

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

MR. J. D. TYSON, Acting Agent-General for India, left Johannesburg on last Saturday morning for Capetown, where he will have consultation with Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, in reference to the Indian trading licences in the Transvaal, says a Reuter's message from Johannesburg. On Friday Mr. Tyson attended a committee meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress to which an important statement was submitted respecting the character and line of evidence to be given before the Select Committee on the trading licence question. This, it is reliably reported, presents a strong and convincing case for the maintenance of the existing position, otherwise, it is emphasised, the Indian community will be suppressed economically and the entire spirit of the Indo-Union Agreement destroyed. Prominent members of the Indian community who were interviewed stated that the deprivation or whittling down of the rights now enjoyed by their people in the Transvaal would be seized upon by the extremists in India and exploited on behalf Mr. Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign. "In the interests of peace," said one Indian, "I hope the Union Government will abide faithfully by the spirit of the Capetown Agreement and thus secure to us the rights which are undeniably ours as humble and nonfranchised citizens of South Africa."

A Reuter's message from Madras states:—

Sir Kurma Reddi consulted the Medical Board in regard to his health, and has been advised not to undertake the journey to South Africa at present. Consequently he has been obliged to cancel his departure on March 12, as arranged.

Mr. Hugh A. Wilford, the well-known Johannesburg solicitor, has received a wire from the Select Committee on Asiatic trading, asking him to give evidence on the question of Indians trading and residing in Norwood and the north-eastern suburbs. Mr. Wilford left for Capetown on Saturday last.

The withdrawal of certain of the European delegates as a protest against the presence of Black representatives was a feature of the Unemployment Conference of White and Native Trade Unionists which, organised by the South African Communist Party on instructions from the International, was held in Johannesburg. When the incident was reported by a member of the Trade Union Congress it was emphasised that the body had always upheld the right of all workers to organise and combine, whatever their race or colour, and had done valuable foundation work in support of this policy, more especially as a mere reliance on the law to raise the standard of living was a snare and a delusion.—Reuter.

Mr. Edgar S. Henochsberg, of Durban, has been appointed Judge-President of the Native High Court in succession to the late Mr. Justice Boshoff, who died in Maritzburg last week. A native of Durban, Mr. Henochsberg has spent most of his life in South

Africa. He served his articles in Durban for five years, and became a solicitor. During the war, Mr. Henochsberg served on the Western Front from 1915 until Armistice, and was granted a commission. He returned to South Africa in 1919 and resumed his legal career, qualifying soon afterwards in the Natal advocates' examination. Mr. Henochsberg was admitted as an advocate on February 22, 1923. Besides conducting his practice as an advocate, he has also been a lecturer of distinction in legal subjects at the Natal Technical College.—*Natal Witness*.

The attempt of nearly a thousand coloured and native inhabitants of Capetown to interview the Prime Minister with a view to voicing their objections to the Riotous Assemblies Act, resulted in something approaching a riot in front of the House of Assembly. The police had barred the way to the demonstrators in Parliament Street and as a result the crowd became very hostile and bricks and stones were thrown. Eventually the police charged and three of the protestors were injured, as well as two European policemen. The seriousness with which the authorities regarded the position at one time may be gauged from the fact that 20 policemen, with rifles and fixed bayonets, were drawn up inside the gate of the grounds, though they were not called into action. Several members of the Assembly had their motor cars stoned when they endeavoured to pass through the demonstrators' ranks and some wild speeches were made prior to the concerted move towards the House. The Prime Minister had declined to interview a deputation from the coloured and native people on the subject of the Bill.—*The Star*.

At a general meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Britain, Mr. N. D. Allbess, deputy chairman, delivered the annual address, in which he drew attention to racial discrimination towards Indians in England:—

He said that various restrictions were imposed on Indian merchants in London. He said it was practically impossible to become members of the Baltic Exchange, the Commercial Rooms or London Jute Association, although foreigners had been admitted. The members of the Indian community felt that they were badly treated in this respect. Mr. Allbess declared that racial discrimination was obviously made when Indians applied for admission, and said that it would give rise to a better understanding and co-ordination of commercial interests of both parties if such anomalies and unjust treatment were wiped out. He begged the Indian merchants throughout the world to sink their personal differences and to unite and fight for their just rights, and thus build up the Indian foreign trade through their own national effort.

The following cable has been sent to Mahatma Gandhi by the Transvaal Patidar Society:—
"Mass meeting Patidar Society passed resolution congratulating uncrowned King of Gujerati, Sardar Vallabhbhai on his incarceration."

SPRINGS

LIKE men, towns—some of them—are born great; others, have greatness thrust upon them. Springs enjoys a dual distinction. Springs has leaped into fame as the one Reef town that was born before the Gold Law of 1908 could fetter the freedom of its Indian traders. It has also had greatness thrust upon it, the greatness born of modesty. For, Springs likes not the role of Daniel of "daring to stand alone." Springs yearns to join the ranks of mediocrity, to become "even as these others." Springs has sacrificed much treasure in its endeavours to escape uniqueness, Supreme Court proceedings being luxuries possible only for rich men and municipalities. True, luck has so far not favoured Springs; but seemingly "hope springs eternal in the municipal, even as in the human, breast. Hope engenders confidence and Springs has both as would appear from the following communication with which certain Indian shopkeepers have been favoured:—

"Dear Sir,—I beg to submit, for your information, the following statement made by His Worship the Mayor, at a meeting of my Council held on Thursday, the 27th ultimo:—

His Worship the Mayor stated in connection with the Asiatic traders in the old Springs Township that he would like to pass a few remarks. This question had occupied a considerable amount of time of the Council, and there had been considerable litigation.

Parliament had eventually seen fit to appoint a Select Committee before which the Council had given evidence. From all indications Parliament was convinced that it was an oversight that Springs was not included in the 1919 Act.

Under the circumstances, and in view of judgments given, the Council had been obliged to grant certain licences. The Council had done this under protest, and had intimated to each applicant that in the event of any change in the existing law they were liable to have any application they might make for a renewal refused. There was one other point he wished to make clear, that all those to whom licences had been so granted and any likely to apply for licences were warned that they must expect no compensation whatever. The Council did not recognise any vested interests.

Any application for compensation would not be considered by the Council. He referred, of course, to new applications and not to those that were established prior to 1919."

Remarkable, how distasteful to some is the even unintentional doing of what to unprejudiced minds is simply right, and fair and just.

THE INDIAN SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

THE absurdity to which the affairs of the Indian Social Service Committee have been reduced brings us once more to dwell upon the extraordinary proceedings of the Committee. A remarkable feature of the proceedings is the manner in which public opinion is being flouted by certain members of the Committee who happen to enjoy, for the present, a majority. We would quote an instance. We referred to Clause IV of the Constitution in our last week's issue. This provides for the payment of two shillings and six pence by every member. The Clause was passed at the public meeting held on the 2nd February without a single dissenter. And at this meeting over ninety enrolled themselves as members of the Committee. The majority of these members will be deemed to have automatically ceased to be members by virtue of their having failed to attend three consecutive meetings. The Committee now comprises about thirty members who have regularly attended the meetings and who are therefore entitled to vote at any of the meetings. A few days ago the Executive of the Social Service Committee decided to convene a General Meeting of the members with a view to considering the deletion of Clause IV which we have referred to above. Is it not strange that this general meeting should be held at a moment when over two-thirds of the members who had enrolled themselves at the public meeting had dropped out? Or is it a strange coincidence? A more glaring instance of the flouting of public opinion cannot be conceived.

The proceedings of the last meeting of the Committee presented another instance of the dictatorial attitude of the officials. Clause III provides *inter alia* that "any member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings without good and reasonable cause shall cease to be a member." A prominent member of the Indian community, a person who has served the community not only of Natal but also of the other two provinces faithfully, was, through illness, absent from three consecutive meetings. At the fourth meeting a letter from this member setting out his reasons for his absence was read. One would have expected that sympathy would be expressed at the illness of the member and that the

reasons advanced would be taken as sufficiently valid as to excuse him for his absence. That would have been the most dignified course to be adopted. The majority, however, would not have it. They adopted the other course. That means that this prominent member who, through circumstances beyond his control, was absent at three consecutive meetings, is no more a member of the Committee. The action of the majority is to be deprecated. It can only be described as an attempt to keep out certain members of the Indian community from being members of the Social Service Committee.

The time has now arrived when the public should step in, for we fear that unless the officials of the Committee are made to realise that it is extremely dangerous to flout public opinion, they would reduce the Social Service Committee to absurdity. It is extremely unfortunate that some of our young men, whose duty is to learn to serve the community, are pursuing a course that will lead them to the valley of disruption. We have every hope that before long they will realise that the course they are pursuing is the most unsuitable to their goal of progress. For that realisation much depends upon the Durban Indian public.

Klerksdorp Moves In Asiatic Question

The Mayor of Klerksdorp (Councillor Erasmus Joste) and Town Clerk (Mr. D. Mackay Coghill) visited Capetown this week as a deputation from the Town Council, and appeared before the Select Committee on Asiatic trading in the Transvaal.

Their evidence showed that the judgments given in respect of Asiatic trading, in mining townships are conflicting and difficult to follow, and the opinions of several counsel have been taken by Klerksdorp, and these opinions are also conflicting, but are, on the whole, unfavourable to the municipality. Councillors are, therefore, afraid to risk the expense of a Supreme Court case.

The intentions of Parliament, as indicated in Act 27 of 1919 (they urged), are being circumvented, in so far that the Indians, although not actually breaking the law, are getting past the law in several ways, and have thus not carried out the intentions of Act 27 of 1919. The Indians have been forming companies with shares nominally held by Europeans in order to acquire fixed property. This, it was argued, should be stopped by legislation.

"Dummy" Licences

In Klerksdorp, recently, Indians have been getting Europeans to apply for licences in European names—the European being really a dummy and becoming a clerk in the employ of the Indian, although the licence was actually in the name of the European. The same procedure has been taking place in regard

to business in the native location, with natives as dummies, instead of Europeans.

It was suggested that a law be passed, prohibiting Indians from acquiring fixed property in any way, either in their own name, or through dummies, or "bogus" companies, and that any European becoming a shareholder in such a company should be punished.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

Mahatma Gandhi's Letter To The Viceroy

"Not An Ultimatum—A Frank Communication"

Ahmedabad, March 6.—"Dear friend," begins Mr. Gandhi's letter to the Viceroy of India. Mr. Gandhi, in *Young India*, describes the letter as not an ultimatum but a frank communication from a friend to an Englishman. The letter proceeds: "Before embarking on civil disobedience and taking the risk I have dreaded all these years, I would fain approach you to find a way out. I hold British rule as a curse, but do not intend to harm a single Englishman or any of his legitimate interests in India." Announcing his attack against the Salt Tax, Mr. Gandhi concludes: "It is open to you to frustrate my design by arresting me, but I hope tens of thousands are ready in a disciplined manner to take up the work after me"

Viceroy's Reply

New Delhi, Friday.—Lord Irwin's secretary has acknowledged Mr. Gandhi's letter to the Viceroy. The reply regrets that Mr. Gandhi is contemplating action "clearly bound to involve violation of the law and danger to the public peace."—*Reuter*.

Arrest Of Vallabhbhai Patel

Complete Hartal At Ahmedabad

On the receipt of the telegram on Friday last announcing the arrest and imprisonment of Vallabhbhai Patel, brother of the Speaker of the Assembly, for disobeying an order prohibiting a public speech, Mahatma Gandhi said that the news should be heartily welcomed. He publicly appealed to the millowners, millworkers, shopkeepers and all citizens to observe a peaceful "hartal" on the following day "to celebrate the incarceration of the uncrowned king of Gujerat" (Patel).

Police Precautions

The "hartal" was duly observed, only a few Mahomedan shops remaining open. The police took elaborate precautions against possible disturbances.

On the eve of his arrest, Vallabhbhai Patel sent a message to the people of Gujerat expressing the hope that they would heartily welcome his imprisonment as being the first "at the commencement of this war." He declared that "our success lies in our capacity for non-violence and self-defence. The sooner we acquire the capacity to cease all relations with the Government the earlier we shall succeed."

The message adds that if there is the least wisdom in the Government it will not arrest a holy man like Mr. Gandhi.

A large meeting held on the river bank, presided over by Mr. Gandhi, passed a resolution, declaring that the followers of Mr. Gandhi would attain Swaraj or go to gaol, and expressing the opinion that freedom for India could be gained by non-violent and peaceful means.—*Reuter*.

Mr. Gandhi Starts His March

Final Message To The People

Rumours Of Arrest Cause Excitement

Ahmedabad, March 12.—Mr. Gandhi headed the pioneer band of civil resisters which departed this morning on its 100-mile march to the Gulf of Cambay.

There were 79 volunteers, and they marched three abreast, each carrying a kitbag containing nothing more than absolute necessities and a staff. The party was preceded by an advance guard of 16 students from Mr. Gandhi's "National University" at Gujerat, all with saffron marks (Hindu auspicious signs) on their foreheads.

Hundreds of people marched in the wake of the procession. The police confined themselves to controlling the traffic, and there was no disorder.

Flags and foliage decorated several places on the route of the marchers, who forded the Sabarmati River in true pioneer style. Large crowds lined the route leading from the Ashram many hours before the start of the march.

The procession had considerably thinned by the time it passed the Ahmedabad boundary, the bulk of the escort returning to their homes. The marchers reached Aslai at 10.30 in the morning, and were received by 100 villagers with flags, garlands and music. Several film companies, including one German company, are accompanying the party.

Persistent rumours of the imminent arrest of Mr. Gandhi last night stirred the city. About 1,000 people watched throughout the night outside the gates of Mr. Gandhi's Ashram which was guarded by women pickets.

Addressing a meeting on the eve of the Civil Disobedience march, Mr. Gandhi suggested that civil disobedients, in addition to manufacturing salt in defiance of the Salt Laws, should also remove salt without paying duty on it and also distribute the salt so manufactured or removed. The courageous, he said, could refuse to pay taxes.

He exhorted the people of Gujerat to continue their programme of marching to Jalalpur in order to recover salt from the sea and thus uphold the doctrine of Civil Disobedience. Even if he and his party were arrested he asked the Indian people to preserve peace and carry out the instructions of the Congress Working Committee.

He concluded by saying that they would not be defeated until they gave up the truth. He prayed "for the success of the battle beginning to-morrow."

It is reported from Surat that a number of Congress workers have gone to Dandi in Jalalpur to prepare for the arrival of the civil disobedients.

Bombay, March 12.—Now that Mr. Gandhi's "war of independence" has started, Congress organisations are doing their utmost to speed up recruiting.

The "War Council" of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee is calling for men and money, exhorting Bombay to take a lead in "this fight to the finish."

Volunteers are divided into three classes, namely, the "Ironsides," who are prepared for immediate civil resistance; "Reserves," who are ready to replace the "Ironsides" who are put out of action, and the "Irregular Territorials," who will participate in the demonstrations.

Mr. Gandhi, writing in his weekly paper, says he is not surprised at the Viceroy's reply to his ultimatum. Lord Irwin, he states, represents a nation which does not yield or repent easily, but readily listens to physical force.

Dealing with the Viceroy's reference to the probability that he will violate the law and endanger public peace, Mr. Gandhi says the only law the nation knows is the will of British administrators, and the only peace the nation knows is the peace of the public prison.

"India is one vast prison house. I repudiate this law and regard it as my sacred duty to break the mournful monotony of compulsory peace that is choking the nation's heart for want of free vent," declares Mr. Gandhi.

The Government of Bombay is keeping in close contact with the Central Government as regards the present situation, which is regarded more or less in the light of an all-India matter. It is understood there are two companies of British troops and one Indian regiment at Ahmedabad.

The World Watching Gandhi

The opening day of the civil disobedience campaign in Bombay was wound up by a mass meeting on the Esplanade.

The speakers included Dr. Herbert Miller, Professor of Sociology, Ohio, who is touring India with his wife. He said the world was keenly watching Mr. Gandhi's novel experiment which was characteristic of the history of India. It was bringing religion to the solution of the political problem. The success of the movement would be India's greatest contribution to human affairs.—Reuter.

General Dealer's Licence Refused

Newcastle Council Dismisses Appeal

The hearing of the appeal made by I. M. Mathir against the decision of the Licensing Officer on Dec. 20, 1929, with regard to a new licence for a general dealer under the name of I. M. Mathir (proprietary), Ltd., took place last Monday before the Newcastle Town Council, acting as an Appeal Board. The Mayor, Mr. J. Crankshaw, presided.

Mr. F. M. Broome, representing Mathir, stated that the Licensing Officer ought not to object to a new licence on the ground of no necessity, because it was evident that it was a necessity.

Secondly, there had been no objection when the application for a licence was published. No one came forward to object and there was no opposition.

Thirdly, Mathir would have absolute control and there would be no change in the management during the lifetime of Mathir.

The Borough Licensing Officer addressed the Board, reiterating his previous decisions and the reasons which had led to them.

Decision Upheld

The Board upheld the Licensing Officer's decision. The Licensing Officer's reason for refusal of the application was 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."

A statement by the Licensing Officer was added to the record, as follows:—"I consider it desirable in the interests of applicants and the general public that I should give some general indication of considerations by which I shall be normally guided and influenced in applications of this nature. 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. 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 on an application by a private company for a trading licence certificate, unless the applicant company agrees to an endorsement on the licence of the condition that the individual shareholdings of the said company will not at any time be altered without the prior consent in writing of the Borough Licensing Officer. I shall, in the absence of such agreement, require a strong case to be made out."

Indians In East Africa

The XII Session of the National Liberal Federation which met at Madras adopted the following resolution which was moved by Mr. S. G. Vaze of the Servants of India Society:—

"This Federation views with great alarm the recommendation in the report of Sir Samuel Wilson for an increase in the proportion of representatives of the European community in the Legislative Council of Kenya to the serious detriment of the interests of African natives as well as the Indian community in that Colony and is strongly of the opinion that no constitutional advance be sanctioned in any of the East African Colonies till the natives are able to take an effective share in the representation by means of election on a common franchise in common electorates. The Federation, therefore, supports the recommendation of the Hilton-Young Commission in favour of the substitution of common, for the existing separate, electorates and calls upon the Imperial Government to start inquiries with a view to establishing a common roll in the interest of not only the Indian community but of the whole Colony."

Mr. Vaze, in moving the resolution said that, like the question of constitutional reform in India, the East African question had now become a major issue in the Imperial policy and was fast reaching a crisis. Though the Hilton-Young Commission had said there could be no responsible government in East African territories until the natives themselves could share in the responsibility, it had still made recommendations, which, if given effect to would increase both the number and the power of the European community in the Kenya Council. He referred to the Wilson Report and stated that it virtually amounted to the total rejection of the Hilton-Young Report. The adoption of the Wilson Report would be tantamount to the complete abandonment of the principle of native trusteeship. Mr. Vaze declared that the interests of natives and the Indian community were identical and the Indian problem was, to a large extent, only a part of the native problem. The Wilson Report was as flagrantly unjust that he had no doubt that the Labour Government would turn it down. They should also turn down the recommendation in the Hilton-Young Report for the relinquishment of the official majority.

Mr. G. A. Natesan, seconding the resolution, said that the Indian Government saw eye to eye with Indians abroad and advocated the Indian point of view with great force and consistency. He looked forward to a satisfactory solution of the problem ere long. To-day, it was essential they should claim

Dominion Status to remove the stamp of political inferiority.

The President, speaking on the resolution, recalled that during the Indian deputation's visit to Africa they had first-hand opportunities of seeing the situation in Kenya. Sir Phiroze Sethna said it was unfair on the part of the White settlers to carry on the present agitation. He acknowledged the help consistently given in this connection by the Indian Government and expressed the hope that the Imperial Government would approach the problem in a spirit of justice.

The resolution was carried unanimously.—*Indian Review.*

White Man's Bad Example

Christianity Among The Natives

Outspoken criticism of the alleged un-Christian example set by White men to the Natives of Africa were made by Lord Mountmorres at a meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge held in London under the chairmanship of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lord Mountmorres, formerly vicar of Swinton, Manchester, has travelled extensively in Africa.

Whereas the European civil servants and the traders in Africa were all splendid in many ways, Lord Mountmorres said they were not good enough in the lump because they failed to present to the Native, who was keenly observant and critical, an adequate example of what the White man's Christianity can rise to. He insisted that the failure of the Europeans in Africa to attain a higher standard had a disastrous effect on the attempts to convince the so-called backward races Christianity and a better religion than their own.

The White man had disturbed the minds of the Natives, creating a gap which, unless the European could fill it with Christianity, would leave the Native a prey to materialism.

One Chief, Lord Mountmorres stated, journeyed to Accra to study Christianity among the Whites and see whether it could not be adopted by his own tribe. What he saw in Accra convinced him that the change was not worth while.—*Natal Mercury.*

A Vote For Women

The following appears in *The Star* dated March 8:—

The political event of the week has been the introduction by the Prime Minister, in fulfilment of a long standing promise, of a Bill which provides for the enfranchisement of European women in South Africa. The measure, introduced to Parliament on Thursday and outlined by General Hertzog, gives a vote to every European woman who has attained the age of 21, and also lays down that women are entitled to seats in the Senate, the Assembly or the Provincial Councils. No qualifications other than the attainment of the minimum age and the status of a Union national are indicated, and it is considered probable that the Bill will go through. It is likely to meet with opposition from the backveld section of the Nationalist Party, opposition already voiced by General Kemp, and one or two other speakers representing the platteland, but since the S.A.P. and the Labour Party are already committed to the principle of the Bill, whilst the Prime Minister has indicated that the

House is free to vote as it thinks fit, it seems certain that the measure will command a substantial majority in the lower Chamber, though the attitude of the Senate may be less easy to forecast. It is, however, probable that Nationalist Senators will respect the fact that General Hertzog is sponsoring the Bill and that their opposition will consequently lose much of its emphasis. The scene in the Assembly when the Prime Minister moved the second reading of this momentous Bill was an unusual one, the galleries and bays being crowded with women. In the course of his speech General Hertzog referred to the fact that no qualification other than age and nationality would be required of women voters, and indicated that the only possible test—that of educational fitness—could not be applied to the white women of the Union without casting a slur on their civilisation, since civilisation did not rest on book learning, but on character and courage.

General Smuts, whilst welcoming the Bill, objected to the form in which it appeared, on the grounds that it put the women of Natal and the Cape on a better footing than men, and would probably result in more women than men having the vote in those two provinces. He also regretted that General Hertzog had not given effect to his implied promise to enfranchise coloured women in the Bill.

Extension Of The Borough

Malvern Discusses Council's Proposals

The report of the Special Committee of the Durban Town Council on incorporation was discussed at a recent public meeting of ratepayers at Malvern. Although Malvern is excluded from the Council's scheme of incorporation, the meeting took the view that this did not necessarily close the matter. "We do not want the door slammed in our faces," said one speaker, "but leave us the right to become incorporated in a few years' time." A resolution was passed leaving further negotiations to the discretion of the Health Board.

The Chairman, the Rev. A. Long, gave the meeting a summary of the principal recommendations of the Special Committee. He impressed on his hearers that it was for them to decide whether these terms were favourable enough for them to consider the advisability of incorporation.

They had been very definitely against incorporation at the last public meeting, but they did nothing to slam the door in the Council's face. Although Malvern was excluded from the scheme of incorporation as it stood at present this was by no means the final scheme. If necessary they could appeal to the Corporation and after that to the Commission which had to sit again to consider the proposals of the Council.

A questioner asked whether the Malvern Health Board approached the Borough for incorporation or vice versa.

"Neither," the Chairman replied, and added: "I feel here that the Committee appointed treated us with the utmost consideration and were out to act in the best interests for the peri-Durban area." (Applause.)

A member of the audience said the people of Malvern had nothing to gain by going into the Borough in the next seven years. They had to pro-

vide new roads as well as police, and they would never get water-borne sewerage in the next 25 years. Were the requirements of the district being met by the Health Board or not? The police force in Durban could not manage their own troubles, for they had a Native riot there recently and had to get outside assistance. (Laughter.)

A Premature Proposal

The speaker considered the whole question was 25 years before its time as far as Malvern was concerned.

Reference was also made to the undesirable element living on the outskirts of the Borough boundary, and it was feared, if Malvern did not come into incorporation, that they would have the same difficulties to cope with when the new boundary was Hillary. The Health Boards would not allow the erection of shacks, but the undesirable element was quite capable of erecting decent houses.

It was said that representation on the Council was useless, as there would only be five Health Board representatives against 18 Councillors.

Captain Lewis Byron said he spoke from 25 years' experience of the growth of the districts, which in his opinion was marvellous, especially in such industrial centres as Jacobs and Wentworth. There was no getting away from the fact that Malvern depended on Durban for its living; it had no industries of its own. In time Malvern would have to come into the Borough, and he thought it a pity that a bogey catchword like "incorporation" had crept in. They were quite capable of looking after themselves. He felt that Durban was going to grow rapidly, and would the Health Boards be sufficient in five years time? He would not like to see Malvern made the Mayville of the Borough. He suggested they should appeal to the discretion of the Health Boards, who knew the desires of their districts.

A Tribute To The Board

Malvern was not dissatisfied with its Health Board; residents recognised the members as a conscientious body of men who were out to serve the best interests of the district. He thought that while this question was in the melting pot the Health Board members should be given permission to act in the interests of the people. They knew the district did not want to be another Mayville, and that the people did not want increased rates. (Applause). He thought the best thing would be to leave matters to the discretion of the Chairman. (Hear, hear.)

"We do not want the door slammed in our faces, but leave us the right to become incorporated in a few years' time, for incorporation must come," Captain Byron added.

Councillor Kemp complimented Captain Byron on the lucid manner in which he had cleared the air and supported the Chairman. He eulogised the Commission that had sat on the question of incorporation, and emphasised the point that there was no compulsory incorporation.

After a short resume of how Johannesburg and Capetown had increased their boundaries, Mr. Kemp suggested that the matter be left in the hands of the Health Boards.

Captain Byron then moved the following resolution:—"That negotiations in regard to the extension of the Borough boundaries be left to the discretion of the Health Board."

This was seconded by Mr. J. G. Fleming, M.P.C., and carried with only one dissentient.—*Natal Mercury*.

Some Implications

Mahatma Gandhi writes in his *Young India* dated Feb. 6:—

Well might the points suggested by me as for immediate attention raise a storm of indignation in the British press. They mean more to the British investor, and in fact every Britisher, than Dominion Status or even Independence. Dominion Status or Independence may conceivably be hedged in with stipulations that may make it impossible for India to get rid of the burdens that have brought her to the verge of utter starvation. Hitherto progress towards the so-called constitutional freedom has meant more burdens upon the dumb millions and more money into the pockets of the Britisher. And British imagination pictures to itself an India under Dominion Status remaining a perpetual El Dorado for the British. If Dominion Status is feared, it is because the reality of it would mean ability to undo continuing wrongs and therefore unjust burdens whether in the shape of Government of India loans or guarantees given to the military and the civil services, or favours shown to British manufactures at the expense of India, or concessions granted to the British trader, capitalist or prospector.

Whether therefore a *bona fide* Round Table Conference comes to-day or the day after, it is as well to know the truth lying behind the remarkable demonstration of the 26th ultimo. The masses feel that the Congress will remove the burdens which they vaguely feel but cannot describe. I venture to claim that in formulating the eleven points, I have somewhat and to the extent of my ability given a concrete shape to their feeling.

It is not difficult to understand the resentment felt in England over the 'demands' nor the hysterics of Sir Malcolm Hailey over the idea of repudiating debts in any circumstance whatsoever. Yet that is precisely what every ward, when he comes of age, has the right to do. If he finds the trustee having buttered his own bread at the ward's expense, he makes the trustee pay for his malpractices or misappropriation or breach of trust or whatever other name by which his selfishness may be described. There will thus be no atmosphere for a dispassionate examination of the case of the dumb masses either in India or in England till the Englishman realise that they must part with some of the ill-gotten gains and cease in future to expect the inflow to England of millions that are annually drained from India under one pretext or another. If the stopping of the drain means a revision of the tastes of the city people of this land who live upon the commission they make from their British principals, it means also that the British as a whole will have to revise their tastes by reason of the sudden stoppage of the millions looted from India for their sakes.

It is clear, that the riches derived from the tillers of the soil are not a voluntary contribution or a contribution compelled for their benefit. The villages are not affected by the *Raz Britanica* so-called; for they were untouched even by the invasions of Timur or Nadirahab. They will remain untouched by anarchy if it comes. But in order that this enormous contribution may be exacted without resistance, violence has been organised by the British Government on a scale unknown before and manipulated in so insidious a manner as not to be easily seen or felt as such. British rule has appeared to me to be a perfect personification of violence. There are snakes that by their very appearance paralyse their victims. They do not

need to make any further demonstration of their power. Even so, I am sorry to have to say, has the British power worked upon us in India. Frightfulness is not a word of Indian coinage. It was coined by a British judge in order to bring vividly to light the meaning of Jallianwalla massacre. And we are promised a multiple, if we dare lift up our heads and say, 'We will have no more of this loot that has bled India dry.'

Let us, too, understand how organised violence works and is on that account far more harmful than sporadic, thoughtless, sudden outburst. Organised violence hides itself often behind camouflage and hypocrisy as we see them working through the declarations of good intentions, commissions, conferences and the like, or even through measures conceived as tending to the public benefit but in reality to the benefit of the wrongdoer. Greed and deceit are often the offspring as they are equally often the parents of violence. Naked violence repels like the naked skeleton shorn of flesh, blood and the velvety skin. It cannot last long. But it persists fairly long when it wears the mask of peace and progress so-called.

Such awe-inspiring violence concealed under a 'golden lid' begets the violence of the weak which in its turn works secretly and sometimes openly.

Non-violence has to work in the midst of this double violence. But if it is the supreme law governing mankind, it must be able to make its way in the face of the heaviest odds. Violence such as we have to face may well make us cowards utterly unable to discover the method of working non-violence. If therefore the forces of violence arrayed against us cannot be checkmated during our time, it would be no proof of the futility of non-violence, it would certainly be proof of the pervading cowardice.

The greatest obstacle in the path of non-violence is the presence in our midst of the indigenous interests that have sprung up from British rule, the interests of monied men, speculators, scrip holders, landholders, factory owners and the like. All these do not always realise that they are living on the blood of the masses, and when they do, they become as callous as the British principals whose tools and agents they are. If like the Japanese Samurai they could but realise that they must give up their blood-stained gains, the battle is won for non-violence. It must not be difficult for them to see that the holding of millions is a crime when millions of their own kith and kin are starving and that therefore they must give up their agency. No principal has yet been found able to work without faithful agents.

But non-violence has to be patient with these as with the British principals. The aim of the non-violent worker must ever be to convert. He may not however wait endlessly. When therefore the limit is reached, he takes risks and conceives plans of active Satyagraha which may mean civil disobedience and the like. His patience is never exhausted to the point of giving up his creed. But working in a hostile atmosphere, he runs the risk of forces of violence, which till then were held under check from mutual fear, being let loose through the restraint of such fear being removed. The Government will spread out its read paws in what it will call self-defence, the party of violence may commit the mistake of seeing its chance of coming out in the open. The non-violent party must then prove its creed by being ground to powder between the two millstones. If there is such a party, all is well for India and the world. My hope and plans are built upon an ever-increasing faith in the existence of that party of true non-violence.

America And India

Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard, the editor of the *New York Nation* sends "a word" to the *Indian Review* and through it to the Indian people. After dwelling upon the sympathy of the American friends of India, he goes on to offer a few words of advice. He writes:

Finally, as one devoutly in sympathy with the non-resistance of Gandhi, may I strongly urge all who may see these lines to use their influence against any form of violence? If violence, let it be on the other side and let it be received upon non-resisting bodies. There is no greater weapon than that, none surer, none more certain to win in the long run, if only there can be adequate endurance. It is only a few years since I heard an American Minister to China declare that the foreign problem there was not difficult because, so he said to an audience of American newspaper men, "the Chinese have got hold of the most dangerous weapon in the world—non-resistance, and you can't beat that." This was just after he had said that as far as the shells of our gun-boats could reach, we should inflict our wills on the Chinese whether they liked it or not!

There is a great reservoir of goodwill for India, though we have also many sympathisers with British imperialism and many believers that the white race is justified in imposing its will upon coloured people wherever it finds them, whether at home or abroad. But the reservoir of goodwill will be largely unavailable if force should be used by the Indians. I hope, therefore, that whatever else happens in India after January, there will be no overt acts. You may be sure that those of us who are sympathetic with your aspirations will await the coming of that day with profoundest anxiety and with deepest sympathy for all concerned.

—*Modern Review.*

All-India Students' Conference

The All-India Students' Convention met at Lahore on the 30th December under the presidency of Pundit Malaviya. It was attended by over four hundred delegates from different parts of India.

After a brief welcome speech by Mr. Ragnar Singh, Chairman of the Reception Committee, Pt. Malaviya read Mr. Gandhi's message to the students which said that "the students' foremost duty is self-control, discipline and promotion of Khadi."

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru who was received with shouts of "Long Live Revolution" said it had been stated that the elders had their innings and now was the time for the young men in whom there had been said to be a great awakening. He however thought that young men had not yet developed the true sense of responsibility. Until they developed that and trained themselves in discipline much of their energy and enthusiasm would be wasted.

The Conference next adopted resolutions for the formulation of the All-India Students' Union on national lines with provincial and district organisations to protect students' interests and promote the feeling of comradeship and of patriotism free from communalism. It was decided to hold the Conference at Benares to adopt a constitution. Other resolutions asked for vernacular as the medium of instruction everywhere and Hindustani as com-

pulsory second language and asked for compulsory military training in Universities. Another resolution appealed to the students to take a vow to use Khadi or Swadeshi cloth only and expressed sorrow on the arrests of the Secretary Mr. Sukhdev and the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Virendra and appealed to students to refuse to be a party to any marriage where the dowry had been stipulated.

Pt. Malaviya in closing the conference welcomed the Students' All-India Organisation and hoped that every student above twelve would become a member of the Students' Union. He emphasised two main things which the students should always keep as ideals before them. These were faith in God and patriotism. He emphasised the necessity of the use of Khadi and Swadeshi cloth and the utter boycott of foreign cloth and called upon them to be prepared for sacrifices for the country.

—*Indian Review.*

Young Men's Arya Samaj

(CONTRIBUTED)

At the anniversary celebrations of the above Samaj to be held on Sunday the 16th March 1930 at 3-30 p.m. at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, Mr. Thomas Hitge, of Durban, will deliver an address on the "Principles of the Arya Samaj."

As this address is of significant importance to our community, it is hoped that suitable response would be given to same.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Samaj will be held the same evening at 5-20 p.m. for the transaction of the following business:—

(1) Minutes, (2) Secretary's Report, (3) Treasurer's Statement, (4) Revision of Rules, (5) Election of Officials, (6) General. It is hoped that members will attend without fail.

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