entrant can be condoned and remain in the country in peace? We leave it for the sensible to judge.

If this scheme were not suitable, well, why do not those who decry it come forward with a better one. If they can suggest a better scheme and get better results for their brethren all honour to them. They will then have merited the right to censure the Congress and Mr. Sastri. But it is utter folly to merely pass resolutions of no confidence and to talk of waging war against the Congress. That is certainly not going to help ameliorate the conditions of their brethren nor is it going to induce the community to accept their guidance.

We hope those who supported the resolution rejecting the Condonation scheme which the Congress was given a mandate to agree to at its last session held at the Cape were all legal entrants to this country. In that case, of course, it was a matter of no concern to them to reject or to accept the scheme. But if the supporters were illegal entrants, well, we are sorry to think of what fate hangs over them. If they are fearless of being deported, and are prepared to face the music well, and good. They may well reject the scheme, nor do we press them to accept it. But we are concerned about those who have long established interests in this country and cannot afford to sacrifice them. It is for them to accept or reject the scheme. It is for them to consider the advisability or otherwise of getting their position secured once and for all and to be saved from being

constantly molested by blackmailers. It is their interests that the Congress and Mr. Sastri have tried to safeguard. If they feel that they could be better safeguarded by those who have convened the Cape conference let them, by all means, seek their advice and be guided by them. If not, let them have faith in the Congress and, above all, in Mr. Sastri, the Agent of the Government of India. Let them not lose any time, which is growing shorter day by day, and let them be prompt in making their applications for protection certificates.

The Commissioner's Statement On Condonees

Some More Questions Answered

The Commissioner of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs has addressed the following letter (No. 87/M/256) dated 6th September, 1928 to the Honorary Secretary, South African Indian Congress, Johannesburg, in reply to questions asked by the Congress Deputation, who interviewed the Commissioner on August 31:—

"Gentlemen,—With reference to the interview a Deputation from your Congress had with the Commissioner on the 31st August, 1928, I have the honour to inform you that the following is the reply to the various points raised by you, viz:—

1. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES OBTAINED ON PEACE PRESERVATION PERMITS

- (a) Registration certificates obtained with P. P. Permits with finger prints to be accepted as legal provided that such prints agree with the prints on the Registration Certificate irrespective of any change in name.
- (b) Sons of such persons brought in by them would be regarded as being legally here.
- (c) Where the father is dead if the son proves that the man who brought him was his father he would be regarded as legal.

2. CASES OF WARDS WHO OBTAINED REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES IN WRONG NAMES

Each case will be dealt with on its merits. The applicant should make a formal application and send a covering letter explaining that it is only a formal application. The letter should ask that a ruling be given as to whether on the facts given a Condonation Permit is required.

3. RESULT OF INTRODUCTION OF ALLEGED SONS

Where a man has introduced a son with a wrong name in order to cover previous fraud, the real son will be regarded as being legally here when he proves that the man who brought him is his father.

4. CLARENCE COMMISSION CONDONATIONS

The Congress asked:

- (a) Whether holders of Clarence Commission Condonations would be required to take out Condonation Permits. They were informed that this was not considered necessary.
- (b) They asked whether persons who gave evidence before the Commission but failed to obtain such a document could now get one. Such letters cannot now be issued as the Department is not in a position to say what the circumstances were in any particular case.

5. 1916 LETTERS OF EXEMPTION.

Holders who obtained these letters by fraudulent evidence must secure a Condonation Permit. It was explained that such letters were issued on residence for at least five years. If such holders had not resided here five years prior to the issue of the document it is clear that it was obtained by fraudulent statements and such holder must get a Condonation Permit. Those who obtained such Letters of Exemption by right evidence would be regarded as being legally here.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) J. R. HARTSHORNE,
for Commissioner for Immigration
and Asiatic Affairs.

Indians In Natal

In reply to an interview a deputation of the Natal Indian Congress had with the Commissioner on September 3, the following letter (No. 86/M/256) dated 6th September, 1928, has been received by the Secretary, Natal Indian Congress from the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs:—

Sir,—With reference to the interview a deputation of your Congress had with the Commissioner on the 3rd September, 1928, I have the honour to inform you that the following is the reply to the various points raised by you, viz:—

QUESTIONS.

1. Minor children of a condonee: Will they enjoy full rights as is the case in the Transvaal?
2. Major children of a condonee, who were introduced into the Union as minors: (a) Are they also to apply for condonation? (b) And will they also be restricted from bringing in their wives and minor children?
3. A person once having been deported, but entered the Province before 5th July, 1924: Will he be condoned?
4. A person who lawfully entered the Province and obtained a certificate of domicile on the false evidence of two witnesses who are illicit entrants and who have now obtained condonation. What is he to do?
5. A person who has introduced his wife on a D.L. 91 form issued prior to February, 1928, and who now takes condonation: Will her rights to remain in the country be challenged?

ANSWERS.

Yes, provided they entered the Union prior to 24th February, 1928. See "5".

Yes.

Yes.

No. Such persons come under Section 6 of Act 22, 1913 and not Section 10 of Act 22, 1913 as amended by Section 5 of Act 37, 1927.

As the certificate of domicile was obtained by false statements the holder must apply for a condonation permit.

No, provided she entered the Union prior to the 24th February, 1928; the cases of those wives and children who entered the Union subsequent to that date must remain in abeyance pending the decision of the Minister.

6. A minor child, whose parent being an illicit entrant, is absent from the Union and does not apply for condonation:

What steps should the child take to protect its rights?

7. A minor child, whose parent having entered the country illegally, and having died here: What steps should the child take to protect its rights?

If the father does not apply for condonation the child must leave the Union.

If our records show that the father had he lived could have received a condonation permit the minor child will be treated as at "1". If the father could not have obtained a condonation permit and the minor child entered the Union subsequent to the 5th July, 1924, such child must leave the Union.

8. A person who wishes to obtain condonation, but finds that his witnesses are reluctant to come forward and give evidence of his entry and stay in the country before the critical period. Could such witnesses be subpoenaed to give evidence by the Immigration Officer?

No. The Principal Immigration Officer might invite such people to call at his office.

9. A condonee who had a wife in the Union and such wife dies after condonation: Is he entitled to bring another wife from India?

No.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) J. R. HARTSHORNE,
for Commissioner for Immigration
and Asiatic Affairs.

A Final Appeal

To Indians in the Union

Those of our brethren who have obtained Registration or Domicile certificates through false statements made by themselves or on their behalf should no longer delay in applying for protection certificates. 30th September being the last date for such applications to be received there are left only a few days before them. They should, therefore, no longer hesitate. For neither the officials of the Congress nor the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri will be in a position to render any assistance to any person who may have illegally entered the Union and has failed to apply for a protection certificate before the 1st October. This is, therefore, a FINAL APPEAL by the Congress to those of our brethren who have not yet done so to avail them-

selves of the opportunity within the few days that they have before them of rectifying their position and thus protecting their rights in this country.

P. K. DESAI }
I. I. HAZAREE } *Hon. Gen. Secretaries.*

S. A. I. Congress.

Mr. Sastri's Eloquent Appeal To Transvaal Indians

Condonation Means Safety And Security

Must Decide Before October 1.

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri addressed a mass meeting of Indians in Johannesburg held last Sunday in the Bantu Men's Social Centre when he made an eloquent appeal to Indians to avail themselves of the Condonation scheme.

There were about 800 people present and Mr. M. D. Bharoochi occupied the chair. The Secretary Mr. P. K. Desai read the correspondence passed between the Government and the Congress on the scheme and questions were asked from the audience and satisfactorily answered by the officials.

While intimating that there were thousands of Indians who had illegally entered South Africa in the Transvaal, the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, mentioned that up to the present only about 120 protection certificates had been issued to Indians of this Province under the condonation scheme.

He urged the acceptance of the pardon the Government had extended to them, and denounced the false counsel given by some, who urged delay and rejection.

"It is a question of safety," declared Mr. Sastri. The last date on which applications for condonation will be received is the end of the present month. The time is growing short, and you must take into consideration that you will have to prove that you arrived in South Africa before July 5, 1924.

"Some might be able to prove this very easily. Others will have to find trustworthy witnesses. You must bestir yourselves and not keep on considering. It is not exactly a matter of life or death, but a matter of safety, and means whether you are to remain here or be deported. Months have passed since condonation was first discussed. I understand 120 protection certificates have already been issued in this province." I congratulate those people.

"If there are any of them here, let others consult them. They must have a sense of relief and security. Do you not wish to share this sense of security?"

"It is of all things the most strange to me that people should hesitate over the condonation business. How can you insist, as people asking for pardon, that the pardon shall be entire, complete and unqualified? It would be well if it were so, and your leaders tried to get you a free pardon. The authorities, however, did not see eye to eye with us, and you are getting a conditional pardon.

"One of the conditions is that the wives and children of illicit entrants before the specified date who are not already here will not be allowed to come in. You have to consider whether you will be better off with such a pardon or without it. It seems to me it will be better for those of you who have acquired property to remain here. Without the pardon you have to leave on October 1.

"Don't take chances," counselled Mr. Sastri.

"Some of you may say: 'I am a lucky man. I have consulted an astrologer, and according to my horoscope I shall be lucky.' Don't believe in any such things. Goodness knows whether you will be the lucky one.

"Is it not best to make sure of remaining here? The Government has said your crime will be pardoned. It is surprising to me that people say: 'Wait till we make up our minds; we want a whole pardon, and if we don't get it, it is better for us to be deported.' I am sure there are none of you who wish to be deported.

"I admit it is awkward to be told that one cannot bring one's wife and family to the country. You have placed yourselves in a tight position. You have committed a deportable offence. Being in that position you must be prepared to avail yourselves of anything likely to help you.

"I can understand those not yet established being indifferent to their position," proceeded Mr. Sastri. "But those who have acquired property and have put aside money will, in the vast majority of cases, find themselves a great deal worse off in India than in South Africa. Let me tell you I am yet unable to see what there is against the condonation scheme excepting those points which I have already indicated."

The advice against the scheme given to the illicit entrants by others and the objections raised, had largely been met, while most of the dangers had been obviated, said Mr. Sastri. The question of the friends who had assisted them had been settled by the Government undertaking not to trouble about them.

"The position of your children has been secured," the speaker proceeded. "With regard to the statement of some that the protection certificate is a worthless document, the Minister has promised that if it should prove so in a court of law, he will remedy the matter by legislation.

"The condonation scheme has been cleared of most of its defects. Your friends tell you to accept it. Men who may be your enemies say, 'Don't touch it; there may be something in it.' Are you going to take the word of a man who has not studied the question and has not seen the Minister? If that is the case all we can say is, God alone can help you.

"If there are any illicit entrants here let them take the condonation scheme an sleep soundly in their homes.

"The condonation scheme is good for you," stated Mr. Sastri emphatically. "It is a proof of the goodwill and friendliness of this Government towards you. Some think that they are conferring a favour either on the Union Government or on me by accepting it. There is no truth in this. If you refuse it, there may be rejoicing in the many white homes, where it may be regarded as an easy way of getting rid of thousands of Indians.

"Don't hesitate. The Government and its people are willing to help you. Why do you look so suspiciously at me and at the condonation scheme?" he asked.

"Our wives and children." Shouted someone.

"I know of your wives and children," replied Mr. Sastri, "and I know that if they are not in this country you cannot bring them here. But I also know that if you do not accept it you will most certainly join your wives and families in India. If you want to be deported, pray do so; but is it not better to safeguard yourselves and be able to go to your families of your own free will?"

"After October 1, I will say I am sorry I cannot help you. If you get into trouble you must be the strangest people on the face of the earth. You have come thousands of miles to improve your position. I know you are sensible and cannot listen to people who say, 'Wait wait.' You can wait for one or two days, but not until October 1."

Mr. Sastri Addresses Trade Unionists

Indian Labour Conditions

In an address to a public meeting in Johannesburg on Wednesday night on the condition of trade union organisations in India the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri made some noteworthy remarks on the attitude of the European towards the Indian workers in South Africa:—

Mr. Sastri pointed out that the Indian labourer here, in so far as he entered into competition with the European, was regarded as a dangerous competitor, largely because his standard of living and his wages were very low. It was true that the Indian labourer here took lower wages, had a lower standard of life, and might, if allowed to compete freely, become a menace. Some believed that the solution of this problem lay in trying to conform to European standards as much as possible.

The Europeans' best interest would be served in making Indians work under suitable conditions, so that their competition might be as little injurious as possible. It was with this object that he believed that the Industrial Conciliation Act was framed.

Indians felt that these Acts were aimed at them, and that they would stand a serious risk of being thrown out of employment. Nevertheless, they were resolved to face the initial difficulties, believing that they would be only temporary, and that when the period of transition had passed it would be possible for Indian labourers to benefit by these laws, without harming the Europeans.

Congress had definitely set its face against any sort of opposition to these Acts, and Indians were coming within their operation.

"When the Wage Board sat in Maritzburg and Durban the other day, our people gave evidence there, and we are quite willing to abide by the decisions of the Wage Board, and of the Minister, provided they are not made specially with the view to injure the Indian competitor.

"I am quite aware that the Wage Board and the Industrial Conciliation Acts fix their eyes on a civilised or white standard, and on wages to suit European workers. The needs and wishes of the Indian are not taken into consideration to the same extent.

"Well, we are quite prepared for that state of affairs for a time. We know that when an Indian has to take the same wage, the European competitors will employ their own in the first instance. The Indian would naturally have to stand out until all Europeans had found different occupations, and it is only when the Indian must be taken, that he will.

Justice and Fairplay

"Well, we are willing that that should be the case. We are willing to assist you, and to remove your fears of undue and debasing competition. But we ask in return, and in consideration of this, that you shall treat us with a certain amount of justice and fairplay. (Hear, hear.)

"It will not be, for instance, for you only to benefit by these means without allowing the Indian the opportunities which you enjoy to fit yourselves to earn this wage. The Indian, as he is now, is not fitted to earn a high wage. He does not receive much education; he does not receive the benefit of your trade unions; he does not enjoy any of the benefits of the Apprenticeship Act; he cannot get into any of the technical colleges for training.

"Now, how do you expect him to deserve your standard rate of wage? By all the rules of fairplay

Question: What kind is drawn more frequently than any other?
Answer: Cork!

and open competition, the trade union movement must enable the Indian to face competition. You must be prepared to extend to him the same facilities and opportunities that you, yourselves, enjoy. (Applause.)

"At the present moment, unfortunately, only a few of you take this liberal, just and humane view—a view which prevails in the labour organisations in every part of the world."

Continuing, Mr. Sastri said he knew of one or two trade unions which had admitted Indians. These experiments were noble and worthy of being followed in other ways.

Indian Response

"I can only say this for my countrymen," he said, "if you treat them fairly they will respond nobly. You won't find them a drag upon you."

Replying to Mr. A. C. Fordham, M.L.A., who inquired if it were not a fact that the caste system in India operated in workers oppressing workers, Mr. Sastri said:

"If we were in our country, we would certainly be victims of such bad institutions as caste and other things. Now we have left that country in order to, as most of you have done, better our conditions." (Hear, hear.)

"We have come here; we have become the workers of another politic; we are surrounded by another civilisation; there is a higher standard which is being continually thrust upon us, as something to which we must work up to. We ask you who taunt us with our lower standard, to help us to rise out of it. (Applause.)

"If we destroy ourselves in India by too many castes, sub-divisions of castes and jealousies, you don't certainly desire that we repeat this unsavoury performance in South Africa. (Hear, hear.)

"You would not stop here if you were told by the original inhabitants of this country that you must not ask for one iota more than you would have, had you not come here. We ask for educational opportunities, primarily for our own benefit no doubt, but for your benefit also.

"Now help us to get out of our difficulties."—*Natal Advertiser.*

Mr. Sastri Definitely Leaving

In the course of an interview with a representative of the *Star* (Johannesburg), the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri said that his mind was definitely made up on the question of terminating his appointment, and that he hoped to be able to leave South Africa in January.

Asked who was likely to take his place here, Mr. Sastri replied that that would be settled by the Department of Education, Lands and Health in consultation with the Viceroy.

"I do not know who may be chosen, and until the final choice has been made, nothing will be known. Nobody has yet been mentioned as my probable successor."

Mr. Sastri said he had no idea when he would be leaving the Union, but he added, "I have asked to be relieved in January."

He added that the question of selecting his successor would not be entirely free from difficulty. I said that the Indian Government might ask him to continue in office, and he replied: "On that point my mind is made up. I cannot, of course, desert my post, but I hope that if the Government of India send out my successor in time, I shall be leaving in January. The position is a delicate one, and like a soldier on duty, I cannot run away until somebody comes to take my place."

Question: Why are fixed stars like Vega, etc. and paper?
Answer: Because they are stationary (stationary).

Cape Indian Provincial Conference

Attack on Government, Mr. Sastri and Congress

A strong attack was made on the Government in the City Hall last Monday night, when delegates from the Eastern and Western Provinces, Griqualand and the Cape portion of Bechuanaland attended the Cape Indian Provincial Conference.

In his presidential address, Mr. B. Singh said that Indians had exhausted every effort to obtain from responsible Ministers the real aim of the Government in passing legislation affecting Cape Indians, which was contrary to the explicit terms of the agreement between the Governments of India and the Union of South Africa. It could not be doubted that the real desire of the Union Government was to restrict Indians in the exercise of their rights and privileges.

So far as the Cape Province is concerned, the Asiatic Bill was a new departure for the worse, although the subsequent dropping of it afforded a certain amount of relief. Afterwards, however, the Department of the Interior became so active that the Government decided to introduce a section which was not discussed at the round table conference. By this action the Minister of the Interior has power to deport all Indians alleged to be illegal entrants into the Union, no matter how long they have lived here, nor how faithfully they have adhered to the laws of the Union. Moreover, Dr. Malan gave an assurance in 1927 that owing to the peaceful atmosphere created by the Indo-Union agreement the obnoxious section in question would not be used retrospectively.

Like a Wild Hunt

"I firmly believe that the present system will end eventually in a final rounding up of all Indians residing in South Africa," he declared. "The whole prospect reminds me of a wild hunt, where the animals are chased from the hills and the only escape is the relentless seas. To our deepest regret we find that the Agent-General for India, Mr. V. S. S. Sastri, has quite failed to understand the feelings of his own countrymen. It is not easy to conceal the feeling of a great body of Indians that Mr. Sastri has been a mere puppet in the hands of Dr. Malan.

"The true reason, probably, for Mr. Sastri going astray in the action of the S. A. Indian Congress, a body which, despite its title, is in many respects traitorous to us. This Congress has made itself a convenient tool in the hands of political missionaries, and in fact, has become a veritable rubber stamp of the Union Government. All well-wishers of the cause of India and the local Indian community should wage an uncompromising war against the Congress."—*Natal Advertiser*.

Resolutions

Resuming its sittings on Wednesday morning a motion was unanimously agreed to as follows:—

"This conference of representatives of the Indian community of the Cape province resolves (a) that the South African Indian Congress has failed to serve the purpose for which it was originally formed; (b) that it has accepted the condonation scheme introduced by the Minister of the Interior—a scheme which this conference has unanimously rejected—without having first consulted and obtained the sanction of the Indians in the Cape Province, and also in South Africa; (c) that the South African Indian Congress does not, and cannot, represent the Indians, and this conference declares that it has no confidence in the South African Indian Congress;

(d) that this conference appeals to Indians all over South Africa not to be misled by a number of self-styled leaders, who are in reality political missionaries."

At the afternoon session an animated discussion took place on Mr. Sastri, the Indian Agent-General, with whose attitude on the condonation scheme dissatisfaction was expressed.

The conference unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that the whole of the Cape Province deplored the attitude of Mr. Sastri on the Indian question in general, and on the condonation scheme in particular. The motion further declared that if the present attitude of Mr. Sastri was not modified, the Indian population in South Africa in general, and the Cape Province in particular, would be placed at a greater disadvantage than hitherto.—(Reporter.)

Cape Indian Council Denounces Conference

The other side of the case was put at a meeting of the Cape British Indian Council, when it was resolved to ignore the aims and objects of the Cape Provincial Indian Conference, and to direct Indians in the Province not to be misled by that body. Council decided unanimously to support the leadership of the S. A. Indian Congress in ameliorating the conditions of Indians in the Union, and to congratulate the Congress on its policy and labours in bringing about the condonation scheme. The Council also expressed its gratitude for the significant, invaluable and historical services of Mr. V. S. S. Sastri. Indians throughout the Union were urged to avail themselves of the condonation scheme, so favourably considered and advanced by the Union Government in its gesture of sincere goodwill towards the Indian community in South Africa.

Asiatic Licences In The Transvaal

A Member of Licensing Board Resigns

Potchefstroom Rural Licensing Board has had before it two separate applications from Asiatics for general dealers' licences, one at Wolverdient railway junction and the other near Scandinavia Drift, on the Vaal River, writes the Potchefstroom correspondent of the *Star*, (Johannesburg):

The Wolverdient applicant was Suliman Tayob, who made legal history in Potchefstroom not long ago by winning an appeal to the Supreme Court against the refusal of the municipality to grant him a licence in town on the ground that he was an Asiatic. Several objections were lodged to his being allowed to trade at Wolverdient on various grounds by residents of the neighbourhood, and the applicant's record was discussed.

There were five previous convictions for minor contraventions of the laws governing shopkeepers. In granting the application the Board warned him that further contraventions would endanger his chance of having the licence renewed when the time came for renewal.

The Scandinavia Drift applicants were Abdoola Khan and Co., and objection was raised to the premises in which they propose to conduct the business. This case was remarkable for an outburst on the part of Mr. Hubert van der Merwe, one of the members of the Board, who found himself in a minority of one in the decision of the other two members of the Board (Messrs L. G. Horak, magistrate (president), and Johann Grimbeek) to grant the licence subject to a storeroom being made rat-proof.

Mr. van der Merwe subsequently resigned from the Board:

Gandhi Library and Rustomjee Hall Anniversary

The seventh anniversary of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall was celebrated last Saturday afternoon. The institution was profusely decorated for the occasion with flags and bunting and palm trees. There was a large attendance prominent among whom were the Mayor of Durban (Councillor A. Eaton), Mr. and Mrs. Albert Christopher, Mr. and Mrs. S. Rustomjee, Mr. W. Doull, Mr. and Mrs. V. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. M. Gandhi, Advocates J. W. Godfrey, and R. K. Khan, Mr. V. S. C. Pather, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. West, Rev. W. Simon, B. A., Mr. M. A. Motata, Mr. A. I. Kaje, Mr. M. C. Coovdia, Rev. Hibbert, Ware, M. A., Mr. B. A. Megrajhi, Bhawadi Dayal Sanyasi, Mr. Rooknoodeen and others.

In the course of his speech the chairman said, to-day was the seventh anniversary of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall and also the New Year of our Parsee brethren to whom he wished every happiness and prosperity. It was a great pleasure to him, said the speaker, to welcome His Worship the Mayor who had graced the function with his presence notwithstanding the multifarious other duties which claimed his attention. It was proof of the keen interest he took in communal affairs of the town irrespective of race, colour or creed.

The chairman then garlanded the Mayor and presented him with a bouquet of lovely pink carnations to be conveyed to the Mayoress who was unable to be present owing to other engagements.

Minutes of last Meeting

Minutes of the last annual general meeting were then read by the secretary (Mr. B. M. Patel), and adopted.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary then read his report which showed that the institution was fast becoming popular and had made very rapid progress as compared with the previous years.

The attendance of the public at the library for the year under review was 58,918 as against 46,894 in the year 1927 and 18,509 in the year 1922.

The number of visitors during the last year had exceeded that of the previous year by 12,024.

Among the distinguished visitors to the library during the year were the Bishop of Calcutta, Mr. H. B. Butler of the International Labour Office, Geneva, Mr. Kichin and Miss Gordon, Educational Experts, from India, the Mayor and Mayoress Mr. and Mrs. A. Eaton, Councillors Mrs. Knight and Elgie, Dr. Loram, Acting Superintendent of Education, Mr. B. M. Narbeth, Principal of the Natal Technical College, and the Trade Commissioners from India.

The library contains 4445 books comprising English 2342, Gujerati 1298, Tamil 291, Telugu 26, Hindi 279, Urdu 209.

Juveniles are also specially provided for in the library.

Newspapers and Periodicals

The library is receiving 154 periodicals and newspapers (including dailies, weeklies and monthlies) in English, Gujerati, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

Books Lent to the Public

There were 5450 English, 2205 Gujerati, 468 Tamil and Telugu, 88 Urdu and Arabic and 311 Hindi making a total of 8522 books issued for reading during the year and this represents an increase of 5032 books on those issued during the previous year.

The necessary funds for the upkeep of the library are provided by the Bai Jirbai Rustomjee Trust. The sum of £377-14-5 has been spent during the year, and in addition to this amount the sum of £49-18-0 was voted by the Trustees for bookcases and a table for the library.

Parsee Rustomjee Hall

The Parsee Rustomjee Hall was used by public bodies on eighty-five occasions during the year.

Tribute to Secretary

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee then paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Patel the Secretary of the Library Committee who had worked most energetically to popularise the institution. Mr. Sorabjee was supported by Mr. V. S. C. Pather and Advocate J. W. Godfrey.

Mr. Patel was then presented with a beautiful bouquet by the Mayor in appreciation of his services.

Mr. Patel in reply expressed his thanks for the kindly sentiments and said he had done nothing more than what he thought was his duty, and that he could not have accomplished his task without the generous assistance of the speakers and the members of the Committee.

The Mayor's Tribute

The Mayor spoke of the progress made by the library since its inception and remarked that it was quite evident that all classes of the Indian community took full advantage of the library, and he hoped that those who frequented the library would become a useful force in the life and affairs of the Indian community. Good books were always an invaluable asset to those who appreciated their value, and he hoped that the more advanced section of the Indians would appreciate the presence of such a splendid library. The greatest thing in life, said the Mayor, was to serve those in need. Service and sacrifice for his fellowmen had won for the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee the love, respect and admiration of thousands of his countrymen in South Africa. Few possessed his breadth of vision and foresight. In conclusion, he urged those present to cultivate the spirit of service and sacrifice, and not but not the least self-help, and so work along the lines best suited to them. If they took his advice they would soon find themselves surrounded by a band of European friends and well-wishers extending the hand of goodwill and good fellowship.

Lending Library Suggested

Mr. Albert Christopher emphasized the necessity for a lending library. He proceeded to remind his hearers that the existing library was essentially a reference library, and consequently those desiring to take away books were unable to do so. He expressed the opinion that the poorer section of the people who were unable to purchase books they desired should be given a chance in a lending library. Mr. Christopher added that if his services were required he would willingly place them before the Library Committee.

Mr. W. Doull (Secretary of the Bai Jirbai Rustomjee Trust) congratulated the Library Committee and the secretary for the very successful work they had done. Speaking on the suggestion of a lending library Mr. Doull said if the Committee felt it desirable to have a lending library and if they referred the matter to the Trustees they would willingly consider it.

Among the other speakers were the Rev. Hibbert Ware and Messrs. E. P. Reim, Pundit Bhasani Dayal, T. M. Naicker, Rooknoodeen and A. H. Kazi. Advocate R. K. Khan moved a vote of thanks to the European guests and to the chair which brought the proceedings to a successful termination.