

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

AT a crowded meeting of Johannesburg Indians held at the Patidar Hall, Newton, on the 2nd October, to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 53rd birthday, the following resolution was carried:—"This mass meeting of the Transvaal British Indian Association prays that the Almighty may grant our revered leader Mahatma Gandhi many long years of life and health and in His great mercy spare that great son of India so that he may live to see the attainment of full Swaraj by his beloved country."

Speaking on the life of Mr. Gandhi, the Chairman recalled how the present leader of India in his early youth was a humble legal practitioner at Johannesburg. It was wonderful, he said, to think how in a strange wilderness such as South Africa, a great leader of the type of Mahatma Gandhi should have been raised. If only for that historical fact, the connection between South Africa and India would always be held by Indians everywhere in fond memory.

The following resolution was also passed at the above meeting:—"This mass meeting views with concern and anxiety the policy of the British Premier in the Near East affecting Islamic interest and is of opinion that persistence in such policy must assuredly be calculated to strain to the utmost loyalty of the millions of not only the King Emperor's Mahomedan subjects but the millions of their Hindoo brethren in sympathy."

The London correspondent of the *Advocate of India* writes on the rumour that the Prince of Wales will visit South Africa next year:—

The Prince will find many Indian subjects in South Africa. Every town in the country has its Indian street, and the fruit and vegetable trade is almost entirely in Indian hands. Personally, I found them a hard-working, law-abiding race, though some of the smaller traders, aliens who came from European States, raised an outcry against the Indians on the ground that they lowered the standard of living and rendered it difficult for a white man to earn a living in competition with them. Some of these "white men" had little claim to that title..... Indians have no reason to be ashamed of their fellow-countrymen in Africa. They settle down into good citizens in their new surroundings.

"13" is considered to be an unlucky number but the following outlet proves that it is not always so:—

Mr. D. M. J. Hill, the Managing Director of an engineering works at Derby, has been under its hypnotic influence all his life, and seems to be going on well still. He was born on the 13th day of the month, joined the army on the 13th and went to France on the 13th. His registered number was 1 (768) 3, his corps was the 13th, he went on leave on the 13th and returned on the 13th. He was "demobbed" on the 13th and finally discharged on the 13th. He started in the works on the 13th, lived in one house for 13 years, married on the 13th at 13 o'clock, even his laundry number is "13."

A Reuter's correspondent at Allahabad says, reports from the Punjab show that the agitation is rapidly developing into a formidable revolutionary movement. The gravity of the situation has recently been increased by secretive propaganda throughout India, including the Indian regiments. The correspondent understands that the Khilafat Committee is inviting the Governments of Aqora, Iraq, Egypt, Persia and other Moslem countries to send delegates to the Khilafat Conference at Gaya in December. A Calcutta message states that the Khilafat Committee has decided to present an aeroplane to Mustapha Kemal.

Mr. C. F. Andrews is reported to have presented all caskets received by him during his South African tour to the Tilak Swaraj Fund, and the trustees of this Fund have presented them to the Gujarat National University to be kept in its museum.

The Reception Committee of the Indian National Congress at its meeting held at Gaya has nominated Mr. C. R. Das as the President of the next Congress as recommended by the majority of the Provinces.

We regret that owing to unavoidable circumstances we have been able to place in the hands of our readers for the last two weeks a smaller issue of our paper than usual. We hope to produce the ordinary size from next week.

INDIANS IN NATAL

Commenting on the Union Government's action in assenting the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance as passed by the Natal Provincial Council, Mrs. Basant's organ *New India* writes:—

"The Union Government, after the show they made of giving some support to the Indian demands, have let down the Indians badly, for, it is now open to the Durban Town Council to effectively prohibit Indians from owning any land anywhere in that Borough. It is in a position to enforce both residential and trade segregation in direct contravention even of the recommendations of the Asiatic Enquiry Commission, which only recommended voluntary segregation. Indians in South Africa, and the Government of India should not give up the fight against this outrageous principle and should persist in demanding the disallowance of the Ordinance, for, the consequences of its adoption, great as they are even now, will be able all the greater if the resolution adopted by the Natal Provincial Council during its sessions in May, suggesting to the Executive Committee of the Council the introduction of a measure to vest in the Town Councils of all Municipalities and Townships in Natal the powers given to the Durban Council by the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance, is adopted. That would amount to nothing short of compulsory racial segregation of Asiatics in all the Townships and Municipalities of Natal. None can face such a prospect complacently. Yet, unless India presses her case

with all the force at his command, that may be the result. The whole policy of the Natal Provincial Council is inspired by a determination to make the position of the Indian uncomfortable and to oust him from the country by shutting him out of all possible occupations. Educated public opinion even in South Africa cannot look upon such tactics as good for either the Union or for the Empire."

"THE AFRICANDAR BOND"

An esteemed correspondent from Ventersdorp sends us a circular which is being distributed broadcast in the Town of Ventersdorp in particular and throughout the Western Transvaal in general by a section of the white storekeepers who have formed themselves into a body styled "The Africandar Bond." An appeal is made in this circular to the white population to desist from buying goods from the Asiatic trader. The "Africandar Bond" has been sufficiently well advertised through the Anti-Asiatic League to require any introduction, but this circular is a record one in which a self-introduction of that "Bond" is given. We reproduce below the contents of the circular:—

YOU ARE A TRAITOR TO YOUR COUNTRY

IF

you are buying your goods from the Asiatic. The small saving effected by buying catch lines at a Coolie store is counterbalanced by excess profit on other lines, thus the apparent saving is tantamount to a

BRIBE.

This glorious country, which was bought by the Blood of our Ancestors and the Sweat of our Pioneers,

YOU

are SELLING to the COOLIE and his progeny ;
Money is the Key to Indisputable Power.

Every penny that you spend at an Asiatic store helps to fashion that Key—that will open the door to Supremacy for him in the land of YOUR birth—that will assure another VICTORY for the CRESCENT over the CROSS.

The future for Him is Progression !

The future for Us is Retrogression !

Do you realise that the goods you are buying

CHEAPLY TO-DAY,

will be paid for by your children,

DEARLY TO-MORROW ?

What False Economy is this !—

Thro' your wanton indiscretion you have been helping to BREAK YOUR NATION. Help us to RE-BUILD OUR NATION by becoming an Active Member of

THE AFRICANDAR BOND

Every Man, Woman and Child must become a Purple Crusader.

Any comment on the above would be superfluous. The only thing surprising is that the Government, so far as we are aware, has taken no steps to prevent this mischievous movement calculated to break the peace. It can be presumed, therefore, that the movement has the full support of the Government.

LO! THE POOR INDIAN

Salem Aug. 23.—When the Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri was in Sydney, in Australia, he was approached by some of the Indians there who requested him to move the Australian Government to allow Dr. Manilal to settle in Sydney and practice as a Barrister. Merchants Nur Mahomed, Nur Dad, Mangur Ram, Sulaiman Effendi Syed Mahomed and others of Sydney have written a letter to Dr. Manilal saying that Mr. Sastri felt himself unable to give any positive reply to their request, but promised to speak to the Fijian, New Zealand and Australian Governments on the matter.

The following article appearing in the *Fiji Times and Herald* of 1st May 1922, gives an idea of the conditions of the Indians there, and the views of Pandit G. S. Sharma, who was one of the members of the recent Fiji Deputation:—

Sharma's Tales of Life in Fiji
(Fiji Times and Herald)

Sydney, April 19.—One of the members of the Indian Delegation—Pandit G. S. Sharma—last himself go to a gathering of his countrymen in Sydney last Friday.

"After deep consideration, we have found that the whole system under which Indians work in Fiji is cruel," he said, adding: "It remains for the Indian Government to give the state of affairs existing, its most urgent consideration."

Pandit Sharma spoke in the native tongue—Urdu—and his address was translated by Mr. Tas Kivanagh, a veteran Anglo-Indian army man of Sydney.

It is understood that the report which Pandit Sharma will present to the Government on his return contains the following among its recommendations:—

(1) That no more Indians will be allowed to leave India for Fiji, unless under engagement at 5/- per day.

(2) That unless the C. S. R. Co. will agree to pay the 60,000 already there 5/- a day instead of 1/6 a day, the Company be compelled to repatriate them.

"In Fiji," related Pandit Sharma, "ten Indian men are allowed to consort with three Indian women. The agreement with the C. S. R. Co. allows 30 women to leave India with every 100 men. But the women also have to work, and often they are sent miles away from their husbands to hoe the fields. If a man dies leaving a wife and children, his property is held in trust by the Government until it can be proved by certificate that the wife and children were actually his. In the meantime she gets nothing, her own people having to supply her with food."

Pandit Sharma spoke at great length on the conditions of work and wages.

"Work," he told his audience, "starts in the cane fields at 5.30 a. m. and concludes at 6.30 p. m. at the earliest. Wages are 1/6 per day, but out of this the labourer is obliged to spend 1/- per day on food. To do his work, he must buy at least two meals a day at 6d. each. The rations given by the Company are 1 lb. of rice per day and a daily allowance of dhal, one ounce.

"Most of the Indian labourers go bare-footed. The Company does not provide clothing nor blankets, and in the two worst winter months, June and July, there is acute suffering from cold. Some have a "charpie" (bedstead), but others sleep on long grass laid on a dais of clay. Men living under these conditions

had their constitution ruined within 20 years," he alleged.

"These recruits leave India under agreements," he said, but Pandit Sharma alleges that upon their arrival at Fiji, "these are sometimes altered."

"If a man goes to goal he forfeits everything he is entitled to under the agreement," he stated.

"Single passages back home are granted to Indians who have served five years with the Company and worked a similar period on the land for themselves. But should they, after thus qualifying, leave Fiji temporarily, upon their return they find this right forfeited."

Mr. Corbett praised Gandhi in an interview in the *Sunday Morning Herald*. He described Gandhi as a fine character, a great man, and good one.—*New India*.

SIR M. O'DWYER ON INDIA

The following is the concluding portion of Sir M. O'Dwyer's article on "India without Mr. Montagu and Gandhi" in the August number of the *Fortnightly Review*, summarising the article:—

I. Public security:—Maintain authority by adhering to the British principle of enforcing the law steadily, impartially, and without respect of persons.

II. Finance and Defence:—Retrench waste, especially in the civil establishments, but do not further cut down the small and already reduced army, British and Indian, before a reliable territorial force is established to supplement it. Insist on self-defence as a condition precedent to self-government. Broaden the basis of the present light but unequal taxation, and place the burden on the shoulders best able to bear it.

III. Legislative Councils and Ministers:—Remember that these at present have no real democratic basis, no mandate from the masses, and need official guidance and control until they give proof of a spirit of co-operation with Government and a spirit of responsibility to the people:—both of which are so far lacking. Parliament should give effect to its declaration in the Act of 1919, that no further advance towards responsible Government will be sanctioned till it has been satisfied by the experience of ten years working that those conditions have been fulfilled.

IV. The Imperial services and the masses:—A strong and capable British element will be needed for generations to come if the standards of integrity, impartiality, and efficiency already attained are to be maintained and the interests of the masses, especially the lower castes, duly safeguarded. This British element can now only be secured by a Parliamentary guarantee of a fixed number of appointments, of minimum pay, and of leave and pensions from the Imperial Parliament. The officers of these services, British and Indian, are the agents of Parliament which, through them, discharges its statutory "responsibility for the welfare and advancement of the Indian peoples." If they are to carry on that work in the interests of the peoples it is only just and reasonable that their status should be guaranteed by their employer, the Imperial Parliament. The Prince of Wales, in his first public reference to Indian affairs since his return, at the Downing Street banquet, July 4th, aptly said of the services, "these are loyally assisting India to fulfil her destiny and deserve in return the loyal support of all at home." The Prime Minister on the same occasion gave the assurance that "we understand their trials, and are determined to uphold and reward their services as they deserve to be upheld and rewarded." These assurances can only be fulfilled by a statutory guarantee.

"ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE"

(SUSPOSED TO BE UTTERED BY A "WHITE COLONIAL")

One, two, buckle my shoe;
'Tis the only thing the Indians should do.

Three, four, shut the door
In the face of the Indian; we want'em no more.

Five, six, pick up sticks;
And build a fence these Doggarism to fix,

Seven, eight, lay them straight;
Make the laws stricter, though fools may prate.

Nine, ten, a good fat hen,
She shall lay gallop eggs, for the true white men.

Eleven, twelve, who will delve?
'Tis easy, we know; any promise to shelve.

Thirteen, fourteen, Lattices are coming
British good will; in a spirit quite sporting.

Fifteen, sixteen, Indians are kissing
And embracing each other, so chance they're missing.

Seventeen, eighteen, we're all a'waiting
The end of this nice little game, Indian baiting.

Nineteen, twenty, our plate shall be empty
For the Indian is needed to secure peace and plenty.

ZERO.

New India.

અધિકારીના સંખ્યા

વર્ગ	૧૯૨૨	૧૯૨૮	૧૯૨૧	૧૯૨૨	ક. ખી.	ક. ખી.
મુક	૧૩	૧૬	૨૧	૪	૫-૨૫	૬-૮
શ્રી	૧૪	"	૨૨	૫	૫-૨૪	૬-૯
સી	૧૫	"	૨૩	૬	૫-૨૨	૬-૯
સી	૧૬	"	૨૪	૭	૫-૨૧	૬-૧૦
સી	૧૭	"	૨૫	૮	૫-૨૦	૬-૧૧
સી	૧૮	"	૨૬	૯	૫-૧૯	૬-૧૨
સી	૧૯	"	૨૭	૧૦	૫-૧૮	૬-૧૨

સીડીયા કન્ડીયા સ્ટીમ નેવીનેશન કંપની

સ્ટીમરોની અવર

સ્ટી. "ટરોયા" અક્ટોબર તા. ૧૬ થીના અરખાઈ ઉપર.

સ્ટી. "કારાગોલા" અક્ટોબર તા. ૩૦ થીના અરખાઈ ઉપર.

વધુ ખુલાસો.

સિમ્લો હિલ્સ, ૬૦૦ પાર્સન સ્ટ્રીટ, ડરમન,
ને સ્થાયી અથવા અથવા સ્થાયી મળી શકે.