

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

A MEETING of Indians, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, was held on Sunday to discuss certain matters in connection with the pending visit of the Prince of Wales to Durban, and a resolution to the following effect was adopted:—

"That the offer of £200 for Indian celebrations by the Corporation of Durban to the Indian community be not accepted, and that a committee of ten members of the Natal Indian Congress be formed, with power to negotiate with the Corporation, for better and more honourable terms."

A correspondent with the nom de plume, "Neutrality" writing to the *Star* (Johannesburg) replies to some of the allegations by anti-Asiatics against Indians:—

"Though Mr. Kirkby has promised to term Indians or Chinese 'coolies,' he talks of the so-called 'Asiatic menace.' Mr. Ross says the Asiatic 'as a trader is no asset to this country.' As a trader the Asiatic is the greatest asset to this country, whose wholesale stores (white) get customers in Indians, keeping money in the country where they are settled, and are a boon to the poor whites owing to their reasonable prices and fair dealing. He further argues that the Asiatics employ their own class of men for next to nothing. This is very far from being the case. Asiatic servants are never cheap. Thousands of whites, girls and boys, are employed by the white firms at monthly wages of £3 or so, excluding clothing and food, while it is impossible to get an Indian servant at the minimum salary of £5, including food. Mr. Ross dwells at length on the 'appalling conditions that exist in the Malay location,' as related by Dr. Porter, the Chief Medical Officer of Johannesburg. I will ask Dr. Porter and Mr. Ross whose fault is this? Three years ago the Asiatic Inquiry Commission criticised the local municipality keeping such a slum in the centre of this city and displaying utter indifference towards its health condition. Has the Johannesburg Municipality ever taken a step to improve the conditions? The Indians are not to be blamed, because they are ever ready to follow the dictates of their 'city fathers.' There has been a severe outbreak of plague in the Orange Free State. Is it due to the Asiatics?"

Mr. G. Kamar, of Christiana (Transvaal) is informed by the Principal Immigration Officer of the Province of Natal in reply to his letter of the 26th August, addressed to the Secretary for the Interior, that Article 12 of Chapter 22 of the Orange Free State Laws provides that the restrictions on the entry and residence in the Orange Free State shall not apply to the inhabitants of the Cape Colony known under the name of Malays.

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu a member of the Indian Legislative Council, writes:—

Several friends have asked me why I have taken to Charka (spinning), and whether it is not a 'fad.'

To them my reply is this:—

(1) I thought it was a 'fad' but now I am learning it is not.

(2) It is the L.C.M. and G.C.M. that could be conceived for all classes and conditions of men, women and children of this country.

(3) It teaches the first lessons in humility, patience, and develops a sense of fellowship and of common brotherhood.

(4) It serves as the first, and the foremost step towards the solution of the economic problems of the country.

(5) It is the symbol of self-reliance.

(6) It helps towards the concentration of the mind with the music of the 'whirl', and one may feel as the thread is drawn, that one is contributing towards the weaving of 'the web of Indian life.'

(7) Religiously viewed, the thread we make is the 'Yegnopavitha' (the sacred thread) of the country and the function is the 'Gayatri japam' of its votaries; through it alone we become the "twice-born"—the regenerate.—*Swarajya*.

The following discussion took place in the Imperial Parliament on India:—

Colonel Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme, Lab.) asked the Prime Minister whether Sir John Kerr had been appointed Deputy-Governor of Bengal; and, if so, why the Senior Executive Councillor, Sir Abdur Rahman, was not appointed, in view of the general practice in such matters.

Earl Winterton, Under-Secretary for India (Horsesham and Worthing), who replied, said:—No "general practice" can be said to exist in respect of the administration of an Act which has only been a few months in operation. The right hon. gentleman, presumably, has in mind the provisions relating to the filling of temporary vacancies, but these provisions have no application to the selection of substitutes for Governors proceeding on leave. Replying to supplementary questions by Colonel Wedgwood, Earl Winterton was understood to say that the Act of last year could not be said to have altered a practice which did not previously exist. The practice with regard to the filling of an ordinary vacancy was not analogous to the situation which had arisen under the Act of last year, which, for the first time, gave power to the Secretary of State in Council to grant leave to a Governor which had never previously been allowed. It was not correct to say that they were importing a new principle into that Act.

Earl Winterton, Under-Secretary for India, in reply to Mr. Lansbury (Bow and Bromley, Lab.), said that Hyndman's "The Awakening of Asia," Bryan's "British Rule in India," M. N. Roy's "Evolution of Economic Organization of India," and Lala Lajpat Rai's "England's debt to India," had been prohibited entry into India by notifications under the Sea Customs Act. The reason in the case of three of them was that the publications contained false and malicious misrepre-

sentations of the British Administration in India. Roy's book was proscribed because all his writings and those of his wife were prohibited, in view of their complicity in a foreign organized conspiracy to overthrow British rule in India. He had no definite information regarding the *Labour Monthly Magazine*; but it occasionally contained articles by these persons, and this would no doubt bring the particular issue within the general bar against those writings. Mr. Lansbury: May I ask if the noble lord has read the books himself?—Earl Winterton.—No sir. I am prepared to leave the matter to the Government of India, who are the proper authority to deal with it. Mr. Thurtle (Shoreditch, Lab.):—Is it not the case that these books can be purchased in this country? Earl Winterton:—Yes, sir, but the conditions in this country and those in India vary very greatly.

The Earl of Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India, replying to Lord Clwyd, said he proposed shortly to submit a motion constituting the Standing Joint Committee on Indian Affairs. It would not differ in form or substance from previous motions of the kind.

#### DURBAN COUNCIL'S LICENSING POLICY

THE report of Monday's meeting of the Durban Town Council in its capacity as the Licensing Appeal Board reveals vividly the policy of the Durban Town Council in dealing with Indian licences and also proves to the hilt the incompetency of the Council to act as an Appeal Board.

The dismissal of the appeal of Moosa Bros. against the decision of the Licensing Officer in the application for the transfer of a retail licence from the corner of Berea and Umbilo Roads to premises at No. 121 Berea Road is an act of clear injustice. Durban prides itself to be the most British town in the Union but in so far as British Indians are concerned the City Fathers have apparently no sense of British justice.

The facts in this case are that Moosa Bros. who have a long established retail business at the corner of Umbilo and Berea Roads have been compelled to move from the said premises by reason of ground being required by the Durban Corporation for road-widening. The applicants, therefore applied for a transfer to 121 Berea Road in premises about 150 yards away from the present store and owned by applicants. There are several licences held by Indians in the immediate vicinity of 121 Berea Road. There was no opposition against the application and the Licensing Officer (Col. Molyneux) while agreeing that there was nothing against applicants' character gave the following reasons for refusing the application:—

"I refused this licence because I do not consider it desirable, on the ground of amenity, to increase the number of Indian traders in Berea Road. Were this licence to be granted it would mean the intrusion of an Indian trader in an European neighbourhood. It is true that lower down the road there are still five Indian traders, but in the last 20 years the number of Indians in the vicinity has steadily decreased and it is my policy to still further reduce the number as opportunity offers."

The Licensing Officer's decision was neither fair nor just and in Law it is not competent for him to

restrict the right of any applicants to carry on their business in any particular locality.

The only course open for applicants now was to appeal to the Town Council.

On the appeal being heard, a motion was brought after much discussion in favour of and against the applicants, that the Licensing Officer's decision be upheld. The voting for and against the motion was equal but the most remarkable feature of the proceedings was that His Worship the Mayor who had voted against the motion gave his casting vote in favour of the motion, i. e., against the granting of the licence.

The Mayor was then sitting in the place of Judge President but he was not able to keep the scale of justice evenly balanced. He was evidently in a dilemma. On the one hand he had to consider the question of justice and on the other the prestige of the Licensing Officer and the devil in him ultimately had the better of him. To uphold the decision of the Licensing Officer he considered to be a duty and to do justice was evidently a secondary question!

Credit is due to Councillors Mrs. Knight, Mr. Lamont and Mr. Smith who put up a strong fight in favour of justice. Mr. Lamont pleaded for humanity. But humanity is for animals, not for Indians! Indians are not entitled even to common decency in this country.

Mrs. Knight's remarks that she did not consider that the Licensing Officer's decisions were always just and fair was quite correct in so far as Indian applications are concerned. He does not go by justice and fairness in dealing with Indian applications but by his laid down policy which, he has times out of number declared, is to reduce the number of Indian licences as opportunity offers from what he terms European localities. The Licensing Officer, however, is not to be blamed for he is after all a serf of the Town Council and does what he is ordered by his masters to do.

The present case is yet another eye-opener to the Indian community if they have not yet realised the extent to which they are humiliated.

#### DURBAN TOWN COUNCIL'S LICENSING POLICY

##### COUNCILLOR SMITH'S DISCLOSURE

##### MRS. KNIGHT ON THE LICENSING OFFICER'S DECISIONS

Licensing appeals which are usually heard by the Durban Town Council after the ordinary business of the meeting has been completed, were advanced to the top of agenda at the Council's meeting on the 6th instant, the Mayor (Councillor T. M. Wadley), explaining that the Licensing Officer (Colonel Molyneux) was on leave and wanted to get away early.

Councillor Gilbert protested that a separate day should have been set aside for the appeals, which would probably keep the Council all the afternoon. The Council, however, agreed to hear the appeals.

Before the Mayor called upon counsel for the first appellant Councillor Smith sought the permission of the Mayor to make an important statement.

He had always understood, he continued, that Councillors had to exercise their discretion in listening to these licensing appeals; that they were more or less in the position of judges on the bench. Nevertheless there was an unfortunate practice against which there was no law, and against which he

wished to express his views. After the Licensing Officer pronounced his decision, and before the Council could listen to the merits of the case, individual Councillors were approached by interested parties and canvassed for their votes, with the result that it was very awkward for a Councillor to use his discretion in a fit and proper manner. Would a person who had received an adverse decision in a lower Court of Law be permitted to approach the Judges of the Supreme Court and attempt to influence their decision? Yet that was the position in which members of the Council found themselves when dealing with these licensing appeals. It was time the Council took drastic action, for it was only fair that members should be protected from this canvassing. He suggested that the Town Clerk should be asked to submit a memorandum on the subject. Perhaps they could have a similar law to that which disqualified candidates for billets if they canvassed members of the Council.

"I have sat at this horeshoe for six and a half years, and I have never been approached by anyone in connection with a licensing appeal," observed Councillor Mitchell.

Councillor Smith: Councillor Mitchell can never be found.

The Mayor said apart from what Mr. Mitchell had said, there were very few of them who had not had the experience of being approached by someone interested in a licence. The Town Clerk would submit a memorandum as suggested.

The first appeal was made by Mr. Goulding on behalf of Moosa Brothers, who had applied for the transfer of a retail licence from the corner of Berea and Umbilo Roads to premises at No. 121 Berea Road. One of the grounds of appeal was that the applicants, who had held a licence for many years at the corner of Umbilo and Berea Roads, had been compelled to move from the premises by reason of the ground being regarded by the Durban Corporation for town improvement purposes (road widening). It was also stated that there were several licences held by Indians in the immediate vicinity of 121, Berea Road.

#### EUROPEANISING BEREA ROAD

The Licensing Officer said 20 years ago Berea Road all the way up was occupied by Indian shopkeepers, but the number had been reduced to five, and this was now a European street. Referring to Councillor Smith's remarks on canvassing, Colonel Molyneux said he had been approached by several people about this licence. The purchaser of the property had seen him and told him what a good fellow the Indian was. Yet when he (the Licensing Officer) suggested that the purchaser should have the Indian in his own building he was indignant. Colonel Molyneux added that he was willing to grant the applicant a licence in an Indian area.

Councillor Smith, who said he was in a peculiar position, moved that instead of considering the appeal in committee, in accordance with the usual practice, the Council proceed to consider the matter in public.

Councillor Eaton seconded the motion.

On being put to the vote, however, the motion was defeated and the Council accordingly retired.

On reassembling, Councillor Hult moved that the Licensing Officer's appeal be upheld, Councillor Kemp being his seconder.

#### INFLECTING A HARDSHIP

In the course of a long speech against this proposition Councillor Smith said he wanted the matter discussed in public because he wanted to give the reasons which prompted him to vote for or against a licence, and thought other Councillors should do the same. He was in the peculiar position that if he voted against a licence he was told he did wrong, and if he voted for he was still wrong. He did not

want people to think he was looking for the votes of the big Mahomedan merchants; he did not want their votes. But in this case he did think the Council would be inflicting a hardship on the applicant, who had had to move because part of the building he occupied was wanted for street widening. This type of Indian was not a menace.

Mrs. Siedle also thought the Council would be inflicting a hardship on the applicant.

"I do not consider that the Licensing Officer's decisions are always just and fair," said Councillor Mrs. Knight in support of her frank admission that she often voted against the Licensing Officer's decisions.

The Mayor: "Mrs. Knight, you must withdraw that remark."

Mrs. Knight continued to speak to the appeal, and the Mayor again asked "Do you withdraw, Mrs. Knight?"

"Well, I don't know," she replied.

Again, pressed by the Mayor and by cries of "Withdraw," Mrs. Knight agreed to withdraw, but she added that she did not think the decision under discussion was just and fair and she would vote against it.

#### NO INJUSTICE

Councillor Johnstone did not see where the injustice came in. They must recognise the facts, he said, and the thinking Indians were recognising that Indian licences could not be granted in European areas. The Licensing Officer had already expressed his willingness to give the applicant a licence in an Indian area.

Councillor Kemp, with the remark "our friends protest too much," said he was voting on principle. Only recently an Indian purchased property in a European area and had then endeavoured to obtain a licence. This was what the Indians were doing, and if the present application was granted there would be more applications for licences in European areas.

On being put to the vote (the motion was that the Licensing Officer's decision be upheld) the voting was equal, as follows.—

For: Councillors Mrs. Fahey, Williamson, Eaton, Clark, Johnstone, Burman, Kemp, and Hutt.

Against: The Mayor, Councillors Lamont, Smith, Mitchell, Buzzard, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Siedle, Mrs. Benson. Councillors Gilbert and Shearer left the chamber before the appeal was heard.

The Mayor gave his casting vote in favour of the motion, or against the granting of the licence.

Councillor Lamont: Do I understand that the status quo is preserved? I respectfully submit that the status quo has not been preserved.

The Mayor: I cannot allow any discussion on the validity of my vote. Originally I voted against the motion; I take it is my duty now to uphold the Licensing Officer's decision.

Councillor Lamont: I submit with due respect that the procedure seems very funny.

#### VOTES NOT IN ACCORD WITH IDEALS

In the second appeal, in which Mr. H. J. Stuart appeared for T. K. Tandree (Grey Street Wood and Coal Co.) for the renewal of wholesale and retail licences in respect of premises No. 108, Umgeni Road, Councillor Burman, after argument, moved that the appeal be upheld, and observed that he had heard nothing to cause him to change the opinion represented in granting the licence in the first instance.

The objection was raised by the proprietor of the Imperial Hotel on the grounds of wood sawing being a nuisance to the residence.

Again practically all the members of the Council spoke upon the suggestion, and in the course of the discussion Councillor Eaton observed that he did not think that Asiatics would now be able to say that

they were not represented in the Council.

He had hoped, he continued, that the Council would make an effort to get the centre of the town clear of such industries; the Council were trying hard to get the stone yard cleared because they considered it unsightly, and similar argument should hold in the case before the Council.

"To-day," Councillor Eaton continued, "I am in a rather humiliating position because I know that our party ideals do not coincide with votes as they have been cast to-day."

Councillor Lamont protested that humanity must come before fixed ideals.

His Worship the Mayor hoped that Councillor Eaton would withdraw his remark, and protested against the suggestion that some of the members of the Council were present in particular interests.

Councillor Gilbert added a rider to the motion that the appeal be upheld upon the condition that wood sawing be discontinued on the premises, and when put as an amendment and later as the substantive motion this was carried, several members, however, complaining that by the manner in which the question had been put to them they had been forced to vote in a manner other than they had wished to.

#### "UNBLEMISHED CHARACTER"

In another case, in which an Indian appealed against the refusal of the renewal of a retail manufacturer's licence, appellant's counsel submitted that the appellate was "a gentleman of unblemished character," but the Licensing Officer put in the Indian's criminal record showing that he was at present serving a sentence of 12 months' imprisonment for illegal trading in gold and had suffered six previous convictions since 1921, comprising one for receiving stolen property, three for assault, and one under the Children's Protection Act, and one for unlawful possession of liquor.—*Natal Mercury*.

### INDIA IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

#### LORD BIRKENHEAD ON MR. DAS' APPEAL

A Reuter's message from London dated March 31, states.—

A responsive note was sounded by Lord Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India, in the course of the Indian debate in the House of Lords to-night, with regard to recent utterances of the Swarajist leader Das, in which Das expressed abhorrence at political assassinations and violence in any form, as well as at repressions by Government.

Lord Birkenhead expressed his desire to join Das in his effort to lay aside undue suspicion. Lord Birkenhead would hopefully watch the results of the appeal by Das to his supporters. If he saw revolutionary societies begin to atrophy for want of monetary and moral support, and channels of communication between the political and the anarchical world effectively closed, then a new era would have begun in Bengal, and the need for what Das called repression would have disappeared.

Lord Birkenhead emphasised, however, that all British authorities concerned with legislation for the repression of crimes of violence in Bengal constantly and justly repudiated any intention or practice of repressing political opinion. He invited Das to take a further step and co-operate with the Government in repressing violence. All we desired was co-operation between the British and Indian political parties, with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the Empire. Never, never would it be reached by violence and desperate crimes.

#### MR. DAS' REPLY TO LORD BIRKENHEAD

Patna, April 4 (Reuter).—In response to a speech by Lord Birkenhead, Secretary of State for India,

a few days ago in which Lord Birkenhead invited Das to co-operate with the Indian Government in suppressing crimes of violence, and declared that responsible Government in India would never be reached by violence, Das has made a conciliatory reply. Das described Lord Birkenhead's statement as frank and courteous. He agreed that the freedom would not be reached by violence. Das said he was anxious to carry on an active propaganda against the evil which was a standing menace to the establishment of Swaraj.

At the same time all their efforts in that direction would be ineffective unless the Government created a favourable atmosphere. Das criticised the Bengal Ordinance and invited Lord Birkenhead to make a searching inquiry into the causes of the revolutionary movement in India, and after that to apply a proper remedy. Das asserted that the revolutionary movement would disappear when the Government laid the foundation of Freedom of Thought. A favourable atmosphere had been created "for further discussion," but he was unable to co-operate with the Government in its present policy of repression.

#### OUR LONDON LETTER

[ FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT ]

12th March 1925.

King George, who is now convalescent, will be soon leaving to join his yacht in the Mediterranean Sea for a cruise. The Queen goes with him. The Prince of Wales held a Levee at the command of His Majesty and among those who attended was Dewan Vijaraghavarcharya.

Mr. Baldwin has decided that the British Representative at Constantinople shall hold the rank of Ambassador.

William Charles Hobbs, aged 60, charged with conspiracy to defraud Sir Hari Singh, the nephew of the Maharaj of Kashmir, in the case known popularly as the "Mr. A" case or the Robinson case, was found guilty and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour. Sir Curtis-Bennett K.C., defended Hobbs. Mr. Humphreys was for the prosecution.

The papers are full of correspondence on the blackmail and in the House of Commons it has formed the subject of a question. The Home Secretary is in sympathy with the move to put down blackmailers and has told the House that if the crime does not lessen, he will introduce a bill to authorise the infliction of flogging for blackmailing. He said that the Lord Chief Justice approves of the idea of flogging for this crime.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller Junior has given a million dollars towards the fund of five million dollars (£1,000,000) which is being raised for the Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes for Negro education in the South. This gift brings the fund to three million five hundred thousand dollars. If the full amount be raised the endowment fund of these two institutes will be increased by an additional two million dollars promised by Mr. George Eastman, the Kodak manufacturer. The Tuskegee Institution referred to is the one founded by the late Mr. Booker T. Washington. Among other gifts Mr. Rockefeller has given one million six hundred thousand dollars to rebuild the Tokio Library.

Lord Lytton, the Governor of Bengal, has appointed Nawab Ali Chaudhry to be Minister in charge of Agriculture, Industries, and Education; and the Raja Manwathanak Ray to be Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government, Medical Excise and Public Works.

The Muddimar Committee's Report on Indian

Reforms, which is just out, consists of Majority and Minority Reports. The former includes the views of Sir Alexander Muddiman, Sir Mahomed Shafi, Sir Arthur Froom, Sir H. Mancieff Smith and the Maharaj of Burdwan, who state that the Act has not been in operation long enough to afford material for judgment and that there is no ground for the conclusion that it is a failure. The Minority Report gives the views of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Sivasamy Aiyer, Dr. Paranjpye and Mr. Jinnah who contest the views of the majority.

The British Exchequer was responsible for the cost of employing Indian troops in the field outside India and her frontiers to the extent to which it exceeded the normal peace charge for Indian Contingents. This rule applied also to the Contingents of the Indian States. It has been recently announced that the Maharajahs of several Indian States had decided to waive their claims on the British Exchequer. The remission from the State of Hyderabad alone amounts to over £1,000,000.

Mr. G. B. Shaw, Sir Arthur Pinero and other dramatists are demanding fees from literary societies which announce readings of their plays. They say they will suffer pecuniarily if the practice continues to spread, as it is spreading, and that authors should not be penalised in order that the masses may be educated!

#### H. H. THE AGA KHAN IN ZANZIBAR

During his recent visit to Zanzibar in reply to an address presented to him by the National Association under the presidentship of the Sultan of Zanzibar H. H. the Aga Khan is reported to have made the following reply:—

Your Highness, Your Excellency and my Countrymen,—I thank you very much for your kind welcome and beautiful address.

I am indeed grateful to you for so many references to what humble services I have been able to render to my countrymen and Islam. I have done nothing beyond my duty. It was so kind of the Council of State in India and other Governments to recommend me for the Noble Prize for peace for my efforts to have the Treaty of Sevres altered for the establishment of peace in the Near East.

You have touched upon so many burning problems in these provinces and for Indians overseas in general. I need hardly say that this question has been burning in the hearts of all Indians in India and elsewhere. We are at present swimming through a stream, we are fighting a strong battle, we have neither crossed the stream, nor have we lost or won the battle. But we should not leave the struggle either through over confidence or pessimism. It is not advisable for me to commit myself to any opinion as it is probable that a new committee would soon start its work on the question. Only during the last fortnight a very influential deputation waited on His Excellency the Viceroy headed by Sir Dinshaw Petit. His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner supported the cause on behalf of all the ruling princes in India. You will therefore see that all in India even the Government of India have been watching this problem with very great sympathy and care and you need not lose hopes.

The question of Tanganyika, gentlemen, is on a different basis. It is a mandated territory, and India is a member of the League of Nations. The position of Indians there cannot be in any way affected so long as India is in the League. Only the other day my friend and colleague, Mr. Ranga Chariar moved a resolution in the Assembly stating either the disabilities to Indians there should be removed, or India should get out of the league. This is, as it should be:

The question of German debts has been more a legal question than a political one and solution of legal questions as you know takes longer time than that of political ones. The advice of the best lawyers in London has been taken and the excellent secretary of your Indians Overseas Association in London watches the development with a very great care. I hope the question would soon be satisfactorily solved.

As to your domestic needs for a High School or a Hospital it is really the question for your association to take up. If local leaders bring forward a practical proposition it will be surely supported by all. As long as the leaders in Zanzibar do not do that, you will admit, it is very difficult for those who do not stay in the Island to give a lead, howsoever influential they may be. You can count upon their help and also help from India as soon as you yourselves take the question up.

The Indians have played a very prominent part in the development of this country. Men like Stanley have mentioned the part played by them in their books and I rejoice to see them still doing the same. The Hindu-Moslem unity is a settled fact here, and I am glad to see that in all congresses and committees Hindu Moslem unity is very strong. I wish you success in your activities and a still brighter and prosperous career to your Association. Gentlemen, I once again thank you for the honour you have done to me this afternoon.—*Zanzibar Voice.*

#### Original Correspondence

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

#### DUNDEE HINDOOS REQUIRE HINDU BUTCHER

Sir,—Whilst one must unfortunately admit the prevalence of the existing race prejudice between the European and the Asiatic, one however still looks for fair and reasonable treatment from the hands of those who are entrusted with power—such a person is our local Licensing Officer Mr. Hardy who has refused a Butcher's licence to an Indian M. M. Karim.

I will merely state the facts and leave the Dundee Burgesses to say how far they approve of our Licensing Officer's decision from whose decision an appeal, in these particular circumstances, only lies to the Town Council.

The facts are that M. M. Karim applied for a Retail Butcher's licence for premises at the corner of Wilson Street and Ladysmith Road, Dundee. It was opposed by the Dundee Chamber of Commerce and two local Indian Butchers on the ground that it was not within the Asiatic area nor was it necessary.

The applicant stated that he desired to open this Butcher shop to supply the needs of the Hindu community who were not able to buy meat from the European or Indian Butchers in town as they also sold beef. The Indian Butchers had been doing so for the past eight months and consequently the Hindu community as such were not able to purchase meat because their religion forbids the killing of cows or the eating of beef.

The applicant had been approached by the Hindu community to open this business as they themselves had no member who because of religious scruples would undertake the killing of animals. The applicant put in a petition signed by 67 leading Hindus supporting the application. A number of Hindus also gave evidence. The applicant stated his willingness to confine himself to supplying the Hindu needs and stated that the granting of his application was entirely in an Asiatic area, would supply the

reasonable necessity of the Hindu community and the granting of such licence would affect the present European or Indian Butchers as the Hindu trade was not enjoyed by them. The evidence showed that the Hindus outnumbered the Mahomedans here and there are about 150 in town.

The objectors did not appear nor did they bring any evidence at all to support their objections. It was pointed out to the Licensing Officer that every reason existed to justify his granting this licence and an authority was pointed out to him under which he could at the renewal of this licence refuse same if the applicant failed to confine himself to the Hindu trade.

The Licensing Officer refused the application stating that it was neither desirable nor necessary. This means that the whole of the Hindu community except those who are prepared to break caste prejudices, are precluded from obtaining mutton in this Borough and the Hindu community are very much disturbed in mind owing to this decision and still believe that the appeal it is intended to bring before the Town Council will be sympathetically considered.

I feel certain that it is not the wish or desire of the burgesses of this town that the Hindu community should be made to suffer and be deprived of their necessities, more so when the granting of this application will not in any way affect the European community and will not be in competition with any other trade. The objectors are not supplying this necessity and will not permit through the Licensing Officer that this necessity be supplied. Is this fair or reasonable? Can one believe that in these enlightened days men could so far forget their own manhood and commit these wrongs. It is said that "God is great and God is good," "ask in My name and ye shall receive" and in His name we will approach the Town Councillors believing that they will do what is right.

Yours faithfully,

N. K. NAIDOO.

Secretary, Dundee Hindu Temple and  
Representative of the Hindu community.  
1st April 1925.

### વેચવાના પુસ્તકો

હિંદુ સ્ત્રાવણ (ખાદીના પુકામ)	
મ. ગાંધીજીના હાથના અક્ષરમાં છપાએલું)	૬ ૦
"    સાદું પુકું	૫ ૦
અસહકાર સાદું પુકું	૬ ૦
અસહકાર ખાદીનું પુકું	૬ ૬
રાષ્ટ્રીય વાંચન માળા અને ખાળકોને	
ઉપયોગી પુસ્તકો, ચાલણ ગાડી નાની	૧ ૦
ચાલણ ગાડી મોટી	૦ ૬
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