

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**W**E note from Indian papers that Mr. Das has given notice to move in the Indian Legislative Council, recommending the Council to pay from the Indian revenue all expenses and damages of the suit between Sir M. O'Dwyer and Sir Sankaran Nair.

It has been estimated that total expenses of the O'Dwyer Nair's litigation has reached to a sum of nearly £15,000 sterling.

We call the following notes from *New India* :—

The *Times of India* suggested some time ago that those Indians who do not desire to live in South Africa under the conditions imposed by the Union Government should be received in India and that proper arrangements should be made to absorb them. This course was proposed because repatriation, which was the only alternative, could not be effective. The *Cape Times* puts our contemporary on the back and says that it had been putting forward that very solution.

There is no section of Indian opinion which is favorable to this idea, nor do we believe that any large numbers of Indians in South Africa are willing to be repatriated. Many of them do not know India and would find it very difficult to get on here, as the history of repatriated Indians shows. Voluntary repatriation is now proceeding, but as the conditions under which it is being done are now better known, it is losing its attractions. Mr. Andrews who favored it at one time, is now an opponent of the scheme.

But we do not understand why the *Times of India* should counsel this plan of retreat. Indians are not the aggressors, their cause is just, their methods are not open to objection. It is the South African whites who are in the wrong, it is they who are the oppressors, it is they who are imperilling the Empire by their high-handed and unrighteous attitude. It is because India is a Dependency and is believed to be in a position not to hit back, that her Nationals are being ill-treated. Is all this obstinacy and ill-will to be met by running away from the scene, without giving battle, without even so much as attempting to protect our self-respect? There is nothing further to be done than for the Indian Government to place itself at the head of the Indian agitation and show that India can resent the outrage. The Legislature has given it power to retaliate, and that weapon should be resorted to, without that over-meticulous calculation of advantages and disadvantages which is the blemish of inaction.

The *Bombay Chronicle* points out that Muslims in India can never hope to make any progress worth the name unless Muslim women, as in the early days of Islam's glory, are given the fullest opportunity of self-realization. Similarly they cannot advance the cause of their country unless they are true to the ideal of Islam—namely, universal brotherhood which rules out an aggressive attitude towards other communities. "They must be taught to shrink from no legitimate sacrifice demanded in the cause of national freedom and national unity and far from extorting for themselves special privileges at

the expense of sister communities, they should be willing to surrender as much as they can even of their own proper share of benefits accruing to the nation."

*Swarajya* (May 23, Madras) holds that the Indian Reforms Act is so radically wrong in conception and scope that no amendments or alteration can make it acceptable. It is completely to go giving place to a real and full measure of Self-Government. Even the grant of Provincial Autonomy, unless it is accompanied by full responsibility in the Central Government, will only tend to perpetuate the present system of keeping down the people under the empty forms of Responsible Government. It is hoped that the Assembly will make it plain at the next session that the Reforms Enquiry Committee is entirely unacceptable and will have to be boycotted.

The *Bengalee* (Calcutta) observes that Construction and Obstruction stand so wide apart from each other that they are wholly irreconcilable, and they cannot both be carried on simultaneously, by their respective adherents, without sacrificing cardinal principles and creeds. It is unmistakable that the statements of Mr. Gandhi, Mr. C. R. Das and Pandit Motilal Nehru, instead of running on parallel grounds, indicate a definite cleavage of opinion. While Mr. Gandhi stands out for work outside the Councils, the Swarajist leaders, in spite of their eloquent support of outside work, mean to concentrate their forces within the four walls of the Legislative Councils of the country. That means the paring of ways. It is for the country now to choose between Mr. Gandhi's programme and that of the Swarajya Party.

## SPORTS GROUNDS.

**I**T was somewhere in November 1911 that representations were made to the Town Council of Durban for adequate and properly laid out and equipped grounds for Indian Recreation. Since then, though the Town Council did agree to expend the sum of £4566 on the grounds—some 20 acres—which have been the playing fields well nigh on two decades and did spend, during the time of Mr. Hollander's mayoralty, the sum of £400 as a first instalment of the eventually agreed scheme to be carried out, apart from small sums of £50 expended yearly, it has on some excuse or other deferred the matter of carrying out the agreement with the Durban United Indian Sports Association. It even for a time took up the attitude of denying the rights of Indians to the sporting grounds.

It is, however, now a matter of congratulation that the Town Council has resolved that the Indian Sports Bodies be granted a lease of an area approximately 23 acres lying between the open drain of the Western Vlei and the new road at the foot of Botanic Gardens; that the period of lease be 25 years; and that the onus of laying out and equipping the grounds be upon the Indian Sports Bodies and that for the purpose of assisting them in this direction the Council make a grant of £4000,

such amount to be disbursed by the Council on the certificate of the Borough Engineer as the work progresses.

We do not look upon the terms of the Town Council as the last word upon the subject. It is for those in authority as representing Indian Sportsmen to do the work of laying out and controlling the grounds in such a manner as to justify Indians making a claim for consideration when the occasion or purpose warrants it. But they can do but little unless they have the loyal and enthusiastic support of all sport loving Indians who run into thousands.

These grounds will not only serve as the playing grounds of the followers of Soccer Football, Cricket, Tennis and allied Sports, but a Show Ground for Indians. It may also possess a Hall for public purposes in addition to conveniences of all kinds for those who use the grounds. It is also hoped to make this place a Park for Indians.

We are glad to observe the representative character of the gentlemen who have been appointed Trustees to this very important body which is to be known in future as The Durban Indian Sports Grounds Association. The Trustees are Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, B. M. Singh, V. S. C. Patil, J. M. Francis, S. Emmamally, B. L. E. Sigamoney, A. Sookdeo, E. M. Parik and A. Christopher, and we understand the office of Trustee involves work—active work—according to the Constitution and Rules of the Grounds Association, which we hope to publish in full in our next issue.

We wish the Grounds Association a very useful existence and would at the same time impress upon the Town Council in the words of Mr. Hellander in his mayoral minute of 1924 "that the laying out of these grounds will, I am sure, be highly appreciated by the Indian community and I trust in considering the financial aspect of the question the Council will treat this important section of our burghesses in a liberal spirit.

Mr. Christopher who was the mover in the matter and has been continuously Honorary Secretary of the Sports Association has resigned from the office owing to his impending departure at an early date for Europe. Mr. J. M. Francis has been appointed Chairman with Mr. S. Emmamally as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

### GANDHI AND THE SPINNING-WHEEL

Westerners who have not followed closely the recent movements of opinion in India, will have been puzzled by the resolution submitted by Mr. Gandhi to the All India Congress demanding that Congress officials must spin for at least half an hour daily. Actually it is highly significant of the position which Mr. Gandhi has taken up in recent years. In the first place, no doubt, he turned his attention to the revival of the ancient "cotton industry" of spinning as a means towards weakening Britain's hold upon India. It is a tradition among Britain's enemies in India that Britain holds her great Asiatic dependency only because it provides a market for the cotton industry of Lancashire. And as India can grow all the cotton she needs, Mr. Gandhi argued that she could make herself independent by spinning and weaving her own cotton. Therefore he set himself to foster a revival of the ancient home spinning industry. But there is much more in the movement than that. Mr. Gandhi has come to hate Western civilisation with all its complexity and particularly the machinery which it has invented in order to increase its comforts. He has become an apostle of

the simple life. He has set himself to range the conservatism of the East in direct antagonism to the progress of the West, the hand spinning wheel against the machinery of Manchester, the simplicity of an idealised Arcadian village life against the "Satanic" Western civilisation. It seems that his influence is waning; but no one who seeks to understand the East, or to grasp the conditions of the much more restricted problems of the Government of India, can afford to ignore the curious and interesting example which he has provided of the strength of the extreme conservatism of the masses in India.—*Natal Mercury*.

### "COLOUR BAR WAS FATAL TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE"

According to a Reuter's latest telegram, "Lord Olivier in a speech at the Oxford University Debate referring to Kenya said that he publicly expressed his distaste for the situation created and it must be recognised that both the Labour and Liberal parties sympathised with Mr. Sastri and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru on this point. *He thought the colour bar was fatal to the British Empire.* (Ours italics). His party was not going to attempt to save the British Empire by imposing disabilities on their fellow-subjects." These are brave words given utterance to by the Secretary of State for India. But the proof of the pudding is in its eating and both the Labourites and the Liberals will be judged more by their actions than by the mere expression of sweet words. We think the Labour Government of Mr. Macdonald lost a splendid opportunity of giving effect to their life long principles of fraternity and equality amongst all, but more particularly amongst His Majesty's fellow-subjects by not subverting the Kenya decision of the late Baldwin Government. This decision is so grossly unfair, so very subversive of the very first principle of equality within the Empire, and so cruelly insulting to the honour and self-respect of a great and ancient people that had Mr. Macdonald taken courage in both the hands, instead of biding his time and knowledge to his Liberal and Conservative masters in the House of Commons, and on the first opportunity had given the Kenya irreconcilables to understand that their contention of treating Indians as something less than human beings was irreconcilable with the first principle of Democracy and therefore against the grain of the Labourites, the Whites of Kenya with all their bluff about going on the Indian question, would have at once realised that in the new Imperial Government they had after all got King Stork in place of King Log, and that would have compelled them to change their policy and sing a different tune altogether. We firmly believe that these handful of Kenya Whites would never have gone so far as they did, if they had not found the Baldwin Government too soft and easily pliable. In the Duke of Devonshire as Colonial Secretary they had a Minister after their heart, and His Grace fully came up to all their expectations. Under his regime the strongest link in the chain of colour-bar was forged. During his ministership the Empire was divided into two watertight compartments, inhabited respectively by the White and the Coloured nations of the Empire. The Duke and his weak Government with a mere stroke of the pen undid everything that wise and farseeing Queen Victoria of blessed memory did not consolidate the British Empire. It was truly said that she was the greatest statesman of her times and a great bulwark of the Empire. She, by consolidation and a true womanly instinct brought the Empire together in a peaceful and a harmonious unity, but petty men after her have wasted her proud heritage, by disintegrating where she built, and disuniting where she united by the silken cords of love, justice and

trust. Lord Olivier thinks that the colour bar was fatal to the British Empire. We are glad that he is conscious of the inherent mischief that lurks behind this bar sinister of colour, but has his lordship, by this time, moved even his little finger to undo the mischief both existing and potential? Sweet words butter no parsnips, and sweet and pleasant words are not likely to serve as balm to the injured feelings of Indians. The latter require actions commensurate to the brave words but it is in these actions that unfortunately the Labour Government has proved itself a hopeless bankrupt. Again, the Secretary of State declares that his party was not going to save the British Empire by imposing disabilities on their fellow-subjects. So far, so good. As a pious platitude it reads well. Even axiomatically his lordship's dictum holds good, for at the expense of one part of the Empire, the whole of the Empire cannot be strengthened. By trying to pacify the Kenya Whites at the expense of the Indian fellow-subjects of King George, the short-sighted politicians of the Baldwin Government, have simply shifted the centre of discontent from one place to another, but in a far more magnified and aggravated form. The Labour Government, as we have pointed out above, had a splendid opportunity of undoing the misdoings done by their predecessors, but, so far, they have not availed themselves of this opportunity and let it be declared with the greatest emphasis that as long as the Kenya injustice exists so long will the Labour Government have the word "failure" written indelibly on its face. We, on our part, never expected much from the Labour Government. As we have often said they are all tarred with the same brush. In fact, they are all opportunists, so far as they avail themselves of their newly-acquired opportunity to aggrandise their power for self-glorification. Very few seem to work for the real glory of the Empire or of the principles they so noisily profess.—*Sunj Vartman.*

CONSTITUTION OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

MR. GANDHI INTERVIEWED

Ahmedabad, May 31.

Mr. Gandhi was interviewed by an Associated Press representative regarding his views on the constitution of the Congress. Questioned if in view of his article in *Young India* on the Congress organisation a split in Congress was not a certainty, Mr. Gandhi replied: 'It all depends on what you mean by a split. If you mean parties, yes. Both parties came into being at the Gaya Congress. The House of Commons contains many parties but you do not call their existence a split in the English nation. The Congress will now contain two parties but will have no split I hope. Just as the most popular party in the House of Commons is always in power, so should the most popular Congress party be in power in the national organisation. Just as the Liberals do not and dare not regard the Conservatives or Labourites as their inferiors, so may the non-changers not regard the pro-changers as inferior and *vice versa*. My suggestion attempts at least to avoid a split and provides a most favourable atmosphere for efficiency, even if it does not ensure it. I do not believe in a coalition government at any time, but certainly not when there are vital differences of opinion, or, if you will, different mentalities making for different and diametrically opposite courses of action.'

Asked what he thought would be its effect upon the Government and whether it was likely to destroy all chances of the expected advance in reforms, Mr. Gandhi said: 'I don't think it will. I know it has been suggested that the Government would have trembled if I had made common cause with

the pro-changers. I hold the totally opposite view. Those who are responsible for the conduct of the Government of India are not fools. They are clever and wide awake. They know that all real pressure that is exerted upon them is from the non-changers, because they dread civil disobedience. The organisation of civil disobedience is possible only by those who devote their whole time and attention to it. The Government will certainly chuckle if the non-changers and pro-changers obstruct one another. I shall be no party to any such thing and I do not think the two parties will either. They both want Swaraj and that at the earliest possible moment. Each will, therefore, in its own way work for it. The non-co-operators gave the Liberals, whether they admit the fact or not, prestige with the Government. Pressure in the country outside the Councils of a forward party must always help reformers. I make bold to say that if complete boycotters died out the Councilwallahs will have a bad time in the Councils, always assuming that violence will never be popular in the country. All autocratic Governments must dread the rise of a popular power, especially when it is disciplined and peaceful. The present Government dreads the incoming Hindu-Muslim unity and if the Khaddar programme ever becomes successful, as it must, it will confound them the most. It will convert the Government to the popular view and bring about the most peaceful revolution the world has ever seen.'

અઠવાડીક પંચાંગ

વાર	ખ્રીસ્તી	હીંદુ	મુસલમાન	પારસી	સુર્યાદય	સુર્યાસ્ત
	૧૯૨૪	૧૯૮૦	૧૩૪૨	૧૨૬૩	ક. મી.	ક. મી.
	જુલાઈ	આષાઢ	જલહજ			
શુક્ર	૧૧	સુદિ ૬	૭	૬	૬-૫૬	૫-૧૪
શનિ	૧૨	" ૧૧	૮	૭	૬-૫૬	૫-૧૪
રવિ	૧૩	" ૧૨	૯	૮	૬-૫૬	૫-૧૫
સોમ	૧૪	" ૧૩	૧૦	૯	૬-૫૬	૫-૧૫
મંગળ	૧૫	" ૧૪	૧૧	૧૦	૬-૫૫	૫-૧૬
બુધ	૧૬	" ૧૫	૧૨	૧૧	૬-૫૫	૫-૧૬
ગુરુ	૧૭	વદિ ૧	૧૩	૧૨	૬-૫૪	૫-૧૭

બ્રિટીશ ઈન્ડિયન સ્ટીમ નેવીગેશન કંપની

સ્ટી. "કારાગોલા" જુલાઈ તા. ૨૦ મીના અરસામાં ઉપડશે.

વધુ ખુલાસો

શેખજી હીમેદ, ૩૭૦ પાર્કન સ્ટ્રીટ, ઈન્ડિયન, એ સ્થળે મળવાથી અથવા લખવાથી મળી શકશે.

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