

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Indian Child Welfare Society

THE Indian Child Welfare Society is perhaps the only institution—the creation of the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri when he was the first Agent-General for India in South Africa—which is doing some practical humanitarian work. Mrs. G. Christopher as secretary of the institution has popularised herself among the poorer sections of the community among whom she has been actively working notwithstanding her other domestic duties. We are pleased to note that branches of the Society have been formed on the North Coast and they have received the co-operation of the respective local authorities. We have received correspondence complaining that these branches are the result of rivalry between the two political bodies, the Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, which, in order to gain popularity are seeking to have a finger in every pie. There are times when good results out of evil and we heartily welcome the extension of the activities of the Child Welfare Society as a good result. Let not the good social service work done by this institution be interfered with in the foolish strife between the two warring political bodies.

How Corporation Indian

Employees Live

Indians are ever accused of their so-called low standard of living. But who is responsible for it? History of the advent of Indians in South Africa tells us. Indians were introduced as cheap labourers to develop the sugar industry. How they were slaved on the sugar estates is well-known. The Government Departments too employed Indians in preference to Natives for their cheapness and reliability. To-day things have considerably changed and there are industrial laws to improve the working and living conditions of the labourers. But these laws obviously do not touch the rulers. The Durban Corporation has been often severely criticised for the housing conditions of its Indian employees and it is a sad reflection on it that in these days of greater enlightenment it has still to be criticised. The Durban Indian Muni-

cipal Employees' Society has submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the Wage Board, Pretoria, which stresses that hundreds of Indians live outside the barracks for want of better housing conditions; that the housing in the barracks is insufficient, and that it is unfair to expect the employees to consume the same type of rations as they have been given for nearly three-quarters of a century. It also contends that an adequate wage of £7 a month should be paid to unskilled Indian labourers to enable them to live on the accepted modern standard of living, and that instead of issuing rations, the value of rations, based on the nutritious value of the food, should be given to the wage earners in cash. The memorandum says that the earning capacity of the average unskilled labourer is 1s. 8½d. a day in addition to quarters and rations. Men working in the district stables work for 17 hours a day. In other departments they average over 10 hours a day. Illustrating the impossibility of the unskilled labourers living healthy lives and being able to send their children to school the memorandum instances the case of one employee in the Treasurer's Department earning £3 5s. a month with a wife and 7 children to support. Food purchased—in addition to his rations received—totalled £4 15s. 1d. with the result that he has a standing debt of £5 with shopkeepers. This man, says the memorandum, borrows continually to meet the extra expenditure and sends only one boy to school. The others he cannot send. The monthly rations issued to labourers is:—40lbs rice; 40lbs. mealie meal; 1 bottle of oil, 1 lb of salt; 2 lbs dhol and 200 lbs of wood."

"Playing With Fire"

Writing in *The Forum* dated February 14, Mr. Jan H. Hofmeyr, M.P. describes the notice of motion given by Mr. Friend, M.P., that he will ask for leave to introduce a Bill empowering local authorities to demarkate residential and trading areas for Europeans only, as a matter of playing with fire. "If there is one thing on which the Indian community in South Africa is sensitive," writes Mr. Hofmeyr, it is that of "the stigma of segregation. Let

it not be forgotten that it was in South Africa that Mahatma Gandhi first developed and applied the cult of Satyagraha, and that the spirit which he inspired in those troublous years in the Indians of South Africa is not yet dead. Dr. Malan's Class Areas Bill of 1925, aroused intense feeling among them. As a consequence the Indian Government intervened and the first Round Table Conference met in 1926. That in turn led to the dropping of the Bill and the adoption by our Government of the policy of "uplift" as set forth in the agreement. A further Round Table Conference in 1932 confirmed the agreement. It is still in force. Some time ago our Government appointed—the Munnery Commission—to investigate the question of alleged evasions by Indians of the law restricting Asiatic ownership and occupations. It specifically, and in terms, refused to extend the reference of the Commission so as to include the question of segregation. The obvious inference was that it regarded that matter in the light of the Round Table Agreement as a *chose jugée*—not even to be discussed. It is not difficult to foresee some of the reactions to segregation legislation at this stage, from the Indian community in South Africa, and from the Government of India."

Government Of India Pleads

Ignorance

A Reuter's message from New Delhi dated February 20, states:—In the Legislative Assembly, the president ruled out a motion for an adjournment moved by Sir Raza Ali, to discuss the "Proposal before the Government of the Union of South Africa, to introduce legislation for the purpose of further restricting the rights of Indians to acquire or occupy immovable property." Sir Girja Shanker Bajpai on behalf of the Government, said they had no information of such a proposal. Sir Raza Ali said he intends raising the question again very shortly.

It seems more than strange that while the minds of Indians in South Africa are so much perturbed over Mr. Friend's segregation measure and the servitude scheme proposed by the Minister of the Interior providing that an

area should be set aside for European occupation only if 75 per cent. of the residents in that area vote in favour of the servitude, and over the Feetham Commission's recommendations, and while the Agent-General for the Government of India in this country, the latter when questioned should plead such

ignorance. If this is how the Government of India is concerned about implementing the Capetown Agreement which has long since been practically reduced to a scrap of paper, Indians in South Africa can expect very little support in their struggle from that source.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1939

The Coming Crisis

AT last there seems to be an awakening in the Indian community and a realisation of the danger that is facing them of being given the status in this country once and for all that of the untouchables of South Africa. The present trend of the legislators is towards that direction as would appear from the class areas bill proposed to be introduced by one of the chief whips of the Government Party Mr. Friend, asking for the segregation of all non-Europeans throughout the Union, from Mr. Schoeman's scheme for rejecting the Feetham Commission's recommendations and granting the Indians in the Transvaal partial security of tenure in townships (the term ghetto would be more appropriate) set out for them, and from the local option servitude scheme proposed to be introduced by the Minister of the Interior, providing that an area should be for European occupation only if 75 per cent of the residents in that area vote in favour of the servitude. Moreover there is a strong agitation in the Cape, Transvaal and Natal for the complete segregation of all the non-Europeans and for the removal of the so-called "black belts" in and around towns in Johannesburg and to place non-Europeans in townships specially established for them far from the approach of Europeans. The fate of the Feetham Commission's recommendations in the meantime is hanging in the balance. There is a likelihood of the recommendations not being adopted and a further lease of life being given to Indians affected under the Transvaal

Asiatic Land Tenure Act. It is feared by Indians in the Transvaal that this would only give the property owners a still further opportunity of fleecing their present tenants who are at their mercy. They strongly feel that the Congress is pledged to condemn the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and it cannot with any consistency have anything to do with the recommendations of the Feetham Commission which was appointed under that Act, and that in any case they are not going to do anything more than to condone the action of a few who have acquired properties by evading the law and completely bolting the door against Indians in future acquiring ownership of land.

Last Sunday the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association held a mass meeting of Indians in Durban to protest against the proposed measure for segregating Indians as being a breach of the Capetown Agreement. Pledges were made by various speakers to fight to the bitter end against this attack on the self-respect and national honour of Indians. We are pleased to note also that the Congress leaders in Capetown have refused to enter into any dishonourable compromise with the Government and have totally rejected the proposed local option servitude scheme, mentioned above, which was proposed by the Minister of the Interior. In a memorandum submitted by the Congress it was urged that the arguments used against the Areas Reservation Bill of 1926 were equally applicable to the scheme

now under consideration. "Under the present scheme," it was argued, "action is not to be initiated by any regulative body or local authorities, but the application of its provisions would have the same results and would definitely lead to segregation. Indians, especially in the rural towns where they form a relatively small minority compared to the European residents, would be at the mercy of their European competitors in trade and of Europeans whose outlook is strongly influenced by colour prejudice. The 75 per cent. vote for the introduction of the servitude clause against coloured occupation would easily be forthcoming and this would entail the economic ruin and national degradation of the Indian community.

We are glad to note that the Congress has at last decided to hold mass meetings to educate public opinion on the coming crisis.

We must at this stage once again lay emphasis on the need for complete unity in our ranks and to speak from one platform and with one voice and to show a united front to our common enemy. This is not impossible of achievement if the leaders that count on both sides were to show a little bigness of mind and considered the cause to be more important than the mere name, and shed all ideas of false prestige and egotism. Unless we are united in the true sense of the term and stop working as rivals trying to outdo one another we shall not have the sympathy of India nor of the intelligent and liberal minded Europeans in this country who are inclined to be sympathetic towards us and we shall fail in our cause. The time has come for serious thinking and a stern determination to be prepared to sacrifice our all for the sake of a just and righteous cause. May Heaven be our guide and may better counsels prevail upon the ruling race of South Africa.

PROTEST MEETING AGAINST SEGREGATION

A MASS meeting of Indians, called under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, was held on Sunday, February 19, at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Durban, to protest against segregation. The hall was fully packed many having had to stand outside. Mr. A. Christopher, the president, and various other speakers pledged themselves to fight to the bitter end the humiliation proposed to be imposed on Indians in this country.

President's Speech

The president, in his speech said, "that in the days of the South African Party in power, Indians throughout South Africa were stirred to their innermost depths by the Class Area Bill which sought to deal with the question of segregation as applicable to Indians throughout the Union. Fortunately for us, the South African Party sustained defeat in the House on one of its measures, with the result that Parliament dissolved and the Class Areas Bill was not reached.

Again in the days when the Nationalist Party was in power, another Class Areas Bill styled the Areas Reservation and Immigration Restriction Bill, was brought forward, but was shelved, as a Round Table Conference between the representatives of the Union and Indian Governments met, and the Capetown Agreement was arrived at. That Agreement provided among other things for the reduction of the Indian population in South Africa by a so-called improved scheme of repatriation. This scheme provided that the repatriate could not return within the first year, but might return within the second or the third year of his departure. This, of course, made it impossible for the repatriate to return as, during his first year, he had spent his bonuses and any other savings that he might have taken with him, and he was therefore without any money to return during the second or third year allowed him.

Time has, however, shown that the segregation question was a live question and the Transvaalers became so active later that the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill was introduced in Parliament to deal further with the question of segregation in the Transvaal, as there was already a burgher law there which had in some aspects dealt with this question in the early days of the republic.

Once again an appeal was made to India and India was told that unless the Indian Government came to the rescue, the Indian Agency must be removed from South Africa.

The second Round Table Conference followed. Indians welcomed it in the hope that the Transvaal Land Tenure Bill would form the principal subject of that Conference. That was not to be, as the Union Government would not discuss the Bill with the Indian Delegation.

The second Conference, however, proceeded to discuss the Agreement with regard to repatriation, which it was stated had to come up to the expectation of the Union Government. The Indian Government then put forward the idea of colonization for the surplus population of India, and incidently for South African Indians. This was agreed by the Conference. The after developments of this colonization idea, and our agitation against it, are all matters of recent knowledge to you that I do not propose to deal with this question in any detail.

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill became law, and the Feetham Commission was appointed in terms of it. Indians at a Conference in the Transvaal resolved to oppose the law, but at the conclusion of the conference the chairman declared that no opposition would take place until the Feetham Commission had sat and given its findings.

The Transvaal Indians, as a commercial organisation, gave evidence before the Feetham Commission and the political organisation there, which had at first opposed the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, has since fallen in with the recommendations of the Commission. Now there appears to be some doubt, owing to the opposition of Transvaal members of Parliament, whether the recommendations of the Commission would be approved by Parliament.

In the Cape there is a growing agitation on the part of the Europeans to segregate non-Europeans including Indians, and in Natal this question is raised in different forms at different times.

Signs have not been wanting that the question of segregation of Indians and other non-Europeans is considered by many Europeans as a major question in South Africa.

Indians and other non-Europeans are alarmed as to what the future holds for them as members of Parliament and other Europeans are freely expressing their views on the question of segregation, and in the light of what is happening to other races in Europe who do not belong to the country in which they live, the position of Indians in South Africa is becoming precarious.

This also, notwithstanding the fact that the Indian Government has an Agency in South Africa. The Agency, as you know, was established to help and carry out the terms of the Capetown Agreement, but events have proved that the Agency has not been able to stay the passing of legislative and administrative restrictions against Indians, and the position of the Indian community within itself has become more difficult owing to the partnership of the Agency in that the Agency will only listen to one political organisation to the exclusion of others, and upon its insistence that non-political organisations, no matter what their objects may be, should come through the political organisation he favours in any approach to it. The Agency has also adopted other bureaucratic methods in this country.

Indians are Union Nationals and the interference of the Agency in their movements and in the growth of their organisations in this country, is a retrograde action and has further driven Indians apart from each other. In no other country would it be possible for a representative of another Government to interfere with the domestic matters of the nationals of that country.

In the days of Mahatma Gandhi Indians suffered in many ways to retain their rights in this country but since the coming of the Agency Indians have developed inclinations to lean on the Agency and not to rely upon the justice of their cause and their manhood and womanhood to suffer when necessary for their existence as human-beings in this country.

The way that Mahatma Gandhi learnt and practised in South Africa is still open to those who were his immediate followers in those days and to all those who are born and settled permanently in South Africa.

The question that must be uppermost in the minds of all those who live not for themselves only but also for others, and of those who have any sense as to what they owe to themselves as human-beings, and the descendants of the pioneers from India, and as Union Nationals, must, in the days when the clouds are thickening, be to come together to prove that they are worthy of being considered as citizens of South Africa where most of them have been born, and if need be, to suffer to the uttermost for the maintenance of the principles that are so dear to us."

Among the speakers were Messrs. P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh, P. B. Singh, K. Soobramoney, S. Patchay, B. R. Naidoo, Mrs. A. Christopher and others.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. "This meeting of South African-born and Settler Indians held under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, hereby records its emphatic protest against the move that is now being fostered by the Europeans of South Africa to segregate the non-European peoples.

"This mass meeting feels very strongly that segregation of the non-European races in South Africa would be the means of creating ghettos which history has proved indisputably that their introduction has reacted to the detriment of the rulers and that in itself segregation is indefensible.

"That this mass meeting records that any attempt at segregation will be opposed most resolutely by South African-born and Settler Indians in common with the non-European races of South Africa."

2. "This mass meeting of South African-born and Settler Indians held under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association hereby appeals to the Union Government that as the majority of Indians are born in South Africa and domiciled here, it be pleased to consider and treat them as Union Nationals in the fullest sense of the term."

3. "That this mass meeting of the Indian community held under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association appeals to the Indian National Congress to appoint a committee of representative Indian Nationals with a view to enquiring into the conditions of Indian existence in South Africa.

Protest Meeting At Maritzburg

A mass meeting of Indians under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg branch) was held on Wednesday night at the Hindu Young Men's Association Hall to protest against the proposed measures for segregating non-Europeans. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

"This mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch) emphatically protests against the proposed segregation measures purporting to segregate non-Europeans—a measure that involves an unparalleled problem in the history of the non-European races of South Africa and records that all efforts shall be brought to bear up upon to combat this pernicious movement."

COLOUR PREJUDICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

THERE is an old saying about appealing from Philip drunk to Philip sober. In South African politics we are in danger of reversing the process. All too many of our politicians are having recourse to an appeal from Philip sober to Philip drunk. The appeal to colour prejudice is to-day one of the most frequently-used of all political weapons. That prejudice is seemingly regarded as a most essential factor in the attitude of mind of the great mass of our people. In consequence its stimulation has come to be a primary political objective. The kind of mentality which prevails in political life is seen to be that of a man who says, "There is a fellow who has not got a white skin. Let us heave half a brick at him."

Yet I believe that, while a sense of colour distinctiveness is deeply embedded in the South African people, colour prejudice in the sense of hostility to non-Europeans is not. To a large extent it is the creation of the politicians themselves. There is a very real danger that, in fact, they are creating a Frankenstein with which it will become increasingly difficult to deal.

There is a feeling outside South Africa that the European in South Africa is deliberately unfair to his non-European fellow-citizens. He is not. I believe that there is a fundamental desire in the minds of the people of South Africa to act justly towards the non-Europeans. I believe that, in general, our records in our dealings with the Native peoples of our land is a good one. The fact of the continued survival in increasing numbers of the black man in South Africa, in contrast with what has happened in other countries where men

of different colours have met, shows that there has been an essential humanity in the attitude of white man towards black in South Africa. Even those who have most strenuously rejected the concept of equality between white man and black, even those who speak of their Native servants as "skepsels," do none the less in their hearts recognise their participation in a common humanity. One of the underlying features of Voortrekker Native policy was the acceptance of the servants as part of the family in the wider Roman sense of that term. That kindly paternalism is very far from being dead.

But alongside of the general desire to act justly there is the power of fear. Fear-complex is an ugly word. Its use often provokes resentment. But whether we are prepared to admit it or not, there is a fear-complex in South Africa with reference to the non-European peoples in our midst, more especially the Natives. The great mass of Europeans in South Africa do, in their hearts, view the Native as a menace. They regard his interests as being in essential conflict with their own. They are afraid of his progress and development, and of what it may portend. Those feelings are natural feelings. If a small man, who is not too sure of his swimming capacity comes upon a big burly fellow strug-

gling to save himself from drowning, he may well be hesitant about plunging in to save him. And that is why the fundamental desire to do justice fights so hard a battle in South Africa against the power of fear.

Now it is this fear-complex the political potentialities of which our politicians have discovered. It is by the stimulation of fear that they create prejudice which can then be manipulated so as to produce votes. That process has been going on merrily in our political life for some time now. And the immediate and most serious result is that an unhealthy colour prejudice is growing and becoming increasingly difficult to control.

This tendency is a thoroughly evil one. It encourages our people to show their worse, rather than their better, natures. It makes South Africa suspect in the eyes of the world outside. Moreover, it poisons the whole sphere of our race relations with possibly disastrous results for the future. A physically weaker man has an advantage over a physically stronger man making him his superior, but the advantage is one which he may not be able to maintain.

In Parliament of late this process of exploiting colour prejudice has again been at work. An innocuous Bill of the Minister of Labour deals with the registration of electrical wiremen and contractors. A Nationalist amendment has been moved which would have the effect of restricting the trade of wireman to Union nationals who are Europeans, and it is sought to justify it as a means of saving white civilisation in South Africa. On that ground the few Coloured men who to-day qualify

By

IAN. H. HOFMEYER, M.P.

In "The Forum"

as wiremen would have to be excluded; presumably also the Native would never be permitted to follow this or other trades for the benefit of his own people, although one would think that this is what segregation means. Very rightly and properly Mr. Lawrence, the Minister of Labour, rounded upon those who seek to save European civilisation by methods such as these.

But, unfortunately, the normal methods of countering propaganda of this kind are less forthright. Usually it is held to be dangerous to repel the exploitation of colour prejudice directly. You might, if you did so, be stamped as a Liberal or a "kafferboetie." And so one or other of two methods is usually followed. Either you attempt to show that your opponents are inconsistent, and hold up to ridicule statements which they made once upon a time, which were friendly to non-Europeans. Or you seek to outbid them or to anticipate them by introducing measures yourself, which you think will satisfy the colour prejudice which they are exploiting, but which, in fact, only stimulates it.

I cannot help feeling that these tactics are not only dangerous—they are also derogatory to the European people of South Africa. They are derogatory because they suggest that our people are harsh and illiberal and repressive, when in their hearts they really are not. Despite all the exploitation of prejudice which has taken place, I believe that our people are still reasonable, are still prepared to listen to a balanced statement of the so-called "Liberal" point of view, would still be ready, if appealed to in the right way, to reject decisively proposals based on colour prejudice. I believe that the right way to fight the exploitation of colour prejudice is to do so openly and directly, as Mr. Lawrence did the other day, not to make concessions to your adversaries.

And those tactics are dangerous tactics. Two years ago a Government supporter introduced in the House of Assembly a Bill to make mixed marriages illegal, because it was feared that if it was not done from the Government side, it would be done from the Opposition side. The result was that eventually the Government itself was gravely embarrassed. It very nearly found itself compelled to give its blessing to alternative legislation of a repressive character, which it would never have thought of introducing on its own account, and of which it cannot have approved.

This Session the same process is at work. Mr. Friend, a Government Whip, has introduced a Class Areas Bill, apparently because if he did not do so, a Nationalist might get in first with

legislation of this type. The Nationalists have declared for Asiatic segregation. Rural supporters of the Government are gravely embarrassed. They are afraid of facing their voters, the very voters who buy at Asiatic stores, if they oppose segregation. And so Mr. Stuttaford, the Minister of the Interior, who recently indicated approval of the suggestion that segregation of the Class Areas type might be introduced on the basis of a 75 per cent. supporting vote in any particular area, is being pressed to bring forward such legislation on behalf of the Government as the price of getting approval for his Feetham Commission resolutions. If that is done, presumably Mr. Friend's Bill will have served its purpose, and no more will be heard of it. But it will be an unpleasant commentary on the nature of our political life if such legislation is to be sponsored by a Minister who has been reared in the old Cape Liberal tradition.

Comment By 'The Forum'

The Forum dated February 18 writes as follows editorially on the colour prejudice in South Africa:—

The present colour "drive" inside and outside Parliament is marked by degrees of opportunism and cynicism, rarely before equalled in the political history of the Union. To state the case bluntly, there has arisen in South Africa a group of politicians to whom no canon of political decency seems sacred; who deliberately promote racial strife, exploit every conceivable prejudice, fan every hatred, and play upon every ignorant bias in order to gain political advantage. Such tactics, unhappily, have an infectious quality, and what heightens the tragedy is the fact that a process of out-bidding for repression is taking place among politicians who would not ordinarily resort to such tactics.

A sample of this process was provided in the House of Assembly the other day when the Nationalist Opposition attempted to secure an amendment to a Bill sponsored by the Minister of Labour for the registration of electrical wiremen and contractors. The amendment sought to restrict the trade of "wiremen" to Europeans who were Union Nationals, and in the ensuing debate every opportunity was taken to make colour propaganda. Mr. Harry Lawrence, the Minister in charge of the Bill, met the challenge in a forthright manner which will enhance his reputation as a champion of the underdog, but grumbles were afterwards heard among Government supporters who feared that the Minister's stand might make things "difficult" for them in their constituencies.

Another example of the exploitation of racial prejudice is the present "drive" against Asiatics. The Nationalists have declared Asiatic segregation to be an

article of their political creed, and with the apparent intention of stealing their thunder, one of the Government Whips has given notice of a Class Areas Bill. Moreover, some of the rural supporters of the Government, anxious to outbid the segregationists in the Opposition, are pressing the Minister of the Interior to sponsor a modified form of Class Areas legislation as the price for approval of the Feetham Commission recommendations.

These moves have their counterpart outside Parliament in a petition which the Nationalists are actively circulating and which demands the introduction of legislation for the prohibition of mixed marriages and for the enforcement of residential and economic segregation. It is a blatantly political petition, timed for circulation and presentation on the eve of an important by-election which is expected to be influenced by such a reckless appeal to racial prejudice. Here, again, the sponsors of the petition claim that many of the Government's supporters, who fear the loss of public favour unless they do so, have openly signed it.

Every intelligent South African knows that these regressive tactics are politically dangerous and morally wrong, and that in the long run they must impair the development of all sections of the people into a contented and prosperous community. Indeed, as the Executive Committee of the Council of the South African Institute of Race Relations pointed out during the week, the Nationalist colour petition has already begun to fan race-antagonism into flame. There is a very real danger of creating an "anti-European bloc"—an eventuality fraught with infinite danger.

The tragedy of South African public life to-day is that there are not more leaders who are really determined to lead instead of truckling to false sentiment. There are not enough Jan Hofmeyrs and Harry Lawrences, prepared to face their constituents and the country as a whole on what they believe to be just and honourable and not upon what they think may "appease" ignorant prejudices. "Yes, I know that such and such a measure may be wrong in principle and politically dishonest, but I have to consider my constituents." is an admission which slips all too glibly from the tongues of many of our public men.

During the present Session of Parliament a grave responsibility will rest upon the Government and Parliament for putting a check on tendencies of racial exploitation which have long existed in the public life of South Africa but which are now assuming uncontrollable dimensions. Temporising and "appeasement" can have none but the most disastrous results; sooner or later a stand has to be taken, and now is the obvious time to take it.

MAHATMA GANDHI ON THE STATES

"It is the duty of the Viceroy to ask the Resident in Rajkot to restore the pact and to ask the British Prime Minister of Jaipur to lift the ban on the Praja Mandal and its president, Mr. Jamnalal Bajaj," declares Mahatma Gandhi in a statement to the Press.

The statement says: "Appeals are being made to me not to precipitate matters in the States. These appeals are unnecessary. After three months of non-violent struggle by the people of Rajkot an honourable understanding was arrived at between the Thakore-in-Council and Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, representing the people, and the struggle was closed amid general rejoicings. But the noble work done by the Thakore and the people had been undone by the British Resident. Honour demanded that the people should fight unto death for the restoration of the covenant between the Thakore and his people.

"The struggle now is not between the Ruler and his people, but, in reality, it is between the Congress and the British Government, represented by the Resident, who is trying to break the spirit of innocent men and women who rightly resent the breach of faith.

Not Test Case

"It is a misrepresentation to suggest that Rajkot has been made a test case. There is no planned action with reference to the Kathiawad States. What is happening is that those who feel that they are ready for suffering come to Mr. Patel for advice and he guides them. Rajkot seemed ready and the fight commenced there.

"Jaipur's case is incredibly simple and different from that of Rajkot. If my information is correct the British Prime Minister there is determined to prevent even the movement for popularising the ideal for responsible government. Civil disobedience in Jaipur is being, therefore, offered not for responsible government but for the removal of bans on the Praja Mandal and its President Mr. Jamnalal Bajaj.

"In my opinion it is the duty of the Viceroy to ask the Resident in Rajkot to restore the pact and to ask the British Prime Minister of Jaipur to lift the bans. Such action by the Viceroy can in no sense be interpreted to mean unwarranted interference in the affairs of the States."

Government Of India's Statement

The following official statement was released on February 1:—

Attention has been drawn to Mahatma Gandhi's statement to the Press in regard to the recent events in Rajkot and Jaipur States. In the case of Rajkot, Mahatma Gandhi states that "an honourable understanding arrived at between the Thakore Sahib-in-Council and Mr.

Vallabhbhai Patel representing the people has been undone by the Resident" and he expresses the opinion that "it is the duty of the Viceroy to ask the Resident in Rajkot to restore the pact."

The facts are that the Thakore Sahib-in-Council reached an agreement with Mr. Patel that a committee should be appointed to investigate and make recommendations for constitutional reform. The terms of this agreement were published on December 26 in the State Gazette. The number of official and non-official members who were to serve on the committee were stated in the announcement. No further indication was given as to the committee's composition or the basis of its selection. It appears that simultaneously a private exchange of letters took place between the Thakore Sahib personally and Mr. Patel, to which no publicity was given. In this correspondence the Thakore Sahib wrote to Mr. Patel as follows: "It is agreed that the seven members of the committee mentioned in Clause Two of the State announcement of to-day's date are to be recommended by Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel and they are to be nominated by us."

Jaipur's Reply To Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi's statement regarding Rajkot and Jaipur has drawn the following reply from the Jaipur Durbar:

"The attention of the Jaipur Government has been drawn to the statement by Mahatma Gandhi regarding the ban on Mr. Jamnalal Bajaj and its refusal to register the Jaipur Praja Mandal. Mahatma Gandhi attempts to place the whole responsibility in this connection on the British Prime Minister. He apparently is not aware that the Jaipur Government is His Highness the Maharaja in Council, and not a single individual. Any allegation to the contrary is not according to facts.

"The Jaipur Government stated publicly their reasons for refusing to register the Jaipur Praja Mandal with its present aims and objects. This refusal does not make the Praja Mandal an unlawful association until its activities interfere or tend to interfere with the administration of law, or with the maintenance of law and order, or to incite or tend to incite communal feeling or constitute danger to the public peace, though any member of the Mandal who insists on furthering its objects after the refusal of its registration can be punished.

Mahatma Gandhi has issued the following statement to the Press in reply to the Government of India communique:

"The communique issued by the Government of India and the Jaipur Government on my statements on Rajkot

and Jaipur are remarkable for sins of omission and commission and suppression.

"It was no part of the Sardar's duty to publish the Thakore Saheb's letter about the composition of the Committee. It was for the Thakore Saheb's convenience that a condition as to the composition of the Committee was embodied in a separate letter. This is a well-known procedure adopted in delicate negotiations. Surely, the Thakore Saheb's understanding of his note, which admits of no double interpretation, is wholly irrelevant.

"I aver that this understanding is an afterthought discovered to placate the Resident, who was angered that the Thakore Saheb should have dared to deal with a Congressman and give him a note of which he had no advice. Those who know anything of these Residents and States know in what dread the Princes stand of even their secretaries and peons. I write from personal knowledge.

"There is sufficient in the appendice to the Sardar's statement on the recrudescence of the struggle to show how the whole trouble is due to the Resident's displeasure. It is wrong to suggest that the Sardar did not give reasons for his refusal to alter the names of the Committee. A translation of his letter is one of the appendices.

"When the Thakore Saheb agreed to nominate those whom the Sardar recommended, Mussalmans and Bhayats were before his mind's eye. But it was common cause that all rights would be guaranteed under the Reforms. The proper procedure would have been to lead evidence before the Committee. I suggest that as happens everywhere in India, the Mussalman and Bhyat objection to the personnel of the Committee was engineered after the event.

"What I ask is that the Resident should restore the pact and help to honour it. If it is a matter purely of names to placate interests, I undertake to persuade the Sardar to make the accommodation provided that its other parts are carried out to the full.

"But the communique omits the most relevant fact that the terms of reference too have been altered out of shape. These were agreed to by the Thakore Saheb in Council of which the British Diwan was a member. I have never known such a dishonourable breach of pact signed on behalf of a Chief. I do suggest that the Resident who should be the custodian of the honour of Chiefs within his jurisdiction, has in this case dragged the Thakore Saheb's name in dust.

After repeating the charge of organised goondaism, Mahatma Gandhi pro-

ceeds:—"Let me state the issue clearly. I seek no interference in the affairs of the State. I seek non-interference by the Resident in Rajkot. The Resident is directly responsible for the strained relations between the State and the people. It is the duty of the Paramount Power to see that the solemn pact is fulfilled to the letter and in spirit. If the objection about Muslim and Bhayat representation has any honesty about it, it can be removed. I once more appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy to study

the question more deeply than he has done. Let not a grave tragedy be enacted while whitewashing communique are being forged in the Delhi Secretariat.

"This is not a war of words. It is a war in which the people who have hitherto never been to jail nor suffered lathi blows are exposing themselves to all risks.

"As for Jaipur, I have only one word. I do know that the British Prime Minister is one member of the Jaipur State

Council. My submission is that he is all in all. He has vowed vengeance against the Praja Mandal and Seth Jammalalji. And in spite of the forest of words about action in respect of the Praja Mandal, I claim that virtually it is declared illegal. If not, let the authorities leave Seth Jammalalji free to enter Jaipur and let him and his Mandal educate unmolested the people in the art of responsible Government. Let them be punished if they inculcate violence directly or indirectly."

Things In General

Nationalist Attack On Liberalism

LIBERALISM in South African politics was attacked by Mr. J. G. Strydom, M.P., at an open-air meeting of railwaymen in the railway goods yard, Pretoria, recently. About 100 men attended the meeting which was part of the election campaign of Mr. D. J. G. van den Heever, Nationalist Party candidate for the Pretoria City by-election to be held on March 7. Mr. Strydom said it was scandalous that in one of the richest countries in the world there should be between 300,000 and 400,000 poor whites, the majority of whom were Afrikaners. "As a result of the Government's labour policy," he said, "we find thousands of natives allowed to take the bread out of the white man's mouth. The Government's policy is leading to the creation of a coloured nation." The Nationalist Party, he added, was in favour of higher wages, a strict colour bar in labour and the prohibition of mixed marriages. The United Party's opposite policy was due to its liberal elements represented by Mr. Stuttaford and Mr. Hofmeyr, and to its reliance on the Cape coloured vote.

Indian Marriages May Be Valid

The Government is contemplating legislation legalising all Indian marriages registered in terms of the Indian Immigration Law of 1891. Heads of the Department of the Interior gave this information to a deputation from the Natal Indian Congress. The deputation pointed out to the Department that an anomalous position had arisen regarding the registration of marriages between descendants of immigrants and passenger Indians, commonly-called "Colonial born Indians," on account of a judgment in the Natal Division of the Supreme Court making these marriages invalid. The deputation asked what the Government intended doing to remedy the anomaly and the Department made the above reply.

Indian's Licence Appeal Lost

An appeal against the decision of the Maritzburg Licensing Officer in respect

of an application for a licence made by an Indian, Mr. D. J. Padayachee, to carry on business at 294, Longmarket Street, was dismissed by the Maritzburg City Council at a special meeting on Tuesday last. A licence for a tearoom, fresh produce dealer and mineral water dealer had been applied for, but this was refused by the Licensing Officer in a decision published on December 1. This finding

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was upheld on Tuesday by the Council, with only one dissentient. Mr. O. M. Brokensha appeared for Mr. Padayachee and Mr. W. B. Hathorn for the respondents in the action. Mr. Brokensha based his plea on the urgent breakfast and luncheon requirements of the large number of respectable Indians frequenting the market, the law courts and the centre of town generally. This community, according to him, had no facilities in the central area at all.

Indian Eisteddfod To Be Held

In March

The third annual Indian Eisteddfod, organised by the Indian Society for the Advancement of Music and Art, Durban, is to be opened on March 18. Preparations are well in hand and it is anticipated entries will this year top the 2,000

mark. Entries have already been received from as far away as Rhodesia. The society is making a new departure this year, in arranging special sessions in Maritzburg during the week-end commencing Friday, April 14. A special committee has been formed in Maritzburg and this body will work in conjunction with the Durban Council. It is proposed to have an official opening ceremony at Maritzburg on the evening of April 14. At the special choir festival to be held towards the end of April, it is hoped to arrange a massed choir item. The general syllabus is now on sale and can be obtained from Singh's Cafe, Grey Street, Durban. Entries close on March 4.

Export Of Gold Bullion

Gold bullion amounting to 37,342 fine ounces, valued at £277,031, was exported to the United Kingdom during the week ended Saturday, February 18. This included gold in transit overseas via the Union and is calculated at the price ruling at the date of export.

Vedic Wedding In Durban

Over two thousand people from all parts of the province attended the wedding on Sunday last at the residence of Mr. S. Prowlali, Mayville, Durban, of Mr. Haripershadh, second son of Mr. and Mrs. P. Jugoo, of Bellair, Durban, and the only sister of Messrs. P. Seebran Bros., of Mayville. The marriage was performed in accordance with vedic rites by Pandit Awadbharee of Durban. The marriage dais was beautifully decorated by Messrs. Jayshunker Kalideen, S. Bussanth and George Seebran. The bride and bridegroom were recipients of numerous valuable and useful gifts. At the reception after the ceremony a large number of guests were received by Mr. Tommy Rughoo and others, and arrangements to cater for so many were carried out without a hitch, due to the excellent services rendered by the friends of the family.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S ELECTION

MAHATMA GANDHI, in a statement on the election of Mr. Subhas Bose as Congress President, says:—

"Mr. Subhas Bose has achieved a decisive victory over his opponent, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. I must confess that from the very beginning I was decidedly against his re-election for reasons into which I need not go. I do not subscribe to his facts or the arguments in his manifestoes. I think that his references to his colleagues were unjustified and unworthy. Nevertheless, I am glad of his victory.

Since I was instrumental in inducing Dr. Pattabhi not to withdraw his name as a candidate when Maulana Saheb had retired, the defeat is more mine than his. I am nothing if I do not represent definite principles and policy. Therefore, it is plain to me that the delegates do not approve of the principles and policy for which I stand.

"I rejoice in this defeat. It gives me an opportunity of putting into practice what I preached in my article on the walk-out of the minority at the last A. I. C. C. meeting in Delhi.

"Subhas Babu, instead of being President on the sufferance of those whom he calls rightists, is now President elected in a contested election. This

enables him to choose a homogeneous Cabinet and enforce his programme without let or hindrance.

"There is one thing common between majority and minority, namely insistence on the internal purity of the Congress organisation. My writings in the *Harijan* have shown that the Congress is fast becoming a corrupt organisation in the sense that its registers contain a very large number of bogus members. I have been suggesting for the past many months the overhauling of these registers. I have no doubt that many of the delegates who have been elected on the strength of these bogus voters would be unseated on scrutiny.

"But I suggest no such drastic step. It will be enough if the registers are purged of all bogus voters and are made fool-proof for the future.

"The minority has no cause for being disheartened. If they believe in the current programme of the Congress, they will find that it can be worked, whether they are in a minority or a majority and even whether they are in the Congress or outside it.

"The only thing that may possibly be affected by the changes is the parliamentary programme. The Ministers

have been chosen and the programme shaped by the erstwhile majority. But parliamentary work is but a minor item of the Congress programme. Congress Ministers have after all to live from day to day. It matters little to them whether they are recalled on an issue on which they are in agreement with the Congress policy or whether they resign because they are in disagreement with the Congress.

Minority's Duty

"After all Subhas Babu is not an enemy of his country. He has suffered for it. In his opinion, his is the most forward and boldest policy and programme. The minority can only wish it all success. If they cannot keep pace with it, they must come out of the Congress; if they can, they will add strength to the majority. The minority may not obstruct on any account. They must abstain, when they cannot cooperate. I must remind all Congressmen that those who, being Congress-minded, remain outside it by design, represent it most. Those, therefore, who feel uncomfortable in being in the Congress, may come out, not in a spirit of ill-will, but with the deliberate purpose of rendering more effective service."

Doings In India

Value Of Liberal Education

"THERE never was a greater need than there is in these days, in every land, for the influence of men and women who have been through the discipline of a liberal education, who have acquired the capacity for independent thought and decision, and disdained all the tricks of mass-hypnotism, whether applied to themselves or to others," observed the Rev. Dr. John Mackenzie, Principal, Wilson College, Bombay, at the annual College Day of the Scottish Church College. Continuing Dr. Mackenzie said that a truly educated man knew that men do not form a mass, that humanity consists of persons, and that he owes to his fellowmen to meet them on the plain of personality. "Our education has failed if it does not lift us to this plain," he added. "If independence of judgment be one of the fruits of a liberal education, another is the spirit of tolerance. We know that in these days toleration is being denied in various parts of the world to people whose offence is being what by birth they are." The speaker did not claim that educa-

tion by itself necessarily broke this spirit down. Clever men had discovered that education could be exploited so as to serve their infamous purpose. Truth could not, however, be permanently hidden and mass hearts could not for ever be steeled against justice. "There are few institutions the influence of which is so patent in the breaking down of intolerance as colleges and universities," remarked Dr. Mackenzie.

Mr. Satyamurti Condemns Provincialism

"Religion and the State" was the theme of a lecture delivered recently by Mr. S. Satyamurti, M.L.A. (Central), at the Muslim institute hall (Calcutta) which was packed to capacity. Khan Bahadur Azizul Huq, Speaker of the Bengal Assembly and Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, presided. Mr. Satyamurti said every religion preached tolerance and appealed to every religionist to credit the other with the same sincerity and honesty of purpose. All passions, bitterness and

prejudices were nothing against the everlasting bliss which each religion had taught them. He appealed to the audience to remember the well-known maxim "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's; render unto God that which is God's." In a modern secular democratic government, i.e. in the government of the people by the people and for the people there was no room for difference. They must first of all realise they were Indians first, second and last. In no country in the world were there such classifications as in India of Hindus or Muslims, or worse still, Bengalis, Madrasis and so on. He considered provincialism was the most insidious poison in their body-politic. It was even worse than communalism. They must all get rid of that poison if they wished to progress. He knew that it was difficult to achieve that end all at once, but he devoutly prayed to God to give them strength to make that attempt successful.

The Sporting World

Indians Vs. Europeans

THE Magnus Indian Cricket Club and the Europeans' Cricket Club, both of Eddels, Maritzburg, met recently at the Indian sports ground in their annual cricket match for Dr. R. M. Peters' trophy. The Indians opened badly in their first innings with three wickets down for 20 runs. After a stand by K. Mathu and Teddy Chetty they pulled up to 101. The Europeans in their first innings were all out for 102. As the match was decided on the first innings, the Europeans won by one run. Mr. R. P. Naidoo, secretary of the Magnus Sporting Club, welcomed the management and staff of Messrs. Eddels (S.A. Ltd.). Speeches were made by Messrs. H. A. Kendall, F. Rich and M. Maurer. Mr. Kendall presented the trophy to Mr. M. Maurer, captain of the European team.

Cricket Fixtures

The Durban and District Indian Cricket Union fixtures for Sunday for the Asmal's Cup are as follows:—Greyville vs. Kismet, Main; Sparks vs. Muslims, No. 1; Marigold vs. Verulam Temple, No. 2; Aryans vs. Stars, No. 3.

Central Football Club

The first annual general meeting of the Central Football Club was held on February 19. The following officials were elected:—Patrons: Messrs. Peroy Nadasen

and R. M. Mannie; President: Mr. J. P. Naidoo; vice-Presidents: Messrs. Perusamy Moodley, K. Maga Pillay, R. K. Chetty, P. B. A. Reddy, P. Morgan, Bob Naidoo, R. M. Naidoo, Ismail M. Bux, Thangval Chetty, K. Y. Pillay, Johnson Pillay, Archie Nair, Arthur Naidoo, Ram Naidoo, V. Reddy, M. C. Naidoo and P. Doorasamy; hon. secretary: Mr. G. K. Pillay; hon. treasurer: Mr. M. Namraj; delegate to D.D.I.F.A.: Mr. K. Yoga Pillay; captain: Mr. Govindsamy Govender (Aunday); vice-captain: Mr. Perusamy Naidoo; manager: Mr. Johnson Pillay; trainer: Mr. P. B. A. Reddy.

Rosebank Sporting Club

The tenth annual general meeting of the above club was held on February 12. The following officials were elected: Patrons: Messrs. Baboo Paruk, A. D. Pillay, T. Raghubar; Hon. Life vice-President: Mr. A. Poonsamy Pillay; President: Mr. A. D. Pillay; vice-Presidents: Messrs. K. Bauchoo, Dave Naidoo, G. S. Maharaj, N. G. Naidoo, T. R. Durga, C. Raghubar, M. R. Varma, C. Dorey and Delah; secretary and treasurer: Mr. Sunassie Naidoo; assistant secretary: Mr. T. R. Durga; hon. auditor: Mr. M. R. Varma; manager: Mr. M. K. Lallie; assistant manager: Mr. Dave Naidoo; committee: Messrs. K. Bauchoo, A. O. James, A. E. Bux, G. S. Maharaj and M. K. Lallie; trainers: Messrs. A. O. James, P. Nadasen and N. Reddy; athletic captain: Mr. Daleh;

cycling captain: Mr. Jullo; soccer captain: Mr. Francis Govindsamy; soccer vice-captain: Mr. P. Nadasen; delegates Messrs. K. Bauchoo and Sunassie Naidoo

Social And Personal

Mrs. Manilal Gandhi accompanied by her two children, arrived in Durban last Wednesday by the *Takliwa* from India. Mrs. Gandhi, who was welcomed at the wharveside by her husband and many friends, had a happy voyage and wishes to express her gratitude to friends in Mombasa, Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam and Lourenco Marques for their kind hospitality.

Mr. G. K. Naidoo of Pietermaritzburg has been appointed Indian Interpreter Clerk at the Newcastle Magistrate's Court. Mr. Naidoo, who is a well-known sportsman of Maritzburg, left during last week with his wife for Newcastle.

Mr. Jimmy Gandhi, South African Indian musician, sailed by the *Isipingo* recently for India. He expects to return to the Union in four months' time.

Everything appearing in this issue of a political nature has been written and edited by Manilal M. Gandhi to express the views of INDIAN OPINION.

Natal Indian Congress

Proposed Government's Segregation Scheme

A meeting of the Indian community will be held at the Royal Picture Palace, Victoria Street, Durban, on Sunday, February 26, at 2.30 p.m. Our delegates, who have interviewed the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, will speak on the pernicious effect of this scheme. All are requested to attend.

SWAMI BHAWANI DAYAL, President.
A. I. KAJEE, J. W. GODFREY,
Joint Hon. Secretaries.

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સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૭ મું.

ફ્રીડેડે, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૪ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯

અંક ૮.

“ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૨૪ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૩૯.

ઘેરાતું વાદળ

એવટે હિંદી કોમમાં જાગૃતિ આવેલી જણાય છે અને આ દેશમાં આપણે માટે છેવટને માટે અસ્પૃશ્યોનો દરબજો નક્કી થઈ જવાના આપણી સમક્ષ આવી રહેલાં જોખમનું ભાન થયેલું જણાય છે. સરકાર પક્ષના એક મુખ્ય નેતા મી. ફ્રેન્ડ તરફથી શહેરોમાં ખીન-ગોરાઓને ઇલાચદા કરવાને એક કાયદો લાવવાની અપાયેલી નોટીસ, શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણોને રદ કરવાની અને ટ્રાંસવાલમાં હિંદીઓ માટે સ્થાપવામાં આવેલાં અમુક ટાઉનશીપો (જે ખરી રીતે ઢેડવાડાજ ગણાય) માં જમીન માલીકીને મર્યાદિત હક આપવાની મી. શુમનની યોજના અને ૭૫ ટકા યુરોપીયનો જે લક્ષ્યાંક એવો નિશ્ચય કરે કે જે લક્ષ્ય યુરોપીયનોને હસ્તકળ રહેવો જોઈએ તે લક્ષ્યાંકમાં હિંદીઓએ પ્રવેશ નહિ કરવો એવી મતલબનો કાયદો લાવવાની મુદ્દકી પ્રધાન મી. સ્ટેટફોર્ડની યોજના એ સઘળાંપરથી ધારા ઘડનારાઓની વલણ કથી દિશા તૈરફ વળી રહી છે એ જોઈ શકાય છે. વળી કેપ, ટ્રાંસવાલ અને નાટાલમાં સર્વત્ર ખીન-ગોરાઓને ઇલાચદા કરવાની અને શહેરો અને શહેરની આજુ-બાજુમાંથી “કાળા પટા” નાખી કરી ખીન-ગોરાઓની યુરોપીયનોની નજીકમાં તેઓથી કદી આવીજ નહી શકાય તેવી રીતે દુર સ્થપાયેલા વાડાઓમાં ગોંધવાની મજબુત ચળવળ ચાલી રહી છે. દરમીયાનમાં શ્રીધામ કમીશનની ભલામણો તું લવિષ્ય ત્રાજવામાં લટકી રહ્યું છે. સંભવ છે કે એ ભલામણો આ વખતે સ્વિકારાશે નહિ અને ટ્રાંસવાલ એશીયા-ટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્ચર એક્ટ જેઓને લાગુ પડતો હશે તે હિંદીઓને ફરી પાછી મુદત

તો ટ્રાંસવાલના હિંદીઓને ભય છે કે માત્ર મીલકતદારોને તેથી પોતાના ભોગ થઈ પડેલા ભાડુતોને વધુ ચુસવાની તક મળશે. તેઓ કહે છે કે કોંગ્રેસે ટ્રાંસવાલ એશીયા-ટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્ચર એક્ટનો વિરોધ કરવાની પ્રતિજ્ઞા કરેલી અને તેથી શ્રીધામ કમીશન કે એ કાયદાની રૂએ નીમાયેલું છે તેની ભલામણો સાથે તેને કરો પછુ સંબંધ નહિ રાખવો જોઈએ. અને જે રાખે તો પછુ તેથી જેઓએ કાયદાને ઉઠાવીને મીલકતો મેળવી છે તેઓને મારી બક્ષવા ઉપરાંત કશું થવાનું નથી અને લવિષ્યને માટે હિંદીઓને જમીન માલીકી મેળવવાને માટે દરવાજો કાયમને માટે બંધ કરી દેવાશે.

ગયા રવીવારે હિંદીઓને ઇલાચદા કરવાને માટેના મુચવાયેલા કાયદાનો તે કેપટાઉન એક્ટિમેન્ટનો ભંગ કરનારો હોવાના આધારે વિરોધ દર્શાવવા કોલોનીયલ ઓર્ડ એન્ડ સેટલર્સ ઇન્ડિઅન એસોસિએશનની એક બહેર મીટીંગ ડરબનમાં મળી હતી. ભાષણ કરનારાઓએ હિંદીઓના સ્વમાન અને રાષ્ટ્રિય ગૌરવ ઉપર પ્રહાર કરનારા એ પગલાંની સામે સર્વસ્વ હોમી દઈ લડત ઉઠાવવાની પ્રતિજ્ઞા કરી હતી.

અમને નાંધ લેતાં આનંદ થાય છે કે કેપટાઉન ગયેલા કોંગ્રેસના નેતાઓએ પણ સરકારની સાથે કંઈ પણ અપમાનભરેલું સમાધાન કરવાની સાફ ના પાડી દીધેલી છે અને મુદ્દકી પ્રધાને મુચવેલી ૭૫ ટકા વાળી યોજનાના અસ્વિકાર કર્યો છે. એક યાદીમાં કોંગ્રેસના પ્રધિનિધિઓએ જણાવ્યું છે કે જે દલીલ ૧૯૨૬ માં લાવવામાં આવેલાં એરીયાઝ રેઝરવેશન ખીલની વિરુદ્ધ માં થઈ હતી તેજ દલીલ હાલ મુચવાઈ રહેલી યોજનાને લાગુ પડે છે. એ યોજનાનું

પરિણામ ચોક્કસ હિંદીઓને સેગ્રેગેટ કરવાનું જ આવે. અને ખાસ કરી ગામડાઓમાં ન્યાં હિંદીઓની સંખ્યા યુરોપીયનો કરતાં ઓછી હોય છે ત્યાં તેઓને વર્ણવેશથી ભરેલા યુરોપીયન હરીફોની દયાપરજ નભવું પડે. તેવાં સ્થળોમાં ૭૫ ટકા મત પુરતમાંજ ખીન-ગોરાઓની વિરુદ્ધમાં થઈ જાય અને હિંદી કોમની આર્થિક પાયમાલી અને રાષ્ટ્રિય અપમાન થાય.

અમે બાહ્યીન ખુશી થઈએ છીએ કે કોંગ્રેસે પણ છેવટે ઘેરાતાં વાદળ પર લોકમતને ફળવવાને માસ મીટીંગો યોજાવવાનો વિચાર કરેલો છે.

આ ઘડીએ આપણામાં સંપૂર્ણ સંપ હોવાની આવશ્યકતા ઉપર ફરી એક વાર ખાસ ભાર મુકવાને અમે લલચાઈ એ છીએ. આવા પ્રસંગે કોમે એકજ પલેટફોર્મ પરથી અને એકજ સંયુક્ત અવાજ કરવાની અને આપણા સમાન શત્રુની સામે એકત્ર સામનો કરવાની જરૂર છે. બન્ને પક્ષના નેતાઓ જે જરા મોઢું મન રાખે અને માત્ર નામની ઉપર જીવન અને મરણનો પ્રશ્ન આવી પડેલો નહી માનતાં તેઓની સમક્ષ આવી પડેલા ગંભીર સવાલને વધારે અગત્યનો માને અને ખોટી પ્રતીઠા અને અહંવૃત્તિનો ખ્યાલ લ્યજ દે તો એ વસ્તુ સિદ્ધ થવી અશક્ય નથી. જે આપણામાં ખરા અર્થમાં એકત્ર નહી સ્થપાય અને એકબીજાની ઉપરવટ થવાની વૃત્તિથી હરીફો તરીકે કામ કરતા નહી અટકીએ તો હિંદુસ્તાનની દીલસોજી તેમજ આ દેશના આપણા યુરોપીયન હિતમીત્રોની પણ દીલસોજી આપણે ગુમાવી બેસીશું અને આપણા સવાલમાં આપણે નીચ્છળ નીવડીશું. હવે વખત આવેલો છે કે ન્યારે આપણે ગંભીરપણે વીચાર કરવો જોઈએ અમે એક ન્યાયી અને પવીત્ર સવાલને ખાતર આપણું સર્વસ્વ હોમી દેવાનો દ વીચાર કરવો જોઈએ. ઇશ્વર તેમાં વા-પણને સહાય થાય અને રાજકર્તાઓને સન્નતી આપે.