

Indian Opinion

No. 7—Vol. XXIX.

Friday, February 13th, 1931.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
PRICE FOURPENCE.

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

DEATH OF PUNDIT MOTILAL NEHRU

HUGE MASS MEETING CONDOLES

A MASS MEETING of the Indian community, under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, was held in Durban on Monday evening at the Royal Picture Palace to express the sympathy of the community on the sad death of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru, one of India's greatest leaders.

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, President of the Natal Indian Congress, in the course of his speech, said :—

Gentlemen,—This evening we have assembled to pay homage to a great soul who has passed into the Far Beyond. I refer to the death of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru, who, had he lived a few more months, would have celebrated his seventieth birthday, for he was born in May 1861. India has lost an illustrious son and Mahatma Gandhi a noble brother.

Death has dealt a terrible blow to Mother India from which it would be difficult for her to recover. The fact that Mahatma Gandhi, immediately after his recent release from Yervada Gaol, travelled to Allahabad to consult with the aged Pundit, will shew to you the esteem and high regard in which he was held by the Mahatma and the eminent position he held in Indian politics. Allahabad has been the scene of much activity during the past few weeks. It was at the bedside of Pundit Motilal Nehru at Allahabad where important discussions were proceeding relating to the future Constitution of India. It is an irony of fate that death should take toll of Pundit Motilal Nehru a day before the arrival of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri and Mr. Jayakar, who were to have proceeded straight to Allahabad with a view to deliberating with Mahatma Gandhi, Punditjee and other Congress leaders on the conclusions of the Round Table Conference.

Pundit Motilal Nehru was indeed a gem in the legal profession. At the High Court Bar at Allahabad, he was easily at the head. His name figures in almost every famous case in Northern India. He was a brilliant lawyer and his earnings at the bar were enormous, so much so, that he lived the life of a Prince in palatial mansions at Allahabad. No one who visited Allahabad would have failed to see the magnificence and splendour of "Anand Bhavan," which has been donated by him to the Indian Nation. It has often been said that his washings were done at Paris. In his dress he was immaculate. He scrupulously followed the fashions of Paris. Such was the magnificent style in which the learned Pundit lived until the creed of Non-co-operation enlisted him. Gone was his life of splendour. He responded to the clarion call of Mahatma Gandhi and thenceforth he dressed in nothing else but Khaddar. Not content with the change that was wrought in his life, he toured throughout the country lecturing on Khaddar and Non-co-operation.

The name of Pundit Motilal Nehru has been in the forefront since he joined the Non-co-operation Movement, but that does not mean that his public life began at that period. Far back as 1907, as a Congressman, he took an active part in Indian politics, for he felt as almost every other leader, that his foremost duty was to work for the political uplift of his country.

At the outset he was essentially a moderate but the repressive policy of the Government made him join the Home Rule Movement.

He was on the directorate of the *Leader*, a Moderate newspaper, but when he joined Home Rule Movement he withdrew from that directorate and founded the *Independent*. In setting out the ideals of his paper, he decried the "line of least resistance" that was then being taken and said,

"The *Independent* has come into existence to lay bare the soul of a nation, of a people ripening into nationhood, of communities merging into a people; of individuals growing into a community. How shall it approach its noble work? Or better still, how not?"

Not along the facile line of opportunism, the fatal line of least resistance which stifles the soul and perverts the mind. Not by methods of cabal camera and camarilla which bring no lasting good and help and only distort the outlook. But bringing the fierce light of day to play on dark spots wherever they exist. By giving expression to the plain impressions of the plain mind in plain language. By striving to press home the eternal truth that while on the one hand natural rights of mankind cannot be withheld to be doled out in little bits with a consciousness of high-minded generosity and a benignly benevolent purpose, those rights cannot on the other hand thrive in an atmosphere of religious cleavage and racial antagonism.

Thus alone can the *Independent* fulfil its mission and join President Wilson in saying "The select classes of mankind are no longer the governors of mankind. The fortunes of mankind are now in the hands of the plain people of the whole world!"

In 1918 when the Non-co-operation Movement was at its height he was at the fore with Mahatma Gandhi and since then his name has been a household word amongst the masses in India. A firm believer in Hindu-Muslim unity, he felt that a reconciliation between the Mohammedan and the Hindu must be effected so that each might feel that he was an Indian first and a Hindu or a Mohammedan afterwards. He did not mince his words when attacking the British Democracy.

"We can expect nothing from a foreign bureaucracy. Our interests are directly opposed to theirs, our gain cannot but be their loss. All power is at present centred in them, and it is only natural that they should be unwilling and indisposed to part

with it or even a fraction of it without a struggle; the great majority of these alien officials, no doubt, use their power in what they honestly conceive to be in the best interests of the country."

These sentences were typical of Punditjee's speeches.

In explaining the term Swaraj, he said, "It has been authoritatively declared by the Indian National Congress, that our goal is complete Swaraj..... That we shall have full Swaraj and will be satisfied with nothing less..... The word must be accepted to-day as an authoritative and comprehensive term comprising in one word, the whole impart of the well-known phrase—"The Government of the people, by the people, for the people."

On the 6th December 1926 he was arrested and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. He took the sentence most calmly. In entering the gaol he gave a message that was filled with supreme love for his country. He stressed that Non-violent, Non-co-operation should be continued until Swaraj was attained. Of Khaddar he said that "It was indispensable to the Swarajya Army, as ordinary weapons are to the Government."

Last year he was sentenced to 9 months, and owing to his illness he was released. Since his release he has been stricken to bed.

His entry into the Legislative Assembly as Leader of the Swaraj Party and his work there are recent history. But no speech on his life would be complete without a reference to the speech he made at the Legislative Assembly on that great occasion when the Swaraj Party walked out *en bloc*. I shall give a few extracts of that memorable speech:—

"We are here today under a mandate. The mandate, gentlemen, referred to the resolution passed by the All-India Congress Committee, which asked the Swaraj members to walk out after raising the Constitutional question.

He went on, "After subjecting generations of the people to a long continued process of emasculation, they took a cruel delight in reminding them that they were helpless and could not enforce their rights as free men could do. Well Sir, we admit, that at present we cannot; the Government are welcome to derive such consolation as they may from that fact and gloat over our helplessness. They are welcome to jubilate over their own shame..... Your much boasted reforms are not acceptable to us and we shall not have them."

Describing how thousands of young men were thrown into gaol during the first period of the operation of the reforms, he said they bore the humiliation patiently and courageously. Then came the second period when the Swaraj Party entered the Assembly with the Pundit as its Leader. He went on to deal at some length on the various nefarious methods that were being adopted by the Government, and then said:—

"Sir, we are not children; and the Government know very well how far it is possible for this section of the House to go with them on the road to full co-operation. The late Mr. C. R. Das offered generous terms for honourable co-operation. The Government rejected them....."

"What the Government have done to deserve it, that they have repeatedly flouted the opinions of this House, the considered resolutions of this House, the Bills that were passed by great majorities in this House. They have passed laws by certification which have been aptly described as lawless laws. An ordinance was passed shutting up some of the noblest sons of India without trial, in gaol. Those sons of India are still rotting in gaol."

"We hope and trust that the Nation will give a suitable reply to the truculent rejection of our

demands and will send us in large numbers with a stronger mandate, and God willing, with the sanction for fulfilling its aspirations, and enforcing its commands."

Such is the life of Pundit Motilal Nehru. He has given to India all that he possessed, his wealth, his home, his body and above all his one and only son, Jawaharlal Nehru, who is now serving India as a true son of a noble father. It is an oft-repeated remark that the best men that India produced have rotted in gaol. Without fear of any contradiction, I make bold to say that the Indian gaols have killed Punditjee. Though he is now dead, his spirit will hover over India and watch her steady progress to Freedom. Let us hope that Almighty will bless his soul.

The following resolution of sympathy was passed by the meeting:—

"That this mass meeting of the Indian community held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress hereby records its profound condolence on the death of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru and sympathises with Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, his family and the Indian nation in their sad bereavement."

All Indian business places were closed on Tuesday afternoon as a mark of respect for the late Punditjee.

Ladysmith Indians' Tribute

A mass meeting of the Indians of Ladysmith and District was held at the Hindu Thirukutam Hall, Ladysmith, on Sunday at 3 p.m., for the purpose of conveying an expression of sorrow at the irreparable loss sustained through the untimely death of Pundit Motilal Nehru.

In the course of his speech Mr. A. C. Moola, who presided, spoke in glowing terms of the great work that was accomplished by the Pundit and spoke in a sorrowful strain as to how he was taken away at a critical moment when his assistance was most needed.

Mr. R. Singh, who also spoke, said that India had lost two of her most illustrious sons in the persons of Moulana Mahomed Ali and Pundit Motilal Nehru within a month when their assistance was most required in the attainment of Swaraj for India. Other speakers were Messrs. Sayed Amud, Asvat, Lalla Parshottam, Bhudoo Bhoola and B. Maharaj. Prayers were offered by the whole assembly.

A meeting of the officials and members of the Arya Samaj of Ladysmith was held at their hall, Illing Road, on Saturday evening when prayers were offered and a resolution was passed conveying an expression of regret at the irreparable national loss sustained through the untimely death of Pundit Motilal Nehru. The Arya Samaj on hearing of the sad news forwarded a cable of condolence to the relatives of the late Punditjee. Speeches were made by Messrs. R. Singh, Vital, Bhudoo Bhoola and others who spoke of the manifold activities of the great leader for the attainment of Swaraj for India.

Meeting At Dannhauser

A mass meeting of the Dannhauser Indian community was held in the Mosque sample rooms on Monday night to express the sympathy of the local Indians at the great loss the Indian nation has suffered by the death of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru. Mr. Sheik Abdool was in the chair, supported by the secretary Mr. S. Goordeen.

Pundit Ramsunder Patak then referred to the great loss suffered by the nation in the untimely death of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru. Pundit Motilal's name was a household word in every

Indian home in South Africa. He was the joint founder with Mahatma Gandhi of the Swaraj movement in India and one of the brilliant sons produced on Indian soil.

Messrs. Jamalodeen Ahmed and M. D. Moola also spoke on the work of Pundit Motilal for the cause of Swaraj and India.

The chairman then submitted the following resolution of sympathy which was seconded by Mr. O. S. Vawda and passed in silence :

"That this mass meeting of the Dannhauser Indian community hereby records its profound sense of sympathy at the sad demise of the late Pundit Motilal Nehru, a joint founder with Mahatma Gandhi of the Swaraj movement of India and by whose death India has sustained an irreparable loss."

It was also decided by the meeting to dispatch the following cable to Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru :—

"Deeply grieved to learn of the death of one of the great Swarajist leaders of India. Pundit Motilal Nehru's death in the present critical situation is a tragedy to the Swaraj movement. May Almighty bestow you and Shrimati Motilal Nehru and family with courage and patience in the irrecoverable loss."

Other Cables

The following cables have been sent to Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, Allahabad, by the Transvaal Prajapati Association and the Anavil Brahmin Society respectively of Johannesburg :—

"Be Motilal Nehru's death a living patriotic example for our countrymen though the loss irreparable at this critical juncture. Sharing deeply bereavement. Praying God grant his soul peace."

"Anavil Brahmin Society is grieved to learn the irreparable loss that Mother India has sustained at this juncture through the death of your worthy father. Please accept our heartfelt sympathy in your sad bereavement and convey same to your revered mother."

Story Of Pundit Motilal Nehru's Death

Touching Scenes At Bedside

Pundit Motilal Nehru began sinking at midnight, when relatives and friends, including Mahatma Gandhi, were at the bedside.

At 4 a.m. the doctors gave up hope, and the patient was unconscious.

There was a touching scene at the bedside, where Mrs. Nehru, old and bent, was a pathetic figure. Motilal's favourite grand-child, Indumati, was crying at the bedside.

The news spread to Lucknow immediately, where thousands hurried to the house where the body was lying in state, decked in flowers.

In the centre hall there was a continuous stream of mourners.

The body was taken in a procession to Allahabad where the cremation took place on Saturday at Sangam, an Allahabad suburb at the junction of the Ganges and Jumna.

THE LATE PUNDIT MOTILAL NEHRU

(BY C. F. ANDREWS)

HIS HIGH CHARACTER

HOW is it possible to describe in words the glorious courage, self-sacrifice and devotion of Pundit Motilal Nehru? All these were offered freely in the service of his Motherland. There is one fact which everyone in India knows; it was really, in the first instance, his own wife together with his own daughter-in-law, the wife of Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, who became in God's Providence the cause, in the background, that most of all encouraged both father and son to give up everything in the service of their country.

I have seen these two ladies frail and weak in their bodies and suffering from illness physically, but in their spirits truly divine owing to their devoted love, endurance and sacrifice. All that Pundit Motilal Nehru and his son Jawaharlal have suffered, these ladies and their household have suffered with them. They too have given up everything. They also have again and again offered themselves for imprisonment for their country's sake. And what is more it has to be remembered that it is always much harder to feel the pang of loved ones suffering in prison and to be unable to help them, than merely to be in prison one's self. For the latter suffering is physical, the former suffering is mental and spiritual.

When I look back upon their beautiful home called Anand Bhavan, in Allahabad, which has now been given to the Indian people, I can remember with gratitude the frequent visits I paid there, as a loved and welcome guest. The ladies of the house used to care for every need, watching over me as if I were the only guest though many others also were present. For the house was always in the service of those who came from different parts of India on national service, and Mahatma Gandhi used to stay there when he visited Allahabad.

It was in the Punjab, shortly after the atrocities that happened in 1919, that I saw Pundit Motilal Nehru every day and got to know his character thoroughly. He was always gay-spirited, even in the hour of adversity, and his high moral courage was

evident. Suffering as he did from a cruelly painful form of asthma, he would often lie awake sleepless for most of the night and then bravely struggle through the day almost inarticulate with incessant coughing and hard breathing. But he had always a smile for everyone and would cheerfully 'carry on'.

Perhaps it may be allowed me, at a later date, to continue my recollections, but these first words of sorrow, after hearing of his death, will convey to many readers in South Africa something of his high and sterling character and also form a tribute of sympathy and love to his son Jawaharlal Nehru and his bereaved family.

ANOTHER NAIL?

WE have only just been favoured with a copy of the draft Immigration Bill we are informed is to be introduced to Parliament during the next few days.

Detailed criticism is of course impossible at this stage, but from the opinion of learned counsel promptly sought and obtained it is already evident that the Bill proposes to cut down existing rights in a most drastic fashion. We recommend a close study of the proposed measure and reserve further observations till next issue.

A Life Sketch Of The Late Pundit Motilal Nehru

The late Pundit Motilal Nehru was by birth a Kashmiri Brahmin, and was born in the year 1861. His family had come down from Kashmir and settled in Allahabad. Pundit Motilal Nehru was one of the ablest Indian lawyers in constitutional law and an ex-President of the Indian National Congress. His complexion was so fair that he was always regarded as a European when he travelled on the Continent of Europe in his European dress.

During the opening years of the present century he kept to his practice and his Western habits of life, and was on all occasions a leader on the moderate side of Indian politics. His son, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, and followed his father at the Allahabad Bar. Both father and son were famous in their profession, and the income they derived from their legal practice ran into many thousands of pounds sterling each year. Indeed, Pundit Motilal Nehru was one of the wealthiest men in the United Provinces.

The change in the political life of both father and son came after the Punjab disorders in 1919. They entered the Punjab soon after martial law had been abolished, and investigated the happenings at

Amritsar and elsewhere. What they experienced then turned them both into Nationalists of a more intransigent order.

When Mahatma Gandhi started his non-co-operation movement in 1920, Pundit Motilal Nehru joined him. By this time he was ready to discard all his Western habits, and to wear the home-spun "khaddar" as his only form of dress. It was an amazing change to see this very wealthy barrister living in many ways as the poor live in India, in order to take part with Mahatma Gandhi in non-co-operation.

A divergence of views arose between Mahatma Gandhi and himself with regard to entry into the Reformed Councils. He determined, against Mr. Gandhi's advice, to enter the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, and at once became the recognised leader of the Nationalists in their opposition to the Government of the day. He formed the Swaraj Party, who determined to offer obstruction until full responsible government was given. In spite of this opposition, resembling that of Parnell in the British House of Commons, Pundit Motilal Nehru won the respect of the House by his courteous demeanour and his magnificent powers of debate. As an intellectual force within the Legislative Assembly he was easily of the first rank.

While he thus obstructed the Government, he also on several important occasions gave them his full support in matters affecting social reform; for he himself was entirely free from orthodox caste prejudice, and on the side of liberal religious reform. With the Mohammedans he was always on very friendly terms, and he knew how to win them to his side in matters of national importance.

His son, Jawaharlal Nehru, took the non-co-operation position along with Mahatma Gandhi and at last carried his aged father with him. During the last year, Pundit Motilal Nehru joined in the civil disobedience movement, and courted political imprisonment. He was released owing to ill-health.

His death at this unfortunate moment will make a very serious crisis in the Congress movement in India. He was profoundly loved by all sections of the community for his extraordinary self-denial and self-sacrifice, and his death will cast a gloom over the whole of India.

Tagore's Message

In a message delivered recently to the New York Press Association, Sir Rabindranath Tagore is reported to have said:—

"I am proud my countrymen to-day, under their great leader Mahatma Gandhi, have disdained to imitate violent methods of modern military nations in their struggle for freedom but made moral integrity and spirit of sacrifice the directive power of their non-violent movement. By accepting spiritual force as their chief weapon, they have already proved their superiority to the primitive mentality of unashamed pillage and manslaughter which persists in most countries to-day, and I have no doubt that if our countrymen can keep fast to this heroism of non-violence, in spite of violent provocation they will have no difficulty in establishing the freedom which is already theirs in so far as they are true to the central ideal.

I can tell you that the whole world to-day recognises the greatness of India's spiritual struggle for liberty. India has proved that human history has come to a stage when moral force has to be acknowledged even by politics."

News Of Independence Struggle In India

Mr. Gandhi's Demands

Mr. Gandhi, in a message to the *Daily Herald*, (London) states: "On the face of it Mr. MacDonald's statement would appear to be wholly inadequate, but, in common with the majority of the Congressmen, I have an absolutely open mind, and I have suspended judgment at the urgent request of Mr. Sastri, Sir Tej Saprú, and Mr. Jayakar.

"Personally I am eagerly searching for avenues leading to an honourable peace that would give India the freedom she desires and is entitled to," added Mr. Gandhi. "The mere release of the members of the Congress Working Committee will be of little help.

"Even for creating an atmosphere suitable for calm discussion, the release of all the Congress Party prisoners, the withdrawal of all the repressive ordinances, and the restoration of confiscated property are absolutely essential. On January 21 well-known women, occupied in no unlawful activities, but forming a procession leading to a meeting of protest against the recent ill-treatment of their fellow workers, were indecently abused and mercilessly beaten. More than 150 men were injured.

"On Independence Day meetings in Calcutta were prohibited, contrary to expectations, and forcibly dispersed. The Mayor of Calcutta, Subhas Chandra Bose, was belaboured, arrested, and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment. The same day in Bihar five men were killed and a dozen wounded in the dispersal of similar meetings.

"The Congress and other organisations, including women's, are still being declared unlawful," added Mr. Gandhi. "This continuing repression robs the release of all grace, and makes it valueless for the purpose intended."

Gandhi Wires To London

The *News Chronicle* publishes a cable from Mr. Gandhi from Allahabad, declaring: "I am unable to pronounce a final opinion on the Round Table Conference, but what worries me is the look of things here.

"If the conference really offered freedom to India the reaction should have been felt here.

"On the contrary, I find the black repression continues unabated. Unprovoked attacks on innocent citizens still continue, respectable people being summarily, without apparent reason, deprived of their immovable and movable property by mere executive action.

"A procession of women was forcibly dispersed. They were seized by the hair and kicked with boots.

"A continuance of such repression would make Congress co-operation impossible, even if other difficulties were got over."—Renter.

New President Of The Indian Congress

The Allahabad correspondent of the *Times* states that the Congress working committee has appointed Sardar Vallabhai Patel as president of the ensuing session of the Congress at Karachi, but Gandhi in effect continues to be the controlling head.

Patel has always been a closer follower of Gandhi, and it is expected that his guidance at the Karachi Congress will be along the lines which his leader marks out. The fact that it has been provisionally decided to hold the next annual meeting of the

Congress in March is regarded as an indication that the Congressmen who have gathered here are peacefully inclined.

Although no formal decision has been announced an important section is apparently pressing for the acceptance of the promised constitution and the discussion of unsettled questions.

Even the extremists are not disposed to minimise the great advance registered at the Round Table Conference.

"We have rejected nothing. We have kept the door open." These words used by a prominent Congressman seem to represent the position.

One section, it is reported, holds that as the Congress leaders have come out of gaol on an amnesty they are bound to come to a settlement, and the only question now is whether they should accept the situation and consolidate their gains or hold out for more.

Gandhi's Letter To The Viceroy

Allahabad, Wednesday.

Gandhi has written a letter to the Viceroy, according to the newspaper *Leader*, urging an official inquiry into certain instances of alleged police excesses which he calls "test cases."

The *Leader* understands that if the Viceroy will agree to an inquiry Gandhi will interpret the action as a genuine peace gesture and take steps to persuade the Congress to take advantage of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's offer.—Renter.

S. A. I. Congress Resolutions

Following are the resolutions passed by the South African Indian Congress at its recent Conference at Capetown:—

TRANSVAAL ASIATIC LAND TENURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

1. This Conference of the South African Indian Congress held at Capetown after further and serious consideration of the provisions of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure (Amendment) Bill now before the Union Parliament, re-affirms the resolution passed at the Emergency Conference held at Johannesburg in October last and reiterates its objections to the Bill on the grounds, namely:—

(a) That the Bill is a violation both in letter and spirit of the Capetown Agreement.

(b) That it imposes disabilities upon Indians in regard to their trade, residence, occupation and employment in the Transvaal Province and

(c) That it aims at their compulsory segregation and ultimate ruin in that Province.

This Conference therefore again respectfully urges upon the Union Government to withdraw the said Bill and to introduce necessary legislation giving relief to the Indians in that Province.

That in the event of the Union Government declining to withdraw the Bill, notwithstanding the protest of the community, this Conference earnestly requests the Government of India to press for a Round Table Conference to review the situation that has arisen affecting the Indians in the Transvaal and in the event of the Government of India failing to procure a Round Table Conference aforementioned, this Conference further requests it to intimate to the Union Government that diplomatic relations between the two Governments should be considered to have ceased and to withdraw its Agency in South Africa as a protest against the Bill.

The Executive of the Congress is hereby author-

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ised to take such action as may be necessary in this matter.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS—PRETORIA ASIATIC BAZAAR

2. That the Conference strongly protests against the proposed By-Laws for the governance of the Asiatic Bazaar at Pretoria in that their provisions are degrading and unjust and in direct contradiction to the upliftment clause of the Capotown Agreement.

ASSISTED EMIGRATION

3. In view of the reports emanating from repatriates that their welfare in India is being neglected, this Conference is firmly of the opinion that a thorough investigation into the matter should be instituted and instructs the Executive to do the needful.

This Conference further respectfully requests the Indian Imperial Citizenship Association and the Servants of India Society to enquire into the conditions of repatriates in India and to communicate with the Executive the result of the investigation.

CONDONATION

4. This Conference appeals to the Minister of the Interior to reconsider his decision in regard to the introduction into this country of the wives and children of condonees and respectfully requests, in view of the small number affected, that condonees be permitted to introduce their wives and children into South Africa so that they may lead a happy family life.

EDUCATED ENTRANTS

5. That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress hereby accepts the policy laid down by the Secretary for the Interior in his letter to the Hon. the Minister in regard to the entry of teachers and priests into South Africa. This Conference further resolves that the acceptance of the said policy shall not in any way abrogate the existing rights under the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1914 in regard to the entry of educated Indians.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

6. That this Conference again respectfully submits to the Hon. the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs that the separation of races in the Posts and Telegraphs offices is unnecessary and it tends to wound the susceptibilities of the Indians. This Conference while appreciating that the Hon. the Minister has been pleased to remove the separation of counters in the Pine Street (Durban) and the East London Offices, and learning that separation of counters is made not with a view to segregation of the races but with a view to meeting the convenience of the public, urges that such convenience could be met by the establishment of non-racial Posts and Telegraphs Offices in thickly populated non-European localities and submits that this would lessen congestion in large Post and Telegraphs Offices and make for less public dissatisfaction.

This Conference also suggests that the employment of Indians as Post Clerks, Postmen, and Telegraph messengers would facilitate the work of the Postal and Telegraph Department.

LABOUR

7. That this Conference respectfully urges on the Government to take into consideration in dealing upon Industrial Conciliation Agreements and Wage Determinations, the economic disadvantages of Indians in that they have neither choice of site nor of customers nor nature of business owing to legislation and or administrative restrictions and prays that the Government remove the said economic disadvantages.

LIQUOR ACT

8. That this Conference while expressing its appreciation to the Minister of Justice for exempting Indian waiters and wine stewards in the Transvaal from the operation of Section 102 (2) (a) of the Liquor Act, feels that in view of the fact that the Exemption Certificates are of a temporary character, the future of these men hangs in the balance. The prohibition of methylated spirits to Indians is causing a great deal of inconvenience to the Indian householder.

This Conference, therefore, respectfully requests the Government to amend the Liquor Act in order to give relief in this and other matters affecting Indians.

SUBSIDY FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF INDIANS

9. That this Conference respectfully urges the Union Government to provide a subsidy for the Technical education of Indians in the Province.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION LAWS (NATAL)

10. That this Conference respectfully urges that the Union Government would be pleased to repeal the Indian Immigration Laws (Natal).

LICENCES

11. That this Conference re-iterates the resolution passed at the last Conference on the Licensing question and again respectfully urges, that having regard to the harsh, unjust and unsympathetic administration of the Licensing Laws in different parts of the Union in so far as the Indians are concerned, the Union Government may be pleased to take early steps to revise the existing Licensing Laws as indicated in the Cape Town Agreement.

RAILWAY GRIEVANCES

12. That having regard to the many grievances under which the Indian community suffers on the South African Railways, this Conference of the South African Indian Congress assembled at Cape Town, respectfully requests that the Minister of Railways and Harbours be pleased to appoint a Departmental enquiry into such grievances with a view to affording relief.

(To be Continued)

The Indian Technical Education Committee (DURBAN)

EVENING COMMERCIAL CLASSES AT SASTRI COLLEGE

The following classes have now commenced: Book-keeping, Business Methods, Commercial Arithmetic, English, Afrikaans, Correspondence, Shorthand, Typewriting and Salesmanship.

Students who have not yet taken advantage of these classes are advised to join as soon as possible. Further information may be obtained from:

W. N. BUSS,
Sastri College, Durban.

P. R. PATHER }
S. M. MOODLEY } Joint Hon. Secretaries.

P.O. Box 670,
Little Grey St., Durban.

NEW IMMIGRATION AMENDMENT ACT (1931)

ACT 22 of 1913 as amended by Act 22 of 1914 or as further amended.

Amendments as proposed by the New Bill.

SUB-SECTION 7—SECTION 2.

No appeal shall be heard by a Board unless a notice thereof in the prescribed form has been given to the Immigration Officer by or on behalf of the person concerned within three days after the refusal, detention, restriction or arrest of aforesaid or, in case the applicant arrived by sea and the ship whereon he arrived is about to depart, unless such notice is given forthwith. In every case a deposit shall be made of an amount fixed by the immigration officer, not exceeding one hundred pounds, to cover the detention expenses of the said person, the costs of bringing him to the place at which he was restricted if he desire to appear personally, and if he arrived by sea, the cost of his return passage by another ship to the place from which he came.

SUB-SECTION 1 of SECTION 4.

Any person such as is described in any paragraph of this sub-section who enters or is found within the Union, or who, though lawfully resident in one Province, enters or is found in another Province in which he is not lawfully resident, shall be a prohibited immigrant in respect of the Union or of that other Province (as the case may be), that is to say

Paragraph C of Sub-section 1.

Any person who is likely, if he entered the Union, to become a public charge, by reason of infirmity of mind or body, or because he is not in possession of sufficient means for his own use to support himself and such of his dependants as he shall bring with him into the Union.

Paragraph (f) Sub-section 1, Section 4.

Any person who has been convicted in any country of any of the following offences (unless he has received a free pardon therefor) namely, murder, rape, incest, indecent assault, sodomy, arson, theft, receiving stolen goods, knowing the same to have been stolen, fraud, forgery, or uttering forged documents knowing the same to have been forged, counterfeiting coin or uttering counterfeited coin knowing the same to be counterfeited, housebreaking with an intent to commit an offence, burglary, robbery with violence, threats by letter or otherwise with intent to extort, or of any attempt to commit such offence, and by reason of circumstances connected with the offence, is deemed by the Minister or by an immigration officer acting pursuant to directions from the Minister, to be an undesirable inhabitant of or visitor to the Union.

SECTION 1 of the Bill.

Deletion of the words italicised and substitution therefor of the *cost of removing him to any place outside the Union to which he may lawfully be removed.*

Sub-section (a) of Section 2.

Deletion of the words italicised and substitution therefor in each case of *has entered.*

Sub-section (b) of said Section.

Deletion of the words italicised.

Sub-section (c) of said Section.

The addition of the words *or has brought* after the word *bring.*

Sub-section (d) of Section 2.

Any person who has at any time and in any country been convicted of any of the following offences (unless he has received a free pardon therefor), namely, high treason, sedition, public violence, counterfeiting coin or uttering coin knowing that it is counterfeit, murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, rape, incest, sodomy, indecent assault, unlawful carnal intercourse or indecent or immoral acts with a girl under a specified age or with a female idiot or imbecile or soliciting or enticing any such girl or female to the commission of such acts, criminal injuria, indecent exposure, the unlawful burning of any property, robbery, theft, receiving stolen goods, knowing that it was stolen, malicious injury or damage of property, fraud, forgery, or the uttering of forged documents knowing that they are forged, house-breaking with intent to commit an offence, bribery, extortion or the obtaining of any property by means of any threat whatever, or any attempt or incitement to commit such offence, and is decided by the Minister or by an immigration officer acting upon directions issued by the Minister, to be an undesirable inhabitant of or visitor to the Union.

Addition of the following paragraphs after paragraph (h) of Sub-section 1 of Section 4.

(i) Any person who has been removed from the Union by warrant issued under any law unless such person is in possession of valid authority to return to the Union.

(j) Any person who has been convicted in the Union of any offence and by reason of the circumstances of such offence is deemed by the Minister to be an undesirable inhabitant of or visitor to the Union.



(a) As enabling a person to be deemed a prohibited immigrant in the Cape of Good Hope or Natal if, being at the commencement of this Act fully entitled to reside in any Province he shows or has shown that he is able to comply with the requirements described in Section 3 (a) of that No. 30 of 1906 of the Cape of Good Hope, or of Section 5 (a) of Act No. 30 of 1903 of Natal.

Paragraph (a) of Sub-section 2 of Section 4.

Nothing in Sub-section 1 (a) shall be construed.

Paragraph (b) of Sub-section 2 of Section 4.

As abrogating or affecting any right conferred by Act 36 of 1908 of the Transvaal upon the lawful holders of certificates of registration defined in that Act.

Paragraph (f) of Section 5.

Any person domiciled in any Province who is not such a person as is described in paragraphs (e) or (f) of Sub-section 1 of the preceding Section, or who has not been removed under Section 22 of this Act.

Section 22.

Any person (not being a person born in any part of South Africa which has been included in the Union) who whether before or after the commencement of this Act, has been sentenced to imprisonment

(a) for a contravention of any provision mentioned in the first Schedule to this Act or any provision hereafter made amending that provision or substituting therefor or for any offence mentioned in Sub-section 1 (f) of Section four, or

(b) for selling, bartering, giving or otherwise supplying intoxicating liquor to any coloured person in contravention of any law; or

(c) for dealing in or being in possession of unwrought precious metal or rough uncut precious stones in contravention of any law; or

(d) for any offence under Section 20 and who by reason of the circumstances connected with the offence, is deemed by the Minister to be an undesirable inhabitant of the Union may be removed from the Union by warrant, and pending removal, may be detained in such custody as may be prescribed by regulation.

(e) After Province "and having since that commencement retained a domicile in the Union."

(g) This paragraph is to be deleted.

Insertion of a new Section after Sub-section 4.

(h) (a) The holder of a certificate of registration or a certificate of domicile or any other document (other than a valid certificate of identity issued under the Sub-section 2 of Section 25) issued at any time under any law permitting his entrance into or residence in the Union or any Province thereof shall not by virtue of such certificate or other document be entitled to enter or reside in the Union or any Province thereof.

Deletion of the whole and substitution therefor of

(f) Any person domiciled in any Province who is not such a person as is described in paragraphs (e), (f), or (i) of Sub-section 1 of Section four.

Section 4 deletes the whole of Section 22 of the Act and substitutes therefor any person (other than a person born in any part of South Africa which has been included in the Union) who, at any time whether before or after the commencement of this Act, has been sentenced to imprisonment

(a) for a contravention of any provision mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act; or

(b) for any offence mentioned in paragraph (f) of Sub-section 1 of Section 4; or

(c) for any offence committed by sale, supply or delivery of any intoxicating liquor to a person who is not European, in contravention of any law; or

(d) for any offence committed by the sale or supply of or dealing in, or being found in possession of any habit-forming drug in contravention of any law or

(e) for any offence committed by the sale of, dealing in, or being found in possession of unwrought precious metal or of rough or uncut precious stones in contravention of any law; or

(f) for any offence under Section twenty; or

(g) for any contravention of Section one or three or four of the Immorality Act, 1927 (Act No. 5 of 1927)

and who by reason of the circumstances of such offence is deemed by the Minister to be an undesirable inhabitant of the Union, may be removed from the Union under warrant, and pending removal, may be detained in such custody as may be prescribed by registration.

Section two of Act No. 36 of 1908 (Transvaal Registration Act).

2 (1) Every person

(a) who is an Asiatic as defined by Act No. 2 of 1907; and

(b) by or in respect of whom an application for registration was on the tenth day of February 1908, or on any day subsequent thereto up till the tenth day of May 1908, made to the registration or other duly authorised officer; and

(c) to or in respect of whom a certificate in the form set form in the Schedule to this Act was issued by the Registrar

shall, when in possession of such certificate, be deemed to be the lawful holder of a certificate enabling him to enter and reside in the colony.

(2) Every person who, being the lawful holder of a certificate of registration under Act No. 2 of 1907, has been permitted to obtain a certificate in the form in the Schedule to this Act in substitution for such first mentioned certificate, shall also be deemed to be the lawful holder of a certificate entitling him to enter and reside in this Colony.

(3) Every Asiatic who holds any certificate mentioned in this section shall be subject in all respects to the provisions of this Act and not to the provisions of the Act No. 2 of 1907.

SECTION 11, ACT 36, 1908 (TRANSVAAL REGISTRATION ACT)

Every certificate of registration shall be accepted as conclusive evidence in all places that the lawful holder thereof is entitled to enter and reside in this Colony; provided that this section shall not apply to persons who have, under Section five or six of the Immigration Restriction Act, 1907, or any amendment thereof been removed from the Colony.

—————To be deleted.

—————To be deleted.

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અંક ૭

હિન્દે ગુમાવેલો મહાન નેતા

પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂનો સ્વર્ગવાસ

દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના હોંદીઓનો વિલાપ

પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂને સવિનયભંગની હદતમાં ગયા વર્ષના બુલાધ માસની પહેલી તારીખે છ માસની કેદની સજા થઈ હતી. સપ્ટેમ્બર માસની અઠમી તારીખે તેમને છુટી રીતે છોડી ચુકવામાં આયા હતા. તેમની સજાની મુદત પુરી થયા પહેલાં તેમને છેડી ચુકવાનું પ્રયોજન એ હતું કે જેલ માં તેઓ મંબીર રીતે બિમાર પડી શક્યા હતા. તેમને છાતીએથી જેલમાં લોકી પકવાનું કાર થયું હતું અને દિન પ્રતિ દિન તેમનું વજન ઘટતું જતું હતું. જેલમાંથી છુટ્યા બાદ અનેક ડાકટરોએ તેમની તપાસ કરી હતી. દાકતરી તપાસ માટે થોડા સમય ઉપર તેઓ કલકત્તા ગયા હતા. મહાત્મા ગાંધીજી જેલમાંથી છુટ્યા બાદ બનેવારી માસની તા. ૨૬ મીએ તુરતજ પંડિત મોતીલાલજી પાસે અલ્હાબાદ ગયા હતા. પંડિત મોતીલાલજીની માંડગી અલંત મંબીર થતી જતી હતી એવા સમાચાર રૂટર મારફતે પણ અને મળ્યા હતા. મહાત્મા ગાંધીજી તેમજ રહાસમાના છુટ્યા થયા પછી આગેવાનો અલ્હાબાદ ગયા હતા જ્યાં આમળ શુક્રવારે પંડિતજીનું મૃત્યુ નીપજ્યું હતું. હોંદીના આ મહાન શક્તિ નેતા પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂ કે જેઓએ પોતા પાસે હતું તેટલું સર્વસ્વ હોંદ માટે આપ્યું હતું. તેઓના અવસાનના સમાચાર મળ્યા શુક્રવારની સાંજે દક્ષિણ આફ્રિકાના દરેક ભાગમાં વીજળી વેગે પ્રસરી ગયાં હતા અને હોંદી કામમાં યોગદાન શોક બ્યાપી રહ્યો હતો. આફ્રિકાના દરેક સ્થળોએ હોંદીઓની સભા ભરાઈ અને પંડિતજીના સ્વર્ગવાસથી હોંદી પ્રજાને ઉત્પન્ન થએલી ખેદની લાગણી બહેર કરી પંડિત જવાહરલાલ નેહરૂ અને તેમના કુટુંબ ઉપર દીલ-સોજીમાં શુક્રેના મૌકાવાના અનેક હાર્શવે પત્રો લખ્યાં હતાં.

હરથનમાં જંગી સભા
 જોઈ સોમવારે સાંજના સવર થાય વાગે નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના આગ્રમ નીચે હોંદીઓની એક જંગી સભા વિકટોરિયા સ્ટ્રીટ પર આનેલ સેવલ પીકચેર પેલસમાં પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂના સ્વર્ગવાસથી હોંદી પ્રજાને મરેલી મહાન ખોટ બાદ ખેદની ઉડી લાગણી દર્શાવવા મળી હતી. નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના પ્રેસીડેન્ટ શ્રી. સોમખેલે રૂસ્તમ-જીએ પ્રમુખસ્થાન લીધું હતું. પ્રેસીડેન્ટે હાર કોંગ્રેસના

ઓશીસરો ઉપરાંત બીજા આગેવાન ગૃહસ્થો પણ હાજર હતા. સભામાં દરેક બતીના હોંદીઓએ હાજરી આપી હતી. પ્રમુખે પોતાના અંગ્રેજી બાવણમાં મરહુમ પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂના અવસાનથી હોંદને મરેલી મહાન ખોટનું વર્ણન કર્યું હતું. બાદ શ્રી. જી. ઇબ્રાહીમ. ગોંડેએ અંગ્રેજીમાં બાવણ કરી હોંદીઓ તરફનો શોક પ્રદર્શિત કરનારા અને પંડિતજીના કુટુંબ ઉપર દીલસોજીનો મીઠો મુખબનો દર્શાવ રજુ કર્યો હતો. જે સભાએ ઉભાં મંદિર ઘણીજી ગમગીની સાથે સંવત્સુમતે ત્રાસ કર્યો હતો. બાદ મેસર્સ જી. એચ. એ. જવેરી, બી. એમ. પટેલ, એમ. ડી. મરૂચી વિગેરે ગૃહસ્થોએ વિવચન કર્યાં હતાં. સભા બરખાસ્ત કરતાં પહેલાં પ્રમુખે પંડિતજીના સ્વર્ગવાસ બદલ શોક દર્શાવવા હોંદી કામને મંજૂરવારે પોતાની દુકાનો અને કામ ધંધો બંધ કરવા અજ્ઞાબું હતું. બાદ સભા વિસર્જન થઈ હતી.

હરથન
 “નાટાલ ઇન્ડિઅન કોંગ્રેસના આગ્રમ નીચે મરેલી હોંદી કામની આ બહેર સભા પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂના સ્વર્ગવાસ બદલ ખેદની ઉડી લાગણી સાથે નોંધ લે છે અને પંડિત જવાહરલાલ નેહરૂ, તેના કુટુંબ અને હોંદી પ્રજા સાથે તેના કુખમાં દીલસોજી થતું છે.”

હરથનમાં દુકાનો બંધ
 કોંગ્રેસની મીંગમાં કરાવ્યા મુજબ હરથનમાં ગયા મંજૂરવારે સર્વ હોંદીઓની દુકાનો અને મ્યુનીસીપલ ઇન્ડિઅન માર્કેટ ૨ થી પાંચ મરહુમ પંડિતજીના માનમાં બંધ કરી હતી. હોંદી મૌટરખસનાજાઓએ પણ તે વખત હરથન પોતાની બસો ટોડતી બંધ કરી હતી.

લેડીકમીથમાં શોક સભા
 પંડિત મોતીલાલ નેહરૂના સ્વર્ગવાસ બદલ દીલસોજી દર્શાવવા લેડીકમીથના હોંદીઓની એક શોક સભા મળી રવીવારે મરેરના ત્રણ વાગે મળી હતી. પ્રમુખસ્થાને શ્રી. એમ. એમ. આગેવાની પેટીવાળા શ્રી. એ. સી. મુશી બીરાબા હતા. પ્રમુખે લખીજી દીલસોજી સાથે મરહુમ પ્રત્યે માનની લાગણી