

# Indian Opinion

No. 39—Vol. XXV. Friday, September 30th, 1927.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.  
PRICE FOURPENCE.

## THE STORY OF MY EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part III.—Chapter X.

### THE BOER WAR

I must skip many another experience of the period between 1897 and 1899 and come to the Boer War. When the war was declared my personal sympathies were all with the Boers, but I believed then that I had yet no right in such cases to enforce my individual convictions. I have minutely dealt with the inner struggle in this behalf in my history of the Satyagraha in South Africa, and I must not repeat the argument here. I invite the curious to turn those pages. Suffice it to say that my loyalty to the British rule drove me to participation with the British in that war. I felt that if I demand rights as a British citizen, it was also my duty as such to participate in the defence of the British Empire. I held then that India could achieve her complete emancipation only within and through the British Empire. So I got together as many comrades as possible, and with very great difficulty had their services accepted as an ambulance corps. The average Englishman believed that the Indian was a coward incapable of taking risks and looking beyond his immediate self-interest. Many English friends therefore threw cold water on my plan. But Dr. Booth supported it whole-heartedly. He trained us in ambulance work. We secured medical certificates of fitness for service. Mr. Laughton and the late Mr. Escombe enthusiastically supported the plan and we applied at last for service at the front. The Government thankfully acknowledged our application, but said that our services were not then needed.

But I would not rest satisfied with this refusal. Assisted by Dr. Booth I called on the Bishop of Natal. There were many Christian Indians in our corps and the Bishop was delighted with my proposal and promised to help us in getting us accepted.

Time too was working with us. The Boer had showed more pluck, determination and bravery than were expected; and our services were ultimately needed.

Our corps was 1,100 strong with nearly 40 leaders. About three hundred were free Indians and the rest indentured. Dr. Booth was also with us. The corps acquitted itself well. Though our work was to be outside the firing line, and though we had the protection of the Red Cross, we were asked at a critical moment to serve within the firing line. The reservation was not of our seeking. The authorities did not want us to be within the range of fire. But the situation was changed after the repulse at Spion

Kop and General Buller sent the message that though we were not bound to take the risk, Government would be thankful if we would take it and fetch the wounded from the field. We had no hesitation and so the action at Spion Kop found us working within the firing line. During these days we had to march from twenty to twenty-five miles a day, bearing the wounded stretchers. Among the wounded we had the honour of carrying soldiers like General Woodgate.

The corps was disbanded after six weeks' service. After the reverses at Spion Kop and Vaalkrantz the British Commandar-in-Chief had abandoned the attempt to relieve Ladysmith and other places by summary procedure, and had decided to await reinforcements from England and India, and to proceed slowly.

Our humble work was, at the moment, much applauded and the Indians' prestige was enhanced. The newspapers published laudatory rhymes whose refrain was "We are sons of Empire after all."

General Buller mentioned with appreciation the work of the corps in his despatch and the leaders were awarded the War Medal.

The Indian community became better organised. I got into clear touch with the indentured Indians. There came a greater awakening amongst them, and the feeling that Hindus, Mussalmans, Christians, Tamilians, Gajaratis and Sindhis were all Indians and are children of the same motherland took deep root among them. Every one believed that the Indians' grievances were now sure to be redressed. The White Man's attitude seemed to have distinctly changed at the moment. The relations formed with the Whites during the War were of the sweetest. We had come into contact with thousands of tommies. They were friendly with us, and were thankful to us to know that we were there to serve them.

I cannot forbear from recording a sweet reminiscence of how human nature shows itself at its best at moments of trial. We were marching towards Chievely camp where Lieutenant Roberts, the son of Lord Roberts, had received a mortal wound. Our corps had the honour of carrying the body from the field. It was a sultry day—the day of our march. Everyone was thirsting for water. There was a tiny brook on the way where we could slake our thirst. But who was to drink first? We had proposed to come in after the Tommies had finished. But they would not begin first and urged us to do so, and for a while a pleasant competition went on for giving precedence to one another.

## MR. SASTRI'S TASK IN THE TRANSVAAL

**T**HE Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri has reason to be proud of his work in Natal. He came when the dark clouds were thundering. How the feelings of the Europeans of the Province which were high against the Capetown Agreement and Indians generally were to be subdued was a grave problem. Mr. Sastri was even warned that he was facing a stone wall. But with his wonderful tact, great ability and magnetic personality he gradually won the hearts of the antagonists, completely changed their feelings and succeeded in persuading them to fulfil their share of the Agreement. The first step in that direction is the appointment of an Indian Education Commission. Though the decision about the membership of the Commission is not as it should be, and in that we have the *Natal Advertiser*, the *Natal Witness* and the *Cape Times* in agreement with us, the change of front the Province has taken is certainly a hopeful sign of a brighter future. As our contemporaries have pointed out it is not too late for the Provincial Administration to alter its decision even now and appoint experts on the Commission.

Thus having won the hearts of the Europeans of Natal who seemed not long ago a hostile element Mr. Sastri returned last Sunday to the Transvaal only to find the position just the reverse of what it was in this Province. There the Indians are dissatisfied with the Agreement and have many other sores that require a healing balm. Their dissatisfaction with the Agreement is, as we understand it, owing to their position being rendered insecure by the new Immigration Act of 1927 which was a part of the Agreement. Their anxiety seems justifiable, if we are informed correctly, that clause 5 of the abovementioned Act is being enforced retrospectively. A case in point has been reported to us of one Dayabhai Parsotam alias Govind Odhav who, we are informed, is an old resident of the Transvaal, possessing a Transvaal Registration Certificate, on whom notice was served on Sept. 20 to leave the Province within three days. The case, we understand, is now taken before the appeal Board. We are also informed that certain applications by exempted Indians in the Transvaal to bring their wives into the country have been turned down. Now that Mr. Sastri is in the Transvaal

these matters will naturally be brought to his notice and we hope also that our friends in the Transvaal will not lose this valuable opportunity of pouring their hearts out to Mr. Sastri; and having had their reasonable grievances redressed we sincerely hope they will come forward once again and play their due part in the harmonious working of the Congress. If this change is successfully effected in the Transvaal it will be but another step forward.

## RALLY ROUND THE CONGRESS

**W**E are happy to find that even among those who have hitherto stood outside and against the South African Indian Congress there is a growing recognition of the vital necessity for the Indian community in South Africa speaking with one voice and through one single central organisation. It is therefore almost a tragedy that the British Indian Association in Transvaal should fail to see the necessity, and insist on its secession from the parent all-embracing body and set up a separate platform of its own. The Indian community which is comparatively small in numbers, voteless and voiceless in the affairs of the country, and which is fighting for the most elementary rights of civilised existence with its back to the wall, can ill afford the disastrous luxury of disunity, and divided counsels. We are living under none too sympathetic conditions. It is true, and we thankfully acknowledge it, that there has been a remarkable change of heart on the part of the present Union Government. But it will take a good long while for the good influence to spread far and wide and permeate the whole body of the people, and lift the clouds that darken the life of the average Indian in this country. Mr. Sastri's personality and his utterances have begun to lighten the public opinion that counts in this land. It requires the concentrated efforts of the whole community to consolidate every step in the beneficial change and stimulate it. The implementing of the upliftment part of the Capetown Agreement is a delicate and difficult work, the success of which depends to a large extent on the unanimous and hearty support the community gives the Agent in his efforts. This consummation will be greatly handicapped if the community does not speak and speak with one voice. While the critics of the Congress, unlike the British Indian Association of Transvaal,

realise the need for unity, some of them seem to advocate the formation of a new central body to supercede the Congress. We are unable to appreciate the justification for this extra-ordinary step. The Congress has been in existence for some years and not only won a place in the affections of the Indians here but has also won the recognition of the peoples and the Governments of India and of the Union. It will take a great deal to shake its position and transfer its prestige to the new organisation. The utmost that the new body can do is to weaken the prestige and good influence of the Congress without any compensating advantage to the community. Rival organisations will only perplex our friends and be a sore temptation to our enemies to exploit to our disadvantage. It can do much harm but no good. The path of wisdom is to rally round the Congress, strengthen it and make it even more than ever the authentic mouth piece of the Indian community in South Africa.

We have now before us the full facts of the case of Mrs. Barmania who was driven out from the Transkeian Territories where she went to accompany her husband who is an old resident of those Territories. We gave in our last issue a short Reuter's report of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the matter which went against the Appellant. We hope to deal fully with the question in our next issue.

## The Indian Education Commission

### Press Comments—'Natal Witness'

Commenting on the forthcoming Indian Education Commission the *Natal Witness* dated Sept. 27 says:

The decision to appoint a Commission to inquire into Asiatic education is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. Not so long ago the Natal Provincial Council was protesting (justifiably enough) to the Government that it ought to have been consulted on what is essentially a Natal problem before the Capetown Agreement was drafted, and it is a tribute to its own broadmindedness, as well as to the personality of Mr. Sastri, that it has decided to give effect to an undertaking which was thus made over its head. There has, indeed, been an astonishing revolution in public opinion, and the problem is now to be approached with goodwill and in the right way. In these circumstances it may seem ungracious to make any criticisms, and certainly Mr. Sastri, who was interviewed by *The Natal Witness* when the suggested constitution of the Committee was first announced, uttered no word that could imply that he was not entirely satisfied. Indeed, he showed himself delighted with his birthday present, and whole-heartedly grateful to the Administration for their liberal action. "But what Mr. Sastri, who is both a visitor and a diplomat, could not and would not say," goes on our contemporary, "we may be permitted to say for him—though entirely without his suggestion or authority. And it seems to us that the Provincial Council, having taken the first and all-important step in agreeing to

appoint a Commission might well have gone further and entertained more liberal views in regard to its membership. That the Provincial Executive should form part of the Commission is reasonable enough but that the Commission should be in point of fact exclusively a committee of the Provincial Council is surely leading the dice. We do not doubt for one moment that the Council wishes and intends to be scrupulously just and even generous to the Indian community. But it has to deal with traditional prejudices in which it must share however unconsciously, and it also has a responsibility towards the public purse. There is therefore a danger that it may approach the whole question not so much with a desire to get at the root of the matter and to lay down lasting foundations for the future, as with the intention of satisfying both sides at as little expense as possible.

"It seems to us therefore highly desirable, since the ideal of complete impartiality is really impracticable, to leave the Commission with impartiality, and to appoint at least one or two educational authorities who can approach the whole question not only with technical knowledge, which is very necessary, but with a completely open mind. It is not too late to do so, for the appointment of the Commission and its constitution have not yet been officially announced. We hope that before this announcement is made the Administrator will reconsider the matter if indeed he has not already done so, and since the presence of the Executive upon it will sufficiently protect the public interest, that he will decide upon a Commission which both Indian and European opinion can accept without any reservations."

### "Natal Advertiser"

Thus the *Natal Advertiser* on the same subject in its issue dated Sept. 23:

We are extremely pleased that Mr. Sastri's great work in this Province has resulted already in the appointment of the Education Commission which the Capetown Agreement foreshadowed. "It would have been better if the Commission had not been composed (as actually it is) of the Provincial Executive and two other members of the Provincial Council. As it is, the body will never be able to forget for long its major responsibilities to the Province as a whole, nor will it be able to free itself entirely from its earlier predispositions on the Indian question." At the same time, the Agent-General is much too wise a man to cavil at a half loaf because it is not a complete baker's shop of bread. The Executive members though they may not be visionaries, will at least be men with some understanding of what reorganisation in Indian education is possible; and all the experts who are to come from India to guide them in their labours will no doubt be able to show how a maximum of good may be achieved at very small cost to the Province.

Writing at haste, and on the eve of Mr. Sastri's departure for Pretoria and Capetown, we wish him well in this enlargement of the toils which come within the orbit of his office. Education is the bed-rock on which any betterment of the Indian must be founded; and where the Indian advances the country as a whole advances. There is no heresy so stupid, no fallacy so outworn, as that which maintains that any one class in a nation can rise to prosperity on the repressed instincts or the knee-haltered capabilities of another and submerged class. Even the thing we detest most in the community life of the Easterner in our midst—his indifference to insanitation, his contentment with social primitivism—will only be cured finally in the classroom, and never in the legislature. Education is the enemy of dirt as well as it is the enemy of ignorance. It is, by the same token, the ally of efficiency: and it may happen that our own sluggish European minds

will come to appreciate better what we enjoy in educational opportunities nowadays when we see how the Asiatic puts the schoolroom before all else in the equipment of life.

### "Cape Times"

In the course of a sub-leader on the subject the *Cape Times* considers the decision that the proposed Commission should consist exclusively of members of the Natal Provincial Executive, who were to be empowered to co-opt other members of the Provincial Council as unfortunate. "In a word," says the paper, "the Commission was to be virtually a Select Committee of the Natal Provincial Council."

"The number and weight of objections to which it would be exposed form indeed the best hope that the report of it is unfounded. If it has been taken it will be difficult to conjecture the motives of its authors, but it is very easy to guess what motives the man in the street will ascribe to them.

"What the man in the street remembers is that the Natal Provincial Council is a body which cherishes vehemently anti-Asiatic traditions; that in May last it passed by 17 votes to 3 a formal resolution condemning the Capetown agreement; that its pride was sorely injured at what it considered insufficient consultation over the terms of the agreement during the negotiations and that subsequently it expressed its indignation to the Senate and Assembly in a form which both Houses were compelled to ignore, and that for years the Natal Superintendent of Education has deplored his inability to induce the executive to budget the improvements in non-European education.

"Nature being what it is, the plain citizen when he sees these recollections alongside a report that the Provincial Council intends to conduct the proposed inquiry itself, is bound to lead to one or both of two conclusions.

"The first is that the Council is so apprehensive of the reflections which the minimum recommendations of an independent commission would cast on the existing system that it dare not let the matter out of its own hands, and the second is that the reported decision must be a peevish gesture of ruffled 'amour propre,' perversely designed to embarrass the Union Government in retaliation for its having negotiated with India over the Provincial Council's head.

"There is a further point which should not be lost sight of, though published accounts of the agreement make no mention of the probable constitution of the commission, we have good ground for thinking that what was in the minds of both negotiation parties was a commission of educational experts, and that such was the understanding on which the agreement was concluded. We cannot conceive that the Natal Administration is ignorant of the fact.

"On all grounds, therefore, it seems to us imperative that the promised inquiry should be conducted by an independent commission of experts. They would, of course, make their report to the Natal Administration, who would be free to reject recommendations or to accept them with or without modifications. An inquiry by the committee of the Provincial Council, on the other hand, would not only be valueless in itself, but would for reasons we have given create the unhappiest impression of that body throughout the country, and could not hope for recognition by the Indian community as being in any sense impartial. Agreement, or no agreement, and quite apart from what the Provincial Council may think of the agreement, it is beyond dispute that a full investigation is needed into Asiatic education in Natal, and it means a waste of time and energy if that investigation is to be held by any but those who are best able to make it.

"In truth, the whole matter, though Natal has the privilege of handling it, is a national and even an Imperial one.

"Natal is for this purpose the trustee of South African honour and statesmanship alike not in the eyes of the Union alone, but in those of India and of the whole Empire. We trust it is not too late to urge her to rise to the level of the occasion." (Reuter).

## Notes on the Congress

(BY "CONGRESSMEN")

[Note—under the above nom de plume occasional notes on the Congress activities will appear in these columns. They are written by those interested in the Congress work and have the welfare of the community at heart. The views expressed therein should not, however, be construed by the reader as official or emanating from either the S.A.I.C. or the N.I.C.]

### OUR CRITICS

For some time past and for reasons better known to themselves, the *Indian Views* and the *African Chronicle* have been carrying on active propaganda against the Congresses, vilifying the work that the latter have been carrying on for a number of years in the honest belief that at least men who are responsible for the publication of these vituperations would appreciate the little they are able to do for the good of the community. We therefore intend to point out the fallacy of their arguments and if need be to expose their past actions of betrayal of the cause of our community, without in any way descending to the level of their villainy and abuse.

### THE AGREEMENT AS WE SEE IT

No sane person would deny the fact that ever since the 1914 Settlement Indians were gradually losing ground and the few rights and privileges they possessed were being taken away. The process of strangulation culminated in the Class Areas Bill, subsequently termed the Asiatic Bill, the underlying principles of which were mainly:

1. Residential and commercial segregation of the Indians.
2. Complete stoppage of further Indians from entering into the Union.
3. Further restricting of the right of those already in the Union as to their future movements in and out of the Union.

The effect of this piece of legislation would have been complete ruination of our commercial activities in this country, and both rich and poor, merchant and farmer, home born and colonial born would have had to clear out of the country and seek for pastures new.

Segregation, the Hydra-headed serpent of the whole Asiatic Bill, has been killed by the Settlement and the restrictions placed upon immigration both within and without the Union have been greatly modified. Minor children who were completely stopped from entry into the Union after the 1st August, 1930 were allowed to come at all times provided they were accompanied by their mothers.

Dual domiciliary rights enjoyed by a good number of Indians and the inherent rights of South African born Indians contemplated by the Bill to be restricted, have been left intact.

The question of repatriation was gone into by the representatives of the two Governments, because it was the crux of the whole situation, and as the system then existing was not satisfactory it was a condition precedent to the holding of the Round Table Conference that this matter should be thoroughly investigated and a way found to place it on a workable basis. The scheme of Voluntary repatriation was agreed to by the Indian community in the 1914 Settlement and an impetus was given to it by the

Lange Commission in 1919. How then could we blame the Government of India or anyone else for the enlargement of this scheme which has brought about certain advantages over the old system? In the first place the stigma of the signing away of one's right of domicile for a mere monetary consideration has been removed and the name of the scheme has been changed to that of "Assisted emigration." The right to return to this Country after a period of one year and within three years of departure has been secured and the right of parents in binding their minor children to this scheme has been limited so that a child above the age of 16 years is free to do as it pleases, whereas formerly majority was fixed at 21 years.

The policy of the government completely changed in as much as Indians who were formerly declared as "aliens" were considered as part of the permanent population of the Union and the duty of the Government to see that this community does not lag behind any other community was clearly expressed. Education and sanitary conditions were to be inquired into and better facilities afforded in these connections. The question of trading licences was also to be gone into and when the time for revision of the laws for trading arrives all due consideration is to be given to amendments in certain directions favourable to the community.

What better compromise could our critics suggest in the teeth of the acute Anti-Asiatic agitation throughout the country and the Asiatic Bill hanging above our heads like the "Sword of Damocles."

## Gandhi Library and Rustomjee Hall

### Sixth Anniversary

The following is the official report of the sixth anniversary and general meeting of the above institution.

The sixth anniversary and general meeting of the above institution was held on the 9th September in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, when there was a good attendance. Amongst those present were included the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., Mr. P. K. Rao, Mr. Wm. Doull, the Secretary of the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust. Mr. A. H. West occupied the chair and welcomed those present on behalf of the committee. A silent tribute was passed to the memory of the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, the donor of the Library, by all rising.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were read and confirmed on the proposition of Mr. P. R. Pather which was seconded by Mr. B. A. Maghrajh.

The Secretary's report for the year ended 31st August 1927 was read by Mr. B. M. Patel who had ably carried out his duties to the complete satisfaction of the Committee.

The attendance of the public during the year was 46,894, an increase of 6,575 on that of the previous year and more than twice that of the first year of the Library's existence. The Library which is free to all contains 3,890 volumes comprising a wide range of literature in English, Gujarati, Tamil, Urdu and Hindi. Frequent additions are made to the Library. On the tables are to be found 151 periodicals and newspapers. A special table is reserved for juveniles with suitable books and papers provided. The necessary funds for the upkeep of the Library were placed at the disposal of the Committee by the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust.

The death of the late Hon. Treasurer (Mr. S. Emmamally) who died during the year was recorded with regret.

Proposed by Mr. Lawrence, and seconded by Mr. Rooknoodeen, the Secretary's report was adopted. Floral presentations were made to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Sastri, Mr. Rao and Mr. Doull.

Speeches were delivered by Mr. Doull, Pundit Bhawani Dayal Saunyasi and Mr. P. K. Desai, dealing with the affairs of the Library and Hall, and the meeting was brought to a close with the concluding remarks of the chairman.

## Original Correspondence

The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

### The Message of Christ

[With pleasure we publish the following letter from the Rev. W. H. Satchell in reply to our leading note on "Christianity and Conversion" in the issue of Sept. 16. We thank Mr. Satchell for the explanation.—ED. I.O.]

Sir,—I write with reference to a leading article in your paper of Sept. 16th. You have kindly reprinted the summary of my speech at the Natal Diocesan Synod from one of the daily papers and based your leading article on that summary. The press slightly misrepresented what I said. As far as I am aware I did not say "Hindus had very little interest in their own religion." What I did say was that the average Hindu in this land is very ignorant of his religion and that religious customs and practices that formed so essential a part of the lives of their forefathers have lost their hold on the S. A. Hindus of today. I mean especially caste, veneration of the Brahmin, veneration of the cow and Temple worship. I think, Sir, you will hardly dispute this.

I have always believed that whatever the West may or may not have contributed to humanity India's contribution is of a spiritual nature. India's real greatness lies in her belief in the superiority of the spiritual over the material. Yet S. A. Indians cannot live on India's religious capital and there is a very real danger that neglect of religious practice will be followed by death of spiritual instinct.

Vedic Philosophy may keep this instinct alive in the minds and hearts of a select few but for the great mass of the people there must be a more "popular religion."

There are many Hindus who regard customs that appealed to their forefathers as of little value who yet have not the leisure, or it may be the intellect to study and appreciate the Vedas. We as Christians feel they need Christ, whom we regard as the perfect manifestation of God.

Seeing the Indian people, as we do, great people in our midst, with a great spiritual capacity we yearn to present Christ.

We do not presume to foist or impose our religion on others we only ask for the privilege of telling what we believe about Jesus.—I am, Sir, etc.

W. H. SACHELL.

## BOOKS FOR SALE

To be obtained from the *Indian Opinion Press*, Phoenix, Natal. Postal Orders to be made payable at Durban.

The Golden Number of "Indian Opinion"		
Paper covers		2 0
Bound in Cloth		2 6
The Hon. Mr. Gokhale's Tour in South Africa :		
Special INDIAN OPINION Souvenir.		2 6
Essay on Indian Economics, by Mahadev Govind Ranade		3 3
Vaishnavite Reformers of India		2 6
Essays on Indian Art, Industry and Education		2 6
Sri Madhwacharya		7 6
Position of the Women in the Vedas		6
Dadabhai Naoroji's Speeches and Writings		6 0
The Story of the Ramayana, the Epic of Rama		6
The Indian Demands, by G. A. Natesan		1 0
Indian Industrial and Economic Problems by High Kal		1 0

# ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન.

પુસ્તક રૂપ છું.

ફીનીક્ષ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૩૦ સપ્ટેમ્બર ૧૯૨૭

અંક ૩૯

## “ઇન્ડિયન ઓપીનીયન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૩૦ સપ્ટેમ્બર ૧૯૨૭

નાટાલમાં શાસ્ત્રીજીએ જે કાર્ય કર્યું છે તે માટે તેમને સંતોષ અને આનંદ થાય એ સ્વાભાવિક શાસ્ત્રીજીની સામે છે. તેઓ જ્યારે નાટાલ આવ્યા ત્રાંસવાલનો પ્રશ્ન લાગે અહીંનું વાતાવરણ કાળાં વાદળાંઓથી આચ્છાદિત હતું. નાટાલના ગોરાઓ કેપટાઉન એમીમેંટથી વિરુદ્ધ હતા. હાંદીઓની સામે તે તેઓ સામાન્ય રીતે છે. ગોરા સાહેબોના આ વલણને પલટાવવું અને તેની લાગણીને જાત પાડવી એ બારે મહત્ત્વનો પ્રશ્ન હતો. શાસ્ત્રીજીને તે ચેતવવામાં પણ આવ્યા હતા કે એ દિશામાં તેઓ પ્રયત્ન કરશે તે પથ્થરની દિવાલોમાં માર્યા પછાડવા જેવું છે. ગોરાઓની મોટી મેદનીઓ સમક્ષ બાપણે આપીને તેમનાં હૃદયોને તેમણે પલટાવી નાંખ્યાં છે. શાસ્ત્રીજીનું વ્યક્તીત્વ પણ તેટલું જ બારે છે. એ વ્યક્તીત્વને લીધે ગોરાઓનાં દાહ તેમણે ધીરે ધીરે કરી લીધાં અને એમીમેંટેને ફનેક્ષનું બનાવવા ગોરાઓને તેમનો દિરસો આપવાની અરજ કરી. અને એ અરજનું શુભ પરિણામ એ આવ્યું કે નાટાલની પ્રાંતિક સરકારે કેળવણી કમીશન નીમવાનું જાહેર કર્યું છે. કમીશન ઉપર જે સભ્યોને નીમવામાં આવ્યા છે તે બધા પ્રોવીન્શીયલ કાઉન્સિલની કારોબારી સભાના સભ્યો જ છે એ ખીના બારે સંતોષકારક નથી છતાં નાટાલ પ્રાંતે જે પગલું ભર્યું છે તે તેઓએ પ્રથમ જે દિશા જુલ કરી હતી તેમાં પૂરેાં મારી વાજબી દિશાએ પ્રયાજ કરવા માંડ્યું છે. આ ખીના સંતોષ લેવા જેવી અને આશાજનક છે. નાટાલના ગોરાઓનાં હૃદયોને પલટાવી શાસ્ત્રીજી ગયા રવિવારે ત્રાંસવાલ ઉપડી ગયા છે. લાં તેમની સામે આ પ્રાંતમાં હતી તેનાથી ઉલ્ટી જ સ્થિતિ છે લાં ત્રાંસવાલના હાંદીઓને એમીમેંટથી બારે અસંતોષ થએલો છે અને હાંદી માધ્યોને ખીજા ધણા ઉડા ધા લાગેલા છે. એ ધાતા ઉપર શાસ્ત્રીજીને મલમપટ્ટા કરવા પડશે. એમીમેંટ સામે ત્રાંસવાલના હાંદીઓને અસંતોષ અમે સમજીએ તે પ્રમાણે તે એટલા માટે છે કે એમીમેંટેને આધારે જે નવો કમીશન કાયદો થયો છે તે કાયદા હેઠળ તેમની સ્થિતિ સુરક્ષિત નથી. અમેને ત્રાંસવાલથી જે સમાચાર મળ્યા છે તે જો બરાબર હોય તે લાંના હાંદી માધ્યોની ચિંતા થાય છે. આ નવા કાયદાની પ મી રક્ષમથી કાયદેસર કરવામાં આવેલા રજીસ્ટ્રેશનને જે તે ખોટી રીતે મેળવવામાં આવેલાં છે એમ સાબિત થાય તે તેને રદ કરવાની અમલદારને સત્તા આપવામાં આવેલી છે, પરંતુ એ કલમના ઉપયોગ આ કાયદો પસાર થયો તે પહેલાં અહીં વસી રહેલા હાંદીઓ ઉપર ન કરવામાં આવશે એવું વચન આપવામાં આવેલું છે. આ કાયદો પસાર થયા પહેલાં અહીં વસેલા એક બાધને હાજમાં આ કલમ લાગે પાંડી પહડવામાં આવ્યો છે. આ

બાધનું નામ ઠાલાબાધ પરસેતમ ઉર્ફે જોવિંદ ઓધવ છે. જે બાધ ત્રાંસવાલના જુના રફીશ છે અને તેમની પાસે રજીસ્ટ્રેશન સર્ટીફિકેટ છે. તા. ૨૦ મી સપ્ટેમ્બરે ત્રણ દિવસ માં ત્રાંસવાલ જોડી જવાની મોટીસ આ બાધને મળી હતી. આ કેસ અપીલ બોર્ડ પાસે લઈ જવામાં આવ્યો છે. આ સિવાય કેળવણી હાંદીઓને તેમનાં સ્ત્રી તથા બાળકોને લાવવા દેવાની ના પાડવામાં આવી છે. શાસ્ત્રીજી હવે ત્રાંસવાલમાં મયા છે એટલે આ બાળકો સ્વાભાવિક રીતે જ તેમની પાસે લઈ જવામાં આવશે. અમે આજ રાખીએ છીએ કે ત્રાંસવાલના હાંદીઓ પોતાનાં હૃદયો શાસ્ત્રીજી આગળ ખુલ્લાં કરવાની આ તક શુભાચરો નહિ અને પોતાનાં વાજબી કુખો દુર કરાવી એક વાર ફરીથી કોંગ્રેસ સાથે જોડાઈ જાય અને દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના સર્વ હાંદીઓ એક જ અવાજે બોલે શાસ્ત્રીજી જે ત્રાંસવાલના આવા કેટલાક પ્રકારો સંતોષકારક નીવેડો લાવશે તે આ ખીજું પગલું આગળ વધવા ગણાઈયું.

અમને એ જણીને આનંદ થાય છે કે જેઓ આજ સુધી કોંગ્રેસથી દુર રહેતા હતા અને તેની કોંગ્રેસને અપનાવો વિરુદ્ધ હતા તેઓ નાટાલમાં જોષ શક્યા છે કે એક મધ્યમ સંસ્થા મારફતે આપણને આખી હાંદી પ્રજાની વની એકત્ર થઈને એક જ અવાજે બોલવાની અલંત આવરકતા છે અમને જણીને અલંત હાંદી થાય છે કે ત્રાંસવાલની ધાંડીશ ઇન્ડિયન એસોસીએશન આ આવરકતાને હજી જોષ શકતી નથી. અને જે મુખ્ય સંસ્થા દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના સમસ્ત હાંદીઓનું પ્રતિનિધિપણું કરી કોમના હક્કો સાચવવા પ્રયાસ કરી રહી છે તે સંસ્થાને જમાવી હાંદી તેનાથી છુટા પડી જઈને તે માત્ર પોતાની જ પ્રાંતિક સંસ્થા મારફતે જુદું કામ લેવા માગે છે. ત્રાંસવાલના અમારા હાંદી જાડોને અમે વિત્તીએ છીએ કે તેઓ આ દેશમાં આપણી રાજ્યદારી શી સ્થિતિ છે તેનો વિચાર કરે. આ દેશના રાજ્ય વહિવટમાં આપણે અવાજ નથી, આપણને મનાધિકાર નથી આપણે આ દેશમાં મારી રીતે વસી શકાયે તે ખાતર આપણા સામાન્ય પ્રાયમિક હક્કોને માટે આપણે નરંતર આપણા પપ ઉપર ઉભા રહીને લડવાનું હોય છે. આ દેશમાં યુરોપીયોનાને ‘કુચીઓ’ તરીકે આપણે કેટલા બધા પ્રિય લાગીએ છીએ તે આપણે સર્વ જણીએ છીએ. આવાં સંજોગોમાં મુકાએલી આપણી કોમને પરસ્પર કુસંપમાં રહેવાની મેળમળનો આનંદ હુટવાની રમત કેટલી બપંકર છે તેનાં ત્રાંસવાલના દરેકે બંધ મંબીંગેતોથી વિચાર કરી લે હાંદીની ધુનીયન સરખરની રાજનીતિ આપણા તરફ ફેરવાએલી છે એ સર્વ કાઈ જાણે છે. સરકારની એ ફેરવાએલી લાગણીને આખી યુરોપીયન પ્રજાની અંદર પ્રસારી દેા એ કાર્ય કેટલું મહાન છે તેનો આપણને ખ્યાલ રહેવો જોઈએ એ કાળેને માટે જાણે સમય જોઈએ. આપણી સામેનું વાતાવરણ જે