

Indian Opinion

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MASS MEETING OF TRANSVAAL INDIANS

A MASS MEETING of the Transvaal Indians was held in Johannesburg on Sunday the 15th March to protest against the new Immigration Bill. The chairman of the meeting Mr. Cassim Adam delivered the following speech:—

Gentlemen,—No doubt you have already read in INDIAN OPINION what this new Immigration Bill means. But have you understood all that it may be made to mean to us Indians of the Transvaal! At the present time the registration certificate is your "pass". If the authorities question the right of any Indian to be in this holy land of the Transvaal, the production of the registration certificate is his best answer to that challenge. If he seeks to enter this province from abroad the production of the registration certificate is sufficient to show his prima facie right to do so. Without the production of a registration certificate he will probably be refused the issue of a trading licence even after the municipal authorities have granted him the certificate. Under the law as it stands the title of the holder of a registration certificate can of course be challenged on the ground of fraud, or an Indian may still be denied the domiciliary rights in the province because he has been absent for more than three years, in spite of his being the lawful holder of a registration certificate. In the former case, however, the burden of proving the registration certificate holder's fraud is, rightly, upon the authorities who allege it; in the latter, domicile may be re-established by a renewed stay for a continuous period of three years from date of return.

The new Bill will, as our counsel has advised us, reduce the registration certificates to 'scraps of paper'; they will have had taken from them all any protective value. Every Indian will be liable to undergo an inquisition, and be made to give a satisfactory account of his original entry into the Transvaal, or that of whoever may be responsible for his being here. The whole community is liable to be challenged as prohibited immigrants, and each member will be compelled to prove his right even though he was brought here as an infant, on pain of expulsion, should he fail to satisfy the inquisitors. It will be seen, therefore, that the outlook is grave. It becomes alarmingly dangerous when the object of the new Bill is grasped. That object is to accomplish what the Gentleman's Agreement has failed to do, the appreciable reduction of South Africa's Indian population. It is the old story of "hook or crook". The baited hook of assisted repatriation failed to catch the fish, hence more forceful methods have to be dynamited.

Let me recall the history of the registration certificate the better to illustrate the callous disregard of promises, pledges, contracts, entered into by responsible Ministers before this Government took office and by which according to all the recognised canons of political decency and honesty this Government should hold itself bound. We have been told again and again that the white man's word is his bond. But history has proved not only in our Motherland but in South Africa that the white man will only observe the sacredness of his promise to

Indians and Bantu so long as it suits his convenience. The Indian community in the Transvaal has been sold by the Parliament of this land, and we are faced with the same position as Mahatma Gandhi was in his days here. At the present moment there is only one method, even at this eleventh hour to appeal to the Union Government not to get the third reading of this obnoxious Bill passed, but to get this question postponed until such time as the Round Table Conference meets when this question could be fully discussed with the representatives of the Indian Government. The Indian community is not asking for any new rights, nor for any fresh privileges; but it does ask in the name of everything that is honourable, true and just, that those few remaining rights which we have secured by our sufferings and sacrifices, by the death of many of our people in the jails of this country, should be preserved to us. In the words of General Smuts the possession of the registration certificate was the Magna Charta of the Indian community of this province. Solemn promises were given by the learned General after the passive resistance struggle of 1907. Whatever may be done against the Indians, we were assured, this right of entry into the Transvaal by virtue of having registration certificates will never be taken away. To-day the wrong is about to be done by the passing of the Immigration Amendment Bill in Committee stage. I appeal to the Minister of the Interior to do the right while the Bill goes for consideration, by granting our request.

The history of the registration certificate shortly is as follows:

Shortly after the Boer War Lord Milner urged the Indian community to accept his suggestion that they enregister in order to satisfy the agitators who resented the Indians being permitted to share the new Tom Tiddler's ground just won. "Take them," urged His Lordship, "they will give you the right to be here, and to come and go". Anxious to conciliate, our people did take them; took them in the belief that in so doing they were making concessions to suspicions and prejudices that would speedily pass; took them in all good faith and trust in Lord Milner's assurances. The period 1903 to 1907 shews 4 years of ceaseless effort on the part of the then authorities to segregate us and to oust us from our businesses, of continued struggle on our part to resist the threatened attacks. Then came the 1907 Immigration and Registration Acts, under Responsible Government and the consequent Passive Resistance campaign. That is 23 years ago, but the painful agony endured by those who took part in it is still remembered.

That struggle, my brothers, was not for loaves and fishes, for material gain, for worldly wealth. Men and women, your fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, suffered imprisonment and sickness, endured to the death, sacrificed everything for their honour and your honour, so that the status and the dignity of Indians should be preserved. It was for that they resisted the differential legislation; they

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TRANSVAAL INDIANS AND REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES

THERE exists a good deal of misapprehension concerning Indians and their Transvaal Registration Certificates. There is probably not an Indian in the whole Province who does not feel the sting, the indignity, of having to carry a "Pass", this certificate of his undesirability, this brand-mark of his inferiority. There is certainly not one who would not gladly welcome consigning the precious document to the flames, *but for its protective value*. It has been said that the Registration Certificate is, so to speak, hallowed for certain sentimental reasons; possesses for its holders value because of its association with the Passive Resistance struggles. Any such contention, though excusable, is somewhat misleading. The naked truth is that the Registration Certificate always has been and always will be an abomination. But, while there is nothing sentimentally precious about the Certificates themselves, a very great deal of sentiment does attach to the events that led up to their ultimate adoption; to the martyrdom that was suffered in the ultimately successful effort to resist the implications their imposition, it was thought, conveyed.

The spirit in which the community acquiesced in the appeal made to them to fall in with the original proposal to register was all to the people's credit; an example of "noblesse oblige." The Pro-Consul was a past master in the art of extracting the sting of seeming indignity, and relieved of the suggestion of racial inferiority the certificates as such involved little more than the inconvenience of getting and retaining them. Be it also remembered that at this stage and for long after there existed no statutory restriction upon Indian immigration on the score of race. The 1906 Ordinance, of which the Immigration Act (15 of 1907) was virtually a replica, was disallowed by the Colonial Secretary, Lord Elgin; the proposal of compulsory registration of Transvaal Indians, also advanced in 1906, was similarly rejected. Act 2 of 1907 and Act 15 of 1907 under Responsible Government, followed. Followed also the intensive Passive Resistance struggle, that probably

for the first time reminded the civilised world that there is a sincerer belief in the doctrine of the Christian Master among orientals than among many of His professed followers of the West. The struggle culminated in the passing of Act 36 of 1908, as supplementary to Act 2 of 1907. One has but to re-read the above two statutes together in conjunction with the Immigration Law, Act 15 of 1907, to perceive the startling difference, in tone and spirit, of the official attitude then and now. There has quite obviously developed a callous indifference to Indian sensitiveness side by side with a disregard of pledges and promises both expressed and implied. This is reflected in subsequent enactments and even more pronouncedly in their administration. The earlier, as well as the later, Passive Resistance struggles were primarily in defence of "amour propre", what we Indians labelled "self-respect". Indian sensitiveness on this score was appreciated by Lord Milner, was respected by General Smuts; as far as was practicable the sting of imputation of racial inferiority was withdrawn or at least concealed. In making concession to the prejudices and antagonisms the authorities felt themselves called upon to record in the form of legislation, the people were consoled with a consciousness of stooping to conquer. More than once was it said of them, and to them, that "it was their virtues not their vices that were feared." Apart from sentiment, it was felt that the acceptance of the Registration Certificates would, at least, constitute a guarantee of peace and inaugurate a period of tranquility wherein the community might shew their opponents the hollowness of the fears professed in respect of them. Both the Acts of 1907 and 1908 make the production of a Registration Certificate by its lawful holder a complete answer to any challenge of his "right to be here and his right to come and go."

WORDS OF WISDOM

Whose works are all free from the moulding of desire, whose actions are burned up by the fire of wisdom, him the wise have called a sage.

—BHAGAVAD GITA.

THE NEXT CONFERENCE

ITS GREAT IMPORTANCE

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

EVERYTHING will now depend on the next Conference which is to be held at the close of the five years' Capetown Agreement.

Many have told me since I came to South Africa, that the Indian community had gained nothing since the time in 1927 that the Capetown Agreement was signed. But surely this is in reality taking a short-sighted view of things. Let it be clearly understood that the Agreement itself included two important factors,—(1) the complete withdrawal of the Class Areas Bill, (2) the establishment of the Agent-General and staff as an institution in South Africa in order to relieve the tension between the Union Government and the Indian community.

The Transvaal has gained no less than any other province owing to these two matters being settled by the last Agreement. Therefore I truly believe that the situation is more hopeful to-day for the Indian community in the Transvaal (as well as in Natal and in the Cape Province) than it was before owing to these two new factors. It is not too much to say, I think, that the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill would have been the law of the Transvaal long ago, if it had not been for the work of the Agency, both in obtaining the original postponement of the Bill in 1930 and also in giving such admirable evidence before the Select Committee in the same year. Its firm stand also this present year in again urging postponement until the Conference, has been remarkably effective. I would add that a very great number of individual cases have been dealt with more leniently and injustice has been prevented in many important personal instances owing to the presence of the Agent-General from India and his staff.

It must be remembered that we have not only had the invaluable help of the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri with his private secretary Kodanda Rao and Sir Kurma Reddi with his son Gopal Kurma Reddi, but also the equally important and effective help of Mr.

Tyson and the Hon. E. Baring and every member of the Agent's staff. I have seen now for some years past Mr. Rickett's quiet work, and while congratulating him most heartily on his marriage I would like at the same time to acknowledge, along with the whole Indian community, the debt of gratitude that is owed to him for his silent constant effort. I should not leave out also Mr. S. M. Moodley whose own quiet work in its own way has been of great importance.

Last of all, in connection with the Agency, if we review the last five years quite calmly, we shall see, I am sure, that European sympathy and interest, such as had no existence in this particular way before, has been added to our resources since the Agreement was signed. Perhaps, in this matter, the opinion of one like myself who has been away and returned after four years' absence, is of value. I can say without any hesitation, that among Europeans in South Africa the situation has immensely changed since the Agreement was signed. I have seen this on every side and, above all, it has been the presence of the Agent-General and his staff that has so entirely altered the situation.

Now we are faced with another Conference. Whether it is to be in India or in South Africa is uncertain. But one thing is certain; it must deal fundamentally with the Transvaal Question and find a solution, not only of the present acute points of controversy, but also of the earlier disabilities under which the Transvaal Indians have suffered ever since the days of the Boer Republic. We have to review at the Conference the whole situation and find somehow a firm foundation upon which a good and satisfactory family life can be built up in the Transvaal.

Other questions, affecting other provinces, will undoubtedly be brought forward and dealt with at this Conference; but since the Transvaal matters have been the main points of controversy during the past years, it is clear that they must be the first points to be brought up and settled at the Conference.

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fought to save you from the stigma of being branded as Pariahs, for the preservation of their self-respect and yours. The struggle terminated in terms of Act 36 of 1908, under which registration certificates were voluntary, the production of which by the lawful holder constituted a complete answer to any challenge of the right to be here or the right to come here.

The settlement of 1908 was a "compromise" also. We were to be left in peace. The 1913-14 struggle was also based upon considerations of status and self-respect, but I am now principally concerned to point out that our trust and confidence in those who assured us that our registration certificates were to be our title-deeds to right of entry, residence and ordinary opportunities to prosper, has been betrayed again and again.

How are we going to meet the situation if this new Immigration Bill becomes Law! Are we going to share the memory of our martyrs! To brand ourselves cowards and traitors to the Motherland presently struggling to achieve nationhood. So I appeal to my countrymen that when the time does come for united action, none of us will be failing in our duty to respond to its call in the struggle to retrieve that which has been lost. We shall get what we earn, what we deserve. Let us not forget that these are gains greater than money and fixed properties, riches and comfort.

Gentlemen, you must have noticed in the papers a notice to the effect that the scholars attending Indian schools will from the first of April be called upon to sweep and to scrub class rooms and not only that but they will be compelled to clean the lavatories of these various schools. The Provincial Council in its wisdom has made this regulation only for non-European schools. Another example of racial legislation.

European children are free from the performance of any of such tasks. The Government up to now has been paying a certain amount for school cleaning purposes. The amount was dependent upon the size of the building. These amounts were paid to the Principal and they had to engage some person or other to do the work. Now for the sake of economy the Provincial Council has decided to withdraw these grants and to make your sons and daughters road sweepers and scavengers. Will you parents allow such a state of affairs to exist? My only advice to parents is to instruct all their children to passively resist any instruction that may be given to them by the Principals of the schools. Let them become passive resisters. Protest should be sent to the Provincial authorities, the Educational Department and all the school boards. A resolution will be submitted to you and I ask for your unanimous support.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were then passed by the meeting:—

1. That this mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress protests against the passing of the Immigration Amendment Bill being in the opinion of the Congress a violation of all solemn promises and assurances given by the Transvaal and the Union Governments in the past. This meeting appeals to the Union Government and more especially to Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, to suspend all further steps to make this Bill Law until such time as the Round Table Conference between the Government of India and the Union Government meets.

2. That this mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress appeals to the Government of India and its Agent, to urge upon the Union Government to suspend the Immigration Amendment Bill until

such time as the Round Table Conference between the two Governments is held.

3. That this mass meeting appeals to Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of India, personally to interest himself in the removal of the proposed disabilities under the Immigration Amendment Bill, and so prevent a revival of the 1907 passive resistance movement.

4. That this mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress appeals to the Indian National Congress and the leaders of India, and more especially to Mahatma Gandhi to urge upon the Government of India to make representations to the Union Government for the suspension of the Immigration Amendment Bill now before the Union Parliament, until such time as the Round Table Conference takes place between the representatives of the two Governments.

5. That this mass meeting of Indians in the Transvaal strongly protests against the degrading circular issued by the Provincial authorities to Indian schools to the effect that as from the first of April school children should sweep and scrub school floors and clean out their own lavatories. We protest against the said action of the authorities on the ground of racial discrimination and appeal to them to rescind their resolution.

Cables Sent to Mahatma Gandhi And Congress President

The following are the cables sent by the Transvaal Indian Congress to Mahatma Gandhi and to the President of the Indian National Congress:—

MAHATMA GANDHI, Karachi:—

"Proposed destruction protective value registration certificates to us to undo work of 1907 campaign and to be violation of compromise resulting in voluntary registration 1908. Mr. Ritch confirms. Please confirm or correct. We feel that such step by the Government justifies our returning to position we adopted in 1907. All labours and sacrifices of 25 years are threatened with total undoing by new Immigration and Asiatic Tenure Bills. Please bear us in mind also. Transvaal Indian Congress humbly offers congratulations your great work and prays for its fruition."

PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, Karachi:—

"Transvaal Indian Congress offers prayers complete success Indian National Congress deliberations. May Mahatma Gandhi's goal be fully reached. Appeal to you to reserve corner for consideration destructive legislation threatening us under new Immigration Bill already before Parliament and Asiatic Tenure Bill temporarily hung up."

Secretary T.I. Congress.

Third Reading Of Immigration Bill Passed

An amendment by Mr. Duncan on the third reading of the Immigration Bill, calling for the submission of the Japanese agreement to Parliament, was rejected by 55 votes to 45 after a debate that lasted all afternoon and evening. Col. Stallard attacked the Minister's power to fulfil the agreement in view of the terms of the Immigration Act, but in his reply the Minister said he had full power under the clause and regulation permitting the entry of persons of whom he had been advised through diplomatic channels. He said the Government's law advisers were satisfied in every respect of the agreement.

Transvaal Indians Welcome Mr. Andrews

Mr. C. F. Andrews arrived in Johannesburg from Capetown on Sunday morning the 29th March. He was met at Park Station by the officials and members of the Transvaal Indian Congress and many Patidars and Tamil Indians were also present. After meeting all the friends Mr. Andrews drove to the residence of Mr. Cassim Adam where he is putting up.

A mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress was held at the Patidar Hall, Newtown. The hall was packed. Mr. L. W. Ritch and Mr. Kallenbach were also present. Mr. Cassim Adam, the Vice-President of the Congress, presided. In welcoming Mr. Andrews the President said:—

I take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. Andrews this afternoon among us, after his hard work at Capetown in our interest. There are obligations so overwhelming that words are too feeble for their acknowledgment. There are some servers the magnitude of whose devotion owes to silence such as can appreciate. In regard to our devoted friend Mr. Andrews, this is very much how I feel. Into what words can we put our grateful appreciation of Dinbandoo Andrews' work for us, for India and for humanity. How can we hope to express our feelings. As his Master gave Himself for mankind, so has Mr. Andrews given himself to us and for us. We can but reverence and silently admire and perhaps envy a little. He is with us and we feel inspired and hopeful. He goes from us and we feel lost and helpless. To us he is a father and friend. His presence encourages us like unto the presence of a brave captain among his army, and like a great captain he has fought for us and again and again saved us from defeat and destruction. "Our loving gratitude", Dinbandoo, and "God bless you" are perhaps the most welcome thanks I can offer you and those words I say from my heart.

Mr. L. W. Ritch paid striking tributes to Mr. Andrews' work and said that Mr. Andrews was a savior of the people. His was a labour not only of drawing together the people of India, but of uniting the people of the world, irrespective of race, creed or colour. Messrs. Pragji Desai, Sigamoney, Mooljee Patel, Mavjeebhai, Gopaladas (of Messrs. Irikamdas Bros) Thambi Naidoo, D. M. Narsoo, Tavarua and others spoke in high terms of Mr. Andrews' services.

On behalf of the Transvaal Indian Congress Mr. Cassim Adam and on behalf of the Patidar Society Mr. Mooljeebhai Master garlanded Mr. Andrews.

Mr. Andrews in reply thanked all the friends for the kind words they had spoken about him and said how he had to leave Dr. Rabindranth Tagore in America and hurriedly had to come to South Africa to render such assistance as he could to the Transvaal Indians in their darkest hour. He said it was yet undecided whether the conference was to be held in India or in South Africa, but wherever it was to be held he would be present. "There are two reasons of my going to England at present. First of all my sister is very ill there and secondly Mahatma Gandhi will be soon going to England. I would like to go to England before Mahatma goes there and try to prepare the ground for him in England. Once again I thank you all and hope to see you back.

Indian Dealer's Licence

Witbank Council's Ban Set Aside

The decision of the Witbank Municipality that a general dealer's licence could not be given to an Asiatic named Patel was set aside with costs by Mr. Justice Tindall at Pretoria, and the matter was referred back for rehearing, in which, the judge stipulated, the Mayor should not participate.

One of the points on which the municipality refused the application was "that a store on a site where there was a hidden corner and where vehicles stopping in front of the shop would have to be drawn up in the narrow road, would constitute a danger and a nuisance to pedestrians and vehicles." It was on this point, which was an entirely new question of law, that Patel's appeal succeeded.

The judge said he had also come to the conclusion that the Mayor ought not to have sat on the committee, as he had expressed opinions that showed he was opposed to the application, and was therefore biased.

Benoni Opposes Japanese Agreement

At a meeting of the Benoni Town Council a letter was read from the Benoni Chamber of Commerce drawing attention to the danger of the Japanese Agreement.

Mr. Nestadt said the Council should give the Chamber its whole-hearted support. The Treaty was a menace to the country. They had had sufficient trouble with the Chinese years ago, and they did not want to risk a repetition.

Mr. Cowlard asked that the Council should register an emphatic protest. If Japanese were allowed to trade in the country it would mean the depression of the White workers.

Major G. Rennie moved that the Council endorse the views of the Chamber of Commerce and that a protest against the Agreement be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior and the Member for Benoni. Under the Treaty, he said, it might become possible for Japanese to open stores in the town. The Council had always set its face against allowing Asiatics to trade in the centre of the town.

The motion was carried.

"Yellow Peril" Nonsense

Japanese Foreign Office Statement

A Renter's message from Tokio states:—

The Japanese Foreign Office characterises as nonsense the "yellow peril" cry, which according to a report from South Africa, has been raised throughout the Union following the conclusion of the "gentleman's agreement" in regard to passport visas for Japanese entering the Union.

The Foreign Office denies that a special agreement has been reached, but admits that an understanding has been arrived at to relax restrictions on the entry of Japanese.

The Japanese Foreign Office states that there are only 15 Japanese resident in South Africa, including members of the Consulate and their families.

Viceroy's Farewell To Assembly

New Delhi, March 28.—Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, had a memorable leavetaking on his last appearance in the Legislative Assembly. He was greeted with prolonged applause and delivered a brief formal speech announcing a small conference of Leaders to discuss the situation arising from the rejection of the Budget.

Lord Irwin expressed his gratitude to the members who, disregarding the risks and reproaches, had attended the Session and prevented a rude setback to Indian Parliamentary progress.

After the Viceroy had shaken hands with members individually the Assembly rose and cheered him.

Viceroy's Answer To "Iron Hand"

Advocates

New Delhi, Friday.

A striking answer to the advocates of the "iron hand" policy in India was given by the Viceroy at a farewell banquet here. He said there were those who saw in the present situation merely a movement engineered by a negligible minority which a firm Government could suppress. Lord Irwin expressed the opinion that such a diagnosis was superficial and distorted, and wholly divorced from reality.

Nobody could deny that there was sedition in India, but Britain would delude herself if she did not recognise that, beneath the distinction of community, class and social circumstances, there was growing an intellectual self-consciousness closely akin to nationalism.—Renter.

India Congress Opens

Karachi, March 30.—Cries of "Why drag in Gandhi's name every time? Why take shelter under his name?" indicated the temper in which the Congress Subjects Committee received Rajgopalachariar, a member of the Working Committee, when he moved a resolution regarding Indians in South Africa and East Africa and remarked that Gandhi approved it as it stood.

The resolution, which was ultimately adopted, expressed alarm at the trend of events in South and East Africa and declared that the contemplated legislation was a contravention of promises, and in some respects even constituted an attack on the Indian's legal rights.

The resolution appealed to the Government concerned to mete out to Indians the same measure of justice as they would claim for their own nationals in the free India.

Rajgopalachariar, when he was interrupted, asked the audience to let him have his say and explained that Gandhi approved the draft resolution but was not present, as it was his "silence day."

Striking Scene

The scene at the opening of the National Congress was a striking one.

More than 3,000 delegates and several thousand visitors of all ages squatted in a vast open air stadium called Motilal Pandu (tent) in memory of the late Pandit Motilal Nehru.

Several spot lights were concentrated on the stadium when Vallabhai Patel rose at dusk to deliver his address.

The speeches were magnified by means of loud speakers.

Gandhi, with Vallabhai Patel, was given an ovation as he entered and sat with members of the Working

Committee on a dais several yards from the rostrum. The inaugural addresses were brief and were cheered from beginning to end.

Sardar Kishen Singh, the father of Bhagat Singh, who was excited in connection with the Lahore conspiracy case, in response to the audience's invitation to speak, urged the young men not to be carried away by mere enthusiasm, but to be guided by wisdom.

Congress reached the apex of its proceedings in a three-hour debate, as a result of which it passed a resolution confirming the Irwin-Gandhi pact, reaffirming the goal of independence and demanding complete control of the army, foreign affairs and finance.

The resolution also appointed Gandhi as head of a Congress delegation to the further Round Table Conference.

End Of Congress Session

Karachi, April 1.—Storms of noisy enthusiasm resounded throughout the town at midnight denoting the end of the All India Congress, whose final act was the unanimous adoption of a resolution consisting of an elaboration of Gandhi's famous 11 points, forming an official definition of "Swaraj."

The resolution demanded an Indian Native Government endowed with various fundamental rights, and laid down a catalogue with detailed provisions which included:

Abolition of the Salt Duty;

Control of the exchange and currency policy and military expenditure;

Reduction of expenditure by at least half;

Fixation of wages for industrial workers;

Protection of Indian cloth by the exclusion of foreign yarn;

Limitation of civil servants' salaries to £450.

"Under Swaraj even the Viceroy will not be paid more than 500 rupees a month," declared Gandhi, and added that the foregoing would represent the demands of the members of Congress at the Round Table Conference.

The final session was protracted by the President's ruling that no decision could be reached until the return of Hindus and Moslems who were temporarily absent at prayer.

All India "Cabinet"

Fifteen members of the Congress have been elected as a "Cabinet" by the All India Congress Committee.

The Cabinet includes Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mrs. Naidu, with Vallabhai Patel as President.

They are likely to represent Congress at the new Round Table Conference.—Renter.

London, Monday.—The Karachi correspondent of *The Times* states that more than 50,000 attended the opening of the first general session of the Congress. "Redshirts" or Youth League, threatened to make trouble, but soon realised that the weight of numbers was against them and after a procession they held a small meeting near the main one.

The Congress session was orderly, and the speakers were heard in silence.

A Renter message from Karachi states that the Congress Working Committee have endorsed the Irwin-Gandhi agreement, the plenary session of the Congress, which is now finally considering it, is very unlikely to reverse the decision.

Vallabhai Patel, in an unusually terse and businesslike presidential address at the plenary session, said he did not doubt that the Congress

would endorse the settlement. He declared that they would never allow the British to control their defence, but their was no reason why they should not receive English assistance where military skill was required. They would not divide the financial control and the civil service must be heavily reduced, added the president.

The most rapid method of reaching Hindu-Moslem unity was to let the Moslem minorities write out their demands, and he would endorse them.

The plenary session endorsed the resolutions adopted by the Working Committee and the Subjects Committee urging the release of all political prisoners, deploring the communal riots at Cawnpore, and appointing a committee to enquire into the causes of the riots.

Safeguards For India

Telegram From Mr. Benn

London, Friday.—According to the *News-Chronicle's* Karachi correspondent Gandhi has received from Mr. Wedgwood Benn's telegram assuring him that in any future round-table conference the constitutional safeguards will be regarded as entirely open for discussion.

This is held to have removed Gandhi's objections to attending future conferences on the constitution, which arise from Lord Sankey's recent statement on the finality of the safeguards. Coming on the eve of the Congress meeting this telegram will immensely strengthen Gandhi's hands against the extremists, especially as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has now decided not openly to oppose the Delhi truce.

Nehru admitted privately that he is not in favour of it, but added: "I am a disciplined soldier and must therefore remain loyal to our leader Gandhi."

Gandhi And Riots

The *Times* correspondent at Karachi says the Cawnpore rioting has plainly depressed Gandhi. "I feel troubled and grieved" he confessed yesterday. The unpleasant reality of communal conflicts has already thrown a shadow across the deliberations of the Congress.

In a public speech last night Gandhi, with great emphasis said that, if the Hindus and Moslems continued to divide India he would retire, go on hunger strike, and starve himself to death.

Asked if in the event of the Hindus and Moslems being unable to reach an agreement he would accept the principle of British arbitration, he answered, "I should feel the deepest humiliation if it were necessary to refer the greatest of India's problems to Britain."

Gandhi said he dared not prophesy what would happen if the Congress refused to ratify the Delhi pact. "I refuse to face such a tragedy until it occurs," he said, but he admitted that he would not be surprised if serious opposition appeared.

Mahatma Gandhi's Speech At Karachi

A Reuter's message from Karachi states:—

Mr. Gandhi held tens of thousands of people spellbound for nearly one hour when he delivered an address on the Congress grounds.

"None can harm me," he said. "As long as God wills I shall serve India, Gandhism, which my young friends shouted down yesterday, will not die with me, or will its believers."

Referring to the black cloth flower presented to him on Thursday on his arrival at Malir, Mr. Gandhi said that if the youth who gave it to him "came and confessed the error of his ways, he would return it to him."

A later message from the same source states that "it appears that Mr. Gandhi is ready to stake his career on the Congress vote."

Sitting before his spinning wheel in his hut in the Congress camp, Mr. Gandhi told a group of journalists that if the Congress rejected the settlement arrived between Lord Irwin and him at Delhi, the only course open to him would be to retire temporarily from political life as the rejection would be tantamount to a vote of no confidence in himself. If the agreement was ratified, Mr. Gandhi said, he would not accept an open mandate from the Congress to the Round Table Conference, but would ask for a restricted mandate defining the terms of independence and safeguards."

New Postal Rates

Announcement By Postmaster-General

It is officially announced by the Postmaster-General that, with effect from April 1, 1931, the postage rates on the undermentioned classes of postal articles posted in the Union for delivery within the Union, South West Africa, Bechuanaland Protectorate, Rhodesia and the Province of Mozambique will be as indicated:—

Letters, 2s. for the first ounce and 1d. for each additional ounce.

Postcards (single), 1d. each; reply paid, 2d. each.

Accounts, receipts and invoices, 1d. for the first four ounces and 3d. per two ounces thereafter.

With effect from the same date the letter rate to the United Kingdom, the British Dominions, Egypt, Palestine, and the British possessions will be 2d. for the first ounce and 1d. per ounce thereafter.

—Reuter.

Situation Wanted

A SENIOR trained teacher, of 20 years' teaching experience in the Educational Department of Gujarat, requires a post in any part of Africa. Has, also, experience in Drawing, etc.

Please write soon to the address below:—

HIRALAL LALURAM DAVE

Naul Hamam, Choo Kants,

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Transvaal Indian Football Association

At the annual general meeting held at the Trades Hall on Monday 30th March 1931, the following were elected for the Season viz:—

Patron: Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Kt. B.A.B.L.
 President: Willie Ernest, Esq., Hon. Life Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Harry Peters, V. S. Pillay, and David Ernest. Hon. Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Juan F. Marrian, S. M. Pillay, B. Mabarajh, Ramlal Muloo, L. B. Maharajh. Hon. Secretary: K. Narasamy, Esq. Hon. Record Clerk: Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney. Hon. Treasurer: Himdad Khan. Delegates to S.A.I.F.A.: Messrs. J. F. Marrian and S. Ernest.

Rangers Football Club

The annual general meeting of the above Club was held at Vrededorp, Johannesburg, on Sunday last when the following were elected:—

Patron: Mustapha Hassim Esq., Vice Patrons: Messrs. V. L. Jack, and Jacob Morgan. President: Himdad Khan Esq., Vice Presidents: Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Col. Deneys Reitz, M.L.A., Messrs. B. Pencharz, J. Daleski, S. Jacobson, C. I. Effune, E. Gluckman, L. Sachs, W. D. McFarlane, I. Lewis Meskin, J. R. Ritoff (Jnr.), Ritoff (Snr.), Geo Hatch, E. Jamal, S. M. Nana, Osman Hassim, R. Kanji Valley, Ebrahim Virjee, J. M. Sackes, Philip Morris, J. Aaronson, Narsai Parbhoo, J. G. Vandeyar, and A. Rahmani. Secretary: K. G. Moodley Esq., Treasurer: K. Vangatas. Delegates to T.I.F.A.: K. Vangatas, K. G. Moodley, R. Vandeyar. Captain: Mr. K. Narasamy, Vice-Captain: Jacob Francis. Committees: Goolam Ali Ravji, V. L. Jack, K. Narasamy, K. Vangatas and M. Ramsamy.

Estcourt News


[BY JAMES AUGUSTINE]

BELLS WIN OVER NESTLES

A friendly match was arranged by the Bells F.C. against the Nestles Indian Football Club, which took place on Sunday the 21st March 1930, at the Hotspurs' Ground. The whistle was entrusted into the able hands of Mr. Claude A. Lalla. The match commenced at 3 p.m. From the commencement it was of a very fast nature, and both teams played well. The Nestles F.C. had two good tries at the Bells' goal but without result. Half time blew off without any score. The Bells thereafter played with a determination to score. Joe Augustine netted the first goal for the Bells. The Nestles centred and made a dash in the Bells' area but the full backs soon cleared the ball. A second dash was made and the Bells' goalkeeper was tested with a shot from the goal area from James Augustine. Gundiyal for the Bells kicked a good corner and Peter David scored the second. In a few minutes of play the Bells again registered their third goal.

Due credit must be given to the Nestles F.C. who are a new team and most of the players are just learning the game.

Messrs. Baldaw Singh, Abdool Gunga, G. Krippen, and James Augustine, all ex-members of the Shamrocks Football Club, have decided to play for the Nestles Football Club.



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