

Hosken, and we tender our most heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Hosken in the great loss he has sustained."

"This meeting of Transvaal Hindus tenders to Mr. William Hosken, and the members of his family, their deep sympathy in the irreparable loss that they have sustained in the death of the late Mrs. Hosken, and prays that comfort and consolation may be granted to them."

"This meeting of the Patidar Society tenders to the family of the late Mrs. Hosken the expression of its deepest sympathy of their irreparable loss."

"This meeting of the Koli Hitvardhak Mandal respectfully offers its deepest sympathy to Mr. William Hosken and family in their great loss."

"The meeting representing the Mahomedan residents of the Transvaal tenders its respectful sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. William Hosken in the irreparable loss that they have sustained."

The Germiston Indians sent a telegram of sympathy. The Natal Indian Association telegraphed to Mr. William Hosken: "Association respectfully sympathise with you in your irreparable loss."

Mr. Rustomjee wired as follows: "Natal Zoroastrians tender heartfelt sympathy in your sad bereavement."

Wreaths were sent from the following:—

The British Indian Association, Tamil Benefit Society, Indian Women's Association, Colonial-born Indians of the Transvaal, Patidar Society, Transvaal Hindus, Scindhis, Koli Hitvardhak Mandal, Khatri community, The Chinese Association of the Transvaal, Mr. and Mrs. C. K. T. Naidoo, and the Vereeniging Mahomedans.

### From the Editor's Chair

#### LICENSING ANOMALIES

We publish elsewhere the report of a licensing appeal before the Licensing Board for the County of Durban on the 11th ultimo. The facts speak for themselves. Two points arise from this case, however, to which we would briefly refer. One is the very undesirable attitude adopted by certain Isipingo Indians against a fellow-countryman. They have adopted exactly the same attitude taken up by so many Europeans against Indians and for exactly the same reasons, namely, trade jealousy. This action does not redound to the credit of the Indian community, and we trust that it will be the last case of its kind. The other point is the strange and unaccountable tergiversation of the Licensing Officer. A year ago he refused this very licence. This year he grants it. Either he should not have refused it a year ago or he should have refused it this year. The circumstances of the case have not altered within the year, so far as we are able to observe from the evidence. If the Licensing Officer had made a full investigation before, he either did an injustice to the Indian applicant then, or there are reasons for granting the licence now that have not been divulged. In other words, the Licensing Officer appears to have acted in a particularly arbitrary manner in refusing the licence a year ago. We readily admit that he occupies a very invidious position, being a sort of unrestricted inquisitor with tremendous powers which he is entitled to wield without responsibility to anyone. Such a condition of affairs is eminently undesirable, and the possibilities of injustice are greater than are generally supposed.

## The Late Mr. Gokhale

In Johannesburg and certain other towns of the Transvaal, on the 22nd ultimo, stores were closed and no business was done. At the mass meeting, the hall was draped in deep mourning, and the attitude of those present was impressively solemn. The following telegrams were sent by the various Indian organisations:—

Servindia, Poona City.—Transvaal Indian Women's Association tenders deepest sympathy. Please inform family. Schlesin.

Servindia, Poona City.—Transvaal Hindus profoundly grieved sad news. Tender sincerest sympathy all India and members bereaved family. Medh.

From Polak to Gandhi.—Overwhelmed. Universal mourning. Inform Society.

Polak to Family, Gokhale, Poona City.—Deepest sympathy.

British Indian Association to Family, Gokhale, Poona City.—Whole Transvaal mourning with you. Cachalia, Chairman.

British Indian Association to Servindia, Poona City.—Universal mourning death great son of India. Mass meetings yesterday stores closed. Impossible replace dead statesman. South Africa loses best friend. General Smuts wires sympathy, loss eminent statesman who served his people and Empire with much distinction. Please publish. Cachalia, Chairman.

Servindia, Poona City.—Tamil Benefit Society, representing Transvaal Tamils, tenders deepest sympathy overwhelming irreparable loss. Please inform family, publish. Thambi Naidoo, Chairman.

Servindia, Poona City.—Vereeniging Mahomedans send deepest sympathy. Asvat, Chairman.

Servindia, Poona City.—Patidar Society tenders deepest sympathy. Patel.

Servindia, Poona City.—Koli Hitvardhak Mandal tenders deepest sympathy.

Thambi Naidoo, to Servindia, Poona City.—Overwhelmed irreparable loss.

Servindia, Poona City.—Transvaal Scindhis tender countrymen deepest sympathy in irreparable loss sustained death Honourable Gokhale. Convey message family, Kewalram, Verumal, Nanoomal, Lalchand.

Servindia, Poona City.—Khatri Community tenders deepest sympathy India's irreparable loss death late Mr. Gokhale. South African Indians have lost best friend. Please inform family, publish. Pitamber.

Servindia, Poona City.—Germiston Indians tender respectful sympathy. Lalbahadursingh.

Servindia, Poona City.—Potchetstroom Indians tender deepest sympathy irreparable loss. Bobert.

Servindia, Poona City.—Klerksdorp Indians tender deepest sympathy irreparable loss. Dindar.

Servindia, Poona City.—Heidelberg Indians tender deepest sympathy irreparable loss. Khota.

The Association has also received the following expressions of sympathy:—

Telegram from Messrs. Littmann and Brown, Capetown to Cachalia, Chairman, Indian Association.—My firm learns with great sorrow the untimely demise of India's great patriot. Please accept our sincerest

sympathy at the loss your Association has sustained. Kindly convey same to the members of your Association.

Letter from Mr. J. Julius, Secretary of the St. Mary's Male Benefit Society, Johannesburg.—We the members (Coloured People) of this Society, learning with deep sorrow and regret of the death of that great friend and statesman the Hon. Gokhale, hereby deeply sympathise in your bereavement.

True the Indians and Coloured races have lost a true friend and a great statesman; though that great gentleman is called away, let his labours bear abundant fruit in the future.

Letter from Mr. C. M. Dantu, Chairman of the Coloured Industrial Exhibition, Johannesburg.—Kindly accept herewith my sincere sympathy, in the great National loss you have to sustain by the death of your much beloved friend and champion, Hon. Mr. Gokhale.

### At Pretoria

A meeting of all sections of the Pretoria Indian Community was held on the 21st instant at the premises of Mr. M. V. Patel, at the Asiatic Bazaar, to pay respect to the memory and work of the late Mr. Gokhale.

Among those present were Messrs. Haji Habib, Noor Mahomed Hassam, Haji Cassam, Haji Joosub, Cassim Adam, J. P. Vyas, P. M. Joshi, M. V. Patel, Gopal and V. S. Pillay.

Mr. Haji Habib was elected to the chair, and proposed that a cable be sent to India in the following terms: "Community deeply grieved at the death of the Indian patriot, the Honourable Mr. Gokhale. May God richly reward him for his services to India, and tender sincerest sympathy to relatives."

The proposal was unanimously accepted, some of the speakers evincing great feeling and speaking in eloquent language of the great, good work done by him they had assembled to honour.

### Maritzburg Indians' Sympathy

After the receipt of the sad news of Mr. Gokhale's death a meeting of the City Indians was called in the Hindu Young Men's Association Hall.

There were about 300 Indians of all sections present. As a mark of sympathy it was decided that all Indian business in town should be suspended the following day, and further, it was proposed to hold a public meeting at the Hindu Temple, to pass a resolution of sympathy.

At a meeting held at the Hindu Temple, the following resolution was passed in connection with the death of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale:—

"That this meeting of the Hindu Young Men's Association learns with deep sorrow of the sudden death of the Hon. Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, in Poona, India, and feels that by his death the South African Indians have lost one of the ablest and most persistent champions of their cause, and this meeting tenders its humble sympathy with the family of the deceased gentleman."

Several members paid touching tributes to the deceased gentleman.

At a special meeting of the members of Veda Dharma Sabah under the chairmanship of Mr. D. K. Soni, the following resolution was passed, all the members standing as a mark of respect: "That this meeting of the Veda Dharma Sabah, Maritzburg, records its profound regret at the irreparable loss the Indian nation has sustained by the untimely death of the Honourable Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the greatest Indian statesman of modern times, and desires to express its sense of gratitude for all that he has done towards ameliorating the condition of the Indians in South Africa."

### Mahomedans' Tribute

A meeting of Maritzburg Mahomedans was held at the Anjuman Hall in Commercial Road, and there were present about a hundred, when, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ismail Bayat, it was resolved to send the following telegram to the family of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale from the Anjuman Islam, of Maritzburg:—

"That this meeting of Anjuman Islam regrets the death of the Hon. Mr. Gokhale, and tenders its sympathy on behalf of the Mahomedan community with the family of the deceased gentleman."

### Meeting at Verulam

A meeting of the Indian residents took place at Verulam on the 22nd ultimo and over 100 Indians were present at the short notice of a few hours.

By request, Mr E. H. Langston, of Verulam, presided and briefly stated the objects of the Meeting, declaring that they were all sorry on learning from the newspaper that morning that Mr. Gokhale had passed away. He dwelt upon the services rendered by the deceased in connection with the Indian difficulties in South Africa, and read to the meeting the following resolutions:—

"That this meeting of Indians assembled at Verulam, Natal have received with profound grief and regret the news of the death of the Honourable Mr. G. K. Gokhale."

"That this Meeting joins their fellow Countrymen in India in mourning the loss of such a distinguished statesman and desire to express its condolence with the relatives and friends of the deceased."

"That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mr. M. K. Gandhi, friend of and co-worker with the late Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale at Poona, in India, and that copies be also sent to the Press."

These resolutions were subsequently explained in Tamil by Mr. M. V. Pillay and in Hindustani by Mr. R. T. Singu.

These were moved by Babu Talwantsingh, who concurred in the remark made by the Chairman, and stated that the resolutions put forward expressed his views and believed they all would meet with the approval of the meeting. He referred sympathetically to the late Mr. Gokhale and expressed the grief of himself and his friends at the sad news received that day.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Solwa and supported by Messrs. Danjee Ramjee and Raghoojee Ragunath all of whom expressed heartfelt grief the loss sustained by the death of Mr. Gokhale. It was finally decided to cable the resolution of sympathy and condolence to Mr. Gandhi, at Poona, as follows:—

"Meeting Verulam Indians to-day profoundly mourn death of Honourable Gokhale and condole with his relatives."

The resolution were passed in silence, all present rising.

### Indentured Indians' Sympathy

Some 3,000 indentured and time-expired Indians met on the Hindu Temple grounds on the outskirts of Verulam on the 28th ultimo to join in the memorial service and to express their sorrow in the loss by death of their friend and benefactor, the late Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale. Babu Talawantsingh presided and was supported by the following representatives of the Natal Indian Association: Messrs. J. M. Lazarus, R. Bughwan, A. Christopher, and L. Gabriel (Secretary). Pundit Harilal Ambaram Maharaj conducted the service according to the Hindu rites.

The chairman, speaking in Hindi, told the people of Mr. Gokhale's death, reminding them that though their distinguished Countryman was dead, yet he lived in the works that he had wrought on their and their country's behalf.

Mr. Lazarus spoke in Tamil at length on the life and works of the deceased statesman explaining to them

that by faith man can do many things and that though Mr. Gokhale was not with them any longer, they could, if they would but have faith in their countrymen and in themselves, produce many Gokhales.

Among others who spoke were: Messrs. M. V. Pillay, J. Jeewa, Kristandat Maharaj, Dhanjee Ramjee, Ragoojee Ragnath, R. Bughwan, Atul Sham, L. Gabriel and A. Christopher.

Those present evinced in many ways manifestations of their sorrow for one who had occupied with Mr. Gandhi so large a space in their hearts since the £3 tax question was vigorously taken up and successfully solved by its abolition.

The assembled thousands, standing in silence, mournfully passed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of indentured and time expired Indians assembled at the Hindu Temple, Verulam, is painfully grieved that death has deprived them of their political saviour, the Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale, whose services, apart from those so unselfishly rendered by him to their Motherland, has materially and morally assisted in their and their children being freed from the unjust £3 tax and its unhappy incidence. And that they beg to tender their heartfelt sympathy with Miss Gokhale. And that this resolution be conveyed by cable to the proper quarters by The Natal Indian Association."

The suggestion by the Association that some memorial to Mr. Gokhale, preferably a national school for the whole of South Africa, was incidentally mentioned to the meeting as was also the offer of Mr. Parsee Rustomjee of premises in Verulam for a local national school if the people of the District would find the working expenses. It was, however, felt, here as elsewhere, that the memorial should be worthy of the subject, and it is probable that a South African Indian Committee may be formed to deliberate on the question.

## Indian Trading Licence

The Licensing Board for the county of Durban met in the Chief Magistrate's Court on the 11th ultimo, to hear an appeal by Dehaloo Bros., Bhay Kaloo, and J. C. Culbert, jun., storekeepers, Isipingo, against the decision of the Licensing Officer, Mr. Wynne Cole, in granting an application by Amod Cassim Jadwat for a new retail licence in respect of certain new premises situated in Isipingo. The members present were Messrs. Percy Binns, K.C. (chief magistrate), A. Platt, and H. Sparks.

Mr. Burne, K.C., appeared for Bhay Kaloo, Mr. Holgate for Dehaloo Bros. and J. C. Culbert, jun., while Mr. A. Hime appeared for the respondent.

The grounds of the appeal were that the Licensing Officer (the respondent) had not taken into consideration the fact that in March last he refused the application of Amod Cassim Jadwat for a similar licence in respect of the premises in question, on the ground that there was no necessity for such a licence. Nor had any further evidence been adduced before the Licensing Officer showing the necessity for the granting of the licence. The appellants held that the granting of the licence would be very prejudicial to them, as storekeepers in the immediate neighbourhood. Further, the Licensing Officer had not taken into consideration the fact that the neighbourhood already had sufficient licences, while he had altogether ignored the fact that Amod Cassim Jadwat, the applicant, already held a licence in the neighbourhood.

The Licensing Officer's reasons for granting the licence were put in. They showed that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a licence, and the Licensing Officer was satisfied as to the applicant's ability to conform to the requirements of Act 18, Section 7, of 1897. The premises conformed to the requirements of the Act; in fact, they were some of the best store premises owned by storekeepers in the

Province. The evidence showed that the property was valued by the Government valuator at £1,100, and that they had been standing vacant for 12 months, thus incurring loss to the applicant. He (the Licensing Officer) felt bound by the ruling of the Supreme Court, in the case of *Bodhanwa v. Estcourt Licensing Board*. Had he refused the application he should have penalised the applicant on account of his nationality, and this would have been contrary to the ruling in the case mentioned. The principal objectors to the application were Dehaloo Bros. In his evidence, Kokuil, a member of the firm, stated that his main objection was that his business might be affected, thus showing that trade rivalry was the chief motive for opposing the licence. The firm of Dehaloo Bros. had been established in trade at Isipingo for 25 years, and the evidence showed that they enjoyed practically a monopoly. Apart from their licensed businesses they were the owners of landed property in the district, and sugar cane growers, and held bonds over another store business at Isipingo. He (the Licensing Officer) considered that the advent of another Indian storekeeper would tend to preserve a sound business competition to the benefit of the public. Though the applicant was also opposed by Europeans, the evidence showed that one objector recently sold his store and licence to an Indian, by whom it had been managed for seven years.

The Court deferred its decision.

## Appeal Dismissed

The Licensing Board for the Division of Durban gave judgment in the appeal by certain Isipingo storekeepers against the decision of the Licensing Officer in granting a retail store licence to A. C. Jadwat, of Isipingo. The Board upheld the Licensing Officer's decision.

It appeared, said Mr. Binns, in giving the reasons for the judgment, that the Licensing Officer, in March, 1914, refused this licence, on the ground that there was no necessity for it, and, although that was not absolutely proved to the Board, still from that point of view the fact that the Licensing Court, in March, 1914, met and refused the licence on the ground that there was then no necessity for it, did not preclude the Licensing Officer from subsequently dealing with the matter, and finding that there was necessity in a later year. The law gave the Licensing Officer an express discretion to grant or refuse an application for a licence; it provided an appeal to the Licensing Board. As to the principle which guided the Courts in dealing with an appeal from the Licensing Board on a liquor licence, where there was an expressed right of appeal given against the decision of the Board to the Court, he thought he was correct in saying that the principle was this: Where the Licensing Board, after taking evidence, had come to a decision on the merits and had adopted the correct procedure, the Court could not interfere with the decision of the Licensing Board, and he thought that something of the same sort should guide the attitude of the Board in relation to the Licensing Officer. He did not mean to say that the Licensing Board had not the right to over-ride the decision of the Licensing Officer. It had the right; but the Board considered that that right should only be exercised where it could not be shown that the Licensing Officer had come to his decision with a judicial, unbiassed, and open mind, and had not devoted care and attention to the decision. In this case there was evidence upon which the Licensing Officer had founded his decision. He appeared to have given every consideration to the matter, and to have heard a considerable number of witnesses, and had decided in effect that there was a necessity for the licence; that the applicant was a person of good character, complying with the requirements of the law, and he went further by saying that he had personally visited the spot and had seen the premises, and that he was of the opinion that the establishment of the business would undoubtedly make for proper competition. The Board

had before them evidence to show that Isipingo was practically the terminus for the Umlazi location; that there was a large Indian population resident about that neighbourhood, as well as a large native population; and if the Licensing Officer, having heard evidence, visited the place, and satisfied himself as to the local conditions, as his reasons said he had, the Board had come to the decision that the licence should be granted and that they as a Board were not prepared to withhold the licence.—*Natal Mercury*.

## Servants of India Society's Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi

The premises of the Servants of India Society's Home in Bombay were tastefully decorated for the entertainment that was given to Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi on the evening of the 14th January by the members of the Bombay Branch of the Society and by some of those who are associated with it as its helpers, supporters and co-workers. There was a very large gathering of ladies and gentlemen of all sections of the community who came to honour the distinguished guests. Among those present were Sir Bhalchandra Krishna, Sir Vithaldas Thakersey, Sir Jagmohandas, Shet Dani, Shet Hansraj Pragjee, Mrs. Ramabai Ranade, Lady Jagmohandas, Mrs. Sonabai Jayakar, Mrs. Bahadurjee and others. On the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi, Mr. Devadhar spoke on behalf of those that were assembled as follows:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—We have all assembled this evening, with feelings of great joy and pride to extend a most hearty welcome to two of our very eminent citizens and patriots, Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi. To you dear brother, and dear sister, we the members of the Servants of India Society and those who are associated with it as its helpers, supporters and co-workers offer our heartfelt greetings on your return to this land the service of which has been the ruling passion of your life. If I say that your names have been the household words in every hearth and home in this land, I shall be doing very scant justice to the great services and noble sacrifices you have made. These have so powerfully captivated our minds that by means of these you have been enshrined into our hearts as an object of pure devotion or as an idol of true worship. By means of your perseverance which knew no flagging, by means of your courage which knew no fear, by means of your sufferings which have taught many a useful lesson to many of us here, by means of your patriotism which rose superior to all personal considerations and worldly thoughts, by means of your life which is full of simplicity and high thinking and by means of your lofty aims which were governed by supreme love of humanity you have attained to a position of great eminence. Your work in South Africa has raised the country and her name in the esteem of the whole world and by your labours and leadership you have made it possible even for the feeblest and humblest of our countrymen to develop and show those great qualities of heart with which they were not ordinarily credited. You have thus entitled yourself to greatest respect at our hands not only as a great patriot or a true hero, but as one of those great architects who by means of their spiritual attainments and powers rear up the destinies of humanity. You are thus a great spiritual architect and can fitly be ranked among those who build up the futures of mankind. Dear brother, our fervent prayer is that the Almighty may bless you with long life and increasing strength to render greater services to the country which you love so dearly in the company of your equally noble and heroic wife and may His choicest blessings rest upon you both."

Mr. Gandhi then, in the course of a brief speech, said that he was proud to have seen so many men and women who helped the Servants of India Society, which would soon be the sphere of his work. He had accepted Mr. Gokhale as his political leader and guide and he considered those people fortunate who had the privilege of being associated with Mr. Gokhale in their work. He would go over the country for one year and, after studying things for himself, he would decide his line of work. In conclusion, he thanked all the ladies and gentlemen, both on his behalf as well as on behalf of his wife, for the honour they did them.

Sir Bhalchandra garlanded Mr. Gandhi and Mrs. Ramabai Ranade garlanded Mrs. Gandhi. After the distribution of flowers, etc., the whole assembly partook of refreshments. Thus this very enthusiastic function, which was attended by over 300 people, came to an end by 7-30 p.m. when Mr. Gandhi left for another reception by the members of his caste.

## News in Brief

We have received a reply from the Postmaster, Durban, regarding the delay in delivering one of the letter packets referred to last week. It had not been ascertained where the delay occurred but, as there was pressure that morning with the English mail letters, it is possible that it got amongst them and thus escaped notice. The Postmaster regretted the delay and inconvenience caused and trusted that there would be no recurrence.

A Draft Ordinance is published in the Natal Provincial *Gazette* which extends the operation of the Shop Hours Act of 1905 to the whole Province. Hitherto it applied only to townships or within five miles of same. The new Bill also provides that no shop shall open before 6 a.m.

Hawkers are evidently considered by the Government to be either an evil thing to be got rid of or else they are thought to be far too well off. A draft Ordinance just published provides, in addition to the usual £5 licence for each person engaged in the business, a further "penalty" of £1 10s. for each servant, £1 extra for each pack-horse, £1 10s. for each vehicle with two wheels or less and £3 for a vehicle with more than two wheels. This is one way of raising revenue and it will come out of the poor man's pocket.

We still have a number of reports connected with the death of the late Mr. Gokhale which we intend publishing as early as possible. Some of these, owing to the negligence of some Secretaries in not sending us information direct, have to be collected from various newspaper reports or elsewhere, and it may be that, in spite of our desire to publish all public references, we shall fail.

We have received for publication a joint memorial, addressed by the Cape Coloured population of Johannesburg and the British Indian Association of the Transvaal, to the chairman and members of the Tramways Committee of the Johannesburg Municipality, pointing out the racial taint contained in the proposed new by-laws prohibiting Asiatics and Coloured People from using the public tramcars. The memorial is signed by prominent representatives of the Coloured People and Indian community. We hope to print the memorial in our next issue.