

Indian Opinion

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THE LATE MRS. J. J. DOKE

THOSE who know anything about the Passive Resistance movement in South Africa must be acquainted with the Rev. J. J. Doke's family. For the part played by that family in the great struggle was by no means insignificant. Indeed a few Europeans showed such practical sympathy in the cause of Indians during those difficult days. The very first Christ-like act of kindness shown by that family was when they took Mahatma Gandhi from a Johannesburg street, where he was brutally assaulted by his own countrymen, to their home and nursed him with such tender care and devotion that would have been perhaps rare even in an Indian home. The kindness with which all the members of the family received and entertained the crowds of Indians who bombarded their home to inquire about Mahatma Gandhi won for that noble family the veneration of the whole community. The Rev. J. J. Doke did not only sympathise with the Indian community in their struggle but even led



the struggle when the leaders were flung into prison by the authorities by taking over the grave responsibility of editing INDIAN OPINION. And when at the tail end of the struggle the shocking news was received of the death under tragic circumstances of the Rev. J. J. Doke a gloom was cast over the whole Indian community. We are deeply grieved now to break the news of the very sad and sudden death of Mrs. J. J. Doke which took place a few days ago in Johannesburg and we have no doubt that that too will be received by our countrymen with equally profound regret. Though the two great souls have departed from this world their loving memory will ever remain green in the hearts of the Indian community. We tender our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family and especially to Miss Olive Doke, Mrs. Doke's only daughter, who, as fate would have it, was absent in Lambaland where she is doing mission work, when the sad death of her mother took place. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace is our fervent prayer.

Notes and News

PROFOUND regret is felt generally at the illness of Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Agent of the Government of India, which has lasted a little over two weeks. Much concern was felt during the week-end when the illness seemed suddenly to take a bad turn. The Agent has been removed to the Sanitarium since last Monday and while penning these lines news is received of his making satisfactory progress. The Agent has been suffering acute pain in the abdomen and has had high temperature which however seems to have now gone down considerably. We sincerely hope the Agent will have completely recovered within the next few days.

Owing to his illness the Agent was not able to attend many important functions last week and all the engagements already made are for the time being cancelled.

Mr. Henderson at the League Council on the Mandate Report at Geneva is reported to have said the Government had not yet reached a decision on the Hilton-Young report. He assured the Council that whatever decision was taken it would be communicated immediately to the Mandates Commission who would be enabled to consider it and make observations upon it before it was carried out.

Among the matters proposed to be raised at the Nationalist Party Congress to be held at Pretoria from Oct. 2 are that each Province should be compelled to pay for the repatriation of Indians who have to leave such Province; that White labourers should be need on public roads; that drivers' licences to coloured persons to drive motor vehicles should be abolished.

REWARD OF SELF-HELP

THE second annual meeting of the Indian Child Welfare Society held in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall last Saturday night was a function unique in the history of Indians in South Africa. Any stranger that would have attended the function would have felt at once that there was no such thing as an Indian question in South Africa. Such was the sympathy and friendly feeling shown by the Europeans present to the Indian community. The tone of the speeches made by the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, to whom the fact of Indian women being capable of taking active part in public life came as a pleasant surprise and was full of admiration for it, Councillor Mrs. Benson, ex-Councillor Mrs. Otto Siedle, Miss McKenzie of the National Council of Child Welfare of South Africa was eloquent of an honest desire to help. Amidst the dark and gloomy clouds, devoid of all hope, under which Indians are accustomed to live, that was an occasion that indeed brought a ray of hope and very naturally inspired Advocate Christopher, openly and many others inwardly, to give expression to the feeling that life, after all, *was* worth living. It gave the impression that Europeans were not quite so heartless as they sometimes appear to be. It also proved that when an earnest step towards self-help is taken outside sympathy and help comes of its own accord. "God helps those who help themselves" is true in every sense. Child welfare is the very first step towards the progress of humanity and the community owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Sastri who has opened our eyes to the importance of such an institution. If there is lack of interest on the part of the community in this movement it only proves that we do not realise its significance. The kind sympathy and help of the European friends should, however, remove any apathy that may be existing in us and encourage us to take a much livelier interest in this humanitarian work.

We may point out here how very grateful we are to our European friends for their kind interest in this branch of the activities of the Indian community and we would like

to impress upon them that they will not find Indians backward in acknowledging and willing to repay even the smallest act of generosity shown to them by the ruling race what in this or in any other connection.

Upon our own countrymen we would urge that the rule that applies to the Child Welfare Society applies to all other activities. While we may certainly claim from the authorities, with all the strength that we can command, the rights we are entitled to as a section of the residents of this country we may not sit with folded arms waiting for those rights to be granted us and do nothing in the meantime on our own towards the progress of our brethren idly blaming the authorities for not doing what they ought to do. Apart from that lack of the sense of self-help we are unfortunately lacking in National pride. We are eloquent enough in talking about our national honour and self-respect but in our action we are proving ourselves to be an utterly backward race. We may seem to be unusually outspoken but there is no harm in knowing and acknowledging our own defects so long as we are prepared to take steps to remove them. We have been deeply grieved to notice in connection with the Sastri College a growing sectional feeling. The wealthy members of the community who have donated liberally towards this institution seem to think that, after all, it is not their children who are to benefit by this institution but the children of the poor, and they feel that their money has been misplaced. Would that this feeling is not general. But that it is engineered by mischiefmongers there is no doubt. This sort of feeling shows the lack of that patriotic spirit that can only bring Swaraj that India is at present struggling for. Such people should not forget that they owe their present prosperity to their poorer brethren and the greatness that God has given them is not for self-aggrandisement but to utilise it for the service of the lowly. This is but one instance we have quoted. It is not unlikely that the same feeling exists in other matters. With the developing of the sense of self-help it is essential that this undesirable feeling should be eradicated. So long as we harbour that feeling we cannot be said to be having any national pride and without that it is doubtful as to whether we are justified in claiming the rights that a civilised community is entitled to.

Indian Child Welfare Society

Second Annual Meeting

Europeans' Great Interest

The Indian Child Welfare Society, which was founded in Durban two years ago by Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, India's first Agent-General in the Union, and a band of Indian ladies and gentlemen well known in local social circles, held its second annual meeting in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall last Saturday evening, with its president, Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, in the chair.

Among those present were the Mayor and Mayor-ess, Councillor and Mrs. A. Lamont, the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. A. L. Clark, Mrs. G. Christopher (secretary), Mrs. W. Simon, B.A., (ex-secretary), Mrs. J. Lawrence and P. R. Pather (joint treasurers), Mrs. S. Moodley, Advocate A. Christopher, Mr. A. I. Kajee, Mr. Lawrence, the Rev. Henry Cotton, Councillor Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Otto Siedle, Miss McKenzie, Mr. B. M. Patel, Mr. Ismail Gora. Mr. and Mrs. E. Thomas, Mr. Meghraj, Mr. T. M. Naicker, and many others interested in the activities of the Society.

In opening the proceedings Mr. Rustomjee made brief reference to Sir Kurma Reddi's sudden indisposition, which he said made it impossible for him to be present. Mr. Rustomjee then moved a resolution recording the Indian community's anxiety at the Agent-General's illness, and wishing him a speedy recovery. The resolution was seconded by his Worship the Mayor and carried all standing.

Proceeding, the chairman said that ever since the inauguration of the Society two years ago it has been doing admirable work, and the Indian people owed a debt of gratitude to its distinguished founder, Mr. Sastri.

After paying a tribute to all the workers, the Chairman eulogised the excellent work accomplished by Mrs. Simon, the Society's first secretary, who was about to sail for India with her husband. In conclusion he thanked the Mayor and Mayoress and other European friends who had taken a lively interest in the work of the Society.

A Successful Year's Work

Mrs. G. Christopher, who succeeds Mrs. Simon as the Society's secretary, presented her report which revealed a successful year's work. She also announced that the Society was fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Fernandez, the first Indian lady to qualify as a midwife.

Subsequently Mrs. Lawrence submitted her financial report.

The Mayor, in moving the adoption of the reports, congratulated the Society upon the steady progress that was being made. Referring to the founder's work in the Union, he said that there was a time when there was a dead wall of aloofness and indifference, but Mr. Sastri's reasonable arguments in espousing the Indian cause in South Africa had brought about a miraculous change of attitude on the part of the European community.

Mr. A. I. Kajee in seconding the proposal for the adoption of the report dwelt on the usefulness of the institution and while thanking the Town Council for the grant of £20 which was too small a sum, said that we should depend more on our own strength and not rely on help coming from outside. He paid a tribute to the work of the past secretary Mrs. Simon and eulogised the ability of the present secretary Mrs. G. Christopher.

Mrs. Moodley presented a purse of gold and a silver ink stand suitably engraved to Mrs. Simon as a token of the Society's appreciation of

her work as secretary. Mrs. Moodley said that Mrs. Simon's departure for India was a distinct loss to the Indian community of Durban.

Mrs. Simon in replying thanked the Society for the presentation made to her and wished that the Society would grow in time to come into an important institution in the life of the Indian community. She said she would be going to Bangalore where Mr. Sastri was and would inform him of the progress of the institution founded by him.

Councillor Mrs. Benson, who is closely associated with child welfare work among Europeans, declared that children needed the tender care and love of everybody interested in the progress of humanity.

Referring to the remarks regarding the Town Council's grant of £20 to the Society, she said that that amount was rather small, but the Europeans had also experienced the same difficulty. The European Child Welfare Society also had a small beginning, but it had expanded its activities. She urged the Society to persevere, and congratulated it upon its good fortune in securing the services of a fully qualified midwife.

Miss McKenzie, of the National Council of Child Welfare of South Africa, spoke eloquently of Mrs. Simon's excellent work.

Mrs. Otto Siedle said that during her term of office as a Town Councillor she always did her best for the Indians, and would continue to do so.

Mr. A. Christopher spoke with a feeling of gratitude of the very kindly interest shown by the European friends in this work of Indians and said that when one saw that harmony existing between the two communities it indeed made things more hopeful and life worth living.

Society's Report

The annual report of the Society for the year ending 31st July, 1929 recorded some 857 cases mostly of minor ailments being attended among which were several distressing cases.

"Miss Standing who is our part time Health Visitor loaned to us by the Durban Corporation," the report says, "is in attendance at our centre (137 Victoria Street) every morning from 8-30 a.m. till 10 a.m. and is doing very good work for our people and is really a live wire in our work. We are sure with her help we can become more and more useful. She is welcome wherever she goes and is our Health Visitor."

"Our grateful thanks are due to the Durban Corporation who gave us a grant of £20, and also for the services of a part time Health Visitor."

"We are affiliated to the Durban Child Welfare Society and have representation on it. We are glad of it and the help we shall get from it."

European Helpers

"Miss McKenzie, of the National Council of Child Welfare of South Africa is keenly interested in our work and is ever willing and ready to help us not only with her advice and help but attends our meetings as a guide, friend, and fellow worker in the same cause."

"Dr. McNeill, the officer-in-charge of the Child Welfare Department of the Durban Corporation is also interested in our work."

"Dr. Mildred Clark has been of help to us in our work."

"Dr. Cawston has been in attendance at our centre on cases requiring medical advice and help."

The report expresses the thanks of all friends who have helped the Society during the past year. Among these in addition to the above European friends special reference has been made to Mr. Sastri, Mr. Tyson, Mr. Rao and Sir Kurma for his practical support and also of the services of the ex-Secretary Mrs. Simon.

The financial statement submitted by Mrs. Lawrence showed a balance on hand of £103-18-3.

M. K. Gandhi Library And Parsee Rustomjee Hall

Eighth Anniversary

The eighth anniversary of the above institution was celebrated on Sunday, the 8th instant at 3-30 p.m. Mr. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri presided. There was a large gathering. Among those present included the Mayor (the Rev. A. Lamont), Mr. Doull, (Secretary of the Jerbai and Parsee Rustomjee Trusts), Mr. A. H. West and many prominent Indian merchants.

The chairman in his opening remarks said that the Parsee community on that day were also celebrating their new year and he wished them all happiness and prosperity.

The secretary, Mr. B. M. Patel, then read the minutes of the previous annual meeting which were duly adopted.

Annual Report

The secretary then submitted the eighth annual report of the Library and Hall Committee for the year ending 31st August 1929 which contained the following:—

The attendance of the public at the Library during the year was 58105 which showed a decrease of 873 on that of the previous year.

Several distinguished persons visited the Library during the year among whom were representatives of the Carnegie Trust of America, and Sir Thomas Holland, President of the British Association of Scientists.

There are 5032 books in the Library which include 2486 English, 1392 Gujarati, 380 Tamil, 27 Telugu, 538 Hindi and 209 Urdu.

Among the 152 periodicals and newspapers (including dailies, weeklies and monthlies) are 79 English, 43 Gujarati, 17 Hindi, 12 Tamil and 1 Telugu. These include 23 for the special use of students and children.

A special table has been set aside with papers and periodicals that would interest teachers.

During the year 6121 books were issued for reading in the Library which showed a decrease of 2401 on those issued during the previous year. These included English, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Arabic and Hindi.

A sum of £405-18-3 was spent during the year for the upkeep of the Library which was provided by the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust.

Eighteen Committee meetings were held during the year.

The Hon. Secretary Mr. B. M. Patel went to India in January and returned in July last during which period Mr. Shapurjee Jivanjee ably carried out the duties of the Secretary.

It was decided during the year that nine prizes be offered to students of the various schools in and around Durban for highest attendance and good conduct at the Library from 1st December 1928 to 15th August 1929. These prizes were won by students of three schools only, viz: five from Carlisle Street School, three from Marine College and one from St. Anthony's School.

The thanks of the Committee are expressed in the report to the proprietors of papers in India and South Africa who have supplied the Library with free copies of their papers.

The Parsee Rustomjee Hall was used by public bodies on 108 occasions during the year for meetings, conferences, lectures and receptions.

Prizes To Students

After the Secretary's report interesting books were presented by the Mayor to the following prize winners:—

1st J. Gabriel, 2nd K. G. Bhatt, 3rd Bhagoo Ramjee, 4th M. Gabriel, 5th Obhagan Khushal, 6th N. V. Soni, 7th S. G. Pather, 8th V. K. Naidoo, 9th M. Joseph.

The Mayor in the course of his remarks paid a high tribute to the late Parsee Rustomjee for presenting the community with such a magnificent and useful institution and wished the institution every success. He referred to the work of Mr. Sastri for the uplift of the community and of his successor Sir Kurma Reddi who he deeply regretted was very ill but wished him speedy recovery.

Advocate A. Christopher paid a high tribute to the progress of the Library but regretted that nothing was done to make the Library a lending library.

Pandit Bhawani Dayal spoke in eulogistic terms of the donor of the Library and the usefulness of that institution and supported the previous speaker's remark that books should be lent out.

Among the other speakers were Messrs. P. R. Pather, M. B. Naik, Rooknoodeen, A. H. Kazee, Ismail Gora and others.

Mr. William Doull as Secretary of the Trust explained that it was not in the hands of the Trust to make the library a lending library but there was a Committee composed of the public which conducted the work of the library and should that Committee deem it advisable to make it a lending library and should it report likewise to the Trust the latter would give it its favourable consideration.

Mr. A. H. West as one of the Trustees as well as vice-chairman of the Library Committee explained the difficulties in making the library a lending library. The Trust, he said, had many other responsibilities besides conducting the library and the library was not yet a complete reference library. The upkeep of it cost at present a little over £400 but if it were made into a lending library it would cost more than even double that amount and besides there would be the risk of losing the most valuable books. The Committee could not therefore see its way just as yet to taking up this additional burden.

Bouquets were presented by the chairman to Mr. Doull in appreciation of his valuable services as Secretary to the Trusts and to Mr. Patel for his selfless work in the interests of the library and a bouquet was also presented to the Mayor.

The function terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Restrictions On Ali Brothers

A meeting of the South African Indian Congress Executive was held during the week-end in Durban. Mr. Albert Christopher presided, and the following were present:—Messrs. S. R. Naidoo, A. I. Kajee, M. A. Motala, S. Rustomjee (Natal); E. M. Mall, P. K. Desai, S. B. Medh (Transvaal); M. D. Barmania (Cape). The following resolution was adopted: "The South African Indian Congress Executive, as representing the Indian community of South Africa, deeply deplores the humiliating conditions imposed by the Union Government upon the visit of the Ali Brothers to the Union of South Africa and hereby requests the Agent of the Government of India, Sir Kurma Reddi, to take all necessary steps for the removal of all conditions."

Maulana Shaukat Ali's Plans

Maulana Shaukat Ali has received intimation that Sir Kurma Reddi, the Indian Government Agent in the Union, has been requested by his Government to open negotiations with the Union Government for authority to allow the Ali Brothers to tour the Union for eight weeks unrestrictedly. If this is granted, Maulana Shaukat Ali says he will not wait for his brother, and if not granted he will approach the Mozambique Government for permission to hold a conference here of Islam delegates from the Union.

Mr. Ismail Gora Explains

In the course of a letter addressed to the *Natal Mercury* Mr. Ismail Gora, president of the Anjuman Islam says:—

"From recent telegrams published in your newspaper concerning the application of the Ali Brothers to visit the Union, and the statement that the 'South African Moslem Congress' will be held in Lourezo Marques in the event of Shaukat Ali refusing to enter the Union under the conditions laid down by the Department of the Interior, may I be allowed to say that there is no such organisation as the 'South African Moslem Congress.'

"The South African Indian Congress is an official body which has been recognised by the Governments of the Union of South Africa and of India and by the late Agent of the Government of India, Mr. Sastri, and by the present Agent, Sir Kurma Reddi, and all matters of importance concerning Indians upon which representations have to be made to the authorities are considered and submitted by the South African Indian Congress.

"The Indians in South Africa have every confidence in the Government of the Union of South Africa and in the Agent of the Government of India in their dealings with the official representations of the Indian community through the South African Indian Congress, and you can be well assured that in view of the excellent work initiated by Mr. Sastri, and which is being continued by Sir Kurma, no action will be taken by the South African Indian Congress which will in any way harm that work or disturb the very excellent relationships which exist between the Indian community and the Government of the Union of South Africa.

"While we regret that the Government of the Union of South Africa has not seen its way clear to grant to the Ali Brothers the courtesy of a temporary visit to the Union untrammelled by conditions, yet, at the same time, we leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Government of the Union, in co-operation with the Agent of the Government of India, Sir Kurma Reddi."

A Nonagenarian's Letter To Mr. Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi publishes the following interesting letter received by him in *Young India*:—

Dear Mr. Gandhi,—I'm afraid we shall never quite agree on what is the best way of securing peace in India, but there is one remark in your essay on a 'complex problem' with which I do agree most cordially and that is where you speak of the difficulty even you find in expressing your fundamental sentiments. That is exactly my experience of language. It is so difficult to say anything that is not misunderstood. I am therefore inclined to confine myself to saying where I differ from some of your statements.

Instead of 'exploited' in one passage, I should say 'wonderfully developed,' and I would cite your eminent countryman, Sir T. Madhava Rao as a witness (Cf. p. 11, *Truths about India* already referred to).

You scorn my idea that we British are 'trustees' for India as a whole, but you don't say whether you could form a government to 'carry on' as a self-governing Colony like Canada or even South Africa; and for my part I cannot see any chance of your being able to keep the peace internally, much less defend yourselves against external attack, without a strong backing of some great power.

This idea of trusteeship is the fundamental basis of the League of Nations with its system of 'mandates,' and as far as I can see, the League of Nations offers us the only chance of international peace. It is not till the nations of the world can trust each other that we can get rid of war; and even if all the nations learn to feel secure from external attack they all still need a police force to control the criminal classes if any.

We succeeded in putting down Thuggee, but we haven't got rid of dacoits yet, though travelling is certainly safer than it used to be; and with a steady well-organised government and good-will with honesty—co-operation, not 'non-co-operation' which is only rebellion under another name—we might easily reduce crime to manageable proportions.

I like your idea of a 'gentlemanly' understanding with Great Britain very much—I only wish I could see more prospect of it on either side just now. I have never met any intelligent Englishman who could say that any English government was perfect, but you do not often give it credit for being tolerably honest according to its lights, and as you dub it 'satanic,' there is not much chance of a 'gentlemanly' settlement, unless you consider Satan a much maligned potentate and sympathise with his 'sorrows' as Marie Corelli did, or like the Scotch minister who finished by praying for 'the puir deil.'

I have just seen the following sentence in the *Hibbert Journal* for April, page 451, "The League of Nations is a Society of States which, without surrender of their autonomies, purpose to exercise their independence for the common good."

Couldn't you make a 'United States of India' on those lines? Even then you must have a supreme government with power to keep the peace and defend the country until the millenium we all look forward to eventually sets in.

I am inclined to agree with you that the desire for filthy lucre by means of trade, competition instead of co-operation, is one of the chief causes of war.

Lastly, I should like to add, with all respect to a man with much greater knowledge of law than I can pretend to, that it is the Hindu Law of inheritance that is primarily responsible for the 'fragmentation of holdings' we all deplore. It is not at all the so-called ignorance of the ryot; for purely agricultural land in the world produces more (thanks to the perfect irrigation) than the Tantraparu Valley in Tinnevely where I spent 9 (on the whole) very happy years. Yet in 1820 that land had little value owing to the disturbed state of the country, and 18 years ago, when I saw it again, some of it was selling for 3,000 rupees an acre and paying 6 or 7% at that price, thanks to Pax Britannica? It is only you Hindus who can alter the Hindu Law, if it wants altering. It cannot be altered by force as Mr. Minnay seems to suggest in his little book *Shiva or the Future of India*.

Yours very sincerely,

J. B. PENNINGTON.

P. S. private: You are quite at liberty to publish this, if you like. I can hardly hope to write again having been born in 1839.

'British Trustees'

Mahatma Gandhi replies to the above as follows under the above heading:—

It is a real pleasure to give elsewhere Mr. Pennington's letter. Mr. Pennington is now a nonagenarian but his faith in himself and the nation he represents is as green as ever. I wish that we could have the same faith in ourselves and the nation we are humbly striving to represent. Mr. Pennington's postscript is marked 'private' but there need be no privacy about it. I have printed it as it 'does credit

to him. The reader will join me in wishing him many more years of life upon this tiny globe.

To come to the subject-matter of my correspondent's letter, I must confess that he does not convince me. There would be no quarrel with him or the English administrators if they were real trustees. Mr. Pennington's honesty is beyond question. But surely he is labouring under self-deception. Some of the highest men in the British cabinet have frankly repudiated the doctrine of trust and enunciated for our benefit and the knowledge of the world the doctrine of the sword. 'By the sword we have seized India, by the sword we propose to keep it.' The sword here means obviously gunpowder and all the tricks of diplomacy that accompany that substance. It was therefore the naked truth which was uttered when the doctrine of the sword was enunciated.

Nor need Mr. Pennington and those who think with him be reminded that a trust is always burden, a responsibility. But the British people have used their possession of India predominantly if not exclusively for their benefit. In their own words, they have exploited the country and its people. In the late Lord Salisbury's words they have bled India. Surely when a trustee discharges his trust, the ward feels its good effect and grows under its protection. But India's statesmen from Gokhale downward have testified that our growth has been stunted.

Pax Britannica is an overworked horse out of which no work is to be had now. Nobody is deceived by it. What we want is Pax Indica. And if we have to wade through a sea of blood before we reach it, the sooner we can do so, the better. We do not want a superimposed pestilential peace that smothers us, we want an inward oxidising peace that will make us healthy and strong.

Mr. Pennington reminds us of the mandates, that euphemism for usurpation for the purpose of exploitation. Let him ask the mandated nations how much they appreciate the mandates. Hypocrisy and camouflage are among the curses of modern times. But sweet words butter no parsnips. They have ceased to deceive the people concerned. That well-intentioned people can still be hoodwinked into believing in worn out beliefs and shibboleths is a great pity. Their usefulness for service is curtailed by unfortunate self-deceptions under which estimable men like Mr. Pennington labour.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part V. Chapter XXVIII.

NEAR DEATH'S DOOR

I nearly ruined my constitution during the recruiting campaign. In those days my food principally consisted of groundnut butter and lemons. I knew that the butter could be easily over-eaten to the detriment of one's health and yet I allowed myself to over-eat it. This gave me a slight attack of dysentery. I did not take serious notice of this and went that evening to the Ashram as was my wont every now and then. I scarcely took any medicine in those days. I thought I should get well if I skipped a meal and indeed I felt fairly free from trouble as I omitted the morning meal next day. I however knew that to be entirely free I must prolong my fast, and if I must eat anything at all, I should have nothing but fruit juices.

There was some festival that day, and although I had told Kasturbai that I should have nothing for my midday meal, she tempted me and I succumbed. As I was under a vow of taking no milk or milk products, she

had specially prepared for me a sweet wheaten porridge with oil added to it instead of *ghes*. She had reserved too a bowlful of *mung* for me. I was fond of these things and I readily took them hoping that without coming to grief I should eat just enough to please Kasturbai and to satisfy my palate. But the devil had been only waiting for an opportunity. Instead of eating very little, I had my fill of the meal. This was enough invitation to the angel of death. Within an hour, the dysentery appeared in acute form.

The same evening I had to go back to Nadiad. I walked with very great difficulty to the Sabarmati station, a distance of only ten furlongs. Sjt. Vallabhbhai who joined me at Ahmedabad saw that I was unwell but I did not allow him to guess how unbearable the pain was.

We reached Nadiad at about ten o'clock. The Hindu Anathashram, where we had our head-quarters, was only half a mile from the station; but it was as good as ten for me. I somehow managed to reach the quarters, but the gripping pain had been on the increase. Instead of using the usual latrine which was a long way off, I asked for a commode to be placed in the adjoining room. I was ashamed to have to ask for this, but there was no escape. Sjt. Phulchand immediately procured a commode. All the friends surrounded me deeply concerned. They were all love attention, but they could not relieve my pain. And my obstinacy added to their helplessness. I refused all medical aid. I would take no medicine, but preferred to suffer the penalty for my folly. So they looked on in helpless dismay. I must have had thirty to forty motions in twenty four hours. I fasted not taking even fruit juices in the beginning. The appetite had all gone. I had thought all along that I had an iron frame but found that body had now become a lump of clay. It had lost all power of resistance. Dr. Kannga came and pleaded with me to take medicine. I declined. He offered to give me an injection. I declined that too. My ignorance about injections was in those days quite ridiculous. I believed that an injection must be some kind of serum. Later, I discovered that the injection that the doctor suggested was a vegetable substance, but the discovery was too late to be of use. The motions still continued leaving me completely exhausted. The exhaustion brought on a delirious fever. The friends got more nervous and called in more doctors. But what could they do with a patient who would not listen to them.

Sheth Ambalal with his good wife came down to Nadiad, conferred with my co-workers and removed me with the greatest care to his Mirzapur bungalow in Ahmedabad. It was impossible for any one to receive more loving and selfless service than I had the privilege of having during this illness. But a sort of low fever persisted wearing away my body from day to day. I felt that the illness was bound to be prolonged and possibly fatal. Surrounded as I was with all the love and attention that could be showered on me under Sheth Ambalal's roof, I began to get restless and urged him to remove me to the Ashram. He had to yield to my importunity.

Whilst I was thus tossing on the bed of pain in the Ashram, Sjt. Vallabhbhai brought the news that Germany had been completely defeated, and that the Commissioner had sent word that recruiting was no longer necessary. The news that I had no more to worry myself about recruiting came as a great relief.

I had now been trying hydropathy which gave some relief, but it was a hard job to build up the body. The many medical advisers overwhelmed me with advice, but I could not persuade myself to take anything. Two or three suggested meat broth as a way out of the milk vow and cited authorities from Ayurveda in support of their advice. One of them strongly recommended eggs. But for all of them I had but one answer—no.

For me the question of diet was not one to be determined on the authority of the Shastras. It was interwoven with my course of life which is guided by principles no longer depending upon outside authority. I had no desire to live at the cost of them. How could I relinquish a principle in respect of myself when I had enforced it relentlessly in respect of my wife, children and friends?

This protracted, and the first long illness in my life thus afforded me a unique opportunity to examine my principles and to test them. One night I gave myself up to despair. I felt that I was at death's door. I sent word to Anasuyaben. She ran down to the Ashram. Vallabhbhai came up with Dr. Kanuga who felt my pulse and said, "Your pulse is quite good. I see absolutely no danger. This is a nervous break-down due to extreme weakness." But I was far from being reassured. I passed the night without sleep.

The morning broke without death coming. But I could not get rid of the feeling that the end was near and so I began to devote all my waking hours to listening to the Gita being read to me by the inmates of the Ashram. I was incapable of reading. I was hardly inclined to talk. The slightest talk ment a strain on the brain. All interest in living had ceased, as I have never liked to live for the sake of living. It was such agony to live thus helplessly on, doing nothing, receiving the service of friends and co-workers and watching the body slowly wearing away.

Whilst I lay thus ever expectant of death, Dr. Talwalkar came one day with a strange creature. He is a Maharashtri. He is not known to fame, but the moment I saw him I found that he was a crank like myself. He had come to try his treatment on me. He had almost finished his course of studies in the Grant Medical College without taking the degree. Later, I came to know that he was a member of the Brahmo Samaj. Sjt. Kelkar, for that is his name, is a man of an independent and obstinate temperament. He swears by the ice treatment which he wanted to try on me. We gave him the name of 'Ice Doctor.' He is quite confident that he has discovered certain things which have escaped qualified doctors. It is a pity both for him and me that he has not been able to infect me with his faith in his system. I believe in his system up to a certain point, but I am afraid he has been hasty in arriving at certain conclusions.

But whatever may be the merits of his discoveries, I allowed him to experiment on my body. I did not mind external treatment. The treatment consisted in the application of ice all over the body. Whilst I am unable to endorse the effect, he claims, his treatment had on me, it certainly infused in me a new hope and a new energy, and the mind naturally reacted on the body. I began to have an appetite and to have a gentle walk for five to ten minutes. He now suggested a reform in my diet. Said he: "I assure you that you will have more energy, and regain your strength quicker if you take raw eggs. Eggs are as harmless as milk. They certainly cannot come under the category of meat. And do you know that all eggs are not fertilised? There are sterilised eggs on the market." I was not, however, prepared to take even the sterilised eggs. But the improvement was enough to interest me in public activities.

Obituary

Victor Rowley

On Wednesday, 28th August, 1929, there passed away a very prominent figure in the district of Umgeni, in the person of the late Victor Rowley, a pensioner, formerly Headmaster of the Umgeni Government Indian School.

He was born at Ros Belle, Mauritius and was educated at the Royal College of that country. He received his training as a teacher at the School at Curipepe.

He first arrived in this Province in July, 1880, and was engaged as a clerk in the Natal Government Railways and remained in that position up till 1885.

After touring various parts of Natal he was appointed as the Headmaster of the Ottawa Mission School in 1885 and was one of the pioneer teachers. This school was then under Rev. Scott, Superintendent of the Indian Mission. In 1888 he received an appointment as the Headmaster of the Umgeni Immigration Board School, which was then known by that name. This school was subsequently styled as the Umgeni Government Indian School. He remained in the capacity of Headmaster until his retirement in the year 1916, after a service of 27 years

and received a splendid testimony from the Department of Education of this Province. He was responsible for the selection of the site on which the present school is erected. He was 70 years of age at the time of his death, of which 40 years was spent in the village of Umgeni. He had had extensive travelling. He visited Bombay, London, France and America.

During the last influenza epidemic, he was the chairman of the local committee, granting relief to the sufferers.

His favourite pastime was riding and shooting. He was unassuming in character and was an ideal teacher, taking an abiding interest in the pupils. He was a well-known figure all over the Province. The very large funeral bore testimony of the respect and esteem in which he was held. He leaves a widow, two sons, a daughter and a number of grand-children. He was interred in the Wesleyan Cemetery, West Street. Prior to the burial, a service was held at the Lorne Street Church, officiated by Rev. J. Metcalf. The children of the Umgeni Government Indian School paid their last tribute by following the cortege in procession up to the Connaught Bridge.

A very large number of floral tributes were received including the following:—

His loving wife Hannah, sons Israel and Jane, Alpheus and Flo, Daughter Theodora and Ralph, Grandchildren Doreen, Cecil, Basil, Theophilus, Noel; Mr. and Mrs. Smerdoe, Mr. and Mrs. K. Paul (Maritzburg), Mr. Lutchman Singh (Umhlali), Mrs. S. Godfrey and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Frank and family, Hoover family, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Naicker, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Goodwin, Old Boys and Girls (pupils of the deceased) Umgeni Government Indian School, Headmaster, Staff and pupils Umgeni Government Indian School, Natal Indian Teachers' Society, Headmaster, staff and pupils, Mitchel Crescent Government Indian School, Headmaster and staff Depot Road Government Indian School, Mr. and Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Marwick, Mr. and Mr. J. S. Joshua, Mr. and Mrs. M. Singh, Mr. and Mrs. W. Choonoo, Mr. and Mrs. J. Singh, Thatia Bros, Mr. and Mrs. Satyanathan; Mr. and Mrs. Mahomed Hoosein, Mr. and Mrs. Maduraimuthu Peter, Mr. and Mrs. R. David; Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Naidoo (Springfield), Mr. and Mrs. E. Ferdinand, Mr. and Mrs. K. K. Pillay, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Peter, Mr. and Mrs. Moodaliyar, Mr. and Mrs. Soobiah Moodaliyar, Mr. and Mrs. McGregor, Mr. and Mrs. B. Naidoo, Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Naidoo, Mr. and Mrs. McKay, I. S. Khan Bros., Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Padayachy, Mr. and Mrs. V. Vandyar, Mr. and Mrs. Choonoo, Mr. Ebrahim Hassim, Mr. and Mrs. S. Frank, Mr. and Mrs. R. Singh, Messrs. Beekari Bros., Messrs. R. Soorjoo Bros., Mr. Beheman, Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Singh, Mr. Ismail.

Union Thrift Society (Pty) Ltd.

The Union Thrift Society (Pty.), Ltd., of 41-44 Sauer's Buildings, reports having now 900 subscribers whilst about the same number of proposals from intending subscribers have been declined. This result is phenomenal in view of the fact that this Society was only established 3 months ago and that it does not employ any canvassers but is entirely dependent for results upon regular and consistent newspaper advertising by way of "small ads." Such achievement is a great tribute to newspaper advertising and abundantly demonstrates that when an advertiser has anything good to sell the newspaper is his best salesman.

The Society aims at the encouragement of THRIFT which unfortunately is not sufficiently appreciated and valued in this country. A subscriber pays 18/- quarterly for 13 years 10 2/3rd months and at the end of the 15th year or 1 year 1-1/3rd months after he has paid his final subscription receives back £50, plus interest at 5% per annum.

Subscribers, on their sole personal security, are entitled to borrow reasonable amounts from the Society which grants loans on the 15th of each month at 7½% per annum calculated on the reducible balance and repayable in 25 equal monthly instalments. A subscriber who receives one of these monthly loans then ceases to subscribe and the total subscriptions paid in by him are credited to the repayment of the loan and he only repays the balance.

A well organised scheme in the shape of a Guarantee Fund exists for the protection of subscribers.

The Directors of the Society are Messrs. J. P. Gous, B.A., LL.B., Robert Todd, J. H. A. Mathews and J. S. Graham Cross with L. Luyt and P. J. Rousseau as Managing Director and Secretary respectively.

ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનિઅન.

નોંધ અને સમાચાર



એલ્બનની ખીમારી

હાલ સરકારના એલ્બન સર કુર્મા રેડી એ અઠવાડીયા થયા ખીમારી ભોગવી રહ્યા છે એ ખબરથી સર્વત્ર ખેદની લાગણી ફેલાઈ રહી છે. મયા અઠવાડીયાની આખરીએ તેમની તખ્તીયતે કંઈક ચિંતાબ્જનક સ્વરૂપ પકડેલું જણાયું હતું અને સોમવારથી તેમને સેનીટરીયમમાં લઈ જવામાં આવ્યા છે. જ્યાં આ લીટીએ લાગતી વખતે ખબર મળ્યા છે કે તેઓની તખ્તીયત સુધારાપર આવતી જાય છે. સરખાતમાં એલ્બનને પેટમાં સખ્ત દુખાવો થતો હતો અને તે પછી સખ્ત તાવ મદ્યો હતો જે હવે ધલ્લા નરમ પડ્યો છે. અમે અંતઃકરણથી ઉમેદ રાખીએ છીએ કે સર કુર્મા થોડાજ દિવસમાં સાવ સાબ ચર્ષ ફરી હરતા હરતા ચર્ષ જશે.

પોતાની નાદુરસ્ત તખ્તીયતના કારણે સર કુર્માથી મયા અઠવાડીયામાં અગ્રહના મેળાવડાઓમાં ભાગ લઈ શકાયો નહોતો અને આજસુધીમાં શબ્દેલા સખળા વાચકાઓ હાથ ધરતને માટે કેન્સલ કરવામાં આવ્યા છે.

મી. આર. કે. કેપીટન પર લાતકી હુમલો

મી. આર. કે. કેપીટન જેઓ એ રટીટમાં આવેલી ખાલકની ટી રૂમના માલિક અને નાટ્ય ઇન્ડિઅન કોન્સિસના ઉત્સાહી કાર્યકર્તા છે તેમની ઉપર મયાના આમલા યુધવારે રાતે રરતે જતાં પાતકી હુમલો થયો હતો જેના મારથી તેઓ હલુ ખીજાને પડેલા છે. અમે મી. કેપીટનના કુટુંબીજનો પ્રત્યે દિલસોજી ધરાવીએ છીએ અને તેમને જલદી આરામ થઈ જાય એવું ઇચ્છીએ છીએ.

નેશનાલીસ્ટોની કોંગ્રેસ

અઠરાખર તા. ૨ જીએ પ્રાંતીયામાં મળનારી નેશનાલીસ્ટોની કોંગ્રેસમાં અમને માટે સુચનાયેલી ખાબતોમાં નીચેની ખાબતોનો સમાવેશ થાય છે:—

- (૧) જે ને પ્રાંતમાંથી હાંદીઓ રીપેટીએટ થતા હોય તેનો ખરચ તે તે પ્રાંતમાં ઉઠાવવો;
- (૨) જાહેર રસ્તાઓના સમારકામમાં ગૌરા મજૂરોજી રાખવા;
- (૩) રંગીન વર્ણના લોકોને મોટરો કાંકવાને પ્રાધવરના લાયસેન્સો નહિ આપવાં.

ઇસ્ટ આફ્રિકાનો સવાલ

ઇસ્ટ આફ્રિકાથી હાંદ ગયેલાં ડેપ્યુટીકમને આપકાર આપવા સુબકમાં મળેલી મીટીંગમાં સુબક કારપોરેશનના પ્રમુખ મી. મેયરે જણાવ્યું હતું કે ઇસ્ટ આફ્રિકામાં હાંદીઓ તરફની વર્તણૂકમાં ખીટીક સામ્રાજ્યમાં હાંદુસ્તાનના ઇસ્લામની ખરી ક્ષોટી રહેલી છે. ડેપ્યુટીકમના લીડર મી. પંડ્યાએ જણાવ્યું

હતું કે હાંદીઓ કામવાર મતાધિકારની વરિદ્ધ છે કેમકે તેથી તેઓને ઉતરતા ઇસ્લામનું નામરીકત્વ મળે છે. તેમજ હાંદુસ્તાનની સરકાર અને પ્રજાને ઇસ્ટ આફ્રિકાના હાંદીઓને માટે અન્ય સંસ્થાનીકોની સમાન ઇસ્લામને માટે મક્કમ રહેવા જણાવ્યું હતું.

હાંદ સરકારની જોડુકમી

હાંદુસ્તાનમાં ખીરક કેસના કેટલાક પકડાયેલા આસામીઓ જેલમાં જુખમરો વેદી રહ્યા છે અને કોર્ટમાં હાજર થઈ શકે તેવી સ્થિતિમાં નથી તેથી હવે સરકાર એવો કાપદો લાવવાના પગલાં લઈ રહી છે કે માણસની ગેરહાજરીમાં કોર્ટથી તેની સામે કામ ચલાવી શકાય.

“ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનીઅન”

શુક્રવાર, તા. ૬ સપ્ટેમ્બર ૧૯૨૬

જેઓ કશિજી આફ્રિકાના સલામહને વિશે કંઈ પણ જાણે છે તેઓ ડોક કુટુંબથી તો અજાણ્યા મરહુમ મીસીસ ડોક નજ હોઈ શકે, કેમકે એ કુટુંબ એ મદાન ભડતમાં નહોતો સુનો ભાગ ભજવેલો નથી. એવા થોડાજ યુરોપીયનો હશે કે જેમણે એ મદાન ભડત વખતે હાંદી સવાલ તરફ ડોક કુટુંબના જેટલી વ્યવહાર દિલસોજી બતાવેલી હશે. એ કુટુંબનું ઇસાઈ ધર્મને શોભાવનારું સદથી પહેલું અભિ માયાળુ કાર્ય મદાનમાં ગાંધીજીને પોતાના જ જાતીભાઈઓ તરફથી થયેલા પાતકી હુમલા પછી રસ્તામાંથી પોતાને ઘેર લઈ જવાનું અને એક હાંદીના ધરમાં પજી મળવો દુર્લભ હોય તેવા પ્રેમ અને આદરથી તેમની સારવાર કરવાનું અને સંભાળ લેવાનું હતું. એ સખી અને ઇચ્છના ભડત કુટુંબે એ વેળાએ મદાનમાં ગાંધીજીની ખબર કાઢવાને પોતાના ધરની ઉપર ફોટો પાડી રહેલા ટાળાખંધ હાંદીઓને જે પ્રેમ ભાવથી આપકાર આપ્યો હતો અને સ્વાગત કર્યું હતું તેથી સમસ્ત હાંદી કોમનો તેણે પૂર્ણ ભાવ સંપાદન કરી લીધો હતો. રેવરન્ડ જે. જે. ડોકે હાંદી કોમની ભડતમાં માત્ર દિલસોજી જ બતાવી નહિ હતી પરંતુ જ્યારે આજવાનોને સરકારે જેલમાં મીઠી ડીવા આરે ‘ઇન્ડિઅન ઓપિનીઅન’ ના તંત્રીપદની ગંભીર જવાબદારી પોતે લઇને ભડતની સરદારી પજી કરી હતી. સાર આદ ભડતના અંતકાળમાં જ્યારે રેવરન્ડ ડોકના કશ્ચાજનક સંજોગમાં થયેલાં અવસાનના શોકજનક ખબર મળ્યા સારે સમસ્ત હાંદી કોમમાં અમીની ફેલાઈ ગઈ હતી આજે હવે મરહુમ