

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Natives' Complaint Against Indians

It is reported that at a meeting of 200 natives at a hall in Prince Edward Street, Durban, resolutions were passed against the Agent General for India that Indian traders "are not a menace."

(1) "That this meeting views with great alarm the position of Indian trading. About 95 per cent of their trade is supported by natives, while not a single native has been employed at a living wage as a clerk, book-keeper, salesman, tailor, printer or carpenter.

(2) "That this meeting wishes to place on record for future action that it is now time the authorities decreased the number of these licences in rural and urban areas, because as soon as they make enough money they send it to India."

We have always advocated the cause of the Natives in these columns and have never consciously failed to criticise any unjust action against them. We fully realise that they are the sons of the soil and have a claim on this country more than any other race that has come from outside. If they have a just complaint against Indians we would certainly not hesitate to bring our own countrymen to book. But in the present instance the Natives responsible for having passed the above resolutions, we feel, have been misguided. All fairminded Natives will, we have no doubt, admit and they have in fact admitted that their dealings with Indians have been far better than with Europeans. We know too that Indians have never refused them when they have gone to their doors for any public collections. It is entirely wrong to say that not a single native has been employed at a living wage as a clerk, bookkeeper, salesman, tailor, printer, or carpenter. Natives are employed by Indians in various trades in which they have been found efficient. We can assure the Natives that they will always find Indians to be their best friends and that Indians will be the last to be an impediment to their advancement.

### Lost Spray Pumps

We are asked to bring to the notice of Indian and native small plot holders in the Inanda area who were given spray pumps that some of them were not returned at the close of the last anti-cocoon campaign. Anyone still having them in their possession are requested to return same to the magistrate's office Perulam, without delay.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 1935

### CRAVING FOR TITLES

THE conferring of the title of Khan Bahadur on Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam, the well-known Indian merchant of Pretoria, by the Viceroy of India has created a great deal of sensation among the Indian community and has aroused the curiosity of many Europeans throughout South Africa. For it is for the first time in the history of Indians in this sub-continent that such a thing has happened.

Of course Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam has accepted the title and it must be taken for granted therefore that he feels highly honoured. All honour to him. But we have grave doubts whether this step on the part of the Government of India is going to elevate the Indian community of South Africa or demoralise it. There is a greater risk of the latter happening. A craving for titles has been one of the characteristics of Indians. We would not be far wrong in saying that the number of title holders in India exceeds that in any other part of the world. That is a proof that Indians have a weakness for them. The tide has however turned within the past few years and whatever value the titles may have for the titleholders in India they are hardly of any worth to the general public. The public does not hold titleholders in high esteem for the simple reason that they have a leaning more towards the government by whom such titles have been conferred than towards their own people. On the other hand those who are for the people and have dedicated their lives to the service of their people have not been over inclined to accept the titles conferred on them and in many cases such titles have been renounced. In the circumstances it has come as a shocking surprise to many that the title of Khan Bahadur should have been conferred on Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam and that he should have accepted it.

There are some who hold the view that this is an honour done to the Indian community and that it will be an impetus to others to do charitable work. We do not quite agree with this view. The best title a person can win is from the people he serves. A title bestowed by the Government will be a mere ornament and will avail him nothing if he has not the confidence of the people. And how is this title going to help either our com-

munity or Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam? Will the community be saved of all the harsh laws against it or will his title enable Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam to live and move about in the Union any better than his other brethren? Nothing of the sort. His title will improve neither his own status nor that of his brethren. Moreover a title coming from the Government of India is entirely out of place in the Union of South Africa, if we claim, as we do, to be South Africans. The services of Indians in South Africa should primarily be recognised by the Government and the people of South Africa. That the Government of India should put themselves out to recognise the services of a South African Indian is a little surprising. We might note here that the Union House of Assembly passed a resolution in 1925 requesting His Majesty not to confer titles on South Africans. One wonders how the Union Government has reconciled itself with the conferring of this title on a South African Indian.

Frankly speaking we do not think much of the title of Khan Bahadur conferred on Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam. We feel a little suspicious about such titles. Moreover Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam happens to be the president of the Congress which is affiliated to the Indian National Congress which advocates renunciation of titles. Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam's acceptance of the title is therefore somewhat inconsistent with the principles of the Congress. The noble examples of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore and many other illustrious sons of India who renounced their titles are before us which we could well emulate. We have no doubt Mr. Hajee Cassim Adam's services would have been recognised just as much by those whom he professes serve even without his becoming a Khan Bahadur and would have won their esteem both here and in India, we believe, much more had he refused to accept the title. We can only hope that Indians in South Africa may not fall a prey to this new temptation; the result of which might be far more disastrous than we can imagine.

# GENERAL HERTZOG'S PROPOSED LEGISLATION NATIVE AND INDIAN DRIVERS TO GO?

**G**ENERAL Hertzog's threatened attack on Native chauffeurs employed to drive Europeans and on drivers of motorlorries and Native liftmen is to be launched in Parliament during the present session says the *Mercury's* Cape Town correspondent. Action is to be taken through the Minimum Wage Bill which has not yet been published, though several of its major provisions have already been more or less accurately forecast.

The Bill will empower the Minister to prescribe a minimum wages of up to 15s per hour, which shall be payable to employees in various occupations. Among the occupations specified in the measure are "driving or operating mechanically propelled vehicles except those used exclusively for the transport of Indians or Natives." This, it is felt, will effectively stop the employment of Native chauffeurs by European owners of private cars and will ensure that in the future Europeans will drive delivery vans and lorries for European firms.

**The wages of a chauffeur working only a maximum of nine hours a day will be in future from £10 to £15 per month and it is felt that no private owner of a motorcar will care to pay that to a Native or Indian. In fact, the great majority of car owners will be unable to afford a chauffeur at all.**

The measure is bound to raise a storm. The Government will justify its action on the grounds that Natives will be left to drive Natives and that Europeans must drive Europeans, but there are other considerations which can scarcely be overlooked. It is doubtful whether the employment of a small handful of Europeans in the place of the much larger number of Natives likely to be dismissed will be worth the resentment which will be created in the minds of the Native community.

The Minimum Wage Bill will probably be introduced to Parliament during the week. There is no intention at present of referring it to the Select Committee.

## Occupations

The minimum wage will apply among other things to

Persons operating power-driven machinery and/or pneumatic or electric tools and including acetylene welding and/or cutting, unless performed underground.

Persons attending to locomotives' engines or boilers, unless in use underground.

Persons operating elevators, lifts and hoists

Persons sharpening drills.

Persons baking bread and making

confectionary.

Persons engaged in such branches or sections of unskilled labour unless performed underground as the Minister may determine.

In several of these avenues of employment the effect of the measure will be to remove Natives and replace them with Europeans.

**For instance' it is expected that Native or Indian liftmen will disappear and the Minister is to have the power to apply the minimum wage to any other industry or employment in which he feels that more Europeans ought to be employed.**

There are, of course, excellent aspects of the Bill. For instance, it is felt that many employers in the baking industry are exploiting cheap labour to undercut rivals who adhere to high standards of hygiene. In certain sections of the sugar industry, where more Europeans ought reasonably to be employed, it is felt that the minimum wage is definitely called for.

Hours of work in employments to which the Bill is to apply will be limited to nine per day or 50 per week and provision is to be made for overtime to be paid at the rate of one and a quarter times normal rates.

Persons engaged in such branches or sections of unskilled labour unless performed underground as the Minister may determine.

The Bill will embrace all employments including municipalities, but farming operations are to be exempted, as all Government undertakings.

I am informed on the best of authority that the provisions of the Bill will not be enforced wholesale. Before any of the specified undertakings are brought within the scope of the minimum wage it is the Government's intention to receive and consider objections. Already certain objections have been raised. Industrialists are concerned with the probable effects of the Bill in raising costs of production in a number of undertakings.

The Bill cannot be condemned hotly, for it has a number of sound objects, but it is a great pity that the measure should have been allowed to cut so directly across the Native question in a manner likely to provoke resentment in the Native mind. If greater tact and discretion should have been exercised.

## ADDRESS TO MAULANA ABDUL ALEEL

The following is the text of the address presented by the Muslim community to His Holiness Hazrat - ul - fazil, Al-Ajal, Hajee, Hafiz, Quari, Hakim, Moulana Shah Mohammed Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, B. A., Al-Quaderi, Chishti, Idrisi, Naqshbandi, etc. Meerut City, India:—

May it please Your Holiness.

We, the undersigned, representing the Muslim community, beg leave to place on record the invaluable service rendered by you during your short sojourn amidst us.

It is rarely indeed that we in this far-flung continent have the happiness and honour of having among us such a distinguished and learned son of Islam as you, Sir, have proved yourself to be, by your eloquent exposition of the religion of Allah. The broad and sympathetic outlook which has characterised all your public utterances in this country has to some extent removed the present state of drowsiness, lassitude and indifference, and has infused a current of life into the sluggish veins of the youth of Islam, and have stirred them to take a worthy part in this game of life. Ever since you have put your foot on the shores of South Africa, in spite of your illhealth, you have, Sir, eloquently proved to all the races inhabiting this land that Islam which has exhorted the admiration of

Goethe and the applause of Gibbon, religion which is steadily making headway in Asia, the religion which is making sure advance in Europe to-day, is certainly not a religion inconsistent with modern culture or at variance with the spirit of age, and that mission of Islam is to elevate humanity. Although your departure from us is of a heart-rending nature, we realise the immense importance of the sacred mission you are about to embark upon to the far-off country of Japan in which we wish you unequalled success, and we humbly pray that Almighty Allah may bestow health and strength upon you to carry out the self-imposed duties, without any material gain to you. Amen.

We beg to remain,

Your humble admirers and brethren in-Faith,

Hajee E. M. Parak, Hajee M. A. K. rim, C. M. Anglia, M. E. Saleem, Hajee E. I. Haffeejee, Hajee M. A. N. ala, Hajee Omardeen, S. I. Rawat, E. Timol, Mahomed Ebrahim, J. S. Vaw, Mahomed Adam, M. E. Lokhat, Hajee H. Kazi, A. K. E. Bux, A. M. Laou, Tayob Saqoor, Goolam Sahib, Hajee Kathrada, A. R. Hassim, M. S. Khar, Hajee Sayed Fakroodeen, Ismail Gora.  
Durban 10th January 1935.

# PRESENTATION TO KUNWAR

## ADDRESS INSCRIBED ON SILVER SALVER

### RHODES'S POLICY ADVOCATED

**T**HE Mayor, Dr. S. Copley and many Europeans and Indians were the guests of the Natal Indian Congress at a farewell "at home" in the Town Hall last Saturday afternoon to the Kunwar and Kunwarani Sir Maharaj and Lady Maharaj Singh. Mr. J. W. Godfrey presided and Mr. E. M. Paruk, the vice-president of the Congress garlanded the Kunwar and the Mayor and presented bouquets to the Kunwarani, the Mayoress and Sir Maharaj's two sons. An address was presented on behalf of the South African Indian Congress and a canteen of callery from the Natal branch of the Congress. Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh in the course of his speech pleaded for the application of Cecil John Rhodes's policy of equal rights for every civilised man South of the Zambesi. In regard to the South African Indian. He referred to the lack of a definite Indian policy in South Africa. "I have often felt," the Kunwar said, "that there is no Indian policy in this country. I have never heard of it if there was one. Is not it time that it should be made clear that the Indian is a potential citizen and given within the course of time the rights of citizenship? It is not only my opinion, but one who is revered by South Africa, Cecil John Rhodes, who declared long before he died the policy of citizenship rights for every civilised man South of the Zambesi. I ask the Government of the Union to set this up as a standard to be looked up to."

#### Dominion Status

"Give the Indian hope and all will be well," the Kunwar declared. Remember this, that my country is shortly to secure Dominion Status, and nothing can stop it unless there is disunion among ourselves. It is not in the interests of South Africa to have an unfriendly India, and there is nothing to estrange India so much as the treatment of Indians within the British Empire. I am a believer in the British Commonwealth and it is in the interest of India to remain within it. Even his Majesty the King recently referred to India as a member of one family. "Is the Indian recognised as a member of the one family by those who rightly claim to have British connection? I have met scores of Europeans and found that the heart of South Africa is sound; it is only ignorance that begets prejudice and that we have a racial problem." The Indian, proceeded the Kunwar, was not a menace to Natal. At one time the Indian had exceeded the Europeans, but now the European outnumbered the Indian by 20,000. Was not the Indian in Natal the product of the European? In Natal 85

per cent. of the Indian was born in this country. A solution might be found to the problem in the removal of the Provincial barriers.

#### Co-operation

His task said the Kunwar, was not without difficulties. Some looked upon the Agency as an interference and an incubus that should be removed. But with the co-operation of both European and Indian he could go away with the feeling that he had been able to do something for his people in South Africa. The Kunwar proceeded to refer to the expansion of Indian education and to the other benefits that had been secured during the period he was in office as Agent. Much had been possible through the assistance of General Smuts, who had admitted to him that the Indian question was no longer a first class Party political question as it was 10 or 15 years ago. In the Minister of the Interior, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, they had a man not only liberal in spirit but also liberal in action. In conclusion the Kunwar thanked Congress for its tributes and charming address. He would leave behind this message: "The Indian cause in South Africa is righteous and it must prevail." It was obvious that the Kunwarani was deeply moved when it came to her turn to reply in acknowledgement to the tributes that were paid to her services on her efforts for the upliftment of the Indian women of this country. She thanked both Europeans and Indian women who had responded to her appeal, for without their support, she said, she could not have done anything. Eulogistic references were made to the work of the Kunwar and the Kunwarani in this country on behalf of their people and bringing together on more friendly terms Europeans and Indians. Among the speakers were The Mayor, Dr. S. Copley, Messrs. H. Wodson, A. I. Kajes, Maurice Webb, Swami Bhawani Dayal, O. H. A. Jhaveri, Councillor Mrs. Shirley of Maritzburg and J. W. Godfrey of the Natal Indian Congress.

#### Presentation to Kunwarani

The Durban Indian Women's Association met on January 17 to bid farewell to their President, Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, in the M. K. Gandhi Library. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity by Indian and European women. The Mayoress, Mrs. S. Copley, presided over the gathering. Mrs. S. Moodaly, one of the vice-presidents, welcomed the Mayoress and the work of the Association. Messages from various friends and well-wishers were read by the secretary. After bouquets were presented to the Kunwarani

and the Mayoress, the address on a beautiful silver salver was read by the secretary, and presented by the Mayoress on behalf of the Association. The Mayoress addressed the meeting and paid a high tribute to the work done by the Kunwarani. The Kunwarani was deeply moved and refused to accept credit for all that had been accomplished. She thanked the women of both races for their co-operation and emphasised the need for the education of the girls in order to continue the work which she had started. The Kunwarani promised to fly back to South Africa in the near future. Other speakers were Mrs. D. Strachan (President N. O. W.) Mrs. Robson Pearce, Mrs. S. Rustomjee, Mrs. Jhaveri, Mrs. Seedat, Mrs. Nundoo, Mrs. B. M. Patel, Mrs. R. B. Chetty, Mrs. Sookdeo, Mrs. Sundrum, Mrs. Watts (Red Cross), Mrs. R. P. Singh, Misses A. Acutt Parmasir, E. Naidoo, Mrs. Veerasami (Kimberley), and Councillor Mrs. Shirley (Maritzburg). A vote of thanks by Mrs. J. Lawrence, seconded by Mrs. E. Singh, terminated the proceedings. Among those present were: Mrs. O. Siedle, Mrs. and Miss Bonamour, Miss F. S. Slatter, Miss J. Acutt, Mrs. and Miss M. Whitcutt and friends, Mrs. Gordon Parkes, Miss Cottam, Madame Dana, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Satchell, Miss Northern, Miss van Lingen, Miss B. Turner and several others.

#### Lakhi Pavilion At Greytown

A large gathering assembled at the site of the new sports ground, on January 15, when the Agent-General for the Government of India, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, and Lady Singh were the guests of honour at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Lakhi Pavilion, the ceremony being performed by the Kunwar. The Mayor, Councillor H. N. Jones introduced the distinguished guests. He also spoke of the magnanimous gift made by Mr. Lakhi, who, not content with donating two acres of land for the use of a European sports ground, had augmented the gift by expressing a desire to erect a pavilion on the site. Mr. Lakhi made the presentation of the ground to the town, after which the Kunwar addressed the gathering, touching on the value of sport as being a means of bringing the two races more closely together. He threw out a suggestion that friendly matches be arranged between the European and Indian communities, which would go a long way towards creating a better spirit of goodwill. Mr. Behrmann, the Magistrate, spoke of the popularity and high reputation enjoyed by the donor. Mr. P. J. Nel, ex-South African rugby captain, on behalf of the cricket and rugby clubs of the town, expressed appreciation of the gift.

# SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS IN BRIEF

## Natal Education Department

**F**ACILITIES for post-primary education will be granted according to the advertisement of the Education Department at the York Road Government Indian School, Pietermaritzburg, from January 29, 1935. Girl pupils will no longer attend in Standards IV, V, and VI, at the York Road School but will proceed to the new Indian Girls' School that will be opened in the H.Y.M.A. Building, but Indian girls who have passed the Standard Six Continuation Certificate and wish to proceed to post-primary education will, however, attend at York Road. Fees for Standard VII. will be:—Boys, 7s. 6d. per month; Girls, 2s. 6d. per month.

Another advertisement states that a new primary school for Indian Girls will be opened on January 29, 1935, in the H.Y.M.A. Building, Church Street, Pietermaritzburg; it will be in charge of a European staff and the curriculum will cover Standards IV, V, and VI.

## Acting Agent-General

Mr. C. F. V. Williams, who is now Acting Agent-General to the Government of India in South Africa, left Durban for Capetown via Johannesburg on Monday. He will be in Capetown for the Parliamentary Session, but will return to Durban next month to meet the new Agent-General, Mr. Syed Raza Ali.

## Five Governors Confer At Entebbe

East African Defence was discussed at a conference attended by the Governors of Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, held at Entebbe. The conference also discussed the expansion of the Empire air services announced in the House of Commons last month. The Conference is being immediately constituted into an East African transport policy board, whose functions will be to advise the Colonial Office on all rail, road, air, water and transport questions, with a view to the promotion of East African efficiency, co-operation and economy. A meeting between the railway heads of Kenya and Tanganyika has been fixed to take place at Nairobi.

## Indian Housing Loans

The Finance Committee of the Durban Town Council was favourably disposed towards the amendment suggested that the Municipality call for public tenders for the erection of dwellings erected for Indians under the Municipal housing loan schemes. It was also agreed that Indians should be given the privilege of choosing the dwelling they desired from stock plans held by the Borough Engineer. If a number chose the same type of house, then the tenders might be lower than in the case of single quotations and so the

Indians would benefit. It was also proposed that Indians be given the opportunity of submitting their own designs, which would probably be accepted, if approved by the Borough Engineer. Further it was suggested that the Borough Engineer should be responsible for inviting public tenders for the erection of the houses at least once a month. It is further reported that the Finance Committee will discuss the matter again at its next meeting, when it is likely that the above recommendations will be adopted.

## The Late Mr. S. T. Ramsay



The late Mr. S. T. Ramsay died at the Addington Hospital on January 3, 1935, and the funeral took place the following day. The late Mr. Ramsay was a member of Indian Bearer Corps and was 44 years old. He served nearly 3 years and was discharged with excellent conduct as a sergeant. He was a member of the St. John's Ambulance Committee member of the Indian Printers Union, and was employed by the Roberts Printing Works for nearly 15 years. He held the office of the Vice-President of the Pirate Cricket Club; Hon. Life Vice-President of the Mayville Football Club, and was a keen soccer player and sportsman. Wreaths were sent by Father and Brothers, Messrs P. Kullen and family, Murgan and family (Clairwood), M. Y. Moodley and family, A. John Peter, V. S. Vadival and family, Perisamy and Soobramoney, Roberts Printing Works and Staff, Hunt, Leuchers and Hepburn Ltd., (Indian Staff) T. C. Govender Bros, and several others without names.

## Offer Of Ward At Grey's

It is reported that Mr. M. E. Lakhi, of Greytown, has decided to give £1,000 to £1,250 for the erection of a separate ward for Indians at the Grey's Hospital, Maritzburg. Mr. Lakhi attached two conditions to the gift. The first was that the ward should be named the Lakhi Ward; and, secondly, the Government should give a similar amount. Speaking on the Indian trader, at the same meeting the Agent-General said that one would have thought from all that was said that he monopolised the trade of Natal. Figures compiled by the Union Government and appearing

in its year books showed that this was not the position. The Indian trader dealt largely in piecegoods, grocery and produce. How many Indians were chemists, hotelkeepers, engineers, chartered accountants, mechanics, hardware merchants or manufacturers among Indians in Natal? "I am convinced that, in comparison with the total volume of general trade the Indian trade would be about 15 per cent," said the Kuvwar.

## Indian School For Nigel

The Nigel Government School opened and over 50 children from the Asiatic Bazaar were registered. The official opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Nigel, Mr. A. W. P. Charters. In congratulating the school committee on the success of their efforts, Mr. Charters said that special praise was due to Mr. P. R. Samy, the hon. secretary, who had been instrumental in collecting the necessary funds for the new building. He hoped that the school would prove successful and that in the near future it would be rebuilt on a much larger scale. He gave £5/5/- towards the annual prize-giving fund. Dr. Williamson Godfrey of Johannesburg, who was accompanied by Mrs. Godfrey, presided at the ceremony. Short addresses were given by the Rev. Bernard Sigamoney, Mr. Samy and the hon. treasurer, Mr. Kaloojanoo, who thanked the Mayor and those present for their interest in the school and for the gifts that had been received, including an annual contribution of £5/5/- for a period of five years by the trustees of the Godfrey's Trust, of Durban. It is the intention of the committee to recommend the appointment of Mr. A. Ishmail, of Worcester, who holds the first class diploma of the Arabian University, as principal of the school, and in the meantime Mr. N. Williams has been appointed as acting principal.

## WEDDINGS

The Engagement of Miss. Amirtham Thanabakium daughter of the late Mr. H. Krishnasamy (Fatty) and sister of Mr. K. Narasamy, is announced to take place on Sunday next 27th instant with Mr. K. Govindsemy Moodley son of the late Mr. V. Krishnasamy Moodley of Johannesburg. The wedding will take place on Sunday February 3, 1935 at the Grand Bio Hall, Seventeenth Street, Vrededorp, Johannesburg.

The marriage of Krishnasamy (Ganas) son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. V. Naidoo of Westville with Miss Vijayarathina Amal daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Naidoo of Esperanza will take place on Sunday the 27th January 1935 at the Bridegroom's residence opposite the Post Office Westville. Nuptial Ceremony between 6-45 to 7-55 a.m. Singing concert Saturday night.



## OUR INDIA LETTER

LIBERALS TOO DECLINE  
THE OFFER

## "NOT AN ATOM OF CO-OPERATION"

HOW far remote from the realities of the Indian situation are the assumptions of the British authorities was proved by the deliberations of the Liberal Federation at its Annual session in Poona. Sir Samuel Hoare boasted in Parliament that the Reforms Scheme was bound to succeed. But the Federation's resolutions and the Rt Hon. Srinivasa Sastri's speech thereon have falsified that claim. Mr Sastri has summoned courage enough to proclaim that he would not offer an atom of co-operation in support of the so-called reforms.

## Resolution

"The Federation is convinced that any constitution based on the lines of the J. P. C. Report will be wholly unacceptable to all shades of Indian political opinion and will far from allaying, very much intensify the present deep political discontent in the country. This Federation, therefore, does not want any legislation based on the Select Committee's Report."

## Mr. Sastri's Speech

It has been said our title to distinction and glory is owing to our readiness to co-operate at all events. Are we also invited to co-operate in the denial or refusal of Dominion Status for India? We may be chronic co-operators, but I do not think we shall go thus far. Are

we asked to give our co-operation to enact this constitution, riddled through with safeguards? Is that the kind of co-operation that is asked of us? I do not think that this meeting will go that length of co-operation? I ask what is the return we get for our co-operation? If this Federation gave its full co-operation in the enactment of this constitution, it will be a phenomenon in the political history of the world, unparalleled and unprecedented. No, it is impossible for the Liberal Party to give an atom of co-operation. Co-operation with friends that wish well of us will be worth the while, but co-operation with those who have displayed their utmost distrust of us, who do not care for our views and demands and who enact a constitution in utter disregard of our wishes, what is co-operation with them, I ask? I would call it suicide. That is what we are asked to do, there may be many who may be willing to co-operate but not the Liberal Party"

## Ahmedabad Labour Dispute

The general public have been watching the protracted course of negotiations between the Ahmedabad Millowner's Association and the Labour Union and the threatened rupture between the two cannot but arouse keen and widespread regret. If a final breakdown does unfortunately take place, public support will be entirely for the labourers.

## Our Rhodesia Letter

BULAWAYO WELCOMES  
THE GOVERNOR AND LADY STANLEY

THE new Governor of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Herbert Stanley, G. C. M. G., and Lady Stanley were welcomed on their arrival to Bulawayo by a large number of representative citizens of the town. They were accompanied by Miss Jane Stanley, Master Hugh Stanley and Miss P. Moore, Capt. L. Holbech, D. S. O., M. C., A. D. C., and Mr C. P. Forder, secretary to the Governor.

After townspeople were presented Lady Stanley and the new Colony Commissioner of Girl Guides, inspected the Guides guard of honour. Nearly 4,000 people had gathered at the Rhodes Statue where the Official welcome took

place. Here the Governor, in full uniform, was accorded the royal salute by the pipe band, and after inspecting the military guard of honour he and Lady Stanley were conducted by the Mayor and Mayoress to the pavilion on the north side of the statue. Bouquets were presented to Lady Stanley and the Mayoress by two girls, and the town's illuminated address was read by the Town Clerk. Sir Herbert Stanley was then garlanded by the representatives of the British Indian Association.

The Governor in reply, said, "It is indeed a very great pleasure that I find myself back in Bulawayo among my old friends," and recalled the warm wel-

come he received in Bulawayo 20 years ago when he came as Resident Commissioner, and the friendship which had endured through those years. "And then" he continued, "I thank particularly, also, the Indian community for the honour they have shown in garlanding me. And one who has served in the East, as I have, knows that that is the greatest compliment that Eastern people bestow on those whom they desire to honour."

He and Lady Stanley had a fairly full programme during their stay in Bulawayo, and they would take pleasure in seeing things and noticing the progress which had been made since he first came to live in the country.

## A Suicide

A Kathiawar Indian Samjee Laljee hung himself on a tree; his body was brought to Bulawayo on January 15 and was cremated at the Bulawayo Cemetery. The deceased was 70 years old and a pioneer of Rhodesia, and had a store in Gwelo. Owing to financial worries he closed his shop leaving a note behind. Two days after his disappearance, the police were informed who opened the shop, and search were made when his body was found 3 miles from Gwelo. He leaves 3 sons, wife and daughter.

## A Business Trip

Mr S. Puri from Congo has arrived in Bulawayo and will stay a few days before going to Cape Town. Mr Puri has business in Ndola and Congo.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## A. P. S. Account Questioned

Sir,—Mr. B. B. Singh writes of shocks being received by me, but I can safely assure my learned friend that having served the community in my humble capacity, nothing can be more shocking than to read of articles from critics who sit on the fence and do nothing practical but create controversial topics. All the donors and the Societies were provided with the full statement and up to now no complaints have been made. Coming to the question of crockeries, Pundit Anandpriyajee gave them to the Surat Hindu Association, who in turn promised to hand them over to Aryan Benevolent Home. I saw the secretary Mr. D. K. Patel on three occasions, and he stated that as soon as the articles were summarised he would hand them over, and this was done fortnight Saturday. I can see of nothing that required putting right as suggested, but can again assure the writer that there is ample scope for his energies in real and practical public work.

D. G. Satya Deva

(This correspondence is now closed—Ed, I. O.)

# UNIQUENESS OF THE RAMAYANA

By

C. R. SRINIVASA IYENGAR

(in *The Hindu*)

(Continued from last week)

LIKE the Bharata, the Bhagavad Gita, the Book of Job, and many other, the Ramayana is an algebraical expression as it were of the world drama that is enacted on every plane during a day of Brahma. Else, how are we to account for the fact that the very same Rama, after Sita was torn away from his side, was comparatively weak, despondent unnerved and had to seek the assistance of Sugriva and his seventy-two milliards of monkeys to help him in fighting Ravana. He had a hard task to go through during 8 days and nights of ceaseless untiring dread battle with Ravana before he slew him. Again he had used the services of the car and driver, Matali that Indra sent him on that occasion. Further had to clothe himself in the magic armour of the Aditya Hridaya that Maharshi Agastya forged for him and even with all this paraphernalia at the sight of Ravana's heads springing up like a Jack in the box as often as they were served, Matali had to remind him to shoot the utmost powerful Astra of the Fashioner of the Worlds and all this simply because Sita was not with him. So she ought to have known the coming events irrespective of whether they cast their shadows before or not. One cannot otherwise explain her strange and indelicate obstinacy in her resolve to go with Rama though he tried his best to prevent it. She offers him the greatest insult that a woman could offer a man; and that man, her husband, her lover, a prince, and the foremost hero of the time. "Alas! my father, Janaka, rides himself on ruling over Mithila and the millions of men, women and children in it. He guides their destinies; he is the dispenser of joy and sorrow to them. Yet beheld how he has provided for the daughter of his heart! Utterly deluded and fascinated by your superficial excellences, he took not the necessary steps to acquaint himself with the details about you that are absolutely essential before choosing you for a husband to that girl. It was left for me to find out when too late that his choice fell upon one who was not a man but frail weak trembling woman in the guise of a man—a veritable wolf in a sheep's clothing. Else you would never have thought of refusing to take with you your loving wife who has no house no home, no shelter, no refuge but in the shadow of your right arm that fetched him. Sita was burning to go with Rama; she knew better that without her the future would be a blank and the purpose of the Lord in coming down among men would be wrecked.

Vali would have been a hitch in the working out of the play. Were he alive, his lightest word would have been enough to make Ravana render back Sita with profound apologies and then the major part of the Ramayana would have been blotted out of existence. He knew

.....  
this and came out with the intent of taking a part in the Great Plain by taking himself away from the scene though apparently sent out of it by the arrow of Rama. Tara, Jambavan and Maruti knew of it all along though they showed it not. Mandodari knew it too when Sita as Padmakshi informed her of the present and the future when she was taken to Lanka by Ravana.

Vibishana, the great Bhakta was not ignorant of the future as also Kumbhakarna the fair-minded. Again Ravana and Kumbhakarna were no other than Jaya and Vijaya, the divine wardens in Vaikunta. With them it was an Eternal. Now, and no past, present, or future. They were counting the moments when they would go back to their places on high despatched thereunto by the weapons of the Lord and the only way to make him their enemy was to abduct the wife of his heart. It must not be forgotten that Sanathkumara instructed Ravana in the mystery of the Lord and the road he was to take to reach his goal.

Further, it was well known to those that co-operated with the Lord when he would come down to rid the earth of its evil-doers, to bring peace and joy to the hearts of the good and the righteous and to restore law and order. They knew that it was a chance they could not afford to miss. They jostled one another in their offers of service to the Lord in working out his purpose. So Ravana and Kumbhakarna were the most active colleagues of Vishnu. They spared him the trouble of worry of going after each and every evil-doer in different climes and in different ages. They acted as powerful magnets to draw unto themselves all that was dark and evil and antagonistic to evolution; so that he might make short work of them at one time and one place. This had a two-fold result. All beings reared in peace and happiness. On the other hand, those whose bodies were struck off by the Lord were translated forthwith to the worlds of Light.

This is a recurring event in every day of Brahma. The prominent characters of the Ramayana are permanent and eternal factors in the great equation. They come down along with the Lord; they are the instruments of his will. I had drawn upon the Adhyatma, the Ananda and the Vasishtha Ramayanas in my note to the English translation of the epic of Valmeekei to throw as much light as is permissible upon this grand mystery. Those that would know more are directed to those who know more.

Thus in studying the Ramayana of Valmeekei, we have to bring to it more than one key. It is on the face of it an epic poem. Again, it is unlike other epics, the oldest work adapted to music vocal and instrumental. Again, it is a history or rather a biography of one of the incarnations of Vishnu; and the only one of its kind. The puranas deal at length with the ten comings-down of the Lord; but only incidentally, Valmeekei does not take on his canvas any other figure except Rama. Again, it enjoys a peculiar privilege and merit of being initiated by Brahma himself, who directed Saraswati, the Goddess of Wisdom and Music, to inspire it, while he granted Valmeekei himself the Open Eye. "Not one word in this poem of yours shall ring otherwise than true." It has another unique merit. It was written when the prominent characters in it were all living; it was sung in a grand assembly where they were all present so that they may speak to the faithfulness and truth of it.

Again, it was sung in the presence of the very hero of the poem. And he gathered together the highest representatives and exponents of the art and science of his age that they might watch and note and speak to the accuracy of everything that might relate to their special lines of research and work. Again, it was sung by no less artists than the very sons of the hero, sons whom he had not set his eyes upon till then, sons of his Sect, dearer to him than his hopes here and hereafter.

Again, it is reckoned among a section of our religious public, the Vaishtadwaitins of the South not merely as an epic, but as one of the canons of their faith, a Book of Initiation (Upadesa Grantha). A whole ocean of literature exists in Tamil on the Ramayana by numerous commentators on the hymns of the Alvars who make constant reference to it. This is a sealed book to all except the Tamil knowing followers of Vishnu and without them, the Ramayana of Valmeekei is only understood most superficially. It is not a history of Aryan immigration into the south; it is not the history of the progress of civilisation and agriculture carried by the Aryans along with them, it is not an allegorical exposition of the Sun, the stars and the planets. It is not a parable enshrining many a truth about the aims of life (Purushartha). It is not the last word on the mysteries of the soul and the over-soul and the relations between the two. But it is all these and more.

(Concluded)

Fountain of Wisdom

Give me liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely, according to conscience, above all other liberties.—MILTON.

## SPORTS

## BENNY SINGH RETIRES

## GLOWING TRIBUTES PAID

## "THE GENTLEMAN OF THE RING"

**B**ENOD SINGH or as he is well known among the boxing fans as "Benny Singh" is the eldest son of that great soccer player and popular sportsman the late Mr. Sarabjit Singh and the grandson of the pioneer the late Mr. Tiluck Singh has declared his decision to retire from the ring. Among the glowing tributes paid to this young lad for his clean fighting are the following from men "who know" all of whom express a desire that he may stage a "come back." It is anticipated that "Benod" will reconsider his decision and enter the arena again is also the wish of "Uncle Maharaaj."

## A Game Fighter

Mr. Ted Lang writing to the *Natal Advertiser*:-

Will you be kind enough to allow me a few lines in your most valuable paper, as I am a keen follower of all boxing tournaments, European and non-European, I would like to say a few words on the surprise of Benny Singh's retirement from the ring.

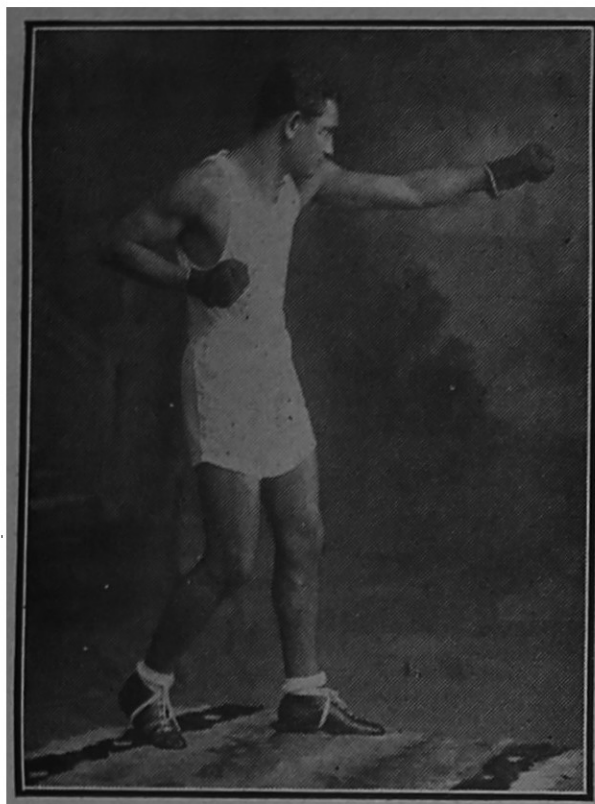
As I am an European, I have been following non-European boxing with a keen interest in the past years, and I am going to state that the "Non-European Boxing world" has lost the gamest little boxer that ever entered their ring, and I was very sorry indeed to see the poor reception he was given on the eve of his final fight.

Benny Singh for the past 10 years, has always provided the boxing public with their money's worth, and as far back as I can remember he has never been "knocked out." This alone is a proud record for any boxer, if I may mention, I don't think he has ever been floored, well this excellent record talks for itself.

Where sportsmanship is concerned, no better man could be found. For instance on the weighing-in scale for one of his big fights last year, his opponent was 10 lbs. heavier than himself, he refused the £5 forfeit, and just took his opponent's hand and said "May the best man win."

I was very surprised indeed to read in your issue that Mannee Dixon was far too good for Benny Singh, I myself, would like to know where; I myself reckon it was the best-matched fight of the night although the best man won, it was a very good fight indeed.

I am sorry indeed Benny Singh has re-



BENOD SARABJIT SINGH

tired from the ring, as he was known as "The Gentleman of the Ring" among his many European followers, and we will wish him all the best in the future. Once again I will state that the Non-European boxing world has lost the gamest little fighter who ever entered their ring.

## Never Received The K.O.

"Rex" writes in the same journal :-

As one who, for the past 25 years has taken a keen interest in Indian and Coloured boxing, it would be very remiss on my part, were I not to say something about the, "Gentleman Boxer" who, at the Town Hall on Saturday night announced his retirement from the ring. Is it not sad to think that through lack of support, boxers of the type of Benny Singh, our local idol, should have to retire at the exceptionally early age of 28?

Benny Singh, always an ardent exponent of the art of 'fisticuffs,' has on all his appearances in the ring, given the public their full money's worth, a fact which must be admitted, not only by those who take an interest in this sport, but also by the most bigoted members of the community who, for reasons best known to themselves, are reluctant to give credit where credit is due.

The fact that the spectators received the

verdict with mixed feelings clearly illustrates that at least a draw should have been the verdict.

Those of us that witnessed the fight can bear testimony to the fact that the last few rounds Benny Singh had decisively won and more than once had Dixon in difficulties. Had the fight lasted another two rounds there can be no denying the fact that not only would Benny Singh have gained the verdict, but he could have secured a victory by the K.O. route.

It is greatly to be deplored that our local papers gave such a very poor account of Benny Singh's fight with Mannee Dixon, stating that Dixon well-deserved the verdict. Reports of this nature are more than apt to discourage men like Benny Singh, who has, amongst other numerous others, met men like Sooboo Chetty, Battling Hosking, Joe Gains, Jonoosky, Bud Gengan, and Willie Fergus, and given them best every time. Moreover this young man has never received the K.O., which is more than can be said of

most boxers at present in the public eye. Sir, I take off my hat to Benny Singh—a clean and gentlemanly fighter, it has been my privilege to watch. May he stage an early 'come back'.

INDO-EUROPEAN TENNIS  
(Johannesburg)

The members of the Holy Trinity Tennis Club Turfontein were the guests of the Rangers Indian Tennis Club at Vrededorp, Johannesburg. The Europeans gave a very good account of themselves but the Indian were equally good and beat the Europeans by 23 games, the scores being 61 against 38, details are as hereunder:-

The visitors were entertained by the Club at the courts when Refreshment etc, were provided, by the Club's President Mr. K. Naransamy.

## Results

Thambi and Spiers beat Cooper and Beatt 11-0, Ahmed Maal and Pema lost to Aldridge and Warren 4-7, Ramsay & Moses Anthony lost to Buckler and C. Aldridge 4-7; Thambi and Spiers beat Buckler and Aldridge 9-2, Maal and Pema beat Cooper and Beatt 9-2, Ramsamy and Anthony lost to Aldridge and Warren 3-8; Thambi and Spiers beat Aldridge & Warren 8-3; Maal and Pema beat Cooper and Beatt 7-4, Ramsamy and Anthony beat Buckler and Aldridge 6-5. Total Games 61-38.

# ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે  
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૩ રૂ.

ફીનીક્ષ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૫ જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૩૫

અંક-૪.

## નોંધ અને સમાચાર

### નેદીવોની હોદીઓ સામે ફરિયાદ

હિંદુ સરકારના એજન્ટ હોદીઓ આ દેશમાં લાયક નથી એવું જણાવેલું તે સામે વિરોધ કરવા ૨૦૦ નેદીવોની એક મીટિંગ ડરબન ખાતે પ્રીન્સ એડવર્ડ સ્ટ્રીટમાં મળી હતી જેમાં નીચે પ્રમાણે ઠરાવો પસાર થયા હતા:

“આ મીટિંગ હોદીઓના વેપારની સ્થિતિને ગંભીર લયની નજરે જુએ છે. તેઓને દુષ્ટ ટકા વેપાર નેદીવોપર નબી રહ્યો છે, તેમ છતાં એક પક્ષ નેદીવને સારા પગારથી કલાક, છુકકીપર, સેલ્સમેન, દરજી, પ્રીન્ટર કે કારપેન્ટર તરીકે નોકરી આપવામાં આવેલી નથી.

“આ મીટિંગ ભવિષ્યમાં પગલાં લેવાને માટે નોંધ લે છે કે હવે એ વખત આવી શકે છે કે જ્યારે સરકારે ગ્રામ્ય અને શહેરી લોકોના વેપારના પરવાનાની સંખ્યામાં ઘટાડો કરવો જોઈએ કેમકે તેઓ પૈસા કમાઈને તે હિંદુસ્તાન મોકલી દે છે.”

અમે નેદીવોના સલાહની આ કટારોમાં હમેશાં હિમાયત કરતા આવ્યા છીએ અને તેઓને યોગ્ય કાંઈ પણ જન્યાયની ટીકા કરવાનું જણી કરીને ચુકેલા નથી. અમે સારી રીતે સમજીએ છીએ કે નેદીવો આ દેશના ખરા વતનીઓ છે અને આ દેશની ઉપર બહારથી આવેલી ખીણ કાંઈ પણ જાતીઓના કરતાં તેઓ નો વધારે હક છે. હોદીઓ સામે તેઓની ફરિયાદ વાળખી હોય તો હોદીઓને પણ દુષ્ટતા આપનાં અમે સંકોચાઈએ નહિ. પરંતુ પ્રવૃત્ત દાખલામાં અમને લાગે છે કે ઉપલા ઠરાવો પસાર કરવાને માટે જેઓ જવાબદાર છે તેઓ ગેરરસ્તે દોરવાઈલા છે. વાળખીપણે વિચાર કરનારા સખળા નેદીવો એટલું તો કણુલ કરશે જ અને કરતા આવેલા છે કે હોદીઓની સાથે તેઓનો યુરોપીયનોના કરતાં વધારે સારો સંબંધ રહેશે છે. વળી નેદીવો જ્યારે પણ હોદીઓને દરવાજો બહાર ફાળા માટે આવેલા છે ત્યારે તેઓને ખાલી હાથે પાછા જવાનું ભાગ્યેજી બનેલું હશે. એમ કહેવું કે કલાક, છુકકીપર, સેલ્સમેન, ટેલર, પ્રીન્ટર કે કારપેન્ટર તરીકે એક પણ નેદીવને સારા પગારથી નોકરી નથી આપવામાં આવી એ સંદેહ જોડું છે. જે ધંધાઓમાં તેઓ કુશળ જણાયા છે તે તે ધંધાઓમાં નેદીવોને હોદીઓ તરફથી નોકરી

મળેલી છે. અમે નેદીવોને ખાત્રી આપીએ છીએ કે તેઓના સારામાં સારા મિત્રો હમેશાં હોદીઓજ રહેશે અને તેઓની પ્રતિભા માર્ગમાં અડચણરૂપ થવામાં હોદીઓને તેઓ સહીષ્ણુ છેલ્લાં જોશે.

### આભાર

ડરબનના શ્રીયુત પરપોતમ દેવશી પોતાના ભત્રીજા શ્રી. પ્રબલાલનાં ધર્મપત્ની સાંતીબેનના અવસાનથી તેઓને થયેલી શોકગ્રસ્ત ખોટમાં હિંદુસ્તાનથી તેમજ ડેલાગોઆએ, જોહાનીસબગ, પ્રીટારીયા અને યુનીયનના અન્ય ભાગોમાંથી તેઓપર દિલસોજના સદેશાઓ મોકલનારાઓને તેમજ જને હાજર થઈ દિલાસો આપનારાઓને શ્રી. પ્રબલાલ તેમજ સ્વર્ગસ્થનાં દુઃખી કુટુંબીજનો તરફથી આ પત્રકારા અંતઃકરણથી આભાર માને છે.

### સ્વદેશભક્ત

ગયા સોમવારે ઉપડેલી સ્ટીમર ડરબનમાં સ્વદેશ જવા ઉપડનારા જાણીતાઓમાં હોદી સરકારના એજન્ટ કુંવર સર મહારાજ સોમ અને કુંવરાણી ભેડી મહારાજ સોમ હતા. ખીજાઓમ ડરબનના સુરત, હોદી એસોસિએશનનાં પ્રમુખ શ્રી. ગોવિંદ મણી, શ્રી મોરારજી હરીભાઈ દેસાઈ, શ્રી. પોર્ટની જાણીતી બોમ્બે જાગરની પેટીના ભાગીદાર શ્રી પ્રામજીભાઈ જગાભાઈ અને શ્રી નારણભાઈ માધવભાઈ, દુધસાગ્રીયાઈના શ્રી મોહનલાલ ખંડેરીયા અને મીસીસ ખંડેરીયા વિગેરે હતા.

રામકૃષ્ણ મીશનના વામી અધ્યાપક જેઓને હોદી સેવા સમાજ તરફથી જોહાનીસબગ મોલાવવામાં આવ્યા હતા અને જેઓ અગ્રીયાર માસ યુનીયનમાં રહી શહેરીયા ગયા હતા, તેઓ શહેરીયાથી બેરા ગયા છે અને ત્યાંથી સ્ટીમર ડરબનમાં સ્વદેશ જવા ઉપડશે.

## “ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૨૫ જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૩૫

### ઈલકાઓનો મોહ

હિંદુના વામસરોય તરફથી પ્રીટારીયાના જાણીતા વેપારી શ્રી. હાજી કાસમ આદમને “ખાન બહાદુર”નો ઈલકાળ એનાયત કરવામાં આવ્યાથી ઈલકાળ આક્રમકની હોદી કામમાં જબરો ઉઠાવોહ થઈ રહ્યો છે અને ધણા યુરોપીયનો તે પશુનવાઈ જેવું યથ પડ્યું છે. તેનું કારણ એજ છે કે આવો ખનાવ આ ખંડમાં વસી રહેલા હોદીઓની તવારીખમાં આ પ્રથમજ બનેલો છે.

શ્રી. હાજી કાસમ આદમને ઈલકાળ સ્વકારી લીધેલો છે અને તે પરથી અનુમાની થકાય છે કે તેઓ પોતાને અનુપમ માન મળેલું સમજે છે. એ તેઓને મુખારક. પરંતુ હોદી સરકારનું આ પગલું ઈલકાળ આક્રમકની હોદી કામને ઉત્તર કરવાઈ નીવડશે કે તેનું પતન કરનાઈ એ વિશે અમને મોટી શંકા રહે છે. કદાચ પતન કરનાઈ નીવડે એવો વધુ સંભવ રહે છે. ઈલકાળો માટેનો મોહ એ હોદી ભાઈઓની એક ખાસીયત ચાલતી આવેલી છે. ઈલકાળો ધરાવનારા ઓની હોદુસ્તાનમાં સંખ્યા જતના અન્ય

ભાગોના કરતાં યદી જ્ય છે એમ કહેવું જોઈ નહિ ગણાય. એજ હોદીઓને તેને માટે નજાઈ રહેલી છે એ વસ્તુ સિદ્ધ કરનારી છે. પરંતુ જૂતકાળના યોગ્ય વર્ષો યમાં એ મોહ મંદ પડ્યો છે અને ઈલકાળોની ઈલકાળ ધરાવનારાઓને ગમે તે કાંમત હોય છતાં જહેર પ્રબને તેની કથી કાંમત નથી. બહાર પ્રબ નલકાળ ધરાવનારાઓ માટે ઉંચું માન ધરાવતા નથી. કેમકે તેવા લોકોની વધુ પોતાના લોકો તરફ હોવાના કરતાં તેમને ઈલકાળ આપનાર સરકાર તરફ વધારે હોય છે.

ખીજા તરફથી જે લોકો પોતાના લોકોના પક્ષના હોય છે અને જેમણે પોતાનું સર્વાવ પોતાના લોકોની સેવામાંજ અર્પણ કરી દીધેલું છે તેઓ ઈલકાળો સ્વીકારવાને જલાતુર હોતા નથી અને ધણા દાખલા બની ગયા છે કે જેમાં તેવા ઈલકાળ ધરાવનારાઓએ તે ઈલકાળો લજ દીધેલા છે. આ સંજોગમાં શ્રી. હાજી કાસમ આદમને “ખાન બહાદુર”નો ઈલકાળ એનાયત થયો અને હાજી સાહેબે તેનો સ્વિકાર કર્યો એ એક તજુબીકરેલી ઘટના બની ગઈ છે.