

Indian Opinion

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INDIAN BOY SCOUTS

UNION FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY

ON Sunday 18th August, 1929, the presentation of the Union Flag was performed by Mr. O. J. J. Van Wyk J.P., the National Party Secretary on behalf of General J. B. M. Hertzog in the grounds of the Krause Street Government School.

In the presence of a very large and representative gathering of Indians, Europeans and Euraficans the ceremony took place. The action of the Prime Minister was greatly appreciated and it was quite evident that this generous and broadminded gesture of the Prime Minister deeply affected the Indians which was unmistakably given emphasis by the various Indian speakers.

The Boy Scouts paraded before the platform and their smart appearance won the admiration of all. Mr. Van Wyk inspected the boys before he took his place on the platform. The scouts were under the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney assisted by Mr. H. Bristow and Mr. G. W. Dickinson. Mr. Walter Webber presided and called the Rev. Sigamoney to read the messages. The following message was received from General Hertzog:—

“Great pleasure in presenting the Union National Flag to the Indian Boy Scouts. I trust that this Flag will ever be carried unsullied by the behaviour of those under whose charge it is entrusted, and that it will ever receive the allegiance that it merits as a proof of South Africa's independent nationhood.”

Other messages were from Advocate A. Christopher, President South African Indian Congress, The South African Indian Congress Executive, Mr. Willie Ernest, President T.I.F.A., Advocate J. W. Godfrey, Advocate I. I. Hazaree and others all expressing their appreciation at the gracious broadminded act of the Prime Minister in presenting the Union flag and thus recognising the Indian Scout movement, and wishing the movement every success.

Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney the Chief Indian Scout on behalf of the Scouts thanked the Prime Minister most cordially for this friendly gesture towards the Indian Scouts thereby towards the Indian community. He further thanked Mr. J. J. Van Wyk for kindly consenting to present the flag on behalf of the Prime Minister.

He said that his old idea in starting the Scout movement was that it was a great force towards ensuring peace in the world and that it taught boys to live to respect men of different colours and creeds and made them real brothers.

Although the Scout Council of South Africa refused affiliation or recognition yet the Indians were determined to carry on and they felt that as their cause was just and honourable they would win that some day. India was too powerful a nation to be slighted in this way and he could tell the audience this afternoon that India was in entire agreement without fight for recognition. He thanked Mr. Walter Webber for presiding at this afternoon's

function well knowing that the Scout Council may not approve of his action.

The Rev. Sigamoney said he was so well pleased with the action of Rev. Bennet of St. Mary's, Jeppe, who was a Scout Master turning up in his full Scout Uniform to be present at this ceremony without a personal invitation being given.

Actions of this kind helped those who were fighting for the principle of brotherhood in this country.

Mr. Walter Webber, in the course of his remarks from the chair, said:—

It gives me very great pleasure to be here to-day and to preside at this interesting ceremony. You, Indian Boy Scouts, have the privilege of belonging to a world-wide organisation, which is a strong movement for peace among all the nations of the earth. The Boy Scout movement knows no race, no colour and no politics. It is founded upon honour which is the one thing which is sacred to every man of self-respect. In the promise made by every lad joining the Boy Scouts he promises to do his best to serve God and the King, to help others at every opportunity, and to obey the Scout Law. These are high ideals befitting the ambition of every good citizen. Your Chief Scout, now honoured by the King, sets before him the object of training lads to become good citizens, and the presentation to you by the Prime Minister of the flag of the Union of South Africa, is a recognition that you have proved yourselves worthy citizens of the Union. General Hertzog in entrusting this flag to your care is acting not in his private capacity or as the head of a political party, but as Prime Minister, and as such, representing all the citizens of this country. This is a great honour which is conferred upon you, but remember that it is not only a privilege but also a great responsibility. You are carrying to-day three flags, the flag of the Indian nation, the great race from which you have sprung, the flag of the Union of South Africa, the land of your birth, and the flag of the British Empire, to which you have the honour to belong. If you live up to the traditions of these flags you will be worthy citizens of this country and of the Empire, and worthy representatives of the Indian nation.

I have no doubt that you will prove yourselves worthy of the honour conferred upon you and of the trust placed in you. I congratulate you sincerely, and have no doubt that you will by your conduct justify the Prime Minister in the action that he has taken. On behalf of this gathering I ask the representative of the Prime Minister to convey to him the sincere thanks of the Indian community.

Mr. O. J. J. Van Wyk in rising to speak was accorded a great ovation from the large crowd of spectators. He said: Mr. Chairman, Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Indian Boy Scouts, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is a privilege this afternoon to represent the Prime Minister in presenting to you the Union flag

symbolising the independent nationhood of South Africa.

To us of the Nationalist Party it is something real, something that the people the party represents were striving for years. In years to come you will learn to love the flag which you will be receiving in a few moments.

What does this ceremony mean? It may mean nothing and yet it may mean everything to you all. It entirely depends on the spirit with which you all approach this function this afternoon. I could see by your eager look in your faces that this is a solemn occasion for you all. This presentation seals the fact that you all are Nationals of South Africa even though your ancestors have come from India. You have settled here and so long as you all conform to the laws of the land, so long as you identify yourselves in the aspirations of South Africa, so long you have in your breasts the interests of South Africa, so long you say South Africa first as members of it then I am almost sure that no one will ever grudge you receiving this flag.

I am told by your Chief that while in Durban you received the National Flag of India. It is nothing but right that you should not forget the land that gave birth to your race. The aspirations of India are keenly sympathised with by many leading Nationalists and I am sure no one who loves India will ever begrudge her getting her Dominion status or sovereign independence. It is inevitable that in the course of development of nations, subject nations will be freed from all the links that bind her to the conqueror; there will grow up in the place of submission, co-operation and cohesion.

The Scout movement all over the world is recognised as a fine organisation for the training of the youth to take his place as a good and worthy citizen. It has for its aims the uniting of various races into some common brotherhood. It is a laudable object which should be encouraged by every sane man, for by the encouragement of this world-wide movement we are ensuring peace for the generations to come. The keynote of the Scout movement is service, and could there be a nobler ideal than that to set before the eyes of the youth of this country?

Therefore I am more than pleased with the Indian boys in the Scout movement. I know there are over 100,000 Indian Scouts in India and the movement is unifying the different castes and creeds in your great land with the result that in years to come the strife between the various sections will be minimised and eventually eradicated.

I am given to understand the Indians in South Africa are taking up scouting and although to-day you were not like your countrymen in India allowed to go to the Jamboree, yet I am certain that the time will come when the Indians will be in a position to have their own Jamboree in South Africa. At present you have no official recognition from the local Scout Council but that should not prevent you carrying on and by your merit win recognition. You are descendants of a great nation and it will be South Africa's dishonour if she persists in keeping out the Indians from being part of the world-wide movement. I am more than pleased that General Hertzog has agreed to present you with the Union Flag. I sincerely hope that you boys will ever remember his words of carrying the flag unscathed by any action of yours.

You are the first Indian Boy Scouts of South Africa and the eyes of the public will be upon you all so as to see as to how you comport yourselves.

In conclusion, I desire to urge upon the great need to play the game in life, to be honourable in everything that you do. You are the sons of South Africa and one day you may be called upon to show your love for South Africa in a practical way.

I have much pleasure in handing over the flag to your troop with my sincerest wish and prayer that

you will always carry this flag and remember General Hertzog for the great work he has done and is doing for South Africa.

Rev. Bennett, on being called upon to speak said that when he came he did not come with that invitation, but having read of the ceremony in the papers, he felt that he must come and show his sympathy to his brother priest the Rev. Sigamoney in fighting for his Scouts. He came because he realised what a potent it was killing all strife and racialism which is a great barrier to the forward movement of peace and love. He congratulated the Indian Boy Scouts in receiving the prize that they had so richly merited.

Mr. E. Mall (Secretary of the South African Indian Congress) on behalf of the Congress which is the mouthpiece of the Indians in South Africa desired Mr. O. J. J. Van Wyk to convey to the Prime Minister the deep gratitude of the Indian community of South Africa in presenting the Union Flag symbolising the independent nationhood of South Africa. He said he cannot understand the attitude of the South African Scout Council for he has spoken to many prominent Europeans of this town who fail to see as to why Indians should not be recognised or affiliated, but he said he that as it may we are to-day recognised by the Prime Minister of this land as an integral part of South Africa. The presentation of the flag is an outward symbol of recognition and by the Prime Minister's action he has clearly shown that he does not recognise party nor politics in the Scout movement. We all know the value of scouting for boys and when the founder of this great movement started it, he had not the slightest desire to introduce the colour bar, nor does he hold with it at the present moment. The Scout Law knows no race nor creed, it is for the great linking of all races into one huge family but each carrying on according to his own national custom and tradition.

Mr. P. K. Desai said it was a privilege to be able to be present at this unique ceremony and he was more than proud at the statesmanlike act of General Hertzog. It was a courageous act. It was in keeping with his many brave acts in this country. When the flag controversy was raging he could never understand the actions of a certain section of Europeans who were opposed to the creation of this flag. India is a subject race he said and has not dominion status nor sovereign independence, yet she has her own national flag symbolising her national unity and national aspirations which the Scout boys are carrying to-day.

He desired Mr. O. J. J. Van Wyk to convey to the two great Dutchmen of South Africa, Dr. Malan and General Hertzog, their deepest gratitude.

The function closed with three hearty cheers for General Hertzog and Dr. Malan.

The marriage ceremony of Miss Maragathavally Ammal, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. S. C. Pather, with Mr. Vythilingum Pather, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Periasamy Pather took place at the bridegrooms' residence at No. 81, Leopold Street, Durban, on Sunday 18th August 1929. A large number of Indians of all sections were present. Sir Kurma and the officials of the Natal and the South African Indian Congress were also present. Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, president of the Natal Indian Congress, after the ceremony was over, spoke of the high esteem in which Mr. V. S. C. Pather was held by the Indian community owing to his valuable services to the Congress for many years and congratulated him and Mr. T. V. Pather and garlanded them both on behalf of the Congress. He also wished the wedded couple every good wishes for a happy future life.

OUR NEW MAYOR

THE Rev. A. Lamont has been elected Mayor of Durban this year in place of the retiring Mayor Mr. A. Eaton. Mr. Eaton though not a pro-Indian was greatly changed by Mr. Sastri's influence and during his term as Mayor had graced many an Indian function and shown a friendly spirit. The Indian community of Durban will always remember his term with a sense of gratification. The Rev. A. Lamont has never been known to be anti anything, excepting that he has been anti-capitalist. He can therefore be looked upon by the middle and the poorer classes of the community as a strong and sympathetic supporter. The Indian community has reason to be pleased with the Rev. Lamont's election as Mayor for he has been connected with Indians perhaps more than any other Mayor, as he was in the teaching profession and many young Indians have been trained under him. He has also proved his sympathy towards Indians while he was a member of the Town Council. The Durban Town Council in the past, with the exception of a few councillors who have no doubt always done their bit, has not been altogether kindly in so far as the Indian burgesses were concerned. But with a Mayor with a friendly disposition and with many pro-Indian members on the Council one feels encouraged to entertain the hope for a better future. The housing question is the all important question that faces the Town Council at present. The tale that there was no ground available within the Borough for Indians was proved to be a fairy tale by the Central Housing Board which made a special inquiry into the question and made very fair recommendations satisfactory to Indians and not difficult for the Town Council to adopt. The Council, however, failed to adopt the recommendation and had another inquiry on their own and decided upon their old village scheme outside the Borough. Even Dr. Malan, the Minister of the Interior had to utter a word of rebuke in the Union House of Assembly that the £50,000 allocated for the purpose of Indian housing was not made use of by the Durban Corporation. This callousness was due to a prejudiced Council. Our hopes are now in the new Town Council with a strong and sympathetic person at the head. We know it is not in the hands of the Mayor to run the Council as he

would like to do but the fairness and sympathy of the chief citizen of the town goes a long way. We heartily congratulate the the Rev. Lamont as the Mayor and Mrs. Lamont as the Mayoress.

INDIAN SCOUT MOVEMENT

THE credit for the inauguration of the Scout movement among Indians in the Union goes to the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney. He has successfully started that movement for some time in the Transvaal and it has gained prominence by the presentation of the Union Flag to the Socut Troop by General Hertzog, Prime Minister of the Union. This very generous step on the part of the Prime Minister is greatly appreciated by the Indian community as a proof of the country's recognition of Indians as Nationals of the Union. But the presentation of the flag bears with it its great responsibility which the Prime Minister has very clearly explained. He has said in his message that he trusts the flag would ever be carried unsullied by the behaviour of those under whose charge it is entrusted, and that it will ever receive the allegiance that it merits as a proud symbol of South Africa's independent nationhood. A great deal of sentiment is attached to the flag. We all know what a great deal of disturbance there was when the Union Jack was to be replaced by the Union flag. Those who protested only showed the great love they bore for the Union Jack but their protest was unjustified as the Union of South Africa had every right as an independent country to have her own flag. We in India though suffering under the yoke of foreign rule are proud to have our own national flag notwithstanding that it is not yet officially recognised. The Scout Boys will therefore do well to learn the significance of the flag they hold and be loyal to it. Our Scouts, it will be remembered, have not been recognised by the Scout Council of South Africa. Had they been they would have had the opportunity of visiting Jamboree where the Scouts from throughout the world had recently gathered. But that was not to be. It was narrowmindedness on the part of the Scout Council to refuse recognition to the Indian Scouts. Perhaps the Council will feel rather awkward now that the whole of the Union of South Africa have given them recognition

and the Council alone has not. Perhaps this gracious act on the part of the Prime Minister will inspire the Scout Council to reconsider the advisability of altering their former decision. We hope and trust that it will.

Springs Town Council And Indians

A special meeting of the Springs Town Council was held on Tuesday night, the 13th instant, to consider the granting of a general dealer's certificate to a local firm of Indians, Matwadia and Co., on Erf 66, Springs. This application came before the Council at a special meeting held on the 6th instant, when letters were received from the local chamber of Commerce, O. Bowyer, draper, Springs, and R. Moore, house furnisher, Springs, asking the Council to postpone granting the licence to enable these objectors to formulate their objections. At the last meeting the Town Council also lodged objections.

Mr. W. K. Gibson and B. P. Goldberg appeared for the Council.

Mr. R. E. Pudney opposed the granting of the licence on behalf of Gray, Smith and Co., grocers, Springs and District Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ivan Davies appeared for the applicants.

In opening the proceedings, the Mayor (Mr. M. D. Harrison) stated he intended to read the objections received, but before doing so he desired to lodge an objection on behalf of the Springs Town Council. The Council, said the Mayor, objected on the grounds that the applicants had no right in view of Section 130 of the Gold Law to occupy the erf or hire of same, secondly, that the granting of a certificate would be contrary to town regulations.

Not Rodent Proof

Mr. Davies formerly objected to the Town Council objections being put on. The chief health inspector objected to the licence on the grounds that the premises were not rodent proof.

Mr. Davies stated the meeting was postponed from the previous Tuesday for the specific purpose of hearing three objections and only those objections should be heard.

Councillor P. A. M. Brink submitted that the meeting was postponed on general grounds and held that Mr. Davies was entirely wrong.

Mr. Davies stated the Council had no power to postpone the meeting on general grounds. The Council had no such arbitrary powers.

Mr. Gibson asked to have it placed on record that he appeared on behalf the Town Council of Springs.

Mr. Davies, referring to the Council's objection, stated that the town regulations of 1899 had been repealed. The first objection fell to the ground in view of the decision given in the Appellate Court at Bloemfontein.

The Mayor then requested Mr. Davies to lead evidence in respect of the application.

Mr. Davies asked the Mayor if the Council took official cognisance of the facts that (1) the applicants already held licences in Springs; (2) Erf 66 was a trading site; (3) that licences had been granted by the Council in respect of this erf in the past.

The Mayor: It is a matter of fact.

Mr. Davies: In that case there is no need to hear any evidence from the applicants.

Question Of Suitability

Mr. Gibson: The regulations provide that applicants be heard first. Objections have been given to

the Court and now Mr. Davies is called upon to lead his evidence if he wishes to do so this evening, but if he does not he can apply for postponement.

Mr. Davies: The applicants only require to satisfy the Council on the three points already given and the Court has already taken official cognisance of these points.

The Mayor said that the objectors should give evidence.

Mr. Gibson said that the Court would agree they had an application for a licence and if the applicants did not lead evidence, then he could only suggest that the matter stand adjourned.

Mr. Pudney: It appears that Mr. Davies is challenging the procedure laid down by the Council.

Mr. Davies: The regulations are in conflict with the principles of the law of evidence. The man who makes allegations must prove. The Court having taken cognisance of the fact that the applicants are fit and proper persons the Court has a *prima facie* case for the applicants before them. It is now time for the objectors to lead their case. You have admitted the three points. They are established facts. Now let the objectors disprove these facts.

Mr. Brink pointed out that the Council had not agreed to recognise the applicants as fit and proper persons.

Mr. Gibson, on the question of the suitability of the applicants said, the fact that they held a licence in Second Street did not infer that they were suitable persons, as facts might come to the Council's knowledge that occurred after the granting of the original licence which would not bind the Council to renew the licence.

Mr. Davies stated the Council's objection could be settled by legal argument without evidence. It would be wasting time to call evidence if the Council decided to uphold their own objections which were based on legal grounds only.

Legal Arguments

After further argument by Mr. Gibson, Mr. Davies said he was not prepared to lead evidence until the Council decided upon its own objections.

The Mayor said the Court should take evidence collectively with a full sense of their responsibility as a Court.

After further discussion it was decided to hear legal arguments on the Council's objections.

Mr. Gibson asked Mr. Davies if the applicants were prepared to admit that the undermining rights of Springs Town had been ceded to New State Areas.

Mr. Davies: Yes.

Mr. Gibson: The first objection was based under the Gold Law of 1908, the applicants being coloured persons, and they are not bona fide servants of the owners of the erf?

Mr. Davies: Yes.

Mr. Gibson's arguments on the Council's first objection was to the effect that in view of the mining lease having been granted to Barnato Brothers and ceded to the New State Areas in respect of the ground on which the town of Springs is situated, this ground was held under mining title and therefore an erf in the town could not be sublet to or occupied by a coloured person. Mr. Gibson on the Council's second objection said that in terms of the Council's regulations it was necessary to lead evidence in respect to applicants residing in premises abutting on a public thoroughfare unless Mr. Davies was prepared to admit this.

General Dealers Ordinance

Mr. Davies said it would not weaken his case to admit this which he did.

In conclusion, Mr. Gibson said it was through the General Dealers Control Ordinance that the Council had to approach the matter; the ground to ask the

Court to consider was that the locality is not suitable.

The General Dealers Ordinance gave this Court the discretion to refuse the licence and this discretion must be judiciously used. He asked that the objections be upheld.

Mr. Davies said that the first objection was met by the decision given at Bloemfontein in the case of the Springs Town Council versus the applicants when it was held that the township of Springs was proclaimed only to give effect to Section 52 of the Gold Law. Under that section the lawful users of ground so proclaimed were not affected by the remaining sections of the Gold Law. In respect of the second objection Mr. Davies pointed out that although in the 1903 Ordinance Springs was not a municipality but had an erven board, the local Government Ordinance of 1912 described Springs as a municipality incorporated under the 1903 Ordinance. Therefore so far as Springs was concerned the town regulations of 1899 were repealed and did not apply.

At this stage Councillor Brink moved that the Court adjourn until Monday the 19th instant. This was agreed to.—*The Star*.

Problem Of Slums In Johannesburg

Conditions Prevailing In Vrededorp

A correspondant writes to *The Star* (Johanneburg):—

Considerable publicity has been given to the problem of the slums in South African towns since the visit of Princess Alice to the slum quarters in Capetown. This fact no doubt prompted Dr. Malan to give utterance to some of the measures to deal with the question.

Let it be thought that this question only affects the poor whites and not the coloured or Indian, through the medium of this article the attention of the authorities is being drawn to the conditions at Vrededorp. That is not the only locality affected, but it is given so that deductions can be made in regard to other places.

Statistics themselves give no adequate idea of the evil. They must be translated into the terms of human life. We find, quite within easy distance of the City Hall, men, women and children herded together in unhealthy dwellings, members of both sexes eating and sleeping in one room, living houses infested with rats and other vermin, with damp walls and leaking ceilings in the midst of horrible smells. This is not the language of exaggeration.

It is sometimes said that slums are the result of slum minds of the character which would soon turn a decent house into a pigsty. I am not going to say that there are not individuals among the Indian or, as a matter of fact, among any other community who will do that, but that is no reason why such conditions should be allowed to exist and be a menace to the whole community. Some people may ask why these people live there? First of all, the Indian or the coloured person cannot buy land anywhere, and this part was specially allocated for their use, and chiefly because it is cheaper in comparison with the houses available in town and as it is very near to their work and easily got at from different parts of the town people desire to live there.

In the case of the Indian and the coloured, he has no say in the municipal affairs of this city. He has no vote, but yet he is called upon to pay the same rates and taxes as the European, and since these two sections of the community cannot wield any influence upon the Council through the ballot box they have to depend upon the

good graces of others for any amelioration of their condition.

The Council is like a huge elephant which requires probing every time to make it move, and then something is promised but very little done. With the small salary earned by the non-European worker he finds it difficult to live and in consequence he is driven to these slums. These slums are veritable dens of liquor sellers, and if anyone were to take a walk through them on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday afternoon they will observe a state of affairs which will make them wonder whether they are really in the city of Johannesburg.

Suggested Remedies

What is the remedy to improve the conditions? I can offer no suggestions that will remove these slums immediately, but I make the following suggestions:—

- (a) Existing laws can be more sternly enforced.
- (b) Offending landlords can be brought to book and sent to prison without the option of a fine.
- (c) More inspectors should be appointed and more frequent and rigid inspections made.
- (d) Houses passed by the medical officer as unfit for human habitation should be pulled down within three months and not patched up.
- (e) The landlord should be assisted financially with a loan by the municipality to erect a new building in accordance with regulations and the landlord by monthly instalments be allowed to repay back the amount loaned plus interest.

South Africa is a young country in comparison to some of the older cities of Europe, and yet we are already creating slums which in years will grow and become more and more difficult to solve.

The Council in the near future will have to decide whether it is worth while making a large financial sacrifice to remove what too long has been a cause of loss and misery, and so remove the danger that threatens the town. These conditions must not be allowed to be tolerated by the Christian leaders of this city, and if the Council is slow in dealing with this question then it is the duty of all Christian leaders to make their voices heard.

Presentation Of Indian Schools Thrift Cup

Interesting Ceremony At Clairwood

Sir Kurma On The Co-operative Movement

About 1000 Indian children and a large number of adult Indians assembled in the grounds of the Clairwood Indian Boys School on Friday morning to witness the ceremony of presenting the Mahatho Cup to that school. Mr. Hugh Bryan, M.A., (Superintendent of Education) presided over the gathering and was supported on the platform by Sir Kurma Reddi (Agent General for the Government of India), Mr. C. W. Jennox (Chairman of Natal Thrift Committee), Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Thomson, Mr. G. Hindson, Mr. H. S. Done, and several other interested well-wishers.

Apologies for absence were read from Mr. Murray Brown (Inspector of Coast Schools) and Mr. Mahatho (donor of the Cup.)

Mr. Bryan welcomed Sir Kurma Reddi and before calling upon him to present the Cup, said that he welcomed the Thrift Movement in the schools. He believed the teaching of thrift was not just hoarding money or being miserly but to teach the young to

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spend money wisely. Money was given to make our lives and that of others better. When friends are in need it is good to have the withal to help them. It is a means of increasing brotherliness among human beings and adds to the prosperity of a country. He congratulated the Clairwood Boys School on winning the Cup for the second time. It was up to the boys there to see that the Cup does not leave the school. He also welcomed the presence of the Clairwood Indian Girls School and hoped they would soon have a Savings Club as the influence of the women would be to encourage the men to be thrifty.

Sir Kurma Reddi said it gave him great pleasure to perform the pleasing function of presenting the Thrift Cup. He spoke of the advantage of learning thrift in young days as some learned when they were old how unwise they had been in not saving when they could. He was pleased to know the Cup was given to a Co-operative Savings Club. He believed in co-operative thrift. Co-operation was a big subject and he was confident that the organisers of the Thrift Movement were not looking for thrift only but that they were sowing the seeds of a great co-operative movement. In a most interesting manner Sir Kurma outlined the origin of the Co-operative Trading Societies in Germany 80 years ago. Unfortunate peasants at that time were borrowing money from "Shylocks" to carry on their farms. They paid a prohibitively high rate of interest which ended in the undoing. A German civil servant introduced the co-operative idea and saved the situation. From that issued the Co-operative Trade Societies. Something similar happened in India where "Sowcars" were charging anything up to 100% on small loans to peasants. The Indian Government introduced the Co-operative Movement and now in what were poverty stricken areas the people are well dressed and live in beautiful houses. He had seen a state of affairs in the local market which made him desire to see an Indian Co-operative Society for producers with a shop in Durban where the small man could take his produce and get a fair price. He was glad to know that in the thrift movement this co-operative principle was at work and he expressed the hope that all the children before him would work for their countrymen. Thrift taught self-help, and self-help brought confidence. Their motto should be "Each for all and all for each." He had great pleasure in handing the cup to the Headmaster.

Mr. H. S. Done the Headmaster, in acknowledging the cup thanked the Thrift Committee for their interest in the Indian community and stated that their influence for good was already apparent.

Mr. G. Hindson said the thrift movement was instilling the idea of self-protection. The scholars were learning to save and learning to give.

Mr. O. W. Lennox drew attention to the great strides made by the Clairwood school in the matter of thrift. They won the cup in 1927 with 908 marks only whereas this year their marks totalled 1262. Membership of the Club in 1927 was 407 but to-day it was 665. In 1927 they purchased 148 Union Loan Certificates but this year they had purchased 476 Certificates. He said how greatly the Thrift Committee appreciated the presence of Mr. Hugh Bryan and Sir Kurma Reddi. He wished the school every success in its efforts. The chief aim of the thrift movement was to make good citizens.

At the conclusion of the addresses the Headmaster presented beautiful bouquets of flowers to Mr. Bryan, Sir Kurma, and Mrs. Thomson. In acknowledging the gifts the chairman said the custom of presenting flowers on such occasions was very beautiful and it left a pleasant memory of friendship. He hoped that Mr. Hindson the Grantee of the school would make an early opportunity to give the scholars a half holiday.

Rounds of applause from the large audience concluded the function.

First Indian Division Of The St. John Ambulance Association (Natal).

Successful Candidates

The following are the students who have passed the yearly re examination, and have been awarded Medallions of the Association. —Messrs. J. W. Godfrey, H. Megharajh, O. R. George, R. Budree, L. Ganesh and C. Somasundram.

The following are those who have been awarded 2nd year voucher certificates. —Messrs H. V. R. Somasundram, B. J. Chetty, A. Dada, A. N. Mabomed, M. Joseph, V. Thomas, and C. Padiachy.

The examiners were Dr. M. W. Kaplan M.D. (theory) and the District Officer Mr. J. C. Joliffe (Practical).

SIR Thomas Holland, President of the British Association for the advancement of Science, was entertained at lunch by the Orient Club at Isipingo on Wednesday and was given a welcome reception in the evening at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall by the Natal Indian Congress. Eulogistic speeches were made by Europeans and Indians of Sir Thomas Holland's great services in the world of science and of his association with India. Sir Thomas said that the function held that evening would remain outstanding because it showed a feeling of real generosity without any desire for gain. That spirit was a proof that the Indian community was not lacking in real goodness.

The Indian Child Welfare Society

NOTICE

The annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall on Saturday the 7th, September, 1929, at 7.30 p.m.

BUSINESS:—

1. Annual Report.
2. Financial Statement
3. Revision of Rules
4. Enrolment of Members
5. Election of Officials
6. General.

SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,

President.

MRS. V. R. R. MOOLEY,

Chairman of Committee.

MRS. G. CHRISTOPHER,

Hon. Secretary.

Government Matriculation Classes For Indians

The Witwatersrand Technical Institute has at last agreed to organise Matriculation Classes for Indians in the evening. The usual six subjects will be taken and these classes should be attended two or three nights in a week and the fee is 10s. per

month. Those desirous of making their future better should not miss this opportunity. Ex-students who have passed Std. VI are particularly requested. Men as well as boys can attend same. For further information and arrangements write or apply to—

AHMED ISMAIL MOMONIAT,
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Vice is a prompt paymaster, but she soon exhausts her treasury, while virtue's store of gold is inexhaustible.

God may not have given us vast learning to solve all the problems, or unfailing wisdom to direct all the wanderings of our brothers' lives, but He has given to every one of us the power to be spiritual, and by our spirituality to lift and enlarge and enlighten the lives we touch.

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અંક ૩૪

નોંધ અને સમાચાર



યુનીયનમાં ધુસ્તા પકડાયલા હોંદીઓ.

અમે તેટલો સખ્ત બપતો હોમ, અમે તેટલું હોંદીઓનું આ દેશમાં માનભંગ થવું હોય છતાં આ દેશની શ્રેદ્ધિની હોંદીઓ ઊડવાનાજ નહિ એ હકીકત જ્યારે આ દેશના સત્તાધીશોની અને પ્રજાની જાણમાં આવે છે ત્યારે તેઓ એવા દાખલાઓ ઉપરથીજ માન, આજ્ઞાને વિશેને હોંદીઓના બાનનો અને કેવા ચોરા તેઓ બનાવે છે તેનો ખ્યાલ કરી લે છે અને અકિતમત દાખલાઓપરથી તેઓ આખી કોમનોજ ખ્યાલ કરી લઈ તેની તરફ હલકી નજરે જુવે છે અને કમદાઓ વધારે સખ્ત કરે છે. અને તેમાં નવાઈયે શું? આવા હોંદીઓ નથી પોતાનું બહુ કરતા કે નથી કોમનું બહુ કરતા કે નથી પોતાના દેશનું બહુ કરતા, બલકે, દેશની આજ્ઞાને કબંક લગાડે છે અને તેટલે દરજ્જે તેઓ કોમદરોહી અને દેશદરોહી કરે છે. આ પ્રમાણે જો હોંદીઓ હોરેન્કા-માક્સથી રેલમાડીમાં યુનીયનમાં ધુસ્તા પકડાયા છે. બેડીંગ બોયને પોતાના વિશ્વાસમાં લઈને તેની મદદથી તેઓ ખીસ્તરાની કોમટીમાં ૧૨ કલાક સુધી ખીસ્તરાની અંદર બંધ રહ્યા હતા. બેડીંગ બોયને પણ પકડવામાં આવ્યો છે અને ત્રણેની સામે આરોપો લગાયા છે.

સર થોમસ હોલાન્ડ

બ્રીટીશ સાયન્ટીસ્ટોની એસોસિએશનના પ્રમુખ સર થોમસ હોલેન્ડને ઇન્ડિયોની ઓરિએન્ટ કલમ તરફથી અમારું સુધવારે ખાણું આપવામાં આવ્યું હતું જેમાં જાણીતા યુરોપીયનોને નોતરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. પ્રમુખ શેઠ ઉમર ઝવેરીએ તેમની હોંદીની સેવાઓની તારીફ કરી હતી.

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી પારસી રસ્તમજી હોલ માં તેજ સાંજે સર થોમસ હોલાન્ડના માનમાં મેળાવડો થયો હતો. જેમાં હોંદીઓની મોટી હાજરી થઈ હતી. મેમ્બરે પણ હાજરી આપી હતી. સર થોમસે જણાવ્યું હતું કે તેમના માનમાં થયેલા સખળા મેળાવડાઓમાં આ મેળાવડો તેમને ખાસ યાદ રહેશે કેમકે તે ખરો નિરવાચક ગ્રેમ પ્રદર્શિત કરનારો છે. હોંદીઓએ તેમને કશા પણ મદલાની આજ્ઞા રાખ્યા સિવાય ઉદાર ગ્રેમ બતાવ્યો છે એ તેઓનામાં ખરા ઝુલોની બોટ નથી એ સિદ્ધ કરી આપે છે.

“ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનીઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૨૩ ઓગષ્ટ ૨૬ ૧૯૨૬

મી. એ. ઇટનની જગ્યાએ રેવરન્ડ એ. લેમોન્ટ ડરબનના મેમ્બર તરીકે ચુંટાયા છે. મી. ઇટન આપણા નવા મેમ્બર જોકે હોંદીઓના મીત્ર તો નહિજ હતા છતાં કાચીશના વ્યક્તિત્વએ તેમની ઉપર કંઈક છાપ પાડી હતી અને તેથી તેમની વલણ કંઈક સુધરી હતી અને મેમ્બર તરીકેના તેમના હોદા દરમીયાન હોંદીઓના ધણાએક જલસાઓ અને સમાજોને પોતાની હાજરીથી તેમણે શોભા આપી હતી. તેમની મેમ્બર તરીકેની ચુલતને ડરબનની હોંદી કોમ હમેશાં આભારની ભામણી સાથે આદરશે.

રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટ તો કદી કોમથી વિરુદ્ધ જણાયા નથી જો કે મુડીવાદની સામે પોતાનો વિરોધ જાહેર કરવામાં તે કદી પાછા પડ્યા નથી. આ કારણથી કોમના સખમ અને ગરીબ વર્ગના લોકો તો તેમની દિલસોજી અને ટેકા ઉપર પુર્ણ વિશ્વાસ મુકી શકે છે.

હોંદી કોમને રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટની મેમ્બર તરીકેની ચુંટણીને માટે રાજી થવાનું કારણ છે કેમકે ખીજા મેમ્બરોના કરતાં તે હોંદીઓના વધારે સહવાસમાં આવેલા છે. શિક્ષક તરીકેના પોતાના ધંધા દરમીયાન ધણા હોંદી યુવકો તેમના હાથ નીચે ફેળવણી પામેલા છે. અને એ સિવાય કાઉન્સિલના મેમ્બર તરીકે પણ તેમણે હોંદીઓ તરફ પોતાની દિલસોજી પુરવાર કરી આપેલી છે.

ડરબનની ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલે છુતકાળમાં તો, કેટલાક અપવાદો કે જેમણે અલખત પોતાનું બનતું હમેશાં કરેલું છે, તે સિવાય શહેરના હોંદી વતનીઓ તરફ કંઈ બહુ માહના બતાવેલી નથી. પરંતુ મીત્રભાવ ધરાવનારા એક મેમ્બર અને હોંદીઓ વિરુદ્ધ દેશ નહિ ધરાવનારા કાઉન્સિલ પર ધણા મેમ્બરો હોવાથી ઉર્જવળ ભવિષ્યની આજ્ઞા રાખવાની દિમત કરી શકાય છે.

આજે તો રહેઠાણોનો સવાલ એ કાઉન્સિલની સમક્ષ મઠવી મોટા સવાલ પડેલો છે. હોંદીઓને માટે શહેરની અંદર જમીન શબ્લ પડી શકે તેમ નથી એ વાત તો સેન્ટ્રલ કાઉન્સિલે જોડે કે જેણે એ વિષયની ખાસ તપાસ કરી હતી તેણે કૃત્રીમ હોવાનું પુરવાર કરી આપ્યું છે. અને હોંદી કોમને માફક આવે અને કાઉન્સિલથી સહભાષણી અનુભવી શકાય તેવી વાજબી બનામણો પણ કરેલી છે.

