

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
· MAHATMA GANDHI ·
· IN 1903 ·

No. 33—Vol. XXXII.

Friday, August 17th, 1934

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper
PRICE FOURPENCE.

THE COLONISATION REPORT

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

II.

IT is not difficult to understand the negative conclusion of the Colonisation Enquiry Report. It was a dead issue from the very first; and Dr Malan seems to have understood that there was nothing to be gained by pursuing it any further. But Mr. Heaton Nicholls apparently had some personal information concerning Borneo and was quite eager to prove to the Commission its suitability as a new colony which would afford an outlet for India's surplus millions and also would later on attract Indians from Natal. From all that I have heard, with regard to the questions asked during the evidence, Mr. Heaton Nicholls was alone in pursuing this subject. He seemed to have had a forlorn hope that he might persuade Natal that Borneo was attractive. Yet, in the end, the Report itself is so fair and honest in its statements, that it is easy to read between the lines the hopeless weakness of the case. I have called it a *reductio ad absurdum*.

It may be well to place on record the chief valid reasons against any further enquiry into Borneo. The British Chattered Company, with £2,000,000 capital invested in North Borneo, is now almost bankrupt. Shares which were bought at £1 each are already being offered at 3/6 and are likely to go down still lower. This means that even with cheap Chinese labour near at hand, it has not been able to make its own way or to repay any interest at all to the shareholders. Their money has been almost entirely lost.

When the causes of this failure are enquired into we find that the chief source of revenue is that of licences for opium and liquor. The opium, until quite recently, has been exported from India. Only in 1925, was this evil system of exporting Indian opium to North Borneo seriously tackled. Since that date, the Indian supply of opium has been reduced by 10% per annum. In 1935 it will be entirely stopped.

Now Indian opium has, in the past, been very popular among Chinese opium addicts, and the Borneo Government monopoly formed not only a large item of revenue, but also a means of attracting cheap Chinese labour. The Indian Government, owing to the moral outcry of the civilised world,

had already decided in 1911-1917 to allow no more Indian opium to be shipped to China. But they still made considerable profits by sending it to the Chinese in the British Colonies *around China*, such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaya and North Borneo. Dr. S. K. Datta exposed this hypocrisy in 1924, and the Government of India took action to stop all exports of Indian opium in 1925. Since then the sale of Indian opium in British North Borneo has decreased and it has been found more and more difficult to keep the Chattered Company's shares up in value.

In the Enquiry Report itself, I find very little reference to this aspect of affairs. Mr. Heaton Nicholls was evidently unaware of the close association of the Government of India with British North Borneo through the opium traffic. If he had been aware of it, he would never for a moment expect the Legislative Assembly of the Government of India to recommend any public money being utilised in exploring North Borneo for colonisation purposes from India. Obviously the less India has to do with a country, where opium has obtained such a hold, the better. One of the great dangers of the emigration of Indian labourers to Malaya has been the opium peril. The danger in British North Borneo would be far more acute.

A further cause for being unwilling to take part in an Indian enquiry with North Borneo is the small area of the colony and the fact that its position on the map makes it an outlet for China's surplus millions (if they like to make use of it) rather than for India's population. It is much nearer to China; and the Chinese are nearly always able, as colonists, to outstrip the Indian agriculturists, because they have greater powers of endurance. Wherever Chinese flock, whether in Malaya, Java or Singapore, their stamina makes them able to survive under conditions which settlers from India cannot compete with. Also, in Manchuria, the Chinese outstrip the Japanese agriculturists in the same manner. This is no discredit either to the Tamil Indians who have emigrated to South Eastern Asia or to the Japanese who have gone as farmers to Manchuria. It is simply a question of survival value under incredibly

hard conditions. Anyone examining the statistics of population in the Malay Peninsula will easily verify this fact. The areas from which the Chinese emigrate to-day are the most densely populated in the world, where the birth rate is most prolific and death cuts off every child that is weak or sickly. No wonder the Chinese can exist and flourish where no other race can survive!

The pity is, that Mr. Heaton Nicholls does not seem to know India or China with any intimate knowledge and personal practical experience.

It is not, of course, possible to put down in a short article all the reasons for coming to a definite

conclusion on this point. But as one who has travelled about to every part of the world and has also studied this whole subject intimately for over thirty years, I can assert with some assurance that not only will the people of India themselves be unwilling to carry this subject any further, but that it would only be futile if they did: for a further enquiry would only lead more and more convincingly to the conclusion which I have reached in this article that North Borneo is not suited for an experiment from India in Indian colonisation.

(To be continued)

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 1934.

SHOULD THE AGENCY

CONTINUE?

NOW that the expiry of the term of the present Agent of the Government of India is drawing nearer the question at issue is whether the office of the Agent should continue. We have expressed our opinion on the point on previous occasions; that the Agency is too expensive for its worth. We have had no reason to change that opinion. There are some among us, however, who feel that the Agency is an asset and should continue. We do not know whether it has occurred to them that the Indian treasury has to expend the sum of nearly £10,000 annually for its upkeep, a sum that India in her present position, can ill-afford to spend.

Let us, however, examine whether we are getting the full value of it. The Agency came into existence as a result of the first Round Table Conference in 1926 when the so-called Gentlemen's Agreement was arrived at. The object in appointing an Agent was to secure continuous and effective co-operation between the two Governments and to see to the fulfilment of the Agreement.

Mr. Sastri came here as the first Agent. What he was able to achieve here was by his unique personality. But even that was of no avail to him when it came to representing the cause of the Indian community to the Government. He did not succeed in preventing the tightening up of the Immigration laws. By his eloquence he was able to attract many Europeans but the effect of it was no more than a mere intellectual treat. We do not think Mr. Sastri could honestly say that he left this country, at the expiry of his term, satisfied that he had improved the conditions of his countrymen.

One thing was certainly achieved and that was a Sastri College by an act of self-help on the part of the Indian community and a stoppage to the pillage by the Natal Provincial authorities from the Government subsidy for Indian education through the Education Commission led by Mr. K. P. Kitobla. But that too, only to a certain extent, because even to this day Indians are not getting the full benefit of that subsidy.

Let us now see how was the 'honourable' Agreement kept? Mahatma Gandhi referring to Mr. Sastri as the first ambassador wrote at the time *afterwards*: "I feel certain that the Union Ministers do not expect the new Agent to surrender an inch of what is justly due to the Indian community."

Then came Sir K. V. Reddi as the second Agent. He was faced with a stone wall. First came the 1931 Immigration Amendment Act unwelcome making the Transvaal Registration certificates scraps of paper. The Agent was helpless. Then followed the passing of the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance and that was followed by the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill. With very great effort the then Agent was able just to persuade the Government to hold over these laws until the second Round Table Conference was held and with the ending of that Conference Sir Kurma was very fortunate in being able to leave the Union before the sword of Democles actually fell on us, thus saving himself from the rebuke of his countrymen.

Before the third Agent came on the scene all the laws were in force and like a pious official he came with a stick, to see that the Indians like good children submitted to the laws. It is perhaps futile to blame the Agent when our people had themselves lost their manhood.

So within the terms of these three Agents we have had all these restrictive measures thrust upon us and in addition over 13,000 South African Indians have been sent away and are still being sent away, in order to bring the Union Indian population to what is termed a "managable compass."

And yet we talk of the "honourable Agreement!"

August 17th, 1934

INDIAN OPINION

351

We will quote Mahatma Gandhi once again from his article on Mr. Sastri as the first ambassador. This is what he wrote:

"They (our countrymen in South Africa) must remember that the Agent is not going there as their counsel briefed to attend to every individual grievance. To smother him with detailed individual grievances would be to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. He goes there as a trustee for India's honour. He goes there to safeguard the rights and liberty of the general body of Indian settlers. He will be there to see that no fresh restrictive legislation is embarked upon by the Union Government and that the existing restrictive laws are administered liberally and with due regard to the vested rights. Any individual grievance therefore that he might be called upon to tackle will have to be in terms of the position I have set forth, that is to say, it will have to be illustrative of some general principle of wide application. Unless therefore the Indian community exercise prudential restraint upon themselves in approaching him for redress of the individual grievances, they will make the Agent's position intolerable and even useless for the high purpose for which it is intended.

We quote these words of Mahatma Gandhi because we are wholly in agreement with them. We believe that it is the duty of the Agent too not to entertain any individual application unless it is illustrative of some general principle of wide application. We fear, however, that this rule has neither been observed by our people nor by the Agent.

So much is said about the Agent being able to wield influence among the European public by mixing with them freely; that there is a real change of heart among the intelligent Europeans and that it is due to the Agent's presence in this country. While we do not wholly deny that view we do believe it is exaggerated a little. There are no doubt broadminded Europeans in South Africa whose hearts go out to all who are suffering under an injustice. They were there before the Agency was established and did not fail to express their admiration whenever Indians showed that they were a community with a backbone and we have no doubt they would do so even now irrespective of whether the Agent was present in this country or not. But this and other trifling things that the Agent may be able to achieve certainly do not justify the continuance of the Agency at a cost to the Indian exchequer of £10,000.

The presence of the Agent in this country further has in our opinion killed the manhood of our people nay even of our leaders. They are unable to do a single thing without his help. If the Agency

is responsible for having made us so utterly helpless creatures, then for our own interests the continuance of the Agency is harmful to us. Unless the Agent of the Government of India can hold the same position in this country as the consuls of the different countries do and is able to stick up for the rights and liberty of India's nationals the Agency is nothing but a farce.

After having said all this should the Agency still continue then we would certainly most emphatically say that the Agent should not be a Government official, for he is bound to see things not from the people's point of view but from the official point of view and as officials especially in India are trained in the art of "divide and rule" they are bound to create in this country a little India. He must therefore be a non-official and a person of eminence, great ability and great strength of character. Such a man only can do some good in this country. If such a person is not available we would much rather that the Agency was abolished altogether.

General Gordon And Magna Charta

(By DR. F. G. CAWSTON)

At a Sons of England luncheon held at Durban on May 8th 1934 it was suggested that the jubilee of the death of General Gordon be celebrated in the Union on January 26th 1935 and that June 10th of each year be recognised as the anniversary of the signing of the Magna Charta.

Primitive customs were being forgotten in England from the creation of that centralised government and common law which led up to the demand for Magna Charta, and this has a permanent significance to all civilised peoples for it led to the establishment of international law and formed the basis of the seven English-speaking nations of the world. England stands out as the country where a supreme law is impartially administered in the interest of all its subjects and constitutional controversies have merely fortified the root principles of the Charter. Unceasing vigilance is needed to maintain individual liberty and to prevent the undermining of the authority of the law, which came as a homely growth of the English people but has survived for seven hundred years. The peace of the world rests on the inalienable rights of man and governments exist to ensure these rights.

The late General Gordon stands out as the leading hero of last century, embodying what is best in the characteristics of the English nation. His life of sacrifice and tragic death showed how the eternal principles of Magna Charta should be applied in our dealings with other nations and no one has done more to remove the reproach of slavery from this Continent or to establish the principles of true British administration in colonial life. His memoranda on the native question in South Africa and his instinctive sense of justice to all parties should prove of inestimable value to all who have the interests of the country at heart.

The Things We've Forgotten.

Twenty Years Ago

EXTRACTS FROM THE "INDIAN OPINION,"
AUGUST 19TH, 1914

H. H. Sir Aga Khan

THERE arrived quite unexpectedly in Durban, on Tuesday by the Union Castle liner *Llanstephen Castle* from Zanzibar, His Highness Sir Sultan Mahomed Aga Khan, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., etc. As soon as the leaders of the Indian community became aware of the arrival of the distinguished visitor efforts were made to get into touch with him to ascertain his wishes in regard to the arrangements for his reception. . . . Letters were therefore addressed to His Highness by the Natal Indian Association, Zoroastrian Anjuman, Anjuman Islam, Colonial Born Indian Association, Hindu Women's Sabha and others, expressing their hearty welcome and requesting His Highness to meet representatives of the various bodies. . . . They felt it was impossible for them to allow him to pass through Durban without some recognition of his valuable services to the Indian cause in South Africa. . . . Replies were afterwards received by the Durban public bodies as follows:—"Thank you heartily and am much gratified by kind offer to do me honour of visit and reception but am travelling strictly *cognito*, was forcibly brought here and specially made a rule to go through as a private gentleman, besides am not well and am very sad by events. . . . He was seen off at the station by Mr. James Dick (Immigration Officer), Mr. Bernard Hodson (Magistrate) and Mr. W. Holmes, the Mayor.

Reports, INDIAN OPINION.

In the House of Commons on the 2nd June Mr. Pointer asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in all Crown Colonies and Protectorates to which Indian labourers were admitted under indenture, it was a condition that Indians who had completed their indenture should be in all respects free men, subject to no labour ordinance and with personal and civic rights in no way inferior to those of any class of people resident in the Colony or Protectorate; and whether encouragement was held out to them to become proprietors of agricultural land and holdings.

Mr. Harcourt: The reply to both parts of the hon. member's question is an affirmative one. The Committee which reported on emigration from India to the Crown Colonies laid down the general principle that immigration under indenture for private employers should be permitted only to such Colonies as offer an opportunity to the time-expired immigrant to settle in an independent capacity on the land.

Fountain Of Wisdom

Corrupt influence, which is in itself the perennial spring of all prodigality; and of all disorder; which loads us, more than millions of debt; which takes away vigour from our arms, wisdom from our Councils, and every shadow of authority and credit from the most venerable parts of our constitution.—EDMUND BURKE

Indian Surf Life-Savers

Baroda Girl Guides Among Guests

"Crawl" writing in the *Advertiser* says:

The committee and officers of the Durban Indian Surf Life Saving club are to be congratulated on the excellent organisation of the demonstration at the Battery Beach. The arrangements were all that could be desired and the production of a printed programme allowed the spectators to follow the movements with more than usual interest.

The Club president, Mr. T. M. Naicker, welcomed the guests, among whom were Mr. R. Hawthorne (president of the Surf Life-Saving Association of South Africa, Mr. E. G. Mitchell (examiner-in-chief), Mr. S. H. C. Payne (instructor-in-chief), Mr. J. Dunning, who has been instructing the Indian Club, Pundit Anandapriaji and the Baroda Girl Guides. Mr. Naicker pointed out that the display had been arranged in honour of the Girl Guides, and referred to the ideals of public service which were represented by the Guides, the Life-savers and members of the Ambulance Brigade. He stated that the display would show the rapid strides which the club had made in few months of its existence and requested spectators to excuse any shortcoming which might be in evidence. He thereupon extended a warm welcome to the Girl Guides.

Replying, Pundit Anandapriaji asked the Club to accept his hearty thanks for the invitation to attend the demonstration. He was pleased to see the manner in which Indian young men were coming forward to take up the particular branch of public service represented by life saving. He expressed the hope that the membership would continually increase and concluded by wishing the club a prosperous and active future.

Smart Drill

The demonstration commenced with a display by the Club of the R. L. S. S. methods of rescue and release, and though some members were at times a trifle uncertain, the drill on the whole was good. After a march past of the squad with its reel, the Australian land drill methods were demonstrated, followed by actual run out and two hand-reel rescues. The club captain, B. B. Singh, was in charge throughout. Though there were not a few faults which only hard and continual practice will cure, the general turnout was excellent and a very marked spirit of keenness augurs well for the future.

The life-saving work was interspersed with swimming displays by the club swimming instructor, D. Sathia, and physical culture exhibitions by the Amateur Weight-lifting and Physical Culture Club and Patel's Physical Culture Club.

The D. I. S. L. S. C. has a membership of 25, only 12 of whom are at present available for duty on the beach. The remainder are under training and will in time take up squad work. Training can at present only be carried out in the Umgeni River, but the club executive hopes to approach the municipality with a view to obtaining better facilities.

Our India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Thanksgiving

In response to the appeal issued by the President of the Indian National Congress, men, women and children all over the country joined in meetings, prayers, processions and other demonstrations held on the 15th July to express the nation's thankfulness over the failure of the attempt on the life of Mahatma Gandhi that was made at Poona.

Ajmer Incident

Meanwhile an incident of consequence occurred during the tour of Mahatmaji in furtherance of the campaign against untouchability. On the day of his visit to Ajmer a scuffle took place between Sanatanists and a section of Reformers as a result of which Pandit Lalnath, a Sanatanist worker was injured. To expiate this injury Gandhiji imposed upon himself a fast for seven days. Questioned on this he stated, "My announcement was overdue. I reasoned to myself and with friends and came to the conclusion that fasting was the only penance I should make. If I had the courage I would have taken a longer fast. Since I did not want to produce any shock I took the minimum period and not the maximum."

Tribute To Mrs. Kasturba Gandhi

When he said, "Those who are physically near me have realised the necessity of the fast," he was asked if this included Mrs. Gandhi. He paused for a while and then answered, "It has been my rare good fortune that in such matters she has never worried me and never argued with me. She has always allowed me to have my own way although she was distressed. Therefore though she is my wife I have no hesitation in saying she is one of the bravest women I have met in this respect."

Language of the Heart

"You cannot influence the mass mind through speeches and writings. You can only influence it by something that the mass mind can understand, suffering, and the most accepted method of suffering is fasting," declared Gandhiji when urged to desist from the fast. "Repeated experience here and in South Africa has shown me," he continued, "that when it is applied, it is the most infallible remedy. My lot has been cast with the masses. The only language they can understand is the language of the heart. Fasting when it is utterly unselfish is the language of the heart." Gandhiji having finished his tour in the Punjab stayed for some days in Calcutta and left for Cawnpore.

Sirdar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Government have after all released the Sirdar but with as much ill grace as is possible. This belated release is supposed to be mainly on medical grounds. He is having severe trouble in the nose and was operated upon immediately after his release and is as yet unable to join Gandhiji. He has however taken charge of the presidency of the Congress from Seth Jammalal Baja who was acting for him.

The leaders now in the public eye are Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan who

is popularly known as the Frontier Gandhi. As for the former, in whose prison cell we heard a snake was found lying, the Secretary of State for India has already assured the House of Commons that he would not be released along with the other civil prisoners. The Government has refused to lift the ban on the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee and insist on the continued incarceration of the Khan Sahab. Even Maulana Shaukat Ali's appeal has fallen on deaf ears.

Zanzibar Anti-Indian Laws

A largely attended meeting of the citizens of Bombay was held on July 10 in the Cowasjee Jehangir Hall under the auspices of important commercial associations in the city to protest against the action of the Zanzibar Government calculated to completely eliminate Indians from that part of the world. The meeting urged the Government of India to secure the repeal of these laws. Among the prominent speakers were Mrs. Naidu, Sir Pheroze Sethna and Sir Cowasji Jehangir. Mr. Manu Subedar who presided uttered a friendly warning to Britain. "Let it be remembered by those who are at present in control of the political destinies of India that every returned immigrant from Zanzibar, who has suffered loss of his just claims and rights, will carry the torch of anti-British sentiments from one corner of India to the other. Their children will cherish memories which will make it impossible to settle issues in a spirit of goodwill and co-operation for which appeals are being made from the highest quarters. Let it be remembered that grave peril to British interests in this country will arise if something is not done to Zanzibar and as quickly as possible," declared Mr. Subedar. "A fresh occasion has arisen," continued the president, "putting to the test the bonafides of the Government and British Cabinet, regarding the safeguarding of the interest of Indians abroad. If they fail us on this occasion, I wish to give respectfully, but most solemnly, a warning on your behalf that no section of the Indian public is going to acquiesce in the safeguards which are being asked for by the British Cabinet and British interests in India in future." Though this plea was put forward neither in anger nor as a threat but only as an appeal from one businessman to another he voiced the feelings of the entire public in this country. H. H. the Aga Khan and Pandit Malaviya are consulting each other for strong representations to the Secretary of State.

Assembly Elections

The legislatures had hitherto attracted little attention owing to the severe boycott imposed on them by the National Congress. But the ban is removed and the Congress is contesting the elections to expose the repressive policy adopted by Lord Willingdon's Government. The election campaign is in full swing and there is no doubt the Congress will sweep the polls completely. Among the prominent Congressmen contesting are Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, Babu Brijkishor Prasad, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Mr. M. S. Aney and Mr. K. F. Nariman. Nothing is known of the intentions of the present President of the Legislative Assembly who represents the Salem-Coimbatore-North Arcot constituency and whose recent public activities have met with widespread disapproval.

Dress Reform

While initiating an interesting debate on dress reform at a meeting of the Calcutta Rotarians, Mr. A. C. T. O. Cardell-Ryan said that the Angloised Indian, often through force of circumstance outside his control has followed the lead of his British fellow subject in the matter of dress. This copying of the most unsuitable form of dress of the present day

would have involved Indians in considerably more discomfort than it has done, were it not for the fact that such men as the late Mr. C. R. Das in Bengal and the late Mr. Dadaboy Naoroji in Bombay pointed out the futility of copying the British form of costume. Mr. Cecil Moss condemned the use of the collar, tie and stud.

SOUTH AFRICA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mahatma Gandhi's Health

THE latest message from Mahatma Gandhi is that he has broken his seven days' fast and is well.

Bihar Fund

MR. C. F. ANDREWS received £60 from the Indian Association at Salisbury and £7 10s. from Football Associations which met him from Salisbury and Bulawayo at their intertown tournament. He is taking this sum back to India, along with £25 collected from other Indian sources, for the relief of suffering in the Earthquake area. He has received a further sum from European sources.

Girl Guides On Tour

The Girl Guides of Baroda gave a demonstration before a large crowd of women and children at the Town Hall on Monday, August 6, the display including club swinging, drills, gymnastic feats, archery, marksmanship with air-gun, dagger fights, spear drill, stick play and fights, sword play and many other acts, which delighted the onlookers. Pandit Anandpriyaji the leader of the troop, in a few remarks intimated that their college was situated at Baroda and there were at present over 300 girls receiving education. The troop was on an educational tour through South Africa after having completed a successful journey across East Africa. They were here to instil, he said, the necessity of physical culture, as it was absolutely essential for a healthy and virile nation to have healthy children, and this was the medium for the realisation of that ideal. The party left Durban by the mail train on Saturday afternoon for Johannesburg, where they will stay for three weeks giving lectures and demonstrations, after which they will visit Kimberley, Capetown, Port Elizabeth and East London, coming back to Natal via Ladysmith, Newcastle and Maritzburg. The full itinerary will occupy seven weeks, and another fortnight in Durban will see them embark for India. On their return from their northern tour an open-air demonstration, probably on the Indian Sports Grounds, will be given for the benefit of the children and those who have not been able to see their displays at the Town Hall.

Manor Garden Hindoo Association

Under the auspices of the Manor Garden Hindoo Association a grand welcome reception was accorded to Pandit Anandpriyaji and his party of Girl

Guides from Baroda, India on Sunday, the 5th inst, at 2 30p.m. Although a very spacious marquee was erected for the purpose yet the accommodation was insufficient for the overwhelming crowd especially of Indian women of Cato Manor. The Girl Guides were received with much enthusiasm and for the moment the whole place was lit with joy and excitement. Mr. Tulsiram the chairman of the association presided. Pandit Anandpriyaji and his mother were garlanded and each of the girl guides were presented with a beautiful bouquet. Stirring and enthusiastic speeches pregnant with national feelings, were made by a few of the girl guides both in English and Hindi. Musical renderings were given by the girl guides collectively and also by Mr. Roopnan and his party. Pandit Anandpriyaji in a forceful speech urged the Indian Community to focus its attention to the amelioration of its women folk. The interesting programme was brought to a close by a vote of thanks moved by Mr. M. R. Davar.

Transvaal Welcomes Indian Girl Guides

The Selborne Hall can hardly ever before have been so full as it was last Monday night for the welcome reception given in honour of the Indian Girl Guide students from Baroda, and the leader of the party, Pandit Anandpriyaji. It was literally filled to overflowing. Every doorway was crammed and every possible point of vantage was in use long before the Mayor Mr. D. Penry Roberts rose to give his speech of welcome. After wishing the party an interesting and pleasant stay in the City; the Mayor commented on the Guide movement itself, which, he said, bred loyalty, self-control and initiative. He felt sure that if the movement were reproduced throughout India, it would bring peace and contentment to that great country. Numerous other speeches were made, some in English and some in Indian tongues, but they were all in agreement that the visit of the Guides would give a revised and better idea of the womanhood of the new India. The Guides themselves showed that they are well-trained and eloquent public speakers. Four of them spoke, and in turn their clear, ringing voices held the great crowd in the hall completely silent or had it clapping or laughing its approval. "Indian women are taking part in the political and social betterment of their country," said Subudhra Kamari, the only guide to speak in English; and this was the dominant idea of the other three speeches. They held to scorn the idea of India given by certain books. Pandit Anandpriyaji, the leader of the party gave the audience some idea of the institution at Baroda. There were no class distinctions. "There are over 20 girls of the so-called untouchable class," he said, "and no child marriages are allowed. These things you have been reading are of the past."

Higher Scales Of Pay In The Postal Department

As a result of a petition to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs during the last Session of Parliament from Indian Assistants employed in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in the Transvaal asking for improved scales of pay. The Agent General has been notified that higher scales of pay have been introduced from the 1st August, 1934.

Anonymous Donor Returns

Like a fairy godfather, the anonymous donor who recently gave £1,000 towards the building of an Indian hospital in Durban for St. Aidan's Mission, returned again the other day to offer the mission an additional £500. With the munificent gift of £1,500 the building fund has been brought up to £4,000 and it is now expected that it will be possible to make a start with the hospital within the next three months.

Indian Schools' Thrift, Cato Manor Leads

Great keenness was displayed in the "Mahatma" Thrift Competition by the 30 Indian schools throughout Natal which entered for the period August, 1933 to June, 1934, and the Cato Manor School, Mayville, is again to be congratulated upon winning the trophy. This is the school's fourth win since the cup was presented in 1927, the last three occasions being in succession. All the 689 scholars attending the school are members of the Savings Club, and this fact bears testimony not only to the enthusiasm of the scholars themselves, but to the encouragement of the staff. Kunwar Sir Maharsj Singh, Agent of the Government of India, has kindly consented to present the cup to the school on Monday, Aug. 20, at 11 a.m., and it is hoped that Kunwarani Lady Singh will also be present. All parents of scholars are invited to attend. Head teachers are reminded that the next competition period will be from the opening of the schools in January to the closure in December, 1935. The following five schools secured the first places in the competition: Cato Manor 962 marks; Clairwood Boys 784 marks; Fort Shepstone 763 marks; V.S.S., Umgeni 755 marks, Clairwood Girls 714 marks.

Increased Citrus Exports

Fruit exports from Durban up to the end of July are 2,500 tons up over those for last year up to the same period. Since the start of the citrus export season in May ships have been calling regularly for cargoes from the port. The naval season is now rapidly drawing to a close, and the first trainloads of valencia oranges from the interior are beginning to come through. It is expected that the Marconi will be the first of the chartered ships to load valencias from Durban and she is due to arrive within the next few days. This year as a result of a decision reached after last year's export season the fruit leaving from this port has been spread over more ships and each has lifted proportionately less than last season. Up to the end of July last year there had been 20 ships which had loaded citrus here and to date this season there have been 27. There have also been occasional vessels which have shipped to the Far East, including Indian ports, Mauritius and Batavia. Although the total so far

this year is above that of last season it is expected that there will be even more fruit handled when the valencia season comes on. This class of citrus is usually handled in larger amounts than the navel. To date 24,500 tons of fruit or approximately 433,000 cases have been shipped compared with 21,070 tons or approximately 372,800 cases last season.

INDIA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sirdar Valabhai Out

The Government has released Sirdar Valabhai Patel unconditionally and that Mahatma Gandhi will, in consultation with him, chalk out a new political programme.

Samuel Hoare or Gandhiji

The Congress Parliamentary Board opened its election campaign in Bombay, at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, Mrs. Naidu presiding. Mr. Satyamurti, opening the campaign, asked the audience, "do you want Swaraj or slavery, communalism or nationalism, Samuel Hoare or Gandhiji?" He appealed to the audience to make their choice between the alternatives he had suggested and declared that he had no doubt the country was behind the Congress and the Congress, he said, would be able to demonstrate at the next elections whether India belonged to Lord Willingdon or Gandhiji.

A Bengali Shot In Germany

Among those storm troops shot in Germany are believed to be Alvensleben, a friend of Von Papen, and Bose, Papen's secretary. Hitler is entirely engrossed in putting finishing touches to the purging process.

Begum Alam Will Contest Seat

The report that Begum Mohamed Alam has given up the intention of contesting the Assembly seat from the Central Punjab constituency consisting of Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur Districts and that she retired in favour of Begum Shah Nawaz, is understood to be wrong. She intends to contest this seat in the coming election on the Congress ticket.

Poet Tagore's Message

In an exclusive interview with the United Press regarding the attempt on the life of Mahatmaji Poet Rabindara Nath Tagore said, "Of all surprises in criminal outrages that lately have startled India into humiliating notoriety this attack on Mahatmaji's life is the most malignant of its kind. It is a deadly attack not only on his own person which is venerated all over the world, but also upon the good repute of the Hindu religion and our social mentality. We fervently hope such shameful expression of maniacal fanaticism may kill its source by its own enormity and that the painful shock occasioned by it may impart new vigour to Mahatmaji's noble cause."

U. P. Liberals Protest

The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Committee of the U. P. Liberal Association. The Committee of the U. P. Liberal Association

strongly disapprove of the report of the Indian Colonisation Committee appointed by the Union Government, as being the most unsatisfactory and ask the Government of India, in case their co-operation is sought by the Union Government, to give effect to its recommendations to refuse to have anything to do with it. The Committee condemn the attitude of the Union Government who regard the Indian Community as an undesirable element. The Committee are certain that any attempt to send them to Borneo or other colonies with a view to reducing their numbers will be stoutly opposed by the people of India.

Indian Colonial Association

The annual general meeting of the Indian Colonial Association decided to celebrate the first centenary of the Indian Emigration overseas under the indenture system, which falls next December and appointed a committee to take necessary steps in that connection. The meeting also decided to call a third Indian Oversea conference at Bombay during the ensuing Congress session. Resolutions were adopted congratulating the Government of India on their timely intervention in the Zanzibar anti-Indian Bills and appreciating the action of the Indian members of the Fiji Legislative Council for introducing a Bill Demanding a common electoral roll and equal franchise rights, with European settlers and condemning the action of the councillors who were responsible for the rejection of the Bill.

THINGS IN GENERAL

Incorporation With Union Opposed

The Basutoland Progressive Association, composed of educated and enlightened Basutos, have sent delegates from all parts of the territory to the Paramount Chief with a prayer to oppose the incorporation of Basutoland with the Union and have furthermore asked him to petition the Imperial Government that the suggested incorporation is wholly and entirely against the wishes of all the Basuto people, who look upon Basutoland as their Motherland.

Students From The Dominions

London University has received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York an offer to provide 22,500 dollars (£4,500) annually for three years to aid the Institute of Education in developing its relations with students from the Dominions and Colonies. The sum is intended to provide fellowships for short periods to picked students from the Dominions to hold for a limited period the post of adviser to overseas student. The Senate, with the concurrence of the court, have accepted the offer and conveyed to the corporation the thanks of the university for the generous gift.

70 Elephants Shot In 3 Days

Captain Salmon, game warden of Uganda, was the central figure in an amazing elephant hunt in which he shot 70 elephants in three days for the purpose of decimating a vast herd which was moving across the country and threatening native cultivation.

Largest Aeroplane In The World

The largest aeroplane in the world has been just completed at Moscow. It is called *Manim Gorki*,

after the great writer and is an eight-motored propaganda plane. Built entirely of Soviet materials, the plane is equipped with a printing press, a travelling cinema and broadcasting equipment with a loudspeaker audible from a height of one mile. It has a maximum speed of 150 miles an hour. It can carry sixty passengers and will have a staff of twenty-seven, composed of wireless announcers, journalists, cartoonists, cameramen and actors.

More Asiatics To People The World

Professor Richet, of the French Academy, addressing the body, made some startling prophecies regarding the composition of the world's population. He said in ten years time the number of Asiatics in that world have increased by 150,000,000 while the number of American 'half-breeds,' as he described the mixed population of South and Central America, would have increased by 40,000,000. On the other hand, pure Europeans would only increase by 20,000,000 in that period.

Salvation Army Election

Forty-seven delegates from 22 countries will attend the Salvation Army High Council, which will be held in London on August 28 to elect a successor to General Higgins, who will retire from the leadership on November first. The election will be by ballot and a two-thirds majority is required before the new General can be appointed. Nothing in the laws governing the Salvation Army precludes a woman from becoming the General. The sister and daughter of the late General Bramwell Booth both hold high rank in the list of the officers and are members of the council.

Giant Ape 31 Feet Long

The sensational discovery of a skeleton believed to be a prehistoric giant ape, measuring 31½ ft. in length, is reported at Jubbulpore. The discovery was made by a farmer who noticed a bone protruding from the sand of a river bank near the village of Pamthi, Daiyha Estate. Attempts to dislodge the skeleton with the aid of other villagers failed whereupon the chief of the State had the skeleton dug out. Three men were required to lift it, the legs alone measuring 10ft. The skeleton has been placed in the palace of Chief Ramnoh pending examination by geologists, among whom the discovery has created enormous interest. The Jubbulpore district is renowned for the wealth of its fossilised relics of an earlier age, the last important discovery being the remains of a giant prehistoric mammal, reputed to be centuries old, three years ago.

Zanzibar's State Commission on Chief Industry

The Government of Zanzibar, in compliance with a promise when controversial legislation was recently introduced for the purpose of reorganising the clove industry, have appointed a commission for the purpose of examining the position of growers' indebtedness and recommending necessary measures, with due regard to the position of creditors. The commission will be under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice, and the members include several Government officers, also an Arab Shiek and an Indian barrister. It will be recalled that the Government recently decided to take firm action to

protect peasant growers against foreclosure by Indian moneylenders in consequence of the fact that agricultural land was rapidly passing into the hands of the non-agriculturists, thereby threatening the whole economic structure of the island. Further proposals included controlled marketing of the clove crop by establishing a growers' co-operative society and a system of licensing of approved exporters. The Indian community organised a widespread protest to England and India, the result of which has now been announced, to the effect that the Indian Government have deputed a secretariat officer at Delhi to carry out an inquiry at Zanzibar, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, the South African Agent General, was originally proposed, but he was unable to accept owing to illness.

Jap Legation For Union

The Japanese Foreign Office estimates for next financial year include the appropriation of an estimate for legations, inter alia, in Egypt and South Africa, Consulates-General at Delhi and Baghdad, and Consulates at Karachi and Madras. Consulates at Bombay and Amoy will be raised to Consulates-General, but, owing to the financial situation, it is improbable that the plans will be fully effected next year.

New Home For Quintuplets

The new home of the Dionne quintuplets is to be the "Dafos" Hospital built by contributions and named in honour of Dr. A. R. Dafos, who attended at the birth of the five little girls 11 weeks ago and has been with them every day since. The tiny hospital has been reserved only for the care of the quintuplets and two special constables will keep constant watch over them. The children are still confined to incubators.

Social And Personal

SHRI SWAMI ADYANANDJI who had been to Maritzburg returned to Durban last Tuesday after spending a week in the city and has left for Port Elizabeth last Thursday where he will be the honoured guest of Messrs Tiekamdas Bros. Swamiji's lectures on Indian philosophy were followed with great interest by European and Indian audiences both in Durban and Maritzburg. Swamiji is accompanied by Mr. Govindram Hasaram of Messrs Bombay Bazaar (Pty) Ltd.

—o—
Mr. Justice Roger Evans Hall, Judge of the High Court of Northern Rhodesia, has been appointed Chief Justice of Uganda, in succession to Mr. Justice Sidney Solomon Abrahams, who was recently appointed Chief Justice of Tanganyika.

Answers To Correspondents

Mr. Mahamood Sahab (Springs).—You should write to the journal concerned and to the Congress at the point you have raised.—Ed. I.O.

The All-India Soccer Tour

To The Editor, INDIAN OPINION,

Sir,—Our soccer visitors have returned to India after a successful tour of the Country, and have shown our players that they have still quite a lot to learn of the finer points of the game. From every point of view the tour has been a success, and not the least so, from the financial point. This is the reason which inspires this short letter, for I feel, in common with many others, that the financial success could only have been attained, as has been the case, by the excellent work done by the President, Secretary and the Treasurer of the Football Association, who, at great personal inconveniences to themselves, and enforced absence from their work and duties in Durban, have done all in their power to do justice to our guests and to the sport loving public. It is but a courteous recognition of services well done, and it would be a fitting gesture on the part of the people of the Town and elsewhere to place their services on record.

Special mention should be made of the name of Mr. S. L. Singh, who has acted as S. African Manager of the All-India Team. His efforts have been appreciated by all and his popularity with our guests was very marked.—Yours etc., NIMROD.

Obituary

Death Of Mr. Kamala Pillay

The death has occurred of Mr. Kamala Pillay at his residence, James Street, Maritzburg, on August 1, at the Age of 73. He has left a widow, three sons, four daughters many grand-children and great-grand-children and a large number of relatives to mourn their loss. The interment took place at the Mountain Rise Indian Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, well over 400 friends and relatives from all parts of Natal attended. Wreaths were sent by The Natal Witness Indian Staff, Schools Football club, Mrs. Samson and Family, and many floral tributes without cards; there were also telegrams of sympathy from Mr. Valoo Chetty, East London Mr. A. V. Chetty, Johannesburg, Mr. R. Loganathan, Dannhauser, and C. B. Pillay, Pretoria.

Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association

A mass meeting of Indian workers in the Garment and Textile Industries will be held in the Tamil Institute, Durban, at 3.30 p.m., on Saturday, 25th August 1934.

A. CHRISTOPHER,
President,

S. L. SINGH
D. S. CHETTY
A. HAFEEJEE

Hon. Secretaries

SPORTING NEWS

Five-A-Side Soccer In
Maritzburg

Sastri College Wins Again

The annual five-a-side soccer tournament of the Maritzburg District Indian Football Association was held on Monday August 6, at the Indian Sports Ground, Maritzburg. The tourney was open to all clubs affiliated to the Natal Indian Football Association. The competition was for the S.P. Thompson cup (Senior), the G. Nulliah cup (Junior) and for the A. V. Moodley cup Juvenile.

In addition to the five-a-side soccer tournament there were other side attractions of free demonstration given by members of Durban Indian Amateur Weight-Lifting and Physical Culture Club, and also the old crocks gave a fine display of a fancy dress five-a-side soccer match which provided more thrills of the day.

The following teams competed in Seniors:— Durban, Sastri College, Olare Estate, Stars; Newcastle: Danthausen United; Maritzburg:— Stella, Young Colonials, Pirates, Schools, and Royals.

Juniors:— Durban: Red Rovers, Pirates, Avondale, Stella; Maritzburg: Young Natalians, Stella, Schools and Royals.

Juveniles:— Durban: Red Rovers, Blue Birds, Stella, Sastri College and Violets; Maritzburg: Yorks, Royals, Schools, Young Natalians and Young Colonials.

Senior Play

There were several good matches in the senior division, Schools of Maritzburg putting up a good display, though there was an element of bad luck in the semi-final when they met Royals of Maritzburg. Two players of Schools injured and were carried off the field, and the Schools therefore had to play with three men, which made them loose by 6 goals to nil.

Sastri College (Durban) who won the senior trophy last year, met the Royals "A" of Maritzburg in the semi-final. Play commenced with the game being confined to midfield for a while. Royals eventually made a fine effort, and were unlucky not to score in the first half in favour of the wind.

The second half opened with a well-combined move by the College and they netted the first goal. For a time Royals attacked, but were soon beaten back. After this College again provided an anxious moment and found the net for the second time, and after a fine move registered their third goal. The game ended in favour of Sastri College by 3 goals, to nil.

Junior Games

Young Natalians "A" met Avondale (Durban) in the Junior final. The Durban men were the first to attack, but were speedily repulsed. Natalians, attacked, netted with a good shot. In the second half both sides were visited in turn. Avondale eventually made a fine effort, but were unable to score. Final score: Young Natalians 1 goal, Avondale 0.

In the Juveniles, Yorks "A" met Sastri College (Durban) in the final, when Yorks beat College by one

goal to nil. This match was keenly contested and provided more thrills than most of the senior games.

Mr. R. N. Moodley, on behalf of the M. D. I. F. A. president (Mr. S. Muthray) presented the prizes to the winning captains, in a brief speech, and commented on the excellent spirit of sportsmanship displayed on the field by the players. The winning captains, suitably replied.

Verulam Juveniles vs. Stanger Stars

A friendly match was played on the 5th August on the Stanger ground between the Verulam Juveniles and the Stanger Stars when the former won by 2 Goals to nil. The Scorers of the Verulam side were Kune and Suliman Vawda.

Point Rangers vs. Riverside Rex

The much anticipated match between the Point Rangers and Riverside Rex, was played on the former's ground, Point, on Sunday the 12th August 1934. The sound defence of the visitors easily won the day. The locals were very weak in front of the goal, and missed many golden opportunities. The game was a very fast one, from the commencement to the conclusion. After 10 minutes of the commencement of the game, the locals opened the score, but were marked off-side. Before the interval the visitor's fine combination earned them a goal, and again another goal was scored in succession. On the resumption the locals tried their utmost, but were unlucky in front of the goal. The game was very exciting and thrilling and was enjoyed by the spectators. The locals put up a plucky fight, but the visitors were superior in their defence.

The final score was, Riverside Rex 2 goal Point Rangers Nil. Referee: Mr. Barney Pdayaohi.

Fairbreeze S.S.C. vs. Kearsney F. C.

The Fairbreeze School Sporting Club met the Kearsney F. C. in a match on the Fairbreeze ground on Sunday, August 12. Despite the weather which was somewhat threatening, a large number of spectators were present to witness same. Both sides played well, and for the first fifteen minutes the ball was kept swinging from side to side without any scores whatever. In one of the many attempts made on the opponent's goal mouth, Mubideen the centre forward, with a well timed left netted the ball, thus giving the home team a lead of 1 goal to 0. Within ten minutes of the centering of the ball, Sobramonee sent in a stinging shot from the right which caught the opponent's goalkeeper napping. Score: 2—0. (first half) For the second half, the opponents made several attacks on the home team goal, but C. Kareem the home goalkeeper gave the visitors the advantage of getting him into a tight corner and thus opening their first score. Score: 2—1. There were no scores for the rest of the game. The match was refereed by Mr. A. M. Khan.

Europeans v. Indian

On Sunday afternoon at the river ground a scratch team of young men visitors from Johannesburg played the Blue Birds (Sootybird) Indian Football Club at soccer. There were many spectators. The European team won by six goal to one.

Footballers Reach Home

Raja Of Santosh Welcomes All-India Team

Deep appreciation of South Africa's hospitality is expressed by the remarkably fit returned football tourists, who have arrived at Calcutta. The prophecies that the Indian side would be the victims of racial hatred have been silenced by the team, every member of which has put on weight. The Raja of Santosh, former president of the Indian Football Association, welcomed the team and expressed the hope that India would soon have the chance to emulate the Union's role as generous hosts.

BOXING

Local Show

In the non-European Boxing tournament at the Durban Town Hall on Saturday evening, Bud Gangan of Durban beat Young Sonny Thomas, of Capetown, on points, and Mannie Dixon of Durban beat Martin Ehrenreich, of Johannesburg, also on points. In a very spirited encounter, Willie Forgas of Capetown beat Benny Singh of Durban on points, D. D. Naidoo beat Frank Smith on points, and M. D. Chippen beat Kid Vengan on points.

Motee Kid Singh

Mr. Jack Llewellyn, who was in charge of Motee Kid Singh's training when that boxer was in South Africa under contract, has heard from the British Guiana Indian by mail. Since his return to England Singh had already had two contests, losing to Gannon on a foul in the third round, though the disqualification was questioned by some critics and beating Horridge on points in one of the preliminaries to the Championship fight between Seaman Watson and Nel Tarleton.

Wrestling

Empire Games Wrestling

The Empire Games wrestling began on Aug. 8 in the Wembley swimming pool which has been covered over. Young, of Rhodesia, was beaten in the first round of the feather-weight contests by Singh, of India. It was a long, uninteresting contest.

In the first round of the light heavy-weight contest Oshbin easily beat Rowe (England), scoring a fall by means of a half nelson after 2 mins. 17 secs.

Bihar Earthquake Fund

Isplingo Indian Society

£5 0 0

Mahatma Gandhi's Speeches And Writings

AN OMNIBUS EDITION

We have just received an omnibus Edition of Mahatma Gandhi's Speeches and Writings from Messrs. G. A. Nateson & Co. Publishers, George Town, Madras (India). It is the fourth and new edition of Mahatma Gandhi. Cloth bound 8s. including postage. This latest edition is revised and considerably enlarged with the addition of a number of important articles from *Young India* and *Navajivan* (rendered into English). The collection has over 1000 pages of well-arranged matter ranging over the whole period of Mahatma Gandhi's public life. The volume begins with the South African Indian question and covers his views on indentured labour and Indians in the Colonies, his jail experiences in South Africa, his pronouncements on the Khairi and Champaran affairs, his discourses on the Rowlatt Bills and Satyagraha, and his *Young India* articles on the Non-co-operation Movement including select papers on the Khilafat and Punjab wrongs, the Congress, Swadeshi, National Education

Notice

The attention of all Indians concerned is drawn to the following: The Honourable the Minister of the Interior has promised to issue Condonation certificates to those Indians who entered the Transvaal illegally before 30th June 1914 and are in possession of Transvaal Registration Certificates issued prior to 30th June, 1914.

In this connection we beg to point out that the security enjoyed by holders of Registration Certificates who entered the Transvaal prior to 30th June 1914 has been rendered invalid by the Immigration Act of 1931 and such persons are liable to be dealt with by the Immigration Department.

On the representations of Congress supported by the Agent General for India the Honourable the Minister has offered to issue condonation certificates to all such persons who apply before 31st August 1934.

As the offer is only open until the 31st August 1934 it is requested that those desirous of obtaining condonation should immediately make application to the Department of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs.

The Honourable the Minister of the Interior has agreed to cancel the condonation Permits issued to the major sons of condonees and Congress requests all concerned to submit their condonation certificates for cancellation to the Principal Immigration Officer of the Province in which they are resident. As a result of the Rashid Ahmed case Indian children were debarred from entering the Union while the father acquired or reacquired his domicile and as a result those who reached the age of sixteen before the father completed his domicile lost their right to enter the Union.

The Honourable the Minister of the Interior is agreeable to receive petitions from persons who lost their right of entry to the Union in such circumstances, and to deal sympathetically with cases where there were legitimate grounds of misunderstanding of the legal position. It must be clearly understood, however, that each case will be dealt on its merits. Congress requests the parents of such persons to forward their petitions to the Department of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs.

S. M. NANA,

D. M. NURSEE,

Jt. Hon. Secretaries

Transvaal Indian Congress.

A. I. KAJEE,

S. R. NAIDOO,

Jt. Hon. Secretaries

S. A. I. Congress.

and Swaraj. It also includes Mahatma Gandhi's famous letters to the three Viceroy—Lord Chelmsford, Lord Reading and Lord Irwin, Select Extracts from his celebrated Autobiography, his historic Statement before the Court at the great Hall, his Congress Presidential Address and other public utterances, his Speeches and Messages during his great march to the Salt pans of Dandi, the full extent of his Agreement with Lord Irwin and the Speeches implementing the Pact. Then there are his speeches at the Second Round Table Conference followed by the Willingdon-Gandhi correspondence. Another section contains his important studies on the Hindu-Muslim question, as also the statements on the problem of untouchability following the historic letter to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and the Epic Fast which resulted in changing the Premier's Award. Yet another section gives his reminiscences of great Indians like Gokhale, Pherozshah Mehta, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, C. R. Das, etc. The selection contains chapters on a variety of subjects of miscellaneous interest ending with his famous gramophone record on God. It contains numerous illustrations and an index.

ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

કુલક ૩૨ મુ.

ફ્રીડેડે, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૭ જોમખ ૧૯૩૪

અંક ૩૩

વિષય સુચી

શું એજન્સીની જરૂર છે? (અમલેખ)	૩૫૮
વડોદરાની આર્થ બાળાઓ	૩૬૦
સુસવતા વાયરા	૩૬૧
હોડતી દુનીયા	"
કોના પાપે? (વાર્તા)	૩૬૨
હિંદી વિદેશ-વસવાટ કમીટીનો રીપોર્ટ	૩૬૪
સમાચાર સંગ્રહ	૩૬૫
યુનીયનના રાજરંજ	૩૬૬
વિકાસ આદિકા તેની પ્રબલ્યો અને પ્રશ્નો	૩૬૭
નીતા મંચન	૩૬૮

“ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન”
શુક્રવાર, તા. ૧૭ જોમખ સન ૧૯૩૪

શું એજન્સી ચાલુ રહેવી જોઈએ?

હાલના હિંદી સરકારના એજન્ટની મુદત પુરી થવા આવેલી હોઈ આપણી સમક્ષ સવાલ એ આવી ઉભેલો છે કે એજન્સી હવે ચાલુ રહેવી જોઈએ કે નહિ. આ સવાલ પર અમારો મત અમે અગાઉ દર્શાવી ચુક્યા છીએ કે એજન્સી તેની કામગીરી માટે અતિ ખર્ચાળ છે. એ મત ફરવવાને અમને કંઈ પણ કારણ મળેલું નથી. આપણાંના કટલાક એવા વિચારના છે કે એજન્સી ઉપયોગી છે અને ચાલુ રહેવી જોઈએ. પરંતુ તેને નિલવવાને હિંદુસ્તાનની ત્રીજેરીમાંથી વાર્ષિક પાઉંડ ૧૦,૦૦૦ જેટલા ખર્ચાં છે, કે જે રૂઝ હિંદુસ્તાનને પોતાની હાલની હજામાં ખરચવી ખીલકુલ પોસાય નહિ, તેનો તેઓને ખ્યાલ નહિજ હોય.

તેમ છતાં તેનો બદલો આપણને ઠેલો મળે છે તે જરા તપાસી જોઈએ.

એજન્સી ૧૯૨૬ માં પ્રથમ રાઉંડ ટેબલ કોન્ફરન્સ મળી અને કહેવાતી ખાનદાની ભરી સમાધાની થઈ ત્યારથી હસ્તીમાં આવી. એજન્ટને નીમવાનો હેતુ બંને સરકારો વચ્ચે ચાલુ અને અસરકારક સંબંધ સ્થાપવાનો અને સમાધાની શરતો બરાબર પાળવામાં આવે તેની ઉપર દેખરેખ રાખવાનો હતો, ના. શાસ્ત્રીજી આ હેતુમાં પ્રથમ એજન્ટ તરીકે આવ્યા.

શાસ્ત્રીજી જે કંઈ પણ સિદ્ધ કરી શક્યા તે તેમના અસાધારણ વ્યક્તિત્વને લીધેજ. જ્યાં કોમના સવાલની સરકાર સમક્ષ રજુઆત કરવાનું આવ્યું ત્યાં તેઓનું એ અસાધારણ વ્યક્તિત્વ પણ કામ આવી શક્યું નહિ. ઇમીગ્રેશન કાયદા-એની વધારવામાં આવેલી હકાકાને તેઓ શક્તિ શક્યા નહિ. તેમની વક્તૃત્વ શક્તિથી તેઓ ધણા કુરોપીયનોને આકર્ષી શક્યા ખરા પરંતુ તેની અસર માત્ર વિદ્વાલખર્ચાં બાપણો સાંભળવા પુરતીજ થઈ. અમને નથી લાગતું કે શાસ્ત્રીજીથી પ્રમાણિકપણે એમ કહી શકાય, કે પોતે પોતાની મુદત પુરી થતાં પોતાના દેશબંધુઓની સ્થિતિ સુધારી શક્યા છે એવા સંનેાષણી આ દેશ છોડી ગયા હતા.

એક વસ્તુ એશક સિદ્ધ થઈ હતી અને તે હિંદી કોમના સ્વપ્રયત્ને શાસ્ત્રી કોલેજ સ્થપાઈ અને હિંદીથી આવેલા મી. ડીયલુએ હિંદી કેળવણીની સ્થિતિની કચેલી તપાસના પરિણામે યુનીયન સરકાર તરફથી હિંદી કેળવણીને માટે અપાતી રૂકમ નાટાલ પ્રાંતિક સરકાર તરફથી ઉચાપત થતી હતી તે અટકાવાઈ, પરંતુ તે પણ અમુક ઇન્જેન અટકાવાઈ છે કેમકે આજ દિન સુધી પણ તે આખી રકમનો લાભ હિંદીઓને મળેલો નથી.

હવે “ખાનદાની ભરી સમાધાની” કવી પળાઈ એ તપાસી એ. શાસ્ત્રીજીની પ્રથમ એજન્ટ તરીકે નીમણુંક થઈ તે પર લખતાં મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીએ લખ્યું હતું કે: “મને વિશ્વાસ છે કે યુની ન સરકારના પ્રધાનો આ નવા એલચી હિંદી કોમની ન્યાયી માંગણીઓમાંથી એક રજૂ પણ નમતું મુકે એવી આશા નજ રાખે.”

તે પછી સર કુર્મા રેડી ખીળ એજન્ટ તરીકે આવ્યા. તેમને પત્થરની દિવાલની સામે ઉભરાનું થયું. પ્રથમ તો તેમને ખબર પણ પડ્યા વીના ૧૯૩૧ નો ઇમીગ્રેશન એક્ટ પસાર થઈ ગયો જેથી ટ્રાંસવાલના રજીસ્ટ્રેશન શર્ટીફિકેટોની કોમિટ રદા કાગળના ટુકડા જેટલી કરી દેવાઈ. એજન્ટથી તેના સંબંધમાં કંઈ નાહ થઈ શક્યું. તે પછી ટ્રાંસવાલ લાયસેન્સીસ (કન્ટ્રોલ) ઓર્ડીનન્સ પસાર થયો અને તે પછી ટ્રાંસવાલ એક્ષીપાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્યુર ખીલ આવ્યું. ધણ પ્રયત્ને એજન્ટ આ સઘળા કાયદાઓને ખીલ રાઉંડ ટેબલ કોન્ફરન્સ મળે ત્યાં સુધી મોકુફ રાખવાને સરકારને મનાવી શક્યા અને જેવું ખીલ કોન્ફરન્સનું કામ પુરું થયું તેવાજ સર કુર્મા ડેમોક્રેસની તલવાર આપણી ઉપર પડે તે પહેલાંજ આ