

Indian Opinion

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INDIANS AND THE CONTINGENT FUND

A MEETING of Indians was held on the 6th instant in the Durban Town Hall, to decide what they could do as regards the Overseas Contingent Fund. The Mayor (Councillor J. H. Nicolson) presided, and there were also present: Senator the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell, Messrs. Parsee Rustomjee, Dawad Mahomed, Omar Hajre Amod Jhaveri, E. M. Paruk, Abdool Hay & Amod, Hoosen Cassim, S. P. Mahomed, M. C. Anglia, A. M. Shaik, M. H. Ismail, S. P. Butler, M. S. Randaree, L. Gabriel, Motala, and M. H. Cassim.

The Mayor expressed his appreciation of the presence of the leaders of the Indian community of Durban at a meeting with such an object as the present one, and paid a tribute to the value of their assistance. He referred to the part their compatriots were playing on the fields of Flanders, where their brilliance had earned the respect of all. South Africa, he said, had been perhaps a little slow in sending forward a contingent to assist the other representatives of the Empire, but the Government had been much handicapped by the rebellion and the other troubles of late in South Africa. However, a contingent was now on the way to Europe, and he was pleased to see that Indian bearer companies were being formed. In a crisis like the present, when the Empire, of which they were all so proud—and none more proud than the Indian—was fighting for liberty, it behoved every man to do his share; if he was too old or unfit to carry a rifle and take his part in the trenches, he must help to pay for the dependents of those who were in the fighting line, giving their all for the Empire. The Governor-General had formed a fund for the relief of the dependents of men in the South African Contingent, and the Durban Committee had undertaken to collect a sum of £60,000 within a period of 12 months. The Indian community were not to think that because they had not been approached before the present date they had been overlooked, or that their assistance was not wanted. He (the Mayor) knew that they were willing and anxious to bear their part of the burden, and had taken the first opportunity of meeting them, with a view to carrying out an organised collection among the Indian community. He suggested that they form committees among themselves for the collection of funds, and from each of these committees nominate two members to form a general committee, which would meet regularly with Senator the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell and report progress and generally confer. Much of the money that was being subscribed at present was by means of monthly subscriptions both from firms and from employes, and the Mayor commended this method to their consideration. However, it was left entirely to themselves to make the best arrangements for subscriptions, either by means of monthly sums or lump donations.

Senator the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell expressed his pleasure at meeting the leaders of the Indian com-

munity. He knew from his own experience, and from observations which he had been in a good position to make, that the Indian race was second to none in its response to the call of charity, and he was confident that the present appeal for funds would be cordially received. He placed his services unreservedly at the disposal of the Indian community in this matter, both for the active collection of funds and any other ways in which he could be of assistance. Later on, he suggested, it might be possible to enlist the aid of even the Indians on the sugar estates. He would take care to keep the Governor General regularly advised of the progress of the fund amongst the Indian community, so that his Excellency would be in a position to appreciate how well the Indians were doing their part.

The Mayor read letters from Messrs. Rustomjee and O. H. A. Jhaveri promising their cordial support, and forwarding cheques towards the fund.

Mr. Dawad Mahomed, on behalf of those present, expressed their appreciation of the Mayor's action in inviting their co-operation, and expressed their willingness to assist in every way possible.

Mr. Parsee Rustomjee also promised his heartiest support, and expressed his preparedness to assist in the canvassing of the Indian community. For this purpose he suggested to the Mayor the desirability of the Indian visitors being accompanied by members of the European Committee, and Senator the Hon. Mr. Marshall Campbell undertook to accompany in the manner suggested any canvass of the Indian community.

Mr. Hoosen Cassim agreed that the suggestion to form committees was an excellent one, and the following committee was formed:—

Mahomedan Merchants' Committee: Messrs. Dawad Mahomed (chairman and convener), M. H. Cassim, E. M. Paruk, Abdool Gaffer, S. P. Mahomed, M. C. Anglia, M. Coovadia, M. S. Randaree, and A. M. Shaik.

Natal Indian Association.—Mr. L. Gabriel and Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri undertook to form a committee which would reach all section of the Indian community not touched by the Merchants' Committee, with Mr. Jhaveri as chairman and convener.

A meeting of the representatives of the Hindu community will be held to-morrow (Friday) at 12 noon to organise the collection of subscriptions amongst the Hindu community.—*Natal Mercury*.

Another Meeting

A meeting of all sections of the Indian community, with the exception of the Mahomedans, was held in the Town Hall on Friday morning, for the purpose of raising funds from the Indian people for the Governor-General's Fund. The Mayor presided, and there was a large attendance.

His Worship explained the position, repeating the remarks he had made to the Mahomedan merchants

upon the same question. He pointed out that the best thing to do would be to appoint a Committee, irrespective of race and creed, and then they could appoint their own sub-Committees to make their arrangements. In conclusion, he said he was sure that they would be able to say that the Indian Indians were loyal, and would do their best in the interests of the Empire.

Mr. Parsee Rustomjee said that those present represented the working classes of the Indians, and he knew that they would do their best. Those men who gave a sixpence or a shilling a month would do so gladly, for they felt that they were doing as much, if not more, than those who gave their thousands.

Replying to Mr. J. Moodley, the Mayor said that when the War Relief Fund was started there was no contemplation of the formation of an Indian Bearer Company, and he could not say whether the funds collected would be devoted to the relief of the dependents of these men. He thought it would only be fair that such should be, and he would certainly make representations to that effect.

The Hon. Marshall Campbell also expressed the opinion that there would be no objection to a portion of the funds being devoted to the Indian Bearer Company's dependents.

A member of the audience said that the scheme should be run in connection with the Natal Indian Association.

The Mayor replied that he did not want the scheme to have any individual distinction whatever. He did not want to have anything to do with the Natal Indian Association, or any other body, but the committee must be selected from the representatives of the Indian community present. He took it that all present were quite agreeable to help, and he therefore asked them to nominate a committee.

A Committee was then elected, and Mr. Parsee Rustomjee was appointed chairman, and Messrs. Lawrence and Bhatt joint secretaries.

The following were also elected members: Messrs. Jack Moodley, R. K. Pather, F. S. Aiyar, Dehaloo, Bodha Singh, A. D. Okan, Buldeo Singh, R. Bhugwan, L. Gabriel, R. B. Chetty, C. V. Pillay, G. D. Hansraj, P. V. Sanghaves, N. Juggivan, Bhana Parshotam, S. N. Jivanjee, B. A. Magrajh, Lutchman Panday, M. B. Naik, Talwant Singh, A. B. Paul, Rev. Koil Pillai, A. G. Tipnis, R. K. Naidoo, M. C. Naidoo, G. D. Lalla, H. I. Joshi, J. B. Mehta, Mackanjee, C. B. Desai, A. Christopher.

Replying to Mr. F. M. Lazarus, the Mayor said he thought it best for the Committee that had been appointed at the Indian Market to collect subscriptions from Indians using the market, to remain, and not be merged into the Committee just appointed.

Before the meeting closed, a vote of confidence was passed to the Mayor on the occasion of the recent death of his mother. The Mayor expressed his thanks, and added he was sure that the Committee would be very successful in raising funds.—*Natal Advertiser*.

Meeting of Indian Committee

A meeting was held at Mr. Rustomjee's premises on Monday night when the following names were added to the Indian Committee: Messrs. Bryan Gabriel, J. M. Lazarus, Ravji Bhoola, M. H. Desai, Samji Devshi, Khimjee Dhayaljee, Ramjee Bhika, Khoosal Bhugga, G. Ramchand, Deva Kuvarjee, Thackersi Damodhar, Kara Devraj, V. D. Mehta, Vanmaree Morar, R. S. G. Pather, S. K. Pather, V. S. C. Pather, M. S. Naidoo, M. P. Pather, T. V. Pather, A. A. Pillay, P. G. Payne, V. M. Pillay, C. T. Poonather, T. M. Naicker, and G. B. Chetty.

The Committee has decided to hold meetings every Monday, at 6 p.m. sharp, at Mr. Rustomjee's premises, 110 Field Street.

Notes.

A strong protest was made by Mr. Rustomjee, supported by Messrs. Dawood Mahomed and E. M. Paruk, against forming a separate Mahomedan merchants' committee, but, as the supporters of the separate committee expressed a strong desire in favour, the Mayor and Mr. Marshall Campbell put their weight in the scale and the proposition was carried.

When it was announced that a meeting of Hindus would be held on Friday to form a separate committee, it came as a disagreeable surprise to the majority of the Hindus; and before the meeting formally commenced, a discussion took place and it was wisely decided that there should be no Hindu Committee but one that should embrace all sections.

The promoters of the Fund have expressed the desire that donations should take the form of monthly subscriptions rather than lump sums.

Anyone desirous of sending donations by post should make cheques payable to the Overseas Contingent Fund and forward same to the chairman of one of the committees. Money should not be handed to anyone but the recognised officials.

Senator Marshall Campbell was in Maritzburg the other day in connection with the establishment of an Indian branch of the Overseas Contingent Fund.

The Chairman of the Indian Committee of the South African Contingent Fund, accompanied by Senator Marshall Campbell and others, commenced making collections in Durban on Tuesday afternoon.

We understand that the Indian Market Committee have already commenced collecting and the monthly subscriptions promised amount to a considerable sum.

Questions are being asked in Durban why the Borough Market should not follow the example of the Indian stall-holders and farmers and raise a fund. The Indian Market has already raised a very large sum of money in connection with the war and it is well-known that Indians were very large contributors to the Red-Cross Auction, held in the Town Hall recently.

Interviewed in Durban on Wednesday, Capt Dunning said no provision would be made for the dependents of those joining the Indian Bearer Company, but it is hoped that the men will be allowed to participate in the fund being raised to help the dependents of those serving overseas.

Dr. Dadabhai's Thanks

We have received the following letter from Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji:—

"I have been overwhelmed with congratulations and good wishes from friends and admirers, in various parts, and I take this opportunity to thank them most heartily, as also all the numerous public bodies who held congratulatory meetings in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other centres, in connection with my 91st birthday."

"Times are critical and it behoves every unit of the vast population under British rule in India to give every loyal assistance in order that victory, to the arms of the Allies who are fighting the battle of freedom and in the cause of humanity, may be assured at an early date."

"England by her undaunted courage and unity of action has maintained her place among the nations, and has set an example to the world, and all India must feel, as I do feel, intense satisfaction for her ultimate success in the near future."

From the Editor's Chair

OVERSEAS CONTINGENT FUND

We are pleased to note that the Indians of Durban have responded to the invitation given by the Mayor to contribute to the Overseas Contingent Fund and we report elsewhere meetings held during the week at which arrangements were made to collect from all sections of the community. It is but fitting that we, as a community claiming rights as British citizens, should co-operate with other citizens of the Empire in collecting funds for the relief of the families of those who have placed their lives at the disposal of their King and country. We are not disposed to haggle over whether the dependents of those joining the Indian Bearer Company should receive relief out of this fund. All we wish to say is, if it came about that they were denied such relief, such treatment would be shabby beyond words. We have the assurance of the Hon. Marshall Campbell that there would be no objection to a portion of the fund being used for that purpose, and we have sufficient faith in the British character to believe that others will think the same. Whilst the object for which the meetings were called is altogether worthy, it is a pity that there should have been allowed to creep in any difference of sect or religion. A merchants' committee, just as a chamber of commerce committee or a remit dealers' association committee, we can understand, but a *Mahomedan* merchants' committee is entirely a different matter. We understand that a protest was made but it proved of no avail. The Mayor and Mr. Marshall Campbell, of course, had one object in view, and that was to collect as much money as possible, and if they agreed to a Mahomedan Committee it was with the idea of attaining their object, and perhaps they thought that a division of that kind would be beneficial from a financial point of view. But the reputation of the Indian Community is injured by such a division and we must express our disappointment. Then there was another committee formed which is supposed to represent the rest of the Indian Community. It should represent, of course, Mahomedans who are not merchants but in going carefully through the list of names we have not been able to discover a single Mahomedan name. For this we do not blame Mahomedans. We know that amongst the names are some who reside at Stanger and Uzingsa. These names were put on the list, we feel sure, without consultation. If no Mahomedans attended the meeting at the Town Hall on Friday or at the meeting at Mr. Parsee Rustomjee's place on Monday, it was the duty of those present to nominate members of the Mahomedan community and thus show that they were consistent in protesting against a Mahomedan committee being formed. We hope that for next Monday's meeting of the committee Mahomedans will receive invitations and that they and others will be nominated as members and their co-operation enlisted. We do not offer these comments in any sense of casting criticism—far from it—but we feel it our duty to point out where mistakes have been made so that they may not occur in future.

"What I want to see in South Africa is, the white man maintaining the standard of living to which he is accustomed, and the coloured man gradually improving his standard."—Mr. Jagger.

The Cape Coloured Corps

Arrangements are progressing satisfactorily with regard to the formation of the above named Corps (says A.P.O.) Recruiting, however, will not begin until towards the end of the month. One thing, however, has been definitely decided, namely, that the men will all be sent to Cape Town and be trained at Simonstown.

We understand that the men will be placed upon the same footing as Imperial soldiers. That means that they will be placed on exactly the same footing as the white South African contingents. In the case of the Cape Corps, however, none but men without dependents will be recruited for the present contingent.

When it is found necessary to recruit on a larger scale, then the question of allowances to dependents will receive the same consideration as has been extended to others in the Imperial service.

All commissioned officers, we learn, are to be Europeans, and non-commissioned officers Coloured. One of the first to apply for a position as a non-commissioned officer, is Mr. Heeger, of Wynberg, who gave up his position as teacher at the Berlin Mission School in order to take up the appointment. Mr Heeger has set a very good example, which we think will be followed by many others.

Several more non-commissioned officers are required, and we shall be glad if those desirous of taking up a position would apply to Dr. Abdurahman.

We trust that when the recruiting begins there will be no lack of applicants.

Lord Carmichael on the True "Swaraj"

The Governor of Bengal recently laid the foundation-stone of the new building of the Calcutta University Institute, which for twenty years past has been doing excellent work among the student community. In the course of his address, Lord Carmichael expressed his faith in the greatness of the Indian future, a greatness that could only be secured if British and Indian learned to know and appreciate each other. His Excellency continued:—

We must study the history and the wonderful literature of India, and we must study the history of England and the history of the British Empire. In this way we shall, I hope, attain to a true sympathy with each other, based on a common feeling and the result of accurate knowledge. Our two races, British and Indian, have been brought together, we trust, in the providence of God for some wise purpose, but it is only by the perfect understanding of each other that we can make ourselves fit instrument to carry out that purpose. I hope this institution will be a powerful force in helping us to attain a sympathy free from any idea of tolerance, free from any feeling of condescension, a sympathy which denotes unity of feeling founded on a perfect knowledge of each other, and which will lead to a wider conception of the motherland, wider than the land of the seven rivers, wider than the India we know to-day—a Motherland as wide as the British Empire itself. If we can only attain to that, most of the causes of friction between our races will be gone. There will be no question then as to the true meaning of "Swaraj." There will be but one feeling, that all must be free and equal citizens of one great Empire, whose aim and object is to fit each individual to do his best for the benefit of his fellow-citizens. No doubt we are far from that ideal, but we must always keep it before us if we are ever to attain to it, we must prepare ourselves by our education to appreciate the goal. At this moment, many of our fellow-citizens are fighting for all that the ideal of the Empire means to them. Our rights are seldom seen from our brethren—British and Indian—who are giving their lives for what we hold dear. I believe there are hund-

reds here who would gladly follow their example if only they could be called on to do so. But if the supreme sacrifice is denied to us, we can at least try to do what does lie to hand, so that, whatever the future may bring forth, Bengal will be ready for it, and her sons may feel they have taken their share in helping the Empire to attain the noble ideal which I trust they will set before themselves.—*India.*

News in Brief

We were informed last week that a mobilisation camp for the Indian Bearer Company had been formed at Stamford Hill, under the charge of Capt. Dunning, late Deputy Protector of Indian Immigrants, but, on enquiries in Durban amongst Indians, we were unable to find anyone who knew where the camp was situated. We also understand that some who previously gave their names as being willing to enlist, have now decided not to do so under the conditions offered.

The tenth anniversary celebration of the Hindu Young Men's Association will take place at Maritzburg at No. 548, Church Street, on Sunday, the 17th inst., at 10 a.m. It is expected that delegates from all over Natal will attend the anniversary celebration. The secretaries issue a cordial invitation to all to attend. In the evening from 8 p.m. the pupils of the Tamil School will stage a dramatical play called "Chandrabasa"; and the proceeds whereof will be applied in payment of the purchase price of the new building, which the Association recently bought.

We read in the Indian papers that a meeting of the Pariahs held at Madras presented an address to Mr. Srinivasan, sometime Editor of a "Pariah" paper, in gratitude to the work he had done for them, on the eve of his leaving for South Africa where he holds an appointment under the Union Government.

About 180 Indian students, drawn from the universities and colleges of the United Kingdom, are doing service (says *India*) as members of the Indian Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Indian hospitals or on hospital ships as doctors, dressers, interpreters, etc. Those who have qualified as doctors are given commissions in the Indian Medical Service; and four of them are now in France. Three Indians are serving in France as interpreters on hospital trains for wounded Indian soldiers. Mr. Paresch Lal Roy, of Cambridge, son of Mr. P. L. Roy, of Calcutta, is in the Honourable Artillery Company as a private, and has been in action several times. Mr. A. S. Ramalingam, B.Sc., is a private in the Royal Fusiliers; and Mr. N. S. Padamjee, of Cambridge, a private in the Middlesex Regiment. Other Indian students have joined the ranks of the Territorials and the new armies.

Further notable war gifts by Indian Princes are announced. The Gaekwar of Baroda makes the munificent donation of five lakhs of rupees (over £33,000) for aeroplanes. The Maharaja Sindia of Gwalior has given, through the Viceroy, £6,000 to the Ministry of Munitions for expenditure in such manner as Mr. Lloyd George may think most useful. The Maharaja of Kotah, who has given one lakh of rupees (£6,666) to the War Fund, and 25,000 rupees (£1,666) from his private purse for the comforts of the 42nd Deoli Regiment, of which he is honorary officer; the Raja of Dewas has given £1,000, the Council of Regency of the Bahawalpur Durbar, £1,666, the Kalsia Durbar £1,300 for the purchase of motor ambulances, the Maharaj Rana of Dholpur a 50-horse-power F.I.A.T. motor-car, the Mir of Khairpur a military aeroplane, and the Maharaja of Hill Tipperah a motor launch for use in Mesopotamia.—*India.*

અઠવાડીક પંચાંગ

ચાર	પ્રીસ્તી	હીંદુ	મુસલમાન	પારસી	સુરોદિય	સુચારિત
૧૯૧૫	૧૯૭૧	૧૩૩૩	૧૨૮૫	ક. મી.	ક. મી.	
અકટો.	આસો	જલહજ				
શુક	૧૫	સુદ ૭	૫	૪	૫-૨૩	૬-૭
શની	૧૬	" ૮	૬	૫	૫-૨૨	૬-૭
રવી	૧૭	" ૯	૭	૬	૫-૨૧	૬-૮
સોમ	૧૮	" ૧૦	૮	૭	૫-૨૦	૬-૮
મંગળ	૧૯	" ૧૧	૯	૮	૫-૧૯	૬-૯
બુધ	૨૦	" ૧૨	૧૦	૯	૫-૧૮	૬-૯
ગુરુ	૨૧	" ૧૩	૧૧	૧૦	૫-૧૭	૬-૧૦

દશમનો કાય છે અને વિજયા દશમી રવીચારે છે

Indian Opinion

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આફ્રિકાને વિનંતિ

હવેથી ઇ. ઓપીનીઅનનું લવાજમ ૬. આફ્રીકાના યુનીઅનને માટે એક વરસના પોસ્ટેજ સાથે ૦-૫-૬ રાખ્યું છે. યુનીઅન બહારનું લવાજમ પોસ્ટેજ સાથે ૦-૬-૬ છે. જેમનું લવાજમ અમારી પાસે જમા છે તેમને આ નવા લવાજમના દર પ્રમાણે મુદતમાં વધારો કરી આપવામાં આવશે. આ જાહેર ૧ બરથી અમારા આફ્રીકા કે જેનું લવાજમ અમારી પાસે જમા હશે તેમણે સમજી લેવું કે અમે તેમને મુદતમાં વધારો કરી આપ્યો છે.

છુટક નકલ એક પેની, પોસ્ટેજ અરથી પેની.

હીંદુસ્તાનની સ્ટીમરો અને ટપાલ

સ્ટીમર અમલોટી - તા. ૧ અકટોબરે કોલ્કોતાથી ઉપડી છે.
સ્ટીમર ચક્રદીના - તા. ૧૪ અકટોબરના અરસામાં જમ્મુ ખાતે રસ્તે મુંબઈ માટે ઉપડવાની હતી.

સ્ટી. પાલમકોટા - તા. ૩૦ અકટોબરના અરસામાં જમ્મુ ખાતે રસ્તે મુંબઈ જવા ઉપડશે.

મી. દાદા ભાઈ નવરોજીને ના. વધસરોય તરફથી જન્મ ગાંઠની મુઆરકાનો સંદેશો મળ્યો હતો. તેનો આભાર મની દાદાએ ના. વાધસરોયને જણાવ્યું હતું કે હું ઉમેદ રાખું છું કે કુન્યાની આ મોટી લગાઇનો અંત જલદીથી અને ફતેહ મંદીથી આવશે મારી ખાનરી છે કે આપણા શહેનશાહ તરફ નો પોતાનો ભગતી ભાવ અને વફાદારી હીંદુ આલું રાખશે. અને તેને શહેનશાહતને ખીજા ભાગોની સાથે ન્યાય અને શહેરી તરીકેના એક સરખા હક મળશે.