

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

MAHATMA Gandhi, addressing the Calcutta citizens, at Halliday Park, said: Do not say that your dhoties are too heavy if made of khaddar. I tell you that the badge of slavery is the heaviest of all, and this foreign cloth, being a badge of slavery, is a heavy thing to wear. If you find five yards of khadi too heavy for you, reduce it by 2½; and if you find 50 inches or 45 inches too long for you in khadi, reduce it by half, and you will find that it is after all a cheap garment, and quite decent. Nobody in India cares whether we are bare-bodied, whether our feet are bare. On the contrary, the only thing that we, at least, in olden days, examined about a man, was not his exterior, but his interior. If the interior was well-washed and well-clothed with the purest thing, it did not matter what garment covered our limbs. Beyond that, there was no necessity for any covering in this magnificent country of ours. I would warn you against thinking that your climate is bad, weakening or enervating. It is the spirit within us that has weakened, that has enervated us. The climate has not enervated us. It is enervating for the man who is clothed in foreign cloth. The beautiful hot sun of India shines upon you, covers you and gives you all the vitamins that people in the West get from all fatty foods and from cod-liver oil. Cod-liver oil is given to you free of charge by the Indian sun. Go and ask any doctor and you will find he will confirm what a layman is telling you.

“The arrests of Labour leaders or the so-called Communists show that the Government is in a panicky state, and is betraying symptoms to which we have been used and which presage a period of terrorism” writes Gandhiji in the course of an article in *Young India*. Proceeding, Gandhiji says: “Evidently, the Government believes in a periodical exhibition of its capacity to supersede all law and to discover to trembling India, the red claws which usually remain under cover. Of course, a farce of trial will be enacted. If the accused are wise, they will not run into the trap and assist the farce by being represented by counsel but will boldly risk imprisonment. Presently, it will be the turn of thousands not merely to risk, but to face and even to court imprisonment, if this reign of lawlessness under the guise of law is to be ended once for all. “It seems to me that the motive behind these prosecutions is not to kill Communism; it is to strike terror. The Congress creed, indeed the creed of all political parties, is the attainment of political liberty through non-violent means, but the Government, by its action, has given strength to the cult of violence to which the Congress has never subscribed. The motive behind these arrests has therefore to be searched in another direction. Terrorism, like plague, has lost its terror for the public. The movement of Swaraj has found too deep a root in the public mind to be shaken or destroyed. It is bound to gain strength through these arrests and other similar indications

of the Government's intention to strike a death blow at the liberty movement.”

Mr. Tribhovanbhai G. Patel of Messrs. I. C. Ashabhai & Co., Johannesburg, who has been the hon. treasurer of the Transvaal Indian Congress from the time of the inception of that body, has sailed for India by the *Karapara* via Delagoa Bay. Mr. Patel was held in esteem by all sections of the community as a successful business man and he was found as diligent in his public career which has enhanced his reputation. As treasurer of the T.I.C. his services were much appreciated. Whenever funds had lacked Mr. Patel was always found ready to come to the rescue. Mr. Patel was a member of the S.A.I. Congress deputation which went to Capetown on the licensing question. Mr. Patel was given farewell receptions by the Transvaal Indian Congress and other bodies and individuals and was given a hearty send-off by the officials and members of the T.I.C. at Park Station where he was garlanded by Mr. M. D. Bharoochi, the president. We join our Transvaal friends in wishing Mr. Patel bon voyage.

Mr. Rasool Patel the jt. treasurer takes the place of Mr. Tribhovanbhai Patel. He is also an active worker of the Congress and will no doubt prove equal to his task. We wish him every success.

The General Purposes Committee of the City Council of Johannesburg heard an application on behalf of Teikamdas Bros., Transvaal (Pty.), Ltd., wholesale silk merchants, for a general dealer's licence at a stand in Market Street. This is a branch of Teikamdas Bros' well-known firm at Port Elizabeth. The firms of Randles Bro. & Hudson, Mosenthal Bros., J. W. Jagger, A. R. Bradlaw & Co. (Pty.), Ltd., and Geen and Richards had opposed the application. Thomas Daniel O'Connell said he was the Johannesburg manager of the Company, which was formed at the end of last year in the Transvaal. The majority of shares were held by two Indians, the directors of the firm were these two Indians and himself. The manager and assistants of the firm were solely European, both at Johannesburg and at Port Elizabeth and Capetown. The turnover of the branch was about £120,000 per year and they carried stocks from £30,000 to £40,000. There were several Indian firms in the neighbourhood that were run and staffed by Indians. Witness said he was entirely responsible for the Johannesburg branch, and that it was the policy of the Company to employ Europeans only. After evidence on behalf of the objectors, the Committee granted the application.

Strong opposition to the Town Council's scheme for housing non-Europeans on the lower side of Umbilo Road has been set up by residents in that locality, who point out that it had always been given to them to understand that, when houses and plots had been sold by the Corporation in the Stella and Congella areas, these areas were entirely European areas. Such a course as is contemplated, it is claimed,

would result in a decrease in property value in the vicinity, and the creation of slums. When the special committee on housing met last Tuesday the above matter, in the form of a protest representative of 254 residents in the affected area, was brought to their notice. It was decided that the committee should inspect the area in question, and that the petitioners should be asked to be represented at a meeting to be held on the site at some future date.

EDUCATION—REPATRIATION

SIR KURMA REDDI, Agent of the Government of India had a large audience at Clairwood when he made some important utterances on Indian education and repatriation. With regard to education he expressed his surprise at the lack of interest on the part of parents to impart higher education to their children. This is indeed a fact which it can never be too often to bring to the notice of our brethren. Hitherto Indians were not themselves to blame for the lack of interest in the matter of educating their children as, firstly, it required the means to do so which the poorer people lacked and are still lacking owing to being thrown out of employment in preference to white employees and owing to being deprived directly or indirectly of almost every possible means of livelihood; and, secondly, there were not adequate facilities for such education for Indians and where there were the standard of education was not as good as that of the Europeans. For this last reason some parents who are interested in educating their children and have the means to do so have chosen to send their children abroad for the purpose. The percentage is, of course, very small indeed. But with all this and the amount of inconveniences parents may have to suffer there is no going out of the fact that they can ill-afford to neglect the education of their children and it is a criminal neglect at that. When one thinks of it, and Mr. Sastri has more than once brought the fact home to us, many parents in India suffer starvation in order that their children may be properly educated. It is, therefore, the duty of those to whom this country is by birth their only home and to whom it is theirs by adoption to strain every nerve to impart the proper standard of education to their children. Now that the facilities are increasing the interest in that direction should also grow. There are some people, who should know better, who are inclined to argue, to our

utter disgust, that they have been able to do well financially without education and that they are satisfied if their children could follow in their footsteps. Such people, we would venture to say, are living in darkness. To them their money bag seems to be their all. Their lot is to be pitied for had they been educated themselves they would have known better. But it will not do for them to bring up their children as they were brought up, or they will not be contributing to civilisation but will be bringing back the age of barbarity. Sir Kurma's advice should, therefore, go home to all who wish to remain in this country as self-respecting people and who do not wish to lag behind other sections of the community.

Sir Kurma then spoke on the Assisted Emigration Scheme. He drew a gloomy picture of the labour conditions in India and pointed out how difficult it was even for the educated young men to find employment and left to us to infer how difficult it would be for our uneducated brethren who are being repatriated under the assisted emigration scheme to comfortably accommodate themselves in India. Nevertheless, however, he assured us that the Government of India were doing their best for them and that 80 per cent. of the repatriates were being cared for by them. Sir Kurma deprecated the action of some of our brethren who, the Agent said, were conducting a crusade against the repatriation scheme and used every conceivable means to prevent Indians from leaving the Union under the scheme. There was a time when Government touts went about the country giving people false tales about rosy conditions existing in India and thus misled them into accepting the scheme. But that was done under the previous Government and it would be unfair on our part to blame the present Government. When there was such a propaganda a counter-propaganda was necessary. But where there is no such movement and the people are fully aware that the scheme is a purely voluntary one and that no one is compelled to take advantage of it against his will, and when those who do take advantage of it do so fully knowing the conditions in India, there should be no move on our part to deter them by spreading false rumours. Those busy bodies who engage themselves in spreading such rumours and misguiding their brethren would do well to occupy themselves in going among their illiterate

brethren and advising them on improving their social, moral and sanitary conditions and on the necessity of educating their children where they do not do so. That would be more advantageous to them than any discussion on the assisted emigration scheme.

Sir Kurma's Speech At Clairwood

Nearly 2,000 Indians from King's Rest, Merebank, Isipingo, Sea View and other neighbouring districts were present at the enthusiastic welcome reception which was accorded to Sir Kurma Reddi, the Indian Agent-General, on Sunday afternoon by the Clairwood branch of the Natal Indian Congress says the *Natal Mercury*.

After a warm welcome was accorded to the distinguished visitor by Mr. R. Bhawani, president of the Clairwood branch of the Congress, the Agent, who was received with hearty applause, spoke chiefly on the Capetown Agreement, Indian education and assisted emigration.

In dealing with the question of Indian education in Durban, he said that he had visited a number of Indian schools in and around the town, and had made searching inquiries regarding existing conditions.

To his astonishment, he found that, while a large number of big boys were in Standard I. and the sub-standards, a comparatively small number of them were to be found in the higher classes.

He went on to say that he quite appreciated the difficulties that confronted parents who were compelled to send their sons to work after a certain period. On the other hand, if a more liberal education were given to the boys, they would be able to enter higher spheres of labour and earn better money.

Education was an important matter, and should not be treated lightly by parents who are anxious about their children's future.

The Europeans of South Africa wanted the permanent Indian population of the Union to adopt a Western standard of living, but in the absence of proper education for their children the attainment of social and other privileges would be an utter impossibility.

Co-operative Scheme For Farmers

The Agent-General then outlined a profitable co-operative scheme for Indian farmers, whereby they would be able to obtain a ready market for their produce and make a substantial margin of profit on everything they sold. In India these co-operative societies had proved a great boon to farmers, and saved many from financial ruin. Farmers in Durban did not get a fair deal very often. If the farmers wanted his assistance he would give it with pleasure.

Speaking on the Capetown Agreement, Sir Kurma declared that the terms of that sacred pact were being implemented by both the Union and Indian Governments in a spirit of loyalty and mutual understanding towards each other. He particularly complimented the Government of South Africa on the conscientious manner in which it was carrying out the upliftment clause of the Treaty, which provided for the mental, moral and social uplift of the Indian community. On the other hand, the Government of India was doing its best for those who left the shores of South Africa under the assisted emi-

gration or repatriation scheme, which was purely voluntary.

He flatly contradicted rumours to the effect that several Indians who were repatriated were suffering from hardships in India. On the contrary, he had received information that 80 per cent. of the repatriated Indians were being cared for by the Government of India. In many instances these repatriated Indians went right inland, and were soon lost among the millions of India, and the Government experienced some difficulty in tracing their whereabouts.

Labour Conditions In India

Sir Kurma then compared the relative positions of Indians in India and South Africa in so far as it affected unemployment, and gave a lucid exposition of the prevailing labour conditions in the former country.

The unemployment problem in India was very acute, and a country such as India, with a population of 320,000,000 souls, must find it somewhat difficult to solve a really serious national problem. Something like 2,000 graduates were released annually from the universities of the 13 large provinces of India, and they all expected the Government to find them suitable positions. But unfortunately of that number only a thousand or so really got jobs while the remainder were simply thrown into society to eke out a living. Apart from this, there was an additional number of undergraduates, and the ubiquitous class commonly known as "failed matrics" who also looked up to the Government to find them vacancies, and in addition the Government had to assist millions of others to secure employment.

Almost every Government Department, banks and other commercial institutions throughout India were doing their best for the educated classes of India as well as the common labourers, and no sane person would expect the Government to do more.

Such was the labour problem in India, and the Indian workers in South Africa were in many respects better off than their brethren in India. Sir Kurma deprecated the action of some thoughtless people who were conducting a dangerous crusade against the repatriation scheme and used every conceivable means within their power to prevent Indians from leaving the Union under the repatriation scheme.

This, he said, was very mischievous propaganda and warned these individuals not to do anything that was going to undermine the existing reciprocal relations between the peoples of India and South Africa. It must be borne in mind that the speaker was in South Africa as a result of the Round Table Conference and the Capetown Agreement, and declared that it will be an evil day for the Indian community of South Africa if they violated the terms of that agreement.

After all those Indians who went back to their homeland under the assisted emigration scheme were not educated men and women, and yet the Govt. of India was doing everything humanly possible to receive them back again, when thousands of university trained men were unable to find employment in their very home towns. It was all very well for some disgruntled people to condemn the scheme, but could they do better he asked. In Durban, said the speaker, there was a rumour current to the effect that the Union Government had decided to decrease the bonuses to Indian repatriates, and that soon after Mr. Srinivasa Sastri left South Africa the bonuses were to cease altogether, and that if Indians were reluctant to leave the country the bonuses were going to be increased substantially as a further inducement to leave South Africa. Sir Kurma emphatically denied these misleading rumours, stating that there was not an iota of truth in them.

The Working Of The Sastri College

Mr. Hugh Bryan's Announcement

In the course of an address on Indian education before the Indo-European Council last week, Mr. Hugh Bryan, Superintendent of Education in Natal, is reported by the *Natal Mercury* to have made an important announcement regarding the future of Indian education as well as the Sastri College, which is now under course of completion at Currie's Fountain.

Referring to the Sastri College, Mr. Bryan said that when it starts it will, on present anticipations, turn out: (1) a few graduates who will take charge of the academic and professional training of that institution: the academic range will be standard X; (2) junior teachers, with an academic standing of Standard VIII., plus one year's professional work; (3) senior teachers with an academic standing of Standard IX. or X. plus one year's professional training (4 years from Standard VI.); (4) women teachers for the sub-standards who, having obtained a Standard VI. pass, would be accepted after a year's professional training for this type of work alone. "But," he said, "this scheme will not produce any bulk of teachers until 1932, and it is therefore proposed to create an 'interim' class, which will, until a regular production stage is reached, enter as follows: (a) women with a Standard V. pass for kindergarten work; (b) men with a Standard VII. pass for other primary work until 1931." There would probably be some who would enter under this scheme as affording an earlier entry to employment, which would give the Department more teachers by the end of 1930. For salary, these men would be graded somewhere between the present junior and senior scales. But the women's scales had not yet been thoroughly gone into, but they would probably be about three-quarters of the men's.

Mr. Bryan showed how the various branches of the teaching profession will work at the new college. The Durban branch of the Indian teachers' classes will be a part of the Sastri College work, and these classes it is proposed to carry on until the output of the college enable those in authority to reject any applicants for employment except those who had been definitely trained: probably they would cease at the end of 1931. There would thus be two practical spheres of work at the Sastri College: (a) ordinary academic work from VI. to X., in which both intending and non-intending teachers would share alike; (b) professional teachers' work, which will fall into three groups, namely, (1) women kindergarten teachers, (2) junior certificate, and (3) senior certificate. The practical work of all will be done in the local schools under the supervision of the college teachers.

It is hoped to effect an increase in the various Government schools this year, and the efforts of aided schools will be encouraged. The Department, Mr. Bryan added, did not approve of schools above a total attendance of 450 children, and therefore new ones should be created in centres where this number is likely to be exceeded.

Compulsory education, Mr. Bryan went on, was impossible for the present moment, for the simple reason that they had in Class II. every age from seven to 16 years, and in Class I. from six to fourteen years, therefore it would be absurd to introduce a system forcing an ignorant child of 13 for a year into Class I., which he could leave after a year. There was the possibility of some modified plan of compulsion for all children born after 1922 being adopted as the existing schools increased in number;

but to him it appeared as if a voluntary basis would have to remain for the time being, because there was no chance for further provisions for a while.

Transvaal Notes

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Indian Education

There is a dearth of Indian qualified teachers in the Transvaal and the Education Department are in great need of such teachers. The object of this paragraph is to induce qualified teachers from Natal to apply so that they will become missionaries of education in the Transvaal among the Indian community.

Most of the teachers now employed are unqualified and their general qualifications are also very poor. The following is an analysis of the academic and professional qualifications of the 23 Indian teachers now employed in Indian schools where English is taught.

Academic

1. No evidence of completion of full primary course	10
2. Evidence of completing primary but not secondary course	8
3. Matriculation Standard	1
4. Intermediate	2
5. Degree	2

Professional

1. Teachers' Certificate	3
2. Some Training	2
3. No qualifications	18

It will be seen from the foregoing statistics that only 3 teachers have completed their professional training and it is a very serious state of affairs when one considers that there are about 3500 children of school going age (7 to 15 years of age).

The question is naturally asked as to who is to blame? The Indian community is entirely to blame when you find secretaries and some members of the various school committees cannot even read or write and who are only competent to do their own work and are not qualified from an educational point of view to be on any Educational Committee.

There is one remedy only and that is to dispense with these school committees and the Education Department to make the appointments themselves on the professional qualification of an applicant. The Indian schools in Natal are better staffed and the system of appointment by the Natal Education Department is highly commended for Indian schools here.

I will give you an example of the blunders of these school committees in recommending these appointments to the School Board or the Government. This is not an isolated case but it has been more or less the practice in Transvaal Indian schools. For certain reasons I am not giving the names of the schools. An assistant master has not attended any school but is said to have read up to Std. III under some private tutor. He came out as a religious teacher, but after his arrival worked as an assistant in shops and stores. His appointment is temporary, and that does not excuse the Committee or the Government appointing him as a teacher. The damage to the children would have been done before a qualified teacher is appointed.

Another teacher who is well over 50 years passed Standard II in Verulam when he was 9 years of age. He knows very little English and has no qualification. He was given a Government post. He carried on in his own sweet way.

I am sure this will give all true educationalists a shock and it may seem to others that it is a fairy tale that could hardly be accepted but I want to assure my readers that it is perfectly true and because I am keen to see the Indian children in the Transvaal have the very best of education. I give publicity to these facts which can be verified by any one in the right quarters.

This one point must be kept in mind that in South Africa the Indian has considerable handicaps in life, by that I mean that there are no similar opportunities or facilities for the Indian child to reach the same heights in the educational world as the European child except for the child of wealthy parents who will have to send his child overseas. We have to compete with the white race and therefore our children must be efficient in the English language. And with that result in view we should be very careful not to introduce during the official school hours anything that will calculate to minimise the efficiency of the child in the English language. Natal Indians have been wise in seeing the futility of doing that and even the most rabid Indian nationalist while demanding that the mother tongue should be taught will not dare suggest that at the expense of the official language. The need for starting vernacular schools is great and the Tamil community at Doornfontein have set an example worthy to be followed. The children after attending English schools attend this Tamil school and it is working exceedingly well.

Natal Indian Railway Passengers' Union

First Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Natal Indian Railway Passengers' Union was held recently in the Merebank Indian School, with Mr. Gopaul Singh in the chair. There was an enthusiastic attendance of members.

In reviewing the Union's activities during 1928, the chairman observed that its members had every reason to be proud of the first year's work on behalf of Indian railway passengers. He saw no reason why the Union should not progress in the near future, especially in view of its recent successes in almost every direction.

He then referred to the very courteous and sympathetic manner in which the Railway Administration had treated the Union's representations on various matters affecting the welfare of Indian railway passengers.

The secretary's annual report, which reflected a very successful year's work, disclosed that, apart from other matters, quite a number of reports had been successfully dealt with by the Union.

The report showed that the Investigation Committee's representations to the Railway Administration on behalf of the railway passengers were always viewed with sympathy and careful consideration. Other difficulties, such as congestion in reserved coaches and inadequate seating accommodation, were also promptly removed by the Administration.

The meeting passed a resolution expressing its grateful thanks to the Railway Administration in Durban, especially to the System Manager and his staff.

After some discussion, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons Messrs. Seeboo Ram, S. Pillay, S. Deonunden, L. Beeson and

R. R. Naidoo; president, R. Gopalsingh; vice-presidents, Messrs. P. Chetty, B. Mahabeer, P. P. Govinder and A. C. Govinder; hon. secretary, R. H. Lalla; hon. treasurer, P. M. Moodliyer; hon. auditor, J. Fayers; committee: Messrs. C. S. Naicker, K. L. Sam, S. Naidoo, W. Morgan, J. Verdon, J. Govindsamy, H. D. Panchu and S. T. Nadasen. emergency committee: Messrs. R. Gopalsingh, P. M. Moodley and R. H. Lalla. investigation committee: Messrs. C. S. Naicker, P. M. Moodliyer and R. H. Lalla.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.—Contributed.

East African Congress

(FROM AN ESTEEMED CORRESPONDENT)

Mombasa 16-4-29.

Perhaps the most momentous session in recent years of the Eastern Africa Indian National Congress opened in Mombasa on the 13th inst. The President-Elect, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, M. L. A., Vice President, Servants of India Society, arrived in Mombasa from India a week earlier, and was accorded a right royal welcome, and was presented with an address of welcome by the Mombasa Indian Association. In his reply, Mr. Kunzru emphasised the fact that whatever be the differences that divided the various political parties in India, on the question of Indians overseas, and in particular, in East Africa, all parties and the Government of India as well, were absolutely unanimous, and in full sympathy with the cause of Indians in East Africa, and determined to exert their influence in the councils of the Empire to the utmost in order to secure the vindication of their just cause solidly and doggedly.

Mr. Kunzru discussed the situation created by the publication of the Closer Union Report with the leading Indians in Mombasa and left for Nairobi, the storm centre, on a similar errand. After meeting both European and Indian leaders in Nairobi, he returned to Mombasa on the 13th to preside over the Congress. Mr. A. B. Patel, Bar at Law, President of the Indian Association, Mombasa, and Chairman of the Reception Committee, opened the proceedings in a telling speech in which he made out, among other matters, an unassailable case for a common civilisation franchise and electoral roll, and requested the Government of India to send out competent men from India to strengthen the hands of local Indians in their constitutional fight. The President in his masterly address conclusively refuted the claims and demands of a handful of British settlers to be made undisputed masters of Kenya, to be allowed to impose their none too selfish rule on other immigrant communities and on the native populations, and to be permitted to indulge in their racial pride to the economic and political detriment of the other communities. The influence of the European settlers in the Government of Kenya is already too great and had been used to exploit the other communities; it should not be increased. There should be no talk of self-government as long as the trusteeship of the British Government for the welfare of the natives lasts, until the wards come of age and take over the government of the country. He hoped that Sir Samuel Wilson will not reopen that question. He put in a forceful plea for the common roll and suggested certain safeguards to protect Indian interests when the High Commissioner was appointed. The Central Authority should be required to consult his Advisory Council, on which Indians should be adequately and effectively represented, on all racial matters, and the members of the council should be free to appeal to the

Secretary of State for the Colonies in cases of difference of opinion. After finishing his English address which was received with acclamation, the President summarised his address in Hindi for the benefit of those who followed better.

In striking contrast with the attitude of the European settlers, who rejected the whole report and with it the theory of trusteeship for the welfare of the natives, unless their own selfish demands for self-government were granted, stood the attitude of the Indian community, who, though the Report did not advance their position, and left even the Commission's considered preference for a common roll to the mercy of the settlers, declined to take a parochial view of the Report, but rallied in support of its recommendations regarding native trusteeship.

The Congress, after careful consideration in the Subjects Committee, passed very important resolutions on the 14th and 15th. The Congress welcomed native trusteeship, approved of the rejection of the demand of white settlers for responsible government, and desired the Imperial Government to retain in its hands the responsibilities for the trusteeship of the natives, but if it decided to associate Europeans in the discharge of these responsibilities, it insisted on associating Indians as well. It recommended that the native policy in Kenya should be elevated to the level of the more enlightened native policies in Uganda and Tanganyika, and resisted any increase in the influence of the European settlers in the Government of Kenya directly by increased representation or indirectly by the nomination of Europeans to represent native interests, and asked for the retention of the official majority in the Kenya Legislative Council. While accepting closer union for economic purposes, it opposed any scheme for political federation or union. It welcomed the support that the Commission gave to the principle of common franchise and electoral roll and desired the Government to promulgate it without making it conditional on the approval of the white settlers. It desired that native opinion should be consulted before their representatives were nominated.

As regards the High Commissioner, it demanded that before any action was taken on his report, it should be published for public criticism; that Indians should be adequately and effectively represented on the Advisory and other councils in East Africa and London, that members of these councils should be free to appeal to the Secretary of State in cases of difference of opinion and that one of the private secretaries of the Central Authority should be an Indian officer from the superior civil services in India.

The Congress appointed an influential deputation with the President of the Congress as leader to draw up a Memorandum for presentation to Sir Samuel Wilson, and requested the Government of India to send out a delegation to assist the Indians to present their cases when the High Commissioner was appointed.

The Congress was solidly and unanimously in favour of continuing the abstention from participation in the Legislative and Municipal bodies as a protest against the communal roll in the elective bodies, and although the special circumstances of the composition of the Mombasa Municipal Board did not preclude Indians participating in its works, still co-operation was to be withheld to add point to the protest against the communal roll.

Among other resolutions were those requesting the Government of India to secure an enquiry by an Indian educational expert on Indian education in East Africa, to secure an investigation by an Indian agricultural expert of areas in East Africa suitable for Indian agriculturists, to appoint an Indian trade commissioner in East Africa and to organise an East African information and publicity bureau in India.

The Congress passed resolutions expressing its gratitude to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, and the Servants of India Society, to Messrs. Andrews, Polak, to Lord Olivier and Sir Robert Hamilton for their very valuable services to the cause of Indians in East Africa.

Another resolution appreciated the very great support and assistance that the Government of India gave and continued to give to East African Indians.

In his closing remarks the President made a stirring appeal for co-operation between the races and for more vigorous and sustained efforts, on the part of Indians commensurate with the magnitude of the struggle they had to face and the cause they stood for. Thus concluded a very successful and momentous session of the Indian Congress.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part V. Chapter XI.

SHADOWED BY DETECTIVES

We shall, for a moment, take leave of the Ashraim, which, in the very beginning, had to weather internal and external storms, and briefly advert to a matter that engaged my attention.

Indentured labourers were those who had emigrated from India to labour under an indenture for five or less years. Under the Simts-Gandhi Settlement of 1911, the £3 tax in respect of the indentured emigrants to Natal had been abolished, but the general emigration from India still needed treatment.

In March 1916, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaji moved a resolution in the Imperial Legislative Council for the abolition of the indenture system. In accepting the motion, Lord Hardinge announced that he had "obtained from His Majesty's Government the promise of the abolition in due course" of the system. I felt, however, that India could not be satisfied with so very vague an assurance, but ought to agitate for immediate abolition. India had tolerated the system through sheer negligence, and I believed the time had come when people could successfully agitate for this redress. I met some of the leaders, wrote in the Press and saw that public opinion was solidly in favour of immediate abolition. Might this be a fit subject for Satyagraha? I had no doubt that it was, but I did not know the *modus operandi*.

In the mean time, the Viceroy had made no secret of the meaning of "the eventual abolition" which as he said was abolition "within such reasonable time as will allow of alternative arrangement being introduced."

So in February 1917, Pandit Malaviyaji asked for leave to introduce a Bill for the immediate abolition of the system. Lord Chelmsford refused permission. It was time for me to tour the country for an all-India agitation.

INTERVIEW WITH VICEROY

Before I started the agitation, I thought it proper to wait upon the Viceroy. So I applied for an interview. He immediately granted it. Mr. Maffey, now Sir John Maffey, was his Private Secretary. I came in close contact with him. I had a satisfactory talk with Lord Chelmsford, who, without being definite, promised to be helpful.

I began my tour from Bombay. Mr. Jehangir Petit undertook to convene the meeting under the auspices of the Imperial Citizenship Association. The Executive Committee of the Association met first for framing the resolutions to be moved at the meeting. Mr. Stanley Reed, Mr. (now Sir) Lallubhai Samaldas, Mr. Natarajan and Mr. Petit were present at the Committee meeting. The discussion centered round the fixing of the period within which the Government was to be asked to abolish the system. There were three proposals, viz., for abolition 'as soon as possible,' abolition 'by the 31st July,' and 'immediate abolition.' I was for definite date, as

we could then decide what to do if the Government failed to accede to our request within the time limit. Sir Lallubhai was for 'immediate' abolition. He said 'immediate' indicated a shorter period than the 31st July. I explained that the people would not understand the word 'immediate.' If we want to get them to do something, they must have a more definite word. Every one would interpret 'immediate' in his own way,—Government one way, the people another way. There was no question of misunderstanding 'the 31st of July,' and if nothing was done by that date, we could proceed further. Dr. Reed saw the force of the argument and ultimately Sir Lallubhai also agreed. We adopted the 31st July as the latest date by which the abolition should be announced; a resolution to that effect was passed at the public meeting, and meetings throughout India resolved accordingly.

Mrs. Jiji Petit put all her energies into the organisation of a ladies' deputation to the Viceroy. Amongst the ladies from Bombay who formed the deputation, I remember the names of Lady Tata and the late Dilshad Begam. The deputation had a great effect. The Viceroy gave an encouraging reply.

I visited Karachi, Calcutta, and various other places. There were fine meetings everywhere and there was unbounded enthusiasm. I had not expected anything like it when the agitation was launched.

DETECTIVES AT WORK

In these days, I used to travel alone and had therefore wonderful experiences. The C.I.D. men were always after me. But as I had nothing to conceal, they did not molest me, nor did I cause them any trouble. Fortunately, I had not then received the stamp of Mahatmaship though the shout of that name was quite common where people knew me.

On one occasion, the detectives disturbed me at several stations, asked for my ticket and took down the number. I, of course, readily replied to all the questions they asked. My fellow passengers had taken me to be a 'sadhu' or a 'fakir.' When they saw that I was being molested at every station, they were exasperated and swore at the detectives. 'Why are you worrying the poor sadhu for nothing?' they protested. 'Don't show these scoundrels your ticket,' they said, addressing me.

I said to them gently, 'It is no trouble to show them my ticket. They are doing their duty.' The passengers were not satisfied, they evinced more and more sympathy, and strongly objected to this sort of ill-treatment of innocent men.

But the detectives were nothing. The real hardship was the third class travelling. My bitterest experience was from Lahore to Delhi. I was going to Calcutta from Karachi *via* Lahore where I had to change trains. It was impossible to find a place in the train. It was full, and those who could get in did so by sheer force, often sneaking through windows if the doors were locked. I had to reach Calcutta on the date fixed for the meeting, and if I missed this train, I could not arrive in time. I had almost given up hope of getting in. No one was willing to accept me, when a porter discovering my plight came to me and said, 'Give me twelve annas and I'll get you a seat.' 'Yes,' said I, 'you shall have twelve annas if you do procure me a seat.' The young man went from carriage to carriage treating passengers, but no one heeded him. As the train was about to start, some passengers said: 'There is no room here, but you can shove him in if you like. He will have to stand.' 'Well?' asked the young porter. I readily agreed and he shoved me in bodily through the window. Thus I got in and the porter earned his twelve annas.

The night was a trial. The other passengers were sitting somehow. I stood two hours, holding the chain of the upper bunk. Meanwhile, some of the passengers kept worrying me incessantly. 'Why will you not sit down?' they asked. I tried to reason with them saying there is no room, but they could not tolerate my standing though they were lying full length on the upper bunks. They did not tire of worrying me, neither did I tire of gently replying to them. This at last mollified them.

Some of them asked me my name and when I gave it, they felt ashamed. They apologised and made room for me. Patience was thus rewarded. I was dead tired, and my head was reeling. God sent help just when it was most needed.

In that way I somehow reached Delhi and thence Calcutta. The Maharaja of Cassimbazaar, the President of the Calcutta meeting, was my host. Just as in Karachi, here also there was unbounded enthusiasm. The meeting was attended by several Englishmen.

Before the 31st July the Government announced that indentured emigration from India was stopped.

It was in 1894 that I drafted the first petition protesting against the system and I had then hoped that this 'semi-slavery,' as Sir W. W. Hunter used to call the system, would some day be brought to an end.

There were many who aided in the agitation which was started in 1894, but I cannot help saying that potential Satyagraha hastened the end.

For further details of that agitation and of those who took part in it, I refer the reader to my *History of Satyagraha in South Africa*.

News In Brief

The opening of the new wards and the eighth anniversary of the Aryan Benevolent Home, Mayville, will take place on Sunday the 12th of May, 1929, at 3 p.m. Sir Kurma V. Reddi has kindly consented to open the new premises. His Worship the Mayor (Councillor A. Eaton) will preside. The Home is situated at Mayville on the main road to Ballair and opposite Mr. B. M. Singh's residence.

The following telegram has been received by the President of the Transvaal Indian Congress:—

"Lady Smartt and daughters wish to send you their grateful thanks for kind sympathy in their bereavement."

In reply to a question in an electioneering meeting at Newcastle the Prime Minister showed that the repatriation of Indians had increased from 770 in 1924 to 2,156.

Indian Legislative Assembly has passed a motion reducing the Salt tax to a Rupee per mond. Government opposed the motion bemoaning that the country would lose a revenue of thirteen million Rupees.

Answers To Correspondents

Mr. A. MOOSA (Jun).—As it is copyright we cannot publish it.

TENDERS are hereby called for the business as a going concern of the Estate of the late A. S. Bhayat carried on at Inanda, thirteen miles from Verulam, as a General Dealer, together with the whole of the stock-in-trade, book debts and also licences for Native Eating House and Bakery. The business is situated in a good business centre. Particulars of stock and book debts can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

Tenders will be received up to Wednesday, 15th May, 1929, at 2 p.m., by the undersigned. Approved guarantees will be required with all tenders.

Durban, 6th May, 1929.

LIVINGSTON & DOULL

12, Murray Court,
Durban.

ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન

પુસ્તક ૨૭ મું.

ફ્રીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૦ મે ૧૯૨૯

અંક ૧૯

નોંધ અને સમાચાર



શ્રી. ત્રીભોવનભાઈની વિદાયગીરી

જેઠાનીસઅની આઈ. સી. આજ્ઞાભાઈની કુ. વાળા શ્રી. ત્રીભોવનભાઈ ગીરધરલાલ પટેલ જેઓ ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ સ્થાપક સારથી તેના માનનીય નાણામંત્રી હતા તેઓ સ્ટીમર કારાપારામાં ડેલાગોઆબેથી સ્વદેશ જવા ઉપડી ગયા છે. શ્રી. ત્રીભોવનભાઈએ જાહેર કાર્યમાં બામ લેવાનું આરંભ્યું તે પહેલાં પણ એક કુશળ વેપારી તરીકે ઠીંદુ તેમજ મુસ્લીમ બાઇઓમાં સારું માન સંપાદન કર્યું હતું. વેપારમાં તેમની આતુરી અને કાર્યદક્ષતાએ તેમને સફળતા આપી હતી અને એજ આતુરી અને કાર્યદક્ષતાએ જાહેર કાર્યમાં પણ તેમને રૂતેક આપેલી છે અને કામમાં માન સંપાદન કરાવ્યું છે. તેઓ ટ્રાંસવાલથી વિદાય થતાં પહેલાં ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી તેમજ અન્ય મંડળો તરફથી તેમનો શ્રદ્ધા સત્કાર અને કામના દરેક વર્ગે તેમાં લીધેલો ભાગ એ તેનો પુરાવો છે. લાસસેન્સના સંબંધમાં સા. આ. ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસનું ડેપ્યુટેશન કેપટાઉન ગયેલું તેમાં પણ શ્રી. ત્રીભોવનભાઈ સામેલ હતા અને પોતાનાથી અનતી સેવા બજાવી હતી અને કોંગ્રેસની નાણાં સંબંધી સ્થિતિ કફેડી હોવા છતાં તેમણે તે સંરચાને હમેશાં મદદ કરેલી છે. ટ્રાંસવાલના બાઇઓ સાથે અમે પણ શ્રી. ત્રીભોવનભાઈને સફળ સફર ઇચ્છવામાં સામેલ થઈએ છીએ.

નવા નાણામંત્રી

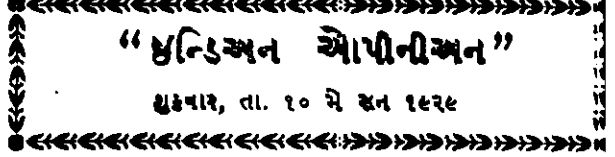
શ્રી ત્રીભોવનભાઈની જગ્યાએ ડા. ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના નાણામંત્રી તરીકે તેમના જેડીયા મંત્રી શ્રી. રસુલ પટેલ આવેલા છે. તેઓ પણ એટલાજ કાર્યદક્ષ અને જાહેર કાર્યમાં રસ લેનારા છે અને પોતાનાં સ્થાનને ઠીપાવશે એવી અમને આત્રી છે. તેમને અમે સફળતા ઇચ્છીએ છીએ.

અમ્બીલો રોડના ગોરાઓનો વિરોધ

ડરબન ટાઉન કોર્ડીસીલની નોન-યુરોપીયનો માટે અમ્બીલો રોડની નીચેના ભાગમાં રહેઠાણનું સ્થાન બનાવવાની યોજના સામે એ લતામાં વસનારા ૨૫૪ ગોરાઓએ વિરોધ ઉઠાવ્યો છે. તેઓ કહે છે કે રોડ અને કોલેજના લતામાં કોરપોરેશને જમીનના ટુકડા વેચ્યા સારે તેઓના સમજવામાં આવ્યું હતું કે એ લ-તો કેવળ યુરોપીયનોને માટેજ રહેશે. જે નવી યોજનાનો અમલ થશે તો નજીકની જમીનની કીંમત ઘટી જશે. કોર્ડીસીલની ખાસ હાઉસીંગ કમીટી સમક્ષ આ બાબત આવતાં કમીટીએ એ લતાની તપાસ કરવાનો અને હવે પણ એ બાબતમાં મળનારી મીટીંગમાં વિરોધીઓને પોતાના પ્રતિનિધિઓ મોકલવાનું જણાવવાનો ઠરાવ કર્યો હતો.

શોપ એસ્ટીટન્ટના કાયદાનો અનાદર

ક્રસ્ટ લંડન રીટેલર્સ ડાઉસીલે શોપ એસ્ટીટન્ટો મા વેબબોર્ડ તરફથી ઠરાવાયલા પગારોના નીચમને અનાદર કરવાનો ઠરાવ કર્યો છે કેમકે એ દર કાયદા તરીકે બહા પાડ્યા પહેલાં વર્તમાનપત્રમાં પ્રસિદ્ધ કરવામાં આવ્યા નહોત



ઠીંદુ સરકારના એજન્ટ સર કુર્મા રેડીએ અથા સ્વીવારે કલેન્ડર

કેળવણી-રીપેટીએશન સમક્ષ કેળવણી અને રીપેટીએશનના વિષય ઉપર અગસ્ટ

બાપણ કર્યું હતું. કેળવણીના સંબંધમાં મા બાપો પોતાના ઓફિસોને જમી કેળવણી આપવાની બાબતમાં જોઈએ તેટલી કાળજી નથી લેતા એ જોઈ તેમણે આશ્ચર્ય દર્શાવ્યું હતું. આ હકીકત ખરી છે અને તેને વિષે અમે તેટલી વાર અમારું બાઇઓને જાગૃત કરીએ તોયે વધારે પડતું નહિજ અણ્યાજ આજ સુધી તો પોતાના બાળકોને કેળવણી આપવાની બાબતમાં કાળજી નહિ લેવાને માટે ઠીંદીઓ એકલાજ દોષિત નહિ હતા, કેમકે, પ્રથમ તો તેને માટે નાણાનું સાધન જોઈએ અને તેની આપણા ગરીબ વર્ગના બાઇઓને ખામી હતી અને હજુ પણ છે, કેમકે તેઓ ગોરાઓને પસંદગી આપવાને ખાતર દિન પર દિન નોકરીમાંથી બાતલ થતા જાય છે અને તેઓની રોજનાં લગભગ બનતાં સબળાં સાધનો સીધી યા આડકત્રી રીતે છીનવી લેવાના ઉપાયો યોજવામાં આવે છે બીજું એ કે, ઠીંદીઓ માટે કેળવણીની યોગ્ય સમવડો નહિ હતી અને જ્યાં હતી ત્યાં કેળવણીનું ધોરણ યુરોપીયનોના જેટલું સારું નહિ હતું. આ છોલાં કારણને લીધે ફેટલાક મા બાપો જે પોતાના બાળકોને સારી કેળવણી આપવાની કાળજી ધરાવે છે અને તેમ કરવાને નાણાનું સાધન પણ છે તેઓએ તેમને તેવી કેળવણી પામવાને પરદેશ મોકલ્યા છે. એકક આલું કરનારાઓની સંખ્યા ઘણીજ ઓછી છે. પરંતુ આ બધું છતાં અને મા બાપોને ગમે તેટલી અગવડો સહેવી પડતી હોવા છતાં પોતાના બાળકોને કેળવણી આપવામાં બેપરવાહ રાખવી તેઓને પોસાઈ શકે તેમ નથીજ અને એવી બેપરવાહ રાખવી એ ગુન્હોજ ગણાય. આપણે વિચાર કરીએ તો, અને એ હકીકત શાકીજએ આપણને એકથી વધારે પ્રસંગોએ અસરકારક રીતે ઠસાવેલી છે કે, ઠીંદુરતાનમાં એવા ધણા મા બાપો છે કે જેઓ પોતાના બાળકોને સારી કેળવણી

