

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS



THE Durban Borough Boundaries Commission commenced its investigations on Tuesday last.

In its statement to the Commission the Durban Corporation gives its desire of incorporating the Health areas of Sydenham, Mayville, Malvern, Umhlatuzana, South Coast Junction and the Farms Buffels Bosch, Chatsworth, Bellair and Zukoe Vallie. The boundary will then run along the Umgeni and Palmeit Rivers to Moseley Station, cutting across Shallcross Station, taking Buffels Bosch and thence running along the Umlaas River. Greater Durban would then have 51,200 acres or 80 square miles.

The various Health Boards collect annually £16,000 in rates which amount is equivalent to interest at 5% on £320,000. The Corporation intends spending within a period of ten years the sum of £320,000 in the areas taken over, on major development works. For a period of five years there will not be any change in the present rating system in the various areas. After five years rates will be assessed according to values of properties.

We do not think that it would be possible within a period of five years to fully develop such a huge area as is now proposed to be taken in by the Corporation. Any alteration in the rating would be unreasonable until the burgesses in the areas receive the same amenities as do the burgesses in the Durban borough.

Among other matters discussed at the meeting of the South African Indian Congress Executive held in Durban on the 30th November, the Executive decided to appoint a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. P. K. Desai, Mall, Medh, Dadabhai and Sigamoney, with powers to co-opt members to collect all data and statistics in regard to issues arising out of the licensing question in the Transvaal. As there was a probability of the Liquor Act coming up before the next session of Parliament for amendment, the executive decided to invite the Provincial bodies to submit a statement of their views on any particular provisions of the Liquor Act which affect the community prejudicially. The executive appointed Messrs. A. Christopher, S. R. Naidoo, V. S. C. Pather and A. I. Kajee to prepare a memorandum on the subject of repeal of the Indian immigration laws appertaining to the indenture system. The executive also instructed the secretaries to publish a statement in the Indian press as to the requirements of the amended Immigration Act which requires the return of domiciled Indians, upon pain of forfeiture of their domicile, to their respective Provinces by the 5th July 1930.

The *Star* (Johannesburg) writes:—

The departure of Sir Kurma Reddi for India, and the serious health reasons which have hastened his leaving, will be regretted by the Indian community and generally throughout South Africa, and we sincerely hope that the voyage and change of climate

will effect his speedy and complete restoration to health. As Agent-General for India in the Union, he succeeded one of the outstanding personalities of India, Mr. Sastri, and like him he has not spared himself in his work on behalf of the Indian population in South Africa. The better feeling and improved outlook among South African Indians owe much to these two distinguished men, and it is to be expected that their efforts will be continued here and will find their reflection in India. The farewell which Sir Kurma Reddi was given on leaving Durban was notable for the respect and gratitude shown towards him by all sections of his compatriots. Sir Kurma himself said that it was not "farewell" but "au revoir," and that will be the general wish. While much progress has been made, especially towards the advancement of educational facilities, there are still many difficult points awaiting settlement in the conditions surrounding the Indian community in this country. In view of the departure of the Agent-General, the South African Indian Congress has wisely been postponed for a few months, which will give time for a resumption of the exceedingly useful work carried out during the past few years under the Indian Agent-Generalship. Mr. Baring, who takes over Sir Kurma Reddi's work during his absence, may count on the very cordial co-operation of all with whom he comes in contact.

We are informed that the Natal Indian Congress has received a communication from Mr. Hugh Bryan, the Superintendent of Education, that it is the intention of the Department to convert the Mitchell Crescent Boys' School into a girls' high school. It is proposed at present to teach them up to Standard VII, gradually increasing to Standard X. Mr. Bryan says that the number of girls available for the school is only 30 and that it would not be worth the while to convert the school with this number. This is a golden opportunity which, we have every hope, the Indian community will not miss. Surely there are more than 30 girls in our community who would attend the school. We hope, however, that Mr. Bryan will not hold back the conversion of the school because of the small number. Every big institution has had small beginning.

The question of granting licences to Asiatic traders within the Johannesburg Municipality has been exercising the minds of members of the City Council for a considerable period, says *The Star*. In reply to a letter from the Council, letters have been received from the Government saying that the matter was being considered. In view, however, of the delay, the General Purposes Committee has decided to send a deputation to Pretoria to place the Council's views before the Minister.

At the monthly meeting of the Federation of Ratepayers' Associations held recently in Johannesburg, Mr. J. Wertheim touched on alleged defects of the traffic by-laws and those referring to hawkers

which, he said, should be remedied. The question of Asiatic trading had cost the city thousands of pounds. Some of the suburbs were being turned into Asiatic bazaars. The Mayor pointed out that magistrates' decisions sometimes varied. The by-law in regard to hawkers, which had recently been declared *ultra vires*, was identical with one that had been *intra vires* in Pretoria for the last two years. The Provincial Attorney-General was in the last resort responsible for the legal form of the Council's by-laws. The whole question of Asiatic trading was a matter for the Union Government.

"Gandhi scared of the Price." "Reluctance to join Round Table Conference."—These are the two captions that Reuter gives to a cable reading as follows:—

Replying to a cable from Mr. A. Fenner Brockway (Labour member of the House of Commons for Leyton East) urging his co-operation with a view to a round-table conference on the Viceroy's declaration in regard to Dominion status, Mr. Gandhi says he would want some absolute guarantee that things are not what they seem. Two Parliamentary debates on the subject, he says, contain nothing to enable him to approach a conference with confidence of safety. He would far rather wait, watch and pray than run into what might after all be a dangerous trap, maybe quite unattended. The Montagne reforms had proved illusory and had only increased the burdens of the poor. The price paid for these reforms had proved too heavy. He did not wish to pay that price for Dominion status. "Why should a creditor have to pay anything before the repayment of debts due to him?" asks Mr. Gandhi. He would follow the methods he had adopted all his life: for example in South Africa, "immediately I found General Smuts meant well, I capitulated, but I did so after taking a written assurance from him."

Mahatma Gandhi is not scared. He has judged the Englishman on his face value. His price is for the face value. Mahatma Gandhi will have to attend the Conference with the destiny of the 330 million people in the palm of his hand and he is therefore perfectly justified in requiring an absolute guarantee before agreeing to a Round Table Conference.

Pandit Kunzuru, the President of the East African Indian National Congress, is reported to have interviewed Lord Passfield with the object of impressing him with the unanimity of all parties in India, the Indian Princes and the Government of India, on questions concerning Indians overseas, and also presented a memorandum on behalf of the Congress, which, it is understood, criticises the statements in Sir Samuel Wilson's report, alleging them to be "creating misunderstanding regarding the position of the Indian community."

A Reuter's message from Nagpur states:—

The tenth annual session of the Indian Trade Union Congress passed a resolution urging the boycott of the Commission on Indian Labour and condemning the Viceroy's recent statement in which he declared that the ultimate aim of India's constitutional progress was Dominion status, and the Nehru report, which proposed a draft constitution for India. The Congress passed a resolution advocating the complete independence of India and the establishment of a workers' republic.

The Geneva correspondent of *The Times* (London) reports that the International Labour Organ announces that Indian and Japanese workers' organisations are actively preparing an Asiatic labour conference, either in Bombay or Madras, in April,

1930. The objects are to unify the Asiatic working classes, equalise the treatment of workers, levelling up the standard of life and work to those of the more advanced countries and promoting international social legislation to combat imperialism and capitalism by recognised trade union methods. The first session will deal with the conditions of textile workers in India, Japan and China.

"Uncle Sham" is a recently published book by an Indian—a graduate of Oxford—in reply to Catherine Mayo's "Mother India," wherein the author, one Lal Ganba, did precisely for the United States what Miss Mayo did for India.....The reaction which followed the introduction of "Uncle Sham" into the United States is curious. The first thing American citizens did about it was to order their customs officials to seize, condemn and confiscate every copy that fell into their hands. The country that produced and made more fuss over "Mother India" than did any other country thus meets an attempted exposure of its own idiosyncrasies, as viewed from an oriental standpoint. "Imagine," comments the *Ottawa Journal*, "the shout of derision that will arise from every appreciative throat in India, and from every section of the Indian press. And could there be a better illustration of the stupidity and of a certain kind of censorship."—*The Charlottetown Guardian*.

THE EXTENSION OF THE BOROUGH BOUNDARIES

IN our last issue we had occasion to refer to the Commission that is now sitting at Durban to enquire into the extension of the Borough boundaries. It would appear that the terms of reference of the Commission are wider than we had originally thought. For, the Commission will enquire into the feasibility of extending the Borough boundaries or alternatively the amalgamating of the various Health Boards. From the evidence that has been led by the Durban Corporation the Town Clerk does not seem to be in agreement with his Councillors in their scheme for incorporation.

Last week we suggested that the Indian community should fully support the incorporation of the areas immediately outside the Borough boundaries. We are aware that the Indians notwithstanding the preponderance of their number in the Health areas would, as a result of incorporation, receive just as much consideration as they are now receiving at the hands of the Health Boards. We consider, however, the Municipality to be the lesser evil. The manner in which the Indian burgesses of Durban are being treated by the Durban Corporation in regard to their housing is a glaring instance of its woeful neglect of the Indian ratepayers. Sites that are ideally suited for Indian housing within the Borough are being sold with restrictive clauses. The

unhealthy conditions under which the Indian Market gardeners daily dispose of their produce in the early morning present another instance.

This is by the way however. We merely desire to show that the attention of the Corporation, were the boundaries extended, would always be directed to the European burgess. The amenities available to the latter would be infinitely better than those available to the Indian. This state of affairs will continue so long as the Indians remain unrepresented. But we cannot but admit that in recent years there has been a growing desire on the part of some of the Councillors to play the game, as it were, with the Indian.

There is no doubt that the preponderance of opinion amongst the Indians presently living outside Durban proper is in favour of the extension of the Borough boundaries so that the areas they live in may be incorporated into Durban. With the exception of one or two Health Boards which in their administration have always been blind to colour, all the other Health Boards have found the Indian an easy prey. It is distressing to see poor Indians being mulcted with legal costs. The amount of moneys that fill the coffers of some of the legal firms is more than ample to maintain at least three elementary schools in Durban. In several cases Indians have had to sell their properties to meet the rates and the interest at 120 per cent. per annum. We have yet to meet an Indian who has a good word for his Health Board. This continuous hardship has no doubt weighed in the minds of the Indians in their resolve to support incorporation.

There are several features that require to be considered. In the map that was published in the *Natal Mercury* a few days ago, the Corporation intends taking in a very large area. In this area there are large tracts of land owned by Indians and Europeans and solely used for agricultural purposes. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that the whole area is fully developed in five years' time, does the Corporation intend assessing these owners on site values? In the peri-Durban area there exists a large number of houses which would fail to come within the requirements of the Borough by-laws. Will the Corporation take the extreme step and demand the demolition of these houses? The Corporation services

would be taken advantage of by almost every Indian. Will the Corporation consider payment for such services by monthly instalments commensurate with his earning power?

Then there is the question of policing the various districts. At present the districts, it must be admitted, are very poorly policed. The area which lies at the foot of St. Thomas Road Extension is a veritable haunt for Isitshimiyana brewing and the Indian residents there are always in danger of being attacked by Natives. The police dare not visit the districts. Will the Corporation assume the responsibility of sufficiently policing the districts?

The question of rating is not without difficulties. The intention of the Corporation is that the present rating shall not be disturbed for a period of five years but that after that period the rating would be based upon the valuation of properties. We are not in agreement with this suggestion, for it would certainly take more than five years to fully develop the areas and to give them all the amenities as are available within the Borough. These are some of the salient features that have to be considered by the Indian community.

We do hope that the Natal Indian Congress which is being represented at the Commission by Advocate Christopher, will give every consideration to the points we have raised.

A Successful Licensing Appeal

Springs Town Council Ordered To Pay Costs

Two Asiatics succeeded in an application before Mr. Justice Feetham, in the Rand Division of the Supreme Court, for an order directing the Springs Town Council to issue a certificate to enable them to obtain a general dealer's licence. The licence had originally been refused on the main ground that the locality of the premises for which the applicants required a licence was not one in which it was desirable that business should be carried on by the applicants.

Judgment for the applicants, Fakir Moosa and Moosa Essop Sidat, was given on Dec. 5, and the Springs Council was ordered to pay the costs of the case.

The judge said it had not been seriously contended by the applicants that the Council's decision to refuse a certificate had been arrived at mala fide, that is, that the Council had deliberately made up their minds to refuse the application because the applicants were Asiatics. The real ground on which the decision of the Council was attacked was that there was no evidence on which a reasonable man could have arrived at their decision.

His lordship referred to a replying affidavit filed

by the Mayor of Springs, in which he stated that the application was refused on the ground that the locality of the premises for which the applicants sought a licence was not one in which it was desirable that business should be carried on by the applicants. Their application was refused not on the ground that the applicants were Asiatics, but on the ground that their business was not suitable for the district.

The Turffontein Decision

The judge referred to Mr. Justice Greenberg's recent decision on a similar application made by the Turf Stores (Pty.), Limited, against the Johannesburg City Council, which had been upheld on appeal. In that case the judge had granted an order directing the Council to issue a certificate in order that the applicants might obtain a licence for carrying on business as fruiterers at Turffontein. His lordship had come to the conclusion that the Licensing Committee of the City Council had not done its duty inasmuch as it had not had evidence before it on which a reasonable man would come to the conclusion that business should not be carried on in that locality by the applicants.

Mr. Justice Festham indicated that the question he had to consider in this case was whether, on the evidence which the Springs Council had before them, a reasonable man would properly come to the conclusion that the locality of the premises for which the applicants required a licence was not a suitable one for the kind of business they carried on. His lordship referred to evidence given before the Council by the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and by the manager of Gray, Smith and Co., (Pty.), Ltd., a firm of grocers. As the Mayor's affidavit set forth, the Council came to the conclusion that the locality was not a suitable one for the business the applicants proposed to carry on there, on the ground that theirs was a business of an inferior class, whereas in the neighbourhood a superior class of business was or was about to be established.

The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce stated before the Council that the applicants conducted a trade which catered for the poorer class of people. But, the judge observed, it had been held recently that the objection that there was already a sufficient number of people carrying on that class of business was not a good objection to the issuing of another licence in the district. A further objection by the Chamber of Commerce was that natives congregated round shops run by Indians, and that Indians were the only class of shopkeeper who did not move loiterers on from the pavement in front of their shops. The natives hanging about were a nuisance, and European shopkeepers always moved them on.

The judge formed the opinion that the basis of the objection of the Chamber of Commerce was not to anything in the nature of the applicants' business itself but to the people who would congregate outside the place where such a business was carried on.

Trade Which Attracts Natives

The judge then referred to the evidence of the manager of Gray, Smith and Co., given before the Council. When asked in cross-examination whether the whole basis of his objection to the applicants was because they were Indians, this witness agreed, but in answer to the Mayor he made some slight qualification of this admission. "I have to consider," the judge went on, "what would be the effect of this evidence taken as a whole. It appears to me that the characteristic of the trade to which objection is taken is that natives congregate round shops carrying on that class of trade, and that, while the trade is carried on by Asiatics, such Asiatics do not take steps to make the natives move on. The fact that natives come in numbers and congregate in the neighbourhood of shops which provide goods such

as they wish to buy is said not to be peculiar to shops conducted by Asiatics. The manager of Gray, Smith and Co. says they are also carrying on trade which attracts natives, but adds, "We are not open to this objection, but the Asiatics are."

"So that it really comes to this, it seems to me: This is stated to be a characteristic which the applicants share with other Asiatic traders, that they tolerate loiterers in front of their premises and do not drive them away. If that is what the objection comes to, is that a good objection to granting a licence? It does not appear to me that it is.

"The control of traffic on the foot pavements and streets is not a matter for individuals but for the police. I do not think that evidence that a particular trader does not order a person standing outside his premises in the street to move away is relevant to the question as to whether or not such an individual should be allowed to trade. I should like to emphasise that it is not suggested that the applicants carry on their trade on the pavement. It is not suggested that their shop attracts native buyers more than other shops, but that the natives they would attract would loiter in front of their shop, and the Asiatic trader does not tell them to move away.

"That appears to be the evidence on the basis of which the Council has decided to refuse to grant a certificate. I do not think that this is a good ground for the refusal of the licence."

The judge made an order directing the Council to issue a certificate under the General Dealers' Control Ordinance of 1926, subject to the applicants carrying out the requirements of the sanitary inspector to the satisfaction of the Council.

Mr. A. C. Thompson (instructed by Messrs. Pearson and Rothschild) appeared for the applicants, and Mr. C. T. Blakeway (instructed by Messrs. Gibson and Hodges) for the respondent Council.

—*The Star.*

Indian Politics

"The time has arrived when Indian politicians, leaders and workers alike, must recognise the great need for synthesis in our work for Swaraj," writes Mr. S. Satyamurti in a recent number of the *Hindustan Review*. He says:—

It is admitted on all hands that the position of India as a vassal under Great Britain is intolerable. It is also common ground that India must obtain her freedom, whether of the restricted kind, *viz.*, Dominion Status, or whether of the unrestricted kind, *viz.*, complete National Independence. There are only three ways, known to history and human experience, of attaining this—(i) Secret violent revolution which is bound to be futile, (ii) Open war, which is at present impossible and against the creed of the Indian National Congress, (iii) Organising the people for freedom, in all legitimate and peaceful ways, which is the only method open to us.

Mr. Satyamurti outlines the methods by which politics should be synthesised in this country. He also favours the constructive programme of the Indian National Congress, namely, the Khaddar and Swadeshi, Prohibition and Communal unity. The last item includes the removal of untouchability from the land. Proceeding, he says:—

I am rather dealing with educating our people to think, speak and act in terms of the Nation, and not in terms of communities, castes or classes, at least so far as public affairs are concerned. Until this education is complete, Swaraj is either unattainable, or, if attained, will taste like dead-sea fruit. The removal of untouchability in the sense of

giving equal rights and opportunities to the members of the so-called depressed classes, is a condition precedent for Hindu society to play its rightful part either in India aspiring for freedom, or in free India.

All the above are items of constructive nation-building work, on which all parties, except those who want to perpetuate the present alien irresponsible rule, can and ought to unite. I plead, therefore, very earnestly that, apart from other differences, the nation's energies ought to be harnessed for this great work by the leading political parties synthesising their activities in these directions.

Mr. Satyamurti attaches great importance to foreign propaganda for Indian freedom in America and Europe and to the forming of a pan-Asian federation. This is also a line of activity on which all parties can, and ought to, unite. He concludes:—

God grant that Indian political parties and their leaders may learn before it is too late the supreme need for synthesis in Indian political life to-day.

Failure Of British Rule In India

The *Saturday Review*, in the course of a leading article on the Indian situation, points out that British rule in India has failed in one important respect. It says:—

"In the final criticism of British rule in India, the harshest sentence will probably be that which records our failure to give to the natural leaders of the people their due authority. Excuses can be found for that failure. Though Munro and Elphinstone and a few other distinguished early administrators foresaw the time when this country would confer self-government on India, the general tendency was to use Indians merely for bureaucratic convenience. The qualities that made an Indian a useful subordinate were valued beyond reason; the qualities that would have made an Indian a potential administrator in an autonomous India were not thought upon."

Hardships Of Deck Passengers

Overcrowding On "Karagola"

The Imperial Indian Citizenship Association (Bombay) received the following radio message from Pandit Bhawani Dayal on the 22nd October, 1929:—

"Deck passengers overcrowded on "Karagola." Suffering great inconvenience. Fearing epidemic. Urgent inquiry required. Send representatives on board Saturday morning. Statement after arrival. —Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi for deck passengers."

No Effect To Representation

A representative of the Association met the deck passengers on Oct. 26 at 8 a.m. The following is a brief statement on the result of his investigation:—

"The boat left Durban with about 400 deck passengers and 20 buffaloes and cows. The passengers, it is alleged, were obliged to sleep next to the cattle and in spite of the repeated representations, no relief was accorded to them. At Mombasa the cattle disembarked and about three hundred more deck passengers were taken aboard. So when the boat left Mombasa she had over 650 deck passengers. The maximum capacity of the boat is 1,332 deck

passengers. But two decks which are meant for passengers were packed with cargo such as cotton bales, potatoes, etc. These two decks have the maximum capacity for over 400 passengers. Therefore on board the s.s. "Karagola" on this voyage only two Tween decks and the citadel deck were left for the accommodation of the passengers. This, coupled with the heavy luggage which the deck passengers are accustomed to carry with them, made the available accommodation much below the scheduled space according to the Shipping Act, which lays down that each passenger should have 9 feet in Tween decks and 13 feet below Tween decks.

No Enough Latrines

According to the amendment of the Act "each ship shall be fitted with not less than two permanent latrines for the exclusive use of every hundred passengers or fraction thereof calculated on the maximum number of passengers which according to certificate A. the ship is certified to be capable of carrying....." "A proportion not exceeding 15 per cent. of the total number of latrines shall be set apart for exclusive use of females....." On board the s.s. "Karagola," there are only 17 latrines, five of which are reserved for women. According to the Shipping Act, there should be at least 24 latrines on the "Karagola."

When it rained, some passengers took shelter in the latrines, which aggravated the hardship of the inadequacy of the number of latrines. There were many cases of serious illness, but miraculously everyone survived the voyage. The representative saw one Muslim lady, weak, emaciated, and unable to move, lying on her own iron bed on one of the decks.

Assistant Port Officer's Enquiry

Pandit Bhawani Dayal had given a statement to the Captain of the boat. On the basis of this statement, the Asst. Port Officer who had gone to investigate on behalf of his Department attempted to cross-examine the Pandit. His first question was, "how many natives embarked at Durban." "Natives," asked Pandit Bhawani Dayal. "I mean Indians," was the prompt reply by the Port Officer. Then, he wanted to know if the deck passengers really objected to be accommodated by the side of cattle!

It is necessary that remedial measures should be promptly taken in the interests of deck passengers on such ships.—*The Indian Daily Mail*.

Bishop Fisher On Mahatma Gandhi

Bishop Fisher writes in *The Searchlight* anniversary number on Mahatma Gandhi. He says:—

Mahatma Gandhi is the greatest exemplar of love, or soul-force, that we have knowledge of in the world to-day. He is what we term in the West a practical idealist. He believes in the "trial and error" method to such an extent that when, recently, he was travelling in Andhra and a friend approached him concerning the values of eating only uncooked food, he decided to try a diet of food that required no fire for its preparation. Let me give his own comments on the subject.

"I publish the facts of this experiment because I attach the greatest importance to it. If it succeeds it enables serious men and women to make revolutionary changes in their mode of living. It frees women from a drudgery which brings no happiness but which brings disease in its train. Economically this food has possibilities which no



cooked food can have. Let no one blindly copy the experiment. I do not claim success for it yet. I am moving cautiously."

A Practical Idealist

This is what I mean when I say that Mahatmaji is a practical idealist. He tries by every method in his power to grind in the mill of experience all the high principles that he thinks or hopes may prove of value to his millions of friends and followers in India and abroad. He is willing to sacrifice his own personal comfort to carry out his plans. In this dietetic experiment, for instance, in the first month he lost five pounds in weight! And that is a great deal for a man of his size—unless he has gained tremendously since I last saw him.

The exemplification of his spirit of love is found most clearly in his practice of the quality of self-sacrifice.

Special Overseas Number Of "The Vishal Bharat"

The January 1930 number of the "Vishal Bharat" will be a special Overseas Number and will be entirely devoted to the problems of Indians abroad. A number of articles written by such eminent writers as Mr. H. S. L. Polak, Dinabandhu C. F. Andrews, Dr. Tarak Nath Das, Dr. Subhendra Bose M.A.P.H.D., St. Nihal Singh and others, have already been received. As only a limited number of copies are being printed of this number our countrymen overseas should inform us as early as possible if they want to get any extra copies of this number. This number will be profusely illustrated and will contain articles dealing with many problems of our compatriots in the colonies.

Intending subscribers should send their subscription (Shs. 12/- or Rs. 7/8) by Money Order or Postal Order to the Manager, "The Vishal Bharat," 120/2, Upper Circular Road, Calcutta.

BENARSIDAS CHATURVEDI.

Editor,

"VISHAL BHARAT."

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part V. Chapter XL.

SPINNING WHEEL AT THE ASHRAM

At last, after no end of wandering in Gujerat, Gangabehn found the Spinning wheel in Vijapur in the Baroda State. Quite a number of people there had spinning wheels in their homes, but had long since consigned them to the lofts as useless lumber. They expressed to Gangabehn their readiness to resume spinning if some one promised to provide them with a regular supply of slivers and to buy the yarn spun by them. Gangabehn communicated the joyful news to me. The providing of slivers was found to be a difficult task. On mentioning the thing to the late Umar Sobhani, he solved the difficulty by immediately undertaking to send a sufficient supply of slivers from his mill. I sent to Gangabehn the slivers received from Umar Sobhani and soon yarn began to pour in at such a rate that it became quite a problem how to cope with it.

Mr. Umar Sobhani's generosity was great but still

one could not go on taking advantage of it for ever. I felt ill at ease continuously receiving slivers from him. Moreover, it seemed to me to be fundamentally wrong to use mill-slivers. If one could use mill-slivers, why not use mill-yarn as well? Surely, no mills supplied slivers to the ancients? How did they make their slivers then? With these thoughts in my mind I suggested to Gangabehn to find carders who could supply slivers. She confidently undertook the task. She engaged a carder who was prepared to card cotton. He demanded thirty-five rupees, if not much more, per month. I considered no price too high at the time. She trained a few youngsters to make slivers out of the carded cotton. I begged for cotton in Bombay. Sjt. Yeshwantprasad Desai at once responded. Gangabehn's enterprise thus prospered beyond expectation. She found out weavers to weave the yarn that was spun in Vijapur, and soon Vijapur Khadi gained a name for itself.

FIRST PRICE OF KHADI

While these developments were taking place in Vijapur, the spinning wheel gained a rapid footing in the Ashram. Maganlal Gandhi, by bringing to bear all his splendid mechanical talent on the wheel made many improvements in it, and wheels and their accessories began to be manufactured at the Ashram. The first piece of Khadi manufactured in the Ashram cost 17 annas per yard. I did not hesitate to commend this very coarse khadi at that price to friends who willingly paid the price.

I was laid up in bed at Bombay. But I was fit enough to make searches for the wheel there. At last, I chanced upon two spinners. They charged one rupee for a seer of yarn, i.e., 28 tolas or nearly 3/4 lb. I was then ignorant of the economics of Khadi. I considered no price too much for securing hand-spun yarn. On comparing the rates paid by me with those paid in Vijapur I found that I was being cheated. The spinners refused to agree to any reduction in their rates. So I had to dispense with their services, but taught spinning to Shripatis Avantikabai, Kamibai Kamdar, the widowed mother of Sjt. Shankarlal Banker and Shrimati Vasumatibehn. The wheel began meritorily to hum in my room, and I may say without exaggeration that its hum had no small share in restoring me to health. I am prepared to admit that its effect was more psychological than physical. But then it only shows how powerful the physical in man reacts to the psychological. I too set my hand to the wheel but I did not do much with it at the time.

THE PROBLEM OF SLIVERS

In Bombay, again, the same old problem of obtaining a supply of hand-made slivers presented itself. A carder twanging his bow used to pass daily by Sjt. Revashankar's residence. I sent for him and learnt that he carded cotton for slivers, but demanded a stiff price for it which however I paid. The yarn thus prepared I disposed of to some Vaishnava friends for making from it the garlands for the pavitra ekadashi. Sjt. Shivji started a spinning class in Bombay. All these experiments involved considerable expenditure. But it was willingly defrayed by patriotic friends, lovers of the motherland who had faith in Khadi. The money they spent, in my humble opinion, was not wasted. It brought us a rich store of experience and revealed to us the possibilities of the spinning wheel.

I now grew impatient for the exclusive adoption of Khadi for my dress. My dhoti was yet of swadeshi mill cloth. The coarse Khadi manufactured in the Ashram and at Vijapur was only 30 inches in width. I gave notice to Gangabehn, that unless she provided me with Khadi dhoti of 45 inch width within a month, I would do with coarse, short Kurli dhoti. The ultimatum came upon her as a shock. But she proved equal to the

demand made upon her. Well within the month, she sent me a pair of Khadi dhotis, of 45 inches width, and thus relieved me from what would then have been a difficult situation for me.

At about the same time, Sjt. Lakshmidas brought Sjt. Ramji, the weaver, with his wife Gangabehn from Lathi to the Ashram and got Khadi dhotis woven at the Ashram. The part played by this couple in the spread of Khadi was by no means insignificant. They initiated a host of persons in Gujrat as well as outside Gujrat into the art of weaving hand-spun yarn. To see Gangabehn at her loom is a stirring sight. When this unlettered but self-possessed sister plies at her loom, she becomes so lost in it that it is difficult to distract her attention much less to draw her eyes off her beloved loom.

Sporting News

Young Tailors Sporting Club's Victory

A friendly cricket match was played on Sunday at the Mitchel Crescent School ground between the Mansfield Road Young Men's Cricket Club and the Young Tailors Sporting Club. The visitors went in to bat first and made 63 runs. The Young Tailors replied with 66 runs. The Mansfield Road in their second venture made only 39 runs. The Young Tailors in their second inning made 45 runs for 8 wickets, and thus gained the victory by 13 runs and 3 wickets. For Mansfield Road, K. P. Chohan, Jeewa and Roopa played well. For Young Tailors, Mackan's (Capt.) and Narotam's (vice-Capt.) bowling was excellent. Harihal, Dayaram and Jagjiven's fielding and batting was good. Magan the wicket-keeper also played well.

At the monthly meeting of the Young Tailors Sporting Club held on Sunday the 8th inst., Mr. R. K. Kapitan was elected as the patron of the club. The following resolutions were moved by Mr. Nathoo V. Morar, all standing:—

"This meeting of the members of the Young Tailors Sporting Club place on record its heartfelt sympathy at the tragic loss sustained by its president Mr. Manilal Parsotam, at the death of his beloved and only daughter in India."

"This meeting of the members of the Young Tailors Sporting Club whole-heartedly prays to Almighty God that Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Agent-General to the Government of India, who is now on his way to India owing to his recent illness, may speedily recover and return to South Africa once more and resume his duties on behalf of our community."

ATTENTION.

THE UNION ART COMPANY (Pty.) Ltd., of Johannesburg is prepared to execute by the best known artists, the highest grade of de Lux pastel paintings from original photographs. You are invited to call at the Gandhi Library in Durban and view the paintings made by this Company, of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri and Sir Kurma Reddi.

Sarateq Mahomedan Estate Company (In Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Second and Final Liquidation Account and Plan of Distribution will lie open for inspection at the Offices of the Master of the Supreme Court, Pretoria, and of the Resident Magistrate, Johannesburg, for a period of three weeks from date hereof.

LESLIE P. KENT, Liquidator.

P.O. Box 6255, Johannesburg.

13th December, 1929.

સુરતી મોહામેડન ઇસ્ટેટ કંપની હુકમનાં

અને એવવધી સાધનામાં આવે છે કે સુક્રવત્સ સાંકડા અને વહેવધીની વ્યવસ્થા તપાસવા ખીજ અને છેવટે અટે સાબથી તમા અધવાડીયાં સુધી પ્રસિદ્ધિમાં આરંભ એક ધી સુખીય કાર્ટની એવીસે અને એવાડીયાંમાં ડીસીડન્ટ મેજિસ્ટ્રેટની એવીસે પુર્તા રહેશે.

પી. એ. મોક્સ ૬૨૫૫,

એવાડીયાંમાં,

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