

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE Joint hon. Secretaries of the South African Indian Congress advise us that the following cables have been sent:—

To THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,
Lahore.

"South African Indian Congress sends greetings to Indian National Congress. Wish success. Trust wise handling of critical situation will unify India and open a new era of peace."

To LORD IRWIN,
Viceroy of India,
New Delhi.

"South African Indian Congress representing Indian community in South Africa deeply shocked and expresses horror at the attempted outrage on your Excellency's person. Profoundly thankful. No harm done."

We are happy to learn that Sir Kurma Reddi has arrived safely at Bombay. Reuter's message informs us that he had been in bed throughout the voyage. We trust that Sir Kurma's brief holiday in India will completely restore him to health.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who also arrived in Bombay on the same boat from Mombasa, where she presided over the East African Indian Congress, declared that the session had been a great success. The condition of Indians in Nairobi had greatly improved since her last visit, and the threatened anti-Indian legislation had been dropped.

The Natal Workers' Congress in co-operation with the Natal Indian Teachers' Society, held a Prize Distribution to the students attending the Workers' Classes. The distribution which was presided over by Advocate A. Christopher took place on Monday evening at the M. K. Gandhi Library and the prizes were given to the successful students by Mr. B. M. Narbeth the Principal of the Natal Technical College. There was a distinguished gathering and the function was very successful. It will be remembered that the workers' classes were instituted a few months ago by the Natal Workers' Congress. With the co-operation of the Natal Teachers' Society from which body the services of teachers were enlisted, the Congress has been able to make these classes very popular. There are over 175 students attending. The classes are being conducted at the Hindu Tamil Institute. The Natal Provincial Council has kindly let the Mitchell Crescent School where afternoon classes have been instituted for the benefit of those not able to attend the evening classes. The classes are under the control of Messrs. S. M. Moodley and T. M. Naicker. The teachers of these classes are to be congratulated for their splendid services. Whenever the Indian community demanded of their services we have always found the Indian teachers to be very willing. This is certainly another instance where the teachers have, despite

considerable inconvenience to them, been found to have played the game, as it were. We do hope that with their co-operation the Congress will use these classes as a stepping stone towards attaining their goal—that of establishing a Technical College for Indians.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a report from a Physical Culture School which held an exhibition recently. The school, which has for its object the physical well-being of our young men in Durban, should receive every encouragement. Glowing tributes to the exhibition were paid by those who attended it. We wish the school every success, and if it requires any publicity our columns will always be open to it.

The Borough Boundaries Commission has through its Secretary sent a lengthy letter to the Town Council in which the Commissioners say that it is essential that the Borough boundaries should be extended to include the Health Areas of Sydenham, Mayville, Umhlatuzana, South Coast Junction, Malvern and Greenwood Park. The Commission has adjourned its sittings so as to give the Council time to prepare the details of incorporation.

Speaking at Bethal recently, General Kemp, the Minister of Agriculture, referred to secession from the British Empire. Having remarked that political independence was of little significance without economic independence, he said:—

"While on this question of political independence I would like to point out for the benefit of those who talk of there being no difference between the S.A.P. policy and our own that there is a vast difference. If we do not favour a new republic to-day, it does not mean that we are against republicanism. While we are not to-day in a position to establish a republic, it does not mean that we are not prepared to do so in the future. We don't care whether it is republicanism or not, so long as it is real independence. The declaration of the 1926 Imperial Conference has given us full liberty to decide for ourselves what form of constitution our country shall have. Our first aim is to make South Africa absolutely independent. (Applause.) If the future shows that it is to our advantage to remain in the British Empire, we shall remain. If the future shows that it is to the advantage of South Africa to secede from the Empire, then she must be at full liberty to take the step. As a national party, our point of view is from the standpoint of the people of South Africa. I am not one of those who think that we should never have a republic. The U.S.A. was once a British Colony and the people of that Colony, who were themselves of English-speaking stock, decided to form a great republic. The time may come when the people of South Africa, both Dutch and English, will decide on the same course. But it is not for us to say what the future generation must do."

Johannesburg, Dec. 23 (Reuter).—During the fortnight or three weeks of the Parliamentary session while General Smuts is returning to South Africa from his tour overseas, Mr. Patrick Duncan will act as Parliamentary leader of the South African Party. A representative of *The Star* was informed to-day that the formal choice of acting leader lies with the Parliamentary caucus.

A Reuter's message from London states:—

The Commons debated the political situation in India, on a motion by Mr. Fenner Brockway (Labour, Leyton), welcoming the co-operation of Indians in the settlement of constitutional questions, and relying on the Government of India to encourage goodwill by sympathetic administration. The speakers dwell on the improvement of the outlook in India. Mr. Wedgwood Benn (Secretary of State for India) said a new spirit was abroad in India. "We are closing a painful chapter and, in general, the position is all working to one definite goal. We are moving towards uniform goodwill in India." After pointing out that the Viceroy considered the re-enactment of the Public Safety Ordinance unnecessary, Mr. Benn maintained that Dominion status already operated in several instances in India, and that in this connection further progress was rapidly being made. "We are entering a new era which might be the greatest in the history of the British Commonwealth," he concluded. The motion was adopted.

1930

IN a few days the year 1929 will have faded away and the year 1930 will have dawned. We wish our readers a happy and a prosperous New Year.

To the Indian community of South Africa the New Year will undoubtedly be one of the most eventful. In Natal it will witness the opening of the Sastri College. The College which bears the name of one of the most brilliant sons of Mother India, has had the good fortune of having received the blessings of all the great personages in India and South Africa. It will stand as a striking monument to the work of Mr. Sastri in this country. Nothing will be more pleasing to him than to learn that the College, to the establishment of which he has given so much of his time and energy, is filling a long-felt want in the community. Indian children, we have no doubt, will take the fullest advantage of the educational facilities offered in the College. If the encouragement be forthcoming the New Year will also see the dawning of a new era in the education of our girls. The Education Department are desirous of converting the Mitchell Crescent Boys' School into a High School for girls. That is contingent upon a sufficient number of girls being found to take up the higher classes. Even if the requisite number is not available we have every hope that Mr. Hugh Bryan will not hesitate to establish the High School for girls.

To the Transvaal Indian community the year will bring with it much anxiety. For there are two important questions that hang in the balance. We refer to the licensing question and that of the employment of Indians in hotels. Licences in the Transvaal are the most treasured possessions of the Indians and if there is to be any serious upheaval, we are afraid the position of the Indians in that province would be jeopardised. The safeguarding of vested interests is an important factor in the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement and we are therefore hopeful that the present Government will bring about an amicable settlement of the question.

It will be remembered that Indian waiters were seriously affected by the Liquor Act. After considerable representations had been made, Mr. Havenga who acted for Mr. Tielman Roos, the then Minister of Justice, during his absence in Europe, granted exemptions to the Indian waiters so as to enable them to continue in their present employment. These exemptions expire at the end of the year. Hope was held out to these waiters that the Act would be amended during the next session of Parliament. When Parliament assembled one of the first works should be to amend the Liquor Act.

Our prayer for the New Year would be that these two questions would be settled at an early date.

Bomb Outrage On Viceroy's Train At New Delhi

Proceeding To Conference With Nationalist Leaders

New Delhi, Dec. 23 (Reuter).—The Viceroy's train, travelling at 50 miles an hour through a thick fog, was subjected to an attack two miles outside New Delhi station yesterday, a bomb being exploded under the train.

Those who had assembled at the station to welcome the Viceregal party heard the detonation, which they at once attributed to a fog signal.

The medical officer on board the train was the first to discover the disaster, the restaurant car immediately behind the Viceregal coach being wrecked, and an attendant injured.

Lord Irwin viewed the damage and chatted to the injured man. The train proceeded to New Delhi without stopping. Apparently the bomb was exploded electrically from a distance of two and a half miles. The bomb exploded under the Viceroy's train 10 miles from Delhi. The occurrence was on the eve of the Viceroy's conference with the five Nationalist leaders.

While visiting Hyderabad the Viceroy received intimation that the Nationalist leaders, Gandhi, Motilal Nehru, Patel, Jinnah and Sir Tej Sapru,

wished to give him their views on the recent announcement regarding the round table conference on the future of the constitution of India. The Viceroy accordingly invited them to meet him at the Viceregal House to-day.

The meeting was of more than usual importance, as the All-India Congress opens at Lahore on Thursday to consider the action to be taken by the Congress Party in view of its decision at the beginning of the year to start a campaign of civil resistance to British rule if Dominion status is not granted by Dec. 31.

The Nationalist leaders' request to the Viceroy is construed as a bid to reach a compromise, hence it is thought that the bomb outrage was designed to wreck the possibility of reconciliation.

Lord and Lady Irwin and staff were returning to Delhi at the conclusion of a very successful tour of the leading Indian States.

The bomb was placed on the rails, and exploded as the train passed over it. The whole train was considerably shaken, but arrived at Delhi punctually.

Lord Irwin's return marks an important page in the history of New Delhi, as to-day the Viceroy officially took up residence in the great new Viceregal house designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

The Union Jack was hoisted as the Viceroy entered the building. Shortly afterwards the Viceroy plunged into his work.

A similar message from New Delhi states that the conference between Lord Irwin (Viceroy of India) and the Indian Nationalist leaders the same afternoon broke down on the main question of Dominion status.

The Viceroy's Announcement

Opinion In India

In a statement to the press Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Kitchlew and Maulana Abdul Bari state: "After giving closest consideration to the Viceregal pronouncement we are constrained to say that the statement, as it stands, contains nothing over which we could enthuse ourselves. This will be borne out if we examine two important commitments made by the Viceroy in his pronouncement, viz., definition of responsible government as Dominion status, and (2) provisions of a conference between representatives of the British Government on one side and representatives of British India and the Indian States on the other.

"With regard to the first we would like to point out to those who may feel enthusiastic over the Viceregal announcement that there is no mention in the statement as to when Dominion status will be granted. We, however, stand unequivocally for complete independence, not as a distant goal but as the immediate objective, and if Dominion status were granted by the 31st December 1929, we would still stand out boldly for complete independence.

"With regard to the second commitment, we feel that the conference proposed is not really a round-table conference, and we would request our countrymen not to give it that dignified appellation. The machinery and procedure laid down in connection with the Simon Commission for determining how India's constitution should be amended are to remain intact. It is not clear whether the conference will be confined to representatives of the British Government on one side and representatives of Indian Nationalists on the other, nor is it known whether conclusions to be arrived at by the conference will be final and binding on both parties. In

these circumstances the proposed conference cannot by any stretch of imagination be called a round table conference.

"We would ask our countrymen not to be misled by the pious statements of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State, but to increase their efforts in the task of preparing the country for the situation they will have to face at the time of the Lahore Congress.

"It is imperative that our attention should not be distracted in the slightest degree from the task we now have in hand, viz: preparing the country for the coming crisis."

"We Shall Remain Neutral"

More than a hundred members of the Independence League and delegates, including Dr. Subramanyan, Mr. Viswaudham, Mr. A. Gobindachar, member of A.I.C.C., have issued the following statement to the Press in respect of the Viceregal announcement and the resolution thereon:—

"We feel the statement made by the Viceroy does not evoke any hope of immediate grant of Dominion Status in terms of the Calcutta Congress resolution nor is the statement accompanied by any practical sign of sincere change of heart towards India's right for self-determination. We maintain no other nation has any right to interfere with the political development of this country, but since our leaders, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Pattabhai Setaramiah, the President of our Independence League, have signed the agreed statement along with leaders of other parties stipulating the conditions of co-operation, we do not wish to embarrass them at this moment by standing in their way. We have, therefore, decided to remain neutral on this resolution and request all those, who feel similarly, to do so. We affirm that notwithstanding any agreement that may or may not have been reached, we go on our path of complete independence as the only self-respecting course for the nation."

At a meeting held recently at Allahbad, "red" leaflets were profusely distributed by members of the Allahabad Youth League of which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is the President.

The leaflets, which were issued by the Secretary of the Youth League, explained what Dominion Status for India meant. It meant (1) an open compromise of Indian capitalism with British Imperialism, (2) acceptance of the exploitation by Britain and its continuance and (3) that India should become a bulwark of British Imperialism which is a menace to world peace.

Dominion status meant, the leaflet concludes, a "betrayal of the masses."

Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar's Appeal

"Three things are plainly indicated if we are to arrest demoralisation, to purify and strengthen the Congress and accelerate the fight for Swaraj. I would earnestly recommend to the Working Committee and the A.I.C.C. (a) that we should declare and organise a boycott of the proposed conference, (b) that we should declare and organise a boycott of the recommendations of the already boycotted Simon Commission, so as to deprive it of the vast authority that has been claimed for it and of the favourable atmosphere which they and the Viceroy are anxious to secure for them, and (c) that the Lahore Congress must unhesitatingly change its creed to one of complete independence," says Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar in a statement commenting on the letter of the Premier to Mr. Baldwin.

Continuing, he says:—"The fight for Swaraj

should be continued, unless the Nehru Constitution is accepted in its entirety before the end of this year. We cannot any longer remain in our paradise of illusions. It is the duty of Congress leaders and other Congressmen to show that by taking advantage of a momentary act of generous impulse the Labour Government and other parties cannot demoralise us or arrest the struggle for Swaraj or create a favourable atmosphere for the Simon report or suppress the independence movement."

Natal Workers' Congress

Distribution Of Prizes

The following is the report presented by Mr. S. M. Moodley on the occasion of the Prize Distribution to the Students of the Workers' Classes :—

It is my privilege, as one amongst others associated with the work at the Workers' Continuation Classes, to submit this report.

It is hardly fair to expect much as these classes have been in existence only since August 1929. Ladies and Gentlemen, before I venture to give a resume of the work done for this half year, I feel it my duty to enter briefly into the genesis of these classes. The Natal Workers' Congress and Natal Indian Teachers' Society have for some time been endeavouring in their own way to get these classes established in Durban. The Natal Indian Teachers' Society felt that if it was to be of any service to the community at all, it should in a large measure, actively engage itself in some way to keep in touch with the boys that have passed through the schools, in after school life, and help them to continue their education. The need for this help is great, for as it often happens our boys are compelled, out of sheer necessity, to leave school at a tender age because of the fact that the average Indian parent is only a very poor wage earner; besides, there is no such thing as compulsory education obtaining amongst us. And the Natal Workers' Congress feels, rightly too, that in this age of competition, if the Indian worker is to be of any use and to take his just place as an intelligent person and worker, he should be well fitted both with general and technical education. The aim of these two organizations has been identical in this respect, and they have therefore allied themselves in this laudable movement, and the outcome was the institution of these classes in August.

The conception of immediately starting these classes, then with the view to demonstrating the need for continuation classes in Durban, before approaching the authorities and should the authorities take the classes over they be handed over as a working concern, was chiefly that of the officials of the Natal Workers' Congress, and the honour goes to them.

Management

These classes have been conducted, as stated, by the two organizations, and those responsible for the management are:—for the Natal Workers' Congress, Messrs. A. Christopher, A. I. Kajee, P. R. Pather, and S. L. Singh, and for the Natal Indian Teachers' Society, the President Mr. T. M. Naiker, Mr. V. Vinden, and myself.

Classes

The classes are held in two different institutions. In the afternoon, at the Mitchell Crescent School, started in November, for the benefit of the Hotel Employees from 3.30 to 5.30 p.m. In the evening thrice a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday at the Hindu Tamil Institute for the benefit of all those in employment only. The Hindu Tamil

Institute has been kindly let to us free of rent and the Provincial Government has also very kindly permitted us the use of the Mitchell Crescent School. Both to the Provincial Administration and the Trustees of the Hindu Tamil Institute we are truly grateful.

The evening classes have been started with only 40 and today we are proud to report that the figure has reached the high water mark of 223, and on not one single school evening today is the attendance below 180 or 190 with the exception of Fridays when the attendance is not less than 150. I reckon this an excellent attendance. Ladies and Gentlemen, what one, after a day's work, would feel like sitting at desk and hammer away at lessons for two hours, namely from 6. p.m. to 8. p.m., but for the keenness for education and the desire to progress. Without much ado or advertising on our part, there is a great demand, as the figures indicate, and it is not possible for us to say where the demand will stop. The students are drawn from all the trades and industries in and around Durban. We have men attending even from the factories at Clairwood.

This is a testimony to the keenness evinced by the ordinary worker for knowledge.

For the afternoon classes, we have about 100 names on our books, but at present some 30 to 40 only attend as the Hotels are in season. From February we expect this full number. The ordinary Indian School divisions of classes and curriculum are applied. For the first four months, at the evening classes, we have been concentrating on three R'S chiefly, and working the students so as to bring them in line with the work of the Indian School. Last week a test examination was held throughout, and the result compare favourably with that of the work done in schools. We have nothing but praise for the students for the manner in which they have applied themselves to achieve what they have. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is really an achievement, when we consider that a large percentage of students left school long long ago some as many as 15 years and certainly no one less than 2 or 3 years ago. It might sound incredulous to many how it is possible for us within so short a space of time to show such marked progress. In the case of these students, there is no question of flogging a dead horse, but simply thirst for education. On their part there is a keen desire to uplift themselves. This is yet another unmistakable proof of the need of such classes here and in other places in Natal. Our students are from the ages of fourteen to 45 and their behaviour is praiseworthy. Any one, who is interested in our work, may on any school evening, see men of mature age sitting next to men younger than they, vying with each other in a spirit of competition to advance.

Staff

The work of classes both in the afternoon and evening, is carried on with the help of volunteered teachers. The following are the regular members that assist in the work: Messrs. V. Vinden, N. N. Perumal, R. O. Jaithoo, N. Ebenezer, E. Sigamoney, T. Tilchun, M. Lalla, A. Aiden, Miss F. Gool, Mr. T. M. Naiker, and myself, and relieving teachers Messrs. M. B. Naidoo and C. C. Naidoo.

Miss Gool is not a teacher of any school here. When the classes were started and teachers had to be found, Miss Gool very kindly offered her assistance. We thankfully availed ourselves of her help. She is to a large extent responsible for enthusing us with the result that the teachers are freely offering their services today.

In passing, I might mention that these classes, when fully developed, and the highest standard reached, the students will be given Certificates that will enable them to comply with the Apprenticeship Act, besides the benefits of a general education, these men will have received.

The hope we entertain is the ultimate taking over of these classes by the Technical College and provision made for Technical Education.

And in this connection, I should like to state that Mr. Narbeth, Principal of the Technical College, has been sympathetic and his presence here amongst us tonight, and also in having kindly consented to distribute these prizes, is an encouragement to us.

Enough students to avail of such Technical Education could always be got. As soon as the men under us have passed the top standard, and with the boys that come out of the present schools, a continual supply could be maintained.

Conclusion

On behalf of the teachers, I wish to thank the representatives of that section co-operating with us in this work, namely Messrs. A. Christopher, A. I. Kajee, P. R. Pather, and S. L. Singh for their ever-ready and willing assistance and also to the donors of the prizes.

To those of us who are engaged in this work as Teachers, it has been a pleasure and we may also safely say that we have greatly profited by the experience gained in teaching adults.

The idea of opening similar classes for our women and girls is before us, and the time may not be distant when our women teachers will be able to report that the torch of knowledge has been lit in every home.

Before concluding, I regret to mention that Miss Gool is shortly to leave us for home at Capetown, and we are afraid she cannot be easily replaced. Her assistance has been very invaluable to us. May I, Sir, at the conclusion of this function, ask you to kindly hand this small token from her colleagues and students of the Workers' Continuation Classes as an esteem of our love and admiration for her.

Miss Gool was handed a gold bangle, and she suitably replied.

Mr. Narbeth after having presented the prizes was full of praise for the splendid manner in which the classes were being conducted. He always appreciated the man who endeavoured to rectify his defects. He was therefore pleased to see that so many young men and older men were taking advantage of these classes. He wished the classes every success. The Rev. Metcalf, Messrs. D. R. O. Thomas, P. R. Pather and V. Lawrence also spoke. Advocate A. Christopher in concluding the function paid a glowing tribute to the teachers who had rendered invaluable services. He thanked Mr. Narbeth for having consented to attend the function. He hoped that with the assistance of Mr. Narbeth, the classes would be taken over by the authorities.

The following is the list of donors of prizes:—

Royal Hotel Indian Staff, Messrs. A. B. Naidoo, K. Baijnath, M. I. Kajee, P. R. Pather, S. Rastomji, A. I. Kajee, J. M. Francis, Miss Gool, J. W. Godfrey, M. B. Lazarus, M. H. Desai, M. A. Motala, V. Vinden, S. M. Moodley, A. Christopher.

A Reuter's message from London dated Dec. 19 states:—

In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. Ramsay MacDonald announced that His Majesty the King had consented to preside at the opening meeting of the Five-Power Naval Conference in London on January 21, 1930. His Majesty, he added, would deliver the opening address.

After six months' efforts, the Bengal Legislative Council has been reconstituted. One Hindu and two Moslems have been appointed Ministers. The Governor of Bengal dissolved the Council in April, as he was unable to obtain a Ministry which would command its confidence.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDEI]

Part V. Chapter XLII.

THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT

I must not devote any more chapters here to a description of the further progress of khadi. It would be outside the scope of these chapters to give a history of my various activities after they came before the public eye, and I must not attempt it, if only because to do so would require a treatise on the subject. My object in writing these chapters is simply to describe how certain things, as it were, spontaneously presented themselves to me in the course of my experiments with truth.

To resume, then, the story of the non-co-operation movement. Whilst the powerful Khilafat agitation set up by the Ali Brothers was in full progress, I had full discussions on the subject with the late Maulana Abdul Bari and the other *Ulama*, especially the question of the extent to which a Mussalman could observe the rule of non-violence. In the end, they all agreed that Islam did not forbid its followers from following non-violence as a policy, and further that while they were pledged to that policy, they were bound faithfully to carry it out. At last, the non-co-operation resolution was moved in the Khilafat Conference and carried after prolonged deliberations. I have a vivid recollection how once at Allahabad, a Committee sat all night deliberating upon the subject. In the beginning, the late Hakim Saheb was sceptical as to the practicability of non-violent non-co-operation. But after his scepticism was overcome, he threw himself into it heart and soul, and his help proved invaluable to the movement.

Next, the non-co-operation resolution was moved by me at the Gujerat Political Conference that was held shortly after this. The preliminary contention raised by the opposition against it was that it was not competent to a provincial conference to adopt a resolution in advance of the Congress. As against this, I suggested that the restriction could apply only to a backward movement; but as for going forward, the subordinate organisations were not only fully competent, but were in duty bound to do so if they had in them the necessary grit and confidence. No permission, I argued, was needed to try to enhance the prestige of the parent institution, provided one did it at one's own risk. The proposition was then discussed on its merits, the debate being marked by its keenness no less than by the atmosphere of 'sweet reasonableness' in which it was conducted. On the ballot being taken, the resolution was declared carried by an overwhelming majority. The successful passage of the resolution was due not a little to the personality of Sjts. Vallabhai and Abbas Tyebji. The latter was the President, and his leanings were in all favour of the non-co-operation resolution.

The All-India Congress Committee resolved to hold a special session of the Congress in September 1920 at Calcutta to deliberate on this question. Preparations were made for it on a tremendous scale. Lala Lajpat Rai was elected President. Congress and Khilafat specials were run to Calcutta from Bombay. At Calcutta there was a mammoth gathering of delegates and visitors.

At the request of Maulana Shaukat Ali, I prepared a draft of the non-co-operation resolution in the

train. Up to this time I had more or less avoided the use of the word *non-violent* in my drafts. I invariably made use of this word in my speeches. My vocabulary on the subject was still in progress of formation. I found that I could not bring home my meaning to purely Moslem audiences with the help of the Sanskrit equivalent for non-violent. I therefore asked Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad to give me some other equivalent for it. He suggested the word *ba-anam*, similarly for non-co-operation he suggested the phrase *Tur-i Maratal*.

Thus, while I was still busy devising suitable Hindi, Gujerati and Urdu phraseology for non-co-operation, I was called upon to frame the non-co-operation resolution for the eventful Congress. In the original draft, the word 'non-violent' had been left out by me. I had handed over the draft to Maulana Shaukat Ali who was travelling in the same compartment without noticing the omission. During the night I discovered the error. In the morning I sent Mahadev with the message that the omission should be made good before the draft was sent to the press. But I have an impression that the draft was printed before the insertion could be made. The Subjects Committee was to have met the same evening. I had therefore to make the necessary correction afterwards in the printed copies of the draft. I afterwards saw that there would have been great difficulty had I not been ready with my draft.

None the less, my plight was pitiable indeed. I was absolutely at sea as to who would support the resolution and who would oppose it. Nor had I any idea as to the attitude that Lalaji would adopt. I only saw an imposing phalanx of veteran warriors assembled for the fray at Calcutta, Dr. Besant, Pandit Malaviyaji, Sjt. Vijayaraghavachari, Pandit Motilalji and the Deshabandhu being some of them.

In my resolution, non-co-operation was postulated only with a view to obtaining redress of the Punjab and the Khilafat wrong. That, however, did not appeal to Sjt. Vijayaraghavachari. 'If non-co-operation was to be declared, why should it be with reference to particular wrongs? The absence of Swaraj was the biggest wrong that the country was labouring under; it should be against that non-co-operation should be directed,' he agreed. I readily accepted his suggestion and incorporated the demand for Swaraj in my resolution which was passed after an exhaustive, serious and somewhat stormy discussion.

Motilalji was the first to join the movement, I still remember the sweet discussion that I had with him on the resolution. He suggested some changes in its phraseology which I adopted. He undertook to win the Deshabandhu for the movement. The Deshabandhu's heart was inclined towards it, but he felt sceptical as to the capacity of the people to carry out the programme. It was only at the Nagpur Congress that he and Lalaji accepted it whole-heartedly.

I felt the loss of the late Lokamanya very deeply at the special session. It has been my firm faith to this day that, had the Lokamanya been then alive, he would have given his benedictions to me on that occasion. But even if it had been otherwise and he had opposed the movement, I should still have esteemed his opposition as a privilege and an education for myself. We had our differences of opinion always, but they never led to bitterness. He always allowed me to believe that the ties between us were of the closest. Even as I write these lines, the circumstances of his death stand forth in a vivid picture before the mind's eye. It was about the hour of midnight when Yadvakar conveyed over the the phone the news of his death. I was at the time surrounded by my companions. Spontaneously, the exclamation escaped my lips.

'My strongest bulwark is gone.' The non-co-operation movement was then in full swing and I was eagerly looking forward to encouragement and inspiration from him. What his attitude would have been with regard to the final phase of non-co-operation will always be a matter of speculation and an idle one at that. But this much is certain that the deep void left by his death weighed heavily upon everybody present at Calcutta. Every one felt the absence of his counsels in that hour of crisis in the nation's history.

Durban Indian Amateur Weight-Lifting and Physical Culture Club

Mr. T. G. Pillay, Hon. Secretary of the above Club, sends us the following for publication:—

The Durban Indian Amateur Weight-Lifting and Physical Culture Club, which has its premises at 90 Queen Street, Durban, held its first annual Physical Culture Display on Sunday the 15th Dec. 1929, under the gracious patronage of His Worship the Mayor and Mayoress the Rev. A. Lamont and Mrs. Lamont.

This club came into existence five months ago. The object of the display was to spread physical culture among the Indian community and to show the public the good work done by the Club.

According to expectations the Indian community attended the display given at the Royal Picture Palace in hundreds, and ten minutes before the show, the hall was overcrowded. The club takes this opportunity of appealing to the general public to come forward and help to spread the gospel of health. Being a new club there is lack of finance and any help whatsoever from sympathisers will be gratefully acknowledged.

Under the presidentship of Mr. T. Valloo Pather and leadership of Silver Leaguer R. M. Patel (instructor of the Club), the show opened with posing and muscle control by the members of the club. The display was highly appreciated by the audience.

Then followed physical exercises for Juniors and Seniors after which came the most attractive part of the programme—Tumbling, Hand-balancing and Feats of Strength. Silver Leaguer R. M. Patel and Leaguers Dicky Pather and Gordon Patel were partners in this feature. Such daring and clever stunts were never seen by the Indian public before.

The youngest member of the club is a boy 4 years old. The perfect stunts performed by this mascot brought the whole house to an uproar. The mascot performed a perfect head stand on a platform 12 feet high. Then came weight-lifting and boxing by the members of the club. During the interval Advocate Albert Christopher paid a glowing tribute to the Club.

After a few more stunts and human pyramid building, the brilliant display came to an end.

The public may be interested to know that this club is affiliated to the Health and Strength in England.

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