

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

**W**E extend a hearty welcome to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on this his second visit to the shores of South Africa. We have very happy recollections of his last visit. That was in the year 1925 when he visited South Africa in his official capacity. On that occasion the population of South Africa, irrespective of colour or creed, rose as one person and accorded a rousing reception to the Heir Apparent. Though his second visit is private we have no doubt the people of South Africa will keenly follow his every movement and will wish him well. It will be recollected that last year the Prince's visit to South Africa was interrupted owing to the illness of His Majesty. We hope that His Royal Highness will have a pleasant time in Africa, for he travels northwards in a few days' time. He carries with him the best wishes of all.

Mr. P. C. Cochran, who has occupied the Chief Magisterial chair in Durban for some years past, retires shortly and we are informed that his successor is Major S. Maynard who is presently a Magistrate at Pietersburg. Mr. Cochran, during his stay at Durban, has been a close student of Indian affairs. Indeed, the Chief Magistrate's presence at every meeting that was addressed by the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, was a familiar sight to many. We hope that Mr. Cochran will, during his retiring days, enjoy the best of health.

The Hon. Evelyn Baring, Acting Agent-General for India in the Union, and Mr. C. S. Ricketts, secretary, left Johannesburg for Capetown on Thursday. They have been spending the last one month in the Transvaal where they have been collecting data in connection with the Licensing Question.

The Dowager Countess of Cromer, Mr. Baring's mother, is expected in Capetown on Jan. 27, on a visit to her son in South Africa.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to young George Singh who, at the age of 17, has secured a First Class pass in the Matriculation Examination. Master Singh is the first Indian to secure a First Class pass. We sincerely hope that young Singh will continue his studies and we have no doubt that the brilliant example set by this young man will be followed by many.

With the opening of the Sastri College the Carlisle Street Indian School closes its doors as a Secondary School. During the last few years the school had more than justified its existence. In both the Junior Certificate and Matriculation examinations the school has shown excellent results. The fact that three students, out of four, were successful in the last Matric examination is a clear indication of the results. The teachers in charge of the Secondary School have served most conscientiously and to them much credit is due.

The Administration has now decided to open the Sastri College on Jan. 27, instead of on Feb. 10, as previously advised.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Star* states:—

Asked in an interview at Madras, where he is spending sick leave, what was the most important problem awaiting solution in South Africa so far as Indians are concerned, Sir Kurma Reddi declared that he thought it was the licensing problem in the Transvaal. Trade disabilities in Natal were few, while in the Cape Province they were practically nil. Sir Kurma Reddi expects to return to South Africa shortly. "I will do my little best in the settlement of questions, but I am also confident justice will be done to our countrymen over there. There is no reason for despondency."

Writing in *Young India*, Mr. Gandhi urges that Independence Day on January 26 be observed by simultaneous meetings in all cities and villages throughout the country marking the declaration approved by the working committee of the Congress at Lahore on January 2, that Puran Swaraj (complete independence) is now the Congress policy. He further says that the religious may begin the day by ablutions and then go on with some constructive work such as spinning and sewing and helping to achieve Hindu-Moslem reunion. Mr. Gandhi adds that in order to enable the central office to gauge the strength of the movement it is essential to send it absolutely accurate accounts of the day's doings in each town and village.—Reuter.

A Reuter's message from Allahabad reports:—

The Congress Working Committee has issued a resolution for submission to meetings throughout the country on Puran Swaraj Day on January 26, disavowing violent methods to obtain "freedom," but advocating the utmost withdrawal of all voluntary association with the British Government in preparation for civil disobedience, including the non-payment of taxes.

A similar message from Bombay states that a meeting of the Council of the Western India Liberal Association has adopted a vigorous programme in opposition to the "Independence School" urging the Liberals to rally the people in order to secure freedom by constitutional means."

Bihari Lala Nantani, who is visiting England for the purpose of representing Indians in a case concerning East Africa, interviewed, emphasised the danger of Japanese commercial dominance in East Africa unless relations between Britain and India there were harmonised in the near future. In this connection, he urged the necessity for a common electoral roll and said that if Indians in Kenya were subjected to "a high civilisation test," only ten per cent. of them would be eligible to vote, and there would thus be no chance of their "swamping" the whites. Meanwhile, Japanese enterprise was gaining hold of commerce in East Africa while whites and Indians were disputing their mutual political status.—Reuter.

We regret to record the sad and untimely demise of the late Virjee Damodar Mehta, which took place at his late residence in Durban on Sunday morning. The name of Mehta is closely associated with the Phoenix Settlement where he served for many years under Mahatma Gandhi. Of a retiring disposition the late Mr. Mehta has quietly and unostentatiously served the Indian community well. By the Gujerati community of Durban he was held with the highest regard and many an institution will miss his advice and assistance. He leaves a widow, two sons and five daughters to mourn their loss. We extend our profound and heartfelt sympathy to the sorrowing family.

### THE CLARION CALL

As already reported in our columns a few weeks ago, the Mitchell Crescent Indian School will be converted into a Girls' School. It will be staffed by European teachers and our girls will be taught up to the VII Standard. If our girls show a desire to continue their studies the Education Department will make provisions to teach up to the VIII Standard. Mr. Hugh Bryan, the Superintendent of Education, has carried out his promise which he held out to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. The conversion of the Mitchell Crescent School into a girls' school is another step forward in the direction of improving the educational facilities of Indians.

With the establishment of this school our girls will hear the clarion call and it remains to be seen whether they will respond to the call.

The educational facilities that the Natal Provincial Government has been offering for years to the Indian boys have been very meagre and the education of our girls received very little attention. As a result the percentage of illiteracy amongst our children was showing a marked increase yearly. This state of affairs was soon apparent to the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri who spared no efforts to right the wrong that was being committed by the Provincial Council. There is no doubt that the conversion of the Mitchell Crescent Boys' School into a Girls' School is a direct result of Mr. Sastri's efforts.

We have always held out that the education of our boys would be useless if equal opportunities were not given to our girls. The attainment of the Western standard of civilisation as foreshadowed in the Capetown Agreement would be utterly impossible if our girls were not sufficiently educated. Parents are always averse to sending their girls to mixed schools and this aversion

accounts for the small attendance of girls in these schools. The Mitchell Crescent School is in close proximity to the Carlisle Street Boys' School, and we fear that this may be a deterrent factor. We think, however, that this factor should not prevent parents from sending their girls, for, we are hopeful that if the Indian community are earnest the Education Department would not lag behind in providing suitable premises for a Girls' School. The number of young Indian women pursuing the teaching profession is an indication of the desire there is to attain a higher level in their education. In India women have advanced considerably and we see no reason why South African Indian women should lag behind.

We feel sure that our Indian girls will respond to the Clarion Call.

### Fighting "Asiatic Menace"

#### Suggested Action In Parliament

Combined action by municipalities with the object of combating the Asiatic menace was suggested by Mr. F. Claud Sturrock, M.L.A. for Turffontein, in an address at the annual meeting of the Turffontein and Forest Hill Ratepayers' Association. Mr. A. Shaw Reed presided.

Europeans in this country had always felt, very rightly, that the maintenance of our white civilisation depended upon the rigid application of white standards to all our activities, Mr. Sturrock remarked. The "Asiatic menace" arose, not so much because of any racial antagonism to the Asiatics, but through the very real fear that, if lower orders of civilisation were allowed to compete on even terms with the Europeans, the position must result in either the elimination of the European or the lowering of the European standards of living.

In the proposed amendments to the Wage Act, to be submitted to Parliament this session, it was proposed to bring the one-man shop under its operation, so that small white retailers would be compelled to pay statutory wages, even if they had only one employe. When it was realised that the Act did not apply to Asiatics, it would be seen how unfair the position was. They had no quarrel with the Indian because he was an Indian, but because he lived according to a standard far below theirs, and they were determined that he should do nothing to bring theirs down.

#### The Remedy

The remedy for the trouble was not easy, said Mr. Sturrock. His own view was that their best friends were the municipalities. They should urge the councils to wage a ceaseless campaign, with the object of limiting the rights of the Indian to those which he already possessed by law.

Mr. Sturrock suggested that a delegation be sent to Capetown to Parliament from all the Transvaal municipalities.

There were a number of commercial men in the House, and, if they could get a nucleus of commercial opinion, he thought the cause might be advanced. If the Government could be got to start

a movement, many members of the House would give their support.

### Private Bill

A resolution that Mr. F. C. Sturrock, M.L.A., be asked to use his influence to get a private Bill dealing with the question passed was carried by the meeting.—*Star*.

## General Dealer's Licence

An application for a certificate for a general dealer's licence in the name of Soedat and Co., is being heard by the Newcastle borough licensing officer (Mr. A. G. Forslick). Mr. L. J. Molyneux, solicitor, Dundee, represents the applicant and Mr. E. J. Edmonds, Newcastle, is representing an objector, M. S. Seedat, of Königsberg.

The objection which had been lodged was on the grounds that the existing holder is indebted to the objector in the sum of £885 and it is feared that the said claim will be defeated if the licence is transferred.

Mr. Molyneux at the outset raised the exception that the objections which had been lodged are barred and cannot be heard on the following grounds:—

(1) M. S. Seedat does not reside or carry on business within the municipal area and is therefore debarred from raising any objection to an application for a licence which comes within the jurisdiction of the borough licensing officer.

(2) If the objection is admitted then the applicant takes exception to the objection itself on the grounds that it is not a valid objection and that the point raised is not one for decision in a licensing court.

### Guiding Principles

In the course of a lengthy argument, Mr. Molyneux claimed that although there had been no mention of any qualifications for an objector under the borough licensing rules promulgated in July, 1919, yet there were guiding principles set in the rural licensing rules. Under the Liquor Act one not residing in or within five miles of the area could lodge an objection.

With regard to the other point of his exception, Mr. Molyneux stated that the objectors were asking the licensing officer to usurp the function of a court of law. He claimed that the licensing officer could not give a judgment as to whether this debt is due or not and the objector could not even pursue his claim in the magistrate's court. He would have to go to the Supreme Court as the magistrate's jurisdiction is limited to £200.

### Decision Reserved

Mr. Edmonds, in the course of his argument in support of the objector being heard, submitted that in the absence of a regulation on the point it was quite competent for the licensing officer to hear any person who has an interest in the objection to the issue of the licence. The Rural Licensing Rules and the Liquor Act had nothing to do with the matter as they were quite distinct and separate and dealt with different aspects.

Dealing with Mr. Molyneux's second exception he claimed that that was not a matter for decision at this stage. It was a matter for argument after all the evidence had been heard.

The licensing officer reserved his decision on the points raised.—*The Star*.

## Assembly Reopens At New Delhi

### Sir James Crerar Denied A Hearing

New Delhi, Jan. 20.—The Assembly reopened today. Only 73 out of 145 members were present in consequence of the Congress boycott.

The President, Patel, at the outset announced "a very serious" situation owing to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi "deliberately defying" his orders in regard to the admission of visitors. Patel ordered the galleries to be cleared, and refused to allow Sir James Crerar, home member of the Executive Council of the Governor-General, to speak. His action has disquieted Government circles.

Attendance in the public galleries was also very thin. Seventeen Nationalist members occupied the vacant Swarajist seats, while Pandit Malaviya took Motilal Nehru's seat as Leader of the Opposition. Patel, in his speech, said that the "very serious situation" was due to a difference between the Government of India, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and himself over the question of controlling visitors to the Assembly. Patel read a letter from Sir James Crerar, saying that the Governor-General-in-Council had decided that the Government must take final responsibility in protective measures, and offered to meet Patel before the Assembly to discuss the question. Patel declared that the orders of the Chief Commissioner were in deliberate defiance of his orders. He then ordered all the galleries to be cleared, except the Press Gallery. No further passes, he said, would be issued, and he refused to allow Sir James Crerar to speak.

Patel's order was loudly applauded by the Opposition. The Assembly then unanimously passed a resolution congratulating Lord Irwin on his miraculous escape from the dastardly attempt on his life. Patel associated himself with the speeches, expressing his horror at the crime.—*Reuter*.

## Tampering With Justice

Speaking at a meeting of the Non-Racial Franchise Association held recently in Capetown and attended by Sir James Rose-Innes, Mr. Henry Burton and other prominent public men, Mr. J. W. Jagger, who was the principal speaker, said that every member of Parliament should have the interests of South Africa as his province, and those interests could only be protected by representatives elected on a franchise that knew neither race nor colour.

The Prime Minister's proposals of a separate native franchise he viewed with alarm and regret, declaring that "dual franchise will increase racial antagonism, and the longer it lasts the more powerful it will become, not merely in the country, but also in Parliament; it will be fatal when European interests and native interests are separately represented."

Unfortunately, went on Mr. Jagger, it is now proposed "to go away from the pledge given in London in the name of the people of South Africa by our leaders at the time of Union," and a determined attack was being made on the rights of the native people, an attack which, if successful, could only bring disaster to this country.

He referred to the unrest among natives at present. "One cause of that unrest—I will not say it is the sole cause—is the proposed taking away of their franchise rights," said Mr. Jagger. "Justice cannot be tampered with with impunity, as the people of this country will ultimately find out."—*Reuter*.

## The Malay Location

### Vigilance Association Demands Removal

Mr. P. A. Steyn, Secretary of the Vrededorp Vigilance Association, writes as follows to the *Rand Daily Mail*:—

"Sir,—The Vrededorp Vigilance Association is again attacking the question of removing the Malay location which has been a menace to the public for many years.

Notwithstanding the fact that we have prayed the Town Council, as owners of the location, to have the native and coloured people removed and to make a white township of the location, the Council has turned a deaf ear to our requests. We are now determined to force matters to the point of exhaustion, for it is readily admitted that, in accordance with the title under which the Council holds the ground, the natives are living there illegally. Also it is illegal for one Indian to hold more than one stand or to sub-let.

My association is raising funds to fight the matter, and is at present considering the advisability of sending a deputation to the Minister of the Interior with a view to urging him to appoint a commission to find ways and means of removing the location.

I would like to point out that the City Council is making it more and more impossible to remove the Asiatics and coloured people. Some few years ago all plans for building in the location were stopped. The valuation of improvements in 1926 was £109,055. Since that time plans have freely been passed for buildings, the result being that to-day the above-mentioned sum has been considerably augmented.

If the Council had abided by its previous policy in not passing any plans for buildings in the location, half, or a great portion, of the place would have been vacant to-day, owing to closing orders from the Medical Officer of Health. If a closing order had been made and the lessee of the ground had not been given facilities to improve the property by rebuilding, he would ultimately have had to end his tenancy, and there would have been no need for compensation.

Some years ago stand holders in Vrededorp were letting their shops to Asiatics. This practice it was later found to be contrary to the conditions laid down in the title deeds, and by law they were compelled to cease letting their premises to Asiatics. But we have the City Council ignoring the conditions under which it holds the ground of the Malay location."

## The Durban Unrest

The report of the Native Affairs Commission upon the causes of native unrest in Durban has now been received by the Durban Town Council.

The report emphasises the unsatisfactory position created by the lack of a native location within the borough. On the point of the natives' major grievance, viz., low wages, the Commissioner advises a thorough inquiry by the Wage Board or a Government official enjoying the confidence of the natives and the goodwill and respect of the employers.

The Commissioners emphasise the necessity for a native village and the provision of healthy recreation for the native population. In reference evidently to the Council's desire to establish a native village on an estate at Clairwood under option of purchase, the Commissioners come to the important conclusion that municipalities should be empowered at the discretion of the Minister and Administrator to "establish, maintain and control native villages in the areas of health committees." Lack of such

powers has been the main obstacle hampering the Council's negotiations with Clairwood land vendors.

### Beer Boycott

On the native boycott of municipal beer halls the Commission recommended that the present system be not altered. Conflicting views were given by native witnesses, some urging the abolition of the beer halls and others declaring that the boycott is against the desire of the majority and only maintained by the terrorising attitude of a section of the I.C.U. yase Natal.

In reference to the activities of Mr. Champion, leader of this native organisation, the Commissioners declare that his influence, if past episodes is any guide, is fraught with dangerous consequences, adding, "the Governor-General has, as supreme chief, power to remove a native to parts where his activities may be curtailed, and, while not recommending that this power be exercised in respect of Mr. Champion, the Commissioner feels that it may be necessary in the future unless the situation changes in Durban to recommend His Excellency to use this power."

## Imperial Conference

Soon after the beginning of the next Parliamentary session, the Government will make arrangements to be represented at the next Imperial Conference, which I am now able to announce will be officially opened on September next says the *Rand Daily Mail's* Pretoria representative.

The conference, which is held usually every three years, should have taken place in 1929, but general elections in the Union of South Africa and also in Great Britain and Australia caused its postponement.

The question as to the Union representatives at the conference has not yet been decided by the Cabinet, although it is generally taken for granted that the Prime Minister, General J. B. M. Hertzog, will attend. In view of the fact that Imperial preference will loom largely in the discussions, it is possible that Mr. N. O. Havenga, Minister of Finance, will again accompany General Hertzog.

There is some talk in Pretoria of a third Minister accompanying General Hertzog and Mr. Havenga. The report of the committee which recently completed its work in London on Imperial constitutional relationships will be available next month, and will be one of the matters with which the Imperial Conference will have to deal. In view of this the Minister of Justice, Mr. O. Pirow, K.C., may be prevailed on to go, but other names have also been suggested.

### Question Of Procedure

South Africa will occupy a peculiar position at the next conference. There are some significant rumours regarding the attitude of the South African representatives, Messrs. F. W. Beyers, K.C., and Dr. H. D. J. Bodenstein, Secretary for External Affairs, at the recent discussions on Imperial relationships in London.

"I am informed, and my source is absolutely reliable, that the South African delegates attempted to wrest from the committee the admission that the Union was free to secede from the British Commonwealth of Nations at any time she desired to do so."

The report of the committee is, of course, a secret document, but the rumour is that while the contention of the Union delegates was not absolutely dismissed, certain rules of procedure which left the present position virtually intact were laid down.

## H.E. The Governor-General Opens Parliament

### The Speech From The Throne

The speech from the Throne was as follows :—

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Senate; Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House of Assembly, —I am pleased to be able to inform you that our relations with the other members of the Commonwealth and with foreign nations continue to be most friendly and cordial. Our Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary to the Netherlands, Italy and the United States of America have presented their credentials, and have been cordially received. I have great pleasure in announcing that the Governments of these countries are reciprocating by sending Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary to the Union and that the representatives of the Netherlands and Italy have already been duly accredited.

### Customs Agreement

The Union has accepted the Optional Clause contained in Article 36 of the Statutes of the Permanent Court of International Justice, thereby agreeing to submit certain classes of international disputes to the jurisdiction of that Court, and the declaration to that effect will be laid before you.

Notice of withdrawal from the Customs agreement between the Union and the Rhodesias having been given by the South Rhodesian Government, a conference between representatives of the respective Governments was held in September last with a view to exploring the possibilities of a revised agreement, but it was then found impossible to arrive at an agreement in the matter. Arrangements have, however, been made for a further conference at the end of this month to review the position, and it is hoped that a way out of the difficulty may be found.

### Caprivi Administration

In consequence of certain developments rendering it possible, the administration of the Caprivi strip, a portion of the mandated territory of South-West Africa, was taken over as from September 1, 1929, by the Administration of South-West Africa from the Administration of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, which had administered that part of the mandated territory on behalf of the Union Government since January 1, 1921. I avail myself of this opportunity to express the thanks of my Ministers to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom for the valuable services rendered in this connection to the Union.

It is pleasing to record that the country has enjoyed beneficial rains and that, despite the serious falling price level of wool and certain other products, the agricultural prospects, generally speaking, are good.

### Agricultural Legislation

Legislative proposals will be laid before you dealing with various subjects in connection with agriculture, notably to assist the dairy industry, to improve the cattle industry, and to amend the existing laws in regard to animal diseases and co-operation.

You will be asked to consider Bills with regard to various irrigation matters and to pass legislation to amend the Irrigation Act, to provide means for subsidising approved irrigation schemes and further facilities in connection with boring operations on farms.

Notwithstanding the state of the diamond market,

the position of the mining and secondary industries of the Union on the whole is satisfactory and is showing continued and steady progress, expansion and increasing employment.

The report of the Road Motor Competition Commission appointed by the Government has been received and will be placed before Parliament, and legislation in connection with this important matter will be submitted to you.

### Amendments To Industrial Laws

While the industrial laws of the country have on the whole operated beneficially during the last few years in the settlement of disputes between employers and employees and in the improvement of conditions of employment without disturbance of industrial peace, experience in administration has shown that amendment of these laws is required so that they may more effectively fulfil the function for which they were designed. Legislation will be introduced for this purpose.

In order to enable natives to make better use of their lands and to ameliorate conditions arising from overstocking of native areas, it has been decided to increase the number of agricultural schools where native demonstrators can be trained to instruct natives in better methods of agriculture and farming.

### Early Joint Session

It is felt that there is not sufficient provision in the existing laws for adequately dealing with ill-disposed persons who instigate feelings of hostility between the European and the other inhabitants of the Union. Proposals with regard to this matter will, accordingly, be laid before you.

Bills will also be introduced to make provision for various matters affecting natives in urban and rural areas.

It is the intention to convene at an early stage in this session a combined sitting of the two Houses of Parliament for the consideration of a Bill dealing with the question of the representation of natives in Parliament.

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House of Assembly, —Additional estimates of expenditure for the present financial year and estimates of revenue and expenditure for the ensuing financial year will be laid before you.

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Senate, Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House of Assembly, —In commending these matters to your consideration I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may guide and sustain you in your labours. In His Majesty's name I now declare this, the second session of the sixth Parliament of the Union of South Africa, to be duly opened.

Believers in birth control as an effective way of combating poverty in India, have formed a league for Maharashtra with headquarters at Poona. Mr. G. R. Gadgil is the President. The managing committee includes several medical men. Immediately sufficient funds are available, the league, it is stated, intends to carry on propaganda, and give expert advice in villages in Maharashtra. A branch has already been established in Korad village.

A Reuter's message from Noyon states :—

The aeroplane in which Manmohan Singh left for India from Croydon in an attempt to win the £500 offered by the Aga Khan for the first Indian to fly from England to India, overturned in a gale here and was seriously damaged. Singh has gone to Paris to replace a smashed propeller. The flight is not likely to be resumed for some time.

## India's Place In Commonwealth

Professor L. F. Rushbrook-Williams, Foreign Minister of Patiala State, India, whose subject was "Indigenous Rule in India," delivered the first of the twenty-eighth series of free public lectures at the John Rylands Library, Manchester.

The declared goal of British policy, he said, was India's full participation in the British Commonwealth of Nations. "If we should succeed in this colossal endeavour," he remarked, "we shall have done much to bridge over that difference between the civilisations of the Orient and of the Occident in which so many of the most far-seeing statesmen have seen the grounds of a future menace to the world's peace. If India can be brought inside the British Commonwealth of Nations as a willing participant therein and as a free agent, through her own choice, I think that Commonwealth will have made a greater contribution to the world's peace than even the League of Nations itself."

Proceeding to an analysis of the fundamental features of the British Commonwealth, the lecturer said they did not lie in community of race or of religion, but in a common heritage of ideas concerning government, such as the sense of the omnipotence of law, the dislike of unchecked executive authority, the belief in Parliamentary institutions as a symbol that the people were the ultimate source of authority; and a strong tradition of local self-government. His purpose was to investigate the political heritage of India, in order to arrive at some conclusion as to whether it was a hindrance or a help to India's participation in the Commonwealth of Nations.

### "Drum And Trumpet" History

Professor Rushbrook-Williams outlined that ebb and flow of invasions, that rise and fall of empires, which seemed to constitute at first sight the melancholy burden of India's history; and he reviewed the evidence which showed that while empires rose and fell individual kingdoms continued to maintain their separate identity. He described the effect of the impact of Islam upon the Hindu policy and described the rise and fall of the great Mahomedan kingdoms, finally outlining the new conditions which arose with the entrance of sea power as an effective factor upon the stage of Indian history. These constituted Indian history as it was too often studied; it was necessary for British people to get a far closer picture if they would understand the political heritage of India. The vicissitudes of empires which made up the "drum and trumpet" history of India took place in a sphere that exercised comparatively small influence on the lives and ideas of the population as a whole.

As contrasted with this ebb and flow of high politics the social fabric of the country showed an extraordinary continuity. The institutions which affected the life of the ordinary man in India to-day and the theories governing his ideas about society and his place in it went back in many cases to the dawn of the history of the Aryan-speaking peoples in India. The three typical institutions of the family, the village, and the caste still governed the lives of most people in India to-day as they did more than 2,000 years ago.

### The Hindu State

One of the characteristic features of the Hindu political heritage, Professor Rushbrook-Williams pointed out, was the limited sphere given to State activity. "Outside this sphere the field was open, not to individual action, but to communal and co-operative effort, in a degree which perhaps held a promise of a fuller life than was possible under the unrestrained individualism of the West."

The Hindu State was essentially neither autocratic nor theocratic, but in structure decentralised and in

spirit highly practical. Centralisation was foreign to the Indian genius, and he believed that one of the explanations of the rise and fall of past empires was to be found in the comparatively loose and impermanent character, as compared with the relative stability of the constituent small kingdoms, which provided the real integration of the communal rule of the family, of the village, and of the caste.

The State in India, in the speaker's view, had in the past been diverted from its true functions of agriculture, well-being, prosperity and development by centuries of disturbed conditions. It presented a phenomenon of arrested growth. But the roots which had made possible a high degree of political development in past ages still persisted and needed only to be encouraged to throw forth once more flourishing and powerful branches.

### Local Units

The political genius of the Indian people manifested itself most adequately in autonomous local units, united for the complexities of the modern State into a federation. Of recent years many leaders of Indian political thought had shown a tendency to demand the redistribution of the administrative provinces of British India into units which correspond more accurately to ethnological and historical facts. He earnestly trusted that the best minds of India and Britain would turn their attention to the very remarkable evidence of history in their attempt to lay firm the foundations of self-government for India.

The political heritage of India, while it differed in details from the political heritage of Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth of Nations, provided in many respects a remarkably close parallel. He was unable to agree with the statement, so confidently made, that India recognised no form of government save autocracy. He believed that Indian conceptions regarding the true relations of law to the executive authorities, regarding the ultimate source of political authority, regarding the desirability of government by discussion and regarding the autonomy of the unit of local administration provided ample evidence of the possibility as well as the justice of India's inclusion within the Commonwealth of Nations.—*Manchester Guardian*.

## East African Indian Congress

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu At Seventh Session

A Stirring Presidential Address

(Concluded from last week)

### Closer Union Bogey

Continuing, Mrs. Naidu made reference to the question of closer union, "There is," she said, "this insidious recommendation for closer union in the air. Unity, no doubt, is a marvellous thing in the right place, and at the right time."

Rhodesia says she is safer and happier as she is. "Let us be friends by all means," she says, "but let there be well-defined frontiers." "Yes," said the speaker, "it is a wonderful dream, a Utopian dream, that says there is a Union of South Africa, so let there be another Union here so as to make a wide continent with Europe holding the major share."

Tanganyika, said the speaker, is rapidly becoming an international issue. Uganda has a strong objection to joining hands with an insolvent place like Kenya. Zuluzibar is quite happy growing cloves and bothering no one, and wanting to be bothered by no one. Northern Rhodesia will not succumb to the charms of General Smuts.

Then from the economic point of view, there is

the question of the amalgamation of services. That undoubtedly, would be a sound economic consideration, but if such a thing were achieved it would quickly become a political matter too.

### Vital Safeguards

But, if it is inevitable, there are certain safeguards that Indians must demand. One of them is equal representation on any committee that may be formed in connection with the administration of the amalgamated services.

Then there is the possibility of making Kenya a self-governing Colony. In England there are statesmen with vision, with a strongly developed sense of justice, with compassion for those who are as yet inadequately equipped with education, knowledge and experience to defend themselves and to ensure that their interests are still fully guarded; those statesmen will insist on Government by the Imperial Government of Great Britain.

It may seem to many of you strange that an appeal for government of this colony by the Imperial Government of Great Britain should fall from my lips, since I advocate dominion status for India. The real difference lies in the fact that here I am fighting for those who do not yet know their own birthright, but in India I oppose Government from Great Britain.

Mrs. Naidu then touched upon what she described as the everyday problems of life. She intimated that she had already seen the Colonial Secretary, the Director of Education, the Principal Medical Officer. She had put before them an appeal for wider and greater facilities for the Indian community. She urged that greater attention should be paid to Medical relief and educational facilities for girls as well as boys. While she had been here she had heard of the appalling conditions in which a dead Indian woman had been found in a section of one of the hospitals.

### A Louder Voice

The Indians formed the largest immigrant community in East Africa, and it was a gross neglect of duty not to give them adequate medical facilities, that which an enemy Government gives to its prisoners of war. But in some measure a certain blame was to be attached to the Indians themselves for that. They had not voiced sufficiently their needs; they had not proffered adequately prolonged insistence on these demands. How could they possibly expect to fulfil their duties as co-trustees without mobilising their force? To-day it was their duty to see that they had adequate facilities, schools for their girls as well as their boys, and hospitals for their women as well as their men. Unless they were strong and well, they could not be willing and unless they were willing they could not bring to fruit their demands.

While on the subject of bringing their demands to fruit, Mrs. Naidu asked why the Indians of this country permitted so many deputations to come from India and take away their money back to their home. She fully realised that she would be in great disfavour by voicing this particular question, especially in the Punjab, but, she said, do you not need it here? Are there not a hundred thousand needs in East Africa to which you would be far better off if you gave your money?

### The First Duty

I want you to look upon yourselves as citizens of this country, said the speaker. You are ambassadors of India. Here is your land, your life. Your debt of honour has to be paid to the land which has been to you so great a foster mother; here is the land in which you must claim your common franchise so as to enable you to build up your lives and your ideals.

The speaker then touched upon the question of those Indians who travel on the sea as deck passengers. She referred to an incident which she had

personally witnessed a few days ago. She had seen a boat come in on which there were one or two cases of small pox. It was necessary for the boat to go into quarantine and several Indian passengers who were travelling on deck and who had not the slightest suggestion of small pox about them, were sent all the way back to Zanzibar to the quarantine station for twenty-one days. Was it not possible to set aside some small patch of land in or near Mombasa on which to put quarantine passengers rather than send them all the way back to Zanzibar?

Mrs. Naidu said she could go on from here to a thousand other grievances the Indians had. She could enumerate a volume of them, but it was not her desire to obscure the main issue with side issues at that time.

### The Main Issue

The main issue was the demand for equality of status. She said that according to the latest information there was little chance of the Imperial Government regarding the future policy they proposed to adopt towards East Africa before next Spring. It was more than likely that the Imperial Government would ask the Government of India first for their opinions, and it was equally unlikely that the Government of India would give any reply before it had conducted a thorough investigation of the question. "You cannot do without the support of the Government of India" said the speaker. "That and the Indians stand together in demanding a common franchise."

To-day, there is a Labour Government in power in England, and it is pledged to principles of equity. You have also the support of the leaders of the Indian National Congress which will meet in Lahore and reiterate your demands in no faltering terms.

### Non-Co-Operation Error

There are many here, continued the President, who think that to strengthen the agitation in favour of their demands, it would be a wise policy to embark upon a programme of non-co-operation. Speaking as one who is responsible for guiding the destiny of this Congress, I would ask you in all sincerity, if it is really wise to complete the issue by such a manoeuvre? Your demands must be supported entirely on their own integrity. There may come a time sooner or later, and it may be sooner than you realise, when not in a few, but in your masses, unified, unanimous, you will be called upon to make the great sacrifice, for the demands you are making.

That, however, has not come yet. We do not know if the policy of the Imperial Government will be wise or reactionary, but we must not give the least loophole for any to say: "Look, these people are unreasonable, they have not the strength of their convictions."

We must keep the integrity of our position unassailable, so that the most vindictive of our enemies, the most timid of our friends, will have no chance to say we have not given them a chance.

Mrs. Naidu said she would not like a single, solitary phrase to be used on which the least mis-interpretation could be placed by the wiliest of their enemies.

"We must stand," she said, "so as not to lower our flag by one single inch, and if you will do that, then I will bring you the word from the Motherland's millions, and from the Motherland's Government, that we are with you to a man." (Prolonged cheering.)

### Message Of Unity

The Government of India, continued Mrs. Naidu, is earnestly trying to placate Indian opinion at the

moment. It is probably the first stage towards securing unanimity of opinion.

You may be united in principle, but divided in personality. You have to face a great issue; therefore, you must have unanimous action, you must sustain unanimous ideals, and if you succeed in that you will be freed from chains of bondage. My message to you is a message of unity, of unanimous ideas confirmed by unanimous action. Go undaunted to the end, to your goal, forget your personality, forget your creed, your petty class distinctions, your caste difference. If the worker in the bazaar, the artisan in the workshop, and the executive in the commercial house, will stand together, co-operate in a mass on terms of equality and friendliness—if you will do all that, I will promise you that India will help you to the last man, and that your future and your children's future will be assured. So, with the wisdom born of sacrifice, you will go hand in hand together, in gratitude for the heritage of your children, just being helpful to one another, being magnanimous to one another.

And when Young Africa, free, emancipated, experienced, stands up and lifts his head proudly enfranchised and says; "O, Immigrant, how have you served me, what have you done for me, and what profit have you made out of me while I yet slept in ignorance?" your answer can come from your heart and your conscience can be untrammelled.

## Death Of Late V. D. Metha

Mr. Virjee Damodar Metha, father of the Indian printing industry and for many years a managing director of the Universal Printing Works, one of the oldest Indian printing establishments in Durban, passed away at his residence in Cross Street early on Sunday morning at the comparatively early age of 55.

Deceased who had spent almost a lifetime in South Africa, was born in Jamnager in the Bombay Presidency, and first came out to this country with Mahatma Gandhi and settled down with the latter at the Phoenix Settlement, the scene of Mr. Gandhi's early political career in the Union, and worked for some years at the "Indian Opinion" office as a compositor and proof reader.

Mr. Metha had a most remarkable grasp of Indian affairs, and his attention to Indian political activities in the Motherland was close and constant, and as a British subject he always vehemently opposed political and economic suppression in any shape or form.

Like Mahatma Gandhi, the deceased was an apostle of moderation, and always stood out for the great principles of truth, mercy and justice, and pinned his faith in Mr. Gandhi's creed of non-violence, and his faith in the Englishman's sense of fairplay and justice to Indians in the British Empire was unshakable.

At the close of the Passive Resistance movement in South Africa, deceased went to India where he entered into partnership with a flourishing Indian printing company in Rajkot, but his passionate yearning for South Africa brought him back to Durban during the Great European War, and a few months after his arrival he established the Bombay Printing Works in Saville Street.

After carrying on business for nearly 14 years he quite recently entered into partnership with the Universal Printing Works.

Mr. Metha was also a notable figure in the Indian

social world. He was up till the time of his death, vice-chairman of the Sunasbra Hindu Association, secretary of the Arya Kathiwar Mundal, joint secretary of the Bombay Presidency Association, secretary of the Umgeni Crematorium Society, and numerous other social, religious and educational institutions. He was always of a very amiable disposition and was eager to help those in need and distress.

The deceased's mortal remains were cremated at the Umgeni Lagoon on Sunday afternoon. Representatives of all sections of the Indian community of Durban followed the cortege.

Floral tributes were sent by the Bombay Presidency Association, Kathiwar Arya Mundal, Surat Hindu Association, Messrs. P. Devshi, A. N. Goshalia, C. T. Poonater, J. B. Metha, and M. D. Modi.

[We are indebted to the *Natal Mercury* for the above report.—Ed. I. O.]

## The Late Ebrahim Essop Asmal

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the late Ebrahim Essop Asmal who passed away peacefully at his residence, Innes Road, on Wednesday night. The deceased was the senior partner in the firm of B. Ebrahim Ismail and Company of Durban. He was an outstanding figure in the Indian commercial circle and was one of the shrewdest business men. The deceased was ailing for some time and was in consequence not an active member of the firm. Early this year, however, the deceased commenced to carry on his business as usual. Although not an active participant in Indian politics he was a keen student of Indian affairs and whole-heartedly supported the Natal Indian Congress. He was of an amiable disposition and received everyone that called on him with joy. In him the Indian community has lost a sincere friend. We deeply sympathise with the relatives of the deceased.

"A baby or divorce," is the answer of Mr. and Mrs. William Moyer (Philadelphia) to companionate marriage, birth-control, and "other new-fangled ideas" of the married state. The young couple were married before a magistrate after both had signed an agreement stating that they were marrying "for the deliberate purpose of creating a child." This extraordinary nuptial contract, which has been filed as a public document, declares: "If at the end of two years we have failed in our purpose it will be the privilege of either of us to apply for an absolute divorce without consulting the other." The bridegroom, after the ceremony, said the marriage was "an experimental union."

## Cane Farm For Sale.

A nice Cane Farm on Umvoti river with tram line to Mill, about 185 acres. Approximately 100 acres plant cane to cut during 1930, should give at least 1750 tons. Dip on property. Flat land and all arable, abundance of water.

Easy terms to approved purchaser.

Reply—"INDIAN OPINION,"

Phoenix

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