

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

AN Indian lorry-owner in Durban was convicted by a magistrate of having conveyed goods for reward along a proclaimed transportation route otherwise than in accordance with his certificate. The lorry was used for the conveyance of rice, whereas the certificate authorised only the conveyance of furniture. According to the defence, the owner hired the lorry to a Durban firm, and this firm agreed to pay him £2 7s. for the trip, as well as providing the petrol, irrespective of what the lorry was used to carry. Mr. Justice Feetham, the Judge-President, with whose judgment Mr. Justice Matthews concurred, held that the owner of the lorry, the appellant in the case, was conveying nothing "as he had no control over the persons who had hired the lorry or over the use of the lorry." The persons who had hired the lorry, the Judge-President pointed out, were the persons who had conveyed the goods. In these circumstances the conviction was quashed, and the Judge-President added the comment that the sentence, four months' hard labour suspended for three years, provided that during this period the accused did not violate the Act, was "astonishingly severe."

The authorities are bent upon depriving the Indian bus and lorry owners of their legitimate calling in which they have been successful to a certain extent notwithstanding the constant pin-pricks, and which has been a source of livelihood for many unemployed Indians. And while in the present case justice has been given by the learned judges to the grieved party, it is a matter of very little consolation, for the attention of the authorities is directed not to justice or the injustice of the case, but to the serious flaw in the Motor Carrier Transportation Act which they will soon remove to their own advantage.

THUS the *Star* (Johannesburg) :—

For the impending Indian Round Table Conference at Capetown the Railway Administration will arrange catering and accommodation for the Indian delegates throughout the conference. A private saloon, equipped and conditioned in most luxurious fashion, will be placed at the disposal of the London delegates when they embark at Capetown on January 4. Special first-class compartments will be reserved for their attendants. Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent of the Government of India, will leave Johannesburg for Lourenco Marques on December 30 to meet the Indian delegates who are sailing direct from India. Mr. M. L. de Waal-Davies, a member of the Government office, will leave for Lourenco Marques on January 2 to welcome the delegates on behalf of the Union Government. An invitation will be extended to the delegates at the conclusion of the conference to tour the Union. In anticipation of acceptance, preliminaries have been concluded by the railway authorities for observation saloons, fitted with lavish interior decorations and representing the last word in modern rail travel, to be placed at their disposal.

We understand on very good authority that three saloons have been provided for the Indian delegation

of the same type as those provided for the Union Ministers. Special saloons were provided during the time of the Paddison Deputation but owing to the present policy of the Government to economise in every direction, it does not propose to incur any extra expenditure for the comfort of the delegation.

SIR Fazl-i-Hussain, leader of the Indian delegation to South Africa, who sailed aboard the *Khandalla* from Bombay, stated, in an interview he gave to Reuter, that the success of the Conference depended on numerous circumstances which he could not forecast.

A batch of 195 Indians were repatriated last Saturday from Durban under the Assisted Emigration Scheme. This brings the November commitment to the huge total of 945 persons and the total for the year to 1,704. The total for November and December (actually one shipment) is greater than that for any previous shipment within three months, and greater than the total for the whole of 1930.

Dr. Carey, Bishop of Bloemfontein, in an interview in Maritzburg a few days ago observed :—

"I do not think that British people have ever had a settled policy of domineering, but Britishers have a careless way of speaking and thinking, as if their race was the only one ever right. It is not meant to give offence, because it is just carelessly instinctive, but it does give offence when we have to live cheek by jowl with another proud, stubborn race."

"If I were addressing a Christian audience I would stress the fact that, according to the teaching of our Master, love is of God and hatred of the devil. I cannot understand religious people being bitter with one another on the score of race, or anything else. For Christians, certainly it is a choice between the bitterness of race and Christianity."

"You cannot have both, and so, for myself, both for the sake of our common Christianity and for the peace and happiness of South Africa itself, I am passionately zealous for a growing goodwill which alone can make us a Christian, contented and prosperous nation," the Bishop concluded.

"I am torn between an intense impulse to return to India immediately, because of the crisis impending there, and my duty to the Indian community in South Africa," declared Mrs. Sarojini Naidu on the eve of her departure from London for the coming conference at Capetown. "The fate of thousands of my compatriots is involved in the success of this mission on which my colleagues and I are setting forth, but my mind is heavy with anxiety about the immediate future of India." Mrs. Naidu was of the opinion that the Indian problem in South Africa was not a political issue, nor was it based on racial or colour prejudice, but was a problem of human adjustment on an equitable basis, into which economic factors entered very largely. The inequity of the situation, however, would continue in some measure even after the best settlement, as long as India's own status remained subject to foreign domination. The real remedy for Indian nationals abroad was inseparable from the larger problem of Indian freedom. That was a matter for Indians every where and not merely in South Africa,

PREPARATIONS

THIS is the last week before us to prepare our case for the coming Round Table Conference. Transvaal is the most seriously affected Province in view of the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, the Licensing Ordinance and the Immigration Amendment Act of 1931. In the circumstances it was painful to find, just a few days ago, that the work of the Transvaal Indian Congress had almost come to a standstill owing to disunity. Advocate A. Christopher went up to Johannesburg to help in sinking the petty differences and to urge the necessity for complete unity at this most critical period in the history of the Indian community in the Transvaal in particular and in the whole Union in general. We are pleased to note that Mr. Christopher's time was not spent uselessly and that he was rewarded for the sacrifice he was called upon to make. After a discussion with the leading members of the community a meeting was called at which an opportunity was afforded to all who had any grievances to fully ventilate them and, in the end, by a policy of give and take, the little differences that existed were sunk and all were once again united and agreed to work in harmony. The Transvaal Indians will be holding a mass meeting next Sunday at which a statement of their case will be submitted. An Emergency Session of the South African Indian Congress will also be held in Johannesburg to discuss the whole situation and to get the statement to be submitted to the Indian Delegation passed unanimously.

Ever since the last Agreement there were some amongst us who chose to put their faith in the professed sincerity of the Government and to read the Agreement in the light it was interpreted by Mr. Sastri, the first Agent of the Government of India. There were others who were despondent and viewed the Agreement with the utmost pessimism. The time has now come when we find the latter to be in the right and the former in the wrong. We include ourselves among the former and we maintain, however, that we were not at all wrong in taking the stand we did. We must, as honourable men, trust the word of one who says he is sincere. If, however, he breaks faith, it is unfortunate. But we have nothing to lose thereby if we have faith in our own strength and in the righteousness of our cause.

Notwithstanding the fact, therefore, that those who disagreed with us have proved right in the present instance, we are not prepared to give them credit for their pessimism. There is, however, no difference of opinion now amongst us as to the fact that the Agreement has failed and that the Government has flagrantly violated its terms. There is one thing that will help us above all in the present crisis and that is to sink all our differences and to show a thoroughly united front. If we fail in that we will be faced with the worse possible fate and we will have well deserved it.

The Round Table Conference

Personnel And Programme Of The Delegation

DELEGATES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, K.C.I.E., Kt., Member of the Government's Executive Council (Leader); Sir Geoffrey F. Corbett, K.B.E., C.T.E., I.C.S., The Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., C.H., Sir D'Arcy Lindsay, Kt., C.B.E., Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Kt. (Agent of the Government of India in South Africa); G. S. Bajpai, Esq., C.I.E., C.B.E., I.C.S. (Secretary).

DELEGATES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Honourable Dr. D. F. Malan, M.P. (Leader); The Honourable O. Pirow, K.C., M.P., The Honourable E. G. Jansen, M.P., The Honourable Patrick Duncan, O.M.G., K.C., M.P., G. Heaton Nicholls, Esq., M.P.

The Agent leaves Johannesburg on January 1, for a short visit to Barberton. He will arrive in Lourenço Marques on Saturday night, January 2, in order to meet Sir Fazl-i-Hussain and Mr. G. S. Bajpai from India.

TOUR PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICA OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DELEGATION 1932.

- Mon. 4th Jan. : about 8 a.m.—Sir Fazl-i-Hussain and Mr. Bajpai will arrive in Lourenço Marques in the R.M.S. *Khavdalla*. They will be met by the Agent and Union Government Representative.
- " " 1.40 p.m.—Sir Fazl-i-Hussain and Mr. Bajpai will leave Lourenço Marques in private Saloon. Agent's Saloon will be attached to same train. Lunch in Saloon.
- " " about 8 a.m.—Sir Geoffrey Corbett, the Rt. Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir D'Arcy Lindsay and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu will arrive at Cape Town in the R.M.S. *Balmoral Castle*. They will be met by Mr. Baring and will repair to the Mount Nelson Hotel.
- " " 4 p.m.—Above Delegates will leave Cape Town in private Saloon for Johannesburg.
- Tues. 5th Jan. : 6.25 a.m.—Delegates from Lourenço Marques and the Agent will arrive in Pretoria.
- " " 8 a.m.—Breakfast in Saloon.

" " 9 a.m.—Sir Fazl-i-Hussain will receive Mayor and prominent officials and citizens of Pretoria.

" " 10 a.m.—Call at Government House if His Excellency is in residence. Visit to Union Buildings and Mint.

" " 11 a.m.—Tea with Mayor at Town Hall.

" " 12 noon.—Visit Pretoria Asiatic Bazaar where Sir Fazl-i-Hussain will receive representatives of Pretoria Indians.

" " 2.5 p.m.—Party will leave Pretoria for Johannesburg. Lunch in Saloon.

" " 4.6 p.m.—Arrive Johannesburg where Sir Fazl-i-Hussain will be received by Mayor and prominent European and Indian citizens of Johannesburg. Party will then proceed to Carlton Hotel.

Wed. 6th Jan. : 7.30 a.m.—Delegates from Cape Town will arrive Johannesburg and proceed to Carlton Hotel.

" " 10 a.m.—Delegation will receive representatives of Natal and Transvaal Indians. Members will visit Indian trading centres of Johannesburg.

Thur. 7th Jan. : 9 a.m.—Delegation will leave Carlton Hotel on an informal and private visit to the Germiston location. Party will return to Carlton Hotel for lunch. Mayor of Johannesburg will give a lunch.

" " 2 p.m.—Delegation will leave on an informal and private visit to locations of Boksburg and Benoni.

Fri. 8th Jan. : 9 a.m.—Visit to Gold Mines. Lunch at Carlton Hotel.

" " 2 p.m.—Delegation will visit Krugersdorp, and on arrival will call on the Mayor at the Town Hall. Mrs. Naidu will probably address the Women's National Council at Goodwill Club.

Sat. 9th Jan. : 9 a.m.—Delegation will visit Springs, and on arrival will call on Mayor at the Town Hall. A visit will be paid to the location. Return to Johannesburg for lunch.

" " Free.

" " 6.5 p.m.—Delegation will leave for Cape Town. Two private saloons will be attached to the train.

Sun. 10th Jan. : 6.15 a.m.—Arrive Kimberley. 6.45 a.m.—Leave Kimberley. 12.10 p.m.—Arrive De Aar. 12.22 p.m.—Leave De Aar.

Mon. 11th Jan. : 9.19 a.m.—Arrive Cape Town. Proceed to Mount Nelson Hotel after receiving Mayor and prominent citizens on platform.

Tues. 12th Jan. : CONFERENCE OPENS

It is understood that Sir Geoffrey Corbett is still under the doctors' orders. It is very unlikely, therefore, that he will make the journey from Capetown to Johannesburg, but will remain at the Cape until joined by the other members of the Delegation on the 11th January.

Mahatma Gandhi's Message To Indians In South Africa

The Cape Indian Congress held an emergency meeting last Sunday to consider plans for the reception of the Indian delegation during the coming conference in January.

Mr. H. K. Gool presided and expressed great pleasure at Mr. Sastri and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu having sailed last week as conference members. Mr. C. F. Andrews gave a message from Mahatma Gandhi to all South African Indians, sending them his warm affection and urging them to remain united and seek to improve their social conditions wherever possible.

Mr. Andrews stated that Mahatma Gandhi had laid down the principle while he was in England, that if friendly relations were established between England and India on an equitable basis, then nationally-minded Indian statesmen would be ready to offer economic and commercial advantages mutually beneficial to both countries. He was quite certain that just as Mahatma Gandhi had made that offer in England in regard to Lancashire cotton, he would be ready to consider the same principle if friendly relations could be established on an equitable basis between South Africa and India. It was along this avenue that he himself had already been exploring the ground.

Mr. Andrews concluded by referring to the loss which the Indian deputation had received owing to Sir Phiroze Sethna being unable to come. At the same time it was fortunate that Sir Fazl Hussain, the head of the department in charge of emigration, had started on his first voyage to South Africa. It was of the utmost importance that he should meet Dr. Malan in person, and also for him to get a working knowledge of South African conditions.

Mr. Marwick And Indians

Failure Of Repatriation

Segregation The Best Remedy

Mr. J. S. Marwick, M.P., addressed a public meeting at Richmond last Friday, called by the local Agricultural Society to discuss the question of Indian ownership of land.

Reviewing the events which led to the introduction of the Bills dealing with Indian land purchase and trading, Mr. Marwick said that from 1922 to 1924 Mr. Mackeurtan and he had alternately introduced motions in Parliament calling for the residential and trading segregation of Indians.

In March, 1924, the then South African Party Government had introduced a Bill empowering local authorities to set apart residential and trading areas in such a manner as would have segregated the Indians from the Europeans. In April, 1924, the South African Party Government went out of power, but in 1925 the present Government introduced a Bill aiming at Indian land purchases being confined to the coast belt of Natal and providing for the segregation of Indian traders and residents.

After a Select Committee had taken exhaustive evidence, it was decided by the present Government to introduce the Bill and hold a conference with representatives of the Indian Government. That conference resulted in a "Gentleman's Agreement" under which a policy of voluntary repatriation of Indians to India was to be given a trial as a possible solution of the Indian question.

"This policy has proved a hopeless failure," said Mr. Marwick. "It has proved no obstacle to the increasing penetration of Indians as traders and land owners into every district of Natal."

Statistics showed that in 1924 approximately one acre out of every 200 in Natal was owned by Indians, and since the "Gentleman's Agreement" had come into force it would be found that Indian landholders in Natal had enormously increased.

In 1924 they owned property valued at £1,300,000 in Durban alone. In 1921 the census showed that in Durban and suburbs for every 1,000 Europeans there were 837 Indians.

In the Inanda magisterial district the Indians outnumbered the Natives, and sanitary conditions brought about by the Indians made segregation imperative.

Mr. Marwick said that he had always been opposed to the Agreement entered into with the Indian representatives, and he felt sure that the people of Natal demanded the segregation of the Indians as traders and residents and the restriction of further land purchase in Natal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leftwich, C.B.E., who had been specially invited to address the meeting, having until recently held the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioner in Kenya, said that the continual growth of Indian ownership of property and trade was a real menace. It was not startling at present, but the wedge was steadily working its way in.

"You cannot afford to ignore it," he said, "if you want Natal to remain primarily a White man's country and life in it to be for your posterity in accordance with White civilisation. Within my own knowledge, hill stations, established by and populated by European enterprise, have been gradually monopolised by Indians.

"This is not peculiar to India, but can be seen at any time in all parts of South Africa, to which the Indian has received free entry."

With regard to segregation, the word had been taken as being tantamount to an insult, said Colonel Leftwich, whereas in India segregation was practised to its fullest extent, with the most satisfactory results. For the rank and file of Indians in South Africa segregation should prove no humiliation.

Speaking of the "Gentleman's Agreement," Lieutenant-Colonel Leftwich said that a good number of Indians accepted the repatriation offer, but none of them were the men who constituted a menace to White civilisation. They were poor working men and women.

The danger they had to face and to fear was from those who, having acquired wealth, were in a position to purchase land and property.

Resolution

Colonel Leftwich then moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. A. H. Cockburn and carried unanimously:

"That in the opinion of this meeting the Indians in Natal receive perfectly fair treatment;

"That they have actively taken advantage of what is known as the 'Gentleman's Agreement' between the Governments of the Union and of India, which Agreement has worked disadvantageously for Natal;

"That it would be against the interests of White civilisation in the Province to make any further concessions to Indians in regard to residence and trading;

"The meeting strongly urges the Union Government to re-introduce a fair and definite measure of segregation for both residence and trading;

"Further, in the interests of peace and security, the meeting strongly urges the Union Government to allow no concessions whatever to Indians in regard to residence or trading in Zululand and other Native territories."

Rev. C. F. Andrews On The Round Table Conference

Capetown, Dec. 18.—The Rev. C. F. Andrews, addressing the University Club at luncheon on the recent London Conference, said that he had been engaged all last summer in preparing for the conference in London and had spent a great deal of time in Lancashire studying the economic position of cotton in relation to its Indian market, which had been badly hit by the boycott.

When Mahatma Gandhi arrived in London he at once went with Mr. Andrews to Lancashire, in order to face fairly the difficulties of the cotton operatives and to find a remedy consistent with Indian nationalism. After long consultations, he announced to the Press that while India was determined to manufacture in the course of time all her own cotton cloth, nevertheless, provided that friendly relations were established between Great Britain and India, he was prepared to give a preference to Lancashire over Japan and other countries with regard to any supplementary cloth that would still be necessary to supply India's need in the interval.

This statement, said Mr. Andrews, created a very good impression in England, but the Round Table Conference was completely snowed under by the General Election, which threw everything into confusion and nearly ruined the whole conference.

At the very last moment matters were hanging in the balance, but when Mr. Ramsay Macdonald declared that he stood fast by his declaration of January, 1931, that full Dominion status was the definite goal for India, the opposition was so weak that Sir Samuel Hoare asked for the amendment not to be pressed to a division.

When a division was insisted on, it only received 42 votes against 400. Thus the declaration of full Dominion status as India's goal was made the national policy, not of Labour only, but of every political party in Britain.—Reuter.

Condition Of South African Repatriates In India

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Rand Daily Mail* reports:—

A pathetic message from Madras reports increasing distress and poverty among the returned settlers who, taking advantage of the Union Government's scheme for assisted repatriation during the past few years, have found themselves unwanted in India.

These repatriates, having lost touch with their own folk, have found themselves outcast and, therefore, despised and a hundred times worse off than they had been under the conditions of which they complained in South Africa.

Low Wages

Even if the resentment at their intrusion into the overstocked Indian labour market was not too great to permit them to find employment—and the Government of India agencies have done everything possible for them—they have earned much poorer wages (more often than not starving wages) than they had been accustomed to receive in South Africa, and have even then had difficulty in readapting themselves to India's climate so as to earn in full such wages as were available.

Only a handful of these repatriates have been able to find work in the Kolar goldfields of Southern India, which cannot absorb much more than 30,000 Indian hands. To add to the existing difficulties a couple of thousand Indian immigrants have, during the last few months, returned to India from Malaya,

where there is now an unemployment problem owing to the big slump in tin and rubber in that country.

It has again been suggested in many quarters here that the Government of India should find employment for South African Indians in other parts of the Empire. It does not, however, seem to strike these persons that if the returned settlers are unwelcome in their own country it is unlikely that other countries will want them—at least while the present trade depression lasts.

Mr. Gandhi And The Depressed Classes

We take the following from the *Modern Review* :—

We agree with Mahatma Gandhi in refusing to allow the depressed classes of the Hindus to have separate representation. There are many reasons why they should not be recognized as a separate group. They should, in their own interest, remain part of the entire Hindu society, for then the work of reform leading to their rising in the social scale would be easier. It should not be forgotten that even before Congress came into the field of action with its anti-untouchability programme, reforming bodies like the Brahma Samaj, the Theosophical Society and the Arya Samaj had been doing uplift work. The Congress has given a great stimulus to the movement. Education and political exigency have been powerful forces acting against untouchability. Hence, it is certain that within a measurable distance of time, the gradually dwindling number of the groups called the depressed, will cease to be separately thought of or treated as submerged classes.

Mahatmajji has promised that some depressed class men will be returned to the Councils by private arrangement and convention and that under Swaraj there will be penal legislation against discriminating treatment of the depressed classes to their prejudice and disadvantage.

But if now the depressed classes are stereotyped, so to say, by being treated as a separate group, their gradual absorption in the so-called higher social ranks of Hindu society would be prevented—at least retarded.

It must be apparent to thinking members of the depressed classes that it is humiliating—it goes against one's self-respect—to permanently consider oneself and be thought of as "depressed" and on that ground to claim and be given a so-called right. And what can a few depressed class representatives do for them without the help of the representatives of bigger groups? In our opinion, the depressed class people can exercise greater influence and apply greater pressure for their own welfare through adult suffrage and joint electorates than through the reservation of a few seats for them.

That Musalman leaders advocate the separate representation of the depressed classes is presumably due to a desire to lessen the power and influence of solid Hindu votes, to a desire to disintegrate further the little Hindu social solidarity which exists and to a desire to promote indirectly Moslem proselytization.

Assuming that some seats are to be reserved for the depressed classes, to members of what castes and in what provinces will these be given? There is no authoritative list of depressed classes. Are we going to witness a shameful scramble for being classed as "depressed"? For some years past many

castes have been claiming to be Vaishyas, Kshatriyas and Brahmans. Many are being invested with the "sacred thread" of the twice-born. Many aboriginal people have been invested with the sacred thread as Kshatriyas and call themselves "Singh." Is this upward movement to be replaced by a downward one?

Fellowship Of Religions

The Staff correspondent of the *Bombay Chronicle* cabled recently from London :—

How Indians look upon Christianity was expounded at Guild House by Pandit Majaviya and Begum Shah Nawaz as representing the Hindu and the Muslim faith, before a gathering of Christian missionaries and laymen. At the entrance, a Church Minister received them and the reception was followed by a large congregational service beginning with the hymn :

"All people that on Earth do dwell
Sing to the Lord with a cheerful voice,
Him to serve with fear,
His Praise for to tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
"Oh enter then His gates to praise
Approach with joy His Courts unto praise loud
And bless His name always
For it is seemly so to do."

Sir Francis Younghusband, who has been taking a deep interest in the Indian questions other than merely political, welcomed the Muslim lady and the Pandit of Prayag in very choice language. Referring to Begum Sahiba he said that she hardly needed any introduction, as she had become well-known to the British public ever since she attended the first Round Table Conference.

Respectfully bowing to Pandit Malaviya, Sir Francis said : "You are one of the most learned Hindus in India. You are also the founder and president of the Hindu University, you have conferred on us a very special privilege by giving us an opportunity to listen to your appreciation of Christianity as a learned Pandit."

Begum Shah Nawaz's Speech

Begum Shah Nawaz, who has discarded the purdah, said :—

"We the Indian followers of Guru Nanak and Buddha, who have worked for centuries for the fellowship of man, have great pleasure to speak to you. My best thanks are to the fellowship for giving me this opportunity in its mission of trying to bring about unity and world co-operation, which is the prime need of the moment.

"For me, as a Muslim, to talk of Christianity and Christ is very sacred indeed. I look upon Christ as a spirit of God sent by him for the salvation of humanity. Christ in his teaching talks of perfection as our Heavenly Father is perfect, and we as human beings must try and achieve perfection in the service of humanity. We have to seek for His love whether in darkness or in light. We must look for it, because it is dearer to us than our own relatives.

"Goodness is one, and God also is one. And through goodness, we shall all reach God because the goal of all religions is the same, that of seeing the road to the Creator. Christ was perfection personified, and we Muslims look upon him as a great apostle of God who showed us the road to Truth. Let us try hand in hand to work for that noble ideal of fellowship and union between east and west.

"Let me beg of you to clasp each other's hands as Christ and other great religious leaders have taught us to do."

Pandit Malaviya's Speech

Pandit Malaviya thanked the congregation for the opportunity given to him to meet them. It was a great privilege to see brothers and sisters assembled to concentrate effort for some time in search of God which to him was life's greatest joy.

"We have the beautiful life of Jesus Christ as an Eternally Shinning Lamp to guide us in the midst of our thorny path. Man never needed religion more than he needs it to-day.

"What man is seeking relief in famine and unemployment dole outs, etc., when humanity is passing through a severe crisis and when the whole of Europe is suffering, what a great source of comfort and relief it is to know that our fate lies in religion! And what are the causes of the world going wrong? To me, the main cause is that at the bottom we have a wrong policy guiding our lives and activities. It is our failure to practise the precepts that we admire and preach. You have the League of Nations, international conferences and disarmament meetings. What earthly use are they, though in a way they are good? What is needed most for the success of all these good efforts is an understanding of the position, the realisation of our relation with one another.

"The supreme need to-day is an international arrangement for fellowship of faiths between nation and nation.

"I venture to think that if one-tenth of the money spent on armaments is spent in preaching essence of religions, the condition of affairs of the world would be entirely different from what it is to-day.

"We must appeal and work for a more concentrated effort for a full understanding of God who exists as one God for all races, for all possibilities and for all religions. If we act with that knowledge and conviction, we would be really very happy.

"Christianity is a great and well-organised power exercising a most potent influence in the world, and if only we all representing different faiths pursue the search of peace and honour and goodwill among the nations, how nearer we will be to God than before.

The Minister asked the congregation to pray specially for India, to make her free, happy and contented, so that spiritually she may become worthy of her part. Then he said: "As children of one Father let us pray to the merciful Father to give the spirit of wisdom and understanding to our rulers."

The congregation concluded with the following hymn—

Light of the East, awake soon,
Shine that will be free.
The sleep of ages break
And give us liberty.
On your far hills, long, cold and grey,
Has dawned the everlasting day.

Indian Child Welfare Society Centre

150, BROOK STREET, DURBAN

Open daily, Monday to Saturday, 8-30
am to 11 a.m. Infants, young children,
nursing and expectant mothers.

Lady doctors give free attendance.

Tuesday morning 8-30 o'clock. Friday
afternoon 3 o'clock.

Loss Of The National Spirit

Can a nation lose its spirit? There are many Indian thinkers who believe that the adoption of the English language and European ideas would result in the disappearance of all that is distinctive in Indian life and thought. To this contention the editor of the *Japan Magazine* says "no". On the strength of what has happened in Japan, he argues that such a result is not possible.

Some Indians appear anxious lest the spread of the English language and English ideas in India should lead to what they call 'loss of the nation's soul.' How about Japan, where English is studied almost as in India? By soul the Indians probably mean national spirit. But a nation that loses its spirit by studying a foreign language possibly has no spirit to lose, or at least one not worth preserving. There is no danger of Japan losing her national spirit, because the Japanese are a united people speaking one language. India, on the other hand, embraces many peoples speaking as many languages, with diverging ideals. When the Indians speak of a national spirit do they mean the spirit of the Hindu or the Mohamedan or a blend of these? In Japan *Yamato Damashi* means the same thing from one end of the Empire to the other. There can be no doubt that India's study of the English language and acquisition of English ideas, have done much for the improvement of that country. The present movement toward independence and modern government is the direct result of English studies; and the same is true very largely of Japan. If such studies have not weakened the national spirit of Japan they are not likely to have a different effect in India. A study of the English language and English literature, as well as of English institutions, can injure neither India nor Japan, but what does injure these countries is the taking of the evil with the good in western civilization. In this way the foreign cinema has done the greatest evil to Oriental civilization; and next comes the importation of communism; but neither of these evils has come from English studies. Another evil result of these influences is that they give the Oriental student a taste for decadent English authors, and the mistaken notion that the decadents are typical of English literature which is a most poisonous mistake.

Municipal Administration In Ancient India

(By G. L. SINHA, Sastri College, Durban)

The Municipal Commission of Patna, the Capital of Emperor Chandra Gupta Mahiya who ruled India and Afghanistan from 321 B.C. to 290 B.C., consisted of thirty members divided into six Boards or Committees of five members each. The official functions of these Boards were as follows:

1. The first Board was entrusted with the superintendence of everything relating to industrial arts and was responsible for fixing the rates of wages for ensuring the use of pure and genuine material used for the manufacture of goods or made available for sale and for the performance of a fair day's work for fair wages.

2. The second Board was responsible for all cases connected with the foreign residents staying in the City temporarily or permanently. All foreigners were closely watched and in case of necessity they were provided suitable lodgings, escorts, medical

assistance and even financial aid. Deceased strangers were properly and decently buried and their property was properly administered by the Commissioners who forwarded the assets to the persons entitled.

3. The third Board had the duty of organising a systematic registration of births and deaths and we are expressly informed that the system of registration was enforced for the information of the Government, as well as facility for levying the taxes.

4. The supervision and the regulation of trade and commerce was the function of the fourth Board which regulated scales, issued sealed weights and measures, issued licences to merchants for trading in different commodities and fixed rates of duty taxes.

5. The domain of supervision of manufactures was the province of the fifth Board which concerned itself mainly with the issuing of regulations for the separation of new goods from old ones, necessarily by means of obvious marks and signs. For instance one found selling vegetables kept overnight mixed up with fresh ones, was fined. Traffic in old goods, whether by sale or mortgage, was prohibited, unless official sanction had been obtained, which could be granted only on certain conditions.

6. The collection of title of the value of the goods sold was the business of the sixth Board, and evasion of this was punished by law.

The municipal administration of other cities of importance such as Taxila (near modern Peshawar) and Ujjain, was conducted on the same basis. The village control was more or less independent of the Central Government. It was maintained by a group of elders who were also responsible for civil administration.

(From Smith's Early History of India.)

News In Brief

The Tamil section of the Indian community of Vrededorp, Johannesburg, welcomed Sir Kurma V. Reddi under the auspices of the Tamil Young Men's Society, at the Star Bioscope, 20th Street, Vrededorp, on Sunday the 13th December. Mr. M. Nyiah Francis Pillay presided. The Agent was garlanded on behalf of the following bodies:—Tamil community, Vrededorp, Young Men's Vedic Society and Indian Women Social Centre. After addressing the meeting Sir Kurma was presented with a "Smokers' Companion" by Mr. K. Narayansamy, specially made by The Art Metal Works of Durban. Speeches were made by Messrs. V. N. Naidoo in Teldgu, P. M. Pillay, N. V. Naidoo, P. S. Joshi, Dr. W. Godfrey, C. K. T. Naidoo, D. M. Nursoo, O. N. Naidu, Mrs. Baikum Chetty, the Transvaal Indian Women's Association, and the Johannesburg Indian Young Men's Society.

Sir Kurma V. Reddi was the guest of Mr. V. Narayansamy Naidoo of Vrededorp at a luncheon given in his honour. Several prominent local Indians were present. After lunch the gathering proceeded to the Hall where the meeting was held.

Prominent members of the All-India Congress Committee must reside in Allahabad and not leave it without permission. Orders to this effect have been issued by the Government under an Ordinance forbidding the prosecution of the "No Rent" campaign. A message from Srinagar states that in view of the spread of "No Rent" campaign from the United Provinces to Kashmir, the State Council has issued a special notification providing against the

instigation of the refusal or deferment of payments of the land revenue tax. Bail will not be allowed to offenders, who will be liable to six months' imprisonment or a fine. Newspapers or documents instigating non-payment will be seized and forfeited, and the police are empowered to make house searches. This is a sequel to similar drastic measures promulgated in the United Provinces.—Reuter.

A Reuter's message from London states:—The resolution of the Bengal Congress urging the boycotting of all British interests, evoked a reply in the House of Commons by Sir Samuel Hoare (Secretary for India), who declared that the authorities were watching the situation closely. Sir Samuel added: "We are fully prepared to deal effectively with any new developments. Meanwhile, I am asking the Indian Government for a report before the Christmas recess." Captain Hacking (Con.) asked whether the Bengal Congress's action was not a flagrant breach of the Irwin-Gandhi agreement, and also if the Government realised the great importance of Lancashire shippers being able to export goods with the prospect that they would not be held up. Sir Samuel Hoare generally agreed and promised information when it was available.

South African Indian Congress EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

An Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress will be held at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on the 31st day of December, 1931, and the 1st day of January, 1932.

Agenda

"ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE"

- SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE, President.
- A. I. KAJEE, Joint Hon.
- P. R. PATHER, Secretaries.

ઉત્તમ ગરમ ખસાલો વગેરે

અમીર બા બતી દેખરખ નેત્ર તોભે અને મોહિયા
ધરમા જિવો ગરમ ખસાલો, સ્ટીપાઈસ, હવરા, ધરમા, તેમજ
કરીના અને લીધુના તેમજ મીઠાં આમીર ઉમેશી મીઠાં
ના બધાબધે અમારી ગરમી સાથે મજા કરકો. આવા
ઉત્તમ ખાણ, તમે ધરમા બેનીવી સકતા નથી. કાંક વખતે
અમાવી ખાતી કરો. મળવાલું ડેકાલું,

K. N. PADIA,
122 Victoria Street, DURBAN.

P. P. BHAGAT
Fruit Merchant.

કરકે બલ્લુ કરકે અને વજીરબલ સાકે વજીર કરકે
સી. એ. ડી. થી મેલવાવાળા આવાલે. અખે:—
P. O. Box 842. Durban. 129 Victoria St. 21

Natal Indian Congress

Financial Statement

RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 5th DECEMBER 1931.

The following financial statement of the Natal Indian Congress was submitted at the annual general meeting held recently at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall :—

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions	52	0	0
Donations during four years	1,060	13	11
Loans from Committee members	45	0	0
Reception to Mr. E. M. Ally and Amod Mahomed—amount collection	25	4	0
Natal Provincial Council refund of deposit re Beach Foreshore Ordinance	9	17	0
Banquet to Mr. Kichlu and Miss Gordon, Tickets sold	74	10	0
Mr. Sastri's Purse	900	0	0
Banquet to Mr. Sastri, Tickets sold	87	3	0
Special contributions by Committee members	19	0	0
Reception to Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Bicketta	30	17	0
	£2,304	4	11

EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD ENDING 5th DECEMBER, 1931.

	£	s.	d.
Balance due to Secretaries—1928	40	16	11
Loan repaid to Mr. E. M. Ally	58	0	0
Second instalment of Donation to Indian Child Welfare Society	15	0	0
Paid to Mr. V. S. C. Pather, Trainfare expenses to attend Executive Meeting and subsequently on Minister re Section 5	35	0	0
Paid Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi, Train fare and expenses re Dannhauser Relief Fund	10	1	7
Paid Natal Provincial Council deposit re objections to Beach Foreshore Ordinance	15	0	0
Paid railage, re Kimberley Conference and Shorthand Reporter	12	11	0
Farewell Reception to Mr. E. M. Ally and Mr. Amod Mahomed	46	15	0
Banquet to Mr. K. P. Kichlu and Miss Gordon	138	14	0
Farewell Reception to the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri and Mr. P. K. Rao and Welcome Reception to Sir K. V. Reddi	112	19	0
Banquet to Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri	178	11	0
Reception to Sultan of Zanzibar	11	9	1
Reception and presentation to Mr. J. D. Tyson	25	5	4
Reception and presentation to Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Bicketta	25	11	3
Amount remitted to Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri—his Purse including charges	902	0	5
Shorthand Reporter—Education Enquiry Commission	6	6	0
Address to General Hertzog, Prime Minister of the Union	28	5	0
Contributions to S. A. I. Congress	169	18	2
Expenses—entertaining Delegates to the South African Indian Congress	13	15	6
Boarding expenses—Boy Scouts from Johannesburg	32	0	0
Town Hall hire	8	18	0
Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch)	25	0	0
Presentation to Mr. O. A. B. Peck	2	5	6
Mr. T. B. Horwood, Opinion	5	5	0
Hire of Bioscope Hall	7	7	0
Printing	258	4	8

Garlands and bouquets	90	12	0
Stationery etc.	103	13	9
Train fares—expenditure to attending South African Indian Congress meetings	115	14	4
Advertising	18	11	6
Wreaths	12	1	6
Post Box rental and Telegraphic Address	5	17	0
Gable expenses	16	13	8
Salaries to Congress Clerks	62	12	6
Petrol	21	13	4
Postages, Telegrams and Telephone Calls	149	16	4
	£2,782	6	8

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 5th DECEMBER, 1931

	£	s.	d.
By receipts as per detailed account	2,304	4	11
„ amount advanced by Mr. Rustomjee	76	17	11
„ amount advanced by Joint Secretary Mr. A. I. Kajee	145	2	2
„ amount advanced by Joint Secretary Mr. P. R. Pather	103	12	9
„ amount due to creditors as per Schedule attached	107	8	11
„ amount advanced by Committee members and to be re paid	45	0	0
To expenditure as per detailed Statement	£2,782	6	8
	£2,782	6	8
	£2,782	6	8

ઇન્ડિયન પ્રીટિંગ પ્રેસ તરફથી
છપાઈ પ્રસિદ્ધ થયેલાં પુસ્તકો.

	શી.	૧૯.
સત્યના પ્રયોગો અથવા અ.મ. કયા ભાગ ૧	૧	૬
„ „ „ „ „ ભાગ ૨	૧	૬
નીતિના કાવ્ય	૧	૦
મારો જ્ઞેનો અનુભવ	૦	૬
મારો જ્ઞેનો બીજો અનુભવ	૦	૬
મારો જ્ઞેનો ત્રીજો અનુભવ	૦	૬
ઇન્ડિયન એડિપિનિયનનો સોનેરી ચંક	૨	૦
લોકમાન્ય વાલમંગલાધર તીલક તેમના મત અને વિચાર	૦	૬
ચુરખરાલ અને તેના બે ભાષ્યો	૦	૬
જ્ઞેનો કાવ્ય	૦	૬
મુસ્તફા કમાલ પાશાલુ જીવન ચરિત્ર	૦	૬
મુસ્તફા કમાલ પાશાલુ ભાષ્ય	૦	૬
એક સત્યવીરની કથા (સોક્રેટીસનો અવાવ)	૦	૬
માધુસ કટલી જમીનનો માલિક હોમ શકે	૦	૬
હાઈ સ્વરાજ (અધીલએ લખેલું)	૧	૦
પુર્વ અને પશ્ચિમ	૦	૬
દેશમકત ગોખલે અને ગીરમીટના સવાલ ઉપરની ચર્ચા	૧	૦
કાયદા સામે જવાની ફરજ	૦	૬
સા. આ. ઇન્ડિયન કોંગ્રેસનું સુવીનીચર	૦	૬
જીવન દોરી	૦	૬
જમમીની ગરબી	૦	૨
એશીયાટીક એક્ટ ૧૯૦૮ના ધારા ગુજરાતી-અંગ્રેજી	૦	૩
એશિયાટીક કાયદો અને તેના ધારા તથા તેને લખતી પીસ	૦	૪
પ્રેરવેશનના કાયદાની કલમો ગુજરાતી-અંગ્રેજી	૦	૪