

Indian Opinion

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NATAL INDIANS' FAREWELL TO MR. SASTRI

WELCOME TO SIR KURMA

THE TOWN HALL FUNCTION

ON Wednesday evening, January 23, a farewell reception to Mr. Sastri and a welcome to Sir Kurma V. Reddi, the New Agent of the Government of India, was given at the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress.

The hall was packed to overflowing with a mixed gathering of Europeans and Indians. Delegates to the South African Indian Congress from the different Provinces of the Union were also present.

Both the Agents were presented with garlands and bouquets of the choicest flowers and silver salvers with addresses carved on them. Mr. Sastri was presented with many other gifts from various public institutions. Mr. Rao was also presented with an address, in recognition of his services, carved on a silver salver.

Sir Kurma's Speech

Sir Kurma V. Reddi rose to speak amid applause.

"Words fail me to give expression to my gratitude to you, the citizens of this great city and of this Province," declared Sir Kurma.

"It was not without great misgivings," he proceeded, "that I accepted the office to which I have been called. Hints were not wanting—they have not been wanting even in to-night's speeches—that the task before me was not merely difficult, but almost impossible, because I have to follow one who has done so much in the cause of Indians in this country. I am sure you do not expect from me the same stamp of service which it was the privilege of Mr. Sastri to render you. A born orator, Mr. Sastri has eloquence which I cannot command. He had the privilege, too, of serving under a great statesman of India, the late Mr. Gokhale, whose name will pass into history. Honestly and truly, I must confess that I will fall far short of his capacity, of his ability, and of his value and work. But as has been said, it ought not to be difficult for me to put a few more bricks on the foundations which he has so well and truly laid." (Cheers.)

Continuing, Sir Kurma remarked: "My duty involves the principle of service. What service I am capable of, I am prepared to render. All of you know the exact duties for which the Agent-General is appointed to this country. Reference has been made to the Capetown Agreement made two years ago. It has been referred to as a gentleman's treaty, and in my own country it is regarded as a solemn covenant between your Government and mine. It will be the purpose and duty of the Agent of the Government of India as far as lies in his power to render such service as necessary—the service of a groom it may be—to see that it is carried out in the letter as well as in the spirit." (Cheers.)

An Honest Interpreter

"On the very threshold of my entry into this country," he proceeded, "I would say that to give

India the kind of work I have laid out for myself, as far as the terms of the Agreement are concerned, I shall be the honest interpreter to the people and the Government of India, of the people and the Government of South Africa. It will be my duty to secure as far as possible a constant and effective co-operation between the two Governments.

"Reference has been made to the many difficulties under which the Indians of this country are said to be suffering. If by this is meant all that is covered by this Agreement, you may take it from me that I will do everything possible to secure the exact terms of the Agreement. But if the difficulties have something to do beyond the Agreement, it will be my duty, my countrymen, to advise you. I do not propose to lay before you any details, to-night, but I do believe that, apart from the terms of the Agreement, in things which may be of more service to you and to the people and the Government of South Africa as well, my service will be freely rendered.

"Education certainly forms part of that Agreement, but I have discovered that Mr. Sastri has done so well that it is unnecessary for me to undertake any new work in that direction, but only to carry on the old work. Although I can never hope to reach the heights that you did—(turning to Mr. Sastri)—I hope my work will be of some success.

"If in agriculture my services are required, let me tell you that such services are available and at your disposal. More than this I do not propose to say to-night. There are many things in which we can work together in co-operation.

"I have only one word to say to the European community in this country. Any help and assistance that may be given to me during my three years' stay in this country will not only be greatly appreciated by me and utilised for the benefit of South African Indians, but it will cheer my countrymen at home.

"There are many people in India who are not satisfied with our Imperial relations. You know that an independence movement has been started. I do not blame them, but I am speaking for those who, like myself, believe in the Imperial connection; and here let us give expression to the joy we all feel in the recovery of the Emperor of India. There is the symbol which unites India, not only to Great Britain, but with every Dominion, with every nation which belongs to the British Commonwealth of Nations. Together we fought, and on the various fields in Flanders, in Gallipoli, and on other fields, our friendship has been cemented by the blood of your countrymen and mine.

"With the development of trade," said Sir Kurma, "there will be more intimate relations created between India and South Africa, and let us hope, although it is not part of my official duties, that everything possible will be done to bring the two countries together.

"Civilisation carries wide perplexities in its train.

and when you deal with world realities you will find yourselves in a position from which one common interest and understanding will develop between the different races of this country."

In conclusion, Sir Kurma declared: "In this wonderful country there is room for all of you, and it will be the purpose of those in whose hands the destiny of this country is placed to see that you are brought up to the level of the people of this country. Therein lies your salvation." (Loud applause.)

Mr. Sastri's Speech

As Mr. Sastri rose to speak the whole audience stood up for a few moments as a tribute and he was greeted with tumultuous applause.

"Everything about this meeting" he said, "is immense. Its enormous size and the intensity of feeling by which it is actuated, the most cordial, if somewhat hyperbolic, expressions applied personally to me, almost deprive me both of speech and clear thought. If I do not make much reference to what you have said of me please put it down, not to my being unaware of my debt of gratitude but to an intention to devote the rest of my time with you—which is now becoming somewhat short—to matters of greater moment. I cannot pass away altogether from the personal aspect without saying how deeply I was touched by the allusion Mr. Rustomjee made to my wife at home. I am happy to think that in a few weeks I shall be with her. And then our joy will be heightened when I can convey to her the extremely affectionate sentiments expressed towards her. I have stayed a fairly long time now among you and as I have used my eyes and ears and on the eve of my taking leave of you it would be no wonder if I had a great many things to impart to you. Among the many things which have occurred to me as requiring special emphasis is the necessity of more complete unity among all sections of the Indian community in this country. There are still too many divisions than can be good for a small community living in a distant land. I would in particular recall a certain episode to which it was necessary for me to refer on an occasion somewhat similar to this. When I left Bombay I had occasion to tell my countrymen of the split which had occurred in the political organisation in South Africa. I then said that it would be my primary endeavour here to establish the authority and jurisdiction of the South African Indian Congress throughout the Union. As you all know that was not a task by any means easy. In the Transvaal much opposition had to be encountered and overcome but thanks to the patience and co-operation I have received from many loyal co-workers it is now possible to say that the Congress extends its beneficent sway over the Transvaal. Nevertheless I see signs that all is not well with our political organisation. Most of the criticism one hears is ill-informed, uncharitable and based on personal rather than public considerations. No organisation in the world is perfect or is without the need for co-operation and assistance from all quarters. I do not claim all the wisdom in the world for the officials of the South African Indian Congress or the Natal Indian Congress or indeed any branch of the Congress in this country. It is no more the case here than in India but the kind of criticism by which we can improve is that which is offered in a friendly spirit and I would request all who are dissatisfied with the work of the Congress, who have a bone to pick, to use a colloquialism with the authorities of this congress to come within the fold and then try to improve it. I would assure those critics that if they will join the congress and offer suggestions they will be acceptable. That, it seems to me, is one of the conditions underlying the success of your public work and the welfare of the community. The Government of India is now in active co-operation with the South

African Indian Congress and prepared generally to listen to its advice. I find also that the Union Government, for its part, are willing to recognise the Congress and accord it that attention and respect which it has always deserved. It would be suicidal for any section of the Indian community to weaken the hand of the Congress, to cast discredit upon its work, or to try to change the attitude of the two Governments towards it. I tell them that their work is not only misguided but calculated to do infinite harm. To the leaders here I would give sound advice. I am senior to most of them and I trust they will allow I have seen more of the world and in a position to judge these matters more correctly than they. The Servants of India Society has been mentioned so often that it would not be improper for me upon this occasion to ask my friend (Sir Kurma) who understands that society and its work if it is not possible for the community to start a similar society or at least to endeavour to be actuated by the spirit that characterises the Society's work. There are not too many consistent workers among us to-day. Let those who see further than their countrymen recognise their responsibility and work together in much greater cordiality and co-operation. It is somewhat sad to see one man giving way to despair. Another say, 'I have tried my best, it is no good,' and yet another threatening resignation because people are not of his way of thinking. These tendencies require to be strongly checked. Our leaders cannot afford to give way to personal wrongs. They must stand together so that the harrassed Indian community can see that in all their troubles they have at their head a small body of men who think and plan for them and set aside personal affairs for their benefit.

May I say in my last words that though good work stands to their credit they must do better work in the future and in order to be able to do that there must be a greater spirit of self sacrifice and a willingness to sacrifice their own point of view when they find that this is not generally acceptable. Men are prepared to give up their money, I know that some are prepared to give up their worldly possessions but these people will not give up their views. I am not, of course, referring to matters of conscience where every man is his own authority. We all need patience. I have heard echoes in this country of the way very inexperienced young men in India say that all talk of higher ideals of empire, brotherhood of the human race, equal justice and even-handed fairness, free scope for upliftment and so forth, which are always held up as ideals seem at the bottom to be hollow and empty, that it is all mere vanity and that there is no consistent evidence of these higher ends, however acceptable they may be to our ideals of godhead. They set up a cry of despair. It is easy to understand, it is easy to sympathise with this cry of despondency but one's faith in Divine dispensation must be greater than that. No one can cast his eyes back on the history of our race on this planet without coming to the conclusion that there has always been some progress or another, some step large or small taken towards this final goal. There have been, without doubt, many contrary currents which you cannot call progress and there have been reactions and backslidings, individually and communally. Nevertheless on the whole we must learn to have faith in this dispensation for the world has progressed and will continue to do so. Buoyed up with this faith, it is necessary for us to be patient if no visible progress is made before our eyes. In these democratic days Governments and leaders are guided by what we call public opinion, but there is evidence of something much higher than that. In a country like South Africa which abounds with energy and hope and progress it would be a wonder if we did not find these tendencies strongly implanted. Ideas of equality and

justice have in them a potency, a strength and a never-failing vitality which not all the reactionary powers of generations can completely overshadow. They are in the keeping of a far higher power than anything on earth and to co-operate with that higher purpose of God should be our duty, whenever we see failure to pity. Let your faith stand for ever in the exalted nature of these ideals. Upon all sides, even in South Africa there is ample evidence that a recognition of equality and justice is growing wider and more firmly established. I would advise you therefore, do not yield to despair. Do not allow people to be carried away with the idea that there is no Providence looking after them, for surely no people will ever prosper who have lost faith in their future. We in India have still the courage to go on. Those three points I would ask you to remember—union, public spirit, and this faith in the progress.

And now one word to the European part of my audience who have shown me so much hospitality and cordiality. My word to you, and it will not be long, is: stand by the Capetown Agreement and the spirit underlying it. You will remember that when I first came here I implored you to give the agreement a chance to show what it contained. I entreated every public leader and politician not to make the situation difficult by condemning it out of hand, by saying it was a mistake or by denouncing it. I begged them to remember that it was the Union Government which concluded it, that it broke fresh ground and was untried. I implored them to let it work for a time and watch its operation. I am deeply grateful that the community listened to me. During the last 18 months the Agreement has had a fair trial and, may I say, as I am now about to depart, that it has abundantly vindicated itself. This agreement has proved itself to be a safe way of solving the problem. I would emphasise that it is not merely forbearance which should be observed but it is legitimate to expect that it will regulate arrangements between India and South Africa. Make up your minds that this agreement should not be disturbed except to be replaced by something better. What we have seen that way lies progress and that must appeal to you. Again I ask you to remember that it is not the immediate result which must be taken into account. It is necessary for you to give up the small in pursuit of the large. It seems to me that you will all now see that the agreement must not only be worked carefully but if possible its lines broadened. That is my one word to you. I wish I could say more. I have another opportunity and may possibly speak upon another aspect. My most helpful word is 'cherish the agreement.' It has done good and if only the good-will is shown to it it will do more good. It will do good not only to South Africa but to that wider sphere of nations in the destiny of which is really included the destiny of the civilised world. (Applause.)

Messages

The following are some of the messages which were read at the meeting by the President:—

Mahatma Gandhi

"Wish success; hope new broom sweeps as well as old."

Governor General

"I desire on the occasion of the Natal Indian Congress farewell reception to Mr. Sastri to express my deep appreciation of the valuable work which he has performed in this country. In bidding him God speed and a safe return to India I desire also to convey to him my sincere good wishes for the years to come, and the hope that he may long be spared to assist his motherland with that wise counsel

and farseeing statesmanship which we have learnt to expect from him.

"At the same time I will take the opportunity of welcoming Sir Kurma Venkata Reddi as Agent of the Government of India in South Africa. His is a post which makes large demands upon its holder, but in view of Sir Kurma's distinguished record, I have no doubt whatever that he will prove equal to the task before him and fill with distinction the position which he is to occupy amongst us."

Minister of The Interior

"Am anxious to associate myself most heartily in bidding farewell to Mr. Sastri and welcoming his successor Sir K. V. Reddi. Both South Africa and India can be congratulated on the way Mr. Sastri fulfilled their highest expectations and I am sure that his successor will further cement the existing feeling of mutual goodwill and friendship."

Minister Of Mines And Industries

"I desire to convey to the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri my sincere regret at his departure from South Africa and best wishes for his future. The task which faced Mr. Sastri on coming to this country was a most difficult one. He however evinced conspicuous ability and judgment. I welcome Sir K. V. Reddi and wish him all success in his important work."

Minister Of Labour

"To Sir K. V. Reddi I extend my best wishes for a successful term of office in the carrying out an exceedingly difficult task but one which has been well begun owing to the outstanding ability and conspicuous fairmindedness and moderation of his predecessor the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri to whom I now extend a cordial farewell together with my best wishes that his health may long be spared so that he may continue to serve his country and its people as a true servant of India."

Advocate Morris Alexander M. L. A.

"South Africans are sorry to part with Mr. Sastri. His period of office has been a glorious success. He has been able to a large extent to banish the twin demons of colour and race prejudice which darken counsel and kill consultation and co operation. Upon the sound foundations laid down by Mr. Sastri, Sir Reddi will be able to build. May the new era of mutual sympathy and understanding continue to flourish, and the friendly relations between the two Governments now existing be perpetuated."

Other Messages

There were messages also from the Ministers of posts and telegraphs and Railways and editors of the *Cape Times* and the *Johannesburg Star* and prominent members of the European community.

Mr. Sastri's Departure

The Right Hon. Srinivasa Sastri sailed per the *s.s. Karoa* at 9 o'clock on Monday morning. There were hundreds of Indians and Europeans at the Point to say good-bye to him. Before Mr. Sastri and Mr. Rao boarded the *Karoa* they were garlanded for the last time by the president of the Natal Indian Congress. As Mr. Sastri stood watching from the ship the people standing below, his thoughts were about the College which he was leaving uncompleted. Now and then as he saw the faces of those who had promised donations towards that work, he reminded them not to forget to fulfil their promises. As the steamer moved three cheers were given by the crowd, which Mr. Sastri received with his turban raised in his hand. The parting scene was very touching and Indians felt that they were losing a great friend and a guide,

THE CONGRESS

THE ninth session of the South African Indian Congress, after a four days sitting, terminated at midnight on Sunday last. The outgoing and the incoming Agent of the Government of India in South Africa were both present at the deliberations, and whenever any subject relating to any Government Department was discussed an official representing that Department was also present. The outgoing Executive gave a very creditable account of their work during the past year. The condonation question was one of the most difficult and delicate questions that have ever faced the Congress and it was rendered more difficult by an opposition that constantly misguided the people. The Liquor Bill was another obstinate question. Both these questions took up the larger portion of the past year and the latter has been only partially settled.

The incoming Executive have, therefore, a heavier task before them. For, in addition to settling the trouble arising out of Clause 102 of the Liquor Act, they have now to deal with the very serious position in the Transvaal where almost two-thirds of the Indian population is threatened virtually with the deprivation of its very existence. We refer to the action of the Johannesburg Municipality as a result of the Braamfontein case judgment. Although this question affects particularly the Transvaal Indians, the seriousness of it is such that it will have to be taken up as a South African matter. We shall deal with this question fully in our next week's issue. It is regrettable that such questions as these should constantly arise only to retard the progress of the community in other directions. There are other important matters that will claim the attention of the South African Indian Congress but the first question is that of existence and when that is in danger other things remain in the background.

The Transvaal Province who had the headquarters of the S.A.I.C. last year is to be congratulated for the way it has discharged its difficult duties and it is to be congratulated also for having accepted it for another year, Natal, to whom it should have gone, having been reluctant to do so.

It should be noted that the success of the past year's work of the Congress was largely due to the very energetic work of Mr. Pragji Desai who relinquishes his office as

Secretary together with his co-secretary Mr. Hazaree. Those who have seen him only know how he has drudged along with his work day and night. The community's congratulations are due to him and his co-secretary.

Advocate A. Christopher has been re-elected as president, which goes to prove the confidence he enjoys of all the Provinces. The task before him is an unenviable one and we hope it will be rendered easier by the support and co-operation of the community. Mr. S. R. Naidoo is a seasoned soldier. For many years he has been the secretary of the Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) and his ability and consistency are well known. We have no doubt, he with his co-secretary Mr. E. Mall who very creditably filled his post as treasurer in the past year, will prove equal to their task. Mr. M. E. Lakhi of Greytown has not taken an active part in political affairs but his munificence is well-known. He is the largest donor in the Sastri College scheme to which he has given the sum of £700. In other commercial funds too he has been found to be always generous. Mr. Ishwarbhai Patel is a prominent merchant in Johannesburg and highly respected by every section of the community. He, too, has never lagged behind in giving his share in communal matters. Their election as treasurers is very appropriate and, we have no doubt, they will be able to report themselves creditably.

We wish the incoming Executive every success in their onerous task in the ensuing year.

Notes and News

Sir Kurma V. Reddi left for Capetown on Thursday to meet the members of the Government and members of the House. After a few weeks in Capetown Sir Kurma will visit the Transvaal before returning to Durban.

A deputation of the Transvaal Indians interviewed Sir Kurma Reddi, the new Agent of the Government of India, last Wednesday on the licensing question and the Liquor Act. The Agent gave them a sympathetic hearing and promised to make representations to the Government to secure relief.

A distinguished Hindu preacher by the name of Pandit Ramgovind Shastri has arrived in Durban from Mauritius. We understand he is a Benares Brahmin and is a journalist, philosopher, historian and preacher. He is a Sanskrit scholar. It is his intention, we understand, to remain in South Africa for about six months visiting the various centres and studying local conditions, after which he will co-opt with Ithawani Dayal Sanyasi in compiling several books on Indians Abroad. Any one desiring to interview the Pundit can do so by applying to the Secretary, Hindu Temple, Depot Road, Durban.

South African Indian Congress

Ninth Session Held At Durban

The ninth session of the South African Indian Congress completed its sittings at the M. K. Gandhi Library on Sunday at 12 p.m. Mr. I. Walker Chief Inspector of Labour, Mr. J. R. Hartshorne of the Immigration Department, Mr. Turnbull, Postmaster Durban, and Mr. Murray of the Railway department were present during the session.

The most important and animated discussion took place on the situation arisen in the Transvaal as a result of the Braamfontein case judgment owing to which hundreds of applications for renewals of licences have been held up. The main speakers were Mr. S. B. Medh who feelingly related the whole position and Mr. M. D. Bharoochi who said that this action amounted to kicking Indians right in the stomach.

Thanks To Mr. Sastri

The resolution thanking Mr. Sastri for his invaluable services had also produced impressive scenes. Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee was the mover of the resolution. He paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Sastri and was followed by almost all the delegates who spoke feelingly on the subject.

Mr. Sastri, who was garlanded by the President, eloquently expressed his thanks and advised Indians to work unitedly and asked the leaders of the community not to shirk their responsibility no matter in whatever circumstances they may be placed. He was pleased to be assured by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee that the College would be completed. ✓

Election

The following new officials were elected the headquarters remaining in the Transvaal :—Advocate A. Christopher President, Mr. S. R. Naidoo (Maritzburg) and Mr. E. Mall (Johannesburg) Jt. hon. Secretaries, Mr. M. E. Lakhi (Greytown) and Mr. Ishwarbhai B. Patel of Messrs. I. C. Ashabhai & Co. (Johannesburg) Jt. Hon. Treasurers.

The venue of the next session was decided to be Capetown

Farewell Banquet To Mr. Sastri

A farewell banquet was given in honour of Mr. Sastri at the Town Hall, Durban, by the Natal Indian Congress on Saturday the 26th January.

Mr. Harold Wodson, Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, presided and there were present about three hundred people including a large number of prominent Europeans and Indians.

After toasting the King the chairman referred to the magnificent work which Mr. Sastri had accomplished in the Union. When he left for India Mr. Sastri would leave South Africa infinitely the poorer.

Mr. Sastri's Speech

Mr. Sastri in his reply referred at the outset to the kind things said by the chairman which he could not accept as they stood.

"In politics," said Mr. Sastri, "you are either rewarded greatly or not at all. To some persons honour is added to honour, and in the case of others that which they have is taken away. For the last few days you have been rewarding me in both hands without measure of any sort morning and evening. I am experienced enough, however, to make a very large discount from what is commonly said of me. Still, I do give a thought that there are only two

days more before I go, and that there is a limit to the burden you can cast on me."

As he heard what was said, went on the Agent-General, he sometimes cast an uneasy glance where his successor in office sat. What did the latter think, he asked himself. It reminded him of an episode in the history of India which described how Shri Rama, prince of Ayodhya, on the point of setting out for 14 years' banishment, advised his wife to remain behind in the palace, do her duties faithfully, but "beware how you praise me to him who takes the Throne from me." (Laughter).

Happy Results

"Mr. Wodson seems to be of that class of fast friends who consider in the praise of those they love it is not illegitimate to press a certain degree of untruth into their statements.

"In work of the nature I have had to undertake there are many more parts than one. If my personality were ten times greater than what it is it would still be only one factor of the numerous things that together go to make up the final result. It is unscientific, Mr. Wodson, to attribute to any one of these factors the whole of the potencies that join together to give us happy results. But I do not wish even in flattery, to say much about that. But really and truly, when you come to consider the problems, what could I have done? Unless all the people I have dealt with had had the mind and temper, moral and spiritual, to respond to my efforts, unless, indeed, there had been already in them the will to do justice, what could I have done? What could I have done with people who had abandoned virtue in a world of virtues and were determined to push ahead, heedless of what might happen to them afterwards?"

"It was my happy lot to find things had been brought up to that condition in which very little was required to put them on their proper basis. The South African population, it seems to me, have been in the right frame of mind. One had only to come here and talk to audiences in accents of moderation and confidence to discover how little was required to banish misconceptions and misunderstandings. I confess to you that I was among those who believed that there was much more intrinsically wrong in South Africa than there is, and I go back to India in that belief that the Capetown Agreement will solve the major problems which confront us.

"Something occurred to disturb your political equanimity. Something occurred to disturb what you consider your economic prosperity, and then things went from bad to worse until your minds became occupied with thoughts of an anti-social nature until it seemed as though in South Africa there was to be racial bitterness as a firm feature of public life. But the aspect of the problem changed and the natural feeling of sympathy and fairmindedness rose to the surface to be committed to paper in the Capetown Agreement.

Obligations

"The doctrine therein contained was an indication to the civilised world that the Government was bound by certain obligations which could not be set aside. These obligations embraced every section of the community.

—Mr. Sastri referred to the misunderstanding created by the South African Party that repatriation under the Capetown Agreement was not permanent. He explained that under the scheme one can return only after returning to the Government all the money received in the way of bonus to himself and his family and all the money which had been incurred in taking him from South Africa to India. This was a difficult thing to do and in proof Mr. ✓

Any government that can for a day enforce its laws without appealing to the people for their consent, is an absolute government.

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence—it is force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.—George

Sastri explained that it was now eight months since it had been possible for people to return from India and of about 4,000 who went away, only 10 applied for permission to return. That showed, he said, how far the scheme had assisted immigration in the desired direction of being permanent.

"I hope that the matter will be understood in its true nature, and that no attempt will be made by the South African Party, or the Labour Party or the Nationalist Party to have the Capetown Agreement brought within the controversy during the elections. (Applause.)

"I have been told by many people on both sides of the House that, so far as they are concerned, they will not use the Indian question as a means of gaining votes. The Agreement, it seems to me, has worked marvellously well, and I strongly deprecate any attempt to interfere with it. On the question of upliftment a good deal might still be said, but I am tired of discussing it. Much has been done and although much still remains to be done, it will not do for me to weary you. My friend Sir Kurma, who has to begin his life here will perhaps find it necessary to touch upon this matter. I hope you will extend to him the same indulgence as you have extended to me.

"My time with you has been an exceedingly happy time. I have been met with a sympathetic response to my work on all sides. Hospitality I have had in abundance in every part of your beautiful country.

"Just one final remark on behalf of my successor. My successor comes from my Province. We have been associated for many years, and I can therefore speak of him with a certain amount of knowledge. He has had a very prominent part to play in the affairs of the Madras Presidency. The fortunes of a great political party have been in his hands for the last six years. He was entrusted with an important portfolio. He attended Geneva on behalf of India, and I can tell you that in coming to this country, he has made a very great sacrifice indeed. He might again have been a member of the Madras Government.

"It is prospects of this kind that Sir Kurma has set aside in order to serve his countrymen in this part of the world. You must treat him even as you have treated me for the interests which are so sacred to the British Commonwealth of Nations are safe in his hands. I leave this country with the feeling of confidence that the work that I did will be carried on in a higher level and with greater efficiency." (Applause.)

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee in toasting the chairman said it was friends like Mr. Harold Wodson in whom Indians had hopes for a better future in this country.

The function terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.—*Natal Advertiser.*

Natal Indian Congress

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress will be held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban, on Sunday 24th February 1929 at 2-30 p.m.

Agenda: Minutes, Secretary's report, Treasurers' Financial Report, Revision of Rules, Election of Officers, General.

SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,

President:

A. I. KAJEE } Jt. Hon.
P. R. PATHER } Secretaries.

South African Indian Congress

Joint Hon. Secretaries' Report

The following annual report of the work done during the year by the South African Indian Congress was submitted by Mr. P. K. Desai and duly adopted by the Conference:—

We have great pleasure in submitting to you our report for the year 1928.

From the moment the Kimberley session concluded, your Executive found itself in the midst of a very agitated community which was moved to its depths, principally by the questions of condonation and the Liquor Bill.

Condonation

Much of the time during the past year was devoted to questions arising out of Act 37 of 1927. We do not propose to enter into each and every phase of the condonation of illicit immigrants. To do so, would run into very many pages. We, therefore, briefly would report that, according to Resolution No. 9 passed at the Kimberley Conference, a deputation consisting of Messrs. A. Christopher (Deputy-President), P. K. Desai (Hon. Secretary), V. S. C. Pather, A. Ismail and S. M. Desai, waited in the month of February last on the Minister of the Interior in Capetown. The Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, the Agent to the Government of India, with whom the question on several occasions had been fully discussed, was also present at the interview. The deputation presented a memorandum to the Minister who also put forward a scheme of condonation; both of which formed the basis of discussion with the Minister. Our spokesman, Mr. Christopher, pleaded among other things for every illicit immigrant into the Union before July 1927, to be condoned. The Minister would not agree, saying that it was necessary that an illicit immigrant should have been at least 3 years in the country before he could be condoned as that period was a statutory requirement even in the case of lawful immigrants. Objection was also taken to the Minister laying it down, that a condonee who had not already brought his wife and children to the Union would not be entitled to do so, but the Minister, after an appeal that it was wrong in the sight of God and man to separate husbands and wives and their children, agreed to reconsider the question after the conclusion of the condonation period favourably if the number of condonees were not too great. As a prevention of wives and children from joining their husbands and fathers was also a violation of the Reciprocity Resolution of the Imperial Conference, this is a question that merits the support of the Indian Government and the sympathetic consideration of the Union Ministers, so that condonees may fulfil their duties of citizenship and lead a happy home life. As it is, the law requires, if a father desires to bring his minor child, the mother must accompany the child. The idea, we take it, is to encourage Indians to live with their families in the Union so that those who formed the permanent population may lead health normal lives.

As soon as the condonation scheme was gazetted persons who were opposed to your Congress placed all kinds of interpretations upon the scheme which unsettled the minds of those affected by the scheme. Your Congress has at no time held out that the scheme was the most perfect or the best. It certainly gives recognition to illicit and places them on a lawful footing.

Great difficulties were experienced by your Executive in connection with a line being drawn to define from how far back illegal entrants had to apply. The Executive felt that a line must be drawn at 1914, the year of the Gandhi-Bhulag Agreement,

There was a general desire in all the Provinces that this line must be drawn; that those who entered illegally after the 1914 Settlement should only apply. Your Executive were in touch with Mahatma Gandhi who cabled to the Agent of the Government of India urging him to assist your Executive in getting the 1914 line drawn. The Agent went to Capetown to interview the Minister on the question and your Executive also addressed the Minister on the question. The Minister refused to draw the line. Your Executive continued in their endeavour to secure the 1914 line.

At a later date, however, the Commissioner of Asiatics defined who were legal residents in the Transvaal. The definition gave general satisfaction in the Transvaal. Your Executive waited upon the Secretary to the Minister of Interior and the Asiatic Commissioner and urged the extension of the definition with the necessary alterations to the Natal Province. But they would not agree to do so. Papers relating to the condonation are to be found in the annexures hereto. Meetings in all the Provinces were held and printed matter circulated explaining the condonation scheme. Every endeavour was made to explain every aspect of the scheme. It is gratifying that a very large number have taken advantage of the scheme, notwithstanding counter agitation on the part of several persons.

Exemption

As regards Resolution No. 13 the Department of the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs has promised to deal with this question after the completion of condonation. Your Executive directed the Transvaal Indian Congress, as this question directly affected them, to deal with it. The deputation of that Congress waited upon the Commissioner of Asiatic Affairs and discussed at length the question of exempted Indians. The Commissioner held that where an exempted Indian had obtained a letter of exemption on false representations that letter could be cancelled. That many Indians had obtained the letter of exemption on condition that they would do certain kinds of communal work at certain places but that in fact many of them were not carrying out the conditions for they were either trading or working as book-keepers or shop assistants. That such exempted Indians should apply for condonation. As there was difficulty in finding out the exact position of every exempted Indian, a general notice was published in the *Indian Opinion*, the *Star* and the *Rapid Daily Mail*, requesting all Indians holding exemption certificates to make provisional application for condonation, and the Commissioner promised to deal with each case on its merits.

Repatriation

As to resolution No. 14 a letter has been written to the Government of India as to what is being done by it for repatriated Indians on arrival in India, and thereafter. No reply has yet been received though the letter was written months ago. We have also inquired of the Agent. The Union Government sent the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatics to India to investigate. On his return we applied to him for a copy of his report on his visit to India. He has replied to say that the report was confidential and for departmental use only and therefore he could not give us a copy. Questions on repatriation were asked in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi and the official replies as published are given in the annexures.

Northern Districts

Act No. 33 of 1927, an act to amend the law relating to Asiatics in the Northern Districts of Natal as defined in Natal Law No. 1 of 1903 was put into operation by the Government last year. Your Deputy President in conjunction with the Natal

Indian Congress in whose Province the Northern Districts lie represented applicants who had been refused registration before the Magistrate sitting at an appeal court in Vryheid. The Natal Indian Congress handled this matter which is not yet complete.

Transkei

In terms of resolution No. 9 the members of the sub-committee who went to Capetown to interview the Minister on condonation also interviewed the Secretary for Native Affairs at the suggestion of the Prime Minister. On the question of the introduction of wives by lawfully resident Indians in the Transkei and also on the question of the rights of their children. The Secretary fully discussed these matters with your sub-committee and promised to place your representations before the Minister. A proclamation has since been issued bearing on these questions which you will find among the annexures.

Liquor Bill

Resolution No. 6 in regard to the Liquor Bill was promptly dealt with. Representations were made to the Minister of Justice, protest meetings were held in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Maritzburg, and other centres in the Union. Our women too held meetings and protested, and in other ways co-operated with us. Cables were sent to the Government of India, Indian National Congress, and prominent Indian leaders, to bring pressure on the Government of the Union. The Agent supported your representation and, as you know, the obnoxious clause 101 was deleted from the Bill. Although this clause was deleted, there are still several restrictions in the Law which very adversely affect Indians. This is particularly so of clause 102 which deprives Indians, mostly Colonial-born, from earning their livelihood in the liquor and catering trades. A number of them are already thrown out of employment in the Transvaal. The Transvaal Indian Congress in co-operation with the Licensing Victuallers' Association made representations to the Minister of Justice on clause 102 but the Minister refused to grant any relief. The Agent has been very much concerned with this question and has been making representations to the Union Government. And we have no doubt that the incoming Agent will continue to support your representations on this matter until relief is secured.

Housing And Sanitation

As regards resolution No. 19 the Report of the Central Housing Board was published on the 15th January 1929 which has been well received by our community and if given effect to would improve the housing condition of our people in and around Durban. A copy of the report is included in the annexures.

Education

In regard to resolution No. 17 the Education Enquiry Commission of Natal published its report. The full subsidy from the Union Government for Indian education was not used for that purpose. As a result of the evidence given before the Commission which was backed by the Agent the full amount will now in accordance with the report of the Commission be used for Indian education and not diverted to other purposes. So far the position is an improvement of the past.

Mr. Kichlu and Miss Gordon who came in connection with the question of Indian education in Natal also investigated the Indian education in the Transvaal. We understand that he made certain representations to the educational authorities in the Transvaal. The document was we are told confidential and therefore we do not know the contents of the report made by Mr. Kichlu. On representation made to the Minister of Education

tion on agricultural, industrial and technical education we have had a reply from the Minister which is not satisfactory, except that in regard to Transvaal the Witwatersrand Technical Institute has expressed its willingness sympathetically to consider the facilities for Indians if full details of facilities required are supplied and such information demands action.

Railways

As regards resolution No. 20 the Minister's reply was communicated to Provincial bodies. The letter was discussed by the Executive on more than one occasion and the Provincial representatives undertook to furnish a list of their Provincial grievances to their Executive but they have not yet done so.

A complaint had been lodged with us by the Boksburg Indian community at East Rand that the Stationmaster compelled the Indians to buy tickets at the counter reserved for Natives. As a result of representations made to the General Manager of the South African Railways suitable instructions were issued to the Stationmaster at Boksburg.

Posts And Telegraphs

The Postmaster-General in reply to the resolution passed at Kimberley on the provision of separate counters in Post Offices on racial grounds replied that the separation was not with the object of discrimination but in order to facilitate the work of the Post Office with different sections of the community.

Labour

As to resolution No. 21 your deputation which went to Capetown to discuss condonation with the Minister also interviewed the Minister of Labour and discussed with him the effects of the Industrial Conciliation Act, Wages Act and Apprenticeship Act on Indians. The Minister of Labour said that his Department would see to the fair administration of these laws.

It is a matter of encouragement that a congress of Indian workers—the first Indian Trade Union Congress in this country—was held in Durban on the first day of December 1928 the convenors being the Natal Indian Congress. Mr. Sastri opened the Congress, your Deputy President presiding, and among others were representatives of the Labour Department. Trade unions formed by Indians are all with an open constitution. The Congress has been formed for the purpose of organising the workers and securing for them admission in the existing trade unions in the country and where there is no trade union in existence in a particular industry, trade or occupation, to secure registration for such trade unions as may be formed.

The South African Trade Union Executive and the Natal Workers' Congress (which is the organisation now formed by the Indian workers also with an open constitution) met in Johannesburg on the 7th January 1929. The Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri and Mr. J. D. Tyson his Secretary as well as Mr. McGregor, Registrar of Trade Unions, and Mr. Walker, Inspector of Labour were present. There was free and frank talk at the meeting in which the representatives of the Labour Department took part. Mr. Sastri also addressed the meeting. A resolution was passed with our concurrence. The meeting terminated in an atmosphere of understanding.

Licences

As to resolution No. 16, provincial bodies were asked to supply us with particulars of all cases in which licences were refused, whether new, transfers or renewals, so that the Executive may put a statement for the Agent to go upon in making representations for a revision of the licensing laws so that

the right of appeal to the Courts may be restored to aggrieved parties and all licence matters. Some information was collected in the Transvaal but no Province has communicated to us the information asked for.

In the Transvaal, following upon the judgments in the Norword and Braamfontein cases, certificates of renewals of licences have been held up by the Town Council of Johannesburg. It is estimated that quite half of the amount of licences annually issued are thus held up. We understand that the other half were issued prior to the judgment. In Klerksdorp, Litchtenburg and other centres in Witwatersrand, are affected. In Springs a case has been heard by Justice Krause in which judgment has been reserved.

The Transvaal Indian community is in view of this hold up very much agitated as considerable interests are involved and their credit is likely to be affected thereby and if the hold up continues indefinitely or the certificates refused, a large section of the community will be ruined.

Representations were made by your officials to the Agent on the whole licence question as it forms a part of the Capetown Agreement, but the Agent was not able to take up the matter as he had to deal with so many and various questions. It therefore falls to the new Agent to help us to get relief in this matter.

In regard to the present Transvaal licence trouble, the retiring Agent has made representations.

Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C.

Much of the Agent's time was taken up with the condonation question. In all the Provinces the provincial bodies gave him no rest. One after another new points were raised, and he had to deal with them so that the people may be satisfied. He had to address mass meetings in all the Provinces explaining the condonation scheme in detail removing the doubts that had been raised in the minds of the people by those who were opposed to your Congress. The Agent's office helped in every way possible.

The Agent made extensive tours in all the Provinces and gave many lectures to European audiences. His lectures on Indian philosophy and literature at the Witwatersrand and Cape University were very well received. His lectures on the Indian Agreement and on the Indian question in the Union were of great educational value in our cause. His appeals to Europeans to treat Indians justly and fairly have made good impressions on the European public. By his many and varied activities in the Union he has brought better understanding between the two countries. He has made South Africa realise that his countrymen belong to a country whose civilisation, literature, art, and culture are in no way inferior to any other country. It is unfortunate for us that he is now leaving this country for India. In the future Indians in South Africa will look to him in India for help and service as they always do to Mahatma Gandhi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and Mr. Andrews.

We shall not forget the Klerksdorp incident. In the month of September, while the Agent with his staff was touring the Transvaal province, an unhappy incident happened at Klerksdorp which is now well known. The incident excited tremendous regret throughout the country; from various parts of the Union telegraphic messages were received by the Headquarters of the South African Indian Congress from several Europeans who had expressed sorrow at the untoward and unseemingly occurrence, paying tribute to the statesmanship and scholarly attainments of Mr. Sastri.

The Agent's Staff

Messrs. Tyson, Rao and Ricketts were of great help to your Executive and the working of your Congress and to them your thanks are due.

Mr. Kichlu And Miss Gordon

The Government of India sent Mr. Kichlu and Miss Gordon to assist in the educational enquiry in Natal. They visited every part of Natal, Transvaal and the Cape. Mr. Kichlu put up a valuable report before the Commission and assisted in the enquiry. His work assisted by Miss Gordon was highly appreciated by the Indian community.

Indian Trade Delegation

In the month of May the Government of India sent a trade delegation to this country. The delegation consisted of Dr. D. B. Meek and Messrs. T. Maloney, Jivandas P. Dutia and A. N. Bose (secretary to the delegation.) The work of the delegation was to enquire into the possibilities of trade between India and the Union particularly with the Textile Trade. They had to report also on the appointment of a Trade Commissioner in South Africa. Your Congress assistance and its branches rendered them every possible. Mr. A. T. Brennan, for the Union Government, travelled with the delegation throughout the Union. Every opportunity was afforded for the study of trade in this country. The delegation left for India in the middle of June.

Thanks

We have to thank many in the Government and Municipal Departments, the Press, many European friends and fellow workers for help and advice during our term of office.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed at the ninth session of the South African Indian Congress held at Durban on the 24th 25th 26th and 27th January 1929:—

KING EMPEROR

That this meeting of the representatives of the South African Indian community assembled in Conference at the ninth session of the South African Indian Congress in Durban hereby expresses its sincere sympathy with the King Emperor in his recent serious illness and its deep gratitude to Almighty God for his recovery and prays for his complete restoration to health. This Conference tenders its loyalty to his Throne and Person.

LALA LAJPATRAI

That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress assembled in Durban deplores the passing away of Lala Lajpatrai, a patriot of India, and appreciates his many and invaluable services rendered in the cause of India and her children overseas.

EDUCATION

That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress assembled in Durban while recognising and appreciating recent efforts to improve educational facilities though such efforts were directed to the Natal province only respectfully desires to bring to the notice of Union and Provincial Governments the extreme urgency for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education and of technical, industrial and agricultural education throughout the Union and requests that steps may be taken in that direction in accordance with the upliftment clause in the Capetown Agreement.

LICENCES

That this Conference re-affirms the resolution passed at its eighth session on the licensing question and again urges that having regard to the harsh and unjust admin-

istration of the licensing laws in different parts of the Union in so far as Indians are concerned, that the Union Government may be pleased to implement the undertaking given in the Capetown Agreement to revise the existing licensing laws of the several provinces.

That this Conference views with great alarm the decision of the Johannesburg and other municipalities in the Transvaal to hold up the issue of certificates of approval of renewals of licences to Indians as a result of certain recent Supreme Court decisions on licensing matters affecting Indians. That this hold up is seriously and prejudicially affecting the vested interests and potential rights of Indians and Indian traders and asks the Agent of the Government of India to support its urgent representations to the Government to stay the hand of the municipalities until the Government considers the whole licensing question in terms of the Capetown Agreement.

LIQUOR ACT

That this Conference makes an earnest appeal to the Hon. the Prime Minister and the Hon. the Minister of Justice to consider the effect of the operation of Sections 78 sub-section B, of Section 102 sub-section 2 and Section 103 sub-section 2 on Indians in the Union employed in the catering and liquor trade. This Conference further draws their attention to the number of Indians who as a result of the operation of the Liquor Act are thrown out of employment in the Transvaal and appeals to the Ministers to grant administrative relief until such time as the Ministers may be pleased to repeal the said sections.

IMMIGRATION

That this Conference resolves that the incoming executive of the South African Indian Congress call for and obtain from each of its constituents bodies a memorandum of grievances and disabilities arising out of Immigration, Condonation and assisted emigration scheme and to frame a memorandum for submission by the executive to the respective Union Ministers at the earliest opportunity for redress.

REPATRIATION

In view of the reports emanating from repatriates that their welfare in India is being, this Conference feels that a thorough investigation into the matter should be instituted and for this purpose instructs the Executive to do the needful. This Conference further respectfully requests the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri to inquire into the conditions of repatriates in India and to communicate to the Executive the result of his investigations.

INDIAN TRADE UNION CONGRESS

That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress congratulates the Natal Indian Congress upon the formation of the first Indian trade Union Congress; this Conference further urges all workers in the various occupations to join the existing Trade Unions and to foster the formation of New Unions. This Conference desires the executive to continue its co-operation with the workers Congress to ameliorate the condition of workers.

RAILWAYS

That having regard to the many grievances which the Indian community labour under on the railways of the Union this Conference of the South African Indian Congress assembled in Durban respectfully requests that the Minister for Railways and Harbours be pleased to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to inquire into such grievances with a view to affording relief.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

That this Conference respectfully submits to the Hon. the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs that the separation of races in Post and Telegraph offices is unnecessary and hurts the susceptibilities of Indians and this Conference suggests that the establishment of non-racial post and telegraph offices in thickly populated non-European localities would lessen congestion in big post and telegraph offices and make for less public dissatisfaction. This

Conference also suggests that the employment of Indians as postal clerks and post men would help to facilitate postal departments work.

LAND QUESTION IN THE TRANSVAAL

That this Conference is of opinion that the right to purchase land in the Province of Transvaal should be restored to Indians domiciled in that province so as to give them security of land tenure to enable them to attain western standard of civilization. This Conference earnestly appeals to Government to repeal all Transvaal Laws which prohibit Indians from acquiring land.

LABOUR

In view of the very low rates of wages paid to the unskilled labourers, this Conference supports the appeal of the Natal Workers Congress that the Minister of Labour may direct the Wage Board to investigate the conditions of such persons particularly in the Natal Province and to take such action as may be found necessary to ameliorate their condition.

IMMIGRATION LAWS

That this Conference reiterates its objection generally to the principles and incidence of the Indian immigration laws on Indians introduced to this country and their descendants and this Congress asks for the repeal of such laws so that Indians as British subjects and in order that they may attain standards of civilization, they be brought under the ordinary laws of the country. That the Natal Indian Congress prepare and submit a memorandum on the subject for the consideration and action of the executive.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SHOWS

That this Conference feels that it would be beneficial to the Indian community of Natal if the Congress will continue to promote agricultural and industrial shows in Natal and to this purpose instructs the Natal Indian Congress to make the necessary arrangements. That the Natal Indian Congress also approach European Societies holding agricultural and industrial shows to permit Indians to exhibit at their shows.

TRAVELLING ACCOMODATION ON STEAMSHIPS

This Conference is of opinion that the present system of deck accommodation on Steamships plying between India and Africa is unhealthy and not conducive to the moral and social uplift of the Indian community who very largely patronise these Steamships and hereby recommends to the incoming executive to make such representations as may be necessary to the shipping authorities concerned to improve the accommodation now provided and to introduce 3rd class accommodation.

OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT

That this Congress respectfully urges upon the Indian National Congress the necessity of placing its Overseas Department on a working basis so as to enable to be of assistance to South African Indians.

OLD AGE PENSION

That this Conference respectfully appeals to the Union Government that the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act be extended to South African Indians.

FINANCE

This Conference resolves that apart from contributions and levies from provincial bodies a capital fund be raised and invested so as to bring in a sufficient annual return to provide for the expenses of the Congress and thus make for its smooth and efficient working.

WITNESS FEES

That this Congress reiterates that the present scale of witness fees paid in the Law Courts of the Union is unfair and degrading to Indians as Indians and should be based not on racial ground but on the status of the witness.

INTERPRETERS

That this Congress reiterates that it is of the opinion that in view of an interpreter being expected to be qualified in several languages and to assist in the administration of justice and to live in ordinary comfort, the scale of salary fixed up by the Government is inadequate and beggarly and strongly protests against the Government disregarding the recommendations of the Public Service Commission on this subject.

THE RT. HON. V. S. S. SASTRI

That this ninth session of the South African Indian Congress assembled in Durban as representing the Indian community of the Union hereby places on record its highest appreciation and deep sense of gratitude for the very invaluable services rendered to the Indian community of South Africa by the Right Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, P.C., Agent of the Government of India, who has, by his outstanding personality, his gift of eloquence and his statesmanship secured not only a better understanding and created a better atmosphere between the European and the Indian but has laid a lasting foundation of friendship and goodwill between South Africa and India and has brought the two countries together in a closer bond of friendship and amity.

MR. P. K. RAO

That this ninth session of the South African Indian Congress thanks Mr. P. K. Rao for the inestimable services rendered by him to the Indian community of the Union, as private secretary to the Right Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, P.C., Agent to the Government of India, and hereby records its gratitude to the Servants of India Society which spared him in the cause of the Indian community and to his dear mother for permitting him to come to South Africa to assist and advance the interests of the community here.

OFFICIALS AND EXECUTIVE

This ninth session of the South African Indian Congress hereby places on record its sense of gratitude to the officials and executive of the Congress for their invaluable services rendered during their term of office.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

That the executive suggests to the trustees of the Phoenix Settlement the desirability of establishing an agricultural and industrial school on the settlement and if the trustees are favourable to the suggestion, to cooperate with them in the establishment of such a school.

MAHATMA GANDHI

That this ninth session of the South African Indian Congress assembled in Durban records its profound sense of affection, gratitude and love to Mahatma Gandhi.

THANKS

That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress thanks the Committee of the Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall for having placed the Hall at its disposal for its sittings.

That this Conference thanks the Minister of Interior and health for the appointment of the central housing board to inquire into the housing and sanitation conditions in and around Durban and appreciates the impartial manner in which the inquiry was conducted.

That this Conference thanks the Ministers and their administrative officers for their sympathetic consideration of Indian questions.

That this Conference is grateful to the Government of India, Indian National Congress, other public bodies and leaders and the press of India for their interest and help in the South African Indians cause.

That this Conference thanks those public bodies, persons and the Press for the interest they have manifested in the welfare of the Indian community and for helping to make the spirit of the Capetown Agreement better understood.

POWERS TO THE EXECUTIVE

That this Congress empowers the executive to take all necessary measures to give effect to the principles in the foregoing resolutions in so far as such resolutions fall within its scope and generally to act in regard to the resolutions as provided in the constitution of the South African Indian Congress.

Vacancies For Indian Teachers

The attention of those interested is invited to the list of vacant posts in Schools for Indian children appearing in a supplement to the *Transvaal Provincial Gazette* of the 30th January 1929.

Applications must reach the School Boards not later than the 10th February 1929.

Copies of the supplement may be obtained on application to the various School Boards in the Transvaal, or to the Secretary, Transvaal Education Department, Pretoria.

F. S. MALAN,

Secretary,
Transvaal Education Department.

નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ

વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ

આથી જાહેર કરવામાં આવે છે નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસની વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ પારસી ફ્રેન્કમલ હોલ, ક્વીન સ્ટ્રીટ રજમવામાં રવીવાર તા. ૨૪ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૨૯ ના રોજ બપોર ૨-૩૦ વાગે મળશે.

કાર્યક્રમ: મીનીટસ, સેક્રેટરીનો રીપોર્ટ, ટ્રેઝરરનો રીપોર્ટ, પારાઓમાં ફેરફાર, અમલદારોની ચુટણી જનરલ.

સોરાબજી ફ્રેન્કમલ,

પ્રમુખ.

એ. આર્થ. કાજી } એસ્ટ. એન.
પી. આર. પ્રથર } સેક્રેટરીઓ.

અમરેની કોમેટોરીયમ સોસાયટી

જનરલ મીટીંગ

અરે ચુબ્બ ઇલાકાના હીંદુ ભાઈઓને વીનંતી કરવામાં આવે છે કે આ સોસાયટીના પ્રમુખ રા. શ. જે. બી. મહેતા જેઓ સ્વદેશ જતાં તેમનું આવેલ શાળાનું ખાસ કરવા તથા તેમની બદલી માં નવા ચેરમેનની ચુટણી કરવા તથા રા. શ. બી. એમ. પટેલ જેઓ આ સોસાયટીના વાર્ષિક ચેરમેન છે તેઓ સ્વદેશ ગયેલ હોવાથી તેમની બદલીમાં નવા વાર્ષિક ચેરમેનની ચુટણી કરવા આ સોસાયટીની જનરલ મીટીંગ રવીવાર તા. ૨૦-૨-૨૯ ના રોજ બપોરના ૫ વાગ્યે સુરત હીંદુ એસોસિએશનના હોલમાં મળશે જે સખત સહ ભાઈઓ વખતસર પ્રધારી આભારી કરશે.

શી. સેવક,

વી. ડી. મહેતા,

સી. ડી. પુનાતર,

એસ્ટ. એ. સેક્રેટરીઓ

અ. ડી. સો.

કમન, તા. ૨૬-૧-૨૯.

સુરત હીંદુ એસોસિએશન

સુરત હીંદુ એસોસિએશનના સર્વ એમ્પરોવે બ્યુઅર અપવામાં આવે છે કે એસોસિએશનની વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ રવીવાર તા. ૩૦ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૨૯ ના રોજ સાંજના ત્રણ વાગ્યે ૧૨૭ વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ વાળા હોલમાં મળશે.

તા. ક. પડીત રામગોવિન્દ શાહીના સત્કારથી મળતી મીટીંગમાં ખલેલ નહિ પહોંચે તે માટે બે અધવાડીયા માટે એસોસિએશનની મીટીંગ મુક્તવી રાખી છે.

કામકાજ

વાર્ષિક જનરલ રીપોર્ટ.

આફીસરોની તથા એમ્પરોની ચુટણી.

૧૨૭ વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ વાળી પ્રાપર્ટીના પાછળના રૂમે તથા ૨૧, ૨૩ અને ૨૫ ફોસ સ્ટ્રીટ વાળા ઘરો ભાડે આપવા ટેન્ડરો લેવામાં આવશે.

વધુ અથવા ઓછી રકમનું ટેન્ડર પાસ કરવાની સત્તા જનરલ મીટીંગને છે.

શા.

જી. એમ. પટેલ.

સી. સુ. ડી. એ.

શ્રી માયાવંત એસોસિએશન

શ્રી માયાવંત એસોસિએશનની વાર્ષિક જનરલ મીટીંગ રવીવાર તા. ૩-૨-૨૯ ને રોજ બપોરના બે વાગે વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટવાળા મંડળના મકાનમાં મળે છે જે પ્રસંગે ફરક જાતી બંધુઓને વેગસર પધારવા વિનંતિ કરવામાં આવે છે.

કામકાજ

વાર્ષિક રીપોર્ટ આવક જવકનો હીસાબ તેમજ નવા વરસન માટે એપ્રીસરો તથા વ્યવસ્થાક એમ્પરોની ચુટણી પરચુરજ વિગેરે.

શી. સેવક,

નથુ ટાલા.

સેક્રેટરી માયાવંત એસોસિએશન ડરખન.

ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅનના આહુકોને

અમે થોડા વખત પર ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅનના આહુકોને પોતાનાં ચઢી ગયેલાં લવાજમો ભરી દેવાની કરેલાં અપીલ વ્યર્થ નથી ગઈ એ નોંધ લેતાં અમને આનંદ થાય છે. ઘણા ભાઈઓએ યુનીયન અને બહારના ભાગોમાંથી એ અપીલના જવાબ માં પોતાનાં ભુના લવાજમો મોકલી આપી અમને આભારી કર્યાં છે. પરંતુ હજુ ઘણા બહાર છે. જે કે ધીમે ધીમે તે પણ આવતાં જાય છે. જે તેઓ પણ આ વાંચીને મોકલી આપવામાં તાકીદ કરશે તે ઘણી મદદ થઈ પડશે અને અમારા પ્રતિનિધિનો ફેરો તેથી થતો અર્થ અને છાપાના કામમાં પડતી અગવડ એ મુશ્કેલી બચી જશે.

મેનેજર 'ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.'

ઈન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

પુસ્તક ૨૭ મું.

ફ્રીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૨૬

અંક ૫

નોંધ અને સમાચાર

સર કુર્મા કેપટાઉન ગયા

સર કુર્મા રેડી ચુરવારે કેપટાઉન જવા વિદાય થયા હતા. ત્યાં તેઓ પ્રધાનો અને પાર્લામેન્ટના મેમ્બરોની મુલાકાત લેશે. કેપટાઉનમાં થોડા અઠવાડિયાં ગાળી તેઓ ડરબન પાછા આવતાં પહેલાં ટ્રાંસવાલની મુલાકાત લેશે.

ટ્રાંસવાલના હોંદીઓનું ડેપ્યુટેશન

ટ્રાંસવાલના હોંદીઓનું ડેપ્યુટેશન ગયા શુક્રવારે સર કુર્માની મુલાકાતે ગયું હતું અને લીકર એક્ટ અને ટાઉનશીપ એક્ટથી ઉપસ્થિત થએલી સ્થિતિને વિશે રજૂઆતો કરી હતી. સર કુર્માએ ડેપ્યુટેશનને દિલસોજીથી ઠાક આપી હતી અને રાહતને માટે સરકારને રજૂઆતો કરવા કમ્યુલાત આપી હતી.

ટ્રાંસવાલમાં પ્રોટેસ્ટ મીટીંગ

ટ્રાંસવાલમાં વેપારીઓના લાભસેન્સો અટકાવવામાં આવ્યા છે તેની સામે વિરોધ દર્શાવવા અને ઘટતા પગલાં લેવાનો વિચાર કરવા આવતા અઠવાડિયામાં ટ્રાંસવાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસ તરફથી મીટીંગ બોલાવવામાં આવનાર છે.

ડરબનમાં પધારેલા હોંદુ પંડિત

એક પ્રતિષ્ઠિત હોંદુ ધર્મોપદેશક નામે પંડિત રામગોવીંદ શાસ્ત્રી મોરીસ્મસથી ડરબન આવ્યા છે. અમારા સમજવા મુજબ તેઓ બનારસના બ્રાહ્મણ છે અને પત્રકાર, તત્વજ્ઞાની ઇતિહાસકાર અને ઉપદેશક છે. સંસ્કૃતના સ્કોલર છે. તેઓ હએક માસ દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકામાં ગળવા ઇચ્છે છે જે દરમીયાન જુદા જુદા પ્રાંતોની મુલાકાત લઈ સ્થાનિક સ્થિતિનો અભ્યાસ કરશે. જે બાદ તેઓ દરિયાપારના હોંદીઓને લખતાં ફટલાક પુસ્તકો તૃપ્તિાર કરવામાં બવાની દયાલ સન્પાસી સાથે રહી કામ કરશે. જે ઠાક પંડિત રામગોવીંદજીની મુલાકાત લેવા ઇચ્છતા હોય તેમણે ડરબન ડેપોરોડના હોંદુ મંદીરના સેક્રેટરીને અરજી કરવી.

જોષ્ટએ છે

ઇન્ડિઅન ગવર્નમેન્ટ સ્કુલ ઓફ ઇસ્ટનર્નર્ગ (ટ્રાંસવાલ) માટે અંગ્રેજી તથા ગુજરાતી આજરે ૩૦ ઓક્ટોબરે બહુવવા અનુભવી માસ્તર જોષ્ટએ છે. ઉમેદવારે સર્ટીફિકેટ સાથે અરજીના ફોર્મ માટે સ્કુલના સેક્રેટરીને પી. એ. બોક્સ ૧૧૪, ઇસ્ટનર્નર્ગ (ટ્રાંસવાલ) અરજી કરવી.

“ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનીઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા ૧ ફેબ્રુઆરી ૧૯૨૬

સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસની નવમી બેઠક ચાર દિવસનું કામ કરી ગયા રવીવારે મધરાતે સમાપ્ત થઇ હતી. કોંગ્રેસ હોંદ સરકારના નવા અને જુના એજન્ટોએ હાજરી આપી હતી અને જ્યારે જ્યારે ઠાક પશુ સરકારી ખાતાને લગના કરાવો પર ચર્ચા થતી હતી ત્યારે તે તે ખાતાના અમલદારે પશુ તે ચર્ચા સંભળવાને હાજરી આપી હતી.

ફરાગત થતી એકએકયુટીવે મત વર્ષની પોતાની પ્રવૃત્તિનો સારો હેવાલ આપ્યો હતો. કોન્ગ્રેસનનો સવાલ એ સઉથી વધારે ગુચ્છવજુબરેલો અને નાજુક હતો અને ફેટલાક વિરોધીઓ લોકોને બમાવતા હોવાથી તે વધારે મુશ્કેલ ઇઈ પડ્યો હતો. લીકર ખીલનો સવાલ પશુ તેટલોજ મંબીર હતો. આ બન્ને સવાલોમાં ગત વર્ષનો મોટો ભાગ રોકાઈ રહેલો હતો અને લીકર ખીલનો સવાલ તો હજુ અરધોજ પડ્યો છે.

આથી નવી આવનાર એકએકયુટીવને માથે પહેલાં કરનાયે ભારે કામ રહ્યું છે. કેમકે તેણે લીકર એક્ટની કલમ ૧૦૨ થી ઉભી થએલી સ્થિતિનું સમાધાન લાવવા ઉપરાંત તેને ટ્રાંસવાલ માં કે જ્યાં લામફ્રન્ટીનના કેસના ચુકાદાને પરિણામે જોહાનીસબર્ગની મ્યુનીસીપાલિટીએ ધણા વેપારીઓના લાભસેન્સના રીન્યુઅલો અટકાવી રાખ્યા છે અને હોંદી વસ્તીના લમબગ પોણા ભાગની હસ્તી જોષ્ટમમાં આવી પડેલી છે તે સ્થિતિને ધ્યાન દેવાનું રહેશે. જો કે આ સવાલ મુખ્યત્વે કરીને ટ્રાંસવાલને લાગુ પડે છે છતાં તે એટલો મંબીર છે કે તેને સમસ્ત સાઉથ આફ્રિકાના સવાલ તરીકેજ ગણવો જોઇશે. આ સવાલની અમે વિસ્તારથી ચર્ચા આવના અઠવાડિયામાં કરીશું. આવી જાતના સવાલો વખતો વખત ઉપસ્થિત થતા હોવાથી ખીજી દિશાઓમાં કોમની પ્રવૃત્તિને તે રોકે છે એ અલંત જોષ્ટનીય સ્થિતિ છે. સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસને ખીજી પશુ અગલના સવાલો ઉપર ધ્યાન દેવાનું છે પરંતુ પ્રથમ સવાલ તો હસ્તીનોજ છે અને જ્યારે હસ્તીજ જોષ્ટમમાં આવી પડેલી હોય ત્યારે ખીજી ખાખતો સ્વાભાવિક રીતે પાછળ રહી જાય છે.

સાઉથ આફ્રિકન ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસનું હેડક્વોર્ટર્સ મત વર્ષમાં ટ્રાંસવાલમાં હતું અને જે મુંદર રીતે તે પ્રાંતે પોતાની ઉપર પડેલી મુશ્કેલ ફરજો અદા કરી છે તેને માટે તે પ્રાંતના હોંદી ભાષ્ટ્યોને અભિનંદન ઘટે છે. વળી એ પ્રાંતને વધારે અભિનંદન ઘટે છે કેમકે નાટાલ કે જ્યાં આ સાલ હેડક્વોર્ટર્સ આવવું જોઇતું હતું તેણે તે લેવાની નાખુશી બનાવવાથી ટ્રાંસવાલે તે જવાબદારી ફરી ઉઠાવવાનું કમ્યુલ્યુ છે.