

Supplement to *Indian Opinion*
24th February, 1915.

A Faithful Friend.



[Photo by]

[B. Gabriel.

The Late
Honourable G. K. GOKHALE, C.I.E.

Died at Poona, 20th February, 1915.

South Africa mourns the loss of one who did so much for them.

"This Mass Meeting of Transvaal Indians has learnt with acute distress of the premature passing away of the great patriot son of India, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, who lived and died devoted to the service of the Indian Motherland. This meeting mourns the irreparable loss of a friend and brother, who spared neither energy nor health to procure justice for his fellow countrymen in South Africa for whom his heart beat so warmly. In the opinion of this meeting steps should be taken to perpetuate in this country the memory of the late distinguished statesman. The meeting further tenders to the Motherland and to the bereaved relatives the heartfelt sympathy of the Transvaal Indians in the loss that they have sustained. As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Hon. Mr. Gokhale, this meeting earnestly requests members of the Indian community so far as possible to refrain from business to-morrow."

"This Mass Meeting of Transvaal Indians tenders its deep sympathy to Mr. William Hosken, the Chairman of the Committee of European sympathisers, and to the members of his family in the demise of the late Mrs. Hosken, and offers the prayer that the Almighty Father may grant His peace and consolation to them in the sorrow that has stricken them."

Following upon the general meeting, Resolutions expressing regret at the death of the late Mr. Gokhale and the late Mrs. Hosken and expressing sympathy with the bereaved relatives were passed at separate meetings of the various sections of the Indian community, including Mahomedans, Hindus, Tamil Benefit Society, Patidar Society, the Koti Hitvardhak Mandal and the Colonial-born Indians.

Earlier in the day similar resolutions had been passed at a meeting of the Transvaal Indian Women's Association, held at Morgan's Bioscope Hall.

A happy suggestion was carried out successfully in Durban. This took the form of raising a public subscription from all sections for the sending of a cablegram direct to His Excellency the Viceroy, expressing sympathy with the people of India and holding up the great example of Mr. Gokhale's life. The cable reads as follows:—

"Natal Indians unanimously deplore Honourable Gokhale's death. Your Excellency requested convey heartfelt sympathy whole India. Gokhale's life's glowing example should arouse others taking up mass education fitting them true National Life.—Natal Indian Association."

This cablegram was read and approved at the memorial service held by the Gujarati Hindu Community on Monday morning. Hindus, Mahomedans, Parsis and Christians met together and a collection was taken to add to the funds subscribed. The whole amounted to £7 10s., the balance, after paying for the above cablegram, being retained by the committee to defray other expenses in connection with public work.

The late Mrs. Hosken

Johannesburg, Feb. 22.—The funeral took place to-day of Mrs. Hosken, wife of Mr. Wm. Hosken, who died yesterday. For a number of years she had been an invalid, and on the recommendation of her medical adviser she took a trip to England. This appeared to have done her good, but her long illness had really undermined her health.

Mrs. Hosken, who was 59 years of age, was born at Maritzburg, and was a daughter of one of the earliest settlers in the Province of Natal. She came to Johannesburg 26 years ago, and had resided here ever since, with the exception of six years spent in England when her children were being educated. She closely identified herself with Wesleyan Church work, and in charitable works.—*Natal Mercury*.

men, a statesman of the first order, a patriotic and faithful servant of the people—one whose life is an inspiration to thousands upon thousands and whose great love for his fellows takes the form of active, personal life-long service—when such an one lays down this mortal coil to seek a new spiritual life in the Great Beyond, there is felt a sense of emptiness that cannot be described in words. Such is the position in which we find ourselves to-day by the death of the Honourable Gopal Krishna Gokhale, C.I.E., the greatest patriot of modern times. Of his many activities in life our readers will find records elsewhere. His was a life brim-full of generous, selfless service and is an example for all Indians to copy; if not in its entirety, at least in the spirit which he showed. Mr. Gokhale was not strong physically and for many years had suffered from a deadly malady which made life a burden to him. He lived in the certain knowledge that his days were numbered. And yet, instead of seeking rest and caring for his bodily comfort, he tried to crowd as much work into every day as he possibly could. What work there might be on the "other side" he knew not, but the present demanded of him his full energies and he gave them freely, though often in pain. So jealous was he of his powers for usefulness that, when he was offered a knighthood from the hands of the King-Emperor, he declined the honour with thanks. Like some other great men, William Ewart Gladstone for one, he realised that to accept an honour of this kind would tie his hands. His independent spirit asserted itself and he turned aside from the much-coveted prize and went on with his work. But that work has gained for him a greater honour—the love of his countrymen. There is a Distinguished Service Order to be won on the battlefield but there is another "Order of Merit" which settles, like a dove, upon the head of the one who, like Abou Ben Adam, "serves his fellow men."

What have we to learn from the death of Mr. Gokhale? We have cabled our sympathy, we closed down our businesses for one day, we have felt and expressed a sense of loss, and in this we are sincere enough. But what then? Surely that is not the end! We in this country are far removed from the Motherland, but that does not mean that we are not still sons of India and have no duty to perform. Are there not in this country problems to solve, difficulties to overcome? Is the education of the Indian children all that it should be? What of the thousands of children on the estates whose education is practically neglected? And the education we get in Government schools is purely European education. So long as we tolerate this state of things there must remain a stain upon our name and honour. One of Mr. Gokhale's great hopes was to establish free and compulsory education in India. How his great heart would leap with joy to see the Indians of South Africa taking up the duty of educating the children on national lines.

These are days of war when patriotism and love of country are so finely displayed. India is taking her part in the war, but it is not with the same incentive that the people of England and her allies have, who are fighting for their own country. The Indian soldier is fighting for his King-Emperor who rules over the great dependency of India. But India is not ours, and we must be seen to be fighting for our own people, all working towards one common cause—the attainment

THE LATE MRS. HOSKEN

DEATH has come to the house of Mr. William Hosken and left him without a partner. His wife died suddenly on Sunday. As chairman of the European Committee of sympathisers in Johannesburg, Mr. Hosken has made himself a valued and trusted friend of the community. His sorrow must be ours. And in the midst of his own great loss he could still enter into the feeling of the Indian public and send a message of sympathy to them in their sorrow. These are the words of his message to the Johannesburg memorial service:—"The loss is not only irreparable to the Indian community but in Mr. Gokhale the world has lost a great citizen." It is interesting to note that Mr. Hosken looked upon Mr. Gokhale as a citizen of the world. We thank Mr. Hosken for his splendid tribute. May we assure him that the Indian community feel for him most deeply in his loss and pray that peace may be with him and his family in the trying hour.

The Indian Roll of Honour

The undermentioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the Indian Army have been admitted to the Second Class of the Military Division of the Indian Order of Merit, the particular exploit which has won the distinction being noted in each case:—

Naik Sar Amir and Colour-Havildar Ghulam Mahomed, of the 129th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis. On October 31st showed conspicuous gallantry at Hollebeke; fighting a machine-gun section when one gun was put out of action by a shell, and the whole detachment of the other gun had been killed.

Lance-Naik Said Akbar, Havildar Yakub Khan, and Sepoy Daulat Khan, 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). On November 23rd and 24th, at Festubert, accompanied Captain Acworth along the enemy trenches, throwing bombs over the traverses as they proceeded, and thus forcing them to evacuate.

Sepoy Usman Khan, of the 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force), attached to the 57th Wilde's Rifles. For conspicuous gallantry on October 24th in the trenches east of Wytchaete; although twice wounded he refused to leave his position, and continued to fire at the enemy until wounded a third time.

Senior Sub-Assistant Surgeon Pandit Shanker Dass, attached to the 47th Sikhs. For cool courage in attending wounded under heavy fire at Neuve Chapelle.

Lance-Naik Biaz Gul and Sepoy Zarif Khan, of the 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force). For going out on December 12th and bringing in a wounded man lying only 30 yards from the enemy trenches over a distance of 100 yards under heavy fire.

Naik Padamdhaj Gurung, of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles). For remaining behind on November 2nd when the others in the vicinity had been forced to retire.

Lance-Naik Jaman Sing Rana, of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. For carrying out of action on November 6th a wounded rifleman under heavy fire at a range of 20 yards.

Lance-Naik Jamin Sing Khattri, of the same regiment. For going out on November 13th under heavy fire to bring wounded back to our trenches.

Rifleman Kalamu Bisht, of the 1st Battalion, 39th Garhwal Rifles. For leading an advance in single file on November 23rd along a trench against a sap occupied by the enemy, who were thus turned out.

Later, on November 24th, for laying the first sandbags at 15 paces in broad daylight.

Lance-Naik Sankar Gusain, of the same regiment. On November 23rd and 24th, for being from start to finish in the first rush at each traverse and getting into exposed positions on the top of traverse and parapet, the better to fire at the enemy.

Havildar Alam Sing Negi, of the same regiment. On November 23rd and 24th, for leading three successive bayonet charges against the enemy.

Rifleman Ganesh Singh Sajwan, of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Garhwal Rifles. On November 9th, for carrying back a comrade to the trenches on a moonlight night under the enemy's fire.

Havildar Karam Singh, of the 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force). On October 31st, for continuing to command his men, though dangerously wounded, and showing most excellent spirit till removed at night.

Havildar Hari Persad Thapa, of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Gurkha Rifles. On November 22nd and 24th, gallantly leading a rush round traverses in a trench held by the enemy; in doing this he was wounded; nevertheless he fetched up reinforcements, and in command of the party captured some Germans.

Sub-Assistant Surgeon Harnam Singh, attached to the 34th Sikh Pioneers. On November 23rd and 24th, for great courage and disregard of danger in removing wounded under heavy shrapnel fire from the regimental aid post, and with the help of one other man carrying seven wounded men to a place of safety.

Havildar Nikka Singh, of the same regiment. On November 23rd and 24th, all the men having been killed or wounded, he carried his machine gun back to the support trench alone.

Sapper Dalip Singh, of the 3rd Sappers and Miners, No. 20 Company. On October 28th, for conspicuous gallantry in the attack of Neuve Chapelle, when by standing beside Lieutenant Raitt-Kerr, who was wounded, he kept the enemy off by his fire, and thus permitted that officer's safe removal.

Jemadar Ram Rup Singh, of the 1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners, No. 3 Company. On November 12th, for initiative and gallantry. Having received a message that four men who had gone to blow up a house in front of the Seaforths' trenches lay wounded, he led a party of four men to their assistance and brought them in.

Ward Orderly Madhu, of the 34th Prince Albert Victor's Own Poona Horse. On November 2nd, for gallantry in carrying Risaldar Rathore Hamir Singh, who was wounded, under heavy fire to a first-aid post, and then returning to his place in the firing line.

The Military Cross

The newly-instituted decoration of the Military Cross is bestowed upon the following:—

Captain Kanwar Indarjit Singh, M.B., Indian Medical Service (deceased).

Jemadar Inchha Ram, 6th Jat Light Infantry.

Subadar Sant Singh, 34th Sikh Pioneers.

Subadar Thakur Singh, 47th Sikhs.

Subadar Zaman Khan, 129th Baluchis.

Subadar Nain Sing Chinwarh, 39th Garhwal Rifles.

The Order of British India

Risaldar Khwaja Muhammad Khan Bahadur, A.D.C., Queen Victoria's Own Corps of Guides (Frontier Force), is promoted to the First Class of the Order of British India, with the title of Sardar Bahadur. The following are appointed to the Second Class, with the title of Bahadur:—

Subadar Arsla Khan, I.O.M., 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force).

Subadar Balbahadur Khattri, 1st Battalion, 9th Gurkha Rifles.

Subadar-Major Fateh Sing Newar, 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

Subadar Jagat Sing Rawat, I.O.M., 1st Battalion, 39th Garhwal Rifles.

Subadar-Major Abdul Ali, 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force).

These appointments will be supernumerary to the ordinary establishment.—*India*.

Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi at Bombay

Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi arrived in Bombay on the 10th January and on landing at the Apollo Bunder, were accorded (says the *Gujarati*) a most cordial welcome by a large concourse of people numbering about three or four thousand. Floral offerings were made by some persons, but many were disappointed on account of their inability to see Mr. Gandhi in the midst of the huge crowd that had assembled here. Since his arrival receptions have been held in his honour in Bombay, Santa Cruz and Ghatcooper. They are the genuine outward manifestation of the feelings of sincere respect and profound admiration that is felt for him by men of all classes and creeds in this country for the signal services he has rendered in South Africa amidst difficulties, obstacles and hardships of an unprecedented character. Mount Petit, the residence of Mr. J. B. Petit, was the scene of a large and representative gathering in honour of Mr. Gandhi and Mrs. Gandhi. It was a brilliant and unique function worthy of the guests in whose honour it was held. The Hon. Sir Pherozeshah, in proposing their toast, rightly observed that the whole country had for some time been resounding with the story of his great deeds, his courage, his great moral qualities, his privations and sufferings in the cause of our countrymen in South Africa in enabling them to maintain their self-respect and honour, and that they all regarded him as an Indian hero, though he narrowly escaped being the martyr for the cause he had so patriotically espoused. "There was no more pathetic incident," he added, "in the whole campaign which Mr. Gandhi waged in South Africa than the incident of Mrs. Gandhi insisting on standing shoulder to shoulder with her husband in his fight, in his privations and the sufferings which he was willing to undergo." The whole country with one accord joins in paying its homage of respect, gratitude and admiration to the hero and heroine of the historical struggle which they had to maintain in assertion of the elementary rights of His Majesty's subjects in the British Colonies. Every one has noticed that Mr. Gandhi is not in the best of health. He yet looks pale and weak, and his paleness and weakness seem to be enhanced by the austere simplicity of his national dress and personal bearing. One not knowing anything about him can scarcely conceive that beneath his ascetic simplicity and behind his weak and wiry bodily frame there lies concealed such indomitable courage, wonderful patience and perseverance, remarkable determination and pertinacity, profound sincerity and patriotism as have marked his career in South Africa. Mrs. Gandhi's devotion and self-sacrifice, courage and patience will evoke the admiration of all for all time. So long as India can produce men and women of this moral calibre and with such elevated ideals, said Sir Pherozeshah, we need not despair of our country and its future. Now that Mr. Gandhi has returned to his native land, he means to devote the rest of his life to the service of his country and we have no doubt that the great moral qualities which he and his wife displayed in South Africa would be fruitful of the most beneficent results when they are brought to bear upon the solution of the numerous problems which India has been called upon to face. Sir Pherozeshah welcomed them to this land in the name of the great gathering with the fullest and kindly expression of their respect, honour, and admiration for them—sentiments which will be heartily echoed throughout the length and breadth of India. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, in his

letter which was read to the assembly, said that "Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi had not only worked as patriots but had suffered much and deserved well of their country and that they had deserved every honour which the country could give them." Mr. Gandhi's reply was characteristically modest, short and sweet. He paid high tributes of praise to Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Sir Pherozeshah, the Hon. Mr. Gokhale and some other Indians, and asked the meeting to remember that his late friend, Harbutsing, and the girl Valiamma were the real heroes and that they were his brave comrades who had shared his sufferings in gaol. On Thursday last a public entertainment was given to Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi by the Gurjar Sabha. Mr. Jinnah, after extolling the splendid services rendered by Mr. Gandhi, and the magnificent example Mrs. Gandhi has set by standing by the side of her husband with heroic courage and self-sacrifice, pointed out that it was absolutely necessary for the Hindu and Mahomedan communities to stand together and work together for the sake of their motherland and hoped that Mr. Gandhi's co-operation could greatly help forward the work of uniting the two great communities. It was Sir Syed Ahmed who had said that the two great communities were like the eyes of India and that they could not injure the one without injuring the other. Mr. Gandhi took this sage dictum for his text and promised that he would place the ideal of unity before him and work for its attainment. Later on in the evening he was entertained at the rooms of the Servants of India Society. A number of people who could not attend the other gatherings were present there anxious to have a look at the hero of South African fame. He was all kind and courteous to all. His great services were praised by Mr. Devdhar. Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi are a priceless moral asset of India. Not only Gujarat but the whole country is justly proud of them. May they be blessed by Providence with long and happy life and prosperity and may their devoted efforts for the country's welfare be crowned with unqualified success.

Russia's Moral Triumph

"A note to the Russian Budget Bill furnishes a remarkable illustration of the social and economic advantages which sobriety—even compulsory sobriety—brings to a community," says the *Liverpool Post*.

"In referring to the effect of the war on industry, the Finance Minister says that except in districts directly affected by the war there has been no sensible diminution in the industrial output. The reason given is the increased productivity of the worker owing to the suppression of the sale of alcohol. 'This increased productivity has reached from thirty to fifty per cent., and compensates largely for the diminution in the number of workers due to the call to the colours.'"

"Assuming that Russian human nature does not differ materially from our own—and judging by Mr. Stuart Deacon's remark that his morning's work in the police court of a city where the selling of drink is practically unrestricted was a nightmare because of the number of cases having their origin in excessive drinking—this increased industrial activity in Russia is certain to be accompanied by a decrease in crime, accident, disease, and mental weakness.

"Russia never did a braver thing or achieved a finer triumph than when she abolished the State sale of alcohol. By one word the Czar, who has always been a firm and earnest advocate of temperance, decreed that never more should the unrestricted sale of strong drink take place in his vast Empire.

"With the boldness of a righteous cause the Czar swept away at a stroke a State income of some £80,000,000 a year, and, of course, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to find this elsewhere. He did so by increasing almost all taxes, from land and houses

to matches and cigarette papers, and on the liquors sold under comprehensive restrictions from three to six times the former duties have been imposed.

"Vodka selling price has been raised to 15s. a gallon, as against about 6s. 3d.; and the malt excise from 3s. 7d. a pood to 19s. By means of these increases a great portion of the deficit is wiped out, some little margin being left for the economic gains that always follow when drink money is spent on better things."

Cardinal Mercier's Brave Stand

Cardinal Mercier, in his brave pastoral to his people, which so revolted the Germans that they isolated the Cardinal in his palace, says:—

"God will save Belgium, my brethren, you cannot doubt it. Nay, rather, He is saving her. Across the smoke of conflagration, across the stream of blood, have you not glimpses, do you not perceive signs, of His love for us? Is there a patriot among us who does not know that Belgium has grown great? Nay, which of us would have the heart to cancel this last page of our national history? Which of us does not exult in the brightness of the glory of this shattered nation?"

"When a mighty foreign Power, confident in its own strength and defiant of the faith of treaties, dared to threaten us in our independence, then did all Belgians, without difference of party, or of condition, or of origin, rise up as one man, close-ranked about their own King, and their own Government, and cry to the invader: 'Thou shalt not go through!' At once, instantly, we were conscious of our own patriotism."

"For down within us all is something deeper than personal interests, than personal kinships, than party feeling, and this is the need and the will to devote ourselves to that more general interest which Rome termed the public thing—*Res Publica*. And this profound will within us is Patriotism. We may now say, my brethren, without unworthy pride, that our little Belgium has taken a foremost place in the esteem of nations. I am aware that certain onlookers, notably in Italy and in Holland, have asked how it could be necessary to expose this country to so immense a loss of wealth and of life, and whether a verbal manifesto against hostile aggression, or a single cannonshot on the frontier, would not have served the purpose of protest. But assuredly all men of good feeling will be with us in our rejection of these paltry counsels. Mere utilitarianism is no sufficient rule of Christian citizenship."

"The laws of conscience are sovereign laws. We should have acted unworthily had we evaded our obligation by a mere feint of resistance. And now we would not rescind our first resolution; we exult in it. Being called upon to write a most solemn page in the history of our country, we resolved that it should be also a sincere, also a glorious page. And as long as we are required to give proof of endurance, so long we shall endure."

"I do not require of you to renounce any of your national desires. On the contrary, I hold it as part of the obligations of my episcopal office to instruct you as to your duty in face of the Power that has invaded our soil and now occupies the greater part of our country. *The authority of that Power is no lawful authority. Therefore in soul and conscience you owe it neither respect, nor attachment, nor obedience. The sole lawful authority in Belgium is that of our King, of our Government, of the elected representatives of the nation. This authority alone has a right to our affection, our submission.*"

News in Brief

In our next issue will appear a personal tribute to the late Mr. Gokhale by Mr. Polak.

By permission of the Superintendent of Education, the Indian schools in Maritzburg were close on Monday.

The Indian stores were closed in Durban on Monday.

The Durban Indian Market was closed, at the request of the stall holders, at 10 a.m. on Monday. Hawkers of fruit and vegetables abstained from going their rounds and the market gardeners held back their produce until next day.

The St. Aidan's Mission and Catholic Schools in Natal closed on Monday.

The Natal Indian Women's Association held a memorial service on Sunday evening and decided to send a cablegram of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Gokhale.

The Indians of Tongaat closed their stores on Monday and held a meeting to express their sorrow.

The *Natal Mercury*, although it had limited space and much "copy," printed the full report of Sunday's meeting.

So genuine was the sorrow felt that men were seen to weep like children.

We understand that a request was made to the sugar and tea planters to give a days' leave to their employees and that Messrs. Hulett & Sons and the Natal Estates expressed their willingness to do so, but we have not yet ascertained whether this was carried out.

The following telegram was received by the British Indian Association from General Smuts:—

"Learn with deep regret death of Honourable Mr. Gokhale. Please accept my sympathy at the loss of such an eminent statesman who served his people and Empire with much distinction."

At Maritzburg, a meeting was held on Monday afternoon, for the purpose of passing a resolution of condolence on the death of Mr. Gokhale. The resolution was cabled to the relatives in India.

Port Elizabeth, Feb. 22 (Reuter).—At a meeting of the Mauritian and Colonial-born Hindu Benefit Society reference was made to the death of Mr. Gokhale, and a resolution of condolence passed. The meeting was a large one.

The Natal Indian Association and the Zoroastrian Anjuman sent telegrams of condolence to Mr. William Hosken.

At Ghatcooper Mr. Gandhi was presented with a pair of golden hand-cuffs. We can understand how he would appreciate this interesting memento which has to it both a sad and humorous side. Mr. Gandhi, whilst rebuking the donors for spending so much money said that iron fetters could be broken but these golden fetters, being linked by love, could never be broken.

Printed and Published by Albert H. West and Mahanlal K. Gandhi at the International Printing Press, Phoenix, Natal.