

# Indian Opinion

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## TRANSVAAL INDIANS PROTEST AGAINST ASIATIC BILL APPEAL TO WITHDRAW THE BILL AMEND THE GOLD LAW

**P**RESIDING at a mass meeting of the Indian community held at Osrin's Picture Palace on Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Mr. Cassim Adam severely criticised the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Bill and stated in the course of his speech:

"We are here to-day to make our last attempt to persuade the Government to spare us the indignity and financial ruin with which the community is threatened by the Bill. It is not only with the voice of the Transvaal community that this appeal is being made. Our voices are re-inforced by the voice of every Indian in South Africa and I dare to add strengthened by the sympathy of every Indian outside of the Union and by an influential body of non-Indian opinion, both inside and without.

The Indian question in South Africa is no longer one of strangers within the Gates. It is a simple question of fair and equitable treatment of a civilised people, who are lawfully here and who claim no more than the elementary rights of citizenship. We have made this country our home; to a very large proportion of us, it is the land of our birth—our homeland. What we claim is no more than equal treatment, reasonable opportunity to bring out the best of which we are capable, with which to serve as loyal citizens, the land of our adoption and of our birth. We have never shirked our duty to this, our country. No public call has found us unresponsive, either in the matter of service or monetary contributions. We have endeavoured to show our worth as citizens. Our endeavours are met with the response that we are "coloured" and therefore must suffer the disabilities of the coloured. If only one matter, that of taxation, has any claim to equality, then we are equals only when it comes to paying. In other respects we are now to become outcasts, a community of lepers, whose every touch is taint. We are, according to the Bill, to be expelled from towns in which we built our business to "locations" where we shall neither contaminate our European competitors nor yet encroach upon the trading monopoly in which we have hitherto shared. Such is the fate planned for us. Such will be the consequences if the Bill becomes law. But I would ask you to remember also that, quite apart from the Bill, Acts 34 and 35 of 1908, are an ever-present menace to our peace and security; and that while these statutes remain on the Statute Book, a sword hangs on our heads that any moment may descend and destroy us. We shall have no peace until these Statutes are repealed or amended in so far as they affect us adversely. To that end we must also concentrate our every effort. We must labour to amend the Acts all of which constitute the brand mark of our alleged inferiority—no longer disgrace the Statute Book of a civilised State.

Continuing Mr. Cassim Adam asked: What

effective value can the Capetown Agreement have as long as these clogs upon our activities remain? That agreement purported to afford us fair and equitable opportunity for self-advancement, excluding political equality, to give us equality of opportunity so that we might rise on our merits and having proved our worth, ultimately take the place we were qualified to take in the State of which we are part. How is this possible if we are to remain fettered by these laws? The spring of promise is tainted at its very source, and unless it is purified by this taint its waters must continue to poison instead of to refresh. Therefore it is that I urge that, bad as the Bill is, it is only an added evil to already existing evil. We have not only to resist the former; we have to cure the latter also. Only by doing this, shall we be safe and worthy of respect as a self-respecting section of the community.

The Bill may become law, but our further degradation it shall not accomplish. If we are to be ruined, then ruin shall be ours in honour, not in dishonour. We owe something to our self-respect. We owe a duty to our forbears. We refuse to acquiesce in the enslavement of our children in bequeathing them a legacy of helotage. Our lives are at the best but passing events; the richest of us must be parted from his possession sooner or later. Therefore, I for one choose the loss of both rather than submission to this final degradation and insult.

Mr. A. Christopher, President of the South African Indian Congress, urged the community to unite and act as one man and with one voice. They should do so in the manner in which the struggle must be faced.

Mr. A. I. Kajeer of Durban, the Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, and Mr. S. R. Naidoo, Secretary of the South African Indian Congress, appealed to the community to work unitedly and wholeheartedly.

Mr. Moolje Patel, after dealing with the provisions of the Bill, moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting representing the Indian community in the Transvaal, and supported by the representatives of the Indian community of other Provinces once again prays that the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of withdrawing the Bill, thereby sparing the Transvaal community from the degradation and financial ruin that must inevitably follow its passing into law, and places on record its emphatic protest against the measure as being wholly unacceptable and one to which they can never agree." This was seconded by Mr. Rasool Khan Patel and supported by Mr. C. B. Desai and passed.

Thereafter Hajee Habib of Pretoria moved:—

"That this meeting respectfully and earnestly appeals to the Government to introduce into Parlia-

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## AN EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

**T**HE executive of the South African Indian Congress was held in Johannesburg last Sunday. In view of the serious position that has arisen out of the proposed Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill the executive very wisely decided to hold an Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress in Johannesburg on the 5th and 6th October 1930. The Indian community of the Union will surely welcome this decision. In the last session of the Union Parliament the Minister of the Interior has promised to the House of Assembly to re-introduce the Bill as it stands. It is as clear as broad day light that if the Bill becomes law the whole of the Indian community of the Transvaal will be totally ruined. A mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian community was held under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress on Sunday last at Johannesburg to protest against this Bill. The meeting was represented by the delegates from various parts of the Province. We publish the full report of the proceedings of the meeting in this issue elsewhere. It can be said from the presidential speech and from the resolutions passed that the Indian community is realising seriously the threatened ruination of their financial position and of their right to trade in general. The first two resolutions that have been passed by the meeting are very important. We commend these two resolutions to every self-respecting Indian in the Transvaal. The first resolution urges the Union Government to consider the desirability of withdrawing the Bill altogether and places on record its emphatic protest against the measure as being wholly unacceptable and one to which the Indian community can never agree. The second resolution is equally important. It earnestly appeals to the Government in the name of the Indian community to introduce into Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity a measure whereby Acts 34 and 35 of 1908 be amended and the disabilities they impose upon the community particularly those under sections 130 and 131 of the Gold Law be removed. These sections of the Gold Law materially affect the trading rights of Asiatics and prohibit them from residing on or occupation of proclaimed

ground. These Acts were passed in the year 1908 when the great struggle of passive resistance was going on in the Transvaal. Mahatma Gandhi in the year 1914 had written a letter to Mr. Gorges the then Secretary to the Minister of Interior to the effect that his countrymen had asked him to include in the programme of passive resistance these two Acts and the Law of 1885 and other licences laws of the different provinces. But he said he was unable to comply with their wishes, but he reserved the right of his countrymen to raise at some future time the question of the amendment of these various laws so as to give them full rights of residence, trade and ownership of land. In a farewell message to his countrymen he assured them that the settlement arrived at does not preclude them from agitating against these Acts. These laws should have been amended long ago to remove the disabilities they imposed on the community. Instead the Union Government even after the Capetown Agreement have thought it fit to bring in this Bill which threatens to bring disaster to the whole Indian community of the Transvaal. It is definitely against the spirit and letter of that 'Gentleman's Agreement.' This Bill has created a similar position in the Transvaal to-day as it was created by the introduction of the Areas Reservation Bill in the year 1924. We definitely say that the Capetown Agreement will merely be a scrap of paper if this Bill becomes law. In that event the sooner the Agreement ends the better it is for the community. We urge the Government of India through their Agent Sir Kurma Reddi to seriously think over this vital question and take a very strong action immediately. The Emergency Conference we have no doubt will seriously move in this matter and we hope it will give a right move to the Transvaal Indian community. The Transvaal Indian Congress has sent an urgent invitation to Mr. C. F. Andrews who is at present in London with the India's greatest poet Sir Rabindranath Tagore, to come to South Africa with a view to help the Indian community. We hope Mr. Andrews will once more come to the rescue of the Transvaal Indians.

## NON-WHITE'S HELOTAGE

**A**N old Latin proverb says that 'Enmity is better than flattery.' Our people have tasted of both. When our lives and substance were wanted, we were, "jewels of the Empire," His Majesty's faithful Indian subjects. Now that the 'brightest jewel in the Imperial Crown' seeks its long promised share of Imperial sunshine, its demands are met with stern disfavour and the conventional arguments of brute-force. Fine phrases, uttered with the tongue in the cheek! Fine principles cast to the four winds and counting as nought when opposed by vested interests, official and non-official! Still, better so. Anything is better than pretence, the professed enemy is always preferable to the false friend.

Here in South Africa, we do at least know where we Indians stand. Mr. Grobler has just told the world and us, so that there need, henceforth be no misapprehension, as the place allotted to us in this portion of His Majesty's Dominions. Of course, we were not specifically referred to, but as had already been intimated, falling as we do under the non-European i.e. colour ban, we are doomed to share the fate of the other unfortunates to whose complexion our own skins would appear to approximate. We are grateful to Mr. Grobler for his refreshing candour. Mr. Grobler's honesty is welcome far more welcome than the make-believe friendship and professed camaraderie, that have, when tested, proved to be a delusion and a snare.

Not that we accept the position assigned to us. We dispute with every fibre of our being the proposition that "White" is synonymous with privilege and "Non-White" with helotage; we contend that the proposition is a self-evident outrage upon every accepted ethical principle.

## Emergency Conference Of The S.A.I.C. In Johannesburg

An executive of the South African Indian Congress was held in Johannesburg over the week-end. representatives from the different provinces were present.

The serious position arising out of the proposed Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill was discussed and in view of the gravity of the situation it was resolved to hold an Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress in Johannesburg on the 5th and 6th October 1930.

It was also resolved to affirm the invitation ex-

tended by the Transvaal Indian Congress to Mr. C. F. Andrews to come out to South Africa to help the community in its present trouble. It will be remembered that Mr. Andrews is in England with the Poet Rabindranath Tagore who had the honour this year to deliver the Hibbert Lectures at Cambridge University.

The holding of the Conference in October is of the greatest importance to the Transvaal community because decisions of the most far-reaching effect will be decided upon.

Thirty delegates each from the Natal, Cape and Transvaal Provinces will attend the Conference.

Sir Kurma Reddi and his Secretary the Hon. Evelyn Baring have been invited to attend, as representing the Government of India.

Agenda:

- (1) Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill.
- (2) Immigration and other matters arising out of it.
- (3) Educated Indians question.

## From The Prison Cell

### Mahatmaji On Truth And Non-violence

J. C. Kumarappa writes:—

Both Gandhiji and Kakasahab are well. Gandhiji has been requested to expound each week in his general letter one of the eleven principles on which the Satyagraha Ashram at Sabarmati is founded. Accordingly he has agreed to give a discourse each week to be read at prayer time at the Ashram. We may remind our readers that the principles referred to above are (1) Truth, (2) Non-violence or Love, (3) Chastity (or Brahmacharya), (4) Control of the Palate, (5) Non-stealing, (6) Non-possession or poverty, (7) Physical Labour, (8) Swadeshi, (9) Fearlessness, (10) Removal of Untouchability, and (11) Tolerance. We propose to translate and abridge these and publish them each week for the benefit of our readers as well. In this week's letter he deals with the second in the series non-violence or love and we give below an abridged version of it.

"The path of Truth—non-violence is straight and consequently narrow. The rope of Truth—non-violence—is even thinner than the one on which the dancer tries along with great concentration. The least lack of attention will result in a great fall. We have to watch our path very closely every moment.

"The full realisation of Truth through this mortal frame is impossible. The body is fleeting but Truth is eternal. In faith only we reach Truth. It is by this method that seekers have found non-violence.

### Choice Of Methods

"The seeker after Truth constantly faces the choice of methods. Should he suffer the hardships that beset his path or should he force his way causing destruction to gain his point. If he follows the way of destruction he does not advance, for progress is by suffering alone as Truth is within us and not outside and hence cannot be gained by destruction. We cannot do away with thieving by punishing the thief. The change has to be made within him. We have to win him over by our suffering. Step by step we learn to befriend the whole world and the greatness of God—Truth is manifested more clearly and peace and happiness as well as courage and valour increase inspite of calamities. We are able to distinguish between the Eternal and the perishable, egoism vanishes away and we become humble. Parigraha is lessened and the evil in us assuages greatly.

## Inseparable

Non-violence is not mere restraint from physical violence. Evil thoughts, rashness, ill-will, hatred and falsehoods are all forms of violence. To possess what others need is also violence. We must give up thinking about our body. God is realised in the subconscious state. The body does not belong to us. We should use it as if it were a trust.

Search after Truth without non-violence is impossible. Non-violence and Truth are inseparable like the two sides of a coin. Non-violence is the means and Truth the aim.

The means is in our power and so non-violence is the greatest duty. If we take care of the means some day we are sure to realise the goal. Truth is God and there is only one way to realise Him and that is the path of non-violence which we must never abandon. May God whose very form is Truth, in whose name this vow is taken, give us strength to abide in it.—*Young India*.

### On Truth And "Miserliness"

In this week's letters Gandhiji advocates keeping of a personal diary. He says: "It (the diary) has become invaluable to me. It is the sentinal that keeps a constant watch over a devotee of Truth. One cannot but write down in it faithfully idle hours and little work. There is one condition—we have got to be true; if not, it lies useless like a false coin. If it bears the truth it is more precious than silver and gold. Then he proceeds to discuss Truth. "The word 'Satya' is derived from 'Sat', meaning 'to be.' 'Satya' then is "being." Nothing but Truth has existence. Hence the definition of God is 'Sat'. Better than Truth should be called God than God Truth. Where there is Truth there is knowledge pure and simple. Where truth is not pure knowledge cannot exist. That is why the word 'Eshwar' is accompanied by "Chit Gnyana" and where there is true knowledge there is bliss and no grief. As Truth is eternal so also Bliss is eternal. Hence God is Truth, Light and Bliss.

"Search after Truth presupposes penance therefore one has to suffer—nay even die for it. We must be utterly free from selfishness. No one in such selfless search is known to have gone astray to day. Adoration of Truth demands the devotee's life. Instances like those of Harishchandra, Pralhad, Ramchandra, Imambhawan, Husein, the Christian Saints, etc., must be pondered upon and Truth meditated over by all men, women and children. Oh! the joy of it! This God in the form of Truth is for me a Ratna Chintamani—so be it for us all."

### Economics

Having been asked by some boys as to why he makes use of such small pieces of paper for his letters (most of his letters he writes on quarter sheets)—Gandhiji has answered them in his general letter as follows:—

"Firstly: A prisoner must make use of the least possible quantity of things. Secondly, one who is under the vow of Aparigraha (non-possession) is the trustee and guardian of all property, and hence I must make use of the jail property like a miser. Thirdly, this property also belongs to us, does it not? With whose money is it acquired? Fourthly, we should make as little use as possible of such things in a country as poor as ours. Fifthly, under such circumstances my soul feels miserable if I make use of more things than necessary."

Many people may think such economics exaggerated. I would like to take such friends to villages I know, where the peasants will be at a loss to find one scrap of paper in their wretched huts. All the economics we may practice will be but mild expressions of appreciation of the ghastly poverty with which we are surrounded in this land.

MIRA.

[Continued From Front Page]

liament at the earliest possible opportunity a measure whereby Acts 34 and 35 of 1908 be amended and the disabilities they impose upon the community, particularly those under sections 130 and 131 of the Gold Law, be removed." This was seconded by Mr. M. P. Patel and supported by Mr. M. I. Dada-bhai of Carolina.

Mr. I. B. Patel proposed: "That this mass meeting of the Indians of Transvaal, held under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Congress, respectfully urges an urgent invitation to Mr. C. F. Andrews, now in London, to visit South Africa and assist the community in the grave crisis that is facing it as the result of the introduction of the Transvaal Asiatic Bill into the Union Parliament."

Mr. M. A. Mahomed (Vereeniging) seconded and Mr. Ismail Dindar (Ermelo) and Mr. M. Goolam supported the resolution respectively.

Mr. L. V. Patel proposed: "That this meeting directs the Secretary to forward the resolutions passed at the meeting to proper quarters." This was seconded by Mr. Ismail Coovadia and supported by Mr. Bandhoo of Springs.

The meeting was well presented by delegates from Pretoria, Carolina, Ermelo, Bethal, Balfour, Benoni, Boksburg, Springs, Germiston, Krugersdorp and Roodepoort, and telegrams supporting the meeting were received from Potchefstroom, Louis Trichardt, Maquasse, Elandsputte, Lichtenburg, Vee-kraal and several other places.

## Cases For D.I. 91 Form And Certificate of Identity

Members of our community, who have returned to the Union before the 5th July 1930, and have since been refused permission to introduce their wives and children on the alleged ground that before permission is granted, applicants who have stayed outside the Union for over three years should reside in the Union for a continuous period of three years, and those who have been refused Certificates of Identity to enable them to proceed to India unless they have resided in the Union for 3 years continuously, are requested to furnish all particulars concerning their case, in respect of the Province in which they are resident, to (1) Natal Indian Congress, 175 Grey Street, Durban, (2) The Transvaal Indian Congress, 6 Kort Street, Johannesburg, and (3) Cape British Indian Council, 80 Hanover Street, Capetown, or to the South African Indian Congress, P.O. Box 272, P.M.Burg.

Information, as above, is urgently required, and should be communicated to the Provincial bodies concerned, on or before the 1st October 1930.

S. R. NAIDOO & E. M. MALL  
Gen. Secretaries, S.A.I.C.

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## Indians Must Create Trouble Says Sastri

London, Aug. 5.

Constitutional Government in India was on a firm basis and nothing can shake it, not even the No-Co-operation movement, declared Mr. Sastri speaking at the Liberals Summer School, Oxford. He said that the educated classes in India believed that in no arrangement to be made to-day should British connection be broken. Even people who now seemed to be rebels believed in and wanted British institutions.

The events of the past few days seemed to show that the hope in the Round Table Conference would not be misplaced. The Simon Report had failed because it gave the Provinces what it withheld from the centre. Mr. Sastri declared that a real Central Parliament should be established.

### Trouble Essential

Mr. Sastri said that the Irish would not have won Home Rule if they had not made trouble. Without trouble there was no advance. He expressed the opinion that trouble now being made in India was not of the right kind, but to make trouble of some sort was essential.

Mr. Sastri strongly attacked the whole Federal ideal. He said that to seek to split Indian patriotism into series of provincial patriotism was to destroy Britain's best works in India. Mr. Sastri repudiated the analogy of India and Europe and said that India was already more of a real unit than Europe. He concluded with an impassioned plea for a recognition of India's right as Self-Governing Dominion.—Renter.

## Indian Traders And White Farmers

To the Editor of *The Star*.

Sir,—The following resolution was recently passed by the Transvaal Agricultural Union:—

That the comparatively small numbers of Indians repatriated are not of the merchant and trading class which constitute the chief danger to our white civilisation, and urges the Government to help its white subjects by protecting them from unfair competition of a lower standard of living and enforcing the agreement with the Indian Government under this heading.

The so-called unfair competition against the white traders as outlined by the congress has been a great help to the poor whites. The Indian is always satisfied to sell his goods on a basis of 25 to 35 per cent. profit, whereas the white trader is never satisfied unless he makes a profit of from 75 to 100 per cent. In the words of the poor whites he wants to become rich in one day.

Further, the Indian trader has given a large amount of credit to the farmers on a long-term basis, without charging any interest on overdue accounts, whereas the white trader is charging interest to an extent of from 15 to 35 per cent. Most of the Indians have lost thousands of pounds among the white community on the platte land and have been forced to go bankrupt through this credit business among the white community in general.

Who has helped the farmers and their so-called white civilisation? Nowadays if an Indian goes to his white clients to request payment of his debts he will receive the reply, "Go to h—," or "You can do what you like." This same ungrateful member of

the white civilisation dare not reply to the white trader in this manner for fear of losing his farm or homestead, which the white trader will not hesitate to put into effect, and which the Indian is incapable of doing.

However, I am inclined to support the T.A.U. for their resolution regarding the repatriation of Indian traders provided they give us a reliable security for the debts due to us by their white brethren, which run to thousands of pounds. Then we are prepared to be repatriated, leaving the poor whites to groan under the white traders' oppression.

MAHOMED SADICK.

## Suspension Of Wages Act?

### Bringing Pressure To Bear

Determined attempts are being made by employers, and in some instances the employees are assisting, to secure the suspension of the Wages Act. Many people have been thrown out of employment as the result of the operation of this Act, and the financial stringency which the country is experiencing has accentuated its unfortunate results in some respects.

The Acting Minister of Labour, Mr. H. W. Sampson, O.B.E., has received several deputations in this connection. It is not thought likely, however, that the Government will suspend the operation of the Act as this is legally impossible.

Petitions have actually been signed by employees who have expressed themselves willing to work for smaller wages than those laid down by some of the determinations. People are now being thrown out of work as employers find it impossible to pay the legal wages. The hairdressing, sweetmaking and confectionery trades, shop assistants, and even employees in the printing industry, are affected.

### Judiciary Matter

I was told yesterday that people had been discharged from all these trades because, with decreased profits and a decreased turnover, employers could no longer afford to pay the wages demanded by the Wages Act. The position of the Government is extremely difficult in this connection as, once a Wage Determination has been made, the matter is really out of its hands and becomes purely a judiciary one.

"I understand that an attempt may be made next year to secure some amendments to the Wages Act by making its application less harsh. In most cases increases of pay have to be given every six months and the employee soon reaches a stage when he, or she, is no longer in a position to justify the wages that have to be received. Employers often prefer to start new assistants and to discharge those who have been in their employ for a number of years. This is the position to-day and many qualified assistants are now looking for work.

The prophecy of the late Mr. J. W. Jagger in regard to the Wages Act therefore, has been amply fulfilled. Mr. Jagger warned the Government that the provision of steep and automatic increases would react unfavourably on employees in times of depression and that unemployment would be caused. His gloomy forebodings was ridiculed at that time, but they have proved true to such an extent that qualified assistants in the various trades mentioned often pretend to have had no previous experience simply in order to gain employment.

The Government is seriously considering the matter, but no official information as to its intentions can be obtained.—*Natal Mercury*.

## News Of Independence Struggle In India

### 250 Injured In Bombay

Calcutta, Friday.—Persistent and vigorous picketing by women congress volunteers caused serious disturbances in Bombay yesterday. Repeated charges were made by the police to enable voters to reach the polling booths.

Two hundred and fifty people were injured, and over 380 women and 18 men were arrested.

The situation became so serious that one candidate withdrew, three other candidates being returned unopposed.

Farther charges were necessary to disperse the crowds. Only 1,400 voted out of an electorate of 60,000.

Seven hundred women pickets surrounded the Town Hall, exhorting those who wish to vote, mostly Parsis and Christians, to refrain. As the women were arrested they were replaced by others.

Armed mounted and foot police were called out.

At the conclusion of the polling the police released the women picketers, but detained 30 male volunteers.

### Gloomy Views On Round Table Conference

Calcutta, Sept.—19 Europeans and Indians here are making no secret of their belief that the round-table conference in London will end in fiasco, because, they say, the different communities and different atmospheres of life which will be represented will never be able to agree on any point and will end by quarrelling.

It is practically settled that Mr. Srinavasa Sastri will lead the Indian delegation. Most shades of Indian opinion agree that no better selection could be made. Nevertheless, the selection is somehow unpopular.

Congress critics especially, while admitting that Mr. Sastri is a staunch Indian Nationalist, hold that he is not sufficiently a firebrand and question his fitness to speak on Indian Government problems.

The selection of three delegates to represent British commercial interests in India have not met with the approval of politically-minded Europeans, who view the selection with real misgiving. Europeans are thinking that none of the three delegates can hope to hold his own in debate with the agile intelligencies by which they will be surrounded.

### King To Open Indian Round Table Conference

London, Sept. 23.

The King-Emperor, it is understood, will open the Indian round-table conference in London about Nov. 10. The exact date depends on the duration of the Imperial Conference. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald will be chairman. His other English colleagues have not yet been announced as the Labour Party is waiting for Mr. Baldwin's return from Aix-les-Bains before announcing their nominees.

The conference, it is understood, will as soon as it meets dissolve into various committees, and the public sittings, if any, will be few. A fairly hopeful feeling prevails in London concerning the deliberations of the conference. Its great weakness is, of course, the absence of any Congress representation, but, on the other hand, it is doubtful if the authority of Congress is growing among Indians in India.

### Heavy Casualties In Village Fight

Nagpur, Sept.—Four hillmen are reported to

have been killed and 50 wounded by the police who fired on a mob of hundreds in a village near here. The hillmen had attacked the police with bamboos and stones in an attempt to rescue some of their tribe who had been arrested.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police has gone to the scene with reinforcements.—Reuter.

### Invitation Not Accepted

Diwan Chaman Lal, founder of the Indian Trades' Union Congress, has declined the Viceroy invitation to the Indian round-table conference, states a Reuter cable.

### Transportation For Life

Calcutta, Thursday.—Danish Crundar Majumdar, aged 28, the law student who was charged with conspiring with the late Manuja Sen Gupta to kill Sir Charles Tegart, the Police Commissioner, was to-day sentenced to transportation for life.

It will be recalled that two bombs were recently thrown at Sir Charles Tegart's car in Calcutta. He was not injured, Gupta, one of his assailants was killed by fragments of the bombs.

### Bomb Factories In Punjab

Calcutta, Sept.—Two more bomb factories have been discovered in the Punjab, and four loaded bombs, several empty shells and a quantity of chemicals have been found hidden in kerosene oil tins on the way to Calcutta.

Police raids have resulted in several arrests, including a Bangali woman. Over 50 political prisoners, sent from Gujerat gaol to Multan gaol, refused to entrain, shouted and screamed revolutionary cries and collected such a large crowd that the police were obliged to take them back to the Gujerat gaol, where the officials refused to readmit them and they spent the night in the police lines. Next day they entrained, but amused themselves by pulling the alarm cord from time to time, considerably delaying the express.

The police are powerless, because no law exists to deal with political prisoners indulging in such extravagant behaviour while being taken to gaol.

### Women Extremists Sentenced

Bombay, Monday.—Mrs. Rama Baikamdar, who succeeded Mrs. Hansa Metha as president of the Bombay Congress "War Council," was sentenced to-day to three months' imprisonment.

A 19 year-old Mohammdan girl, editor of the Congress Bulletin, was also sentenced to three months' imprisonment, while three male members of the "war council" were each sentenced to four months' imprisonment.—Reuter.

## Our Letter From India

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Calcutta.

### Germany's Bid For Indian Trade

With the boycott movement in India, a new German enterprise has come into existence with a two-fold object. It will try to capture the Indian market for German goods of every conceivable variety and, at the same time, in co-operation with Swadeshi capital, try to develop Indian industries. A trust known as the Export Dienst (India) Ltd., has been formed by over 800 German manufacturers with the main purpose of "selling as many German products as they can to India, and of buying as many Indian products and raw materials as possible for consumption and use in Germany.

Mr. Theodore Flocker, the Managing Director of



the Export-Dienst came to India in January this year and after a careful and scientific study of the Indian markets and India's industrial needs decided to collaborate with a group of Indian business men and industrial experts in Bombay, who were striving to develop Indian industries and to explore foreign markets, other than British. He has approached many Indian capitalists and business men and discussed with them his schemes. Several have approved of them, and promised to support any schemes undertaken by him. It is understood that he has also succeeded in inducing several Indian Princes to adopt his industrial schemes.

Until such time as these industries are started in India the Export Dienst will supply to India the various articles and commodities that she requires at comparatively cheaper rates.

#### Indian Merchants On Present Situation

The danger of delay in an early settlement of the Indian political question leading to increasing bitterness in the minds of the Indian people towards everything British, was envisaged by Mr. D. P. Khaitan when presiding at a meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta.

The boycott of British goods, said Mr. Khaitan, has been very spontaneous this time, and is increasingly catching hold of women and children and also the villagers. This time the ladies have been taking a very active part in the campaign—a fact which is unprecedented in the history of this country. These are symptoms which British statesmanship should not ignore. Even if by repression the political agitation can be suppressed, such repression can only be temporary. The only remedy of the situation for the permanent benefit of Great Britain and also of India is an early settlement of the political question to the satisfaction of this country.

In India, trade is affected not only by the world depression and the fiscal and currency policy of the Government but also by the clash between the rulers and the ruled on account of the latter's determination to win freedom for the country. Unless there be a settlement between the Congress and Great Britain, there are no visible signs that peace can be restored which is the necessary foundation for building up trade and industries and the edifice of prosperity for the people.

It has been said by responsible authorities that Dominion Status was the goal of the British Government in India, and that if at the Round Table Conference opinion be unanimous as regards the powers to be given to India such recommendations would be the basis of the proposals to be submitted to Parliament.

If that was the intention of Great Britain, he failed to see why the authorities should have any hesitation in announcing that at the Round Table Conference a scheme of Dominion Status would be framed. In this regard the Congress was only making a claim which was in consonance with the demands of all the political parties in the country. The distrust of the Congress gained strength from the speeches made by prominent members of the Opposition Parties in England. Speeches and writings like those of Mr. Churchill could not but have a strong and deterrent effect on the minds of the "real leaders" of this country in valuing the promises made by His Excellency the Viceroy and others that the proceedings of the Round Table Conference would be carried on in a spirit of friendliness to India.

"If therefore the intention of the Labour Party and the two sections of the Opposition in England be to give India a constitution which is agreed on by all the parties in India, the simplest, the quickest and

most peaceful course is to announce that at the Round Table Conference a scheme for Dominion Status will be framed. In that event all cause for distrust and suspicion will be out of the way. The path will become easier for give and take as between Britain and India for the adoption of safeguards during the transition period."

#### Drastic Action Against Local Bodies In Bombay

In a general circular issued to all local bodies and municipalities which have shown sympathy towards the civil disobedience movement, the Bombay Government desire to remind them that they have been created not only to train the people in the art of local self-government but also to relieve Government of the direct administration of certain matters of mainly local interest. Local bodies are, therefore, an integral part of the system of administration. That system can only continue to function if the various subordinate authorities on which administrative duties have been devolved work in harmony with the Government and co-operate with it in carrying on the administration.

Recently a tendency has been observed on the part of some local bodies to support or publicly express sympathy with the advocates of civil disobedience or the promoters of movements directed against the authority of Government.

The Government wish to make it clear that it will be impossible for them to continue to afford assistance from the public revenues to local bodies which commit themselves to lines of action which are likely to seriously affect those revenues or withhold that loyal co-operation with the Government in the discharge of their duties, without which the work of general administration must suffer.

They are most reluctant to curtail in any way the benefits given through local bodies, which the public depend on, but if in any case action becomes necessary they hope that the electorate will understand that it is in consequence of returning to local bodies persons who are likely to commit them to objectionable courses of action.

#### Mr. Tyson's Statement To The Select Committee

(Continued from page 289)

57. The question of segregation was examined by the Lange Commission in the Transvaal, to which they applied the adjectives "very neglected and insanitary" (Boksburg and Germiston), "appalling" (Vrededorp) and where they "found the inhabitants crowded and huddled together in small hovels amidst indescribable filth and leading a most insanitary mode of life," the Commission remarked that the result of their inspection "was not such as to inspire confidence in a general policy of segregation" (paragraph 121 *et seq.*). In fact, "any attempt to enforce compulsory segregation would result in failure and lead to a resurgence of the passive resistance movement." In paragraph 224 the Commission remarked, "We find ourselves wholly unable to support the policy of repression which was advocated by some of the witnesses, indiscriminate segregation of Asiatics in locations and similar restrictive measures would result in eventually reducing them to helotry. Such measures, apart from their injustice and inhumanity, would degrade the Asiatic and react upon the European." Segregation was again examined by a Select Committee on the Areas Reservation Bill of 1926; as a result of that Committee's deliberations the Cape

Town Conference met and segregation was abandoned. It is impossible to reconcile the proposal that Asiatics should be segregated with the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement, the "upliftment" portion of which envisages the raising to "western standard of life" of domiciled Indians who are prepared to conform thereto. It is to be remembered that the Indian has no municipal vote,—no power to influence municipal administration. It follows that, for all that the Indian could do to prevent it, the pressure which now impels municipal authorities to demand the establishment of Indian locations would almost certainly compel those authorities to neglect them when established. I do not mean to imply that the neglect would be intentional, but when it comes to spending money on Asiatic locations, what town councillor is going to support that? Much could be said on this subject of segregation,—on the horror and shame which the mere proposal excites among Indians in this country and among all classes and races in India. If the argument is pressed no further in this statement it is because the proposal hardly arises out of the terms of references: the topic would not have been mentioned but for the fact that from the municipalities themselves a demand has been made.

58. For the same reason, namely, that the Terms of Reference do not appear to call for it, it has not been thought necessary to deal with other proposals threatening the Indian's present right to lease (though not to own) fixed property anywhere in the Province except on "proclaimed land" and in townships which have contractual restrictions. The proposal to define "fixed property" so as to include in that term leases for a term exceeding ten years would seem to be an interference with the Indian's present rights in the matter of leasehold for which no warrant or justification has been given.

59. In conclusion, I would earnestly request the Committee, in considering the difficult questions before them, to bear constantly in mind two things. The first is that from the early days of the present century the Indian in this country and the Indian Government have been on the defensive. Indians here have acquiesced in, and the Indian Government have agreed to, measures of restriction in one direction and another with one object in view always—to secure fair treatment for the Indians already here. These are the very words used by Lord Elgin when, as Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1906, he urged upon the Secretary of State for India acceptance of Lord Selborne's proposals for the restriction of Indian immigration into the Transvaal. It was in this way that the Government and people of India reconciled themselves to the Union Immigrants Restriction Act of 1913. Speaking of this Act at the Imperial War Conference of 1917 General Smuts, on behalf of South Africa, said "The fear which formerly obsessed the settlers there has been removed: the great principle of restricting immigration for which they have contended in our Statute Book with the consent of the Indian population in South Africa and the Indian authorities in India and, that being so, I think that the door is open now for a peaceful and statesmanlike solution of all the minor administrative troubles which occurred and will occur from time to time." The restrictions on land ownership by Indians in the Transvaal were specifically mentioned in Lord Sinha's Memorandum, presented to the Imperial Conference of 1918—the year of Reciprocity Resolution. In accepting the Reciprocity Resolution on behalf of South Africa

Mr. Burton said, "As far as we are concerned in South Africa, we are in agreement with this Resolution, and also with the proposal referring the Memorandum to the consideration of our Government and we will give it the most sympathetic consideration we can, certainly." Understandings and undertakings of this kind—the whole history of the existing restrictions on Indians—entitle the Indian community to look for consideration at your hands. Your responsibility with regard to them is, I would most earnestly submit, greater, not less, because they have no vote. A people disfranchised must be your special care.

( To be Continued )

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