

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**A**S advertised in our last week's issue a general meeting of the members of the Natal Indian Congress was held last Sunday afternoon at Rawat's Bio Hall, Victoria Street, Durban. Mr. Amod Bayat the president took the chair and after formally opening the meeting Mr. A. Christopher in a lengthy speech described the work and activities of the Congress up to date. The committee's action in appointing Mr. V. S. C. Pather in place of Mr. A. Christopher who resigned from the secretaryship owing to his impending departure shortly to Europe, and Mr. P. R. Pather, as Hon. Treasurer in place of Mr. V. S. C. Pather was confirmed by a majority the motion being moved by Mr. S. R. Naidu and seconded by Mr. A. I. Kujee. The rest of the agenda as regards the modification of rules etc. was left over for another meeting which it was decided to hold on Sunday next the 25th instant.

Mr. Albert Christopher's career as hon. Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress has been more than successful. A responsible official position is by no means an enviable one. It is the way of the world to notice the faults and amplify them and overlook the good deeds done by a man. Mr. Albert Christopher was the soul of the Congress and it is not an exaggeration to say that the work achieved by the Congress so far has been very largely due to the labour of Mr. Christopher with the assistance of his very energetic co-Secretary Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee. Although he has resigned, his activities in the interest of the Congress have not ceased. Mr. Christopher was not a paid Secretary neither is he one of those blessed with prosperity. His personal troubles are great and the way he has fulfilled his duties to the Congress has meant no small sacrifice for him. The community would be failing in its duty if it would not recognise this fact. Mr. Christopher's worth will only be realised when he leaves us. We feel sorry and so will the community that we have lost the able assistance of Mr. Christopher in conducting the Congress. But we are also happy that it is his ambition to better qualify himself for the work he has hitherto been carrying on and in that we wish him every success.

As to the coming hon. Secretary Mr. V. S. C. Pather we feel confident that there could not have been a better choice. By his calm and cool temperament and his systematic way of working Mr. Pather has gained the love and respect of all and as he has succeeded in fulfilling the much bigger task as the general Secretary of the South African Indian Congress there is not the slightest doubt that he will ably fulfil the comparatively smaller one.

Mr. P. R. Pather, who is appointed the hon. Treasurer, is a junior partner of Mr. V. S. C. Pather and he has inherited all the good qualities of his senior partner. There is therefore little doubt that he will be able to fulfil his responsible task just as successfully as his predecessor has done. We wish them both every success in their respective offices.

The Natal Witness in its issue of the 15th instant writes:—

Sir Charles Coghill, the Prime Minister of Rhodesia,

in extending a welcome to Mrs. Naidu, the Indian advocate of race equality, laid particular emphasis on the fact that the Asiatic in Rhodesia was accorded full rights of citizenship. To most South Africans this information will come as a surprise, but it should be borne in mind that the Indian community in Rhodesia is extremely small, and that, thanks to the stringent Immigration Laws which exist, there is very little likelihood of its ever assuming large dimensions. Under those circumstances the Rhodesians probably feel perfectly safe in according full rights to the Asiatic, having behind them the comfortable assurance that there is no danger of his ever being in a position to constitute a menace to the well-being of the European. Were the position otherwise, and were the Rhodesians threatened with a powerful and rapidly increasing Asiatic element, in active competition with white merchants and white labour, there would be a very different tale to tell, and we imagine that with characteristic independence the people of the Northern Territory would lose no time in adopting drastic measures to rid themselves of such a menace to the prosperity of their country. But as matters stand they can well afford to be generous to the small percentage of the Indians who have settled in the North, knowing well that their Immigration Law affords them ample protection against any influx of Asiatic competition.

A Reuter's message from Johannesburg dated May 19 states:—

At a mass meeting of the Transvaal British Indian Association, and at which Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was present, the following motion was carried with acclamation: "in view of the fact that it had been reported that General Smuts' reply to one of the questions put to him at Klerksdorp was to the effect 'that a circular had been issued by the Transvaal British Indian Association in Johannesburg to members to assist the Nationalist Party by the use of motors, etc.', the members of the said Association, in mass meeting assembled, repudiate any such circular, and condemn in the very strongest of terms the action of the one or more who are responsible for such letter or circular being distributed." It was further moved and unanimously carried: "that we who are disenfranchised must remain perfectly neutral in this or in any other election until such time as we are in a position to exercise our discretion at the poll."

Whoever may be responsible for the above-mentioned circular supporting the Nationalist Party, we must say that the action was thoughtless and unwise. If we owe any support to any Party we owe it only to the South African Party as loyal citizens of South Africa and the British Empire. We know full well that we are not going to get anything more from either the Nationalist or the Labour Party than from the South African Party. There is every likelihood of getting less. We feel that there is no Party not even the South African Party to which we entrust the safeguarding of our interests in this country. Though it must be recognized that the South African Party has many difficulties in holding its own it must also be admitted that many of its members have degraded. Under the circumstances, the resolution of the Transvaal British Indian Association to remain neutral "until such time as we are in a posi-

tion to exercise our descretion at the poll" we think, is very wise.

We in Natal who can exercise the vote, should either adopt the same course or stand for the best man who can give us an assurance in writing that he will safeguard our interests. To stand for any party is unsafe.

#### FAREWELL

ON Sunday morning Mrs. Sarojini Naidu will be leaving the shores of South Africa.

Mrs. Naidu came to us as a stranger; very soon she became acquainted with us and now she is so attached to us that it is with a heavy heart that we think of the parting day which is drawing closer and closer every minute. We see in Mrs. Naidu the shadow of our Motherland. When we see her, we feel that our Motherland has not forgotten her children who have left their own home and gone astray, but that even though they have gone astray she has still their welfare at heart. Like a mother Mrs. Naidu has come to us with a message of happiness from our homeland. With a motherly affection she has gladdened our hearts. She has given us good advice and she has uttered a word of warning and rebuke to our oppressors for going astray from the path of humanity. Mrs. Naidu's mission in South Africa has been a very successful one. To bring an end to the Class Areas Bill was one of her greatest desires, and it would have been the greatest disappointment to her if she would have had to leave South Africa without seeing the end of that Bill. But it will be a great satisfaction to her as it is to us to feel that so far as she is concerned, at least, she has seen the end of the Bill. Another great achievement of Mrs. Naidu is that she has by her magnetic power drawn the thinking population towards her and she has been able to awaken them to the principles of right, justice and fairplay and has made them active. This is not a small achievement, for it is only when the thinking population will stir itself that the wrongs done to a country or a nation will be prevented. The most important part of her mission, however, we must consider to be the advice she has given us; and that is to remember that India will be judged by our actions and by the life we lead in this country; and it is no small responsibility on our shoulders to uphold the honour and dignity of our country and our race. If we will remember this fundamental principle in every vocation of our life not only will we have done the greatest honour to Mrs. Naidu but we will never falter from the path of righteousness and we will be successful in our struggle for justice and fairplay.

We have seen many partings but we do not remember any being so touching as that with our revered leader Mahatma Gandhi; and with Mrs. Naidu it will be the second one. We hope Mrs. Naidu will carry with her the happy recollections of this country and convey to her Motherland our

message of unbounded love and loyalty. We wish Mrs. Naidu, above all, health, for that is what she needs very badly and we wish her

FAREWELL AND GOD-SPEED.

#### MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU RETURNS FROM RHODESIA

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who arrived on Wednesday morning looks considerably pulled down after the strain of three months' continuous activity. Nevertheless she attended several functions the same day the important among which were the Bombay Presidency Hindu Association's function held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall at 7 p.m. and the Tamil community's function held at Rawat's Bio Hall at 8-15 p.m.

##### BOMBAY PRESIDENCY HINDU ASSOCIATION

At the Parsee Rustomjee Hall the large gathering was representative of all sections of the community. Mr. M. H. Desai the president of the Bombay Presidency Association, took the chair. Mrs. Naidu on entering the Hall was received with ovation. After the proceedings were formally opened by the Chairman and the usual garlanding ceremony having taken place Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was presented on behalf of the Association with a gold necklace with a dollar attached to it. After a few speeches suitable to the occasion Mrs. Naidu delivered an eloquent speech on unity. She asked all the different sections of the community in this country to leave their differences aside and stand together unitedly and in harmony and that that was the only way to gain the respect of the people of this country and obtain the rights they were fighting for. The audience was entertained by Mr. Shaikh Mehtab and his blind pupil with songs composed specially for the occasion. The proceedings terminated with three cheers for Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

##### DURBAN TAMIL COMMUNITY

After the above Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was entertained by the Tamil community of Durban at the Rawat's Bio Hall. The spacious Hall was fully packed and as Mrs. Naidu stepped in she was greeted with loud applause by the whole audience. Mr. S. Dorasamy Pillay chairman of the Reception Committee took the chair and in his opening remarks, which were made in the vernacular, thanked Mrs. Naidu for all the services she had rendered in the cause of her countrymen in this country, and after garlanding her presented her with an illuminated address and with a beautiful diamond brooch and a purse as a small token of love on behalf of the Durban Tamil community. A similar presentation of an address and a purse was also made by Mr. A. Naidoo on behalf of the Point Tamil community. The entertainment was rendered very pleasant by Umgeni Indian School children who performed the May-pole dance and sang national songs in the vernacular. One of the little boys who sang alone with a very sweet voice was presented with a badge of Mrs. Naidu. Mr. M. Thangavelu Naicker translated the chairman's speech into English and a little boy and a little girl and Mr. Balasubramania Chetty made speeches in the vernacular eulogising the work of Mrs. Naidu.

Mrs. Naidu, who on rising to speak was received with vociferous cheering, said she was feeling rather tired and unwell and was not inclined to make any more speeches. But she felt she would have to speak since the huge audience present there was expecting to hear her. She paid a glowing tribute to the Tamil community whose greatness, she said was not due, as a previous speaker had said, merely to their number being greater in this country, but it was due to the material they were made of. Mahatma Gandhi always praised his Tamil people in South Africa as being his seasoned soldiers. They had produced martyrs like the late Vahiamma who sacrificed her life in the great passive resistance struggle. She exhorted them to be always imbued with that spirit

and uphold the greatness that they had achieved. She thanked the Tamil community for the presentations they had made to her. The enthusiastic proceedings terminated a little after 10 p.m. with the singing of the Tamil national hymn by the little school children.

## ELECTION CAMPAIGN

### CANDIDATES ON ASIATIC QUESTION

The Nationalist candidate, Mr. D. Barlow Jones, addressing his first meeting in the Dundee Division at the Town Office, Glencoe, on May 15, referring to the Asiatic question is reported to have said:—

"I fully realise that it is a big proposition, but at the same time we all know there is very little that is impossible. For many years people have appealed to their members to rid them of this pest. The Labour Party advocates for the Indians to be returned to where they came from. Those born here, as long as they get no trading licences, will never do us much harm.

"At Ladysmith, on account of the electrification, a large number of Natives are employed. They go into Ladysmith with their pay to do their shopping, and they go to the Indian. They are taking a cash trade to the Indian dealer. The Indian trader can cut his own prices and sell much lower than the European storekeeper, who is doing practically nothing at all. Not only this: many of the Natives have had to get rid of their assistants."

S.A.P. candidates for the Durban divisions recently addressed their local supporters at the Alexandra Hall under the chairmanship of Mr. Charlie Henwood, Chairman of the Durban branch.

Mr. C. P. Robinson (Durban Central) in the course of his speech is reported to have said, the question was a much bigger one than the mere trading aspect, and there were some figures and some aspects of the case which he desired to place before them as shortly as possible. The Indian population of Natal in 1911 was 133,420; at the present time it was 141,649, or an increase in 13 years of 6 per cent. About half of these were males and about half were born in this country. In regard to trading licences, which cover all descriptions of licences, such as retail; butchers, refreshment rooms, tailors, manufacturers etc., these numbered in Durban, in 1919, 618, and in 1923 there were 629. The total value of Durban properties in 1919 was £13,546,030, of which Asiatics owned £856,218; to-day the total value was £17,409,690, of which Asiatics owned £1,098,230. Of Asiatics resident in European areas in 1920 there were 63; at the present time there are approximately 400. The proportion of coloured employees to whites in the Union in 1921 was in the Orange Free State 58 per cent., in the Transvaal 62 per cent. coloured; Cape 62 per cent. coloured, and Natal 76 per cent. coloured.

The two disturbing factors disclosed by these figures were the low proportion of white employees to coloured and the encroachment of Indians into European residential areas. Now, in his opinion, the Class Areas Bill did not touch the problem. To simply place all the Indian traders in the heart of the town, and to place all the Indians at present residing all over the town in the same district, would simply mean creating a bazaar or location with all the evils of over-crowding. A Bill to have declared white areas both for trade and residence would, it seemed to him, have been much more desirable, and he would have voted for it. It

should be for the Municipality to say that the principal streets of the town should be reserved for European trade, and in the same way that certain areas should be set aside for European residents. Much more should be done to induce the Indians to leave this country. One of the matters which have been militating against a larger number of Indians leaving for India was that when they got there they were stranded. It had been suggested that a scheme of land settlement either in India or elsewhere, with a larger bounty by way of inducing Indians to leave South Africa, would result in a much larger number going away. The present expenditure of under £25,000 a year was not enough, and it should be largely increased, £250,000 would not be too large to get these people to go. Another great essential was a large white population. All students of the coloured problem were agreed that where the two races approximate the deteriorates a country must either have a small white aristocracy with a large black or coloured population, or a large white population with a small coloured one if the two races were to live together.

It must not be thought that if the Indians were removed, whites would necessarily take their place in industry. Even in the Free State, where no Indians were allowed, nearly 60 per cent. of the employees were coloured. According to Professor Lefebvre's latest analysis attached to the Census Returns for 1922, only 12 per cent. of females and 4 per cent. of males under 18 years of age were employed in South Africa, whereas in England 25 per cent. of the factory workers were females and 13 per cent. juveniles. Whether it was desirable or not that females should be employed, it was most essential that their young men should have opportunities of taking part in the unskilled trades of the country and thereby qualify for more skilled positions. (Hear, hear).

Referring to the Asiatic problem, Mr. Walter Gilbert said the remedy, to a certain extent, was in their own hands. They should make up their minds not to issue any further Asiatic trading licences; but they must be fair to those who held licences and let them retain them for life. Any Asiatic who went insolvent, or compounded with his creditors, however, should have his licence withdrawn.

General Arnott, (Natal Coast) the South African Party candidate for the Coast, in the course of his speech said the burning question in Natal was the Asiatic question. In one respect he disagreed with Mr. Robinson, for he believed that the Class Areas Bill was a step in the right direction. But apart from the principle of that Bill, each one of them could do a lot to eliminate the Asiatic menace by uniting and deciding that they would have no truck with the Asiatic. He was very much afraid, however, that at present when the Mary came round and cried, "Beans, Missus," they would forget their good resolutions and fall. Yet the solution of the problem rested with them, and if they were to be true to their children they would have to take a strong stand.

Speaking at a meeting in the Newcastle Town Hall Mr. O. R. Nel, S. A. P. candidate for this Division, referring to the Asiatic question said, three things were necessary: First prevent the Asiatic acquiring further land; secondly, give no more new licences; thirdly, when an Asiatic dies or goes insolvent let the licence die out.

Mr. E. F. Hoare, who is contesting the Umbilo seat in the South African Party interest, addressed

the initial meeting of his campaign recently at the Literary Hall at South Coast Junction.

Referring to the Asiatic question Mr. Hoare described it as a very difficult and delicate question. He did not take his stand on this matter on the question of colour, but it was necessary for them to base their case on the question of civilised standards and of pay. He referred to the Labour Party manifesto on the subject, and said it reminded him of a story where after a man had addressed a meeting, a friend said: "How do you like it?" "I like it all right," said the other. "He's hit the nail on the head—but with my hammer." He (the speaker) was in favour of Licensing Boards being set up in the same way that the Licensing Boards of to-day dealt with liquor licences. An Ordinance on these lines had been passed by the Provincial Council, but had been vetoed by the Government, who feared that the Licensing Boards might be abused. The Act conferred enormous powers on the Boards and however such Boards might be desired they had to see that the Boards were not made too arbitrary. He still stood by the principle and wanted it adopted for the whole country.

"If we can persuade any Asiatics to go," said Mr. Hoare, "then it does not matter where they go so long as we can get them away. But repatriation to India would prove starvation to them, for whatever we think, we must deal with them justly. We must be fair and just as far as it is possible, but we must consider our children."

Dealing with the Class Areas Bill, Mr. Hoare said that the white people should reserve areas for their own occupation, as he was opposed to the Asiatics holding land, which might be inalienable. They had also to conform to white standards of life and civilisation.

## NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

### DEBATE ON INDIAN EDUCATION

Colonel Rethman moved last week in the Provincial Council to reduce the vote for Indian education by £2,160 from £28,229 to £26,069—last year's figures.

Mr. Cox seconded, and said there was plenty of reason for supporting this motion. They had it on the authority of Mr. Graham Mackeurtan, Chairman of the Unemployment Commission, that the main reason for unemployment among European youths was due to competition by Indians who were being raised at the expense of the Administration to compete with European youths.

The Administrator, in reply, said that in stating the case against the Indians the position of the Natal-born Indian had not been considered. The public agitation against the Indian was chiefly directed against the trading classes. If they divided the Province into two, and said that they were really then educating the Natal-born Indian—if the vote were reduced—it would mean penalising the children, and was that the right attitude to adopt from the point of view of Britishers. The obligation had been thrown on the Province to do this work. If they did not realise their obligations, then they were not fit to be entrusted with education. It would be a distinct breach of faith if the vote were reduced in any way. He appealed to the honourable member to place some trust in the Executive Committee.

Mr. Eaton said that this was another form of peaceful penetration on the part of the Asiatics. He had discovered that the education of the Asiatic was increasing at a greater rate than was the case with Europeans. If next year the vote were increased, then the position would be even more serious. He said that this was the

time not for justice, but for self-preservation. If we had the future of our white boys at heart, we ought to consider this phase of the question. He said that these people, who had come here as indentured labourers, were trying to oust from us the fruits handed down to us by the pioneers of our European colonisation. If these Indians could oust us, very well and good, but otherwise, if they did not like the position they could "get out."

Mr. Hulett said that if these Indians required education, let them provide teachers for themselves to teach their own language.

The Administrator warned the Council that if the attitude of the Council were pressed, it might mean the withdrawal of education from the control of the Provincial Administration. He appealed to members to leave the matter in the hands of the Executive, knowing, as they did the feeling throughout the country.

Colonel Rethman said that the Administrator was not consistent. He had left out of the picture the welfare of about a million and a half Natives and coloured people who were more entitled to consideration than Indians, against the demands of 160,000 Indians.

Mr. Cox said that they were accustomed to being twitted with being British, but would it be British to go down before the advance of the Asiatic. Continuing, Mr. Cox said it was ridiculous to assume that the Union Government would do anything between now and June 17 in regard to any action which the Council might take on this vital question. If, as Britishers, we were not prepared to support our white population, we were not true to the white race.

The Administrator said that the last speaker was putting the political issue before the moral obligation involved. In considering the education policy they should steer clear of the political issue. He hoped the amendment would not be passed.

Mr. Cox said he disagreed with his Honour, if for no other reason than for showing their disapproval of the treatment received at the hand of the Union Government on the Indian question. He would be prepared to expunge the whole vote for Indian education.

Mr. Fahey said he was as sound as any one else in the Council on the Indian question, and he did not intend to vote for the reduction. He said that the voting for the motion meant, in effect, venting their spleen against the Indian child. He ventured to say that, even if they succeeded in passing the motion, they would not have advanced a single inch in their anti-Asiatic propaganda when spleens and reprisals were inflicted upon children. A few years ago they called it Hunnish. He hoped the motion would not be passed.

Mr. Gilbert affirmed that, notwithstanding all the eloquence on the part of the last speaker, he (Mr. Gilbert) did not see the necessity of increasing the amount spent upon Indian education. He supported the motion wholeheartedly.

Mr. Eaton said that most of the members of the Council were elected on a pro-European propaganda. He did not think that members had come to the Council to do justice, but to carry out the wishes of the electors.

Mr. Colman said he realised that they had their obligations to meet, but he objected to the continual increase of the vote year by year.

In reply to Mr. Sparks, the Administrator said that there was no intention on the part of the Administration to provide new Indian schools, nor increased facilities for Indians.

Mr. Cox pointed to the disparity between the amount set aside for the education of Indians as compared with the Native and Coloured children. In the former case the total amount was £28,229, while in the latter case the amount was only £21,176.

On a division the motion to reduce the vote was lost by 8 to 9.—*Natal Mercury*.

# ANTI-ASIATIC PROPAGANDA IN MARITZBURG

## MR. W. COX AND FAMILY MEET TOWN COUNCIL

On Tuesday night the 18th instant, the Town Council received a deputation of five members of Young South Africa, headed by Mr. W. Cox, M.P.C.

Mr. Cox spoke at considerable length on behalf of the deputation. He pointed out that the Young South Africa Organisation included men and women who refused to be ousted by peaceful penetration or Indian immigration. The deputation approached the Council in its administrative capacity and ventured to put forward four requests to the Corporation. They asked the Council to provide separate markets for Indians and Europeans. The speaker did not intend to go into the whole market question. As the Council was aware there was an Indian market in Durban, but they did not want the Council to adhere scrupulously to that system. The Maritzburg market, however, was far from being satisfactory. Secondly, the deputation asked the Council to give Europeans the billets held by Indians whenever the character of the employment made it possible. They asked that all municipal employees be paid a white standard of wages.

"We have Indians doing point duty, wearing European uniforms, while decent Europeans are looking in vain for employment," emphasised Mr. Cox.

The question of the future of the European had to be faced. They asked that the Indians should be dispersed without delay. Mr. G. Muckeurtan, an authority on the question, had stated on a number of occasions that unemployment in Durban was mainly due to positions formerly occupied by Europeans being taken by Indians.

Mr. Cox mentioned an Indian clerk employed by the Corporation who was better paid than Europeans engaged on the relief works.

Thirdly, he asked the Council to apply the building and sanitary by-laws to Indians, and the speaker drew an appalling picture of Indian hovels built of paraffin tins and rotten wood, and he contended that buildings he knew of were vermin-infested. As the Indian had the privileges of the municipal franchise he should be compelled to live up to the European standard. Buildings adjacent to European dwellings, and near the bridge, were insanitary. Instances were given in connection with hovels out at Edendale and thereabouts. For this the deputation fixed the responsibility on the Corporation who employed some of the Indian residents. One Corporation employee was paid £3 a month, and had to maintain a wife and six children. The Corporation was responsible obviously for the misery, pauperdom and insanitary dwellings of Indians of that class. What kind of a municipality was the Council trying to raise? If the policy of drift was allowed, he warned the Council of the serious position of affairs that would exist in 20 years' time. The Corporation had ample powers to deal with the problem. There were cases where white men, living in insanitary premises, had their buildings demolished.

The fourth request was that, in considering the three matters referred to and in deciding what the policy of the Corporation would be, the names of the Councilors be recorded. The burgesses had a right to know how the Councilors voted on the matters mentioned.

Councillor J. Hardy: "Do you mean by the white standard, that an Indian who is employed by anybody is to get the same wage as a European?"

Mr. Cox: "Yes, sir."

On the motion of Councillor Mrs. Bradbury, the matters brought forward by the deputation were referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Mr. Cox thanked the Council for receiving the deputation, which then withdrew.

## MRS. NAIDU'S ADDRESS AT VERULAM

At noon on March 12th, 1924, in the Verulam Market Square, there assembled about 3000 Indians, some 50 Europeans and many Natives to hear Mrs. Sarojini Naidu who was received by Mr. T. Polkinghorne J. P., Chairman of the Verulam Local Board and by Messrs. Talwantsingh and Dhanjee Ramjee on behalf of the Indian Receiving Committee of Verulam whose hon. secretary Mr. J. S. Joshua, supported Mrs. Naidu at her left during the proceedings.

In introducing Mrs. Naidu, Mr. T. Polkinghorne said, "On behalf of the Indian community of Victoria County I am asked to offer a hearty welcome to Mrs. Naidu this morning. You all ought to be very proud of Mrs. Naidu, your own countrywoman, who left her own country to visit you here in South Africa to find out how you are getting on in this country and the conditions in which you live.

"There are always two sides to every question. The Indians in this country have grievances and so have the Europeans. I would like to say, although I am not a political speaker, that the Indians who came here are now better off than when they came. Many Indians who came poor are now rich and have their motor cars and can drive in them over the country.

"In all the native rebellions the British Government has never asked a single Indian to take up arms for us. Our sons went to fight for the country and the old Indian colonists here know that they were able to stay in their stores and earn money. In those circumstances it seems unjust to allow equal rights to everyone. These are some of the problems that Mrs. Naidu will deal with."

Turning to Mrs. Naidu Mr. Polkinghorne continued: "The gathering present shows the high esteem in which you are held. I hope you will be able to solve the question for your own people not forgetting the Europeans." (Applause.)

Miss Faith Joshua then presented Mrs. Naidu with a bouquet on behalf of the Indian community and then garlanded her and the Chairman (Mr. T. Polkinghorne.) Six Indian youths, led by Mr. Sham then sang a prayer in Hindustani.

Mr. J. S. Joshua then presented an address of welcome and appreciation and a purse was presented to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu from the Verulam Indian community.

Mrs. Naidu delivered a powerful address in fluent English, which was afterwards translated into Hindustani. *Inter alia*, Mrs. Naidu, after opening with "My European friends, my Indian brothers and sisters," explained her delay owing to many previous appointments among which had been an appearance with some Lady Councilors at a meeting at the Durban Indian Market, inspecting some schools and visiting a Hospital with sick children and adults. She spoke of the difficulties of a public personage. It was much better to be an ordinary private person. There were interviews, interviews and interviews. No privacy. She wanted to bring the two communities (European and Indian) together in friendship. Referring to Mr. Polkinghorne's remarks she said "your grandparents came here poor people; so did the Europeans. Many of them were poor. I am happy you have been able to prosper and also that those people who came from those little islands in Northern Europe have also been able to prosper. I quite agree that Indians are better off here than they would have been in India. So are the white folks. The Chairman says, in all sincerity I know, that you should not have equal rights." Two Indian men are here at this meeting who have served the English in the Boer War and in the Great War. Mahatma Gandhi and myself formed an ambulance in 1914." A distressing case she had heard of was that of two lame Indians, lamed in the Great European War, who could not be allowed on the lower seats of the Durban trams.

"Indians only want justice: they want to serve the country if they are given the opportunity to do so. They are the country's colonists; they are here; their children are here and their graves are here."



Mrs. Naidu continued, "I want to protest with all India behind me against the repatriation scheme, which is a menace to you and all Indians." Indentured Indians had been told that they could return to India at the completion of their indentures, or be presented with land to the value of their passage money. Their grandfathers had the land granted to them. Why should they give it up? All communities must give and take honestly and honourably in terms of friendship and co-operation. "Your duty is to so build up your own community that you change all those things that are wrong in yourselves—the drunkenness and the gambling. These must change. They are a handicap to your progress." The Europeans likewise had their faults; but the faults of each was their own business. "God, when creating the Universe, did not set folks at different tables. All religion teaches that only by love and truth will the world prosper. My message is a message of peace to the Verulam people; white, black and brown alike. I would fight any Government if I thought it oppressed a single one of my countrymen."

Mrs. Naidu appealed for the uplifting of her countrymen and closed by the well-known Bible quotation: "inasmuch as ye do it to the least of these little ones ye do it unto me." Mrs. Naidu sat down amidst prolonged applause.

The Chairman, Mr. Trevennen Polkinghorne, in his closing remarks hoped that all would profit by Mrs. Naidu's address and remember the lesson she had given them.

Mr. Christopher, of Durban, Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman which was carried with acclamation. Three cheers were then given each for Mrs. Naidu, the Chairman and Mahatma Gandhi.

#### MRS. NAIDU'S GRAHAMSTOWN VISIT

The Grahamstown daily paper writes:—Mrs. Sarojini Naidu passed through Grahamstown on April 17, on her way from Port Elizabeth to East London and Natal. She was met at Howieson's Poort by Mrs. W. Y. St. George-Stead and representatives of the Indian community, and at the City Hall by the Acting Mayor (the Rev. W. Y. St. George-Stead). The Acting Mayor presided, and others on the platform were Mrs. St. George-Stead, Mr. C. H. Wood, Mr. C. T. Champion, Mr. A. Paterson, Mr. M. J. Naidoo (President of the Grahamstown Indian Association) and Mr. V. N. Pillay (secretary) and Miss Naidoo.

The Acting Mayor, in the name of the city extended a hearty welcome to Mrs. Naidu who was dressed in the picturesque garb of her race, and referred to her work and influence in the Indian cause.

#### LOCAL INDIANS' ADDRESS

Mr. Naidoo welcomed her on behalf of the Indian community, and Mr. Pillay read and handed to her the following address while Miss Naidoo presented her with a bouquet:—

"Dear Sister.—The members of the Grahamstown Indian community unite in extending to you cordial greetings and a warm-hearted welcome to this city. Your sweet voice, ever raised in courage and enlightenment in the just cause of the rights of our country and of our people, reached us over long distances. We hear you speak from the heart, and vindicate with power the claims of truth and righteousness. You bring hope and courage to the souls of the sons and daughters of India. The gulf which separates the civilisation of the east and the west is wide and deep. May your appealing and inspiring call be heard. May mutual sympathy and co-operation be the golden bridge that shall yet unite, in enlightened progress and development, the diverse peoples of the land. It is our earnest desire that you will convey to our brothers and sisters across the sea, our deep appreciation and gratitude for all they are doing for us. Your kindly visit here to us will ever live a grateful memory in our hearts. We pray that your days will be long and that success will crown your great mission."

May strength of heart and soul be with you always.—We are, dear sister, (signed on behalf of the Indian community), M. J. Naidoo (President), and V. N. Pillay (secretary), Indian Association, Grahamstown.

#### MRS. NAIDU'S ADDRESS

Mrs. Naidu, who spoke with much eloquence and power, said she felt that fate had cheated her of a very pleasant day in Grahamstown, especially as she heard that although there were only a few Indians here they were very happy Indians. "I want to see," she added, "what a happy Indian looks like in South Africa." She went on to remark upon the presence of Rhodes University College in Grahamstown and said that whenever she saw a university town her heart went out in benediction because she realised that not in the House of Assembly, not in the municipal halls did the future lie, but in those schools, colleges and universities where the young men and women were learning to legislate for to-morrow. (Applause). She would like to have talked to the young men and women of Rhodes University College and to have told them of the wonderful dreams she had seen of the future of South Africa—the Africa that they were going to make, the Africa for which they were going to legislate, the Africa for which they were going to be the pioneers, the makers, and the sustainers.

#### HAPPY GRAHAMSTOWN

Continuing, Mrs. Naidu regretted that she had to hurry away to Natal and the Transvaal, "where one never sees the face of a happy Indian." She thanked the people of Grahamstown for making her people so happy in their midst; she hoped her compatriots appreciated that it was their good fortune to live in Grahamstown where so far, at any rate, there was not that race prejudice which was making itself felt elsewhere.

"I want to say to you, my countrymen," Mrs. Naidu pursued, "that although you are few in number here, that although most of you are following humble trades and professions, none the less you should remember that a great responsibility lies upon your shoulders. You are to Grahamstown, you are to the older and the younger generations of the white people the ambassadors of India, and it will be entirely your fault if after 10 or 15 years this happy state of things should change and I should hear across the seas that even in Grahamstown there is the same sorrow, the same feeling of insecurity from which your brothers suffer in the Transvaal and Natal. I want you to make yourselves the equal of the best and highest in this land; it does not depend on money or on your occupation, but entirely on your own worth, your merit, your capacity, your character, and those things are not the monopoly of one race, or of one continent, but they are the birthright of every man and woman, a duty, a function that you must fulfil within yourselves."

#### A LIVING CHANCE FOR ALL

Mrs. Naidu pointed out that their sole aim should be not merely to sell fish, fruit, and flowers in exchange for money, but also to perform a greater service which was unpaid, the service of humanity through love because the highest of all duties was the service of our fellow-men. She pleaded for "a living chance" to be given to every section of mankind in South Africa. Equality was not a mechanical thing like a steam-roller which rolled over black, white, and brown and turned them all into a dead level; the equality she wanted as an ideal for South Africa was the opportunity given to every section, white, black and brown, to live according to their own traditions, capacity, race ideals, and personal worth. She wanted South Africa to be in miniature the ideal which the whole world would envy. She wanted to see the gospel of brotherhood here in its living sense, giving everyone an equal chance of service and responsibility, all races living not in conflict and competition but in comradeship, understanding, and mutual service.

Subsequently Mrs. Naidu and party, the Acting Mayor and Mrs. St. George-Stead, and members of the Indian community were entertained at lunch at Mr. M. J. Naidoo's residence, New Street.