

# Indian Opinion

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## MAHATMA GANDHI RELEASED FROM JAIL

**M**AHATMA GANDHI left Poona for Bombay, accompanied by the Nationalist leader, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who was released at the same time, says Renter.

The departure of Mr. Gandhi from Yeroda jail was effected in the most dramatic circumstances. A crowd had been waiting all day outside the prison in expectation of the Mahatma's release. Meanwhile the chief jailor was busy packing Mr. Gandhi's multifarious belongings, including several spinning wheels and thousands of letters from all parts of the world, some of which were addressed to him as "Saint Gandhi" and the "Holiest Man in India."

At nine o'clock on Monday night Mr. Gandhi, clad in his usual garb (loin cloth and blanket), entered a car, which dashed out of the prison gates, followed by a second car, in which Mrs. Naidu was seated. The cars raced in the opposite direction to that expected by the crowd, and sped to a small wayside station, ten miles from Poona, where the midnight express pulled up for Mr. Gandhi, Mrs. Naidu, and four attendants to board.

While waiting for the express Mr. Gandhi gave a brief interview to Renter's representative. He declared that he had an open mind on the present political situation, and did not wish to commit himself until he had conferred with his colleagues, especially Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and other members of the Indian Round-Table Conference, on their return from London.

Mr. Gandhi laid stress on the desirability of the immediate release of all political prisoners, sentenced for carrying out his civil disobedience campaign.

The secret of Mr. Gandhi's departure was so well kept that only two lucky journalists, hidden behind a prickly cactus, witnessed this silent act of the political drama. Renter's correspondent travelled on the train with the released prisoners.

### Gandhiji's Arrival At Bombay

Shouts of "Long Live Gandhi" from the enormous crowds greeted his arrival at Bombay. The procession to the house of an Indian merchant where Mr. Gandhi is to stay was held up constantly to enable him to receive garlands from his admirers.

So huge was the crowd that progress was almost impossible. Mr. Gandhi at length appealed to his followers to disperse. The response was immediate, but vast crowds besieged the house where he went to stay. He repeatedly appeared on the balcony and finally appealed: "If you love me, go home and spin me yarn."

In an interview, Mr. Gandhi said that, even if after consulting his friends from the Indian Round Table Conference it was found that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's statement warranted co-operation by Congress, the right to picket could not be abandoned nor "the right of the starving millions to manufacture salt." He pointed out that if those rights were recognised most of the ordinances would have to be withdrawn. Mr. Gandhi expressed the opinion that if the release of the Congress leaders was to be

effective then the release of all passive resisters was a necessary condition.

Asked if he would rather be in jail or out, Mr. Gandhi said: "I prefer to be in, because being out only complicates matters, but I should like to be out as soon as our efforts are crowned with success."

### Wild Rush To Hear Mr. Gandhi Speak

#### WOMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH

Over 30 people were injured and taken to hospital in the crush on the Esplanade at Maidan, where Mr. Gandhi intended to address a meeting in the evening. One woman was fatally injured long before Mr. Gandhi was due to appear.

The crowd was so large at Maidan and there was such a rush to the platform when Mr. Gandhi arrived that he was unable to speak and the meeting had to be abandoned.

Mr. Gandhi's secretary, Mahadev Desai, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the All-India Congress, have also been released.

### Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru At Allahabad

One of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's first acts on being released from jail was to appeal to an Allahabad audience to reiterate the independence resolution passed by the All-India Congress Committee last year.

Already some members of the Congress Working Committee have stated that they feel unable to arrive at a future policy without consulting the full Congress Committee, which numbers 275 members, and that the Congress Committee in its turn will find its hands tied unless it can have a full meeting of Congress, involving the release of all its members now under restraint.

### Mr. Andrews' Tribute To Mahatma Gandhi

The Rev. C. F. Andrews, interviewed at Capetown concerning Mahatma Gandhi's release, said: "The whole world will be relieved at the news which has come by cable. The longing will be from every heart, in these troublous days of universal economic depression and unemployment, that this step which Lord Irwin has taken may prove the beginning of a new era of peace and goodwill among nations. No one on earth has suffered in our generation more than Mahatma Gandhi has done in the cause of freedom, and the amazing moral response he has always received whenever he has asked for sacrifice among his followers will go down in history as a record of spiritual endurance when other events of our own day are forgotten.

"Gandhi as a sufferer has won the hearts of the millions of the poor in India as no other historic figure has done during the last 100 years, and I am quite certain that there is a magnanimity in my own fellow countrymen and all over the West which is ready to acknowledge warmly and sympathetically a heroism such as his, however strange its method of achievement may appear to Western eyes."

## END OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

THE whole world was eagerly looking on the work of the Indian Round Table Conference which has now come to a close. The Prime Minister of England Mr. Ramsay MacDonald made a final declaration on behalf of His Majesty's Government in regard to the future constitution for India. A general agreement has emerged out of the Conference. The new constitution is based on federal structure, and the Native States of India will also take part in it. The power of the British Government is transferred to the Indian people with certain reservations. It is premature yet to say whether the Indian National Congress will accept this agreement. The demand of the Indian National Congress was complete independence. The Congress leaders thought that if Dominion Status was granted with the right to secede from the Empire they would be satisfied. Viewed in this light the agreement of the Round Table Conference falls short. There is no doubt about that. However there is no denying the fact that substantial advance is made. It is for the National Congress now to decide the course of action. Free and frank discussion amongst the Congress leaders is now essential and in order to give this opportunity the Government of India is considering the question of amnesty to political prisoners. A Reuter's message reports that Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders have been released. This is indeed good news. Let us hope and pray that we hear also the news of the release of the several other political prisoners any moment.

## THE JAPANESE AGREEMENT

(BY O. F. ANDREWS)

THE news has suddenly been published in the daily newspapers that Japan has established a treaty with the Union by which merchants, travellers and students should be admitted to the Union but labourers should be excluded. Mr. W. H. Andrews received from the International Labour Office at Geneva the news that this labour treaty had been signed by both contracting parties. This was published in the evening newspapers throughout the Union and the *Cape Times* made an enquiry from the Minister of the Interior about it, who made a non-committal answer. We may understand, however, from his answer

that a document of some kind has been signed.

From what Mr. W. H. Andrews disclosed it is fairly clear that the Reciprocity Resolution of 1918, which was passed at the Imperial Conference, formed the basis of this new treaty with Japan. At least this is a fair surmise unless it is directly contradicted by the Minister. The point is so important that it may be well to give the Reciprocity Resolution in full as far as it deals with this subject. It runs as follows:—

(1) "It is an inherent function of the Governments of the several communities of the British Commonwealth, including India, that each should enjoy complete control of the composition of its own population by means of restriction on Immigration from any of the other communities.

(2) "British citizens domiciled in any British country including India, should be admitted into any other country for visits, or the purpose of pleasure and commerce, including temporary residence for purposes of education. The conditions of such visit should be regulated on the principle of Reciprocity as follows:—

(a) the right of the Government of India is recognised to enact Laws which shall have the effect of subjecting British citizens domiciled in any other British country to the same conditions in visiting India as those imposed on Indians desiring to visit such countries.

(b) Such right of visit or temporary residence shall in each individual case be embodied in a passport or written permit issued by the country of domicile and subject to *visa* there by an officer appointed by and acting on behalf of the country to be visited, if such country so desires.

(3) Such right shall not extend to a visit or temporary residence for labour purposes or to permanent settlement.

It will be seen from this document that the three classes of entrants into the Union which are now permitted to India correspond with the three classes which Mr. W. H. Andrews asserts are mentioned in the new treaty with Japan. The only point of difference that is mentioned is this, that the Japanese merchants are to be allowed to reside in South Africa if recommended by the Japanese Consul. Nothing is said about temporary permits. I think, however, when the full text comes to be disclosed, it will be seen that this residence is of a temporary nature similar to that which is allowed under the Reciprocity Resolution. This, of course, is my own conjecture at present and not as yet a certainty. If, however, this new Reciprocity Agreement has been made with Japan, then it is clear that India will come under the same terms that

are given to Japan. When the new Constitution is established in India and India has her own full self-government, just as Japan possesses full self-government, there can hardly be any doubt that these clauses which have been almost dormant hitherto will wake up into a new life and the relation between India and South Africa on its merchant and tourist side will be immensely improved to the advantage of both countries.

No actions, or course, could possibly be taken until the Minister of the Interior actually states in public what has happened. We must possess our souls in patience. But it really seems as if at last the Union of South Africa is ready to look out upon the world eastward as well as westward without racial distinction in certain important matters.

## Sir Kurma Reddi On The Work Of Round Table Conference

The finance reservations contained in the constitution outlined at the Indian Round-Table Conference are regarded by Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent-General for the Government of India in the Union, as the possible stumbling-block to India's acceptance of the proposals.

Sir Kurma considers, however, that, if the Congress will accept the new constitution, the restrictions can be removed within the next 10 years.

"I am perfectly satisfied with the results of the Conference, except as regards the provisions to be made concerning financial control," he said to a representative of the *Cape Times*.

"The acceptance of Federation was, all along advocated by the party to which I belong, and it is a matter of great gratification to me that it is to be accomplished."

### Difficulties Realised

He did not mind the reservations regarding defence, the army, and foreign affairs. "But," he said, "it ought to have been possible to arrive at a more satisfactory solution of the problem regarding finance."

"I appreciate the difficulties, however, and I shall be content with what is achieved to-day."

"I am also confident that the proposed restrictions will not last for more than 10 years. Dyarchy, introduced in the Provinces 10 years ago, will now disappear, and a decade hence the same thing will happen to the proposed restrictions."

Asked whether the Congress would accept this, Sir Kurma said he did not know. "But if a general amnesty is offered, and if all the political prisoners are released, it would be an act of great statesmanship on the part of Congress leaders to accept the new constitution, and to fight the elections."

"They are sure to secure a majority, and the Government of the country will be in their hands. From within they can fight and get the proposed restrictions removed as early as possible—that is, within the next decade."

### Improved Status

Questioned whether he thought the Constitution would improve the status and international relations of India, Sir Kurma said he was certain that it would. "The status is almost that of a Dominion,"

he said, "and I am sure my countrymen will take it in that light. I am sure, too—or at any rate I hope—that there will be no occasion for the Viceroy to exercise the extraordinary powers vested in him, powers which, according to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald himself, are "meant to lie in the background."

"I am confident of this because I know Lord Willingdon, who was Governor of Madras when the Montagu Reforms were inaugurated, and when responsibility was, for the first time, introduced in the Provinces. He so well managed the affairs there that the reserved and transferred halves of his Government acted as one body, as any Cabinet would act under full responsible Government. In fact, to use his own words, it was a happy family."

"Internationally India's prestige will certainly be enhanced. We shall be masters of our own tariff policy, and we can enter into treaties with foreign nations without the intervention of England. The links of friendship with other countries can be strengthened, and trade will develop to a much larger extent than it has ever done before."

### Statement By Mr. C. F. Andrews

Mr. C. F. Andrews, when asked to express his opinion, said that he had not yet been able to grasp all the details of the settlement arrived at in London; very much would depend upon the exact terms of the financial relations which India was now to hold towards Great Britain.

"It is on this side, of finance, that freedom is needed by India more than in any other direction," he said, "for it is quite certain that, if full financial autonomy is gained, everything else can be won later. But, if financial autonomy itself is merely being camouflaged and only the semblance is given, then the struggle for full freedom will yet remain to be won."

"In laying such stress upon financial autonomy, I know that I am representing the considered opinion not only of Mr. Sastri and those who follow his political school of thought, but also of Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress."

"Whatever has been actually gained has been won chiefly by the passive resisters who are now in prison. It is quite incredible that those who were opposed to Indian freedom in Great Britain would have yielded so far as they have now done unless the moral opinion of the world had been brought to bear upon the whole question through the suffering which has been endured with such remarkable absence of violence on the part of the passive resisters."

"India has shown to the world a moral courage which commands admiration from all true lovers of freedom."

### Relations With Union

"What chiefly concerns South Africa will be the new trade relations, which will immediately be opened up between India and South Africa. Already the Indian Legislative Assembly has been permitted both to impose duties on foreign goods, and to give preferences in her tariffs."

"It is clearly of very great importance to South Africa to realise as quickly as possible the meaning of the new status which India will hold soon. For one thing is certain; all financial questions relating to imports and exports will now be left entirely in the hands of the Indian responsible legislators. There are very many avenues of trade ready for experiment, if friendly relations are established between South Africa and the Indian Government under the new Constitution."

"When I was in South Africa before I pointed out some of these, and I have been surprised to find how little advance has yet been made in these matters between the two countries. But I have no

doubt whatever that new trade and commerce connections will be possible when India gets her own business into her own hands and can manage for herself her own tariffs. She will be distinctly a protectionist country, and will be ready to give her own preference to those countries with which she has cordial and friendly relations.

"Personally I look upon the awakening of the East as by far the greatest event of modern times. It seems to me that when the millions of the East regain the spirit of enterprise and initiative through the management of their own affairs, and the West deals with the East through the medium of trade rather than that of Imperial conquest, then international commerce will flourish, and the economic balance of the world will be restored."

## The Viceroy On The Conference

New Delhi, Sunday.

In an address to the Assembly the Viceroy, Lord Irwin, dwelt upon the "incalculable value" of the results of the Indian Round Table Conference in dissipating misunderstandings on both sides. He appealed to the leaders of all communities to meet again for the purpose of settling communal difficulties.

He also appealed to Mr. Gandhi to try another course, and urged "all the best elements in India and Great Britain to join hands in bringing to fruition the undertaking so well begun in London, and thus place the seal of friendship once again upon the relations between the two peoples, whom unhappy circumstances have latterly estranged."

Referring to the "crimes of violence, which deeply stained the fair name of India," Lord Irwin said: "The experience of past months leaves no doubt regarding the existence of an organisation, whose insane object it is to promote the overthrow of the established Government by the deliberate creation of a state of terrorism."

The Viceroy referred to the wide condemnation of the outrages as showing "the growing recognition of, and urgent and paramount need for, removing this malignant cancer in the life of India."

Alluding to the South African Land Tenure Bill, he said that an endeavour would be made to secure an equitable solution.

In regard to East Africa he hoped that Mr. Srinivasa Sastri would be the spokesman for India to the Joint Select Committee of Parliament in that connection.—Reuter.

## Union Opened To Japanese

### "Gentleman's Agreement" Between Governments

Japanese immigration into the Union of South Africa is to be recognised as an exception to the general rule prohibiting Asiatic immigration.

Protracted negotiations between the two Governments have resulted in a "gentleman's agreement" following an exchange of notes between the Governments of Japan and the Union on October 15, 1930.

This information has been received by the secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council, Mr. W. E. Andrews, who received it from the International Labour Office at Geneva.

Japanese merchants, students, travellers and their families who have recommendations from Japanese Consuls will be admitted, and have the right to reside in South Africa, while emigration to South Africa of Japanese labourers will be voluntarily restricted by the Japanese Government.

## Cape Indians To Hold Conference

### Discussion Of Grievances

A big meeting of members of the Cape Indian Congress was held recently at the Fidelity Hall, Primrose-Street, Capetown. Hadji Khan Gool presided.

It was unanimously decided to convene a conference of Indians resident in the Cape Province, and it will be held at an early date. It was felt that such a conference should be held in view of the Indians' many grievances.

Delegates to the recent South African Indian Congress Conference in Cape Town submitted their reports, which were accepted with thanks.

Messrs. M. D. Barmania, M. A. (East Griqualand), S. Casoojee (East London), Rajgopal Pillay (Kimberley), A. Ismail and D. A. Nagia (Cape Town) were elected to represent the Cape Province on the new executive committee of the South African Indian Congress.

## Mr. Churchill's Outburst

London, Tuesday.

Mr. Winston Churchill, interviewed on the results of the Conference, declared, "The eloquent and well-meant speeches at the close of the Conference do not represent a very large body of British opinion."

He was of opinion that a stranger would conclude that Britain was anxious to wind up its connection with India as soon as possible. "I do not believe that that is what the British nation wishes it to mean. If so, then the day of its power and greatness in the world is ended for ever."

Mr. Churchill complained that the British case was not stated at the Conference. "All the unpalatable truths about safeguards were left unspoken or touched upon lightly as necessary evils, appropriate to the period of transition. If the safeguards are real and effective, then Dominion status and responsible-government are not the terms to apply to the constitution, which has been outlined."

He found one consolation. "It is not yet too late . . . By the time another Conference assembles, whether here or in India, the British nation must know where it stands. It must have courage and wisdom, in Lord Birkenhead's words, 'to tell India the truth.'"

"Die-Hard" views were contained in a speech delivered to-day at Cheltenham by Sir Michael O'Dwyer. He said the Conference was summoned "to divide the skin of the dying British lion," and it was significant as marking the willingness of the present Government to abandon British rule and British responsibility in India.—Reuter.

## Mr. Sastri's Appeal For An Amnesty

London, Wednesday.

Subsequent steps in India's march towards Dominion status were discussed in the House of Commons when the British Liberals entertained the Indian Liberal members of the Round Table Conference.

Lord Lothian, in proposing a toast, emphasised that "the ugly thing called colour prejudice had not reached its head for a single instant at the Conference."

Mr. Lloyd George declared that nothing comparable with the Round Table Conference was ever attempted by peaceful means, namely the establishment of religious freedom in a country of many races. A similar unity had only been attained in European countries as the result of sanguinary conflicts.

Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, recalling the speech at the 1923 Imperial Conference in which Mr. Lloyd George had laid down that the Empire was not a white Empire, said he had had the occasion several times to quote this statement in South Africa to a people who believed the Empire was white and meant to maintain white civilisation against the rest of the world.

They had, he proceeded, just concluded a miracle in political achievement, but the goals of India held over 30,000 lovers of freedom. "The work of the Conference," he added, "will only bring peace and contentment if there are called into consultation those who have been deprived of liberty by the fortunes of politics."—Reuter.

A message from New Delhi states:—

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech closing the Round Table Conference has been well received in official and non-official circles here. Dewan Bahadur Rangachariar, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, declared that the speech was most promising and he wished that the Government would now take up the question of creating the necessary atmosphere through an amnesty and the abandonment of repressive legislation in order to bring the Congress into consultation.

The Congress organ, the *Bombay Chronicle*, declares that the Labour Government intends to impose on India a system of camouflaged swaraj (home rule), in which safeguards for Britain is the principal thing.

A manifesto issued by Indian business men in Bombay, including the Mayor, Sir Chunilal Mehta, while welcoming Mr. MacDonald's statement, urges that a political amnesty and the suspension of the Ordinances is essential to enable a full and unbiassed examination of the statement by the Congress leaders.

A message from Calcutta says that dissatisfaction of the Nationalist Press at Mr. MacDonald's declaration is evidenced by such captions as that in the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika*, "A Cup of Milk for a Hungry Lion," and "MacDonald's India Hoak." The newspaper *Advans* says that the speech does not mention Dominion status.

## "Era Of Promise" For India

### Nationalists Welcome British Offer

#### Appeal To Congress Leaders

The London correspondent of the *Cape Argus* writes:—

The Nationalist Party in the Indian Legislative Assembly have issued a manifesto which is described as a notable advance in the All-India consideration of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's Round-Table declaration of policy.

The initiative in issuing the manifesto, says the New Delhi correspondent of the *Times* (London), was taken by the party's leader, Mr. Rangachariar.

Mr. MacDonald's declaration is welcomed as opening an era full of promise for the future, but the manifesto emphasises that for the realisation of the offer contained in it the co-operation of the Congress leaders is essential.

The Government is therefore urged to grant a general political amnesty and to suspend various ordinances.

"While several Congress organisations have been declared illegal and prominent leaders are incarcerated in gaol it is idle to expect that atmosphere of peace which is so essential at the present stage," says the manifesto.

Finally, the manifesto appeals to the Congress leaders, both inside and outside of gaol, to co-operate and unite with the rest of India in securing such modifications and improvements as may be deemed necessary in the Government's proposals.

### Representative Opinion

"We are of opinion that the offer is one which is worthy of the most careful consideration," adds the manifesto, which, according to the New Delhi correspondent of the *Times*, may be taken as representative of views which are gradually finding expression in the newspapers and among people of different shades of opinion in various parts of India.

Whether, however, these views will prevail largely depends on the Congress leaders.

The principal Congress leaders at liberty are sick and elderly men, and the younger members of the party, most of whom are in prison, are stated to be irreconcilable.

Nobody suggests that they should be granted an unconditional amnesty, but it is generally felt that they must be given the fullest opportunity of reconsidering their position, and there is reason to believe that a procedure by which this can be attained is now being officially considered.

## Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru Interviewed

London, Sunday.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has undoubtedly made the greatest reputation at the Indian Conference. He has been the most moderate and most statesmanlike of all the Indian delegates, his speeches have been more fully reported than those of any member of the Conference with the possible exception of Mr. MacDonald, and he has taken a leading part in all the important discussions regarding the new constitution.

It was known that, as one of the greatest lawyers in India, as Home Member of the Viceroy's Council for five years and as a recent negotiator with Gandhi, he would play an important part at the Conference. And these expectations have been fully realised.

In a special interview with him, he very courteously answered a number of questions put to him by a correspondent of the *Cape Times*.

### Hindu-Moslem Differences

"Has the Conference, in your opinion, been a success?" asked the correspondent.

"Well," he replied. "I am waiting to hear what Mr. MacDonald says on Monday, but on the whole I think it has been.

"I, of course, am keenly disappointed that the Moslems and Hindus failed to reach an agreement, but what they failed to do in London they must do in India before the new constitution is framed, and I feel confident that they will do so for two reasons.

"Firstly, the Moslem delegates here represent only one school of thought. I have had sheaves of cables in the last few days from many Moslems in India—some from people whose names are household words—all insisting on the necessity of agreement. A mistake was made in confining the Moslem delegation to members of this one school, and this mistake must not be repeated in the future.

"Secondly, the youth of India of all creeds is definitely opposed to the maintenance of this discord between the Moslems and Hindus, and I am confident that they will insist on its coming to an end."

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### Financial Safeguards

Asked about the financial safeguards, which have been one of the principal matters of discussion at the Conference, he said:

"I do not think that Indians have any real grievance. The safeguards are really three, and concern external loans, internal loans, and the institution of a Reserve Bank."

"The safeguards concerning external loans are precisely those which prevail regarding South Africa and the other British Dominions, and what these self-governing States willingly submit to regarding trustee stocks and so on, should not be difficult for Indians to accept."

"As to internal loans, I take it that the position is as follows: There will be no certification as at present, but in the event of there being a series of deficits in Indian Budgets—note the word, 'series'—involving perhaps the raising of a loan at an excessively high rate of interest, then the Viceroy will exercise his veto, but will have no control over the next Budget."

"The great question about the Reserve Bank, which will regulate currency and exchange, and will be managed entirely by Indians, will be the date of its institution, and I am strongly urging that it should be inaugurated simultaneously with the new Constitution."

### Suggested Procedure

Asked as to what he thought would, or ought to be, the procedure following Mr. MacDonald's announcement, he replied:

"I am strongly urging the British Government to appoint a Standing Committee which will sit in India until the Constitution has been framed. The British Government, I suggest, should appoint to that committee both statesmen and experts."

"They will thrash out the details left over from the Conference and will suggest to the British Government the nature and provisions of the new Constitution, which will then be submitted to the Imperial Parliament for consideration."

"What, then, will be the position of India vis-a-vis the other States of the British Commonwealth, in the event of the Constitution being accepted?" was the next question.

"India will be in exactly the same position as the other Dominions; except that on matters affecting defence, the Army and external relations, the Viceroy will exercise control," was the answer. "As the result of that equality, I anticipate that India will be able to exert greater moral pressure on the other Dominions regarding the rights of Indians who live outside India in other territories of the British Crown."

### Congress Attitude

"What about the Congress?"

"The Congress," he answered, "will not welcome our deliberations, and I do not expect that Gandhi or any other of its leaders will make any pronouncement at all."

"I expect, however, that numbers of Indians, who joined the Indian Congress party simply because they had lost faith in England's goodwill, will leave it as soon as they see a chance of something like self-government materialising."

"Moreover, I attach great importance to the fact that in the hartal, which the Congress ordered in Bombay yesterday, the transport workers refused to obey the instructions of their unions to come out."

"Indeed, the hartal seems to have been a complete failure. This is highly significant."

"Do you expect much difficulty from the Conservative Party in Britain?"

"Well, so far their leaders have been non-committal, and we must wait and see what influence the die-hard section of the party led by Mr. Winston Churchill, will

exercise. Personally I do not think the Conservative leaders will dare to run the risk of wrecking the proposed constitution for, if they did so, I dare not contemplate what would happen in India."

"I do not, of course, interfere in British politics, but it is likely that the result of the East Bristol by-election will probably strengthen the Labour Government."

The correspondent's final question was, "Do you think India will ever insist on having a Viceroy of Indian nationality?"

He smiled, "That is looking far ahead, but who can tell what may happen in the next 15 years?"

## Muhammed Ali's Funeral

### Crowded Procession In Jerusalem

Jerusalem, Friday.

Muhammed Ali's funeral procession, headed by Shankat Ali, Mufti of Jerusalem, was followed by thousands of mourners.

The pine-wood coffin, shaped like a Moslem tomb, was draped with a piece of holy carpet, and was carried by a motor-car to a grave fashioned in a chamber north of the western wall of the mosque area, in which a door had been specially built.

The funeral orations were delivered by visitors from Cairo, Amman, and Tunis.—Reuter.

## A Life Sketch Of The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

(Continued)

II

It is not realised sufficiently in this country how all-important the work of Maulana Muhammad Ali was for the Non-co-operation Movement. Without his help in bringing the whole popular Muhammadan cause in line with the national movement, Mahatma Gandhi's great effort in 1920 would have proved a partial failure. For in India it would have been impossible to have carried through an All-India National Movement without the help of the Muhammadans who form one fourth of the population. But the Khilafat Movement which the Ali Brothers founded attracted the enthusiasm of the Muhammadan masses and a united movement was formed which covered the whole country. It was in recognition of this that in the year 1923 when Maulana Muhammad Ali had been released from his imprisonment and Mahatma Gandhi himself been put in prison the great Muhammadan leader was acclaimed by every party in India as the leader of the national cause. He was made president of the All-India National Congress and took the presidential chair not only at the emergency session but also at the annual Congress.

When I was with Mahatma Gandhi at the Sassoon Hospital, Poona, Maulana Muhammad Ali came to see Mahatma Gandhi in his sickness and I witnessed the very deep affection which existed between the two leaders. A little later at Juhu by the sea side when Mahatma Gandhi was convalescent, Muhammad Ali again visited him and spent long hours with him discussing the whole Indian problem. But it was at Delhi in the month of September 1924 that the closest bonds of intimacy and affection were formed between them. For when Mahatma Gandhi began his great 21 days' fast it was, as I have often related, at the house of Maulana Muhammad Ali that his fast was undertaken.



No one could have performed the onerous duties of a host more wonderfully than Muhammad Ali and the members of his family including especially his wife who is now a widow. Every comfort possible was provided for all his guests and though the house was overflowing no one was ever turned away. Dr. Ansari also at this time proved a host in himself and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and many others stayed at his house. I was allowed personally to serve Mahatma Gandhi himself and it was the greatest privilege of my life to do so. When the fast was nearly half way through the Doctors specially requested that a house on the Delhi Ridge should be taken for Mahatma Gandhi where the atmosphere was less full of the city dust and heat and I went personally to Maulana Muhammad Ali in order to ask him if the change might be made. He then showed his utter devotion to Mahatma Gandhi himself. For he gave up the high privilege of having his friend in his own house while still entertaining him and those who were with him in the borrowed house on the Ridge. Every day he would come down in the evening along with his wife who was still in Fardah and see after every single comfort of his guests. In this way he performed to the end this perfect service of friendship and hospitality combined.

On the last day of the fast Mahatma Gandhi asked Muhammad Ali to take a vow to be ready at all times to give up his life for the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity. Personally when I saw him in London lying desperately ill at the Conference I felt that he had already fulfilled his vow. For there can be no question that he went to London in order to gain freedom for his country and also for the sake of his religion. His very last acts and words were those of reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims. Leading Hindus told me that they placed their hopes of a settlement on Muhammad Ali more than on anyone else. They said that he had taken throughout a national line of action and had not given way to the communal bias which was so prevalent at the time. They were all deeply grieved at the tragical illness which kept him from the Conference.

My own hope is that his death itself will bring the two communities together even more than his life could have done if it had been prolonged. I feel certain that the memorial of this great national hero and his equally famous mother who showed national heroism in her turn will win the hearts of all sections of the community to a true and lasting peace.

(Concluded)

Mr. R. Packresamy Naidoo passed away at Port Elizabeth on Wednesday morning. The funeral took place the same afternoon and was well attended.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family and relatives of the deceased in their very sad bereavement.

## NOTICE

### DOG TAX - 1931

Notice is hereby given that in terms of Law No. 27, 1875 (Natal), as amended by Ordinances Nos. 6, 1921, 22, 1926, and 5, 1927, owners of dogs within the Province are required to take out or renew licences for dogs in the month of January.

The tax is 10/- per annum for each dog over six months old.

Any person failing to pay the tax by the prescribed date shall be liable, upon conviction, to a penalty not exceeding £3.

By Order,

A. E. CHARTER,  
Provincial Secretary.

## Menace Of Asiatic Encroachment

### Europeans' Right To Protect Themselves

The following appears in the *Rand Daily Mail* above the nom de plume "NATALIAN":—

Sir,—I have resided in Natal for the last 17 years, and realise to some extent how the Indian there has become such a political, social and economic menace to that unhappy country. According to figures given by Mr. Henderson, the late Town Clerk of Durban, there were in that town in 1875 only about 600 Indians, owning in the aggregate £3,000 worth of property. In 1925, 50 years later, the Indians had increased in number to 165,000, owning in the aggregate £1,500,000 worth of property and controlling £15,000,000 of capital. Fifty years ago Natal was still under direct Downing Street rule, which forced the Indian on to the unwilling colonists. Now Natal, especially the coast districts, is doomed as a white man's country. Natalians now despair of obtaining for their children the means of livelihood. This is the "50 years of wrong" which I refer to. Durban, except for certain very restricted areas, might easily be a replica of Madras or Bombay.

The Transvaal has had better luck. They were in the latter part of the nineteenth century an independent Republic. They were able, in spite of continual pressure from Downing Street, to protect themselves against the Asiatic menace.

The Indians are past masters in the art of agitation, evasion of undertakings made under agreement, as well as equivocation and mental reservation. The recent Sastri Agreement was an absolute farce, as Indians have not paid the slightest attention to the obligation involved, while the Government was bound on all points. Well, the Indians cannot have it both ways. The Agreement should be scrapped without delay.

It is well known that the Indians object to segregation in any shape or form. I say: "Let them object!" The white people of this country have certainly the right to reserve certain areas for their exclusive use, and protect themselves, and their children from too close contact with this menace. After the experience of Natal, the alarm of the Transvaalers is well founded.

This objection by Indians and Asiatics to segregation is nothing but sheer hypocrisy. The caste system of India is essentially segregation in an aggravated form. The horrible treatment of the "untouchables" is well known.

Where the Asiatic has the power he treats whites in the same way. There are now certain native States in India where a white man may not set foot, being excluded by treaty. Many parts of Asia are closed to whites under pain of death. Even in Japan, the most civilised Asiatic country, whites may not own land except in the treaty ports.

In view of these facts, whites have a right to use every means, including compulsory segregation, to protect themselves from the Asiatic menace.

## Self-Restraint

Versus

## Self-Indulgence

By M. K. Gandhi

Price 3 Shillings

## Christmas Greetings

### BENEDICTION!

Thou, my friend, and my love for you goes deep. There is nothing I can give you which you have not got; but there is much, very much, that, while I cannot give it, you can take.

Heaven is within! No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in today. Therefore, take Heaven!

Peace is within! No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little moment. Therefore, take Peace!

Joy is within! The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach, is Joy. Therefore take Joy!

There is radiance and glory even in the darkness, could we but see; and to see we have only to look! I beseech you to Look!

Life is so full of Meaning and Purpose, so full of Beauty, beneath its covering, that you will find earth is but the cloak of your Heaven within. Courage then to claim it; that is all!

But courage you have; and the knowledge that we are pilgrims together, passing through unknown country to our home.

So at this Christmas time I greet you, my friend. Not quite as the world sends greetings; but with profound affection and with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day may break and the shadows flee away.

This Christmas greeting was sent to me by an invalid lady from her bed of sickness, Dr. Helen R. D. Reid, of Montreal.

It was translated from a letter written by Fra Giovanni, Anno Domini 1573. It is now offered with love to the readers of INDIAN OPINION as a Christmas and New Year's gift.

—C. F. Andrews.

## Egyptian Tribute To Mahatma Gandhi

In the course of an extremely interesting article, *At Balagh*, the organ of the Wafd Party of Egypt, makes strong strictures against the rulers of the Indian States and after comparing Mahatma Gandhi with Sir Rabindranath Tagore and H.H. the Aga Khan, addresses its readers as follows, regarding Mahatmaji:—

"Now bend your necks in veneration for we are referring to the greatest man of India, Gandhi. Who is Gandhi? That skeleton of bones in which shines forth a great soul. It is he who has given the whole of his property to the nation, who has even taken off the clothes from his body in sympathy with the poor, who only ties a loin-cloth made of rough yarn spun and woven by himself. That same Gandhi comes out of his Ashram with a little staff in his hands so that he may make his country free.

"Such is Gandhi, naked, thin and unarmed. O Gandhi, thou art not only the guide of India, but a source of light for Egypt as well. O India, in spite of all thy misfortunes, how fortunate thou art in this respect that thy soil can produce men like Gandhi!"

"The crinoline kitchen  
has had its day —  
"  
your stove must be modern"

says the Perfection Lady



CONSIDER a Perfection Stove for instance. You light it—cook what you want—and turn it out. It's clean and cool, and wastes no time—heat—or oil. LAUREL PARAFFIN, the correct oil to use in the Perfection Stove, gives perfect cooking heat at one penny per hour per burner.



Buy your Laurel Paraffin in the new refillable drum, and save pence per gallon.

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