

# Indian Opinion

No. 25—Vol. XXVIII.

Friday, June 20th, 1930.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper  
Price Fourpence.

## ATTACK ON SIR KURMA REDDI

### DOCTOR POTGIETER'S OUTBURST

**A**DDRESSING a meeting of his constituents at Cloverdale, in the North-East Rand Division, Dr. Carl Potgieter, M.P., after having reviewed the Asiatic legislation of the Republican and South African Party Governments, dealt with the position as it is to-day, and also severely criticised Sir Kurma Reddi, the Agent-General for India.

In the course of his remarks Dr. Potgieter said the Asiatic subjects of the Union had, by subterfuge, by trickery, and by every wile, persistently and consistently sought to evade and circumvent the Union laws. The Select Committee on Asiatics in the Transvaal had recommended to Parliament a measure which was liberal, but severe; liberal in that it gave to the Indians the right of acquiring property and other rights on the Rand in certain areas; severe where it dealt with attempted breaches of the laws.

There had been an outcry from the Indian community against this new measure, probably because it made future breaches of the law so difficult. Those who had in the past shown no respect for the law, who had taken chances with it, now appealed in the name of equity and justice not to apply the existing law of the land. Equity and justice were invoked to perpetuate wrongs against the State. What a pass to come to.

But that was not all. In the past Mr. Sastri had emphasised that the agreement of 1926, was bi-lateral, and that the Indians were expected to carry out their share of the bargain.

The present Agent-General for India, Sir Kurma Reddi, the most honoured of the Union's Asiatic guests, now took a different view. He had the impertinence to stump the country to express in public his disapproval of the accepted policy of the Union as regarded the treatment of Asiatics in the Transvaal.

He accused the Union of the perpetration of an injustice if the existing laws were applied to the Witwatersrand, and he attacked the measures proposed by Parliament.

The Agent-General was the Ambassador of a foreign Government to the Union Government. He represented the Government of India with the Union Government. If he had any suggestions to offer, let him address them to the Government instead of flaunting the most elementary rule governing his office.

Sir Kurma Reddi ought to know that it was a gross and unforgivable breach of etiquette for the representative of one Government to comment in public on the policy of another Government, or to seek to influence the public of a foreign State in regard thereto.

"We are determined to see that in future our laws shall be respected and obeyed, even by our Indian subjects," Dr. Potgieter said, "for these laws are dictated by our economic necessities. If it were found that the proposed laws were not severe enough to curb the subterfuge of some they would be made more stringent. That should be clearly understood."

### Missionary Zeal

There seemed to be quite a lot of missionary zeal expressed by some of the most honoured Asiatic guests to the Union. It seemed a pity that India should even temporarily be deprived of these outstanding qualities. There was a forcible reminder that in India millions of the compatriots of Sir Kurma Reddi laboured under disabilities and oppression, which shouted to Heaven for redress. What a fruitful field for any talented and enthusiastic Indian patriot!

In two years' time the whole question of the existing treaty with India would come up for discussion. South Africa loyally stood by her word, and had carried out her obligations under the second gentlemen's agreement to the letter.

There was a duty resting on India and all Indians, namely, to make the emigration scheme a success.

The speaker thought that the time had arrived to start inquires as to what the Indian Government had been doing to implement its side of the agreement of 1926, with special reference to the anti-emigration propaganda amongst Natal Indians, the conditions of the emigrants from South Africa at present in India, and the facilities for re-emigration to East Africa and elsewhere that are being afforded to these emigrants by the Indian Government.—Renter.

When the Durban correspondent of *The Natal Witness* reported the gist of Dr. Potgieter's attack to Sir Kurma Reddi he expressed himself unwilling to be drawn into a controversy on the matter.

He absolutely denied, however, having accused the Government of any perpetration of injustice, nor had he ever stumped the country.

Sir Kurma denied, too, having disapproved of any accepted policy of the Union—not only had he not expressed disapproval in public, but he had never uttered it in private.

"I certainly said that I thought the proposed Bill would cause hardships to Indians," he said. "But it is my genuine opinion, and I do not see any harm in expressing it."—*Natal Witness*.

[We deal with Dr. Potgieter's speech in our leading article which appears on the next page.—Ed.I.O.]

### DR. POTGIETER'S IMPUDENCE

**A**T a meeting of his constituents at Cloverdene, Dr. Carl Potgieter, a member of the Union Parliament, seized the opportunity of making an attack on the Agent of the Government of India, Sir Kurma Reddi. The attack, directed as it was against the "Union's most honoured guest"—to use the doctor's own phrase—was most unwarranted, and the language he made use of on the occasion, cannot otherwise be termed than that resorted to by an irresponsible person. Dr. Potgieter's outburst—for how else his speech could be termed—reveals to a remarkable degree how a position of trust as legislator could be abused by persons of his mentality.

It will be remembered that Dr. Potgieter was a member of the Select Committee appointed to enquire into and report upon the question of occupation and residence, trade and ownership of Transvaal Asiatics. As a result of the recommendations of this Select Committee, the Minister of Interior introduced a Bill called the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment Bill.) This Bill was to have been rushed through the Parliament that has just prorogued, and on representations made to him, the Hon. Minister was pleased to postpone it till the next session for which the Indian community is thankful.

Sir Kurma Reddi is accused by Dr. Potgieter of "stumping the country to express his disapproval of the accepted policy of the Union as regards the treatment of the Asiatics in the Transvaal." He is charged with "gross unforgivable breach of etiquette" for daring to suggest that the proposed Bill will bring in its trail undue hardships to Indians in that Province.

The doctor as one of the Union's legislators, was charged with a specific duty when he was appointed a member of the Select Committee. His position was that of an assessor, who after considering and weighing the evidence that is placed before him, draws his conclusions, which he submits to the supreme body—the Union Parliament—for its final judgment. It would be a gross breach of duty, if he, after the conclusion of such duty, goes about the country, influencing it to support his conclusions, before a verdict is given by the supreme body. In that category stands Dr. Potgieter. The Report of the Select Committee having been submitted, it is for Parliament to pass

judgment. But it would appear that the doctor not content with the Report, to the submission of which he was a party, has resorted to his form of "subterfuge and trickery" by launching himself into a campaign which is bound to bring discredit to his party. Here we have the spectacle of Dr. Potgieter, after his work on the Select Committee had been completed, going to his constituents and inciting them to a state of frenzy, for no other purpose than to force the hands of the Parliament. He has, in our opinion, abused his position as a member of the Select Committee, and his action constitutes a breach of duty that was entrusted to him when he was appointed by the Parliament on the Select Committee.

In attacking Sir Kurma, Dr. Potgieter has exhibited an utter lack of courtesy that is due to a person of high rank who represents a Government. He has attempted by methods, not at all proper and honourable, to lower the prestige and influence of the Agent of the Government of India. His allegations are wholly unfounded as will be presently shown.

Sir Kurma arrived in the Transvaal on the 13th May, 1930. At this time a forecast of some of the provisions of the Bill was published in the Press. At a reception to welcome back Sir Kurma, the Transvaal Indians took the occasion to vigorously protest against, and condemn the Bill as it was forecasted. The Agent, however, advised his countrymen to exercise patience and restraint and to have confidence in the Minister of the Interior and in the wisdom of the Parliament, who, he was sure would do justice to them. That was his first public utterance after his return.

Returning to Natal he was accorded a public reception at Durban. Referring to the Bill, Sir Kurma in unmistakable terms said that "Dr. Malan was a fair and just man. He would do nothing inconsistent with fairness, and the day would come when justice would be done." At another meeting held on Sunday last, the Agent, on request, explained the provisions of the Bill, without making a single comment. It is on these utterances that the doctor formulates his charge against Sir Kurma and said that he "stumped the country to express in public his disapproval of the accepted policy of the Union."

If in using the term 'accepted policy' he was thinking of the policy underlying the Asiatic Tenure Bill, he was betraying ignorance of an elementary principle of constitutional law as no bill can be taken as the accepted policy of the Union until it is passed into law.

Dr. Potgieter says that Sir Kurma "attacked measures proposed by Parliament." We do not know that the mere fact of pointing out where the Bill worked hardship on Indians could be treated as an attack by any reasonable man. But the doctor's logic is his own and inimitable. But anyone can see through his thin veil. Obviously his object is that the Parliament should pass the Bill blind-folded, that the Indian community adversely affected by it should not know its contents and that no representations should be made to the Parliament or to the Minister by or on behalf of the Indian community. Justice and fairness.—  
PAR EXCELLENCE!

Dr. Potgieter in his speech states that the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri had emphasised that the Capetown Agreement was bi-lateral and that the Indians were expected to carry out their share of the bargain. We never disputed it. Since the Round Table Conference, the Indian community in South Africa has adhered to the terms of the Gentlemen's Agreement, so much so, that some of the rights that it had possessed prior to the consummation of the Agreement, had been snatched away.

The Transvaal Indians have been the worst sufferers in this respect. By the application of the Assisted Emigration Scheme, Natal has lost a considerable portion of its Indian population. No responsible man can deny that the Indian community here has carried out its share of the Agreement. But can so much be said of the other side? As we have more than once pointed out in these columns, the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill is an infringement of the Capetown Agreement. It is certainly not in keeping with the spirit of goodwill that was the keynote of the discussions at the Round Table Conference. And yet Dr. Potgieter wants us to believe that the Agent of the Government of India, who is here to keep up the cordial relations,

has not the right to point out that the Bill is not quite consistent with the spirit of friendship underlying the Agreement. In his crusade against the Transvaal Indian traders Dr. Potgieter has stepped beyond the bounds of decency.

We can safely assume that the Agent knows his work better than the Doctor even presumes to know, and has no need to take lessons from him. Just as his distinguished predecessor, Mr. Sastri, has done when he explained to his countrymen the Scheme of Condonation and a provision of the Liquor Bill, Sir Kurma has merely explained the provisions of the Transvaal Bill.

The Indian community of South Africa looks upon Sir Kurma who has been sent out specially to watch its interests, and as such the European community of South Africa must be prepared to expect the Agent to express his disapproval of any measure that works hardship on the Indian community.

#### WHERE DO WE LOOK FOR OUR GAINS?

LET right deeds be thy motive, not the fruit which comes from them," taught Shri Krishna. In the battle confronting the community it will be well for us if we carefully and honestly examine our motives in order to ensure that such action as the future may require of us may be rightly inspired. If our motives be "true" the question of victory or defeat, of success or failure, is of little account. We may not be able to command success, but we may at least deserve it. What is of vital importance is that whatever we determine upon shall be undertaken and pursued *in the right spirit*. What, then, is it that is agitating us? What the grievance? What the wrong we feel called upon to oppose? Let us recall what is this evil we feel must be resisted and fought. There are two aspects of this matter. The one may be regarded as sentimental, the other as practical. The former has to do with our status, the latter with the material losses, the actual inconveniences we already endure and with which we are still further threatened. How do we regard the two and which of them are we primarily concerned to rectify. "To rectify" not "to have rectified" because with our-

selves rests the task of rectification. For thirty five years we have, albeit not without protest, writhed under the constantly reiterated insult of "inferiority," "undesirability," "pariah-hood." Each successive anti-Asiatic statute has been for us a reapplication to our very souls of the branding iron a re-labelling of ourselves, our Motherland, our ancestry, with the bar-sinister; an affront to all that men worthy of manhood hold dear under the one comprehensive word "honour." We have watched and waited and hoped, because sometimes the promised change of heart has seemed to be possible. The final reaffirmation of our degradation, of our helotry, as expressed in the latest parliamentary pronouncement dispels our last hope. Of secondary importance only is the further material despoiling to which the community is to be subjected. As wealthy slaves, we should yet be poorer than beggars, a disgrace to our Motherland and forbears, deserving only the contempt in which we have been held, the shame we have endured. This long night of our degradation must be ended. We ourselves must bring it to a close. An end must be made to this perennial branding of "Indian" as "undesirable," as "outcast," as "coolie," to these legislative insults against our race, our complexion, our character, our manhood. What shall it profit us to lose the last vestige of manliness and self-respect, to lose our very souls, even though we retain some miserable remnant of our material possessions and opportunities? Better far to perish utterly than to suffer existence under such soul-destroying conditions. Endurance is easily mistaken for cowardice. We have been long suffering and far from impatient. It is no longer, now, a question of submitting to the reinforcing of existing disabilities, but of insisting upon a removal of the all too long endured stigma, originally imposed upon us by a former Republic and though advanced by the Imperial Government as a *casus belli*, repeated and re-emphasised by way of "Asiatic legislation" under its own aegis, and finally by the Union Government to whose tender mercies we find ourselves abandoned.

We must save ourselves or perish. Let us elect to save what alone is worth saving, what is imperishable. The worldly wealth we prize each of us must part with sooner or later; the richest cannot take his earthly riches with him when the call comes that

none of us can refuse to answer. Sacrifices and renunciation for Truth's sake, for Honour's sake, these are the making of riches imperishable of which a thousand deaths shall not rob us. Shall we hesitate as to our choice? Can there, longer, be any question as to where we shall look for our gains? One righteous man might have saved Sodom and Gomorrah. Indian honour must be saved by the South African Indian and assuredly the need and the hour will not find the man wanting.

## Natal Indian Congress Extends Welcome To Sir K. V. Reddi

[Continued From Last Issue]

### Mayor's Tribute

Rev. A. Lamont, the Mayor of Durban, on behalf of the borough, welcomed back Sir Kurma Reddi, whom he likened to Joshua, as his predecessor, Mr. Sastri, was to Moses.

Referring to the seething discontent in the East, he felt it would be well to give India autonomy within the limits of the Empire, and in this way avoid the danger of the East uniting together against the West.

Mr. Albert Christopher, president of the South African Indian Congress, said that they had arrived at a critical stage of their history when referring to the Transvaal Tenure Bill.

"We are heart and soul," he added, "with the Agent of the Government of India and with the Indian Government if it stops what threatens us. It will be the noblest day in the history of the Government of India in its association with the Indians of South Africa."

Mr. H. Wodson, editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, in joining in the sentiments of welcome, said that without an agent they were like an army without an intellectual leader.

Referring to Mr. Sastri, Mr. Wodson said that he regarded Mr. Sastri as the most splendid man he had met, and would cherish his memories till his (Mr. Wodson's) dying days.

But, he went on, Sir Kurma was not a whit behind Mr. Sastri as guide and leader. He (Sir Kurma) would lead them wisely and well and would leave them in a far better position than he had found them.

"He will have," said Mr. Wodson, "behind him a very considerable and influential element of the European community."

### Time And Knowledge

Senator S. S. Brisker, following, said he was also glad to say how pleased he was that Sir Kurma had come back to work among them.

He felt that there still was a need for a good deal of education in understanding one another's problems.

"Given time and knowledge," Mr. Brisker declared, "right will prevail and I have no fear for the future."

### Sir Kurma's Reply

Sir Kurma Reddi was warmly applauded on rising to reply to the expressions of welcome.

He said that it was rather difficult for him, after his serious illness and various persuasions to keep

(Continued on page 204)

## THE LATE CASSIM MEER OF DUNDEE

It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of the late Cassim Hajee Suleman Meer, who passed away at his residence in Dundee recently. He was a prominent figure right up to the time of his death in almost every phase of Indian life. Born in Surat in India in 1884, he received his early education in that city. He arrived in Natal with his parents early in 1896 and settled at Talana. Driven away from Dundee, after the battle of Talana Hill, the family retreated on foot to Durban.

In 1905 Mr. Meer obtained a Labour Agent's licence at Dundee and carried on this business for a number of years, later becoming a wool, hide and skin, and produce dealer. A few years' later he opened a small general dealer's business at Talana. It was during this period that through his sole efforts the Dundee Mahomedan Debating Society was founded, Mr. Meer serving as Honorary Secretary for a number of years, until 1918, when he was elected President. Mr. Meer was keenly interested in all kinds of sport and was instrumental in 1915 in establishing the Muslim Sporting Club in Dundee in which body he also served as President. He also held high office in almost every sporting body in Dundee, being in particular the President of the Dundee and District Indian Football Association for a number of years. Early in 1918 Mr. Cassim Meer visited the land of his birth, where he served in the struggle for Home Rule. He was a delegate from the Surat District to the special Indian National Congress at Bombay, while in



LATE CASSIM MEER.

August of that year at the public meeting of all Muslims called under the auspices of the Nawab of Bela, Mr. Meer fought strenuously for the establishment of an Opharn Aid Society, to which he served as Secretary. He also served in the All-India Mahomedan Educational Conference. Returning to Natal in 1919 he established his present business in Dundee, in which he was most successful. He represented the local Indian community at practically every South African Indian Congress throughout the Union. In 1928 he was a member of the deputation which interviewed the Minister at Capetown in connection with the Class Areas Bill.

The deceased was a charitably disposed man, and many institutions owe their present success to his liberality. That he was keenly interested in Education was clearly evidenced by the fact that he donated a large sum to the Sastri College. The success of the local schools is due to his services. The local Mosque and Madressa also owes much to his help and assistance and these institutions will miss him.

In 1928 he established the Northern Natal Indian Chamber of Commerce of which he was the President till his death. He was known as the Grand Old Man of the Chamber of Commerce.

### THANKS

The relatives and family of the late Mr. Cassim Meer (Cassim Hajee Suleman Meer) beg leave to convey their sincere thanks to all those who overwhelmed them with messages of kindness and sympathy for the irreparable loss they have sustained through the untimely demise of his.

"May the Almighty's blessings be on him."

(Continued from page 202)

him back in India, to give joy to the fact of being once more again with them.

"The day I left home I felt that I was responding to the call of duty. I am an old man, 55 years of age, but we are philosophers by nature, and it is ingrained in us. I said 'if I die here, I must die and why not in the service of my country and countrymen.'"

Referring to his recent illness Sir Kurma said that there were genuine expressions of sympathy. When man was in distress humanity prevailed. This was his belief and was not without support from the Mahabharata. When sympathy flowed there was some satisfaction in being born a man.

Touching on the present situation in India, Sir Kurma said that he always regarded British justice as the redeemer of the world. England had taken the greatest share in the emancipation of the slaves.

He was therefore confident, he proceeded, that the second part of the Simon Report would declare India as being fit for dominion status. If not to-day then in another few days time, and further stages to be determined without intervention of the British Parliament.

He assured them that that day would come for it was a natural consequence to their education in British literature and history. And Britain could not go back.

### Non-Violence

Proceeding, Sir Kurma said that on the whole they fought shy of fighting. Their philosophy never made them men of war for that was a wicked thing of the world. The greatest thing to them was non-violence for violence did not achieve anything, and great achievements had been made without resorting to war.

If 320 millions of people were not fit for self-government such a state would be a drag on progress and unfitting to be a part of England.

The Transvaal Tenure Bill, continued Sir Kurma, was a very difficult subject. No stone would be left unturned to see that justice was done. While there were elements and groups in this country, in men like the Rev. Lamont and Mr. Wodson, they were only to prove that they had a just cause.

There were no such laws on the anvil of the world and nowhere in the world. But South Africa had its own peculiar conditions, conflict, and differences; differences between Europeans themselves, between white and the coloured. Nevertheless, he was hopeful that the South African nation would rise equal to the occasion and would do nothing unjust. (A voice: Let us hope so.)

Why should they not hope, went on Sir Kurma; they had similar struggles before yet they had succeeded. What had the Transvaal Indian done to deserve that fate? He knew not. It was for them to show its hardship.

He knew Dr. Malan who, he said, was a fair and just man, but they had to convince him. He would do nothing inconsistent with fairness and the day would come when justice would be done.

### Sympathetic Imagination

What, Sir Kurma thought, was wanted was sympathetic imagination; imagination to soar into the heights and to regard what apparently was different as equal. Sympathy was a divine quality. The ruling races were Christians and they looked to them for sympathy.

What was possible in Durban, Sir Kurma hoped, would be possible in Johannesburg. Here the

Indian was regarded in a more friendly spirit. There were shops of Indian and European, side by side. Many lived as neighbours and sometimes there was some murmuring, but when the European found that the Indian was a good man, in fact, "God's good man," he extended the hand of fellowship and sympathy.

The Congress had done splendid work. It had helped Mr. Sastri and Mr. Tyson and he wanted it to help him also. In fact, he needed the assistance of both the Indian and the European.

Continuing, Sir Kurma stated that South Africa had a reputation to maintain in the community of nations.

"We have not asked for the vote or to sit in your Parliament. We want a helping hand as promised in the Capetown Agreement.

"We are civilised when . . ." Sir Kurma was proceeding when there was laughter in the hall.

"Don't be proud," he warned them. "We have lost much of it."

"Not only power," proceeded Sir Kurma, "but there were the cultural and scientific institutions of Western civilisations. But if they leave you (the Indians) behind, they will not be true to their civilisation."

"They will come round," were the speaker's concluding words, "and do justice and be fair."

## News Of Independence Struggle In India

### Working Committee Resolutions

Allahabad, Tuesday.—The working committee of the Congress, after being in session for four days, decided to-day to call on the country, to meet the situation created by the Viceroy's recent Ordinances prohibiting picketing, non-payment of taxes and tampering with the loyalty of Government servants by publicly disobeying them.

The committee also advises a social boycott of Government officers who are known to have participated in "unjustifiable assaults" and the extension of the area of the campaign for non-payment of land and other taxes.

Newspapers are allowed to resume publication on undertaking to write articles in defiance of ordinance and to disseminate the views of the Congress, otherwise the committee will refuse to remove the ban on publication which the Delhi Journalists' Association requested.—Renter.

### Many Arrests In Calcutta

Calcutta, Tuesday.—There were 62 arrests this morning as a sequel to a police raid on the offices of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.

Charged with being in possession of arms and ammunition and incriminating documents, those arrested include the presidents of the Calcutta and Rajshahi Civil Disobedience Committees and a "colonel" of the Bengal Volunteers.

The president of the Calcutta Civil Disobedience Committee was arrested in connection with the publication of news items in Satyagraha bulletins. The police removed the Nationalist flag from the building.—Renter.

### Processions On "Sholapur Day"

Bombay, June 17—Manjrebar and Durandbar, joint secretaries of the Bombay Congress Committee, and Manohar Gandhi, Editor of *The Congress Bulletin*, have been sentenced to six months' rigorous im-



prisonment for disobeying an order prohibiting processions on "Sholapur Day."

Pickers of foreign cloth shops to the number of 13 were arrested this morning and sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.—Reuter.

### The Revenue Of Government Affected

London, June 17.—*The Daily Telegraph's* Bombay correspondent reports that Pandit Motilal Nehru is depressed over the position as he is informed that opinion in England and America is hardening against the Congress, and it is doubtful if he will become the leader. The cotton boycott is serious. Owing to falling prices, a deadlock affecting the Stock Exchange and shares dropping, the Central Government's revenue is affected. The value of cotton piece goods imports has fallen from 576 lakhs of rupees in April of last year to 397 this April, while the May figures are worse still. Railway receipts are also heavily down. How the deficit will be met is a problem of appalling gravity.

### Transportation For Ten Years

Calcutta, Sunday.—A special tribunal at Alipore yesterday completed the trial of 27 Bengalis charged with conspiracy and manufacture, or being in possession of explosives.

Nirajan and Sengupta, two leaders, were sentenced to transportation for 10 years, and five others to seven years, rigorous imprisonment each.

Seven received terms of rigorous imprisonment ranging from three to five years, while eight were acquitted, four of whom, however, were immediately arrested again under the Bengal Ordinance.

Out of 27, one turned King's evidence and was pardoned, and another was discharged through lack of evidence.

### Mill Area Picketing

In pursuance of a campaign of widespread defiance against the Anti-Picketing Ordinance, the Bombay Congress Committee began picketing in the mill area of the city.

Two hundred and fifty volunteers were posted at 120 liquor shops, and were ordered to prostrate themselves in front of all customers who did not heed their requests not to enter. They did not have to do this very often, however, as most of the mill workers kept away.

The military authorities at Poona have received an urgent message from Bombay asking for a battalion of Mahrathas to be sent to Bombay immediately.

It is stated that troops have also been summoned from other places, and presumably the activity is in connection with the enforcement of the Anti-Picketing Ordinance.—Reuter.

### Viceroy's Ordinance Enforced

Bombay, June 16.—The first effect of the Viceroy's anti-intimidation ordinance made itself felt this morning when the police arrested 38 followers of Gandhi for picketing shops and selling foreign cloth inside the European business quarter.

Gandhi's followers were apparently undeterred by the monsoon which burst during the week-end.

The arrested men have been sentenced to four months' hard labour. Their places outside the shops were immediately taken by more volunteers, who were also promptly arrested. A large crowd cheered the volunteers.

Subsequently 45 other followers of Gandhi, of whom 42 were women, were arrested in a suburb for picketing liquor premises.—Reuter.

### Slump In Toddy Shop Licences

Poona, June 16.—The annual auction of toddy shop licences in the Poona district only realised £150, compared with £2,500 last year. Several bidders suggested the postponement of the sales for six months.—Reuter.

### Simon Report Criticised

Bombay, Tuesday.—The intransigent attitude of the Swarajist Press is illustrated by the reception given to the report of the Simon Commission. *The Bombay Chronicle* characterises it as an "insult." *The Indian Daily Mail* describes it as a rather badly cooked rice pudding strongly flavoured with the cinnamon of diehardism.

More enlightened Indians associated with the Liberal Parties are scarcely less critical. Sir Phiroze Sethna, president of the Liberal Federation, anticipates that the Commissioners' recommendation will give India as little as possible and keep England's hold on her as long as possible.

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, late member of the Bombay Executive Council, is equally certain that the recommendations will never satisfy Indian national aspirations.

On the other hand, the European Press regards the unanimity of the report as a good omen, and pays tribute to its penetrating comprehensiveness.

A message from Simla states that the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, will probably address a joint session of the Indian Legislature on July 9.—Reuter.

### Indian Assembly Elections

Simla, June 16.—The General Election for the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State has been fixed for September.

Anticipating the round-table conference, the Government has prepared in the last three months' Estimates for that purpose of 631,000 rupees, including the passages and allowances of delegates. The latter will receive £100 a per month, besides a subsistence allowance of 25s. a day.—Reuter.

### Clinic For Women And Children

A Clinic for the help of the poor has been opened on the Umgeni Road not far from Queen's Bridge. Indian women and children can attend on Mondays from 10 to 12. As there is at present no medical inspection of Indian Schools it is hoped that the Clinic will be of use to the children attending the Indian Schools at Briardene, Seacow Lake and Prospect, which are all within easy distance of the Clinic.

Those too poor to pay are seen free of charge but a small charge is made for medicines, and those able to pay are asked to do so, for the help of those who are really poor.

### Cable To Mrs. Gandhi

At a meeting of the Indian community held under the auspices of the Grahamstown British Indian Association the following cable was sent to Mrs. Gandhi (Ahmedabad):—

"British Indian Association Grahamstown regret arrest great soul Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders, who seek by soul-force to win self-government for India and prays that in her struggle for freedom India will be guided by Almighty."

—Secretary.

## Indian Appeal Succeeds

On Wednesday evening (June 4) the Estcourt Town Council sat as a Licensing Appeal Board to hear the appeal of Mr. E. M. Haffjee, an Indian storekeeper, against the refusal of the Licensing Officer, Mr. W. Heron Pitcher to grant him a licence in respect of two rooms adjoining his present licenced premises.

These two rooms form the corner portion of the block in which he has been trading for a number of years. The Licensing Officer had written his willingness to grant the licence provided that archways between the present store and these rooms were opened, that the corner door was closed up, and that a doorway should be made into the new rooms to the side street, Albert Street.

The nature of appellant's business is such that it attracts large numbers of non-Europeans, who create a nuisance to the passers-by by loitering on the pavement and kerb outside the store, congregating in noisy groups, obstructing traffic, and using the kerb as an eating place.

This state of affairs was the only objection to the granting of the licence.

Mr. Drummond said the objection was unreasonable and queried whether it would have been raised in respect of European business premises. He mentioned European stores in town that from time to time attracted non-European customers and loiterers. Apparently neither the storekeeper nor the police had any power to prevent this nuisance nor to drive loiterers away.

### A Real Nuisance

Mr. Drummond said he sympathised with the Licensing Officer in his difficulties and saw that his aim was to mitigate a very real nuisance, but he did not think the closing of the corner entrance would be effective. The only way to stop the trouble would be for appellant to shutter all his windows and not provide an attractive display. That, of course, would be a ridiculous condition to make.

He considered the sight of vacant premises in the heart of the town far more an eyesore to travellers, and one likely to give visitors a bad impression of the prosperity of the town. With regard to any conditions in connection with the granting of the licence he said it was not fair to his client, and might in future be the means of causing him to fall in a trap. The Board went into committee to consider their decision. After an interval the appellant was called in to answer whether in the event of the licence being granted he would undertake not to dispose of any part of the business during the year, and whether in 1931 he would undertake to have the whole business combined under one licence.

Appellant's counsel signified his willingness to abide by these stipulations, provided this was put on record, whereupon the Board adjourned once more.

At the conclusion of their deliberations the chairman, Dr. B. J. Bennett, the Mayor, announced that the licence would be granted provided that no part of the business should be disposed of during 1930, and that only one licence to cover the premises should be sought in 1931.

### Decision Illegal

The Licensing Officer rose to suggest that the decision was illegal, that the question before the Board was merely the upholding or the rescinding of his refusal, and that no conditions were in their power to impose.

There the matter now stands, and it is not known what further steps, if any, will be taken.

## Sir William Solomon

### Death In London

The Mayor of Capetown received a cable message from Miss Emily Solomon, in London, stating that Sir William Solomon, the late Chief Justice, had died on last Friday morning.

"A great judge has gone," said Sir John Kotze, one of Sir William Solomon's old colleagues, when informed of Sir William's death. "Not merely the legal profession, and particularly his colleagues on the Bench but the whole of South Africa will grieve at a common loss. Sir William Solomon had many admirable qualities as a judge. His outstanding qualities were his patience and his wonderfully well-balanced mind. Some of his judgments will stand for ever as monuments to his learning, his strength of reasoning and his sound law."

"It is only as time goes on that those who knew him best and are best able to judge of his services to the country, will more and more feel his loss. I am sure that the profession and the people of the Union will grieve at the departure of a strong and impartial judge, a dear friend, and lover of his country."

Tributes to Sir William Solomon were paid by the Judge-President (Mr. Justice Gardiner,) on behalf of the Bench, and by Mr. Ralph Close, K.C., M.P., on behalf the Bar, at a full assembly of judges and members of the Bar and Side Bar in the Supreme Court.—*The Star*.

## Colonial-born Indians And The Asiatic Bill

Vigorous protests were made against the tone of the Asiatic Bill at a meeting at Newtown convened recently by the Colonial-born Indian Association. Many of the clauses in the Bill were described as iniquitous, while it was held that the Government, having failed in the voluntary repatriation scheme, was now devising methods which would virtually drive Indians from South Africa.

Mr. D. M. Nursoo, president of the association, said that most Indians felt relieved and thankful when the Round-Table Conference between the Union and Indian Governments began. This resulted in the creation of a new spirit, and a "gentleman's agreement" was formulated.

"Unfortunately for us, however," said Mr. Nursoo, "the new Bill places Transvaal Indians in a worse position than they were ever before. Although the Gold Law of 1908, the Townships Act and the Act of 1919 are in existence, these have never been placed in operation against us. But under Dr. Malan's present Bill these legislative measures have been tightened up to such an extent that if enforced, as they doubtless will be, they will cause financial ruin and compulsory segregation into defined areas—actually the sole aim and object of the Bill."

"All the nice talk over the 'upliftment' and other clauses contained in the 'gentleman's agreement' must automatically cease to function, so that we shall either have to face wholesale ruination and humiliation or prepare to leave these shores. Rather than accept the Bill, some Indians will probably leave for their homes in India, but what about the 80 per cent. of the total Indian population who



were born in South Africa, and, therefore, know of no other home?

The following resolution was carried unanimously: "That the Asiatic Bill will mean the total ruination and ultimate elimination of Indians resident in the Transvaal is clear, and this meeting feels deeply that legislation of this kind is contrary to the spirit of the Round-Table Conference and a direct violation of the Indo-Union Agreement in that the principle of segregation is reintroduced in another form—namely, "defined area."—*The Star*.

## Transvaal

The *Servant of India* writes under the above heading:—

From a message that appeared in the *Times of India* on the 10th May, from its correspondent in Capetown, it appears that the Select Committee of the Union Parliament which sat to consider the Indian licensing question have submitted their report. The recommendations of the Committee have not yet been made available in this country. But according to the correspondent of the *Times*, one of the recommendations seems to be that the present occupiers of stands on proclaimed ground, not protected under the law of 1919, should vacate such stands within five years. If this is correct, it spells disaster to the Indian traders in the Transvaal, 75 per cent. of whom, it is said, are without the protection of the law of 1919. It will be recalled that under the law of the Transvaal Indians are prohibited from even renting business premises in certain areas; but the law was never strictly enforced. As a matter of fact, the Government of the Union and the Municipalities and Licensing authorities were all parties to the perpetration of the illegalities of the Indian traders. The illegalities as on the 1st of May 1919 were condoned by the law of 1919. But a good number of Indian traders who then received immunity lost it for one reason or other, not always because of their own fault. But their vested interests have been allowed to grow and it is not only a hardship but a piece of cruelty now to tell all these Indian traders to close their businesses within five years. Under the Capetown Agreement the Union Government solemnly undertook to see that the permanent Indian population in the Union did not lag behind other sections of the population. The Union Government also undertook to give due consideration to the proposals advanced by the Indian Delegation to the Round Table Conference calculated to relegate the issue of trading licences by law instead of by discretion of the licensing authorities and to restore the jurisdiction of the judiciary in licensing disputes. It may be that Government finds public opinion not sufficiently advanced to permit them to repeal all the repressive and anti-Indian laws; it may even be that they do not find it feasible even to liberalise the licensing laws; but as a civilised Government, they cannot do less than protect the vested interests, which right under their nose and with their connivance, have been allowed to grow up. It is a species of barbaric cruelty now to attempt to extinguish these vested interests in the course of five years. The tyranny of prejudice can go no further.

It is some slight consolation that this cruel recommendation is not a unanimous one but has only a majority behind it. If the Government and people of India make timely and vigorous representations to the Union Government, the grave danger may yet be staved off. We feel confident that General

Herzog and Dr. Malan, who in the Capetown Agreement forged a solution of the Indian problem which other statesmen of South Africa and of Great Britain failed to achieve, who solemnly promised that the permanent Indian population would be uplifted, will shrink from doing anything calculated to deprive them of the unique fruit of their statesmanship, to tear up the Capetown Agreement, and write them down as violators of their most solemn promises.

The Countess of Cromer and her son, the Hon. Evelyn Baring, of the staff of the Agent-General for India, who left Capetown by car last week, were the guests of Miss V. Samy at Kimberley. They arrived in the city and are staying at the Carlton Hotel.

"WANTED traveller on commission basis for Reef and Johannesburg. Good opportunity for right man. Apply at anyone of the following addresses:

Longwear Footwear (Pty) Ltd., 9, Adams Arcade,  
40, Market Street, Johannesburg, or Kelly & Heimann, 105, Market Street, Johannesburg.

## DIGESTIVE DISTRESS

### HELP FOR DYSPEPTICS

Many people have stomachs that have become too weak to do their work. Whatever food is eaten lies undigested in the system, fermenting and creating gas, and causing much distress. This means that the stomach is suffering from a deficiency of good blood. By their action in building up and enriching the blood, Dr. Williams' pink pills restore strength to weak stomachs, and so banish the miseries of indigestion.

Read the experience of Miss M. A. Ross, 36, Stratford Street, Cotmanhay, near Ilkeston, who says: "About six months ago I began to be troubled with pains between my shoulders. After every meal I suffered miseries from heartburn, palpitation, wind and severe pains in the stomach. The doctor said I had gastritis.

"A friend recommended Dr. Williams' pink pills, and after the second bottle I began to feel the benefit. The pains lessened and I felt brighter. I continued with the pills and was soon able to eat without any pain whatever. Now I feel as fit as the proverbial fiddle."

So banish your indigestion by taking Dr. Williams' pink pills. Of all dealers, or direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., P. O. Box 604, Cape Town; 3s. 3d. for one bottle, or six for 18s., post free.

### "INDIAN OPINION"

#### Subscription Rates.

#### WITHIN THE UNION :

Yearly ... ..	20	0
Half-Yearly ... ..	10	6

#### OUTSIDE THE UNION and OVERSEAS

Yearly ... ..	20	6
Half-Yearly ... ..	10	6

# ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તાક ૨૮ ઇં.

ફીનીક્ષ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૦ જુન ૧૯૩૦

અંક ૨૫

## નોંધ અને સમાચાર

**મરહુમ કાસમ હાજી સુલેમાન ખીર**

ઈંદીન પ્રસિદ્ધ વેપારી મરહુમ કાસમ હાજી સુલેમાન ખીરના મૃત્યુની નોંધ લેતાં અમને બિંદ ઉત્પલ થાય છે. નાટાલ પ્રાંતના હોંદીઓના બહેર જીવનમાં તેમણે પોતાના મૃત્યુ પર્વત એક ઉપયોગી બાબ બજાવ્યો હતો. તેમનું જન્મ સ્થાન સુરતમાં હતું. સન ૧૮૮૪ માં સુરતમાં તેમનો જન્મ થયો હતો. સન ૧૮૯૬ ની સાલમાં તેઓ પ્રથમ પોતાના માતાપ સાથે નાટાલમાં આવ્યા હતા અને ટલાનામાં રહેવા હતા. ટલાના હીલની બહાષ પછી આ કુટુંબને પદ્મ ચાલીને ડરખન આવવું પડ્યું હતું. સન ૧૯૦૫ ની સાલમાં મરહુમ ખીરે બેચર એજન્ટ તરીકેનું કાર્યસન્ન મેળવ્યું હતું. પાછળથી તેઓ હન અને ચામડાના વેપારમાં જોડાયા તેમણે ટલાના માં પાછળથી જનરલ ડિલ્વરની ફુકાન ખોલી હતી. દરેક બહેર કાર્યની અંદર તેઓ ઉત્સાહથી ભાગ લેતા હતા. તેમના પ્રમાણથી ડંડી મોશ્વેડન ડીમેટીયમ સોસાયટી સ્થાપવામાં આવી હતી. જે સોસાયટીના તેઓ ફેટલાક વર્ષ સુધી સેક્રેટરી હતા પછી તેઓ પ્રમુખ તરીકે કાર્ય કરતા હતા. સન ૧૯૧૫ માં તેમણે ડંડી મુસ્લીમ સ્પોર્ટ્સ કલબની સ્થાપના કરી હતી. અને સંસ્થાના તેઓ પ્રમુખ હતા. ડંડી અને ડી-ટ્રીકટ ઇન્ડિઅન પુર જોલ એસોસીએશનના પણ તેઓ પ્રમુખ હતા. મુખ્યમાં મળેલી ખાસ રાષ્ટ્રીય મહાસભાના તેઓ સુરતથી ડેલેગેટ તરીકે સુદાહને ગયા હતા તેઓ સન ૧૯૧૬ માં હોંદથી અન્ને પાછા ફર્યા હતા અને ડંડીમાં તેમણે વેપાર ખોલ્યો હતો અને તેમાં તેમને, ફેટલ, મળી હતી. સા. આ. ઇ કોમિસની દરેક બેઠકની અંદર ડંડીના હોંદીઓના પ્રતિનિધિ તરીકે તેમણે હાજરી આપી હતી, કલાસ ચેરીયાજી બીલ જે સમયે પ્રસિદ્ધ થયું તે વેળા મીનીસ્ટરની મુલાકાતે ડેપ્યુટીન ગર્વ હતું તેમાં પ્રજા મરહુમે ભાગ લીધો હતો. ડંડીની કાળાને પણ તેમણે પોતાની સેવા આપી હતી. ડંડીની મસજીદ અને મહેસાને તેમણે અનેકવાર મદદ આપી હતી સન ૧૯૨૮ ની સાલમાં તેમણે ધી નોબેલ નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન ઇમ્પર એજ કોમર્સની સ્થાપના કરી હતી અને પોતાના મૃત્યુ સુધી જે સંસ્થાના પ્રમુખ રહ્યા હતા આ પ્રમાણે મરહુમની અનેક બહેર પ્રવૃત્તિઓ હતી. અમે આ અંકમાં તેમનો ફોટો આપવાનું કુરસ થાયું છે. અમે મરહુમના કુટુંબ પ્રત્યે દીલસોજી બહેર કરીએ છીએ અને મરહુમના આત્માને ખુદા કારીત આપો એવી બંધી કરીએ છીએ.

**શ્રી. ચતુર્ભુજ વહીબહાસ**

બેરાની મુપ્રસિદ્ધ વેપારી પહેડી ગેરખનહાસ ખેતસીનાં એનેજર. લાહ ચતુર્ભુજ વહીબહાસ તથા જાંના બીજા વેપારી

બાઇ ગોકળદાસ હંસરાજ ગયે અઠરાડીયે 'કરખન આવ્યા હતા અને બાઈ સોરાળજને લાં ઉતર્વાં હતા શ્રી. ચતુર્ભુજ તેમનાં પતિન તથા શ્રી ગોકળદાસ હંસરાજ શીનીકસ સંસ્થાના ટ્રસ્ટી શેઠ ઉમર હાજી આમોહ ઝવેરી સાથે શીનીકસ જેવા ખાસ આત્મા હતાં. તેમની જોડે મીસીસ સોરાળજ પણ આવ્યાં હતાં. તેમણે પ્રેસ તથા સેટઅપેટ ફરીને જેમું હતું અને તે જોઇને તેમને આનંદ થયો હતો. 'ઇ. ઝો' ના નિબાળ માટે શેઠ ચતુર્ભુજને પૈકિ ૫ તથા શ્રી. ગોકળદાસે પૈકિ ૧ બેટ તરીકે આપ્યો હતો. તેઓ સોમવારે ઉપાલી સ્ટીમરમ પાછા બેરા જવા ઉપડી ગયા છે શ્રી. ચતુર્ભુજ એક સુલ્કિ ક્ષીત વેપારી છે અને બહેર કાર્યમાં પણ અત્યંત રસ લે છે બેરાના સ્વતંત્ર વાનાવરણમાં ફરેલા એક પ્રતિષ્ઠિત હોંદી વેપારીને આ દેશમાં ગેરજો આપજને ભમભવ ટેડ જેવાજ અવે છે તે જોઇને શ્રી. ચતુર્ભુજને ડરખનનો ફેટલોક મોહ લાગ્યે હશે તે તો તેઓશ્રી પોતાના અતુભવનું વર્ણન અમને લખ જણાવે લારેજ ખખર પડે

**સા. આ. ઇ. કોમિસની એકઝીક્યુટીવ**

મયા સ્વીવારે સવારે દેશ વાગે સા. આ. ઇ કોમિસન એકઝીક્યુટીવની સભા તામીલ ઇન્ડિયનમાં મળી હતી સભામાં પ્રમુખ એડવોકેટ ફીરોઝર. મેસર્સ એસ અર નવકુ. એડવોકેટ ગોફ્રે, ઇ. માલ, સોરાળજ, એ. આઇ માજી, એસ. બી. મેઠ, એમ ડી બરમ્બી, એમ. આઇ. જેથ (રિવ. સીઆમનીની પ્રોકસીથી) તથા પ્રમજી દેહાઇ હાજ હતા. ડ્રાંસવાલ એક્ષીપાટીક ટેન્ચર બીલ વિષે લમભગ બા વાગ્યા સુધી સભામાં ચર્ચા ચાલી હતી અને મીટીંગ રાત્રે ન વાગે ફાટી મળી હતી જેમાં એવો ફરાવ થયો હતો કે એક્ષી પાટીક બીલ વિષે એક સાધારણ માલુસ પણ સમજી જ એવું એક પેગ્સેટ તૈાર કરવું અને તે તેવાર થયે બીજી મીટીંગમાં તે રજુ કરી પ્રસિદ્ધ કરવાની ંવવસ્થા કરવી અને તે સભામાં બીલ વિષે યું પમર્લા બરવા તેનો નિર્ણય કરવો

**શ્રી. કડાલી ઉપર અંકુશ**

નેડીવોના અગેમન શ્રી કડાલીના ઉપર પાલસિટે હમણાં પસાર કરેલો તોફાની સભાઓને લખતો કાપડો લાઇ પા' પણ માલ સુધી ફરવરકોપ', બેહાનીસબર્ગ બર્મીસન, બેકર બર્ગ, બેનેનો અને સ્પીંગલના મેજસ્ટ્રેટરીયલ ડીસ્ટ્રીક્ટમાં બહે સભાઓમાં હાજરી ન આપવાનો હુકમ કરમાવવામાં આર્ગ છે. પ્રીટોરીયાના બેઠકનમાં ૫૦૦ નેડીવો સમજી ભાષા આપી શ્રી. કડાલી જતાં હતા તે વેળા પ્રીટોરીયાના સ્ટેક ઉપર પોલીસોએ તેમને આ નોટીસ આપી હતી. ન્યામખાતા

