

# Indian Opinion

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## NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

### MAHATMA GANDHI'S ARREST

#### MASS MEETING EXPRESSES FEELINGS OF REGRET

**N**EARLY 2,000 Indians, representing all sections of the Indian community of Natal, were present at a mass meeting held last Tuesday evening in the Royal Picture Palace, Durban, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, to protest against the arrest and detention of Mahatma Gandhi.

A very noticeable feature of the meeting was the presence of a large number of wealthy Muslims, two of whom addressed the huge assembly.

Advocates Albert Christopher, President of the South African Indian Congress, and J. W. Godfrey, who followed the chairman, Mr. S. Rustomjee, dwelt on the saintly character of Mahatma Gandhi, whose notable work in South Africa was eulogised.

There were also touching references to Mrs. Gandhi's loyalty and devotion to duty under very trying circumstances. The speakers exhorted the Indian women of South Africa to emulate her noble example.

#### Congress President's Speech

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, President of the Natal Indian Congress, said:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Last night news was received from India that Mahatma Gandhi, whose saintly character is being idolised by millions and whose name is a household word throughout the world, was arrested while asleep and escorted to the Yeroda Prison in Poona. Mahatmajee who is conducting a campaign for the freedom of India was resting after a hard day's toil when, in the middle of the night, he was placed under arrest.

This evening we have assembled here to express our feelings of profound regret at this unfortunate arrest. For, there is no other person in the whole of India, for whom the South African Indian community have greater love and respect than they have for the saintly figure who spent over two decades of his life in our interests in this country. I refer to Mahatma Gandhi. It seems as if it were only yesterday that Mr. M. K. Gandhi, as he then was, left these shores for a larger field. Of his suffering for the sake of his people we have had many striking instances in South Africa. In this country Mahatma Gandhi led the life of a persecuted Indian so as to share his trials. In India he leads the life of an average wage earner who comprises the teeming millions, so that he may be part of him and know the troubles and trials that the wage earner undergoes. No one is better qualified than he to realise the impoverishment which his countrymen suffer from and the tremendous difficulties that are placed as obstacles against their progress.

Mahatma Gandhi is out to alleviate the sufferings of his people, and the present campaign he considers to be the best and most effective means of securing redress. The fact that the whole of India is behind the movement is proof enough that Mahatma

Gandhi has the support of the peoples of India. A firm believer in non-violent resistance, Mahatma Gandhi has done everything in his power to prevent any violence taking place in any part of India.

The Government of India have unfortunately thought fit to arrest a great soul whose only crime is that he believes in the freedom of his peoples. We have no doubt that the Government hold the view that the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi would kill the campaign. The prayers of a suffering people may go unheard and unheeded by a Government but we firmly believe that the sacrifices and the sufferings of Mahatma Gandhi will not be in vain. As an Apostle of truth he will, we have no doubt, emerge out successfully though in the cause of attaining that success he may have to suffer.

This afternoon we cannot do more than to record our sincere feelings of regret at this unfortunate arrest and it shall be our duty to pray that Almighty God may guide the Government of India and the peoples of India.

At this great hour of stress and trial we desire to remember Mrs. Gandhi whose heroic struggles to assist in the cause are now matters of history. We know that she will be sustained by the grace of Almighty God in this critical time.

May Almighty shower his blessings on Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Gandhi.

#### Resolutions

Advocate A. Christopher moved the first resolution which read:—

1. That this mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress hereby records its profound sense of regret at the unfortunate arrest of that Great Soul, Mahatma Gandhi, who throughout his career has practised the principle of non-violent resistance and who has taught the peoples of India that the most effective method of attaining freedom for India is not violence but the use of spiritual force.

Messrs. O. H. A. Jhaveri and B. M. Patel seconded and supported the resolution respectively.

Advocate J. W. Godfrey moved and Mr. M. B. Naik seconded the second resolution which was as follows:—

2. That this mass meeting hereby records its sense of appreciation for the selfless work for India by Mrs. Gandhi who has been the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi's life-work and prays that in her hour of trial God may be with her.

Among others who spoke in support of the resolution were Messrs. A. I. Kajee and Moosa Abbana.

The proceedings of the meeting were interspersed with songs by Shaik Mehtab, Mr. Spider and Mr. Goshalia's school children.

## A MATYR

**A**T midnight on the 4th of this month, guided by torchlights as if bent on some nefarious act, the Messengers of the Imperial Bureaucracy arrested Mahatma Gandhi. A considerable trouble appears to have been taken by the authorities in raking up a century old Ordinance that enabled them to arrest him. Fearing that a trial of the Mahatma would lead to demonstrations, the Bombay Government, in consultation with the Government of India, has, in accordance with Regulation 25 of 1827, imprisoned him during the pleasure of the Government in the Yeroda Gaol at Poona. A week ago the Imperial Government notified the Viceroy that it would ~~support~~ any action that the latter may take to suppress the present movement in India. It was a sinister justification and it was at once apparent that the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi was imminent. The arrest of Mahatmajee was inevitable, for the campaign against the Salt Tax had, during the past few weeks, gained considerable ground, so much so, that Districts which had hitherto been in a state of coma, as it were, to any nationalist movement, have risen as one man. It is a remarkable testimony to the magnetic personality of the Mahatma whose whole life is one of *suffering*. He wrote:—"Progress is to be measured by the amount of suffering undergone.....the purer the suffering, the greater is the progress." It would be interesting to recall what Judge Broomsfield said in sentencing the Great Soul, just over eight years ago:—"It would be impossible to ignore the fact that in the eyes of millions of your countrymen you are a great Patriot and a great Leader. Even those who differ from you in politics look upon you as a man of high ideals and a noble and even saintly life." Non-violent resistance as the chief weapon in all his campaigns, Mahatma Gandhi has been able to prove to the world that spiritual force is mightier than brute force. It would be easier to conquer brute force but extremely difficult to conquer spiritual force. More than once Mahatma Gandhi has written that "if India made violence her creed I would not care to live in India. She would cease to evoke any pride in me." Non-violence is his religion. He holds tenaciously to that religion. Nothing shocks him with horror than to see violence taking place. He is the embodiment of sacrifice.

It is because of his sincere belief in non-violence and his austere living that we regard the arrest of the Mahatma as most unfortunate and the Government has committed a blunder of the first magnitude. To conquer the Mahatma and to suppress the present movement the Indian Government is applying brute force. To the Westerner, fresh from a brutal War, brute force may be excellent when applied to one who believes in the same force, but when it is applied to an Apostle of Truth, it is doomed to failure.

The Indian Government has imprisoned a Martyr. It believes that his imprisonment would kill the movement. But to the millions in India the imprisonment of Mahatma Gandhi will mean a new life, and the movement for the freedom of India will receive an impetus.

## News Of Independence Struggle In India

### Mahatma Gandhi Arrested

Bombay, Monday.—The warrant under which Gandhi was arrested stated that as the Government viewed his activities with alarm, he should be placed under restraint in accordance with Regulation 25 of 1827, and be imprisoned during the Government's pleasure at Poona."

The news of Gandhi's arrest was announced throughout the city by Congress Party volunteers who rang a bell, halting at street corners, and calling the public to observe a complete hartal to-day and to-morrow and to attend a big meeting this evening.

Gandhi arrived by train under escort in Borivli near Bombay this morning. He was then taken by car to Poona.

Because of Gandhi's arrest all Hindu and most of the Moslem shops are closed, while the Bullion and Cotton Exchanges have suspended business. Two detachments of the East Lancashire Regiment are posted in the heart of the mill area and at police headquarters, while the volunteer motor patrol is on duty in the city.

It is reported that all the regular and auxiliary troops are standing by, while European employers in banks and commercial houses have been supplied with arms.

### Story Of Arrest

Jalalpur, Monday.—The district magistrate, the police superintendent and the deputy-superintendent with 20 armed policemen, arrived at Gandhi's camp during the night. A torchlight was thrown on the Mahatma, who was asleep.

"Do you want me?" asked Gandhi, waking immediately. "We have orders to arrest you," replied the magistrate. Gandhi then asked permission to clean his teeth. He handed one of his followers a letter to the Viceroy, and affectionately bade farewell to his volunteers. Carrying his spinning wheel, he left under escort.—Reuter.

### Why Mahatma Gandhi Was Arrested

A communique issued by the Bombay Government announcing the arrest of Gandhi, states: "The campaign of civil disobedience, of which Gandhi has been the chief instigator, has resulted in wide-

spread defiance of law and order and grave disturbances to the public peace throughout India.

"Professedly non-violent, it inevitably, like every similar movement in the past, led to acts of violence, which became more frequent. While Gandhi continued to deplore the outbreaks of violence, his protests against the conduct of his unruly followers have become weaker and weaker, and it is evident he is no longer able to control them."

The communique adds that the effects of Gandhi's campaign were most felt in Gujarat, where supporters of Gandhi instituted a "severe form of social boycott accompanied by threats of expulsion from castes by insult, contumely, and even deprivation of food and water," and thereby induced a considerable number of village headmen to resign, thus seriously inconveniencing the Administration. Even private persons who remained loyal to the Government, were exposed to this boycott, including members of the depressed classes, of whose interests Gandhi used to claim to be the protector.

The communique says that later, finding neither the breach of the salt laws, the picketing of liquor shops, nor the boycott of foreign cloth were producing the effects he desired, Gandhi on several occasions incited cultivators to withhold payment of land revenue. Still more recently he declared his intention to march on the salt works at Dharasana and Charwada, and seize salt collected at those places, which is not the property of the Government, but of manufacturers. The communique declares that such a raid could not be conducted without the use of force, and would inevitably be resisted by force.

The communique also states that the Government has shown the utmost toleration, and is content to risk any accusation of weakness.

Events have shown that the history of the earlier non-co-operation movement, with its accompaniment of blood and fire, would have repeated itself if Gandhi's campaign had been allowed to continue unchecked. The local Government, therefore, in full consultation with the Government of India, concluded that it was no longer possible to allow Gandhi to remain at large without grave danger to India's tranquillity.

Announcing the decision to imprison Gandhi, the communique states that every provision will be made for his health and comfort during his detention.—Reuter.

### Arrival At Poona Gaol

Poona, Monday.—Three police motor cars, one containing Gandhi, arrived at the Yeroda gaol at 11 o'clock this morning. Gandhi said he was pleased with the arrangements for his comfort during the journey.

It is understood that the Government will allow Gandhi 100 rupees (about £7 10s.) a month for food. Colonel Thomas, the Bombay Presidency chief surgeon, examined Gandhi before the journey and pronounced him fit to travel.—Reuter.

### Message To The Outside World

London, Monday.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, and an American were the only journalists present at Borivli station, where Gandhi, after his arrest last night, was taken from the train and transferred to a car for the journey to Poona. The train was full, having six hundred third-class Indian passengers aboard.

As soon as the train stopped they saw an attendant, without a moment's delay, place a stool on the ground. Two police officers who had been waiting on the platform, Superintendent Farrant and Inspector Gordon, stepped forward, and a familiar figure appeared in the doorway, naked except for his famous loincloth, and carrying a shawl.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett thought him greatly changed

since he saw him a month ago surrounded by his faithful disciples and followed by an enthusiastic mob of passive resisters. This morning he looked melancholy and deserted, without a single follower, as he descended from the train, yet the old man comported himself with remarkable dignity, and the correspondent quotes Maxwell's lines about Charles I. to describe his impression.

### Police Courtesy

The two police officers raised their hats. Gandhi replied with a friendly smile and shook hands warmly with them as they helped him from the train. Gandhi seemed surprised when he saw the two journalists, for he knew them well, but he greeted them most cordially. Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett asked him if he had any farewell message, and Gandhi said, "Shall I give it now or wait?" Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett advised him to give it now.

The prophet hesitated. He seemed dazed by events and at a loss for words. He then said: "Tell the American and English peoples to study the issue closely and judge it on its merits." Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett asked "Have you any bitterness or ill-will to any one?" and Gandhi replied, "None whatever. I have long expected to be arrested."

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett asked: "Do you think your arrest will lead to more disturbances throughout India?" and Gandhi replied, "No I don't, but in any case I can honestly say that I have taken every possible precaution to avert disturbances."

### Hopes There Will Be No Trouble

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett: "Then you don't anticipate troubles?"

Gandhi replied, after some hesitation, "I hope not. I have done my best to prevent them."

According to Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett Gandhi's arrest was decided on at a Council of State in Simla a few days ago. It was originally planned for May 4, but it was decided to avoid taking him on Sunday.

### Mahatma Gandhi's Successor

Bombay, Monday.

Gandhi's mantle has fallen on Abbas Tyabji, whom the Mahatma chose to lead the volunteers.—Reuter.

### Flood Of Questions In Parliament

London, Monday.—There was a flood of questions in the House of Commons to-day on the subject of Gandhi's arrest and happenings in India generally.

Asked whether Gandhi would be charged and tried, the Rt. Hon. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for India, replied that Gandhi would be detained under Regulation 25 of 1827.

Mr. Wedgwood Benn was also asked whether he would make a supreme attempt to reach a settlement in view of the serious position in India, and he said that it was the Government's policy to invite a conference of Indian leaders despite everything that had happened. He said that conditions had been difficult at Peshawar since the riots on April 23, but the authorities had now complete control of the situation. There had been no sign of disaffection among Indian troops elsewhere.

Questioned about the Indian censorship, Mr. Wedgwood Benn said he had been assured by the Government of India that, consistent with the needs of the situation, they would do everything possible not to impede the Press service.—Reuter.

### More Disorder In Calcutta

Calcutta, Sunday.—Five youths were arrested at a public meeting held last evening, in defiance of police orders, in the expectation of hearing the former President of the Assembly, Mr. V. J. Patel, who, however, did not appear.

The police, after declaring the assembly unlawful, charged the crowd when it refused to disperse, and several people were injured.

Thirteen were injured in a disturbance after the arrival of Mr. Patel in the morning, when the police dispersed a procession with bamboo canes. The casualties include the son of Pundit Malaviya.

Mr. Patel, in a statement to the Press, criticised the police, declaring that no regular procession was formed, and that they might have averted trouble by using discretion.

### Press Ordinance Sequel

All the newspapers in Calcutta, except the *Statesman* and *Bengalee*, have suspended publication as a protest against the new Press Ordinance. An attempt is being made to issue a daily news bulletin from the Corporation Office.—Reuter.

A meeting of Indian journalists to-day resolved that the Indian-owned papers throughout Bengal should suspend publication pending the withdrawal of the Press Ordinance, states a Reuter cable from Calcutta. It was decided to hold a conference of Indian journalists at Allahabad in the middle of the month to decide the future policy. The Calcutta newspapers, *Liberty* and *Bangabasi*, ceased publication to-day instead of furnishing 5,000 rupees security under the Press Ordinance.

Calcutta, Friday.—The chairman and secretary of the Civil Disobedience Committee, the secretaries of the north, south and central Calcutta and Burrabazaar Congress committees, and also the president of the All-Bengal Students' Association, were to-day each sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment for disobeying police orders.—Reuter.

### Year In Gaol For Gandhi's Son

New Delhi, Wednesday.

Devidas Gandhi, son of Mahatma Gandhi, was sentenced to-day to a year's rigorous imprisonment on a charge of sedition.—Reuter.

### Leaders Arrested

Mr. Kitchlew, chairman of the Reception Committee of the Lahore Congress, was arrested on a charge of sedition at his residence, says a Reuter cable from Amritsa. A message from Bombay says that Gadgil president of the "Youth League" at Poona, has been arrested. The police had to scale the walls of the house, as the doors were locked. "Hartal" has been proclaimed throughout the town.

### Swarajist Leader Sentenced

Raj Gopalachari, one of Gandhi's foremost followers was sentenced yesterday to six months' imprisonment and fined 200 rupees (about £5) or a further three months, says a Reuter message from Madras.

### Lord Irwin And Mahomed Ali

Simla, Wednesday.—The correspondence between the Viceroy and Mahomed Ali is published. Mahomed Ali was Gandhi's right hand man in the earlier non-co-operation movement, but last week he vehemently denounced Gandhi's civil disobedience movement, which, he said, was a desperate attempt to impose the domination of caste ridden Hindus over Mahomedans.

In the correspondence Mahomed Ali appeals to the Viceroy not to permit the situation to grow worse by the arrest of Gandhi. He says that the Government has sufficiently demonstrated its strength, and expresses the hope that considerations of prestige will prevent neither the Government nor Gandhi from retracing their steps and establishing peace and freedom.

### The Reply

Lord Irwin's secretary, in reply, says that the Viceroy recognises the spirit of goodwill prompting Mahomed Ali's letter, but draws attention to the fact that some Indian leaders, instead of accepting the hand of friendship proffered by His Majesty's Government in the form of a round table conference,

"rejected the way to reason and favour destructive methods."

The letter concludes that the Government's desire for conciliation remains, but while the law is defied the Government must resist its subversion.

—Reuter.

### Indian Conspiracy Case To Be Ended

Simla, Thursday.—Another Ordinance has been promulgated by the Viceroy terminating the preliminary trial of those accused in the Lahore conspiracy case, which has been dragging on for nine months.

The trial has been obstructed by minor delays and revolutionary demonstrations. The Viceroy has empowered the Chief Justice of the High Court to constitute a special tribunal of three judges to settle the cases without delay and "to meet the ends of justice and re-establish respect for the law." —Reuter.

### Resignation Of Mr. V. J. Patel

#### Viceroy's Reply

Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, in a brief but pointed reply to Mr. V. J. Patel, accepting the latter's resignation from the Assembly Presidency, declares that it is unnecessary to vindicate "officers of my Government against charges which bear on their face their own refutation."

#### "Grave Wrong To India"

The Viceroy concludes:—"I can only hope that you and those with whom you are once again to be openly associated, may come to realise how grave a wrong you do to India by rejecting the way of peace that lies open through a free conference with His Majesty's Government, in order to encourage your countrymen to deliberate and dangerous defiance of the law."

#### Gandhi Proud As Punch

In extremist circles, Mr. Patel is considered to have done the National movement a great honour. Mahatma Gandhi is feeling as proud as Punch. His followers have dubbed him "The Salt Thief."

In the United Provinces, Pandit Motilal Nehru, acting president of the Congress, has been talking of starting a "national" salt factory.

#### The Simon Report

Several of India's politicians and the home press find the Simon Commission responsible for India's present discontent. The delay of the report, they say, has bred suspicion, distrust and anger. The real grievance, however, is not so much the delay as the disappointment through many premature prophecies of the report's publication date.

Women of Allahabad flung their clothing from the house-tops into the streets in response to an appeal made by Mrs. Jawaharlal Nehru and other Congress speakers, to boycott foreign cloth and picket the cloth merchants' shops.

The following cables have been sent to Mrs. Gandhi and to Mr. Abas Tayebjee respectively by the Bombay Presidency Hindoo Association and the Patidar Union of Durban:—

"Bombay Presidency Hindoo Association, Durban, regrets arrest of Mahatma Gandhi, whose noble work for India has been actuated by the purest of motives and prays that Almighty's blessings may be with him and Mrs. Gandhi."

"Patidar Union, Durban, grieves arrest of Mahatma Gandhi who seeks by soul force to win self-Government for India. Union prays Mahatma and Mrs. Gandhi may be blessed with health, long life and success in their mission."

## Recognition Of Independent India

American statesmen have now begun to take India seriously. A resolution declaring sympathy with India's demand for independence and recommending recognition of Independent India, has already been introduced into the U. S. Congress by United States Senator Blaine, with the approval of other senators.

He took the position that in order to arrive at disarmament it was necessary to do away with the causes that led to armament. He pointed out that Great Britain had to maintain a large land force and also a large naval force on account of the possession of India and that if India were free this would not be needful. He applied the same idea to the possession of the Philippines by the United States.

This resolution is now with the Foreign Relations Committee.

It took Ireland, with its vast population, five years to get recognition, and there are other nations still waiting for American recognition. It seems, therefore, next to incredible that American sympathy towards India should have developed almost overnight. It certainly demonstrates the importance of press sentiment in creating public opinion.

Thousands of newspapers all over the United States have carried long columns about India and her independence programme, showing the general attitude of sympathy and support which the American press has so recently expressed.

That the situation in India is drawing considerable attention of the international public opinion is proved by the interest shown in the press and on the platform in the countries like Germany, America, Russia, etc.

Premier MacDonald, it would be remembered, was the recipient of representations of leading American citizens on the Indian question when he visited the United States.

Now, according to a despatch to the *Manchester Guardian* from its New York correspondent, a manifesto has been issued over the signatures of prominent members of the American Liberal group, appealing to the British nation on the Indian question in the name of world peace. The signatories to the appeal, it is stated, include Professor Dewey and the Editor of the *New York Nation*. Copies of the manifesto have been sent to both the American and British Governments.

The manifesto, it is stated, appeals to the British Government not to use force for dealing with the present crisis in India. The manifesto recognises that neither the American citizens nor the American Government can claim to exercise direct responsibility or power, but declares that America cannot look unmoved, especially when it considers it an urgent duty to bring to bear on the situation the power of public opinion to which the national movement makes an appeal by its persistent adherence to non-violent paths. The manifesto appeals to the British Government to justify the world's confidence in Britain as pioneers of world peace by agreement and goodwill.

The manifesto recognizes that the Indian non-violent national movement is in the nature of a lead to mankind as well as to the British Government.

The following telegram probably refers to the same manifesto:

Ahmedabad, Feb. 16.

The President of the Congress has received a cable from New York stating that twelve leading Liberals

including Professor Dewey, Dr. Sunderland, Mr. Roger, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. John Haynes Holmes have issued a manifesto appealing to Americans to support the Indian movement for independence and demanding that as Indians are adhering to non-violence England should also avoid all violence and grant freedom.

A cable received from London states that in his recent lecture tour in America Mr. Fenner Brockway, M.P., was surprised at the interest shown by Americans in Indian affairs. Though the subjects of his lectures did not relate to India, yet many among his audiences put him questions relating to India.—*The Modern Review*.

## Col. Wedgwood's Views On Indians Overseas

### Absolute Helplessness Of South African Indians

A message from London states:—

One of the recent developments in Labour politics is the tours undertaken by its prominent members to the distant parts of the Empire, with a view to study at first hand their problems and conditions. Col. Wedgwood returned to England from South Africa only very recently.

Interviewed by the London representative of the *Free Press of India*, Col. Wedgwood gave him the benefit of his impressions. Referring to Indians in South Africa, Col. Wedgwood said that the only hope for Indians in that Dominion was in the Government of India making strong representations, either directly to the Imperial Government, or to the South African Government itself. The position of South African Indians was one of absolute helplessness, living as they were in the midst of people whose sense of justice had not been fully developed. One of the questions which was very likely to arise in the minds of Indians in South Africa was as to whether their position would not be better if South Africa were outside the Empire.

### Kenya—No Change

Col. Wedgwood then referred to the position of Indians in Kenya and said that he could not imagine any change taking place in regard to the constitution until there had been a change of Governors. "Personally, I would not desire," said Col. Wedgwood, "any change whatever in the constitution of Kenya, until both the Indian and the native population are in a position to take their respective share in the self-government of the colony."

### Communal Representation

The conversation then turned to the question of communal representation. Col. Wedgwood characterised communal representation as utterly undemocratic and thought that the very fact that the Hertzog Government brought it forward as a means of depriving the Cape natives of their vote on the communal roll ought to be enough to put every lover of the oppressed people on his guard against this travesty of democracy.

Discussing the problem of Indians in Ceylon, Col. Wedgwood said he considered it very unfortunate that the Labour Government's modifications to the recommendations of the Donoughmore Report are to the disadvantage of Indians in Ceylon.

## Clinic For Johannesburg Indian School

The appeal that was issued in these columns some time ago by Messrs. M. M. Mia and I. M. Coovadia for funds for the Johannesburg Indian School Clinic evidently reached a wide circle of friends whose sympathy was shown in that practical manner that enables worthy projects to become realities. From Capetown to Johannesburg donations of varying amounts have been received by the Treasurer and the fund to date stands at £93.

The first response indicates very clearly the active interest that the community is taking in the matter and it is very gratifying to the Committee.

One of the aims of the Committee is to obtain Government recognition of the Clinic and some financial support. Until this purpose is achieved a sum at least of £300 is needed to carry on the functions of the Clinic, and unless this sum is realised the work may be seriously crippled and the present services curtailed.

Such a contingency, we feel sure, is unthinkable, and we urge the community to make as generous donations as their means will allow.

Cheques may be forwarded to:—

The Treasurer, Johannesburg Indian School Clinic, C/r Bree and Malherbe Streets, Newtown, Johannesburg.

The following donations have been received, and all further donations will be acknowledged in this paper from time to time.

Johannesburg:—Messrs. Suliman Mia & Co., £10, M. S. Coovadia & Sons, £10, Teikumdas Bros., £10, Jassub Ebrahim, £10. Capetown:—United Tobacco Company, £10. Johannesburg:—E. E. Dadabhai, £7 10s., Moosa Hassen, £5, E. I. Patel, £5, I. C. Ashabbai & Co., £5, F. Hassen, £5, Suley Ebrahim & Co., £5 5s., H. S. Mia and Pakharia, £5, D. P. Gidoomal & Co., £5 5s.

(Sgd.) I. M. COOVDIA,  
M. M. MIA.

## Governor-General Of Australia

### Royal Prerogative Usurped?

London, April 24.—Considerable embarrassment has been caused in the Dominions Office by the news from Australia that Mr. J. H. Scullin, the Labour Premier, has decided to appoint as Governor-General Sir Isaac Isaacs, Chief Justice of the High Court, an Australian by birth.

The appointment, if confirmed, foreshadows the revolution in Imperial relations formerly threatened from South Africa, and now carried into practice by all-British Australia.

The only reason hitherto suggested for the change is the desire to curtail "luxury expenditure" on three Vice-Regal establishments at Canberra, Melbourne, and Sydney.

In 1928, Australia's Governor-General cost the country £27,000, of which £10,000 was for salary, a similar sum for establishment, and £6,000 for contingencies. This, as Mr. Tom Clarke, Editor of *The Daily News* and a former well-known Australian journalist, points out, means that Australia gets its Governor-General very cheap at the price. If the expenses are reduced, the successor will be criticised for meanness.

A more disturbing feature is that some authorities in London state that Mr. Scullin, in his zeal for the Native-born policy, which is an essential plank in his platform, seems to have ignored the King's prerogative in these matters.

### Australia Resents Appointment

Melbourne, April 24.—Opposition is growing to the proposed appointment of Sir Isaac Isaacs as Governor-General.

Mr. Latham, the leader of the Federal Opposition, said that the question was not the competence of the Australian for office, but whether it was wise or right to change the relations between Great Britain and Australia. No substantial body of opinion desired the change, which would sever an important link with what the great majority of Australians were still proud to call the Mother Country. An unfriendly gesture at a particularly critical time was certain to result in real prejudice to the prestige of Australia.

The Royal Empire Society has expressed grave concern at the proposed innovation. Senator H. E. Elliott, addressing the Empire Reciprocity League, declared that the appointment of Sir Isaac Isaacs would be interpreted by the outside world as an attempt by Australia to cut herself off from the Empire.—*Reuter*.

### Scullin's Choice Turned Down

London, April 27.—A startling message regarding the Australian Governor-Generalship is published by *The Observer*, whose information on these matters is usually most sober and reliable. The message suggests that the British Government has turned down Mr. J. H. Scullin's reported recommendation that Sir Isaac Isaacs should succeed Lord Stonehaven as Governor-General of Australia.

"Apparently Mr. Scullin does not understand the change of position in the Governor-Generalship since the Imperial Conference of 1926, when the acceptance of Dominion status left to the Governor-General the sole function of representing the King, not the British Government. The appointment of the Governor-General is the sole remaining prerogative of the Crown in the Dominions. It would have been competent to the Australian Government to suggest that an Australian should be appointed, but the nomination of an individual is discourteous, as the Crown has always submitted a number of names for choice.

"Another objection is that Sir Isaac Isaacs is too old to stand the strain of the Vice-Regal life."

This news, if true, means that for the first time a Dominion and the British Government have directly clashed over the matter of Crown representation.

## STANGER MADRESSA ANJUMAN ISLAM

A meeting of the members and trustees of the above Madressa will be held at the Madressa Hall, Stanger on Saturday the 10th May, 1930 commencing punctually at 2 p.m.

Business:—1. Minutes, 2. Correspondence, 3. Reports, 4. Balance Sheet, 5. Election of trustees and officials.

E. M. MOOLLA,

Hon. Secretary.



## Gandhi, Nehru And Revolting India

The following letter was written to the *Chicago Unity* by Dr. Kirby Page who had been to India on a visit some time ago:—

I am just completing three memorable days with Mahatma Gandhi. The way had been paved for me by letters from C. F. Andrews. The result was that we were quickly taken into the family circle at the Ashram. We had three long interviews with Mahatmaji, in addition to many fleeting contacts with him during our stay, in spite of the fact that he had been away on tour for three months and was to leave again within a week.

We arrived at the Ashram on Monday, which is Gandhi's day of silence. Beginning at seven o'clock every Sunday evening he observes absolute silence for twenty-four hours. This period is spent in rest, meditation, and writing his weekly contributions for *Young India*. Two of his friends met us at the Ahmedabad railway station and drove us four miles to our destination. Gandhi received us with a most hospitable smile, but was unable to converse with us until later. We spent the day talking with members of the colony or community and in observing the various activities being conducted. At seven we attended corporate worship. The entire company sits in the sand overlooking the river, under the open sky. Following the chanting of the evening prayers, Mahatmaji broke his silence and talked on a devotional theme. Then followed the daily business meeting. As the roll was called each person reported the quantity of his or her spinning for the day. This was followed by a half hour's discussion of a proposed new daily schedule of meals and other activities. We could not understand what was being said, but were intensely interested in watching the proceedings. With the utmost good humor and patience Gandhi brought out the various points of view, until some forty persons had taken part in the discussion. No vote was taken but a unanimous agreement was reached.

Mr. Gandhi then invited us to his own quarters. He seated himself on his bed in the open garden where he sleeps, while we occupied a nearby bench, and there were talked for nearly an hour. Standing about the bed and the bench were a score of his co-workers, listening eagerly to the conversation. It was a picture we shall not soon forget. On the following afternoon we were invited to his office. In accordance with the Indian custom, we removed our shoes at the door and sat on the floor. He was working away at his spinning wheel. For an hour and a half we talked politics. He expressed himself with the utmost frankness concerning the present situation. The spinning seemed to be an almost automatic performance and did not in the least interfere with the conversation. On his busiest days and even when on tour he always spins for at least an hour. On the following afternoon we again talked for more than an hour while he went on spinning.

The four of us felt that we were in the presence of one of the noblest spirits of the age, if not indeed the greatest man now alive. He has a frail little body and weighs less than a hundred pounds. He wears a minimum of clothes, usually goes stripped to the waist, with his feet bare except for sandals when outdoors. His ears are large, his teeth are in wretched shape, his head is shaved, and yet you do not think of him as homely. He eats only fruit and nuts and drinks goat's milk. Arising at three or

four o'clock every morning, he is an indefatigable worker. Rarely alone, he does much of his work with a crowd about him. Methodical in his habits he is as punctual as a clock. His mind cuts like a razor. He expresses himself with brevity and clarity in the purest of English. Body and mind are subjected to an extraordinarily rigorous discipline, yet there is no trace of austerity about him. On the contrary, he is the most jovial of persons. Following the evening meal he usually takes the children for a walk. Ascetic in spirit, entirely selfless in his conduct, sacrificial in his devotion to the masses, Mahatmaji has captured the imagination and won the devotion of more millions of human beings than any other person for many generations.

At Allahabad we were entertained by Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Indian National Congress, the annual gathering of the largest and most important political party, ex-President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, and leader of the Youth League of India. His father, Moti Lal Nehru, who was President of the Congress last year, was away on tour. The Nehru family is very wealthy and lives in a palatial mansion. Father and son disagree drastically in many of their opinions on social questions. Jawaharlal is more radical in his political and economic ideas. He is a Socialist, not a Communist, as is often asserted. A graduate of Harrow and Cambridge, he is brilliantly prepared for leadership. He is seeking to organise students and workers for more efficient activity in the campaign for independence from Great Britain, on the one hand, and from the landlords and industrialists on the other. Favoured with a magnetic and lovable personality, Jawaharlal kindles audiences and crowds wherever he goes and is the idol of Indian youth. So passionate is his revolt against the reactionary customs and cruel practices of conventional religion that he calls himself an agnostic, although it would be difficult to discover many men in any country who possess his untiring zeal for the public welfare. From the tinge of sadness in his countenance, it is apparent that he is suffering intensely over the miseries of his people. That he is honest and sincere is admitted even by his most vigorous opponents. Next to Gandhi or perhaps even more so he is the man most feared by the British Government. The name of Jawaharlal Nehru will appear prominently in the news from India during the coming months. His star is rising rapidly and soon may be shining most brilliantly of all.

From the Nehru home we went direct to the Viceregal Lodge, in Delhi, where we were entertained at luncheon by Lord and Lady Irwin. We were deeply impressed with the personality and attitude of the Viceroy. Everywhere he is held in high honour and is trusted as few Viceroys have been. After luncheon he invited us to his private office and there unfolded to us some of the difficulties with which he is confronted and discussed some of the plans he has in mind. I have no doubt whatever that the Viceroy and the Labour Government intend to do the wise and generous thing for India. They are however, faced with two sets of obstacles; they lack a working majority in Parliament and are therefore compelled to move cautiously in order to carry a portion of the Liberals and Tories with them; and, secondly, they must deal with an impatient and embittered public opinion in India.

The tragic truth is that a considerable portion of educated Indians have lost confidence in the British people. Suspicion and enmity are distressingly prevalent, and old residents here say that the tide is still rising at a perilous pace. The ancient

tradition of British fair-play is rapidly being shattered. British promises are no longer accepted at face value. Even those Englishmen who have served India most faithfully and sacrificially are often objects of abuse and derision. C. F. Andrews is probably more highly honoured and more deeply beloved than any foreigner in this land yet two Indian journals recently launched vicious attacks upon him one count in their indictment being the fact that he had dined with the British Ambassador in Washington! Reminders of the incalculable contribution that Britain has made to India's welfare are impatiently brushed aside or met with sneering references to British hypocrisy and greed. Gratitude towards alien rulers has never in all history been an outstanding characteristic of subject peoples who are passionately seeking freedom. Not until responsible self-government has been actually achieved will most Indian nationalists be in a mood to trust the British or to acknowledge India's debt to them. Mr. Gandhi and other Indian leaders with whom we have talked freely admit that under self-government there will undoubtedly be a much greater degree of inefficiency and corruption. They foresee a period of chaos and possible bloodshed. But they are prepared to face the worst conditions that can be predicted rather than to prolong the present status which they regard as humiliating, demoralizing and intolerable. They, therefore, dismiss as irrelevant the question as to whether or not India is fit for self-government. They say that if necessary, they would prefer to go to hell as citizens of a free nation than to dwell in paradise under British rule. To be "eaten up by the hordes from the Northwest and Central Asia," says Mahatma Gandhi, would be a "position infinitely superior to one of ever-growing emasculation.....a sudden overwhelming swoop from Central Asia.....would be humane deliverance from the living and ignominious death which we are going through at the present moment." So intense is the longing for freedom and so bitter is the hatred of alien domination that British rule in India is certain to become less and less efficient. It can be prolonged beyond another decade only by the bloody sword. Nothing is more certain than that India will achieve self-government within the immediate future or—one hesitates to contemplate the outcome.

It is easy to sneer at the Indian National Congress, as is the fashion in Anglo-Saxon circles out here, and say that it represents a mere handful of India's three hundred millions and that the masses are utterly indifferent to politics. It is beside the point to say that the revolt against British rule is confined to an infinitesimal minority. When in human history did the populace at large even support a revolutionary movement until it had already achieved success? Slavery and serfdom were not abolished by collective action on the part of slaves and serfs. The group of Indians who are determined to win freedom for their nation is already sufficiently large and vocal to make life simply intolerable for British rulers if responsible self-government is not granted at an early date.

India obviously cannot gain freedom by war. But other methods are available. The non-violent non-co-operation movement led by Gandhi in 1920 and 1921 came very nearly succeeding, as British officials have since admitted. In desperation the Mahatma may again summon his people to a programme of non-co-operation. More than 30,000 Indians gladly went to prison during the former campaign and an even greater number may again crowd the jails of the land. A more terrifying prospect is that the

policy of non-violence may be rejected and a campaign of rioting and assassination resorted to. Already there has been an ominous number of political murders and riots. Some of the strongest trade unions are under the sway of leaders who openly advocate the adoption of revolutionary tactics. If another General Dyer insists under the sway of the military minds that law and order must be maintained at any cost, and shoot down in cold blood hundreds of Indians as was done at Amritsar the situation might easily get out of hand all over the country and the terrible scenes of the Mutiny be repeated. After all there are only 165,000 Britishers in the whole of India. An inflamed and infuriated nation of 320 millions cannot permanently be ruled by British bayonets. Moreover, there is an alarming possibility that the Communists may deliberately resort to provocative measures in order to incite British officials to adopt a drastic policy of repression. The number of Communists in the entire country is probably very small, but only a handful of incendiaries is needed to kindle a huge conflagration when so much inflammable material is scattered about.

There are drastic differences of opinion as to how serious would be the results if the Lahore Congress should decide to begin non-co-operation and civil disobedience. One group maintains that nothing significant would happen, that at most there would be occasional riots which would easily be put down, that the few non-co-operators who refused to pay taxes would only lose their property and find themselves in jail, and that the vast majority of Indians would entirely ignore the non-co-operation movement. The other group contends that the country is better prepared for non-co-operation now than it was in 1920 and 1921, that the volume of bitterness and hatred against Britain has increased enormously, and that repressive measures on the part of the Government would only fan the flames. Mr. Gandhi is to be found in the latter camp. He told his co-workers recently that the anticipated campaign early next year would be his last great crusade and that he expected to put every ounce of his energy into it. The National Congress, the organized workers, the students—and Mahatmaji: this is a combination of opponents that I would not care to have arrayed against me if I were Viceroy of India! To grant complete Dominion Status at this time would undoubtedly be a dangerous procedure; to withhold it may prove to be far more perilous.

## Vacancies For Indian Teachers

The attention of those interested is invited to the list of vacant posts in Schools for Indian children appearing in a supplement to the *Transvaal Provincial Gazette* of the 30th April, 1930.

Applications must reach the School Boards not later than the 17th May, 1930.

Copies of the supplement may be obtained on application to the various School Boards in the Transvaal, or to the Secretary, Transvaal Education Department, Pretoria.

**F. S. MALAN,**

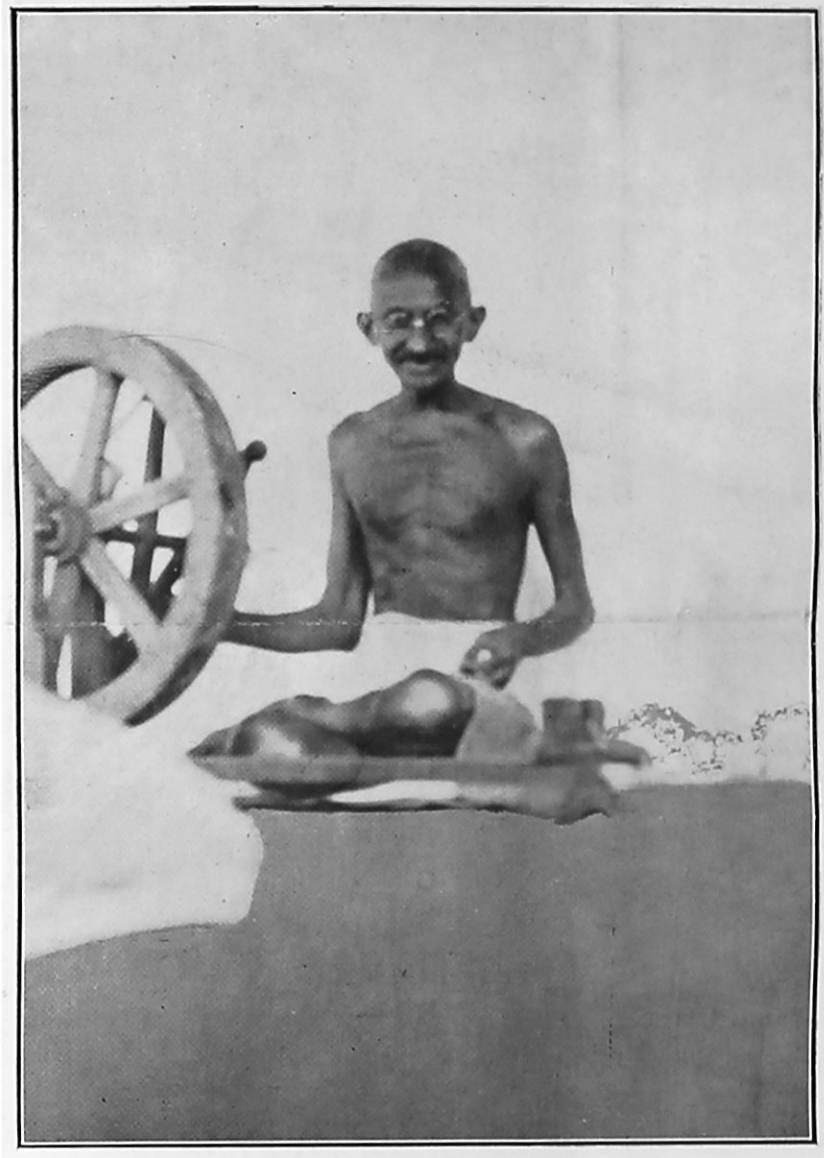
Secretary,

Transvaal Education Department.



*Supplement to "Indian Opinion."*

## *Mahatma Gandhi.*

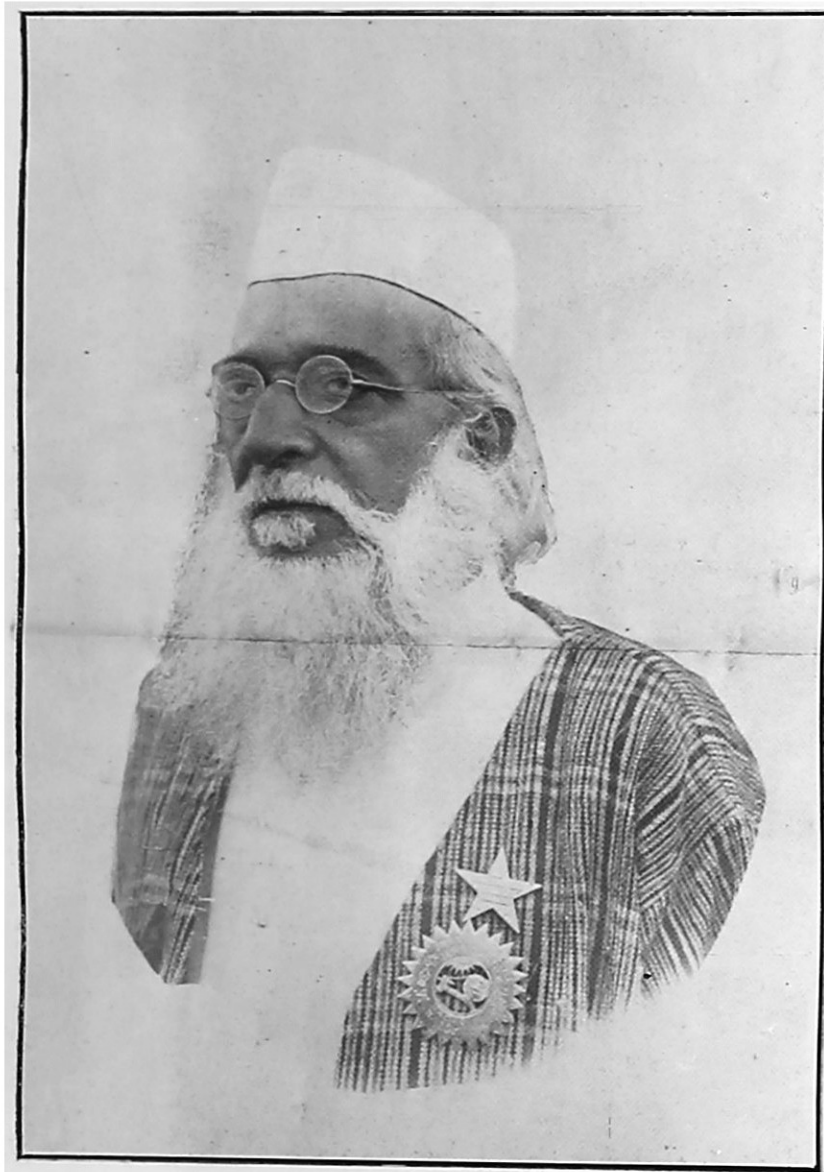


Prior to being taken to the Yeroda Gaol, the following historic message was given by the Mahatma:—

“ HENCEFORTH, REGARD NONE AS UNTOUCHABLES, BUT LET HINDUS, MOSLEMS, PARSEES' AND CHRISTIANS HEARTILY EMBRACE ONE ANOTHER AND THUS EASILY OBTAIN SWARAJ.”

9th May, 1930.

*Mr. Abbas Tyebji.*



Formerly Chief Justice of the Baroda State,  
to whom Mahatma Gandhi has now entrusted the Leadership  
of his Non-Violence Campaign.

