

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

REV. Charles Philips is one of the most respected among Christian missionaries in South Africa. The following is his tribute to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's work which is published in *Young India* from his letter to Mahatma Gandhi:—

It is a very long time since any communication has passed between you and me. I have felt every moment of your time was too sacred to be spent on replying to any letter as I could write. But Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has been here and I have seen much of her and she has laid upon me the solemn charge that I should write to you at once. She left yesterday and to-day is at Maritzburg. After "circuiting" to Cape Town she is coming back here and then I shall see her again. I could not however see her with a clear conscience unless I could tell her that I had fulfilled her request. This is my apology for troubling you with a letter from me. I could write all day and still leave much unsaid. Therefore I must try to write "*multum in parvo*" as far as I can. I need not say very much about the wonderful success which has attended her mission to Johannesburg. Others will write to you full and detailed account but they will give you no adequate account. She has been your alter Ego, *Gandhi Redious* bringing back to us something of the idealism and lofty spiritual purpose which we perceived so long ago. We thank God for her visit, for her burning words, for the divine truths and Christ-like thoughts she has impressed upon us. The whole of the Indian community has risen to her call and a large part of the white community as well.

The following is a report of a case which was heard in the City Court (Maritzburg) as reported in the *Natal Witness*:—

J. S. Herbst, European, at the City Court before Mr. M. G. Fannin yesterday, was sentenced to three months' hard labour and 10 cuts of the cane for the offence of *crimina injuria* against an Indian woman, at the corner of Commercial Road and Prince Alfred Street at 5.50 p.m. on May 30. Having been found guilty by the Magistrate, previous convictions of (1) "*crimina injuria*," (2) assault, and (3) indecent assault were put in by the Prosecutor (Mr. W. H. Windsor). His Worship said he intended to take a serious view of the offence in view of the previous convictions, and he would be justified in sentencing the accused to three months' imprisonment and 10 cuts of the cane. The sentence would go forward for review.

Calcutta, June 15.—The son of the Swarajist leader Das, is the latest person to be arrested in connection with the passive resistance campaign which has been carried on by Satyagraha reformers for months past in connection with the disputed control of the famous Hindu temple of Tarakeswar.—Reuter.

We are glad to learn that Dr. Mahomed Ali Rana M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., London, has been registered and enrolled as a medical practitioner in Zanzibar. We understand that he is one of the medical men holding London degrees of distinction in medical science and we

feel sure he will be an asset to the medical profession in Zanzibar. He has already opened his dispensary at Kiponda.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

As revised at Special General Meeting held on 7th June 1924 at Durban.

NAME

1. The name of the Association shall be the Natal Indian Congress whose Headquarters shall be in Durban, in the Province of Natal.

OBJECTS

2. (a) To improve the relations between Indians and Europeans and to promote friendliness between those resident in the Province and in the Union.
 - (b) To guard, protect, and improve by legitimate means the status of Indians resident in the Province and to take all necessary steps against any encroachment upon existing rights.
 - (c) To educate Indians, especially born in the Province, and to encourage them to study Indian History, and generally to take an interest in education and, if necessary, to make provision for their education.
 - (d) To co-operate as far as possible with Indian and other communities and organisations in the Union in matters affecting their interests in the Union and elsewhere.
 - (e) And generally to do everything that might tend to place the community on a better footing socially, intellectually, politically, physically and industrially.
3. Every Indian in the Province of Natal over the age of 21 shall be deemed to be, and every person promoting the objects of the Congress may in the discretion of the Committee become a member of the Natal Indian Congress, subject to the provisions of 13 hereof.

4. The affairs of the Congress shall be governed by a Committee consisting of a President, 10 Vice Presidents, two Joint Secretaries, two Joint Treasurers, and 30 Committeemen, who shall be elected at each annual general meeting of the Congress and shall remain in office until their successors are appointed. Such officials shall be representative, as far as possible, of the Indian community.

5. The Committee shall have power to delegate any of its powers to a sub-Committee or sub-Committees who shall in due course report to the Committee and it shall be within the discretion of the Committee to withdraw such delegation of powers.

6. Any vacancy occurring on the Committee shall be filled by the remaining members who shall report such appointment to the next General Meeting.

7. The Committee shall meet at the offices of the Congress, at least once a month on the last Wednesday of the month or on such other date as the Secretaries

may deem fit, for the transaction of general business. Twelve members shall form a quorum.

8. The Annual General Meeting of the Congress shall be held, if possible, in the month of January at such place and time as the Committee may decide.

9. An Executive consisting of the President, four Vice-Presidents, both Secretaries, both Treasurers, and five members of the Committee shall be appointed at the first Committee meeting in each year who shall act in matters of urgency. Six members shall form a quorum.

10. The Secretaries shall keep a Minute Book in which shall be recorded all the transactions of Meetings held from time to time and the same shall at each subsequent meeting be read and confirmed.

11. The Treasurers shall keep proper sets of books reflecting the financial transactions of the Congress which shall be audited by an Auditor to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting in each year. An audited statement shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting which shall in due course be published.

12. Where there are 50 or more members of Congress resident in any area, the Congress Committee on its own initiative, or on the application of twenty-five or more members in such area, shall proceed to the formation of a Branch Congress Committee for such area subject to the following conditions:—

- a. Congress Committee shall delimit the area for a Branch Congress Committee.
- b. A Branch Congress Committee shall be formed from among Congress members in a delimited area.
- c. A Branch Congress Committee shall be governed by a Chairman (who shall in virtue of his office be one of the 10 Vice Presidents referred to in Rule No. 4); 3 or less Vice Chairmen, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than 6 Committeemen, who shall be elected annually.
- d. Annual subscriptions of members (2/6 each) shall be collected by a Branch Congress Committee in its area, which shall retain 50 per cent. for its own purposes and remit the balance forthwith to the Treasurers of the Natal Indian Congress.
- e. A Branch Congress Committee shall be entitled to collect subscriptions in its area for any special purpose provided it has first obtained the approval of Congress Committee for such purpose.
- f. A Branch Congress Committee shall, for Congress, collect subscriptions for any particular object at the request of Congress Committee.
- g. Congress members resident in an area governed by a Branch Congress Committee shall elect the Branch Congress Committee in their area, which shall call its members in its area together from time to time to take their opinion on any questions.
- h. A Branch Congress Committee shall manage and act in its local affairs and give effect to the resolutions and acts of Congress and of Congress Committee and from time to time report to Congress Committee.
- i. A Congress member resident in any area shall be entitled to participate at any meeting of Congress and to be elected to any office subject to all the other Rules of Congress, however, with the exception that such a member cannot act independently of his Branch Congress Committee in his area and in his communications to Congress.
- j. A Branch Congress Committee shall be entitled to send three representatives or their duly appointed alternates to all Committee and other Meetings of Congress.
- k. A Branch Congress Committee shall keep Minute and Account Books for the recording of its doings and a copy of the Minutes of every meeting shall be sent to Congress Committee for its information.

- l. An Annual Report and Financial Statement by each and every Branch Congress Committee, duly audited, shall be forwarded to the Congress Committee on being notified of the Annual General Meeting of the Congress.
- m. A Branch Congress Committee and the members in its area shall not do any act or thing repugnant to or inconsistent with the Constitution and Rules of Congress.
- n. A Branch Congress Committee shall be designated as follows:—"The Natal Indian Congress—Maritzburg Branch Committee," and so on in respect of each Branch Committee.
- o. Upon the application of 10 Indian women, in any delimited area, to the Branch Congress Committee of such area or on its own initiative, it may form a Women's Auxiliary Branch subject to the following conditions:—
 - p. There shall be at least 25 Indian women resident in an area to constitute an Auxiliary.
 - q. An Auxiliary shall be subject to supervision of Branch Congress Committee to which it is attached. Such supervision shall be reasonably exercised allowing an Auxiliary the power to do everything for the women and generally to help its Congress Branch Committee and the Congress Committee and Congress.
 - r. An Auxiliary shall be governed by a Chairlady, 3 Vice-Chairladies, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and not less than 5 Committeewomen and they shall be elected annually by the women members of the Auxiliary.
 - s. The annual membership subscription to an Auxiliary shall be 2/6 and such subscriptions shall be used for the purposes of the Auxiliary.
 - t. An Auxiliary shall be entitled to collect subscriptions for any special purpose provided it has first obtained the approval of its Branch Committee for such purpose.
 - u. Women members of an Auxiliary shall be called together from time to time by their Auxiliary Committee for the consideration of any matter. An Auxiliary Committee shall be subject to the will of its members, provided nothing is done inconsistent with the Rules of Congress.
 - v. Every Auxiliary shall keep at least a Minute Book and an Account Book for the recording of its doings.
 - w. An Annual Report and Financial Statement by each and every Auxiliary, duly audited, shall be forwarded in duplicate to its Branch Congress Committee and such Branch Committee shall forward one of these copies with its Annual Report and Financial Statement to the Congress Committee as provided in Cause (1) hereof, and shall likewise at all times forward to the Congress Committee a copy of every Report sent to it by an Auxiliary.
 - x. By Courtesy two representatives from each Auxiliary shall be entitled to attend meetings of their Branch District Committee and likewise all members of Auxiliaries shall be entitled to attend and speak at all meetings of Congress.
 - y. It shall be in the discretion of the Congress Committee to convene annually or otherwise a Conference of at least three representatives from each of the Auxiliaries on important matters.
 - z. An Auxiliary shall be designated as follows:—"Natal Indian Congress—Maritzburg—Women's Auxiliary" and so on in respect of each delimited area.
13. The membership annual subscription shall be the sum of two shillings and six pence payable on enrolment and in subsequent years before the holding of the Annual General meeting.
14. Any member failing to pay his subscription as

provided herein shall ipso facto cease to be a member but shall be entitled to exercise his powers as a full member on payment of his arrear subscriptions.

15. The Committee shall be entitled to draft and pass rules for the regulation of its work and shall have all general powers for the carrying into effect of the objects of Congress.

16. The President shall preside at all meetings or in his absence one of the Vice Presidents, and in their absence a member of the Committee shall be elected to preside. The Committee, however, may appoint one of its members as a Chairman of the Committee.

17. The proceedings of Meetings shall be carried on in English but any member may speak in any of the Indian languages.

18. Any member may be called upon by the Chairman to interpret to the meeting the speeches of any other members when such is necessary.

19. All moneys of the Congress shall be deposited in a Bank approved by the Committee.

20. All cheques on the Congress Account shall be signed by the President, either of the Treasurers and counter-signed by one of the Secretaries, but cheques in favour of the Congress may be endorsed by one of the Treasurers for the purpose of depositing same in Bank.

21. The Secretaries shall have power to incur expenditure to the extent of Five Pounds, such expenditure shall be reported at the next Committee meeting for confirmation.

22. The name of any member of the Committee who without just cause being shown fails to attend any three consecutive meetings of the Committee shall be removed from the list of members of the Committee, fourteen days' written notice duly registered having previously been given to such member of the intention of the Committee so to remove his name, and such member having failed to assign good reasons for such non-attendance.

23. The Honorary Officers and members of the Committee shall hold office for a period not longer than one year or until the next annual general meeting thereafter. But they or any of them shall be eligible for re-election.

24. All immovable properties of the Congress shall be vested in the name of nine Indian Trustees who shall be appointed from among the members of the Congress at a General or a Special General Meeting by a two-third majority of those present and eligible to vote. Such Trustees shall as far as possible be representatives of every section of the Indian community.

25. A Trust Deed shall be drawn up clearly defining the duties and powers of Trustees which shall be submitted to a General Meeting of the Congress for confirmation, and such Deed shall provide for their removal, re-election, in case of resignation, death or otherwise.

26. There shall be a special condition in the Trust Deed that the properties of the Congress shall not be sold, mortgaged, encumbered or otherwise alienated by the Trustees or their powers substituted without the consent and authority of a General Meeting of the Congress. Thirty days' notice of such motion shall be given to all members and such motion shall be carried by a two-third majority of those present and actually taking part in the voting.

27. Mass Meetings of Indians on matters of importance may be called whenever necessary by the Committee and at such meetings those present shall have the right to exercise their votes on matters submitted to them.

28. The foregoing rules may be amended, revised or added to at the Annual General Meeting of the Congress or at a special General Meeting called for that purpose by a two-third majority of those present, thereat, provided, notice of such amendment, revision or addition be given to the Secretaries. Thirty days before such annual, or Special general meeting, and the Secretaries shall notify members at least one week prior to the

meeting and a copy of such amendment, revisions or addition shall appear on the notice convening the meeting.

29. The Secretaries shall call a special general meeting of the Community on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than nine members of the Committee stating the reasons for the calling of such meeting and likewise a special General Meeting on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than twenty five members of the Congress and the Secretaries shall call such meetings within thirty days of the receipt of the requisition giving due notice of the reasons for calling same. Notices of all General Meetings shall be inserted in the Indian press in English, Hindi, Gujarati, and Tamil languages.

30. A copy of the Rules and regulations shall be supplied to any member of the Congress on application and on payment of the cost price thereof.

BAN ON GUJARATI

By MR. C. F. ANDREWS IN "YOUNG INDIA"

During the weeks that I spent in London last year the subject that occupied a great part of my attention was *Tanganyika*. For two months a strict hartal had been kept by all the Indian shop-keepers as a protest against three things: (I) Enhanced taxation (II) Annual renewal of licenses (III) The new regulation that account books were to be kept in English or in Swahili with English script. Mr. Tyabai from Zanzibar was sent over on deputation, and I was asked by cable to join him in approaching the Colonial Office. As the hartal was causing the greatest suffering and loss, I went to the extreme limit of urgency in pressing forward the settlement of these questions. Meanwhile we urged by cable that the hartal should not be broken. At last we received a partial settlement from the Colonial Office. It was agreed that the small shopkeepers should not be asked to produce their accounts for inspection. It was also agreed that the limit at which taxation should begin should be raised if possible. It was also settled that the annual renewal of licenses should not mean a fresh enquiry and the issue of a new license. We pressed very hard indeed for the permission being granted to the larger shop-keepers to keep their accounts in Gujarati but we could only get on that point a promise that the matter would be carefully looked into. We did not get a complete answer.

Nearly a year has gone by and a new ordinance has now been framed. In other respects it is favourable, but with regard to bookkeeping it is most unfair. French is allowed for Frenchmen, though the number of French traders is infinitesimal. But Gujarati, with whom lies nearly 90 per cent of the trade, are not allowed to use Gujarati. As soon as the news came, I put all the facts before the Colonial Committee, and I am certain that they will do their very utmost to get this scandalous injustice right. I have also cabled to the League of Nations Union in London, putting the whole case before them. In London, last year, I had already consulted them, and had received the answer, that if the point actually came forward before the League, we had a very strong case indeed. For, it would be impossible under the Mandate to treat India in a different manner from any other nation. Already this has been proved in other ways. For an attempt was made to prevent the purchase by Indians of landed estates in the Tanganyika Highlands. But this was not possible under the Mandate. From all that I can gather, if the Colonial Office does not give way, they will be made to do so at the next annual revision of the Mandate by the League of Nations.