

Indian Opinion

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"A PITIABLE STATE"

(BY L. W. RITCH)

IN your issue of the 15th instant, I am reported to have said at the Transvaal Indian Congress meeting held the previous Friday that "if the Indian community did not wake thoroughly to the danger that threatened them, they would find themselves in a pitiable state."

The report is probably a periphrasis, according to the reporter's comprehension, of what actually was said. I was not speaking in the conditional mood. I was not contemplating what might happen in certain eventualities. My criticism was directed to the present, to the condition of the people as it is now, to the truly pitiable state into which they have already fallen. "Sthiti," or state, is a condition in which a soul finds "itself," or more frequently occupies without "finding itself." It may be called a "guna-condition" if so clumsy an expression can be excused, and so regarded. The "state" of the people to-day is indeed truly pitiable. Their one and only concern would appear to be the danger of their losing their licences. That in the eyes of the law, they are a community of "pariahs," that they have allowed their better selves to be stupified into indifference to the claims of the Motherland, communal honour, duty to their children, rather than be disturbed in their occupation of money-seeking—the shame, the indignity of these things—would appear to leave them unmoved, or else to be wholly unappreciated. Here is a people that should recognise that it is the trustee and guardian in South Africa of India's honour, a people whose solemn duty it is to persist in endeavouring to elevate, not degrade, Indian status, to see that the tide of disability that otherwise must be their children's heritage is stemmed and if possible pushed back. Yet their one great worry is "licences." Duty, self-respect, moral responsibilities—all sacrificed on the altar of Mammon. Could their "state" become any more pitiable?

The people's pedigree—the cream of humanity were their ancestors—the inestimable advantage they enjoyed for so many years of Gandhiji's presence, teaching and example, not to speak of what should be their faith, their convictions, their sense of duty, if professions mean anything, ought surely to have made impossible this shame.

The "state" to be deplored is not the threatened loss of their licences, not even the wholesale statutory degradation the legislature has subjected them to, but their outlook upon, their demeanour towards the situation. Matters have reached the stage where they are because of this very stolidity, and almost one is tempted to say criminal indifference to the calls of duty. The lessons of the past were ignored, warnings disregarded. Cabals and personalities prevailed where cohesion, co-operation, the spirit of public duty and of at least some call to sacrifice should have obtained. "Each for himself, and the devil for the hindmost" was, in practice, the motto adopted. And at this very twelfth hour when the knife is actually at the throat of the community is there to be observed any real change of heart? Other than the cry "How can we save our licences?" is

ought else heard? And if by some good, or one is tempted to think ill, fortune the licences are granted for another year will the people promptly sink back into their money-drunk stupour?

The indictment charged is admittedly strong, but no stronger than the facts warrant. There is a time when straight-forward, plain, unvarnished speaking becomes a duty; and this is such a time. The shame of it all, probably the responsibility for it all, is shared by each one of us who is linked to India by either material or spiritual ties.

Now for the other side of the picture.

Only a fool could fail to see that this last straw—the trouble in regard to licences—is but one of a whole sheaf that has designedly and with no little forethought been gathered and bound together for the burdening of Indian backs.

The present Government is but following in the footsteps of its predecessors, save that it is perhaps moving with somewhat less compunction, and with greater determination to accomplish what its immediate predecessor desired, but only partially achieved. The objective has been, there is no room for doubt that it still is, to rid South Africa of the despised and detested "coolie," or, if they won't go then to make them commercially and industrially harmless from the white man's point of view. But a step now separates plan from achievement. The community is awaiting sentence. If, as seems vastly probable, this should prove to be its death sentence, the community will doubtlessly have courted it. But the role of the Executioner is not an enviable one. Nor yet is the fate of nations that deliberately set themselves to create a helot class within their body politic. It is characteristic of folly that its victims refuse to profit by the experiences of others. Pharaohs harden their hearts, delude themselves that they can bend all things to their selfish will, finally to be swept into nothingness by the forces that are moving all things to their appointed end beside which man's petty ambitions and schemings are but as a tiny ripple within the sweep of a great wave. It is axiomatic that lasting structures cannot be erected on rotten foundations or that nations whose growth is forced with the manure of injustice and class selfishness can make healthy and lasting progress. They become rotten at the root. Nature laws are inexorable and universal in their application. Nor yet is God mocked. As we sow we reap. History might be said to be a record of the operation of this very law. But fools blinded by their folly fail to perceive. We arrive then at this: The state of the Indian community is indeed pitiable enough, but is the "state" of their oppressors any less so? A South Africa forcibly dominated by a race of white bodies with darkened souls is hardly an ideal prospect. Equilibrium can be disturbed for a while only. It readjusts itself inevitably and irresistibly, but woe to them that are caught in its return swing.

Notes and News

GREAT distress among the Natives is reported from Nairobi owing to the threatening famine conditions due to the severe agricultural situation caused by drought and destruction by locusts. The legislature has taken steps to control the food supplies and their prices and has voted £200,000 for a food control board to deal with the distribution of foodstuffs. This is all to the good. But it was pointed out during the debate, it is stated, "that but for the presence of the White settler in Kenya the position of the African faced with famine would be very different from what it is to-day." The Trustees of the Natives uttered these significant words. Were they to set an awe into the minds of the Natives for the White man that he may ever be content to remain his slave? All his services in the interests of the Native with this pride is nullified in the eyes of the Creator. Only he who has forgotten his Creator can indulge in such a boast. He who knows Him thinks not so highly of himself. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." It will be well for the rulers to remember this Biblical phrase.

The Minister of the Interior has now replied to Mr. Nel's question published in our last week's issue, (1) whether Messrs. Motala, Lokhat and Lakhi had been granted exemption certificates and/or condonation certificates and (2) whether they entered the Union in contravention of the immigration laws of Natal, and if so, in contravention of what law? The Minister's reply was as follows:—"I do not consider it to be in the public interest to disclose the names of individual persons who have applied for condonation certificates." We are glad that the appeal we made in our last week's issue has not fallen on deaf ears. Holders of condonation certificates who are perturbed over the issue will also have reason to be satisfied that the Government does not wish to be unfair to them.

Indian War Memorial Committee presented, by arrangement with St. Aiden's Teachers, Sydenham, at the Royal Picture Palace, Victoria Street, Durban, last Tuesday, Shakespear's 'Hamlet,' under the distinguished patronage of His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress. The play was in aid of funds to erect a Memorial to those who lost their lives serving in the Indian Bearer Corps during the great war. The African Theatres Ltd., had kindly given the use of the theatre free of charge for the purpose. That the Committee should have to raise funds by this means for a patriotic purpose shows lack of interest on the part of the community whose duty it is to whole-heartedly support this work. We understand that a series of performances are yet to follow. While congratulating all those who are actively assisting the War Memorial Committee in their noble work we would advise every member of the community to financially assist whether he may attend the performance or not. It is not the performance that we have to look to. It is the object underlying it. The Memorial, the plans of which are already drawn, is to be erected at the junction of Warwick Avenue, Alice Street and Centenary Road.

In the course of his speech at a banquet given in his honour by a body styling itself the Indian National Association of the Cape Province Sir Kurma Reddy urgently appealed to the Indians present to speak with one voice. "This will lighten

my task in South Africa. I ask you to combine and strengthen my hands as the Agent of the Indian Government which is willing to do all it can for you. There is no room for so many bodies of representation of Indians. You should form one Union." If you are divided it is almost impossible for a man in my position to do what he wants. Combine for the sake of your Motherland, and for the sake of her representative, then the path of progress will be open to you."

Mr. A. Stanley Furner, A.R.I.B.A., late Senior Lecturer in Architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, has joined as a partner the firm of Messrs. Kallenbach and Kennedy whose offices are in Johannesburg and in Durban. The firm is now known as "Kallenbach, Kennedy and Furner." The building of the Sastri College is in the hands of this firm.

THE AGREEMENT

THE second anniversary of the Capetown Agreement was celebrated by Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent of the Government of India, at Capetown on Thursday Feb. 21, when Ministers of the present Government as well as leaders of the Opposition joined together in giving it their blessing. Although a section of our brethren are not satisfied with the Agreement and although we ourselves are despondent, at times, about it when we see our people subjected to constant humiliations and disabilities, there is still reason to believe that the Agreement is, after all, a blessing. It is a blessing in this wise, that it has saved us from instantaneous death which was the object of the Class Areas Bill, and it is to us as the safety line is to a drowning person. As a drowning person has the safety line to take recourse to so are we able to take recourse to the Agreement when we find ourselves in difficulty. Whether the drowning man would be saved or not depends on the soundness of the safety line. Similarly, whether we should be saved from our difficulties or not would depend on the spirit in which the Agreement was worked. There are various disabilities under which we are still suffering in each of the Provinces. While the Union Government have stayed their hands the local authorities have not grasped the spirit of the Agreement or they do not wish to abide by it. In fact the Union Government too is not entirely free from guilt. The Liquor Act which strikes at the root of the existence of hundreds of Indians is of their making. There is the licensing trouble in the Transvaal which has arisen by the enforcement of laws made by the

previous Government. There is the segregation scheme which the Durban Town Council is trying to bring to fruition notwithstanding the findings of the recent Government inquiry going against it. There are many other minor humiliations that an Indian has to suffer every day of his life wherever he goes. All this is contrary to the Agreement which says in effect: "Indians who remain as part of the permanent population of the Union shall not be allowed to lag behind any other sections of the people in the provision of educational and *other facilities*," and when one constantly experiences these humiliations one feels that the instantaneous death through the Class Areas Bill, the dropping of which has enhanced the prestige of the Union of South Africa in the eyes of the world, would have been far more preferable to the present process of slow poisoning. It is time that South Africa justified the impression she has given to the world of her honesty of purpose. Though the actions of the local authorities and, to a certain extent, of the Union Government, are not in keeping with the spirit of the Agreement, the Agreement is still there for us to take recourse to and we need not yet be entirely hopeless as to its fulfilment. When Sir Drummond Chaplin on behalf of the Opposition said, "he thought it would be of enormous help in dealing with the matter if they reckoned South Africa and India as parts of the one great whole, and the fact that they owed allegiance to one King should help them too," he, indeed, struck the keynote. It is a broader vision, a change of heart that is required. "As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye also unto them likewise." It is an oft-repeated maxim. But no harm will be done to repeat it over and over again until it is imprinted in the heart of every South African. It is then only that the racial question in South Africa in general and the Indian question in particular will be no more and the "Gentleman's Agreement" will be honoured in its true spirit. Let us pray on this second anniversary of the Agreement that it may be so.

Second Anniversary Of The Capetown Agreement

Sir Kurma Reddi Expresses Thanks

Capetown, Feb. 21.—Sir Kurma V. Reddi, the new agent of the Government of India, gave a banquet at the Mount Nelson Hotel to-night, to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Capetown agreement. A brilliant assemblage included the Prime Minister, Dr. Malan, Mr. Boydell, Col. Creswell. Mr. Sampson and numerous members of the Senate and House of Assembly.

At the outset Sir Kurma Reddi read a message from Mr. Sastri: "Allow me to join in felicitations on the celebration of peace between the South African and Indian peoples, and repeat my earnest hope that the agreement will be kept above party politics and become consolidated and lasting."

Sir Bahadur Habibullah, who led the Indian delegation to South Africa, also sent a message of goodwill, both messages being received with applause.

Sir Kurma Reddi in the course of an eloquent speech dwelt upon the numerous virtues of his predecessor, Mr. Sastri, his magnetic personality and the services he had rendered to South Africa and India. He had a rich heritage from Mr. Sastri, and he did not think he could improve upon it, but if he failed it would not be for want of trying. (Applause.) He hoped to invest that heritage in some profitable concern which would give dividends to Indians in South Africa.

Spirit Of Friendliness

In the course of an appreciation of the agreement, Sir Kurma Reddi paid a tribute to the spirit of friendliness and generosity in which it had been conceived and to the breadth of vision and height of statesmanship evinced. "The people of my country and my countrymen here are really grateful to you and your colleagues," he said, turning to the Prime Minister.

After rendering thanks for what had been done for Natal and for the introduction of the condonation scheme, Sir Kurma Reddi said so far he had been acknowledging their indebtedness to Ministers and their colleagues, but he would be failing in his duty if he did not acknowledge the manner in which the Opposition had assisted them, and he tendered his thanks to that party. Much remained to be done under the agreement, but this was a time for rejoicing and thankfulness, and he did not propose to make any demands of the Government. (Cheers).

The Premier

General Hertzog, on rising to reply, said he did not propose to refer to the agreement, which he would leave to Dr. Malan, who he said was the real culprit. (Laughter.) The Premier, after thanking Sir Kurma Reddi for the very flattering words, said no one present could but regret that their friend, Mr. Sastri, should have left them so soon. If ever he had felt spiritually connected with any man it was Mr. Sastri. He had proved himself to be of all nations. It was in that spirit they could think of approaching one another as nations to the mutual benefit of both, and it was in that spirit the agreement was conceived. The League of Nations relied too much on sanctions. The only sanction they could rely upon was that of the heart. They had lost a good representative of India, but in the distinguished representative India had sent they would have a good substitute. In conclusion, General Hertzog wished Sir Kurma Reddi success in South Africa. (Cheers.)

Dr. Malan said he rose to associate himself very heartily with the object for which they gathered. It was too early yet to say whether the agreement was good or bad; it must be judged by results. So far the agreement had justified itself, and there was no reason on one side or the other why they should not be fully satisfied. Dr. Malan associated himself with the Prime Minister's remarks about Mr. Sastri, adding that the Government of India had been happy in the selection of its first Agent-General and equally happy in the selection of his successor.

Sir Drummond Chaplin said the Opposition was also sorry to lose Mr. Sastri, but were unanimous in welcoming Sir Kurma Reddi. So long as they had men of the calibre of Mr. Sastri and Sir Kurma Reddi their difficulties would be understood and properly reported to the Government of India. He thought it would be of enormous help in dealing with the matter if they reckoned South Africa and India as parts of one great whole, and the fact that they owed allegiance to one King should help them too. He emphasised in conclusion that on both sides of the House there was no desire to make the Indian question a party one.—Reuter.

Transvaal Notes

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

The Very Rev. Dean Palmer

The many friends of the courageous Dean Palmer of Johannesburg will be pleased to learn that he has returned from his convalescent holiday and he has resumed his duties at St. Mary's. He had recently undergone an operation and on the day he left Johannesburg the Transvaal Indian Congress was represented by a number of Indians at the station and Mr. M. D. Bharoochi, the President of the T. I. Congress, garlanded the Dean at the same time wishing him a speedy recovery and a quick return to Johannesburg.

South African Indian Congress Executive Meeting

The Executive meeting of the South African Indian Congress was held in Johannesburg on Sunday Feb. 17 in the Trades Hall. Mr. A. Christopher (President), Messrs. S. R. Naidoo and E. Mall (Secretaries), E. I. Ashabhai (Treasurer), S. B. Medh (T. I. Congress) M. D. Bharoochi and others were present.

The licensing question in the Transvaal was the chief subject that was discussed. The deputation which was to interview the Ministers on 23rd inst., was empowered to do everything to solve the present difficulty.

The Executive also instructed the deputation as to the position of Indian waiters in the Transvaal under the Liquor Act. The meeting was adjourned for Capetown.

The following left Johannesburg on Tuesday night:—Messrs. A. Christopher, S. R. Naidoo, E. Mall, S. B. Medh and M. D. Bharoochi.

During the stay of the President Mr. A. Christopher in the city he took the opportunity of interviewing prominent Indian merchants on the licensing question, so as to ascertain their point of view and also to receive suggestions from them as practical business men. He also attended the meeting of the Indo-European Council along with Mr. S. R. Naidoo and met the chairman Prof. J. M. Watt and discussed the Indian question in general.

Indian Trade Unionism

The European employees in the different hotels and bars have an organisation called the Witwatersrand Catering Union, and this Union has been regis-

tered for some time. The Indian Union was called the Transvaal Hotel Indian Employees Union, and which afterwards changed its name and constitution to Transvaal Hotel Employees Union also allowing anyone to join its Union thereby removing the restriction against European, Native and Coloured persons. Now the Indian Union applied for registration but found through its neglect and carelessness of its past officials that the European Union was first registered with the result that some difficulty was experienced. The Rev. Sigamoney who was deputed by the Indian waiters to carry on negotiations with the Labour Department met Mr. McGregor with Mr. S. B. Medh the new president. Mr. McGregor was willing to register the Indian Union if they agreed to delete the word European because of the European organisation already registered, but the Rev. Sigamoney and Mr. Medh held different views and stated that the Department had no right to order the Unions as to whom they would accept as members. Their duty was to register a Union which applied for registration. If the Europeans or any others desired to join the organisation that was controlled by Indians then it was for the individual to decide and not for the Department.

In the end the Rev. Sigamoney suggested that a joint meeting of Indian and European Hotel employees be held the convenor to be the Labour Department. - That was agreed to.

A Momentous Event

Mr. Pollock of the European employees and the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney of the Indian employees have succeeded in each persuading the respective Unions to agree. The Labour Department has convened the meeting for Sunday, March 10 at 8-30 p.m. in the New Law Courts where both the European and Indian waiters will meet under one roof and under one chairman. It is really a great achievement and it really augurs well for the future of trade unionism in this country. The whole Indian question is one of economics and the white worker fears the Indian because of his cheapness and because he is so easily exploited by the State, Church and capitalist against the white worker.

If once the Indian worker and the European worker learn to know one another, and begin to organise for the common welfare in this country then the danger of the supposed "Indian menace" will vanish.

The importance of this unique gathering cannot be minimised and let those who will speak on behalf of the Indian put his case moderately and justly.

Indo-European Council

There is not the slightest doubt that the creation of the Indo-European Council in Johannesburg by the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri was a very wise move. The getting together of men of the ruling race in this country who fully sympathise with the aspirations of the Indian community in South Africa for political emancipation is itself an asset to the Indians.

The Johannesburg Council is indeed fortunate in securing the services of Professor J. M. Watt who is keen, enthusiastic and who has a very high sense of duty to the non-European races in this country. His indomitable determination, his perseverance and tact are qualities which endear him to the Indian.

He went down to Capetown and saw the Prime Minister and Mr. Tielman Roos in connection with the Liquor Bill. He was very hopeful on his return. These services are rendered to the Indian community because men like Bishop Karney, Mr. Rheinalt Jones, Mr. Howard Pin, Prof. J. M. Watt, Prof. Haaroff, Dr. Ellis and others of the same school realise that peace can only be secured in this land when others than the white races live in happiness. These men feel that great injustices are

being done and therefore as champions of justice they come out and do this great public service.

The following comprise the Indo-European Council of Johannesburg :—

Professor J. M. Watt (Chairman), Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney and Mr. J. D. Rheinalt Jones (Honorary Secretaries), Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo (Vice-Chairman), the Right Rev. A. B. L. Karney D.D., the Lord Bishop of Johannesburg, Dr. and Mrs. L. Erasmus Ellis, Professor T. J. Haarhoff, Mrs. J. D. Rheinalt Jones, Mr. Howard Pim, Mr. H. Kallenbach, Advocate G. A. Mulligan, Rev. Ray Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Oswin Bull, Mrs. P. K. Naidoo, Mrs. Singaram Pandithar, Mrs. K. M. Pillay, Messrs. E. Mall, S. M. Desai, B. K. Patel, S. B. Medh, D. M. Nursoo, P. K. Desai, Advocate I. I. Hazaree and E. A. Borne.

S. A. I. C. Deputation

Interviews With The Minister

The South African Indian Congress deputation headed by Mr. Albert Christopher, the president, waited upon the various Ministers last week at Cape-town to make representations in connection with the resolutions passed by the Durban Session of the Congress.

In an interview, the attention of Mr. Havenga, Acting Minister of Justice, was drawn to the number of Indians, who, as a result of the operation of the Liquor Act, were thrown out of employment in the Transvaal. Administrative relief was asked for until such time as the sections in question are repealed. The deputation interviewed the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Sampson, and the Ministers of Labour and Railways, Messrs. Boydell and C. W. Malan.

Mr. Sampson was urged to establish non-racial post and telegraph offices in thickly-populated non-European localities to lessen congestion and make for less public dissatisfaction. The deputation further urged the employment of Indians as postal clerks and postmen.

The deputation drew Mr. Malan's attention to many grievances under which the Indian community laboured, and asked Mr. Malan to appoint a committee of inquiry with a view to affording relief.

Mr. Boydell was interviewed later. He was asked "in view of the very low rates of wages paid to unskilled labourers," to direct the Wage Board to investigate the conditions of such persons, particularly in Natal, and to take such action as might be found necessary to ameliorate their condition.

The points raised by the deputation were in each instance sympathetically received, though it is understood that none of the Ministers made any promises.

In The Union Parliament

Further Queries On The Indian Question

In the House of Assembly the Minister of the Interior told Mr. Anderson that no Indians who had applied for condonation certificates had received exemption certificates under Section 25 of Act No. 22 of 1913.

Further, said Dr. Malan, no applications had been received under the condonation scheme after October 30, 1928.

Questioned by Mr. Nel on the same subject, the Minister said that 377 Indians had applied for con-

dition certificates in the Transvaal, 376 in the Cape, and 614 in Natal. Of this number 500 had been granted such condonation certificates in the Transvaal, 315 in the Cape and 547 in Natal. A large number of applications were still under consideration.

Since the scheme came into force, added the Minister, 24 Indians, who were prohibited immigrants, had been deported.

Mr. Anderson: Have condonation certificates been granted to a number of Indians who recently arrived in the Union via Lourenco Marques?

The Minister of the Interior: I have no information on that point.

Mr. Nel: Were the condonation certificates issued with any conditions attached to them?

The Minister of the Interior: I think I gave the House the fullest information on the matter last year. I have not got the information with me now.

Indian National Congress

Momentous Calcutta Session

(From the 'HINDU,' Madras)

Calcutta, Jan. 1.

(Concluded from last week)

Independents' Change Of Front Disapproved

Widespread satisfaction and relief prevails in the Congress circles at the clear majority by which the Congress adopted Mahatmaji's resolution and rejected the amendment of Mr. Subash Bose and not the least to those who, it may be, by a strange irony found themselves in an unenviable position of having to support or acquiesce in the amendment notwithstanding their better judgment.

An analysis of the voting reveals that the victory for the resolution is even more significant in Bengal itself, where the personality of Mr. Subhash Bose dominated the situation. The desire was not altogether absent not to weaken Mahatmaji's position. There were a large number who abstained from voting on account of personal and political issues raised. Nevertheless there were here 200 who voted for Mahatmaji's resolution, as against 400 and odd who plumped for the amendment. If the votes needed to neutralise Bengal's aye's and the small majority which, with much canvassing, was drilled into shape in Tamil Nadu Camp were taken into consideration, the fact will be clear that the country, as a whole, has given a decisive verdict in favour of the Nehru-Gandhi programme. It was generally felt to be unfortunate that the Independence League had decided to go back upon the compromise agreed to by their leader Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar after consulting his lieutenants belonging to different provinces and the grave reproof which Mahatma Gandhi administered to them, especially those who represented young Bengal in his concluding speech, though severe, was felt to be not without justification.

Sanctions Resolution Carried

Reassembling in the evening the Congress, without opposition, carried the resolution of Mahatma Gandhi on the future programme. It runs thus:

Meanwhile the Congress shall engage in the following activities:—

(1) In the legislatures and outside every attempt will be made to bring about the total

Higher discipline in the nation; freedom of

prohibition of intoxicating drugs and drinks. Picketing of liquor and drug shops shall be organised wherever desirable and possible.

(2) Inside and outside the legislatures methods suited to the respective environment shall be immediately adopted to bring about the boycott of foreign cloth by advocating and stimulating production and the adoption of hand-spun and hand-woven khaddar.

(3) Specific grievances, wherever discovered and where people are ready, shall be sought to be redressed by non-violent action as was done recently at Bardoli.

(4) Before members of the legislature are returned on the Congress ticket they shall devote the bulk of their time to the constructive work settled from time to time by the Congress Committee.

(5) The Congress organisation shall be perfected by enlisting members and enforcing stricter discipline.

(6) Measures shall be taken to remove the disabilities of women and they will be invited and encouraged to take their due share in the national up-building.

(7) Measures shall be taken to rid the country of social abuses.

(8) It will be the duty of all Congressmen, being Hindus, to do all they can to remove untouchability and help the so-called "untouchables" in every possible way in their attempt to remove their disabilities and better their condition.

(9) Volunteers shall be enlisted to work among the city labourers and for village reconstruction, in addition to what is being done through the spinning wheel and khaddar.

(10) Such other work as may be deemed advisable in order to advance nation-building in all its departments and in order to enable the Congress to secure co-operation, in the national effort of the people, engaged in different pursuits, in order to finance the activities mentioned in the foregoing programme, the Congress expects every Congressman to contribute to the Congress coffers monthly a certain percentage of his or her income, according to his or her ability.

Gandhi's Call For Action

"I want you to take this resolution seriously," said Mahatmaji. "I do not want you to raise your hands for the resolution and then sleep over it for many months, expecting the President, the Working Committee or the A.I.C.C. to work wonders—as if they possess any magic wand. Success depends on your determination and will. That is their magic wand which can bring Swaraj within the grasp. Therefore I beseech you not to accept this resolution with the two suggestions I adopted unless everyone of you seriously makes attempts in that direction. If you are determined to take the message of the Congress from door to door for the next twelve months I promise you will be able to see an atmosphere totally different from the atmosphere of distrust and despondency I read in the speeches of every one of you."

Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's Exhortation

I wish success to the new programme. I do not know if we shall be able to carry it out in full, but we must make every honest attempt to carry it out. If we do we shall be able really to advance a great step. A perfect programme does not necessarily mean that perfection in work is necessary; but a perfect programme, unaccompanied by any work, as in the past, will carry us nowhere. I hope that in every province earnest and continuous work will be done in respect of every item of the programme without any kind of reservation or hesitation.

The resolution was carried without discussion only two voting against.

Stiffening Simon Boycott

A resolution for the continued boycott of the Simon Commission was moved by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A.

"The Congress appeals to the people to make the boycott complete and effective in the provinces which the Commission may visit hereafter, by organising, amongst other things, hartals and other mass demonstrations and advises the people to disobey all orders of Government, prohibiting such activities."

Venue Of The Congress For Next Year

The Congress accepted the invitation of the Punjab Committee to hold the next session in Lahore, which was moved by Lala Girdhari Lal and supported by Sardar Sardul Singh.

This concluded the work of the session.

President's Closing Remarks

Pandit Motilal's closing address had a telling effect on the audience, interspersed as it was with his inimitable jokes. "I congratulate you," he said speaking in Urdu, "on the successful termination of this grand session of the Congress—perhaps the grandest that has ever been held both from spectacular and from business points of view. In my view the carrying of the main resolution moved by Mahatma Gandhi should not be regarded as either a triumph for the older men or the defeat for the younger generation. This resolution has given a clear lead to the country, which, if faithfully followed, will secure the end both wings of the Congress have in view. In order to understand the full meaning and implications of those resolutions I would ask you to bear in mind the advice given by Mahatmaji, who asked you to forget the two English words "Independence" and "Dominion Status" and concentrate your attention on the Sanskrit word "Swaraj." If you will do that you will find those resolutions cover the whole field and provide a programme of work, which, if followed, is bound to lead to freedom.

"The younger men call their leaders fools. I say this is not a new charge and the answer to it is also not new. I will put that answer as befits an old Brahmin, in the form of a blessing. May these young men live long enough to deserve the same compliment from their wiser sons. So far as I am concerned I look upon the result of the voting on the resolution with perfect unconcern, as, in any event, the victory would be ours. If Mahatmaji's resolution was carried the fathers would win, if it was defeated the sons would, and the victory does remain in the family (laughter). There is, however, a class of men in between who are neither young nor very old. Some of them were seen frolicking with the boys while others chose the more serious attitude of the older men. Among the former is my friend Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, who, being, in the words of the proverb, a full-grown bullock has cut his horns to play with the calves. In doing so, he has done a great service and I regard his support of the point of young men as supplying the link between the old and the new schools of thought.

"Whether Dominion Status is or is not a step towards independence is a debatable point, but there is no question that Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar is a step between young and old. He makes it easy for the boys and has a broad enough back to bear the weight of younger men in their advance towards the wisdom of the old.

"I appeal to those who oppose the resolution to support the working of the programme laid down in Mahatmaji's second resolution, at least for one year, which is not a very long time in the life of a nation.

"The President of the Congress," Pandit Motilal went on to say, "has to discharge a most difficult duty. It is obvious that I cannot please everybody. I am afraid some delegates did not like the rulings I gave from the chair from time to time. All that I can do is to assure them that there was no motive behind those rulings except the service of the country and the despatch."

Concluding, Pandit Motilal tendered his warmest congratulations to Messrs. Sen Gupta, Subash Chandra Bose, Bidhan Roy, Kiran Sankar Roy and a host of other workers, young and old, whose earnest endeavours made the session the success it has been.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part V, Chapter V.

WOES OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS

At Burdwan we came face to face with the hardships that a third class passenger has to go through even in securing his ticket. 'Third class tickets are not booked so early,' we are told. I went to the Station Master, though that too was a difficult business. Some one kindly directed me to where he was and I represented to him our difficulty. He also made the same reply. As soon as the booking window opened, I went to purchase the tickets. But it was no easy thing to get them. Might was right and passengers who were forward and indifferent to others coming one after another continued to push me out. I was therefore about the last of the first crowd to get the ticket.

The train arrived, and getting into it was another trial. There was a free exchange of abuse and pushes between passengers already in the train and those trying to get in. We ran up and down the platform, but were everywhere met with the same reply: 'No room here.' I went to the guard. He said, 'You must try to get in where you can or take the next train.' 'But I have urgent business,' I respectfully replied. He had no time to listen to me. I was disconcerted. I told Maganlal to get in wherever possible, and I got into an inter-class compartment with my wife. The guard saw us getting in. At Asansol station he came to charge us excess fares. I said to him:

'It was your duty to find us room. We could not get any and so we are sitting here. If you can accommodate us in a third class compartment, we shall be only too glad to go there.'

'You may not argue with me,' said the guard. 'I cannot accommodate you. You must pay the excess fare, or get out.'

I wanted to reach Poona somehow. I was not there therefore prepared to fight the guard, so I paid the excess fare he demanded, i. e., up to Poona. But I resented the injustice.

In the morning we reached Mogalsarai, Maganlal had managed to get a seat in the third class where I now shifted. I acquainted the ticket examiner with all the facts, asked him to give me a certificate to the effect that I had shifted to a third class compartment at Mogalsarai. This he declined to do. I applied to the railway authorities for redress, and got a reply to this effect: 'It is not our practice to refund excess fares without the production of a certificate, but we make an exception in your case. It is not possible, however, to refund the excess fare from Burdwan to Mogalsarai.'

Since this I have had experiences of third class travelling which, if I wrote them all down, would easily fill a volume. But I can only touch on them casually in these chapters. It has been and always will be my profound regret that physical incapacity

should have compelled me to give up third class travelling.

The woes of third class passengers are undoubtedly due to the high-handedness of railway authorities. But the rudeness, dirty habit, selfishness and ignorance of the passengers themselves are no less to blame. The pity is that they often do not realise that they are behaving ill, dirtily or selfishly. They believe that everything they do is in the natural way. All this may be traced to the indifference towards them of us 'educated' people.

We reached Kalyan dead tired. Maganlal and I got some water from the station water-pipe and had our bath. As I was proceeding to arrange for my wife's bath, Sjt. Kaul of the Servants of India Society recognising us came up. He too was going to Poona. He offered to take my wife to the second class bath room. I hesitated to accept the courteous offer. I knew that my wife had no right to avail herself of the second class bath room, but I ultimately connived at the impropriety. This I know does not become a votary of truth. Not that my wife was eager to use the bath room but a husband's partiality for his wife got the better of his partiality for truth. The face of truth is hidden behind the golden veil of *maya*, says the Upanishad.

The Problem Of Alcoholism In Natal

The following interesting paper was read before the Convention of the South African Temperance Alliance, at the Durban Town Hall, on Tuesday, November 20th. by Dr. F. G. Cowston, M.D. which we take from *The Tribune*, (Capetown):—

One has only to read some of the books that were written to describe life in Britain and the West Indies a century ago to be convinced that alcoholic liquor or the inordinate consumption of food has materially lessened during recent years. The *improved education* of the masses has convinced the majority of the harm that is caused by excesses in both food and drink, and public opinion has gradually set its face against drunkenness in both public and private life.

The amount of alcohol that is sold to-day is far greater than formerly; but the sale of alcoholic drinks is more widely distributed amongst both rich and poor, and the pleasure of getting drink, which was once the wealthy man's privilege, has lost much of its "kudos" now that there is an increasing amount of drinking amongst women, and liquor is accessible to all.

The attraction of bioscopic entertainments and the open-air life have contributed to lessen the attraction of the bar, and the very commendable regulations to be enforced as a result of recent legislation demonstrate that the Government is fully aware of the dangers associated with the liquor trade.

As one who has spent some time on the athletic track, and who fully appreciates the value to health of the uninterrupted country air, one fully appreciates the influence of those who are prepared to forego what others might regard as harmless pleasures in order to fit themselves for athletic contests; and one cannot witness without a sense of sorrow young persons of either sex spoiling much of the good they would otherwise derive from visits to country hotels by sitting up late listening to gramophone music whilst indulging in much tobacco and cigarettes.

Unfortunately, the consumption of alcohol, though fully recognized as a common cause of financial anxiety, is still employed to drown worries. This accounts for a good deal of alcoholic drinking in the Durban suburbs, and the Monday morning procession of natives and coloured to the Durban courts

proves only too conclusively that radical changes are needed if any improved control is to be accomplished at the Natal Coast.

Whatever claims may be put forward as to the value of alcohol among men engaged in trench warfare, there is no question that alcoholism and venereal disease are among the most serious enemies that the military has to contend with in the field, or that sailors have to face on their arrival at foreign ports. Though a great deal of good may come from awakening one's memory of that fellowship among men which obtained under active service conditions, no good is served by bringing back to one's memory the undesirable conditions of those unfortunate days.

The facilities for wholesome recreation and bathing which have recently been provided for sailors visiting this Natal port have proved a valuable counter-attraction to the bars and the associated dangers of relaxation from sea life.

In many cases of chronic tuberculosis the infection may be traced to a passed history of alcoholism or venereal disease, and one or both of these complaints in a parent is recognized as a forerunner of much of the tuberculosis that exists among children.

As the medical representative of the Juvenile Affairs Board for several years now, I have taken more than the average interest in the welfare of juvenile adults and the safeguarding of young persons against undesirable influences of every kind. The comparative absence of alcoholism amongst jockeys at Durban, in spite of the tendency to excessive drinking at racing events, may, I think, be partly explained by the presence of influential members of the Durban Turf Club, who are well known as thorough good sportsmen, who have the good of the rising generation at heart.

Their deep-seated objection to alcoholic liquor has rendered the Moslem races well able to withstand the enervating climate of the East Coast and of Tropical Africa. One might have hoped that the Mohammedans—though more interested in their own welfare than in that of other sections of the community—and the more enlightened members of

the Hindu population of Natal would have combined to solve one of the greatest stumbling-blocks to missionary efforts, namely, the lure of liquor among the Indian hawkers and their wives throughout the Natal Province.

The problem of alcoholism in any one case may therefore be traced to habits acquired in youth, to financial distress, or to ignorance. The craving for liquor, which causes so much anxiety, can often be traced to none of these influences; though sometimes one is able to discover that there is sexual, physical or mental cause, which may be amenable to treatment. The excessive use of cigarettes and of alcoholic drinks amongst society women is sometimes associated with efforts at birth-control and other injuries to the expectant mother.

It is held in some quarters that the stranded condition of a large proportion of Durban's unemployed can definitely be traced to the injudicious consumption of alcoholic beverages. Whether this statement can be accepted or not, there is no question that the vast majority of unemployed, who are necessarily dependent upon the generosity of others, can best be assisted if facilities for alcoholic drinks are denied them.

So long as Catholicism and Judaism have so strong a hold upon public opinion in Natal, there is unlikely to be any unanimous desire for Total Prohibition; though the influence of these religious bodies accomplishes much in the control of those evils which are necessarily associated with the sale of alcoholic liquor in Natal.

The custom of employing none but total abstainers as drivers of trains in some countries might receive the serious consideration of the railway administration as in other parts of the world.

જરૂર વાંચો!

ધણા બાઈઓ ફરીયાદ કરે છે કે આફ્રિકા એવો ખરાબ મુલક છે કે જ્યાં શેખીનો અને અધ્યાશ તખીયતવાળાઓ માટે નથી સરા થીએટર કે નથી થતા સારા ગવર્ધ્યાઓના જલસાં તે પછી આખા દહાકાન કંડાળેલા ઠીલને રાહત આપવા સંગીત ગણલો કુવાક્ષી વિગેરેની મજલ કેવી રીતે મળી શકે. તેઓને એટલું કહીશું કે હજારો રૂપીયાના ખર્ચે જે સારામાં સારા ગવર્ધ્યાઓની મજલ સાંભળવી મયરસ ના અર્થ શકે તે ફક્ત થોડાક પધસામાં તમારા ઘરમાં ગાઈ શકે છે તે તેઓની જ બનાવેલી

પુરા ખબર!

ગ્રામોફોન રેકોર્ડ

પુરા ખબર!!



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અમે એટલું તે ખાતરીથી કહીશું કે આ નવી રેકોર્ડ એવી છે કે એક વખત સાંભળ્યા પછી તે ભુલાશે નહીં.

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