

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

WHILE going to Press we understand that the Liquor Bill has passed through the second reading Mr. Tielman Roos having promised to reconsider the White Labour Clause. The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri proceeds to Capetown to-day (Friday) to interview the Minister of Justice. The Indian community has declared in unmistakable terms that it will not have any compromise on Section 104 of the Liquor Bill. Nothing less than the deletion of the clause will satisfy them.

A correspondent from Johannesburg draws our attention to the hardships Indian women have to suffer at Komatipoort while entering the Transvaal from Delegea Bay. While European passengers, it is pointed out, are examined by the local Immigration Officer, on the trains, Indian passengers including women and children and including babies in arms are to get down and walk to the office to be dealt with. How inconvenient this must be especially to women and children we leave it to the reader to judge. But we do not know what occasion there is to inflict this hardship on Indian passengers. At all the other border stations the passengers are examined on the trains and why could that practice be not continued at Komatipoort also? We had occasion to comment on this and also on the insults and humiliations Indians have to suffer at the hands of the local Immigration Officer at Komatipoort some years back. A fortnight ago, two prominent Indian gentlemen of Pretoria, we are informed, were roughly handled at the above place. This is a matter that should be taken up by the Transvaal Indian Congress without delay.

The opening ceremony of the newly built premises of the Hindu Tamil Institute at 17 Cross Street, Durban, was performed amidst a large gathering by the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri last Friday January 27. The Mayor and Mayoress and the Rev. A. Lamont were also present. Mr. Sastri delivered an important speech on the occasion on the question of vernacular education a verbatim report of which we hope to publish in our next issue.

A very interesting wedding ceremony took place last Sunday of Amina Beebee eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Sultan of Escombe to Abdool Kadir eldest son of Mr. N. Mahomed Essop of Pine Street, Durban, and of Fatima Beebee, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sultan to Shaik Yusuff eldest son of the late Mr. Suleman Raboobee of Durban. The ceremony took place at Mr. Sultan's place at Escombe and was attended by over a thousand people from throughout Natal, Mr. Sastri and his staff and Mr. Kitchlu and Miss Gordon the educational experts from India also being present.

We welcome Mr. V. A. Pillay an active worker in Port Elizabeth who has recently returned to South Africa after an absence of about three years in India during which period he was engaged in national work in Southern India.

A correspondent from Krugersdorp states: The Krugersdorp people have rarely witnessed a more interesting ceremony than was performed on Sunday afternoon last, when the marriage was solemnised, in accordance with the rites of the Moslem faith, of Mr. Ismail Bhabha, merchant, Middelburg, Transvaal, and Miss Khatija Dadoo, daughter of Mr. M. M. Dadoo, the leading Asiatic merchant of Krugersdorp, and Mrs. Dadoo. The grounds attached to the residence of the bride's parents, President Street, were covered in, and the ceremony was conducted on a carpeted dais by the High Priest, His Holiness Peer Sahib of Bagdad, Mesopotamia, who was assisted by the priest of the Johannesburg Mosque, and Moulvis from various parts of the Union. Many European guests were present and accommodated with seats in front of the dais, and the company also included over one thousand representatives of the Asiatic community from all parts of the Union, Rhodesia and Lourenco Marques, no distinction of caste or colour being made.

With this issue we present our readers with a portrait of the late Hakim Ajmal Khan which we hope they will preserve as a guide in their public and private life.

### INDIA'S GREAT LOSS

IN December 1926 the Indian nation received a great shock by the sudden and untimely death of Swami Shradhanand. In December 1927 India, has received another great shock by the sudden death of Hakim Ajmal Khan. The ways of Reuter's Agency are indeed mysterious. A street fight between a Mahomedan and a Hindu seems to it to be important enough to report, but what is considered to be a great loss to the whole Indian Nation is evidently of no importance to that Agency. We in this far-off land were kept in the dark by that Agency and it was only the latest mail from the Motherland that brought us the very sad news. The late Hakim Sahib was great not only as a Physician but was greater still as one of the foremost leaders of India, one whom India could ill-afford to lose especially at the present moment. His political activities, it would seem, did not cease until only a few days before his death although he was ailing for some considerable time. It was only on December 11 that Hakim Sahib presided over a meeting of the Executive Council of the All-India Moslem League which was held at Delhi.

As a medical practitioner Hakim Sahib's name was renowned throughout the length and breadth of India. It was his hand that guided the activities of the Unani and Ayurvedic College at Delhi, which has in a very short time made a name for itself. Hakim Sahib's influence over the public of Delhi, of which he was one of the foremost citizens, was unique. He was one of those Mahomedans who was loved alike by Hindus as well as his co-religionists. During the non-co-operation days Hakim Sahib came into great prominence as a political leader and ever since he had been in the forefront of the political movement. He was elected to preside over what is known to be a historic session of the Indian National Congress, namely the Ahmedabad Congress of 1921 in the unavoidable absence of Deshbandhu Das who was then flung into jail by the Indian Bureaucracy for leading India in her struggle for freedom. That Hakim Sahib should have been chosen as President of the Congress during that fiery period is a proof in itself of the ardent love and confidence he enjoyed from the people of India. As in his public and professional activities so also in his personal conduct the Hakim Sahib was a man who promptly won the love and esteem of all who had the good fortune of coming into his contact. During the memorable Unity Conference which was held in Delhi as a result of Mahatma Gandhi's twenty-one days' fast the Hakim Sahib was one of those who spared no pains in bringing about unity between the two sections and was at the same time attending to Mahatma Gandhi with all the love and care imaginable. That Hakim Sahib should pass away just when the reins of the Congress fell in the hands of Dr. Ansari is a great misfortune. Dr. Ansari has lost his right hand. We do not know who else was so near to him as was Hakim Sahib. We have no doubt he had built his hopes on Hakim Sahib for the success of the work that has fallen on his shoulders. And this sudden shock will be too great for him to bear. The unkind hand of Providence that has deprived India of yet another noble son has thus remonstrated to her that she has yet to do penance for her sins. The sympathy of every Indian outside India will go out to their Motherland and to the relatives of the late Hakim Sahib in their very great loss. May the soul of the departed rest in eternal peace.

## Sunday's Mass Meeting

### Protest Against Liquor Bill

As advertised a mass meeting of Indians under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress was held at Rawat's Bio Hall on Sunday, 29th January, at 3-30 p.m. The floor of the hall was fully packed.

#### The Late Hakim Ajmal Khan

The chairman Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee in his opening remarks said, "Before we proceed with the business of the day, a painful duty devolves upon me. Last week's mail from India brought us the sad news of the death of Hakim Ajmal Khan, an ex-President of the Indian National Congress. The late Hakimjee was, as you all know, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He was an Indian first and foremost and a Muslim afterwards. During his lifetime he strove for Hindu-Muslim unity; he was an example of Indian culture; his sacrifices and labour in the creation of the Unani Hospital and the rejuvenation of that branch of medical science are universally known. He was a patriot in the fullest sense of the word. India could ill-afford to lose men of his calibre. His untimely death will be a blow to Dr. Ansari, the present President of the Indian National Congress, for these two, though possessing two bodies, were of one mind. They were inseparable. And it is an irony fate that Dr. Ansari should, just as he had climbed the highest rung of the ladder, lose one who has been so dear to him. Gentlemen, let us for a moment stand up and pray that the Almighty may shower His blessings upon the departed soul."

At this juncture the whole audience rose from their seats in silence as a mark of respect to the late Hakimjee and passed the following resolution:—

"That this mass meeting of the Indian community of Durban and District, held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, solemnly places on record its deep and lasting sense of sorrow at the demise of the late Hakim Ajmal Khan, an ex-President of the Indian National Congress and a true Indian patriot, and sympathises with the Indian nation and relatives of the late leader in their very sad and irreparable loss."

#### Liquor Bill

The chairman then proceeded:—"We have met here this afternoon on a matter that vitally affects the Indian community, more particularly those who are employed in Hotels, Bars, Breweries and other places where liquor is sold, manufactured or handled. The Liquor Bill, as you all know, was first brought before Parliament two years ago and, notwithstanding the Capetown Agreement subsequently arrived at on the Indian question, the Minister of Justice has re-introduced it with the clause that Asiatics shall, so far as the other provinces except Natal were concerned, be dismissed from their services within a period of one year and in respect of Natal the licensing fee shall be doubled in the event of the employer wishing to retain the services of Indians.

It is only about a year ago that we were assured by the Union Government that we would be considered as part of the permanent population of the Union and that all possible steps would be taken for our upliftment.

You will have observed from a casual reading of the clause that it aims at a gradual process of strangulation. It means that with one stroke of the pen, as it were, the whole of the Indians employed in Hotels, Bars, Restaurants etc., would be dismissed from their services.

I cannot, with any stretch of imagination, perceive how a Cabinet which, hardly a year ago, recognised its duty towards the Indian community, would now come forward with a Bill that does not aim at uplift-

ing our community, as provided for in the "Gentleman's Agreement," but the elimination of over 3,000 Indians from their employment and thereby close all doors towards their upliftment. On the one hand the Union Government subscribes to an agreement in which it says that "the Indians who will remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind any other section of the people," while on the other hand it tries to bring pressure upon a section of the permanent population. I term the 3,000 Indians as part of the permanent population, for, for the most part they are South African born, to whom this country is their land of birth; least of all could we expect these men to be oppressed. They have followed their calling for years without any hindrance. They have given their employers every satisfaction. They represent the poorest section of our community, and this calling is therefore their only means of livelihood. One could not comprehend the miserable conditions of these men were they to be thrown out of employment. They would suffer untold misery. This appears to be of no concern to the Union Government. No civilised Government, I say with emphasis, will ever attempt to find employment for one section of the community at the expense of another which has no voice in its governance.

In introducing the second reading of the Liquor Bill, Mr. Tielman Roos suggests a modification of Section 104. The modification is that Indians presently employed would not be interfered with, but in the future no further Indians could be employed. Whilst the suggestion is a slight improvement, it is extremely shadowy and is fraught with extreme danger. For, if the suggestion were carried out, it would mean that if a person leaves the services of one Hotel or Bar, he would not be taken by another Hotel or Bar. Instead of depriving the Indians of their employment within one year, the deprivation will spread over a period of three or four years. We desire no modification, we want no bargain, but what we do want is the elimination of the colour bar in the Liquor Bill. If the Bill with the colour bar goes through, the only conclusion we can draw is that the Union Cabinet is treating the Capetown Agreement as a mere scrap of paper.

Under Section 66 of Act No. 38 of 1896 of Natal, there are many of our compatriots who hold exemption certificates. These certificates entitle them to purchase liquor at any of the Bottle Stores or Bars. These certificates have been held by them for years, and we know of not a single case where an Indian had abused this privilege. The holders of these exemption certificates have all along conformed to the terms of the above Section. Sub-section 2 of Section 102 of the Liquor Bill seeks to deprive these Indians of their long-enjoyed privileges. Where the law is of a general character, we have nothing to say against it, but here the Section is distinct, and the Minister of Justice is attempting to deprive the holders of their privileges just because they are Indians. If this is the spirit in which the Union Cabinet is going to work the Agreement, then, I fear, we shall have to retrace our steps. Although I cannot for a moment believe that the Cabinet is at the back of the Bill, I do feel that no Cabinet with any sense of responsibility can sit quiet when one of its members fathers a Bill that is at once in conflict with a compact entered into twelve months ago.

Gentlemen, the Government's intention can easily be comprehended by a perusal of Section 143 of the Bill. Under this clause the Government will open beer and cheap wine shops for Asiatics and Coloured persons. In these shops Indians may freely buy and imbibe this cheap liquor. These shops will bring the Indians to a state of demoralisation. It is a process of slow-killing.

I have indicated to you the various clauses that adversely affect our community. I know that there

is not an Indian whose every nerve does not rebel against these obnoxious clauses. Our protest therefore should be as strong as possible.

We acquiesced in the Capetown Agreement because we felt that it was an honest attempt on the part of the Government to solve the Indian question. We felt that our community would be given a respite and that we could turn our thoughts towards the upliftment of our community. Towards that end our community assisted by the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri has been working for the last eight months. Before we knew where we were, the Government has stepped beyond the terms of Armistice, as it were, in bringing forward the Liquor Bill. I say with all emphasis at my command that if the Government, in the teeth of opposition from our community, pass the Bill, then the sooner we withdraw our acquiescence in the Agreement the better.

Gentlemen, the Liquor Bill is but an attempt on the part of the Government to pursue further the white labour policy. We have already had a taste of this policy in one or two of the Government services. We take the Railways. There were many Indians who joined this service when the Railway was first introduced into Natal. The Ministry in charge of the Railways, without any consideration for these poor Indians, dismissed them and found employment for the poor whites. You will have noticed that at practically every railway-crossing a poor white is now doing the work which a year or two ago was carried on by an Indian. At that time our Congress lodged strong objections to this unwise step. The very same policy is now to be pursued by the Minister of Justice, for the Liquor Bill has at the back of it the tint of white-labour policy.

We emphatically protest against this policy. And it is most inappropriate that a Minister of Justice who at all times should mete out justice to every section of the community, should promote a Bill that is at once unjust and iniquitous.

A resolution will be brought forward and I commend it to your consideration. Let us make it known to the Minister that the Indian community of Natal is solid on this question, and that our protest against his action is most emphatic.

### Other Speeches

The chairman's speech was followed by an eloquent speech by the Rev. A. Lamont who was present to join in the protest against the grave injustice that was sought to be done to Indians under the Bill.

Mr. A. Christopher (Deputy-President of the S. A. I. Congress) then rose to speak and exhorted the Indians to unite into one body and protest against the Bill which sought not only to humiliate but to ruin the Indian community.

### Archdeacon Harris

Archdeacon Harris at this moment graced the meeting with his kind presence and said he had his own views on the Liquor question and although he could speak lengthily on that it was not his purpose then to do so. He was there to join heartily with the Press generally and with the Indian community in their protest against Section 104 of the Bill which aimed at doing a grave injustice to the latter.

Mr. V. S. C. Pather then moved the following resolution:—

"That this mass meeting of the Indian community of Durban and District, held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, emphatically protests against the attempt on the part of the Minister of Justice to introduce by means of a certain section in the Liquor Bill, a racial bar, by which thousands of Indians will be deprived of their livelihood, and strongly protests against any such restriction of the present rights enjoyed by them. This meeting further places on record that such an attempt is in

direct conflict with the letter and spirit of the Capetown Agreement."

Messrs. F. C. Pillay (Chairman of the Natal Hotel Employees' Union), Advocate J. W. Godfrey, Rooknoodeen and B. M. Patel spoke in support of the above resolution which was passed unanimously.

The meeting terminated at 5-30 p.m.

### Meetings in Other Places

Similar protest meetings against the Liquor Bill were held in Maritzburg, Johannesburg and other places, and among the resolutions passed was included also a resolution expressing the community's deep regret at the sudden death of India's great leader Hakim Ajmal Khan. We hope to publish the reports of these meetings in our next issue.

### Cables to India

The following is a copy of a cable message sent by the Deputy-President of the S. A. I. Congress to the Viceroy of India. Copies were also sent to Associated Press, Sir D'Arcy Lindsay, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mahatma Gandhi, Sir Parshotamdas Thakerdas, Rev. C. F. Andrews, M. A. Jinha, Lala Lajpatrai, Sir Pheroze Sethna, Dr. Gour, Pundit Malaviaji, Dr. Ansari, Hon. V. J. Patel, Rangasamy Iyengar, Maulana Mahomed Alli, Srinivasa Iyengar:—

"Second reading Liquor Bill now going through Parliament notwithstanding protest. Bill seeks deprive three thousand Indians their families and dependants of livelihood ultimately drive them out of country. Bill direct conflict letter spirit Capetown Agreement. Clear racial legislation. Indians greatly alarmed Government's attitude. If Bill passes Capetown Agreement smashed. Earnestly appeal your immediate intervention—CHRISTOPHER, Deputy-President South African Indian Congress."

## Parliamentary Debate On Liquor Bill

We call the following from the debate on the Liquor Bill which deals with the white labour clause:—

In moving the second reading of the Bill on Wednesday Jan. 25, the Minister of Justice referred to the question of Indian waiters, and said that they should deal with it on the basis of not depriving waiters of their employment. They should, however, forbid the further employment of Indians and thus gradually reduce their number. He thought something could be done along these lines.

Dr. H. J. REITZ (Nat. North East Rand) in the course of argument hoped that politics would not be allowed to be brought into the discussion of the Bill, except in regard to the white labour clause, which he regarded as being of vital importance. If the clause were allowed to go through, it would be of great importance, and would be the means of work being found for thousands of poor whites. It would be the means of jobs being found for thousands of "pals"—the right jobs for the right pals. The Natives were not the Pact's pals, nor were the Asiatics the pals of the Pact. If the clause were watered down, or deleted, the Bill, so far as the Pact was concerned, would be a dud, although it still might be a useful measure.

Mr. BLACKWELL (S.A.P., Bezuidenhout) dealing with the white labour clause described it as a damnable thing.

Mr. M. ALEXANDER (Ind. Dem., Hanover Street), criticising the white labour clause said he was surprised to see it there now that the Indian Agreement had been ratified. This clause was an invitation to the Government of India to tear up that agreement

between the two countries, because the point was made by the Minister of the Interior right away through that the stigma of racial inferiority would be removed. Surely there was no greater stigma than this clause, no greater insult than to tell the 3,000 Indians engaged as cooks and waiters that they were suddenly to be deprived of their livelihood simply because they were Asiatics.

If, as the Prime Minister had said at Lydenburg, the Government were going to do the right and fair thing, then the Government should not hesitate a single moment in scrapping this particular clause. It was no use to say that a compromise might be reached by allowing the Indians at present employed in these occupations to continue at their work, because the whole thing was a stigma which ought to be removed from the Bill.

From the experience of training white youths for this work in Johannesburg, went on Mr. Alexander, it was quite clear that they had not got the material in this country at present, although they might have in time to come. In any case, if a white boy or man had an aptitude for this work he need not fear that he could not hold his own with the Indians.

In 1926, pointed out Mr. Alexander, the welkin rang with the necessity for the Colour Bar Bill; in 1928 the Colour Bar Act had not yet been put into operation. How many members, he asked, knew that that Act had not yet been promulgated? He appealed, therefore, to the House not to proceed on a similarly foolish policy of colour bar legislation. It would never be carried out, and it would only wound unnecessarily a portion of the community.

Mr. C. B. Heatlie (S.A.P., Worcester), Dr. A. J. Stals (N. Hopetown) and Mr. J. J. Van Rensburg (N. Boshof) did not refer to the white labour clause.

Mr. PATRICK DUNCAN (S.A.P., Yeoville) described the white labour clause as being nothing short of abominable. Their honour as a nation, he said, was bound up with the Indian Agreement they had made in the past. Not only the spirit of that agreement, but the actual letter, was violated by this clause. He asked if the Government had put the agreement on paper while holding a mental reservation. The clause tore up the agreement. He regretted that Dr. Reitz should have got up in the House and said what he did the previous day.

"This House," said Mr. Duncan, "is the highest authority in the country, and holds under its control the liberty, property and lives of the people of this country, not only white, but black and coloured also. This Parliament is responsible for protecting them, their liberties and interests, and seeing they get justice. Every member here is a trustee for seeing that these people get a fair deal, and more so when they come from a province where they have no vote or means of making their voices heard or influence felt."

Mr. Duncan stated that Dr. Reitz had said he was out for his pals; that the Indian and the Native were not pals of his. That came from one of the trustees of the people. The Europeans were a comparatively small population in the midst of a large and generally uncivilised native population. There was peace among these people because up to now they had confidence in the justice of the white people that they would get a fair deal. The doctrine announced by Dr. Reitz was not a doctrine of justice but one of grab. It would be a sorry day for the country when that confidence in the white race was broken. The position was not helped because there might be positions for a few white men.

"If the white man has to rely on this kind of protection, said Mr. Duncan, "then his day is done. I suppose this is the new Socialism living by the exploitation of the coloured proletariat, using this Parliament to keep these people down to the level of the proletariat. Not only is it unjust and sins against the fundamental principles of justice, but it

is fatal to our interests as white men. I object with all my power to a doctrine like this being adopted in this House—that we are here to get what we can. I hope the good sense of the House will prevail, and that the Bill goes through without this clause. The gain is a mere trifle to the injury it will cause.”

Mr. M. KENTRIDGE (L., Troyeville) denied that the clause constituted a breach of the Indian Agreement. It was simply a continuation of the policy and principles which he claimed had been accepted by the people of the country, that something must be done not only to entrench but to extend the avenues of employment for white people. In these matters they had to be guided by material as well as ethical considerations.

The position so far as the Indian Agreement was concerned, went on Mr. Kentridge, was that there were two outstanding questions at issue between the two Governments at the time. One was contained in the policy enunciated by the present Government, and which was virtually accepted by the previous Government in the Areas Reservation Bill, by which it was proposed to put the Indians in this country virtually in locations; but the feeling among the Indians was that this would be a reflection on their race. The question, then, was: What could they do to restrict the unfair competition which existed and to restrict the influx of the Indian population into South Africa?

The two principal items in this agreement which overshadowed everything else, declared Mr. Kentridge, were,—

First, that the Union Government agreed to withdraw that Bill; and

Secondly, that in consideration of this concession the Government of India undertook to do everything possible to encourage a voluntary repatriation of Indians from South Africa.

Mr. Kentridge submitted, therefore, that there was nothing in the white labour clause of the Liquor Bill which violated that agreement.

Mr. Duncan's second objection, went on the member for Troyeville, was that something was being done to allocate occupations, but the principle of the allocation of occupations was not new to South Africa, as, for example, Europeans were prevented from getting employment in the native territories. There were to-day colour bars against the white population.

“I am not concerned,” declared Mr. Kentridge, “whether this clause is going to benefit the National Party or the Labour Party, but I am concerned from the point of view that, unless the policy of this Government of opening up more avenues of employment for the white people is pursued, you will never be able to establish in this country a growing and virile white population.”

Mr. R. W. CLOSE (S.A.P., Roondebosch), said he felt that if the Bill was passed with the white labour clause in it it would be a blot on their fair name and a smirch on their honour.

The ex-Speaker, Mr. C. J. KRIGE (S.A.P., Caledon) said a careful study of the Bill showed that an additional burden of £174,000 was placed on licence holders. If Clause 104 were adopted the financial burden would be much greater. He feared that the restrictions of the Bill were such that tourists would in the future find greater reasons for the complaints already voiced.

Mr. J. G. Keyter (N. Ficksburg), Mr. A. S. Naude (N. Wakkerstroom) and Mr. C. Pearce (L. Liesbeek) were silent on the white labour clause.

Sir THOMAS WATT (S.A.P., Dundee) criticising the clause said he was amused at the argument of Mr. Kentridge that this clause did not say that Europeans were to take the place of the natives and Asiatics, and if it were passed as it stood it would have the effect of displacing the Asiatics by coloured men; in only a few cases where white men were

to take the place of Asiatics as waiters. Asiatics were the best waiters in the world, and he saw no reason at all why they should be debarred from carrying on their work.

He was surprised, went on Sir Thomas, that the Minister of the Interior had said nothing about this clause, though invited to do so. He was the Minister on the Government side responsible for bringing about the Indian Agreement. He told them that the stigma on Asiatics was to be removed and he was going to uplift the Asiatics on to a higher level; and it was rather strange that his colleague the Minister of Justice, should now come along and take steps to prevent these men from earning an honest livelihood. The clause should be dropped altogether. It was not going to drive the Asiatic out of the country, and it was altogether unfair to them.

The Rev. M. L. FICK (N. Potchefstroom) said he was not opposed to the Asiatic provisions of the Bill, which were designed to prevent the exploitation of Indians against whites.

Mr. H. B. Papenfus (S.A.P., Hospital) was silent on the white labour clause.

Mr. R. B. WATERSTON (Labour) in opposing the clause vehemently declared: “If we have entered into an agreement, and if we intend to carry it out we should do so. If we do not want to carry it out we should not pretend about it. (Hear, hear). I ask the Minister what principles we are fighting can be used to justify this clause? Can we plead that, although we may be doing an injustice we are fighting for the preservation of the white race in South Africa? I say we cannot plead it in any circumstances. Can we plead that it is for the safety of the lives and limbs of the people. Can we plead that it is endangering the lives of these men or their fellow-workers. I say we cannot plead that. Is it in the interests of morality? I say we cannot even plead that. If it were we should first take steps to make it illegal to employ native house-boys all over South Africa.”

“It could not be said it is to prevent drinking among natives,” said Mr. Waterston, “because under this Act we allow him to take full bottles in a basket on a push-bike. In fact, we allow him to wash the bottles and drink the dregs. That is not keeping him away from securing liquor.”

“If,” declared Mr. Waterston, “the aim of this clause is to open up avenues of employment for white people it is going to supply dead-end openings in this particular industry. Our children will have to go as errand boys to ride push-bikes, with stacks of beer in a basket in front, and deliver that liquor. We are providing openings for men to handle barrels of beer and for girls to wash bottles. Every one of these occupations are blind-alley jobs, and while we are doing that we find in another department of the self-same Government that natives are carrying on drill sharpening and engine-driving, and doing any amount of skilled work, where the Government has the power to reserve this work for white men.

“Here we are placing the whites on the lowest possible rung of unskilled labour and driving the natives and Asiatics out of occupations, in which I don't think one of us would like to see our children. And where are the natives and Asiatics going to? They are not going out to the sea to be drowned, but they are going to compete with the white people in other occupations. Party whip or no party whip, I am going to vote against this clause and also against the extension of the tot system. If that is the best that Socialism in our time can achieve, then, I say, God help South Africa. And if that is the best that Government can do, in addition to what they have done, for the future of the white people of this country, then I say this Government has not come up to expectations.”

Mr. J. H. VAN DER MERWE (N. Wynburg) said he

did not think it right for the Opposition to oppose so bitterly its provisions and make use of the Indian question and agreement to accuse the Government of breaking faith. "I have gone through the agreement, and I don't see that the Government can be accused of not keeping faith."

Hon. members: Oh.

Dr. van der Merwe: No; I don't think so. The Indian delegation did not oppose the provisions of the Colour Bar Act, and this Bill is much the same. If the Opposition had objected to the provisions by saying the game was not worth the candle that would be a different matter, but the Government cannot properly be said to be breaking faith.

Mr. G. H. NICHOLLS (S.A.P., Zululand) said the Government was again suffering from a constitutional inability to see anything beyond the borders of their own country. They still shouted out for South Africa alone. It was the end of our noses attitude in politics.

"Can we afford to be criticised by the civilised nations of the world?" asked Mr. Nicholls. If that criticism was not to be merited, he said, they had to conform to the standards set and the resolutions passed by these nations. South Africa had entered into an agreement with a sister State with a population of 350,000,000, and a little later she violated the very spirit of the agreement.

Mr. Roos: It is not a violation of the agreement. I entirely differ from you. It is not a fact.

Mr. Nicholls: I wish the Minister to realise the solemnness of his utterances in the House on that question.

Mr. Roos: I say it is not a fact.

Mr. Nicholls: Your legal arguments may adduce.

Mr. Roos: Whatever legal argument I might adduce will not convince you.

Mr. Blackwell: It is not a matter for legal argument.

Sir Thomas Smartt: It is a matter of honesty and good faith.

Mr. Nicholls: Yes; honesty and good faith.

## Further Comments On The Liquor Bill

### Repudiation Of Union's Plighted Word

The *Cape Times*, in a leader on references by Mr. Roos and others during the Liquor Bill debate to the effect of Section 104 of the Bill on the status of Indians, says:—

"To compromise upon Section 104 is out of the question. The Minister apparently thinks that if the interests of present Indian employees are safeguarded all will be well. Even Mr. Blackwell spoke as though the important thing was not to turn the present workers out of their jobs but surely there cannot be a moment's doubt about the real issue, which is the effect of the clause on the status of Indians as a distinct element in the South African nation.

"In accepting the Capetown Agreement, the Union Government gave various promises which, if they mean anything at all, mean that the general position of Indians at the time the agreement was concluded will not be altered for the worse and mean, in particular, that no occupation will be debarred from them by law.

"Section 104 seeks to erect such a legal bar. It thus directly violates the pledge which the Union Government has given to the Government of India. The matter is simply and solely one of the honour, not only of the Government, but of South Africa.

"What is virtually an international undertaking

cannot be so lightly thrown over as the Bill, in its present form, contemplates.

"If the Government consider Section 104 of sufficiently material significance to be worth the sacrifice of the Capetown Agreement, then let them say so and terminate the agreement openly in the manner for which itself provides. But do not let them lend themselves to the dishonesty of an unexplained repudiation of their plighted word."

## Cape British Indian Council

### Report of Kimberley Conference

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

All sections of the Cape Town Indian community were present at a meeting of the Cape British Indian Council held at the Fidelity Hall, Primrose Street, on Sunday, 15th January. Mr. A. E. Bachshumia, chairman of the committee of the C.B.I.C., presided. Among others who took an active part in the proceedings were Dr. Patel Masters, Messrs. Gherulla Abdollah, D. Manchenjee, S. Gorwalla, Hadji Khan Gool, Abdool Malik, P. Desai, Hadji Mahomed Khan, Ockbin, Abdul Hamid, Adam Wally, and Adam Abdullahi as well as several notable visitors from the Transvaal.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, pointed out the significance of the decisions taken at the recent Kimberley Conference of the South African Indian Congress, and stated that it augured well for the Indian community that, as a result of the round table conference, an optimistic view could be taken of the future welfare of their community. He welcomed in their midst Advocate A. Christopher, D.C.M., the newly-elected deputy-president of the South African Indian Congress, and also congratulated him on his successful scholastic career in England.

Advocate Christopher, in reply impressed upon his hearers that Indians in the Union should act as South Africans, and generally take to heart the advice tendered by the Right Hon. V. S. Sastri in order to raise the prestige of the community. He had just returned from Kimberley, and admired the way South African Indians were conducting their affairs. He hoped that the future of the S.A. Indian Congress would be a bright one.

Mr. A. Ismail, in submitting a lengthy report on the labours of the Conference at Kimberly, emphasized the good work done by that body, as well as the effect of the presence of the Rt. Hon. V. S. Sastri and his staff on that occasion. Altogether the Kimberley session proved a success, and did a great deal to pave the way for a better understanding between Indians and Europeans.

After other delegates had spoken and various questions had been answered, the report was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

The following were elected members of the Executive of the S. A. Indian Congress to represent the Cape area: Messrs. A. Ismail (Cape Town), S. Casoojee (East London), H. Haflcejee (Port Elizabeth), and P. Dawson (Kimberley).

## "INDIAN OPINION"

### Subscription Rates.

WITHIN THE UNION :		s.	d.
Yearly	.. ..	20	0
Half-Yearly	.. ..	10	0
OUTSIDE THE UNION and OVERSEAS			
Yearly	.. ..	20	0
Half-Yearly	.. ..	10	0

# NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for  
Period 11th October 1926 to 22nd January 1928.

Receipts		Expenditure	
By Subscriptions for year 1926	£47-12-6	To Balance due to Secretaries as per last Account	£24 16 6
" " " " 1927	51-18-0	" H. H. Janion—s/c fees re Test case	
" Amount received from special collection in Natal	400-0-0	" Boroughs Ordinance	148 15 0
" Donations re Small-pox Epidemic:		" H. J. Stuart—s/c fees re Test case	
Parsee Rustomjee Trust	10-10-0	" Boroughs Ordinance	15 0 0
Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust	10-10 0	" Purse to Servants of India Society	501 0 0
A. A. Gandhi	2-0-0	" South African Indian Congress:—	
Daychand Soni	2-0-0	Contribution for year 1926	150 0 0
" Special collection from Committee for circulars re Personal Tax Exemption	3-2-3	Levies during the year 1926	200 0 0
" Loan from Mr. E. M. Ally	58-0-0	Proportion typing expenses	15 0 0
" Donations toward reception to Government of India delegation and purse to Servants of India Society	725-9-0	Contribution for year 1927	150 0 0
" Donations towards reception to Mr. Sastri as Agent of Govt. of India	160-15-0	Account contribution for 1928	85 0 0
" Sale of tickets for Mr. C. F. Andrews' banquet	135-12-6	" Reception to Govt. of India Delegation:—	
" Amount collected towards purse to Mr. Andrews	36-15-0	Cost of silver salvers with engravings etc.	147 0 0
" Dannhauser Disaster Relief Fund for dependants from <i>The Natal Witness</i>	450-9-10	Silver cabinet and purse for Servants of India Society	10 5 3
" Purse handed to Congress by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee	523-13-6	Garlands, Boquets, Town Hall hire, ribbons for decorating cars, printing etc., etc.	65 19 0
" Donation towards Mr. Sorabjee's banquet	73-10-0	" Reception to Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri & Staff:—	
" Donation towards Mr. Christopher's present of Law-books	120-15-0	Cost of address and presents to Staff	66 15 7
" Balance due to Secretaries	40-16-11	Town Hall hire, printing, flag poles, advertising, garlands, boquets, stamps and petties...	61 15 0
		" Reception to Rev. C. F. Andrews:—	
		Butterworths for catering	90 3 0
		Stranack's Orchestra	10 10 0
		Town Hall hire, printing cards, menus etc., stamps and petties	29 6 0
		" Reception to Mr. & Mrs. S. Rustomjee:—	
		Butterworths for catering	66 13 6
		Minerals and Sundries	2 8 6
		Town Hall Hire	3 3 0
		" Pundit Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi—Return Boat Fare from Bombay etc. as member of Deputation	30 0 0
		" S. R. Naidoo—Natal representative—expenses in Capetown re Round Table Conference	41 19 7
		" Cash to Rev. C. F. Andrews—Natal share of his propaganda work re Asiatic Bill	25 0 0
		" Natal Executive on South African Indian Congress attending meeting in Johannesburg	14 8 6
		" Boarding expenses for delegates to South African Indian Congress Emergency Conference	13 4 0
		" Organ recitals	4 4 0
		" Shorthand reporters or verbatim reports	8 8 0
		" Indian Child Welfare Society	15 0 0
		" County Permanent Building Society:—	
		Deposit re Dannhauser Disaster Relief Fund	450 0 0
		" R. K. Kapitan—sweets for children during Mrs. Naidu's visit	20 0 0
		" Expenses re prayer meeting:—	
		Flags and poles	7 5 0
		Advertising	1 15 0
		" Expenses re Small-pox Epidemic:—	
		Petrol for car for Mr. Andrews' visits to Barracks, Bus charges for conveyance of vegetables, printing etc.	6 10 0
		" Printing handbills etc. for sundry meetings during the year	87 3 0
		" Stationery	10 12 6
		" Advertising	10 14 3
		" Garlands, Boquets and Wreaths	26 3 0
		" Cost of Law-Books—presentation to Mr. Albert Christopher	120 15 0
		" Expenses of Mr. V. Lawrence to Dannhauser	3 11 0
		" Delegates attending Kimberley Conference	11 3 0
		" Bank charges, wires, postages and petties	103 3 7
	<u>£2,853-9-6</u>		<u>£2,853 9 6</u>

I hereby Certify that I have to-day examined the books and vouchers of the Natal Indian Congress and find them to be correct.

Shapurji Jivanji Randeria,  
Auditor.

Durban, 21st January 1928.

P. R. PATHER,  
NHAIK HIND,

Joint Hon. Treasurer.

# INDIAN POLITICAL ASSOCIATION - KIMBERLEY.

The Reception Committee appointed in connection with the recent Eighth Session of the South African Indian Congress which met in Kimberley, desire through these columns, to appeal to Indians in the outlying districts of Griqualand West and particularly those in the Vryburg, Mafeking and Barkly West areas to contribute to the funds of the above Committee.

The entertainment of the delegates attending the Congress was undertaken by this Committee who incurred a debt amounting to £164-5-9. Subscriptions received to date total £88-10-6 so that we are faced with a deficit of £75-15-3, as will be seen from the following Statement of Accounts.

Collectors will visit the districts mentioned above when it is trusted subscriptions will be collected to cover the deficit.

## Statement of Accounts -- Reception Committee.

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Services supplied to MR. AHMED MAHOMED.		By Subscriptions	£81-0-0
Hire of chairs, tables, table cloths, decorations ... ..	£13-17-0	" Cash loan (M. R. Samy)	7-10-6
Hire of tarpulins, timber, crockery, Breakages ... ..	10-17-0		
Wage, cooks, waiters, electrician and labourers ... ..	60-4-0		
Hire of lodgings ... ..	5-0-0		
Wash stands ... ..	2-15-0		
Hire of motor cars; conveyance of delegates and collectors ... ..	15-14-6		
Cartage ... ..	4-13-6		
Cash loan (M. R. Samy) ... ..	7-10-6		
Stationery, stamps, telegrams and printing ... ..	7-0-9		
Catering: refreshments for delegates at Hall ... ..	8-15-0		
Miscellaneous ... ..	14-4-6		
Caretakers, (lodgings) ... ..	8-10-0		
	<u>£164 5-9</u>		
			<u>88-10-6</u>
		DEFICIT	<u>75-15-3</u>
			<u>£164 5-9</u>

### બહેર ખબર

#### ધી ટ્રાંસવાલ યુનાઇટેડ પાર્ટીદાર સોસાયટી

આ સોસાયટીની વાર્ષિક બહેરસલા તા. ૧૨ મી ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૨૮ ને રવિવારે બપોર બાદ ત્રણ વાગે પાર્ટીદાર હોલમાં નીચે જણાવેલા ખાસ કાર્યો માટે મળશે. સ્થાનિક તથા રેન્ડમાં વસ્તા તમામ પાર્ટીદાર ભાષ્યોને વેળાસર પધારવા વિનય છે.

૧. વાર્ષિક રીપોર્ટ અને હિસાબની રજુઆત.
૨. અમલદારો અને મ્યંવાલક સમીતીની ચુંટણી.
૩. પરચુરસ અગસના કામકાજ.

રજુઓલ્ડબાર્ક બહાલજી પટેલ,  
અમખાઈદાસ માવજી પટેલ,

બેકન્ટ મંત્રીઓ.

તા. ૧૧-૧-૧૯૨૮.

ધી ટ્રા. યુ. પાર્ટીદાર સોસાયટી.

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### સતોષ આપનારી નિશાની

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Morning Market, Newtown.

તમારું અનાજ બટર વિગેરે વેચવાને અમારી પર મોકલી આપો. અમે મારકેટમાં બધી ભતનું અનાજ વેચીએ છીએ. વેચાઈ ગયા પછી ખોસા તુરત મોકલી આપીએ છીએ. એક વખત મોકલી અજમાયસ કરવાથી તમોને અમારા પ્રહાક વતી અમારી મહેનતની ખાતરી થશે. અરજ કરવાથી થોડીએ મફત મોકલી આપીએ છીએ. અમારી સારું સને કમ્પોઝિટ પ્રેસ;

ઓ. આર. પટેલ

ફ્રેટ એન્ડ વેલ્ટેબલ ફાર્મર.

ફ્રેટ ભતની સાકલાજી, લીજી, રોરી (ખાવા લાયક) અને ફ્રેટબાદી અમારા બજારમાં પાડે છે.

બહારમાના ઓર્ડરો પર પુરવું ખ્યાલ આપવામાં આવશે.

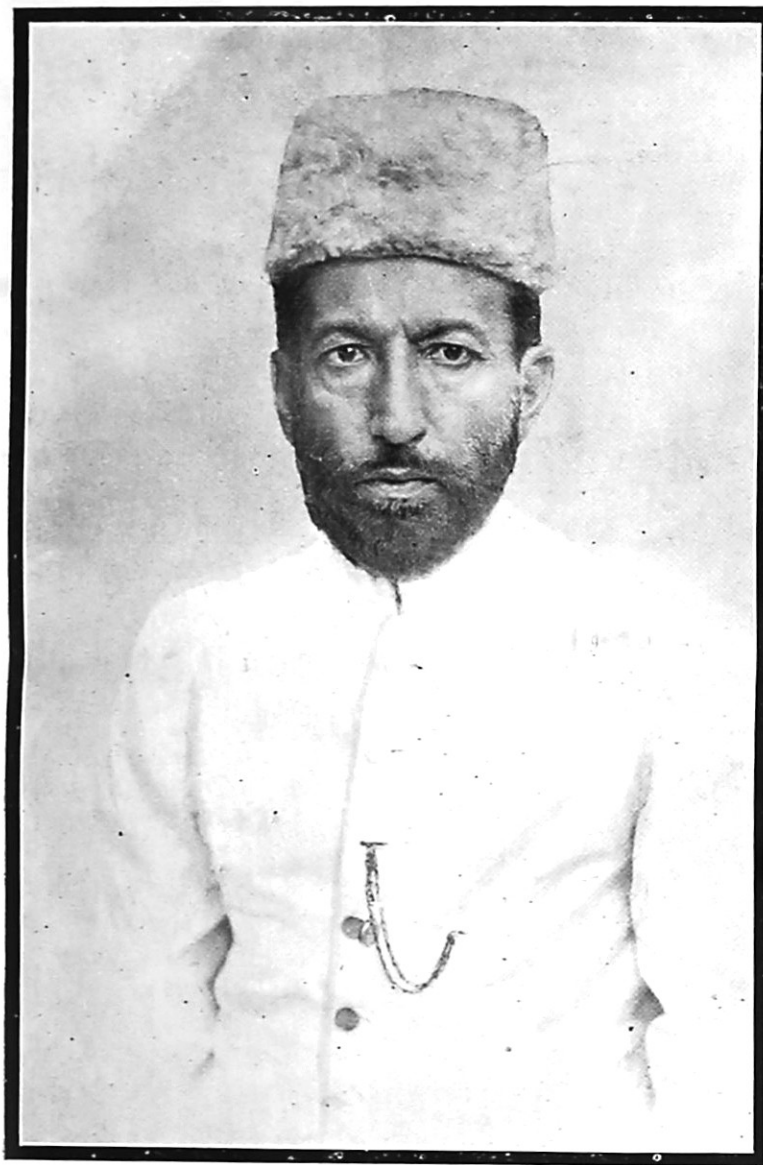
બપો:

Telephone 1.

P. O. Box 11,  
WATERLOO, NATAL.



Supplement to Indian Opinion, 3rd February, 1928.



The Late HAKIM AJMAL KHAN,  
ex-President of the Indian National Congress,  
who has rendered noble service to India, and worked for  
Hindu-Moslem unity.