

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 5.—Vol. XXXVII.

Friday, February 3rd, 1939.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
Price Fourpence.

NOTES AND NEWS

The Ladysmith Chamber Of Commerce

THE Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce' outburst against Indians makes unpleasant reading. The only fault they have found is that Indians have been successful in business and are able to supply the needs of the people. As regards their low standard of living and low standard of pay etc., it is an old old story and holds no water. Colenso and other places mentioned in the Northern Districts where 100 per cent. trade is alleged to be in the hands of Indians are small out-of-the-way places where a White man, with his multifarious wants, cannot stay. If Indians have developed their trade in these places by their industrious and diligent habits they are certainly not guilty of any crime. Moreover, for the Indian there is hardly any avenue open for livelihood besides trade and even his trading rights are restricted. The Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce has asked nothing less than Hitlerism to be adopted against Indians in South Africa as it is adopted against the Jews in Germany.

Flower Sellers Defy City Council

Despite the instructions of the Maritzburg City Council to the Indian flower sellers that they were to move from the steps of the City Hall in Commercial Road to a temporary stand in the Market Square by January 31, the Indians are still holding their original position. They are determined to stay where they are and risk prosecution rather than shift to a place in the Market Square where they maintain no provision has yet been made for them to sell flowers. They ignored the warning that they would be prosecuted if they did not move their stand by 2 p.m. They were however left undisturbed. The question of their removal has long been a subject of debate in Maritzburg. Many people feel that it is a pity to move the sellers, as their flowers provide gay splashes of colour and are an attraction.

Gandhi Group Defeat

Subhas Chandra Bose, the Left Wing leader, was unexpectedly re-elected President of the Congress.

This is regarded as a defeat for Gandhi and the Congress high Command who backed the Right Wing candidate, Pattabi Sitaramayya whose success had been considered practically certain.

A stiffening of the Congress attitude against the All-India Federation project is now expected.



SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
who is re-elected President of
the Indian National Congress.

Hitherto there has been considerable talk of compromise between the Right Wing and the British Government.

Subhas Bose, addressing the demonstrators after his election, described his victory as one for the opponents of Federation.

The voting figures were: Subhas Chandra Bose, 1,580; Sitaramayya, 1,375.

The figures are subject to slight amendment when the official figures for one province are available.

We have reproduced the foregoing message in the form it appears in the daily papers. The facts are that Khan Saheb Abdul Gaffar Khan was offered the presidency of the Congress but he had declined stating that he wanted to concentrate all his energies in his own, namely, the North West Frontier Province. That Shri Subhas Chandra Bose has been re-elected to the honoured post proves the strength of opposition against the Federation Scheme which has been condemned by the whole nation without the exception of even the Liberals. We do not know that much significance need be attached to the defeat of Shri Pattabi Sitaramayya who is held in no less high esteem by the Indian nation than Shri Subhas Bose.

Business Morality

"The standard of commercial morality in Capetown, and perhaps throughout the Union, is going lower and lower" declared Mr. R. G. Norman, retiring president, at the Capetown Junior Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. Details of some of the commercial evils which he wished to see removed were given by Mr. Norman in an interview with a Press representative. "One of the most important problems lies in the breach of agreements made by the people in various trades—the wholesalers, for example," said Mr. Norman. "There are many wholesale establishments where any ordinary shopper can walk in and buy what he wants. This system has the effect of making the retailers break their agreements and cut fixed prices. Public confidence is then destroyed. There is a vicious circle in these matters which must be checked. When the retailer finds the wholesaler is taking his business he retaliates by indenting direct from manufacturers overseas and thus becomes a wholesaler himself. The flow of trade is upset, the ordinary routine is shaken, the cost of selling is increased." Mr. Norman hoped the Junior Chamber of Commerce would also investigate the reckless granting of credit. "It is far easier to secure credit in South Africa than it is in England,

and this sometimes leads to abuses," he said.

Mr. Norman did not mention the fact that there was a time when it was considered a matter of great shame to become insolvent but to day insolvency too is considered part of the business. Many other examples of the lack of business morality could be quoted, but what to speak of them when the general standard of morality itself is at a low ebb. Mr. Norman says that these evils cannot be eradicated by legislation. It is only by means of publicity and continual education of the public that the standard can be raised.

Mr. Hofmeyr On Democracy

Addressing a meeting under the joint auspices of the Royal Empire Society and Toeh H., presided over by the Governor, Sir Herbert Stanley, at Salisbury, recently on the modern world's challenge to democracy, Mr. Hofmeyr said, democracy was not necessarily the same as majority rule. The important thing was not the extent to which democracy had a majority of the people behind it, but rather the extent to which the

minority was allowed to criticise. They must protect democracy not only from enemies without, but also from within. Democracy did not necessarily mean equality. That statement might seem strange until they applied it to the question of native franchise. Democracy did not require that if they gave the franchise to Europeans on a certain basis they must give the franchise to natives on exactly the same basis in countries like Rhodesia and the Union. He could see nothing undemocratic in Europeans having adult franchise while the civilisation test was applied to natives. He did not think it was part of the gospel of democracy that all men were born equal. What was essential was that all men should be free to develop to the maximum extent of their capacity and ability. That ultimately would be the test that would be applied to the Union and Rhodesia. They would have to prove at the Bar of history that they had been prepared to allow the non-European peoples to develop and bring out the best that was in them.

legislation, and had its co-operation in tendering evidence before the Feetham Commission.

The Feetham Commission's recommendations were far short of the requests made by the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association with the aid of the Agent-General.

Since then tables have turned and the Congress has joined hands with the officials of the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association as a result of which the latter body no longer exists and the former without receiving any mandate from the community has been working for the Feetham Commission's recommendations to be passed.

It has become customary for the Congress officials to do things automatically and unconstitutionally and we are informed that a deputation has been appointed at a committee meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress to go to Capetown to make the necessary representations to the Government. Several members, we are told, opposed the appointment of this deputation on the ground that it was representative only of those whose properties were endangered and who were only anxious to safeguard their own interests and not of the whole community. It would be shocking if this is true.

The right of ownership and occupation of land should be granted to all. It is the natural right of every human-being. Whether they are granted partial rights or full rights is another matter. But to condone the action of those who have illegally acquired land and to put a permanent ban on those who have not done so is to encourage criminality.

One word we would like to say to the Government of India and their representative in South Africa, the Agent-General. The Government of India were also opposed to the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill as being in complete violation of the Capetown Agreement. But in the ever-compromising spirit and anxiety to maintain, at any cost, their friendly relations with the Union Government they agreed to some modifications in the Bill one of which was the provision dealing with the appointment of the Feetham Commission. Now for the sake of their own honour and the honour of India one thing should be insisted upon and that is that the recommendations of the Feetham Commission over which six years have been spent at the cost of over £16,000, should not be allowed to be watered down. They should at least be passed as they are though they fall far short of what the Indian community claims. The responsible leaders of the community too should not be a party to any watering down of those recommendations. If they do they will have betrayed the community.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 1939

Feetham Commission's Recommendations

ONE of the most important questions to come before the Parliamentary session which opens to-day will be the question of Asiatic land tenure in the Transvaal. The recommendations of the Feetham Commission must be put into effect by April 30 for that is the time limit given those in technically illegal occupation of land in the Witwatersrand gold areas. When the resolution to pass the Feetham Commission recommendations was introduced at the tail end of the last session, it will be remembered, how strongly it was opposed by some of the Government members and how as a result of which it had to be withdrawn. Strong opposition is anticipated when it is re-introduced this session.

In this connection it is with profound appreciation that we note the comments of the *Natal Mercury*. Our contemporary reminds the Government of its moral obligation to make certain concessions of ownership and occupation to the Indians and sounds a note of warning that,

"It (the Government) can only repudiate the intentions of its predecessors if it is prepared not only to incur the displeasure of enlightened public opinion but also—and this is of more im-

portance—to sacrifice the trust and goodwill of a politically voiceless minority. We sincerely hope," our contemporary states, "that the forces of reaction within the Fusion Party which are motivated by racial intolerance and colour prejudice are not permitted to score another triumph."

We would like to note certain facts here for the information of the general Indian community as also for those leaders who are moving in regard to the question of ownership and occupation of land by Indians in the Transvaal.

They are as follows:

The recommendations of the Feetham Commission do not solve the question of land tenure for Indians.

The Congress which claims to represent the Indian community had condemned the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act.

It had boycotted the Feetham Commission which was appointed under that Act.

The Transvaal Indian Commercial Association was formed, which represented only the interests of the commercial class and those who had acquired properties.

The then Agent-General as representing the Government of India recognised the new body despite the fact that the Congress was opposed to the

THE STATE'S MORAL DUTY

THE *Natal Mercury* dated February 1, writes the following leading article under the above caption:—One of the most controversial problems which will have to be discussed by the Union Parliament which opens on Friday is that dealing with Asiatic land tenure in the Transvaal. We shall be greatly surprised if consideration of this important question does not threaten anew the United Party with disruption from within, for when a resolution was introduced by the Minister of the Interior towards the close of last session to legalise the occupation by Coloureds and Asiatics of certain demarcated areas on the Witwatersrand several Government speakers were vehement in their opposition.

Regretfully it must be recorded that the Government, with unhappy recollections of the political crisis caused over mixed marriages and the employment of Europeans by Asiatics, took affright and instructed one of its supporters to move the adjournment of the debate. It cannot escape again so easily. The position of the Indian and Coloured ownership of land in the Transvaal must be legalised before April 30 unless many thousands of these unfortunate people are to be exposed to the application of penal sanctions. The Government is in honour bound to give effect to the recommendations of the Feetham Commission which has taken six years to compile its report at

a cost to the country of more than £16,000. This Commission was appointed in 1932 as a result of an Act passed during that year at the instigation of Dr. Malan to tighten up the regulations regarding Indian and Coloured ownership of land on the Witwatersrand. This particular enactment made one particular concession however. It empowered the Minister of Interior to withdraw areas from the Gold Law of 1908 which restricted the occupation as well as ownership of Coloureds and Asiatics on the goldfields. The intention of this clause was to legalise occupation in cases where Asiatics or Coloureds had through the years been tacitly permitted to enter into illegal occupation provided that their occupation or presence was not detrimental to the interests of the surrounding community. The areas which the Feetham Commission has recommended should be exempted are embodied in the resolution which must again come before Parliament this session as the temporary protection extended to those in illegal occupation expires on April 30.

It may, of course, be argued that if these people are in illegal occupation they deserve no sympathy from the State. There might be something to be said for such an argument if it were not for the fact that in 1919 Parliament passed an Act, the object of which was to regularise the position created by the

growth of illegal occupation. It gave all coloured and Asiatic persons then carrying on business in Government townships protection for themselves and successors in title for so long as they remained in the same locality. Unfortunately the Government failed to carry out certain clauses of the Act dealing with compilation of a register to indicate the names of all those who were in legal occupation. Owing to the lack of this very necessary machinery it was found impossible to enforce the law with the result that illegal occupation continued apace until 1932 when, as compensation for the imposition of severe restrictions, the Nationalist Government appointed the Feetham Commission to implement its side of the bargain.

Morally, at least, the Government is pledged to make certain concessions of ownership and occupation to the Indians and Coloureds on the Witwatersrand. It can only repudiate the intentions of its predecessor if it is prepared not only to incur the displeasure of enlightened public opinion but also—and this is of more importance—to sacrifice the trust and goodwill of a politically, voiceless minority. We sincerely hope that the forces of reaction within the Fusion Party which are motivated by racial intolerance and colour prejudice are not permitted to score another triumph.

GENERAL DEALERS TO HAVE FRESH PRODUCE LICENCE

AS a result of a judgment delivered in the Supreme Court, Pretoria on January 27, by the Judge President (Mr. Justice Greenberg) and Mr. Justice Maritz, it will be necessary for any general dealer throughout the Union who wishes to sell eggs, bread or tobacco manufactured in South Africa in addition to his general dealer's licence to take out a fresh produce dealer's licence.

Mr. Adam Johannes van Greunen, general dealer, of Barberton, was charged in the Barberton Magistrate's Court with selling sweets and apples at 10 o'clock one evening without having a fresh produce licence.

Mr. van Greunen was in possession of a general dealer's licence. The magistrate found that a fresh produce dealer's licence was necessary when articles of the nature sold were sold at night and found Mr. van Greunen guilty.

On appeal, however, Mr. Mackenzie, on behalf of the Attorney-General con-

tended that as the Act read it did not matter when articles were sold and that a fresh produce dealer's licence had to be taken out.

Judges' Finding

Mr. O. Galgut, who appeared for Mr. van Greunen, submitted to the Court that a general dealer's licence was sufficient to cover the sale of all articles.

The Court, however, in dismissing the appeal, held that any general dealer who wished to sell articles mentioned in the first 10 items in the second schedule of the Licences Consolidation Act had to take out a licence in respect of each of the items he wished to sell and also a general dealer's licence if he sold goods not detailed in those items.

The effect of the decision is that any general dealer wishing to sell tobacco,

bread and eggs must take out a fresh produce dealer's licence in addition to a general dealer's licence.

A senior official of the Department of Inland Revenue told a Press representative that two courses are open to the Department, either to have the Act amended and continue with the practice obtaining hitherto, or to enforce the position defined by the Supreme Court. Even should it recommend to the Minister of Finance that amending legislation be introduced in Parliament, some time must necessarily elapse before this can be done.

The fresh produce dealer's licence costs £3 a year and this extra burden will fall on all general dealers. In view of the suddenness with which the general dealers concerned have been confronted with the new position the Department of Inland Revenue, it is stated, may make special arrangements in respect of licence payments until the situation has been clarified.

LADYSMITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

UP AGAINST INDIAN TRADERS

THE following resolution from the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce, dealing with the Asiatic question, has been sent to General Hertzog, the Prime Minister, Mr. R. Stuttaford, Minister for the Interior, and Mr. A. Friend, M.P. for Klip River.

Chambers of Commerce in Northern Natal towns have been sent a copy of the resolution and asked for their support and co-operation.

"This Chamber views with alarm the steady encroachment of Indians to the detriment of Europeans in Ladysmith and other parts of Natal, and ask your co-operation by introducing legislation which will secure the future of the White races in this country. In support thereof we submit the following facts:

Thirty Years Ago

"Thirty years ago the trade of Ladysmith, with the exception of the Native trade, was practically entirely in the hands of Europeans; but the Asiatic competition of low wages, low standard of living, etc., gradually forced the majority of the European businesses to close, with the result that there is only one European firm in Ladysmith catering for drapery and women's outfitting, where previously there were four of five.

"The same is the case in men's outfitting, grocery and hardware trades. This is in spite of the steady growth of the town, which is revealed by the following figures:

"In 1909 the rateable value of property in Ladysmith was £457,239 compared with this year's figures, which are £859,221.

"The position in the country districts is even worse, where practically the entire trade is in the hands of Indians. This can be proved by a visit to such places as Van Reenen, Wessels Nek and Colenso, where, with the exception of the hotels, trade is 100 per cent. controlled by Indians.

"That owing to the conditions above mentioned, Europeans, especial those leaving school, are finding great difficulty in obtaining employment. This unhealthy state of affairs is amply demonstrated by the fact that Europeans are now working for Asiatics.

Railway Measure

"We would respectfully draw your attention to the success attendant on the Railway Department's decision to eliminate Indians from its service in an endeavour to create a White South Africa, and we would ask you to give the European trader every consideration to keep the trade of South Africa in White hands by introducing legislation along the following line:

"That in connection with the question of trading licences legislation should be introduced immediately at the next session of Parliament prohibiting the issue of further licences of any descrip-

tion whatsoever to Asiatics, and on the death or departure from this country of the existing licence holders, the licences shall be surrendered within a prescribed period, such period to allow sufficient time to dispose of the stock in trade.

"That regarding the question of the penetration of Asiatics into European areas by the purchase or hire of property, we give the fullest support to the proposals of the Minister of Interior, announced some time ago, that he was considering the introduction of legislation at an early date to the effect that if 60 per cent. of the owners of property in any particular area indicate that they are prepared to have their deeds of transfer endorsed as regards the property being owned and occupied by persons of European descent, that such endorsement will be effected free of charge.

Binding Effect

("In this connection the Chamber presumed that the foregoing provisions will be binding on the remaining 40 percent., otherwise no useful purpose will be served.)

"That provision be made in such legislation for the granting of powers of expropriation to local authorities of any properties owned by Asiatics in predominantly European areas and for the resale of same to Europeans."

SIR RADHAKRISHNAN MEETS GANDHIJI

SIR RADHAKRISHNAN, the brilliant savant and philosopher of India, paid Gandhiji a brief visit on his way to England where he occupies the Chair of Oriental Philosophy at the Oxford University. "Hitherto they were sending missionaries to India," he remarked, "to Gandhiji. "Now that the Oxford University has introduced a Chair of Oriental Philosophy, I felt that it would be some use to be there. The post, he explained, was for fifteen years, but he had made it a condition to spend at least six months in the year in India. "The living evidence on the basis of which I can teach oriental philosophy," he told Gandhiji, "is you. For, you take an absolute stand on the principles of religion and morality. There is a passage in the Mahabharat, in which Draupadi says: 'Born in a high family, under

divine auspices it is said, I am to-day dragged by the hair. How can one like me live?'

कुले महति जातःस्मि दिव्येन विधिना कितं।
केशमहामनुप्राप्ता काऽनुजीवेत मादसी॥

"But Draupadi stood firm in her faith and she triumphed. If we stand firmly on the principles that you stand for, we shall be safe. To be steadfast in morality is the highest kind of protection. It is this, the moral and religious aspect of your life, that appeals to me most.

"We have it in Rigveda:

यदा पश्यन्ति सूरयः।
तद्विष्णोः परमं पदम्।
दिवीव चक्षुराततम्॥

"The sages see constantly the divine place of God even as our naked eye sees the sky."

"And again:

ऋषिरावन्तेच्छानां समानमिह लक्षणम्

"There is no essential distinction between an *Arya* and a *Mlechchha*' i.e. *Shudra*; thus sayeth the *Rishi*."

"See the self confidence and the breadth of spiritual culture that these utterances reveal. However down-trodden we may be, still we possess these great treasures which are not for us only but for the whole world; and you are a living representative of this great culture.

"I am sometimes asked as to what would India do in the event of a world war. I tell them, we have witnessed the extinction of many a civilisation that rested on force. We shall adhere to non-violence. Others perished perhaps because of the violence. What does it matter, then, if we perish in the attempt to apply the principle of non-violence? We shall have lived and died for a great principle."

Doings In India

Question Of Hindu-Muslim Unity

MR. H. V. HODSON, the editor of the *Round Table*, had a long and interesting talk with Gandhiji at Wardha. Among the various questions discussed was included the question of the Congress and the Muslims. "Would not the march to full responsible government be more rapid, if the Muslims were taken along?" asked Mr. Hodson. "Of course it would be," replied Gandhiji. "Personally I do not want anything which the Muslims oppose. But I have faith that the solution of the Hindu-Muslim tangle will come much sooner than most people expect. I claim to be able to look at the whole position with a detached mind. There is no substance in our quarrels. Points of difference are superficial, those of contact are deep and permanent. Political and economic subjection is common to us. The same climate, the same rivers, the same fields supply both with air, water and food. Whatever, therefore, leaders, Mahatmas and Maulanas may say or do, the masses, when they are fully awakened, will assert themselves and combine for the sake of combating common evils. "The effect of the Socialist and Communist propaganda too is to bring the masses of both the communities together by emphasising identity of interests. I have my differences with, but I cannot withhold my admiration for their endeavour to demolish the superstition that keeps the different communities apart."

New Renaissance Spirit In India

"In the west the renaissance, scientific and industrial revolution were brought about in different centuries, while in India they are being brought about simultaneously in this epoch making Gandhian era," said Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Spalding Professor, Oxford University, recently, addressing a meeting of students and workers in Wardha. He continued that truth, love and justice should be their central fundamental principle and they could survive only by loyally following them. Their greatest anxiety has always been to keep the country's soul living and it was by this means that China and India had outlived several onslaughts against their civilisations. Humanity was the greatest secret of life and the present fall or deterioration was due to ignoring the masses. Sir Radhakrishnan said that humanity could be saved only by applying religion in our education, politics and economics. Mahatma Gandhi was trying to achieve this in his new Wardha scheme of education, Harijan uplift and the gospel of the *charaka* and

cottage industries. World seers and saints had ever been trying to bridge the gulf between the brutal and beautiful by means of true religion. A new spirit of renaissance was awake in India and Gandhiji was its soul or life. "Contemplation and meditation," said Sir Radhakrishnan, "combined with practical efficiency leads us to prosperity. That is the teaching of the Gita in the last chapter, which we find in Mahatmaj, who is the soul of all institutions in Wardha." Referring to the Wardha scheme, Sir Radhakrishnan said that the scheme was designed to spread literacy throughout the land. It did not, however, ignore the education of children below seven and above fourteen. He said there should be no wide gulf between the intelligentsia of the country and the manual workers. He pointed out that by concentrating on rural education, was not neglecting other ideas of national education.

A. I. Women's Conference Adopts Anti-War Resolution

The All-India Women's Conference which met in New Delhi recently unanimously adopted anti-war resolution moved by Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit. The resolution stressed abhorrence at the idea of war as a solution of any problem and declared that the women of India were in utter and eternal opposition to all oppression and exploitation. The resolution protested against the race in armaments and appealed to women throughout the world to actively demonstrate the efficacy of non-violence as the only power by which the forces of hatred and desire for passion may be brought under control and real lasting peace established. Rajkumari Amritkuar, Begum Hamid Ali, Miss Dingman and Mrs. Ferozuddin spoke in support of the resolution emphasising that women should non-co operate with all preparations for war, even the so-called humane activities like nursing during war, and should boycott the goods of the aggressor.

Khadi Movement In Frontier

H. E. the Governor of the N. W. F. Provinces has sanctioned Rs. 1,000 which has been handed over to Shri Miraben by Dr. Khan Sahab for encouraging the production of Khadi in the province. It will be recalled that Shri Miraben is at present staying at Utmanzai, the village home of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, and training Khudai Khidmatgars for Khadi work. It is understood that the amount will be utilised for purchasing spinning wheels and taklis.

Congress Support To National Shipping

An assurance that the Congress would always stand by and fight for the legitimate rights of national shipping was given by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel declaring open the "Scindia House," the premises of the Scindia Steam Navigating Company. Over two thousand guests including officials and prominent businessmen attended the function. Messages of good wishes on the occasion were received from all the provincial Premiers, the Premiers of Burma and Ceylon. From all the maritime states of India and also from Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir, the Congress President, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other prominent leaders. Mr. Walchand Hirachand dealt with the subject of Indian shipping enterprise and the manifold difficulties and obstacles which retarded the growth of Indian shipping. Welcoming Sardar Patel he said that his presence on the occasion was a living expression of the abiding interest which the Indian National Congress has evinced in developing the industries of the country owned by the nationals. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel declaring open the new premises observed that the Government of India Act 1935, had provided enough safeguards for the British shipping interests, and the Premiers of all the provinces in India and other leading men had sent messages of good wishes and had associated themselves with the aspirations of Indian shipping. As against the sympathy and support of the country, he added, the safeguards in the constitution could be of little help to whomsoever they were intended. Proceeding, the Sardar made a comparison between the struggles of two movements, one the Indian National Congress and the other, the struggle for existence of Indian shipping. Early in 1919 the struggle of the Congress entered a new phase and so also that of Indian shipping which had been almost threatened out of existence by the fierce competition and other dilatory methods of foreign interests. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel continuing assured national shipping interests the support of the Congress Ministries. Concluding, he said that Indian National shipping activities should not be circumscribed to the coastal water alone but her navigation should extend to the seven seas. Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, M.L.A., unveiled the bust of Seth Narrottam Morarjee, the founder and first Chairman of the Scindia Company.

HERR HITLER'S SPEECH

HERR HITLER'S speech last Monday night has set the minds of many in Europe and out of Europe at ease. A fiery speech was expected from him but it was comparatively soft though he was very firm in the statements he made.

In the sharpest terms Herr Hitler refuted the allegation that Nazi Germany was about to attack and apportion North and South America, Australia, China, or even Holland, merely because in these countries other systems of government prevailed.

One might just as well allege that Germany intended to occupy the moon, said Herr Hitler.

It was absurd and childish for the British people to believe that British commercial interests would be served by the annihilation of Germany.

Herr Hitler said that before the World War the democrats had been told that British trade would be immensely strengthened by the dissolution of Germany, but Britain and the British people had not become richer and now Germany was stronger than before.

"The entire behaviour of the so-called victorious Powers after the close of the World War was just as unreasonable as it was irresponsible. The theft of German colonies was morally wrong and economically pure insanity."

Turning to the colonial question itself, Herr Hitler declared that it was clear that "either the division of natural riches of the world depends on force—in which case division would from time to time have to undergo rectification by application of force—or division is made from the standpoint of equity and therefore of reason."

In that case, equity and reason would be servants of justice and thus in the end be the servants of expediency.

"But to assume that certain peoples of the earth would be allowed by the Almighty, first of all to take possession of the world by force and then to defend that robbery by moral theories is perhaps consoling and convenient for the 'haves,' but just as irrelevant and uninteresting for the 'have nots.'"

Herr Hitler said Germany had 80,000,000 inhabitants or 135 inhabitants to the square kilometre. "But Germany has no room for Jews. There is more room in other countries but they say they cannot take them. If international financial Jewry ever starts another war it will end not in the

destruction of Germany but in the annihilation of the Jewish race throughout Europe.

"Germany's immense colonial territory which the Reich had once to acquire in peace by purchase and treaty has been stolen from her against the solemn assurances of President Wilson.

"The argument that colonial territory could not be returned because Germany would thus be possessed of certain strategic positions in a vast attempt to prevent the nation from ever obtaining its rights. Germany does not need her colonies in order to raise armies there. The natural riches of our own race suffice for that.

"Germany needs her colonies for her own economic relief. Moreover, the argument based on the objection to Germany's improving her strategic position would only carry weight if the other Powers were willing to abandon their strategic advantages.

"The claims to a return of Germany's colonies could be settled peacefully, he added. There would be no need for war on that account.

The pretext that colonial properties had no importance anyway would only be an inducement to return them to us with an even lighter heart.

The Jewish Problem

Speaking on the Jewish question, Herr Hitler declared that nothing could influence Germany from completing the process of solving this problem. The German people to-day were only righting the wrongs done to it by the Jewish people formerly.

"If the world makes such an outcry over the alleged barbaric expulsion of such a valuable cultural element from Germany, then we can only ask why other countries refuse to open their frontiers to these valuable people," he added.

"The world has sufficient room for settlement and Jews must adopt the same persistent constructive role as other peoples or become the victims of a crisis of unimaginable proportions.

"I shall again make a prophecy: If international financial Jewry should succeed in plunging the nations into another world war, the outcome would not be the Bolshevizing of the earth but the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe."

Who Is Responsible?

It will not be out of place to quote here what Mr. Richard Gregg has written in the course of a letter to Mahatma Gandhi about Germany:

It seems to me that the Western nations are mistaken in condemning Germany with such moral indignation, for Germany's deeds now are the natural result of the way the Allies treated Germany during and after the war, by such methods as the nine months' naval blockade of Germany which caused the death by starvation of nearly a million German children and women, and similar starvation in Austria, and the impossible financial indemnities levied as pretended punishment on Germany, and all the self-righteous accusations that Germany alone caused the war, and the humiliations of many other sorts forced upon her and her leaders. It has created in Germany a form of morbid feelings and thinking allied to insanity. It is futile as well as wrong to condemn an insane person for his acts, especially if I have caused his insanity. A Chinese proverb says that a wise person uses other persons as his mirror. Germany is the mirror held up to the Allies, in which after a lapse of time, they are seeing the reflection of the evils within themselves. They recoil with horror, but their horror, if it were understood, would be directed at their own disharmonies and shortcomings.

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Fountain of Wisdom

"I have a fear that the modern girl loves to be Juliet to half a dozen Romeos. She loves adventure... The modern girl dresses not to protect herself from wind, rain and sun but to attract attention. She improves upon nature by painting herself and looking extraordinary. The non-violent way is not for such girls."

—GANDESHI.

Buy Perfect
DIAMOND
RINGS and
Flawless DIAMONDS
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Things In General

Indian Flower Sellers In Maritzburg

TWO long-established features of Maritzburg life have come to an end from last Tuesday. One is the gathering of natives on the Market Square on Sundays, and the other is the array of flowers which are sold by Indian flower-sellers in front of the City Hall. The natives have been informed that it was no longer legal to congregate there. They were advised to go on Sundays to the native recreation ground in Berg Street, or the Native Sports Ground in Fitzsimmons Road. The City Council had decided to move the flower-sellers from in front of the City Hall, in spite of a petition signed by Maritzburg residents in favour of their remaining where they are. A site has been reserved for them on the Market Square.

[Indians have defied the Council's orders. See our Notes.—Ed. I.O.]

High-Character Needed Together With Knowledge

Professor J. Smeath Thomas, of the Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, addressing a Sons of England meeting, recently in Capetown said, he hoped that by a proper system of education this country would resist the threatened invasion of subversive ideas. Discussing man's mastery over nature, he referred to conditions in Europe and said that where his mastery had not been accompanied by the growth of high character the result had been nothing less than disastrous. Knowledge unattended by character left man in no better state than the raw savage—except that he was infinitely more dangerous. He could find no excuse in the application of pure knowledge to the torturing and tormenting of minorities, the bombing of defenceless women and children, or in the determination that the forces of nature were to be used for the slaughter of an innocent humanity. One heard a great deal of efficiency, in so far as any form of efficiency divorced itself from humanitarian principles, it would inevitably lead to the loss of individual freedom, to the conversion of mankind, into the soulless machine; and civilisation under such a system would revert to barbarism none the less profound because it was an intellectual barbarism. It was a sad reflection that as the years went by these European nations were increasing and threatened to spread to this country. It was the duty of every man who had a love of freedom, a human sympathy with his fellow men, and a true perspective of a just and generous education, to do what he could to prevent the spread of such doctrines in the country.

Proposed New By-law For Indian Market

The Markets and Abattoir Committee has approved of a suggested amendment to the by-laws to permit occupiers of the unlicensed out-of-hand stalls to sell only articles grown, produced or manufactured by them. If this is agreed to by the City Council out-of-hand tenants who are not bona fide producers will be given the option of renting small stalls, for which licences will have to be obtained.

Colonial Born And Settlers' Indian Association

The Secretary of the Verulam Branch of the C. B. and S. I. A. writes:—On Saturday, under the aegis of the Verulam Branch of the C. B. and S. I. A., a public welcome reception was accorded to Mr. Ram Nath Biswas of Indta, who is travelling round the world individually on a bicycle, who has so far visited over 34 different countries, and has covered about 42,000 miles, at the Town Hall, Verulam, which was packed to capacity, and a number of people had to remain outside. This was the largest crowd that turned out at Verulam for such a function. The function was presided over by Mr. A. Moonsamy, who extended a hearty and cordial welcome to Mr. Biswas on behalf of the Indian community of Verulam and surrounding districts, and congratulated him on his gallant and courageous feat, and fervently prayed that his great undertaking be crowned with success, and that at the completion of his tour, he would be of service to Mother India. The following gentlemen also joined in extending good wishes namely Advocate Mr. A. Christopher, Messrs. T. M. Naicker, P. R. Pather, D. S. Chetty, (Durban), K. Soobramoney (P. M. Burg), S. Roopsingh, J. Lutchmansingh (Stanger), R. Raghavjee, and V. Subban. Together with the above the following were also on the platform Messrs. T. Moonsamy, T. P. Sam, Etty M. Pillay, and R. Nathalall. Mr. Biswas was garlanded and a bouquet was presented to Mr. A. Christopher, President of the headquarters, in recognition and appreciation of his untiring services in the welfare and upliftment of the Indian community in South Africa by Miss M. Subban. Mr. Biswas rose amidst thunderous applause, and thanked the Association for the rousing and hearty welcome extended to him which he very much appreciated. He spoke for about 1½ hours on his travels and experiences. On Saturday next at 2 p.m. at the Pieterse Palace, Stanger, a reception in Mr. Biswas's honour will be given by the Indian community under the auspices of the Stanger Branch of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association. Mr.

Biswas was the guest of Mr. V. Subban at Verulam, and at Stanger he will be the guest of Mr. S. Roopsingh of Ohaka's Kraal.

Natal Provincial Council Further Prorogued

The Natal Provincial Council, which had been prorogued to February 1, was further prorogued by proclamation in Provincial Gazette to March 21 at 11 a.m.

Crime In Durban Increased

The annual report for 1938 of the Magistrate, Durban, has been completed. The estimated increase in population over the 1936 census figure of 262,408 is shown as approximately 6,000. The total number of criminal cases, excluding branch Courts, in the last three years has shown a substantial increase as the figures for 1936, 1937 and 1938 indicate. These were 31,298, 41,039 and 43,907. The convictions in the respective years were 27,544, 36,604 and 38,681. The civil cases, exclusive of civil imprisonment, for the same three years were 13,562, 14,485 and 16,951.

Unclaimed Goods To Be Sold

More than 600 lots of unclaimed goods will be sold by public auction at the Kings Warehouse, Durban, at 10 a.m. on February 16. They have been brought by ships from all corners of the world and have been forgotten or purposely left in the warehouse at the Point beyond the time prescribed by law. A large number are from unknown sources and without marks. As a result the descriptions given in the Government Gazette are vague.

How He Saved His Child From Snake Poison

A father in Greenwood Park saved his three-years' old child who was bitten on Saturday night by a snake on her ankle by sucking the poison from out of the fang-marks with the stem of his smoking pipe within a few seconds of the reptile having struck. "The nicotine oil on the end of the stem of my pipe was, I knew, a good sedative and I made sure that all the poison was sucked out," said Mr. S. J. Bosch, the father of the child to a Press representative. The child was then taken over to a Red Hill doctor for further treatment, and from there to Addington Hospital, where she was given two injections as a precautionary measure. She was discharged the next morning.

Best Method

"Sucking is one of the best methods of drawing out poison and provided there are no cuts in the mouth, quite safe,"

(Continued on page 49)

The Sporting World

Joe Louis Beats Henry Lewis

JOE LOUIS beat John Henry Lewis by a technical knock-out in the first round of a contest for the world's heavy-weight championship at Madison Square Garden, New York, on Wednesday, January 25. The bout lasted 2 minutes 29 seconds. Louis weighed in at 14st. 4½lbs. and Lewis at 12st. 12½lbs. Before the start of the fight the New York State Athletic Commissioners ordered Louis to shave off a considerable growth of beard. After preliminary sparring, Lewis went down for a count of four after taking a very hard left and right hook to the jaw. Louis maintained a furious attack, two right hooks sending the challenger down for a count of three. After Lewis, who now seemed helpless, had been to the canvas on yet another occasion, the referee intervened holding the defeated boxer back as he endeavoured to continue. The crowd of 17,350 people paid £20,000 to see Louis hammer the light heavy-weight champion into impotence. Joe had said that he would end the fight as quickly as possible in order to save his friend from punishment, and he certainly kept his promise. Many blows lifted Lewis from his feet, though most of them travelled less than six inches. Afterwards Joe said: "That's how I'll treat them all—knock them out in the first round." John Henry said: "I felt fine. They should have let me go on." Lewis may defend his cruiser-weight title in the summer.

Non-European Boxing Tournament

On Saturday, February 11, a non-European boxing tournament, promoted by G. Shadrach, will be held at the Willie Smith Physical Culture Academy, Commercial Road, when some of Durban's best known boxers will be in the ring. The main bout is between P. M. Pillay, who is rated high as a fly- and bantam-weight in Natal, and Midget Chin. The latter also is a very good boxer so that the contest should be evenly contested. Ian Hulley, a hard hitting boxer from Bloemfontein, will meet Joe Aaron, a feather-weight, and here again it is expected that the bout will be keenly fought. Francis Gengan is matched against George Maistry and Dick Barton, who is shortly proceeding overseas, has been matched against a newcomer in Speedy Gengan. A fight between Harry Singh and Young Billy completes a comprehensive programme.

Schweizer Reneke Young Indian Cultural Society

A farewell reception was given by the Schweizer Reneke Young Indian Cultural Society in honour of Mr. N. S. Makan, a well-known businessman, on the eve of his departure for India. Two addresses were presented to Mr. Makan by the S. R. Y. I. C. Society and the local

By "Rambler"

sporting club. Mr. Aboo Cajee on behalf of the society and Mr. Goolam Pahad on behalf of the sports club, paid a high tribute to Mr. Makan for his excellent services for many years as treasurer for cricket and soccer, and in other capacity in social work. After several others had spoken the function terminated with wishing Mr. Makan a bon voyage and a speedy return to South Africa.

South Coast District Indian Football Association

The annual general meeting of the above association was held on Sunday, January 29 at Clairwood. The annual report and financial statement were duly adopted and the following officials were

secretary and treasurer: Mr. P. J. Singh; captain: Mr. B. Ramkisson; vice-captain: Mr. G. Sewpaul. Committee comprises all the officials with the exception of the patrons. The club thanks all those officials, members and well-wishers for the kind donations they have made to the club.

Social And Personal

Mr. George Singh, formerly of the Sastri College, has passed in all subjects for the Intermediate L.L.B. examinations, viz., English Law, Roman-Dutch Law, History of Roman-Dutch Law, Jurisprudence and Roman Law II. He now has the final examination to complete.

—o—

Mr. Solomon D. Royeppen, well known in the Indian community of the Transvaal, has opened an office as General Agent, Land & Estate, Secretary of Companies etc. at No. 4 & 5 Barkley Buildings, Diagonal Street, Johannesburg. Mr. Royeppen has secured several agencies such as Insurances etc. and the only Indian Official Subscription representative in Johannesburg for the Forum (Pty) Ltd.

—o:—

Exhaustion and faintness from summer heat may be successfully fought by adding salt to drinking water during exceedingly hot weather, it has been discovered. The salt replaces salt lost during excessive perspiration.

BHULABHAI DESAI

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elected for the season 1939:—Patron: Mr. A. Singh; President: Mr. A. R. Ramnith; life vice-presidents (additional) Messrs. Pavadai R. Pather and T. G. Govender; hon. vice-presidents: Messrs. T. L. Nanoo, R. A. Govender, N. M. Pillay, S. P. Naidoo, O. H. Mahomed, R. G. Pillay and N. M. Naidoo; hon. treasurer: Mr. A. M. Pillay; hon. record clerk: Mr. R. R. Pillay; secretary: Mr. G. M. Pillay; hon. auditor: Mr. R. Gopalsingh.

Daffodils Indian Football Club (Dundee)

At the last general meeting of the above club held at Mr. J. Gokool's fruit shop on January 24, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Mr. O. W. Mackay (Mayor of Dundee); Mr. H. Boodhoo (Pomeroy); Mr. Gokool Lodh (Glencoe); Mr. Frank Maharaj (Waschbank) and Mr. N. V. Morar (Dundee); President: Mr. B. Juggernath; vice-presidents: Messrs. B. R. Singh, J. Gokool, G. Sewpaul, B. Harry, S. Kahaar Motilal Gopi, and G. H. David; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. J. B. Lallay; hon. assistant

Natal University College

Courses For Non-Europeans

Classes leading to the B.A. Degree are to be held at Sastri College, Durban on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings beginning on Friday, March 3rd, 1939.

Fees per half-year for three classes £7 10s. Fees for separate class per half-year £2 10s.

Loans for students, to be repaid after graduation may be arranged.

The Adviser to Non-European Students will attend at Sastri College to interview and enrol students from 9.30 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 25th, from 4 to 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28th and from 4 to 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2nd and at other times by appointment.

Further particulars from the Adviser to Non-European Students, Natal University College, P. O. Box 1525, Durban.

THINGS IN GENERAL

says Mr. Daemond Fitzsimmons, Durban's Snake expert. "It would be wise to wash the mouth with disinfectant afterwards. Undoubtedly the best method is to make an incision at least a quarter of an inch deep, because adder fangs are at least as long as that and the venom ejected from the very tip of the fang. Then the area round the puncture should be well lacerated to allow the wound to bleed and so bring out some of the poison. Permanent of potash should be rubbed in to neutralise the effect of the poison and a ligature bound on at the joint above the puncture. Sucking the wound is always good if a person is prepared to take the risk. There is no danger if the mouth is healthy." Treatment should be immediate because with adder bites a delay of 15 minutes might prove fatal. But even after this treatment the patient should go to hospital because although neutralising agents had considerable effect they were not permanent and did not prevent the poison getting into the blood stream.

Japanese Delegates In The Union

A Japanese trade delegation has arrived in the *Plata Maru*, in Capetown. It comprises four members, with Mr. Otsuka, of the Japan Federation of General Goods Exporters Association for Africa and the Near East, as leader. The other three members are closely associated with the Japanese export trade. The object of the delegation, which will visit the principal towns in the Union, is to find out why the import of Japanese goods into South Africa has dropped during the past year. Mr. Otsuka was in South Africa six years ago. He has been associated with the South African trade for 20 years. "I have not come to South Africa to express opinions on the trade between your country and mine, but to find out why Japanese exports in South Africa have fallen off so considerably during the past year, he said to a representative of the S.A. Press Association. "I have come out to hear opinions. I want to know whether our goods are not good enough, if prices are too high, or if they do not meet the requirements of the public. We shall be in South Africa for nearly two months and by the time we leave from Durban I hope we shall have solved the problem and found a means of restoring the trade to its original sound position."

Palastine Conference

St. James Palace will be the venue of the Palestine Conference. The delegation from Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen have already arrived in London for the conference. Mr. Malcolm Macdonald (Colonial Secretary), on behalf of the Government, personally welcomed the delegates. It is expected that the talks will begin late this week. Mr. Jinnah, President of the All India Moslem League, has sent a cable to the Prime Minister and Lord Zetland, Secretary of State for India, urging the Im-

perial Government to give the League representation at the conference and asking that the Arab national demand in Palestine should be conceded.

British Cabinet Changed

The following changes in the British Cabinet are announced: Admiral Lord Chatfield (former First Sea Lord of the Admiralty) will become Minister for the Co-Ordination of Defence, instead of Sir Thomas Inskip. Sir Thomas Inskip will become Secretary for Dominions, replacing Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, who held the post jointly with the Colonial Secretaryship since the death of Lord Stanley in October. Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith (former President of the National Farmers Union) will become Minister of Agriculture, in place of Mr. W. S. Morrison, (who has been appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) will become Paymaster-General, relinquishing his seat in the Cabinet. Lord Munster, former Paymaster-General will succeed Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal (Under-Secretary of State for War), who has resigned. Mr. W. S. Morrison will assist Lord Chatfield and will represent him in the House of Commons. Major-Gen-

eral H. O. B. Wemyss has been appointed Director of Mobilisation at the War Office. The Cabinet changes apparently dispose of the rumours of an early general election, says Reuter. Lord Chatfield, the new Minister for the Co-Ordination of Defence, who has been on a visit to India, left by air on Tuesday and is due to arrive in England on Saturday.

England Studying Muslim Interests

Much serious attention is being given to the forthcoming talks on Palestine, states a Reuter's message from London. Muslim interests, not only in Palestine, India and Egypt, but also in territories where Muslims are an important section of the community are being studied. Jewish feeling is similarly being studied and it is clear that the British Government will strain every nerve to reach a friendly outcome of the discussions. The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, is meeting all the delegates. The question of the representation of the Palestine Defence Party is still under consideration between London and Cairo. Pending settlement of this question it is still uncertain when formal discussions will begin.

ધી ટ્રાંસવાલ યુનાઇટેડ પાર્ટીદાર સોસાયટી

વાર્ષિક બહેર સભા

ઉપરોક્ત સોસાયટીની વાર્ષિક બહેર સભા તા. ૫મી ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯ ને રવીવારે બપોરે ત્રણ વાગે ન્યુટાઉનમાં પાર્ટીદાર હોલમાં મળશે જેમાં સ્થાનિક રીફ અને ટ્રાંસવાલમાં વસતા સર્વે પાર્ટીદાર ભાગ્યે અને બહેનોને વખતસર પધારવા વિનંતી છે.

કાર્યક્રમ: ૧. આવક બચતનો હિસાબ, ૨. વાર્ષિક હેવાલ, ૩. અમલદારો અને કાર્યવાહક સામંતિની ચુટણી, ૪. શાખા કમીટીની ચુટણી, ૫. પુરતકાલેય કમીટીની ચુટણી, ૬. પરચુરસ.

ભવણી પ્રાગણ ભગત,

કાનજી ભાણાભાઈ પટેલ.

બેરીયા માનદ મંત્રીઓ.

ધી ટ્રાં યુનાઇટેડ પાર્ટીદાર સોસાયટી.

ભાડે આપવાની છે

સારી મોકાની દુકાન ક્વીન સ્ટ્રીટ અને મેલબર્ન રોડ બરક્રામ્સના ખુણા ઉપર. હરેપર્સ અને જુયરનો વેપાર. લખો યા મળો:

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‘ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન’ના લવાજમો કયાં ભરવા

‘ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન’ના જે ગ્રાહકો ટપાલ મારફતે લવાજમ નહિ મોકલી શકતા હોય તેઓ નીચે જણાવેલાં સ્થળોએ ભરી શકશે:

હરબનમાં: મેસર્સ ગાંધી એન્ડ કો.,
૧૧૨ વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ.
મેસર્સ મહેતા અધર્સ,
૨૧૦ એ સ્ટ્રીટ.
યુનીવર્સલ પ્રીન્ટિંગ વર્ક્સ,
૧૪ સેવીલ સ્ટ્રીટ.
બેહાનીસબર્ગ: મેસર્સ પાર્ટીદાર ટ્રેડિંગ કો.,
૪ પ્રીયર્ડ સ્ટ્રીટ.
મેસર્સ ભગત અધર્સ,
૧૪ કોર્ટ સ્ટ્રીટ,
મી. પી. રતનજી, ૬૦ શ્રી સ્ટ્રીટ,
ન્યુટાઉન.
રણજીભાઈ કાળાભાઈ પટેલ,
(મેસર્સ પટેલ એન્ડ કો.)
૬૬ શ્રી સ્ટ્રીટ, ન્યુટાઉન.
એડવોકેટ ડી. યુ. મીસ્ત્રી,
રૂમ નં. ૨૦, ન્યુકેમ્પસી બીલ્ડિંગ,
ફાક્સ સ્ટ્રીટ.

શ્રી. એન. એમ. ભટ્ટ અને શ્રી. એસ. બી. મહેડને કોષ્ટ પછુ સ્થળેથી ‘ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન’ ડું લવાજમ આપી શકાશે.
કેપટાઉન: મી. બી. ડી. ચાવડા,
૧૦૪ મેન રોડ મેગ્ને.
પોર્ટબ્લેકીયામેથ: મી. ફલભાઈ દક્ષીરભાઈ,
૧૪૫ વોલ્મર રોડ.
લોરેન્ડોમાર્કર્સિસ: મેસર્સ મજાસ લાલચંદ
એન્ડ કો.
શ્રી. નાયુભાઈ હરીભાઈ પટેલ.

ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ મું.

ફીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૩ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૫.

“ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૩ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯.

શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો

આ જે ઉઘડનારી યુનીયન પાર્લામેન્ટની બેઠકમાં આવનારા અગત્યના પ્રશ્નોમાંનો એક ટ્રાંસવાલમાં હિંદીઓને જમીન માલીકીનો હક આપવા સંબંધી છે. શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો એપ્રિલ તા. ૩૦ પહેલાં અમલમાં મુકાવી બેઠકે, કેમકે વીટવોટસરેન્ડનાં લક્ષ્યાંકોમાં જેઓએ જમીનો ગેરકાયદેસર મેળવેલી ગણાય છે તેઓને એ તારીખ સુધીનું રક્ષણ આપવામાં આવ્યું છે. વાંચકોને યાદ હશે કે શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો પસાર કરવાને લગતો ઠરાવ પાર્લામેન્ટની ગત બેઠક લગભગ પુરી થવા આવતાં મુકવામાં આવ્યો હતો. પરંતુ કેટલાક સરકાર પક્ષના સભ્યોએ સખ્ત વિરોધ દર્શાવ્યો હતો અને તેને પરિણામે એ ઠરાવ પાછો ખેંચી લેવામાં આવ્યો હતો. હવે ફરી પાછો એ ઠરાવ મુકાશે અને ફરી તેની સામે સખ્ત વિરોધ ઉઠવાની આશો રાખવામાં આવે છે.

આ બાબતમાં ‘નાટાલ મરકયુરી’ એ કરેલી ટીકાની અમે અત્યંત આભાર સાથે નોંધ લઈએ છીએ. એ પત્ર સરકારને જમીન માલીકી અને લોગવટાના સંબંધમાં હિંદીઓને અમુક છુટો આપવાની પોતાની નૈતિક જવાબદારીનું સ્મરણ કરાવે છે અને ચેતવણી આપે છે કે :

“પોતાના પુર્વગામીના ધરાદાનો સરકારથી ધન્કાર તોજ ચક્રે જે તે સુશિક્ષિત પ્રજા મતનોજ ખોફ વહેરવાને નહિ પરંતુ રાજકારણમાં અવાજ વિનાની એક લઘુમતિનો વિશ્વાસ અને શુભેચ્છા—કે જે વધારે અગત્યની વસ્તુ છે—તેનો પણ ભોગ આપી દેવાને તૈયાર હોય.” અમારું સહયોગી વધુમાં લખે છે કે, “અમે અંતઃકરણથી ઉમેદ રાખીએ છીએ કે ક્યુન પાર્લામેન્ટના પ્રજાચાતી બળો કે જેની પાછળ જાતીય અસ-

હિષ્ણતા અને વર્ણવેશ રહેલા છે તેનો પુનઃ વિન્ય થવા દેવામાં નહિ આવે.”

અહિં અમે સામાન્ય હિંદી કોમની તેમજ ટ્રાંસવાલમાં હિંદીઓને જમીન માલીકી અને લોગવટાના હકો આપવાના પ્રશ્નના સંબંધમાં જે આગેવાનો હિલચાલ ચલાવી રહ્યા છે તેઓની બધુ માટે અમુક હકીકતોની નોંધ લેવા ઇચ્છીએ છીએ. તે નીચે મુજબ છે :

શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોથી હિંદીઓના જમીનના હક સંબંધી પ્રશ્નો ઉકેલ થઈ જતો નથી.

કેંગ્રેસ કે જે સમસ્ત હિંદી કોમનું પ્રતિનિધિત્વ ધરાવવાનો દાવો કરે છે તેણે ટ્રાંસવાલ એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્ચર એક્ટને વખોડી કાઢનારો ઠરાવ કર્યો હતો.

તેણે શ્રીધામ કમીશન જે એ કાયદાની રૂએ નીમાયું હતું તેનો બહિષ્કાર કર્યો હતો.

ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કમર્સિયલ એસોસિએશન નામની નવી સંસ્થા ઉભી કરવામાં આવી હતી જે વ્યાપારી કોમનું અને જેઓએ જમીનો મેળવી હતી તેઓનું પ્રતિનિધિત્વ ધરાવનારી સંસ્થા હતી.

એ વખતના એજન્ટ-જનરલે હિંદ સરકારના પ્રતિનિધિ તરીકે, કેંગ્રેસ મજકુર કાયદાની વિરુદ્ધ હોવા છતાં, એ નવી સંસ્થાને સ્વિકારી કમીશન સમક્ષ જુબાની આપવામાં તેનો સહાકાર મેળવ્યો હતો.

શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો એજન્ટ-જનરલની સહાયતાથી ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કમર્સિયલ એસોસિએશન તરફથી કરવામાં આવેલી માગણીઓ કરતાં ઘણીજ ઓછી હતી.

ત્યાર બાદ પરિસ્થિતિ બદલાઈ ગઈ અને કેંગ્રેસ ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કમર્સિયલ એસોસિએશનના કાર્યકર્તાઓ સાથે બેઠાઈ

ગઈ અને પરીણામે આ નવી સંસ્થા હવે હસ્તિમાં નથી રહી અને કેંગ્રેસ પ્રજાની મંજુરી મેળવ્યા વિનાજ શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો પસાર કરાવવાનું કાર્ય કરી રહી છે.

કેંગ્રેસના કાર્યકર્તાઓએ આપખુદી અને બંધારણ વિરુદ્ધ તંત્ર ચલાવવાનો તો હવે સાધારણ નીયમજ થઈ પડેલો છે. અમને જણાવવામાં આવે છે કે ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કેંગ્રેસની કમીટી મીટિંગે સરકાર સમક્ષ જરૂરી રજુઆતો કરવાને કેપટાઉન મોકલવાને એક ડેપ્યુટેશન નીમેલું છે. વધુમાં અમને જણાવવામાં આવે છે કે કેટલાક સભ્યોએ આ ડેપ્યુટેશનની નીમણૂક સામે વિરોધ દર્શાવ્યો હતો, કેમકે તે જેઓની પ્રાપર્ટીઓ બેખમમાં છે અને જેઓ પોતાના લાલો સુરક્ષિત કરવાને ઇત્તેજાર છે તેઓનુંજ માત્ર પ્રતિનિધિત્વ ધરાવે છે અને સમસ્ત કોમનું પ્રતિનિધિત્વ ધરાવતું નથી.

જમીન માલીકીનો હક તો ફરેકને મળવો બેઠકે, કેમકે મનુષ્યમાત્રનો એ કુદરતી હક છે. એ હક સંપૂર્ણ આપવામાં આપે કે મર્યાદિત એ જુદો પ્રશ્ન છે.

ગેરકાયદેસર જમીન મેળવેલી હોય તેઓને માફી બક્ષવી અને જેઓએ તેમ નથી કયું તેઓને સદાને માટે બંધી કરવી એ તો ગુન્હેગારીને ઉત્તેજન દેવા બરાબર છે.

એક વસ્તુ અમે હિંદ સરકારને તેમજ હિંદ સરકારના આ દેશમાં પ્રતિનિધિ એજન્ટ-જનરલને કહેવા ઇચ્છીએ છીએ.

હિંદ સરકાર પણ ટ્રાંસવાલ એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્ચર બીલની, તે કેપટાઉન કરારનો ભંગ કરનાર હોવાના કારણે વિરુદ્ધ હતી. પરંતુ સમજુતી કરવાની સદાની તેની તત્પરતાને લીધે અને ગમે તે ભોગે પણ યુનીયન સરકારની સાથે મીત્રતા ભર્યો સંબંધ ટકાવી રાખવાની તેની ઇત્તેજારીને લીધે તેણે બીલની અંદર કેટલાક ફેરફારો સ્વિકારી લીધા જેમાંનો એક શ્રીધામ કમીશનની નીમણૂકને લગતો હતો.