

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

ELSEWHERE in this issue we publish the arrangements made by the Education Department with regard to the Sastri College, the Carlisle Street and Mitchell Crescent Schools. The fees that will be charged at the Sastri College are also noted. In view of the small earning power of the Indian the fees are excessive. Mr. Hugh Bryan, the Superintendent of Education, we have no doubt, is straining every nerve to provide the Indian community with proper educational facilities. Might we remind Mr. Bryan that the facilities will be of no use to the Indian community if they are not within the reach of everyone.

We have received several letters from the North enquiring whether Board and Lodging are being provided at the Sastri College. For the information of those enquiring we have to mention that at present the College has no provisions for board and lodging. Students from the North and elsewhere will have to make their own provisions for board and lodging.

Miss R. Manchershaw of Capetown who had been in Durban during December at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee on holiday bent, returned to Capetown via Johannesburg on the 8th instant. She hopes to spend a few days at the Rand prior to leaving for her home. Miss Manchershaw desires to thank Mr. and Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee for their hospitality. Her stay with them has been most pleasant.

The Governor-General and Princess Alice arrived at Capetown from Pretoria last Friday morning. The Governor-General is expected to remain in Capetown until June. He will open Parliament this afternoon and on Monday he will welcome the Prince of Wales at Capetown docks and will be accompanied, it is understood, by the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet.

Sir Kurma Reddi, who has been recuperating from his recent illness, is fast improving, and he hopes to resume his duties in March, says a message from Madras. According to present arrangements he will open the South African Indian Congress, in Capetown, at Easter.

The Hon. E. Baring, the Acting Agent for India in South Africa, in place of Sir K. V. Reddi, paid a visit to Springs on Wednesday the 8th inst., to discuss matters affecting the Indians in the district, and was entertained to tea at Messrs. Saheb Khan's. From there the distinguished visitor motored over to Nigel, accompanied by Mr. Ally Mia.

At the congress of the Independent I.C.U. held last week at East London, the following resolution was adopted:—

Proposed by Clements Kadalie, seconded by A. P. Maduna: "This congress greets the All-India

Congress in their struggle for independence on behalf of the toiling masses of that great Empire, which for the last hundreds of years has been under the oppression of British Imperialism, and this congress therefore calls upon all the political leaders of this country to take an example from Indian leaders with a view to raising similar efforts in this country for the liberation of our people and country."

The difficulty of finding an "effective innocent" fighting formula in the present temper of congressmen, with internal dissensions and communal tension, is the theme of an article by Mahatma Gandhi in *Young India*, declaring that if the British Government invited the National Congress to confer on a definite scheme of independence the Congress leaders would doubtless gladly respond. "Whether the time for such a stage is far or near depends on how we utilise or waste this year of grace," states Mr. Gandhi.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Star* writes:—  
Revolt against the Congress order to boycott legislatures is growing and, in addition to Madras, where the leaders openly declared their dislike of a withdrawal from the councils, the Maharashtra congress, the "province" of Western India which led and carried similar revolts before, is to resist all attempts to boycott. The campaign has begun "to fight the second wave of Gandhi's impracticable idealism." There also seems to be among the Nationalist leaders of Western India a move to swing over to accepting a round-table conference, and Mr. Kelkar, a Bombay congressman, is known to hold the view that invitations, if received, should not be rejected. A significant move has been made by Pandit Malaviya, a leading Nationalist, who has approached other parties outside Congress proposing the holding of such a conference in March.

A Reuter's message from Bombay states:—  
Despite the resignation from Legislatures of several prominent Swarajist leaders in accordance with the programme of the recent Lahore Congress, there is no sign of resignation *en masse*. Several legislators who are members of Congress have issued a statement reminding their constituents that they did not stand for election on the Congress ticket. Others are resigning, but announce their decision to seek re-election.

London, Jan. 8 (Reuter).—Indian politicians have been stirred up on the question of Dominion status by the reports of a speech by Earl Russell on January 4, in which he is credited with describing the Indian demand for independence as "brave but foolish words," declaring that Indians must learn to walk before they could run, and that Dominion status was impossible for a long time. The reports have brought a chorus of disapproval from India, notably among the Liberal leaders, who declare that the speech was not only calculated to disturb the favourable atmosphere, but had materially altered

the situation, and also would damp the enthusiasm of opponents of the independence campaign. Earl Russell returned from the country to-day, and when interviewed said that he was annoyed at the report of the speech, which was "abridged and misleading." He dwelt on the time taken to evolve democratic institutions in Britain, and he drew parallels with India. He had never said that "Dominion status was impossible for a long time."

A message from Lahore states:—Twelve Indians have been arrested as the result of a scene in the High Court. They shouted "Long live the Revolution" in the precincts of the court as the two men Bhagat Singh and Dutt, who were convicted of throwing a bomb in the Legislative Assembly, were leaving the court after the hearing of their appeal.

### AN URGENT NEED

ON many occasions the attention of the Durban Town Council has been drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions obtaining at the Morning Market in Victoria Street. Correspondents in the local papers have been scathing in their complaints. Invariably these complaints have always been directed to the Indian as if the unsatisfactory conditions are due to him. This is unfortunate, for, the Indian Market gardener is in no way to be blamed. Of all the trading concerns of the Durban Corporation, the Indian Market is perhaps the most profitable. The extension that has been made from time to time to the Indian Market is evidence of this. The Morning Market is as lucrative to the Corporation as the Indian Market. To the Durban housewife it is the Mecca of bargains. It is there that the produce and vegetables grown by the Market Gardeners are exhibited for sale. It is there that gardeners from the Districts lying immediately beyond the Borough boundaries and from far-off Kloof and Cavendish gather every morning and vie with one another in selling their produce to the best advantage. Now that transport facilities are within easy reach of almost everyone it is not surprising to notice the number of gardeners arriving daily from Pietermaritzburg to sell their products. We are merely stating these facts to show the success which the Durban Morning Market has attained during recent years. The income from this portion of the Indian Market represents a large amount. Does the Durban Corporation spend any part of this income towards improving the conditions obtaining there? Nothing. It may be said that a large amount has been spent in paving the Street. But that amount came out of the vote for Roads Improvements.

It would be seen, therefore, that whilst the Corporation charges rent for occupying a portion of the street, the renter receives no consideration. His comfort does not count. As we have already pointed out, one notices quite a number of gardeners arriving from districts lying at a considerable distance from the Borough boundaries. The distance necessitates their arriving at the Market earlier in the evenings, sometimes as early as 8 p.m. It is a daily feature to see these unfortunate gardeners sleeping on the pavements until dawn. These conditions have been obtaining for a number of years but, seemingly, the Town Council has been blind to them. In this regard the Indian community has a legitimate grievance. It would serve a good purpose if some of the Town Councillors paid a visit to the Morning Market, for the conditions do not add to the good name that the Borough possesses.

Now that we have a sympathetic Council we hope that the conditions would in the near future be improved. There are ample grounds at the Berea Flats where provisions could be made for the erection of a suitable Morning Market.

### "Cape Times" Sums Up Mr. Sastri's Services

The *Cape Times*, in its leading column, writes:—The inclusion of Mr. Sastri among the Companions of Honour in the New Year's Honours List will gratify his many friends in South Africa. Few men so passionately devoted to the interests of their own countrymen have been able to render such signal service to another country as did Mr. Sastri to the Union. In the all-too-short period he spent here he transformed men's minds and hearts. He drove out suspicion and put tolerance and even understanding in its place. His serenity in the face of difficulty; his vigour in action; his gift of speech; his unsparing condemnation of those among his countrymen who disappointed him; and, above all, his constant readiness to sacrifice himself to the cause to which he has devoted his life—the service of India—speedily won the admiration and affection of all who came in contact with him. He laid a foundation of goodwill that will be an enduring monument to him. He could not, of course, complete the task devolving on the Agent-General after the conclusion of the Capetown Agreement before he returned to India, but it was confidently expected that the work so ably begun would be carried to fruition by his successor, Sir Kurma Reddi. Unfortunately Sir Kurma fell a victim to prolonged illness before he had had time to do more than make himself acquainted with South African conditions, and was obliged to return to India a sick man.

#### A Sad Homecoming

Mr. Sastri and he met again at Madras on New Year's Day, when the announcement of the honour

conferred on Mr. Sastri was made. But it was a sad home-coming for Sir Kurma; he was carried from the train on a stretcher. He, too, made many friends in the Union and all will wish him a speedy return to health and, if he feels prepared to resume his interrupted work, a speedy return to our shores. If, on the other hand, he feels unable to shoulder again the burden of so heavy an office, the Government of India should try to find a successor as soon as may be. Mr. Baring, who was as able an assistant to Sir Kurma as was Mr. Tyson to Mr. Sastri, is carrying on the work of the Agent-General temporarily; but it is obvious that not even the most distinguished Civil Servant should be asked to bear the responsibility of so uncommon an office. The work Mr. Sastri began can be brought to a successful conclusion only by one of his countrymen, and it is to be hoped that, failing Sir Kurma's restoration to health in the near future, the Government of India will make every effort to see that the post is filled. The tree of understanding so firmly planted and carefully nurtured must not be allowed to die of neglect.

## Condoned Indians' Rights

According to an article in the *Natal Mercury* the position of Indian traders who are illegal immigrants, though they hold condonation certificates, is seriously challenged on the ground that while the certificates permit them to remain in the Union the condonees are still prohibited immigrants in the eyes of the law and therefore are not entitled to trade or hold property.

It is understood that representations on the subject have been made to the Durban licensing officer, who has referred the matter to the town solicitors.

It is stated there are approximately 25,000 illicit Indian entrants in the Union, the bulk of whom are in Natal, and that about 1,500 Indians, having confessed that they entered this country unlawfully, have been granted condonation certificates. A very large number of these are small traders in Natal and the Transvaal. Hundreds of these Indians in Durban alone engaged in commercial pursuits after they obtained condonation certificates.

### Legal Opinion

The matter has been taken up by a section of the Indian community, which has gone to the extent of obtaining opinions from well-known legal authorities.

One of these holds that under the Immigrants' (regulation) Act of 1913 the condonation certificate is a temporary permit in terms of the Act, and he adds that residence in the Union or a Province under such a permit can in no wise assist the holder to acquire a domicile there—he would definitely be in the category of prohibited immigrants.

### Test Case Likely

Representations have been made to the Durban licensing officer in respect of a well-known local Indian firm in order that a test case may be made of it. The head of the firm was an illicit entrant into Natal, but obtained a condonation certificate. He has now applied for a renewal of his trading licence, and it is contended that in the light of the interpretation of the law indicated above he is a prohibited immigrant and therefore is not entitled to obtain a trading licence.

### Mr. Christopher's Interview

"I must say we were thunderstruck to read the statement that a section of the Indian community is attempting to challenge the position of those Indian traders who are illegal entrants into South Africa but hold condonation certificates," said

Advocate Christopher, president of the South African Indian Congress, in an interview.

The contention has been put forward that although such traders possess condonation certificates permitting them to remain in the Union, they are still "prohibited immigrants" in the eyes of the law, and as such are not entitled to trade or to hold any interest in property. The section of the Indian community here which has obtained legal opinion on the point, represented the matter to the Borough Licensing Officer, who in turn submitted it to the Town Council's legal advisers.

I now learn that, acting upon advice, the Town Council proposes to take no action in the direction of refusing to grant a renewal of a trading licence to a certain local Indian firm—condoned illegal entrants—whose position was put up to the licensing officer by way of a test case.

The position now is that if the section of the Indian community which has raised the point desires to take the matter further, it must put the machinery of the law into motion.

In his interview Mr. Christopher said: "The position as far as we understood it when the condonation scheme was entered into was that those who took condonation certificates would not be denied any rights but would enjoy the same rights as others. The only provision was that if any person holding a condonation certificate was convicted of a deportable offence he could be compelled to leave the country. That is what we understood by 'temporary permit.'"

### Spirit Of Capetown Conference

"There was never any question that persons holding condonation certificates should be treated as prohibited immigrants and refused licences to trade. It was the intention of the Government that illicit entrants should start with a clean sheet, and we have always understood from the Minister that the Government would stand by that. That was the spirit of the Capetown conference, and I am confident that the Government has no desire to go against it."

### Congress Claims There Is No Tangle

A report published by the *Natal Mercury* in regard to what the paper calls the latest condonation tangle is described by a statement issued by the South African Indian Congress as very much exaggerated and misleading as to the rights of Indians who have taken protection certificates under the condonation scheme put forward by the Government.

That there are 25,000 illicit Indian entrants in the Union is emphatically denied, for the statement proceeds: "According to official figures issued as at June 29, 1929, the number of Indians who took out protection certificates in the different provinces was: Natal, 589; Transvaal, 520; Cape, 395; total, 1,444."

The Congress, in reviewing the rights of a person who has taken out a protection certificate, states:—"A reference to the conditions, which appear on it will satisfy anyone that the holder has all the rights of a person who has lawfully entered the Union with one exception—namely, that he will not be permitted to bring his wife and children into the Union if they are not already here. The issue of a certificate to him excludes him from the category of a prohibited immigrant."

"Even if the legal contention that residence in the Union or a province under such a condonation permit can in no wise assist the holder to acquire domicile, so that he would still definitely be in the category of a prohibited immigrant, be correct, the fact that the Minister of the Interior in his letter to Mr. Sastri gives the further assurance that should it be found that the permit does not safeguard the rights of the holder, he is quite prepared to introduce amending legislation to make the permit efficacious, provides a double safeguard."

## Definition Of Domicile

The following statement has been issued by the South African Indian Congress having reference to the term "domicile" as defined in Act 37 of 1927:

Act No. 37 of 1927 enacted by the Government of the Union of South Africa, which amends the law relating to immigration and Asiatics, gives an enlarged definition of the term "Domicile," and lays down, among other things, "that a person shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act to have lost his domicile within the Union if he absents himself from the Union and does not re-enter the Union within three years from the date of departure therefrom or from the commencement of the Act (which is the Immigration and Indian Relief (Further Provision) Act, 1927) whichever may be later, whether or not he is in possession of a registration certificate or a certificate of domicile or any other document issued under any prior law permitting his entrance to or residence in or recognising his domicile in the Union or any Province thereof."

The purport of this definition is that a person shall return to the place of his domicile in the Union within three years of his departure therefrom, or within three years from the commencement of the Act, whichever may be later.

The Act came into force on the 5th of May 1927. This means that those who have overstayed in India the period of three years allowed them should return to the Union by the 5th of May 1930, if not, they shall be deemed to have lost their domicile, and, of course, will be refused to enter the Union.

This notice is issued for the information of people domiciled in the Union, but who are now in India and who come under this part of the definition of "Domicile" laid down in the Act.

## The Sastri College

### Fees And Regulations Published

The following information has been issued by the Education Department:—

(1) Sastri College: This institution will open on Feb. 10, 1930, the delay being due to the inability of the teachers from India getting to Natal earlier. The classes will be from Standard V. to Standard X. Provision will be made for (a) secondary education, and (b) the training of teachers.

No pupil will be admitted who intends to pursue only a primary course. A pupil entering any Standard below VIII. will be required to give a written undertaking that he intends to stay at school until he has completed Standard VIII. at least, and must also produce a written statement from his last headmaster as to the last Standard passed by him.

The enrolment will be limited to 220, so intending applicants should take immediate steps to carry out the provisions of the previous paragraph. All applications for admission should be addressed to the headmaster, Mr. W. M. Bnes, B.A., whose address up to Jan. 17 will be P.O. Box 7, Ixopo, and thereafter, Sastri College, Durban.

Fees will be charged as follows:—

Standard V., 5s. per school month; Standard VI., 6s.; Standard VII., 7s. 6d.; Standard VIII., 10s.; Standard IX., 12s. 6d.; Standard X., 15s.

(2) Mitchell Crescent School: This will be opened on Jan. 27, 1930, as a girls' school, from Standard IV. to VII. The fees will be:—

Standard IV., 2s. per school month; Standard V., 2s. 6d.; Standard VI., 3s.; Standard VII., 5s.

The staff here will be of European women. The intention is to develop the school up to Standard X. if support is forthcoming.

(3) Carlisle Street School: This will become from Jan. 27, 1930, a primary school for boys up to Standard VI. There will be an Indian staff. Boys who do not intend in any case to go beyond Standard VI. must attend this or some other primary school in Durban.

## Important Licensing Decision

A licensing case which has evoked much interest has just been decided by the Newcastle Borough licensing officer (Mr. A. G. Forsdick,) who has refused the issue of a certificate for a general dealer's licence to a prominent local India firm, which desires to form itself into a proprietary company under the provisions of the Companies Act.

The firm of I. M. Mathir, which is a large business concern established for many years, applied for what is virtually a transfer from the present proprietor to a private company, registered as "I. M. Mathir (Proprietary) Ltd.," to trade on the same premises, but the existing licence to be surrendered on the grant of the new licence to the company.

The licensing officer took advantage of the Natal municipal law which provides for the issue of a trading licence subject to the endorsement on the licence of any conditions or restrictions which may be agreed to by the applicant and that any infringement of such conditions by the licence holder will entail the cancellation of the licence. The applicants were asked to agree to the endorsement on the licence of the condition providing in effect that no transfer of shareholdings in the company would be made without the prior consent in writing of the licensing officer. This condition the applicants' attorney, Mr. E. J. Edmondots, refused to agree to, after an adjournment of the hearing in order to enable the applicants to consider the matter.

The licensing officer thereupon refused the application, setting on record his reasons as follows: "I have refused this application for the reason that it is undesirable in the public interest that increased facilities should be granted and fresh rights created in respect of the business in question. Further I have come to the conclusion that there is no necessity for the particular licence applied for."

The following statement, which makes the position taken up by the licensing officer clear, is also endorsed on the record: "As borough licensing officer I consider it desirable in the interests of applicants and the general public that I should give some indication of considerations by which I shall be normally guided and influenced in applications of this nature by or in behalf of private or proprietary limited liability companies. I shall not consider myself rigidly bound in each case nor will my discretion be in any way fettered. But it seems to me that the adoption of some general line of policy is desirable, and I, therefore, announce that whilst I shall carefully consider each case on its merits and bring my deliberate judgment to bear on the facts submitted I shall not look with favour upon an application by a private company for a trading licence certificate unless the applicant company agrees to the endorsement on the licence of the condition that the individual holding of the said company shall not at any time be altered without the prior consent of the borough licensing officer, and I shall in the absence of such agreement require a strong case to be made out."

It is understood that an appeal has been noted,

## Passive Resistance To Mr. Pirow's Bill

Capetown, (Reuter).—At the non-European conference here, a scene followed the chairman's decision to jettison a proposal for passive resistance to Mr. Pirow's Riotous Assemblies Act Amendment Bill, should it become law.

Out of two motions from the I.C.U. Workers' Federation and the Coloured and Bantu People's Organisation at De Aar was compounded a resolution condemning the proposed legislation on the ground that it was repressive, perpetuated racial antagonism, and differentiated between races industrially, politically and socially.

To this Mr. Brown (Capetown) moved as a rider that there should be a demonstration at the opening of Parliament, and that a day should be set aside for more protest meetings.

The question whether an amendment in favour of passive resistance was in order was referred to the chairman, and there was a chorus of indignation when the chairman announced that it would be held in abeyance.

With the uproar going on all the time, Mr. Brown withdrew his rider, and the original motion was put and agreed to.

The chairman later intimated that to satisfy the conference he was prepared to put amendments again.

The result of this course was that an amendment requesting delegates to impress on their constituents the advisability of adopting passive resistance to the Bill if passed was agreed to.

## Indians In South Africa

The Calcutta *Guardian* in its issue of November 21 writes:—

Two recent events in South Africa in connection with the Indian community there have strengthened the hope that the situation is distinctly improving and that after all there is a chance that Indians will ultimately be able to win the rights that belong to them as a civilised community. The first and perhaps the more remarkable of them is the action of the South African Typographical Union in throwing open its membership to Indians. Mr. Simpson, the President of the Union, who was also a member of General Hertzog's Government, expressed his approval of this decision. This is the first time that any white union in South Africa has opened its doors to the Indian worker and suggests that the curse of racial antagonism is beginning to fall and that the steady work of the past five years is beginning to bear fruit. It is a great step forward when labour pulls down the colour bar and opens its membership to people of other races. It was only to be expected that such an action should startle and upset the diehards of racial exclusiveness, and it says something for the wisdom and courage of the leaders of this union that they should have taken such a step at this time. We hope that the example of this union, which is one of the strongest in South Africa, will be followed by others and that the old policy of racial exclusiveness in South Africa will thus be gradually modified. It is of course to the interests of labour itself to see that no large body of workers is outside of its membership, with the power of forcing down wages, and probably the union has taken this step to protect its own interests.

In the long run racial exclusiveness in the world of to-day will inevitably inflict as much injury upon those exhibiting it as upon its unfortunate victims.

The second event which will have momentous consequences for the future of the Indian community in South Africa is the opening of the Sastri College in Durban recently by the Governor-General. As Sir Kurma Reddi said, 'It was a red-letter day in the annals of the South African Indians.' The College is a memorial to the great work of Mr. Srinivasa Sastri and is an expression of his ideal to train the Indian 'to take his proper place in the life of the country as a whole,' as the Governor-General observed in his speech. The main object of the scheme is to train teachers who will be the backbone of a greatly enlarged and improved educational system for the whole Indian community in Natal. The funds for the College were provided by the Indian community in Natal and so it is, as the Governor-General said, 'a concrete example of self-help on the part of Indians themselves.' The South African Government has shown its interest in the educational programme by granting to the Natal Indian schools a subsidy of the whole amount the Province receives for Indian education. The College is a worthy memorial of the far-seeing statesmanship of Mr. Srinivasa Sastri and the first step towards the fulfilment of the educational ideal for the Indians in Natal.

## Greytown Indian Tennis Club

### Opened By Mayor Of Greytown

On Saturday last His Worship the Mayor, Councillor W. J. S. Newmarch, opened the Greytown Indian Tennis Club Court situate on the site of the old Eureka Tennis Club below the Town Hall. There were present at the ceremony the Magistrate of Greytown Mr. H. B. Wallace, the Assistant Magistrate, Mr. G. Whittaker, the Town Clerk and Mrs. W. T. Walker, Mr. W. T. Brown, Sergt. Harrison, Mr. W. Newell, B.Sc., Mr. H. E. Close, Mr. M. E. Lakhi and also some 60 members of the Indian community. A very comfortable shelter had been erected and an excellent afternoon tea served by Mr. Tzacos of the Athamaem Tea Rooms. The Court, a very excellent one indeed, had been reconstructed by Mr. Chum Varty.

In the course of a splendid address Mr. M. E. Lakhi, who presided over the function, paid an eloquent tribute to the Mayor for his broad vision. In his 35 years' residence in Greytown it occurred to Mr. Lakhi that two occasions stand out as milestones of progress. It was remarkable that these two occasions had reference to two incidents that had occurred during the office of the present Mayor. He referred firstly to the foundation stone of the Indian School laid by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, which school is now an acquisition to the Borough and secondly to the opening of the present Tennis Court. In Greytown the European and the Indian respected each other and that tended towards a better understanding between the two. Mr. Lakhi said that much was due to the Mayor and the present Councillors for this splendid feeling. On behalf of the Indian community he thanked the Mayor and Councillors for providing them with the Court and the football ground. He assured them that the grounds would always be used for clean and healthy sport.

In reply, Councillor Newmarch, on behalf of the Council, appreciated the tone of the address and

especially the reference to the units which went to make up the Empire. That Empire, said his Worship, knew no colour, creed, or line of division among its peoples, a fact we were at times inclined to overlook, a fact which should be ever before those in authority in framing any policy for the common good of the Empire, the ideals of justice and freedom for which the Empire stood. Councillor Newmarsh expressed great pleasure in learning the young Indian people were endeavouring to embrace clean healthy sport against the trend to dissipate their young lives in idleness which encouraged mischief; he hoped they would long enjoy the facilities given them and that they would grow to require the additional courts lying idle beside them, carefully fostering the British ideals of clean, honest sportsmanship, and comradeship. After serving three balls, the Mayor declared the court open, following which, at the invitation of the members, Messrs. Wallace, Brown, Harrison and Close played a game as an opener.

## India And Africa

### The Situation In The West Indies

(BY O. F. ANDREWS)

What has hardly yet been realised in India is the fact that, in the West Indies, India and Africa have met together in the same way that they have done in Africa itself. My own experience has shown me that these two races which are both accustomed to tropical climates and are both prolific in children are likely in the near future to come into closer contact in different parts of the world. What has happened in the last twenty-five years is bound to happen more and more as Indians go out further abroad:

In the West Indies, these two peoples have come to represent in Trinidad, British Guiana and Dutch Guiana the two leading communities. In British Guiana the East Indians number 127,000 and the Africans number 116,000. In Trinidad the East Indians number about 160,000. In Dutch Guiana there are 34,000 East Indians and about 80,000 Africans. East Indians are also to be found in Jamaica and in some of the small islands. If at any time any further population were to come from India under free conditions, then this number of East Indians would be greatly increased. It should be remembered that apart from the East Indian element, the African people predominate in the West Indies; therefore it is perhaps the most important question of all to consider whether these two races are likely to settle down finally side by side without racial friction, or whether there is likely to be a clash of race owing to the closeness to one another.

When we come to consider the actual facts of the present situation we find that no such clash between the two races has hitherto taken place. On the whole, there has been a remarkably friendly relationship between them. This has been due in some measure to the fact that the East Indians and Africans have hitherto occupied different economic spheres. The African has preferred the town life. The Indian has preferred the country. Thus their economic interests have not as yet come into violent conflict. This economic sphere is perhaps the field wherein racial conflicts most easily occur. Therefore we can hardly yet judge how far, when food itself is concerned, the two races will mingle. At the same time it has been quite clear that there is no natural antipathy between them. I have constantly seen East Indians living side by side with the Africans in the West Indies in a remarkably

friendly manner. There is no sign at present of any intermarriage and therefore there is practically no race mixture; but this does not mean at all that there is a lack of friendly feeling. It rather implies that the two races feel the differences between them and on both sides respect those differences.

It may be asked in conclusion, whether I have any serious fears about the future. I would say without any hesitation that if the economic spheres still remain apart, then I have no fear at all; but if on the other hand the advent of East Indians into the West Indies were to lead to direct economic competition, then at once there would likely to be a clash between the two races. It has to be remembered that the Africans regard this as their own part of the world, which they have purchased, as it were, by terribly hard suffering during the days of slavery; and they do not wish these lands to be taken from them. It is true that in British Guiana there are only three inhabitants to the square mile; but some of the islands are already full, while British Guiana could hold even as many as three million people without being crowded. Other lands, which are islands, are actually crowded up to-day. Thus the question of any increase of population from India becomes mainly a speculation about the future. If the inhabitants of the West Indian islands prefer not to go to British Guiana and continue to refuse to do so in future, then there would be ample room in the future for East Indians; but there is no room whatever either to-day or in the future within the islands themselves, such as Trinidad or Barbados, for any further East Indian population. In Dutch Guiana, the advent of the Javanese, under indenture has made the advent of any further population from India undesirable.

## The Colour Bar Problem In England

A correspondent writes from London as follows:

The Colour Bar Problem in England was the subject of a Conference called officially by the Society of Friends on November 27th, 1929, at Friends House, Euston Road, London. Previous meetings held at Friends House on the question had been given wide press publicity in all parts of the world, and led to evidence being received by the Society of an apparent increase in prejudice and instances of Colour Bar. The success of the Conference has taken the position a firm step further forward and a resolution was unanimously passed asking the Society of Friends "to take steps to form a permanent Joint Council of White and Coloured People, whose work shall be to deal wholly with cases of colour bar as they arise; and to try and remove colour prejudice in this country by encouraging personal contacts, by spreading information, and making known in Great Britain the achievements of coloured people."

The Conference was addressed by Mr. James Marley, M.P., who gave instances, naming certain hotels, the managers of which had told him that they would not book Negroes even though they had publicly announced that no colour bar existed. He blamed the British Colonial Office for not protecting the rights of British citizens while they were in England. Their reports on returning home to Africa or the West Indies "endangered imperial friendship." Dr. Harold Moody, a Jamaican Negro, and a Congregationalist, who has a large medical practice in South London, spoke of the difficulty of Negroes receiving medical training in London hospitals and medical schools.

Dr. de Graft Johnson, a medical student from the Gold Coast, told how the colour bar affected Afri-

cans, and Dr. Amrphalingham told how it affected Indians. Mr. Rushbrooke Williams, Foreign Minister of the State of Patiala, India, warned the Conference of the dangerous effects of colour bar instances in Great Britain on opinion in India, and urged the importance of friendliness.

The fine work of the East and West Friendship Committee was described by its Secretary, Mr. Lionel Aird, and Mr. John P. Flether, Secretary of the Society of Friends' Committee for arranging the Conference, outlined the work that could be done if a Joint Inter-racial Council was formed. He recommended the use of two important books, "Christianity and the Race Problem" by J. H. Oldham, and "What the Negro Thinks" by Dr. Robert Moton (successor to Dr. Booker T. Washington as President of Tuskegee), just published by the Student Christian Movement.

About 250 people attended the Conference, representing the Missionary Societies, London Brotherhood Federation, Adult Schools, Y.W.C.A. and other bodies. About eighty were members of the coloured races from India, Africa, Ceylon, West Indies and Burma.

## East African Indian Congress

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu At Seventh Session

### A Stirring Presidential Address

[We have pleasure in publishing the verbatim report of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's presidential address delivered at the seventh session of the East African Indian Congress.—Editor, I. O.]

"Friends, it is now nearly six years since your great and revered, physically dead, but spiritually immortal leader, Manilal Desai, commanded me to come, at very short notice, to this land to preside over the Congress for the first time.

"I said, in reply, 'but what do I know to justify me for that position?'

Mrs. Naidu said that at that time the issues were very grave and the White Paper had just been issued. The problems were far-reaching and almost tragic in their consequences. But Manilal Desai made an appeal to her love for her countrymen. She was at a great disadvantage, having had no opportunity to study the problems which the Indian community were facing at that time in British East Africa. She was, when she arrived, overcome with a torrent of enthusiasm, greeted with a tremendous ovation, and asked to help and advise on problems of which she had no first hand knowledge.

There were, however, problems which, for their solution, demanded first hand knowledge, and there were other problems which demanded only the application of principles. These problems which were presented by the issue of the White Paper of 1923 were problems which did not require any first hand knowledge. They were problems that had unquestionably to be opposed by any self-respecting community at home or abroad on principle alone, whatever the cost, whatever the sacrifice. (Loud Applause.)

"And so," continued the speaker, "I set about learning all I could of the Indians in British East Africa to help me."

Along bad roads in bad weather she travelled in her endeavour to devour every possible piece of information regarding the conditions under which her countrymen lived, hoping, to see wild animals in places, but commonly the white animals called a white man, into every nook, every corner, every

little village, into valleys, on hills, penetrating into the dark forests where Indians carried trade, but where no white man had yet put up his Golf Club; she went to the magic isle of Zanzibar where the residents peacefully grew their cloves; she went to Tanganyika, to Uganda, in fact, to every place where it was at all likely to find anything that might help her better to understand the views of the Indians who had made East Africa their second home.

Not satisfied with all this, on her return from South Africa she made a second journey across Eastern Africa to revise the knowledge she had gained in the first tour, and lost no opportunity of watching the development of the problems.

It was on this occasion that the speaker received a cable emphatically commanding her to come, leaving her no time to do anything but pack her meagre belongings. It was a cable that would brook no denial, it even stipulated the boat by which she was to sail. Mrs. Naidu vainly pleaded for some small concession to her poor womanhood. Abandoning all these things she went, and helped the Indians to reach what were now unanimous and unequivocal decisions.

### Momentous Decision

"But the question for you to decide to-day," continued the speaker, "is one that is destined to affect you, your children, and your children's children for years to come."

She said that we had had two Commissions recently to report on the future of this country. The first, the Hilton-Young Commission had been under the chairmanship of that very brilliant, that very cultured man, Sir Edward Hilton-Young, who had been the Chairman also of the Currency Commission in India, the application of the findings of which had been the ruin of trade in India.

After the Hilton-Young Commission, there came a very reactionary Commissioner whose name the speaker understood to be Sir Samuel Wilson.

It was a curious thing that two men, coming from the same race, from the same country, from the same environment, educated in the same university, born in the same cultural conditions, could each have an outlook which was so different from that of the other.

The reactionary document of Sir Samuel Wilson was not only a violation of Indian claims, but it was a betrayal of the fundamental idea upon which Great Britain has always prided herself. It was a violation of the established principles of British policy and colonial development, of the very fundamental ideals upon which the cohesion of the British Empire is secured.

Mr. Winston Churchill, that man who says so many different things, at so many different times, and in so many different places, continued Mrs. Naidu, has, nevertheless, recently said a very fine thing in Canada.

### Canada To Kenya

It was, however, a regrettable thing that words so often convey one thing and deeds connote another. In that wonderful country, Canada, where all the men are free-born Englishmen who have taken off their boiled shirts and replaced them with flannel ones open at the throat, they all agreed that the Indian claim to equality of status was justified and intrinsically reasonable. During her recent visit to Canada she had met with sympathy wherever she had talked with Canadians on the subject. And while all this was going on, Sir Samuel Wilson was preaching the doctrine of dominance of a colour which was not entitled to it.

We, whose ancestors have a long and honourable record of pioneer labour, whose forefathers have sought always the paths of justice and honour, are

we to be disinherited by the meanderings of a reactionary commissioner who came out here at the expense of the Imperial Government to enjoy the climate of Nairobi?

### Political Segregation

What are our claims? In the White Paper there are some things that are no more or less than insulting to Indians. One of these was the policy of political segregation, segregation in a country which is historically the land for India's surplus population, and in that land we are told that the Indian is an interloper; in that land, in the words of an old settler, lives the "coarse and hideous African." An entirely Nordic civilisation, even were it acceptable or suited to the "coarse and hideous African," would not be tolerated by this "mere trade population"—this mere trade population, whose forefathers have ploughed the seas guiding themselves by the stars and the nature of the fish in the waters, seeking land where no other had yet found it, establishing trading posts, creating commercial links, founding villages, towns, cities for the overflow population of the Motherland. And then this population is told, in essence, that it will be squeezed out, if not by direct legislation, by a policy of segregation. The Indian is told that he must be put apart by the dominant race in a water-tight compartment, but his character and creed will be exploited to his own disadvantage. In opposition to this, the Indians of East Africa have behind them not only the millions in India but the whole Government of India as well. (Applause.)

And the demand is for equality of status, for a common franchise, which will give to all races an equally divided share in the responsibility. There is not one man here who is so miserably lacking in self-respect, in the qualities of manhood that he would barter his birthright for a mess of pottage. In East Africa we will not tolerate political segregation. It is a violation of the principles of our country.

### Mutual Consent

Mrs. Naidu urged the necessity for a spirit of mutual consent. When, she asked, has Indian opinion been taken into consideration, or even asked for, in matters affecting white settlement. But on the theory of mutual consent, it should be asked for a preliminary condition to any development or introduction of policy. There must be a spirit of mutual give and take. I believe in mutual consent, mutual counsel, mutual adjustment, and most particularly, in the sharing of the burden of a mutual responsibility. There must be no preference. The Indians are as much trustees of the native as are the white settlers. You share with them a common responsibility, and it is that ideal that must inspire you to action.

"I repeat," continued the speaker, "that I have nothing but contempt for any settler of whatever colour who comes to exploit those who are as yet without the means of defence. They are the men who do not pay their debt to the motherland that gives them their bread. You ask for nothing more than the fairest justice, and therefore, whatever be the opposition to this just demand for equality, you can rest assured that behind you, and in sympathy with you, there is the whole of India's millions. Yours is a just and legitimate, and inevitable claim." (Loud applause.)

(To be Continued)

## Thousands Perish In China

The *Sunday Times* London correspondent states that Half China, from the Yangtse Valley northwards is in the grip of almost Arctic cold, and there have already been many thousands of deaths.

It is officially stated, according to the *Express* Peking correspondent, that 208,000 of the beggar type have been frozen to death in Peking streets since January 1.

Fifteen thousand people who were suffering from famine in Northern Shansi have perished from exposure.

Hundreds of junkmen and their families were drowned at Hankow when at least 500 junks in which the families lived, were crushed like tin by the ice on the Han River.

### Death In The Streets

Peking organisations are endeavouring to tide over the tide of death in the city streets by opening fifteen gruel kitchens.

The Salvation Army's British personnel have served 150,000 free meals during the past two months.

Heart-breaking scenes are reported from Hankow on the arrival there of the bodies of 700 fire ricksha-men who were pressed into the Government service for warfare in Honan and perished in snowstorms there. Gongs were beaten in localities where armed soldiers seized the ricksha-men, in order to summon their relatives to identify the dead.

Local investigations estimate that approximately half a million poor within the Peking area require assistance if they are to survive the winter's rigour. Deaths occur nightly in the streets.

## Cane Farm For Sale

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