

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

DR. Bhagat Ram Sahgal, honorary preacher of All India Arya League, Delhi, who is at present on a world tour has recently arrived in Durban after spending about ten months in East Africa. Dr. Bhagat Ram's object is to establish Arya Samaj institutions where there are none and to re-organise them where they are. While in East Africa Dr. Bhagat Ram presided over the All East Africa Youths Conference and was the president of the reception committee of the All East Africa Aryan Conference. At Lugazi in Uganda he took an active part in getting an Aryan Samaj temple built. In Darasalam the Doctor presided over the Leterary and All Religious Conferences, and through his activities a girls' school and a boys' Gurukula are now under erection for which work an amount of about 150,000 shillings was collected at a public meeting on spot. On his arrival in Durban Dr. Bhagat Ram was welcomed by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha whose honoured guest he is and also by the Arya Yuvak Sabha, the Bombay Presidency Hindu Association and other religious and social bodies. "My mission," Dr. Bhagat Ram told a representative of ours, "is to deliver a message of universal brotherhood and peace." Dr. Bhagat Ram who is here with Mrs. Bhagat Ram and their three children intends spending about six months in South Africa. In Durban the Doctor is staying at the residence of Mr. R. K. Kapitan in Leopold Street.

At a farewell function arranged in his honour in India Sir K. V. Reddi is reported to have said that he was no longer a political leader or a non-Brahmin, nor even an Indian but India's representative of South Africa. He is also reported to have said that if no obstacles presented themselves he would, in addition to his official duties, interest himself in assisting South African Indians in the co-operative movements, in social uplift and in matters pertaining to agriculture.

Mr. Benarsidas Chaturvedi writes in the *Modern Review* :—

A crisis is fast approaching in East Africa. With the publication of the Hilton Young Commission's Report our struggle in East Africa will assume a new phase and there is every danger of our position being weakened as a consequence of the short-sighted policy of the Conservative Government in England, in giving more power to the Delamere party in Kenya. It is therefore very necessary to keep a close watch on the march of events in those parts of Africa. It will be a great thing indeed if some of our leaders could go to Kenya and study the situation on the spot. There is Mr. J. B. Pandya's offer of a free passage. Is it really impossible to get three or four of our leaders to proceed to East Africa in a month or two? If the Motherland cannot lend the services of four of her noble sons just for three months at this critical time in the history of our people in East Africa it will be really unfortunate.

"Trained women to search women, girls and children and take the whole custody of women prisoners in the lock-ups, be attached to the Calcutta police force as in other advanced countries," was the suggestion made by Mrs. Stanley, late Superintendent, Women Metropolitan Police, London. There was an ample field for trained women police at the railway stations to protect the stranded women passengers from the hands of women traffickers she said.

HINDU MISSIONARIES IN THE UNION

WE have amongst us two Hindu Missionaries—Dr. Bhagat Ram Sahgal and Pandit Ramgovind Shastri. They are coming from the Motherland to visit their brethren in this far distant land. As such we heartily welcome them and hope their stay amongst us will be pleasant and fruitful. We will have the pleasure of their company for about six months. Both these gentlemen belong to two distinct sects to Hinduism. Dr. Bhagat Ram is an Arya Samajist and Pandit Ramgovind Shastri is a Sanatanist. The latter represents the orthodox Hindus who believe in following the ancient customs and prejudices as stipulated by their ancestors no matter whether they are faulty or otherwise. They follow rather the letter than the spirit of the Vedas. Much reform is however being made now by the more enlightened Sanatanists. The former represents the followers of Swami Dayanand Sarasvati, who has made radical reforms in Hinduism by adhering to the spirit of the Vedas, discarding idolatory and other customs adopted out of utter ignorance and miscalled religious customs, though having no religious significance in them. Hinduism owes much of its social reform to the Arya Samajists. For instance Arya Samajists have been the pioneers in the movement of the removal of untouchability and the uplift of the depressed classes in India. We are, however, neither supporters of the radical Sanatanist nor of

the radical Arya Samajist. Both have their merits and demerits. Both have done harm to their community by their extremism. The one has done so by their backwardness and the other by going too forward. We do not propose to enter into a discussion of these. We are glad to learn that neither of the two friends amongst us is an extremist.

There is much reform work needed to be done among the Hindus in South Africa and especially in Natal where the ignorant class predominates. For instance, though South Africa is a land where the Indian's right of existence is restricted there is one door wide open for him where he is welcomed whole-heartedly, and that is the bar. To that temptation the Hindu has succumbed as much as, if not more than, any other sect. Another evil that needs to be eradicated is the barbarous custom of slaughtering animals in their hundreds if not thousands every year at Isipingo and other places to place at the altar of the Goddess Kali, and of piercing one's own limbs with spikes, and of fire-walking. Whatever little significance these so-called religious customs may have is year by year being lost because the learned (?) priests who promote these feats are making circus shows of them for the benefit of the Europeans little realising what asses they are making of their brethren in the eyes of the civilised world. No enlightened Hindus are interested in these performances and it is time that they took active steps to eradicate this evil. If this evil is ended there will end also another evil which is the outcome of the former and which ruins the Indian labourer. That evil is the evil of drink and gambling that goes on during these annual festivals. When one sees these things one is amazed to think that a civilised Government could allow such a state of affairs.

If our missionary friends from India will restrict their activities to these and other minor reforms amongst their co-religionists we are sure their presence in their midst will be a blessing. And we can assure Dr. Bhagat Ram that that service will be much more beneficial and appreciated than the addition of another convert to the Vedic religion. We have a sufficient number to look after than burdening ourselves with more.

WILL IT BE JUDICIOUS?

MR. NEL, member for Newcastle, has asked the Minister of the Interior questions connected with the condonation scheme, as to whether Messrs. Motala, Lokhat and M. E. Lakhi were granted exemption certificates and/or condonation certificates, and if so, whether they had entered the Province by contravening the law and if so what law they had contravened? We do not know whether the three gentlemen above-mentioned have applied for and received condonation certificates or whether they are legal residents and as such holders of domicile certificates. We know this much about them that they are old residents and prominent members of the mercantile community of this Province.

We do not know how far a member of the House is justified in asking such questions about individual cases nor how far the Minister would be justified in allowing a precedent of this sort to be established by replying them. It is no small humiliation for a person to have to admit a crime and explain how he committed it before a judicial authority but to make a song of it in public after the crime has been condoned is a worse humiliation, and we have our doubts as to how far a disclosure of the nature asked by Mr. Nel would be judicious. We are not concerned so much about the present questions and replies that may be given by the Minister. What we are really concerned about is the precedent that may thereby be established for others in future to follow, and it may ultimately result in asking all the names of the condonees to be gazetted together with the nature of the crime of each condonee and how he committed it. If the Government is prepared to reply to Mr. Nel's question it will have to be prepared to do the latter too, which would not be right for a member to suggest nor for the Government to entertain. Is it not sufficient that certain conditions were stipulated which applicants for condonation were supposed to fulfil? And were these conditions not published? Does Mr. Nel doubt that the Government Department has given applicants certificates where they were not entitled to obtain them? Apart from other considerations Mr. Nel's query amounts to casting a reflection on the Government's credibility. We hope the Minister will nip the evil in the bud by refusing to reply to the question put to him.

In The House Of Assembly

Queries By Mr. Nel On Indian Question

On Tuesday in the House of Assembly Mr. Nel member for New Castle asked the Minister of the Interior:

(1) Whether a deputation of Indians was recently received by him; if so

(2) Whether representations were made by them in favour of the amendment of the Transvaal laws respecting occupation and ownership of land by Asiatics in the Transvaal:

(3) Whether representations were made to amend the licensing laws in the Transvaal and Natal or in either Province;

(4) Whether it is the policy of the Government to grant further concessions to Indians; and, if so, to what extent; and

(5) What steps have been taken under the Union-Indian Agreement to grant facilities to Asiatics (a) for technical education; (b) for primary education; (c) for secondary education; and (d) for university education?

Dr. Malan replied: (1) Yes; (2) No; (3) No; (4) No.

(5) Under the Union-Indian Agreement the Union Government could not, and did not, make any promise going beyond its constitutional powers, and in so far as certain branches of education are not under its control or only indirectly so it could not bind itself to grant facilities in respect of such types of education.

(a) Technical education in the larger urban centres is by Act 30 of 1923 placed under the control of autonomous technical colleges. To such of these institutions as do not offer classes for coloured or Indian students circular letters were sent by the Secretary for Education on the instruction of the Minister drawing attention to the possible needs of these students in their respective areas;

(b) and (c): Primary and secondary education is a Provincial matter, but the attention of Provincial authorities in Natal has been directed to the needs of the Indian community in that Province by the Minister, as a result of which an inquiry was held and certain steps taken by the Provincial Administration for the improvement and the provision of better facilities for Indian education.

(d) University institutions under various Acts of Parliament control admission of their students, but the needs of Indian students have been represented to the Council of the South African Native College, Fort Hare, and provision for their admission to this institution has, it is understood, been made.

On Condonation

Mr. Nel, has addressed the following further query to the Minister of the Interior:—

"Whether (a) Motala of the firm of motala, Ltd., merchant, Durban; and (b) Lockhat, of the firm of Lockhat, Ltd., wholesale merchants, Durban; and (c) M. E. Lakhi, of the firm of Lakhi, Ltd., wholesale merchants, Greytown, Natal, have been granted exemption certificates and/or condonation certificates by the Minister; and if so (2) whether these Indians entered the Union in contravention of the Immigration laws of Natal, and, if so, in contravention of what law?

The Minister has not yet replied.

[Note: We comment on the above in our leading article.—Ed. I. O.]

Transvaal Notes

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Johannesburg 14th Feb. 1929.

Transvaal Indian Congress

A mass meeting was held on 6th Feb. at 4 p.m. in the Patidar Hall to protest against the Licensing Laws, especially against the withholding of the certificates for licences.

Mr. M. D. Bharoochi President of the Transvaal Indian Congress was in the chair, supported by the vice-president Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo, the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Messrs. L. W. Ritch, E. Mall, S. B. Medh, B. K. Patel, E. I. Ashabbai, S. M. Desai, P. K. Desai and many others.

The chairman made a very telling speech and called upon the community to face the new danger. He appealed to them to support the South African Indian Congress which body was the only one representing the voice of the people. He briefly outlined the different laws as affecting the Indian traders.

The Rev. Sigamoney was called upon to speak. He said that this was the greatest crisis the Indians had to face in this country. All others were serious but not of the gravity of this one. Indians stood to lose nearly a million pounds worth of goods and if no remedy was found ruination stared them in the face. He appealed to the house to have faith in the righteousness of their cause because that would enable them to achieve victory.

Mr. Pragji Desai also spoke and gave a brief summary of what transpired at the South African Indian Congress. Messrs. L. W. Ritch, S. M. Desai, S. B. Medh and Patel spoke on similar lines.

The meeting was very enthusiastic and a pledge was given to loyally support the S.A.I. Congress.

Deputation To Mayor Of Johannesburg

A deputation from the Transvaal Indian Congress waited on the Mayor of Johannesburg on Thursday 14th instant at 11-30 a.m., the Town Clerk being present in an advisory capacity.

The spokesman of the deputation was the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, and the others being Messrs. M. D. Bharoochi (President T.I.C.), D. M. Nuroso (Secty. T.I.C.), E. Mall (Secretary S.A.I.C.), C. K. T. Naidoo (Vice-President T.I.C.), S. B. Medh and P. K. Desai. The question was the withholding of certificates to trade.

Rev. Sigamoney pointed out how great was the panic among the Indian merchants because of the uncertainty of the whole position. Not only was this fear in the minds of Indians but very much so in the minds of European merchants. Shippers overseas were curtailing the trade facilities, insurance companies were fearing the danger. Indian merchants stood to lose thousands. He appealed to the Mayor to realise the gravity of the position. Rev. Sigamoney said the Indians only asked that they be treated as justly as the European peoples would like to be treated themselves. The next point was the penalty. Anyone who trades and does not obtain his certificate by 1st February is liable for persecution and fine. The Indians argued that it was not their fault hence they should not be called upon to pay.

The Mayor in reply sympathised very much with the Indians' cause but he said that these laws were Government measures and they had to administer them no matter what they felt on the subject. He was sorry for the delay but as the Town Council was consulting two of its eminent lawyers they would have to wait till their opinion was secured.

He said the Council desired to be quite fair and just to the Indians.

The deputation left feeling that at least Mayor Fearnhead was desirous of doing the right thing by the Indian community.

Colonial Born Indian Association

The annual general meeting of the Colonial Born Indian Association was held on the 4th Feb. 1929 at 9 p.m. in the Trades Hall presided over by Mr. D. M. Nursoo. A very good attendance of members was recorded. The meeting was enthusiastic when one considers that the Association goes to sleep the greater part of the year. The Secretary Mr. V. M. Moodley read the report in which he mentioned the activities of the Association. The two chief things they did were to welcome the Right Hon. V. S. Sastri and to bid farewell to their President Dr. W. Godfrey, and a mass meeting of Colonial born Indians to protest against the Liquor Bill.

The Secretary's report was passed but the Treasurer's report and balance sheet were not passed as the auditor's report showed a serious state of affairs. A special committee was appointed to investigate and report.

A number of young men who were under the influence of liquor caused considerable annoyance by their rowdy behaviour. The scene was disgraceful when prominent members came to hot words and used most disgusting language. Men who aspire to be leaders ought to be able to moderate their language. This is deliberately mentioned so that they might read and learn.

The following new officials were elected :—

Patron Dr. Wm. Godfrey, Vice-Patron Mr. N. Naidoo, President Mr. D. M. Nursoo, Vice-Presidents Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Messrs. J. S. Andrews, John Peters, C. Poonen, A. D. Williams and V. S. Naicker; Hon. Secretary Mr. V. M. Moodley, Hon. Treasurer Mr. S. Ramdial Singh, Auditors Messrs. K. N. Singh and Himdad Khan.

The Committee was not elected as the meeting was closed owing to a disturbance outside.

The Colonial Born Indian Association if they are to command the respect of the Indian public in South Africa, then the behaviour that was manifested at the annual meeting should at once stop because they will certainly not get a hearing from the Government if they have men who do not know how to behave themselves in public.

Transvaal Hotel Employees' Union

The annual general meeting of the Transvaal Hotel Employees' Union was held on Friday 1st inst., in the Trades Hall at 9 p.m. All the hotels were represented and a very good meeting was held. Mr. D. Ernest, President in the chair, was supported by the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Messrs. R. M. John, Frank Francis, and Sampson Paul (treasurer). The Secretary Mr. D. R. James read the report of last year's work and it showed a steady progress in the building of the Union. The chaotic condition in which it existed during the last five years and with its subsequent litigation left its mark upon the Union for the worst. The Secretary's report showed that there was much yet to be achieved.

The report also mentioned the disabilities the Indian waiters are suffering owing to the Liquor Act of 1929. The Union, it said, was indebted to the Transvaal Indian Congress and the South African Indian Congress for the way they supported the hotel employees in getting redress. The Secretary mentioned the valuable help and advice the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney rendered to the Union at all times.

Owing to the treasurer Mr. Sampson Paul being away as a delegate at the South African Indian Con-

gress the balance sheet was not ready. The meeting decided that it be submitted to a general meeting within a fortnight.

Considerable anxiety was felt in regard to the elections and it was felt that a change should be made in the presidentship for the year. Mr. Willie Ernest was asked to stand but he declined and so did the Rev. Sigamoney. On the strong recommendation and advice of the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Mr. S. B. Medh was proposed and Mr. D. Ernest was again proposed as an amendment. Mr. S. B. Medh was carried by a great majority with acclamation.

The following were elected Vice-Presidents :—

Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Messrs. R. M. John, D. Ernest, C. Poonen, S. P. Francis. For the post of secretaryship there were three candidates Messrs. Harry D. Ernest, P. Ramsey and Alex Bennet. Mr. Alex Bennett was elected by an overwhelming majority.

There is every sign that by the infusion of new blood into the Union everything will work smoothly and that the Union will not go to sleep as it did the last five years. Great credit is due to Mr. D. R. James for taking on the secretaryship at a time when the ex-President and the members of the Union were at great variance as to the policy of the Union. He quietly restored the Union to its present footing and helped to clean the stables of much that was undesirable.

✓ Mr. Sastri In Bombay

On his arrival at Bombay last Saturday Mr. Sastri was given a warm reception and received numerous messages of welcome which included one from the Viceroy, the Governor of Bombay, Mahatma Gandhi and Sir Sahib Habibullah, member of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

Interviewed by Reuter, Mr. Sastri, in referring to the conditions of the natives in South Africa said: "I have not made a careful study of the subject because it does not form part of the duties of the agent of the Government of India, but occasionally a desire has been expressed by these classes of people that Indians should co-operate with them in their struggles and with the few Indians similarly inclined. I set my face against such a move.

"Apart from other reasons there is one consideration which is conclusive on the matter. Once Indians have identified themselves, or closely associated themselves with other people, the Government of India cannot help them, and without the backing of the Government of India our community would be lost."

Mr. Sastri, referring to the establishment of Indo-European Leagues in Johannesburg and Durban, said that individual Europeans had always been friendly to the Indians' cause, but the leagues serve to bring about co-operation between Indians and Europeans, the occasion for which will always exist.

He added that Sir Kurma Reddi had produced the best impression and Mr. Sastri was confident that Sir Reddi's term would be attended by excellent results as he had already won the esteem and goodwill of both Europeans and Indians.

Mr. Sastri declined to express his opinion at present on Indian politics.

One Element Of Hope

Speaking at a public meeting held to welcome him, Mr. Sastri said that such improvement as there now was in the South African Indian situation was not due personally to him, but a good deal of it was really based on good understanding between the South African Government and the political representatives of the Indian community.

The most remarkable feature of his mission was

that he received, while in South Africa, the unstinted confidence of the Government of India on the one hand and of Mahatma Gandhi on the other. "What a lucky man I was to be the medium of complete co-operation and exchange of mutual confidence between these two agencies—the Government of India and Mahatma Gandhi (laughter) for without his continued moral support it would not have been possible for me to maintain throughout my work that relation of intimate confidence which it was my fortune to preserve with my friends," he said.

Mr. Sastri added that the improved Indian situation in South Africa was but the beginning of a more hopeful situation in other parts of the Empire wherever Indians and Europeans were thrown into mutual contact. It was the Indian situation in South Africa which was the key to the situation in other parts of the Empire and he was satisfied that the South African situation would improve in time until it was changed out of all recognition.

Mr. Sastri urged Indians to send to South Africa every or two the best possible representative of Indian culture, not only to enable Indians there to replenish themselves from the original source, but to raise them in the eyes of the European community.

Mr. Sastri Before Students

Mr. Sastri did not have such a patient hearing when he later addressed a meeting consisting mostly of students, on the basic idea governing the Indian situation in South Africa. Mr. Sastri declared that it must be remembered that they were not writing on a clean slate in South Africa, but were circumscribed by a number of limitations imposed by Imperial understandings. Every part of the Empire had the right to determine the character of its civilisation, standard of living and the character of its public institutions. India had the same right, though she did not choose to exercise it.

Mr. Sastri instanced South African laws working against the Indian community, such as the Supreme Court decision that Indians could not own lands. He said the only remedy which could be suggested was to pass a law of indemnity, but the Union Parliament, as it was at present, would not pass such a law.

However, there was one element of hope and that was the sympathy which some Europeans in South Africa had for the Indian cause. If Indians played the cards in their hands with skill and moderation even a law of indemnity was not beyond practical politics.

Natal Indian Congress

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress will be held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban, on Sunday 17th March 1929 at 2-30 p.m.

Agenda: Minutes, Secretary's report, Treasurers' Financial Report, Revision of Rules, Election of Officials, General.

SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,
President.

A. I. KAJEE } Jt. Hon.
P. R. PATHER } Secretaries.

Knowledge leads to unity, and ignorance to sterility.

Indian National Congress

Momentous Calcutta Session

(From the 'HINDU,' Madras)

Calcutta, Dec. 29.

(Continued from page 64)

The Compromise Resolution

GANDHIJI'S MOTION

Gandhiji ascended the rostrum amid repeated applause and cries of "Vande Mataram" and taking his seat on the table, moved the resolution passed by a majority at the Subjects Committee. The following is the text of the resolution:—

This Congress having considered the constitution recommended by the All-Parties' Committee Report, welcomes it as a great contribution towards the solution of India's political and communal problems, and congratulates the Committee on the virtual unanimity of its recommendations; and whilst adhering to the resolution relating to Independence passed at the Madras Congress, approves the constitution drawn up by the Committee as a great step in political advance, especially as it represents the largest measure of agreement attained among the important parties in the country.

Subject to the exigencies of the political situation, this Congress will adopt the constitution if it is accepted in its entirety by the British Parliament on or before the 31st December 1929; but in the event of its non-acceptance by that date or its earlier rejection, the Congress will organise a campaign of non-violent non-co-operation by advising the country to refuse taxation and in such other manner as may be decided upon.

Consistently with the above, nothing in this resolution shall interfere with the carrying on of propaganda in the name of the Congress for the goal of complete national independence.

Speaking in Hindi he said that if he had found a better remedy than the Nehru Report he would not have moved this resolution. The Congress must cast its vote carefully without any consideration of any person.

The following is a translation of Mahatma Gandhi's speech:—

"If you want India to be free, give up talking about Independence and Dominion Status. Remember only this much, that Swaraj is that alone which may make us feel in our heart of hearts that we have obtained what we wanted to achieve." He said he had come all the way from Sabarmati Ashram to support the Nehru Report because the report was the direct outcome of the mandate of the Madras Congress which appointed it. "This is a sort of Swaraj for the country to-day, and I cannot say what will happen to-morrow. We must fight for truth. Those who give up truth, honour and pledge, and tradition cannot attain Swaraj, as they are unfit for it."

Continuing, he urged the delegates to honour the compromise which their leaders had arrived at in the Subjects Committee. "If you honestly think," said he, "that I am lowering the Congress flag, then spit on me and do not listen to me. I do not wish you to vote for this resolution, simply because it is

Love labour, if you need it for food, you may, for physics,

my resolution; but do so only if you are prepared to work out the programme chalked out for you. If you reject this resolution, you must elect another president, because it is he who is behind this resolution."

Gandhiji deprecated dirty tactics used for securing a majority of delegates, which he said would delay Swaraj. "If you want Swaraj, you must purge yourself of this dirt," concluded Gandhiji amid loud and continued applause.

There was some confusion among the audience not only because Gandhiji's voice was low and could not reach much beyond the rostrum, but also because the loud speakers failed. Shouts of "Can't hear one syllable" were raised, to which Gandhiji replied, "I have not said anything material for you to hear."

Dr. Ansari Seconds Motion

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, whose name appeared on the agenda as the seconder, did not come forward. In his place Dr. Ansari seconded it. He said it was the best cure to solve the communal and political problems of the country. It had the maximum support behind it. The resolution gave full liberty to work for complete independence. Some young men did not agree with the resolution but he appealed to them to use their forces for achieving a united stand against the common enemy. Our forces should be centralised on one subject, namely, getting our demands laid down in the Nehru Report accepted. If the Government failed to yield to their demand they would once again take up the powerful weapon of non-co-operation. He knew that some young men would be displeased with him, but he felt it his duty to stand by the Nehru Report.

Mr. Subash Bose's Amendment

Mr. Subash Chandra Bose moved the following as amendment to Mahatma Gandhi's resolution:—

"(1) This Congress adheres to the decision of the Madras Congress declaring Complete Independence to be the goal of the Indian people and is of opinion that there can be no true freedom till the British connection is severed.

(2) This Congress accepts the recommendations of the Nehru Committee as agreed to by the Lucknow All-Parties' Conference for the settlement of communal differences.

(3) This Congress congratulates the Nehru Committee on their patriotic labours and, while it does not accept Dominion Status as the basis of the recommended constitution, is of opinion that the other recommendations contained in the report constitute a step towards political advance, and, without committing itself to every detail, generally approves of them."

Mr. Subash Bose was followed by Mr. Satyamurti, Dr. Besant, and others who also spoke on the resolution.

Night Session Of Congress

Intense excitement prevailed when the Congress assembled after a short interval. Brisk canvassing was proceeding in every Provincial block separately by both the rival sections. The Independence Party appeared to be more energetic and carried their canvassing with brief speeches as well.

It was 9-15 p.m. when Mahatmaji arrived to answer to the criticisms levelled against his resolution and rely on the judgment of the House.

The visitors' galleries were deserted and there was a scramble among the delegates to be in their respective provincial blocks lest there should be any difficulty experienced at the voting time. But the 300 delegates from Utkal were not present as a protest against the alleged refusal of permission to have their points for the separation of the Oriya-speaking areas discussed in the Subjects Committee.

Pandit Jawaharlal Supports Amendment

In supporting Mr. Subash Bose's amendment, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that it was not easy to oppose a motion of Mahatma Gandhi with confidence. Mahatma Gandhi was the biggest of rebels and if even India would rebel Mahatma Gandhi would lead. "The question before you is very simple. It is, do you want Independence or Dominion Status? I must respectfully ask my elders whether any country in the world except the British Dominions, understand such a status. No nation has ever sacrificed its sons for such a status. The banner of independence was hoisted at the Madras Congress and since then the Nehru Committee Report had come, but, although we respect this report, we do not wish to make it our ideal. In the messages of greetings received and read the other day not a word had come from the English people. I do not wish that you should be carried away by passion but consider properly what is to be your ideal. My personal opinion is that India should stand for complete independence."

At this stage the House was getting impatient and there was a demand for a closure motion from all sides.

Gandhiji's Reply To Debate

Replying to the debate Mahatma Gandhi said that his remarks were principally addressed to Young Bengal and if they considered for one moment that mere Gujarat could not understand young Bengal then he would say that young Bengal would commit the most serious blunder. "I want to make my position absolutely clear that if you are wise you must dismiss from your mind the bogey of Independence versus Dominion Status. There is no such thing as to who is incorrect in a controversy between Dominion Status and Independence. I for one do not want dominion status that might interfere with my growth, that is independence. We are the architects of our destiny. The architects of the Nehru Report are our countrymen appointed by you. There is no hand on the part of the Government in the framing of the document. The document owes its origin to the Madras Congress and it was by this Madras Congress that this Committee was appointed.

"The question has been agitating my mind even since last evening that there was going to be a serious amendment to be moved. The resolution I have submitted to you is the direct result of a compromise. The resolution that I had originally framed was moved before the Subjects Committee in the way of some kind of an informal compromise and some kind of an understanding. There were many heads behind that resolution and there was the intention to placate as many men as possible. I do not want, therefore, to suggest that you are bound by this resolution of compromise, but I do want to say that those who are supposed to be bound should not run away with the idea that it has been thrust upon them. Here I am making an appeal that that sentiment is wrong. You will have independence on your lips as the Moslems utter the name of Alla on their lips. All that muttering of mantra shows that independence will be surely an empty formula.

"I suggest that if those who were behind this compromise subsequently found that they had committed a blunder and they are penitent, then I say that penitence is made of sterner stuff. It is not made by amendments. There are other drastic steps to be taken. If you are not prepared to stand by your own words of compromise, then where will independence be? Independence, after all, is made of sterner stuff. It is not made by wriggling of words.

If you want to vindicate the honour of the nation because the Viceroy insults us or the President of the European Chamber of Commerce, then you are

dragging independence into the mire. Why are you labouring under an inferiority complex that within a year we shall not be able to marshal our forces and summon to ourselves the strength we need? If you will help me and follow the programme honestly and intelligently, I promise that Swaraj will come within a year. If you can stand with courage, with breast before the bullet, then I can promise, you can get all that you possibly desire.

Do not be afraid of long-drawn-out agony. In the present state of the country, when we cannot trust our brothers and sisters, our parents and party leaders, when we have no sense of honour, when we cannot allow words to remain unaltered for 24 hours, do not talk of independence. But, if you will develop that calm courage and honesty of purpose and that determination which will refuse to accept 'no' for an answer to your demand, then I promise what the tallest among us can possibly desire.

"It cut me to the quick when I heard that delegates' tickets had passed hands and were sold like bills of exchange and rates increased as days went on. It is discreditable to the Congress and I say you are not going to get independence by these methods. On the other hand, you are forging your own shackles from which there will be no escape.

"I want to abide by that compromise because our leaders have entered into a compromise, but if you think it not a matter of honour, if you think that the independence of your country is lost if you accept the resolution, I have to submit to you that you can throw out the resolution by an overwhelming majority or any majority whatsoever. Swaraj is my birthright as much as the breath in my nostrils is my birthright. If you follow the programme of work with honesty and intelligence I promise Dominion Status within one year."

It was quarter to eleven when Mahatma Gandhi finished his speech. The House rejected all amendments moved to the resolution.

Finally the amendment of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose was put in an atmosphere of excitement and speculation. Messrs. Sen Gupta, Subash Bose, Ansari, Jawaharlal, Girdharilal and Raja Rao supervised the taking of votes in the respective blocks, in each of which there were two tellers.

Gandhiji's Motion Carried

At 1 in the morning the Congress divided after five hours' debate on the question of Dominion Status versus Independence. Gandhiji's resolution for the acceptance of Dominion Status constitution recommended by the Nehru Committee was passed amidst enthusiastic cheers.

The amendment of Mr. Subash Chandra Bose repudiating Dominion Status and laying down Independence as India's goal was lost by 973 vote against 1350.

Scenes At Counting

Disorderly scenes were witnessed in the Bengal block when the tellers were counting the votes of delegates province by province. Cries of "Traitors, betrayers" were showered on those who voted against the amendment. This drew sharp rebuke from Pandit Motilal Nehru. Before the result of the division was announced Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: "The President wishes to inform the delegates that he had personally noticed that a section of the Bengal delegates were not conducting themselves in a proper manner. Those who were voting against the amendment were harassed in every possible manner, which made it difficult for the tellers to carry on their work."

Mr. Subash Chandra Bose was heard to protest against this observation whereupon Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru retorted, "I have personally heard supporters of the resolution being called traitors and betrayers."

(To be Continued)

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part V. Chapter IV.

SHANTINIKETAN

From Rajkot I proceeded to Shantiniketan. The teachers and students overwhelmed me with affection. The reception was a beautiful combination of simplicity, art and love. It was here I met Kakasaheb Kalelkar for the first time.

I did not know then why Kalelkar was called 'Kakasaheb.' But I learnt later on that Sjt. Kesavrao Deshpande, who was a contemporary and a close friend of mine in England, and who had conducted a school in the Baroda State called 'Ganganath Vidyalaya,' had given the teachers' family names with a view to investing the Vidyalaya with a family atmosphere. Sjt. Kalelkar, who was a teacher there, came to be called 'Kaka' (lit. paternal uncle), Phadke was called 'Mama' (lit. maternal uncle), and Harihar Sharma received the name 'Anna' (lit. brother). Others also got similar names. Anandanand (Swami) as Kaka's friend and Patwardhan (Appa) as Mama's friend later joined the family, and all in course of time became my co-workers one after another. Sjt. Deshpande himself used to be called 'Saheb.' When the Vidyalaya had to be dissolved, the family also broke up, but they never gave up their spiritual relationship or their assumed names.

Kakasaheb went out to gain experiences of different institutions, and at the time I went to Shantiniketan, he happened to be there. Chintaman Shastri, belonging to the same fraternity, was there also. Both helped there in teaching Sanskrit.

The Phoenix family had been assigned separate quarters at Shantiniketan. Maganlal Gandhi was at their head and he had made it his business to see that all the rules of the Phoenix Ashram should be scrupulously observed. I saw that by dint of his love, knowledge and perseverance, he had made his fragrance felt in the whole of Shantiniketan.

Andrews was there, and also Pearson. Amongst the Bengali teachers we came in fairly close contact with Jagadanandbabu, Nepalbabu, Santosbabu, Kshitimohanbabu, Naginbabu, Shatadbabu and Kalibabu.

As is my wont, I quickly mixed with the teachers and students, and engaged them in a discussion on self-help. I put it to the teachers that if they and the boys dispensed with the services of paid cooks and cooked their food themselves, it would enable the teachers to control the kitchen from the point of view of the boys' physical and moral health, and it would afford to the students an object-lesson in self-help. One or two of them were inclined to shake their heads. Some of them strongly approved of the proposal. The boys welcomed it, if only because of their instinctive taste for novelty. So we launched the experiment. When I invited the Post to express his opinion, he said that he did not mind it provided the teachers were favourable. To the boys he said, 'The experiment contains the key to Swaraj.'

Pearson began to wear away his body in making the experiment a success. He threw himself into it with zest. A batch was formed to cut vegetables, another to clean the grain, and so on. Naginbabu and others undertook to see to the sanitary cleaning of the kitchen and its surroundings. It was a delight to me to see them working spade in hand.

But it was too much to expect the hundred and twenty-five boys with their teachers to take to this work of physical labour like fish to water. There used to be daily discussions. Some began early to

show fatigue. But Pearson was not the man to be tired. One would always find him with his smiling face doing something or other in or about the kitchen. He had taken upon himself the cleaning of the bigger utensils. A party of students played on their *sitar* before this cleaning party in order to beguile the tedium of the operation. All alike took the thing up with zest and Shantiniketan became a busy hive.

Changes like these when once begun always develop. The Phoenix party's kitchen was not only a self-conducted one, but the food cooked in it was of the simplest. Condiments were eschewed. Rice, *dal*, vegetables and even wheat flour were all cooked at one and the same time in a steam-cooker. And Shantiniketan boys started a similar kitchen with a view to introducing reform in the Bengali kitchen. One or two teachers and some students ran this kitchen.

The experiment was, however, dropped after some time. I am of opinion that the famous institution lost nothing by having conducted the experiment for a brief interval, and some of the experiences gained could not but be of help to the teachers.

I had intended to stay at Shantiniketan for some time but fate had willed it otherwise. I had hardly been there a week when I received from Poona a telegram about Gokhale's death. Shantiniketan was immersed in grief. All the members came over to me to express their condolences. A special meeting was called in the Ashram temple to mourn the national loss. It was a solemn function. The same day, I left for Poona with my wife and Maganlal. All the rest stayed at Shantiniketan.

Andrews accompanied me up to Burdwan. 'Do you think,' he asked me, 'that a time will come for Satyagrah in India? And if so, have you any idea when it will come?'

'It is difficult to say,' said I. 'For one year I am to do nothing. For Gokhale took from me a promise that I should travel in India for gaining experience and express no opinion on public questions until I have finished the period of probation. Even after the year is over, I will be in no hurry to speak and pronounce opinions. And so I do not suppose there will be any occasion for Satyagraha for five years or so.'

I may state in this connection that Gokhale used to laugh at some of my ideas in *Hind Swaraj* (*Indian Home Rule*) and say: 'After you have stayed a year in India, your views will correct themselves.'

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વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ

અને ઘરે ભાડે આપવાના ટેન્ડરો

સુરત હાંદુ એસોસીએશનનાં સર્વે મેમ્બરોને ખચર આપવામાં આવે છે કે એસોસીએશનની વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ સ્વીવાર તા. ૨૪ મી ફેબ્રુવારી ૧૯૨૯ નાં રોજ સાંજના ત્રણ વાગ્યે ૧૨૭ વીકટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ વાળા હોલમાં મળશે.

કામકાજ

વાર્ષિક જનરલ રીપોર્ટ.

૧૨૭ વીકટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ વાળી પ્રોપર્ટીનાં પાછળનાં રૂમો તથા ૨૧, ૨૩ અને ૨૫ ફોસ સ્ટ્રીટ વાળાં ઘરે ભાડે આપવા ટેન્ડરો લેવામાં આવશે. વધુ અથવા ઓછા ટેન્ડરો પાસ કરવાની સત્તા જનરલ મીટીંગને છે. ઓફીસરોની અને કમીટી મેમ્બરોની ચુંટણી. પરચુરસ.

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જી. એમ. પટેલ,

સે. સુ. હાં. એ.

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