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NOTES AND NEWS

Sir Radhakrishnan On Mahatma Gandhi

TO an audience representative of all religion, Sir S. Radhakrishnan recently delivered an address on Mahatma Gandhi in the Conway Hall, London, under the auspices of the Hindu Association of Europe. Sir Radhakrishnan said: "Whereas politicians all over the world assumed Religion as God, Gandhiji assumed God as Religion. Instead of degrading ideals as politicians did, Gandhiji uplifted them. Unlike Christian politicians, Gandhiji affirmed that no human being was capable of destroying what God created viz., the soul of man." Continuing Sir Radhakrishnan said:—"The three characteristic features of Gandhiji's life are, fearlessness, ahimsa and peace. Thus we realise that Gandhiji is truly the embodiment of God who is undisturbed by fear, violence or absence of peace. None can destroy this craving located in his heart. Concluding, Sir Radhakrishnan said, "Gandhiji says 'we must be simple, and truthful. We must serve life instead of death.' I don't think anything like this has ever been taught or said since the world began.

Hard Days in Natal For Indians.

We cull the following from the *Natal Mercury* with its own headline:—

Some serious cases of injustice to Indians in the Colonial days of Natal were described in a talk to the Sons of England Lunch Club on Tuesday by Mr. H. C. Wynne-Cole. As an Indian linguist, Mr. Wynne-Cole was asked by the last Governor of Natal, Sir Matthew Nathan, to investigate several of these cases. One incident he quoted was that of an Indian who had been sentenced to death for murder. Before the day of the execution Mr. Wynne-Cole obtained a sworn statement from certain Europeans that this man had been washing up in their kitchen when the murder had been committed. They had not volunteered to give evidence at the trial. When asked why, they declared, "He is a damn Coolie. Who cares about him?" He told some amusing stories of his experiences when in the office of the Protector

of Indians. One day, when he was hearing complaints, two Indians told him that they wished to complain about their wives. One declared: "Every year my wife gives me twins. You must speak to her and tell her to give me one child each time." The other's complaint was that, although he had been married for seven years his wife had given him no children. Mr. Wynne-Cole suggested that they should change wives. He told other stories of how Indians smuggled gold out of the Union during repatriation in 1920, 1921 and 1922. One man slaughtered 10 crates of fowls to provide a feast on the voyage. In the crop of each fowl were five sovereigns. Another had a tray of fruit passed to him from the wharf. The tray was made of 2,000 melted down sovereigns.

That Mr. Wynne-Cole could allow himself to utter such trash is unpardonable enough but it is even more so that a responsible newspaper can allow such rubbish to be published. Mr. Wynne-Cole quite obviously did not have more respect for the Indians than the Europeans whom he has described as having allowed an Indian to be punished to death for a murder which they knew he had not committed. If the report as it appears is true, Mr. Wynn-Cole's whole object in giving the talk to the Sons of England Lunch Club, must have been no other than to blacken the Indian in the eyes of the European public. But any sensible reader must be convinced that of all crimes Mr. Wynn-Cole has ascribed to the Indian not one of them is as heinous as the one committed by the European of treating a human-being on whose blood they had prospered so brutally. We wonder if Mr. Wynn-Cole realises what a great disservice he has done to the British Empire by this act of his which is an insult to the injury already done to Indians in South Africa by the passing of harsh, unjust and humiliating laws against them and which is bound to rouse the indignation of the whole Indian nation.

India's Concern About Indians Overseas

A conference to consider the problems of Indians overseas was convened in June by the Salem Chamber of Commerce under the presidency of Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar. The conference, among other things, protested against the policy of segregation of Indians proposed by the Government of South Africa, and requested the Government of India to adopt suitable measures to prevent its adoption.

Mr. C. F. Andrews, in a message to the conference, stated: "Never in all my recollection extending over thirty years have things been darker for our fellow-countrymen in every part of Africa. Not only in East and South Africa, but even in Belgian Congo, things are being done which reveal how the prestige of India has fallen and how impotent the Government, both of Great Britain and India itself, have been to prevent them."

Basar Ingratitude Cannot Be Imagined

Commenting on the plight of Indians outside India the *Bombay Chronicle* writes:—

"It is literally true that Indians went to South Africa, Ceylon, Zanzibar and so many other parts of the Empire only because they were invited for the purpose of developing the land and other resources of the territories. How well Indians did this task is acknowledged by all. But now that their work is done they are being hounded out of the very land they developed. It is difficult to imagine baser ingratitude."

Anti-Indian Agitation In Northern Rhodesia

A message from Lusaka states: The Commissioner for Southern Province of Northern Rhodesia in his annual report says very surely and not so slowly the Indian is ousting the European in store-keeping. He adds: "It is no exaggeration to say that in a few years' time the whole of the Native trade in this Province will be in the hands of Asiatics." The Commissioner ascribes the change to the difference in the standard

of living of the two races and to the Indian's flair for Native trade and his patience in bargaining with the African.

This is a stereotype argument used against Indians. His good qualities go against him and those who accuse him of them do not, of course, provide any facilities for him to develop the bad ones. In fact he is deprived of all such facilities which could train him up to the standard of living of the White man. What a hopeless position this is?

Warning To Transvaal Indians

While Transvaal Indians led by the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress are going to resort to passive resistance against the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act, we are told that Mr. S. M. Nana, still con-

tinuing to act as secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, is promising Indians to acquire trading licences for hawkers and others under the Act. We cannot oppose the Act and at the same time seek concessions under it. Mr. Nana will be doing the greatest dis-service to the community by inducing our brethren to acquire licences or any concessions under the Act. We would at the same time strongly advise our brethren not to have anything to do with the Act. We are opposing the Act as it casts a stigma of inferiority on the Indian community and as such it is an insult to our national honour and self-respect. Passive resisters cannot therefore submit to such an Act but should be prepared to invite and to submit to the penalty thereof.

and more tolerable than to live as slaves

The day Indians in South Africa will awaken to that consciousness they will not consider any sufferings to be as great as is the quiet submission to humiliations.

Natal has beautifully responded to the call to extend to our Transvaal brethren their moral support. We heartily congratulate it and hope that it will not be found wanting when the hour comes in extending to them also their active support.

August 1

It was suggested by a correspondent in our last week's issue that August 1, should be observed as a day of humiliation and prayer and that all businesses should be closed as a mark of protest against the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act and in sympathy for the passive resisters who have resolved to sacrifice themselves for the honour of the community. We are pleased to note that the Pretoria Indian Market Association has welcomed the suggestion and has decided to observe that day. August 1, is a significant day. Firstly that day is observed throughout India as the "Independence Day" in memory of the late Mr. Tilak who awakened the people of India to their consciousness. Secondly that day is to be observed in Bombay as the "Prohibition Day," for on that day the drink evil will be abolished for ever from that City. Thirdly it is the day on which it was resolved to launch passive resistance against the obnoxious Transvaal law. The observance of that day by Indians in the Union will, therefore, have a threefold value. They will be giving their moral support to India's fight for freedom, they will be giving their moral support to the abolition of the drink evil, which is one of the root causes of poverty and misery in India, and they will be giving their moral support to the passive resistance movement in the Transvaal.

Will our brethren rise to the occasion? The sacrifice is a trifling one in comparison to the greatness of the cause.

Fountain of Wisdom

War against Imperialism cannot wholly succeed unless all exploitation ceases. The only way it can cease is for every exploited race or nation to secure freedom without injuring any other.—GANDEHI.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JULY 28TH, 1939

Bravo Natal!

NATAL Indians are to be congratulated for the great reception and support they gave their Transvaal brethren by attending in their thousands last Saturday's mass meeting at the City Hall, Durban. The enthusiasm evinced by every section of the community was unique in the history of Indians in Natal. It has proved beyond a shadow of doubt that it is only a few officials of the Congress and a handful of their supporters who are against passive resistance but that the public has fully realised that there is no other course open for us if we wish to live in South Africa with any sense of self-respect.

The only drawback was that there was not a leader in whom the community could put their trust and that has now been found in Dr. Y. M. Dadoo who has been able to bring together all sections of the community, a thing the Congress officials have not been able to do.

There is a heavy task before Dr. Dadoo and his worth will be proved by the manner in which he is able to accomplish it. The people have the satisfaction in the fact that Dr. Dadoo stands for a good cause and none can with any justification deny him support.

Passive Resistance is a weapon that can be used effectively by one man as well as by the mass. The battle is bound to be long drawn when a few

only are fighting. The results are naturally quicker if there are large numbers to fight. In unity lies our strength and the speedy victory of our cause. We would, therefore, urge upon those who are still against passive resistance and also those who are sitting on the fence to come to reason and show a united front to our common enemy, which is far more urgent than wasting time over forming a non-European united front.

There are some who feel that Dr. Dadoo and his coworkers are leading the community to untold sufferings which might result only in worsening our position in South Africa. Those who are not still living in the age of darkness must realise that there cannot be a worse position for Indians in South Africa than the present one. If death is preferable to a life of helotry, and surely who can deny that, then the course of passive resistance is the only one remaining for us to adopt.

But there are those who believe in the method of co-operation, consultation and consent. Even in our fight for freedom in India there is a section of our brethren who still believes in this method and still continues to adhere to it, but is it not clear beyond doubt, that what India has gained she has gained not by that method but by passive resistance and by thousands of souls having undergone untold sufferings? But the path of suffering to them was dearer

NATAL INDIANS SUPPORT TRANSVAAL PASSIVE RESISTANCE

MASS MEETING IN DURBAN CITY HALL

EVER since the huge mass meeting of Transvaal Indians of July 9, held at the Indian Sports Ground, Johannesburg, when six thousand Indians assembled unanimously decided to launch passive resistance against the Asiatics (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act on August 1, there was a move to hold a mass meeting of Natal Indians to support their Transvaal brethren. There being two political bodies in Natal—the Colonial Born and Settlers Association and the Congress—and there being friction between them both, it was felt, that the Transvaal question should be kept above party politics and that the Indian community in Natal should unitedly give their moral support to their brethren in the Transvaal. The meeting was therefore convened on non-party lines. This move was, however, not palatable to certain Congress men. While, therefore, on the one hand organisers of the meeting were enthusiastically working towards making the meeting a huge success, some people, on the other, had busied themselves up till the very last day, trying to frustrate this good work, by vile propaganda and hurling of threats of assaults and murders at those who dared to attend the meeting. But the cause was a righteous one and unrighteousness failed.

Anyone who saw the huge assembly gathered in the City Hall, Durban, on Saturday, could never be made to believe that Indians in Natal were disunited. Such a representative gathering has never been seen for very many years. Rich and poor alike attended the meeting in their thousands. Practically the whole of Natal was represented. Nearly a hundred delegates had come by rail, motor and air from all over Transvaal.

The hall was packed to its utmost and the proceedings were relayed to a large audience outside in which there was a large number of Europeans.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee who had untiringly worked day and night against heavy odds for the success of the meeting, took the chair.

Before commencing the actual work a film of the Johannesburg mass meeting of July 9, was screened so that any misapprehension about the representative character of that meeting, about which all kinds of lies had been spread, may be removed from the public mind.

Chairman's Speech

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, Chairman of the meeting, read his speech which was as following:—

"On many an occasion we have met in this Hall in our thousands but I cannot recall any occasion when we had met with such solemnity and with such misgivings in our hearts as we have to day. And for the first time, after several years, we, representing all shades of opinion, have met on one platform. That, to my mind is a happy augury for the future of our people in South Africa. We have come here from far and wide to listen to Dr. Dadoo and his colleagues on the Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act and to the steps that they have decided upon to take to combat the Act. Our community in the Transvaal have once again been assailed with a law, the effects of which are far reaching. Transvaal is a veritable volcano from whose consistent eruptions our people have not escaped. Law 3 of 1885 has been the forerunner of many humiliating and degrading laws to which our community in the Transvaal have been subjected. And the Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act is the latest attempt to further restrict their rights.

Population

"Transvaal has a population of 800,000 and our community only numbers 25,000—that is approximately 3 per cent. of the total population. Can anyone with any reason imagine that the Indian community of the Transvaal who are, after all, a mere drop in the ocean, considering the huge population of that Province—will ever endanger the interests of, or swamp, the European? In my opinion there is no such thing as the Indian problem in the Transvaal. It is a bogey that is being magnified by a few interested Europeans—and it is the truth when I say that the majority of the European population in that province is no more concerned about the Indians there, than about those living in Natal.

Strangulation

The Lange Commission had made it abundantly clear that the Indian in the Transvaal is not a menace. The more recent Murray Commission reported that there were no instances of Indian penetration into European areas. In the face of these facts it is beyond us to comprehend why the Government should consistently, through a long number of

years, harass our brethren in the Transvaal. The only reason that I can advance is that by a gradual process of strangulation the Government is intent on wiping out the Indian population from the Transvaal.

"The Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act which is now agitating our people in the Transvaal is, to use Mr. Stuttaford's own words, to peg down the Indian situation for two years. In other words our people in the Transvaal, cannot, for the next two years, move an inch further, from where they are. It prohibits the issue of any new licences without the approval of the Minister of the Interior. Do not forget that the change of ownership in a business, the transfer of a licence from one place to another and changes of management in a business constitute—in the eyes of the law—new licences. The Minister of the Interior takes the place of the licensing officer, and every licence holder therefore is at his mercy.

"In regard to land, the Indian community is virtually forbidden to move from one place to another. The Act has ignored all natural laws of expansion and has treated our people as mere cattle to be herded together in kraals. I submit that no community with any vestige of self-respect will ever submit to a law which brands them as an inferior race.

Six Years' Struggle

"Mahatma Gandhi left these shores in 1914, after a struggle lasting 6 years—a struggle that entailed the suffering of not only that great soul Mahatma Gandhi himself but also the Indian community of South Africa. The settlement that was arrived at by Mahatma Gandhi with General Smuts was considered by our people as the basis of a Magna Charta of our rights in South Africa. In 1919 this agreement was translated into law, whereby Indians were permitted to trade in proclaimed areas. Mahatma Gandhi left this country with hopes of better times for us, after having advised the Government that when the time arrived the Indian community would claim full citizenship rights. His hopes, however, were never to be realised for he left little thinking that his settlement would be treated as a mere scrap of paper.

Betrayal

"Since his departure we have had laws passed against us. And the Cape-town Agreement of 1927 and its re-

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newal in 1932 has had no effect on the spate of anti-Asiatic laws in South Africa. When the Capetown Agreement was being revived in 1932 we heard that the Indian Delegation endeavoured to get the Union Delegation to discuss the Transvaal Land Tenure Act, which was then a Bill, but the Union Delegation would hear nothing of it, with the result that the Bill was translated into law in 1932. The Transvaal Land Tenure Act of 1932, the Act 30 of 1936 emerging from the 1932 Act, and the Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act of 1939, violate both the Smuts-Gandhi Settlement of 1914 and the Capetown Agreement of 1927. The passing of these three Acts, notwithstanding the opposition from the Indian community of South Africa and the Government and people of India, can only be termed as the great betrayal.

"Our brethren and sisters have decided to resort to Passive Resistance as the only means left to them to resist the Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act. They have exhausted all constitutional means of representations and they claim that no other means but Passive Resistance is left to them. In that we fully agree with them, knowing as we do, that the Act has now become the law of the country.

"I feel that the course that Dr. Dadoo and his colleagues have taken is the only honourable course and they deserve our warmest congratulations and support. They have come out to defend the last vestige of self-respect that the Indian community in the Transvaal possess. They are defending the honour of the 400,000,000 of our countrymen, and countrywomen in that great country of ours—India.

"We are extremely happy and proud in the thought that Dr. Dadoo and his colleagues have the support of Mahatma Gandhi, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru and the All-India Congress Committee.

"One word more and I shall finish. The passive resistance movement in the Transvaal is being led by Dr. Yusuf M. Dadoo who is the leader of the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress. The huge meeting that was held in Johannesburg on July 9, at which I was one of those, amongst others from Natal who were present, testified without any shadow of doubt that he has the support and the goodwill of the majority of our people in the Transvaal. Dr. Dadoo has sacrificed a lucrative medical practice for the cause which he holds so dear. His unbounded enthusiasm to work for all without any distinction, his sincerity of purpose and his willingness to sacrifice his all for the cause, will all contribute to his becoming a leader of merit in our community.

"I am sure I am voicing your sentiments when I say that in the cause he has undertaken to espouse, Dr Dadoo has the blessings of the Almighty, the blessings of the thousands who have assembled here, the thousands throughout South Africa and the millions in India.

"May his cause succeed will be the fervent prayer of everyone of us."

Dr. Dadoo's Speech

Dr. Y. M. Dadoo was then earlanded by the chairman and asked to speak. He was given a great ovation when he rose to speak.

In the course of his speech Dr. Dadoo said that the history of the Indian community in South Africa had been one of oppressive legislation and the Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act added still more to their oppression.

The Government have reverted back to the policy of divide and rule. It had dealt with the Indians first, because they were the weakest section of the community.

It was not merely "pegging down", the Indian position, to use the words of Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, but this legislation went further. It would completely annihilate the Transvaal Indian community, which was forced to depend on trade for existence.

Could this situation be met without resort to passive resistance? The method shown to him was consultation and negotiation. This was carried out by the Congress, but it had failed.

The door to negotiation had been now closed and the Indian community of the Transvaal had rightly decided to adopt passive resistance.

Passive resistance, said Dr. Dadoo, would start in Johannesburg on August 1. What would Natal Indians do? There was no doubt that the Transvaal Indians had the moral support of their Natal brethren.

"If you don't help the Indians in the Transvaal," he said, "then you will be letting down your own people in Natal. It is the fight not only of the Transvaal, but of all the Indians in South Africa.

"To the other non-Europeans and Europeans I say that our fight is not directed against them, but against the discriminating legislation of the Union Government. It is fight a for liberty and democracy against oppression."

Dr. Dadoo said that there were three ways open to Natal Indians to support their compatriots in the Transvaal. The first was to take an active part in the struggle itself; secondly, to extend financial help; thirdly, moral support and not to hinder the movement.

He felt that the South African Indians had also the support of India in the coming struggle, but they must primarily depend upon themselves.

Mr. P. R. Pather

Mr. P. R. Pather explained in Tamil what Dr. Dadoo had said, and said that Natal Indians were bound to give their fullest support in the fight for justice and self-respect of their brethren in the Transvaal.

Mr. S. B. Mehd

Mr. S. B. Mehd explained to the audience the trend of anti-Asiatic legislation in the Transvaal and said that the Asiatic Land Tenure Act was passed for the set purpose of segregating Indians and to deprive them of their trading rights and the right to own and occupy land. It was an Act in violation of the Smuts-Gandhi settlement and the Capetown Agreement. The present Act, Mr. Mehd said, was not only going to bring about their ruination in the Transvaal materially but it was insulting to their national honour. And the time had once again arrived when they should fight as they did in 1908. Natal Indians had then come to the help of their brethren in the Transvaal and he hoped they would not be backward in doing so when they were called upon to do so again.

Advocate J. W. Godfrey

Advocate J. W. Godfrey said that as one of the secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress his position in regard to this meeting had become rather awkward but when it was brought home to him that he had not sold his independence he fully realised the strength of that argument and willingly gave his signature as one of the convenors. Transvaal Indians were fighting for their just rights and in that they asked the moral support of their brethren in Natal and surely no one can deny them that. Advocate Godfrey wished Dr. Dadoo every success in his fight for the honour and self-respect of the Indian community.

Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney

Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney being an old Natalian, was received with great ovation by the audience. He said this was a fight for their honour and self-respect and no Indian could withhold his unflinching support. He paid a high tribute to Dr. Dadoo and stated that Dr. Dadoo had succeeded in bringing all the sections of the community together.

Mr. M. D. Bharoochi

Mr. M. D. Bharoochi, ex-president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, deprecated the action of his countrymen who indulged in throwing stones at people who were out to do service for the community at great personal sacrifice. He said he was an old passive resistance soldier and he spoke with some sense of responsibility when he said that the present officials of the Congress were leading the community astray. He wholeheartedly supported

Dr. Dadoo's movement and hoped that Natal Indians will not lag behind in offering their support in a just and righteous cause.

Mr. P. S. Joshi

Mr. P. S. Joshi thanked the Natal Indians for the enthusiasm they had shown in heartily receiving their Transvaal brethren. He wholeheartedly supported the struggle for justice and the national honour of the community led by Dr. Dadoo and hoped that they will receive the fullest support of their brethren in Natal.

Advocate A. Christopher

Advocate A. Christopher replied to the quibbling over constitutional means of protesting indulged in by some of our countrymen. He referred to the international situation that had arisen in Europe. Mr. Chamberlain, he said, tried to save Czechoslovakia by constitutional means stating that it was not a big enough issue to go to war, and Germany had in the end swallowed the whole country by piece meal. He said similarly in South Africa the Indian question would never be big enough to put up a fight and the fate of Indians would be sealed by piece meal.

He asked Indians if they wished to live in this country as men and said that if they did they had no alternative but to fight and suffer. Mr. Christopher then moved the following resolution and asked the audience to unanimously support it:

Resolution

"That this Mass Meeting of Natal Indian community, hereby expresses its sympathy with the Transvaal Indian community who are being faced with ultimate ruination by the passing of the Transvaal Asiatics (Land and Trading) Act which has become the law of the country notwithstanding strenuous opposition from the South African Indian community, the Government and the people of India.

"This meeting feels that the Act violates both in spirit and letter:

(a) the Smuts-Gandhi Settlement of 1914 which contemplated that the resident Indian population would be treated as South Africans and that there would be no further anti-Asiatic Legislations,

(b) the Capetown Agreement of 1927, and the Act is therefore not only degrading to South African Indians as a whole but it is also an insult to the national honour of the four hundred millions of our people in India.

"This meeting notes with considerable pleasure that the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress, led by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, has declared that passive resistance is the only means left to combat the Act, and this meeting, comprising, as it does, all shades of opinion, therefore pledges its moral support to Dr. Dadoo and the Transvaal Indian community."

Mr. Manilal Gandhi

Mr. Manilal Gandhi in seconding the above resolution said, it had often been stated that we do not look at the other side—the European point of view. This charge was unjustified. It was because we had considered the European point of view that we had accepted the closed door policy in so far as immigration from India was concerned. Why should India, an important partner of the British Empire, deny herself the right of free movement in the other parts of the British Empire? Is not the very fact that she had done so an earnest of her honest desire not to swamp South Africa with her nationals? And, as though that were yet a small concession, in addition, we enjoyed no parliamentary franchise and we were deprived of even the municipal franchise. We did not seek political ascendancy in this country. What we asked was only the right to live as self-respecting citizens.

Though some people said the time for passive resistance had not yet arrived,

the speaker believed the time was now over ripe to fight against the constant humiliations that were being heaped upon us.

He said there was no justification for South Africa with a total population of seven millions to ill-treat 200,000 Indians. Tyranny and oppression never pays. History abounds with instances that it had not paid in the past; and it will not pay South Africa. It is tyranny and oppression that has awakened Indians once again to their consciousness, and we have born amongst us after a quarter of a century, a worthy leader in Dr. Dadoo. He (the speaker) had not found a person in South Africa with the qualities that were possessed by Dr. Dadoo, and he was proud to be one of his co-workers.

Mr. Manilal Gandhi asked White South Africa to remember the message of his father that they were not playing the game if they refused to absorb 200,000 Indians, over eighty per cent. of whom were South African-born and knew no other home. He asked Indians to remember the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that only dead nations submit to humiliations. We are proud of being a living nation and it would be better far rather to be extinct than to submit to humiliations.

The resolution was then put and was passed unanimously.

The time was going on to 10.45 p.m. and the programme had to be curtailed and several other speakers had been left out.

Messrs. P. B. and P. R. Singh's daughters sang a national song in praise of Mahatma Gandhi and the singing of Bande Mataram brought the proceedings, which were enthusiastic throughout, to an end with three cheers for Dr. Dadoo

MORE SUPPORT FOR PASSIVE RESISTANCE

At a mass meeting of the Pretoria branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress held on Sunday, July 16, at the Royal Theatre, Pretoria, the Asiatic (Transvaal Land and Trading) Act was condemned in bitter terms and the meeting, which was attended by about 500 Indians, appointed a council of action to enrol volunteers and to launch passive resistance in Pretoria. The meeting unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

"This mass meeting of the Indian community of Pretoria and district, held under the auspices of the Pretoria branch of the Transvaal Indian Con-

gress, representing the second largest centre of Indian residents in the Transvaal, hereby resolves that it has absolutely no confidence in the present officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress and further declares its full confidence in Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and the principles, policy and programme of the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress.

"That this mass meeting of the Pretoria branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress hereby resolves to call upon the present officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress to resign immediately and declares that the officials shall,

under no circumstances, act or represent the Pretoria branch in terms of the resolution of no confidence carried by this mass meeting.

"That this mass meeting of the Pretoria branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress respectfully requests the Government of India to withdraw its office of the Agent-General in the Union as it is derogatory to the honour of India."

Transvaal Indian Hawkers' Association

The following resolution was unanimously passed at a meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers' Association

held in Johannesburg on 23, Mr. V. K. Patel presiding:—

"This mass meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers' Association held at the Patidar Hall, Fordsburg, unanimously resolves that it has no confidence in the present officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress, and Mr. Nana, the present secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, has no mandate on their behalf to represent the case of the hawkers in any manner to the Union Government.

"This meeting of the Transvaal Indian Hawkers' Association further resolves that it has full confidence in Dr. Y. M. Dadoo the leader of the Nationalist Group."

Meeting At Klerksdorp

A mass meeting of the Klerksdorp Indian Congress has passed the following resolution:

"This mass meeting of the Klerksdorp

branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress unanimously declares its emphatic no confidence in the present officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress and demands their immediate resignation. The meeting expresses its full confidence in Dr. Dadoo and the principles, policy and programme of the Nationalist Group of the Transvaal Indian Congress."

Germiston Protest

The Germiston branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress has passed a vote of no confidence in the officials of the Head Office of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Johannesburg, and has expressed its full confidence in Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, leader of the Nationalist group in the Indian Congress, and his policy. It has been decided to send copies of the resolution to the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior and other members of the Government; also to the Agent-General for the Government of

India and to the South African Premier. The official Germiston branch expresses the view that the officials at the Johannesburg Head Office would be well advised to resign and allow Dr. Dadoo to pursue his policy of passive resistance.

Kimberley Indians' Support

At a monster mass meeting of Kimberley Indians held on July 23 the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"This mass meeting of Indians assembled in Kimberley under the auspices of the Indian Political Association hereby records its sympathy with the Indians in the Transvaal in their fight against the repressive Land and Trading Act and that this meeting further offers its support to the movement for passive resistance led by Dr. Dadoo as the only means of preserving the honour of Indians."

NON-EUROPEAN FRONT AND INDIANS

Sunday Times dated July 23, has the following editorial note:

WE cannot but regard as unfortunate for the cause of Indians in South Africa the sharp attack which Sir Raza Ali, former Agent-General in the Union for the Government of India, has seen fit to make on Mr. Gandhi because the latter—very wisely, in our opinion—secured the deletion from the resolution recently passed by the All India Congress Committee of a passage advising South African Indians "to cooperate with the African inhabitants in South Africa in opposing the segregation policies which are directed against all non-European races.

In other words, Sir Raza Ali now wants Indians in South Africa to join the so-called "Non-European Front," although, when he left this country at the beginning of last year, he strongly urged them "to have nothing to do with the problems of the Bantu race" and agreed with Mr. Hofmeyr's emphatic warning that it might be disastrous for them even "to toy with the idea." Mr. Gandhi, on the other hand, is absolutely and implacably opposed to the formation of any non-European front designed to include Indians.

There cannot be the slightest doubt, in our opinion, that Mr. Gandhi is (as usual) right and Sir Raza Ali wrong.

And when we say that we mean

"right" and "wrong" from the point of view of the Indian inhabitants of the Union.

If Sir Raza Ali's advice had come from an Indian of his prominence who had never been to South Africa it might have been excusable and understandable. But the Syed has lived in this country for three years and he must know—as well as Mr. Hofmeyr and other leading Liberals know—that the formation of a Non-European Front between the Bantu, the coloured people and the Indians is the surest way to antagonise Liberal opinion—or, at any rate, the growing number of European South Africans who are already half converted to Liberalism.

For Liberalism is making slow but appreciable growth, particularly in regard to the status of Indians in this country; and there are many, who were either indifferent before or did not attach much importance to the subject, who now think that we should go back to the Capetown Agreement of 1927, which, sponsored by Dr. Malan, agreed that "it is the duty of every civilised Government to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of their permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities."

Let there be no mistake about it, however—Liberalism is a delicate plant

and will require the most careful tending from those who wish to see it reach any stage of maturity.

We can imagine nothing more calculated to cause it to wilt, and perhaps to wither away altogether, than an unnatural tripartite alliance between the native, the coloured man, and the Indian.

Mr. Gandhi is not called Mahatma for nothing, and he sees this with the clarity of vision which, in his later years, has characterised all his decisions.

Sir Raza Ali was the first (and, we believe, has been the only) Moslem Agent-General in South Africa, but we do him the justice to believe that his present acute disagreement with Mr. Gandhi is actuated neither by religion nor by caste. But he is palpably not justified in dubbing Mr. Gandhi a back number because his "knowledge of South Africa is a quarter of a century old." It is—perhaps not altogether surprisingly—more up-to-date than his own.

Mountain Of Wisdom

We are yet far from the independence of our dream. The irresponsibility of the Centre, which eats up 80 per cent. of the revenue, grinds down the people and thwarts their aspirations, is daily proving more and more intolerable.—GANDHIJI

Things In General

Dr. Dadoo And Party Leaves For The Rand

DR. Y. M. DADOO and his colleagues, who had come to Durban to attend the Saturday's mass meeting left on Tuesday morning by cars from Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee's residence at First Avenue. About fifty guests had breakfast, after which Dr. Dadoo and his colleagues were garlanded. Mr. O. E. A. Jhaveri, in a short speech on behalf of Mr. Rustomjee, congratulated Dr. Dadoo for the good work he was doing and wished him every success. Dr. Dadoo and Mr. S. B. Mehd expressed their hearty thanks to the Natal Indians for their kind hospitality and support. Dr. Dadoo and party reached Johannesburg on Wednesday afternoon. On their way they received hearty support from Ladysmith and the whole of Northern Natal.

Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee Sails For India

Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee, principal representative of the New India Assurance Co. Ltd., of the Union of South Africa, sailed for India by the *Tairia* on Sunday, July 16. A large number of prominent Indians were present at the wharf to wish Mr. Jalbhoy bon voyage.

Well Known Merchant's Return From Pilgrimage

Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Lockhat, returned to Durban on Wednesday by the *S. S. Kenya*. Mr. Lockhat, who is a director of Messrs. Lockhat Bros. & Co. Ltd., left Durban by seaplane about nine months ago on a pilgrimage to Mecca. After his pilgrimage to the Holy City he visited Palestine, Iraq, India and Burma. There were several leading Indians at the wharf to welcome him. He was garlanded by Mr. E. M. Paruk, Moulvi Abdul Karim and others. A dinner in honour of the Birth Day of Prophet Mahomed will be given on Sunday, by the firm of Messrs. Lockhat Bros., at which, about 5,000 guests are invited from all parts of Natal.

Segregation The Worst Form Of Slavery

Mr. P. R. Parkh, a Sastri College student writes: The world is fast learning that of all forms of slavery there is none so hurtful and degrading as that of Segregation which tempts one human being to hate another by reason of his race or colour. One man cannot hold another man down in the ditch without remaining in the ditch with him. One who goes through life with his eyes closed against all that is good in another race is weakened and circumscribed as who fights in a battle with one hand tied

behind him. With as deep reverence for the true as ever inspired the bosom of man, the principle of justice and truth, and righteousness—a spectacle which, if the entire Empire were to shrivel up to-morrow like a scroll in the fire, would still be a supreme vindication of its existence and its accomplishments in the history of mankind.

Gandhiji's Reply To Sir Raza Ali

MAHATMA GANDHI writes in 'Harijan' dated July 15: "I have carefully read Sir Raza Ali's condemnation of my advice to Indians in South Africa not to embark on a non-European front. My advice may be bad on merits but does not become bad because I have been absent from South Africa for a quarter of a century. I have no doubt about the soundness of my advice. However much one may sympathise with the Bantus, Indians cannot make common cause with them. I doubt if the Bantus themselves will as a class countenance any such move. They can only damage and complicate their cause by mixing it up with the Indian, as Indians would damage theirs by such mixture. But neither the A.I.C.C. resolution nor my advice need deter the Indians from forming a non-European front if they are sure thereby of winning their freedom. Indeed, had they thought it beneficial or possible, they would have formed it long ago."

Death Of Mr. Suchit Maharaj

By the death of Mr. Suchit Maharaj, which took place suddenly through heart attack, at about 3 o'clock on Saturday morning last, at his residence at Stamford Hill, the Indian community of Durban has lost a well known figure. Mr. Suchit Maharaj was for many years in the service of the Durban Corporation in the Indian Market and was in recent years leading a retired life. Mr. Maharaj took a keen interest in social and religious matters and was one of the trustees of the Depot Road Hindu Temple. A few days before his death Mr. Suchit Maharaj was approached for his signature as one of the convenors of the meeting of July

22, in support of passive resistance in the Transvaal, and he willingly gave his signature stating that no Indian worth his name would refuse to support such a worthy and good cause. The body was cremated at the Umgeni Crematorium the same afternoon in the presence of a large number of Indians who had come from distant places such as Maritzburg, Verulam, Tongaat, Stanger, etc. The late Mr. Suchit Maharaj leaves behind his sorrowing widow, two daughters, who are married, and a son. We extend to the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy.

The Late Mrs. M. V. Naicker

The death of Mrs. M. V. Naicker, (Bakiathammal), wife of Mr. M. V. Naicker, took place on Monday, July 17, at the residence of her son-in-law, 855, Bellair Road, Durban. The deceased was 57-years of age and was born at Umgeni. She was the second daughter of the late Mr. K. Murugesu Naicker, a pioneer merchant of Durban. She was educated under the late Mr. V. Rowley of Umgeni and received a business training and acted as a book-keeper in her parents' business. Until recently she resided at Riverside, Durban North, where she carried on a business for many years. She was the first to conduct a Tamil school in the district and was a popular social figure. At the time of her death, she resided at Sea View, where she endeared herself to all whom she knew. The funeral took place at the Cato Manor Cemetery and was largely attended. She leaves behind her husband, six sons, five daughters and a large circle of relatives to mourn her loss.

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Brook Street.

EUROPEANS OF INDIA PROTEST AGAINST TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE South Indian Branch of the European Association in India has come out with a full support to the demand for equality of citizenship in the Empire made by Indians Overseas.

In a leading article headed "Indians Overseas" in the 'South Indian Bulletin' the organ of the European Association, strong criticism is made of the recent Transvaal Act.

The article declares this attitude to be a serious and dangerous menace to the unity of the Empire and it considers it most unfortunate that the South African Government should select such a time as the present, when the whole British Empire is facing one of the worst crises of its history, to add fuel to the fire and venom of racial animosity.

It is difficult to see, says the article, what effective methods India could use to retaliate against all those who offend against the principles of decency and fairplay in the Empire, but as a chief protective source, the Government of the United Kingdom should not forget its duty to maintain and preserve the best traditions of Britain and the British people in the whole Empire.

The question may be asked, goes on the article to observe, as to what business is it of Europeans in India to come out and talk in these terms about difficulties of Indians overseas. The answer is that the European Association believes that they have everything to do with anything that should cut at the root of the unity of the British Empire.

Just as Europeans fought against discrimination against them in India, so also they should consistently support all those who are fighting to secure that principle's application for them in any part of the Empire, more so India whose share in the Empire is at present great and which will go on increasing as the days pass.

Europeans in India must make common cause with their Indian fellow-subjects in India in anything that they may do to support the claims of their people residing in the British Empire countries and also foreign countries.

The article ends with a strong appeal to the Government of India and the Government of the United Kingdom to take some resolute attitude to stop the rot of racialism spreading to other parts of Africa.

The Sporting World

Mayville District Indian Football Association

THE Inter-District final re-play match for the B. M. Singh's Memorial Cup was played between the South Coast District Indian Football Association and the Mayville District Indian Football Association teams on Sunday, July 23, at the Mayville Sports Ground, under the aegis of the Natal Indian Football Association. The match commenced at 2.45 p.m. under the refereeship of Mr. M. K. Naidoo and resulted in a win for the Mayville District by 7 goals to 1. Immediately after the termination of the match Mr. S. Rajpaul, president of the Mayville Association, thanked the Natal Indian Football Association and introduced its president Mr. M. John who presented the trophy to Mr. Amod Khan the captain of the winning team. A garden party was given in honour of the visiting team, at which over 100 guests were present, amongst whom were Messrs. Jack Phillip (President of the Transvaal Association) M. John, S. L. Singh, E. Rookes, Abraham, P. M. Pillay, Samuels, E. M. Chin, V. S. Vadival Pillay, K. M. Gounder, K. A. Chin, P. R. Pather and M. K. Naidoo.

Soccer At Louis Trichardt

Mr. Mahomed Cassim writes from Louis Trichardt: An exciting soccer match of the season was witnessed on Sunday afternoon, July 23, at the Louis Trichardt Indian Sports Grounds, when Louis Trichardt played Potgietersrust. The match attracted large crowds of

spectators. It was the largest crowd ever seen at a soccer match in the history of Louis Trichardt. From the beginning Louis Trichardt attacked vigorously, and kept the visitors in their own sides all the time. Within five minutes from the start the local team scored one goal. The half-time whistle went and the score was in favour of Louis Trichardt, 1-0. In the second half the local team again exhibited excellent ball control and thereafter they were completely in command of the game, scoring another two goals. Potgietersrust were now definitely weary and switched their play to the one of defence, with an occasional attack whenever the opportunity presented itself, but this was up till the back area of the local team, as the brick wall was there for Louis Trichardt defence (S. Mahomed, full-backs). Louis Trichardt again started their attack, but the visitors' defence managed to hold them until the last ten minutes of the play when Louis Trichardt's forwards' well controlled attacks scored another goal. The match played was of a keen interest on both sides. It was the fastest throughout and the best seen here this season. The final score was 4-0 in favour of Louis Trichardt.

County Indian Soccer Fixtures

The following are the County Indian Football Association's fixtures for Sunday:—

Junior Natal Cup: Shamrocks vs. Schools Old Boys at 1.15.

Senior League Cup: Shamrocks vs. Riverside Rangers at 2.15; Rovors vs. Bellair at 3.30.

Verulam Temple Cricket Club

The annual general meeting of the Verulam Temple Cricket Club will be held at Kader's Cafe, on Sunday, August 6, at 10 a.m. Officials and members of the club are kindly requested by the secretary to attend.

M.C.C. Tour Of India May Be Postponed Until 1941

There is a possibility that the M. C. C. tour of India during the coming winter may be cancelled. The M.C.C. has announced that, although none of the arrangements has as yet been cancelled, views are being exchanged between the M.C.C. and the Indian Cricket Board to ascertain if the postponement of the tour until the winter of 1941 might not be desirable from all points of view.

Umgeni Hindu Crematorium Committee

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special general meeting of the Umgeni Hindu Crematorium Committee will be held on Sunday, July 30, at 3 p.m., at Victoria Produce Co., 119, Victoria Street, Durban. Agenda: To discuss the communication from the Corporation regarding the expropriation of the existing land.

All Hindus are requested to attend.

T. MANJEE,

Jt. hon. secretary.