



श्रीराज ठंडिया
स्टीम नेवीगेशन कु.

वास डीवसमां मुंअर्ध पहोंयाडनारी

स्टीमरे

स्टी. "कारामेला"

डीसेम्बर ता. ६ हीजे मुंअर्ध जवा उपड्ये.

स्टी. "कारामेला" डीसेम्बर ता. २० भीजे मुंअर्ध
जवा उपड्ये.

डीडीटना लावे

सेकंड क्लास: पाउंड २४-०-०

फर्टर: पा. १५-०-०

डेक पा. ८-०-०

मुसलमाना वीशी श. ४०; हिंदू वीशी श. ३४.

मुयना—डिवाइजोचे पोताना मेला हागीना इनीवार ११
वागा अगाड करुममां पहोंयाटां करवा.

सेकंड अने फर्टर माटे जेक महिना अगाडथी अटोपस्त करवा.
दरेक डीडी पेसीन्जरे पोताना डीडी अगारी जोरीसमांथी
सेवी अने अहार आभवाणा भाषणेचे अगारी साथे पत्रव्य-
वहार करवाथी पणु यर्ध करुवे. स्टीमरने लगतु दरेक अग-
अज अगारी जवती देअरेभ नीजे वाच छे.

पणु पुवासा माटे लणो मा मणो:—

शेअल ह्यिमेड,

Tel. Add. ३७० पायन स्ट्रीट, इरणन.

"Karamat Durban"

अडवाडीक पंचांग

वार	श्रीरती	हीडु	मुसलमान	पारसी	सुयेद्वि	मुयस्व
	१६२६	१६८३	१३४५	१२६६	क. मी.	क. मी.
	डीसे- म्बर	कालिक मार्गशीर्ष	जमादिउल अ. आभर	कहमी कहे.		
शुक्र	३	वदि १३	२६	२६	४-५०	६-४४
रवनी	४	" १४	२७	२७	४-५०	६-४५
सोम	५	" ३०	२८	२८	४-५०	६-४५
मंगल	६	सुदि १	२६	२६	४-५०	६-४६
बुध	७	" २	१	३०	४-५०	६-४७
शुक्र	८	" ३	२	१	४-५०	६-४८
रव	९	" ४	३	२	४-५०	६-४९

South African Indian Congress EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

In terms of Clauses 8 and 13 of the Con-
stitution, all constituent bodies are notified
that an Emergency Conference of the South
African Indian Congress is hereby convened
to be held in Durban for the 6th and 7th days
of December 1926,

AGENDA:—

1. Minutes of previous Conference.
2. Presidential Speech.
3. Secretary's Interim Report.
4. Treasurer's Interim Financial State-
ment.
5. Round Table Conference.
6. General.

N.B.—Notices of motion will not be accept-
ed unless they have reference to the Round
Table Conference.

A. I. KAJEE,

Hon. General Secretary,
South African Indian Congress.

साउथ आफ्रिकन इन्डियन काँग्रेस

जेमरजन्सी कांन्डरन्स

(पास जेडवापवली परीपड)

धराती आठ अने तेरथी इलमनी इजे आथी सधणु
डेअिसनी साथे जेडापवली संस्थेजोने अजर आपवामां
जावे छे के सा. आ. डेअिसनी जेमरजन्सी कांन्डरन्स
इरणन भाते ता. ६ अने ७ डीसेम्बर १९२६ ना बराव-
वने मुकरर यथ छे.

कार्यक्रम—गड कांन्डरन्सनी मीनीट, प्रमुअतुं लापणु, सेक-
टरीना वार्षिक रीपोट, डेअररनेो हिसाब अने रीपोट, राईड
टेमव कांन्डरन्स अने परयुरवु.

नोंध—राईड टेमव कांन्डरन्सने संणध धरावती जाणवेो
सिवायनी भीअ कर्ध पणु इरणनने ध्याने देवामां जावसे नदि.

जे. आर्ध. काल,

जेम. जनरल सेक्रेटरी.

सा. आ. इन्डियन काँग्रेस.

इमो भाडे आपवानां छे

जाणवेोनी भीडीममां इम भाडे आपवानां छे दरेक जवती

समय.

पुणे:

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 ડિસ્ટર્ન ટરેડીંગ કુલ.
 ૬૪ પ્રીસ એડવર્ડ સ્ટ્રીટ,
 ડરબન.

ઓ. આર. પટેલ

ફ્રુટ એન્ડ વેજિટેબલ કમર્સ.
 ફ્રેક જાતની સાકલાંજ, લીંચુ, રોશ્કી (ખાવા લાયક)
 અને ફળફળાદી અમારા ભંડારમાં પાકે છે.
 ખંદારમાંના એડરો પર ફ્રુટ ધ્યાન આપવામાં આવશે.
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૧૮૨ ગ્રે સ્ટ્રીટ, હીરાભાઈ મોરાર મટવાડકર, ડરબન
 હોલસેલ ફ્રુટ અને વેજિટેબલ મહાવનાર
 પેકીંગ સાધી રીતે કરવામાં આવશે.
 ટેલીફોન ૩૮૬૭ અને કમીશન એજન્ટ જોહન જોહન ૩૧૬.

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 "DADABHAY." CAROLINA.

પો. ઓ. બોક્સ ૪૮. ટેલીગ્રાફિક: "દાદાભાઈ" કરોલીના
એમ. આઈ. દાદાભાઈ,
 જનરલ મરચન્ટ.
 ૨૫, વેન હેગન સ્ટ્રીટ, કરોલીના, ટ્રાંસ્વાલ.
 ટેલીફોન નં. ૫.

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 નવા અને જુના લાકડાના વેપારી.
 જરૂર ખાંધવાનાં લાકડાં, લીન, તથા તેને ભગતો સુધી
 સામાન રાખીએ છીએ. ફ્રેક ચીજ કિંદાયત ભાવે મળી
 શકશે.
 ફ્રુટ જોહન કિંદાયત ભાવે ખનાવી આપીએ છીએ.
 નાખીસના જોહન ખાસ ખનાવી આપીએ છીએ.
 પ્રાઇસ લીસ્ટ મંગાવી ખાની કરો.
 ટેલીફોન ૩૫૧૯. યાર્ક ૧૪, બીરીયા ફ્લેટ, ડરબન



સાઉથ આફ્રિકામાં પ્રખ્યાત કેપીટનની
મીઠાઈ
 અમારી બનાવેલી મીઠાઈઓમાં બનાવેલી વેજિટેબલ ડું ધી
 બીલકુલ વપરાતું નથી એની ખાત્રી આપવામાં આવે છે.
 તે યાદ રાખજો
 અમારે ત્યાં પોરબંદર ધીની મીઠાઈઓ તેમજ લીખાંતમતમતા
 મસાલાની ફરસાલો, રોલાપુરી ચેવડો, ભાવનગરી ચેવ ગાંઠીઆ,
 બટાકાની પુરી ભજ્યા. વીગેરે
 વાન દુધના માવાના પેડા, બરફી, ખંભાતી સુતરફેણી
 વીગેરે ખજી ભવની મીઠાઈઓ હમેશાં તાજ મળે છે.
 ફેક્ટ
 અમારે ત્યાં બનેલા કેકોમાં ફેક્ટ વીગેરે ધમને ખાધ આવે એની
 ખીએ વાપરવામાં આવતીજ નથી.

ખંબરમાં સસ્તો માલ ખરીદા તે પહેલાં વીચારજો
 ભરોશો રાખજો ભાવ બ્યાલબી લઈ માલ રોકડથી સ્વાના થાવ છે.
 ખંદાર ગામના મહાકોએ જોરડર સાથે પાપચા મોકલવા મહેરબાની કરવી.
 અચાર, કમલી લીંચુ, કેરી, તથા વેજિટેબલના અમાણાએ મસાલાકાર પાપક વીગેરે હમેશાં મેટા અમાણામાં વૃધ્ધાર મળે છે.
 Phone 3623 Central. Manager, R. K. KAPITAN Corner, Grey & Victoria Street Durban.

Indian Opinion

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CONGRESS APPEAL FOR PRAYERS

બંદગી માટે કોંગ્રેસની અરજ

THE Executive of the South African Indian Congress have resolved to hold a Prayer Day on the 19th day of December next to be observed as such by the entire Indian community of South Africa. It falls on a Sunday and an appeal is made to every Indian in Natal to observe that day as a Day of Prayer. It will not only be observed by the Indian community of South Africa but both the Dutch Reformed and Catholic Churches have agreed to offer prayers on that day. Above all, Mr. Andrews has arranged for the observance of the Prayer Day throughout India and many parts of Europe. Mahatma Gandhi has cabled his approval of the object.

It therefore becomes necessary for the Indian community of Natal to respond to this appeal to ensure that peace and goodwill that are so necessary at the present juncture.

The headquarters of the Congress as well as the Branches will hold Mass Meetings in their respective Districts, whereat prayers will be offered to Almighty. The proceedings will be as solemn as possible.

In the Districts where there are no branches of the Congress it is essential that the leading members of the Congress will convene Meetings for the above purpose.

It is hoped that the Indian community of Natal will splendidly respond to this appeal.

AMOD BAYAT,

President.

V. S. C. PATHER,

SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,

Hon. Secretaries.

સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસની કારોબારી કમીટીએ તરીખ ૧૬ ડિસેમ્બર ૧૯૨૬ ના દિવસને પ્રાર્થનાનો દિવસ ઠરાવ્યો છે. દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકામાં આ દિવસ પ્રાર્થનાના દિવસ તરીકે પાળવાનો છે. નારાલના હિંદીઓને બંદગીમાં સામેલ થવા વિનંતી કરવામાં આવે છે.

આ દિવસ આખા દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના હિંદીઓમાં પળાશે એટલું જ નહી, પણ તે દિવસે ક્ય રીશર્મક પંથ અને કેથલીક પંથના ખીરતી સમાજોએ પણ પ્રાર્થના કરવા નકી કર્યું છે. આ ઉપરાંત મી. એન્ડરૂએ આખા હિંદુસ્તાન અને યુરોપમાં પણ ઘણે ઠેકાણે તેજ દાવસે પ્રાર્થનાઓ થવા ગોઠવણ કરી રાખી છે. આપણા આ શુભ કાર્યમાં મહત્તમ ગાંધીજીએ ખુશી બહાર કરી છે.

આ પ્રસંગે શાંતીની જરૂર છે. આશા છે કે હિંદી કોમ આ વિનંતીને અમલમાં મુકવા તત્પર રહેશે.

આ પ્રસંગે નારાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના મુખ્ય મથક તેમજ કોંગ્રેસની શાખાઓના સર્વે સ્થળોમાં પ્રાર્થનાની ખાસ સલાઓ મળશે. આ સલાઓમાં ખુદાની બંદગી કરવામાં આવશે. સલાના કાર્યે ઘણાં જ ગંભીરપણે ચલાવવામાં આવશે. કોંગ્રેસની શાખા હરતી ધરાવતી ન હોય એવા લઘુના કોંગ્રેસ આગેવાન સહયો પ્રાર્થના માટે ખાસ સલાઓ બોલાવશે.

આશા રાખવામાં આવે છે કે નારાલની હિંદી કોમ અમારી વિનંતીને સંપુર્ણ અમલમાં મુકશે.

આમોદ લેયાત,

પ્રસીડન્ટ.

વી. એસ. સી. પથર,

સોરાબજી રુસ્તમજી,

ઓનરરી સેક્રેટરીઓ.

THE PRAYER DAY

THE Executive of the South African Indian Congress have decided to observe the 19th day of December next as a Prayer Day throughout South Africa. Elsewhere in this issue will be found an appeal by the Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress on this subject addressed to the Indian community of Natal.

The Round Table Conference meets at Capetown on the ~~17th~~ December and no more appropriate a day could be found than the 19th December for the observance of Prayer Day. We are informed that on this occasion, the Prayer Day will be international in character in that the Rev. C. F. Andrews has made the necessary arrangement for the observance of the Day in India and in Europe. The Dutch Reformed and Catholic Churches of South Africa have intimated their willingness to also observe the 19th as a Prayer Day. This is undoubtedly a step in the right direction and it will be the first occasion in recent years, when the European churches have interested themselves in Indian affairs. This is a good omen and comes at a most opportune moment. The Prayer Day, observed as it will be, by both the Indian and European communities of South Africa will tend to clear the atmosphere during the Conference and create that sense of peace and goodwill in the minds of the delegates attending the Conference. It is essential that both the parties should enter the Conference without any feeling of animosity against one section or the other and the observance of the Prayer Day will certainly bring about this feeling.

Mr. Andrews is, we are glad to note, straining every nerve to ensure unity of action in this matter. The efficacy of prayers is too well known to our readers to need any emphasis on our part. Our prayers were answered on the last occasion and it can safely be assumed that on this occasion too our prayers will not be unheard.

Concerted action is necessary if the Prayer Day is to be a success. The sacrifice made by the community on the 23rd of February is still fresh in our memory and we feel sure that they will not shirk their responsibility on the 19th of December.

The splendid success attained by the South African Indian Congress on the last occasion was mainly due to the spontaneous

response of the Indian community to its appeal. We feel sure that the Indian community will once more respond as one man for then only will the Prayer Day be a success.

THE CAPETOWN CONFERENCE

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

A DIFFICULTY has been often expressed to me since I landed in South Africa that the coming Conference is not in the exact form that the South African Indian Congress asked for. It contains no representative from England and no representative from the Indian community in South Africa. It is bilateral, instead of being quadrilateral.

It might be argued, that a very great deal has happened since this proposal of a quadrilateral Conference was made. It is even doubtful to-day whether the proposers of such a form of Conference would desire to retain all the exact details, even if the matter were left entirely in their own hands. It would be inopportune, for instance, to ask for a representative from England to join in it, just at the time when South Africa is getting free from its shackles of dependence upon England. The demand made by the Congress, that India should be represented not only by officials and non-officials from India, but also by a South African Indian Delegation is far more important in character, but when carefully considered carries with it certain difficulties. For South African Indians are citizen members of the South African Union. They do not come from outside. They are South African born. Constitutional difficulties would be certain to arise of no ordinary kind, if this were pressed.

I do not mean that these things would be insurmountable, provided there were an obvious necessity for such a form of Conference to take place. But the Indian Deputation under Mr. Paddison, with Mr. Bajpai as Secretary, and Syed Raza Ali and Sir D. Sarvadikari as members, did extremely well, earlier in the year; and though the South African Indian Congress Executive might itself have appeared before the Select Committee, it wisely agreed rather to leave the matter with the Deputation. There is much to be said for the same course being pursued to-day. In any case, the actual form which the Conference will take has been long ago decided, and the members who are coming from India have been well and carefully chosen. Mahatma Gandhi has approved of the choice and there has been a general approval in all the Indian papers. The Indian community in South Africa is not committed beforehand to the decisions that are reached between these two Governments in Council. No one will be committed immediately but themselves. For the decisions will have to come up for approval before the Union Parliament in Capetown and the Imperial Assembly at Delhi. When therefore the things

agreed upon at the Capetown Conference have to receive their final sanction on either side of the Indian Ocean that will be the time when the South African Indian Congress will have its own opportunity of making its final opinion heard. It will also have abundant opportunity beforehand of putting its views before the Indian delegates during the Conference itself.

Therefore, though the arrangement reached may have its limitations, it has also its strong points. A small body of men meeting everyday round a table, in a manner that invites friendly intercourse, is more likely to come to a settlement of peace and goodwill than a large body of men, representing diverse views, with set speeches and only the parliamentary form of discussion. We long that this Conference may be our 'Locarno.' The Locarno Conference itself owed its wonderful success, to the fact, that those who met were few in number and could talk freely and in a friendly manner.

Notes and News

We are informed that the Natal Indian Congress has with the consent of the Receiver of Revenue, Durban, appointed the following gentlemen Rev. C. F. Andrews, Mr. J. W. Godfrey and Mr. V. S. O. Pather, for Durban, Mr. K. Baijnath for Cato Manor, Mr. M. Beethasee for Overport to investigate and inquire into those Indians who seek exemption or extension of time to pay the Personal Tax and to make recommendations to the Receiver of Revenue and that such recommendations will be favourably considered by him. We appreciate very much the action of the Receiver of Revenue in allowing Congress to assist him in this manner. All applications for exemptions or extension of time will be inquired into by the members of the Sub-Committee at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, every day between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

We learn with pleasure that the Trustees of the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust and the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall Committee presented Mr. S. Emmamally, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Natal Indian Congress and the well-known sportsman and public spirited worker with a gold watch and chain suitably inscribed. Mr. Emmamally acted as Treasurer for the Committee since the Library's inception in 1920 and this presentation was made on his having taken leave of absence for six months owing to ill health. We join with the Committee in wishing Mr. Emmamally a speedy recovery so that he will resume his duties with much vigour and strength for the benefit of the Indian community.

Prior to the departure of the Indian Delegation to South Africa, the Viceroy sent a cable to Sir Mahomed Habibullah, leader of the delegation, wishing him and his colleagues success in their mission. "The work you have undertaken is of high importance and responsibility. The delegation may feel well assured that they carry the full confidence of India in their task. I shall await with the deepest interest news of the progress of your discussions, which so vitally affect the interests of India and the Empire." Sir Mahomed Habibullah replied on behalf of the delegation and himself, tendering the warmest thanks for his Excellency's kind message of sympathy and encouragement: "While we realise that we have the confidence of India on our difficult mission, it is no small comfort to know that your Excellency will watch with the deepest interest our deliberations on such vital items, which affect the honour of India."—Renter.

The Pretoria correspondent of *Die Burger* states that the Indian Conferences will begin at Capetown on Dec. 17, instead of 20, as was originally arranged. The Minister of Mines and Industries, he says, will return to Capetown on Dec. 12, to attend the Conference, which will also be attended by the Ministers of the Interior and of Labour.

Since the beginning of September no fewer than 20 adult Indians and 39 children in the Eastcourt district have taken advantage of the Government's voluntary repatriation scheme of giving a free passage to India and a £10 grant per head on arrival.

"That certain streets in the vicinities of Madras Road, Old Dutch Road, and Greyville be declared "White" areas, and suitable schemes be devised for the removal of the Asiatic and Coloured residents."

The above resolution which was forwarded to the Executive of the National Council of Women is noted in their annual report.

Reporting business activities and intentions of Indian Workers Co-operative Company, the *Natal Mercury* of Nov. 26 states that Indian bricklayers and carpenters have formed themselves into a co-operative company called the "South Coast Junction and District Building Workers' Union." According to the foreman on the job, the Union was formed without capital, and at present is tendering for workmanship only, the owner supplying the materials. But the promoters have ambitions, for the foreman added: "This is only a start. We hope to make enough money out of our jobs this year to have sufficient capital to take on complete contracts, and we expect we will be able to pay our working members £1 a day." It is noteworthy that this Indian guild was started four or five months ago, and has already completed one building. The foreman said the brickwork of two buildings had been erected in a week. Natives are employed for the unskilled labour. At present the foreman admitted that the members working on the building were not earning anything like £1 a day, but, he said, they were willing to make some sacrifice for the cause, even to the extent of contributing a levy when they went out to work for private contractors.

The Indian community of Natal will be interested to hear that the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri has been appointed president of the Indian Currency League. This, it has been decided, should be an all-India organisation. Sir Victor Sassoon continues to be the chairman of the executive council.

Durban is as healthy as any centre in the Union. This was the statement made to a *Mercury* representative last week by Dr. Clegg, the Medical Officer of Health. Thus Durban obtained its "Clean Bill of Health" again.

At a largely attended special general meeting in committee of the members of the Durban Chamber of Commerce held last week, the question of terms of credit was discussed at length. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to act in conjunction with a sub-committee appointed by the South African Wholesale Merchants' Exchange, to consider the matter and report.

London, Nov. 23.—The summary of the proceedings of the Imperial Conference issued to-night consists of 42 foolscap pages divided under 23 headings. The contents of several of these sections have been already cabled in the form of reports and recommendations of the Committees, and other current movements of the Conference. The Conference recognises that the defence of India already throws on the Government of India responsibilities of a specially onerous character, and takes note of their decision to create a Royal Indian Navy. In India, the newspapers generally, says Renter's Bombay correspondent, are not enthusiastic. "India will henceforth be subordinate in a household in which there will be six mistresses, instead

of one," complains the Madras paper, *New India*. The Nationalist organ, *Forward*, of Calcutta, says that India alone will be in the hands of alien rulers, while the British Parliament will have absolutely no control over the Dominions. The *Bombay Chronicle* remarks that victory has come to General Hertzog in abundant measure, but to India this definition of South Africa's status means that in the solution of the Indian problem there, the British Government, "full of an unctuous desire not to disturb the constitutional practice, absolve themselves from the responsibility of protecting Indian interests in South Africa." The paper adds that India cuts a sorry figure in this document, which is a triumph for Dominions diplomacy.

Mr. C. F. Andrews At Johannesburg

A large number of prominent Transvaal Indians, forming a deputation of the Transvaal British Indian Association, met the Rev. C. F. Andrews at Park Station on Saturday last on his arrival from Durban.

Among those present were Messrs. E. I. Asvat, chairman of the Association, N. Ramjee, P. S. Joshi, M. S. Coovadia, D. N. Nursoo, secretary of the Transvaal British Indian Association, Manga Dayal, R. Khoosal, Amod Moosajee and several others.

A public meeting was accorded the Rev. C. F. Andrews by the Transvaal British Indian Association at Patidar Hall before a crowded audience on Sunday. Mr. E. I. Asvat presided.

Mr. Andrews was garlanded by the several associations affiliated to the Transvaal British Indian Association. A number of speakers paid a warm tribute to the disinterested services of 'Desbandhu' in the course of their short speeches. Mr. Andrews replying, thanked the Indian community for the most cordial welcome accorded him and advised the people to trust in God.

Mr. Patrick Duncan After His Visit To India

Mr. Patrick Duncan, K.C., C.M.G., M.L.A., addressed the members of the Parktown branch of the Women's South African Party on the subject of his recent visit to India as a member of the South African Government delegation.

Mr. Duncan referred to the remarkable hospitality shown both by the Government officials and by the people of India during the recent visit.

"I feel," he said, "that unless South Africa makes some return for the hospitality shown to us in India it will seriously affect the honour of this country. It is certain that we will be unable to show the Indian visitors the lavish hospitality which they bestowed on us, but at least we must protect them from insult which too often falls upon Eastern and Asiatic visitors to South Africa."

The members of the Indian delegation, continued Mr. Duncan, were all men with world-wide reputations. They were received with honour in all the capitals of Europe. They must be protected from insult when they arrived in the Union.

Indian Statesman's Experience

He referred to the visit to the Union some years ago of a very prominent Indian, also a man with an honoured name.

"This statesman," said Mr. Duncan, "called at my office to see me. A young European who ran the lift slammed the gate in his face and said: 'No coolies allowed in here.' The Indian statesman had to walk up the stairs. He did not tell me of the incident; he was too much of a gentleman for that. I heard it from another source."

"In this country," proceeded the speaker, "we suffer from the colour complex. We regard every person with a coloured skin as belonging to a degraded class. We must move with the times. In the present age we see the great awakening of Asia." Japan had become a first-rate Power, and when China settled her internal troubles she would be a nation to be reckoned with. In South Africa we were so situated that the rise of the coloured peoples was going to affect us. South Africa must move with the times and admit the coloured races to some kind of equality. A nation that failed to move with the times was doomed to perish.

Mr. Duncan said he was not in favour of a mixing of the races, but it must be recognised that they possessed in many instances equal culture and intelligence. South Africa must lose its fear of "colour."

In a rapid survey of the Union delegation's tour of India, Mr. Duncan spoke of the warriors of the frontier, whom he likened to the Highland clans in the days of Rob Roy. The frontiersmen who kept the passes were subsidised by the Government to "keep the pass"—and they construed their orders literally. Once when the fighting got too hot a political officer was sent to make peace. One clan agreed, but said the other was three men "up." If three men were killed off to square the account then peace might reign.

The purdah system in India was rapidly dying out, Mr. Duncan said. Women were gradually taking their place in public affairs. There was still, however, no place for the widow, who since the abolition of Sutte had no legal existence.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

Mrs. Knight Accuses The Durban Town Council

In the course of an interview with the *Natal Mercury* Mrs. Knight quoted from reports on the housing question which had been before the Council at various times. The main points of these reports are summarised below.

"Several times," she said, "the Sub-committee on Indian employees has emphasised strongly the deplorable state and inadequacy of the present Indian barracks belonging to the Corporation. Many times the Committee's recommendations have been taken no notice of by the Council beyond merely noting them.

"I know that the Council has passed the creation of new barracks for the Water Engineer's Department in Brand Street, and also new barracks behind the Tram Sheds near the Power Station for those Indians working in the Electrical Department; but in each case they were passed only by a small majority of the Council after bitter controversy and strong opposition.

The Menace to Health

"Undoubtedly there are some Councillors who have felt and said that the more wretchedly the Indians are housed and paid the more likely they will be willing to be repatriated and return to India. In this, I am afraid, they have felt they were voicing the opinion of the majority of the burgesses. It has been useless to point out that Europeans or Indians housed under these terrible conditions form a serious menace to the health of the Borough. Such conditions are prejudicial not only to those Indians who have to live under them, but also to the European population as a whole.

"A very important point is this: that since the Administrator has agreed to the selling of land, subject to the anti-Asiatic clause, no land has been put for auction by the Corporation without that clause. One firm I know of wrote twice to the Council when their barracks were condemned asking that they might be allowed to buy land to house their Indian employees, but the answer they received each time was that it was not the business of the Council to find land, and that there was no land available for Indian occupation. Moreover, pro-

perty in Field Street, which had been leased for 40 years by a well-known Indian, was, at his death, put up to auction with the Anti-Asiatic clause, in spite of its being surrounded by Indian-owned properties.

Crowding Them Out

"I consider the Council's policy, or rather I should say the policy of some of the Councillors, has been to crowd the Indian out of existence so as to make it impossible for him to live in Durban, and that is the true reason of the deplorable conditions of Indian housing as it has been shown up to-day, although it is no new thing, for it has existed for many years and has become very much worse lately.

"The Council has tried to acquire land outside the Borough. A large area of land at Cato Manor was nearly acquired after long negotiations, but strong opposition was shown by the owners of land near the district, and the negotiations fell through. Again land was acquired at Wentworth with the distinct object of establishing an Indian village for the Council's employees, but unfortunately that has once more been diverted from its purpose and now, owing to the opposition of some Councillors to the housing of Indians, the land has been marked down for a Native village.

"Unless Councillors and burgeois realise that the Asiatics are here and form part of the community, and that they must be given a square deal and treated fairly and justly, nothing will ever be done to alleviate present conditions."

European Housing

Mrs. Knight also briefly touched on the question of European housing.

"The housing of our poor Europeans," she observed, "is quite as bad, if not worse, and here again it is not that the Council has not been warned again and again of the conditions. Three motions have been introduced into the Council on this matter and they have received no support, not even from members of the Health Committee. These motions were put forward in September 1923, July 1924, and again in August 1924 and July 1926, all asking that small houses should be erected to be let at an economical rental, and each time the proposition was negatived."

Great Meeting At Clairwood

A remarkable meeting was held at Clairwood on Nov. 14th and in spite of rain and storm and tempest a large gathering arrived and the meeting was in every way a success. The Chairman, Mr. R. Bhawani read the following address:—

Mr. Andrews, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have the greatest pleasure on behalf of the Indians of South Coast Junction and Clairwood to welcome back to South Africa, our indomitable and trusted champion Mr. Andrews. We wish to express our appreciation for the great sacrifice he has made in the cause of Indians overseas notwithstanding his failing health and strength. We in Natal know him ever since the year 1913, which period was a very trying one for the Indian community, as it was then that the great Indian Strike took place, which ended in the 1914 Gandhi-Smit Settlement and the abolition of the £3 Tax. We all know the assistance given by Mr. Andrews to Mahatma Gandhi in this settlement, and thus brought himself closer to us as a humanitarian and conscientious worker and a true friend. *Very So!*

I need not remind you of his visit again during the Asiatic Inquiry Commission in 1921 when he again rendered invaluable services to our cause.

His recent visit last year in connection with the Asiatic Bill is still fresh in our minds and had it not been for his strenuous work among the European community and his interviews with the Prime Minister and other members of the present Government when he impressed upon them the iniquity of the Bill, the same would have been by now placed upon the Statute Book of the Union.

His present task of instilling into the minds of the

demic thereby running the greatest risk of losing his life by infection is beyond praise.

We are happy to learn that his mission to South Africa at the present moment is to assist us in putting our case before the forthcoming Round Table Conference in Capetown, and may we hope with his kind assistance and with the help of Almighty God our cause will be won, and that peace will reign among the various Communities that exist in this beautiful country of our birth and adoption.

In your name and in the name of the South Coast Junction and Clairwood Branch of the Natal Indian Congress I have the honour to garland Mr. Andrews as a token of high esteem and respect in which we hold him.

Swami Gopaldas and Swami Balakdas came also at the close of the meeting and made appropriate speeches on Hindu religion. They were garlanded also and the meeting then closed.

Indian Currency Policy Criticised

Sir Purshotamdas Thalserdas' Speech

Sir Purshotamdas Thalserdas inaugurated the educative campaign of the Indian Currency League at Poona under the chairmanship of Mr. N. C. Kelkar. Sir Purshotamdas delivered his speech as follows:—

"My criticism of the currency policy is not with any idea of lowering the Government of India in the estimation of the people, but if anything that I may hereafter say or write should have that effect, the Government have to thank themselves for it. It is my honest conviction that the ratio of 1s. 6d. is ruinous to Indian interests, and the Government have had fair and full warnings of it. Since the writing of my dissenting minute, my worst apprehensions have materialised, and I am more than ever convinced that unless the ratio is fixed at 1s. 4d. it would spell a period of financial disaster affecting the masses vitally to an extent unparalleled in our times. I ask the Government not to make it a question of prestige. We should leave no stone unturned to see that justice is rendered to India.

When I was asked to address this meeting, I readily responded, because I hold that every Indian who serves on a Committee or a Commission on questions of public importance, owes a duty to render to the public on account of his work and justify his actions. Having served on the Currency Commission and made myself responsible for the dissenting minute, you, as the public, have a lien on me to call upon me to justify my action. Motives have been freely attributed to me. I have been charged with partiality for the mill-owners and for the sectional interests of Bombay. These charges have emanated from high quarters which ought to know better, and which, living in glass houses, ought not to throw stones at others. This is not, however, the place to reply to them. I would only say that the people of Bombay, especially its business, are not so lost to all sense of proportion as to think that Bombay is outside India, and that they can with impunity endanger the larger interests of India without its reacting on them."

Effects Of Currency Deflation

"Efforts are made to prejudice the issues by imputation of motives and misrepresentations. The *Financial News*, of which Mr. Hilton Young, the Chairman of the Currency Commission is the editor, and who ought to know better, says that I have followed the trick of the merchant class to inflate. It is conveniently suppressed that as early as 1899, and authorities better than myself—two members of the Fowler Commission and one of them the chairman of the National Bank of India, an institution in no way prejudiced in India's favour—advocated a ratio of 1s. 8d., and expressed the opinion that the greater the value of the rupee, the greater the burden on the poor agriculturist. The lead in this campaign of prejudicing the issues is taken by none other than the Hon. Sir Basil Blackett, the Finance Member, the

instance would suffice. The Indian Merchants' Chamber, the Bombay Shroffs' Association, the Ahmedabad Mill-Owners' Association and other Indian commercial bodies made representations in a responsible and dignified manner regarding the injurious effects of currency deflation. These commercial bodies are of high standing, and have intimate knowledge of the economic conditions of the masses and the middle classes who constitute the bulk of the population. These bodies are not even vouchsafed the courtesy of a reply. Instead, the Finance Member gives a press interview in which he characterises these representations as ludicrous. This is abuse, and not argument; and if abuse is all the argument that the Finance Member can think of, he must have indeed reached the end of his tether. The question of ratio is being made a question of prestige. I ask the Government not to make a fetish of prestige. If they will not heed, they will have to repent."

The Real Issues

"Let us now consider what are the real issues. As a result of the labours of the Fowler Commission, since 1899, for nearly 20 years, 1s. 4d. was the rate of exchange between India and other countries with a gold standard, I shall not here dilate on a gold standard and gold currency for India. I say: Go about in a right way to secure them. In my opinion, the first step is to ensure the regular inflow of gold into India to the full extent that the balance of trade in favour of India permits after the Home charges have been met. If this is done for five or seven years, we shall then have a sufficiency of gold reserve in the country to enable us to make a beginning. But to-day, the ratio is in danger, and in order to maintain the pet ratio of 1s. 6d. the gold reserves are being frittered away. Since the Currency Commission commenced work 15 crores have been deflated, and in well-informed circles, it is believed it is only a question of time before the balance of sterling securities in the currency reserve aggregating to Rs. 20 crores are also depleted. Unless therefore we secure the equitable ratio of 1s. 4d., the prospects of our ever being able to accumulate a sufficiency of gold reserve to justify our embarking on a gold standard and currency become remoter and remoter."

"India is an exporting country. The price of commodities will necessarily be governed by world prices. Assuming that the world prices are stable, the producer is penalised to the extent of 12½ per cent. by the alteration of the ratio from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. A cultivator will have either to give increased produce or to accept 12½ per cent. less as a result of the variation in the ratio. The cumulative effect will not be so harmful, if with the appreciation of the rupee by 12½ per cent., the Government enacted legislation by which taxation, wages and other burdens of the cultivator were reduced by 12½ per cent. Are Government prepared to reduce the taxation? What is happening is that not only is there no reduction of taxation; but with every revision, the assessment of the cultivators is increased. The greater the ratio the greater the burden of taxation, Home charges and other commitments."

Finance Member's Pet Arguments

It was argued in support of 1s. 6d. ratio, said Sir Purshotamdas, that it saved to Government annually 3 to 4 crores on the remittance of Home charges. Wherefrom does the Finance Member get this saving? asked the speaker. The only answer was that the saving was made at the cost of the cultivators, who were not strong enough to protect their interests. Another pet argument was that what the cultivator lost as an exporter by the high ratio, he gained by the cheapness of imports. An analysis of imports showed that no more than 7 per cent. of the total imports were consumed by the masses. He had placed on the Assembly table the analysis and asked Government to confirm it or correct it; but to no effect. Continuing Sir Purshotamdas said another pet argument was that the producer consumed a part of what he produced. But it was forgotten that the exports represented

the balance of production after internal consumption, and the volume of the exports was an effective answer to that argument. The cultivator was entitled to get the fullest value on the commodities that he exported, and the alteration of the ratio deprived him of his just due.

A Series of Blunders

After the war, there was no country in the world which had appreciated its currency. A rich country like America did not do it. Why then should India alone appreciate the currency? Was it the implication that India was far richer than any other country? The correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Government of India on the question of exchange, which was published at his insistence, disclosed a queer story. On the one hand the Secretary of State was pressing for a high exchange, and on the other, the Finance Member was saying that he should not be greedy and should be contented with the 18d. ratio if only it could be secured permanently. He would not be uncharitable, but to say the least, the currency policy of the Government of India was one continuous series of blunders.

"The question of currency and exchange," declared the speaker, "is not as abstruse as it is made out to be. The fact is, it is made abstruse, and advantage is taken of the ignorance prevalent in the country. In whichever direction one may want the country to advance, whether politically, educationally or otherwise, the first need was money. It was money that constituted the sinews of war in any campaign, and unless an end was put to the mismanagement of the country's finances, there could be no real progress. Material prosperity was an essential preliminary to advancement. The Government are embarking on changes which affect the country vitally. If we fail to prevent the injury being done, we may have to drudge away for years in that grinding poverty in which India is already steeped. "It is this consciousness," concluded Sir Purshotamdas, "of the full implications of what the ratio of 1s. will mean to the teeming millions of India's masses, that compelled me to write my dissenting minutes. We owe a duty to leave no stone unturned to prevent what would be a crushing injustice. I hope we shall not be found wanting in our duty."

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

PART II.

Chapter VII

SAMPLES OF EXPERIENCES

The Port of Natal is Durban, also known as Port Natal. Abdulla Seth was there to receive me. As the ship arrived at the quay, and I watched the people coming on board to meet their friends, I observed that the Indians were not held in much respect. I could not fail to notice a sort of snobbishness about the manner in which those who knew Abdulla Seth behaved towards him and it stung me. Abdulla Seth had got used to it. Those who looked at me did so with a certain amount of curiosity. My dress marked me out from other Indians. I had a frock-coat and a turban, an imitation of the Bengal *pugga*.

I was taken to the firm's quarters and shown into the room set apart for me, next to Abdulla Seth's. He did not understand me, I could not understand him. He read the papers his brother had sent through me and felt more puzzled. He thought his brother had sent him a white elephant. My style of dress and living struck him as being expensive, like that of the Europeans. There was no particular work then which could be given me. Their case was going on in the Transvaal. There was no meaning in sending me there immediately. And how far could he trust my ability and honesty?

He would not be in Pretoria to watch me. The defendants were in Pretoria, and, for aught he could say, they might bring undue influence to bear on me. And if work in connection with the case in question was not to be entrusted to me, what work could I be given to do, as all other work could be done much better by his clerks. The clerks could be brought to book, if they did wrong. Could I be, if I also happened to err? So if no work in connection with the case could be given me, I should have to be kept for nothing.

Abdulla Seth was practically unlettered, but he had a rich fund of experience. He had an acute intellect and was conscious of it. By practice he had picked up just sufficient English for conversational purposes, but that served him for carrying on all his businesses—whether it was dealing with bank managers and European merchants or explaining his case to his counsel. The Indians held him in very high esteem. His firm was then the biggest, or at any rate one of the biggest, of the Indian firms. With all these advantages he had one disadvantage—he was by nature suspicious.

He was proud of Islam and loved to discourse on Islamic philosophy. Though he did not know Arabic, his acquaintance with the Holy Koran and Islamic literature in general was fairly good. Illustrations he had in plenty, always ready at hand. Contact with him gave me a fair amount of practical knowledge of Islam. When we came closer to each other, we had long discussions on religious topics.

THE QUESTION OF THE TURBAN

On the second or third day of my arrival, he took me to see the Durban Court. There he introduced me to several people and seated me next to his attorney. The Magistrate kept staring at me and finally asked me to take off my turban, which I refused to do, and left the court.

So here too there was fighting in store for me.

Abdulla Seth explained to me why some Indians were required to take off their turbans. Those wearing the Mussalman costume might, he said, keep their turbans on, but the other Indians on entering a court had to take theirs off as a rule.

I must enter into some details to make this nice distinction intelligible. In the course of these two or three days, I could see that Indians were divided into different groups. One was that of Mussalman merchants, who call themselves 'Arabs.' Another was that of Hindu and Parsi clerks. The Hindu clerks were neither here nor there, unless they cast in their lot with the 'Arabs.' The Parsi clerks would call themselves Persians. These three classes had some social relations with one another. But by far the largest class was that composed of Tamil, Telugu and North Indian indentured and freed labourers. The indentured labourers were those who went to Natal on an agreement to serve for five years, and came to be known there as *grimitiyas* from *grimiti* which was the corrupt form of the English word 'agreement.' The other three classes had none but business relations with this class. Englishmen called them 'coolies,' and as the majority of Indians were of the labouring class, all Indians were called 'coolies,' or 'samis.' 'Sami' is a Tamil suffix occurring after many Tamil names and it is nothing else than the Sanskrit *Sicami*, meaning a master. Whenever therefore an Indian resented being addressed as a *sami* and had not enough wit in him, he would try to return the compliment in this wise: "You may call me *sami* but you forget that *sami* means a master. I am not your master!" Some Englishmen would wince at this, while some would be angry, swear at the Indian and, if there was a chance, would even belabour him; for, *sami* to him was nothing better than a term of contempt. To interpret it to mean a master amounted to an insult! I was hence known as a 'coolie barrister.' The

merchants were known as 'coolie merchants.' The original meaning of the word 'coolie' was thus forgotten and became a common appellation for all Indians. The Mussalman merchant would resent this and say: 'I am not a coolie, I am an Arab,' or 'I am a merchant,' and the Englishman, if courteous would apologise to him.

The question of wearing the turban had a great importance in this state of things. Taking off one's Indian turban would be pocketing an insult. So I thought I had better bid good-bye to the Indian turban and begin wearing an English hat, which would save me from the insult and the unpleasant controversy.

ABDULLA'S ADVICE

But Abdulla Seth disapproved of the proposal. He said, "If you do anything of the kind, it will have a very bad effect. You will compromise those insisting on wearing Indian turbans. And an Indian turban sits well on your head. If you wear an English hat you will pass for a waiter."

There was practical wisdom, patriotism and a little bit of narrowness in this advice. The wisdom was apparent and he would not have insisted on the Indian turban except out of patriotism; the slighting reference to the waiter betrayed a kind of narrowness. Amongst the indentured Indians there were three classes—Hindus, Mussalmans, and Christians. The last were the children of indentured Indians who became converts to Christianity. Even in 1893 their number was large. They wore the English costume and the majority of them earned their living by service as waiters in hotels. Abdulla Seth's criticism of the English hat was with reference to this class. It was considered demeaning to serve as a waiter in a hotel. The belief persists even to-day among many. On the whole I liked Abdulla Seth's advice. I wrote to the press about the incident in the court and defended the wearing of my turban in the court. The question was very much discussed in the papers which described me as an 'unwelcomed visitor.' Thus the incident gave me an unexpected advertisement in South Africa within a few days of my arrival there. Some supported me, and some severely criticised my temerity.

My turban stayed with me practically until the end of my stay in South Africa. Exactly when and why I left off wearing any head-dress at all in South Africa we shall see later.

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