

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

IN the Union House of Assembly a lengthy discussion took place on the motion of Mr. Mackeur-tan (S.A.P. Umbilo) in connection with the segregation of Indians resident in the Union. It will be remembered by our readers that Mr. Mackeur-tan had previously postponed the motion on account of the Rand strike. The very same motion has been introduced now and it has caused considerable uneasiness in the minds of the Indian community with regard to their future in this country. The report of the debate being considerably long we have been compelled to leave it over for the next issue.

The motion of Mr. Mackeur-tan received strong support from practically all the members, but Mr. Merriman who has always been the friend of Indians spoke in favour of Indians and warned Mr. Mackeur-tan that he was trading on very dangerous ground. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. P. Duncan) argued against the motion but expressed his approval of the action of municipalities who sought to set apart areas for Asiatic settlement in their midst but it was important, he said, that such areas should be adequate and suitable for them to live decently. The debate was adjourned till the 16th instant.

We are glad to note that the Natal Indian Congress is girding up its loins to put up a strong fight against the deprivation of the rights of Indians to live as human beings in this country. The following telegram has been forwarded by the Congress to the Union Government:— "Natal Indian Congress views with great alarm Mr. Mackeur-tan's motion and the discussion on it in Assembly and strongly protests against threatened interference with existing rights of Indians which is not in keeping with Smuts-Gandhi Agreement. Under present conditions complete stoppage of Indian Immigration except of domiciled Indians. Major portion of Indian Community encouraged to come to Natal for country's benefit. Future Indian population in the Union will be South African born Indians ever ready and always performing their duties to the State in time of war or peace if given the opportunity. Indian Community expects British fairplay and justice."

It would appear from an advertisement published elsewhere that a mass meeting of the Indian community under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress is to be held at Rawat's Bio Hall on Sunday at 3 p.m. to protest against the motion mentioned above as well as the Anti-Asiatic Ordinances now before the Provincial Council. We have no doubt that the community will realise the seriousness of the situation and be present at the meeting in their thousands.

There has come into existence in Durban since last week a vernacular paper called *Hindi*. The paper is edited by Pandit Bhawani Dayal and printed and published by him at Jacobs, near Durban, at his "Jagaran Press". The publishing ceremony was performed last Sunday at the above Press at the hands of Mr. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri. After some religious ceremonies performed according to Vedic rites, Mr. Amod Jhaveri, in the presence of Pandit Bhawani Dayal who

was unfortunately at that very time laid up with influenza, explained the object of the paper. Speeches were then made by various friends present at the function wishing Pandit Bhawani Dayal success in his noble enterprise. Refreshments were afterwards served and the establishment was shown to all present.

The first number of *Hindi* declares the object of the paper to be that of awakening the Hindustani section of the community to their political conditions in this country and to enlighten them with the present national movement in India. "We wish also", it says, "to deal in all such subjects that will go towards the political, social, moral and religious advancement of our brethren". It was intended to devote a few columns of *Hindi* to English also, but owing to the sad and sudden loss, we understand, of his wife who was his right hand in this work, Pandit Bhawani Dayal has had to limit his ambition and is unable to take up the extra burden of introducing English columns in his paper at least for the present. There is a large section of our Hindi brethren in this country and a journal in the Hindi language for their upliftment was indeed a long-felt need. We congratulate Pandit Bhawani Dayal for supplying that need and we wish him every success in his endeavour.

The Annual general meeting of the Transvaal Koknee Mahomaden Society, we understand, will be held on Sunday the 14th May 1922 at 12-30 p. m. sharp at Nassiria School Hall 23rd Street Malay Location Johannesburg. All members of Koknee Section are earnestly invited to attend. Business: Annual Report, Financial Statement, Election of officials, General.

The first annual celebration of the Aryan Benevolent Home established by the Arya Yuvak Sabha will take place in the Home grounds near the late Babu Baldev-Singh's residence, Mayville, on Sunday the 14th instant commencing at 1 p. m.

We take the following from one of the Indian exchanges:—Rao Bahadur V. Jogiah Pantulu, Public Prosecutor, Berhampore, was asked to resign his office on account of his son being a Non-co-operator, and he has resigned.

The following letter appears in the *Indian Social Reformer*, dated March 26th:—Sir, I have just read the report of the trial and the sentence upon Mr. Gandhi. I feel that the only way to ease my shame at this greatest blunder and crime of the British administration in India is to give expression to it openly. To keep silent is to condone this crowning act of injustice. To condemn such a saint as Mr. Gandhi is the greatest condemnation that has ever been passed upon the system of British law in India to-day. Mr. Gandhi is uncondemned. It is British rule that stands condemned by this judgment at the bar of history.

Yours sincerely

H. A. Prasad

## INDIAN QUESTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

### DEPUTATION BEFORE THE VICEROY

Certain members of the Council of State, the Legislative Assembly, the Imperial Citizenship Association, together with the Delegates of the Transvaal British Indian Association and the Natal Indian Congress were received by the Viceroy on the 22nd March.

The following is the full text of the memorandum presented by the deputation to Lord Reading:—

We, the undersigned members of the Council of State, the Legislative Assembly, and the Imperial Citizenship Association, together with the Delegates of the Transvaal British Indian Association, and the Natal Indian Congress, beg to thank Your Excellency for having received this Deputation to-day in the midst of your pressing duties. As the Government of India has now been empowered to communicate directly with the South African Union Government, we wish to place before Your Excellency certain facts regarding the present Indian situation in South Africa which will give you a clear idea of the true state of affairs there and will enable Your Excellency to represent the case of the Indians in South Africa to the Union Government. The present position of Indians in South Africa is felt to be intolerable in as much as while it is possible for Indians to be free citizens in other parts of the British Empire, they are denied the elementary rights of citizenship and subjected to humiliating conditions in South Africa. The facts which we now lay before Your Excellency will show the grounds of the existence of such a feeling in the minds of all Indians.

#### CAPE PROVINCE

In the Cape Province of South Africa, Indians are with very minor exceptions treated well. They have both the political and the municipal franchise, and have also the right to own immovable property as well as to acquire land and to reside wherever they desire. The Indian Community, therefore, in the Cape Province is contented and no grievances are brought up against it by Europeans. If Indians can live in peace and contentment with sister communities in the Cape Province, there is no reason why they cannot live equally in peace and contentment elsewhere.

#### IN NATAL

In Natal the situation is not so good. There is no actual segregation till now and Indians have the full rights of ownership of immovable property and of acquisition of land. They enjoy municipal franchise, though no Indian has yet been elected to the Municipal Board. There is however no political franchise and as a direct consequence of the political disabilities imposed on Indians, Europeans in Natal have continually attempted to impose racial restrictions on them which the Indians have been helpless to prevent. This discrimination against Indians has become increasingly aggressive in the matter of trading licenses and in municipal bye-laws. Racial differentiation has been introduced in the matter of public conveyances also. Restrictions of a racial character have touched the life of the Indian community at every turn and have thus created distinctions between man and where no such distinction should exist. The recent Asiatic Enquiry Commission appointed by the South African Union Government puts forth the case of the Indians in a fair manner and finds that the complaints made against them by a section of the European community are not of a substantial character. It is to be regretted however that in spite of this finding the Commission made no recommendations for the removal of these obnoxious racial distinctions and has actually proposed that the existing rights of Indians to acquire agricultural land shall be confined to the narrow coast-belt of Natal and that all the Highland area should be reserved for Europeans. The Commission also has proposed that what it calls "Voluntary segregation" should be practised in commercial and residential areas. The Com-

mission's proposals are of a retrograde nature and are calculated to place the Indian community in a position of still further inferiority and degradation. There are also grave grounds for fearing that Indians may soon be deprived of the municipal franchise.

#### DIRECT INVITATION

Indians came to Natal by direct invitation and encouragement from the Natal Government. They came under the guarantee of fair treatment and also with the undertaking on the part of the Natal Government to afford them rights of acquiring land holding property etc., as soon as their period of indentured labour was over. It would be no exaggeration to say that Indian labour has largely made Natal what it is to-day—the Garden Colony of South Africa. Large numbers of Indians have been born in the country and some can trace back their Natal born ancestors for three and four generations. The proposal to take away the right of acquiring land, given under the original contract of indenture, is tantamount to breach of faith, and in our opinion calls for an emphatic protest on the part of Your Excellency's Government.

#### IN THE TRANSVAAL

In the Transvaal Indians are confronted with still greater disabilities as they have neither political nor municipal franchise nor have they the rights to hold landed property, as act 37 of 1919 has put an end to the indirect but openly accepted methods of holding lands either through forming private companies or by appointing European trustees. Racial discrimination is observed in dealing with applications for municipal trading licenses. There is also racial segregation directly embodied in the code of Laws, and this has been put into practice in certain places known as "locations." As if such disabilities on Indians in the Transvaal were not serious enough, the Asiatic Enquiry Commission has advocated even further restrictions which will make the position of the Indians in the Transvaal still worse.

#### SIR BENJAMIN ROBERTSON

The Indian community in the Transvaal is deeply grateful to Sir Benjamin Robertson who came down as a representative of the Government of India for the patient and arduous work he did in the interests of the Indians. We desire to emphasise the fact mentioned in his report that it will be only by the repeal of Law 3 of 1885 that the root cause of the present trouble can be really removed. The Indian community in the Transvaal feels that there is no hope of equal treatment for them until the repeal of the Law. We, therefore, desire to urge upon Your Excellency the necessity of making a strong representation to the Union Government of South Africa for the repeal of this Law, as all subsequent racial enactments are based upon this statute.

#### SMUTS-GANDHI AGREEMENT

We desire to draw Your Excellency's special attention to Act 37 of 1919 as the Act violates the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1914 which protected the vested rights of Indians in the Transvaal. In 1914 the Indian community possessed the right of acquiring and holding landed property quite openly though indirectly in the Transvaal. This right was upheld when it was recently challenged in the Appellate Court of the Union. Under Act 37 of 1919 that right is taken away and the deprivation of that right is rightly construed as a deliberate effort to drive the very small Indian population in the Transvaal out of that Province.

#### IN ORANGE FREE STATE

In Orange Free State, the Indians have no rights whatsoever. They can live there only as domestic servants and in no other capacity. There are only some 200 Indians in the whole of the Free State, and as immigration is strictly prohibited, there are few chances of the population increasing. In these cir-

circumstances it can scarcely be contended that there is any serious risk in granting full rights of citizenship to Indians.

#### VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

We deem it necessary to refer here to the acceptance by the Government of the recommendations of Sir Benjamin Robertson, regarding what is called "Voluntary repatriation". The Indian community fully understands that Sir Benjamin Robertson's intention was to relieve the poorer members of the Indian community in South Africa, and thus indirectly to help the cause of the other Indians who stayed in that country; but the actual result has not been that which was anticipated, for this "Voluntary repatriation" has been taken up as a watchword by those who wish to drive Indians out of the country. In consequence of this agitation the policy of removing from Natal of Indians, whether poor or not, has been encouraged while no attention has been paid to the task of improving the social conditions and status of the remaining Indians in the country and an attempt is being made to take away some of their existing rights. It is repugnant to Indian self-respect and manhood to accept repatriation at the expense of forfeiting domiciled rights and the Indians in Natal feel that they must depend upon themselves for improving their position and as the first step in that direction, they have taken up the responsibility for the proper education of Natal born Indian children.

#### RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL

There is still one further anomaly we would like to bring to Your Excellency's notice. Although the South African Government is now called a Union Government, Indians are not allowed to travel freely from one part of the Union to another and we desire to enter our strong protest against this inter-provincial segregation.

#### THE INJUSTICE

We beg now to refer to the injustice meted out to Indians in the mandated territory of South West Africa. Prior to annexation, although there was an administrative barrier against Indian entry into this territory, Indians used to go and settle there. Since the annexation of the territories to the Union Government, Indians are debarred from entering that territory under a statute. This arbitrary act on the part of the Union Government is another instance of the spirit underlying recent anti-Indian legislation in South Africa and we pray to Your Excellency to press upon the Union Government the necessity for altering their present policy.

#### BETTER TREATMENT WANTED

Our object in coming to-day before Your Excellency is to seek the help of the Government of India securing a better understanding about Indians in South Africa and a better treatment of them by the Union Government. Indians are prepared to do their duty as citizens of the different Provinces of the Union in which they have made their homes. They are prepared to be educated and desire to have the good things of the world equally with the Europeans and deserve them by their character and industry. They are also prepared to do everything to deserve them still more. If equality of conditions is established and maintained, there is no reason why they should not live in amity with their European fellow-subjects and reach the standard of life and comfort which is so dear to Europeans.

They have chosen to claim freedom and all the advantages of freedom to which they are entitled as British citizens. They will endeavour to achieve and maintain it at all costs. They are ready to reciprocate every sign of friendship that the European community in South Africa may show them and to live on terms of peace and goodwill with all men. They are determined to spare no sacrifice on their own part to obtain these fundamental rights of humanity for which the

British Empire stands. They are firmly convinced that any other course would be unworthy of them, both as Indians and as loyal and law-abiding subjects of His Britannic Majesty. In this moral struggle we appeal on their behalf to Your Excellency for sympathy, encouragement and support.

#### A CORRECT SOLUTION

It is hoped in conclusion that the Government of India will do their utmost to urge on the Union Government that they should satisfactorily settle once for all the Indian question in South Africa. It has been a vastly disturbing factor in South Africa and also in domestic politics of India itself. A correct solution of this problem will make Indians in South Africa and the millions of their fellow-countrymen in India the best friends of the Empire and of every part of it.

#### MUCH NEEDED RELIEF

We beg once again to thank Your Excellency for the patient hearing that has been given us to-day and we pray that Your Excellency's efforts will bring about the much needed relief to the Indians in South Africa and will tend to remove that bitterness between the component parts of the Empire which the differential treatment of one class of His Majesty's subjects in the Dominions has unfortunately generated.

The address has been signed by the following:—

Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, D. E. Wacha, Lalubhai Samaldas, P. C. Sethna, P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer, Vithaldas D. Thackersay, T. Rangachariar, C. S. Subrahmanyam, Manmohandas Ramji, N. M. Samarth, Jambhadas Dwarakadas, M. K. Reddi, S. M. Zahid Ali Jubzposh, K. C. Neogy, C. F. Andrews, P. K. Naidoo, A. J. Gabru, M. G. Patel, A. M. Bayat, A. I. Kaji.

#### VICEROY'S REPLY

In replying to the above address, His Excellency the Viceroy said:—

Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and Gentlemen, it has given me great pleasure to receive here to-day a deputation of Members of the Council of State, the Legislative Assembly, and the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, and the Delegates of the Transvaal British Indian Association and of the Natal Indian Congress on the subject of the status of the Indians domiciled in the Union of South Africa. You are I am sure well aware that the grave importance of the questions which you have brought to my notice, has not been overlooked by the Government of India. We have twice sent Sir Benjamin Robertson to South Africa to present the Indian case before Commissions appointed to enquire into various aspects of the Indian problem. We have also urged the claims of the Indians to equality of status in the Self-Governing Dominions at the Imperial Conferences of 1918 and 1921 with results that are known to all of you, and we are at the present moment in correspondence with the Union Government regarding the measures which they may take to give effect to the recommendations of the Asiatic Enquiry Commission.

#### INDIA'S CAUSE

I cannot make public the representations and recommendations which we have made, but I can assure you that we have firmly and vigorously championed the Indian cause. Nevertheless, I regard your Deputation as very opportune and must congratulate you on the ability with which you have represented your case. In the midst of the more pressing preoccupations of internal politics, some of you may possibly have feared that my Government may have lost sight of a problem to which, as I am well aware, Indians of all classes attach the highest importance.

#### A RE-ASSURANCE

I am glad to be able to re-assure you on the point, and to inform you that my Government are following with close attention all developments in the situation of South Africa, which touch the interests of the domiciled

Indian community. So long as Indians do not enjoy the full Parliamentary and Municipal franchise throughout the Union, the Government of India feel that they cannot wholly dissociate themselves from responsibility for the welfare of a community whose very existence originated in an organised system of recruitment to which they were in the past a consenting party.

#### THE DISABILITIES

The account which you have given of the disabilities to which Indians are subject in Natal, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State is substantially correct, and the extent to which these can be removed or mitigated is a question to which we hope the Union Government will address itself in the near future.

#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S SUPPORT

Our own views on the subject have been ably set out by Sir Benjamin Robertson in his statement before the Asiatic Enquiry Commission and have been embodied in the published Memorandum which our representatives placed before the last Imperial Conference.

#### LIBERAL "CAPE"

I agree with you that the success in the Cape Province of the Liberal and statesmanlike policy of treating Indians on the same footings as all other classes of His Majesty's British subjects affords a strong argument in favour of the adoption of a similar policy towards Indians in other provinces. The party antagonistic to Indian claims is strong and active, and it must necessarily take time before we can win over public opinion to the policy which we urge.

#### THE ASPIRATIONS

I note with pleasure your statement that the domiciled Indian community in South Africa desire to progress in education and are determined to prove themselves in all respects as deserving as the Europeans of the full rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Thus, I am confident, of a true avenue of advance. The British citizen, in whatever part of the world he may be, has a strong sense of fairplay, and I feel sure that when he finds his Indian fellow-citizens in the Union steadfastly proving themselves, by their conduct, useful and loyal members of the body-politic, he will not persist in withholding from them the status which they justly claim. I am glad that you recognise that it is to the Union Government that Indians must look for the redress of their grievances.

#### NON-INTERFERENCE PRINCIPLE

While we are determined to do whatever lies within our power to forward the reasonable aspirations of Indians domiciled in the Self-Governing Dominions and to press constantly and consistently for the recognition and application of the broad principles of equal citizenship for which we contend, we are sure that you will agree that we must respect the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of the self-governing Dominions and that any interference that might seem to infringe this principle would not be conducive to the good of the Indian community.

#### A DISTINCT ADVANCE

The resolutions of the last two Imperial Conferences regarding the status of Indians mark a distinct advance and demonstrate that public opinion throughout the Empire is moving in the direction which we desire. Time and the justice of our cause are on our side; and with patience and good will on both sides I do not despair of a satisfactory solution.

#### RIGHTS OF INDIANS

The Government of India share the disapproval which you have expressed of the proposal of the majority of the Asiatic Enquiry Commission that the existing rights of Indians to acquire agricultural land should be confined to the coast belt of Natal. They do not regard the reasons adduced in support of that proposal as convincing and they trust that the Union Government will have no hesitation in rejecting it.

#### VOLUNTARY SEGREGATION DISAPPROVED

They are equally at one with you in the objection you take to the Commission's suggestion regarding

voluntary segregation whether residential or commercial.

#### MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE

On the question of the municipal franchise in Natal they do not think that you need entertain any fear that the existing rights of Indians will be curtailed or withdrawn. The action of His Royal Highness the Governor-General in withholding his consent to the Natal Townships Franchise Ordinance, 1921, encourages us to hope that the Union Government will not countenance any action directed against the municipal rights now enjoyed by Indians.

#### THE MIGRATION QUESTION

The restrictions on inter-provincial migration to which you allude are no doubt vexatious to Indians in practice, but in view of the findings of the Asiatic Enquiry Commission in 1914 that this grievance is one of sentiment rather than substance, and their recommendation that the existing law should not be altered, I fear that this is not a matter which we should be well advised to re-open at present. We must beware lest we seem to recede from the position which we explicitly adopted when we accepted the principle embodied in the reciprocity resolution of the Imperial Conference of 1918.

#### REPATRIATION

You have expressed your disapproval of the Union Government's scheme for voluntary repatriation on the ground that it is not in the interests of the Indians concerned and that it is repugnant to Indian feeling that the price of repatriation should be the forfeiture of domicile. The scheme was originally recommended by Sir Benjamin Robertson partly to secure better prospects for those who left the country and partly to secure better treatment for those who remained. It was adopted by the Union Government without previous consultation with the Government of India. But an explicit assurance was given by them at the time that repatriation would be purely voluntary and that it would be left to Indians in South Africa themselves to decide whether they desired to take advantage of the offer. The number of repatriates up to date has not been considerable and no evidence has reached us to justify your fear that the scheme is being utilised to drive Indians out of South Africa.

#### INDIA'S ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

At the same time we are aware that economic conditions in India have altered since its introduction. The cost of living has risen and the demand for labour has diminished. It is possible that some repatriated Indians have found it difficult to earn a livelihood here and to re-adapt themselves to Indian conditions and that they might have been better off, if they had remained in South Africa. I shall cause enquiries to be made on this point and will consider whatever any further action on our part is called for.

#### MANDATED TERRITORY

With reference to the position of Indians in the Mandated territory of South West Africa you are doubtless aware that under the Covenant of the League of Nations it was agreed that South West Africa could best be administered under the laws of the mandatory as an integral portion of its territories subject to safeguards in the interests of the indigenous population. In accordance with this provision the Union Government has applied to the immigration of Indians into this territory the same immigration law as exists in the Union. This law in effect, maintains a discrimination against Asiatics, that was in force under the previous German administration. The Government of India regret the action that has been taken which has the effect of excluding from a mandated territory the nationals of a fellow-member of the League of Nations. Nevertheless, the essential justice of their cause encourages the Government of India in the hope that with the progress of time, these iniquities will be remedied and that before serious practical difficulties arise this grievance will have ceased to exist.

## LORD READING'S SYMPATHY

You have appealed for my sympathy, encouragement and support, and of that I can assure you in full measure. You have asked me to urge on the Union Government that they should satisfactorily settle the Indian question in South Africa once for all. We are doing everything that lies in our power to secure a satisfactory settlement and shall continue to do so. But we must not expect that deep-rooted prejudices and long existing misunderstandings can be swept away in a day.

## GENERAL SMUTS

In General Smuts we recognise a statesman whose broad vision and high ideals should render him sympathetic to the claims of Indians. He has a clear insight into the bearing of these claims on the strength and solidarity of the Empire as a whole. He has very great difficulties to contend with in South Africa and we must be careful to do or say nothing that may weaken his hands in supporting our cause. We have every reason to believe that he is as anxious as we are to see the Indians in South Africa fairly treated and contented and we hope that the difficulties in the way of an acceptable solution of the Indian question in South Africa will not be found insurmountable by a statesman who has played so large a part in solving even more obstinate problems.

## JUSTICE TO INDIA

In conclusion, gentlemen, I can assure you that the points raised in your address will be borne in mind and that we shall not fail in our attitude of constant watchfulness and in our policy of urging the justice of Indian claims. I thank you for having afforded me this opportunity of meeting you and explaining to you the policy which is being followed by the Government of India regarding South African affairs.

## INDIANS IN AFRICA

## NATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL

## PLEA FOR EQUAL TREATMENT

The following statement on Indians in Africa, agreed upon by the National Missionary Council of India, Burma and Ceylon, at its recent meeting at Poona in January and reaffirmed at its executive meeting in Calcutta on February 21 and 22 is published in the Indian papers:—

The attention of the National Missionary Council has been directed to the position of Indians in East Africa.

The Council has not, in the time at its disposal, been able to deal with all the aspects of this question, but desires to call public attention to the following statements which are of cardinal importance in the matter.

First, a resolution of the Conference of Prime Ministers and representatives of the United Kingdom, the Dominions and India held in 1921 contains the statements that "there is an incongruity between the position of India as an equal member of the British Empire and the existence of disabilities upon British Indians lawfully domiciled in some other parts of the Empire," and that "it is desirable that the rights of such Indians to citizenship should be recognised."

Second, the present Secretary of State for the Colonies has made the statement that "there should be no barrier of race, colour or creed which should prevent any man by merit from reaching any station if he is fitted for it."

The National Missionary Council heartily welcomes these statements and hopes that the Government of the Union of South Africa may soon see its way to give its adherence to them.

The National Missionary Council heartily supports the Government of India in its efforts to secure just treatment for the Indian community in East Africa. The Council holds that if the British Government has

adopted the principles which underlie the statements quoted above, it is unjust to refuse to apply these principles in a single case like that of East Africa.

It has been brought to the notice of the Council that some prominent advocates of the policy of restricting the citizen rights of the Indians in East Africa have publicly stated that they advocate this policy in the interests of Christianity. To this plea the Council unhesitatingly replies that the interests of Christianity have never been advanced by denying to anyone justice and fair play.

## THE HON. MR. SASTRI

## INTERVIEWED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Rt. Hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri who returned to India from Europe in the middle of last March was interviewed by the Associated Press of India. The following are some of the interesting questions and the answers given to them by Mr. Sastri:—

## MAHATMA'S CONVICTION

Mr. Sastri, in an interview with the diplomatic correspondent of the London *Daily News* you were reported to have said that if Government should feel that the time had come when Mr. Gandhi's anti-Government activities should no longer be allowed to continue, Moderate Indian opinion would range itself behind the Indian Government. Now that has been closely followed by the arrest and the conviction of Mr. Gandhi. Will you express your opinion on the subject?

No, I am sorry I cannot express any opinion on that point.

## TOUR TO AUSTRALIA AND CANADA

What is your mission in proceeding to Australia and Canada?

I understand the Assembly has sanctioned the budgetted item for my tour. (Press, "Yes"). My mission is to represent to the Dominion Governments and Parliaments the necessity of conferring full local franchise on lawfully resident Indians. There are some disabilities from which they suffer to-day, and as the existence of those disabilities have been pronounced by the highest authorities to be incongruous with the position of India as an equal member of the Commonwealth, I am to see what can be done by negotiations to get Indians there equal rights.

But the principle of reciprocity has already been accepted by most of the Dominions?

But the Dominions have their own legislatures and the latter have to change their laws. In these matters what the Imperial Conference decides is not held to be an authority. Local parliaments have got to sanction the necessary laws.

Q.—Was there any resentment in the Washington Conference on the part of the Western nations against the advent of the Eastern nation in their councils?

A.—No, on the other hand I was received with the utmost cordiality, and as I sat down to sign the Treaty I received a cheering as the representative of India.

## NEAR EAST CONFERENCE

Q.—Have you anything to say regarding the Near East Conference?

A.—I can't say anything definitely. All that I can say is that what Turkey has not been able to achieve through diplomacy she has achieved through the success of her arms.

Q.—You delivered some lectures in America on Indian politics. Will you tell me what was your aim in doing so?

A.—Have they been telegraphed here. (Press, we are posted up-to-date with your movements and utterances.) I delivered those lectures with a view to enlist American sympathy in favour of the movement in India for Dominion status.

# NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

## Statement Of Receipts And Expenditure For Year Ended 31st December 1921

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
By Subscriptions	132 17 0	To Deputation's Expenses to Johannesburg	15 0 0
		Cable Expenses to London	8 11 0
		do do do India	5 8 1
		Janion's opinion re Tramway matter	5 5 0
		Advertising	3 12 3
		Printing and Stationary	3 8 0
		Postages and Petty Expenses	1 13 6
		Telegraphic Address	1 1 0
		Wires to Centres within the Union	12 3
		Bank Charges	3 0
		Balance in Bank	44 14 1
			88 2 11
	<u>£132 17 0</u>		<u>£132 17 0</u>

I certify that I have this day examined the books and vouchers of the Natal Indian Congress and find them to be true and correct.

(Sgd.) S. J. RANDERIA  
Auditor.

Durban, 22nd April 1922.

{ (Sgd.) O. H. A. JHAVERI  
{ (Sgd.) V. S. C. PATHER  
Joint Treasurers.

## Supplementary Statement of Receipts and Expenditure For Period Ended 21st April 1922

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURE	
By Balance as at		To T. M. Naiker' Salary from 4/12/21	
31/12/21	88 2 11	to 31/3/22	35 0 0
" Tax for 1922	64 8 0	Printing and Stationary	34 0 6
" Subscriptions		Est. M. H. Cassim Rent of Congress	
for 1922	120 4 6	Hall 1/1/22 to 30/4/22	18 0 0
	184 12 6	Cable Expenses to India	15 0 8
		Advertising	12 16 2
		Painting Congress Offices	6 4 9
		Subscription-Gazette & Newspapers	5 3 0
		Wreaths	3 13 6
		Special Tram Car "Mahatma's Day"	3 0 0
		Petty Expenses including Bank	
		Charges	11 0 6
		Wires to Centres within the Union	2 13 10
		Balance in Bank	147 2 11
	<u>£272 15 5</u>		<u>£125 12 6</u>
			<u>£272 15 5</u>

I certify that I have this day examined the books and vouchers of the Natal Indian Congress and find them to be true and correct.

(Sgd.) S. J. RANDERIA  
Auditor,

Durban, 22nd April, 1922.

{ (Sgd.) O. H. A. JHAVERI  
{ (Sgd.) V. S. C. PATHER  
Joint Treasurers.