

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

THE proceedings in the Natal Provincial Council on the Municipal Consolidation Ordinance, which we hope to publish in our next issue, make very discouraging reading for Indians. As was reported in these columns the Ordinance, among other things, takes away the Municipal Franchise from Indians. The Congress represented by Messrs. Amod Bayat, V. S. C. Pather, S. R. Naidoo, R. N. Moodley, Charlie Nulliah, S. Rustomjee, and A. Christopher opposed the Ordinance on several grounds before the Select Committee of the Provincial Council. We would urge on our people to leave no stone unturned in their opposition to the Ordinance.

We know and we have heard a great deal of the existence of an Anti-Asiatic League and of its propaganda but we were surprised the other day to learn of the existence of a European Committee for Indian Affairs in Johannesburg from an esteemed European friend who had received an invitation to attend to one of its meetings. We shall be glad to know the objects of this Committee.

The following story of the S. A. Japanese Consul related by the Mombassa correspondent of the *Hindu* (Madras) will give the reader an idea of the Anti-Asiatic feeling existing in East Africa:—

Mombassa, May 27.—I have learnt from a very reliable source that H. E. T. Imai, the South African Japanese Consul, who is recently come on a tour to Eastern Africa, has met with an undreamt of incident. The South African Government had previously by cable instructed the local Government to receive him befittingly and he was so received by the Government officials at his arrival. Arrangements were also made from South Africa that the Japanese Consul should be received by the Manager of the Magadi Soda Company and that he should put the Consul at his bungalow, but owing to certain reasons the Japanese Consul thought it would be better for him to stay at a hotel. A telephone message was sent from the Kilindini Pier to the Manager of the Hotel Metropole, Mombassa, for reserving a room for the Consul. The Manager in reply is said to have stated that he could not reserve a room for him as he was an Asiatic. He (the Manager) was reminded that Imai was a Japanese Consul, to which he is reported to have stated that he would not do it even if he was a governor. Subsequently another telephone message was sent to the Manager of the Manor Hotel, Mombassa, for the reservation of a room for the Japanese Consul, where too the Manager replied that he would lose his boarders and clients if the Japanese Consul were put up there. It is also learnt that pressure was brought upon the Manager but the same was of no avail.

The Durban Extended Powers Ordinance, which became law a short time ago, contains a couple of sections specially dealing with the Indian motor bus traffic and on this basis, it is understood, by-laws are now in course of preparation which it is expected will be ready in time to be presented to the

new Council some time next month. With this additional power, the Borough Police expect to be in a better position to deal with the motor bus traffic and it is expected that special routes will be set apart along which these vehicles will be obliged to travel.

The following is reported by the Bloemfontein correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*:—

At the Criminal Sessions, which opened to-day, James D. Claassens, a Koffiefontein European labourer, appeared on a charge of culpable homicide. The allegations were that on a Sunday morning in March he incited his dog to attack or chase a Native girl, who, to escape the dog, entered the Diep River, and was swept down by a strong current and drowned. According to the evidence for the Crown, the accused was sitting on the weir across the river when five Native girls approached and attempted to cross. The man and dog were in the way and after several requests for a passage had been made he set the dog on to them. The girls ran away, and on the dog pursuing them they entered the water, where the one girl, Johanna, was swept down. According to one of the Natives concerned the accused said: "Go and tell your mother. I will not go and get her out. If she was a white girl I would." To another he was stated to have said: "You are only Natives." Claassens, who went into the witness box, stoutly denied having incited his dog to attack the girls, and his statement was borne out by other witnesses. The jury returned, after an absence of five minutes, with a unanimous verdict of not guilty, and the accused was discharged by the Judge-President.

The following interesting particulars have been received by *Young India* from a friend in Germany about the Indian settlement there:—"The number of the whole Indian community in Germany will not exceed 200 out of which most are students. The general relations between the Germans and the Indian residents are very cordial because the interest displayed in oriental civilisation and culture in Germany and perhaps throughout central Europe is wider and more genuine than one is led to believe. In some of the universities there are Indian readers in the Indian vernaculars such as Hindu and Gujrati. The whole Indian community can be classified as below:—

(a) Merchants:—They are about 30 in all, about 25 of whom are in Hamburg and the rest are in Berlin and other parts.

(b) Students:—There are about 150 students in all studying various subjects. The cost of living has gone up considerably of late and no Indian student has a chance of being self-supporting, with the consequence that a batch of about 30 students left for America only recently. We estimate the all-inclusive cost of living for a student is Rs. 200 per month.

(c) Others:—These mostly belong to the group of political refugees they are engaged in spreading information on Indian affairs and in student-welfare work."

To a question put to him by a representative of the *Times of India*, as to whether he had any practical measure for checking political crimes in Bengal and converting the youth of the Province to his doctrine of non-violence in thought and in action Mr. Gandhi is reported to have replied as follows:—I do, indeed, contemplate measures for checking the activities of these misguided friends of mine. I use the word 'friends' purposely, because I yield to no one in my admiration for the spirit of self-sacrifice that actuates them. But I know that their activity does immense harm to the country. It can never give Swaraj to India, even if it succeeds in making the English rule impossible. I am convinced that the spirit of India is essentially non-violent and gentle. Violence has, therefore, no atmosphere to thrive in and if God grants me health, I hope to be able to overtake the anarchical activities and show to the anarchists that there is more than ample scope for pure and exacting sacrifice in my scheme for achieving Swaraj, and that, if they will only give me their enthusiastic support, they will deserve homage not merely for their motives, but also for their acts, which can be emulated by the least of their countrymen without the slightest hesitation and without any danger to anybody else.

It is understood by Renter that the Nationalist leader, Mr. C. R. Das, is proceeding to England shortly for the purpose of discussing the possibility of an early amendment of the rule under the Government of India Act with a view to permitting a greater number of subjects coming under direct popular control.

The India Colonies Committee has concluded its consultations in regard to the status of Indians in Kerya and Fiji, says a Renter's message from London. The Committee had three conferences with Lord Olivier, Secretary of State for India, three conferences with Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Colonial Secretary, and one with the Colonial Office. At these conferences the Indian standpoint was presented, and the problems to be solved discussed. It is understood that the Committee received no information as regards the decision of the Colonial Office or the Secretaries of State.

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTION

THE Burgesses of the Borough of Durban will have the opportunity, on the 6th of August, to vote for members of the Town Council. Indians as voters in most wards are negligible in numbers. In Ward IV however, they number a few hundreds against thousands of European voters. The Indian vote, if cast for a candidate, would with a fair proportion of European voters make a difference to him. Mr. S. J. Smith stands for Ward IV and is opposed by Mr. Leon Renaud. It is a question now before the Indian voters whether to vote for the old candidate or the new one. Mr. Smith has represented Ward IV for the last two years and there can be no question that within that short period he has done more for this ward than any other person who has represented it. We have but to remind Indians that his insistence and energy and sense of fairplay has brought about the extension of the Indian Market costing some £12000, the asphaltting of the roads in the Indian Market Area, the renewing of roads, the making of new roads, kerbing and channelling of roads in what are known as Indian areas, and the present offer of the Durban Corporation of 23 acres of ground on a

twenty-five years lease with £4000 for improvements. There are other instances of valuable services rendered by Mr. Smith as when he supported the application of the Natal Indian Congress to the Town Council for the premises in the giving of the Council which the Congress was then proposing to use for the purposes of a Free Indian Dispensary and Clinic under the free medical supervision of the late Dr. Hoia Manech. Everybody knows Mr. Smith's work for the Indian Returned Soldier.

We are not concerned with parties. We have to do with men and women. No party stands for the Indian. If there was any doubt, the debate on the Class Areas Bill has dispelled it. Individuals regardless of party, a few it is true, spoke up for the Indian as a human-being, and among those few was Mr. Smith who strongly opposed the Bill.

It is for us as Indians to remember our friends regardless of party connections so long as they are not guided by their party but by their conscience and sense of fairplay and justice, and in this respect Mr. Smith has stood up for justice even at the displeasure of his own party and he has at times fearlessly declared from public platforms that if in standing for justice and fairplay he would be running the risk of being disowned by his party he would not mind it. We take Mr. Smith not only on his word but his actions have in many instances proved his word. Hence we feel that Indians will only be doing the right thing in voting for the man who has proved himself to be their friend in the Council and out of it.

In Ward II where there are a few Indian voters they would do well to remember Dr. Francois and give him their support for he has stood by the Indian and for that matter by every section of the peoples in the Borough.

We do not say we agree we everything they may say or do but we think Indians will be serving themselves by serving those who have been serving them.

#### THE GUJARATI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

##### MAHATMA GANDHI'S ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Mahatma Gandhi the Chancellor of the Gujarati Vidyapith delivered the following interesting address to the Indian students at the opening of the first term of the Gujarat National College in June in Ahmedabad:—

"Since this morning I was thinking of you students, but I could not concentrate on you alone. I was also thinking how best to solve the Hindu-Muslim problem. In the meantime Devidas brought me three letters, which he said must be read before I address the students. One of the letters asked me to burn the Nidyapith. Another complains that the Vidyapith increases luxury among the students and a third from Madras expects from my address something illuminating. I cannot burn the thing which I have started. As regards the character of the students I would refer him to Kirpalani. I cannot destroy anything guided by the criticism of others until I myself am convinced that I don't like it. I do not at all repent for the institution in whose creation I had my hand. You must leave off your narrow spirit. You must accept whatever good you can from anybody, whether he be Gujarati, Deccani, or Sindhi. We have established the institution with the object of non-co-operating with the system of Government. We want to be independent. We

want to control our mind and soul, and we want to become free. This is our ideal, and you will not get these ideals in the Government colleges. Without such true institutions there is no salvation for India, and even if all the students go away from national institutions, I will still be unrepentant. For me there is no other way except the boycott of Government institutions and the boycott will always be with me till my death. These are my views still and they have cemented in the Yervada jail.

#### DON'T WORRY OVER THE FUTURE

As regards the career of students I would ask them to think what a young Englishman would wish. I don't hate the Englishmen. Their ideals are not at all forbidden to us. They do not think in the least how they will support themselves. They have trust in themselves. Similarly, you must have trust in that God who has created you, and who is sure to give you food. You must be at ease and should not think for a moment what will be your career in the future, and how you will support yourselves. The very earth on which I tread should be mine. This should be your ideal, and you must work it up. The only thought which must engage your attention is 'I will not beg from anybody.' If you are determined, you have courage, and trust you will never stomach.

#### TRUST IN YOUR TEACHERS

My last advice is that if you have trust in your teachers you should remain in the national colleges. The moment you think that they are showy, hypocritical (dhongi) without character and not true to their ideals, leave them off. There is no contract between you and the professors. But if you find them full of character and true to the ideals adore them. But you must have trust. Trust them, I repeat, have faith in them, and do your duty, and let your hearts be instilled with the spirit of freedom and nationalism. They illumine the Vidyapith in which you study. Such is my prayer to all students assembled here."

### "ASIA FOR THE ASIATICS"

#### A CHINESE VIEW

[FROM THE "MODERN REVIEW"]

(Continued from page 165)

The following paragraph relates to India and the traditional Indo-Chinese friendship :—

India has a population of 315,000,000 and a large territory of 1,800,000 square miles. Forming the pivot of the British Empire, her position in international diplomacy is not insignificant. In truth, it is because of vindicating her hold on India that Great Britain has incessantly encroached upon Tibet and South China, it is because of India that she seized Hongkong, fortified Singapore, and conquered a long string of stepping stones in the East. Britain is the common foe of China and India. "In terms of past history and mutual interest," says Taraknath Das, "India has many reasons for regarding China with sympathy and friendship. Indo-Chinese understanding for mutual security will eliminate all fears of Russian, British, Japanese, Turkish, or any other imperialism and its aggression against China and India." China and India, let us recollect, lived more than 3,000 years without a war; upon their traditional friendship and co-operation we may lay the cornerstone of Asiatic autonomy."

As regards Britain being the foe of India, whatever may have been the case in times past, we are anxious that Britain should now work out her destiny in India as her friend, helping her to become enlightened, strong and self-ruling, without the least avoidable delay.

Mr. Chuan-Hwa proceeds to tell his readers what sort of India Japan really wants to be evolved.

"As for Japan and other industrial nations a free,

prosperous India would mean great commercial and cultural possibilities in a land which is now practically monopolized by the British. But Japan is anxious not only to extend business relations to a new market; but also to see a free independent India that would be profitable to all Asiatics. Thus Mr. Kawakami remarks: "Japan would undoubtedly prefer British rule for India to German or Russian domination, if the country had to be dominated by some European power; but the point is that she would be reluctant to take part in crushing the just aspiration of the Hindus for independence and freedom." China and Japan, in brief, should not ignore the problems of the Indians, for a free, powerful India would be a source of strength to themselves. The cause of the three hundred million Indians is worth fighting; it is the cause of Asia and of Humanity."

The author huris back the charge of the Yellow races being a Peril to the world. On the contrary, asserts Mr. Chuan-Hwa, there is a real White Peril.

"While Euro-America talks vehemently of the so-called Yellow Peril, the Asiatic nations have for decades, nay, centuries, suffered from an actual White Peril. Danger from the Yellow races, you say? What absurdity! What peril could there be from peoples who sincerely believe in peace at any cost and who go to war only when forced to protect their territorial integrity and political independence? What could industrious trading and agricultural countries do to endanger the security of the Whites who are ever armed to the teeth and whose crowning glory is might, whose pride is militarism, and whose thirst is territory? Yellow Peril there is indeed; but it is peril to, not from the Yellow races. Such is the great scourging reality!"

And in support of his assertion he quotes a distinguished white writer, as follows :—

"And here in lieu of the ignorant diatribes of your journalists, listen for a while to the voice of Dr. Sidney L. Gulick: "The white peril is not exclusively political or military. These are but the means to an end, for the white peril in the Far East is also commercial and industrial. It threatens to destroy long established trade relations, to bring poverty to millions of workers and to divert oriental offers. The white man reaches even further. In the administration of justice the white man's influence, political and financial, is often more effective than right and truth. Still further, the presence of the white man in the Far East has been distinctly destructive of morality. We count the Orientals immoral, but do we realize that we have helped to make them so? The solution of the white peril most plausible to me is white expulsion—a method not untried in Christian America and Australia as a solution for the yellow peril."

He continues :—

"Yes, white expulsion. Unless the military powers of the west reconcile themselves to giving the Asiatics freedom and independence in our own lands (and we hardly ask for more than this), unless they cease to regard Asia as legitimate field for plunder and spoliation, and unless they abandon the cherished conviction of essential superiority and inherent right to dominate the coloured races Asiatic nations will, sooner or later, be compelled to unite and build an impregnable wall of white expulsion—a wall longer by thousands of miles than the Great Wall of China."

The policy of "white expulsion" advocated by the author, under certain conditions mentioned by him above, is what is meant by the term reciprocity in India in emigration, immigration and trade relations, of which one aspect is retaliation. The adoption of this policy, however, is not yet within the range of practical politics, though that does not mean that it would never be so in the case of the really free countries of Asia. (To be Continued)