

INDIAN OPINION

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NEHRU'S MESSAGE TO WOMEN OF INDIA

"A NATION'S progress depends on the position of women there. In a subject country men and women both suffer the indignity of subjection to foreign rule and the numerous disabilities that flow from it. So the first and primary duty of every one is to do his or her utmost to free the country. Indeed it is in the performance of this duty that a person or a group gets rid also in some measure of other disabilities. We have seen during the past quarter of a century how the participation of women in the great national struggles in India has in effect raised their status. They will have the further task of getting rid of the many disabilities, legal, social and other, which attach to their sex, so that they may play an equal part with their menfolk in the building up of a free India."

—JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 1945

Things Are Just Happening

THE Natal Housing Ordinance which has been held up now becomes law in spite of the opposition of the Indian community.

General Smuts makes an explanation that no expropriation will take place without the approval of the Minister in charge of the matter and that there will be no uprooting of settled communities. He no doubt believes that protection would be afforded that way to the settled communities. Apart from the assurance being unenforceable by law if those who administer the Natal Housing Ordinance do not give effect to the assurance of General Smuts, even if at present there be any who would carry out General Smuts' assurance, there is no saying that others who follow would do likewise.

The experiences of the Indian community in the past have been very unhappy. The Durban Unalienated Lands Ordinance has never been administered to give a fair share of such lands to Indians. The settled Indian communities at Toll Gate in what was known as Orient Lane area, at Kirkwood Avenue area, at the Point area were uprooted. Attempts were made

and may again be made to uproot Indians at Riverside and at Merebank. Indians at Puntan's Hill will be expropriated if the City Council of Durban gets approval if Indians refuse to sell. Puntan's Hill is marked out for European housing. It is a very good area overlooking the Umgeni River and the Indian Ocean and also with inland views. The Durban City Council considers it is a desirable area for Europeans. Europeans live on a part of it and Indians live on a part of it.

Then the City Council of Durban has its dream of a Utopia for Indians at Duffs Road which it describes as a Satellite Indian Township. Indians will be purged out of Durban wherever they are considered to be black spots in it so that Durban may become an all White City. But we are still hoping against hope that ultimately justice will prevail. Time brings its own changes.

Our community in the meantime has to face what is being done to it. The Pegging Act it is being said will probably be repealed. The Natal Housing Ordinance appears to be a condition precedent to that happening. There was no need

for it for there was the Union Housing Emergency Act. Indians instead of being dealt with as Union Nationals are being reduced to the position of Provincial subjects. The delegation of powers even in general terms to the Natal Provincial Council is only another way of the Union Government saying to the Natal Provincial Council: The Indian population is within your borders; we the Union Government are not removing the Provincial barriers, for if we were to do that that would be the end of us; as you are clamouring to deal with them, you can have them to do so; but remember we still have a say about them.

There is a probability that the Union Government will not repeal the Pegging Act as affecting Natal and the Transvaal without passing another law as Senator Clarkson has indicated. It is difficult to guess what the nature of the new law in place of the Pegging Act would be. There is a possibility that a South African Indian Congress Conference may be held and if it in this way comes to life we wonder if the basis of the Pretoria Agreement which was said to be dead would be discussed again there. Even if it were, it will never be accepted by the community.

This does not however eliminate the possibility of the Union Government introducing legis-

lation for a Board of Europeans and Indians to settle questions of racial occupation. This might be done to overcome the clamour of Europeans to be consulted by providing such a Board to hear them as well as Indians. We cannot see how, even assuming the Board is a fearless Board which does not believe in public opinion to mean European opinion alone, would be able to survive the anti-Asiatic propaganda of politicians who represent or aspire to represent Europeans who are their voters or would be voters whenever an incident occurs in respect of Indians which affords them a subject for anti-Asiatic agitation. The Government itself must needs hear the voice of their voters and it cannot always ignore it.

Indians have not the franchise in Parliament, in the Provincial Councils, or in the Municipalities and other local authorities, and are therefore orphans in this land without a voice for themselves disowned by the High Commissioner for the Government of India in South Africa.

Everyday is bringing Parliament nearer to its assembling and the Union Government will be asking Parliament to do something about Indians. What has become of the need for a Round Table Conference between the Union and Indian Governments and what will become of the Gandhi Smuts Agreement and the Capetown Agreement.

What is the Indian community itself doing in the fast developing situation in which it is involved.

It can do no more than its leaders. If they who are in office really have the confidence of the community they by their wise leadership in a spirit of fearlessness sacrifice and suffering can lead their community in this hour of the trial of its strength. The new leaders claim they have the support of the community. And if so, they should now demonstrate that the community under their leadership is up and doing to maintain their position and their national honour.

NATAL INDIANS AND HOUSING

PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS

THE following statement has been issued by the Prime Minister says Sapa from Pretoria:—"Representations have been made to me, on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress, against the Natal Housing Ordinance which was passed by the Provincial Council of Natal in September last.

"In the course of their representations it was urged, *inter alia*, that certain of the powers of the Natal Housing Board, established by the Ordinance, could be used for the purposes of racial discrimination against the Indian community, and that the Officer Administering the Government should, therefore be advised to withhold his assent to the Ordinance.

"The powers of the Board which were objected to are the power to expropriate land, and the power to prescribe, in selling or letting land, conditions restricting the ownership or occupation of the land to persons of a designated class, and prohibiting ownership or occupation of the land by persons of any other class.

"After careful consideration of these representations I have decided not to advise the Officer Administering the Government to withhold his assent, and the Ordinance has accordingly been promulgated.

"I feel, however, that the representations made to me and the fears of the objectors, call for a public declaration of the Government's policy.

"In terms of the Ordinance, the Natal Housing Board cannot exercise such powers of expropriation as it may have, without the prior consent of the Minister of Welfare and Demobilisation (whose functions have now been transferred to the Minister of Health), and by a regulation promulgated under the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act, 1945, provision has now been made precluding the Board from prescribing any condition referred to above, without the approval of the Minister of Health.

"These safeguards of Ministerial consent and approval will be used to ensure that the powers in question are exercised in a reasonable, equitable and impartial manner, with due regard to the relative needs of the different sections of the people, and in accordance with the general principle that housing schemes for any section of the people should, as far as circumstances may allow, and with the least practicable disturbance of the

occupation of any other group or of any individual members thereof, link up with areas already occupied and inhabited by that section.

"It will be the aim of the Government, in applying these safeguards," concludes the statement, "to protect every section of the community against any ulterior or covert design of uprooting or excluding them from any land already occupied and inhabited by them."

Among the wide powers vested in the Natal Housing Board are those of expropriation, and authority to take control of housing schemes when local authorities are tardy in carrying out such schemes.

The Board will be able to cause surveys, plans, estimates and drawings to be made through its officers or agents, and construct dwellings and carry out schemes, including the construction of experimental dwellings.

Money can be raised by means of loans and the Board can exchange, let or sell properties built or bought on such conditions as it may deem proper.

When the Board, in the exercise of its powers, requires any land or right or servitude that cannot be obtained by agreement with the owner, it shall with the consent of the Minister of Health and Housing, and the approval of the Administrator, have power to expropriate subject to compensation.

According to the Prime Minister's statement, additional safeguards have now been added whereby the consent of the Minister of Public Health and Housing will have to be satisfied that the powers the Ordinance gives "are exercised in a reasonable, equitable and impartial manner."

If the Administrator has reason to believe that there is an area within the jurisdiction of a local authority where there is an acute shortage of dwellings available for the poorest section of any race or races, he may refer the matter to the Board for inquiry.

If the Administrator approves such a scheme he will notify the local authority and call on them to carry out the proposals.

In the event of a local authority within six months, or any extension approved by the Administrator, having failed to comply with the notice to start work on the scheme, the Administrator may request the Board to carry out the scheme, and on its completion authorise the Board to recover the expendi-

ture from the local authority.

Alternatively, the Administrator may require the Board to administer the scheme and to sell or let the dwellings constructed on it in accordance with the authority conferred on it by the Ordinance.

Union's Asiatic Problem

According to the political correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, further legislation to meet the Asiatic problem in South Africa is almost inevitable and can be expected at the forthcoming session of Parliament. There is no clear indication at present as to what precise lines the Bill will take, but to meet the two sides of the question, once the Pegging Act expires on March 31, some steps will have to be taken by the Government to reconcile the opposing demands of Europeans and Asiatics. The former declare the Pegging Act does not go far enough and the latter that it is too harsh and should be repealed. The Prime Minister has had numerous conferences with the State law advisers, Cabinet colleagues and Provincial heads, apart from receiving numerous deputations. There is absolutely no doubt that the Government of India have been kept regularly informed of the Government's contemplated plans through the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. R. Deshmukh. Every shade of opinion upon the subject has now been represented to the Government and at the majority of the consultations the Administrator of Natal, Mr. D. E. Mitchell, Senator D. G. Shepstone and Senator C. F. Clarkson, Union Minister of the Interior have been present. Mr. Hofmeyr has attended some of the discussions and handled the problem during Senator Clarkson's absence in Great Britain. General J. J. Pienaar was also present at some of the stages of these developments. All these authorities will be in Capetown in January—the Ministers and Parliamentarians for the session and the Administrators for the Inter-Provincial Consultative Committee meetings and will be available for further consultations by the Government.

Statement On Indian Housing

An important statement announcing the Government's decision on the Natal Housing Ordinance, which was passed by the Natal Provincial Council in September and submitted to the Government for approval, was

issued for publication last week. Further consideration of the Natal Indian problem was given by General Smuts when he received a deputation appointed by the Natal Congress of the United Party. The deputation elected Mr. Thompson, of Maritzburg, as its leader and presented its case to the Prime Minister. Senator Clarkson, Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Douglas Mitchell, Administrator of Natal, were present. The Pegging Act expires on March 31, 1946, and it is expected that fresh legislation will be enacted by Parliament before that date. The nature of the legislation has not been decided on and is still being considered by the authorities. When the United Party delegation met General Smuts, it urged that the Natal Indian question should not be dealt with on a municipal basis but should be treated as a provincial matter. It urged that the question should not be handled piecemeal and that it should not be delayed as feeling was strong throughout the province. General Smuts thanked the deputation for making its representations. The representations were similar to those made by other deputations. The problem was not without its difficulties, and he undertook to go fully into the whole question. The Transvaal Pegging Act also expires early next year, and this is also being considered by the Government.

Bill On Indians To Be Introduced By Sen. Clarkson

In the coming session of Parliament a Bill will be introduced by the Minister of the Interior Senator U. F. Clarkson, to deal with the Natal and Transvaal Indian question, says the Pretoria correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons who claim to be interested as Shareholders or otherwise in the HABIBIA GARDEN COMPANY must lodge their claims together with all documents or evidence in support thereof with the undersigned on or before the 31st December, 1945.

DATED AT JOHANNESBURG this 1st day of NOVEMBER, 1945.

I. A. CACHALIA and MOOSA ESSAKJEE,

Receivers of HABIBIA GARDEN COMPANY,

Acting under Order of the Supreme Court of South Africa, Witwatersrand Local Division, c/o Louis Sachs & Cumes, 619-623 Maritime House, Cor. Main and Loveday Streets, JOHANNESBURG.

WAVELL ADDRESSES CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Calcutta, Monday.

An agreed solution between the parties in India was not impossible, said the Viceroy, Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, at the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India here today.

"I do not believe it would even be very difficult, given goodwill, commonsense and patience on all sides," he said.

"I can assure you unreservedly that the British government and the British people honestly and sincerely wish the Indian people to have their political freedom and a government or governments of their own choice.

"It is not a simple problem it cannot and will not be solved by repeating a password or formula. 'Quit India' will not act as the magic 'open sesame' which opened Ali Baba's cave.

"It cannot and will not be solved by violence. Disorder and violence are, in fact, the one thing that may check the pace of India's progress.

"India has before her the greatest opportunity she has ever had for political freedom and for progress towards solving her problems—poverty, illiteracy and ill-health. India's opportunities are hers to take."

The objective of all parties in India—Congress, the Moslem League and other minorities, the rulers of the Indian States and British government was the same: The freedom and welfare of India, he said.

"I do not believe it would even be very difficult, given goodwill, commonsense and patience on all sides. And yet we stand on the edge of tragedy.

"For it will be a grim tragedy for India and for the world if an atmosphere of racial and communal hatred is allowed to prejudice the discussions which are to take place next year, and if violence results from that atmosphere."

The Viceroy added: "In the commercial world you do not preface delicate negotiations with another firm by criticism of that firm and its business methods. Yet that is how delicate negotiations are being preface in India at present.

"I can assure you that His Majesty's government and I as their agent will do our best to secure agreement to help India form a constitution and secure the support of the principal parties of the central government to enable them to bear a full share of the responsibility for administering the country during the interval before a

change of constitution can be made."

The Viceroy reiterated that he must have help and co-operation in securing a satisfactory solution in India, and no solution would be satisfactory which would result in chaos and bloodshed, interference with trade and industry, and perhaps famine and general misery. It was the earnest wish of the British government and people to give India freedom, but they would not abandon their responsibilities without bringing about some reasonable settlement.

Speaking of the Indian National Army trial, he said the men who were prisoners of war but who did not join the Indian National Army represented some 70 per cent. of the total men who became prisoners of war in Malaya and Hong-Kong.

Out of 45,000 Indian prisoners of war who stood firm, about 11,000 were estimated, to have been lost or one quarter of their number, from starvation, disease and murder.

Speaking of the atom bomb, the Viceroy said: "If used with greed for power it will prove a

monster such as Frankenstein made and will kill its creators. If used with wisdom and sense it may be a beneficent genie for mankind—a world release from war, plenty and leisure in place of poverty and toil, flying carpets at Woolworth prices for everyone."

Referring to Indonesia, he said Indian soldiers were not there to suppress the Indonesians. "They went there on an errand of duty and an errand of mercy to disarm the Japanese and rescue Allied prisoners and internees."

"Both tasks have been rendered difficult by a section of extremists and lawless elements instigated by our Japanese enemies and admittedly not under the control of those who claim to be the leaders of Indonesia."

"I can tell you this after seeing a number of reports that the courage and discipline of Indian troops, attacked without provocation while they defended women and children and peaceful citizens against mob rule, have been worthy of the highest standard—Sapa-Reuter.

CONGRESS CANNOT BE CRUSHED SAYS NEHRU

"Those British and Indian officials who have wanted to write off the Congress and employed every means to crush it during the last three years will live to see their wish entombed with an imperialism which is now taking its last few breaths," said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing a public meeting on the Hindu College grounds at Morabad according to the *Hindustan Times*. He said: "I challenge these officers to go to Ballia and see for themselves the futility of their attempts. The people there, despite terrible repression, walk with straight backs and erect heads." Referring to the order of the District Magistrate, Moradabad, issued during Mahatma Gandhi's fast in February 1943, directing that no public demonstrations would be allowed in the event of Gandhiji's death, Pandit Nehru said: "It is tragic to see the extent to which high Indian and British officials have fallen. What I am unable to understand is how people can tolerate such perfidious injunctions. The people have no right to freedom if they do not have the courage to feel for Mahatma Gandhi." Proceeding, he said, "I do not want your plaudits I

want you to realize your pathetically insipid condition. Repression of kisans is still continuing. This has got to stop now. I can pardon shooting, I can pardon assaults, but I am unable to pardon atrocities perpetrated in cold blood." Rising to a fresh tempo of indignation, Pandit Nehru said: "A revolution is inevitable. It is only a question of time when it comes. Then we will be tested again." Referring to the record of the members of the Indian Civil Service, Pandit Nehru said that they were grossly inefficient and incapable of grasping the problems of the country. After the resignation of Congress Ministries, these men fully exploited the mischievous provisions of the D.I.R. All caution was thrown off and the Government of the country handed over to the police almost on a plate. For all practical purposes it was a police raj in the country. Even now when the War is over, the people are being forced to contribute towards Victory Fund. Pandit Nehru severely criticized the U.P. Governor's remarks against the Indian National Army men and said that if this had happened in a free country

the author of those remarks would have been hauled up for contempt of court. Referring to the elections, he said that the Government would extend its helping hand to any one except the Congress. Congressmen must, therefore, be prepared for every sacrifice. Concluding, he exhorted the audience to vote for the Congress candidate, Mr. Damodar Swarup Seth for the Central Assembly. A purse of Rs. 3,177 was presented to Pandit Nehru on behalf of the Students Congress. A few purses were also presented to him by local citizens.

SUICIDAL

Under this heading the *Leader* of U.P. publishes an Editorial on the Transvaal Muslim League. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad has received from Johannesburg (Transvaal) a cable which says, "The Transvaal Muslim League strongly disapproves your remaining in the Indian National Congress and requests you to resign and join the All-India Muslim League." We do not know if the Maulana has sent any reply. If he consulted us, we would suggest that he should write, "Dissolve the Transvaal Muslim League or perish." It is bad enough that there should be Hindu-Muslim differences in India. These differences are hampering India's political progress. But if the Indians of South Africa who number less than 250,000 establish separate communal organisations and fight one another, they cannot stay very long in that inhospitable land. The white settlers have made it quite clear to the Indians that they do not like their presence there. They will do anything to get rid of them. Last month a speaker at the National Party Congress said, "The best solution probably would be for the Indians to return to India." To compel the Indians to return to India the Government would devise measures which would injure their trade and industry and deprive them of their means of living, and harm them in other ways. It was Gandhiji, not the Muslim League, who came to the rescue of the Indians of South Africa in 1912. If the Indians remain united in the same way as they did then, they will succeed in overcoming dangers that confront them again. But if Muslims follow the lead of the Muslim League and Hindus that of the Hindu Sabha and if the League and the Sabha fight each other, the white settlers will make short work of both.

Secretary For India's State ment At House Of Lords

London, Tuesday.

A British parliamentary delegation under the auspices of the Empire Parliamentary Association is to leave for India as soon as possible to meet leading Indian political personalities and learn their own views at first hand. Announcing this in the House of Lords today, the Secretary for India, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, said I desire to make it plain that His Majesty's Government regard the setting up of a constitution-making body by which Indians will decide their own future as a matter of the greatest urgency. Lord Pethick-Lawrence said the parliamentary delegation would also be able to convey in person the general wish and desire of the British people that India should speedily attain her full and rightful position as an independent partner state in the British Commonwealth, and the desire of parliament to do everything within its power to bring the speedy attainment of that objective. The delegation would be selected by the Empire Parliamentary Association, in consultation with the party representatives of the chief political parties in Britain. Lord Pethick-Lawrence added during the transition towards complete self-government, India will be passing through difficult times. No greater disservice could be done to the future Indian government and to the cause of democracy than to permit the foundations of the state to be weakened and the loyalty of its servants to those who are in authority, to be undermined before that new government comes into being. Therefore the government of India cannot divest itself of the responsibility which rests upon it and upon all provincial governments of preserving law and order and of resisting any attempt to resolve the constitutional issue by force, said Lord Pethick-Lawrence. The realisation of full self-government can only come by an orderly and peaceful transfer of control of the machinery of the state to purely Indian authority. His Majesty's Government could not permit any attempt to be made to break down the loyalty of the administrative services or of the Indian armed forces, and they will give full support to the government of India in securing that their servants are protected in the performance of their duty and that the future constitution of India shall not be called into being by force or the threat of force. In addition, the great need of India, whatever governments are in power, is to raise the standard of life, of educa-

SAPA-REUTER NEWS

tion and of health of the masses of the people. Boldly conceived plans to meet this are already in being, and His Majesty's Government are giving every encouragement to proceed with them so that improving social conditions may go forward simultaneously with the institution of self-government, said Lord Pethick-Lawrence.

Villages Wiped Out

Karachi, Tuesday.

Four thousand people perished, 40,000 are homeless and several villages were washed away as a result of the tidal wave which struck the 100-mile coastal belt north-west of Karachi on November 28, according to a party of Congress relief workers who have just returned from the scene. These figures have not yet been officially confirmed. The tidal wave was caused by a submarine earthquake. Two villages west of Karachi were completely wiped out, and several others are under water, says United Press. In one village there are only three survivors out of 300 inhabitants. In another village only one member of a family of 23 survived. Eye witnesses say that the sky suddenly changed colour, becoming reddish in the west, and then a column of fire shot from the water into the sky. The tidal wave struck the beach with a thunderous roar, sending millions of pebbles into the air like a volley of bullets.

Mahatmajee Met Mr. Casey

Calcutta, Tuesday.

Mahatma Gandhi met Mr. Richard Casey, who has resigned as Governor of Bengal, today for the fourth successive day.

Election Result

Bombay, Tuesday.

The Congress Party and the Moslem League have so far won all the seats contested by their candidates in the first four provinces to declare results in the Central Assembly elections. The provinces are Bombay, Madras, the Central Provinces and Delhi. Nearly all the opponents of Congress and the Moslem League forfeited their deposits. Congress has won 22 seats and the Moslem League five.

Mr. Jinnah Elected

Bombay, Tuesday.

Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, President of the All-India Moslem League, was today declared elected to the Central Assembly of India for the Moslem constituency of Bombay City. He polled 3,602 votes against Mr. Hooseinbhoj Laljee (Independ-

ent), who polled 1,277 votes, and forfeits his deposit.

Meeting Of Viceroy And Mahatmajee

New Delhi, Thursday.

The Viceroy, Field-Marshal Lord Wavell, has agreed to see Mahatma Gandhi soon in Calcutta, it was announced tonight. The meeting may take place some time next week.

New Delhi, Saturday.

An official announcement from Viceroy House today about the coming interview between Field-Marshal Lord Wavell and Mahatma Gandhi at Calcutta said: There is no intention of entering into any negotiations with any party at this stage. Negotiations must wait until after the elections.

"I.N.A. Celebration Week"

Calcutta, Saturday.

An "Indian National Army Week" was launched in Calcutta tonight with the biggest public meeting ever held in the city where the dead Commander-in-Chief of the I.N.A., Subhas Chandra Bose, once lived. On top of a decorated rostrum was a 16 feet tall portrait of Bose. The crowd of 200,000 men and women included 100 recently released men of the I.N.A., still in uniform. The Congress parliamentary leader, Sardar Patel, said today, "we want peace, we do not want disturbances. We want peace on our own terms and not in the sense the British authority desires. We cannot tolerate the continuance of British power in India any longer. Foreign domination must end."

Pandit Jawaharlal Will Visit Malaya And Burma

Calcutta, Saturday.

Pandit Nehru, the former President of the All-India Congress, has been appointed by the Congress Working Committee to go to Burma and Malaya to inquire into arrests of Indians there and to arrange for their defence and other aid, it was announced there tonight. The committee passed a resolution noting "with grave disquiet" reports of the treatment of Indians by the authorities in Malaya and Burma. The resolution stated that many had been arrested and interned or put in prison and no proper opportunities for their defence had been given. Lack of news about them was causing anxiety to their friends in India. They are almost in the position of being stateless individuals and groups for whom no one assumes responsibility. While the Government of India is

taking no adequate step to help these Indians abroad, it is giving no facilities to representatives of defence and relief committees and public men to visit Burma and Malaya to give the help that their countrymen so urgently need, said the resolution.

Arrival Of Viceroy At Calcutta

Calcutta, Sunday.

Lord and Lady Wavell arrived by air today in Calcutta where the Viceroy will see Mahatma Gandhi tomorrow. Lord Wavell will address the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce which represents the British Commercial interests in India in the morning and will see Mahatma Gandhi at Government House in the evening.

Gandhiji Warns India Of Invasion

Calcutta, Tuesday.

"To-day or to-morrow we shall have power in our hands, but the people should not think that when British rule is over there will not be others to invade India," said Mahatma Gandhi at a prayer meeting last night. "We are making an earnest effort to attain complete independence," he added, but if Indians did not learn to behave in a disciplined manner and make proper use of power, somebody might again snatch it from them.

Communists Expelled

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress has expelled all Communist members of the All-India Congress Committee, a body elected by the provincial committees. "The Communists have been trying to undermine the prestige and position of Congress," said the resolution. Communists recently resigned from Congress as a protest against its "reactionary policy."

Students' Pledge Signed In Own Blood

Allahabad, Monday.

A pledge to lay down their lives for their country was signed by 160 students with their own blood today. The students are the nucleus of what is described as the Subhas Bose and Nehru brigades of the "Azad Hind Volunteer Corps," formed by the Cawnpore Students' Congress. Azad Hind (Free India) was the name of the "provisional government" formed by Bose in Burma. The Indian national army was known as Azad Hind Fauz (Free India Army). The students intend forming three more brigades.

The Delhi Trial

INDIA LETTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

THE Indian National Army was constituted, financed, equipped, trained, manned and officered entirely by Indians, the I.N.A. did not play any subordinate role to Japanese; the feeling to keep the independent nature of the I.N.A. was indeed so keen that one particular type of badge was resented and discarded because it might be mistaken for Japanese Rising Sun Provisional Government; the predominant motive of the I.N.A. which was maintained to the last was to free India for the sake of Indians. These and other similar striking points emerged, not from the Defence Counsel, but from the Prosecution's own star witness, D. C. Nag, who was a Colonel in the I.N.A. serving as Judge-Advocate-General and Deputy Adjutant General under Sjt. Subash Chandra Bose, when the General Court Martial of Captain Shah Nawaz Khan, Captain Prem Kumar Sehgal and Lt. Gurubux Singh Dhillon resumed on the November 21 after a fortnight's break. It will be recalled the Court Martial began on November 5 last in the Red Fort, Delhi, the ancient Moghal-built Fortress and was adjourned for two weeks at the request of the Defence.

One can derive reasonable comfort at the thought that the proceedings at least had begun under auspicious circumstances, auspicious in the sense that even the very first prosecution witness had nothing to say against the I.N.A. The prosecution is likely to put forward about 30 witnesses in all on their side, and if what has emerged from those so far examined is an indication of what is in store behind, then it can safely be said that there is no room for pessimism.

Lieut. Nag, who was responsible for drafting the I.N.A. Act admitted that ever since he began to function and voluntarily as Judge-Advocate-General and Deputy Adjutant General, it was intended that the army should be organised and worked according to civilised laws and that that was the object of framing the Act. Sjt. Subash Chandra Bose made a proclamation announcing the establishment of a Provisional National Government of Free India on October 21, 1943. Large sums of money and large donations in kind were donated for the purpose of the Provisional Government, by Indians in all parts of East Asia. Lt. Nag continued the object of the I.N.A. was to fight the British for the liberation of India. One of the objects of the provisional government was to protect the lives, honour and property of Indians in East Asia. The I.N.A.

assisted in protecting Indians in Burma from April 1945 to May 3, 1945 when Rangoon was occupied by British. Lieut. Nag admitted that he was aware that Subash Chandra Bose declared at the meeting on 21st October 1943 when the proclamation referred to above was made that every member of the I.N.A. was free to remain or go out. He recollected Subash Chandra Bose at the above meeting said that when the Azad Hind Force launched its fight, it would do so under the leadership of its own Government and when it marched into India the administration of the liberated parts would automatically come to provisional Government. Indian liberation must be achieved through their own efforts and sacrifice.

Sjt. Bhulabhai Desai, one of the eminent panel of defence lawyers was superb on the recommencement of the trial on 21st November and he cross-examined Lt. Nag throughout the day, which brought forth the above admissions from the very first witness on behalf of the prosecution.

With the defence of these patriotic sons of India in the hands of such eminent lawyers, with the sympathy and good wishes of the whole country behind them which is amply reflected in the large donations that are being received day in and day out by the Defence Committee not only from the length and breadth of the country but from abroad and the countrywide demonstrations, with their high patriotic spirits having thus been established, the outcome of the proceedings now going on at the Imperial Headquarters of New Delhi need not be viewed with apprehension. The star was good and the end must also prove likewise.

Unfortunately, there have been some untoward incidents in Calcutta and Bombay in connection with I.N.A. demonstrations, thanks to the highhandedness of the forces of law and order. In the former place where the trouble started, extensive shooting was resorted to resulting in several casualties and injury to more than a hundred persons. The police force was augmented by the military and the troops were asked to stand by. Leaders like Maulana Azad, shocked at the situation in Calcutta have demanded searching enquiry into the incident and have simultaneously called on the people to maintain

discipline and stop demonstrations forthwith. At the time of writing reports from Calcutta indicate that the city is fastly returning to normal.

A Muslim resident of Rangoon donated a sum of Rs. 1 crore towards the funds of the Indian National Army.

Mr. Achhru Ram, Judge of the Lahore High Court, who is father of Captain Sahgal, one of the accused in I.N.A. trial listened to the evidence of abetment of murder against his son.

Sir Firoz Apathetic To I.N.A. Men

Sir Firoz Khan Noon, former Defence Member of the Government of India and now an enthusiastic follower of Mr. Jinnah, flatly refused to say even a word of sympathy for the I.N.A. officers whose trial opened in the Red Fort, Delhi, on November 5 when approached on behalf of the I.N.A. Defence Committee. The latest reports from the Punjab show that Mr. Jinnah wants Sir Firoz Khan Noon to play the same role in Punjab politics which Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, another great friend of Mr. Jinnah is playing in Sind. As Defence Member Sir Firoz Khan may have had a hand in deciding the question of prosecution of the I.N.A. officers and his refusal to say anything now is being interpreted as tacit support for the Government's policy. The fact that all the political parties, including the Muslim League and the Unionist Party, against which Sir Firoz Khan is carrying on a virulent campaign, have expressed sympathy with the I.N.A. men, does not make any difference to Sir Firoz Khan Noon, who has resigned from the Executive Council, but has certainly not eschewed his friendship with the bureaucracy.

Cricket

The unexplained absence of that ace batsman, Mushtaq Ali, who wields a large influence on the young batsmen of this country, from the first four-day unofficial test match against Australians played at Bombay from November 19, and the original omission to include him in the India XI for the second test match at Calcutta, created a stir amongst sportsmen all over India. It appears that Mushtaq Ali was invited to

participate in the match and although he did actually purchase a ticket to Bombay from Delhi to participate in the first test, he could not undertake the journey owing to sudden illness. The letter which Mr. Mushtaq Ali says he sent to Mr. Contractor, one of the selectors, informing him of his inability to be present in Bombay owing to illness was not received by the latter. A simple telegram from Mushtaq to Bombay would, however, have simplified matters.

In any event, it is satisfactory to learn that the former's explanation why he was not present for the first four-day match in Bombay was accepted, and at the invitation of the members of the Select Committee, he is participating in the second test match in Calcutta.

The Australian Services team suffered the first defeat of their tour at the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, on the 23rd November. After a finish that was thrilling both for spectators and the East Zone came out victoriously by two wickets. Although he did not get the best average, Choudhry was the most dangerous bowler on the Indian side. He spun his offbreaks to a remarkable extent. C. S. Naidu bowled exceptionally well. For a bowler who spins the ball so much, he is very acute. It was a pleasure to watch Denis Compton bat. It would have been worth while for any true lover of cricket to go to Eden Gardens just to see that one perfect cover drive which he sent spinning to the ropes off Williams. Whenever and wherever he plays cricket, he will adorn the game with grace, and although he turned the tide against Aussies in the above match, it is difficult to find a single player on the opposite side who was not glad that he had seen Compton make a century.

Mushtaq Ali, whilst batting, was always a danger. It is a hard job to set the field for him. He has a wonderful eye, phenomenal reach and can play either the slashing or the orthodox game. When Mushtaq plays a shot and he does it from a good length ball—his wonderful reach enables him to smother the ball whilst turning it. He plays it safely.

The quick falling wickets and close finish made this match one to remember for thrills and enjoyment. Cricket can do with more of these than equal well-fought out contests.

Natal Indian Waiters Prohibited In Cape

Indians are reported to be slipping over the border in considerable numbers to work in other Provinces. It is stated that they probably go by taxi, on foot or even coastwise in small boats. Others who wish to stay longer, obtain six-month licences to work outside Natal, and sometimes they remain in the other Provinces without complying with this requirement. The majority of Indian waiters employed at one big Sea Point hotel had been declared prohibited immigrants by the immigration authorities. The managing director of the hotel said that out of 40 Indian waiters and stewards 26 had been requested to report immediately to the office of the Principal Immigration Officer, Capetown. Each of them was ordered to pay a fee of £1 and to make a cash deposit of £10 for a temporary permit which would expire on January 15 1946. No assurance has been given to renew the permits. These men would have to return to Natal by January 15 and the £10 deposit would be refunded on their arrival. Mr. K. W. Aldridge, chairman of the Cape Licensed Victuallers and Hotel Keepers Association, said that if the Immigration Department continued its search for prohibited Indian immigrants and took the same action as in the case of the hotel at Sea Point, then the general effect would be that the majority of hotels employing Indians in the Cape Peninsula would be paralysed. To bring the matter to a head information will be placed before the immigration authorities.

Mr. E. Beardmore On Segregation

The case for racial segregation was put by Mr. E. Beardmore, K.C., former Attorney-General for Natal, when he spoke at a meeting of the Maritzburg Indian Parliamentary Debating Society. Mr. Beardmore said segregation did not, in his view, mean separation into water-tight compartments. It implied a measure of separation, and that the line must be drawn somewhere. The speaker said different races had different backgrounds, and the backgrounds of culture and tradition fundamentally affected the mode of living of each race. These backgrounds affected not only the language, but thought itself. People who were in harmony of thought soon found ways of getting together. India had had her share of the headache that the problem created. Adjustment of the races was a long process. The Hindu caste system was segregation. He quoted Prof. Radhakrishnan as

saying that the Hindu caste system had done some harm but generally it had done much good. It had been "too rigid, however, and had not allowed for high-born incompetence and low-born ability. It would have been a tragic disaster for South Africa if the Voortrekkers had not segregated themselves from the Bantu 100 years ago, as Mrs. Mabel Palmer had pointed out in her recent book upon the Indian in Natal. "We cannot alter our sub-conscious heritage immediately at the call of a reformer," said Mr. Beardmore. "It is fatally easy and tempting to clamour for what we believe are our rights in a democracy and to forget what are our duties." Service to the State would bring the band of friendship from men of other races. The motion that in a multi-racial country racial segregation was a sound policy, was opposed by the Indian speakers.

Durban Chamber Of Commerce On Colour Bar

Mr. L. S. Robinson in his presidential speech made the following thoughtful observations:—Another big issue which must receive some constructive treatment in the near future is the subject of our human resources, both European and non-European. We have, I think, begun to think in terms of a population of 11,000,000 rather than in terms of a population of 2,000,000. That very fact has opened our eyes to the low standard of South African living as a whole and the low standard of our productivity. We are beginning to appreciate the cost of disease and of malnutrition—the cause. If we are to find a remedy we shall have to reconsider our ideas on a number of fundamental questions. The colour bar in the economic sphere is one of them. If we are to increase the national income we must raise the level of productivity of 11,000,000. This means that a greater opportunity for education and entry into the skilled and semi-skilled occupations must be given to the non-Europeans." This is a controversial question but it must be faced, concluded Mr. Robinson.

S.A. Indian Doctors

Community will be glad to hear of the successes of Indian students who have qualified for the medical profession at different Universities. From Wits we have Doctors M. Gabriel, K. N. Pillay, R. M. Pather, R. A. Karim and an Indian lady K. Nagdee. From the Uni-

versity of Capetown Drs. R. A. R. Lawrence, M. Sammy-Padiachy and C. H. Saib; and from Edinburgh we have Dr. Padiachy.

Distributive Workers In Johannesburg

A well attended meeting of the Witwatersrand "B" (Indian) Branch of the National Union of Distributive Workers of Johannesburg and the Reef was held on Sunday, December 2. Discussion took place about the general conditions and treatment of Indian workers in the commercial distributive trade. It was unanimously agreed that all Indian employers be notified that Indian employees expect that the new gains made by the Johannesburg distributive workers must be extended to them. The workers are determined that the time has come to enforce their legal rights and they will not tolerate any further delay.

Mr. Deshmukh At Ermelo

A reception was recently held at Ermelo to enable the local citizens to meet Mr. R. M. Deshmukh the Indian High Commissioner. The reception was held at the Phoenix Hotel. The Mayor Mr. C. Adendorph who presided welcomed Mr. Deshmukh and said that Europeans and Indians were living in Ermelo as one family. Mr. Willie Brown, chairman of the Ermelo Chamber of Commerce also welcomed Mr. Deshmukh and stressed the fact that in Ermelo all Indian traders were members of the Chamber of Commerce. Both Indians and Europeans worked in co-operation and goodwill. He was pleased that the members of the Indian community were very generous in their donations to all the local charities. Mr. Deshmukh spoke about the present position in India and expressed the hope that by the middle of next year India will be constituting its own government. Mr. S. C. Tayob thanked all those present.

Fairbreeze Hindi Patshala

The above institution erected on land donated by Mr. Budrinath Gosai, is progressing under Mr. Jeawon who is giving his free services as a teacher of Hindi. Over 100 children from Tongaat, Frasers and the surrounding districts attend the school.

Stanger Madressa

A meeting of the members of the Stanger Madressa Anjuman

Islam was held in the Madressa hall on Sunday the 2nd December. A lengthy report covering the activities of the Madressa which was founded in 1920 was given by the chairman Mr. E. M. Moolla. It was noted that the assets of the Madressa at the present market value were well over £10,000 which no doubt was a credit to its retiring officials and foundation trustees. There are at present over a hundred pupils attending the Madressa and a large number on the waiting list who cannot be admitted owing to difficulty in obtaining any qualified teachers locally. Applications have been made to the Immigration Department for permission to introduce teachers from overseas and it is expected that the usual authority will soon be given by the Department. The following officials and trustees were elected for the ensuing two years:—Messrs. E. A. Omarjee (chairman), D. E. Moolla (vice chairman), E. H. Noorbhai (hon. secretary), A. I. Buleshwaria (hon. treasurer), E. Adamjee, D. M. Kaje, I. M. Omarjee, A. H. Moorad, M. A. Kolla, A. E. Moolla, I. H. Sali-Saliman, S. H. Bayat, C. A. Mather, M. E. Mangera, M. S. Jeenah and A. B. Ballim. The following gentlemen declined to accept nomination: Messrs. E. M. Moolla, E. S. Vahid, S. A. Mather, M. H. Desai and M. Fakir. Mr. Ebrahim A. Omarjee the new chairman, Mr. Y. Gori and many others spoke in high esteem of the work done by the past officials and particularly thanked Mr. E. M. Moolla for his untiring efforts for the welfare of the Madressa. Mr. E. M. Moolla suitably replied and thanked all the retiring officials, trustees and members for the kind assistance and co-operation always extended to him.

Departures For India

Many Indians left for Bombay per s.s. Karagola which left on 11th December. Among them some of the known personalities were Mrs. P. G. Desai with her son Manibhai, and daughter, Mrs. Ravjibhai with her children of Manchester Trading Co., Johannesburg, Mr. K. L. Desai Principal Government Indian School, Mr. M. D. Desai, Ravjibhai Ishwarbhai of Overseas Trading Co. Johannesburg, Mr. N. M. Patel, Mr. B. D. Patel, Mr. N. M. Khanderia of Ibbis Trichardt with wife and son, Mr. and Mrs. Kunverjee Jivanjee Tavaris, Mr. Mohanlal son of Mr. M. L. Patel, H. K. Patel of Johannesburg and Mr. Ram-bhai Pragji of Lala Govan & Co.

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