

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
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IN 1903

No. 5.—Vo. XLIV.

Friday, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1946.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
PRICE: FOUR PENCE.

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The Call Of Our Community.

THE South African Indian Conference has been convened to be held at Capetown on the 8th, 9th and 10th of this month. There are three constituent bodies: the Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape.

In the Transvaal it appears that the President of the Congress there was against his body taking part in the Conference. By 20 votes to 6 the Executive of that body decided in favour of participation in the Conference. We understand that a requisition has been sent to the Committee of that body challenging the decision of the Executive. It is extraordinary that at the time of peril that there should be an attempt by anyone to keep any body from participating in a South African Indian organisation to which they are affiliated and which organisation brings all South African Indians together. We do not say that that body is not without any shortcomings. But the fact remains that it is the only organisation which can speak for all Indians in South Africa. It is hoped that Transvaal will be true to itself in joining with the rest of South Africa at the Conference to review the position of Indians in South Africa and consider the anti-Indian legislation that has been announced by General Smuts. Transvaal undoubtedly will be included in the anti-Indian legislation as she was in the Pegging Act. Transvaal will certainly be affected by any legislation that may be passed.

Those who are opposed to the Cape's participation in the Conference hold out that Cape will not be affected by the legislation that has been announced. No one can say when Cape will be included in any anti-Indian legislation. There is always the danger of that happening. Besides the Cape has the right to participate as a constituent body. Cape cannot be indifferent to what is happening to other Indians in the Union. Cape has always given its moral and other support even when it has not been directly affected.

In Natal a considerable number of Indians who were not party to the Anti-Segregation Council did not participate in the elections at the annual elections. None of the older leaders took a part. In effect it was the boycott of the elections.

It was unfortunate that boycott took place. The result has been that Congress does not speak for all. It is leftist in its attitude. At this hour this body should have been reconstituted on a basis representative of every section and every interest so that there would have been a united front. Those who are not actively in the Congress made an approach to the Congress through its officials. Several points were submitted at a meeting where the leaders from the Congress and those who were not actively in the Congress were present. It was in effect a non-party meeting of leaders in the hope that even at this

eleventh hour something might be done to allow the inclusion of some of those who were not actively in the Congress to go as delegates. It was urged that ten delegates should be allowed from this Group and that the Country Districts should also be permitted to have delegates as in the past. Though many hours were spent during the whole of Sunday and past midnight that day and again the whole afternoon of the following day, the leaders of the Congress refused to make room for the ten delegates asked for. They elected their thirty delegates even while the negotiations were going on and stuck to what they had done. They failed to understand the implications of their refusal which are obvious.

It also emerged during the discussions the question of who should be delegates to General Smuts, to India and perhaps to other countries and who should lead were the burning questions among the leaders of the Congress. Once more we see that those who are in power will not yield readily to any change which they do not like.

We have not given up hope that this Conference that is to be about to be held at Capetown may be the means of making all those who are present there and elsewhere to realise that there is something greater in the World than the petty glory as leaders. That greater something in the World is selfless service, which has been amplified in the world by great men and women in many ways. In India we see daily the subordination of self in the service of fellow human beings. Chief among them is our Mahatma

in the present age.

There are innumerable men and women in India following in the footsteps of our Mahatma. The young men say today we do not want your old leaders but, they do it we have no doubt in their inexperience of life. They have but to look around in the world to see that there is not a country which is not led by an old leader. Old leaders lead in the time of War as in the time of Peace.

The old leaders cannot on the other hand treat with contempt the younger men or anyone in the community. There must be a mixing of the old and the young to have the experience of the one and the enthusiasm of the other.

We appeal to all men and women in our community in South Africa to make a fresh start with the desire to serve and not to lead. And above all to consider that the party of the one or the other must not prevail in matters affecting the Indian community. This is not the time for parties.

Nothing in the world was won in a day. Years of suffering and service leads eventually to the goal which is sought. Mahatma Gandhi still suffers and serves and goes on hoping and praying and working for the freedom of the soul of India. Who can say that he has not travelled in this manner a long way to that freedom. He has won his own freedom: his personal Swaraj and he is winning the Swaraj of his country.

Let us follow in the footsteps of Mahatma. We may not go as far as he has gone but we shall certainly be on the right road if we follow him in the spirit of selfless service.

TRANSVAAL INDIANS AND THE NEW BILL

THE secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress told the *Daily News* correspondent that his Congress had sent a cable of protest against the Government's new Indian Land Tenure Bill to the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell.

"We fear the creation of Indian ghettos" said the secretary. "If the Bill becomes law we shall be segregated socially and paralysed economically."

Asked to comment on the visit to Johannesburg of Mr. Debi Singh, secretary of the Indian Congress, Mr. Parekh said that he had come to press for representatives of the Indian community to go immediately to India and Great Britain to protest against the Bill.

Cable To Viceroy

The cable to the Viceroy was as follows:—

At the opening of Parliament the Governor-General announced the Government's decision to introduce in place of the Pegging Act legislation dealing on a broad basis with Asiatic affairs. This announcement could be interpreted in the light of the developments at Capetown where General Smuts met representatives only of European opinion as re-enacting a measure on lines of the old Areas Reservation Bill of 1925, against which the Government and the people of India put up a successful fight. The present situation demands identical protest and immediate strong action from the whole of India against the repetition of the unjustifiable attempt. The danger was then averted by a Round Table Conference and South African Indian opinion at the present moment favours such a move for an honourable settlement of the Indian question. The Indian community is greatly alarmed and determined to fight the new legislation which will obviously segregate, humiliate and ruin Indians. We appeal to you to exert all your direct and indirect pressure for the acceptance of a Round Table Conference.

Cables had also been sent to the British Premier, the Secretary of State for India, and the Indian delegation to the United Nations Assembly, to Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders of India.

To British Prime Minister

The cable sent to the British Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for India, and several members of Parliament and to the British Press was as follows:

General Smuts's statement in Parliament announcing Government's intention of introducing a Bill this session dealing with land tenure, containing provisions prohibiting acquisition of fixed property between Asiatics and non-Asiatics except areas set aside. Also restricting occupation of land on premises only to areas demarcated for Indians, thus creating ghettos and causing economic ruination and social segregation. This legislation takes away rights hitherto exercised by Indians. General Smuts' announcement is in conflict with and is contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter and will cause friction between India and South Africa, with unpredictable consequences. Indian community expect your

whole-hearted and active support for a cause which millions suffered and died for. We invoke your help and support in life and death struggle and appeal to you to press for a Round Table Conference between the Indian and Union Governments. Although South African Dominion is directly responsible to the India Office, as regards the welfare of Indians in South Africa, British Government's intervention is not only proper but morally essential since the treatment of Indians is not an internal affair of South African Dominion but is a question which directly concerns the British Government as the guardian of minority British subjects. Furthermore prevention of injustice and oppression primary concern Uno.

MARITZBURG'S PROTEST AGAINST BILL

DECLARATIONS that the proposed Asiatic Bill sounded the death knell of the Indian community in South Africa and calls for national unity to fight it were made by speakers at a meeting held in Maritzburg. The meeting was organised by the Maritzburg branch of the Natal Indian Congress. All the speakers stressed that there should be no compromise in the six-point programme which was submitted to the Prime Minister, General Smuts, last November.

Advocate I. M. Bawa disclosed that moves for a united front are now afoot between the Natal Indian Congress and those who kept out of the active field. It is hoped to reunite Mr. A. I. Kajee and the Natal Indian Congress before the meeting of the South African Indian Congress, Advocate Bawa said. Mr. Kajee was the president of the Natal Indian Congress in Durban before the anti-segregation movement formed and the split occurred. Mr. Kajee resigned.

The whole position, Advocate Bawa continued, would be left in the hands of the South African Congress due to meet in Capetown in February.

But we are all united on the point that the Prime Minister must be approached to initiate a round table conference between the Government of India and South Africa. We are sending a deputation to India to press for this conference and halt the Bill. Our task, if the Prime

Minister refuses, will be to send deputations to India and other parts of the world to appeal for intervention.

Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, called for a total rejection of the Bill and said that the possible weapon left was the weapon of struggle. It is for this weapon, he continued, that we must prepare ourselves for a struggle in some active form against the Government of this country.

Dr. Dadoo also made a plea for the unity of all non-European races in one big political struggle and said that this lack of unity was a reason why General Smuts could bring forward this anti-Indian legislation.

Mr. R. K. Naidoo maintained that South Africa should be taken away from the hands of the South African Government and placed under the trusteeship of the United Nations. Many speakers accused the Government of hypocrisy and Fascist tendencies and suggested that the Indians should emulate the Indonesians.

The following resolution was moved from the chair and passed unanimously:

"Realising the gravity of the crisis in which the Indian community of South Africa finds itself to day this mass meeting of Indians of Maritzburg resolves to associate itself with the Natal Indian Congress in opposing by all possible means the proposed Asiatic Bill and similar measures

To Mahatma Gandhi

Following is the text of the cable sent to Mahatma Gandhi and other Indian leaders:

General Smuts's statement in Parliament announcing Government's intention of introducing a Bill fraught with greatest danger to the rights of Indian people. Indians greatly alarmed and dread future as this Bill will paralyse them economically, segregate them socially and humiliate India. Future darkest if no effective steps are taken to counteract this unjust move ultimately degrading Indians to Empire helotry. The hour has struck for Government and Indian people to raise world-wide protest and act. We strongly oppose the Ghetto Bill and ask for a Round Table Conference. We are doomed without India's help at this critical hour. Respectfully urge bring pressure upon Indian and British Governments to take up a bold stand to save South African Indians from ruination and degradation and protect Indians' national honour abroad.

affecting the Indian community of South Africa and calls upon the Union Government to convene immediately a conference between the Government of India and the Union Government to consider the whole case of the Indian community of South Africa."

Bill Studied In New Delhi

The Government of India's Commonwealth Relations Department is examining the situation created by the Bill introduced in the Union House of Assembly freezing transactions involving the acquisition of land property by Indians. The Government of India has taken the opportunity to consult Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, High Commissioner for India in the Union, who has been in New Delhi during the past week. Mr. Deshmukh left for South Africa on Saturday. It is assumed in political quarters in New Delhi that the Indian Government will take adequate steps to convey its views to the Union.

Sir Maharaj Singh, a former Indian Agent-General in South Africa, has written to Dr. N. B. Khare, the Government of India Overseas Member, saying that the objection of the Transvaal Indian Congress is fully justified. He proposes to discuss the question with the British Parliamentary Delegation whom he will be meeting in February.

PRESS COMMENTS

INDIAN RIGHTS

THE assurance given in the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament last Friday that the legislation to be introduced this Session to take the place of the Pegging Act would deal with Asiatic affairs "on a broad basis" is to be welcomed writes the *Forum* in its issue of January 26. By implication, it means that the Government will not capitulate to the clamour from certain quarters for purely repressive legislation as far as the Indian community is concerned.

At a time when race intolerance is as rife as it is today, that in itself must be counted a gain. South Africans cannot remind themselves too often that we are here concerned with a problem which is not wholly a domestic one, affecting only a quarter of a million residents of the Union. We are also dealing with a nation of 400 million people who are naturally and understandably very sensitive about our attitude to and treatment of their fellow countrymen, and who resent deeply the attempts made in certain quarters to suppress the South African Indians economically and politically, as well as in other ways.

CLOUDS OF DISASTER

We take the following from the *Forum*:

THE Indian community felt that clouds of disaster were blowing up over their horizon. Parliament was due to discuss new legislation to replace the Pegging Act which would lapse in March, and they were convinced a "ghetto" system would be imposed upon them as a result.

In the House of Assembly General Smuts announced the Government's intention to control land tenure in Natal and to prohibit fixed property transactions between Europeans and Asiatics throughout the province except for certain exempted areas to be listed later. There would also be restrictions on the occupation by Indians of land and premises outside the exempted areas.

Indians feared the worst. Hitherto, they complained, the restrictions, as imposed by the Pegging Act, had applied only to Durban.

The Nationalists, meanwhile, urged the Government not to grant the Indians any franchise

It is as well to remember, too, that there can be no lasting solution of the Indian problem in the Union until the question of political rights is faced honestly and courageously. Unless the Indian people are given some measure of representation in the councils of state, their legitimate aspirations will not be satisfied and they will, with justice, continue to charge that their lives are being regulated arbitrarily and without even that measure of consultation accorded to other non-franchised groups. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Government will tackle the whole Asiatic question on a long-term basis, and that the legislation it has in mind will be in keeping with the spirit of the agreement with the Government of India in 1927 (a position from which we have unfortunately receded considerably in the intervening period).

That agreement, it will be recalled, admitted the stake which the Government of India has in South Africa's Indian problem, but it also showed how the removal of that stake can be secured to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

rights whatsoever.

Communal franchise meant that Indian voters, placed on a separate roll from European voters, would be entitled to elect a white spokesman to represent them in Parliament. This was the scheme whereby natives in the Cape Province, who could satisfy certain economic and educational qualifications, were represented in Parliament.

The Indians preferred the franchise on a common roll with Europeans.

The more conservative section were willing to accept a "loaded franchise," with voters having to satisfy certain economic and educational qualifications. The more radical section demanded complete adult suffrage.

All, however, agreed with Dr. Y. M. Dadoo, one of the leading radicals and President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, that the proposed legislation, as they viewed it, would "sound the death-knell of the community."

Meanwhile the Indians were preparing a plan of campaign, which would include: Protest meetings throughout the country,

including a conference of the S.A. Indian Congress in Cape Town in February; Press publicity for their case; Sending a

deputation to India to bring to the notice of that country the disabilities suffered by South African Indians.

VOTES FOR INDIANS?

Cape Times writes under this heading on Friday, January 25:

THE reaction of Indian opinion in South Africa to the Government's projected Asiatic legislation, as it was broadly indicated in the Prime Minister's statement on Monday, is very much what was expected. The reaction in India to the proposals, so far as they may yet be called proposals, has not yet been recorded, if there has been one. But there is no reason to believe that the reaction to the decision to extend to the whole of Natal the principles of the "Pegging Act" will be any less sharp than it was to the Residential Regulation Ordinance, particularly as the projected measure will go even further than that ordinance, which was declared to be a violation of the Pretoria Agreement.

It is inevitable that an equally strong reaction will have to be expected from overseas, and this may be particularly embarrassing at a time when views are being expressed in the United Nations Organisation strongly emphasising the duties of trusteeship towards politically backward peoples. It would be embarrassing if the Union's treatment of a large and by no means backward non-European minority were to be cited in evidence against her. It is essential, therefore, that overseas opinion, to which we in this country cannot remain insensitive, must be reassured of the good intentions of the Union towards her Indian nationals. The most convincing, indeed the only, way that can

be done is by the grant of the franchise. That is the basis of democratic citizenship. Yet it is anomalous that while the Union's native peoples possess the right of representation and of participating in the conduct of their own affairs, though it may as yet be still only in a primitive form, the Indian community, politically and culturally infinitely more advanced, do not possess even that primitive form. They have no representation of any kind.

Serious diseases sometimes demand serious remedies. It may be essential for the Union to take an apparently retrograde step now in order to ensure that, when all the acerbities and frictions engendered by present racial passions have been left behind, Indians shall eventually be fitted into the fabric of our national life. But it cannot be gainsaid that without a simultaneously progressive step now that would create the foundation for such a future adjustment, the Union would deserve all the censure she would incur. The form which enfranchisement should take is not one for hasty judgment. It will have to be based on a close study of the facts. It is probable that a communal franchise, as was suggested by the Minister of the Interior more than a year ago, would be more likely to find general acceptance as a step towards ultimate full and equal enfranchisement. But whatever form it should take, the grant of citizenship can no longer in justice be withheld from South Africa's Indian nationals.

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SUGGESTED SOLUTION OF INDIAN PROBLEM

The co-operation of all political parties in South Africa and the settlement of the Indian problem on non-Party lines are called for in a circular letter addressed by the Durban Joint Wards Committee to all members of Parliament.

The letter points out that the problem is national and not provincial, and that any legislation affecting it should be fully approved by Parliament and endorsed by public opinion.

Indian propagandists, says the letter, have endeavoured to make the question an international one. By misrepresentation they have tried to submit South Africa to imperfectly informed nations. The true solution, it claims, visualises acceptable living conditions for Indians in areas where they will be

subject only to conditions applicable to all races, where they will enjoy proper amenities and where they may develop along their own racial lines.

The Indians, it continues, demand full rights in every direction and, in addition, ask for a round table conference with the Government of India. But workable and satisfactory relations within South Africa can be maintained only by a clear understanding of the difficulties between the races.

"Appeasement," the letter continues, "or round table conferences with non-South Africans, however exalted, must not be tolerated. South Africa must be mistress of her own destiny."

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

EDUCATION

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN OPINION."

SIR,—It is with deep gratification that I read of the results of the recent examinations at the University of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town, for the first time we find that such a large number of Indian students have qualified as Medical Practitioners. Three students have qualified at Cape Town, and five at the Wits. I was especially pleased to note that one of these students was Miss Khadija Nagdee non-European girl to qualify as a Doctor in this country. I hope many more Indian girls will qualify as professionals not only in medicine, but also in other professions.

Indians have numerous obstacles placed in their way, most of which are directly due to the policy of the South African Government. In Natal where the majority of the Indian people live primary education is still neither free nor compulsory and the number of schools provided are not sufficient to cater for half of the school going age children.

High school education is practically closed to non-Europeans. Only a few Universities in the country take in non-Europeans. These obstacles can only be overcome by a determined stand in the political field.

The Indian people are not entirely free from blame, we must admit that we have in the past not paid sufficient attention to the education of our children, especially our girls. Some of us still have outworn ideas and prejudices, which prevent us

from sending our girls to High schools and Universities.

These prejudices are of course without foundation and day to day events prove that. The part played by women in present day society has amply been demonstrated during our struggles in the war years. India, Turkey, China and many eastern countries have realised that as long as one half of the community is kept in ignorance, and under the veil and behind closed doors, the whole community will remain paralysed. We in South Africa can and must learn this lesson, the sooner the better. Our community has a crying need for educated women, such as doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers etc. The example set by the women pioneers in this field should be followed up by others in great numbers.

At the N.U.C. in Durban there are a number of Indian girls doing their B.A. which will make them better equipped for the teaching profession. At Cape Town an Indian girl has just received her M.S.C.

In conclusion I hope and wish that Miss Nagdee, the trained Indian Doctor will achieve the same success in her profession as she has achieved in her University career, and that she will urge parents to have their children educated.—E. MAHOMED.

[There are other Indian and non-European girls who have qualified elsewhere are in medical practice in the Union. There are other Indian and non-European girls who are also qualifying in medicine in South Africa.—Ed.]

SOCIALISM AND GANDHISM

By PROF. ANATH GOPAL SEN In "The Modern Review"

If it is at all possible to classify humanity into different groups according to their qualifications and professions, then I think its division into four classes made by Shree Krishna in the *Gita* is more scientific. It would probably not have mattered much if instead of four, Shree Krishna created eight or more Varnas; because in so doing we would only be recognising the diverse character and manifold activities of the human race. But it does matter when any state or society cannot provide all classes of its men and women with a reasonable standard of food, clothing, education and medical aid along with the fullest scope for self-development. The Marxian socialists thought that if out of the two classes of people which comprised the entire human race, they could exterminate the one, i.e., the Bourgeois by expropriating their property and making them slaves of the State, there would remain only one class and a classless society would automatically emerge. But the job was not so simple as they originally thought it to be. And although they had succeeded in exterminating the Bourgeois class by a bloody revolution, neither classless society nor democracy, nor internationalism has yet resulted therefrom. The old aristocratic class has no doubt gone to the wall, but a new similar class is growing in its place. The Tsar was killed with all the members of his Royal family, but a dictator, many times more powerful than he, has taken his place. Our hearts became dry and desolate like deserts and were yearning and longing for some things which we could regard as our own, decorate and beautify as we wished and whereon we could bestow our love and tender care. Now we have got them back,—my cow and my hen, my garden and my home have been returned to me. I have also got back my motor car and my bank pass-book. We denied and decried religion showed scant courtesy to the old accepted moral principles but the late American President had forced us to swear again by religion in a moment of national crisis during the last war. We wanted to efface and black out completely our culture and history of centuries, prior to October revolution; but we are now again busy with the past ransacking it for all our inspirations. We wanted true democracy wherein disciplined men and women could live with their full per-

sonal liberty in complete mutual understanding and co-operation and where the State would exist only in name, ultimately to wither away. But we have received in its place a ruthless dictatorship. We wanted world revolutions so that the peasants and labourers of all the countries might be free and happy, but we now find that that chapter must now remain sealed, as we have got to appease our friends, Anglo-America. Our resolve was to crush imperialism out of existence from under the sun and to establish close-knit fraternity among the Proletariat class of all countries. But by a strange irony of fate, we now find that the greatest imperialistic nation of the world is our friend and ally. We thought that we should be able to offer some amount of leisure and peace to our workers and peasants but alas! war intervened and this hope was also dashed to the ground. The tragedy is that we see no prospect of peace and leisure even in the near future, because who knows, that he who is our friend and ally today, will not unsheath his sword against us and be our bitterest enemy tomorrow. So we must remain armed to the teeth and also learn to make and use the devil's bomb in six months' time. We did not want aggression but self-defence has forced us to surrender some of our cherished ideals. What could we do? This is western politics. I must live myself first before I can think of such nobler things as world salvation.

We quite understand but our apprehension is—will anything remain of your ideals if this fear complex, mutual distrust and armament race are not brought under control, with a sort of come-what-may determination? Here we are to turn to Gandhiji for this complete fearlessness and trust. Even if they betray him, they cannot harm him one thousandth part of what distrust, fear and modern war can do and are doing. Because we have seen that victorious or vanquished, little of what we value in life—material, moral or spiritual—can be saved by fighting modern wars. Once we deviate from truth and follow in the slippery path of European power-politics, the ultimate fate is bound to be what has overtaken Soviet Russia today.

(To be continued)

BOMBAY RIOTS

PROCESSION PROHIBITED

Bombay, Tuesday.

The Police Commissioner of Bombay today issued an order prohibiting processions, meetings and the carrying of weapons in Bombay tomorrow (Wednesday), the day for which observance of the birthday anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose (former head of the Japanese-sponsored Indian National Government) had been advertised.

Persons Killed And Injured

Bombay, Wednesday.

Ten persons are reported to have been killed, more than 70 sustained bullet wounds and 380 others suffered either baton injuries or the effects of tear gas during demonstrations in Bombay today. The demonstrations took place during observances of the birthday anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose. An official statement, however, says that only two persons were killed.

Clashes took place when small processions tried to enter the banned area of the city and the police were forced to open fire three times on the crowds. At the height of the disturbances the streets in the affected area resembled a battlefield as the crowds and the police milled to and fro with people hurling stones and the police using bamboo staves. The clashes continued till after dark. Shops were looted by mobs and the local office of the Indian communist party was raided, furniture was smashed and books and papers set on fire. A communique said that at 10 p.m. (local time) the situation was under control with strong forces of police drafted into the disturbed area, but at midnight the police were forced to open fire again after a new outbreak. Eighteen people were arrested.

Demands for an independent and impartial enquiry into the disturbances were made by the President and Secretary of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee who after visiting the various hospitals said, "what we have seen with our own eyes in the hospitals and in the streets has simply taken our breath away." They advised the people of Bombay to observe peace and called for a voluntary suspension of business tomorrow (Thursday) as a protest. The Indian Nationalist press hailed Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday as an important occasion. Bose was reported by the Japanese to have been killed in an air crash at the time of the Japanese surrender but the newspapers did not refer to him as dead, apparently basing their attitude on reports that he was still alive and in hiding.

Tear Gas

Bombay, Wednesday.

Police used tear gas and lathis (bamboo staves) to disperse a

procession in Bombay today in celebration of the birthday of Subhas Chandra Bose, former head of the Japanese-sponsored "Indian National Government." About 30 persons were treated in hospital for the effects of tear gas and 12 were injured in the lathi charge.

Bombay Hartal

Bombay, Thursday.

Trouble broke out again in Bombay today when a crowd in the Girgaum area crowded a Hindu locality and set fire to a tramcar and looted shops, which stayed open in spite of the call for a 'hartal' (voluntary closing) as a protest against yesterday's incidents. The police fired to scare the rioters into dispersing. The police also made a baton charge. The death roll in yesterday's day-long clashes between the police and demonstrators rose to 13 today when three more deaths in Bombay hospitals were officially reported.

The latest official figures of the casualties in yesterday's disturbances are—demonstrators 104 detained in hospital for bullet wounds and 312 treated for injuries caused by lathi charges, stone throwing or tear gas. Police—forty injured including three officers.

Many shops were closely shuttered today observing the hartal (voluntary closing) as a protest against police action in yesterday's riots. The riot area was quiet. The official casualty figures are not yet known. Estimates range from two killed and nearly 350 injured to 20 killed and more than 500 injured.

Police Open Fire

Bombay, Friday.

The police opened fire twice in southern Bombay at noon today. They also used tear gas. Two hours earlier the disturbed areas were reported all quiet except for one small stone-throwing incident. Groups of police and municipal workers have been busy from the early hours clearing up debris and removing road blocks. Five more deaths were reported today of people admitted to hospital with bullet wounds. This brings the total number of deaths since the disturbances began to 19. Mr. K. Patil, general secretary of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, in an appeal to the public said peace and discipline ought to be our slogan and we must act up to that slogan courageously. Mr. Patil denied rumours that Congress was asking for another hartal and said people must not crowd in the

streets even for curiosity. Crowds of idle spectators are a great temptation to unsocial elements to do their nefarious job. Bombay newspapers today reflected the gravity of the disturbances of the past two days. The *Times of India* had a front page headline: "Mobs run amok in Bombay—An orgy of arson and looting." The *McCorning Standard* headlined its report "City Mobs Go Wild."

The Commissioner of Police in Bombay today ordered a curfew in the riot area between 9 o'clock at night and 6 o'clock in the morning.

Today's troubles started at about 11-30 a.m. when crowds broke into a number of shops nearer the European business and residential quarter than yesterday's disturbances. Three grain shops were looted. The crowds also tried to build road blocks. After the police had opened fire the crowd melted away rapidly but the situation continued to be tense with traffic held up. The crowd stoned the car in which Sir Charles Bristow, adviser to the Governor of Bombay, was touring the disturbed localities with one Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Cinema Stoned By Crowd

Bombay, Saturday.

In the fourth day of the disturbances in the city today, crowds stoned a cinema in the Girgaum area here during celebrations of the Independence Day, the anniversary of the Congress Party's declaration of 1939 that complete independence for India—not Dominion status—was their goal. It was the only incident reported so far today. The city police commissioner has approved of the route where Congress headquarters had reported that a procession would pass. There will also be a public meeting at Chaupati sands on the sea-front here tonight, and both the police and "peace" patrols will be very vigilant.

Government Defeated

New Delhi, Wednesday.

The Indian Central Assembly today passed without division a Congress party motion on adjournment censuring the Government of India for not releasing political detainees.

Ms. Ramaswami Mudaliar Cannot Comment

London, Wednesday.

The decision of the executive committee of the Natal Indian Congress to appeal to the United Nations Assembly against the Bill

freezing property acquired by Indians from other races in South Africa has not yet been communicated to the Indian Delegation. The leader of the Indian Delegation, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, told Sapa's correspondent today that the matter had not been brought to his attention and he was therefore not in a position to comment on the Indian request from South Africa.

Position In Batavia

Batavia, Wednesday.

Preparatory talks between the Dutch and British authorities in Batavia are now going on. The British Adjutant-General, Sir Ronald Adam, visited Batavia on Monday and saw the British Commander-in-Chief in the Dutch East Indies, General Christison, in the presence of the United States Consul-General, Mr. Walter Foote. Mr. Foote recently had unofficial discussions with the Indonesian Prime Minister, Dr. Sjahrir. Dutch sources say that these discussions must be regarded as preparations for the important talks due to begin as soon as Dr. van Mook, Lieutenant-Governor of the Dutch East Indies, and Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr, British Ambassador in Moscow, arrive in Batavia.

Mahatma's Statement

Madras, Thursday.

"I do not think I have wasted my time, but that is not to say that I depend upon anybody to give us swaraj (independence)," said Mahatma Gandhi in a statement at a workers conference here today on his talks with the British Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation now visiting India. Swaraj will have to come through our own strength, he said. Mahatma Gandhi added: "We want the British rulers to quit India in a friendly spirit. If they do that it will augur well for them, for India and for the world. There should be no enmity towards the British."

Pataudi Captains Indian Cricket Team

Madras, Saturday.

The Indian Cricket Board of Control tonight selected the Nawab of Pataudi to captain the Indian Cricket team touring England this summer. Pataudi, who toured Australia with the English side of 1932, making 102 in his first test at Sydney, has hitherto never played for India against England. He also got blues at Oxford for hockey and billiard, and holds the University's high scoring record against Cambridge with 238 not out.

Lord Wavell On New Executive Council

New Delhi, Monday.

The Viceroy, Lord Wavell, in one of the briefest Viceregal

addresses ever made to the Indian Central Assembly, said that the British Government have the determination to establish a new Executive Council formed of political leaders and to bring about a constitution-making body or convention as soon as possible. Lord Wavell, who prefaced his address with the remark that he was not making a novel or striking political announcement, added "I cannot enter into any details at the moment of the methods whereby these bodies will be formed and how the difficulties, of which we are fully conscious, will be surmounted, nor do I think it wise to try to set a date or dates for steps to India's freedom. I can only assure you they have a priority level both in Delhi and in Whitehall. I ask you for your co-operation and goodwill in our great task. Referring to the business before the House, Lord Wavell said, "it may be you will think it right, some of you, to vote against the Government on almost every issue and inflict a maximum number of defeats. If you believe this is your political duty I have nothing to say. I

may think it to be a short-sighted policy to prevent or delay legislation that is likely to be of real benefit to India, but that is for you to decide.

Mr. Jinnah's Statement

Commenting on the Viceroy's speech the president of the Muslim League, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, said that the League would not agree to the setting up of a central government even as an interim measure as this would relegate the main issue—Pakistan—to the background. The League would not agree to the setting up of one constitution-making body or convention for British India. This would be futile as the preliminary and paramount issue in such an assembly would be the division of India into Pakistan and Hindustan.

Fatal Stabbings In Bombay

Bombay, Monday. Four people were stabbed to death in various parts of Bombay during the weekend. The murders were not connected with the recent political disturbances.

Finally he wants to know the extent and the value of immovable property which passed into the hands of Indians in each province from January 1, 1945, to January 20, 1946.

Corporation's Success

Success has at last capped the efforts of the Durban City Council to provide the Orient Islamic Educational Institute with a school site alternative to the 80-acre stand the institute had bought on the Bluff for the purpose of establishing Indian day and boarding schools.

Durban City Council

Discusses Finance Matters

A recommendation by the General Purposes Committee to send the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and all the members of the General Committee, together with the Town Clerk and other officials, as a deputation to discuss with the Prime Minister the proposed Bill to replace the Pegging Act, was not approved by the Finance Committee from a financial point of view.

This was reported to the City Council yesterday afternoon. After considerable discussion, the Council resolved to refer it back to the General Purposes Committee. The cost of sending the deputation had been estimated at £500, involving an excess vote of £300.

Mr. Barns expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Government were at last taking a firm stand. It was not true that the Council wanted preferential treatment for Europeans, but a section of the community desired a measure of control in regard to their residential and business areas, he said.

The Natal Municipal Association had put forward a programme in which the Indian community would be well looked after by opening up of new areas, where they could expand and develop without interference.

Farmers To Be Licensed

The Minister of Agriculture Mr. J. G. N. Strauss, said in the House of Assembly, that a proposal for the licensing of farmers had been proposed by the South African Agricultural Union.

That body wished first to consult all its affiliations before submitting a request to the Government.

First And Second Class

Fares To Be Reduced

First and second class railway fares in the Union are likely to be reduced within the next few months. The 15 per cent. Government tax on all first class fares costing more than 10s, which came into force on April 15, 1943, will be withdrawn. Sub-

sequent to the levying of the per cent. tax, a 10 per cent. surcharge was imposed in 1944 by the Minister of Railways and Harbours, Mr. F. O. Sturrock, on all fares and transport rates.

T.I.C. Opposes Indian

Township

At an executive meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress in Johannesburg, a resolution was passed opposing the establishment of Moonshiville as an Indian Township. The Congress also declared itself opposed to any form of private enterprise for Indian townships anywhere.

Property Acquisitions By

Indians

During the month of December 16 Durban properties were transferred from Europeans to Indians, the total purchase price being £10,047, according to a report by the City Valuator and Estates Manager. There were three properties transferred from Indians to Europeans at a total price of £15,329.

Arming The Police

Mr. H. G. Lawrence, the Minister of Justice, said in the House of Assembly that in order to check crime, provision had been made for the arming of the police, and recruits would also be armed. There had been a 10 per cent. increase in crime in 20 years. The European strength of the force would be increased by over 1,000 men this year and 868 Natives would also be recruited.

Reef Cinema Incident

A 32 years-old Malay cab driver, Abdullah Bardes, was shot in the leg when a crowd of Indians, Coloureds and natives tried to break into the Avalon Theatre at the corner of Marshall and Wolhuter Street, Johannesburg, on Saturday night. Four detectives who afterwards tried to find the gunman were attacked. A non-European was arrested and taken to Marshall Square in a pick-up van. Non-European women became hysterical after the shot had been fired. To avoid a panic the management admitted the whole crowd and there were no further incidents.

Indian Party's Request

To French

Chandernagore, "City of Sandal wood," the little French pocket on the Hooghly, 22 miles north of Calcutta, is the latest target for the Indian Congress Party. They have asked French permission to establish a branch there. M. Bazin, the French Administrator, is cautiously considering the request while he discusses the problem with the British. Chandernagore, also known as "City Of The Moon," because it stands on a crescent-shaped stretch of the Hooghly, is a rambling, dilapidated place

South African News In Brief

Government's Attitude To Durban Laundry Dispute

The Government will not appoint an arbitrator in the Durban laundry dispute unless they receive an official request from both the employers' and the employees' organisations. This was announced by Dr. Colin Steyn, Union Minister of Labour, after he discussed the matter with Mr. W. J. de Vries, general secretary of the South African Trades and Labour Council.

Dr. Malan

Dr. Malan while supporting the no-confidence motion in the Union House of Assembly said the Government were to be congratulated on the steps announced for the control of Indian land ownership and occupation in Natal. These steps had, however, been forced on the Government. If land ownership and occupation by Indians was wrong in Natal why was it not wrong in the Peninsula and elsewhere in the Union? In Natal the Indians did not have a vote, whereas in the Cape the non-Europeans had the vote.

Delegates For Congress From Kaffir-Pather Group

Representatives of the Kaffir-Pather group of the Natal Indian Congress will attend the meeting of the South African Indian Congress in Cape Town next month, but will have no vote. They have

been invited by the president of the South African Indian Congress, to attend as "fraternal" delegates.

Mr. P. R. Pather told The Daily News that the present left wing executive committee of the Natal Congress had turned down proposals that, for the sake of unity, 10 of the 30 delegates representing Natal in Cape Town should be elected from the members of the Kaffir Pather group.

"Between 30 and 40 of us will be attending the conference," said Mr. Pather. "We will take an active part in the proceedings, even though will not be allowed to vote. We feel it our duty to take this step so that we can present a united front to General Smuts's proposals for Indian land tenure in Natal."

Mr. Nel And Indians

Notice of two questions to the Minister of the Interior on matters affecting Indians has been given by Mr. Nel (Nat., Wonderboom). His first question asks for details of the estimated Indian population in each province, and how many Indians entered and left the Union during the past year. His other question seeks to elicit the number of trading licences that have been granted, the number of commercial businesses being conducted, and the value of immovable property owned by Indians in each of the provinces.

with a population of 32,000. It was settled by the French in 1673, taken by the British in 1657, restored to France in 1763 retaken in 1794, and finally handed back to the French in 1816.

Dire Famine Faces India

Further serious deterioration of the rice millet crops in Southern India is reported, and in the absence of more imports of grain from overseas India is threatened with famine more extensive than the Bengal famine of 1943, says the *Times* correspondent in Delhi. He points out that the central government prepared the rice millet budget in October, but by the third week in December the crop forecasts for Madras, Bombay and Mysore had to be written down by more than 150,000 tons, owing to cyclone and drought. The latest figures show additional losses of more than 1,000,000 tons. It is estimated that it will be necessary to import at least 2,000,000 tons of food and grains this year to avert the worst consequences of famine.

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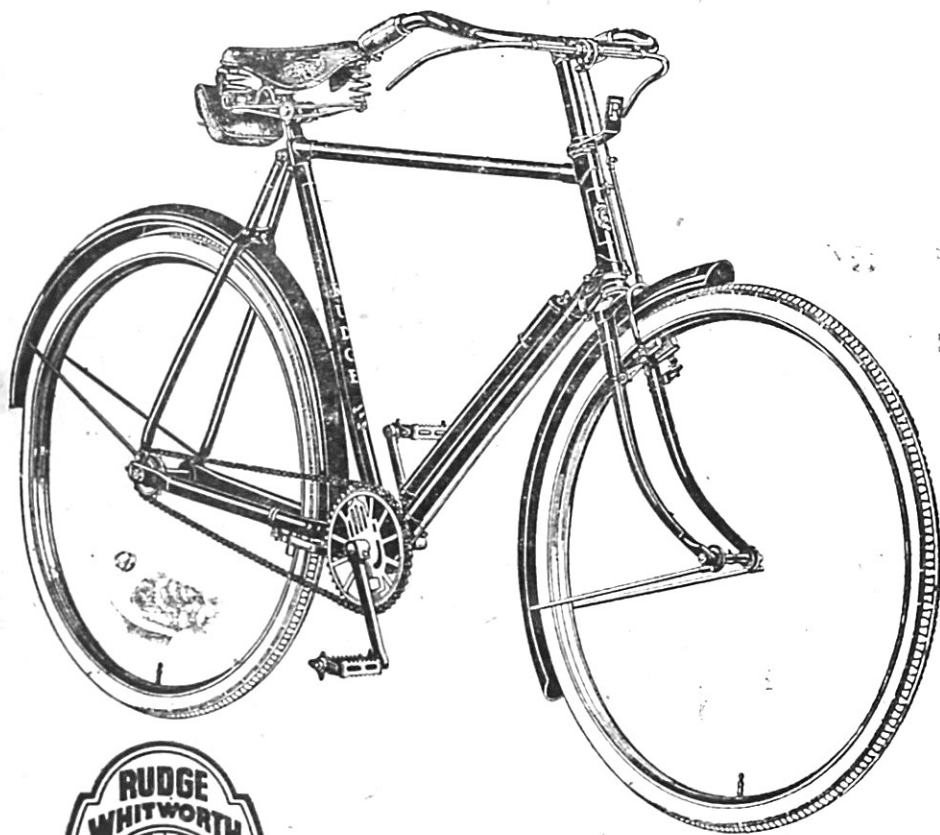
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