

Indian Opinion

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MAHATMA GANDHI MEETS ROMAIN ROLLAND

TO an American friend Romain Rolland has written as follows about the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to his home:—

Villeneuve, Switzerland, December 1931.

How I should have liked to have you here during the visit of the Indians! They stayed five days—from Sunday night until Friday afternoon, the eleventh—at the Villa Lionette. The little man, bespectacled and toothless, was wrapped in his white burnoose, but his legs, thin as a heron's stilts, were bare. His shaven head with its few coarse hairs was uncovered and wet with rain. He came to me with a dry laugh, his mouth open, like a good dog panting, and flinging an arm around me leaned his cheek against my shoulder. I felt his grizzled head against my cheek. It was, I amuse myself thinking, the kiss of St. Dominic and St. Francis.

Then came Mira (Miss Slade) proud of figure and with the stately bearing of a Demeter, and finally three Indians, one a young son of Gandhi, Devidas, with a round and happy face. He is gentle, and but little aware of the grandeur of his name. The others were secretaries—disciples—two young men of rare qualities of heart and mind: Mahadev Desai and Pyarelal.

As I had contrived shortly beforehand to get a severe cold on my chest, it was to my house and to the chamber on the second floor where I sleep at Villa Olga—you will remember it—that Gandhi came each morning for long conversations. My sister interpreted, with the assistance of Mira, and I had also a Russian friend and secretary, Miss Kondacheff, who took notes on our discussions. Some good photographs by Schlemmer, our neighbor from Montreux, recorded the aspect of our interviews.

Evenings, at seven o'clock, prayers were held in the first-floor salon. With lights lowered, the Indians seated on the carpet, and a little assembly of the faithful grouped about, there was a suite of three beautiful chants—the first an extract from the Gita, the second an ancient hymn on the Sanskrit texts which Gandhi has translated, and the third a canticle of Rama and Siva, intoned by the warm, grave voice of Mira.

Gandhi held other prayers at three o'clock in the morning, for which, in London, he used to wake his harrassed staff, although he had not retired until one. This little man, so frail in appearance, is tireless, and fatigue is a word which does not exist in his vocabulary. He could calmly answer for hours the heckling of a crowd, as he did at Lausanne and Geneva, without a muscle of his face twitching. Seated on a table, motionless, his voice always clear

and calm, he replied to his adversaries open or masked—and they were not lacking at Geneva—giving them rude truths which left them silenced and suffocated.

The Roman bourgeoisie, militarist and nationalist, who had at first received him with crafty looks, quivered with rage when he left. I believe that if his stay had lasted any longer the public meetings would have been forbidden. He pronounced himself as unequivocally as possible on the double question of national armaments and the conflict between capital and labour. I was largely responsible for steering him on this latter course.

His mind proceeds through successive experiments into action and he follows a straight line, but he never stops, and one would risk error in attempting to judge him by what he said ten years ago, because his thought is in constant evolution. I will give you a little example of it that is characteristic.

He was asked at Lausanne to define what he understood by God. He explained how, among the noblest attributes which the Hindu scriptures ascribed to God, he had in his youth chosen the word "truth" as most truly defining the essential element. He had then said, "God is Truth." "But," he added, "two years ago I advanced another step. I now say, 'Truth is God.' For even the atheists do not doubt the necessity for the power of truth. In their passion for discovering the truth, the atheists have not hesitated to deny the existence of God, and, from their point of view, they are right." You will understand from this single trait the boldness and independence of this religious spirit from the Orient. I noted in him traits similar to Vivekananda.

And yet not a single political ruse catches him unprepared. And his own politics are to say everything that he thinks to everybody, not concealing a thing.

On the last evening, after the prayers, Gandhi asked me to play him a little of Beethoven. (He does not know Beethoven, but he knows that Beethoven has been the intermediary between Mira and me, and consequently between Mira and himself, and that, in the final count, it is to Beethoven that the gratitude of us all must go.) I played him the Adante of the Fifth Symphony. To that I added "Les Champs Elysées" of Gluck—the page for the orchestra and the air for the flute.

He is very sensitive to the religious chants of his country, which somewhat resemble the most beautiful of our Gregorian melodies, and he has worked to assemble them. We also exchanged our ideas on art, from which he does not separate his conception

of truth, nor from his conception of truth that of joy, which he thinks truth should bring. But it follows of itself that for this heroic nature joy does not come without effort, nor even life itself without hardship. "The seeker after truth hath a heart tender as the lotus, and hard as granite."

Here, my dear friend, are a few hints of those days of ours together on which I have taken much more detailed notes. What I do not dwell on to you is the hurricane of intruders, loiters, and half-wits which this visit loosed on our two villas. No, the telephone never ceased ringing; photographers in ambuscades let fly their fusillades from behind every bush. The milkmen's syndicate at Leman informed me that during all the time of this sojourn with me of the "King of India" they intended to assume complete responsibility for his "victualling." We received letters from "Sons of God." Some Italians wrote to the Mahatma beseeching him to indicate for them the ten lucky numbers for the next drawing of the weekly national lottery!

My sister, having survived, has gone to take ten day's rest at a cure in Zurich. She returns tomorrow. For my part, I have entirely lost the gift of sleep. If you find it, send it to me by registered mail!

—*The Nation* (New York).

'SEGREGATE INDIANS'

THERE is no end in this country to the slogan of segregate Indians from Europeans. The Europeans of Natal and Transvaal still continue such cries against Indians. A few months ago a petition had been prepared and placed in the streets of different towns of Natal for obtaining signatures of individual Europeans. It was signed by 25,999 Europeans and presented to the House of Assembly on Feb. 8. This petition was presented to the House just at a time when the Government of India delegation was discussing the Indian problem with the Union Government delegation at the Round Table Conference held in Capetown last month. On the fifteenth of this month, Mr. Frank Acutt moved in the House of Assembly that the petition of A. Kemp and 25,999 others, residents of the Province of Natal, praying that legislation may be introduced to demarcate residential and trading areas for Europeans and Indians and to prevent unfair competition by Asiatics in trade and industry, which was presented to the House on Feb. 8, be referred to the Government for consideration. There was no discussion on the subject in the House and the motion was accepted. Mr. Acutt received an assurance from the Minister of the Interior that the subject will be most thoroughly summed up by the Government. The

object of this petition is to impress upon the House that the European public opinion of Natal is in favour of segregation for Indians and hence to introduce legislation to that effect. In 1924 when the Class Areas Bill was introduced in the Parliament, it was clearly shown that the Indian opinion in South Africa was against the policy of segregation. As a result of the Round Table Conference then held in Capetown the Bill was dropped and the policy of segregation was abandoned. The Government of India then openly declared that they cannot accept the policy of segregating Indians from Europeans. At the second Round Table Conference which met only last month at Capetown the delegates of the Government re-emphasised the point and made it quite clear to the Union delegates that the Government of India can never accept segregation policy. Although the views of the Indian community in South Africa and those of the Government of India are well known on this subject, yet the Europeans in this country continue to agitate against Indians on this subject. By taking signatures on such a petition the Europeans of Natal try to show that the public opinion demands such a policy. Will the Union Government ask the Indian community to show its public opinion through the same method? Natal Province is not specially a reserved province for Europeans to live in. Just as Europeans came to this province from outside to settle in so did the Indians. Indians as a matter of fact were invited by the Natal Government to develop this country. Natal is made into a garden colony to-day through Indian labour. Just as the Europeans of this Province have a right to live so have the Indians. The Indian population in this province is just equal in numbers with Europeans. Eighty per cent. of the Indian population is born in this province. Hence they are as much South Africans as the Europeans. Natal is as much a land of birth for these Indians as Mr. Frank Acutt would claim for himself. Just as the Europeans pay taxes and support the Government so do we Indians. In proportion the Europeans receive more benefits in many ways from the State than Indians. They receive special privileges from the State at the cost of other non-European sections who are not represented in the Government of the State. The non-European section having no share in the

administration of the country and though they have to equally share the burden of the State is unjustly treated. If the Indian community have the franchise no other section of the people in this country dare to agitate against them. Even though the Indian community possess no franchise in this country, they have never accepted the policy of segregation. The Government of India have not accepted it and in future too they shall not accept it.

Indian Hospital For Pietersburg

The new Indian wards at the Pietersburg Hospital were opened last week by His Worship the Mayor, Dr. C. P. Andrew, in the presence of a representative gathering of citizens. His Worship also laid a commemoration stone.

Mr. P. W. Roos, chairman of the Pietersburg Hospital Board, welcomed those present and gave details of the cost of the new building. He hoped that this endeavour on the part of the Indian community would encourage other sections to do likewise. The Indian community had subscribed £800 to which the Provincial Administration had added £750 and the cost of the building had been £1,536.

It was unfortunate that the European residents of the Northern Transvaal, continued Mr. Roos, could not be induced to emulate the Indian in giving to the hospital. The Indians contributed about ten times as much as did the European section.

The Board, said Mr. Roos, contemplated spending £8,000 this year on buildings. £2,000 would, he hoped, be available very shortly. He appealed to residents of the smaller towns in the Northern Transvaal, who received considerable benefit from the hospital, to contribute towards its upkeep.

Mr. Lombard, Assistant Magistrate, in the course of a letter which Mr. Roos read, congratulated the Indian community on their splendid effort and example and regretted his inability to be present as he had to hold a court at Chanyespoort.

Dr. P. A. Green also spoke in congratulatory terms of the wonderful achievement of the Indian community and of the fine building. He said that the doctors would be interested as nine out of every ten patients would now be better treated. Hospitals nowadays, he continued, were based on an Act introduced a few years ago which aimed at encouraging local people to help their own sick. The Government donated so much and so much was found by the people.

It cost in round figures £10,000 per annum to run the hospital and the subscriptions amounted in one year to £86. He concluded by saying that the people of Pietersburg ought to "buck up." The Indian community was only one among many.

Mr. M. Asvat, on behalf of Mr. Amod Bava, chairman of the Young Muslim Society, read the following address:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As chairman of the Young Muslim Society, I feel honoured to have this opportunity of expressing the appreciation and thanks of the Indian community of Pietersburg to our European neighbours for the great assistance we have had in accomplishing our objective, that of erecting an Indian Hospital in Pietersburg.

Four years have elapsed since we first approached the Pietersburg Hospital Board in this endeavour. The Board's reception of our scheme was always sympathetic and I doubt whether the Indian Hospital would to-day have been an accomplished fact, were

it not for the Hospital Board's kindly co-operation. To the chairman and members who have served on the Hospital Board during the last four years, we express our heartfelt thanks.

Although a large portion of the funds for the erection of this hospital was contributed by the Indian community of Pietersburg and district, it was through the efforts of the Pietersburg Hospital Board that the Provincial Administration contributed a large sum towards the building costs. We feel all the more greatly indebted to the Administrator and his executive, because the grant was made in times of depression and stress.

Our community has been provided with a long-felt want. We greatly appreciate all the kindness and assistance that we have received, and I can assure the European section of Pietersburg that we shall not be found wanting when opportunity arises to reciprocate."

Mr. Mahomed G. Rasool said, "I am requested by my father, Mr. Goolam Rasool, who is absent from town to-day, to convey to you his apology for not being present at this function and to convey the following message on behalf of the Indian community of Pietersburg:

"That the Indian community of Pietersburg accords its appreciation of the generous gift made by the Provincial authorities and the Young Muslim Society by building the Indian Hospital and handing over to the Pietersburg Hospital Administration for the use of the Indian patients."

Dr. Andrew then laid the stone commemorating the opening. The hospital would be non-sectarian and its privileges available to all the Indian community. He said, "God is with those who persevere" and said that they had persevered and to-day could see the fruit of their efforts, a splendid institution.

The Mayor then thanked the Hospital Board on behalf of the Mayoress and himself for the invitation extended to them. He said that Kipling's saying: "East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet" was a fallacy. Here in the Western Hemisphere East was meeting West. To-day the Indians were an integral part of the population of South Africa. They had made their homes here and they and their children had become South Africans. If their tenure was only temporary they would not have erected that magnificent building.

Tribute To Builder

The Mayor then declared the commemoration stone well and truly laid and said he wished to pay a tribute to the builder, Mr. J. T. Welch, who had given them a splendid job with which everybody connected with the institution was pleased. The Board would show their appreciation in a practical manner.

The Mayor, the Mayoress and Mr. Roos were then garlanded and the Mayoress opened the door of the new ward.

Indian Demand For School At Newcastle

Newcastle, Friday.—The Acting Agent-General for India in the Union, the Hon. Evelyn Baring, visited Newcastle yesterday, and was met and entertained by the Indian community. The chief object of the visit was to discuss the matter of a Government Indian school, as a result of which representations are being made to the Provincial Administration with the idea of a definite date being given in which a Government School would be granted.

The Hon. Evelyn Baring joined his mother, Lady Cromer, this morning, and proceeds by rail to Johannesburg.—Reuter.

What Is Happening In India

The Colombo correspondent of *Tanganyika Opinion* writes:—

It is well known that news from India regarding the civil disobedience campaign is severely censored. But the veil was lifted in a conversation which Dr. S. A. Wickremesinghe M.B.B.S. member of the Ceylon State Council, had with me.

Dr. Wickremesinghe has just returned after an extensive tour in India. The news about India so anxiously awaited and received by the external world is very unreliable, he said. Even within the country the Government is making a desperate effort to hoodwink India into believing that the Congress movement is a dying thing. "This is merely a part of the Government plan," he pointed out, "to stamp out opposition."

As the leaders were arrested, new leaders came forward, all from the ranks of the educated—professors, members of local legislatures and doctors. In the last movement Bombay had only 5,000 volunteers. This time within two days of Mahatma Gandhi's arrest, 15,000 volunteers enrolled.

"I met students and professors of the Calcutta and Benares Universities and of the Tagore's University at Shantiniketan," emphasised Dr. Wickremesinghe. "They are all waiting to offer their services in the struggle for the freedom of their own country. At every important railway station one sees the sad spectacle of political prisoners, all cultured people whose refined features and dignified behaviour stand in tragic contrast to the coarse featured soldier or the uneducated Indian policemen who arrest these patriots and take them to various parts of the country where gaols are not already full or to schools and other public buildings improvised as gaols.

"Lathi blows, guns, water-hose on women students, all result in adding more fuel to the fire. Red-Cross ambulance belonging to the Congress are smashed, the nurses, volunteers and the drivers are belaboured, and in consequence the injured are made to suffer in agony on the streets. In Madras I met some Europeans who were organising a deputation to request the Police Commissioner to stop the brutal assaults on Indian nurses.

"I was in Benares when the military opened fire on the unarmed crowd. A protest meeting was arranged in connection with Mahatmaji's arrest. Several hours before the appointed time for the meeting, the military arrived with armoured cars with rifles and took possession of the Town Hall where the meeting was to be held. The people were gathered in thousands all unarmed and bare-headed. They assembled in spite of the Magistrate's order not to do so. The military armed with all the implements of brute force were overpowered by the moral value of the non-violent protest. In their utter desperation the military opened fire and twenty rounds were fired killing several and injuring several hundreds."

Dr. Wickremesinghe then paid a tribute to the Indian volunteer nurses. Over 200 of the injured were treated at the Congress hospital, he said. The gentleness and efficiency of the Indian nurses were remarkable. The feeling of sympathy from the crowd and their eagerness to do everything possible to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded made him realise that every bullet which penetrated was the great suffering that the nation was undergoing in the cause of freedom.

In spite of Ordinances, the boycott, picketing, processions and propaganda of all kinds continued unabated. The Ordinances have made conditions in India far worse than under martial law. The Gujerat Vidaypath, the resident National University of Ahmedabad of which Mahatma Gandhi was the

Chancellor, was under military occupation. Professors and students were forced to vacate the building to provide room for soldiers. Several ashrams all over India have undergone a similar fate.

All the Congress buildings were under Police occupation. The National Flag had been hauled down and the Union Jack hoisted by force. Parents were held responsible if their children did propaganda for the boycott of British goods or committed any other act prohibited under the Ordinances. Failure to comply with this meant confiscation of their property.

"These are only a few instances," continued Dr. Wickremesinghe. "The actions of the British Raj on the North-West Frontier, in the villages where the non-payment of taxes is going on and in the towns, will be known only when the history of the fight for freedom is written by Indian historians.

"Wherever I went I made it a special point to question the ordinary people. Not only were they convinced of the righteousness of Mahatma Gandhi's policy, but they did not know of anyone who disagreed with his policy. Only in one instance did I get the reply that there were people who disagreed with Mahatma Gandhi and they were Government servants and a few title-seekers who bask in Government patronage.

"The spirit of patriotism displayed by boys of twelve to sixteen, when brought to the Courts for punishment, is inspiring. I was invited by the Magistrate of the Juvenile Court in Calcutta. A boy of sixteen was brought before him for picketing foreign cloth shops. The Magistrate wanted to give him another chance before he sent him to a reformatory for two years and asked the boy to give thought before he again decided to work as a Congress volunteer. The boy calmly replied, "I have given serious thought to this matter and nothing can change my mind to serve my country." Then he was asked to give undertaking that he will not try to dissuade people from buying foreign goods. The boy replied, "I shall do whatever I think is right for the good of my country."

The Prestige Of White South Africa

The following statement has been issued by Dr. Neville Talbot, Bishop of Pretoria:—

As Bishop of Pretoria, whose diocese covers the Northern Transvaal, I have to do with the area which will be most affected by the Native Service Contract Bill. I feel compelled, therefore, to make an appeal to Christian public opinion in South Africa, and to ask whether this measure shall be allowed to pass without protest from the Christian Churches.

This Bill in my judgment stands condemned for three principal reasons:—

(1) **NEGLECT OF CONSULTATION:** The way in which the Bill has been introduced is most open to criticism. Held over in 1931, pending the report of the Select Committee on the Prime Minister's Native Bills, it has now been reintroduced in spite of the fact that the Select Committee has not yet reported, and, although many of the issues raised by the Bill are related to the terms of reference of the Native Economic Commission, the report of that body has not been awaited.

The whole principle of consultation pledged to the native people by the Native Affairs Act of 1920 and reaffirmed in General Hertzog's Union Native Council Bill of 1927, has been violated. The Native Affairs Commission has not been consulted. The Native Conference was consulted on the Bill as drafted in 1930, and, after a careful and intelligent

discussion of the Bill, passed a resolution unanimously condemning it.

No conference was held in 1931 to discuss the Bill.

The facts do defiance to the principles of co-operation between Government and governed, upon which the hope of a peaceful future for South Africa largely depends.

(2) **EVICTIION OR COMPULSION**: The practical effect of the Bill will be that, once it is put into operation in any given district, the whole squatting population of that district will be suddenly subject to eviction from their homes, and will be condemned to wander about looking for shelter and subsistence, until many of them drift into the towns.

The only alternative open to them will be to remain where they are under conditions perilously near forced labour, they and their children prevented, more effectively than ever before from escaping unsatisfactory conditions of service, and remunerated at a wage which in these circumstances is likely to be lower than even the present low standard.

(3) **PROMISES UNFULFILLED**: Ever since 1913 the native people have been waiting for the redemption of the promise of the grant of more land made to them in the Natives' Land Act of that year. Some measure of fulfilment of that promise, however inadequate, is to be found in General Hertzog's Land Bill.

I claim that to impose more restrictions on natives living in European areas until the promise of 1913 has been honoured is a flagrant breach of faith on the part of White South Africa. It is calculated to damage the white man's prestige and render co-operation between the races so much the more difficult.

Once more, therefore, a deep issue is brought to the front; it underlies the whole question of race relationships in South Africa. The issue is whether the house of South African civilisation shall be built, in the supposed interests of Europeans, on the foundation of the oppression and compulsion of the native people; or, on the other hand, whether it shall be built on the foundation of free co-operation by white and black for the good of the whole community.

The issue is of world-wide importance, and bound up with it is the reputation of our country in the eyes of the world.

Devil Let Loose In India

Sir John Maynard, Finance Member to the Punjab Government when Sir Edward Maclagan was Governor, is amongst the contributors to the first issue of *Indian Affairs*, a new monthly started by the Commonwealth of India League 'Free Press' cables the following paragraph about Sir John's article:—

While not suggesting that the Ordinances should necessarily be withdrawn or weakened, Sir John says that the door to peace should not be slammed with such violence. He adds: "The club law holds the field and the extremists have recovered the initiative. Mr. Gandhi is in jail and the devil has again been let loose in India. We are assured nevertheless that peaceful discussion on the constitutional problem will continue. But Lord Willingdon's advisers, if not the Viceroy himself, must know that this has been made virtually impossible."

Statement Submitted By S.A.I.C.

To Government Of India Delegation

(Continued from last week)

The Transvaal Indian Question

The Transvaal Province is in a peculiar position as regards Indians in relation to Cape and Natal Provinces. It therefore seems necessary, even at the risk of burdening the Statement with an outline of historical facts, to trace, as briefly as possible, the advent of Indians into this Province and the successive stage of "warfare" by legislation, and otherwise, which was conducted against their presence. This part of the Statement may be taken as especially dealing with and applicable to the situation in the Transvaal.

HISTORICAL

The consensus of opinion would seem to be that Indians first entered the Transvaal a short while prior to the date of the London Convention of 1881; possibly two or three years before.

The London Convention referred to extended to persons (other than natives of the land) who conformed to the laws of the Transvaal State:—

- (a) Full liberty to enter, travel or reside in any part of the Transvaal;
- (b) The right to hire or possess manufactories, warehouses, shops and premises;
- (c) Carry on trade or commerce either in person or by such agents as they may think fit to employ.
- (d) Exemption from the imposition in respect of their persons or property or their commerce or industry from any taxes whether general or local other than those imposed on Transvaal citizens.

The above liberties under the 1881 Convention justified, it is submitted; the view adopted by Indians in Natal and elsewhere that they had a legal right to enter the Transvaal and no doubt influenced those who did so enter.

REGISTRATION

The year 1885 saw the introduction of legislation on the part of the Transvaal Republic to compel Indians desirous of entering and residing to pay a tax of £25. 0. 0. by virtue of which they obtained the right to enter and travel and reside in the country.

Representations followed from the Indians of the Transvaal to the British Government, resulting in a reduction in 1886 to a tax of £3. 0. 0. in lieu of the £25. 0. 0.

In 1890 there was a decision in the Supreme Court in regard to the registration of minor Asiatics (those under 15 years of age) to the effect that such were not under the obligation to register provided they were not carrying on trade or business of their own.

It is impossible to avoid passing reference to the advancement by representatives of the British Government of the grievances of the Transvaal Indians as one of the arguments in favour of the War of 1899-1902.

The Peace Treaty of 1902 would appear to have ignored the question of Indian grievances and disabilities and to have witnessed the establishment of a special department in the New Colony for dealing with matters affecting Asiatics. Lord Milner moved by pressure, obtained the consent of the Secretary of State to the Peace Preservation Ordinance, November 1902.

This Ordinance provided,

1. After the date of this Ordinance no person shall enter this Colony without a permit granted under the terms of this Ordinance, unless he was a resident within the Colony on the 31st. May, 1902, or has since that date and before the date of this Ordinance received some formal authority from a duly constituted officer.

In 1903 Asiatics were compelled to obtain a £3 Registration Certificate and the holders of Certificates issued by the late Transvaal Republic were to exchange the latter for the former. Lord Milner urged the community to accept the situation if only from the point of view of their self-protection. His Lordship pointed out that it would meet European prejudices and European agitation and suspicion for the Indian community to take out Registration Certificates which, he added, would be evidence of their "right to be here and their right to come and go."

Unrest, fanned by Anti-Asiatic agitators, who represented that the Indian community was increasing in dangerous proportions continued up to 1906 when the Legislative Council enacted a further registration measure applicable to all adult Indians.

On representations by the delegation that visited England under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi, the 1906 Ordinance was suspended, but with the granting of Responsible Government, was enacted as Act 2 of 1907.

Then followed the Passive Resistance Campaign, voluntary registration and the Validating Act of 1908.

The Registration Act just referred to emphasised that every Certificate of Registration was to be accepted as conclusive evidence in all places that the lawful holder thereof was, notwithstanding anything in the Peace Preservation Ordinance of 1903, entitled to enter and reside in the Colony. The Act (36 of 1908) specifically provided that every person who, having been the lawful holder of a certificate of Registration under Act 2 of 1907 has been permitted to obtain a certificate in the form in the schedule to this Act in substitution for such amended certificate entitling him to enter and reside in the Colony.

This protective provision in relation to holders of Registration Certificates under Act of 1908 was further emphasised and repeated after the Passive Resistance movement in 1913. Section 4 (a) (b) of the Indian Relief Act provides that nothing in Section 4 (1) (a) is to be construed as abrogating or affecting any right conferred by Act 36 of 1908 of the lawful holder of a Certificate under that Act.

It will be observed that firstly the principle of differential registration has throughout been strongly opposed and resisted; that when eventually under persuasion it was acquiesced it took the form of voluntary registration and that such registration was accompanied by the assurance reiterated again and again that the Certificate held by the lawful holder was to be regarded as sacrosanct. Both from the point of view of the practical, as well as the sentimental, the sanctity attaching to the Registration Certificate might well have been considered inviolable. Nevertheless, by the Immigration Act of 1931, passed regardless of the protests of the Agent of the Government of India, and the Congress, any practical value attaching to such certificates has ruthlessly been taken away. Instead of these Certificates constituting, as formerly they did, the lawful holders title "to be here and to come and go," Section 2(a) of the Law 15 of 1931 reduces them to nothing better than scraps of paper. This

development is regarded by the community, not with some justification, as a grave violation of the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement. In this connection, special attention may be directed to a judgement of the Immigration Appeal Board in the matter of Daya Ratanjee of which a copy will be found in the appendix hereto marked "B." It will be seen that a son born within the Union of Indian parents of whom the father is a duly registered resident of the Transvaal Province, both parents being resident here at that time, may yet be debarred the privileges of South African born national and deprived of the rights such a one will be entitled to claim if the parents have not been "domiciled" in the Union, that is resident therein for three continuous years at the time of the child's birth. The lawful holding of a certificate of registration has no bearing upon this question of domicile and the old Common Law definition of the the terms has been artificially narrowed down by statute to the great disadvantage of the persons affected.

It should also be noted that both parents, not merely one or either of them, must have been "domiciled" for the child to be regarded as South African.

The following case in point may be found instructive as showing the difference in the situation in 1929 and 1931.

One Mr. I B. Patel of 6, Kort Street, Johannesburg had a son born in South Africa, and the mother was not "domiciled" at the time of birth. Mr. Patel wrote to the Immigration Authorities to extend his Certificate of Identity, to which the Commissioner of Asiatics replied as follows:—

File No. 3/E/29221

29th November, 1929
P. O. Box 244,
Pretoria.

Mr. Ishwar Bhai Patel,
6, Kort Street,
Johannesburg.

Sir,—With reference to your application for an extension of the Certificate issued to your son M. I. Patel, to enable him to proceed to India, I have to inform you that according to the existing law there is no need to apply for an extension for the boy who was born in South Africa and can return at any time on being able to prove his identity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Signed:—H. N. VENN,

Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs.

The Appeal Board decision previously referred to and set out in the appendix must inevitably have very far reaching effects since there is a large number of boys born in the Union presently in India whose return, owing to the restrictions now imposed in the 1931 Act will be made impossible.

(To be Continued)

Durban Indian Child Welfare Society

The annual meeting of the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society will be held on Saturday, 19th March at the Centre, 150 Brook Street, at 3 p. m. All are cordially invited to attend.

Europeans On Indian Federation

Calcutta, March 14.—The early introduction of Provincial autonomy with no interference with the present work of bringing into the Federation of India as rapidly as possible is the policy of the Europeans in India as outlined by Mr. Villiers, President of the European Association, when addressing a meeting of Europeans.

Mr. Villiers emphasised that the Europeans insisted that no Federal responsibility should be granted until the necessary safeguards had been drawn up and proved to be capable of performing their task. Subject to this the European Association would oppose any attempt by any Governments or Party, British or Indian, that sought to play a double game respecting the policy to which the Association had subscribed. "We take our stand behind the White Paper," declared Mr. Villiers.

Meanwhile the Indian Princes continue to perform various peculiar evolutions, but it is clear that they have really moved from their four square stand by the original proposals for Federation.

Now it seems that the Princes will agree either to accept the Confederacy proposals, or something like them, or to disagree without disaster to a Federal India.

The Indian States, almost without exception, are disposed to insist that their contributions to Federal finance shall be found from indirect taxation, which will only be levied at the discretion, of the Government of each State.

New Appointment For Mrs. Naidu

Bombay, March 14.—Mrs. Sarojini Naidu has been appointed Acting President of the All-India Congress in succession to Abdulkalamazad, who was arrested on Saturday.—Reuter.

Another Scheme For Indian Federation

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes:—

Agreement among the Indian princes on the federation issue has been brought nearer by yet another scheme put forward to reconcile the federation and confederation schools of thought.

This scheme provides that the States desirous of joining a federation can do so directly, while those favouring the alternative scheme can constitute a confederacy, which will enter the federation as a complete unit.

The princes, I gather, are agreed on vital safeguards and recognise the need for unity, but it has yet to be seen whether the great States will contemplate with equanimity a scheme which perhaps postulates considerably enhanced powers for the lesser States.

Declaration Of Holy War

Peshawar, Sunday —Bomb-dropping by the Royal Air Force planes on the North-West Territory frontier villages has not yet sufficed to stop the activities of the Haji of Turangzai, who is preaching "Jehad" (Holy War) against the British.

Torrential rainstorms blotting out the hills have hindered the airman's activities.

The Haji is threatening to march to Lashkar across the Indian border.

A plane flying low was sniped by a tribesman at Pandali and the airman in defence were forced to reply with machine-gun fire, killing nine. The situation is easing as the result of the R.A.F. action.—Reuter.

North-West Frontier Operations

Peshawar, March 14.—There is a marked im-

provement in the situation on the North-West Frontier. The Haji has fled to a hiding place in some caves and his supporters have been dispersed. Bombing has ceased except over the village of Yakhdand, in the Mohmand country.—Reuter.

Police Charge Delhi Mob

New Delhi, March 13 —Twenty-four people were injured in a series of police baton charges on 20,000 Hindu and Moslem demonstrators yesterday in front of the municipal buildings here. The Hindus had assembled to celebrate Gandhi's famous march two years ago at Dandi to gather salt, and the Moslems wished to protest against the arrest of one of their leaders.

Tramcar Attacked

A hartal was observed all day. One policeman was knifed by a Moslem and another, riding in a tramcar, was attacked by Moslems but was rescued. Other policemen were pelted with stones from a mosque.—Reuter.

N.W.F. Made Into Governor's Province

Simultaneously with the Viceroy's announcement about the Frontier Reforms, a Gazette Extraordinary notifies the constitution of the N. W. F. Province as a Governor's Province and the application to the Province of the provisions of the Government of India Act, subject to the following modifications:—

(a) That the number of members of the Legislative Council shall be forty;

(b) that the maximum annual salary of the Governor shall be Rs. 66,000 and of a member of the Executive Council Rs. 12,000; and

(c) that Section 58 of the said Act shall cease to have effect in its application to the Province. This notification shall have effect from such date or dates in respect of any or all provisions, as may be notified.

Mrs. Gandhi Again Sentenced

Reuter from Bombay informs on the 17th March that Mrs. Gandhi who was released from prison on February 29 has been again arrested and sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment.

Isipingo Indian Society

Annual Report

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, we have the greatest pleasure in submitting to you our Annual Report for the year ended December 1931, which is a brief one. Although our income lately has not been very much, but our financial position is satisfactory through the accumulated funds we have had on hand from the previous years.

10 members enrolled last year, and we hope others will follow them, as there are many in the district, who have not yet become members, our appeal to them is to join us in the good work, as our success depends solely on the support we get from the public.

Mr. Dawood Cassim became a life member during the year by paying one guinea in terms of our bye law No. 4 as his late father was a life member.

The collection of subscription was better than the previous, £11-11-0 was paid in by members.

As usual we extended help to paupers in sending them to hospital, provided school books to poor children, supplied medical attention to distressed cases, and made several donations to widows, school, and Hospital.

During the year 32 funerals were attended by us representing the Society. Our Cemetery is getting filled up every year, the total has now reached to 151. The following Office Bearers were elected for the year ending 1932, at the 14th. Annual General Meeting.

Patrons Messrs. M. A. Jadwat, R. D. Chowthee, and G. R. Ghoorohoo. President Mr. Seeboo Ram. Vice Presidents Messrs. K. Nowbuth, K. Arumugum and M. K. Peter. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Mr. R. Gopaulsingh. Assist. Secretary Mr. T. Subramony. Committee Messrs. L. Bession, J. Varden, B. Mahabeer, Dawood Cassim, M. George, Natalie, T. Ramsingh, Abdool Raiman and A. Mathura. Hon. Auditor Mr. N. Ganga.

Arya Prathinidhi Sabha

Shiva Rathree Celebrations

The Shiva Rathree celebrations ended on Saturday last immediately the Aryan Conference commenced. The Shiva Rathree Celebrations was celebrated for the whole week, and many lectures were delivered by various speakers.

Aryan Conference

The Aryan Conference was held on Saturday at 2 p.m. There were many representatives from Samajs throughout Natal present.

The Chairman Mr. B. A. Maghrajh carried out the proceedings and was thanked.

The success of the Conference was all through the untiring work of the Secretaries Messrs. Satya Dev and H. Maghrajh.

The Conference passed resolutions requesting the people to join the Samaj and become members and to establish Samajs where they do not exist. The members were also asked to follow the ten principles of Arya Samaj and propagate amongst members the daily performance of Sandhya and Havan.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Arya Prathinidhi Sabha (Natal) was held the next day Sunday, at 10 a.m. At this meeting representatives were fully represented.

After Minutes, Correspondence, Roll call, and Chairman's welcome to the Delegates, the Secretary Mr. Satya Dev read his report for the year.

The work of the Sabha was fully given in detail. Amongst the important items were:—

Jubilee Celebrations

The Rajat Jayanti which was to be celebrated during the year had been put off. The delay being by the reason of the delay on receiving the books which were to be published by the Arya Prathinidhi Sabha called the "History of the Arya Samaj in South Africa" since 25 years.

Preachers In Jail

The report also gave the names of the various preachers from the Sabha that had done splendid work in the jails of Natal. The Sabha has preachers for the following Jails: P. M. Burg, Duran, Lady-smith, and Stanger.

Arya Samajs

The Sabha being the parent body are prepared to give any assistance to any Arya Samaj in Natal that requires any assistance.

There were many more important matters.

Financial Statement

The Financial Statement was read. The accounts reflected a double figure in assets than the last accounts.

Election Of Officials 1932

The following were elected for the year 1932:

Patron Swami Narain, President B. A. Maghrajh Esqr., Hon. Secretary Mr. Satya Dev, Hon. Asst. Secretary Mr. H. Maghrajh, Hon. Treasurer Mr. M. Moonoo, Hon. Auditor Mr. S. L. Singh.

News In Brief

Bombay, Monday.—The Rev. C. F. Andrews arrived from South Africa to-day. Interviewed by Reuter, he said he expected the terms of the new Capetown agreement likely to be published before the Easter recess. Mr. Andrews is immediately proceeding to Shantiniketan to meet the poet Tagore, after which he will go to Delhi. His projected visit to China in connection with flood relief is still under consideration, in view of the conditions in India.—Reuter.

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The Natal Indian Farmers Association, the Natal Indian Congress and the Durban Indian Squatters Association are to be interviewed by the Municipal Markets Committee shortly to ascertain their views regarding accommodation, charges and draft by-laws in connection with the new Indian squatters market off Lancers Road. This decision was arrived at by the Markets Committee.

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Calcutta, Tuesday.—Sir Kurma Reddi declared in an interview that though the Transvaal Land Tenure Bill would be proceeded with it would not be in its present form. Far-reaching changes would be made with advantage to Transvaal Indians.

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London, Friday.—Mr. Baldwin is likely to head the British delegation to the Ottawa Conference, which will also include Mr. Thomas, Mr. Runciman and Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, according to inquiries in well-informed circles, though no decision has yet been made. The Prime Minister will be asked in the House of Commons next Tuesday whether he proposes to head the delegation.—Reuter.

Indian Child Welfare Society Centre

150, BROOK STREET, DURBAN

Open daily, Monday to Saturday, 8-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Infants, young children, nursing and expectant mothers.

Lady doctors give free attendance.

Tuesday morning 8-30 o'clock. Friday afternoon 3 o'clock.

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