

# Indian Opinion

No. 11—Vol. XXV.

Friday, March 18th, 1927.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.  
Price Fourpence.

## SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS

### SEVENTH SESSION AT JOHANNESBURG

JOHANNESBURG was the venue of the assembling of the South African Indian Congress in Conference on Saturday the 12th March 1927. In every respect the Conference was the most momentous one yet convened by the South African Indian Congress, and keen interest was evinced throughout the proceedings. The Conference assembled at 2-30 p.m. at the Patidar Hall. Advocate J. W. Godfrey the Deputy-President presided over the deliberations and was supported by Messrs. A. I. Kajeer, General Secretary, E. M. Aswat, Amod Bayat, Vice-Presidents, V. S. C. Pather and E. M. Ally, Joint Treasurers. The Rev. C. F. Andrews graced the proceedings with his presence.

#### DELEGATES

The Natal Indian Congress was represented by Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, S. R. Naidoo, R. K. Naidoo, Shaik Hamed, M. A. H. Moosa, M. D. Barmatia, I. A. Essack, K. K. Pillay, M. B. Naik, E. M. Haffeejee, Ragoonath Singh, L. S. Vawda, A. M. Ephraim, E. J. Choondo, G. E. Kathrada, R. Mangal, A. E. Shaikh and A. Spokdeo; the Transvaal British Indian Association by Dr. W. Godfrey, Messrs. S. M. Desai, N. A. Camay, V. M. Moodley, Willie Ernest, S. R. Sarfoodin, Morarjee Desai, Naranbhai Rarjee, D. M. Nursoo, G. Myers, K. V. Patel, M. V. Patel, Moosa Ackoojee Masters, F. S. Laher, B. Maharajb, S. V. Pillay, K. J. Tavarria, I. I. Hazaree, S. H. Mayet, H. D. Mall, D. A. Patel, V. G. Patel, Allibhai Keebhavjee, E. S. Coovadia, Ismail Coovadia, M. D. Baroochee, R. V. Patel, P. H. Patel, Kara Fakira, J. V. Parekh and P. S. Joshi, and the Cape British Indian Council by Messrs. P. M. Dawson, T. V. R. Pillay, R. Sammy, Amod Mahomed, S. Camroodeen, A. Ismail, S. Dawood and M. S. Gool.

The opening of the Conference was preceded by prayers offered by Messrs. Amod Bayat, U. M. Shelat and Rev. C. F. Andrews for the success of the Conference.

Amongst numerous congratulatory messages received, one was from the Rt Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, F.C., reading as follows:

"Greetings prayerful wishes successful session. Settlement generally received here favourably. Mahatma and Mrs. Naidu approve with certain cautions. Risks pointed out largely remediable suitable Indian Agent. Every reason to believe such appointment probable. Agreement includes provision frequent consultation between Governments. Future improvements wholly depend on maintenance friendly relations happily established. Such maintenance conditioned mainly by attitude present Congress session. I respectfully appeal large hearted forbearance, moderation, statesmanship. Fully trust careful nursing present settlement will lead under Providence in due time to consummation of hope."

Another from Mr. H. S. L. Polak, the Secretary

of the Indian Overseas Association read as follows:—

"Heartly congratulations community beginning new era result Conference. Earnestly hope community will apply itself particularly educational progress without which achievement fullest status equal citizenship impossible."

Scores of telegrams were received from the branches of the Constituent bodies and from leading members of the Indian community throughout South Africa wishing the Conference every success.

#### REV. C. F. ANDREWS OPENS CONFERENCE

The Rev. C. F. Andrews in opening the Conference said:—

"My introductory words will be very few. We shall endeavour, at this Congress Session, strictly to observe Dr. Malan's own wish, repeatedly expressed, that all sections of the community should maintain as far as possible those friendly relations, which were so honourably and consistently kept throughout the Round Table Conference.

"As one who was privileged to be present at the Conference in the capacity of an adviser to the Indian Delegation, I would wish to take the first important public occasion to bear personal witness to the spirit of goodwill and good faith which pervaded all the session. This spirit of open-hearted candour, along with the honest desire to find a solution, not by diplomacy, but by mutual trust, impressed me deeply. In the Prime Minister and in the Minister of the Interior, who were principally responsible, such a transparently honest desire for friendship was abundantly evident. Therefore, as the opener of this Congress, I would now solemnly return thanks to Almighty God for thus answering our prayers. May His blessing accompany all our deliberations, and guide all our actions.

"Let the same spirit of thankfulness and goodwill pervade our present gathering. May we, among ourselves, keep quietness, harmony and peace.

"Let no single word be spoken, or published, that might tend to weaken the mutual confidence and trust which have already been established.

"Let us also, solemnly take to heart the words which our revered friend, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, has left with us. He sacrificed health in order to come out to support us. In moving terms and with profound sincerity he warned us that our future henceforth would depend not on the Union Government, but upon ourselves. Self-help and self-sacrifice must be our constant aim and purpose.

"One word more. The Government of India has postponed the debate in the Imperial Assembly at Delhi until the verdict of the South African Indian Congress has been given. While the importance thus attached to the resolutions we shall pass is great, the responsibility of passing each resolution is still greater. Let us shoulder our responsibilities, adventuring forward in quietude and with a good courage."

## CONDOLENCES

The Roll Call of Delegates having been proceeded with, the Deputy-President feelingly touched upon the lamentable deaths of the late Shaik Emammally and Swami Shradanand, and upon the loss of life sustained by Japan in the recent earthquake. Votes of condolence were moved by the Chair with the assembly standing.

## CHAIRMAN RECEPTION COMMITTEE WELCOMES

Mr. S. M. Desai, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, in extending a hearty welcome to the Delegates to the Golden City said, that the occasion was a most momentous one in that the Delegates assembled had been called upon to consider the political, educational and economical status of Indians in South Africa. It was a peaceful atmosphere in which they had gathered—thanks to the efforts of the representatives of the Union and the Habibullah Delegations. The session would rank as the most important and its decision would mark an epoch-making chapter in the history of the Indians in South Africa. The South African Indian Congress would undoubtedly appreciate the honest efforts of the Government of India Delegation, not forgetting the splendid work put up by that ever vigilant and disinterested friend Deshabandhu Andrews. It was with pleasure that they could look back upon the sympathetic attitude of General Hertzog and Dr. Malan, who contributed much to the Indian Settlement. In appealing for united efforts in all matters pertaining to the Indian question, he sincerely prayed that the proceedings of the Conference would be crowned with success.

Messrs. A. Ismail and S. R. Naidoo replied on behalf of the Cape and Natal respectively.

After the formal business of the Conference was over, the Deputy-President, Advocate J. W. Godfrey, delivered his able and eloquent address which is published elsewhere in this issue.

At 4-15 p.m. the Conference adjourned to 8 p.m. When the Congress re-assembled at 8 p.m. the audience had become large and the Hall was well filled. It was clear that the Indian public was very much interested in the proceedings.

## MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Annual Conference held at Capetown on 10th November 1925 were read and upon the motion of Mr. D. M. Nursoo of Transvaal, seconded by Mr. A. Ismail of the Cape, were unanimously adopted.

The Minutes of the Emergency Conference of 6th December 1926 were also read and upon the motion of Mr. I. A. Essack, seconded by Mr. A. Shaik, were unanimously adopted.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary of the South African Indian Congress, Mr. A. I. Kajee, then read his lengthy and interesting report which was received with cheers and which upon the motion of Mr. P. M. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Hazaree, was unanimously adopted.

## TREASURERS' REPORT

The Treasurers, Messrs. V. S. C. Pather and E. M. Ally, then rendered their reports and statements of accounts, which upon the motion of Mr. Hazaree, seconded by Mr. Myers, were taken as read.

With a view to allowing full discussion on the account of the South African Indian Congress Deputation to India, the Standing Orders were suspended on the motion of Mr. A. I. Kajee. After a full and lengthy debate, it was adopted upon the motion of Dr. W. Godfrey, seconded by Mr. A.

Ismail and supported by Mr. W. Ernest. On a vote being taken 40 voted for the adoption and 8 against.

The accounts of the South African Indian Congress as contained in annexures 5, 6, and 7 of the Secretary's Report were thereafter adopted.

The Conference at 12-45 a.m. then adjourned till 9-30 a.m. on Sunday.

## SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

After prayers were offered by Messrs. Ragoonath Singh, E. M. Haffjee and Rev. C. F. Andrews, the Secretary proceeded with the Roll Call.

The Conference then proceeded to discuss the wire received from Mr. John L. Roberts, President of the Natal Vigilance Association, as also the misleading forecasts sent to the *Hindu* by its Durban correspondent. On both these matters appropriate resolutions were passed.

The Conference then deliberated upon the now famous Indo-Union Agreement.

Before proceeding with the discussion Mr. A. I. Kajee reported on the interview that he had had with the Department of the Interior, and spoke at some length on the several phases of the Agreement, particularly that dealing with assisted emigration scheme and the entry of wives and minor children.

The Delegates then entered into discussion and their speeches elicited the very keen and sustained interest on the subject.

The conclusions of the Conference are contained in the Resolutions published elsewhere.

## HEADQUARTERS

A very keen debate took place with regard to the Headquarters. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that Durban was to be the Headquarters but the voting was challenged and upon a recount by the Rev. C. F. Andrews it resulted in 28 for Johannesburg and 20 for Durban. Durban was therefore declared as being the Headquarters for the ensuing year.

## OFFICIALS

Upon the motion of Dr. W. Godfrey, seconded by Mr. Kooverji Tavarua, all the retiring officials were re-elected amidst cheering.

The Deputy-President then made a few appropriate remarks in conclusion and thus ended a most memorable session.

## A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

THE report of the proceedings of the Seventh Session of the South African Indian Congress is published elsewhere. It will be apparent from a casual glance at the report that the Conference was an unqualified success. The Conference has been very rightly termed as the most momentous in the annals of the history of the South African Indian Congress. It was momentous in that the Delegates were called upon to decide the future of the Indians in South Africa. That the Delegates have been very keen in the debates can be seen from the voting on various matters.

The resolution of the Conference on the Indo-Union Settlement is as interesting as

it is emphatic on the policy of the Congress. True that the Settlement does not aim to place the Indian on an equal footing with the European, but as the resolution points out it is an attempt to ameliorate the condition of the Indians. It undoubtedly aims at the gradual improvement of the status of the Indian in South Africa. We will not say that the Government of India Delegation has come out triumphantly from the Round Table Conference. It is the spirit of goodwill and friendship shown by Dr. Malan and General Hertzog that has materially assisted in finding a solution to the problem. It would be obvious therefore that the Habibullah Delegation would have wasted their energies were it not for that spirit.

It will be observed that the Settlement has been accepted subject to certain points, in the Summary published, that need serious criticism. For instance, the failure to restore the Municipal franchise is indeed a serious omission. And another is the restriction on the sale of unalienated lands in Municipalities. We are pleased to note that these matters will be brought to the notice of the Ministers in charge of the Settlement as also the failure to remove the disability under the Colour Bar Act. On the whole the step taken by the South African Indian Congress is wise and will undoubtedly be hailed with delight by all serious minded persons.

The voting appears to have been very close in the choosing of the Headquarters. Though Johannesburg is virtually entitled to be the Headquarters for the ensuing year, circumstances favour Durban. The work that is ahead of us is as great as it has been during the past sixteen months, and it is therefore imperative that the Headquarters should be in Durban. We do not mean by this that the work would be carried out inefficiently were the Headquarters in Johannesburg. Far from it. It is essential in the interests of the community that the work should be continued by those who have had the handling of it for the past sixteen months.

Now a word for the recalcitrants.

The correspondence that has been raging in the Local Daily paper reveals to a great degree the poor mentality of the writers. We are not at all surprised at their actions, for, the history of the Indians in South Africa contains many sad episodes enacted

by recalcitrants whose careers have all along been marked with selfish motives. They represent an element that is eating into the very vitals of the Indian community, for, need we point out to our readers that their work, from the beginning of our political history, has been one of destruction. We do not desire to dilate on this point, suffice it to say that these recalcitrants should be treated with utter contempt.

### "TRANSVAAL WILL PLAY THE GAME"

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

THE event which gave me the greatest pleasure, in the whole of the South African Indian Congress Sessions at Johannesburg, was the sportsmanlike manner in which the Transvaal delegates took their disappointment, when they did not receive, as they expected, the Headquarters at Johannesburg this year.

The very moment after the vote had been taken, and the result had gone against them only by a single vote, one of the Transvaal Delegates got up and said: "Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate Natal on its victory! The Transvaal has lost; but we are going to take it as sportsmen, and help the Congress as much as ever we did before! *"Transvaal will play the game!"*

There were tremendous cheers from all the Delegates assembled, when this was said, and the Transvaal became easily, for the time being, the most popular section in the whole Congress.

To me, this event was more than significant. It was full of good omen for the future. As I wrote, a short time ago, one of the very best characteristics of young South Africa is its love of games. This love of games leads to the sportsman-like spirit. All those who know how to play cricket or football well, understand also what it means 'to play the game.'

It was as clear as possible to me, at Johannesburg, that the Transvaal British Indian Association was determined to 'play the game.' They will take their very real and genuine disappointment in a truly sportsman-like manner. They will throw all their energy into Congress work.

One noticeable thing was this, that the younger generation of South African-born Indians had gained this true spirit of sport with remarkable unanimity. I watched the

faces of the audience before me very closely; and immediately when the appeal to be 'true sportsmen' was made, their faces brightened up. They replied at once with a smile.

It would be difficult to find a more convincing proof, that 'Young South Africa' includes within its ranks the Indian community also, which now can look upon South Africa as the land of its adoption.

Let me make a further important point clear. Sentimental reasons quite obviously pointed to the Transvaal's turn for the Congress Headquarters.

In the Transvaal, the first great Passive Resistance Struggle began. In the Transvaal, Mahatma Gandhi had all his earliest discipline and training in Satyagraha. In the Transvaal, he founded Tolstoy Farm and began his life as 'a farmer and a weaver.' In the Transvaal, he went to prison again and again. In the Transvaal, more than one in three of all the adults went to jail bravely with him. Therefore the Transvaal deserves all the credit that can be given to it.

While I am writing these words, in Pretoria, an old Musalman with a grey beard, from Warmbaths Mr. Nagdee, is sitting before me. I have been listening over again to the story of early Passive Resistance in the Transvaal during which he suffered along with Mr. Kachalia. Such lives of suffering as his make me love the Transvaal Indian community with all my heart. Therefore, I can very easily understand the wish of the Transvaal to have the Headquarters of the Congress in their midst, and also their intense disappointment when the vote went against them. Nevertheless, I can appeal to them also, with all my heart, to bear their disappointment well, and to be quite certain that all has been ordered for the best.

Something remains to be said to Natal and I would say it with all tenderness and humility and love. The principle of 'noblesse oblige' now remains for Natal to exercise in very way towards the Transvaal. There must be all the more consideration shown for the Transvaal, just because the Headquarters remain at Durban. There must be no mere consideration of Natal troubles, apart from those of the Transvaal. I am quite certain that Natal will respond to this call.

Such consideration will require continual

forethought and great firmness of resolve. Everything should be done to hold Executive Meetings as often as possible at Johannesburg.

There is a compensation also, which I would mention. The Agent General is certain to have his Headquarters in the Transvaal, because the centre of Government is there. For this reason, although the Transvaal may not, for very practical and unsurmountable reasons, have obtained its own turn this year with regard to the Congress Headquarters, it will on the other hand be certain to receive the great permanent advantage of possessing the Agent-General's office in its midst.

I want to add a last word about the Cape Delegates. Every time that it has been my privilege to be present at a Congress Session in South Africa, I have admired more and more the Cape Delegates for their self-sacrifice and quiet spirit. They give an invaluable element of peace. They show also their true, genuine practical patriotism. Even though the Cape Province has but little disability that causes inconvenience; even though there are practically no grievances to be redressed, nevertheless the Cape Indians never fail on that account to show in a practical manner their sympathy with Natal and the Transvaal. The presence of such an admirable number of Cape Delegates is an inestimable expression of true brotherhood and unity and love.

## Presidential Address

The following is the full text of the Presidential Address delivered at the Seventh Session of the South African Indian Congress by the Deputy-President Advocate J. W. Godfrey:—

Gentlemen,—It is my proud privilege and pleasure to extend to you a most hearty and warm welcome to take part in the deliberations of our Sixth Annual Conference. I am indeed glad to see so many of my colleagues here this evening. Their presence is an assurance of their co-operation and assistance in preserving the high tone of excellence we claim to have achieved in our previous Conferences.

I desire to express my heartfelt gratitude to you for having elected me as your Deputy-President. The tremendous volume of work which was occasioned by the many repressive Bills which were published is very staggering. Our Secretary Mr. A. I. Kajeer proved equal to the task. He called a large number of Executive meetings and the Minutes disclose that many resolutions of the most definite and important nature were passed. To Mr. Kajeer and all the members of the Executive of the South African Indian Congress I tender my very sincere appreciation of their co-operation and counsel. Without their loyal support and graceful submission to my many decisions I could never have accomplished anything at all. Here I wish to refer to what I deem to be a very important consideration and that is the preservation of the records of our

Congress at one particular place. Whilst engaged in the preparation of our various statements the Executive have found almost insurmountable difficulty in tracing and locating valuable and important documents. In many cases the originals are not available. It is of the highest importance that we should have all our valuable documents preserved at one place and so kept that they may be available to the officers of this Congress who from time to time will have the management of affairs. You will value how important our work has become if I say to you that Mr. A. I. Kajee has written over 7,000 letters during his fourteen months' term of office. The incoming Secretary is likely to have more than this even to do. I recommend to you to resolve something definite upon this point during this Conference.

Little did I a year ago anticipate that during the time I would be Deputy-President that the most important changes in the history of the community here would have taken place.

At the last Conference held in Capetown we were struggling in the throes of the now famous Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill. That Bill bade fair to sound our death-knell and it was only to be expected of us to put up a most strenuous fight against its becoming law. We used the most careful but at the same time most emphatic language in expressing our feelings against this Bill. We in open Conference rejected the Bill *in toto* and as you know we favoured the idea of a Round Table Conference to go into the whole of the Indian question and to suggest some satisfactory solutions.

In accordance with our Congress resolution a deputation waited on Dr. Malan the Minister of Interior on the 16th November 1925 but he could not then see the utility of a Round Table Conference and declined our overtures. The position as we realised it then was very acute and the deputation from this Congress to India became imperative. This deputation rendered a report of its labours to the Emergency Conference and being a member of that deputation, I am naturally reluctant to say more than this, that it achieved the object it went out for and received the thanks of the community. It is my duty here to briefly refer to the magnificent work of our President Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. From the initial stages she took matters of our deputation in hand and in consultation with Mahatmaji she advised and guided your deputation's movements. She saw to it that we met all responsible men, associations, societies and other bodies which could be of service to us. She procured the fullest support of every daily newspaper. In the light of future events her action was full of forethought and displayed an intimate knowledge of men and matters. Without this guidance and knowledge your deputation would have undoubtedly only been able to make a feeble and frenzied effort to gain the ear of the public in India. Much more could I say of her but I think I must rest content by recording our most grateful thanks for all she has done. I wish she had been here to-day to guide us in our discussions.

This deputation, by its work in India, greatly emphasised the real need for and benefits which a Round Table Conference would procure for us. Our view was taken up by the Indian Government and by means of diplomatic cables a Select Committee was appointed as a first step towards ascertaining the actual position of things here. An opportunity was given for the Indian Government to lead evidence before this Committee and we know how well the Paddison's Deputation did its work. We rendered most valuable assistance to this deputation by submitting lengthy statements replete with minute and copious information on all points. This assistance was undoubtedly the means by which the Paddison Deputation absolutely shattered the case for the hateful Asiatic Bill. The Anti-Asiatics had clearly been shown that their cry of "Asiatic Menace" was an "obsession" and had no foundation in fact. The case for a Round Table Conference had been abundantly proved and after the necessary communications, the Indian and Union Governments agreed to the holding of a Round

Table Conference but only as between themselves. It was considered best to keep us and the British representation out of it. You will recollect that this decision was looked upon by us with great suspicion so much so that we called an Emergency Conference of this Congress in Durban on 7th December 1926 to consider the question. After mature deliberation it was decided that our best interests lay in the direction of our placing before this Round Table Conference all the information we could and render all assistance possible to make it a success, but at the same time reserving the right to freely discuss and disagree if necessary with the conclusions they may arrive at. We had to adopt this attitude because we did not know what this Round Table Conference was going to discuss. Whether their discussions were to be restricted to one or two points or whether they intended to cover the whole range of our grievances. We decided however to place before the Round Table Conference a statement of our case with brief suggestions for a solution on all points together with the necessary data supporting our recommendations. I am glad to say that this Statement elicited the unanimous and unqualified approval of those who read it.

India had sent out to this country some of her most eminent men, sober with age and ripened by experience; their known diplomacy and wisdom were sure guarantees of their rendering a good account of their stewardship in discussing our problems. The best of our Executive Messrs. A. I. Kajee, V. S. C. Pather, S. R. Naidoo, D. M. Nursoo and A. Ismail were at Capetown rendering all possible assistance and here I feel it is my duty to record our grateful thanks to these gentlemen for the unparalleled and magnificent work they so willingly and unselfishly did for us and at such great personal sacrifice. Their work will ever remain in the annals of our history. Here also I think you will agree with me that it is our bounden duty to say that we cannot find sufficiently weighty words in which to express our admiration and gratitude for the strenuous work done by Rev. C. F. Andrews. Very few of us are aware that he actually wrote six volumes of 200 pages each on different branches of the Indian question and supplied it to the Round Table Conference. This is an achievement we can never hope to outstrip and he has placed us under a life long obligation.

The Agreement arrived at was published on 21st February 1927 and we have had the advantage of having carefully studied it. We have also had the opinions of some of our leaders in India. Some of them have expressed themselves with certain reservations and quite properly await an expression of opinion from us as being the persons immediately affected by the Agreement.

I trust you will permit me on your behalf to say that generally speaking we approve of the Agreement so far as it goes. There are conclusions in it which we cannot agree to as for instance "The limitation of sales of Municipal land to restrictive conditions." We appreciate the Union Government's belief in the uplifting of every section of their permanent population, but there is no definite assurance given as to what it is intended should be done. The Union Government is only prepared to advise the Provincial Governments to appoint a Commission of Enquiry in regard to matters of Education but at the same time say, that it is difficult to take action in advance of public opinion. We know from bitter experience that the public opinion which has hitherto been able to get the ear of the Government will not fail to stir up agitation and advance specious arguments against our obtaining education facilities along with and on the same lines as the others. True we shall have the assistance of our Educational expert from the Government of India for the purpose of such enquiry, but we feel whilst an agreement was being arrived at matters of this nature ought to have been put beyond the decision of a Commission of Enquiry. We would have considered it far more satisfactory if more definite decisions had been arrived at on the question of Education.

On the question of licences too, I feel that the Agreement should have stated a definite time within which the

revision of these laws should have taken place. The uncertainty of the time for revision does not inspire that confidence in the Agreement that was expected. The past and prevailing trade jealousies are too deep rooted for them to be a ready or early willingness to bring about this intended revision.

There are also a great many points which appear to us not to have been decided at all and which are matters of grave and vital interest to us. There are very many vague and misty sentences. They need some clear explanation to indicate the full intention of the Agreement. It is possible that the Agent General's powers may be wide enough to enable him to grant or obtain relief or redress for many of our grievances which though not specified may be brought under one or other of the points of the Agreement.

We are not at present so much concerned with the actual wording of the Bill as we are with the intention of the Agreement. Having for years been accustomed to unjust and repressive legislation we tender thanks to the Almighty that He has heard the cry of us, the down-trodden, and has changed the hearts of our legislators so that they are now prepared to give us fair play and simple justice. This Agreement is an earnest of their changed feelings. We welcome it. We shall go out to meet this friendly and tolerant spirit of the Government and will do what lies in our power to preserve and further promote the new spirit which came into existence. This is a great gain to us. Those who apparently were against us have now declared themselves our friends. The accomplishment of this alone by the Round Table Conference is a worthy achievement. We accept the Agreement in the spirit in which it is made and offered. It has been conceived in an atmosphere of mutual respect and goodwill. It is as Dr. Malan has said: "an agreement more in the nature of an honourable and friendly understanding than of a rigid and binding treaty." The element of honour predominates and we believe that between respectable Governments the obligation to respect an "honourable understanding" is even greater than the obligation to respect an ordinary "binding treaty"—the latter may be broken and is capable of being remedied, but if the "honourable understanding" be departed from, then the delinquent is not a gentleman but an outcaste and the position cannot be remedied.

I fully anticipate that you will very earnestly and soberly discuss every phrase of this Agreement so that we may be able to draw clear and definite resolutions which may be submitted to the Indian and Union Governments for their consideration.

We believe that this Agreement is an indication of the desire to do right by us and I am certain that if our resolutions are of practical utility, they will receive proper consideration. The Union Government has pledged itself to uplift our community and if we can show them our willingness to conform to European standards of civilisation, then we have a right to expect freedom of expansion in exactly the same way as the European section. We have never asked nor do we ask for any special favour. We ask only for equal treatment that is, we must be burdened as like the others and we must be privileged as like the others. This idea is pitifully contained in the phrase: "No taxation without representation." In this Agreement no provision is made as regards restoration of our Municipal franchise, no indication is made of our ever getting the parliamentary franchise even in the remote dim future. This to my mind is an omission which should be pointed out. We have interests in this Union which, if trade relations develop with India, may become larger and it is only fair to us that we should be given such a measure of representation as will show unequivocally that the Union Government is prepared to genuinely cultivate the friendship of India and recognise in her a dominion worthy of herself.

There is much in the Agreement which commends itself to us and reflects the patience and courage of the representatives of both Governments and the earnest thought they have given to our problems.

We however wish to exercise the fact that on our part

we are able to give the assurance as we have always done that we shall be sober in our demands, just in our aspirations and persistent in our efforts to repudiate all legislation which is insidious to our honour and which seeks to place us in a lower plane. We are determined to plod on till we secure what is right, just and fair. The justice of our cause will ever be a sufficient reason to force our legislators to give us their attention. Though we are Indians by birth we are for all practical purposes South Africans. We are prepared to shoulder its citizenship burdens and we claim its privileges. We want a definite political status and we look to the Government to give us that uplift which will no longer bar us from exercising this right.

In considering the terms of this Agreement, I believe you will be apt to make little of the numerous grievances we from year to year pass resolutions on, as it is very possible that when the Agent General is appointed he may deal with most of these matters. I suggest that one resolution be passed relative to a number of these grievances *en bloc*. This will save a great deal of time and fruitless discussion.

Gentlemen, it is not my intention to take up much of your time. I have dealt only with the subject of the Round Table Conference Agreement as that is the one great matter upon which we have assembled to discuss. I beg and pray of you to bring to bear upon this Conference deliberations the best there is in you for I wish you to remember that the success of this Agreement lies with us. We are bound to give it a trial. Let us not do it half-heartedly. Great is the work ahead of us. It has not yet begun. It will mean really hard solid work and skill to operate this Agreement, so as to get the maximum of good results. We claim to represent the Indian community of the Union. The community to-day looks to us for a lead that the community will in the near future look to us for practical results out of this Agreement.

To the President and those who will be elected as the Executive of this Congress for the ensuing year, I wish to say that it is fervently hoped they will not be found wanting in real earnestness and diligence in carrying out their onerous duties. I believe that they will have a very anxious time for the Agent General may rely very much upon them for information, guidance and assistance to enable him to obtain a complete fulfilment of the Agreement. The work is heavy, hard and delicate. Our best brains will have to be in requisition. We shall need to put all ideas of self-aggrandisement in the background. We shall have to sacrifice ourselves on the altar of public opinion and accept its criticism or approval. We must be prepared to do our best, none of us can do more than that. We must resolve to acquit ourselves well in this test and relying as we do on God's gracious mercy and help, we say quite boldly: "If God be with us who can be against us."

Gentlemen, I declare the Conference open.

## Resolutions Passed At Conference

The following resolutions were passed by the South African Indian Congress at its seventh session held at Johannesburg on the 12th, 13th and 14th March:—

1. That this Conference hereby places on record its sympathy to the Japanese Nation at the recent calamity sustained by her.

(Moved by the Chairman and passed by the members standing).

2. That this Conference mourns with the people of India in their sad loss by the lamentable death of Swami Shradanand.

(Moved by the Chairman and passed by the members standing).

3. That this Conference hereby places on record

the irreparable loss sustained by the Indian community at the death of Shaik Emmanually, ex-Treasurer of the South African Indian Congress, and empowers the General Secretary to convey its sympathy to the relatives of the deceased.

(Moved by the Chairman and passed by the members standing).

4. That this seventh session of the South African Indian Congress in Conference assembled hereby resolves to accept the Agreement reached at the Round Table Conference between the Governments of the Union and India recognising it as an honest attempt to find a solution to the Indian problem. The Conference while prepared to work it as such, feels however the necessity to criticise certain features of the Agreement especially:

- (1) the restriction of the sale of unalienated lands in Municipalities,
- (2) the serious failure to restore the Municipal franchise,
- (3) the failure to remove the disability under the Colour Bar Act.

This Conference further reserves to itself the right to critically examine the Liquor Bill where it affects the community and any Draft Bill that may be brought forward to implement the Agreement.

(Proposed by Mr. S. R. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. A. Ismail and supported by Mr. T. V. R. Pillay and Mr. A. I. Kajeo).

5. That this Conference resolves that each Constituent body of the South African Indian Congress shall within ten days forward to the General Secretary a memorandum of its criticism of the Agreement arrived at at the Round Table Conference.

(Proposed by Mr. G. Myers, seconded by Mr. A. Ismail and supported by Mr. Shaik Himed).

6. That this Conference with a view to giving effect to the preceding resolution hereby resolves that the incoming Executive of the South African Indian Congress shall be a sub-committee for the purpose of bringing such criticisms to the notice of the proper quarters and further empowers the Rev. C. F. Andrews and the Hon. General Secretary to proceed to Capetown and interview the Ministers thereon if necessary.

(Proposed by Mr. I. A. Essack, seconded by Mr. R. V. Patel and supported by Mr. E. J. Chongo.)

7. That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress in seventh session assembled protests against certain clauses of the Liquor Bill now before the Union Parliament which aims at the gradual elimination of the Indian employees in Hotels and other places where liquor is sold and consumed by increasing the Licence fee of such Hotels and places where Asiatics are employed thus depriving them of an honest and legitimate livelihood and further prohibits new employment of Indians to a legitimate calling.

This Conference empowers the incoming Executive to take such representation as it may think fit and necessary in the above matter.

(Proposed by Mr. A. M. Ephraim, seconded by Mr. Ragoonath Sing and supported by Mr. Morarjee Desai).

8. That in connection with the telegram received by the Deputy-President from the so-called Natal Indian Vigilance Association, this Conference empowers the Rev. C. F. Andrews to take such action as he may deem necessary to cable to the Press in India and if necessary make it clear in the local Press that the South African Indian Congress is the only body that represents the Indian community of South Africa.

(Proposed by Mr. M. B. Naik, seconded by Mr. G. Meyers and supported by Mr. P. H. Patel).

9. That this seventh session of the South African Indian Congress views with disfavour the publication in the *Hindu* of erroneous and misleading information from its Durban correspondent who by his forecast published in the issue of the *Hindu* of the 2nd February 1927 proves himself to be unreliable.

(Proposed by Mr. S. R. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. M. V. Patel and supported by Mr. I. A. Essack.)

10. That this seventh session of the South African Indian Congress in Conference assembled, places on record its most heartfelt thanks and deep sense of gratitude to the Leader of the Indian Delegation Sir Muhammad Habibullah, Hon. G. L. Corbett, the Rt. Hon. Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir D'Arcy Lindsay, Sir Pheroze Sethna and Sir George Paddison for the unparalleled services they, as representing the Government of India, have rendered in the case of the Indian settlers here and in creating a most friendly feeling between the two countries, and in arriving at a settlement honourable to both sides—a settlement that promises to afford the Indian community to be and become good citizens of South Africa.

(Proposed by Mr. P. M. Dawson, seconded by Mr. D. M. Nursoo and carried with acclamation).

11. That this Congress in Conference assembled heartily and sincerely supports the suggestion of Mahatma Gandhi that the Rt. Hon. V. Srinivasa Sastri should be appointed as the ~~First Agent-General~~ for India and begs to appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy to make such an appointment and fervently hopes that the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri will accept that position and thus materially help to bring about the fruition of the settlement which he was instrumental in bringing about.

(Proposed by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, seconded by Mr. A. Ismail and supported by Mr. M. D. Barnania.)

12. That this seventh session of the South African Indian Congress records its sense of deep affection, gratitude and love to Mahatma Gandhi.

(Proposed from the Chair and passed with acclamation by members standing).

13. That this seventh session of the South African Indian Congress assembled at Johannesburg records its grateful thanks and its sense of deep indebtedness to its President Mrs. Sarojini Naidu for her great services in the cause of the Indian community of South Africa and prays that she may be blessed with long life and happiness.

(Proposed from the Chair and passed with acclamation by members standing).

14. That this seventh session of the South African Indian Congress in Conference assembled, hereby records its sincere and everlasting sense of gratitude to that good and noble Englishman the Rev. C. F. Andrews for his great and self-sacrificing services rendered and being rendered in the cause of the Indian community of South Africa and prays that Almighty God may bestow on him His choicest blessings.

(Proposed from the Chair and passed with acclamation by members standing).

15. That this Conference hereby records its appreciation for the invaluable services rendered by, and tenders its gratitude to the Hon. General Secretary, Mr. A. I. Kajeo.

(Proposed from the Chair and passed by the members standing).

16. That this Conference places on record its thanks to the Deputy-President Advocate J. W. Godfrey for the able manner in which he has conducted the proceedings of the Conference.

(Proposed by Mr. P. S. Joshi, seconded by Mr. I. S. Vawda and passed with acclamation by members standing).

17. That this Conference hereby resolves that the item on Agenda referring to the revision of the Constitution and Standing Orders be left over for the next Annual Conference.

(Proposed by Mr. T. V. R. Pillay, seconded by Mr. E. J. Choonoo and supported by Mr. R. K. Naidoo.)

18. That this Conference hereby resolves that Durban shall be the Headquarters of the South African Indian Congress.

(Proposed by Mr. Amod Mahomed and seconded by Mr. T. V. R. Pillay).

19. That this Conference records its sincere thanks for the services rendered by the officials of the South African Indian Congress.

(Proposed by Mr. M. B. Naik and seconded by Mr. T. V. R. Pillay)

20. That this Conference hereby re-elects the retiring officials to their respective offices for the ensuing year.

(Proposed by Dr. W. Godfrey and seconded by Mr. K. Tavarua and carried unanimously).

21. That the venue of the next Annual Conference shall be Kimberley.

(Proposed by Mr. E. J. Choonoo, and seconded by Mr. A. Ismail and supported by Mr. P. M. Dawson).

22. That the thanks of the Conference be conveyed to the Patidar Society for its kindness in allowing the use of its Hall for the holding of Conference.

(Proposed from the Chair and passed by the members standing).

23. That this Congress empowers the Executive to take all necessary measures to give effect to the principles in the foregoing resolutions in so far as such resolutions fall within its scope, and generally to act in regard to the resolutions as provided in the Constitution of the South African Indian Congress.

(Proposed by Mr. I. I. Hazaree and seconded by Mr. G. H. Kathrada).

## General Secretary's Annual Report

Submitted at the Conference

Mr. Deputy-President and Gentlemen,—I have great pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report on the working of your Congress for the sixteen months since we last met at Capetown in November 1925, but I have submitted a very full and lengthy interim report to the Emergency Conference (Sixth Session) that was held at Durban on the 6th and 7th days of December 1926. Ordinarily that report I would have preferred to have left over for this session but since it was essential at that time that Delegates who had assembled to discuss most vital questions should be placed in possession of all the information available, my interim report was of necessity a consistent narrative of the activities of your Congress since it met in Conference at Capetown in November 1925. Therefore, I intend to make for all practical purposes a report giving you the happenings since the 7th day of December 1926. Although the period under review embraces only about three months yet the work has again been of a very extensive and far-reaching character.

Five Executive meetings were held at all of which the

Rev. O. F. Andrews was present and gave the benefits of his advice.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

The Resolutions passed at the Emergency Session were duly conveyed in every instance to the proper quarters. Letters have been received from Mr. Polak and the Directors of the Dannhauser Collieries thanking your Congress for the resolutions of condolence passed.

### PRAYER DAY

In terms of your Executive's decision the 19th day of December 1926 was observed as a day of prayer by the Indian community all over South Africa, the intention being to offer prayers for the success of the Round Table Conference. Huge mass meetings were held at Durban, Johannesburg and Capetown at which prayers were offered to Almighty. At the latter meeting the Rev. O. F. Andrews and those of your officials that were present in Capetown in connection with the Round Table Conference attended. The most significant and important aspect of the Prayer Day was that it was not only observed by the Indian community but also by all the Christian Churches all over South Africa, and universal prayers were held all over India and prayers were offered by the Indian students in London. The Prayer Day was, in short, international in character. The grateful thanks of your Executive are due to the Rev. O. F. Andrews our beloved friend for his efforts which brought about united action thereby making the Day a huge success. Apart from the efficacy of prayer before the Divine Being the tremendous influence such great peaceful gatherings had on the European mind cannot be lost sight of. If causes are to be looked for, for the change in the feelings of the European community towards the Indian problems, then the observing of the two prayer days must be put down as one of the reasons, if not the chief.

### ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

Resolution No. 3 of the Emergency Conference was conveyed by cablegram to the Government of India Delegation who were on their way to South Africa. The Secretary to the Delegation replied as follows:—

"Indian Delegation has received your telegram with great pleasure and welcomes offer of assistance. Delegation would be pleased to meet your Executive informally at Pretoria Railway Station on journey from Delagoa Bay to Capetown. They have however been informed that special train will leave Delagoa Bay shortly after arrival of *Karapara* on morning of thirteenth and they fear it may pass through Pretoria at inconvenient hour of night. In that case they greatly regret that they would be unable to meet your Executive at Pretoria but if hour arrival convenient meeting would give them great pleasure."

Accordingly your officials travelled up to Pretoria and had the honour to officially welcome the Delegation at Risik Station where arrangements had been made beforehand by the Union Government. After the official reception I was privileged to take the leader of the Delegation and Sir D'Arcy Lindsay a member of the Delegation to the Pretoria Indian Location and during that short period it was suggested by these gentlemen that your Executive should prepare a statement of our views and requirements of the community and submit same to the Government of India Delegation as soon as it could be done and if possible before the Round Table Conference between the two Governments began its sittings and further that representatives of your Congress should be present at Capetown during the sitting of the Round Table Conference to render such assistance as may be required of them.

The same night an Executive meeting was held at Johannesburg which after having lasted for about three hours adjourned to the following day when after about six hours' sitting it decided on a certain skeleton statement based on the principles laid down by the Emergency Conference. This skeleton statement was as follows:—



**FRANCHISE :**

We require full Political Franchise where same does not now exist for the time being.

We require full restoration of the Municipal and Township Franchise so far as Natal is concerned and extend same to the Transvaal.

**EDUCATION :**

We ask for exactly the same facilities as the Europeans. Nothing more or less. We ask for these facilities from the lowest stage up to the University Courses in all subjects.

**IMMIGRATION :**

We desire to adhere, as men of honour, to the Gandhi-Smits Agreement of 1914, which accepted the principle of the closed door policy. We, however, ask that the administration of the Immigration Act be modified so as to meet the numerous grievances pointed out in our resolution of 1925. We must be entitled to travel anywhere within the Union and be treated as South African subjects. Zululand must be opened up to us as it is to all other communities. We however want fullest facilities to be given to students, visitors, and business men from India to visit and stay in the country as long as they require to complete their work.

**SEGREGATION :**

We object to any form of segregation. It is a stigma on our honour and our Motherland India.

No act of our community can justify it. The reports and investigations show the contrary conclusions. On this matter we are adamant, we desire the opportunity to prove our ability and willingness to act, live and progress upon the same lines as the Europeans. Naturally only those, being able and ready so to do, will accept the line of seeking to come in contact with the Europeans, and if they are on all points fit to do so, then merely by reason of colour they should not be prevented or objected to trade. We require exactly the same facilities as other sections have. The administration of the laws needs thorough revision as records of our Courts show that considerable and grave injustices have been perpetrated. We ask for a fair field and no favours.

**LAND :**

In this matter, we ask that in the Provinces of the Cape, Transvaal and Natal, every facility to purchase and occupy land should be retained and in such Provinces where same is not allowed should be granted.

We must be allowed to purchase land in townships upon same terms and conditions as any other sections. The Durban Land Alienation Ordinance and Natal Land Alienation Ordinance must be removed.

**STANDARD OF LIVING :**

To attain this desirable end the Union Government must necessarily remove every possible barrier now existing to our progress and encourage education in every direction. Repressive and unsympathetic legislations and unjust administration will deter realisation of this standard. The past policy of the Government is the cause of the non-progress of our community.

**INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL :**

We are prepared to submit to any existing laws which may be applied equally to all communities so that in Industrial and Commercial matters we may be subject to the same impositions and enjoy the same benefits as any other sections. Legislation however is imperative to make it impossible for any person or association or union to frustrate a full realisation of this condition.

**GENERAL :**

We desire to be South Africans sharing its full responsibilities and enjoy its fullest benefits.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. V. S. C. Pather, S. R. Naidoo, D. M. Nursoo, A. Ismail, the Deputy-President and the General Secretary was empowered to prepare the final statement.

The statement was submitted to the Government of

India Delegation forms part of the annexures hereof. Before preparing this statement, some members of this sub-committee and I sought and obtained an informal interview with the Government of India Delegation, this interview as also those we were privileged to obtain on innumerable occasions and by having the honour to invite to our Hotel practically every member of the Delegation gave us opportunity to know matters of the highest importance which helped us in placing our affairs to the Delegation in the best possible manner.

The statement was formally presented to the Government of India Delegation on the 27th day of December 1926 by Rev. C. F. Andrews, the following along with Rev. C. E. Andrews represented your Congress : Messrs. M. Y. Hawa (Vice President), V. S. C. Pather, (Hon. Treasurer), S. R. Naidoo, (Natal); D. M. Nursoo, N. A. Camay and Goolam Rasool, (Transvaal); A. Ismail, Hajee Khan Gool, Hajee M. Khan, (Cape). Of course it goes without saying that I was present at this interview and all other interviews. After Mr. Andrews had presented the statement the Honourable Leader of the Delegation suggested that rather than discussing the whole statement in one or several sittings it would be better if joint sub-committees of the Government of India Delegation and the Congress were appointed and went into the question minutely and in every detail. This admirable suggestion was at once agreed to and five sub-committees under the following heads were appointed :—

**IMMIGRATION**

The Rt. Hon. Sir Muhammad Habibullah, Hon. Mr. Corbett, V. S. C. Pather, A. Ismail, Goolam Rasool, N. A. Camay, Hajee Khan Gool and S. R. Naidoo.

**INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION**

Sir George Paddison, Sir Phiroze Sethna, S. R. Naidoo, D. M. Nursoo, and V. S. C. Pather.

**EDUCATION**

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Sir D'Arcy Lindsay, A. Ismail, N. A. Camay and V. S. C. Pather.

**LICENCES AND LAND**

The Hon. Mr. Corbett, Sir Phiroze Sethna, A. Hawa, A. Ismail, N. A. Camay, Goolam Rasool, S. R. Naidoo and V. S. C. Pather.

**HOUSING AND SANITATION**

The Rt. Hon. Sir Muhammad Habibullah, Sir George Paddison, Hajee M. Khan, D. M. Nursoo, S. R. Naidoo and V. S. C. Pather.

I was asked to serve on all the sub-committees and I may also state that the Rt. Hon. S. Sastri, and Sir Phiroze Sethna attended all the sittings of the sub-committees even though they were not the members of some Committees—it was clear evidence of the very remarkable and keen interest evinced by them in our affairs. Each of these sub-committees sat for four to five hours and in two instances for some six hours, and sat during the whole of the Xmas week and those that should know express that the knowledge gained by the Government of India Delegation at the meetings of these sub-committees and from the statement was of the greatest importance and assistance to them in arriving at a correct prospective of the views and aspirations of the Indian community. The statement was discussed in every detail from all angles, and innumerable instances, and cases were quoted thereof to support the points raised in the statement. All these were typewritten and handed to the members of the Delegation.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DELEGATION**

At the request of your constituent bodies it was arranged that a formal reception be given to the Delegation at Capetown, Durban and Johannesburg. How successful these functions and others that were given by private individuals is now a matter of history. It should be a matter of pride to the community that during the stay of the Delegation in

Durban, the Rt. Hon. S. Sastri and Sir Phiroze Sethna were the honoured guests of our esteemed co-worker Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee. As one who was privileged to travel with the Delegation part of their tour, I can say without the slightest hesitation that the Delegation sincerely appreciated the welcome extended and hospitality it received at the hands of the Indian community.

#### REV. C.F. ANDREWS

Words fail me to adequately and fully record the inestimable services rendered by Mr. Andrews in all the activities of your Congress. Those of you that attended the Emergency Conference would remember that it was the Rev. C.F. Andrews' sagely advice and guidance that brought that important Conference to a successful conclusion. The successful observance of the Payer Day all over the country, in India and elsewhere was entirely due to him. The work of your Delegates at Capetown would never have attained the success it had, had it not been for his assistance. He examined every word of the statement and was awake up to the early hours of the morning discussing the difficult and different aspects of the vital issues in the Statement. His assistance to the Delegation itself will ever remain a sealed book, suffice it to say that it was of the greatest importance. For all this the grateful and eternal gratitude of your Congress and the community you represent are due to Mr. Andrews.

#### NATIONAL INDIAN CONGRESS

I have again pleasure in recording the interest that has been taken by this Congress on behalf of the Indian community of South Africa. At the last session of the National Congress held at Gauhati the following resolutions were passed and these were conveyed by cable. The resolutions read as follows:

"This Congress welcomes the Round Table Conference now sitting in South Africa to deliberate upon the best method of dealing with the question of the status of Indian settlers in that subcontinent and prays for divine blessing and guidance upon its deliberations."

This Congress once more tenders its thanks to that good Englishman, Mr. C. F. Andrews, who has been chiefly instrumental in preparing in South Africa a calm atmosphere suitable for the holding of the Conference.

This Congress authorises the President to cable the text of the resolution to General Hertzog, Sir Habitullah and Mr. C. F. Andrews."

A message of congratulation was cabled out by your Executive to the President of the Congress Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar. The thanks of your Congress are due to the National Indian Congress.

#### MAHATMA GANDHI AND MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU

Needless for me to say that both Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu have continued to evince the greatest regard and interest in our affairs, regular correspondence has been kept up with both of them and I am sure that Congress will again make recognition of their labours of love for us. And also to the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association and Indian Overseas Association and its energetic Secretary Mr. H. S. L. Polak for their unceasing efforts for the vindication of the rights of Indians in South Africa.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

The volume of correspondence has been large as ever. Correspondence has been continued with the Government Departments and the Constituent bodies and other bodies in India and England on various

matters of importance to the community. These are all placed on the table.

#### FINANCE

The period under review was one during which the whole destiny of the Indian community was in the balance, and in consequence finance has played an important part in bringing the various activities of your Congress and the work of the Rev. C. F. Andrews to a success.

From the financial statement to be submitted by the Treasurers it will be noticed that the liability of the Congress to the writer has increased; this is due to the Provinces not having paid up their dues. It is hoped that the Provinces will pay up their dues and that before this Conference is concluded the Treasurer will be in a position to submit a final financial statement showing no liabilities.

#### CONDOLENCES

On the death of the Rev. Vander Merwe the Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church, a message conveying our condolences was sent to the Dutch Reformed Church and to the bereaved family.

#### THANKS

Your Executive have the honour to place on record its sincere thanks to Mr., Mrs. and Misses Gool for their kind hospitality to the members of the Government of India Delegation on behalf of the community and also to the Rev. C. F. Andrews and to other members of your Congress who happened to be in Capetown in connection with the Round Table Conference and for all their assistance and kindness during that period. No. 7 Buitencingel, Mrs. Gool's house was for all practical purposes used as an office of your Congress. The thanks of your Congress are due to Mr. S. R. Naidoo for the invaluable services rendered by him in the Government of India Delegation and the thanks of your Executive are also due to Mr. S. J. Randeria for the service rendered by him as Auditor.

In conclusion I beg to tender my personal thanks and gratitude to the Deputy-President Mr. J. W. Godfrey for his ever ready advice and guidance in all my work, to the affiliated bodies and their officials and to Messrs. P. R. Pather, V. S. C. Pather, Sorabjee Rustomjee, D. M. Nursoo, Mangalbhai Patel, E. M. Ally, K. V. Patel, Dawood Patel, Suléman Desai, A. M. Chetty, Rajagopal Pillay, A. Sookdeo, M. John, R. J. Moodley and S. W. Abrahams, and last but not the least the members of my office staff, Messrs. A. Harry, J. Maganlal and others for their ever ready help and courtesy at all times during the period I had the honour to be your Secretary. I deeply appreciate the assistance of these gentlemen and fully realise that had it not been for their assistance the little work that I have been able to perform howsoever imperfectly would have been impossible to achieve without their kind co-operation.

Before I conclude I feel I have a duty to perform and that is to place on record my eternal debt of gratitude to the Rev. C. F. Andrews for his sympathetic co-operation and for his sagacious and matured advice to me at all times.

I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

A. I. KAJEE.

Headquarters:  
175 Grey Street, Durban.

Johannesburg.  
12th March 1927.