

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Port Elizabeth Mayor On The Present Government Policy

IN the course of his speech at a meeting in honour of Dr. S. V. Appavoo in Port Elizabeth, the Mayor of that town, Councillor Mr. MacLean, referred to the Asiatics (Transvaal) Land and Trading Bill. He is reported to have said:

"I trust that the legislators of this part of the British Commonwealth of Nation will remember that if there is one thing more necessary than another at the present moment, it is that in no part of the Empire should anything be done or said, which might weaken the united front that may be required in the near future to quell the forces of darkness which are attempting to destroy the civilisation that the peoples of the Commonwealth have enjoyed for many centuries. While it is pleasing to note the Minister of the Interior has expressed the desire to tackle this problem (as he says): "in its own time and in its own way, and without friction," let us hope that he and his colleagues will realise that in introducing a contentious measure of this nature during the present state of world affairs, they are making it very difficult for Britain to maintain that harmony of effort in other parts of the Empire which is so essential to the success of the united front which may be required to quell the ruthless activities of the dictators of central Europe. In this respect we would do well to remember that the peoples of India have been intensely loyal to Britain in the past, in times of danger, and as we may still require their co-operation to maintain those British ideals which they have been pleased to observe for many years, surely the time is not opportune to launch any measure which may have the effect of disturbing that loyalty."

This is the Imperial aspect of the question which the legislators of South Africa will disregard not at the peril of this country only but that of the British Empire.

### Position Of Cape Indians

Mr. H. K. Gajjar writes to us from Capetown as follows:—

"Sir,—Recently when the delegates of the A.P.O. went to see the Prime Minister to discuss the Government's segregation policy, the Prime Minister is reported to have said that there shall be no political, industrial or economic segregation, and that in future the Indians in the Cape Province will be treated on the basis of the Cape Coloureds and will enjoy the same rights and privileges. You have not offered any comment on the Prime Minister's declaration as far as it affects the future of the Cape Indians and the Indians of South Africa in general. We are kept in the dark and do not know whether we are to accept the Prime Minister's statement because the Indian public is not certain about whether the statement is beneficial or detrimental to the future of the Cape Indians and the South African Indians in general. Your comments and the views of your readers regarding this important statement affecting the Cape Indians, will be eagerly looked upon and will be greatly appreciated."

There is no legislative segregation in the Cape Province to-day. According to the Prime Minister's declaration the Cape Coloureds and Indians will be treated alike, which means, that any segregation policy the Government deems fit to adopt will apply to both the Coloureds and Indians. In that case both the communities will have to fight against it. If the Cape Coloureds do not fight it does not necessarily mean that Indians as a community must not fight. Indians in the Cape Province may not, under any circumstance, sink their identity as Indians and it will be their bounden duty to help their brethren in the other Provinces even though they may be enjoying a more privileged position than them.

### N. C. W. Opposes Segregation

At a meeting held on May 25 of the Durban branch of the National Council of Women, with which the Coloured and European Joint Council, the Durban Indian Women's Association and the

Bantu Women's Association are affiliated, the following resolution was carried unanimously:

"That, while this branch of the N.C.W. is unanimously against the principle of segregation, it feels that this is not the time for such matters to be discussed." Mrs. E. E. Dent, President of the Federated Women's Institutes, said that the enforcement of segregation would introduce extreme lines of demarcation and would arouse violent antagonism throughout the country.

"There is no such a thing as natural segregation," she said, "and I think that we should concentrate on raising the standard of living rather than on segregation."

### "Passive Resistance Won't Help"

The *Rand Daily Mail* has the following leaderette in its issue of May 29:—

The final decision as to whether South African Indians are to adopt measures of passive resistance against the Asiatic Land and Trading Bill or the segregation proposals will rest with the Congress to be held in Capetown early in June, and it is sincerely to be hoped that moderate counsels will prevail at that gathering. There can be no doubt of the strength of Indian feeling in the matter. Not only has it found rather violent expression in this country, but statesmen such as Sir Kurma Reddi and Sir Maharaj Singh have condemned the proposals in plain though measured terms, both arguing that the projected policy constitutes a violation of promises given to the Indian population on previous occasions. Such objections, coming from such sources, cannot be lightly dismissed. Yet, in spite of this, we are still convinced that passive resistance would be a tactical mistake of the first order. It has, of course, been employed with success, in the Union, by Indians. But that was thirty years ago, and then Liberalism was "in the air." Liberalism is no longer in the air, and the background of opinion which helped Mahatma Gandhi to success does not exist to-day. This, we think, is to be regretted, but it is none the less a fact, and the sooner the Indians realise it the more likely will

they be to avoid a type of action which will only recoil on themselves. Dr. Yusuf Dadoo, in a recently-issued appeal, asks the critics of this method to indicate some alternative, and remarks that up to the present there has been very little constructive help." In doing this, however, he places a rather unfair burden on observers who are, in reality, far from unsympathetic. Indians have shown so much political skill in the past that we do not doubt that they will be able to discover better and more effective methods for themselves. But certainly passive resistance will not help them.

### Motherland's Interest In Union

Indians  
 Reuter's Bombay correspondent in a message dated May 27, states: A communique issued in Simla states that the Standing Emigration Committee has fully discussed the situation in South Africa, including the pending Asiatic Transvaal Land and Trading Bill, and the stage is now reached in negotiations between India and the Union Government. The course of action proposed by India has been endorsed by the Committee which has also approved the manner in which the case was presented. Confidential correspondence between the two Governments continues.

doer. The practice of it can do no harm to anyone but the one who practices it and hat too only materially. His soul becomes elevated and by his suffering, if there is a God above, he surely cannot antagonise people but would win the sympathy of those who have not been sympathetic.

There is one thing which those who propose to resort to Passive Resistance must understand and that is that they must not take a single hasty step. They must fully understand the principles of Passive Resistance and must thoroughly explain them to those whom they enlist. Mass action for the present is entirely out of the question. Only individuals must be prepared to sacrifice and set an example.

If Indians have a just cause for grievance, which admittedly they have, and if any other self-respecting people placed in the position in which Indians are placed to-day would not for one moment tolerate such a position under any circumstances, and would not hesitate to resort even to methods of bloodshed, then, surely Indians who have decided to undergo self-imposed suffering for remedying the ills they are subjected to deserve every encouragement from all those who profess any sympathy for them and for their cause. Or else they should indicate to them an alternative which Dr. Y. M. Dadoo has very pertinently asked. Our contemporary has however failed to indicate an alternative. The only alternative we can think of is petitioning. But is it worth while at this stage? All that was gained by petitioning in the past is being nullified. Solemn pledges are being violated in cold blood. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "It is the fashion of the day to condemn many of Herr Hitler's acts as so many breaches of pact. What is it if the proposed measure is not an attempt to commit a flagrant breach of the Capetown agreement of 1927 and subsequent declarations of the Union Government?" Mr. Desmond Young, late Editor of the *Natal Witness*, and presently Editor of the *Pioneer*, Lucknow, states: "I consider that the proposal for segregation is a retrograde one which will react most unfavourably, not only upon Indians but, in the long run, upon the Union as a whole. It is clearly in direct violation of the Capetown Agreement and a concession to colour prejudice which I hope that enlightened Europeans will resist."

We are in the midst of growing darkness, We have been asking for light but the light has not come to us. Is it a crime if we now look to Heaven for light?

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MAY 26TH, 1939

### To Those Who Sympathise With Us

SEVERAL European friends, while fully sympathising with Indians in the Government's repressive policy against them, strongly advise them not to resort to Passive Resistance. We are especially indebted to the *Rand Daily Mail* in this connection for the very sympathetic manner in which it has dealt with the Indian question. We take note of its advice as we feel it has been given in all sincerity. Our contemporary recognises the fact that "ever since 1885, the Asiatics of South Africa have had to endure one legislative indignity after another; that their lot has deteriorated steadily until to-day they are among the most repressed races in the country, and now under the Trading Bill, they are threatened with further disabilities." But our contemporary asks the Indian community to desist from resorting to Passive Resistance. In doing so it asks them to face the facts which are stated to be:

that a Passive Resistance campaign can only do further damage to their cause. Conditions to-day are not the same as they were thirty-years ago. The Asiatic question then had not assumed the dimensions of a major political issue. The forces of reaction were weaker, and less vocal, than they are at present. Mahatma Gandhi succeeded because there was widespread public sympathy for his aims and ideals.

In these circumstances our contemporary says:

Passive Resistance campaign can only have one effect and that is to strengthen the hands of those who are determined at all costs to oppress and ostracise them. At the same time it will weaken those who, in the face of prejudice and obloquy, are still trying to help them.

We have quoted the above from a previous article written by our contemporary. We reproduce another in the present issue in which it reiterates its advice and states

that Passive Resistance would be a tactical mistake of the first order.

Our reply to the points mentioned above is: can our cause be any more damaged than it is to-day? We recognise that circumstances are not as favourable as they were thirty years ago, but if we wait any longer we will not be living to fight, for we will have been annihilated. How long are we to keep on submitting to the reactionary forces? It is true that when Mahatma Gandhi launched Passive Resistance circumstances were all favourable to him. But even Mahatma Gandhi will refuse to admit that his success was due only to those circumstances, or that he would not have launched Passive Resistance were the circumstances unfavourable. In fact, there was a time when public opinion was all against him and he was even advised from India not to fight and he found his own supporters in this country too to be diffident about success. But his faith was in the righteousness of his cause and in his Creator and he plunged single handed and help came to him from throughout the world.

We confess we have not among us a man of such sound character like Mahatma Gandhi. That is perhaps the only weak point in us and we do not for a moment wish to under-estimate the significance of that point. But that character will not come to us by waiting and submitting to humiliations. That is the way of losing one's manhood.

And after all Passive Resistance is the safest weapon that any one can use. It is pure and simple self-imposed suffering. It allows of no ill-will towards the wrong

# TRANSVAAL INDIAN HAWKERS ASSOCIATION

## PROTEST AGAINST THE TRANSVAAL BILL

A MASS meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers Association was held at Patidar Hall, Johannesburg on May 24. Mr. V. K. Patel presided.

The Chairman in his speech said they had met to discuss the hardships that would follow the passage of the Asiatics (Transvaal) Land and Trading Bill now before the Union Parliament.

Mr. Stuttaford had drafted the Bill with the obvious motive of restricting the Indian trade and confining the Indian community of the Transvaal into water-tight compartments. Those who have doubts about it would be well advised to read the Minister's speeches during the second reading and committee stage discussion of this iniquitous Bill. It was made definitely clear by the Government that the Bill, when passed, would be strictly enforced and that no new licence would be granted.

"This hurls a heavy blow to the Indian hawkers and pedlars who have to follow the market and transfer their business from one area to another municipal area, continued the chairman, We shall have to apply for a new licence, but it will be refused to us under the present legislation. We shall lose our only means of livelihood and untold hardships will follow.

"We do not understand why the Union

Government takes such a drastic step to strangulate our legitimate activities. The Indian hawkers have played a very valuable part in the development of the fresh produce industry. They have efficiently served the European farming community by the distribution of fruits and vegetables and supplied the other needs of the public by bringing along goods at the door in all seasons.

"Mr. Stuttaford's Bill virtually means the elimination of Indian hawkers who number about 1,200 from the commercial life of the Province. It is also to be remembered that the elimination of Indian hawking will adversely affect the interests of the farmers who will lose their friendly, hard-working and honest distributors.

"This legislation is based on the policy of segregation and ultimate ruination of the Indian and Chinese communities. It is an insult to the honour and civilisation of India, and as such we have no alternative but to resist it to the very bitter end.

"The Transvaal Indians under the leadership of Dr. Dadoo have decided upon the policy of passive resistance and it is our bounden duty to support him.

"The meeting must decide this afternoon the whole issue. There is no doubt that sacrifices will be required.

If we are true sons of India, we will not hesitate in joining hands with Dr. Dadoo for the protection of our interests and the honour of motherland.

### Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed:

1. This Mass Meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers Association views with alarm the introduction of the Asiatics (Transvaal) Land and Trading Bill into the Union Parliament which entirely closes the door to our existing and future trading and residence, strangulates our economic life and insults the nationhood of India. It therefore resolves to resist it by organising passive resistance.

2. This Mass Meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers Association heartily supports Dr. Dadoo's campaign of passive resistance and requests the Indian people to make it a success by self-suffering and all sorts of sacrifices.

3. This Mass Meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers Association condemns the resolution of the executive of the South African Indian Congress to hold the conference in the Cape Province as against the request of the Transvaal for the Transvaal as the venue, as the Bill solely affects the interests of the Transvaal Indian community.

## CONGRESS SECRETARIES' AUTOCRACY BEING CHALLENGED

IT is becoming more and more evident that the Congress officials have recently been carrying on their work autocratically with the support of "yes men" around them and that our attacks against the manner of their working was not unjustified. The following letters bear ample proof of the fact:

COPY OF A LETTER DATED MAY 28 ADDRESSED TO THE EDITOR, "NATAL MERCURY":

"Sir,—As a member of the Natal Indian Congress I was present at a meeting of its Committee when a formula was passed for the amalgamation of the Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association and thereby to restore unity in the ranks of the Indian community of Natal. That formula was to be ratified at a special general meeting of the members of the Con-

gress. At a time such as this when the Indian community is passing through a critical period in its history in this country, one would have thought that the Secretaries of the Congress would have hastened the calling of the special general meeting. This meeting was to have been called on the 7th May which was adjourned successively to the 14th, 21st and 28th May. An advertisement appears in the local Indian press that the meeting is to be held on the 4th June, but the members have not as yet received their notices.

"Is the achieving of unity of such minor importance that the Secretaries of the Congress are lethargic about calling the much needed meeting?

"The community wants an answer from the Secretaries.—Yours etc.,  
M. E. PARUK.

COPY OF A LETTER DATED MAY 28 ADDRESSED TO THE JOINT HON. SECRETARIES, NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS, DURBAN

"Dear Sirs,—We the undersigned members of the Committee of the Natal Indian Congress, are firmly of the opinion that Swami Bhawani Dayal, the President of the Congress, who is now in India, should be requested to continue his stay there in order that his propaganda against the repressive measures in South Africa is maintained.

"Swami Bhawani Dayal's letter to Mr. A. I. Kajeer dated April 26, and his letter to Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee of May 3, emphasises the necessity of his continuing his stay in India and we the undersigned hereby agree that:

"(1) Swami Bhawani Dayal be immediately cabled to and be advised that he should not return to South

Africa but that he should continue touring India with a view to his continuing an intensive propaganda both in the Press and in other influential quarters so that the whole of India may be apprised of the unfortunate position of the Indian community in South Africa.

(2) The Congress remit to Swami Bhawani Dayal a monthly allowance of £15 to defray his expenses and the expenses connected with the propaganda.

(3) Swami Bhawani Dayal be not recalled until the Committee so decide.

"We shall be glad if you will kindly act in accordance with the above request.—Yours faithfully,

(Sgd). P. Hargovan, M. B. Naik, P. G. Desai, O. H. A. Jhaveri, Shaikh Himed, R. B. Chetty, N. Manickum Pillay, A. M. M. Lokhat, S. J. Randeria, V. J. Thucker, A. E. Shaikh, J. S. Roopnarain, I. A. Essack, M. N. Bhoola, K. M. Seedat, A. S. Kajee, A. S. Aiyar, B. Gabriel, Satya Deva, A. Sookdeo, I. Panday, V. N. Thumbadoo, A. Haffejee, B. Bachoo, V. Lawrence, A. M. Abed, A. B. Moosa, Sorabjee Rustomjee.

With regard to the above, in the course of an interview we had with Mr. A. I. Kajee, secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, we were informed that the special general meeting which was to be held on June 4, is now being called on June 11, and notices to the effect have been sent out to the members of the Congress. With regard to Swami Bhawani Dayal prolonging his stay in India, the secretary informs us that a meeting of the Committee of the Natal Indian Congress is to be held on the 8th or 9th June and the matter will be put before it.

## WHY MR. HOFMEYR AND MR. BLACKWELL RESIGNED

As reported last week the United Party caucus met last Tuesday and noted the letters of resignation from the caucus from Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr and Mr. Leslie Blackwell. These two members resigned from the caucus, though not from the United Party, last week as a result of the adoption by the caucus of a resolution "disapproving" of their action in moving amendments and pressing them to a division at the committee stage of the Asiatics (Transvaal) Land and Trading Bill.

The caucus discussed the position of members who in future found themselves in disagreement in their party in specific matters. It was agreed that it would be impossible to frame a rule to meet every contingency and that reliance must be placed in the loyalty of members to the party and their fellow members.

Nevertheless on the motion of the chief whip (Mr. Tom Naude) the caucus affirmed the position that its members were not entitled to move motions or amendments of a vital nature without the consent of the caucus, the Minister concerned or the chief whip.

The freedom of members to criticise the Government even on matters of policy was reaffirmed, so long as the criticism was not offered in a hostile spirit.

### Hofmeyr-Blackwell Statement

In the course of a joint statement issued by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr and Mr. Leslie Blackwell they said:

We have been censured by the caucus because of our actions in the committee stage of a Bill, in respect of which the Opposition had in effect abdicated its ordinary functions. It was virtually only from the ranks of the Government supporters that the criticism which is necessary for sound legislation could come. Moreover, it was a Bill dealing with a voteless section of the commu-

nity, some of the provisions of which we felt to be essentially unjust.

It would be a reproach to the good name of South Africa if their case had not been presented during the discussion. We claim that in acting as we did we served the best interests of Parliament and of South Africa.

We claim also that our action was in line with similar action repeatedly taken by other United Party supporters in the past. In respect of this very Asiatic question the Government failed to secure the passage of the Feetham resolutions last year because of a revolt of some of its supporters on the floor of the House—a revolt which compelled it to give a new direction to its whole policy.

Moreover, during this session on other measures other Government supporters have acted exactly as we have done, and on the divisions on which we voted against the Government other United Party members voted in exactly the same way.

But we, and we alone, have been singled out for censure. We recognise that for the smooth working of the party system a member must, in his exercise of the privilege of freedom of speech and of action, be influenced by the necessity of co-operation with party colleagues. But having regard to the facts we have mentioned, we claim that we did, in fact, exercise that privilege reasonably and rightly.

### No Such Rule

The specific charge against us is that we moved amendments to a Government measure and divided the House on them. At one time the charge was made that we had broken a caucus rule in doing so. That charge had to be abandoned. There never has been such a caucus rule. Nonetheless, we were censured. We can however, hardly believe that if we had supported Opposition amendments and voted with the opposition on resultant divisions called by its own members, we would have escaped censure.

The essence of the matter is, of course, that our exercise of the privilege of free

speech and action was distasteful to the Prime Minister. We have for some time been subjected to bitter attacks in the United Party newspapers standing in close relationship with him. On this occasion he himself impugned our good faith and loyalty, and he imposed his will on this caucus with a view to our being censured.

We would emphasise, therefore, that we did not tender our resignations simply because a vote of censure on us had been cast. Our reasons for doing so go much further. The Prime Minister had called our loyalty into question. The caucus had accepted a resolution framed to give effect to his wishes. We could, therefore, do no other than place our resignations in the hands of the caucus, leaving it free either to accept them or to ask us to withdraw them and to continue our membership.

It is because we refused to speak and act like robots that we have been censured.

These are days when Democratic institutions are gravely in danger. But they have been assailed from within as well as from without. For the maintenance of Democracy it is of supreme importance to maintain essential freedom of thought and of action. The United Party Caucus decision tends towards the breaking down of that freedom. It is a step on the road to dictatorship and that step we, on our part, are not prepared to take.

For these reasons we tendered our resignations from the caucus, but not from the party. Our loyalty to the ideals of the United Party remains unimpaired. We hope to continue to fight for those ideals as effectively in the future as we have sought to do in the past.

In the House we shall not take up an attitude of hostility to the Government. We shall continue, as hitherto, offering criticism where necessary, but lending general support.

# A WORTHY ATONEMENT

THE conflagration that surrounds Gandhiji on every side is not without its redeeming features. If it were so it would certainly consume him. But everywhere there are in evidence features to soothe and comfort and hearten which often make him utter the memorable words of the Gujarati Poet:

Happiest are those that plunge in Fire,

The lookers—on are all but scorched by flames.

These thoughts arise in me as I begin to think of the storm that is raging over the proposed introduction of Prohibition in Bombay. The Parsis—some of them, certainly not all—have organised an agitation against it, and there have been protest meetings and processions. Gandhiji has had quite a fair number of letters too, a few full of anger but most of them courteous. Last week, however, I had a different kind of letter from a Parsi friend who has been with us through thick and thin for the last 20 years, but whom his long ailment has disabled from taking active part in our movements. Had he not been bed-ridden, he would I am sure be with

By M. D. In "Harijan"

Dr. Gilder bearing the brunt of the campaign and helping to educate Parsi public opinion. Here is a gist of what he writes:

"I am writing to express the depth of my agony over what is happening in Bombay. Some members of my community have raised a storm of protest against the campaign of Prohibition which I am sure cannot but be of lasting benefit to all, particularly to my community. Let me assure you that the agitation is sure to be short-lived. A community which has produced so many philanthropists is bound to realise sooner than later the essentially humanitarian aspect of this sacred movement and bless Gandhiji one day for having saved the community from spiritual ruin. I have no doubt in my mind that Gandhiji and Dr. Gilder have taken a step which was most urgently needed for the benefit of the community.

I need not say that my wife and I always pray for success of the sacred movement, and, by way of penance

for what some of my co-religionists have done in order to keep the drink evil alive in India, I send you a humble contribution which I would request you to use either for the Prohibition or the Harijan cause.

Let me add that the objection raised against Prohibition on the score of religion is absurd. For us it is painful in the extreme that the name of religion should have been dragged in support of an unholy movement.

My contribution is by way of penance both for what we have done in the past and what we Parsis are doing to-day. But let me assure you that the agitation is confined to only a few of us."

The amount of the contribution is Rs. 1,000. It is really worth a hundred times the actual amount, for I know that it represents the hard-earned saving of several years, and perhaps means a cut on our friend's future budget. A worthier act of atonement than this cannot be thought of. Let us hope it will rouse the dormant consciences of many of us and help in carrying further forward this civilising and purifying movement.

## CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

I SAID at Calcutta on April 24 that Rajkot had proved a laboratory for me. The latest proof of the fact lies in the step I am now announcing. After an exhaustive discussion with my co-workers I have come to the conclusion at 6 o'clock this evening that I should renounce the advantages accruing from the Award of the Chief Justice.

I recognise my error. At the end of my fast I had permitted myself to say that it had succeeded as no previous fast had done. I now see that it was tainted with *Himsa*. In taking the fast I sought immediate intervention of the Paramount Power so as to induce fulfilment of the promise made by the Thakore Saheb. This was not the way of *Ahimsa* or conversion. It was the way of *Himsa* or coercion. My fast to be pure should have been addressed only to the Thakore Saheb, and I should have been content to die if I could not have melted his heart or rather that of his adviser Durbar Shri Virawala. My eyes would not have been opened if I had not found unexpected difficulties in my way. Durbar Shri Virawala was no willing party to the Award. Naturally, he was in no obliging mood. He therefore took advantage of every opportunity to cause a delay. The Award, instead of making my way smooth, became a potent cause of angering the Muslims and Bhayats

By

M. K. GANDHI In "Harijan"

against me. Before the Award we had met as friends. Now I am accused of having committed a breach of promise voluntarily and without any consideration made by me. The matter was to go to the Chief Justice for decision as to whether I was guilty of the alleged breach of promise. The statements of the Muslim Council and the Girasia Association are before me. Now that I have taken the decision to renounce the Award, there is no occasion for me to answer the two cases. So far as I am concerned, Muslims and Bhayats can have anything the Thakore Saheb may be pleased to give them. I must apologise to them for having put them to the trouble of preparing their cases. I owe an apology to the Viceroy for the unnecessary strain I have put upon him in my weakness. I apologise to the Chief Justice for having been the cause of putting him to the labour which, had I known better, he need not have gone through. Above all, I apologise to the Thakore Saheb and Durbar Shri Virawala. So far as the latter is concerned, I must also own that, in common with my co-workers, I have harboured evil thoughts about him. I do not here pause to consider whether the

charges made against him were true or not. This is not the place to discuss them. Suffice it to say that the way of *Ahimsa* was not and has not yet been applied to him.

And let it be said to my discredit that I have been guilty of playing what may be called a double, i.e., hanging the sword of the Award over his head and wooing him and expecting him of his own free will to advise the Thakore Saheb to grant liberal reforms.

This method I admit is wholly inconsistent with *Ahimsa*. When all of a sudden I made what is known as a sporting offer to Mr. Gibson on April 19, I discovered my weakness. But I had not the courage then and there to say, 'I do not want to have anything to do with the Award.' Instead I said, 'Let the Thakore Saheb appoint his own Committee and then the Parishad people will examine the report in terms of the Award, and if it is found defective it can go to the Chief Justice.' Durbar Shri Virawala detected a flaw and very properly rejected the offer, saying: 'You are still hanging the Award over my head and want to become a court of appeal over the Thakore Saheb's Committee. If such is the case, you must take your pound of flesh and no more.' I saw the force of his objection. I told him too that I lacked the courage then to throw the Award overboard, but I

would still plead with him to come to terms with the people as if the Award was not in existence and as if the Sardar and I had also withdrawn. He promised to try. He tried in his own fashion but not with a large heart. I do not blame him. How could I expect a large heart when he knew my faint-heartedness in clinging to the Award?

Only trust can beget trust. I lacked it myself. But at last I have regained my lost courage. My faith in the sovereign efficacy of *Ahimsa* burns brighter for my confession and repentances.

I must not do an injustice to my co-workers. Many of them are filled with misgivings. My exposition of *Ahimsa* is new to them. They see no cause for my repentance. They think that I am giving up a great chance created by the Award. They think too that as a political leader I have no right to play fast and loose with the fortunes of 75,000 souls, maybe of the whole of the people of Kathiawad. I have told them that their fears are unjustified, and that every act of purification, every accession of courage, adds to the strength of the

cause of a people affected by a movement of Satyagraha. I have told them too that if they regard me as the general and expert of Satyagraha, they must put up with what may appear to them to be my vagaries.

Having now freed the Thakore Sahab and his adviser from the oppression of the Award, I have no hesitation in appealing to them to appease the people of Rajkot by fulfilling their expectations and dispelling their misgivings.

Rajkot 17-5-1939.

## South African News In Brief

### Protest Meeting Of Maritzburg Indians

A PROTEST meeting of Maritzburg Indians was held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg branch) when allegations of immorality made against the Indian community by Mr. A. T. Allison M.P.C., in the Provincial Council were strongly condemned. The meeting unanimously passed the following resolutions: "This mass meeting of Indians, while denying the allegations of Indian penetration into essentially European residential areas, supports the petition submitted by the headquarters of the Natal Indian Congress to the Provincial Council, and ask that a judicial inquiry be set up to give an opportunity to the Indian community to answer and refute such allegations.

"This meeting protests against and denies the allegations made in the Provincial Council by Mr. A. T. Allison M.P.C., recently charging Indians with immoral relationship with Coloured women, and interference with White women, and states emphatically that the motive underlying this charge is to inflame racial feeling against Indians and add fuel to the fire of racial hatred, which unfortunately for the Indians finds expression in some of the extremists in this country.

"This mass meeting demands that Mr. Allison either withdraws this charge forthwith or substantiates same in an open inquiry."

It was decided to forward copies of the resolution to Mr. Allison, who was not present, and to the chairman of the Provincial Council.

### Welcome Reception To Dr. S. V. Appavoo

The Port Elizabeth Indian Women's Association gave a welcome reception to Dr. S. V. Appavoo, M.B., Ch.B., at the City Hall. His Worship the Mayor, Mr. McLean, who presided, welcomed Dr. Appavoo in the name of the Port Elizabeth Indian Women's Association and in the name of the City of Port Elizabeth and hoped he would be successful in his profession. The Mayor referred to the

Segregation Bill as essentially an unjust measure which, in his opinion, would have the effect of creating bad blood and division at a time when there should be peace, amity and singleness of purpose among the multitudinous people in the British Commonwealth of Nations. He referred to the war cloud which threatened Western Civilisation and with it everything that the members of the British Commonwealth of Nations held near and dear. The Mayor then garlanded the guest in the name of the association and was, in turn, garlanded by Mrs. Jessie. Mrs. V. Gopaul, the secretary of the Indian Women's Association, stated that Dr. Appavoo, after creditably passing his medical examination in Edinburgh, now stood on the threshold of

### Piano Lessons

A respectable Indian lady is willing to give Piano lessons to Indian children in Durban. Reasonable fees. Perfect results guaranteed. Write to 'Piano Lessons,' c/o INDIAN OPINION, Phoenix, Natal.

another school—the school of practice which required greater energy and stronger determination in order to make his chosen calling a thorough success. Continuing Mrs. Gopaul said the three cardinal principles that directed and regulated the conduct of every rational human being were, first, there was no aristocracy except intellect, and by intellect she meant a combination of high character and culture. One did not get into this charmed circle by any accident of accidents or favouritism. Secondly, there was no gospel except tolerance. To succeed in his profession the doctor should don the humble garb and mix with the humblest of the humble on a footing of equality. And thirdly, there was no ideal except service, service to his own people in particular, and the State in general. Mrs. Treharne, the Deputy Mayor, Mr. W. C. Addock, Miss Couldridge, Mr. O. K. Pillay and Mrs. Nagan also briefly addressed the gathering.

### Indian Baby Show

A committee has been formed under the patronage of the Mayoress of Durban and Lady City Councillors to organise an Indian Baby Show in Durban on July 2. Dr. K. Goonam is the chairlady of the committee. It is hoped that Mrs. Rama Rau, wife of the Agent-General for India in South Africa, will be in Durban to open the show. There will be four sections: (A) Babies under six months. (B) Babies six months to twelve months. (C) Babies one year to two years. (D) Babies two years to four years. The entrance fee is six pence per competitor. Entry forms may be obtained by calling on or writing to the secretaries Mrs. R. D. Sundram and Mrs. M. Naidoo, 49, Cross Street, Durban, or by telephoning to No. 23688, Durban.

### Social And Personal

Mr. Bernard Gabriel, the well known lawyer, who has been laid up in bed for the past two months with dengue fever, is making a good recovery. It is hoped he will be well and strong again very soon.

Mr. K. Soobramoney, the organising secretary of the South African Colonial Born and Settlers Association, who is also the joint hon. secretary of the Pietermaritzburg Branch, has gone to the Transvaal, in order to study and ascertain at first hand the Transvaal Indian community's plight, particularly arising out of the proposed Asiatic Land and Trading Bill now before Parliament.

Everything appearing in this issue of a political nature has been written and edited by Mahilal M. Gaudhi to express the views of INDIAN OPINION.

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# Things In General

## Rev. Satchell On India

REV. W. H. Satchell, who has recently returned from India, delivered on Monday evening, May 22, a lecture on "India of to-day" under the auspices of the Gandhi Library and Rustonjee Hall Committee which was listened to very attentively by Indians. The chairman, Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri, welcomed Rev. Satchell and presented him with a beautiful bouquet. Mr. Satchell in opening his address said that India was a vast country with very grave problems. He outlined the newly promulgated Indian Constitution and the arbitrary powers under it vested to Governors and the Viceroy. He also explained the activities of the Indian National Congress which governed almost all the Provinces. He said that only one Province is now governed by the Coalition Government. In concluding his lecture, Mr. Satchell advised the Indian community in Natal to improve their lot by self help.

At the request of the chairman, Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, the leader of the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress who was present at the meeting expressed his views on the segregation policy of the Union Government. He told the audience of the decision of the Nationalist Group to oppose the Bill by passive resistance. Mr. S. J. Randeria thanked Rev. Satchell for his very interesting and informative lecture. He referred to the activities of Rev. Satchell in connection with the St. Aidan's Indian Hospital and to his Missionary work here. He also thanked the Indian friends from the Transvaal among whom were besides Dr. Dadoo, Mr. S. B. Mehd and Hajee I. A. Cachalia for their presence there that evening, and he specially thanked Dr. Dadoo for expressing his views so clearly on the Segregation Bill.

## Shri Hindi Pathshala

The Shri Hindi Pathshala was formed at a well attended inaugural meeting held at the Depot Road Government Indian School, Somtsen Road, Durban recently under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Ramkias, the protom secretary being Mr. E. H. Moolen. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. S. L. Singh, Anand Rai and C. Sewduth; president: Mr. B. J. Maharajh; vice-presidents: Messrs. B. Sohanlal, B. Sudhene and R. Ramkias; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. E. H. Moolen; committee: Messrs. R. Bijou, Billy L. Singh, S. Hethoo, Mahadow L. Singh and M. Hansrajh.

## Indian Technical Education

### Committee

The ninth annual report of the Indian Technical Institute, Durban, which has been recently published, states that

twelve meetings of the committee were held during the year. The work of the Institute was carried on at the Part-time classes intended for young people who are no longer in attendance at day school, and are, or should be in employment. The following is a summary of the sections of the work:—

### A. Part-time classes for young men and boys:

	Average enrolment for the 4 quarters
1. Commercial and Literary Classes at Sastri College	137
2. General Constitutional Classes at Carlisle St. School	80
at Somtsen Rd. School	59
at Clairwood School	88

### B. Part-time classes for young women and girls:

1. Domestic Science Classes	15	
Needlework and Dressmaking at Sastri College		
Practical Cookery at Albert St. School		
2. General Constitutional Classes at Somtsen Rd. College		
First half year 83	Second half year	11

390

The work of the Committee has been affected, states the report, by the ruling of the Ministers of Education that the

## WANTED

A Temple Poojari and Hindi Teacher. Must be a bachelor Brahmin. To commence duty from July 1. Applications must reach the secretaries by the 15th June, 1939.

Shri Laxmi Narayan Temple, 60, Sirdar Road, P. O. Rossburgh, Natal.

Department would not henceforward recognise for subsidy purposes pupils enrolled in the Classes, who were under 16 years of age unless they had passed standard IV. The departmental Inspector visited the classes in April and after discussions with him it was decided to remove from the classes at the end of June the pupils, both boys and girls, who were affected by this regulation. At the same time discussions were entered into with the Provincial Administration with the object of getting some consideration for the young people who had been thus dismissed from or who had been refused admission in the classes. At the end of the year the committee received word that the Administration was prepared to receive application for a grant for classes for these boys and girls under certain conditions, and the committee now hopes to be able to make provision for the part-time education of such pupils who are between 14 and 16 years of age have not passed the fourth

standard. The committee consists of the following eleven active members with Mr. B. M. Narbeth as chairman: Mr. A. Christopher (vice-chairman), Mrs. G. Christopher, Dr. Mildred Clark, Messrs. S. Joseph, S. M. Moodley, P. G. Naicker (hon. treasurer), T. M. Naicker, S. L. Singh, G. M. Titlestad (secretary) and V. Vinden.

## Indian Eisteddfod

The open public speaking contest held recently, was successfully won by Miss Kanthum Naidoo, formerly a pupil and now a teacher of the Dartnell Crescent Indian Girl's School, Durban. Miss Naidoo was the only Indian lady-entrant out of 11 entries in this competition. Miss Naidoo was congratulated by Mr. Maurice Webb the adjudicator for having been so outstanding in her delivery and command of the English language.

## Variety Concert

The scholars of the Stella Hill Indian School will present the following two short plays: 1. Tharmama Jayam (an Eastern play of philosophic nature, in English). 2. Twice is too much (an Arabic comedy, in English). The programme also includes songs (both vernacular and English) sketches, solos (instrumental), monologues, items by scouts and guides, etc. in aid of the Stella Hill Indian School Fund, on Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, in the Stella Hill School Hall. Doors open at 12 noon. Play commences on both days at 1.30 p.m. Admission by programme only.

## Wedding

A grand vedic wedding took place on Sunday, May 21, at Mr. Baahoo's residence at Oato Manor when his niece Kumarie Parvathie, the daughter of Mr. Mrs. Ramjuthan was married to Kumar Ramlugan, eldest son of Mr. Sampath, of Candella Estates. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Ramenudar Patuk of Dannhauser. There was a huge gathering including distinguished Indian leaders from all over South Africa. The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of many valuable wedding gifts and good wishes.

## Donation To Natal Indian Congress

The Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg branch) acknowledges with thanks a donation of £6 6s. received from Estate late Gangaloo Peter per Messrs. A. J. McGibbon & Brokensha.

**Andhra Maha Sabha**

Mr. A. P. Naidoo, of Slanger, leaves for India on a holiday by the *Kenya* on Sunday June 4. He will be accompanied by his wife and two children and expects to be away for about six months. Mr. A. P. Naidoo is the patron of the Andhra Maha Sabha (South Africa). A farewell reception was accorded by the Sabha to Mr. and Mrs. Naidoo at the Andhra House, 43, Leopold Street, Durban. Mr. C. N. C. Varadaacharyulu of the

Tongaath Andhra Pathasala is also leaving by the same boat. He is not expected to return to this country owing to the sad loss he has sustained early in May by the death of his beloved wife in India. The Andhra Maha Sabha extends to Mr. Varadaacharyulu its deepest sympathy in his sad bereavement.

**Muslim Institute**

The following officials of the above Institute were elected for the current year at its recently held third annual

meeting:—Patrons: Messrs. A. I. Kajee, A. S. Kathrada, Hajee M. A. Motala; President: Mr. Hajee E. H. Ismail; Treasurer: Mr. Y. S. Mulla; Secretaries: Messrs. A. E. Randeree and Karrim A. Ganje; Vice-presidents: Messrs. A. S. Kajee, Tayob Sacoor, L. Vally, A. I. Jinnah, D. M. Motala; Councillors: Messrs. E. M. G. Randeree, G. M. Balim, G. H. Doorat, H. M. Vahed, E. I. Mulla, O. I. Amra, G. M. Jeewa, E. M. Motala, A. B. Ismail, C. A. Vaiz, and S. M. Vahed.

**ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.****THE SEGREGATION BILL**

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—I have carefully analysed the criticism of Mr. Heaton Nicholls, M.P., for the Zululand Division in Parliament on the Segregation Bill, and am astonished that as a Britisher, without foreseeing the dire necessity of establishing unity in the British Commonwealth of Nations, he recommends the desirability of scrapping the Capetown Agreement which was the outcome of a Round Table Conference between the representatives of the Union and the Indian Governments after due deliberations. The scrapping of this Agreement would therefore mean a first step towards the break-up of the existing

diplomatic relations between the two States.

The world was given to understand that it was the Totalitarian States who defied and ignored treaties and agreements, and the democratic principle was to honour these treaties and agreements. I firmly believe the Union of South Africa in its present form is of a democratic origin up to the core. Under the circumstances, the principle and ideals of democracy must be maintained in deeds and words.

The approaching conflagration could only be averted by showing a spirit of goodwill among the citizens of the

Empire.

The British politicians in the Union should remember and take into account India's man power and resources in the event of another world war, and her contributing force towards peace in the Commonwealth, before anything drastic is launched against the Indian community in the Union. The scrapping of the Capetown Agreement would automatically mean a severe blow to the Indian Government and its reputation, and a retaliation would positively take shape.—Yours etc,

C. VARADHARAJULU NAIDU.

**SASTRI COLLEGE DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

(CONTRIBUTED)

COMMENCING on the evening of Wednesday, June 14, and continuing on the three following evenings, the Sastri College Dramatic Society will hold its Annual Dramatic Festival in the College Hall. A simple enough announcement, but behind it what a wealth of meaning. Dramatic Art, which has blossomed in various soils throughout the ages, is unfolding itself in our midst in a form both old and new; breathing all the allurements and mystery of the East, it presents itself to our jaded sophistication with an artistry which is fascinating.

The Sastri College Dramatic Society is putting before Durban to-day plays worthy of a much higher tribute than is generally accorded them here as yet. The majority of people do not know of these plays; some are indifferent, but those who have witnessed the high standard of achievement attained, seldom miss an opportunity of attending new productions. After the 1938 Festival was over, a well-known authority of the Drama wrote: "Two Eastern Plays were staged, which for artistic quality and brilliance of interpretation

far outstripped anything yet seen in amateur performances here. The plays gave full scope to the players who revealed and sustained the Eastern atmosphere and imagination in a remarkable fashion"

The first proper stage play was produced at the College in June 1934. It was an Eastern Fantasy "The Poetasters of Ispahan," and, though simply staged as an initial effort, it created a sensation. Nothing of the kind had ever been seen in Durban before; a real Eastern Play with real Eastern people in it. And this is, really, the secret of the great success which the Society has had during the past six years. In the main it has staged Eastern or Semi-Eastern Plays and the public knows that, at the College, it can see Dramatic work which is unique in every respect.

Usually a school play, no matter how well it may be done, is just a school play; nothing will ever make it anything else, but the Dramatic work at the College is considered to be almost professional and very definitely the best College Plays to be seen anywhere in the Union. The tremendous inter-

est shown by Indians and Europeans every year in this festival of dramas means that the plays have to be run for almost a week, and sometimes even repeated, and this year the keenness is the same. Two Plays have been selected for presentation. One is an Eastern Fantasy "The Gods of the Mountain" in three acts; the other a delightful Burlesque entitled "An International Scrooge" in four scenes, commencing in London and then taking us over to France and Russia. A unique type of Costume Play never before seen in this country.

The opening night, Wednesday, June 14, will be a Grand Gala Performance when a very distinguished and fully representative gathering will be present. The plays will continue on the three following nights with the possibility of a special repeat performance on Monday evening following. Friday evening, June 16, will be a special students' night, when senior students from Indian and European schools will be present.



# The Sporting World

## Speabona Tennis Club

THE annual general meeting of the above club was held at 129 Gale Street when the following were elected officials for the ensuing year: Patron, Mr. V. M. Maistry; hon. life president: Mr. A. K. Phillip; president: V. Manickum Pillay; vice presidents: Messrs. P. B. Singh, P. M. Naicker, V. Krishnasamy; hon. secretary: P. G. Francis; hon. treasurer: V. Iyaloo Maistry; assist. secretary: S. S. Maharaj; hon. auditor: R. P. Soni; captain "A" Division: A. P. Singh; court captain: E. H. Ismail; captain "B" Division: N. Govindsamy; committee: I. Bramdaw, Sid Maharaj, P. Pillay, Jimmy Maistry, K. D. O. Thumbay; councillors to N.I.L.T.A.: I. Bramdaw and A. P. Singh. It was decided to hold the Club's Annual Tournament for "Moorgiah Trophy" on Sunday, June 4.

## Tea Party In Honour Of Hajee E. H. Ismail

A Tea Party in honour of Mr. E. H. Ismail, the captain of the Speabona Tennis Club, who had returned recently from his overseas trip, was given by the club at the residence of Mr. V. M. Maistry. Mr. V. Manickum Pillay who presided eulogised the services rendered by Hajee Ismail since the inception of the club some ten years ago, and the fine sportsmanship shown both on and off the court. Amongst other speakers were Messrs. I. Bramdaw, V. Krishnasamy, V. M. Maistry (the patron), R. P. Soni, P. G. Francis, A. P. Singh, S. S. Maharaj, (Natal Indian Single Tennis Champion) and others. Mr. Ismail thanked Mr. Maistry and the members of the Club.

## Hindu Social Club

On Sunday May 21 the above Club entertained the Hindu Youth Club at their Club Hall 140, Queen Street, at a friendly game of table tennis. Many spirited games were seen but the highlight of the evening was the final between the captains of the teams Dr. G. M. Naicker and Mr. M. Manjee which resulted in a win for Dr. Naicker by 21-17. The visitors won by 21 matches to 15. Dr. Naicker expressed a pleasant surprise at the standard of play of the home members and hoped that at some later date they would be able to return the compliment. Mr. K. P. Desai expressing the clubs thanks to the visitors, hoped that the friendly relations between the club's would continue. The club also wishes to express its thanks to Mr. R. M. Patel and members of the Muslim Institute for their help towards making the evening a success.

## By "Rambler"

### Harden Heights Indian Tennis Club

The club held its tournament doubles and singles. The result was as follows:— Messrs. N. S. Nundan and Davel Ramdeen winners of the doubles, beat Messrs. A. T. S. David and Kanallal Parsidie by 6-4, 9-7. Kanallal Parsidie holds the single championship now for two years. D. Ramdeen runners-up. The club wishes to play any outside club to improve their standard of play as this club has just commenced and has a long way to go, states the secretary.

### Mayville Football Club

The annual general meeting of the Mayville Football Club was held recently. Mr. B. Reuben presided. Mr. V. S. Vadiyal Pillay in submitting the annual report, said that keen endeavours were evinced for all the trophies. This year the clubs have changed its colours to Royal and White. Mr. B. K. Maharaj presented a set of jerseys and Messrs. P. Doorasamy Bros. presented a football. The following officials were elected for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Messrs. C. N. Rana and B. K. Maharaj; hon. life

vice-presidents: Messrs. S. P. Pillay, B. Reuben and V. S. Vadiyal; president: Mr. B. Reuben; vice-presidents: Messrs. D. D. Lalla, G. G. Naidoo, G. R. Naidoo, M. Heera, A. Madray, M. Moonlil and R. Seepersadh; hon. secretary: Mr. T. P. Govender; assistant secretary: Mr. O. P. Govender; hon. treasurer: Mr. Rogers Naidoo; captain: Mr. S. Sam Vasi; vice-captain: Mr. David Nayanah; manager: M. M. Naidoo; trainer: Mr. P. Doorasamy; delegates to the M.D.I.F.A.: Messrs. T. P. Govender and R. P. Singh.

### Farewell To Popular Sub-manager

A public farewell under the auspices of the Cornubia Indian Sports Club took place recently in the Cornubia Indian Hall, Natal Estates Ltd., on the retirement of Mr. H. Weston, sub-manager of Cornubia Estate. There was a good gathering of both Europeans and Indians. Mr. H. Weston retired after completing 31 years of service to the Natal Estates, the last 21 years of which were spent in Cornubia. Mr. and Mrs. Weston will be leaving for the Orange Free State. Mr. H. Weston was presented with a cigarette case and Mrs. H. Weston with a tea set by the Sports Club and a fine clock to both by the Indian community.

## Sastri College Dramatic Society

ANNUAL DRAMATIC FESTIVAL  
(June 1939)

On Wednesday, June 14, and three following nights the Society will present at 8 p.m. each evening in the College Hall—Two plays:

"THE GODS OF THE MOUNTAIN"  
(An Eastern Fantasy In Three Acts)

"AN INTERNATIONAL SCROOGE"  
(A Burlesque In Four Scenes)

BOTH COSTUME PLAYS

Wednesday, June 14, Grand Gala  
Performance Under Distinguished  
Patronage.

Tickets: 10/6, 5/3 and 3/6 (Reserved);  
Other Nights, Tickets: 3/6, 2/6 (Reserved)  
and 1/6 (Unreserved; Friday Night, June 16,  
Students' Night.

# હિંદિયન ઓપિનિયન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે  
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ મું.

ફીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨ જુન ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૨૨.

## “હિંદિયન ઓપિનિયન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૨ જુન ૧૯૩૯.

### હિંદીઓ તરફ દિલસોજી ધરાવનારાઓ પ્રત્યે

કેટલાંક યુરોપીયન મિત્રો હિંદી કામ તરફની સરકારની દમનનીતી સામે જે કે સંપૂર્ણ દિલસોજી ધરાવી રહ્યા છે છતાં હિંદી કામને સલામત નહિ કરવાનો સલાહ આપી રહ્યા છે. આ આખતમાં રેન્ડ ડેલી ગેલે હિંદી સલાહને જે દિલસોજીની લાગણીથી નીહાળ્યા છે તેને માટે અમે જે પત્રના આભારી છીએ તેની સલાહની અમે ખાસ નોંધ લખી છીએ કેમકે તેણે ખરી સહભાવનાથી તે આપેલી છે. અમારું સહયોગી એટલી વસ્તુ સ્વિકારે છે કે “જેક ૧૮૮૫ ની સાલથી દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના હિંદીઓને એક પછી એક કામદારી માનભંગો સહન કરવા પડ્યાં છે અને તેઓની સ્થિતિ એટલી બગડતી ગઈ છે કે આજે તેઓ આ દેશની સૌથી વિશેષ કચકાયેલી પ્રજાઓમાંની એક થઈ પડેલી છે. અને હવે ટ્રાંસવાલના ખીલથી તેઓ પર હજી વધારે મુશીબતો નાખવામાં આવશે.” પરંતુ એટલું છતાં અમારું સહયોગી હિંદી કામને સલામતના માર્ગ મહત્વ નહિ કરવા સુચવે છે. તેમ કરતાં તે હિંદીઓને સહ વસ્તુઓ લાગવા કહે છે, જે આ છે:

સલામત તેઓના સલાહને વધારે નુકસાન કરશે. ત્રીસ વર્ષ પુર્વે જે સ્થિતિ હતી તે આજે નથી. એશીયાટીક સવાલે એ વખતે એક વિશાળ રાજદારી સલાહનું સ્વરૂપ નહોતું પકડ્યું. પ્રજાધાતી તત્વો નખળાં હતાં અને આજના કરતાં એછા વાચાળ હતા. મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીની જીવન યત્ન હતી કેમકે તેમના સિદ્ધાંતો અને આદર્શો પ્રત્યે પ્રજાની લાગણી ધણી બહોળી હતી. આ સંજોગમાં અમારું સહયોગી કહે છે કે: સલામત કરવાની અસર માત્ર એકજ થશે અને તે એ કે હિંદીઓને મને તે ભોગે કચકવાને અને તરછોડી કાઢવાને જેઓએ કદ નિશ્ચ કરેલો છે તેઓના હાથ મજબુત થશે. વળી જેઓ એટલા દુઃખ અને ધર્મ્યાની વચ્ચે હિંદીઓને મદદ કરવાનો પ્રયત્ન કરી રહ્યા છે તેઓનું જીવન નખળું થઈ જશે. ઉપલી હકીકત અમે રેન્ડ ડેલી ગેલે ના એક આગલા લેખમાંથી ટાંકેલી છે. આ અંક

માં તેનો ખીજો લેખ પ્રસિદ્ધ કરીએ છીએ જેમં સલામત નહિ કરવાની તે ફરી સલાહ આપે છે અને કહે છે કે એ એક પહેલા નંબરની ગંભીર જાણ ગણાશે.

ઉપર જણાવેલા મુદ્દાઓનો અમારો જવાબ એ છે કે “હિંદીઓનો સવાલ આજે જેટલો બગડેલો છે એથી વિશેષ બગડવાનું બાકી શું રહ્યું છે? અમે સમજીએ છીએ કે સંજોગો જેટલા ત્રીસ વર્ષ પર હતા એટલા અનુકુળ આજે નથી. પરંતુ જે હિંદીઓ હજી વધારે વખત રાહ જોઈ બેસી રહીશે તે લડત કરવાને જીવતાજ નહિ રહે કેમકે તેઓ નાબુદ થઈ જાય હશે.

પ્રજાધાતી બળોને હિંદીઓ-કર્મી સુધી નમ્યા કરશે? ખરું છે કે મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીએ સલામત કર્યો તે વખતે સંજોગો તેમના લાભમાં હતા. પરંતુ ખુદ ગાંધીજી પણ એ નહિ સ્વિકારે કે તેમની ફરોહ માત્ર એ સંજોગોના કારણેજ થઈ હતી. અથવા તો એવા સંજોગો નહિ હોત તો તેમણે સલામત નહિ કર્યો હોત. હકીકતમાં એક પ્રસંગ એવો બન્યો હતો કે જ્યારે સમસ્ત પ્રજામત તેમણે સલામત કરવાની વિરૂદ્ધ થઈ ગયો હતો અને ખુદ હિંદુસ્તાનથી પણ તેમને તેમ નહિ કરવાની સલાહ મળી હતી. એટલુંજ નહિ પરંતુ તેમના પોતાના સાથીઓ પણ એ વખતની ફરોહને વિષે શંકાશીલ થયા હતા. એ વેળાએ ગાંધીજીએ કેવળ પોતાનો સવાલ સહ અને ન્યાયી હતા તેના પર અને ધર્મ પર વિશ્વાસ મુદ્દી એકલે હાથે ઝંપલાવ્યું અને સમસ્ત જગત તેમની મદદે ધાકું હતું.

અમારે સ્વિકારી લેવું જોઈએ કે મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના જેવી મહાન ચારિત્રવાન વ્યક્તિ હિંદીઓમાં આજે નથી. તેઓની વિરૂદ્ધ જનારો એક પણ મુદ્દો હોય તો માત્ર એટલેજ છે અને એ મુદ્દાનું મહત્વ અમે ધકીબર પણ જોઈએ આંકતા નથી. પરંતુ એ ચારિત્રવળ કંઈ માનભંગો સહન કરી બેસી રહેવાથી જોઈએ આવવાનું હતું? એ તો પુરુષાર્થ શુભાવવાનો માર્ગ છે.

અને છેવટે સલામત એ તો કોઈ પણ વ્યક્તિ માટે સૌથી સહિસલામત યત્ન છે. સ્વેચ્છાએ દુઃખ ઉઠાવવાના નિશ્ચય સિવાય ખીજું કંઈ

તેમાં નથી. જીલમમારની તરફ દેશભાવને તેમાં અવકાશ નથી. તેના પ્રયોગથી નુકસાન પ્રયોગ કરનાર સિવાય અન્ય કોઈને નથી થતું. અને તેને પણ માત્ર ચારિત્રિક અથવા આર્થિક નુકસાન થાય છે. તેના આત્મા તો જીવત થાય છે અને પોતે સ્વેચ્છાએ ઉઠાવેલું દુઃખ, જે ધર્મની હસ્તિમાં આપણને જરાયે શ્રદ્ધા હોય તો, લોકોને તેના શત્રુ નહિ બનાવે પરંતુ જેઓ લાગણીથીન હશે તેઓનામાં લાગણી પેદા કરશે.

સલામત કરનારાઓએ એક વસ્તુ બેશક સમજવાની છે. તે એ કે એક પણ ઉતાવળીયું પગલું તેઓથી નજ બરામ. સલામતના સિદ્ધાંતો તેઓએ પુરેપુરા સમજવા જોઈએ અને જેઓ તેમાં જોડાય તેઓને પુરેપુરા સમજવવા જોઈએ. સામુદાયીક પગલું હાથ ટુરત નજ લઈ શકાય. માત્ર વ્યક્તિઓએજ આત્મભોગ આપવા ઝંપલાવી શકાયો બેસાડવો જોઈએ.

જે હિંદીઓનો સવાલ સહ અને ન્યાયી હોય, અને છે એ તો સ્વિકારાયું છે, અને જે સ્થિતિમાં આજે હિંદીઓ મુકાયેલા છે તે સ્થિતિમાં જે ખીજા કોઈ પણ સ્વમાનપ્રીય લોકો મુકાય હોય તો તેઓ મને તેવા સંજોગમાં પણ એ સ્થિતિ સહન નહિ કરતાં તેનો સામનો કરવાને ખુનરજનો માર્ગ પણ લેતાં સંજોગમાં નહી, તો પછી હિંદીઓ, કે જેઓએ પોતાની ઉપર થઈ રહેલા અન્યાયોની સામે સ્વેચ્છાએ દુઃખ ઉઠાવવાનો માર્ગ મહત્વ કરેલો છે તેઓ ખરેજ તેઓની તરફ દિલસોજી ધરાવવાનો હાથો કરનારાઓ પાસેથી પ્રેરસાહન નીજ આશા રાખી શકે. નહિ તો તેવા દિલસોજી ધરાવનારાઓએ તેઓને ખીજો માર્ગ બતાવવો જોઈએ, કે જેની ડો. ડાકુએ વાજખી અપીલ કરેલી છે. પરંતુ અમારું સહયોગી ખીજો કંઈ પણ માર્ગ સુચવી નથી શક્યું. અમારી દ્રષ્ટિએ તો ખીજો માર્ગ એકજ રહ્યો છે અને તે પીડીશનો કરવાનો. પરંતુ તેનું હવે કંઈ મહત્વ રહ્યું છે ખરું? પીડીશનો કરવાથી જેટલું પ્રાપ્ત થયું હતું એ તો સમજી શકાય થઈ રહ્યું છે. પવિત્ર કોલકરારોનો કંઈ કલેજે ભંગ થઈ રહ્યો છે. મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના ચબ્દોમાં “હર હિંદુલરના ધણી કૃત્યોને કોલકરારના ભંગ તરીકે વખોડી કાઢવાની આજે એક ફેશન થઈ પડેલી છે લારે આ સુચવાયેલા કાપાટો ૧૯૨૭ ના કેપટાઉનના કોલકરાર અને લાર બાદ યુનીયન સરકાર તરફથી અપાયેલાં વચનોના હોડેઓક ભંગ કરવાનો એક પ્રયત્ન નથી તો ખીજું શું છે?” વળી મી. ડેસમન્ડ યમ, જે પહેલાં ‘નાટાલ વીટનેસ’ના તંત્રી હતા અને