

Indian Opinion

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DR. ANSARI SENTENCED

FROM the last Indian Mail that we have received we find that Doctor Ansari the Acting President of the Indian National Congress, together with Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. V. J. Patel the ex-President of the Assembly and several other leaders are lodged in jail for six months. One of the Reuter messages during the last month announced that the Working Committee of the National Congress had been arrested at Delhi including Mr. V. J. Patel, ex-President of the Assembly. We in this country then did not know who the acting President of the National Congress was. When Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad was sentenced he appointed Dr. M. A. Ansari to act in his place as the President of the Congress.

Dr. Ansari in his letter to Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad offering his services, wrote on 25th August:—

"I beg to offer my humble services for what they may be worth to you as the Acting President of the Congress. Although my views regarding the present movement

are quite well known I cannot view with equanimity the policy of ruthless condemnation continued by the Government in face of the most unequivocal public condemnation. While peace talks are being conducted on the one hand with the Congress leaders, on the other hand the Government seem to have decided to strangle the Congress by paralysing its executive.

The declaring of the Congress Working Committee as an unlawful association and the arrest of the acting President and the Secretary of the Congress at Allahabad and more especially the recent arrests of the members of the Congress Working Committee at Bombay on a very flimsy pretext, leave no doubt in one's mind regarding the real intention of the Government.

I cannot stand aside while it is sought to kill the paramount national organisation of India, loyalty to which has been my lifelong creed. I feel it the

duty of every Congressman, specially all those connected prominently with it, to sink all differences and come forward to help the Congress in its life and death struggle, be the consequences what they may."

Dr. Ansari is a well-known figure in Indian politics. He had the honour to preside over the

Indian National Congress held at Madras in the year 1927. His views were well known regarding the decision of the Lahore Congress and the subsequent movement of civil disobedience. He did not join the movement then, but when the Working Committee of the Congress was declared to be an illegal assembly he stepped forward and offered his services to Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad. He is now safely lodged in jail for six months with other leaders.

At the U.P. Moslem Conference at Lucknow he said: Out of the total Muslim population of India about 80 per cent. Muslims belong to the North-West Frontier, the Punjab and Bengal and the remaining 20

per cent. to other provinces. These Muslims have shown to the world by their participation in the present struggle for freedom that the majority of them are Nationalists to the very core and supporters of the Indian National Congress. The people who have been sent to jail in Bombay, Bihar, U.P., Madras, etc. include a good number of Muslims and this very fact shows that the Muslims are taking the full share in liberating their country from foreign domination.

He exhorted the Muslims to understand once for all that the party of the few communalists and interested persons which has taken up the profession of flattering Government and to pander to its will cannot represent 7 crores of Muslims inhabiting India. The true representatives are those who have the freedom of the country at heart. Their voice, he said, is your voice and their deeds, are your deeds.



DR. M. A. ANSARI.

THE COMING STRUGGLE

IN these columns we have very often referred to the plight in which our community in the Transvaal has been placed in consequence of the introduction into the Union Parliament of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill. A re-iteration of the position will, we hope, not be out of place at this juncture.

The Transvaal Indian Congress submitted to the Select Committee, which was appointed to enquire into the Asiatic question in the Transvaal, a statement which pressed for the removal of disabilities as to occupation and residence imposed upon Indians. No less emphatic was the exhaustive statement submitted by Mr. Tyson on behalf of the Government of India. Representations made by Municipalities and others to further tighten the restrictive laws operating upon Indians seemed to have weighed with the Select Committee and they framed a Bill for the consideration of the Parliament. Dr. Malan was anxious to push the Bill through during the last session of the Parliament although the people vitally affected by it hardly had time to study it. Representations coupled with the intervention of the Agent of the Government of India (Sir K. V. Reddi) secured the postponement of the Bill, which will be re-introduced early next year when Parliament meets.

The South African Indian Congress has decided to hold an Emergency Conference in Johannesburg on Sunday next to discuss the Bill in detail and to reach a unanimous decision on it. The provisions of the Bill are by now well known to the community. Put in a nut-shell, it spells segregation and ultimate ruination to the community. There is not a single provision in the Bill which can be said to satisfy the community. The Conference has an important duty to discharge. It has to maintain the self-respect of the community, which in days gone by made enormous sacrifices and underwent sufferings to maintain it. There can be but one answer to the Bill, namely, that it is unacceptable to the community and therefore should be withdrawn.

Viewed in the spirit in which the Cape Town Agreement was conceived, the community is entitled to ask as to whether the Bill is in keeping with the Gentleman's Agreement. The Agreement lays down ideals which the Indians have set before them as their ultimate goal of uplift.

Opportunities were promised them to fit themselves as unit of the South African Nationals. Mr. Sastri, when interpreting the Agreement, said that there was everything in the Agreement but franchise. The Agreement was interpreted to mean as a treaty of peace, each party bound itself to fulfil its part. The Bill cannot but be interpreted as breaking the spirit of the Agreement. Solemn declarations contained in it are cast to the winds, and the Indians are treated as if they were no less than Pariahs of South Africa. There can be no compromise, and there can be no half-way house in the matter. The coming struggle has to be faced, and faced in that sense of sacrifice and responsibility, which alone would bring success, if not peace to our countrymen in the law-ridden land of Transvaal.

Hawkers Nuisance In Durban

Messrs. African Theatres, Ltd., has complained to the Durban Town Council of what is described as "an unpleasant state of affairs which exists outside several of its theatres, both at matinees and evening performances." The firm refers to the hawker nuisance.

In a letter which was considered by the General Purposes Committee on Monday last the Branch Manager, Mr. M. A. Benjamin, wrote:—

"We understand that, owing to the representations of business firms in this town, a restricted area will be enforced after the end of this year. We would, therefore, ask if the Council would include our theatres in the restricted area.

"We do not think it is necessary to stress the fact that our Company pays the Council heavy dues by the way of rates, light, water charges etc., and that we employ in our tea rooms a white staff, both male and female, to sell such commodities as are necessary, only to be met in open competition in itinerant hawkers, Coloured and otherwise, who do not pay anything, we presume, except a nominal hawker's licence. You will, no doubt, allow that this is most unfair competition."

Acting Chief Constable's View

The complaint was the subject of a long report by the Acting Chief Constable, Mr. W. Whittall, who said the difficulty of falling in with the suggestion made in Mr. Benjamin's letter, was that other business men in all parts of the town would also want restrictions placed on this class of trading, in their immediate vicinities, and the Council would be inundated with applications of a like nature.

"The principal complaint," states the Acting Chief Constable, "seems to be that the interior of the various theatres, and cinemas controlled by African Theatres, Ltd., are made into a dirty state, by careless patrons who throw about on the seats and floors, peanuts and toffee apples which they buy from hawkers outside the theatre."

"It seems hardly fair to blame the hawker, for the lapses of the buyer, who seems to be the principal offender.

"I do not think that the African Theatres Ltd., have put forward strong enough reasons to show that there is a case in which great hardship is

being caused through the actions of the persons they mention."

The matter was referred to the Licensing Officer for report. It is understood, however, that every thing will be done to reduce the number of hawkers which, in the opinion of the Council, is exorbitant. —*Natal Mercury*.

Asiatic Bill

Cape Coloured Men's Protest

Between 500 and 600 Cape coloured men, who are now living in Johannesburg, attended a meeting in the Pilkington Hall to protest against the Asiatic Tenure Bill. A resolution passed made special reference to Section 1 of the Bill, which places the same restrictions upon Cape coloured people as upon Asiatics.

"The Cape coloured people are born part of the South African nation," stated the resolution, "and as such they claim the unrestricted right to purchase land on the same basis as Europeans; and we appeal to the Minister of the Interior to eliminate the clause referred to because it is objectionable and unjust to alienate us in our own country."

Mr. S. K. le Pere was the mover, and Mr. H. Jonste the seconder. In a brief address on the Bill, Mr. A. S. Benson, the city attorney, urged the coloured people to unite and fight for their rights.

The following resolution was also passed: "That this public meeting of coloured people resolve that representations be made to the authorities for the establishment of a Coloured Juvenile Affairs Board, and that the Coloured Labour Bureau, subsidised by the Government, be run in conjunction with the board; and that the responsible Cabinet Minister be asked to receive a deputation from organisations interested in the subject."

Mr. George W. Crowe presided.—*The Star*.

The Wage Board Determination

The Pretoria correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes:—

Considerable interest has been aroused in commercial circles in Pretoria by the announcement of the Union Government's decision to instruct the Wage Board to conduct an immediate inquiry into the operation of the Wage Board determination in regard to shop assistants.

In an interview Mr. P. V. Gawith, President of the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce, stated that the announcement of the Acting Minister of Labour, Mr. E. W. Samson, in this connection, was very satisfactory. "This decision is both necessary and timely because things have reached a stage when the Act is beginning to afflict those it was created to benefit," declared Mr. Gawith. "A good deal of valuable experience has been gained, and if the Wage Board move quickly it will save a good deal of hardship falling on those shop assistants who qualify for wage adjustments on October 1."

"Our Pretoria Chamber has made representations to the Minister that the operation of the Act should be suspended pending an inquiry. This, we were told, was not legally possible. I think, however, that the Government should immediately indicate to the employers that all exemptions applied for will be granted pending the report of the Wage Board, which, in any circumstances, must take a few weeks."

Hertzog And Kenya

London, Sept. 25.—The first activity of the delegation from Kenya, headed by Lord Delamere, on their arrival in England to protest against the Government's White Paper, has been to see General Hertzog. It is learned that the interview was very satisfactory from the point of view of Kenya.

General Hertzog, replying to the delegation, expressed complete sympathy with the aspirations of the Colonists in East Africa. He said that, while the South African Government was reluctant to interfere with other parts of the Empire, it felt very strongly that any question of International supervision of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates vitally affected South Africa, on account of the Protectorates within the borders of South Africa. They were also deeply interested, he said, in the trend of Native policy in, and the development generally, of East Africa, because of the inevitable repercussions in the South.

In the interest of harmonious Inter-Imperial relations, General Hertzog declared, it was necessary that South Africa's views should be heard and considered.

He said he hoped to discuss the matter with the Imperial Government.—*Reuters*.

Churchill Runs Amok

The *Nation* of New York in its September issue has an article with the above heading. We have great pleasure in reproducing it here:—

At its annual gathering at Zurich recently the Second (Socialist) International (not to be confused with the Communist Third) voted its protest against "mad-dog speeches." Well might it, for a few days before, on August 20, Winston Churchill had given voice to one of the worst mad-dog utterances of which we have record. Speaking at the home of the late Lord Curzon at Kent, he declared it certain that Mahatma Gandhi and "a handful of disloyal Indian politicians" would not obtain Dominion Status in their lifetime, and that the next House of Commons would be less favourable to dominion self-government for India than at present. "It is wiser and safer," said he, "to be blunt, and plain, and wrong to encourage false hopes in the minds of the Indian political classes." He added his conviction that the result of a round-table conference would be to make the present confusion worse confounded—"I hope, indeed, it won't be disastrous." After characterising the leadership of MacDonald as "defeatism in high places which is so rapidly throwing India into chaos" he then accused the MacDonald Government of "trying to breed civil war in Egypt, as one might breed serpents in a zoo."

It would be hard to imagine a speech likely to do more damage. It is the spirit of Lord North and of George III. It embodies the contemptuous self-satisfaction of Lord Cornwallis and Sir Henry Clinton. It is as surely the policy of defeatism as was that of those distinguished generals in North America, and it underestimates the conditions in India as much as the leaders of the British Government underestimated the powers of endurance and determination of the American colonies. More than this, this speech explains why it is that while Winston Churchill is admitted even by his bitterest political enemies to be the ablest debater and perhaps the most powerful figure in the House of Commons, no one believes that he can reach the office of Prime Minister, unless there should be complete absence of any other leadership. Certainly his coming to the headship of Great Britain would be a tremendous

misfortune for the British people and a menace to the peace of the world. If the policy of blood and iron for India which he advocates in the words we have quoted should prevail, it means that innumerable thousands would perish, and that the British would find themselves shooting down multitudes merely because they refuse to accept the overlordship of the British Government at the same value that the Winston Churchill type of Englishman puts upon it.

It is just such an utterance as this, we suppose, that makes Ramsay Macdonald justify himself for withholding as Prime Minister that definite promise of freedom for India which he repeatedly gave prior to his taking office. We can almost hear him say: "You see, if we had taken the extreme position we should have opened the door wide to the Churchills, to the policy of force without stint." To this we should reply that the menace of Churchill is not to be met by compromise and refusal to stand by one's own beliefs and promises, but by clear-cut insistence that right and justice should prevail in England and likewise in India. If then the British electors should decide that they wished the Government to embark on as mad a policy as Churchill suggests, the responsibility would not be upon the Labour Party. Nor would the outcome be uncertain. We have passed that stage of human history when one nation may tyrannize over another merely to obtain some advantage for the nation's pocket. Adam Smith knew the truth about that, for he wrote that "to found a great empire for the sole purpose of raising up a people of customers" is "a project altogether unfit for a nation of shopkeepers, but extremely fit for a nation whose government is influenced by shopkeepers"—or, he might have added, a government influenced by Tories of the Churchill type. Indeed, we have before us the letter of a distinguished British journalist which has just come to hand from London, in which he writes: "We ought to have said to the Indian leaders: 'The political victory is yours; India is to be free; how will you take it?' The quibbling over dominion status, with Lloyd-George and Reading queering Irwin's pitch, has been fatal."

For the battle is lost, and the undeniable fact is that the great Government of England in India has gone hat in hand to the silent prisoner in the jail at Poona to ask what he will, and whether through him shall come peace. Only through him can it come. They have isolated him from the world; he may receive no letters and send none. No journalist may go to him, no friend or sympathiser. But his influence upon his people is unshaken. Every bit of unprejudiced evidence that comes out of India shows that British rule is shaken to its very foundations. The Indian cities are even withdrawing their deposits from the British banks. The picketing of cloth shops and drink shops goes on without abatement despite the brutality of the police. British industry totters. Meanwhile on the Peshawar frontier blood flows steadily. No man, outside of a few officials, knows how great is the loss of life, or how many villages have been bombed and destroyed. Even this show of the iron hand does not satisfy Winston Churchill, who feels that the Minister of India, Wedgwood Benn, is "a small man" who, as the problem of India "looms larger and larger, grows smaller and smaller."

What even the Labour leaders do not realise is that if they are not careful they may awake some day to find that, thanks to the Churchills and their fellow-diehard, the hour even for dominion self-government has passed. There was a time during the War of the Revolution when a conciliatory attitude and the readiness to make generous concessions would have saved to England her North American empire. If the Indians are provoked too far they may indeed refuse anything but complete

independence. The complete loss of India would be a dreadful blow to England! The blow to her prestige and the effect that that blow would have on her problems in other countries, need not be dwelt upon. That, however, is precisely what the Churchills are courting, and only by a broad and generous attitude and the readiness to make a radical concession can England's prestige in India be saved. Rifles and airplanes will not and cannot do it. The idea that India can hereafter be compelled to be "loyal" to a foreign government is as absurd as it is wicked.

Sir Kurma Reddi At Richmond

Sir Kurma Reddi, B.A., B.L., visited Richmond at the invitation of the Indian community to renew the friendship formed on his first visit to the district. A reception was held in the Memorial Hall in the afternoon, the chair being taken by Mr. Page, chairman of the Local Board, who was accompanied on the platform by Mr. Kidman, Resident Magistrate, the Rev. Cragg, Mr. A. M. Singh, and the officials of the Indian Society. The meeting was very largely attended by residents of Richmond and district.

Mr. Page in introducing Sir Kurma Reddi, stated that it was only a formal introduction as Sir Kurma had a previously made many friends in Richmond. He was glad that Sir Kurma had so far recovered in health as to be able to revisit Richmond. He hoped the friendly relations which had existed between the Indian and European inhabitants of Richmond and district would ever continue.

Sir Kurma Reddi was then garlanded by Mr. A. M. Singh who, in extending a hearty welcome to Sir Kurma to Richmond, congratulated him on his recovery to health.

A Great Work

"Your presence in South Africa, coupled with that of your distinguished predecessor, has created in the minds of the ruling race a broader understanding of the Indian people, and a more tolerant view of our aspirations," said Mr. Singh, a transformation which is solely and entirely attributed to the cultured influence exerted in our midst by yourself and your predecessor. Your strict sense of duty, and your kindness and affability to all has endeared you to us." He hoped that Sir Kurma would be vouchsafed health and strength to carry on the great task which devolved upon him in this country.

Mr. Kidman, resident magistrate, further expressed his appreciation of the restoration to health of Sir Kurma and his ability to return to the arduous duties required of him. He suggested that unity was really the strength of the community and the friendly relations between the Indian and other sections of the district was one well to be admired and a factor in the perpetuation of the civilisation of the world. This question had to be considered from the point of view of various races, but the fact that must be primarily considered was that education was a subject in which the parents and children must be intimately connected. Another fact to remember was that the world always thought the other side was wrong; what we should do was to try to help each other and show some real progress in the value of the world.

In welcoming Sir Kurma the Rev. A. Cragg also congratulated him on his recovery to health and ability to carry on the work he has so earnestly striven for, namely, the serving not only the Indian community but the whole European population of South Africa. Such work must necessarily not be only broadminded but must eventually end in a complete community—racial distinctions must

be submerged when the country required the best of all its various units or races.

British Liberty And Justice

Sir Kurma Reddi, in reply, said he was an old friend of the residents of the Richmond district and he was very glad to be able to again return to cultivate and develop that friendship.

"My Indian friends call this their little home, but I think it is the heart which makes the size of a place and here the hearts are large. I thank you most heartily for the kind reception you gave me last year and this present one. Those who work for the good of the world can seldom rise to the heights they would wish to reach, but in service they always strive towards a goal which ends in faith not only in my own countrymen but in the whole British nation.

"The statesmanship of Great Britain will, I think, always lead to the heights of liberty and justice. Education has been the keyword, and has been handed on with a free and open hand. I think the feelings I have so described will eventually end in an honest solution of our present Indian difficulty. Blunders must occur but one must ask 'can one learn to swim without getting into water?' I therefore do not fear but that a solution will in the end be found and that the just rights of the Indian will be recognised by its great brother, Great Britain.

"To-day the Western civilisation is the best, but that does not say it is faultless; but the ancient civilisation of India also shows attractive features and ideals which none could despise. We believe in re-incarnation; this soul is immortal even as God is so. So our souls are born again, under conditions the result of the service done by man, so, as you do in this world, will you be rewarded in the next.

"I would like to advise my Indian people to further the question of the education of their children, to take a personal interest in the quality and manner of same."—*Natal Mercury*.

Patidar Society Celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday

The chairman of the Society Mr. Mavjeebhai Patel said:—

Brothers and Sisters,—I extend a hearty welcome to you all for responding to my invitation and gracing this occasion, the 62nd Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, which is to us a day of deep rejoicing and thankfulness. The international hero whose birthday we have gathered here to celebrate is incarcerated behind prison walls at the critical period in the history of India, but we all have experienced that vibrations of his spirit pervade the entire freedom's struggle in the motherland and even the European critics have agreed that Gandhi in jail is mightier than outside and this incident weighs heavily upon the conscience of mankind. Whether one may believe or not, there shall always be a difference of opinion, but personally I feel that the future historian of this century will depict it as the Gandhi era owing to the great renaissance which has brought about in the world outlook towards the wickedness of armament warfare and sublimity of soul-force.

Through his sincerity of unchallenged and unblemished character and the vision of future peace

and human harmony of the world, Mahatma Gandhi has scored over all other colleagues in the West aspiring after the happiness of humanity and rendered a signal service to the cause of world peace which looks far away in the horizon owing to the half-hearted, and probably insincere attempts of the Great Powers to solve the problem. It requires a greater effort to settle the disarmament question than a finely-worded speech at the assembly of the League of Nations or diplomatic moves at international conferences. What is most necessary is the evolution of thought to revolutionise the present outlook in the world.

After a long period of 1869 years, we saw the birth of a man in Western India whose growth has been a problem to world thinkers and whose personality faithfully follows the Sermons on the Mount and preaches and practices non-violence. He has succeeded so far marvellously in revolutionising the Indian mind and keeping it attached firmly to the ideal of the suffering and self-sacrifice and fighting a political battle with the unprecedented weapon of non-violence against the mightiest of the Empires of the world. Well, then, the world thinkers proclaim that Gandhi is Christ personified in the twentieth century and in imprisoning Gandhi, the British Government has imprisoned Christ in spite of its being a Christian Government. Where would the world find a soul more sublime, more pure, more self-sacrificing, more Christ-like than Mahatma Gandhi who bears no ill-will towards any one, holds even no grudge towards the authorities who throw him in gaols every now and then and loves and respects.

Gentlemen, it is sheer absurdity to stigmatize Gandhi as a fanatic. If Christ was a fanatic, if Buddha was a fanatic, he could be called as such. Idealism is not fanaticism. British statesmen commit a huge error to call him a fanatic to serve their purpose of misleading the world opinion and keeping India under permanent serfdom. It may be that they will soon realise their blunder and concentrate their efforts towards the settlement with Gandhi, as Gandhi is Indian National Congress and Congress is India.

The awakening of India is not due to British liberality, neither is it due to English language. India has seen self-government for over three thousand years. She has seen prosperity, she has spread the torch-light of civilisation over China, Egypt, Greece and Rome of old. Her old spirit is re-born to-day. She has come into herself. The wheel of fortune brought the domination of British rule and several other previous rules. These have no doubt benefitted the experience of India and its capacity of assimilation. But the day is come when India should be free, should break its fetters of slavery, not only for her sake, but also for the sake of human peace which is the greatest problem in international life to-day. There can be no permanent peace without justice. India feels and intelligentsia of the world realise that there can be no peace as long as one-fifth of mankind residing in India is to be at the beck and call of British Imperialism, as long as the world is half slave and free. The problem of India thus becomes the problem of the world and its cause of independence needs international sympathy and support as the free India would be a great asset to the cause of world peace and its experience will be helpful in moulding the future harmonious connection of mankind.

Gentlemen, in conclusion I trust that you will join me in my prayer that Mahatma Gandhi be

spared for many years to come by Almighty God to serve India and humanity and we may have the privilege to celebrate his birthday every year. Om, Shanti, Shanti.

Resolutions

1. This meeting of the Transvaal United Patidar Society assembled to celebrate the 62nd Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi hereby pays homage and its respects to that Great Leader of India who has awakened the spirit of self-consciousness and self-determination among the people and commenced the unprecedented movement for independence and assures him of the sympathy of the Indians abroad in his admirable work of Indian emancipation.
2. This meeting places upon record the meritorious services of the leaders of India and prays Almighty that their efforts be crowned with success.
3. This meeting authorises the secretaries to send a cable to Mahatma Gandhi heartily congratulating him on his 62nd Birthday and praying God to spare him for many years to come and grant him sound health to continue his services to India and the world.
4. This meeting expresses the opinion that India should be free in the interests of world peace and human harmony and that all-interested in the cause of international unity and friendship should support the cause of Indian freedom.

A Racial Question

Should Europeans and Natives sit down to meals together? This is a question that has been agitating the Dutch Press since the European-Bantu conference at Fort Hare, Alice, in June last, when Europeans and Natives had meals together and generally came into close contact outside the conference proper. The Dutch Press condemns the innovation. Dr. Cruse, of Stellenbosch, a member of the Executive of the Students' Christian Union of South Africa (who was one of the leaders of the students' delegation at Alice) replied to the criticism, condoning, if not defending, what had been done. Rev. J. W. J. Hofmeyr, co-secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church Mission, in a short series of articles on the conference, definitely endorsed what happened at Alice as being in accord with Christian principles and as likely to promote knowledge. Professor B. B. Keet, president of the Executive of the Students' Christian Union, has now issued a formal statement. He admits that White and Native students had meals in common, indulged in sports and sat at the same Communion table. In pointing out that the Whites were the guests of the Natives, he says that "even though one may not approve of all this, one can understand that the Whites went out of their way to meet the other section in view of the desirability of creating an atmosphere conducive to the success of the conference itself."

"The Natives," Professor Keet continues, "understood the position very well, and no right-thinking person will conclude that the boundary line between White and Black has now become effaced. The conviction that each is to remain what he is cannot, however, be interpreted so narrowly as to imply that there should be no contact at all, even in special cases."

Finally, the executive, through Professor Keet, issues a warning against extremism on either side. Whites, it says, should not allow themselves to be

obsessed by un-Christian prejudice and hatred, while Natives ought to understand that efforts to meet them may not be taken advantage of to the extent of undue familiarity. Even before this statement had been published the organ of the students, "Nusas," in a strongly worded article, had expressed the determination of the leaders to be guided by liberal thought and not to let outworn prejudices stand in the way of better acquaintanceship between White and Black. The controversy is creating intense interest among the Dutch people of South Africa.—*Natal Mercury.*

News Of Independence Struggle In India

Boycott Of British Cloth

Calcutta, Sept. 26.—The reopening of the Amritsar piecegoods market—the chief market for British and foreign manufactures in Northern India—is fresh evidence, not so much of the relaxation as of the defeat of the Congress efforts in sabotage. Lathi blows, however, were necessary before the Congress pickets yielded.

At a Magisterial inquiry, a trader named Mushtak Amad said that the Congress volunteers entered a street in the market and asked for a man who had purchased a piece of foreign cloth on the same day. Amad refused to disclose the man's name and was dragged away and brought before two persons sitting as Congress "judges." The "judges" ordered Amad to apologise, to disclose the name of his customer and give compensation for his alleged interference with the volunteers' duties.

Meantime a relative of Amad had lodged a complaint with the police, who went to the "court." A fight followed and 12 persons, including the "judges," were arrested.

At Delhi, Congress, as a destructive body has proved a success. Most of the cloth retailers in India's capital have closed their doors and the remainder are doing insufficient business to pay expenses.

12 Men Transported For Life

Midnapore, Thursday.—Twelve men were sentenced to transportation for life and five to two years' rigorous imprisonment, while nine were acquitted at the trial by special tribunal, of 33 civil disobedience volunteers charged with the murder of Sub-Inspector Bholanath Chosh in the riots on June 3.

Seven were discharged because of lack of evidence.—*Reuter.*

Bombay Knows No Peace

A Congress report (states a Reuter cable from Bombay) says that a party of police arrested and handcuffed the leaders of 5,000 civil disobedience volunteers, who were returning from a forest where they had broken the forest laws. The volunteers resented the arrest and this caused the riot. The two officials killed were Mr. Joshi, a magistrate, who died from gunshot wounds, and a forest officer, 15 were killed and 50 injured.

Rioters Tear Up Ballot Papers

Naini Tal (United Provinces), Sept. 27.—A clash occurred at Moradabad to-day, when the police fired on Congress volunteers picketing the Town Hall to prevent the election of a Moslem to the local

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Council. One rioter was killed and 45 were taken to hospital; several police were hurt.

Rioters destroyed ballot papers and threw stones at the police.—Reuter.

Heavy Sentences For Rioters

Midnapore, Sep. 27.—Nineteen men have been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment, 10 to 18 months, one to a year and three to six months' imprisonment on a charge of rioting and assaulting the police on June 13.

Fourteen, including a Cambridge University graduate, were acquitted.—Reuter.

Mayor Of Calcutta

Calcutta, Thursday.—"I don't think we have any essential quarrel with the British. We want to live as free men and friends," said Subhas Chandra Bose at a meeting of the Calcutta Corporation last night, when he took the oath as Mayor.

Bose, who has been called the stormy petrel of Bengal, was released from prison on Tuesday. Previously he was bitterly anti-British and an ardent supporter of the demand for independence.

Reform League Hoists Union Jack

Allahabad, Thursday.—In the presence of thousands of spectators the Union Jack was hoisted over the Town Hall at Nijebad (United Provinces) by the Reform League, a volunteers corps formed recently to suppress picketing and help the Government to quell the Congress civil disobedience movement.

A conference at Elmora of industrial workers belonging to the "depressed class" passed a resolution affirming their loyalty to the British Raj and condemning civil disobedience.—Reuter.

Police Station Wrecked

Khulna (Bengal), Wednesday.—The police station here was wrecked by a Bomb yesterday.

A head constable was dangerously wounded, and a sub-inspector slightly hurt. The assailant escaped, —Reuter.

Sir Kurma V. Reddi In Johannesburg

Sir Kurma V. Reddi, Agent-General for India in the Union, arrived in Johannesburg on Thursday evening by train from Maritzburg. It is his intention to attend an emergency meeting of the South African Indian Congress in Johannesburg on Sunday to explain the Indian Government's considered attitude towards the proposed Asiatic legislation of the Union Government.

During the next few months, Sir Kurma will live at Kensington. He will leave for Capetown in time for the opening of the next Session of Parliament.

The Rev. O. F. Andrews, to whom the South African Indian Congress appealed to visit South Africa and act as adviser to Asiatics in view of the proposed legislation which will affect them, has now cabled to prominent Johannesburg Indians that he has had to leave for America on urgent political business connected with Indians.—Reuter.

THANKS.

Mr. Abubaker Carrim Dada, Messrs. Osman Bros., and Messrs. Noormahomed Bros., beg to thank all friends for their kindly messages of condolence in their recent bereavement from the loss of Mr. Abdul Carrim Dada.

"May the Almighty's blessings be on him."

Our Letter From India

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Calcutta, Aug. 14.

Necessity Of Khaddar And Charka

Srimati Mira Bai, formerly Miss Madeleine Slade who became a convert to the doctrines of Mahatma Gandhi is now in Calcutta on a mission to preach usefulness and necessity of Khaddar and Charka. Mira the daughter of the late Admiral Sir Edmund Slade, who joined Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram four years ago, is the first of his European disciples to make her home at the Ashram. Converts, it is said, make the most zealous adherents and Miss Slade, in her flight from the materialism of the West, has become the most ascetic member of the community and is second only to Gandhi in strict observance of its vows of poverty, self-denial and industry. She joined the Ashram because she hated Western civilisation, especially that portion of it which is known as "Society". On a quest for a simpler existence, she found a guide in Romain Rolland, the French poet and the principal adherent of Mahatma Gandhi in Europe, who suggested that in the Indian saint's creed of charka she would find contentment.

Since early this week Mira Bai has been addressing meetings in Calcutta her theme always being Charka and Khaddar. Mahatma Gandhi is to her the symbol of Khaddar. She smiles with appreciation at the name of Mahatma Gandhi.

Solemn in appearance, dressed like a Hindu widow, given to fast and penance, the venerable lady of Sabarmati spoke before a packed house of Gujrati gentlemen at Calcutta on Saturday with folded hands and with a hand-bag of Khaddar with all its apparatus and said that the greatest problem for India, was at present the problem of Khaddar. Thousands of Charkas and thousands more of Taklis are doing their humble and good work in Ahmedabad alone. Thousands still more of them, she said, should be going on in other parts of India. The gap produced for Khaddar is big enough. If India could not fill it up, there was no use in encouraging Swadeshi goods. From Ahmedabad, she has come via Bombay, Allahabad and Patna to Calcutta, and all the way she has found a wonderful enthusiasm for spinning. The whole country that Mira Bai has passed through, seems to have been working for the production of yarn. But so far there is a lack of organisation with regard to the supply of handmade spindles and for the weaving of the yarn produced. Therefore wherever she has gone she has concentrated on these two points.

A successful exhibition of Khadi was opened Monday by Srimati Mira Bai before a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The passport to the exhibition was just a hundred yards of handspun yarn which was gladly offered by all.

In opening the exhibition, Srimati Mira Bai explained at length what she repeatedly calls the "beautifully simple process" of spinning. She pointed out that to work at Khadi requires neither capital nor any high degree of intelligence. Khaddar could neither be taxed nor super-taxed. While the mill could. She explained the extreme universality of the Charka or rather of the Takli. Srimati Mira Bai made a demonstration of the whole process of spinning.

Sir P. C. Roy in the course of his presidential

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address paid a tribute to the noble parentage of Srimati Mira Bai and remarked that it was one of Heaven's rare graces for India that a respectable English woman of a noble family should have been a convert to Gandhism and gladly undergoing all the rigorous of Ashram discipline.

Time was, said Sir P. C. Roy, when there were Charkas in every home and village in India. It was a favourable sign of the time that good sense has returned upon the Indians after many years of its lapse.

Pandit Malaviya's Sporting Offer To Britain

Referring to the charge of the inability of Indians to rule their own country Pandit Malaviya said recently at a Bombay meeting that Indians had shown their worth in every walk of life, and had even proved their superiority to the average Britisher in some respects. He threw a challenge that Britain should select five hundred young men from any part of their country and India in her turn should be allowed to select an equal number of youths from among the Pathans, Sikhs, Gurkhas, Rajputs and Marathas and then there should be a physical contest between the two countries, and if the Indian youths were beaten, he for one would give up his claim for Swaraj.

Diwali Festival

21st October, 1930.

AN APPEAL TO THE HINDOO COMMUNITY OF NATAL

The committee of the Diwali Festival request that owing to the great political upheaval in our Mother country at the present moment, and in the struggle for freedom, Mahatma Gandhi and nearly all of our leaders are spending their lives in jail, we strongly feel that, while our Mother country and our people are in their hour of travail, we, who are in Natal, should as a mark of sympathy, curtail the celebration of the Diwali Festival this year, by refraining from spending our money in any and all demonstrations, decorations, firing of crackers and such other unnecessary things.

We therefore make this humble appeal, to each and every one of our Hindu community, to refrain from spending as above, and to observe Diwali Day as a day of prayers to the Almighty, for the immediate restoration of peace, for the release of our patriots and leaders, and for the attainment of Swaraj.

Late Mr. Sorabjee Shapurjee Adajania

We have received information by wire while going to Press from the Chairman, Mr. A. D. Mistry, of the Transvaal Parsee Association that Sir Kurma Reddi, Agent to the Government of India, will unveil the memorial stone over the grave of the late Mr. Sorabjee Shapurjee Adajania on the 6th of October, 1930, at 3 p.m. at Braamfontein cemetery. All Parsees and Indians are cordially invited to attend.

Indigestion Increasing

What Is The Cause?

A noted physician recently stated that indigestion is becoming more and more prevalent. Some attribute the cause to hurried meals, faulty mastication, or an unsuitable diet; others blame lack of exercise, overwork or worry. These factors may induce indigestion, but they are only contributory causes; behind them all lies the primary cause—thin, weak blood.

It is now a recognised medical fact that without good blood, perfect digestion is impossible. To overcome indigestion, therefore, you must enrich your blood by taking Dr. Williams' pink pills; these pills create new, rich blood, which soon restores the digestive organs to healthy activity.

Miss H. German, of 59, Church Rd., Murston, Sittingbourne, states:—"A few months ago I became a victim of indigestion. I suffered such pain after eating that I dreaded the approach of meal times. My mother advised me to try Dr. Williams' pink pills, and I gradually improved. The pills gave me a good appetite, and what was more important I suffered no ill-effects after ever so hearty a meal. Now all traces of indigestion have vanished."

Your own dealer sells Dr. Williams' pink pills, or direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., P.O. Box 604, Cape Town; 3s. 3d. for one bottle, or six for 18s., post free.

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