

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

WE cull the following from Mr. Gandhi's notes in *Young India*:—"You are already in a mood to flatter the Mahomedans and it seems as though you think by exonerating them from their high-handedness you can keep them in close touch with the Hindus. You must now learn to distribute blame among the parties involved, as justice requires it, as this policy of seeking to blame the weak and meek members of the nation and flattering the strong and high-handed element is by no means a wise policy."

This is but an extract from a long homily addressed to me by a Hindu friend. I know that many other Hindus think like this friend. The truth however, is that in an atmosphere surcharged with suspicion and passion my impartiality is bound to be mistaken for partiality. Those Hindus who refuse to see anything good in Islam or Mussalmans are naturally shocked to find any defence of Islam or its votaries. I remain unmoved and unperturbed. For I know that some day my Hindu critics will admit the correctness of my estimate. They will perhaps admit that there will be no unity unless each party is prepared to understand, appreciate and make allowances for the other's view-point and even weakness. This requires a large heart otherwise called charity. Let us do unto others as we would that they should do unto us.

The members of Turffontein and Forest Hill Ratepayers' Association, says the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury*, have bound themselves not to support Indians, and a resolution was passed to this effect at a recently held meeting. It was stated that lately there had been quite an influx of Asiatics into the Southern suburbs. There was only one way to deal with them, and that was by refusing to buy their goods. Councillor Steer said that the banks and the large commercial houses were at the root of the trouble. The bank gave greater facilities to Indians and the commercial houses gave them cheap goods.

This is but another of the many periodical outbursts of the white inhabitants of the Southern suburbs of Johannesburg against the so-called influx of Asiatics. They would have the people not to deal with them, the banks not to give facilities to them and commercial houses not to supply them with goods. It would be interesting to know what these dictators would have them do.

Inquiry has been made by Mr. N. V. Desai and another friend through Mr. Bhawani Dayal, Editor, *Hindi* (Jacobs) whether the amount these friends had collected for Tilak Swaraj Fund had been forwarded to proper quarters. This was a sum of £11-7-0 collected by Messrs N. V. Desai and Vincent George respectively vice-president and Hon. Secretary, Darnall Indian Association and forwarded to this office and acknowledged in our issue of the 29th June 1924 duly transmitted to proper quarters.

Mahatma Gandhi has been elected President of the Reception Committee of the next Indian National Congress to be held at Belgaum (Bombay Presidency) in December, says a Reuter's message.

A Reuter's message from Bombay states:—Gandhi has issued a statement unconditionally surrendering to the Swarajists. He says there is no more fight left in him, and he makes various proposals, which mean that the Swarajists will now be free to organise opposition from Gandhi.

What precisely is meant by the unconditional surrender of Mahatma Gandhi is not discernible from the above garbled message. Reuter's agency in India apparently finds more interest in the petty quarrels between Hindus and Mahomedans than the more important matters in connection with the National Movement.

Some of the exiled monarchs are not faring so badly, it is stated. Frederick Augustus has 60 servants at his castle of Sybillenort, in Silesia, and the ex-Kaiser, at Doorn, has 55, not counting 12 workmen permanently employed on the estate.

The number of unemployed persons in Great Britain is said to be now 1,162,000.

THE LATE MR. NAIDOO

THE death of Mr. P. K. Naidoo brings yet another terrible gloom over the Indian community in the Transvaal. His death has been as sad and sudden as was that of the late Mr. Sorabjee Shapurjee whose memory is still fresh in our minds. Mr. Sorabjee came a full blown barrister among us and lived with us but a few days when he was all of a sudden snatched away by the unseen hand of Him who holds the destinies of all living beings. Thus did He snatch away our revered leader the late Mr. A. M. Cachalia and now He has snatched away another leading spirit in Mr. P. K. Naidoo who was a brother and a friend to the Indian community not only in the Transvaal but throughout the Union. It will be long, very long, before the shock felt by his sudden death will be overcome. If it can be said of anyone that he has served his King and country well, it can truly be said of Mr. Naidoo. He was one of those who served the King together with many others of his brethren during the great Boer War, and during the Passive Resistance Campaign against the unjust laws of the Transvaal and then the Union Government, which lasted from 1908 to 1914, Mr. Naidoo was one of the gallant and faithful soldiers under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi and stuck to his guns to the last. The tortures of gaol life were

nothing to him for the cause for which he was suffering he considered greater than his life. Anyone holding a record of terms of imprisonment as he did would be considered a gaol bird and a hardy criminal but to Mr. Naidoo it was a matter of great pride to have such a record as he did for it marked his services to his countrymen. As the hon. secretary of the Transvaal British Indian Association, which office he held for the last nine years, no one could have better served the Association than did Mr. Naidoo. The credit for the resuscitation of the present Natal Indian Congress is also due to the late Mr. Naidoo who worked strenuously to bring the matter to ahead. It was Mr. P. K. Naidoo's forethought that brought Mrs. Sarojini Naidu to this country from East Africa, for the invitation had gone to her first from the Transvaal British Indian Association. When the Class Areas Bill was introduced Mr. Naidoo had thoroughly prepared himself, in the event of it being passed, for another Passive Resistance campaign. Though Mr. Naidoo has disappeared for ever in body from our midst his name will ever remain in our hearts as one who had nobly served his fellow-countrymen. May his soul rest in peace and may the Almighty grant courage to his sorrowing widow and children to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in their overwhelming calamity.

INDIANS AND SANITATION

IN another column we reproduce a report from the *Natal Mercury* of nine Indians who were convicted and fined £1 each for keeping their premises in an insanitary condition. It would appear from the report that the Indians concerned had received a written notice from the Chief Sanitary Inspector on June 6 but apparently no attention was paid to that notice. This of course was very wrong on their part and if the circumstances related in the case are correct then we have nothing to say against the penalty imposed upon the guilty persons.

Subsequent to this case on receiving a call from Mr. Walker, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, we had an interview with him and we were very pleased to learn that the department did not wish to be harsh or cause unnecessary trouble to Indians but that they had to take action in the interest of the public when their repeated warnings were ignored. We fully appreciate this and so long as the sanitary by-laws will be enforced equally upon people of all races we do not think the department will have difficulty in obtaining the willing co-operation of the Indian community in their work.

On many an occasion when allegations have been made generally against Indians of their insanitary habits we have pointed out in these columns that while we strongly object to such false allegations we do not object to the strict enforcement of the sanitary laws which are commonly applicable to all. At the same time, of course, we expect strict adherence to these laws by our brethren.

We have had occasion to visit some of the quarters occupied by Indians and we have found that the fault lies both with the landlords and the tenants and in some places even with the Corporation. Short Street, for instance, is a place where there is

no path, or no drainage of any kind and in rainy season it is a breeding place for mosquitos. It requires the serious attention of the Corporation.

Now with regard to premises owned by Indians and tenants who occupy them, we think the fault must be divided between them both. The landlord who derives very good rents is very reluctant to utilise even some of it to improve his property and the renter who pays rent thinks that the fact that he pays rent relieves him of the burden of seeing that the place occupied by him is kept clean. Both of them we think are in the wrong. The landlord should see to it that his property is kept in a proper living condition and the tenant should see to it that the surroundings in which he lives are kept in a clean and healthy condition so that they may not harm him or his neighbours, and where anything requires the attention of the landlord himself he should insist on getting that attention. It does not, after all, require much labour or expense to keep the place clean. Liberal use of water and disinfectant are the only things required and the latter could be had cheaply at any grocer's. If it is not possible for the occupier himself to do the cleaning then he should keep a servant to do so and where several persons live together in the same place and make use of the conveniences jointly it should be quite easy to keep a servant jointly whose business would be to see to the cleanliness of the place at all times. The observance of sanitary rules is an obligation imposed upon every human-being from his very birth and one who fails in the fulfilment of that obligation must be considered something less than a human-being. The responsible members of our countrymen who know better should take this matter in hand and educate their ignorant brethren to their duty in the interests of public health and thus prevent the recurrence of such cases as the above-mentioned which reflects no credit to any self-respecting community.

ANTI-ASIATIC LABOUR PROPAGANDA

WE do not wish to be unduly alarming in regard to the anti-Asiatic labour propaganda that is being carried on in some quarters, more especially in Durban and Maritzburg. We feel, however, that it is desirable to point out which way the wind blows.

The after effects of the Great War have given rise to many problems of intricate nature. The main effects of the war resulted in setting back for centuries the clock of progress. Besides the loss of men and money, depression and distress followed the war. All these factors gave birth to an acute economic problem which could neither be avoided nor solved at ease. The economic problem gave rise, as it is the case throughout the world, to unemployment and distress among people. This is so in South Africa, England and elsewhere. In Natal especially the question of unemployment among the whites has taken a curious turn. The temperament of the leaders of a certain school of thought has led them to place the blame on Indians for their suffering. They argue that underselling, underliving and unfair competition in the fields of trade and of labour have led to dire results

affecting the existence of Europeans and their children. This is either ignoring or disregarding or falsifying the nature of things that led to the economic conditions that are prevailing. The motive, however, is by hook or by crook to get rid of the presence of the Indian. This they have been trying to do by disenfranchising him, refusing him licences and segregating him, but now they have discovered another device and that is to displace him from employment. This device must naturally find support from people who are hard hit by economic conditions. A movement is on foot to which the Municipalities of Durban and Maritzburg are giving a lead. The Durban Corporation have discharged their Indian employees not long ago from the Tramway Department. The Maritzburg Corporation have discharged three Indian signal-men from the Police Department. We understand that a number of Indian employees have been discharged from European-owned factories. We cannot understand how responsible administrative institutions like the Maritzburg and the Durban Corporation can succumb to an agitation of this kind and perpetrate an act of victimisation. It is well known that Indians as rate-payers, never receive the advantages of municipal amenities, much less the emoluments of any decent office in any department of the Corporation. They are mainly employed as constables, signal-men, and in other lower grade work. They receive miserly pay, and in most cases are housed in ill-ventilated and over-crowded compounds.

We publish in this issue a report of the proceedings of the Town Council of Maritzburg on the question of the discharge of its Indian servants. Mr. Wm. Cox, the well-known enemy of the Indian, moved a drastic motion and dilated upon it to his heart's content. To us, the very reservation he put in his motion weakened his case, if he at all had any case. He dare not go the whole hog and demand the discharge of every Indian, even those employed in the Sanitary Department. The Indian, he knows, is useful in the last named Department, but becomes inefficient, constitutes a menace, and becomes a competitor in other fields of employment. His argument revealed his insincerity and the Council correctly threw his motion out. But the fact remains that the Council has, as a result of the agitation, discharged three men. Such action on the part of a Council or any member of it is, to say the least, immoral. Instead of using their position of trust in a just manner and with due discretion they are in this way merely abusing their powers. The action of the Town Council in disposing of their Indian employees who have served them loyally for ten and twenty years and even more, for no fault of theirs, but to merely replace them by Europeans may legally be considered right but if morality counts for anything in legality then it must appear to every right-thinking man that their action is unpardonably wrong. It is time that the law-makers realised the advisability—indeed if the laws are made in the interest of the people they should—of passing a law rendering it illegal for an employer to dismiss any of his employees unless the employee has proved dishonest or has been found guilty of a criminal offence, or that the employer has sound economic reasons to do so, in which case, the reasons for such action would

have to be proved by the employer. This is the only way an injustice done to an unrepresented section of the community could be prevented.

THE LATE MR. P. K. NAIDOO

The sad news of the sudden death of Mr. P. K. Naidoo which was transmitted by a telegraphic message last Wednesday was received with a shock.

Next morning a Reuter's message appeared in the local daily papers which says:—

On Friday Mr. Naidoo complained of a feverish feeling, and reluctantly consulted a doctor, who found that he was suffering from pleurisy and pneumonia. He succumbed at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning at his residence at 55 End Street.

The late Mr. Paraya Krishnasamy Naidoo was born in Durban. During his younger age he lived in Kimberley with his parents where he received his English education. He then went to the Transvaal to seek his fortune. Owing to his educational qualifications and courage and grit he possessed he was gradually dargged into the political life and activity of that Province and when the Boer War broke out he with the others had to come to Natal again. During the Boer war he took part in the Ambulance Corps which Mr. Gandhi inaugurated and rendered many other valuable services to the British Empire. After the Peace Treaty, he was among the first to enter the Transvaal and there, together with his ordinary occupation as store-keeper, he took up political work under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi. He was his loyal, active and indomitable lieutenant. When the historic Passive Resistance struggle took place, which lasted for seven years, he suffered imprisonment on no fewer than eleven occasions for resisting what he considered to be unjust anti-Asiatic legislation. Soon after that he took a very active part in the great Indian Strike in Natal, going from place to place addressing large meetings of Indians. He was arrested a number of times and served short periods of imprisonment. In 1920, he visited Natal and was instrumental in resuscitation the Natal Indian Congress. He served as a member of numerous delegations to the Government, and two or three years ago he travelled to India in order to place certain aspects of the situation here before the Government of India. Mr. Naidoo was secretary to the Transvaal British Indian Association for the last nine years. His last act, before he was laid up was one on behalf of the cause. Accompanied by other members of the Association, he discussed the Indian position with a representative of the *Star* (Johannesburg) with a view to removing misapprehensions that had arisen as a result of a memorial submitted by the Indians to Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The visit of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu to South Africa was mainly through his endeavours through the Transvaal British Indian Association.

Mr. Naidoo leaves a widow and three children, including a married daughter who is living at Tongaat, Natal. The community's sympathy will go out to them in their irrecoverable loss.

The late Mr. Naidoo's daughter and Mr. Amod Bhatat the President of the Natal Indian Congress left for Johannesburg last Wednesday to attend the funeral which was to take place on Thursday.

Many messages of condolence were sent to Mrs. P. K. Naidoo in her sad loss by individuals and bodies from Durban among which were those from: Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, The Natal Indian Congress Surat Hindu Association, Kathiawad Arya Mandal, Patidar Union, Mayavant Association, Parsuram Tailor Association and others.

COX ON CITY CORPORATION INDIAN EMPLOYEES

LENGTHY DISCUSSION BY TOWN COUNCIL

Mr. Wm. Cox, President of Young South Africa, is carrying on an incessant propaganda for the dismissal of Indians employed by the different departments of the Town Council, and the replacement of Europeans in their place. A debate on his motion was discussed by the Town Council, a report of which is given below as appeared in the *Natal Mercury*. Mr. Cox's party is even threatening to boycott tea rooms where Indians are employed by way of reprisal. A great deal of discontent exists among the community. A meeting is to be held soon to take effective means of checking Mr. Cox's proclivities. The letter addressed by the Colonial-born Indian Association as a protest was given a good deal of prominence by the City papers:—

Councillor Cox dealt with the policy of past Governments in regard to Indian repatriation and to the pressure brought to bear on the new Government in an attempt to solve the Asiatic problem. While the Government and its predecessors had endeavoured to get rid of Asiatics, the Corporation of Maritzburg was pursuing a policy directly opposite to that of the Government, and it was time, he submitted, for the Corporation to co-operate with the Government in an attempt to bring about the desired reform.

The total number of Asiatics employed by the Corporation was 201. His motion did not involve any economic issue, as there were three classes of the permanent population of the country from which the ranks of those dismissed could be filled, so there need be no further increase in the cost of services. The Council's present policy rendered Maritzburg attractive to the Indian population, and contributed largely to a system of overcrowding and insanitary conditions. The Corporation's present policy would complicate as well as compromise the future of its citizens. The protest on the part of the Natal-born Indian Association entirely ignored the fact that the Indians represented a civilisation which was not assimilable by European civilisation, towards which Indians had contributed nothing. If Indians wished to have more scope, he would direct them to British Guiana, more especially as the present Government had indicated that it would formulate its Asiatic policy during the recess.

Councillor Doull said he could not support the motion in its present form. He thought the right thing to do was to obtain the signature of all Europeans in the City to the effect that they would not deal with Indians. As the motion stood it would mean the dismissal of some corporation servants who had given them faithful service for a number of years, some of 30 years or more.

Councillor Dick affirmed that the whole question was political, and was not one for the Corporation to deal with. He agreed with Councillor Doull's suggestion, but he would not be drawn into doing anything of an unfair character.

Councillor Hardy said the motion was very unfair. The Indians had been brought here by the British people, and had merely taken advantage of the laws as they existed. He would take second place to no one in his anxiety to employ more Europeans, or to solve the Asiatic question. Councillor Hardy referred to Mr. Lloyd George's quotation to a body of Pressmen from the Dominions, in which he affirmed that he was an out-and-out believer in this Empire of fair play. "It is not an Anglo-Saxon Empire, and I would not believe in it if it were."

Councillor Cross moved an amendment to the effect that wherever possible it should be an instruction to departments to employ Europeans wherever possible, and that a committee be appointed to give immediate effect thereto.

There was no seconder, however, to the amendment.

Councillor Brown started by saying that East is East, etc. From the point of view of justice he thought that they should first of all be just to their own children. It was not the first time that a white civilisation had gone under in Africa, and the present white civilisation was threatened. He could visualise the time when white men would have to choose between going down before the advance of a huge black population or being absorbed by them, and the Corporation should not be a party towards bringing about this state of affairs.

Councillor Line said he felt sorry that he could not support the motion, because it was too drastic.

Councillor Stobie said that he thought the position might be met by laying down the policy that as Indians left the Corporation service, and wherever possible otherwise, Europeans and coloureds be employed by the Corporation in order to avoid the injustices to which reference had been made.

Councillor Cox, in reply, said that he was very disappointed in the attitude of the Council in view of the expressed policy of the present Government on the Asiatic question. Was it just that our own civilisation should be wiped out, our own civilisation deserted, the Natives left to the tender mercy of the Indians, and the future of European children jeopardised. There appeared to be always some reason for postponing this matter. Procrastination in the past had been responsible for the existing evil. If the Corporation was not going to co-operate with the Government, it would be tantamount to saying that they were prepared to hand over the country to Indians. He emphasised that the census returns, so far as Indians were concerned, were unreliable, as Indians were endeavouring by all means to evade everything which would indicate their strength on a vote.

The motion was lost by 12 to 2 the only supporters being the mover and Councillor Brown.

THE PROPOSED ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

TRANSVAAL INDIANS' VIEWS

The *Natal Advertiser* Johannesburg correspondent in a message dated Sept. 13, says:—

Though Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, reminded the community in a speech at Maritzburg the other day of the Imperial importance of our Indian problem and of the need for its careful handling, his warning has been sounded at a moment when the Indians themselves regarded their prospects with a smaller degree of apprehension than has been the case for some time.

Your correspondent gathered, in the course of conversation to-day with some leading Indians that, though they have not departed in the slightest degree from the ideals for which they have fought over a long period of time, and that though the improvement of their status as citizens is a matter which strikes at their self-respect, they are gaining the impression that the situation is not quite so hopeless as they were inclined to consider was the case when the agitation over the defunct Class Areas Bill had awakened a great deal of bitterness. They believe that much of the animus against them was traceable to a sectional source, and that on the whole Europeans—in the Transvaal at least—are inclined to take a fair and reasonable view of the more moderate and urgent of their claims at any rate. They cherish the hope, moreover, that the Union Government, which claims to be in close touch with public opinion, will consider their representations in a broad-minded and tolerant spirit.

MR. THOMAS APPROACHED

Though they submitted to Mr. Thomas a review of the whole Asiatic position in the various Pro-

vinces of the Union, detailed their disabilities, and would have elaborated their documented arguments with a personal interview had Mr. Thomas found time to meet them, they are fully conscious of the fact that an enlightened sentiment amongst the European community in the Union itself is indispensable to the creation of that atmosphere which may bring an accommodation of the apparently conflicting claims of the Indian and European sections within the sphere of practical politics. While the friendly interest of the British Government will always be a factor of first-rate importance, they look to the Government of the Union to take the initiative in improving their status.

Accordingly, arrangements are being made for a deputation representing Indians in South Africa to wait on the Cabinet in Pretoria at an early date, when matters will be discussed in a frank and friendly way and the Indians are sanguine that one result of their deliberations will be that a round-table conference will be granted on the lines suggested by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu during her visit—namely, with representation from the Indian community of South Africa, the Government of the Union, the British Government, and the leaders of the Indian people in India. High hopes are entertained that such a conference will lead to a solution of the problem, or at least provide a basis for friendly negotiation in the future in a spirit of mutual trust and understanding.

The Indian community, in short, feel that the time has arrived for the Asiatic question to be frankly approached by all parties and settled in an amicable manner. The continuation of the present state of uncertainty and agitation is, urged the Indian leaders who were interviewed, not only harmful to the Indians, but to the general welfare of South Africa and the Empire.

MR. THOMAS' SPEECH

PRESS COMMENTS

The *Natal Witness* comments this on the speech delivered by Mr. Thomas in Maritzburg on the Asiatic problem when he suggested the holding of a joint conference:—"His pronouncement in Maritzburg on the Asiatic question was reasonable and sound, and the *Witness* has more than ordinary reason to welcome it since Mr. Thomas has adopted the suggestion, first put forward in these columns a few weeks ago, for a conference of the interested parties. He sees no reason, nor do we, why the problem should be regarded as insoluble. That it presents many difficulties everyone who has studied it admits, and that they will all be removed is quite impossible to hope for. But there is no good reason why the worst of them need not be greatly mitigated, and many of them cause to disappear, provided all those interested in arriving at a solution can be brought together in the right spirit of give and take.

One thing is certain. This problem will never be solved by abusive tactics, because what is essential is to convince all sides that the best possible solution is being offered from each point of view. This will never be achieved by legislation embodying only one viewpoint. What is necessary is first to ascertain by means of a round-table conference the maximum demands of all parties; thereupon to ascertain in how far they can be reduced to minimum demands; and upon some such resulting basis, to found restrictions which will safeguard the interests of Europeans in the country, and the no less important interests of Indians who belong to this country, were born here, and know no other place of origin. The question, as we have before pointed out, is far and away the most important which could have come under notice of the Colonial Secretary, and for that reason we think we are

to be congratulated on the Parliamentary tour commencing in Natal and enabling investigation to be made on the spot. It will now remain to be seen what attitude the Imperial Government takes. They can, of course, merely suggest to this Government participation in a joint Conference of all interested; but we think the South African Government would welcome such a proposal, and we feel sure the European community of Natal would accept it. The alternative is either to let matters drift, or to add to the over-increasing friction which makes the problem more difficult of solution as time goes on.

FILTHY PREMISES

NINE INDIANS CONVICTED

The following report appeared in *Natal Mercury* dated the 13th instant:—

Nine Indians said to be joint occupiers of 125, Victoria Street, were charged before Mr. H. B. Wallace yesterday with wrongfully and unlawfully fouling or keeping in a filthy condition the water-closets, gully sinks, yard and passages, after having received notice in writing from the Chief Sanitary Inspector on June 6 to clean them forthwith and to keep them in a proper condition.

Mr. Goulding (Messrs. Robinson and Goulding) appeared for the three of the accused, who he said were retail dealers in soft goods, and left when their premises were closed at 5 p.m. They resided elsewhere. There was no evidence that they used the conveniences. He submitted that his clients were not responsible for the refuse in the yard.

Mr. Waller on behalf of the Borough Police, in replying argued that, with convenience on the premises, the accused would not walk to the public conveniences in Gardiner Street.

Mr. Wallace told the accused he found them all guilty. The by-law covered their case. He believed they had common use of the yard and the lavatories, of which the latter were in a very filthy state. It was only after three inspections that action was taken. They had no excuse. Victoria Street was particularly thickly populated, and in the interests of public health they should have attended to the instructions. They would each be fined £1.

[We deal with the above in our leading article.—Ed.]

TAGORE'S MESSAGE TO YOUNG CHINA

In a series of articles written by Mr. C. F. Andrews on "The Crisis in China", which appear in the latest number of *Young India* to hand we find the report of an interesting speech delivered by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore during his recent visit to China. The writer of this report, says Mr. Andrews, who is evidently a Chinese student, himself records, in one of the leading English newspapers in China, a carefully written account, from his own short hapd notes, of the message which Rabindranath Tagore delivered to the Chinese student in Wuchang, in the province of Wu-han at the end of his visit, when he was just about to leave China for Japan, thus he describes him:—

"The speaker, tall, with a flowing beard, wore a plain dignified robe, and spoke in a clear and beautiful natural voice with great carrying power, almost without any gesture. His English was exquisite, simple and quite without repetition.

He gives his own English notes as follows:—

"When I was invited," the poet, Rabindranath Tagore, began, "to come among you, I heard that some of you were opposed to my coming, because it might check your special, modern enthusiasm for Western progress and force. And if you want a

man who will help you in these things, you have been mistaken in asking me. I have no help to give you. You have already ten thousand able teachers on that side. Go to them. But my solemn warning is, that those who would have you rely on material force, in order to make a strong nation, do not know history, or understand what true civilisation means. Reliance on power is the characteristic of barbarism. Nations, that have trusted in power, have already either been destroyed or else remained barbarous.

"Nations have added intellect, to teach themselves how to use power; and we can no more despise the scientific and material factors, that have resulted, than we can despise our own bodies. But, all the same, it is not this intellectual advance in the use of power, which had made nations great. Nations, that have relied solely on that, have either been destroyed, as I have said, or else are even now reverting to barbarism. No! It is co-operation and mutual trust and mutual aid and good-will, which make for real progress in civilisation. These must be evident, if that civilisation is to last and to be worth anything at all. New *moral* powers must continually be developed, to make man to assimilate these scientific advances. Otherwise, these very things will dominate, enslave and slay them. Men have been losing their freedom and their humanity in order to fit themselves for vast mechanical organisations, which can only, in the long run, prove their destruction. We see, to-day, civilisation of vast power and great intellect which are veiling in a decent way mere cannibalism. It is the nemesis of science dominant. But the true position of science is to subserve the spirit of man. For the world of mere science by itself is not a world of reality; it is a world of abstract and impersonal and inhuman force. It depends upon morality to make it human; to bring it from the impersonal to the personal.

"But may we point to the weakness of India and China. They will tell you that it is necessary thus to emphasise power and modern progress, in order to avoid being swept away into destruction. I would not have you deceived by those copy-book maxims, which tell you that no advantage or material gain is ever won by unrighteousness. For history can point to many short-lived victories; and if you wish for temporary successes you may obtain them by these methods.

"Nevertheless, the voice of ancient India has truly affirmed:

With the help of unrighteousness men do prosper:
With the help of unrighteousness men gain victories over their enemies;

With the help of unrighteousness men get what they desire.

But they perish at the root.

"But they perish at the root,"—mark well those concluding words. We have seen victories, won by diplomacy, by lies and material force; but their doom is on them. Lies do prosper for a while; but the true life dies at the root.

"You may accept this flourishing power and prosperity to-day; but there is to-morrow. I defy to-day, and refuse to let it dominate my purposes. I rely on to-morrow with peace and faith and hope. How do I prove it? I have no proof outside my own. But there, within, is proof enough. Even at the cost of martyrdom and insult and suffering, we must continue to believe in peace and love and kindness and idealism.

"What is the value of success, if it be at the cost of humanity, and if it make a desert of God's world? I speak to you as an Indian, and as a member of a nation that has gone under in the race for 'progress.' I tell you that I am ready to accept default, insult, oppression, weakness in the body. But I will never accept that last defeat of all, the last insult of all, the ruin of my soul. My enemies may conquer

and slay my body; but they cannot make me adopt their methods, or hate them! The Devil helps in the sphere where he is master; but we must reject the Devil's aid!

"Seek righteousness, even though success be lost. I believe this, not through any evidence of 'facts.' Facts may mislead and oppress you, with mere numbers and quantities. But the world of personality surpasses facts on every side. Truth comes from above, and is creative. We in India have accepted and followed and venerated those men, who gave us creative truth, and lost outward success in doing so. We need to hear this voice of Truth again and again and never more so than in this modern world of slavery and cannibalism, thinly covered over with a decent outward guise.

"By the help of unrighteousness men do prosper;
men do gain victory over their enemies;
men do attain what they desire;

But they perish at the root."

"That is the message, which I leave with Young China from India."

I have quoted in full, says Mr. Andrews, the report, given by this Chinese reporter, of Rabin-dranath Tagore's last speech in China before starting for Japan. We may be quite certain that such words have not been uttered in vain.

M. K. GANDHI LIBRARY

PARSEE RUSTOMJEE HALL

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

The third anniversary and the third annual general meeting of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall was held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, 140 Queen Street on the 9th instant, before a large attendance, Mr. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri being in the chair. In the annual report which was presented by the hon. Secretary, Mr. V. Lawrence, after reference being made to the business of the second annual meeting, and details of attendances at the 25 ordinary meetings of the executive committee during the year, it was stated that Mahatma Gandhiji's birthday was celebrated on the 7th October, 1923, by the Natal Indian Congress and the Kathiawar Arya Mandal, when an interesting announcement was made that Mr. Rustomjee had given £501 to them to be sent to Mahatma Gandhi for the opening of National schools and the purchase of spinning wheels and the Executive had decided to keep the Library open from 8 a.m. to 9-30 p.m., daily in commemoration of Mahatmajee's birthday whereas previous to that it was kept open from 3 p.m. to 9-30 p.m.

On Nov. 27 last Mr. J. Bennet Mumford, a member of the Natal Astronomical Society, lectured on "Some Wonders of the Heavens" illustrated by lantern slides. The lecture was very instructive and interesting, the same being largely attended and attentively listened to.

On March 26, 1924, at the request of the Natal Indian Congress, the Executive Committee granted the use of the Hall and the adjoining room for our illustrious sister Mrs. Sarojini Naidu as a meeting place for her during her stay in Durban. On Mar. 29, the Natal Indian Congress had the use of the Hall for a farewell meeting for Mr. Tayob Ally Jeewanjee, a prominent member of the East African Indian community and a vice-president of the East African Indian Congress, who accompanied Mrs. Naidu to South Africa.

From the 25th to the 29th April, 1924, both days inclusive, the South African Indian Congress obtained permission for the use of the Hall for the Fourth Session of the

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONFERENCE

which was presided over by the noble daughter and

the world famous poetess of Mother-Hind, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

It was a source of great pleasure to the executive that they were privileged on two occasions to house in the Hall the representatives of their community from the three Provinces for their deliberations over the destinies of the 161,000 Indians in the Union.

On April 30 at the request of the Executive Mrs. Sarojini Naidu gave a lecture on "The place of a library as a factor in the national life of a community," a very appropriate subject for the Institution. There was an overflowing audience and the lecture was most interesting and instructive.

On May 1, last the Indian teachers and the Schools' Football Association had a reception in the Hall for Mrs. Naidu, and on May 2, the Indian Hotel Employees and the Bombay Presidency Hindu Association also took possession of the Hall for their respective functions in honour of Mrs. Naidu.

On June 29, last Mr. Harold F. Dunning F.R.G.B., lectured on "Indian education and its progress" under the auspices of the Durban Crescent Society, and under the chairmanship of the Revd. A. Lamont.

On Aug. 14 a farewell meeting for Mr. Albert Christopher, the worthy secretary of the Natal Indian Congress who has recently left for Europe was held by the Durban and District Indian Football Association.

On the 14th November last on hearing of the tragic death of Mr. W. W. Pearson who had paid a visit to this country in the Company of Mr. C. F. Andrews in 1914 to enquire into the condition of the indentured Indians, and the system of indenture, a vote of sympathy was passed with his relations.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for the year was 32,288 being an increase from the previous year by 7,213. The above figures do not include the European visitors. During the year 14 Europeans of various standings professional and otherwise visited the Library.

NEW BOOKS

During the year Mr. Rustomjee imported new books from India to the value of about £30.

826 English, 1916 Gujarati, 108 Tamil, 153 Urdu, and 9 Hindi books were issued for reading during the present year as against 788 English, 1079 Gujarati, 70 Urdu, 49 Tamil and 31 Hindi last year.

Newspapers and periodicals are occasionally being sent to the Maritzburg Hindi Young Men's Association Public Library.

LACK OF ENTHUSIASM

Complaint is made in the report of the lack of enthusiasm shown by the public in the periodical lectures arranged by Executive. Owing to the very poor attendance these lectures have almost been abandoned. For the coming year, however, it is intended by the Executive to organise a series of lectures both in English and the vernaculars, which may suit the different tastes and circumstances of the people and see how that will work and if that meets with any measure of success, the succeeding years will witness that being made an important item in the work.

There were several demands for the lending out of books in the Library and the committee after mature and deliberate consideration decided with regret to refuse them, because they felt that the time had not yet arrived for launching into such a project. They would however keep the matter before them and see when and how that demand could be met.

FINANCE

The committee still continues to receive substantial sums from Mr. Rustomjee for the necessary expenses. The subscription for the various papers and periodicals and the price of the books that are every now and then added and the postage are paid by him without drawing upon the Trust.

Special thanks of the committee have been expressed to the hon. treasurer Mr. S. Emmamally and Messrs Shapurjee Jivanjee, B. M. Patel and A. J. Choonoo for their valuable assistance to the Secretary from time to time.

On the motion of Mr. R. K. Khan seconded by Mr. A. H. West the annual report was adopted.

Complimentary speeches during the evening were made by Messrs. West, W. Doull, R. K. Khan, A. J. Choonoo, Rooknoodeen, B. M. Patel and others.

The chairman, before the meeting terminated, presented Mr. Wm. Doull with a beautiful set of silver ware made in India, for his services to the trust, and also garlanded him. Purses of money were also presented to Mr. V. Lawrence, the hard working secretary of the library, for his excellent work, and also to the two librarians, Messrs. Essop Bapu and A. M. Kotwal. The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried unanimously.

ARYAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

The tenth annual meeting of the Aryan Benevolent Society, Pietermaritzburg, was held in the H.Y.M.A. Library on Sunday the 14th instant. Mr. S. R. Naidoo presided. With the exception of the officials and committee, the meeting was poorly attended by the general public. It is a pity that the public should be so apathetic towards an institution whose object is to feed and maintain aged and indigent people.

The Hon. Secretary Mr. R. M. Moorgas submitted a lengthy report reviewing the year's work. He stated that 23 houses to house collections were made. The Benevolent Home, situated in York Road, relieved many cases of distress and undertook or otherwise assisted in the burial of the dead, in deserving cases. An annual grant of £30 each is received from the Provincial Government and the Town Council, but the amount is not sufficient to upkeep expenses of maintaining the Home. The Secretary appealed for articles of food, clothing etc. He stated further that calls are made to relieve distress among the poorer section of the community but owing to lack of funds much help could not be given.

The financial statement showed a balance in bank of £40-1-7 and £3-14-9 cash on hand. The yearly receipts amounted to £102-13-10 and expenditure was £79-10-10.

On the representation of the Secretary it was decided to form a Women's branch to assist in the work of the Home. The Supervisor Mr. R. Manicum, submitted a report upon the upkeep of the Home. The past officials and Committee were thanked for their labour of love. The following officials were elected:

Patron, Mr. W. J. Mackenzie; President, Mr. S. R. Naidoo; Hon. Life Presidents, Dr. F. G. Cawston, Messrs. S. R. Naidoo, P. N. Naidoo, R. N. Moodley, and E. Conforth; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. M. David R. B. Maharaj and M. S. Williams; Hon. Sec. and Treas., Mr. R. M. Moorgas; Hon. Supervisor, Mr. R. Manicum; Committee, Messrs. C. K. Lazarus, S. Sivanand, M. G. Krishnasamy, M. Puckree and K. Surjoo.

Mr. Mackenzie sent a donation of £1-1 and Mr. M. G. Krishnasamy donated a bag of rice and promised to give a similar donation yearly. These gentlemen were thanked. At the conclusion of the meeting a vote of condolence was passed sympathising in the sad loss of the late Mr. D. Panday and Mr. V. N. Pather.

Sporting News

(CONTRIBUTED)

The Natal Cup Final was played between the Junior teams Stars (Durban) and Royals (Maritzburg) on the No. 1 Ground, under the refereeship of Mr. K. A. Clin. Linemen were Messrs. M. Thajmoon (Durban) and B. Mahomed Ally (P. M. Burg.) The game opened with the Stars pressing, and in the first 20 minutes or so it was only half a dozen times the Royals crossed the line. Docrat broke through well and his dash nearly won for his side a goal but the defence of Paruk and Seepy was very stern. One fine drive by Cassim from the right nearly opened the score for the Stars when the goalie of the Royals brought off a great save which surprised many of the Durban capped goalies. The Stars started bombarding the opponents' goal but found the goalie too good for a many thundering shot. Soon the interval arrived without any score.

After Lemons the Royals had a pot at their opponents' goal but without avail. Gany Gazi the centre half of the Stars kept on feeding his forwards but the forwards would not take the advantage and the game ended without any of the teams notching the decider. Two extra halves were played but when the whistle went for time the score was nil on both sides.

The Junior match between the Young Colonial and the Pirates was abandoned owing to both the teams turning up without any ball.

The All Blacks F.C. met the Stanger F.C. on the latter's ground on Sunday the 14th instant, when there was a large crowd of spectators. Both sides played a very keen game and fifteen minutes after the commencement of the match the All Blacks scored a goal. The Stanger forwards made many attempts to put the ball through, but they found the defence of Arnold Moodley and Sunny Williams sound. After the interval a second goal was scored by the All Blacks' heavy centre forward.

The Stanger made a rush and managed to secure a goal. This encouraged the Stanger and they made many rushes but in vain. I. D. Bhayat the reliable centre half of the All Blacks broke through and outclassed the first forwards of Stanger. L. Moodie the heavy and scientific centre forward of the All Blacks made a heavy attempt, Gany Thajmoon the brilliant outside left made a beautiful cross which Omar Hoosen Bacus planked and secured another goal. At the termination of the match the result was: All Blacks 3; Stanger 1. The whistle was in the hands of Mr. Phillip Thomas.

The following are the members of the All Blacks team:—L. Ampd., S. Arnold Moodley, Sunny Williams (Capt.), V. V. Moodley, I. D. Bhayat, R. D. Singh, S. N. Moodley, Dhana, L. Moodie, Omar and Gany Thajmoon. The team travelled under the management of Messrs. M. Emmamally and Gaffoor Thajmoon.

At the time of writing the following results have been despatched from Port Elizabeth: Natal 4. Griqua 1. Transvaal 3. Frontier 0.

A friendly football match between the Standard F. C. of Durban and Fair Breeze School F. C. was played on Sunday the 14th inst., on the Fair Breeze School ground. The field was fairly gathered up with spectators. The Fair Breeze School F. C. was successful by two goals to nil. After the termination of the game three ringing cheers were given by the spectators.

With this issue we present our readers with a portrait of the late Mr. P. K. Naidoo which we have no doubt will be preserved in memory of his good services.

સ્ત્રીશિક્ષણની ખબર ધી હિંદુ ઓર્ગેનો ગુજરાતી સ્કુલ

આથી સર્વ ગુજરાતી હિંદુ સ્ત્રીઓને નિવેદન કરવામાં આવે છે કે ગુજરાતી બાળકોને માટે ખાસ કેળવણીના હેતુ ધ્યાનમાં લઈ ઉપલા નામની સ્કુલ પ્રોન્સે અર્કવર્ક સ્ટ્રીટમાં ખોલવામાં આવી છે.

કેળવણી
ગુજરાતી બાળપોથીથી લઈ ઉર્ગેલ ૪ થી ધોરણ સુધીની છોકરાને આ સ્કુલમાં દાખલ કરવામાં આવશે; શિક્ષણ માતૃભાષા ગુજરાતીદ્વારા ઉર્ગેલ શીખવવા માં આવશે. તેમજ હિંદુસ્તાનના કેળવણીના ધોરણ પ્રમાણે અહીં પણ અભ્યાસક્રમ રાખવામાં આવશે. ધાર્મિક અને શારીરીક કેળવણી ઉપર ખાસ ધ્યાન આપવામાં આવશે. પ્રાથેના, કુસરત વિગર નિયમીત થશે. આ સ્કુલમાં દાખલ થનાર બાળકોને ખીંછ કોઈ સ્કુલમાં જવાની જરૂર રહેશે નહિ.

હાલમાં અમોએ શિક્ષક તરીકે લાંબા વખતના અનુભવી લાઈશ્રી ઝીજાલાઈ લીખાલાઈ નાયકને રોક્યા છે અને લાવિચમાં હિંદુસ્તાનથી ખાસ શિક્ષકો ખોલાવવાની ગોઠવણ કરવામાં આવી છે.

અમો આશા રાખીએ છીએ કે કેળવણીની અભિલાષા ધરાવનાર દરેક ગૃહસ્થ પોતાના બાળકોને સદરહુ સંસ્થામાં સત્વર માંકલી આપી કેળવણીના લાભ ઉઠાવશે.

લી. સેવકા,
મોરારજી હરીભાઈ દેસાઈ, પ્રમુખ
મોરારજી લીખાલાઈ નાયક, સેક્રેટરી
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