

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

THE draft estimates of the Works Committee of the Durban Town Council for 1927-28 make provision among other things for new Indian barracks at a cost of £30,325. This includes new barracks at the rear of the car shed, and at the Depot Road magazine area, as well as the reconstruction of the existing barracks there. It will be remembered that appalling conditions prevailing in these barracks were brought to light by Mr. C. F. Andrews some time back and they were subjected to strong criticism by one of the members of the Town Council itself in the person of Councillor Mrs. Knight. It is gratifying to note that the eyes of the Town Council have opened at last.

Charged with keeping insanitary native quarters a European, J. C. van Rensburg, Railway Street, Maritzburg, appeared before Mr. W. P. Marted at the Maritzburg Magistrate's Court last week. Evidence went to show that the native living on the premises was housed in an iron shed with less than 100 square feet of floor area. The floor was not constructed with wood, tiles or other materials, and the roof was less than nine feet above the floor. There was no window in the room. In finding Van Rensburg guilty, Mr. Marted said: "I realise that some white people consider that anything will do for a native, but they are made of flesh and blood and suffer from just the same ailments as we do. They are entitled to housing that will not endanger their health. If you cannot supply suitable quarters you should not keep the servant." Van Rensburg was cautioned and discharged.

While we do not in any way wish to defend those Indians who do live in insanitary conditions we would venture to ask, if it is not true that the European employers are to blame for many instances of insanitation amongst Indians which is often made the subject of platform speeches by Anti-Asiatics? The tin shanties so often complained of belong generally to ex-indentured Indians who were never taught to live under any better conditions by their employers. The above is but one of the many instances that have often been brought to light. Let this rebuke by Mr. W. P. Marted be brought home to more responsible employers who may be guilty of the same offence.

In connection with the recent motor accident opposite the Municipal Indian Market in Victoria Street, Durban, as a result of which five persons were removed to the Addington Hospital for treatment, the Indian Market Stall-holders and Squatters' Association at a special committee meeting has passed the following resolution copies to be forwarded to the Chief Constable, the Town Council, the Market Committee, and the two representatives of Ward IV, in the Town Council:—

"That this meeting of the Indian Market Stall-holders and Squatters' Association deeply deploras the increasing number of motor and other accidents in Victoria Street (in the inter-section of Grey

and Brook Streets), and respectfully urges the Town Council and police authorities to take the necessary steps to divert vehicular traffic along some other well-defined routes, such as Queen Street, Bond Street, Brook Street, and Prince Edward Street, instead of Victoria Street, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. every day."

The position in regard to Indian emigration from Natal is stated to be as follows:—

In the period April-June 634 emigrated the figures being made up as follows:—312 men, 12 women and 193 children. At present the Department of Immigration has 400 applications from Indians wishing to leave the country. Each adult receives a bonus of £20 with an additional £10 for each child.

Mr. C. F. Andrews writes:

I made full enquiries from Dr. Malan and others regarding the limit of the Deposit fixed at £100. The answer was entirely satisfactory. The limit had to be named, and as the law is of general application it had to cover the cost of a full return passage to Europe of a prohibited immigrant, which could not be put down at less than £100.

This will make no difference at all to Indians who came under this clause, because Immigration Officers have been instructed to put down the nearest figure that will cover the return passage, and this in the case of Indians will remain at about £30, as it was before. The fixing of the amount by the Immigration Officer was necessary, because it was impossible within the time always to refer to the Minister, as he might be on tour. But I have been informed that the Immigration Officer has the general instructions from the Minister to charge the minimum deposit in each case and he cannot go beyond his instructions.

Therefore, this clause in the Agreement cannot really be said to be a restriction of previous rights.

A reuter's message from London states:— In the House of Commons Mr. Thurtle (Labour, Shoreditch) asked when Mr. Sastri would assume his duties in South Africa, whether Mr. Tyson had been definitely appointed Mr. Sastri's secretary, and whether Mr. Sastri was consulted and approved Mr. Tyson's appointment. Earl Winterton (Under Secretary for India) replied, that Earl Birkenhead (Secretary for India) had no information except reference in the Press with regard to Mr. Tyson's appointment, and the expectation that Mr. Sastri would sail early in June.

The Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri who is expected to be here next week is accompanied, we are informed, by Mr. P. K. Kodanda Rao, M.A., Mr. L. W. Ricketts and Mr. J. D. Tyson. The Indian community will be sorry to learn that Mrs. Sastri is not accompanying Mr. Sastri.

Writing on the Colour Problem of the British Empire in the *Labour Magazine*, Major D. Graham Pole asks: Are our Statesmen big enough to settle the Eastern problem in a big way? If not, they are going to unite the whole of the coloured races against the dominion of their white over-lords. Not only shall we lose the Indian Empire because of lack of imagination of our Statesmen, but we shall go far to unite the whole of Asia, and possibly the whole of the coloured peoples of the world, in a determination to overthrow the white races who seem unable to see the signs that even he who runs may read.

## WELCOME TO AGENT-GENERAL

**T**HE Right Hon. V. Srinivasa Sastri is expected to land on Monday the 27th instant, at Delagoa Bay as the Indian Agent-General to the Union of South Africa. It is no small sacrifice on the part of Mr. Sastri at his advanced age and in the delicate condition of his health to leave the Motherland and to consent to come to South Africa to take up a very responsible task in the interest of our community. Nor is it a small sacrifice on the part of our Motherland to send one of her best men to serve our cause. The question arising in our mind is: are we deserving of this kind of sacrifice on the part of our Motherland or on the part of Mr. Sastri? And if we are not is it not time that we amended ourselves? We are a small community in the Union with a common status and common interests and yet it is unfortunate that we cannot stand united. We publish elsewhere in this issue an appeal by Mr. C. F. Andrews to leave all discords behind and to unite to accord a hearty welcome to Mr. Sastri. Will not our brethren in Natal, Transvaal and the Cape take this appeal to heart to do the least that is asked of them? Let us not give reason to Mr. Sastri to be ashamed of us for we must not forget that if Mr. Sastri has reason to be ashamed of us India too will have reason to be ashamed of us. The least assistance we could give Mr. Sastri in his heavy task would be to stand united and we have no doubt that our brethren throughout the Union will rise to the occasion and prove their worth.

In the name of the Indian Community of the Union we extend a very hearty welcome to the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri and pray that he may be blessed with long life, health and strength to see through successfully the task he has taken up at a considerable sacrifice.

## The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri's Arrival

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

**M**AY I make an appeal both in English and in Gujarati that all controversy may be withheld and the best possible welcome given to the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., Agent-General from India to South Africa?

He comes at a very serious risk indeed to his own health which may at any time give way owing to heart trouble. At an advanced age, when most people would have retired from active service, he has undertaken this onerous duty solely owing to the persuasion of Mahatma Gandhi and to his own unbounded willingness to sacrifice himself for his country. With him comes his devoted personal secretary S. J. Kodanda Rao.

The very least we can do in return for a love so deep as this is to unite together in one body to welcome him and to leave all discords behind us.

I know that there are unfortunately differences of opinion with regard to the Agreement, but there can be no possible difference of opinion about the great nobility of the sacrifice that Mr. Sastri is prepared to make on behalf of Indians in South Africa.

Every organ of national public opinion in India, without exception, has wished Mr. Sastri God-Speed, realising the sacrifice he is making; let there be the same wish in all our hearts here! No one could possibly represent our cause so well, or obtain for us, as a Community, such a standing in South Africa, as the Rt. Hon. V. Srinivasa Sastri. May God grant him health and strength to fulfil his noble work! May God bless him! May God preserve him!

This mission will be the crown of Mr. Sastri's life-work for his country. With all his great talents and learning, he might have aspired to great wealth and title. But he has remained a poor man, pledged to the service of the poor, unattracted by wealth and riches.

Here, in South Africa, he will be obliged, for the sake of the work itself,—as the First Ambassador to South Africa,—to maintain his status with all the necessary dignity of office. But he will ever remain, the friend of the poor, a lover of poverty, who is ready at a moment's notice to sacrifice all for the sake of the Motherland.

## Natal Under The Lash Bitter Attack By Ons Vaderland On The "Banana Colony"

A scathing attack on Natal is made in a leading article in *Ons Vaderland*. The following is an interesting translated summary: Discussing Colonel Molyneux's letter to the Natal Press, in which he proposed to render impossible a visit to Durban by Dr. Malan, the paper says that this kind of thing is beginning to pall on the rest of the community, and asks whether the time has not arrived for the Government to consider stopping all further capital expenditure in the Banana Colony, such as required for public buildings, railways, bridges and the rest of it. In the past Natal has been most lavishly "spoofted" by the Smuts' regime simply in order to keep them sweet, and public money has been squandered in that province far in excess of its significance in our economic fabric.

"Millions have been sunk in the electrification of its railways, and still there is no end in sight, while most of it will be quite unnecessary if Natalians have their own way. Further millions have been wasted on an inordinately large grain elevator which, after all, they will not require if their shrewd politicians and agitators succeed in cutting off the Transvaal and the Free State mealies. Large sums of money have been spent on straightening out railway lines that won't carry them very far beyond the provincial border if they go on as they are now doing.

"The present Government has also privileged Natal to a far greater extent than that province economically and properly merits, while it is reaping nothing but rank ingratitude from the men who are supposed to speak for Natal in the councils of the nation. Natal has bequeathed on the rest of our sub-continent the Asiatic question, while pigmy pump politicians thwart every attempt at its solution.

"For more than a year the province has been squealing like a pig about to be slaughtered over the Flag question. Their public men threaten now with this and now with something else. They hold mass meetings of protest, and give vent to the most puerile and absurd language, thus becoming a distinctly disturbing factor to the rest of the Union. In all seriousness they have convened and subsequently postponed for the time being public meetings 'for the purpose of considering secession from the Union,' and Mr. Nicolson is now calling meetings to decide on not participating in an eventual referendum.

"Racial fanatics like Mr. Marwick never have a word of thanks or gratitude for what the Government does for the Province, and are for ever looking for an opportunity to vent racial spleen against 'the Dutch.' An old soldier Colonel Molyneux is actually inciting his fellow Natalians to acts of public violence because a Minister of the Union proposes visiting Natal.

"This kind of thing is becoming a little more than nauseating, and though General Hertzog's Government is always inclined to wink at these foolish acts the conviction is fast gaining ground that Natal ought either to end or mend them on account of the unutterable twaddle of its so-called public men. The Province is gradually becoming a source of public nuisance to the rest of the Union. It is high time that Natal be taught to either drop this narrow insular bickering or take the consequences.

"There was a time when the politicians of Natal, a broader-minded generation than the present tribe, wore out their shoe leather on President Kruger's stoep for part of our traffic, and subsequently again for a division of the traffic between Durban and Lourenco Marques.

"General Smuts years ago went in quest of a harbour on the Zululand coast for playing off against Delagoa Bay. The one he discovered and warmly recommended (but dropped on account of the wail that went up in Durban) might yet serve to make the interior independent of both Durban and Delagoa if the people of Natal cannot decide to behave themselves like reasonable men and citizens of the Union. Secession from the Union in the case of Natal is a very simple thing as far as we in the Transvaal and Free State are concerned, and if Natal

is really looking for it, all they have to do is to say so in plain language. If on the other hand they have no intention of seceding then this silly canteen talk about it should cease at once, and they ought to decide to drop idiotic threats like those of Colonel Molyneux. The rest of the Union is just about sick and tired of it, and the moment to us appears propitious to consider stopping all further capital expenditure in Natal.

## For The Mothers' Sake Unite!

### -Dr. Annie Besant's Appeal To India

The following is an appeal by Dr. Annie Besant to the People of India to unite in the cause of Home Rule published in the Indian Press.

Children of the Mother, worshipers of One God, "The one without a second," Why are you shaming Both before the world by your quarrels, religious and political? Is not the Country greater than your parties? Is not Religion greater than your religions?

You are playing into the hands of the enemies of your freedom. All the World is saying that if Britain did not hold the peace in India, Indians would be flying at each others throats. Of what use is it to sing, "Vande Mataram," while you plunge your parties as daggers into the Mother's heart? Of what use is it to demand liberty for Her, while you bind the fetters of your party hatreds round Her bruised and bleeding limbs? When I landed on your sacred soil in 1899, I cried in my first lecture: "India is not dead; She is only sleeping. Only her own children can kill Her." And now, in 1927, I who have worked since 1878 to deliver Her from a foreign yoke, who have sacrificed for Her dear sake all I have of life, of strength, of fame I ask my own self heart: "Will Her own children kill Her?" Were it not that I believe in India's Rishis, in the Inner Government of the world, in the Rishi Agastya, still the Regent of India, were it not for this belief I would abandon hope, and would lay a broken heart, my last offering, at her dead feet.

Who are these souls born into Indian bodies, who keep Her in subjection to a foreign yoke? These who betray the Mother, but know not the heart of India, that is sacrifice of selves to the Self.

O brothers! your past calls to you by all its glories; your present moans to you, out of its poverty, its ignorance its shortened lives. If you care not for your own servitude, for your children's sake, Unite. Britain is pledged to give you freedom. She will not deny it, if you ask it with a single voice. Let us make the Congress National once more. Let us forget the recent past and unite for the coming future. If the Bill now in the House of Commons does not please you, make another, and if that other gives you equal freedom with the Bill of 1925, I will be first to tear up the older one and to welcome the new. But no Bill will become an Act unless a united India demand it. Any Bill which makes Her mistress within her own house will be accepted by every true Indian heart whatever the colour of the skin.

ANNIE BESANT.

## Superstitious Religious Practices

"Responsible opinion in India will support the Government of South Africa in all its measures directed without any racial bias, to put down obnoxious religious and social practices and to enforce the same standards of sanitation among Indians as among Europeans," says the *Indian Daily Mail*. Mr. Gandhi continues the journal, has given a courageous lead on the question of dealing with some gruesome superstitions followed by Indians in South Africa. They should, he says, be put down under the ordinary law. If the suggestion had come from any other source, the cry of 'religious liberty' would have been raised. The superstitious practices involving self-torture, as Mr. Gandhi points out, prevail

only among the ex-indentured Indians who had no opportunity of enlarging their religious ideas. The trading classes, with less excuse, adhere to primitive methods of sanitation and these, too, should demand the attention of Indian leaders.

## Indian Immigration Bill

### Debate On Second Reading

The debate on the second reading of Immigration and Indian Relief Further Provision Bill was resumed in the House of Assembly by Mr. Nel last Thursday, but it does not seem to have gone very far for the debate was soon adjourned and the House rose.

Mr. Nel is reported in the *Natal Advertiser* to have claimed that Natal and the Transvaal, the provinces most vitally affected, had not been consulted. Natal had one member of the conference body (Mr. Boydell); but Mr. Nel doubted whether he could be said to represent Natal. Mr. Nel expressed regret that the Minister had not stuck to his Class Areas Bill.

Mr. Reyburn thought that the Asiatic problem had to be viewed not from the Natal but the South African and Empire point of view. A colour bar would not save the problem. The Indian had to be assimilated, but that could not be done when they were equal in numbers to the Europeans in Natal.

At 11.25 the debate was adjourned and the House rose.

## The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[By M. K. GANDHI]

Part II

### Chapter XXVIII

POONA AND MADRAS

Sir Pherozeshah had made my way easy. So from Bombay I went to Poona. Here there were two parties. I wanted the help of people of every shade of opinion. First I met Lokamanya (Tilak). He said, "You are quite right in seeking the help of all parties. There can be no difference of opinion on the South African question. But you must have a non-party man for your President. Meet Professor Bhandarkar. He has been taking no part of late in any public activity. But this question might possibly draw him out. See him and let me know what he says." I want to help you to the fullest extent. Of course you will meet me whenever you like. I am at your disposal.

This was my first meeting with the Lokamatyas. It was enough to explain his unique popularity.

Next I met Gokhale. I found him on the Fergusson College ground. He gave a cordial welcome and his manner immediately captured me. With him too this was my first meeting and yet it seemed as though we were renewing an old friendship. Sir Pherozeshah had seemed to me like the Himalayas, the Lokamatyas like the ocean. But Gokhale was as the Ganges. One could have a refreshing bath in the holy river. The Himalayas was unscalable, and one could not easily launch forth on the sea. But the Ganges invited me to its bosom; it was a joy to be on it with a boat and an oar. Gokhale closely examined me, as a schoolmaster would examine a candidate seeking admission to a school. He told me whom to approach and how to approach them. He asked to have a look at my speech. He allowed me over the College, assured me that he was always at my disposal, asked me to let him know the result of the interview with Dr. Bhandarkar and sent me away exultant and happy. In the sphere of politics the place that Gokhale

occupied in my heart during his life-time and occupies even now has been and is absolutely unique.

Dr. Bhandarkar received me with the warmth of a father. It was noon when I called on him. The very fact that I was busy seeing people at that hour appealed greatly to his indefatigable savant, and my insistence on a non-party man for the President of the meeting had his ready approval which was expressed in the spontaneous exclamation, "That's it! That's it!"

After he had heard me out he said: "Any one will tell you that I do not take part in politics. But I cannot refuse you! Your case is so strong and your industry is so admirable that I cannot decline to take part in your meeting. You did well in consulting with Tilak and Gokhale. Please tell them that I shall be glad to preside over the meeting to be held under the joint auspices of the two Sabhas. You need not have the time of the meeting front me: Any time that suits them will suit me." With this he bade me goodbye with congratulations and blessings.

Without any ado this erudite and selfless band of workers in Poona held a meeting in an unobtrusive little place and sent me away rejoicing and in the confidence of my mission.

I next proceeded to Madras. It was wild with enthusiasm. Balasundaram's incident made a profound impression on the meeting. My speech was printed and was, for me, fairly long. But the audience listened to every word with attention. At the close the meeting there was a regular run on the "Green Pamphlet." I brought out a second and revised edition of 10,000 copies. They sold like hot cakes, but I saw that it was not necessary to have printed such a large number. In my enthusiasm I had overestimated the demand. It was the English speaking public to which my speech had been addressed, and in Madras that class alone could not have taken the whole ten thousand copies.

The greatest help there came to me from the late Mr. G. Parameswararam Pillai, the Editor of *The Madras Standard*. He had made a careful study of the question and he often invited me to his office and guided me. Mr. G. Subramaniam of *The Hindu* and Dr. Subramaniam also were very sympathetic. But Mr. G. Parameswararam Pillai placed the columns of *The Madras Standard* entirely at my disposal, and I freely availed myself of the offer. The meeting, in Pachaiyappa Hall, so far as I can recollect, was with Dr. Subramaniam in the chair.

The affection that most of the friends I met showered on me, and their enthusiasm for the cause were so great that in spite of my having to communicate with them in English I felt myself entirely at home. What barrier is there that love cannot break?

## The Jubilee of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi

Where Mr. C. F. Andrews Learned To  
Know India

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

The jubilee of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi which is being celebrated in London next Friday (June 3) by special meetings will have a peculiar interest for readers of the *Indian Opinion* as it was through his work with this university mission that Mr. C. F. Andrews gained his first-hand knowledge of the life and soul of India.

"The foundation of the Mission was the attempt to get missionary and university action specifically combined" Canon Western, the present head of the Mission told me to-day. "That something was necessary had for long been in the mind of the great Bishop Westcott, and it was realised when Edward Bickersteth, later the Anglican Bishop of Japan, fifty years ago, planted the little Brotherhood of Cambridge men at Delhi. Besides himself there were six other including G. A. Lefroy, for so many.

years Metropolitan of India. The purpose of the Mission was particularly to get into touch with the more educated classes, and though today it has increasing work among the depressed classes, the great feature of its work is through St. Stephen's College, now a part of the University of Delhi.

The Mission has from the first had the closest co-operation of Indian Christians of high culture and standing, and for many years the Principal of the College, was Prof. S. K. Rudra who died a year or two ago. The present Principal, Mr. S. N. Mukarji, is also an Indian. When therefore Mr. C. F. Andrews went out in 1904 from Waltham and Cambridge, he came into an atmosphere where there was the fullest unity between East and West. "There was no sense of a split when Mr. Andrews left us" Canon Western said: "His growing identification with the life of India had been most helpful to us at the Mission and it was only his increasing participation in work of a rather, more political character and his activities regarding Indians in South Africa, that made him feel obliged to separate from us."

There is a steady stream of men from the University of Cambridge to Delhi Mission, which today has taken over most of the work in that city of the S.P.G. An interesting feature is that many who for one reason or other, are not able to devote their whole life to the missionary vocation, are going out for short service, usually about two and a half years, to work in the College. Many come home to take parishes and others have passed on to Indian chaplaincies, fortified for their work with an intimate knowledge of Indian life. A Sisterhood has been formed which has served by a heroic succession of medical women and nurses.

The jubilee celebrations next Friday will begin with a Communion Service at St. Mary's, Primrose Hill. The Bishop of Salisbury, chairman of the Missionary Council of the National Assembly will be chairman of the meeting at the Fishmongers Company's Hall, London Bridge in the afternoon at which Canon Western and Dr. R. Parry, Vice-Master of Trinity College, chairman of the Cambridge Committee will speak. There will then be a picturesque procession of Cambridge men and women across London Bridges at the busy time when city workers are flocking homeward, to attend a Thanksgiving service at Southwark Cathedral at 6 p.m.

### Lower Tugela District Hindu Veda Dharma Sabha.

The following is a list of the donators to the above Sabha :-

	£	s.	d.
Last Total	876	11	9
Mr. A. A. Gandhi	5	0	0
" Jagai	5	10	0
" Talwantsingh	5	0	0
" Sarabjith	5	5	0
" Rajcoomar Latchman	5	0	0
" Doobar	5	0	0
" Raghunandhan	3	10	0
" Babootee Bros	3	3	0
" Lalbahadoorsingh	2	10	0
" Raghojee Raghoonath and Son	2	2	6
" R. Talwantsingh	2	2	0
" Mahadev	3	0	0
" Namfakir	2	0	0
" Attal Sham	1	1	0
" Andhi	1	1	0
" Dhanjee Ramjee	1	1	0

" Mathuree Bros	1	1	0
" Baldew Maharaj	1	1	0
" Chonilal	1	1	0
" S. B. Maharaj	1	0	0
" Sundry Donators	2	3	0

#### DURBAN & DISTRICT

W. G. Brown & Co Ltd	25	0	0
S. Butcher & Sons Ltd	25	0	0
Dookhan	25	0	0
Dalton Nuttall & Voysey Ltd	20	0	0
C. G. Smith & Co Ltd	10	0	0
J. Nannerley & Co Ltd	10	0	0
M. Bloch & Co Ltd	10	0	0
Karl Gundlinger Ltd	10	0	0
W. Dunn & Co	10	0	0
	1680	2	9

(To be Continued)

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नेताओंनी सुंदर छपीओ वेयावानी छ  
मात्र थोडी नकलो रूही छ कीमत १/६ छननी

छे. ताकीद करेओ आरउर साथे पैसा मोकलवाः  
दादाभाइ नवरोज. साठिय आर्किडन स्टोरर मेरर कंपनी,  
मरहुम गोपले, बाबा हंसराज, उमर हाँ आर्गेड अवेरी,  
हीही स्वयंसेवक टोणी, ट्रांसवालनी नथ सत्याग्रही मानुओ,  
भीसीस रोम रहेताम, हीही राजभक्त, (अटुन) सर शीराबा,  
भेदा, सर रतन जे. ताता, वीत्यम वेरयन, टोवरटोयः  
हामभां रहेवा रहेनारो, मरहुम डेड, मरहुम नाआपान, दोड  
जेअडीव, श्री गोपले आल्या त्सारतो, पाक स्टेशनने हेपाव,  
सेरायल बापुरल अडाननीआ टोवरटोय हामनी उल्लेखी,  
हीकु टम्पल वेररम, भीस वलीअमा मुडलीआर, राजना सुपुत्रो,  
ट्रांसवाल सरकारे १० मासुसने डीपोट कर्वा, नैहानीसयम  
हीही कीर्तिस्तभ, स्टेशन सत्याग्रही डेही, रविंद्रनाथ टागोर,  
सयद अमीर अली, जेननगीन रोपरसन अने स्टार,  
काकल इन्तमल धोरपोड, पी. डे. नाईकु, सराजनी नामकु,  
सा. आ. थी हीड अमलु हीही हेपुपुत्रन, आर्गेड जेमात,  
तीवक महाराज, हाँ वलर अली, महारमा गांधीय, भी.  
डेवनभेक, भी. होरकेन, विमरे. विमरे.

# ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક રૂપ ઝું.

ફ્રીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૨૪ જુન ૧૯૨૭

અંક ૨૫

## નોંધ અને સમાચાર



કાળા લોકોની અસ્વચ્છતાને માટે જવાબદાર કોણ ?

પોતાના નેટીવ નોકરને રહેવાની જગ્યા અવ્યવસ્થિત રાખવાના આરોપ માટે મેરીટકમર્ગની રેલવે સ્ટ્રીટને જે સી. વેનરેન્સ-બર્જ નામના યુરોપીયનને કોર્ટમાં ખડો કરવામાં આવતા મેજિસ્ટ્રેટ મી ડબ્લ્યુ પી. મેક્સવેલે તેને ધમકી આપી છેડી મુકતા જણાવ્યું કે: 'કેટલાક ગેરવ્યવસ્થિત પોતાના નેટીવ નોકરને કંઈ પણ ચાલી રહેશે એમ માનતા બેઠે હું. પણ તેઓ પણ માંસ અને લોહીના બનેલા છે અને આપણા જેટલાજ દરદારી પીયા છે. તેઓ પણ તેઓની તંદુરસ્તીને જોખમ ન પહોંચે તેવા ધરોને માટે હકદાર છે. જે તમે તેઓને કાપક ધર ન આપી શકતા હો તો તમારે નોકર ગમવાજ નહિ જોઈએ.' આ કેસમાં અપાએલી જુબાની પરથી જણાયું હતું કે મજદુર નેટીવને એક પતરાંના શેડમાં રાખવામાં આવ્યો હતો જેને બાંધેલી જમીન પણ નહોતી અને છાપડે દ પુટથી પણ નીચું હતું. ગેરવ્યવસ્થિત નોકરને બારી પણ નહોતી અસ્વચ્છ સ્થિતિમાં રહેનારા હોદ્દાઓને બચાવ કરવાનો અમે બીજા કુલ પ્રયત્ન કરવા ઇચ્છતા નથી પરંતુ એટલુંજ પુછવા ઇચ્છીએ છીએ કે હોદ્દાઓની અસ્વચ્છતા કે જે હોદ્દાઓના વિરોધીઓને અનેક વખતે જાહેર બાધણને એક વિષય થઈ પડે છે તેને માટે શું યુરોપીય માલિકો પોતાને જોખમદાર નથી? હોદ્દાઓ સહેલાં પતરાંના ઝુંપડાઓમાં રહેતા હોવાની જે અનેક વેળાએ ફરિયાદો થાય છે તે સામાન્ય રીતે ગીરમીટમાંથી છુટા થએલા હોદ્દાઓનાંજ હોય છે કે જેમને યુરોપીયન માલિકોએ વધારે સારી સ્થિતિમાં રહેવાનું કીખવેલું નથી. ઉપરોક્ત દાખલો તો અત્યાર અમાઉ ટંકાઈ મયેલા અનેક દાખલાઓમાંનો એક માત્ર છે. આપણે ઉમેદ રાખીશું કે મી. ડબ્લ્યુ પી. મેક્સવેલેના ઇપકાનો હોદ્દા અને નેટીવ નોકરોના વધારે જવાબદાર માલિકો જે એવા ગુન્હાને માટે દોષિત હોય તેઓ પણ ધરો લેશે.

ડરબન કોર્પોરેશનની આંખો ઉઘડી

ડરબન ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલની વર્કસ કમીટીના ૧૯૨૭-૨૮ ના ખર્ચના અડસટાના ખરડામાં ખીજ બાબતો સાથે કોર્પોરેશનના હોદ્દા કામદારોને માટે નવાં બેરેક્સ બાંધવાને માટે પાઉન્ડ ૩૦,૦૨૫ની રકમ કાઢવામાં આવી છે. આમાં કાર શેડની પાછળ અને ડેપોરોડ મેજેઝીન એરિયામાં નવાં બેરેક્સ બાંધવાને માટે અને ત્યાંના હવાત બેરેક્સમાં સમારકામ કરવાનો સમાવેશ થાય છે. વાંચકોને યાદ હશે કે આ બેરેક્સોમાં વરતતી ક્ષરમબરેલી સ્થિતિનું બાન ડુંક મુદત પર મી. સી. એફ. એન્ડરૂએ કરાવ્યું હતું અને ખુદ ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલનાં એક મેમ્બર કાઉન્સિલર મીસીસ નાઇટ એ બાબતમાં કાઉન્સિલને ખુશી પાડી હતી. ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલની એ બાબતમાં આખરે આંખો ખુલી છે એ સંતોષજનક વાત છે.

સ્વદેશ પાછા ફરતા હોદ્દાઓ

યુનીયન સરકારની રીપેટીએશનની યોજનાનો લાભ લઇ આ દેશ છેડી હોદ્દાઓ પાછા ફરતા હોદ્દાઓને વિશે નીચે પ્રમાણે વીગતો આપવામાં આવી છે:—એપ્રિલથી જુન સુધીમાં ૬૩૪ હોદ્દાઓ ગયા જેઓમાં ૩૧૨ પુરુષ, ૧૨ સ્ત્રી અને ૧૬૩ છોકરાં હતાં. હાલ દેશ છેડી હોદ્દાઓ જતા ઇન્ડિયન હોદ્દાઓની ઇમીગ્રેશન ખાતમાં ૪૦૦ અરજીઓ પડેલી છે. દરેક પુરુષ અથવા સ્ત્રીને પાઉન્ડ ૨૦ અને દરેક બાળક દીઠ વધારાના પાઉન્ડ ૧૦ બંધીસ આપવામાં આવે છે.

હોદ્દા મારકેટ આગળ થતાં અકસ્માતો

ડરબનની હોદ્દા મારકેટ અમળ થેડા દિવસ પર મોટરના અકસ્માતથી પાંચ માણસો (જેમાં સ્ત્રી અને બાળક દત્તાં) ધવાયાથી ઇસ્પીતાએ લઇ જવામાં આવ્યા હતા તેને પરિણામે ઇન્ડિઅન મારકેટ સ્ટોલ હલ્ડર્સ એન્ડ સ્કવોટર્સ એસોસીએશને, એક ખાસ કમીટી મીટિંગ બોલાવી સીફ ઇન્સ્ટેબલ ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલ, મારકેટ કમીટી અને યોથા વેડીના કાઉન્સિલરો પર મોકલવાને નીચે પ્રમાણે ઠરાવ પસાર કર્યો છે:—

'ઇન્ડિઅન મારકેટ એમ્પ્લોયીમેન્ટની આ સમા વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટના મારકેટના વિભાગમાં વધના જતા અકસ્માતોને માટે ઉંડા ખેદ દર્શાવે છે અને સરકારના ૬ થી ૯ વાગ્યા સુધીના વખતમાં મોટર વિગેરે વાહનોની આવ જા વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટમાં બંધ કરવાનાં જરૂરી પગલાં લેવાને ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલ અને પેલીસ ખાતાને નિર્નતિ કરે છે.'

શાસ્ત્રીજીનો સ્ટાફ

ના શ્રીવીવાસ શાસ્ત્રીજી જેઓ આવતા અઠવાડિયામાં યુનીયનમાં આવી પહોંચવા વકરી છે તેઓની સાથે, અમને ખબર મળવા પ્રમાણે, મી. પી. કે. કોડન્ડે રાવ. એમ. એ. મી. એલ. ડબ્લ્યુ રીકેટસ અને મી. જે. ડી. ટાઇલન આવે છે. હોદ્દા કામને જાણીને ખેદ ધરો કે શાસ્ત્રીજીના ધર્મપતિ શાસ્ત્રીજીની સાથે આતાં નથી.

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીનો સ્વદેશ

હોદ્દા કામે શાસ્ત્રીજી સાથે કેવી રીતે વર્તવું તે વિશેનો મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીનો સંદેશ 'નવજીવન'માંથી અમે આ અંકમાં પ્રસિદ્ધ કરીએ છીએ. એ લેખ દરેક હોદ્દાએ વાંચવા સમજી અને તે મુજબ વર્તવાની જરૂર છે.

મીલરો અને ફેક્ટરી એકઠ

એલીલ નાયેરી કોર્ટે સખળા મીલરોને લાગુ પનારો એક અમલનો સુકાદો આપેલો છે. એક સ્થાનિક મીલરને પોતાની દાણાની વખાર કે જે મીલના મકાનથી અલગ હતી તેમાં દાણો લેવા