

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE Minister of the Interior, Dr. Malan, has moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the Transvaal licensing question. This question has been agitating the minds of the Transvaal Indian community who have a considerable amount of money invested in the Province. We have every hope that the Select Committee will do everything in its power to effect an amicable settlement. Much depends upon the South African Indian Congress which would have to present a statement to the Select Committee.

The South African Indian Congress in an amended statement to the Press states that the date of commencement of Act 37 of 1927 was the 5th July 1927, and consequently in conformity with the new definition of the term "domicile" as laid down in the Act, Indians domiciled in the Union, but who have overstayed a period of 3 years outside the Union, should return to the Union on or before the 5th July 1930 to ensure their domicile rights.

We are happy to learn that two more young men have left for overseas to prosecute their studies. They are Masters Kaje and Francis. The former is the son of Mr. M. I. Kaje of Maritzburg and the latter the second son of Mr. J. M. Francis of Durban. We wish the lads every success in their studies. Natal has quite a contingent of Indian students studying overseas. With the opening of the Sastri College we hope that in the near future this number would be increased.

The health of Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent-General in South Africa for the Government of India, has considerably improved, says a Reuter's message from Madras, and Sir Kurma is leaving for Delhi on March 1 to meet the Viceroy. He will leave for South Africa from Bombay on March 12.

The Bill the Prime Minister promised to introduce this year for the enfranchisement of European women will be introduced in the Assembly as a non-party measure says the *Star*. This means that members of all parties who are opposed to it can join forces to defeat it. In the last Parliament there was a small majority in favour of votes for women, but the feeling of the present Parliament has not yet been tested. The probabilities are, however, that the Bill will be passed. It will not cause any change in the constituencies as at present delimited or the number allocated to each province.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales spent 11 days in Capetown and when leaving for Johannesburg personally thanked the Mayor (the Rev. A. J. S. Lewis) for the way in which the citizens had respected his wish that his stay in the Cape Peninsula should be a private holiday. "They have been most wonderfully kind to me," he said. The Prince travelled in the Prime Minister's coach, which was attached to the Union Limited. His Royal High-

ness broke his journey at Kimberley so that he might visit the Magersfontein battle field of the South African War. He arrived in Johannesburg on Saturday morning and resumed his journey to Beira the same evening. His hunting trip in Tanganyika has been abandoned on account of heavy rain in the territory.—*The Star*.

We have been requested to announce that Mr. G. N. Naidoo's resignation has been accepted by the Indian Political Association of Kimberley, and that he is no longer authorised to, in any way, represent the said association.

HAWKERS AND PEDLARS

ACTING on representations made by shopkeepers in connection with the hawking of goods in the vicinity of the Borough Market, the General Purposes Committee instructed the Chief Constable to prepare draft by-laws to regulate and control pedlars within the Borough of Durban in terms of Ordinance No 13 of 1929.

The Chief Constable, has carried out those instructions to the letter as will be evident from the following by-law that has been drafted by him:

No person shall carry on the trade or business of a hawker or pedlar in the areas of the Borough of Durban hereinafter specified, namely:—

- (a) That portion of West Street lying between Gardiner Street and Grey Street.
- (b) That portion of Pine Street lying between Railway Street and Field Street.
- (c) That portion of Gardiner Street lying between Smith Street and Pine Street.
- (d) That portion of the lower Marine Parade and foreshore lying between Beach Road and the outfall of the Depot Road Culvert.

The By-law came up for confirmation before the Town Council on Thursday. The Natal Indian Congress immediately made representations to the Town Clerk, as would appear from the letter which we publish elsewhere. In deference to the

wishes of the Congress the Council has deferred the consideration of the by-law.

It would appear that the representations of the shopkeepers, which we have referred to above, were made to the Markets and Abbatoir Committee who evidently were alarmed. No representations appear to have been made by shopkeepers in the areas (a), (c) and (d). One would have thought that the Chief Constable would have drafted a by-law to affect the portion (b). He has gone a step further. Under cover of Ordinance No. 13 of 1929, the Chief Constable has the right to frame such by-laws as are now under consideration. We do not dispute that. But when a by-law attempts to deprive the honest livelihood of a section of the community, we think the Chief Constable, who is the guardian of every burgess in Durban, should be the last person to frame such a by-law.

The hawkers who carry on their legitimate trade in the areas in which the Chief Constable seeks to restrict their activities, represent the poorest section of the Indian community whose forebears have given their all to the prosperity of Natal. They have been carrying on their trade for years without any hindrance. We believe the value of goods that these hawkers have for sale is hardly thirty shillings per person. In the case of the women who undoubtedly predominate, the value is considerably less. In the circumstances, we cannot for a moment conceive how the shopkeepers are being affected. These pedlars and hawkers are required to be always moving and if they are found to be standing near any shop the police have the power to arrest them. This power ought to be sufficient to allay the fear that the shopkeepers have.

As we have pointed out the passing of this by-law would deprive many Indians of their livelihood and would add to the already large number of unemployed in the Borough. We hardly think the Durban Town Council would be a party to such an action. Happily we have in the Town Council members who look at matters from a broader point of view and to them we could safely entrust the case of the Indian. We have no doubt that the Natal Indian Congress will make strong representations on behalf of these poor Indians.

Indian Situation In Transvaal

Discussion In Parliament

Dr. D. F. Malan (Minister of the Interior) moved that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the position created by the judgments regarding

(1) Residence or occupation of fixed property by Indians or other persons belonging to the native races of Asia on proclaimed ground in the Transvaal—(a) The North-Eastern Districts Association (Proprietary) Ltd., versus the Norwood Land and Investment Co. Ltd., (b) The Turf Stores (Proprietary) Ltd., versus the Municipal Council of Johannesburg, and (c) Frank Koltzsch versus Max Pietsch and B. Dabhetia.

(2) The position created by the judgment in the case of the Springs Town Council v. Fakir Moosa and Meesa Esop Sidat relative to the meaning and legal effect of Proclamation No. 190 of 1911 issued under the provisions of Act 35 of 1908 (Transvaal).

(3) In how far the intentions of Parliament as indicated in Act 37 of 1919 are being given effect to, and whether, and if so, to what extent an amendment of that Act is desirable.

(4) Any other matters cognate to those referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above, which the committee considers it desirable to inquire into and report upon, the committee to have power to take evidence and call for papers, and to propose such legislation to the House as it may deem fit.

Speaking to the motion, Dr. Malan said that for the last 18 months there had existed a state of confusion on the Rand in regard to Indian trading rights. There were between 300 and 400 Asiatics on the Rand illegally occupying stands on proclaimed land, and illegally exercising trade thereon. The licensing authorities were in a state of uncertainty, and were holding up the issue of trading licences to all Asiatics concerned. (An Opposition member: Hear, hear.) Furthermore, the police were pressing the Government to come to a decision because Asiatics were actually trading on the Rand without licences; and the police wanted something to be done to remove the uncertainty so that they could take action. The Government, too, was losing revenue because licences were not being issued to the Asiatics concerned.

The motion proposed to put an end to this uncertainty and illegality. Closely allied to this position were two other problems in connection with Asiatic trading licences in Springs. There had been a judgment in the Court, as a result of which the protection of the inhabitants of Springs against the influx of Asiatics had been taken away. His motion was designed to put an end to the alarm felt in Springs.

Secondly, the motion dealt with evasions of the law of 1919, in regard to land ownership in the Transvaal. The position had arisen partly as a result of Supreme Court judgments—first they had the Norwood case and later the almost identical Braamfontein case—and partly owing to other circumstances.

Evasions

The position generally on the Rand was most unsatisfactory. From time to time legislation had been passed under the Gold Law and conditions laid down in regard to the alienation of land—that coloured persons could not occupy or trade on stands on proclaimed land. These conditions, however, had been evaded from time to time, and when the matter had been brought before Parliament, vested interests, although illegal, had been protected.

The position was that, as the result of the judg-

ment of the Supreme Court, between 300 and 400 Asiatics were occupying land illegally and exercising trading rights illegally on the Witwatersrand. To make the position more intricate and difficult, there was the position of the licensing authorities in connection with this matter. The Johannesburg Municipality had consulted legal authority and had been advised that it was not only their right, but their duty to refuse applications for trading licences to Asiatics illegally occupying stands in the areas concerned. The matter was then referred by the municipality to the Government, who referred it to their own law advisers. The latter, disagreeing with the legal authority previously consulted by the Johannesburg Municipality, held that the municipality had no right to refuse trading licences.

Fortunately, this matter was the subject of another judgment by the Supreme Court, which was to the effect that even though Asiatics were occupying land illegally, municipalities in the Transvaal had no right to refuse them licences. In view of this judgment, said Dr. Malan, he proposed that a Select Committee should go into the matter and advise the House as to what steps to take.

Problem At Springs

Another problem for the Select Committee was that of Springs. In the old legislation passed in that House, it was generally stated that Springs was a proclaimed area in the same way as the rest of the Witwatersrand. Recently, however, a case had been brought before the Supreme Court and judgment was given to the effect that Springs did not fall under the category as the rest of the Witwatersrand.

It transpired that Springs was really a township created under the Transvaal Crown Lands Disposal Ordinance of 1904. It had only become proclaimed land under the Gold Ordinance of 1911, and the Court had held that the proclamation of the township under the Gold Law of 1911 did not affect the occupation rights and trading rights which existed before that time. He therefore proposed (said the Minister) that the Select Committee should also investigate this matter, and, if possible, find out the intention of Parliament in regard to this proclaimed land at Springs.

The third problem was the position existing today under Act 37 of 1919, passed by Parliament to prevent Asiatics from evading, in certain particular ways or in any possible way, the old Transvaal Law of 1885 in regard to land ownership. This law prohibited Asiatics from acquiring land in the Transvaal; but they had evaded the law by forming companies and purchasing land. There was a general opinion in the Transvaal to-day that there were still loopholes in the Act and the Asiatics were still, to a very large extent, evading it. He proposed that the Committee should also go into this question and see what could be done to prevent such evasion.

Issue In Vrededorp

The Rev. B. R. Hattingh (Nak, Krugersdorp) who seconded the motion, asked the Minister to extend its scope so as also to include the position in Vrededorp, where an unsatisfactory position had been created through the subletting of stands to Asiatics.

Mr. F. C. Sturrock (S.A.P., Turfontein) welcomed the motion, and urged the necessity for getting to grips with the question without undue delay. It had happened over and over again that they had come to agreements with the Indian community, but hardly was the ink dry before the Indians were finding a way of getting behind them. In 1914 Indians had accepted the position under the Smuts-Gandhi agreement, but immediately afterwards they had discovered that limited companies were not subject to the terms of that agreement. Consequently large numbers of limited liability companies had been floated, and the position became so bad

that in 1919 the House placed the same restrictions on those companies as on individuals.

Unfortunately between 1914 and 1919, 370 companies with a capital of £480,000 had been floated; and those companies had not been dealt with in the 1919 legislation. That showed how dangerous delay was. Every day there were fresh evasions, and the more they delayed the more vested rights they would have to recognise. He hoped the Select Committee would make some provision for dealing with evasions of the law which had occurred in the past.

They must, of course, be fair to the Europeans. (Hear, hear.) It was no use passing legislation of the kind the Minister of Labour had just given notice of, and compelling the payment of high wages, if they were going to leave the white trader unprotected against the Asiatic. If nothing was done to assist him, the white trader would either go under or sink to the level of the Asiatic. He welcomed the motion.

Motion Welcomed

Colonel W. R. Collins (S.A.P., Ermelo) also welcomed the motion. There was a phase of the question, which he hoped would engage the attention of the Minister and the Select Committee. In the various smaller towns the white man had tried to protect himself against the Asiatic by putting in his transfer deeds various restrictions against the Asiatic. The latter, however, had in many cases got past those restrictions by placing his stores just outside the townships, and he hoped the Select Committee would take notice of that matter.

Replying to the debate, Dr. Malan said that in order to give effect to Mr. Hattingh's suggestion, he would have to extend the terms of the motion, and that he did not desire to do. He simply wished to have the existing law given effect to, and not to have the whole question reopened.

The motion was agreed to.

Asiatic Traders At Springs

At a recent meeting of the Springs Town Council the ordinary business on agenda was speedily dealt with and the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and the Public Health and Works Committee, as reported in *The Star*, were carried without discussion.

The application of H. E. Lohr and Co., an Indian firm, for a grocer's and soft goods' licence on Erf 70, Second Avenue, Springs, was discussed at length. At the outset the Council agreed to go into committee to discuss the application.

At this stage Mr. Davies for the applicants, objected, stating that during last month Mr. Justice Feetham gave a decision in the Supreme Court, ordering the Springs Town Council to issue a certificate to Messrs. Matwalia and Co., to be suspended pending renovations to the premises.

Council Sit In Committee

He asked, therefore, on what grounds the Council had decided to consider the licence now before them in committee. There was no reason, he contended, why the matter should not be discussed in open council. The Council, however, carried out its decision and conducted the discussion in committee.

On reverting to open council the Mayor (Mr. W. J. McCann) stated they had considered the application, and some doubt existed as to the description of the premises, whether they comprised one or two shops.

Mr. Davies: The application applies to one shop.

The Mayor: The description on your application is for a licence on Stand 70 Springs.

The licence at the moment is required for the

larger shop. The applicants' intention was that, if sufficient business was forthcoming, he would take over the adjoining premises. The lease, however, provided that the small shop would not be occupied for a period of six months.

A discussion then arose on the question of the sanitary arrangements and their compliance with the local bylaws.

Would Not Employ Natives

Mr. M. D. Harrison objected to the existing arrangements and moved that the licence be not granted. Mr. Brink seconded.

Mr. Davies stated that the applicants would not employ natives, and, further, the tenant occupying the smaller shop at present would vacate the premises on Jan. 31. This shop would then remain vacant for a period of six months, and therefore the objection fell to the ground.

After further discussion Mr. Harrison's motion was put to the vote and defeated. The recommendation to grant the licence was carried by five votes to four.

In the Supreme Court at Pretoria Mr. Justice Tindall upheld the appeal of D. McCulloch v. Rex and set aside a conviction for permitting non-Europeans to reside on an erf in Springs.

Appellant, secretary of the Springs Warehouse, Ltd., said Mr. Justice Tindall, was charged with contravening a Volksraad besluit of 1871 in that his company, being the owner of a certain Springs erf, permitted coloured persons to live there, they not having entered into a contract with the company, and not being maintained by it alone. He was fined £4 or four days, and ordered to eject the coloured persons (Indians).

It was urged that the besluit did not apply to Asiatics as the word "kleurlingen" was comprehensive enough to include Indians, but if it did apply, it was superseded by Law 3, 1885, which was intended to be a complete statement at the date of the disabilities of Asiatics in regard to the matter therein mentioned, including ownership of fixed property and residence.

Law 3 of 1885 must be taken to have superseded the Volksraad besluit, and appellant was thus wrongly convicted of contravening the besluit. The appeal must be allowed and the conviction and sentence set aside.

Mr. Justice Greenberg concurred.

Transvaal Indians Much Alarmed

An Urgent Wire To India For Help

The Transvaal Indian Congress has cabled to Mr. J. B. Petit, the secretary of the Indian Imperial Citizenship Association of Bombay, that a Select Committee has been appointed by Dr. Malan, who, in moving the motion, emphasised that the Committee would inquire and recommend legislation effectively to operate and close up loopholes in gold areas and Law of 1885 and remove the fears of the European community of the position arising from recent judgments favourable to the Indians.

"The Select Committee is welcomed by anti-Asiatics in and outside Parliament," states the wire.

"The outlook is precarious and very gloomy. Millions of pounds of Indian interests are threatened and the very existence of the Transvaal Congress is at stake.

"The effective operation referred to in these laws means the extinction of the community. In short,

the crisis is worse than the Areas Reservation Bill of 1926.

The Congress has appealed to Dr. Malan and the Viceroy to adjourn the sittings of the Committee, to enable the Agent of the Indian Government, Sir Kurma Reddi, to arrive, and Mr. Sastri and Mr. Bajpai to be sent out to assist the community to defend itself in the present case.

"Dr. Malan refused an adjournment of the sittings. Failing the best and ablest assistance from India the position will be irretrievably lost and the Capetown Agreement will be a dead letter.

"We earnestly appeal to your association to use every endeavour to send Mr. Sastri and Mr. Bajpai, and to move the Government of India to effective and urgent action to adjourn the sittings of the Committee pending the arrival of assistance from India.

"Please circularise Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Sastri, Sir Mahomed Habibullah, Sir Phiroze Sethua, Sir Kurma Reddi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mr. C. F. Andrews, Mr. G. Natesan, Mr. M. Jinnah, Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Patel Brothers, Mr. Madan Mohan Malaviya and others.

"We once again are helpless and prayerfully appeal for urgent action."

Mrs. Naidu On Kenya

Situation Improved

In Bombay, on her return from Kenya, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was interviewed, and said she thought that the position of Indians in the colony has improved. She said the white settlers, though unwillingly, were beginning to realise the justice of the Indian demand for a common franchise. She thought that if the Government and the people of India continued their unstinted support to East African Indians, they would have justice done by them.

Socially the Indian position had made enormous improvements, segregation having been removed in Nairobi. A large number of prominent Indians had built or bought houses in Parklands, which is a beautiful part of the highlands.

From conversations with the Colonial Secretary, the director of education and the medical officer, she felt that the Indian demand for educational and medical facilities would soon be met, particularly in regard to the education of girls.

What struck her most was the awakening of political consciousness among all classes of Indians and the complete absence of communal bickerings which should serve as an example to India.

Mr. Gandhi's New Proposals

Writing in *Young India* on "clearing the issue," Mr. Gandhi comments on the Viceroy's announcement in the Legislative Assembly that the Government would fully discharge its responsibility in maintaining law and order.

"Threats of dire vengeance against civil and criminal resisters," says Mr. Gandhi, "are idle and therefore uncalled for. Both types of resisters are out for suffering; they have counted the cost. I know that a non-violent revolutionary like me impedes the violent revolutionary, but the latter impedes me more than I do him. He has not yet given me a fair chance; I dread him more than Lord Irwin's wrath."

Proposed Reforms

Mr. Gandhi thereupon proposes that the British Government should initiate the following reforms:

Total prohibition, reduction of the rupee to sixteen pence, reduction of land revenue by at least 50 per cent., making it subject to Legislative control, abolition of the salt tax, reduction of military expenditure by at least 50 per cent., reduction of salaries of the higher grade in the Civil Service to one-half or less to suit reduced revenue, a protective tariff on foreign cloth, the passage of the Coastal Reservation Bill, the discharge of all political prisoners except murderers or attempted murderers, and the withdrawal of all political prosecutions, abrogation of the sedition section of the penal code, permission to all Indian exiles to return, abolition of the Criminal Investigation Department or its popular control.

Advice To Viceroy

Mr. Gandhi says:—"Let the Viceroy satisfy these vital needs and he will then hear no talk of civil disobedience, and the Congress will heartily participate in any conference where there is perfect freedom of expression and demand.—*Rand Daily Mail.*"

Congress Letter To Town Clerk

Re Hawkers And Pedlars

The Natal Indian Congress sent the following letter to the Town Clerk of Durban in connection with the bye-law that affects the Hawkers and Pedlars:—

"We learn that the Chief Constable has framed bye-laws regulating and controlling pedlars within the Borough of Durban and such bye-laws have been approved of by the General Purposes Committee and that they would be submitted to the open Council to-morrow for confirmation.

As the bye-laws affect a large number of the poorer classes of Indians who depend for their livelihood by hawking in the areas in which the Chief Constable seeks to prohibit them from carrying on their trade, we shall be glad if the Town Council will afford an opportunity to our Congress to represent the case of these poorer Indians prior to the confirmation of these bye-laws.

Our Congress will be pleased if the Council will defer consideration of these bye-laws pending our representations being made.

Yours faithfully,

A. I. KAJEE, } Joint Hon.
P. R. PATHER, } Secretaries.

Indian Hawkers To Be Boycotted

Township Natives' Plan Of Action

"This meeting is now in a position to make known far and near that a boycott against the Indian hawkers and others of non-native descent is declared. And that this takes effect as from Monday, February 3, 1930."

The foregoing was one of a series of resolutions passed at a mass meeting of residents in the Western Native Township held on Jan. 29. Various speakers voiced the views of the community in regard to what they consider an injustice by the Municipal Department of Native Affairs in the issuing of hawkers' permits. The main resolution embodying the grievance was in the following terms: "This

meeting of residents of the above township views with profound disappointment the practice since recently adopted by the Municipal Department of Native Affairs of the City of Johannesburg in issuing permits to Indians and others of non-native descent to hawk their goods in this township while to the native hawkers who are residents and rent payers permission is refused."

A mass meeting of native residents of Sophiatown, Newclare and the Western Native Township took place on Sunday morning to arrange for the installation of pickets in these townships, and to take other steps towards ensuring the proper working of the boycott of non-native hawkers.—*Rand Daily Mail.*

Independence Movement To Be Opposed

Indian Princes Take A Stand

A definite challenge has been thrown out to the Indian National Congress by the Maharajah of Patiala on behalf of the rulers of the Indian Native States.

Speaking at a Durbar the Maharajah declared that the States would oppose the independence movement with all their strength.

"We cannot enter into working arrangements with British India," he declared, "except on the basis that connection with Great Britain is maintained."

The Princes, he said, were determined to comply with all the obligations imposed upon them under their treaties with the Crown, and they would co-operate in every way with the Government of British India to uphold the principles of ordered government.

If the Nationalist movement developed as though the Native States did not exist the prospects with which the country was faced were gloomy in the extreme, for the Princes would take all the necessary measures for the vindication of their rights.

The Princes could not watch with indifference the growth of revolutionary activities in British India. Such activities might well engulf the States, and the latter were, therefore, committed to the closest co-operation with the forces of law and order from the motive of self-preservation alone.

Gandhi On The Future Of India

His Responsibility For Civil Disobedience

The Independence Resolution Inevitable

At the end of the proceedings of the Indian National Congress at Lahore a *Natal Advertiser* writer asked Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Nationalist leader, for a statement on his hopes and policies in regard to the future of India. After taking some time for consideration Mahatmaji telegraphed the following statement from Ahmedabad:—

The world public should realise that, as representatives of the Indian National Congress, Pandit Motilal Nehru and I could only treat the Viceroy's pronouncement in regard to Dominion status for India as a response to the resolution passed by the National Congress of Calcutta in 1928.

We were bound, therefore, in pursuance of that resolution, to press for a clear declaration that the round table conference proposed by the Viceroy would only consider the ways and means for framing a scheme for a constitution on the basis of Dominion status and nothing else.

The Viceroy was not able to make such a declaration and while, therefore, we appreciate his good efforts and the difficulties which were facing him, we had no course left open to us but to decline to have the Indian National Congress represented at the proposed Conference.

This conference, so far as the National Congress was concerned, having miscarried, a resolution favouring complete independence of India was inevitable. Such a resolution favouring independence, however, need not frighten anybody. I have repeatedly declared that to me and to all other members of the Indian National Congress, Dominion status could only mean virtual independence, that is to say partnership at will for mutual benefit, such partnership to be dissolved at the instance of either partner.

If such also was the meaning of Dominion status mentioned in the Viceroy's pronouncement, the claim for independence put forward by the Indian National Congress need not offend anybody. Such a claim only clears the issue, especially after the unfortunate statement made by Mr. Wedgwood Benn (Secretary of State for India), to the effect that India had already Dominion status in action.

Non-Violence Advocated

Real grounds for satisfaction for all lovers of peace lie in the fact that after a full debate the congress advocated methods of non-violence and truth to the exclusion of any other policy. Civil disobedience is the dynamic expression of non-violence and truth. It is undoubtedly fraught with great danger and difficulties, but it is infinitely less dangerous than the unbridled though secret violence which is at present breaking out in many parts of India owing to the understandable and pardonable impatience of many of our young men.

The responsibility for initiating civil disobedience rests on me. I am not likely rashly to embark upon it. At the same time, I must confess that I shall not hesitate to run a certain minimum measure of risk which is inevitable in any struggle for freedom. The risk incurred in prolonging the present agony of a people who realise their slavery is anyhow much greater than any I am ever likely to run.

The boycott of the Indian Legislature is also part of the programme for enforcing the demands of the National Congress. This was a natural corollary to the resolution demanding complete independence. I am glad to say that the boycott policy is receiving an adequate response from members of the National Congress who are also members of Indian Legislatures.

Removal Of Untouchability

Our constructive programme, which remains in force, includes such items as the removal of untouchability, communal union, liquor prohibition and the boycott of foreign cloth. Such a programme has a tremendous social and economic value and also carries with it great political consequences.

The proposed Indian constitution put forward by Mr. Nehru and with its tentative solution along communal lines, will naturally lapse. The congress will therefore concentrate upon solving communal questions not on differential lines, but on strictly national lines. It will be remembered that an important resolution to that effect was adopted by the congress at Lahore.

Another resolution which was adopted related to financial obligations to be assumed by an independent India. Such a resolution need not disturb any

foreigner who has legitimate interest in India. It should be remembered that under any foreign government there are always obligations incurred and concessions granted that are in no way to the interests of the country concerned and are often disadvantageous to it.

These can never be acknowledged by successors in government who are free to examine every such obligation and concession. The National Congress has offered to have all such obligations investigated by an independent tribunal.

Lastly, the door of a conference which was purposely convened to satisfy national aspirations, that is to say, to frame a scheme of independence, has been left open.

I cannot conclude this message without testifying to the fact that our young President, Mr. Nehru, J.C., surpassed all expectations. His address, if it was extreme in conception, was moderate in expression. His conduct in the chair commanded the admiration even of the sceptics. His inexhaustible energy enabled him to close a session which, but for him, might have been unduly prolonged.

The Position In India

Professor R. K. Sorabji's View

Professor Sorabji is an Indian Christian. Since he came to reside in England he has preached in numerous churches and has addressed missionary and other meetings in all parts of the country, says *The Church of England Newspaper*. At our request he consented to give our readers the benefit of his intimate knowledge of Indian affairs which are causing anxiety just now in India and in England. "One of the greatest mistakes that can ever be made is for publicists in England publicly to criticise the King's representatives in our Eastern Dominions or Protectorates. The criticism is published in all vernacular papers, and the Eastern mind immediately jumps to the conclusion that the representative is out of favour in England, and therefore can be opposed. The man on the spot, especially when the spot is Eastern, should be absolutely trusted. He knows, in a way which no one can know in England, what conditions are prevailing at the moment, in the ever-changing East. Within a few months we have had Lord Lloyd and Lord Irwin held up to severe criticism. It speaks volumes for the Viceroy that his prestige has hardly suffered. A correspondent in Delhi has recently informed us that while the vernacular Press has stung the Government, British Rule, British Statesmen, not one word has been said against the Viceroy. And he it noted that Lord Irwin is held in universal respect in the religious East because they believe him to be not merely a professing, but a practising Christian. It is difficult for those who are statesmen first and foremost to realise the position of a statesman who puts Christian principles first. "Let us govern or get out," says the statesman of the world. "Let us have co-operative government, if we possibly can," says the Christian-statesman.

Dominion Status

A very able civilian who has done notable work in the Panjab, and is now governing with skill in the United Provinces, has used language which seemed to convey to the Indian mind that India could never hope to be as Canada, for example. The extremist mind concentrated on that language and said: "Here is one of themselves admitting that the British Government mean us to be of the other Dominions." He interpreted that, Lord Irwin resented the Ar-

ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક ૨૮ મું.

ફ્રીડેડે, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૭ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૦

અંક ૬

નોંધ અને સમાચાર

માફીપત્ર લીધેલા હોદ્દાઓ વિષે

પાલમિટના એક સભ્ય મી. મેકકાલમે માફીપત્ર લીધેલા હોદ્દાઓ વિષે પુછેલા પ્રશ્નના જવાબમાં ડોક્ટર મહાને દર્શાવ્યું હતું કે માફીપત્ર જે હોદ્દાઓએ લીધા છે તેની સ્થિતિ કાયદેસર છે મા નહિ તે વિષે ઉઠાવેલી કાંઈ વિષે મને કશી ખબર નથી તેમજ તેવા હોદ્દાઓની કમિટી તથા તેના પાળકોને આ દેશમાં આવવા દેવા વિષેનો કોઈ પણ કાયદો પાલમિટમાં લાવવા હું તર્કવાર નથી.

અભ્યાસ માટે ઇંગ્લેન્ડ ગયા

અમને જાણીને આનંદ થાય છે કે દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાની પેટાકના વધુ બે હોદ્દા વિદ્યાર્થીઓ આજળ અભ્યાસ કરવા અયે અઠવાડિયાએ ઇંગ્લેન્ડ જવા ઉપડી ગયા છે. તેઓમાં એક મેરીટનર્ગ વાળા મી. જેમ. આર્મ. કાજના હોદ્દા છે અને બીજા ડરબન વાળા મી. જે. જેમ. ફ્રાન્સીસના હોદ્દા છે. આ બંને વિદ્યાર્થીઓને તેઓના અભ્યાસમાં અમે સંપૂર્ણ ફતેહ ધુમ્કીએ છીએ અને તેઓના વડીલોને મુબારકબાદી આપીએ છીએ.

અલ્લી ધંધસ

પાલમિટના એક સભ્ય મી. મેકકાલમે અલ્લી ધંધસ વિષે પુછેલા એક પ્રશ્નના જવાબમાં મીનીસ્ટર એક ઇન્ટીરીયર ડોક્ટર મહાને દર્શાવ્યું હતું કે સરકારે અલ્લી ધંધસને આ દેશમાં આવવા દેવા માટે અમુક શરતો કરી હતી. અને અલ્લી ધંધસને લાગ્યું કે એવી શરતો સ્વીકારી શકાય એમ નહતું એ વાત સચ્ચી છે. મુરલીમ કોમ્પ્યુનીટીના એક વર્ગે એ શરતોનો સ્વીકાર કર્યો હતો. બીજા વીઝીટરને જે સાધારણ અને હમેશની રીતી મુજબની શરતો લાગુ પડે છે તે શરતોથી અલ્લી ધંધસને આવવા દેવાના પ્રશ્ન ઉપર ફરીથી વિચાર મલાવવા મીનીસ્ટર તકમાર નહતા.

સીએને મતાધિકાર

વડા પ્રધાન જનરલ હટ્ટેએ યુરોપીયન સીએને મતાધિકાર આપવાનું બીજ પાલમિટમાં દાખલ કરવાનું વચન આપ્યું હતું તે મુજબ આવતા અઠવાડિયામાં તેઓ પાલમિટમાં એ બીજ દાખલ કરશે. અમુક પાર્ટીના પ્રશ્ન તરીકે એ બીજ રજુ કરવામાં આવશે નહિ એટલે પાલમિટના સભ્યોને પોતાની સ્વતંત્ર ધુમ્કામાં આવે તે મુજબ એ વિષયમાં મત આપવાનો અધિકાર રહેશે. મધ પાલમિટમાં થયું સભ્યો સીએને મતાધિકાર આપવાથી વિરુદ્ધ હતા. માલુ પાલમિટ એ પ્રશ્ન ઉપર કેવા નિર્ણય

આપે છે તે જાણવું છે. સંભવ એવો છે કે બીજ કદમ પસાર થશે.

નામદાર પ્રોન્સ એફ વેલ્સ

ક્રાઉન્ડ પ્રોન્સ એફ વેલ્સ કેપટાઉન શહેરમાં અગીયાર દિવસ આનંદમાં પસાર કરી ગયા સ્ત્રીવારે સવારે સાડા સાત વાગે જોહાનીસબર્ગ પાકે સ્ટેશને આવી પહોંચ્યા હતા. તેમની મુલાકાત ખાનગી હોવાથી તેમની ધુમ્કાને માન આપી શહેરની પ્રજાએ સ્ટેશન ઉપર ભીડ કરી નહતી. ટ્રાંસવાલના એડમીનીસ્ટ્રેટર મી. સ્મીટ તેમજ જોહાનીસબર્ગના મેયર મી. જો-ડરસને તેમને સ્ટેશને આવકાર આપ્યો હતો. પ્રોન્સે કેપટાઉન છોડતી વેળા મેયર મારફતે કેપટાઉનની પ્રજાને આભાર માન્યો હતો કે તેમની ધુમ્કાને માન આપી તેમની મુલાકાત ખાનગી રાખવામાં પ્રજાએ સંયમ પાળી તેમને ખાનગી રહેવાની સ્વતંત્રતા બક્ષી. પ્રોન્સ જોહાનીસબર્ગમાં કન્ટ્રી ક્લબમાં ઉતર્યા હતા અને સાંજે આઠ વાગ્યાની ટ્રેનમાં રોડેશીયા જવા ઉપડી ગયા હતા.

નેટીવો હોદ્દા હોકરોનો અહિંકાર કરે છે

વેસ્ટર્ન નેટીવ ટાઉનશીપની અંદર રહેતા નેટીવોની એક સભા ગયા શુક્રવારે મળી હતી તેમાં હોદ્દા ફેરીમાએનો અહિંકાર કરવાનો એક ઠગવ સભાએ પસાર કર્યો હતો. તેઓએ પસાર કરેલા ફરાવની મતભાગ એવી છે કે જોહાનીસબર્ગની સીડી કાઉન્સિલના નેટીવ એક્સેસ ડીપાર્ટમેન્ટ એવી નીતિ અદ્ય કરેલી છે કે નેટીવોના રહેઠાણની જગ્યાએ હોદ્દા તેમજ બીજા હોકરોને ફેરી મરવાની પરમીટ આપવી જ્યારે નેટીવો કે જેઓ લાંબા રહીશ છે અને કરા બરનારા છે તેમને પરમીટ આપવામાં આવતી નથી. સોશીયા ટાઉન, ન્યુક્લેર અને વેસ્ટર્ન નેટીવ ટાઉનશીપમાં રહેના નેટીવોની એક જગી સભા ગયા સ્ત્રીવારે મળનાર હતી. અને આ અહિંકારના ફરાવને અમલમાં મુકવા પીકેટો ગોઠવવા અને અહિંકારની ફતેહ કેવી રીતે થાય તે વિષે વિચાર કરવામાં આવનાર હતો.

નેટીવ એક્સેસ ડીપાર્ટમેન્ટ હોદ્દા તેમજ બીજા ફેરીમાએને પરમીટ આપે અને ખુદ નેટીવો કે જે લાંબા રહીશ છે અને કરા બર છે તેને પરમીટ ન આપે તે તે નેટીવોને એકબે અન્યાય છે. નેટીવોને આવો અન્યાય થતો હોય તે તે ગેરવાબબી છે. અને હોદ્દાઓ તેને માટે જોખમદાર ગણી શકાતા નથી. નેટીવો હોદ્દાઓનો અહિંકાર કરે તેના કરતાં નેટીવ એક્સેસ ડીપાર્ટમેન્ટની સાથે લડન મહાને એજ તેમને માટે સીધા માર્ગ છે.

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| ૧૧ | ૧૨ | ૧૩ | ૧૪ | ૧૫ | ૧૬ | ૧૭ | ૧૮ |
| ૧૯ | ૨૦ | ૨૧ | ૨૨ | ૨૩ | ૨૪ | ૨૫ | ૨૬ |
| ૨૭ | ૨૮ | ૨૯ | ૩૦ | ૩૧ | ૩૨ | ૩૩ | ૩૪ |