

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Church And War

THE church has got to make up its mind to make up its mind about this war business writes *Untly* (Chicago). There was a time, perhaps, when the church could sit on the fence, with whatever loss of dignity and moral integrity, and bless war with one hand and reject it with the other. But the totalitarian states, and increasingly all governments, are seeing to it to-day that the church line up and obey the drill sergeant, or else . . . ! This brings clearly to the force the issue of Christ and Caesar, God or the State—which seems to recall to our mind some ancient saying to the effect that "no man can serve two masters"! The Oxford conference faced this dilemma without deciding it. "When it came to the question of Christian citizen's choice between his loyalty to the pure ideal of Christ and his loyalty to the state in a war crisis," runs the report of the Conference, "the section dealing with this matter was unable to reach a conviction." To understand a meaning of this passage, how about paraphrasing it to read, "When it came to the question of serving God or Mammon, Jesus and his disciples were unable to reach the conviction"? But, to the credit of the Oxford Conference be it said that the Conference itself recognized the instability, not to say the unworthiness, of its own confession. "The church," went on the report, "cannot acquiesce permanently in these differences." It cannot indeed! Now is the hour to decide as to whether the church is to palliate war, excuse war, apologise for war, support war—war with its bloodshed, its horror, its destruction, its bestial immorality, its satanic lust!—or denounce war and repudiate it and oppose it for the sin it really is. For ourself, we can see no imaginable reason for hesitation—except that of cowardice, which Jesus knew nothing about when he went to the cross! The issue is plain—is the church serving the kingdom of this world, or is it serving the kingdom of God? The plea of our country we can hear and see—but it is a plea of this world. It cannot therefore be heeded by the church when the drums beat and the trumpets sound for

slaughter, for the church is serving God and his Kingdom evermore.

Protest Against Teaching Of Christian Scriptures In Schools

The Natal Indian Association (Tonga Branch), has addressed a letter to the Rev. C. J. Lander, in which complaint is made that Christian scriptures are being taught in the Tongaat Indian schools notwithstanding the fact that the majority of the pupils are non-Christians. The letter states that "those children who refuse to accept scripture lessons were not forced against their will to do so, but, there has definitely been indirect compulsion in as much as scripture lessons formed a subject of the school and in the determination of the position of a pupil in a class this played a great part and those who refrained from taking such lessons were victimised." The Association has requested that Christian scripture lessons should be totally abolished as the majority of the pupils are non-Christians and that such lessons should be substituted by moral lessons drawn from the lives of great personages, the teaching of which would be of an universal nature and thus appeal to all sections and creeds.

This is a laudable suggestion but whether or not it will be adopted by the Mission schools is another question. The main object of Mission schools is no doubt to propagate Christianity and the non-Christians who send their children to such schools will always have to face that risk.

Segregation In Durban

We cull the following from the *Guardian*:—Great indignation is expressed among the Durban Indian community at the departmental enquiry instituted by the City Council to enquire into the extent of Indian "penetration and the best method to curtail and prevent such penetration in future." The enquiry is the outcome of a motion proposed by Mrs. Vera Burnside, wife of the Labour Party member and one-time Socialist Party leader, Mr. Duncan Burnside, who received considerable working-class support when she stood for the Council. Mrs. Burnside's motion reads: "The City Council views with alarm the continued penetration of In-

dians into purely European residential areas; the Council feels that some powers of restriction should be granted to it, and to this end urges that the departmental enquiry committee should be appointed to enquire into the extent of penetration and the best method to curtail and prevent such penetration in the future." This attempt to introduce segregation into Durban is meeting with determined opposition from the mass of the Indian community, which it is hoped will win support from all working-class organisations. Among the land owning section of the Indians there is an inclination to accept some segregation measure, in return for an assurance that no action will be taken against their continuing to own property in some of the wealthier suburbs of the city. This defeatist attitude is strongly condemned by the younger members of the community who are determined that segregation must be opposed from the outset. It is anticipated that the non-European United Front will play a leading part in opposing any attempts the Council may make to impose residential restrictions.

"News Chronicle" Supports Indian Congress Demand

The London *News Chronicle*, in the course of a leading article, expresses its regret at the grave disappointment felt in India with the Viceroy's recent statement for the unity of India and its cooperation in the war are of highest importance in the present crisis. The recent declaration of the Congress on its attitude towards the war, the paper states, has made it clear that the ideals for which we are fighting are fundamentally the same as the aspirations of the Congress itself. They are moreover ideals which we hope to bring into effect in India. It would be a thousand pities were propaganda to be made out of an apparent difference in our aims for Europe and Asia. The Congress feels aggrieved that in the declaration of the Viceroy there appears to be deliberate postponement of something which could be attempted now. There is substance in this complaint. The Government should reconsider its timetable and take steps to bring about promised constitutional consultations now rather than to wait until the end of the war.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 1939

Social Service Work

THE fifth annual report for the year October 1, 1938 to September 30, 1939, of the Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association has just been published. We note from the report that 802 adults and 171 children received treatment at the Clinic and the Clinic fees collected amounted to £71. 122 children requiring extractions of teeth were taken to the Dental Hospital of the University of the Witwatersrand where the operations were performed free of charge.

The Welfare Worker paid 4317 visits including visits to the Indian Girls' School and the Muslim Boys' Hostel. With regard to the financial side the report states: "donations during the financial year totalled £693-8-5, an increase of nearly £270 over the amount collected last year. This was largely due to a donation of £101-2-11 from the Quetta Relief Fund of the Transvaal Indian Congress and £60 in donations from the estates of Chas Harp Esq., and E. W. Howard Esq. The extra income," the report states, "has enabled the institution to repay completely to Mr. M. Jajbhay his generous loan of £100 without which the Association would not have been able to purchase the new car for the institution's Welfare Worker."

Whilst we fully appreciate the useful work being done by the Indian Social Welfare Association and the Indo-European Women's Association which is working in conjunction with the above Association, and whilst we are grateful to the European friends for generously donating towards the Institution we cannot lose sight of the fact that what is being done in the direction of social work among our

people hardly touches the fringe of the work that requires to be done and that it is being done at an exorbitant cost. The most important item in the report is the attending of 973 persons at the Clinic which brought fees amounting to £71. The amount spent on medicines is stated to be £28-15-8 which leaves the Clinic a profit of £42-4-4. The Clinic is almost rent free for the cost of rent and water is £89-9-5 towards which the sum of £45 is given by the Municipality. And yet it has cost the Johannesburg Indian Welfare Association £732-2-1 to supply £28-15-8 worth of medicines to 973 persons. And the Indian community is apparently so poor that £100 collected for the Quetta Relief Fund by the Transvaal Indian Congress has had to be utilised to repay the loan taken from Mr. Jajbhay, who is one of the wealthiest Indians in the Transvaal, and financial aid from Europeans has had to be sought. It is indeed a sad commentary on the community's sense of public duty.

Public institutions must be run economically and it certainly cannot be said of the Johannesburg Indian Welfare Association that it is run economically. Very useful work is being done in Natal by the Indian Social Service Committee, the Child Welfare Committee and the Aryan Benevolent Home but their running expense is not anywhere near so high.

Social Service work is a crying need of the Indian community throughout South Africa. Conducted on proper lines it would not only be conducive to the

well-being of the community but would eliminate to a great extent the racial bitterness against it in this country.

Indians are subjected to criticism for not observing the health and sanitary laws of the country, but they are not given the facilities under those laws as are given to Europeans. In Indian localities one generally finds lack of observance of the health and sanitary laws. While the Indian owners of properties are certainly to be blamed for this the Authorities are even more blameworthy for their health officers' negligence in enforcing the existing laws where they need to be enforced. Instead of seeing to that the Authorities are always busy planning segregation schemes for Indians. When this state of affairs exists in the very heart of the city, what could be expected in areas where Indians have been segregated such as "locations" and "bazaars." The appalling conditions existing in these places are enough to put to shame any people or Government that pride themselves of being civilised.

All this points out to the need for Indians to be self-conscious and self-reliant. For this there must be a band of voluntary social workers who must move among the people and teach them that it does not cost much to live clean and healthy lives. Our own medical men who are turning out in good numbers in South Africa can make a very useful contribution in this work. The attempt made by the Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association in this direction is laudable and we do not doubt the sincerity with which it is working but the cost appears to be altogether too heavy compared to the results.

THE FICTION OF MAJORITY

IT is painful to find the British Press and Britishers advancing the minority claim to prevent the declaration suggested by the Congress, if I may say so, in the common interest. If the force of the Congress suggestion has not been overwhelmingly felt, the declaration will not come. There need be no dejection among Congressmen if it does not. We shall get our independence when it is deserved. But it would be well for the British Government and the Allied cause, if the minority argument were not flung in the face of a credulous world. It would be honest to say that the British desire to hold India yet awhile. There will be nothing wrong in such a desire. India is a conquest. Conquests are not surrendered except when the conquered successfully rebel, or under an awakened conscience the conqueror repents of the conquest, or when the conquered territory ceases to be a profitable concern. I had hoped and still hope that the British, having become war-weary and sickened over the mad slaughter involved in the present war, would want to close it at the earliest possible moment by being above board in every respect and therefore in respect of India. This they can never be, so long as they hold India in bondage.

I know that many have been angry with me for claiming an exclusive right for the Congress to speak for the people of India as a whole. It is not an arrogant pretension. It is explicit in the first article of the Congress. It wants and works for independence for the whole of India. It speaks neither for majority nor minority. It seeks to represent all Indians without any distinction. Therefore those who oppose it should not count, if the claim for independence is admitted. Those who support the claim simply give added strength to the Congress claim.

Britain has hitherto held India by producing before the world Indians who want Britain to remain in India as ruler and arbiter between rival claimants. These will always exist. The question is whether it is right for Britain to plead these rivalries in defence of holding India under subjection, or whether she should now recognize the mistake and leave India to decide upon the method of her own government.

And who are the minorities? They are religious, political and social: thus Mussalmans (religious); Depressed Classes (social); Liberals (political); Princes (social); Brahmins (social); non-Brahmins (social); Lingayats (social); Sikhs (social?); Christians—Protestants and Catholics (religious); Jains (social?); Zamindars (political?). I have a letter from the Secretary of the All India Shiah Conference registering their claim

By

M. K. GANDHI

In "Harijan"

for separate existence. Who are the majority in this medley? Unfortunately for unhappy India even Muslims are somewhat divided and so are the Christians. It is the policy of the British Government to recognize every group that becomes sufficiently vocal and troublesome. I have drawn no fanciful picture of the minorities. It is true to life. The Congress itself has been obliged to deal with every one of the groups I have mentioned. My list is not exhaustive. It is illustrative. It can be increased *ad libitum*.

I know that the fashion is to talk of the Hindus forming the majority community. But Hinduism is an elastic indefinable term, and Hindus are not a homogeneous whole like Muslims and Christians. And when one analyses the majority in any provincial legislature it will be found to consist of a combination of the so-called minorities. In other words and in reality so far as India is concerned, there can only be political parties and no majority or minority communities. The cry of the tyranny of the majority is a fictitious cry.

I observe that Janab Jinnah Sahab has said, in reply to Rajenbabu's letter offering to refer the League's grievances against the Congress Governments to an arbitration tribunal, that he has "already placed the whole case before the Viceroy and the Governor-General and requested him to take up the matter without delay as he and the Governors of the Provinces have been expressly authorized under the Constitution and are entrusted with the responsibility to protect the rights and the interests of the minorities.

"The matter is now under His Excellency's consideration, and he is the proper authority to take such action and adopt such measures as would meet our requirements and would restore complete sense of security and satisfaction amongst the Mussalmans in those Provinces where the Congress Ministries are in charge of the administration."

It is unfortunate that he has rejected Rajenbabu's reasonable proposal. Is it rejection of the proffered hand of friendship? Be that as it may, nobody can have anything to say against the Viceroy investigating and adjudicating upon the charges brought against Congress ministries. Let us hope he

will soon conduct the investigation. Whether the Muslims are regarded as minorities or otherwise, their as well as any other community's rights and privileges, religious, social, cultural and political, must be regarded as a sacred trust to be jealously guarded. And the independence of India will make no difference to the protection of those rights. In fact they will be better protected in every way, if only because in the framing of the Charter of Independence by the nation's representatives the Muslims and other minorities, real or so-called, will have an effective voice.

Consider for one moment what can happen if the English were to withdraw all of a sudden and there was no foreign usurper to rule. It may be said that the Punjabis, be they Muslims, Sikhs or others, will overrun India. It is highly likely that the Gurkhas will throw in their lot with the Punjabis. Assume further that non-Punjabi Muslims will make common cause with the Punjabis. Where will the Congressmen composed chiefly of Hindus be? If they are still truly non-violent, they will be left unmolested by the warriors. Congressmen won't want to divide power with the warriors but will refuse to let them exploit their unarmed countrymen. Thus if anybody has cause to keep the British rule for protection from the stronger element, it is the Congressmen and those Hindus and others who are represented by the Congress. The question, therefore, resolves itself into not who is numerically superior but who is stronger. Surely there is only one answer. Those who raise the cry of minority in danger have nothing to fear from the so-called majority which is merely a paper majority and which in any event is ineffective because it is weak in the military sense. Paradoxical as it may appear, it is literally true that the so-called minorities' fear has some bottom only so long as the weak majority has the backing of the British bayonets to enable it to play at democracy. But the British power will, so long as it chooses, successfully play one against the other calling the parties by whatever names it pleases. And this process need not be dishonest. They may honestly believe that so long as there are rival claims put up, they must remain in India in response to a call from God to hold the balance evenly between them. Only that way lies not Democracy but Fascism, Nazism, Bolshevism and Imperialism, all facets of the doctrine of "Might is Right." I would fain hope that this war will change values. It can only do so, if India is recognized as independent and if that India represents unadulterated non-violence on the political field.

GRIEVANCES OF NATAL INDIANS

NATAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION SUBMITS STATEMENT TO MINISTER

THE following statement was submitted by the Natal Indian Association to the Minister of the Interior during his recent visit to Durban:—

"1. There are numerous important matters which we had firstly intended to place before you at this interview, but at this early stage of your assumption of office as Minister of the Interior, we have deemed it wise to confine ourselves to only a few matters of immediate importance to which we respectfully urge that you will give your sympathetic consideration.

Housing

"2. We must say that the manner in which the Indian housing question has been tackled by the Durban Corporation has not been satisfactory. It will be recalled that the first move to extend the benefit of housing schemes to Indians was made during the Capetown Round Table Conference of 1927 and one of the conclusions arrived at was one in which the Union Government expressed its willingness "to take special steps under the Public Health Act for an investigation into sanitary and housing conditions of Indians in and around Durban." As a result of an inquiry conducted in 1928 into the question of housing conditions for Indians, a sum of £50,000 was earmarked by the Union Treasury to be placed at the disposal of the Durban Corporation for the purposes of erecting houses for Indians. Despite the fact that this large amount was set aside for Indian housing, the Durban Town Council was guilty of procrastination in this regard, so much so that the Government has had to pass strictures on the Council. It was only in the early part of 1938 that a definite move was made by the Durban Corporation in setting up a housing scheme at Cato Manor and later at Springfield Estates. The Town Council's neglect in formulating and executing housing schemes to meet the growing demands of the Indian community had even moved the then Minister of Health to threaten the withdrawal of the amount earmarked for Indian housing if a start was not promptly made.

"No useful purpose would be served by going into the past history of the Indian housing question at this stage. Suffice it to say that if the condition of Indian housing in Durban is to be improved then the Durban Municipality should be pressed to move faster than it is doing now. And before a scheme of housing is embarked upon we would

request that special consideration be given to the following points:—

"(a) The site which may be chosen for a scheme should as far as possible be near the places of employment of those taking advantage of the scheme. If an Indian who is poorly paid finds it difficult to pay a monthly rental of anything up to £1, it would be an unsound economic proposition to provide him with a home in a distant locality, which would involve him in additional transport charges to and from his place of employment.

"(b) Indian housing schemes should, as far as possible, be contiguous to the old Durban Municipal boundaries rather than be relegated to the least attractive or desirable areas. Both the Cato Manor and the Springfield housing schemes, by reason of their distance, deprive the occupants of many amenities of the City.

"(c) One of the four schemes for Indian housing that the Durban Corporation has introduced is the one referring to partly paid lands. Under the Housing Act a local authority is empowered to lend up to 80% as a loan for housing. Under the partly paid scheme the Durban Corporation lends up to 90% of the cost of the land and the building. As this is contrary to the provisions of the Housing Act the Durban Corporation, to overcome the obstacle, takes transfer of the Indian property into its own name and when the debtor has paid off the loan the Durban Corporation is to retransfer the property to him. We need hardly point out that the costs of double transfer in this connection and the charges for the preparation of legal documents are extremely high and they are more than what the debtor is able to pay. There are hundreds of Indians in Durban who possess properties which fall under this category. The high legal charges involved preclude these Indians from taking advantage of this scheme. We would urge, in the circumstances, that the Government amend the Housing Act in such a manner as would enable the Durban Corporation to assist the poorer Indians by lending them up to 95% of the cost of land and building.

"(d) The question of slums clearance is, to some extent, inter-related with the question of housing. The action of the Durban Corporation in applying the provisions of the Slums Act to evict Indians from areas which they have occupied for a considerable number of years, has given cause for much genuine grievance. The clearance of slums in the Mayville area is a glaring instance

in point. In this area properties owned by Indians were expropriated under the Slums Act because the properties were coveted by Europeans who desired to make them a "White" area. As we have often stated, the Indian community has no objection to the principle underlying the Slums Act, which is designed to eliminate slums, but it does, however, strongly object to the Act being used to oust Indians from certain localities. We feel that the problem of slums could be solved with the co-operation and goodwill of the Indian community if only local authorities deal with the problem with sympathy and consideration. In some instances the utter neglect shown by local authorities in providing good roads, drainage, sewerage and lighting in areas occupied by Indians, has contributed to a large extent to the existence of slum conditions. It is well-known that at the hands of local authorities the Indian is the last to receive any of these amenities notwithstanding the fact that he is subject to the measure of taxation.

"(e) At the time of the passing of the Slums Act the Minister gave the assurance that it would not be used on racial grounds, and that no Indian would be de-housed unless and until proper provisions were made for his rehousing. In this connection we need only refer to the method adopted by the Durban Corporation in the clearance of Bell Street Slums, where unreasonable and harsh steps were taken to evict Indians occupying those premises without having made prior provisions to rehouse them.

"3. The gradual increase of the Indian population in large centres emphasises the urgent need for housing schemes to be set up in convenient areas. The failure to meet this demand especially by the Durban and Pietermaritzburg Corporation has driven the Indians of the poorer type to live in unhealthy surroundings. If at the commencement proper housing schemes were provided and the Indians given the benefit of all the amenities to which we have already referred, the situation could have been controlled.

Old Age And Indigent Pensions

"4. Indians are excluded from the benefits arising out of the Old Age Pensions Act of 1928. On representations made the Government formulated a scheme by which 10/- per month is paid to aged and indigent Indians. We submit that this amount of 10/- is totally inadequate to purchase the bare means of existence. Whilst we are

grateful for the increase of the vote from £10,000 to £15,000, we would point out that, taking into account the large number of Indians, both male and female, who are old and indigent, the vote is not at all large. We would urge in all earnestness that the amount of the vote should not only be increased but also the rate of pension paid should be on the same basis as that applicable to Coloureds. The principle laid down in the Old Age Pensions Act should apply equitably to all, for it is the duty of the State to care for the well-being of its old and indigent citizens irrespective of colour. These old indigent Indians for whom we speak are drawn from a class which, in its prime, has materially contributed by labour and otherwise to the development and prosperity of the country.

Medical Tax

"5. The imposition of 1/3 as Medical Tax on Indian Immigrants and their descendants is inequitous. Although the tax is paid by employers of Indian labour only a small minority take advantage of the Depot Hospital at Durban and the Immigration Hospitals at Stanger and Esperanza. Even the municipal and railway employees at Durban do not take advantage of the Depot Hospital notwithstanding their receiving low wages, and a large number of them get their own private doctors to attend to their ailments.

"Apart from the fact that the tax is a stigma on the indentured Indians and their descendants, the mere imposition of a tax without any corresponding benefit is in itself unjust. The taxation, moreover, affects their employment because their employers are loath to contribute to a taxation which is over and above the various amounts that they have to pay under the industrial legislation of the country. The tax is a relic of past ages and we would respectfully urge for its abolition.

T. B. Preventorium

"6. When the T. B. Preventorium at Springfield, Durban, was being erected we were told that it would serve all sections of the community of the City. It came as a shock to our community when it learnt, after the Preventorium had been completed, that no provision had been made for the admission and treatment of Indian T.B. cases. The institution is run by the State and it contains all modern equipment to combat T. B. It is beyond us to comprehend why Indian T.B. cases should be sent to the King Edward VIII Hospital at Congella, Durban, where no provision exists for the treatment of T.B. cases as it exists at the T.B. Preventorium. We would respectfully appeal that arrangements should be made for the admission and treatment of Indian T.B. cases at the Preventorium.

Medical And Dental Inspection In Indian Schools

"7. In Natal every European school enjoys the benefit of periodical, medical and dental inspection which the Indian schools in the Province are denied. The majority of our people in Natal earn very low wages with the result that their children are undernourished and are feeble in health. Indian parents being in the majority of cases unable to bear the cost of good nourishment, school fees, school books and clothing, cannot find the money to bear the cost of medical attention for their children, with the result that no one knows how many of the children attending Indian schools suffer from any illness or from dental trouble. In Natal the Indian child is denied free primary education.

"Half the cost that the Government has to bear by way of poor relief, hospitalisation and T. B. prevention, could be saved if only the Government did its share at the early stages. The medical and dental inspection of Indian schools is a case in point. If the Indian children attending these schools were examined medically and dentally at regular intervals, much of the work that now falls on charitable institutions could have been curtailed. In any event it is the duty of the State to see that the children of South Africa, irrespective of their colour, are given every medical attention so that they may grow into healthy citizens of South Africa.

"If there is one branch of social service which requires immediate attention it is the safeguarding of the health of children attending Indian schools, both medically and dentally. Time and again we have appealed to the Natal Provincial Administration to extend this service but we have always been given the answer that the funds did not permit of the extension of such service to Indian children. We would respectfully urge that the Provincial Administration be pressed to act in this matter.

Indian Marriages

"8. An anomaly exists in regard to certain Indian marriages. We refer to the marriages where the contracting parties are a Passenger Indian or his descendant and an Indian immigrant or his descendant and vice versa. These marriages if registered under Law 25 of 1891 whether at the Protector's or at a Magistrate's office, are held to be invalid, and therefore such marriages are not recognised. We ask that the Government bring in a validating law so that these marriages may be validated. Another anomaly arising out of these marriages is that for the purposes of Succession Duty a deceased spouse is held to be a stranger to the surviving spouse, and the highest rate of Succession Duty, namely 10%, is charged for estate purposes.

Domicile

"9. Arising out of the Jusodia case, a case that was decided in the Supreme Court of Natal in Natal in 1928, Indian marriages contracted by Indian immigrants either in India before their departure for Natal or during their term of service and before they had acquired their domicile in Natal have been declared to have taken place at their place of origin. And since these marriages are taken not to be in community of property the surviving spouses are denied their legitimate shares in their joint estates and are put to considerable trouble. Since the above decision, deceased Indian estates have been subjected to considerable trouble and legatees have been deprived of their legitimate shares. We would urge that these marriages be regularised.

Unemployment

"10. The prosperity of the country has brought no relief to the Indian unemployment question, for the White labour policy of both the Government and private enterprises has prevented Indians from being employed in large numbers. The State, which is the largest employer, does not employ Indians. The Natal branch of the Railways and Harbours Department which at one time employed as many as 8,000 Indians, does not take in any new men. Wastages on the service are filled in by Native labourers. In fact the number of Indians employed has been considerably decreased. In the development of the railway system of Natal and in the building of the Durban Harbour system, Indian labour has contributed in no small measure and we feel that to deny Indians being employed in these systems is unjust. We would submit that more and more Indian labour should be employed in the railways and harbour system and in the building of roads and other public services. Indian labour should be encouraged as far as possible.

"In Durban there exists a Government Bureau for the registration of unemployed Coloureds and Indians. But as the Bureau has not the services of an Indian clerk who would understand the special needs of the Indian unemployed, no benefits are being derived by Indian unemployed from the Bureau. We would request that an Indian clerk be employed in the Bureau.

State-aided Butter Scheme

"11. It is indeed regrettable that the members of our community are denied the benefits derived from the State-aided Butter Scheme. We would again refer to the very low wages that our people earn and this accounts for the fact that butter is unknown in the homes of thousands of our poor people. If the benefits of the State-aided Butter Scheme were extended to Indians, we feel sure that the poorer class of In-

dians who hitherto were unable to purchase this commodity by reason of poverty would purchase more and more so that they and their children could partake of an essential and nourishing food.

Unalienated Lands

"12. In the disposal of unalienated lands in Durban the Durban City Council has never shown the same consideration to the demands of the Indian community as it has to those of the Europeans, although it gave the assurance to the Union Government at the time of the passing of the Boroughs Ordinance, the needs of the Indian community would be adequately considered. Since the year 1922, there has been only one sale at which Indians were entitled to bid. This sale was in respect of land in Beatrice and Lorne Streets which are in an essentially Indian locality. In the case of lands sold to Europeans the City Council inserts restrictive conditions into the title deeds

restricting the sale to Europeans only. In the case of the properties in the two streets above-mentioned no restrictive conditions were inserted and anyone, irrespective of colour, was entitled to purchase.

"This restriction of selling the City's unalienated lands to Europeans only has been the cause of much grievance and there has been no opportunity for Indians to purchase lands to cope with the demands of natural expansion. We feel that Indians who contribute by way of rates to the coffers of the Durban Corporation, should receive same amount of consideration at the hands of the Council as that which is being shown to the European.

"In the added areas the Durban Municipality owns large tracts of land which are alienated, and if these lands are developed and provided with all amenities, we feel sure that the Indian community would purchase much of this land provided exorbitant and ficti-

tious values are not placed on the land. This would be one of the means of preventing influx into areas of City proper, and will tend to solve the problem of congestion and overcrowding.

"We have in this statement dealt with matters of immediate importance to our community and have confined ourselves to housing, social and health problems which are of primary importance to the well-being, contentment and happiness of our people. The statement by no means exhausts the chapter of grievances which the Indian community undergo in this country. We have not dealt with, for instance the question of trade, licence, immigration and other matters. We hope that opportunity may be given us on some future occasion to submit our point of view in these matters.

"We desire to thank you for the patient hearing you have given us, and we sincerely trust that the submissions we have made will receive your earnest and sympathetic consideration."

NON-EUROPEAN UNITED FRONT CONFERENCE HELD IN DURBAN

IMPORTANT matters affecting the non-Europeans in South Africa were discussed at a conference of non-European organizations, held at Parsse Rustomjee Hall, 140 Queen St., Durban, on Sunday, November 26. Fifteen organizations were represented by a large number of delegates. The conference was opened by Mr. H. A. Naidoo the Chairman of the provisional committee, who in his presidential address dealt with the broad objects of the Front and the political situation in South Africa. He said that democracy in South Africa was being used by the various political parties in South Africa for the destruction of the very ideals of liberty and democracy. The non-Europeans were made victims of a pernicious desire for political power by rival political parties. In their attempt to gain power, they used the bogey of the "colour menace" as a means of attracting the electorate to justify segregation. He felt that the only way to solve the problems confronting the non-Europeans was on the broad basis of co-operation between all sections of the non-Europeans aiming at a radical change in the political situation in South Africa, i.e., the extension of democratic rights to non-Europeans.

A number of telegrams and messages sending greetings to the conference were read.

The following resolutions were passed:

1. That this Conference of the Non-European United Front emphatically opposes any move to restrict the residential rights of non-Europeans, whether by enforced consent or by legislation,

Because not only is the move undemocratic, but unjust, in that a small minority of Europeans should usurp the right of a majority, and dictate to them where they should reside or should not reside. The residential rights of the majority must be protected if some vestige of democracy is to serve in South Africa.

2. That this Conference of the non-Europeans emphatically protests against the Union Government's policy of excluding Natives from the provision of the Industrial Conciliation Act, thereby denying them the right of collective bargaining and other facilities enjoyed by the other workers. This Conference deplors the fact that even after repeated protests from various quarters on this matter, the Union Government has failed to settle the position. We therefore, urge the Government once more to extend the machinery of the Industrial Conciliation to the Native Workers in South Africa.

3. That this Conference of the non-Europeans views with grave alarm the gradual elimination of non-Europeans from skilled trades, as a result of the operation of the Apprenticeship Act and the White Labour Policy. This Conference calls upon the Government to repeal these measures and to extend to the non-Europeans rights of equal opportunities into skilled trades.

4. That this Conference of the non-Europeans deplors the lack of reasonable accommodation for African workers in the City of Durban, and draws the attention of the local authorities to this state of affairs and recommends that

immediate steps be taken to provide housing accommodation.

5. That this Conference of the non-Europeans demands the immediate repeal of the enactment, of provincial barriers against Indians and Natives.

6. That this Conference of the non-Europeans places on record its loyalty to the Government and ensures the Hon. the Prime Minister, of the support of this Conference, only on condition that the present Government will give due consideration to the grievances of the non-Europeans and give practical effect to the following:—(a) Repeal of all Colour Bar Laws. (b) Equal rights for all non-Europeans. (c) Free and compulsory education for all non-Europeans up to and including the J.C.

7. That this Conference of the non-Europeans can only give its support to the Allied cause, if the British Government is prepared to declare its war aims as one that is not directed for Imperialistic aims, but one that will recognise the immediate extension of democratic rights to the Colonial peoples under British Imperialism.

The following officials were elected:—
Patrons: Messrs. A. I. Kaje and A. W. G. Champion; chairman: Mr. H. A. Naidoo; vice-chairmen: Dr. K. Goonam and Mr. P. Tsole; secretary: Mr. C. I. Amra; asst. secretary: Miss S. Rubin; treasurer: Mr. D. A. Seedat; trustees: Messrs. Stephen Dhlamini and R. Pillay.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

THE following are extracts from pamphlets prepared by the South African National Council For The Blind issued by the Natal Indian Blind Society:—

A Word To Parents

Take care of baby's eyes. Sore eyes may lead to inflammation and eventually to blindness. Always consult a doctor if possible. After the birth of a baby, the child's eyes should be wiped carefully with a white cloth, and washed with lukewarm water before any other part of the body is touched.

Never expose a young baby to cold unless the child is well wrapped up, as cold sometimes causes eye trouble.

The symptoms that indicate bad eyes are:—Redness; swelling of the eyelids; yellowish discharge. Where these signs exist consult a doctor, and always keep the eyes clean, as it is the discharge which causes the mischief. To save the eyes is only to keep them clean.

How To Wash The Eyes

Open the eyelids with your fingers, which must be clean, then wash matter away by dropping lukewarm water into the eyes, or by dipping a dry cloth in lukewarm water and squeezing same gently into the eyes.

Always keep the cloth about a fingers-length from the eyes, and never use the same piece of rag twice or put it back in the water, as you will in that case infect the other eye.

Always use a white rag for this purpose and burn same after use. Never use any towel, rag or other linen belonging to baby, for your self and for your other children, as eye disease is highly infectious. Smear a little vase-

line on the eyelids to prevent them from sticking.

Washing

Do not attempt to wash the eyes with tea water or sugar water. Do not use herbs or fat of any kind. Most herbs are harmful, and must be avoided.

Last Hint

Baby's eyes have been formed for some months before birth, but dwelt in darkness. At first the eyes are therefore very sensitive to light and will only open in the shade. See then, for the first week of the child's life, that you do not expose the eyes to a bright light or to sunshine.

A Word To Adults

If you require spectacles consult a doctor or consult the eye doctor at the Government Hospital. Neither purchase nor wear ready-made spectacles if your sight is failing. Any spectacles other than those prescribed by an eye-doctor for your eye condition are dangerous and harmful. Don't neglect sore or inflamed eyes. Don't work with a light directly in front of you. The light should come from above.

Don't

Trust your eyesight to your neighbour. He may get the dirt or chip out, but he may start infection from his soiled hands, handkerchief or dirty match. The disease starts as a result and the eye may be lost. Dust, chips, etc., should be removed only by some one who knows how to remove them.

For Persons Employed In Foundries Etc.

Goggles can save your eyes. You can soon get used to spectacles, but

you can never get used to blindness.

Will readers of this information kindly forward the names and particulars of any cases of blindness or defective eyesight to the President, The Natal Indian Blind Society, 345 Vause Road, Durban. Any assistance possible will be given by the Society.

Advice To Teachers In Rural Schools

Teachers should be most observant to notice symptoms of defective sight, as follows:—1. Holding a book too close to the eyes. 2. Scowling or screwing up the face. 3. Red and scaly eyelids. 4. Watery eyes. 5. Tiredness of the eyes. 6. Squint and crossed eyes. 7. Repeated attacks of headache. 8. Backwardness and, or nervousness.

Children with these symptoms should be reported to the Medical Inspector of Schools if possible, and if the case appears urgent, report to the local Missionary or Magistrate with a view to obtaining medical advice and assistance.

It has been found that over 30 per cent of the non-European children in schools for the Blind have been blinded through neglect, ignorance, or wrong treatment of the disease.

It is appalling that for want of knowledge little children should suffer from such a dreadful disability.

Classroom

Teachers should pay great attention to lightening conditions. Neither teacher nor children should face the light. The light should fall over the left shoulder for right handed children. Place children with defective eyesight in the front row of desks.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BANTU WARNS INDIANS

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—It may come to you as a surprise to find that I, a Native of this country, am interested in the welfare of not only the Bantu people, but Indians and other non-Europeans. And you ought not to be surprised to find that I am a regular reader of your valuable paper *INDIAN OPINION*, which was established by your father, Mahatma Gandhi, who is regarded as one of the greatest men in the world. From what I have read of him I find that he stands for the equality of all mankind and the millions of peasants. Now, Mr. Editor, if Mahatma Gandhi is fighting for the untouchables in India, what about the untouchables in South Africa? For are we

not—I mean the Bantu people—treated worse than that by those in power in this country? I suggest, therefore, that Indians should show more interest towards the political, social and educational side of my people as Professor Jabavu ably puts it in his book entitled "The Black Problem," "The inevitable conclusion is that the Blackman can hardly be expected to do all that is expected of him without being trained in the right way."

Therefore I feel that the Bantu should not only be exploited by the Indians, as unfortunately he is very often, but he should also be shown something of your civilisation and culture. When speaking to an Indian teacher the other day I was told, "How can we Indians join you politically when we have a tradition and

civilisation older than yours?" This, Mr. Editor, surprised me very much. I am still wondering what this peculiar civilisation might be that is so closely guarded.

I read Dr. Dadoo's article. It was very interesting. Hoping that more Bantu people will read your paper. I shall tell my friends about *INDIAN OPINION*. Wishing you every success and hoping that *INDIAN OPINION* will not be only "Indian" opinion, but will some day be the journal to express non-European opinion in this vast sub-continent.

Yours etc.,

(Miss) MAUDE FLORENCE ZONDO,

Clermont Township,
P.O. New Germany,

South African News In Brief

N.I.A. Amalgamation Meeting At Stanger

THE Stanger Picture Palace was filled to capacity on Sunday, November 26 when a joint meeting of the members of the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association was held under the chairmanship of Mr. A. P. Naidoo. Amongst those present were Messrs. A. Christopher, Sorabjee Rustomjee, P. R. Pather, A. S. Kajee and S. L. Singh, officials from the headquarters, and Messrs. N. Bodasingh, S. Roopsingh, M. Ramlakan, Ramasamy Padiachey, A. G. Bux, Ramportal, D. D. Lalla, B. Veerasamy Naidoo and E. M. Moolla. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That by virtue of the amalgamation of the headquarters of the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, under the name of the Natal Indian Association, this joint meeting of the Stanger branches of the above two organisations hereby amalgamate and the amalgamated branch shall hereafter be known as the Natal Indian Association (with which are amalgamated the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association) Stanger branch." The following officials were elected:—President: Mr. E. M. Moolla; vice-presidents: Messrs. N. Bodasingh, A. P. Naidoo, Ramportal, M. Ramlakan and M. S. Kajee; hon. secretaries: Messrs. D. D. Lalla and A. G. Bux; hon. treasurer: Mr. Maganlal Patel; committee: Messrs. B. Maharaj, Peter Luke, Abdul Haq Kajee, A. E. Kolia, R. Purmashir, H. B. Bodasing, Suleman Miha, S. Prag, N. Ramasamy Padiachey, B. Veerasamy Naidoo and C. V. Naidoo.

S.A.R.&H. Administration Considers Re-employment Of Indian Labour

The Indian community will be pleased to learn that as a result of the representations made by the South African Railways and Harbours Indian Employees' Union, to the Hon. the Minister for Railways and Harbours, the Administration has agreed on principle to the re-employment of Indian labour in Natal. It is understood that the Administration is now exploring the various avenues in which Indians may be employed, and it is hoped that this will be given effect to within the next week or two. All Indians desirous of being employed by the Railway administration are asked to register at the office of the union (next to Advocate A. Christopher's office), Baker Street, Durban, immediately, when any further information available will be given to them.

South African Railways And Harbours Indian Employees' Union

The third annual general meeting of the South African Railways and Harbours Indian Employees' Union was held recently at the Temple yard, Greyville Compound, Durban. About 250 members were present. Mr. V. P. Padayachi presided and was supported by Mr. E. H. Fisher, who deputised for the System Manager, Mr. P. de Bruine, the Compound Manager, Advocate A. Christopher, Messrs. D. S. Chetty, K. Soobramoney, P. R. Pather and P. B. Singh. The annual report was submitted by Messrs. D. S. Chetty and K. Soobramoney, the hon. and assistant organising secretaries, reviewing the various activities of the union, and was adopted. The treasurer's financial statement was submitted by Mr. K. R. Reddy. Advocate A. Christopher complimented the union on its achievements in the welfare of the Indian railwaymen and said he was pleased to learn that all the employees had joined the union. He thanked the System Manager, Mr. E. H. Fisher, and Mr. P. de Bruine for their sympathetic consideration to the representations made by the union. Mr. E. H. Fisher assured the meeting that the department had the interests of its employees at heart and was prepared to do all it could for them. He wished the union every success. Mr. P. de Bruine assured the meeting of his whole-hearted co-operation. The following officials were duly elected: President: Mr. V. P. Padayachi; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. Thambiran and R. Ramouthar; hon. secretary: Mr. R. K. Moodley; hon. treasurer: Mr. K. R. Reddy; hon. legal advisor: Advocate A. Christopher; hon. organising secretary: Mr. D. S. Chetty; assistant organising secretary: Mr. K. Soobramoney; committee: Messrs. V. M. Thambiran, Kundasamy Moodley, S. B. Singh, G. Moonsamy Govender, Ragan, A. Tulukanum, K. Rampersad, A. Chellani, K. S. Naicker, Budram, Coopsamy Govender, George M. Naidoo and D. Thulukanum.

Nationalist Support For Smuts Government

The decision of Mr. J. D. Heyns, former Nationalist member of Parliament for Middelburg, to support the Prime Minister, General J. O. Smuts, and the Government, has come as an unpleasant shock to the Hertzog group in the Transvaal. Mr. Heyns is one of the most influential and progressive farmers in Middelburg, with a wide sphere of personal influence in the district.

Increase In Price Of Petrol

The price of petrol in the Union has been further increased by a penny. A gallon now costs 1s. 6d. in Durban and

1s. 10d. in Johannesburg. The first increase was made on October 6.

Durban To Have New Railway Station

Durban is to have a new £240,000 railway station and the workshops in the heart of the city are to be removed to Umbilo at an approximate cost of £2,000,000, it is announced by the Minister of Railways and Harbours, Mr. F. O. Sturrook, after he had discussed the matter with the Durban City Council in committee.

Durban Indian Women's Association

The Durban Indian Women's Association has organised a grand variety concert to be held at Sastri College, on December 2, at 7.45 p.m., in aid of the Indian Children's Feeding Scheme, which is being organised to give meals to needy school children, and also to help forward the Indian Children's Holiday Home. The Mayoress of Durban, Mrs. Claire Ellis Brown, and Miss Thelma Whitcott—both very well-known singers—have promised to sing at this concert, and other prominent Indian and European artistes will render items. The programme includes song, music, dances, sketches and a play, and there will also be vernacular items.

The Natal Indian Blind Society

The Natal Indian Blind Society has been established for three years in Durban for the purpose of assisting the Indian blind of Natal and, where possible and necessary, to arrange for medical treatment and assistance. So much can be done to arrest blindness, which is so prevalent throughout the Union, mainly through neglect and ignorance. The names of 130 Indian blind persons have been recorded in the register of the society and much is being done to help Indians. The society refers all blind children to a special school for the blind. At present one of our blind boys, Mani Vasagam, is undergoing training and making excellent progress. Several other children are awaiting admission. There is no reason, whatsoever why blind or partially-blind children should not enjoy the blessings of education and be taught to help themselves and thus become useful members of the community. Several adults and children have been taken to the hospital to undergo treatment and operation and we are thankful to report that many have recovered their sight. Communications should be addressed to Mrs. F. Gordon Cawston, 345, Vause Road, Durban, giving the following particulars:—Full name, address, age, whether single or married, number of dependents and their ages, if receiving any financial support,

ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ મું.

ફ્રીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧ ડીસેમ્બર ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૪૬.

“ ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન ”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૧ ડીસેમ્બર ૧૯૩૯.

સમાજ સેવા કાર્ય

જો હાનીસબર્ગ ઇન્ડિયન સોશીયલ વેલફેર એસોસીએશનનો તા. ૧ અક્ટોબર ૧૯૩૮ થી તા. ૩૦ સપ્ટેમ્બર ૧૯૩૮ નો પાંચમા વર્ષનો રીપોર્ટ હેમણા જ પ્રસિદ્ધ થયો છે. એ રીપોર્ટ પરથી અમે જોઈએ છીએ કે એ સંસ્થા તરફથી ચાલતી કલીનીકમાં વર્ષ દરમિયાન ૮૦૪ મોટી વયના દરદીઓ અને ૧૭૧ બાળકો ને દવા આપવામાં આવી હતી અને પા. ૭૧ ની રકમ કલીનીકને દરદીઓમાં થી ફ્રીની મળી હતી. ૧૨૨ છોકરાંઓને દાંત કાઢવાની જરૂર હોવાથી તેમને વીટ-વોટસરેન્ડ યુનીવર્સિટીની ડેન્ટલ હોસ્પિટલ માં લઈ જવામાં આવ્યાં હતાં જ્યાં દાંત ના ઓપરેશનો મફત કરી આપવામાં આવ્યાં હતાં. સંસ્થાની વેલફેર વરકર જે મીસ કેટલ જરીને યુરોપીયન બાઈ છે, અને જેને વર્ષના પા. ૨૫૦ નો પગાર મળે છે, તેણે ૪૩૧૭ દરદીઓની સુલાકાત લીધી હતી જેમાં ઇન્ડિયન ગલ્સ સ્કૂલ અને સુસ્લીમ બોઈઝ હોસ્ટેલનો પણ સમાવેશ થાય છે. આર્થિક બાબતના સંબંધમાં રીપોર્ટ જણાવે છે કે: “વર્ષ દરમિયાન મળેલાં દાનની રકમ ૬૬૩-૮-૫ ની થઈ હતી જે ગત વર્ષ કરતાં પા. ૨૭૦ જેટલી વધારે હતી. આનું સુખ્ય કારણ એ હતું કે પા. ૧૦૧-૨-૧૧ ની રકમ ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિયન કેરિસે કવેટા કવેટા રીલીફ ફન્ડ માટેના ફાળાની રકમમાંથી અપાઈ હતી અને પા. ૬૦ મી. ચાલ્સ હાપ અને મી. ઈ. ડબલ્યુ. હાવડની ઇસ્કામતોમાંથી દાન મળ્યા હતા. રીપોર્ટ વધુમાં જણાવે છે કે આ વધારાની રકમ મળવાથી સંસ્થા થી મી. ઝાઝલાઈ તરફથી ઉછીની આપવામાં આવેલી પા. ૧૦૦ ની ઉદાર રકમ, કે જના, વિના એસોસીએશનથી પોતાની

વેલફેર વરકરને માટે નવી કાર ખરીદવાનું ખની નહિ શકત, તે પુરેપુરી પાછી ભરી દઈ શકાઈ હતી.”

ઇન્ડિયન સોશીયલ વેલફેર એસોસીએશન તરફથી તેમજ તેની જોડેજ કામ કરી રહેલી ઇન્ડો-યુરોપીયન વીમેન્સ એસોસીએશનની ઉપયોગી સેવાઓની અમે કહર કરીએ છીએ અને જે યુરોપીયન મીત્રોએ સંસ્થાને ઉદાર મદદ કરેલી છે તેને માટે તેઓના આભારી છીએ પરંતુ તે સાથે એ વસ્તુનો ખ્યાલ થવોજ જોઈએ કે આપણા ભાઈઓમાં જે કંઈ પણ સમાજ સેવા કાર્ય થઈ રહ્યું છે તે જે થવાની જરૂર છે તેનું એક અંશમાત્રજ છે અને તે પણ ઘણાજ ઉડાઉ અર્થે થઈ રહ્યું છે. રીપોર્ટની સૌથી અગત્યની બાબત કલીનીક માં ૬૭૩ દરદીઓને તપાસવામાં આવ્યા ની છે, જેથી પા. ૭૧ ની ફી ઉપજ હતી. એ દરદીઓને દવા આપવાનો ખર્ચ પા. ૨૮-૧૫-૮ થએલો જણાવાય છે એટલે કલીનીકને પા. ૪૨-૪-૪ નો નફો થયો. એટલે કલીનીકનું સ્થળ સંસ્થાને લગભગ મફત પડ્યું કેમકે ભાડું અને પાણી નો ખર્ચ ૮૮-૬-૫ જણાવાયે છે જેમાંથી પા. ૪૫ મ્યુનિસિપાલીટી તરફથી આપવામાં આવે છે. અને તેમ છતાં જોહાનીસબર્ગ ઇન્ડિયન વેલફેર એસોસીએશન ને ૬૭૩ દરદીઓને પા. ૨૮-૧૫-૮ ની દવાઓ આપવાનો ખર્ચ પા. ૭૩૨-૨-૧ થયો છે. અને હીંદી કોમ તો ખીચારી એટલી બધી ગરીબ દશામાં સબડી રહેલી છે કે મી. ઝાઝલાઈ, જે ટ્રાંસવાલમાં સૌથી માલદાર હીંદીઓમાંના એક જણાય છે, તેમણે આપેલી પા. ૧૦૦ ની ઉછીની રકમ પાછી ભરવાને ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિયન કેરિસે કવેટા રીલીફ ફન્ડને માટે કથરા વેલા ફાળાની રકમનો ઉપયોગ કરવો

પડ્યો! અને વધુમાં યુરોપીયનો પાસેથી નાણામદદ લેવી પડી! હીંદી કોમની જાહેર ફરજ વખેની સમજની આ ઘણીજ શોચનીય ટીકા ગણાય.

જાહેર સંસ્થાઓ કરકસરથી ચાલવી જોઈએ પરંતુ જોહાનીસબર્ગમાં ઇન્ડિયન વેલફેર એસોસીએશનનો કારભાર કરકસરથી ચાલેલા છે એમ એ સંસ્થાને વિષે કહી શકાય તેમ નથી. નાટલમાં ઇન્ડિયન સોશીયલ સર્વિસ કમીટી, ચાઈલ્ડ વેલફેર કમીટી અને આય ન બેનેવોલન્ટ હોમ તરફથી ઘણું ઉપયોગી કાર્ય થઈ રહ્યું છે પરંતુ એ સંસ્થાઓ ચલાવવાનો ખર્ચ જોહાનીસબર્ગની સંસ્થાની સરખામણીમાં ઘણોજ જાણ છે.

સમાજ સેવા કાર્ય એ હીંદી કોમમાં તો એક અત્યંત જરૂરી વસ્તુ છે. જે ખરા ધોરણે તે કરવામાં આવે તો કોમને હિતકારી થઈ પડે એટલુંજ નહિ પરંતુ હીંદીઓ સામે વર્તી રહેલી જાતીયદ્વેશની લાગણી પણ ઘણું અશે નાપુદ થઈ શકે.

હીંદીઓ તંદુરસ્તી અને સુધરાઈના કાર્યકર્તા પાલન નથી કરતા એવી તેઓની સામે ટીકા થાય છે પરંતુ એ કાર્યકર્તા હેઠળની સગવડો જેટલી યુરોપીયનો ભોગવી શકે છે તેટલી તેઓને આપવામાં આવતી નથી. હીંદીઓના વસવાટના લક્ષ્યોમાં સાધારણતઃ તંદુરસ્તી અને સુધરાઈના કાર્યકર્તા પાલનને અભાવ જોવામાં આવે છે. તેને માટે મકાનોના હીંદી માલીકો તો દાખિત છેજ પરંતુ તેમનાં કરતાં વિશેષ દાખિત તો સત્તાધીશો છે કે જેમના અમલદારો જ્યાં કાર્યકર્તા કડક અમલ થવો જોઈએ ત્યાં અમલ કરતાજ નથી. એ વસ્તુ તરફ લક્ષ આપવાને બદલે સત્તાધીશો હીંદીઓ માટે સેક્રેશનની યોજના ઘડવામાંથીજ પરવારતા નથી. આ વસ્તુસ્થિતિ જ્યારે શહેરના મધ્ય ભાગમાંજ વર્તી રહી છે ત્યારે પછી હીંદીઓ માટે રાખવામાં આવેલા ઇલાયદા લક્ષ્યોમાં જોવા કે, લોકેશનો અને બજારોનું તો પુષ્ટું જ થું? આ સ્થળોમાં વર્તતી શોચનીય સ્થિતિ કોઈ પણ સુધરેલી ગણાતી મળ કે સરકારને શરમાવનારી છે.

આ વસ્તુપરથી એકજ બાબત સિદ્ધ થાય છે, અને તે એ કે, હીંદીઓએ જાગૃત અને સ્વાશ્રથી બનવાની જરૂર છે. તેને