

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

It is with profound regret that we have to record the untimely death of the late Mr. T. Candasamy Moodley familiarly known as Jack Moodley. His death at the early age of 42 came as a shock to many who were intimate with him. The deceased had been ailing for some time, but none had the faintest idea that death would claim him at his prime. Deceased breathed his last at his residence at Clairwood on Monday, 11th March. The deceased was a well-known figure in South Africa. It was he who brought the art of boxing into prominence amongst the Indians. To him also stands the unique distinction of having boxed some of the finest European boxers of the country in his time. He was in the football field for a considerable number of years, having been a member of the Blue Bells Football Club. He was a sportsman in the truest sense of the word. He devoted much of his time in improving the art of boxing amongst the Indians, and towards this end he promoted many boxing shows in Durban and elsewhere. In Durban there are many young men who have been trained by him. To them his loss will be very keenly felt. He was also a staunch member of the Natal Indian Congress. His work in the Congress has always been appreciated by all. He was a member of many institutions. He was a Foundation Member of the Hindu Tamil Institute. He leaves a widow and six children to mourn their loss. The cortege left the residence of the deceased on Tuesday, 12th March at 3 p.m. arriving at the Queen Street Cemetery at 4 p.m. Both at Clairwood and at the Cemetery there was a large concourse of friends and sympathisers present—testimony in which the late Jack Moodley was held. Numerous floral tributes were sent.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

The *Rand Daily Mail* Calcutta correspondent seems to be more informed than Reuter or correspondents of other papers. Or is it perverted news that he supplies to feed the Mayoites? Here is some boosh appearing in the *Rand Daily Mail* about Mahatma Gandhi:—

"Gandhi was hurriedly smuggled away from the scene by friends on the platform as rioters appeared to be bent on handling him roughly. Subsequently Gandhi and several other leaders were arrested before midnight."

While our contemporary is informed thus Reuter and correspondents of other papers report that only two arrests were made—one of Mahatma Gandhi and the other of Dr. Roy.

Earl Winterton (Under-Secretary for India) in the House of Commons is reported to have given altogether a different version: Replying to questions Earl Winterton said that Gandhi had not been arrested. The Government of Bengal had intimated that the lighting of bonfires to burn foreign cloth was illegal. Gandhi's persistence led to a melee in

which two inspectors, 14 sergeants of police, and 17 other ranks and some members of the public were injured, while 22 were arrested. Gandhi was afterwards informed that he would be prosecuted, but later it was arranged that the prosecution should be postponed until Gandhi had returned from Burma, on condition that there be no similar bonfire in Calcutta in the meantime. Earl Winterton added: "There is no new political situation. The House may be assured that the Government of Bengal will enforce the ordinary law against those attempting to break it, whether they are political leaders or their dupes."

Now, who is one to believe? The reader will have to be satisfied to make his own meaning out of the different versions until authentic news comes from Indian papers. One thing, however, we do not believe, is the version of the *Rand Daily Mail* about Mahatma Gandhi being handled roughly by rioters.

Last Friday's message from Rangoon states:—Mahatma Gandhi had a rousing reception at Rangoon. The Corporation presented him with an address in the public square before a vast gathering of Indians.

Since writing the above the following further message was received from Reuter, London:—

Replying to questions in the House of Commons Earl Winterton, (Under-Secretary for India) in correcting a statement which he made a few days ago to the effect that Mahatma Gandhi had not been arrested but had been informed that he would be prosecuted, said Gandhi was technically arrested at his residence in order to enable him to give recognisances. He would be prosecuted for the unauthorised lighting of a bonfire in the public place.

"An average American, while admiring England in many ways, regrets that education and industries have not advanced more rapidly under British rule in India." This was the candid opinion given by Dr. Southward, an eminent American who was on tour in India, as what Americans thought of British rule in India, to a representative of the *Bombay Chronicle*. He proceeded:—"While watching with admiration the beneficent results of England's colonising policy, Americans hope that measures will be speedily taken to remove the just causes of discontent on the part of India's people. The demand for Dominion status put forward by the Indian people seems to us to be a goal highly to be desired. Like Abraham Lincoln, we believe in a government of the people, for the people, and by the people."

The following has been sent to us for publication:—

At the annual general meeting of the Grahams-town British Indian Association held recently, the Secretary Mr. M. M. Gangat gave an exhaustive and interesting report of the Association's past year's activities. After the report and financial statement

had been adopted the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—President Mr. V. N. Pillay, Vice-President Mr. S. Velloo, Secretary Mr. M. M. Gangat, Asst. Secretary Mr. O. V. Karson, Treasurer Mr. B. Morar, Committee Messrs. D. Morgan (chairman), N. Hassiem, R. Bhoodis, L. H. Sonne, L. B. Patel and B. Bhagwan.

### TRANSVAAL HOTEL EMPLOYEES' UNION

**T**ROUBLE over two Hotel Employees' Unions applying for registration had recently arisen in Natal. A similar trouble has arisen in the Transvaal. The position in Natal was that there was already in existence a registered union formed by Indian employees with an open constitution allowing members to join irrespective of class, colour or creed. European employees, who were about two hundred as against about six hundred Indians, did not see their way to join the Union already in existence owing, presumably, to race prejudice, and applied for the registration of their separate union. This was not possible, legally, for the Registrar to do. A meeting was convened by the Labour Department of representatives of both the European and the Indian Trade Unions in Johannesburg and after a friendly discussion the principle of one common union was agreed upon and, as a result, the second union was not registered but it was agreed to have a common executive with equal representation.

The position in the Transvaal is just the reverse. There is a union of hotel employees formed by Europeans already registered but its constitution does not allow others than Europeans to join the union. The Indian hotel employees' union, therefore, whose constitution allowed everyone to join their union irrespective of class, colour or creed, applied for the registration of their union. The Registrar, however, refused to register the union unless its constitution was so amended as to allow only non-European membership. This the Indians very rightly refused to do and the Labour Department, thereupon, convened a meeting of the representatives of the two unions in order to come to a mutual understanding. In doing this the Labour Department was, no doubt, prompted by a desire to do the right thing by the Indians, which act will be much appreciated by the latter, and the response from the Witwatersrand Liquor and Catering Trades Employees' Union will be equally appreciated. The meeting held at the new

Law Courts, Johannesburg, last Sunday, has resulted in a better understanding between the two bodies, both having agreed to the principle of one common union and to take steps to devise means and to consider terms of amalgamation. Though this was agreed to by the meeting it still remains to be confirmed by the respective organisations who are not bound by the decisions of the meeting.

In so far as Indians are concerned they should be satisfied with the result arrived at. As for the Europeans, the only right thing for their union to do will be to remove the colour-bar from its constitution. Then only amalgamation will be possible and Indians need not then press for the registration of their separate union. This may not be a great gain to Indians but they cannot expect to get all they desire at once. It is enough for them that they do not sacrifice the principle for which they stand.

We fully realise the difficulties of the Labour Department who have to go about very steadily in face of the prejudice prevalent in the minds of Europeans. But we should be satisfied so long as they do not by any means encourage or aggravate that prejudice but do everything possible to discourage and dispel it.

We would take this opportunity of congratulating the Durban branch of the Typographical Union for admitting Indian members to their union in face of opposition from certain quarters. It would be well for the other unions to follow that example. Europeans want that Indians should live up to their standard; they want them not to undercut them; they want equal working conditions for all. Well, why do they not take the very first and most essential step to achieve that end, namely, to take them all in their folds and treat them alike?

### INDIAN EDUCATION IN NATAL

**T**WO months hence, one year will have passed since the Indian Education Enquiry Committee submitted its report to the Natal Provincial Council. The report, though a poor document, contained much to reveal the utter disregard that the Provincial Council had towards Indian education in the Province. The evidence tendered before the Committee pointed, beyond any doubt, to the woeful neglect that Indian education had been subjected to in the past. Nay, it went further. For the

first time it was ascertained that a considerable sum of money was being filched away from the Union Government subsidy on Indian education. This has been going on year after year. It was not an error that may have occurred one year. The moneys thus appropriated were being utilised for purposes less urgent. For that is what has happened. That was ten months ago.

How far has the Natal Provincial Council moved to put matters right? The Council has gone no further than where it was ten months ago. True some moneys have been expended lately. But these moneys have come from the amount that had been taken away from the subsidy. The memorandum prepared by the Indian education experts and submitted to the Committee was a terrible indictment against the Provincial Council. It would have added much to the dignity of the Council if that body had taken some steps towards improving Indian education. Ten months is a long period in the life of a child. The duty of educating Indian children in the Province lies with the Provincial Council. It would be an unpardonable offence were the Council to remain blind to that duty. The number of children of school-going age who are receiving no education at all is not negligible. If this state of affairs continues we are afraid that it would be highly impossible for the permanent Indian population to attain Western civilisation, for that is what is expected of them in the Indo-Union Agreement. The authorities require the Indian to improve his standard of living but the facilities to attain that standard are closed to him. It is analogous to asking a lame person to walk without the aid of his crutches.

We are not blind to the fact that it is impossible to take a big step towards improving Indian education, but it is possible to carry out the recommendations of the Committee to an appreciable extent. A point that was brought home to the Committee was the urgent necessity of the conversion of the Aided Schools in large centres into Government Schools. If the Provincial Council had moved towards this direction, it would have earned the approbation of the Indian community. We do not mean to suggest that the standard of education in the Aided Schools is poor, but it is being felt in every quarter that there is room for improvement.

We earnestly hope that before the expiry

of the present year a move will have been made towards carrying out the recommendations of the Indian Education Enquiry Committee.

## Transvaal Hotel Employees

### Meet European Union

A meeting of members of the Witwatersrand Liquor and Catering Trades Employees' Union (representing the European workers) and of the Transvaal Hotel Employees' Union (representing the Indian workers) was held in the new Law Courts, Johannesburg, last Sunday evening, and was convened by the Department of Labour. Mr. Ivan Walker, Chief Inspector of Labour, presided, supported by Mr. R. H. Miller, Divisional Inspector of Labour, and Mr. McGregor, Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers' organisations. Mr. John Pollock, secretary of the European Union, and the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, secretary of the Indian Union, were among the workers' officials present. The executive members of the former body and about 60 members of the Indian body attended.

The principle of one union was at the outset accepted and after a lengthy debate a resolution in favour of amalgamation was carried unanimously. It was pointed out at the beginning of the proceedings that none of the resolutions carried would be binding on either of the unions, and would only serve as a recommendation to those bodies. It was unanimously agreed that a joint committee, consisting of four members from each section, be formed to devise means and consider terms of amalgamation. Mr. Miller is to act as convenor.

### Sir Kurma's Gratification

Sir Kurma Reddi who also attended the meeting was urged to speak after the resolutions had been passed. Sir Kurma said: "I can only express my sense of gratification, in the first place, that the two communities have been able to meet in one place. (Hear, hear.) It is a higher gratification to find that the two communities could come to a common understanding, at least as far as this meeting is concerned." Different conclusions might be reached when the representatives of the two nations returned to their organisations, but he was sure that the leaders of the two communities who were present would use their influence to obtain support for the resolutions passed.

"To the Indians I have something more to say," Sir Kurma continued. "Although in this particular trade you may happen to be in the majority in this particular place, the entire population of this country is so small that the entire community cannot go on unless with goodwill between the two communities." (Hear, hear.) They had that evening achieved a good deal by establishing goodwill between themselves and the European workers and traders in the trade to which they belonged, and he hoped that that friendship would be continued in the trade itself and in the trade union which they might create. Trade unionism would become very far-reaching, indeed, in years to come.

### The "Inferiority Complex"

Reverting to the relations between Europeans and Indians in South Africa, the speaker expressed the hope that "the inferiority complex which marks our countrymen in this country will be removed. The removal lies in the hands of our European friends. In achieving that you will be achieving a good deal, and you will be achieving this not only for yourselves, but for the whole of South Africa." He had come there to learn the position in the Transvaal. As far as their trade was concerned he knew that the Indians in Durban wanted one

union. The Transvaal could well follow that example, and if the gain were not to be all on their side, they would still gain a good deal. If the result of the deliberations in the respective organisations would be as favourable as they had been that night, both parties would have reason to be congratulated. (Applause.)

## My Apologies

Mahatma Gandhi writes in *Young India* dated Jan. 31:—

Circumstances permitting, I had fully intended to undertake my long talked of European tour early this year. But after the most careful consideration and consultation with friends I have come to the conclusion that the circumstances compel me to give up the tour for this year at any rate. I dare not think of the next. A dear Danish friend writes to me saying I could usefully go to Europe only as a representative of free India. I feel the truth of the remark. But that is by the way.

Pandit Motilalji, to whom I had mentioned the matter in Calcutta, whilst he at first thought I should not go, has telegraphed withdrawing his objection, pressing me to fulfil the 'elaborate European programme' of which I had given him a rough idea. But now that I have freedom of action from him, my courage fails me. I have no voice from within prompting me to go. On the contrary, having put the constructive resolution before the Congress and having received universal support, I feel that I would be guilty of desertion if I now went away to Europe. It may be that those who voted for the resolution never meant to carry it out. It may be that I shall have to do nothing during the year in respect of the programme. But I feel that it is not for me to reason thus. I must not lose faith in the workers. I must, like immortal Barkis, be ever 'willing.' The voice within tells me that I must not only hold myself in readiness to do what comes my way, but but I must even think out and suggest means of working out what to me is a great programme. Above all I must prepare myself for the next year's struggle whatever shape it may take.

Though one year's limit was not of my seeking, though I considered it to be too short a notice for the nation and for the British people, I could not make it a point of principle on which to break. No notice is too short for a vindication of one's birthright. When therefore I accepted the change from two years to one, I was quite serious. For me then I have burnt my boats. What was said by way of humour to a newspaper correspondent was also seriously meant by me. If the Nehru Report is not accepted by or on behalf of the British people before the end of the year, after midnight on December 31st next, it will cease to have any meaning for me, I must declare myself and Independence-wallah. But if I mean this seriously, I may not leave India for the best part of this year of probation and preparation. On the contrary, I must strain every nerve to carry out the preparatory programme.

The Satyagraha Ashram now Udyoga Mandir, too, which rightly or wrongly I claim to be my best creation, demands just now my close attention, if it is to serve the purpose for which it has been created. And what message can I deliver to the West whilst it has yet been hardly delivered in India? Barring those who out of their partiality for me would have me in Europe and America at

any cost, the peoples of the West would be justified in saying 'Physician heal thyself.' I frankly confess that when I first tempted myself seriously to entertain a European invitation apart from my keen desire to see M. Rolland face to face, I had no idea of seeking help for India in her fight for freedom, but I had a desire to deliver the message of non-violence. Not that I do not need all the help I can get from outside for my country, but I do not believe in a begging expedition for that purpose. That aid will come when we deserve it and then it will come without the asking. I therefore flattered myself with the belief that if I went to the West I should be able to interpret true non-violence to her by word of mouth. But the more I ponder over the thing, the more unworthy I appear to myself to be. I need greater preparation and greater self-purification to make me a worthy vehicle for the transmission of the unbroken message of what appears to me to be the only way of reaching Truth which is God. For the time being, therefore, the friends in the West would pardon me for my inability to visit them personally. The wish is there, capacity is wanting. Let them pray with me that I may have the clearest possible light. Meanwhile let these columns be a living bond between them and me.

## Asiatic Traders In The Transvaal

### Debate In The City Council Meeting

The question of the granting of certificates to non-European traders was debated at a special meeting of the Johannesburg City Council held on Friday March 8.

The following notice of motion by Messrs W. Wilkinson and H. E. Jackson came for discussion:—

"That, in view of counsel's opinion which has been obtained, and which states that;—

"Under Article 92 of Law 15, 1898, and Section 130 of Act 35 of 1908, the right to acquire a stand on proclaimed land is confined to white persons, and no portion of such right may be transferred or sublet to a coloured person, nor can a coloured person be permitted to reside on or occupy ground so held other than as a bona fide servant of the white owner (Section 130), nor may coloured persons reside on proclaimed ground comprised in Class A—which includes Johannesburg—except in bazaars, etc., set aside by the Mining Commissioner. And contraventions of the foregoing provisions are made criminal offences,"

no certificates in respect of trading licences on premises prescribed under this law shall be issued to non-Europeans until the Minister of the Interior has been informed of the situation which has arisen, and his views as to the future action of this Council shall have been obtained."

In reply to Mr. H. Kroomer, the Mayor (Mr. W. Fearnhead) explained that the Town Clerk had informed him that any member of the Council expressing a definite opinion in favour of or against the granting of licences, could have his right to sit on the committee challenged at a sitting of the court for granting certificates.

Mr. D. F. Coslett thought that if that was the position, members could create an opportunity to evade their duties on the court. He was not in favour of the motion, but one might be greatly tempted to speak to the motion so as to be relieved of his duties.

### Appeal For Delay

Mr. A. C. K. Frost, in view of the Town Clerk's ruling, appealed to the Council to hold over the matter. He had no wish to oppose it, but he did not wish to jeopardise his position as a councillor.

Major Walter Wilkinson suggested that it was unusual for councillors to make speeches before he had had

occasion to present his motion. There was nothing he could see in the motion that would commit anyone. It merely asked the Council to refer the matter to the Minister of the Interior.

Major Wilkinson then spoke to the motion. He said that the present position had been forced upon him by the "extraordinary attitude of a few members of the General Purpose Committee." When the decision of Mr. Justice Greenberg in regard to the occupation by Asiatic and coloured traders of "prohibited" premises became known, it was agreed that as a question of law was involved, counsel's opinion should be obtained so as to guide the members of the court, who were laymen. The committee met after the opinion of two eminent K.C.'s had been obtained, and by a bare majority they decided to ignore it, and to proceed in the same old way—to grant or refuse applications in respect of prohibited premises according to the will or pleasure of the particular councillors who happened to compose the licensing court at the time.

### Abetting An Offence

In all seriousness, went on Mr. Wilkinson, certain members of the General-Purposes Committee claimed the right to deal with each case on its merits. One could well understand that councillors, in the interests of the city, were jealous of the right to say whether or not a certain applicant should be entitled to trade in a certain class of business in any particular locality, but when they were asked to provide facilities to enable applicants, in the words of counsel, to "commit criminal offences," there surely could be no discretionary powers.

"It would be a dangerous principle to advocate that laymen, such as we are in matters of law, should possess the right, when sitting in a judicial capacity, to aid and abet in the perpetration of criminal offences," said Major Wilkinson.

"Those councillors," he went on, "whose hearts bleed in sympathy for the poor Indian trader, tell us that it is unthinkable that Indians who have been trading for many years past should be suddenly refused licences after all these years. Nothing is said of the position of the white traders in our various suburbs who are small property holders and tradespeople and have watched their assets and their trade diminish year by year without being able to get any relief."

### The Political Game

The councillors who denied the rights of white citizens for the most part represented Yeoville and Parktown, and it was significant, he pointed out, that these were the only two townships in which there were no Indian traders. Curiously enough, these were the only two townships where the restrictions of the Gold Law did not apply.

"The trouble is," the speaker declared, "that the whole question has assumed a political aspect, and in the political game the interests of the citizens of Johannesburg, whom some of us represent on the one hand, and those of the Indian community on the other, are being made pawns. The law which forbids the occupation of certain premises by Indian traders is a Government-made one and can only be altered or amended by Government action. It appears that the Government, probably because of the impending general election, are evading their responsibility in this matter, and in the meantime the City Council of Johannesburg is to be made the catspaw."

### Making A Test Case

He suggested that the fairest way would be to refuse, under the Gold Law, one of the applicants, and let a test case be made.

"I am not asking Councillors to express any opinion on the granting of certificates for licences," Major Wilkinson concluded, "but I ask that the matter be left in suspense and be referred to the Government in the manner suggested in the motion. It is a Govern-

ment-made law, and it is up to the Government to come to the aid of these people if it wants to."

On the motion of Mr. D. F. Corlett, who said the matter was too important to raise at the "fag end" of a meeting—because a variety of important points had been raised which required thought and discussion—it was agreed to adjourn the debate to a future date. Mr. D. Anderson seconded the motion for the adjournment.  
—*The Star*.

## The Liquor Act In The Transvaal

### Minister Grants Exemptions To Indians

(FROM OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT)

At the South African Indian Congress held at Durban recently the position created in the Transvaal by the operation of section 102 of the new Liquor Act, by which a number of waiters and bar-men were thrown out of employment, engaged the serious attention of the delegates. A resolution was passed earnestly appealing to the Union Government to consider the harsh effect of the operation of the section, and requesting the Minister to grant administrative relief until such time as he may be pleased to repeal the section in question.

Section 102 provides: "No holder of a bottle liquor licence or of an on-consumption licence shall employ in or in connection with the sale of liquor, or during the hours when liquor may be sold or supplied by him, in any bar or other portion of his premises from which liquor is supplied, any person to whom individually, or as a member of a class, the sale or supply of liquor is totally prohibited, whether such prohibition is general or imposed only in respect of a licence pertaining to the premises at which the employment takes place."

In the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, as is well known, the sale or supply of liquor is totally prohibited to Indians. This being the case, section 102 above quoted, makes it illegal for every licence holder to employ Indians in premises where liquor is sold or supplied. Indians as waiters or wine-stewards handled liquor merely by serving it to customers just as they served meals in the ordinary course of their duties, and having regard to the wording of the section, their employment was made unlawful.

Everybody thought that by the Union Government deciding to drop section 104, against which a vigorous agitation was raised, coupled with the announcement made by the Minister of Justice that the whole question of employment in the liquor trade might be adequately met under the Wages Act, without the necessity of any legislation specially discriminating on the grounds of race or colour, Indians would not suffer any material disadvantages under the Act. But the effect of section 102 making the employment of Indians in the Transvaal and Orange Free State in the liquor trade illegal was neither expected nor anticipated.

When the Act came into force a few Indians applied for and obtained from the Magistrate at Johannesburg letters of exemption, but these were not renewed after December. About 83 Indians who were employed as waiters and wine-stewards for a considerable number of years, were consequently discharged from work. This legal disability not only imposed hardships but deprived legitimate means of livelihood of not only the men but their dependants also.

A deputation from the South African Indian Congress, headed by Mr. A. Christopher, waited upon

Delight to be cleanly; it shall make you graceful in  
the company,

Free nations cannot govern subject provinces—J. A.  
FRODIP,

the Acting Minister of Justice at Capetown and submitted the case of the Indians who were hard hit and were thrown out of employment, through no fault of their own. As a result of the representations made, information is now to hand that the Minister has directed the issue of letters of exemption to those who were affected so as to give them relief from the discrimination imposed upon them by law.

While the administrative relief granted by the Minister will relieve the situation as it at present exists, the question is by no means settled. The Congress should, when the proper time arrives, urge upon the Minister the repeal of section 102 which, in so far as the Transvaal is concerned, has the same effect as section 104, and involves much the same principle, which was conceded to by the Minister when he chopped section 104.

The Liquor Act is an adroit piece of legislation, involving intricacies and complexities. There are provisions in it which are designed to act harshly against Indians. The situation created by this new Act requires a careful study so as to protect the rights of Indians.

The Minister is to be thanked for affording relief and righting a wrong which, manifestly, was an injustice to Indians.

## Sir Kurma Reddi's Advice To Indians

### "Speak With One Voice"

"Would it be very much to expect Indians in South Africa to speak with one voice? You will be lightening my task as your representative and will be rendering me real help if you will combine." This was the plea of Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Agent-General for India, at a banquet given in his honour at the Opera House (Capetown) on Wednesday, Feb. 27, by the so-called Indian National Association of the Cape Province.

Sir Kurma said that the other day he had been asked by another Indian body, who said they represented the Indians in South Africa, to approach the Government. The Indians formed a minority in South Africa, and their political status in some parts of the Union had yet to be recognised. There were still problems that had to be solved by a generous and statesmanlike Government, and he was sure they would be solved.

### Too Many Organisations

"There is no room for so many organisations in this land. It is only right that you should form one organisation to represent the Indians of the whole of the Union," added the Agent-General.

He was asked to take deputations from every other association in South Africa to Cabinet Ministers. If it was merely a religious or social affair, there was no difficulty in having as many associations as they liked.

Sir Kurma then spoke of the Indian National Congress in India in which numbers of different sects had their differences, but fought out their battles in conference. The Simon Commission was now in India, and the greatest difficulty in their way was that India was not speaking with one voice.

Sir Kurma made an eloquent plea to the Europeans present to have patience with the Indians, whom they required to live up to western standards of living in South Africa. He emphasised that South Africa was entering into the arena of the world's politics. South Africa thus had a great future before it and was being asked to do its share in the civilisation of the world.

"In this great task you have set yourselves, you have room not only for the principal sections who have inherited a good civilisation; you have room enough for many people." As civilisation developed they would need the co-operation of the people whom he represented.

"Many of them do not know what India is; some of them were born here, and many others are domiciled here," said Sir Kurma.

It required time and opportunity to enable them to reach the standard required. He pleaded for the patience of South Africa if the Indians were slow in developing. It was not because they were not trying.

"I ask you to look upon my countrymen with greater consideration, toleration and generosity. The time will come when you will require their help in the huge task of progress towards that world civilisation which it is your lot in the future to have."

### Future Co-operation

Mr. A. P. J. Fourie, the Administrator, expressed his appreciation to Sir Kurma for the great and grand sentiments he had expressed. He was sure that Sir Kurma would find a very ready response to his pleas if he continued to speak as he had that night. He sincerely hoped that his words would teach South Africa a little more about Eastern civilisation. He felt quite sure that South Africa had a great future, and that future could only become greater if South Africans co-operated with all races and sections of all kinds.

Mr. Justice Gardiner said that Sir Kurma had asked for patience from the Europeans in South Africa towards the Indians. "In my turn I ask the Indian community to have patience with us, because we South Africans are a young nation; and, like young men, we are intolerant and extreme."

Mr. Justice Gardiner referred to the great improvement in the relationship between Indians and Europeans in South Africa that had taken place over the last 20 years. He thought that the time would come when South Africa would realise that it could benefit greatly from the Indian community.

"You, Sir Kurma, are doing a great deal for Indians, and you are also doing a great deal for those who live in this land," added Mr. Justice Gardiner.

—Cape Argus.

## Transvaal Notes

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

### Arrival of Sir Kurma V. Reddi

The newly-appointed Agent-General for India Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi, Kt. B.A., B.L., arrived in Johannesburg on Thursday, March 7, at 7.30 a.m. by the Cape train. This was his first visit to the Golden City of South Africa.

Representatives of the various political bodies were present and among them were Messrs. E. Mall (Hon. Secretary S.A.I.C.), M. D. Bharoochi (President T. I. Congress), P. K. Desai (President Brahmoo Anavil Mandal), C. K. T. Naidoo and D. M. Nursoo (President Colonial-Born Association).

The Agent was garlanded by the various societies, and Mr. N. Cammy who alone represented the Transvaal British Indian Association, garlanded him as well and welcomed him to the Transvaal on behalf of the T.B.I.A.

Sir Kurma Reddi, Messrs. J. D. Tyson and C. S. Ricketts are all staying at the Carlton Hotel. It is expected that Sir Kurma will stay in the Transvaal for about three weeks. In the meantime a deputation waited on him from the Federation comprising of Messrs. Leo. R. Gopal, M. I. Patel and U. M. Shelat. The Federationists desire to impress the new Agent, one wonders, how they can reconcile their views with the views of the Agent. Sir Kurma has said that the Capetown Agreement is his Bible and his Koran while the Agreement is anathema to the Federationists.

### Sri Varad Sarvajani Mandal

The annual meeting of the above Society was held on the 6th instant at Newtown. Mr. N. M. Patel presided over a representative gathering. The chairman expressed pleasure at seeing so many there, and he desired that when he had left for India they would give the incoming officials all the support that

was necessary in making the Society a success. He thanked them all for their loyalty and co-operation.

The three officials of the Society were leaving for India and in recognition of their services, addresses were presented to each one of them, namely, Mr. N. M. Patel (Chairman), Mr. V. P. Patel (Hon. Secretary), Mr. J. K. Desai (Auditor).

There were some other members of the Society who were going to India and to them bon voyage was expressed.

The election followed:—President Mr. E. B. Desai, Hon. Secretary Mr. J. P. Bhagath, Auditor Mr. Parboobhai Patel.

At the conclusion of the meeting refreshments were provided.

The Transvaal Indian Congress have had a public welcome to Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi in the City Hall on Wednesday, 13th March, and the Deputy-Mayor Mr. D. Anderson presided in the absence of the Mayor.

The Indo-European Council have had an afternoon 'At Home' to Sir Kurma in the Selbourne Hall on Thursday, 14th March. Fuller reports of these functions will be published in next week's issue.

Mr. S. B. Medh, President of the Transvaal Hotel Employees' Union, returned on Sunday last from Capetown in time for the joint meeting.

#### Clause 102 Of The Liquor Act

Owing to the representations made by the Indo-European Council and the South African Indian Congress to the Minister of Justice in connection with the hardships incurred by the operation of the Act the Minister of Justice has issued instructions to the Magistrates in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State that exemptions should be granted to men who were carrying on the trade before the passing of the Liquor Act.

A meeting of the Transvaal Hotel Employees' Union held on the 8th instant expressed great gratification at the success achieved by the South African Indian Congress.

A resolution was passed thanking the Transvaal Indian Congress and the South African Indian Congress and the Indo-European Council.

The meeting also expressed gratitude to the late Agent-General Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri and to Sir Kurma V. Reddi for the part they played in getting justice meted out to the Indians.

## Jack Moodley

### An Appreciation

Jack Moodley is dead. This unexpected announcement of the passing away of Jack came as a shock to his many friends.

Jack was a well-known figure in the Indian community. There was not a public or social gathering at which he was not present. He was welcome everywhere. I know him as man and boy. He was not a student.

But never was a man more than he in love with sports. No sacrifice was too great. As a goalie in his time he held his own. There was many a toss up whether he or Billy Subhan would be chosen for the position in a representative soccer football team. He was also keen on other sports.

It will, however, be in the boxing world that he will stand for all time as the pioneer of boxing among his countrymen in South Africa. It was his efforts as a boxer and as a trainer that won for Indians recognition as fighters in the ring and did not a little to make them appreciate the benefits of physical culture. Gamely did he fight the Englishmen Watty Austin, Tom King and Jack More, the American Negro Kid Walcott, his fellow Colonial-born Indian Peter Sam and others. At his best he toured India for a match. He returned somewhat disappointed not finding any of his countrymen in the homeland interested in boxing.

I well remember how Jack with the foremost hovered over Mahatmajee Gandhi when he was physically threatened by a few who disagreed with him at a meeting held in the old hall in Victoria Street in Durban at the height of the Passive Resistance Movement. Mahatmajee was his fearless self. But Jack was there and I know over his body and that of those who where near could any harm have come to our Mahatmajee.

I like to think of Jack as a friend. There was none more loyal to his friends. Many will miss him and in looking over the dim lengthening past will speak tenderly of Jack.

A. G.

## South African Sanathan Dharma Conference

Notwithstanding the heavy fall of rain, the Depot Road Temple School Hall, of the Durban Hindu Temple, decorated with flags in a variety of artistic colours, was packed to its utmost capacity.

Hindus of all denominations wended their way to the Temple to hear Pundit Ramgovind Trivedi, Vedant-Shastri's exposition of the ancient faith.

The President of the Durban Hindu Temple Committee, Mr. B. Rajcoomar, in his presidential address, expressed his heartfelt thanks to Shastrijee for his untiring zeal and unnumberable services which, he said, mainly contributed to the revival of the ancient faith in this country. "Let me impress upon those of you that are present," he said, "the vital need for all followers of the Sanatan Dharma to establish a centralised body and come under one banner. Visualise for a moment the vastness of your traditions, your ancestry, and your religion, then only will you sufficiently realize the immensity of the task that confronts you today in this country. Throughout Burma, Ceylon, Trinidad, and Fiji, people are devoutly following the Sanatan Dharma. Unite, and in your unity lies your salvation."

Pundit Ramgovind Trivedi, Vedant-Shastri, having duly been elected, President, rose to speak amid loud cheers and tumultuous applause: "My brethren, the wetness of the day, I am glad to say, does not seem to have deterred you from the meeting. I am exceedingly gratified to see so many of you present. It might interest you to know that when Lalla Lajpat Rai, during the early years of his life, called a meeting, he had to seat the people himself; there were not many volunteers then; and what do you think made up the audience—barely twenty people. My brethren, my message to you is the message of peace. I need your co-operation, your love and blessings in spreading this message of peace in this great country. Continting, Shastrijee dwelt upon the objects and aim of the body that was to have its birth that day. He, in eloquent language, strikingly illustrated and portrayed to the gathering the sincerity and devotion of the subjects of Nepal, where Sanatan Dharma reigned supreme.

So sacred was their belief to them, that it was considered sacrilegious if anyone harmed a cow. He pointed out that hanging was the punishment meted out to those who were guilty of this offence. "Imagine, then, for yourselves the spirit of sacredness that prevails in that country, which nestles at the foot of the Himalayas." He said that he did not expect the Sanatan Dharmists of South Africa to follow so strictly their belief as in Nepal, but he sincerely hoped that they will, as far as will lies in their power, adhere to the conditions stipulated by the central body, whose headquarters, comprising of many large buildings, existed in Benares. The learned expositor of the Vedas then dwelt at length on the good work that the Parliament of all Religions was doing, and he fervently prayed that this revival of the ancient faith will ultimately solve the many social problems that confront the people of this country.

In conclusion, he thanked the gathering for their patient hearing, and congratulated the many influential members of the Sanatan Dharma that had come from a considerable distance.

Among the many residing outside Durban that were present, were followers and supporters of the Sanatan Dharma from Stanger, Maritzburg, Lower Tugela, Verulam, Avoca, Prospect Hill, Westville, Clare Estate, Sydenham, Cato Manor, Clairwood, Isipingo, Umkomaas, Thornville Junction, Glencoe Junction, Ladysmith, and Dannhauser. Invitations were also extended to Shastrijee from the Transvaal, East London, Johannesburg and Pretoria to come and establish branches of this huge organisation.

Among the others who spoke, were Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyal, Dr. Bhagat Ram, D. S. S. Ramtahal Kangle, K. M. Mahara, Devi Prasad Sharma, Mewa Mahara and M. B. Nalki.

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