

Indian Opinion

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PRESS COMMENTS ON THE EMERGENCY CONFERENCE

THE *Natal Witness* editorially comments as follows:—"It is very much to be hoped that the drastic measures proposed by the South African Indian Congress at the emergency conference held at Johannesburg during the week-end will not be given effect to. Following a bitter protest against the Land Tenure Bill a resolution was passed requesting the Government of India to press for a round-table conference to review the position which has arisen in the Transvaal; and, failing that, the Congress requested the Indian Government to withdraw its agent in South Africa and to break off all diplomatic relations with this country. Where we believe the Congress has blundered in formulating its resolution is in the assumption that its cause in the Transvaal is already lost. During the earlier proceedings of the conference Sir Kurma Reddi made it perfectly clear that, so far from being at an end, negotiations between himself and the Union Government had barely entered the initial stages. As Sir Kurma said, it was impossible for him to make clear either to the Congress or the Union Government the views of the Government of India upon the problem of the Transvaal Indian for the simple reason that the Government of India has not yet expressed itself upon the subject. We are aware that grounds exist for considerable apprehension on the part of the Transvaal Indian community as to the measures which the Land Tenure Bill, should it pass into law, will introduce. But the advice of Sir Kurma to the Congress, that they should present their case in a reasonable and appealing manner was sound. There can be no doubt at all that in its clauses the Land Tenure Bill disregards the spirit of the Capetown Agreement. As the sponsor of the Capetown Agreement Dr. Malan knows this; and his influence in the long run may be brought to bear in a manner favourable to the claims of the Transvaal Indian trader. When the Capetown Agreement was entered into it received the support of the country. Since that time influences have been at work which have been inimical to the spirit of the agreement. It is, however, possible that the pressure now being brought to bear to enforce some form of segregation upon the Transvaal Indian will revive in the minds of the moderate European a sense of the discordance between the sentiments expressed at the time of the Capetown Conference and the actions which the Select Committee is inviting the Union Government to take through the medium of the Land Tenure Bill. If that reaction actually takes place then the hands of the opponents of the bill, of whom quite a large number exist among Union Parliamentarians, will be immensely strengthened. There is also another aspect of the problem which Parliament will have to take into account in the early days of the session when the bill is introduced. In London during the past week General Hertzog, in defining the position of the Union on the preference and native questions, stated frankly that it was the policy of the Union Government to give friendly consideration to the views expressed by the Governments of other dominions and members

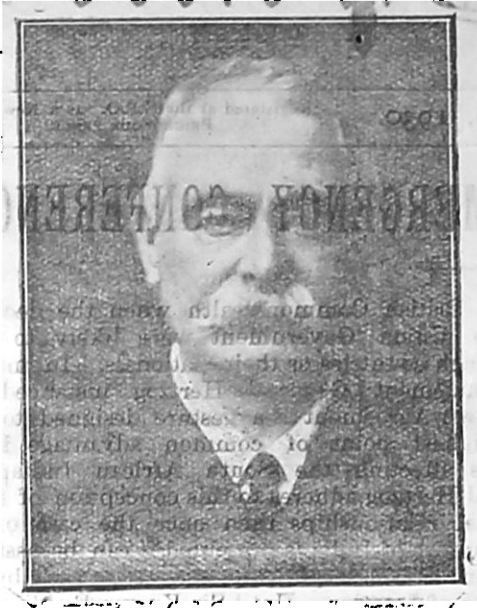
of the British Commonwealth when the decisions of the Union Government were likely to react upon such countries or their nationals. In making this statement General Hertzog instanced the Capetown Agreement as a gesture designed to find the highest point of common advantage in all matters affecting the South African Indian. If General Hertzog adheres to this conception of inter-Imperial relationships then once the case of the Government of India is presented it can be assumed that it will receive sympathetic consideration by the Minister of Interior. Until Sir Kurma Reddi places the view of the Indian Government before the responsible Union Minister it must necessarily be unwise for the South African Indian Congress to pursue the attitude of defiance which its resolution inaugurates. It may be, for instance, entirely unnecessary for a further round-table conference to be called. Until the conversations between the Agent and Dr. Malan have taken place any such proposal must be premature. As a matter of fact, the discussions of the Congress emergency conference were based upon the assumption that negotiations, which have not yet, in fact, begun, have failed. It may be, of course, that the emphatic declarations of the conference will have the effect of centering public opinion upon a problem which, looked at from an unbiased point of view, threatens to be productive of some undoubted injustice to the Transvaal Indian. We have heard in the past few months no expression of South African Party opinion upon this matter. But we should hesitate to believe that it is to be left to the National Party alone to give further practical effect to such sentiments of justice and right as formed the basis of the Capetown Agreement. Apart from such considerations we hope that the South African Indian Congress will avoid the mistake of prejudicing their case by appeals to drastic action before such action is necessary. A more temperate spirit, pending the presentation of the Government of India's views and the Union Government's reply, will prove the more effective.

The East London *Daily Dispatch* writes editorially:

There is, as was to be expected, a deal of consternation among Indians in South Africa with regard to the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill. At the emergency conference which met at Johannesburg, some speeches were made which show how deeply the Indian community feels on the subject. Briefly, the Bill proposes segregation for Asiatics and a severe restriction of their trading rights. The Bill—as are all measures taken by the present Government when the colour question arises—is harsh in the extreme. If it becomes law it will cause great hardship to the Indian community. As was pointed out by the president of the Congress, the great majority of the Indians whom it desired to penalise are South African born. They are respectable and well-behaved citizens, and it is difficult to discover why the Government should suddenly have

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DURBAN MUNICIPAL ELECTION



Captain Rainie.

THE resignation of Mrs. E. L. Knight who has for many years been a Town Councillor, for Ward II (formerly Ward IV) has resulted in a vacancy in that Ward. Two candidates are on the field seeking for the honour and they are Captain Rainie and Mrs. B. M. Mason. Of the two candidates Captain Rainie, we are of the opinion, should be well supported by the Indian voters. We are pleased to learn that the Natal Indian Congress has decided to ask the Indian voters to vote for the Captain.

Captain Rainie, it will be remembered, was previously the Port Captain, having been as such for over twenty years. And in that capacity he had had under his control hundreds of Indians. The high esteem in which Captain Rainie is held by many of the Indian employees of the S. A. R. & H. is an eloquent testimony to the fact that under him the Indians had always received justice and fairplay. With such a person on the Council, we feel sure that the cause of the Indian, which in these times appears more frequently on the Council's Agenda, will not suffer.

We would strongly urge our votes in Ward II to vote solidly for Captain Rainie.

BREACH OF FAITH

LAST week we endeavoured to interpret the "Uplift" clause of the Cape Town Agreement in relation to the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure Bill, and quoted no less an authority than Mr. Sastri, the ex-Agent of the Government of India, in support of our contention.

We shall now proceed to show how the introduction of that Bill is regarded as a breach of faith by the Indian community. A passage in the joint communique on the publication of the Agreement reads as follows:—"The Conference assembled at Cape Town on December 17, 19.6, and its session finished on January 11. There was, in these meetings, a full and frank exchange of views; which has resulted in a truer appreciation of mutual difficulties and a united understanding to co-operation in the solution of a common problem in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill." And the Union Government declared to the world that it recognises that Indians domiciled in the Union, who are prepared to conform to Western standards of life, should be enabled to do so." This point was further elaborated in the "Uplift" clause and the Union Government undertook to see that in the provision of educational and other facilities, the considerable number of Indians, who will remain part of the permanent population should not be allowed to lag behind any other sections of the people.

This then was the position when the Indian community in South Africa accepted the Agreement. But what is the position the Bill seeks to create? The effects of the Bill are the creation of "defined" areas, in other words locations, confiscation of properties, which are stated to have been illegally acquired, the ruination of traders and others, with their eventual extinction from the Transvaal Province. The provisions of the Bill are deadly in their effects, and the *Star* of Johannesburg rightly observes that "it introduces at several vital points principles of oppression unknown to the present law. We agree. It is a piece of legislation gone mad. Every conceivable method is utilised in it to strangle the community and to assign it to a place of helotage. Even barbarism would fall short of imposing a tyranny the Bill envisages.

Both the Union Government and the Government of India subscribed to the

views that they are to co-operate, in the words of the communique quoted above, in the solution of a common problem in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill. We want to know whether, as respecting this sentiment, any exchange of views on the Bill has taken place in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill between the two Governments in the solution of a common problem. Apparently not. The Government of India sent Mr. Tyson, in the absence of the Agent here during his illness, to present the views of the Government of India on the subject matters, which the Select Committee enquired into. Mr. Tyson, emphasising the "uplift" clause, stated in his evidence:—

"Understandings and undertakings of this kind—the whole history of the existing restrictions on Indians—entitle the Indian community to look for consideration at your hands. Your responsibility with regard to them is, I would most earnestly submit, greater, not less, because they have no vote. A people disfranchised must be your special care." Proceeding further he said, "To evict them from their place of business, to restrict them in their facilities for trade, to drive them into locations far removed from the white population—these are not the methods by which the Indians in your midst can be brought up as decent, self-respecting citizens. These are the methods by which a pauper population is created. Not to depress the Indian, but to raise him to your own standard of living, is the surest safeguard of that standard."

But notwithstanding this forceful plea of Mr. Tyson in which he appeals to the ideals set forth in the "uplift" clause, a Bill has issued forth, and the views of the Government of India disregarded. Even after this, is there any indication that the Union Government has ever offered to consult the Government of India in a spirit of friendliness and goodwill? There is none, for, according to Sir Kurma, "the matter is still under their (Government of India) consideration and no definite decisions have yet been reached. It is only after they arrive at such decisions that they can authorise me to make representations to the Union Government for their consideration and to explain to you the position of the Government of India or to consult your wishes with regard to that position." This is clearly an indication that no consultation, even though it be friendly, has taken place, and the Government of India, perforce, is obliged to make representations after the Bill has been submitted to Parliament. It is hardly explainable how the Government here can

with studied insolence ignore the presence of the Agent here, or disregard the avenue of friendly consultation, especially in regard to a Bill which, to all intents and purposes, is an engine of destruction.

The Bill, the community is convinced, commits a flagrant breach of faith, and has rudely shaken their faith in the Agreement, which they hailed as their Magna Charta, and which they regarded, and still hope to regard, if happily the Bill is withdrawn, as a milestone in the path of their uplift.

HONOUR AND WEALTH BOTH AT STAKE

VERY rarely, not indeed since the stormy days of the Passive Resistance Campaign, has any gathering of our people disclosed such intensive feeling as that manifested at the Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress held at Johannesburg on the 5th and 6th October.

That the Transvaal Asiatic Bill has shaken the community to its very foundations need no longer be the smaller doubt. Its opinion concerning the Bill is graphically reflected in the resolutions of the Congress that followed its solemn declaration that the measure is wholly unacceptable. Its intimation that failing relief being secured through the Government of India, that Government should withdraw its Agent from the Union, has a significance the importance of which will, we trust, not be missed.

The whole tone of the Conference, its very atmosphere, proclaimed that it was a gathering of people who recognised at last that their backs were to the wall and the knife at their throats. Such recognition must perforce generate strength, if only the courage of desperation, in a final effort towards self-preservation. As has so often been demonstrated, there are none so desperate as they who have nothing more to lose, and while we have submitted that in this long and anxious struggle, the motive that should primarily influence us is regard for our honour, when both honour and worldly possessions are to be filched from us then our plight is desperate indeed. Life without honour is a poor and miserable possession to such as have not wholly sunk into the quagmire of utter sordidness; still some there be to whom honour means little

or nothing as compared with more tangible riches. When, however, both the honour of the honourable and the possessions of the sordid are threatened by a common enemy, as is the case with us here and now, enforced community of interest is engendered that may become a by no means despicable opposition.

Respect for India's Agent General and the proper gratitude due to Sir Kurma Reddi for his self-sacrificing efforts in our behalf have hitherto contributed to restrain an outspokenness that might otherwise have been permissible. In the event of the Government of the Union proving unyielding to Sir Kurma's further approaches, those restraints must fall away, leaving Sir Kurma and his Government to such action as they may consider to be consistent with their dignity, and us, free to defend ourselves according to our ability and our lights.

THE DIWALI FESTIVAL

WE are sorry to observe that a correspondent in the *Indian Views* has taken objection to an appeal made by the leaders of the Hindoo community requesting the Hindoo people to refrain from spending money on Diwali Day on demonstration, decoration and firing of crackers. In our opinion to curtail and refrain from pleasures is one of the effective ways of showing our sympathy to the thirty thousand noble sons and daughters—the flowers of the Indian Nation who will be spending their lives in prisons in India on Diwali Day. There may be several Hindoo families in India to-day who would be mourning on that day because many of their members are shot down. If a death takes place in a Hindoo family it does not celebrate the Diwali Day. We hope the correspondent knows that. Let us consider that the Hindoo nation is one great family. And if one individual family mourns over the loss of one of the members in the cause of the country, let us cultivate that spirit that the whole Hindoo nation mourns over that loss. We want the correspondent to view this question from the Indian national point of view. We have before us few photos of kids of ten and twelve years who are sent to prison for four months as they dared to show sympathy towards the fight for freedom. Let us on the Diwali Day tell our kids in the house that kids like you are

sent to jail in India and they are suffering for our country's cause. It will be well on your part to refrain from spending money on fireworks. Money spent on such things could be usefully spent by the children in other ways. It is not requested through the appeal not to perform religious ceremonies on that day. The appeal urged the Hindoo people to spend that day in prayers to the Almighty to restore peace in India. We do not understand what objection the correspondent has in this.

"Lash And Liquor" Policy

Addressing a well-attended meeting of South African Party supporters at the Premier Mine, Colonel Mentz said that if half of what he heard was true the Diamond Control Board was about to wreck the diamond trade. He was not there to protect the trade, but he had a right to say to the Nationalist Party "You have done so much harm that the position will become really bad if you are also out to wreck this industry."

Referring to the native question, Colonel Mentz said that the black population was as restless as ever. Mr. Grobler was trying to advise Downing Street how to deal with the native, while Mr. Pirow intended to solve the question with the lash and liquor. This should not be the method adopted by South Africa.

Right Of Neutrality

The speaker feared that General Hertzog would not return from Great Britain. He was becoming more English than the English themselves. He had been saying wonderful things about Empire trade. If General Smuts had used the same words the fat would have been in the fire. He (the speaker) approved of these sentiments, but in the meantime Dr. Malan was talking about the right of neutrality. What was being said amounted to: "Give me the right to secede and then I will promise that I shall never secede." In 1914 the Union Parliament had set a precedent by deciding against remaining neutral. Why did not Dr. Malan wait until there was occasion to raise the matter.

The Concentration Camps

Colonel Mentz produced a copy of a publication consisting of affidavits and statements concerning the concentration camps in the Anglo-Boer War, which, he said, was being used by the Nationalists to stir up feeling among the women voters. "The Nationalist Party is going back to the graves of those women to drag bitterness into our politics. In the introduction the name appears of a minister of the Gospel who is a Member of Parliament. The women were told: 'You have the vote now. Use it in the light of the hatred and bitterness of which this book tells.'"

A One-Sided Party

Colonel Deneys Reitz, M.P., who also addressed the meeting, discussed the characteristics of the three parties. The South African Labour Party, he said, had always failed in times of crises and he knew of no party in South Africa that had more prominent members willing to accept comfortable positions from the Government. The Nationalist Party's cardinal failing was that it was one-sided and lop-sided, representing only portion of a section of the community.

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desired to apply the principle of segregation in their case. A study of the proceedings of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the matter, however, gives one the idea that it is purely the colour question which has actuated the Government in its present action.

At a meeting of this committee the following question was put to Mr. J. D. Tyson, then acting Agent-General for India in the Union: "If I suggest that a suitable area alongside of a European area should be set aside for the Indian, in what way would that handicap the development and the upliftment of the Indian; or do you suggest that they should live among the whites and on a basis of social equality with the whites?" To this Mr. Tyson replied: "What we object to is that you should put them aside compulsorily. If they were all in every way equal in the eyes of the law, it would be quite right for you to step in and say, 'Well now, it is better for the two communities to live apart.' But they are not equal. The Indian is in your hands entirely, and cannot protect himself, and that implies a stigma upon him, and if you separate the races there is a further stigma, and that is what is resented. If you segregate them from the Europeans, how are they to attain to Western standards—they are thrown upon themselves." There is much in what Mr. Tyson says. The Government has always talked loud and long about "Western standards of civilisation" being essential for Indians, yet the Government itself suggests segregation. Mr. Tyson also pointed out—very correctly—that the Indian did not endeavour to have social intercourse with Europeans. He did not thrust himself forward. He wanted to be allowed, not equal social rights, but equal trading rights. The subject is one which space does not permit our discussing in detail, but we are of the opinion that the proposed Bill is, like the Native Bills, legislation which is of a repressive character, and as such can do no good, but will cause a great deal of bitterness and harm. It is typical of that inferiority complex which causes the present Government to think that the only way of maintaining the European's superiority is by bullying—a sad mistake.

Klerksdorp Town Council Refuses To Issue Certificate

The question of Indians being licensed as general dealers has again come into prominence here, and by a refusal to issue a certificate for such a licence the Town Council, sitting as a licensing committee, has taken a step which may result in the matter being taken to the higher courts before the last is heard of it, writes the Klerksdorp correspondent of the *Sunday Times*.

The application which has brought matters to this stage concerns a business place known as "The Bombay House" where Indians have traded since 1888. In 1927, the partnership between Dindar Patel and Tilly, then in existence, was dissolved, Tilly taking over the business. In June of this year Tilly's estate was sequestrated, and when the assets were advertised for sale by the trustee, Abdul R. A. Gani wrote to Mr. M. Davidson stating that he was prepared to bid up to £8,000 for the assets; anything less than that figure for which he could acquire the goods would be Mr. Davidson's commission.

Mr. Davidson tendered £6,600 for the assets,

which tender was accepted, and on the same day he sold the assets to Gani for £7,965. Gani is a British Indian, who for some time has held a licence for "Red House Cash Store," which place is closed at present.

When Gani's application came before the Council a week ago, Advocate V. H. Naser appeared in support of its grant. He pointed out that the condition debarring coloured persons from holding or occupying property in Klerksdorp was identical with clauses in the Gold Law, but held that Act 37 of 1919 clearly laid down that the clauses in question did not apply to any British Indian who on May 1, 1919, was under authority of a trading licence lawfully carrying on business on proclaimed ground or on any stand in a township established under the Gold Law, or to the lawful successors in title of any such Indian in respect of such business so long as such Indian or successor in title continued to carry on business. He claimed that Gani was the lawful successor in title.

The Council postponed a decision in order to get an opinion from Advocate C. T. Blakeway, and this was considered by the Council in camera and on meeting in public session it was formally resolved that the Council refuse the application on the following reasons:—

That applicant is a coloured person prima facie not allowed by law to occupy or reside on the stands (mentioned in his application), and he has given no proof to the satisfaction of the committee that he is not subject to the prohibition in the title deeds.

(a) Since there is no evidence that he is a successor in title to a British Indian within the meaning of Section 1 of Act 37 of 1919; or

(b) That he is a person who can be a lawful successor to a British Indian within the meaning of the said section.

Another application concerning a transfer of ownership of the Red House Cash Store was postponed, the attorney for the applicant remarking that this could await a Supreme Court decision in respect to Gani's refused application.

Transvaal Municipal Association Supports Asiatic Bill

The congress of the Transvaal Municipal Association was held on the 8th October at Standerton. The following resolutions were passed affecting non-Europeans and Asiatics:—

The Congress unanimously agreed to support Dr. Malan's Asiatic Land Tenure (Amendment) Bill as it now stands.

On the Transvaal Town-planning Commission's report the executive made it clear that dominium of all streets, squares and open spaces in new townships should be vested in the local authority concerned. The provision that by-laws should be sanctioned by the Townships Board, except with the sanction of the local authority, was rejected.

Mr. Crocker remarked that this subject had been the cause of a great deal of difficulty and the powers of the Townships Board to override by-laws of local authorities had caused much unpleasantness.

Congress agreed that the Government be asked to introduce legislation empowering local authorities to prohibit non-Europeans, including Asiatics, from living in European areas.

Mr. Irving Steyn moved that the Provincial Administration be requested to re-draft the General

Dealers Control Ordinance more clearly to define the powers of local authorities in dealing with applications for licences.

Asiatic Encroachment

The following resolution was agreed to, and it was decided to telegraph it to the Minister of the Interior: "That the Government be requested to introduce legislation empowering local authorities to prohibit non-Europeans (coloured and Indian) from residing in European areas."

Mr. I. Steyn (Mayor of Standerton) remarked that Asiatics were gradually but surely encroaching upon European areas. Under present conditions the local authorities were not even allowed to prohibit coloured people or Indians from living in European sections of a town, and he suggested that the Government be asked to confer this power.

Mr. W. Lategan (Mayor of Rustenburg) declared that the Indian danger was becoming more serious day-by-day. He expressed the fear that the country's commercial enterprises would one day be totally in the hands of Indians if the tendency were allowed to continue.

Asiatic Traders

Major Wilkinson's Protest

The monthly meeting of the Johannesburg City Council was held recently, the Mayor (Mr. D. Anderson) presiding.

Major W. Wilkinson, at the outset, drew attention to the present state of affairs regarding Asiatic trading licences. He recalled that last March the City Council sent a deputation to Capetown, which cost the city something like £1,000, in order to present the Council's point of view before the Select Committee appointed to deal with this matter.

It was the contention of the City Council that the Asiatic traders had no right to trade in certain townships, under the Gold Law, and for the past two years the Council had withheld trading licences for these Asiatics. It was well known to those Asiatics that they had been trading for the last ten or eleven years in violation of the law, and in spite of that they had continued to trade, putting white traders at a very unfair disadvantage. But that was not enough. To-day there were new Asiatic traders, who, knowing that nothing would be done for the next twelve months before the Government could get its Bill through, were having shops fitted out and stocking them with goods. These people came with their tongues in their cheeks to the Licensing Officer, and asked for a licence although they knew the Council could not consider such applications.

He (Major Wilkinson) did not know what the Government was doing. This was a matter which concerned the Revenue Office. The Licences Consolidation Act (32), 1925, laid down that any person carrying on trade without a licence was guilty of an offence and liable to a fine or imprisonment, or to both fine and imprisonment.

These people might just as well open a bottle store or an hotel, and he wondered why the Government took no action. This state of affairs was a drying shame. The attention of the authorities ought to be drawn to this position by the City Council.

Mr. A. Bloch associated himself with Major Wilkinson's remarks, and Mr. A. C. K. Frost felt that concerted action should be taken in this matter, as the Asiatics in certain parts of the city were becoming a menace.

Mr. F. J. Roberts hoped that when the Government satisfied the wishes of the Council, the question would be tackled with sincerity and earnestness.—*Sund Daily Mail.*

Fate Of Malay Location

A resolution demanding the abolition of the Malay Location and, as a first step thereto, the immediate removal of the natives living there, was unanimously adopted at a public meeting held recently at Mayfair. It was also resolved to urge the Government to place the Asiatic Tenure Bill on the Statute Book as soon as possible, and to urge the City Council to stop the abuse of conditions governing the issue of stand licences in the location.

The meeting was called by the Mayfair Ratepayers' Association, and Mr. P. L. Lourené presided.

Dr. D. F. Malan (Acting Prime Minister), who had been invited to attend, sent a letter to say he could not be present, and that the question of the Malay Location was one for the Johannesburg Municipality to deal with and not the Government.

More than 20 members of the City Council were invited, but only five attended—Messrs. A. Bloch, A. C. K. Frost, W. Bawden, A. Rankin, and J. C. Fick.

Mr. C. Walsh pointed out that Dr. Malan had placed the Indians of Potchefstroom in defined areas. He did not know under what Act Dr. Malan had done this, but surely he could do the same in Johannesburg.

One of the abuses practised at the location was the acquisition of many stands by one man. There was a prospect, he said, of the whole location falling into the possession of three wealthy Indians.

Question Of Prohibition

Mr. Bawden said the late Mr. Justice Ward had ruled that no prohibition against any man owning more than one stand could have any force. If the Public Health Department were more active, the position could be much improved, he said.

"No wonder this matter has been dragging on all these years, if you cannot get a better attendance at a meeting like this," he added.

He expressed disappointment at Dr. Malan's reply and doubted if Dr. Malan could leave the municipality to turn the Asiatics into bazaars.

Mr. G. E. Symons said Mayfair North had so developed that the township was now adjacent to the Malay Location, only a roadway separating them.

"We have never had men strong enough," he declared, "to tackle the problem and bring it to an end."

Council Blamed

"I blame the Council alone," said Mr. A. Bloch. "Why did the Council take no notice of the state of affairs in the location? Why did they allow it to continue? When a white man infringes any by-law he is soon hauled over the coals, but this quagmire in the city is allowed to continue."

"I am blaming no one but ourselves," said Mr. Frost, "for we have been apathetic. The removal of the natives from the location is the first essential step towards the removal of the location itself. The Asiatic question will solve itself when the native question there is solved."

It was wrong to suggest that Mayfair had no complaint because the location was there first. The Europeans had developed the town, and even if Mayfair had sprung up yesterday, they had a right to ask for the removal of the location. The M.O.H. was a Government official, and could not be removed

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by the Council, but if the Council could threaten drastic steps something more might be done. If the Council made the first step, he was confident that the Government would take action to assist them.

"I am opposed to improving the Malay Location," said Mr. J. C. Fick. "If you do that, you are merely fortifying the location against yourselves. This location has to be removed. That is the only object that the suburbs adjacent to the location must have in view."

New Hawking By-law Discussed

Petition From Indian Congress

At last Tuesday's meeting of the Maritzburg City Council the following new draft by-law governing hawkers and pedlars was discussed:—

"No person shall carry on the trade of selling flowers, fruit and vegetables, as a hawker or pedlar, or exhibit his wares for sale in either such capacity in any street, sidewalk, passage or open space, whether public or private, within the area bounded on the north by Pietermaritz Street and Havelock Road, on the South by Longmarket Street, on the east by Boshoff Street, on the south west by Railway property and on the west by and including Baverstock Street, except at such place or places as may be set apart by the Council from time to time, provided that this prohibition shall not extend to any hawker or pedlar proceeding from door to door of private dwelling houses within the prohibited area for the purpose of offering or exhibiting his wares for sale to the occupier of such premises."

A petition was read from the Natal Indian Congress protesting against the "unfair and irksome restrictions" contained in the proposed by-law. A proposal by the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor H. V. Marsh, that the by-law should not be adopted having failed, it was decided that the matter should be referred to the Council-in-Committee, which will meet a deputation from the Natal Indian Congress.

Cases For D.I. 91 Form And Certificate of Identity

Members of our community, who have returned to the Union before the 5th July, 1930, and have since been refused permission to introduce their wives and children on the alleged ground that before permission is granted, applicants who have stayed outside the Union for over three years should reside in the Union for a continuous period of three years, and those who have been refused Certificates of Identity to enable them to proceed to India unless they have resided in the Union for 3 years continuously, are requested to furnish all particulars concerning their case, in respect of the Provinces in which they are resident, to (1) Natal Indian Congress, 175 Grey Street, Durban, (2) The Transvaal Indian Congress, 6 Kort Street, Johannesburg, and (3) Cape British Indian Council, 80 Hanover Street, Capetown, or to the South African Indian Congress, P.O. Box 272, P.M. Burg.

Information, as above, is urgently required, and should be communicated to the Provincial bodies concerned, on or before the 22nd October 1930.

S. R. NAIDOO & E. M. MALL,
Gen. Secretaries, S.A.I.C.

From The Prison Cell

In one of his further letters from Yervada Jail Mahatma Gandhi writes to his Ashram:

His discourse is on the third principle—Brahmacharya, an abridged version of which we give below:

"All our principles arise out of the main one—Truth. How can one who attempts to realise Truth worship sensual passions? We know of no one who has realised Truth by leading a sensual life."

Non-violence again cannot be observed without observing Brahmacharya. Non-violence is universal love. When a man professes all his love to a woman or a woman to a man what can remain with him or her for others? Neither of them can look upon the whole world as his or her own family. They have already a world of their own. This is a great obstacle in practising universal love. Hence a devotee of non violence cannot get married needless to even mention promiscuous relationship outside the marriage tie.

"Can a married man then never realise Truth? The married should remain like the unmarried. They should be like brothers and sisters free from all sensual desires. Regarding all women as mothers, sisters, daughters, is in itself elevating. It liberates us from a bondage. It widens the family and love grows after wiping out the sensual element. Selfishness vanishes and there is little room for mutual conflicts."

"The influence on the mind is the primary object of Brahmacharya and conservation of physical energy is secondary. What folly it is to lose vital energy for sensual pleasure instead of conserving it for building up our bodies."

"Brahmacharya is to be observed in mind, speech and body. One who controls the body but indulges or harbours sensual feelings mentally is a hypocrite. The body follows the mind. We have to control the mind and we are sure to win in the end."

"Brahmacharya is not merely a restraint over sexual desires. It has to be much broader and has to comprise all sensual pleasures—hearing, words, inciting passion, seeing exciting sights, tasting stimulating things, and touching thrilling objects. A Brahmachary curbs not only his sex but also all his senses. A great deal of harm is done by a narrow application of Brahmacharya. Brahmacharya means penance after the realisation of Brahma as Truth. From this springs the special interpretation of restraint of all senses. The incomplete application to sexual function should be forgotten."

Indo-European Joint Council

New Body Formed In Maritzburg

A Indo-European Joint Council has been formed in Maritzburg. It consists of 10 Europeans and 10 Indians. It was formed by Mr. J. D. Rheinalt Jones at a meeting held there on Friday the 10th inst. It was decided that Dr. A. E. Loram should be invited to become chairman. Mr. Denis Fagan and Mr. S. R. Naidoo were elected vice-chairmen. The other European members of the Council are as follows: Professor F. Barhill, Mr. Hugh Brown, Rev. Andrew Graham, Rev. Henry Skelton, Mr. G. C. Jolliffe, Miss Webb Johnstone and Miss Marjorie Fleming.

The Indian members are Mr. R. B. Maharaj, Mr. I. K. Jee, Mr. C. Nalliah, Rev. A. J. Choonoo, Mr. R. N. Moodley, Miss G. Nalliah, Mr. D. Branda (Secretary), and Mr. G. Zachariah.—Natal Mercury

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Notice To Transvaal Indians

Those Indians who hold Indemnity Certificates issued by Mr. Clarence are requested to have them recorded at the Immigration Office, Pretoria. It is informed that the Immigration Office has no record of such Indemnity Certificates. It is necessary to have such a record at the Immigration Office. If holders of such Indemnity Certificates lose them or misplace them, it is difficult to prove their rights and they are not protected. If the Immigration Office has a record of such cases their rights will be secured.

S. B. MEDH,
Hon. Sec. T. I. Congress.

News Of Independence Struggle In India

Gandhi's Birthday Celebrations

Bombay, Oct. 4.—Five hundred women volunteers clad in flame coloured robes, led by "Miraben" (Miss Slade), who is Gandhi's English disciple, and accompanied by working class women, formed a procession in celebration of Gandhi's 61st birthday.

The procession carried banners, inscribed "Gandhi Alone can Deliver the Goods" and "Free India Means Free Womanhood."—Renter.

Death Sentences At Lahore

Lahore, Oct. 7.—The special tribunal appointed in connection with the Lahore conspiracy case has concluded its labours after a long trial. Accused were alleged to have been concerned in the murder of an assistant superintendent of police named Saunders in 1928.

Three of the accused were sentenced to death. Seven were sentenced to transportation for life, one to seven years' rigorous imprisonment and one to five years' imprisonment. Three others were acquitted.—Renter.

Property Ordinance

Calcutta, Saturday.—An ordinance which is intended to be the final blow to the civil disobedience movement in India has been promulgated by the Viceroy. It will enable local Governments to occupy immovable property used for any unlawful association.

Explaining the reason for the ordinance, the Viceroy referred to the grave injury caused all over India by the Congress, who have not only rejected the offer of representation at the round-table conference, but have declared their intention to cause still greater damage and suffering to the Indian public.

The Viceroy, while admitting that public opinion is increasingly rebelling against the Congress methods, urges the citizens more effectively to resist unlawful activities, and bring about the restoration of order and tranquility.

Police Sergeant And His Wife Shot

Calcutta, Saturday.—There was a daring attack on Europeans early yesterday morning outside the Lamington Road Police Station, Bombay, when three men in a closed car fired 20 shots at Police

Sergeant Taylor, his wife, and two other friends, who were leaving a car to enter the police station.

Taylor was wounded in the hand, his wife was hit by three bullets in the leg, and the others escaped. Several bullets passed through the car into the station.

Late last night the police raided three houses including that of Mrs. Chattopadhyaya, a Congress leader, and afterwards arrested 12 youths suspected of complicity in the outrage.

Action Against Congress

Bombay, Oct. 11.—The Bombay Government has proclaimed several Congress and allied organisations to be unlawful associations. The police at Bardoli and Surat to-day raided Gandhi colleges and confiscated property.

Thirty arrests were made.

Forty-seven members of the civil disobedience movement, including three women, were arrested by the police during a raid on a house here this morning.

The police have hauled down the national flags flying over the Bardoli and Surat Swaraj seminaries, and have run up the Union Jack.

It is reported from Broach that the police have taken possession of the office of the local Congress Committee and that 28 arrests have been made.

The Government of the United Provinces has declared the Congress Committees in the Benares district to be unlawful associations.—Renter.

Congress Greater Than Gandhi

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL'S STATEMENT

Allahabad, Oct. 14.—"The first phase of the great struggle has ended; the second stage is now beginning." So Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who has been released from gaol, after serving a sentence of six months' imprisonment for abetting the manufacture of contraband salt, declares.

Nehru says that Congress will fight to the bitter to achieve the independence of India, adding significantly: "Congress is greater even than Gandhi."

As a sequel to the police sealing up a number of offices of the Gujerat Provincial Congress Committee which has been declared an unlawful association, the "dictator" of the Committee has appealed to supporters to establish new offices. As a result a number of houses in different street have put up boards inscribed "Gujerat Provincial Congress Committee."—Renter.

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