

Indian Opinion

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MR. ANDREWS INTERVIEWED AT PRETORIA

MR. C. F. ANDREWS, who paid a flying visit to Pretoria last week, had an interview with a representative of the *Pretoria News*. The representative asked Mr. Andrews what he thought Mr. Gandhi would do now that the Congress had confirmed his settlement with Lord Irwin. "I am extremely anxious," said Mr. Andrews, "to see the rest of the resolutions which are passed by the annual Congress meeting at Karachi. Before the Congress closes it is not unlikely that an important resolution will be passed about the Hindu-Muslim problem. Undoubtedly this will be the very first work which Mahatma Gandhi will undertake after the Congress is over.

"Whether he will succeed or not remains yet to be seen; but he has accomplished miracles before, by his amazing personality and commanding moral influence, and he may be able to do so again. At any rate, all this work for a solution of the Hindu-Muslim difficulty will be directly a gain for the discussions in London, which will now be resumed with Mahatma Gandhi heading the Congress delegation."

Asked to explain the last point more fully, Mr. Andrews said the first thing that will be done in London will be to resume the meetings of the Federal Structure Committee of the Round-Table Conference. This was postponed last January, owing in a great measure to the failure to come to any agreement on the Hindu-Muslim problem.

"Therefore, if Mahatma Gandhi can come to London with this internal problem affecting only Indians themselves already solved, he will come with immensely added strength, and also with the assurance that the framing of a federal constitution, which will give full liberty to both religious communities, is not an impossibility."

The committee, he added, will be able to take up the problem of forming a constitution for the future government of India with the added advantage of one of the greatest obstacles being cleared away beforehand.

Asked how this problem affected the actual framing of the constitution, Mr. Andrews replied that the Mohammedans are asking not only for separate electorates, but also for a special reservation of seats—not only in the provincial administrations, but also in the central administration. "Thus the constitution itself is endangered as a national constitution. If on every side within the federal structure the Mohammedans have their own seats and their own proportion of members in each Cabinet, as contrasted with the Hindus, national unity would be affected seriously."

"Would Mahatma Gandhi be a member of the Federal Structure Committee?" asked the representative. "I think that may be taken for granted," declared Mr. Andrews, "because this committee is by far the most important of all within the boundaries of the Round-Table Conference. It would be absurd to go on with it in the future without co-opting the leader of the National Congress, and some of his chief supporters."

The next question was what would happen after the Federal Structure Committee had done its work? Mr. Andrews had thought over this question. "As far as I can gather," he said, "the committee's work will take all the summer. Then there will be a recess during August and September. After that, the whole Round-Table Conference will reassemble, and seek to complete its work before the winter."

"It may be found absolutely necessary, however, to transfer the whole Conference, before its conclusion, to India, for certain final considerations. If the whole Conference cannot be so transferred, it might be necessary to form a standing committee of the Conference to carry out in detail, in India, certain extremely vital matters.

"All this, however, concerning the future, is only an anticipation of what may be likely. Circumstances may entirely alter cases. What seems to be practically certain is that Mahatma Gandhi will seek to find a solution of the Hindu-Muslim problem immediately before going to England; and that he will take part in the Federal Structure Committee during the summer, and also in the sessions of the entire Round-Table Conference, which will be held in London in the autumn."

Questioned regarding his own movements, Mr. Andrews said it had become clear to him that he was now able to go back to England with a fair assurance that the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Bill is not likely to be brought forward by the Union Government this session, but would be postponed pending the coming conference between the Government of India and the Union Government.

"The necessity of going to England has been very greatly enhanced," he remarked, "by the fact that Mahatma Gandhi is likely to go there shortly, and I shall have a very great duty to perform there in connection with his visit."

There was also a personal reason why he should go. One of his sisters had been dangerously ill, and he wanted therefore, to go back for personal, private reasons.

"The time during the summer will be all too short for preparing for the coming conference between the Government of India and the Union Government in the autumn. It is very unfortunate that the two conferences are likely to clash. And there is also a further clash, because the Imperial Conference will meet at Ottawa during the same month of October."

This, however, had been quite inevitable, and since the conference between the Governments of India and South Africa would be one between members on each side who have expert and prolonged knowledge of the question it may be quite possible to hold this conference, in spite of conferences of an entirely different character being held in Ottawa and London at the same time.

"It is practically certain that I shall be obliged to be present in some capacity at the coming con-

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FACE YOUR FATE WITH CLEAN HANDS

GERMANY'S historic retort when reminded of Belgium's neutrality reflects a mentality little, if at all, dissimilar to that of South Africa's Europeans, official and unofficial, in regard to our Passive Resistance campaigns. We, too, were twitted with going to war for a mere sentiment. In our case the sentiment was "amour propre" (self-respect). We counted loss of life, liberty and material possessions a small sacrifice when made for the preservation of Indian dignity in the world's eyes. The slur of national undesirability cast upon India's children was an insult offered to the Motherland, an insult which it were shameful her children should suffer without protest. Gandhi's way, the awakening by self-sacrifice of the wrongdoer's conscience to the wrongfulness of the act performed, was the form of protest adopted. The attitude throughout was (and still is) substantially this: In deference to your unfortunate race and colour prejudices; to your fears that we shall unduly poach upon the material gains you are reluctant to share; to your professed anxiety for the maintenance of your white civilisation, we are prepared to acquiesce in the limitation of our numbers through your immigration policy; in the limitation of our opportunities to compete with you in the struggle for worldly affluence; to the political helplessness to which you have seen fit (mistakenly, we believe) to relegate the great mass of your non-white population. We do so in the confident knowledge that the night of misunderstanding must inevitably give place to the sunrise of clearer vision. But, India's honour and the honour of India's children must be defended and if needs be suffered for and died for. The material disabilities you insist upon subjecting us to must be unaccompanied by any suggestion of racial insult. To the former we shall submit; the latter we may not permit. Passive Resistance was suspended only because and when the Powers That Were were brought to see and recognise the spirit and force of this view. The 1913 Immigration Act, for example, had the racial sting extracted through the agreement allowing for the entry into the Union of a certain number of Indians per year who were to be exempted from the operation of both the Immigration and Registration Law restrictions. For the rest Registration

Certificates operated by way of a check upon any more extensive influx.

The Immigration Law of 1931 rides rough-shod over the combined labours of the last 30 years, the labour on the one hand of the Legislature to enforce its policy and at the same time, as far as possible, to respect Indian sentiment, on the other of the community to reconcile its desire to placate anti-Indian feeling with its plain duty to preserve Indian honour. By a stroke of the pen, the Transvaal Indians virtually find themselves transported back to 1902-1903. Their Registration Certificates accepted by them in the first instance as guarantees of "their right to be here, to come and to go" are reduced to so much waste paper. Every member of the community is open to have his or her right to be in the Union challenged, is liable to be declared a prohibited immigrant; to be subjected to the trouble, expense and indignity of appealing against his prohibition and to the difficult task of proving to the satisfaction of the constituted authorities that he or his father, or grandfather or other guardian who brought him here or was responsible for his presence here, himself had a good and valid right in the first instance. No great stretch of imagination is necessary to foresee the outcome of this astute move. The forbears of many holders of Registration Certificates are dead and gone. The title of the latter can only be maintained by establishing 'de novo' the original right of the former. In very many cases this will be virtually impossible. For example, it may conceivably involve the necessity of proving that the present holder's ancestor who was the original immigrant was actually residing in the Transvaal before the Boer War! All that was determined by the Registration Act of 1907 and 1908 and confirmed by the Immigration Laws, viz: that the Registration Certificate was and should be a complete answer to any such challenge, save where fraud could be proved by the challenger, is now undone. Convinced as we are that the new Immigration Act is the outcome of a determination to reduce our numbers (since the Repatriation Scheme has failed to come up to expectation) we may perhaps be forgiven a feeling of distrust concerning the prospective inquisition with which one and all are threatened. Since the Registration Certificates are to be shorn of their protective value and

treated as "scraps of paper", why continue to hold them? Why subscribe to the registration farce now that the Certificates have become a joke—played at our expense? After all these years the parrot-cry of our "undesirability" is once again being revived and recorded in statutory form, we Indians whose very presence is an offence must by some means be got rid of; altogether, if possible, if not altogether then to as great an extent as can be managed. And so we are to be "smelt out". Let there be no self-deception on this score. All who can be got rid of will be, and we may be certain that this will include every one who may fail to furnish irresistible proof according to the most exacting standards.

What then must we do? Well, if we are doomed to spoliation and banishment let us at least face our fate with clean hands. Since the Government of 1931 elects to treat as a nullity the considerations that led to the 1908 settlement and the community's compliance with the Registration requirements, the community may with perfect reason revert to their then attitude and return "with thanks" the precious bits of waste-paper to where they came from. The certificates will certainly have no value in India.

In regard to the Indians of South African birth, it is a moot question how far they are liable to the same fate as Registration Certificate holders of Indian birth. One thing is, however, fairly certain, and that is the eventual segregation of those Asiatics whose presence will have to be endured—Japanese, of course, excepted.

THE NEXT CONFERENCE

(BY O. F. ANDREWS)

IT is now practically settled, according to the newspapers, that the next Conference, which is to be held between the two Governments, will take place either next September or October. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that every possible early preparation should be made beforehand, in order to make the Conference an entire success from the Indian point of view.

It is one of our failings, if I may venture to say so, that we very often leave things to the last minute and then try to do everything in a hurry. This is altogether disastrous, where we have great opposition to

overcome and where we have to gain the utmost which we can even hope to obtain, as in the present instance. For that is what we want to do in the Transvaal, where so much is against us. If the Conference, as now appears most likely of all, is to be held in South Africa, and possibly even in Pretoria itself, (though nothing has been decided when I write) it will mean for us all, especially in the Transvaal, an even greater need for earnest preparation and care than ever before; for in that case we shall have suitably to receive the delegates who come from India and give them hospitality, as Indians are always wont to do, and also to get up our case in every detail and explain exactly under what hardships and difficulties we have to suffer.

In order to do this effectively, I am venturing, before I leave South Africa to suggest in every province, and especially with regard to the Transvaal, the following programme to be followed in five directions. Here is a five-pointed programme:—

(1) The South African Indian Congress must be in every way strengthened, because it is the one body which will have to bear the brunt of the work and to undertake the gravest responsibilities of decision and action. There must be in every direction a rallying round the Congress banner. Just as in India the recent struggle of Mahatma Gandhi with the Indian Government was won because there was a rallying round the National Congress, so here in South Africa there can be no great victory unless the united strength of the South African Indian Congress is clearly seen in action and every single member of the S.A.I.C. does his duty towards the Indian community. 'United we stand, divided we fall.' In the hour of danger this motto is most precious. Practical unity at the Conference is only possible by helping forward the Congress. Therefore I would venture to ask every member of the community to join the Congress at once if they have not already done so. This does not mean, however, mere lip service. It means also paying each year regularly the provincial quota to the S.A.I.C. and taking an active part in Congress work in one's own local area.

(2) There must be very careful and thorough work done in preparing the whole public of South Africa, through the Press and in other ways, to take a sympathetic view of the Indian situation. South Africans

have to become broad-minded enough to see what important events are happening in the East owing to the national movement in every Eastern country and the awakening of the whole of Asia. This work in the Press can only be done by those who are experts, but a great deal can be accomplished also in very simple ways by using every opportunity, in a friendly manner, for explaining all these things to Europeans whenever an opportunity occurs. It is obvious here also, as well as in supporting the Congress, that a properly audited fund will be needed for the circulation of literature on the subject. The Indian community of South Africa has many business men in it, and they will fully understand how impossible it is for such work as this to be done without any properly audited fund behind it.

(3) This newspaper, INDIAN OPINION, which is Mahatma Gandhi's own creation and has been from the very beginning the standing support of the community, must now receive such active and full financial strength that the Staff of the newspaper will be relieved from the burden of running round collecting subscriptions and also carrying on the newspaper at the same time; for this is an impossible burden to carry. Even Mahatma Gandhi, who is an amazingly rapid worker, could not undertake the double strain, when he was in South Africa. It is quite impossible for the present Editor, Mr. Pragjee Desai, to do this. The strain has already been so great that it has been too much for him and he must not bear it any longer.

(4) May I say with all love and affection that unity within the Congress itself can never be obtained unless the chief officers who have been duly elected are loyally backed up in every way by the whole community? If a ship is in a storm at sea, and there is danger of shipwreck, and if instead of obeying the Captain and officers the crew begins to criticise, and one says this, and the other says that, then it is quite certain that the danger of shipwreck of the whole crew will be very greatly increased. On the other hand, if everyone loyally supports the Captain and officers and carries out his special duties promptly, then the ship may be saved. Thus, we ourselves, in this stormy time, must stick to the officers we

have chosen and give them every support. Only in this way shall we bring our ship safely through the storm.

(5) But this also means that the officers themselves and the Captain must do their duty with diligence and care. They must not be either slack or careless. Therefore, my last word of fatherly advice will be given in love and affection to those who are officers in the Congress. There has never been a time in the history of the Indian community when there has been more need of carefully planned and prepared action than now. For this next Conference, which is now practically assured, will mean far more to the Indian community than the Capetown Agreement itself. It will be the final test as to whether it is possible for the Indian community in South Africa to obtain fair treatment at last from the Government of this country. For over thirty years a supreme effort has been made. Again and again, in different Agreements and Settlements, the way to advance has been pressed open at tremendous cost. Then the door has been closed again. Hope has been so often deferred that we have almost lost hope itself.

But here at last has come a really supreme moment, a final opportunity. This coming Settlement will be the biggest and the most important that has ever been held hitherto. What we obtain will depend on two things. (a) The Union Government itself must be convinced that this is the only way to solve an otherwise insoluble question. (b) We ourselves must be so disciplined and ready for action that we can make the best of ourselves at the Conference instead of leaving things to the last moment and only doing our worst. In this second issue, all will depend on the Congress leaders. With good leadership things go well. With bad leadership nothing can be obtained. On that account I am venturing to appeal to the Congress leaders to do everything in their power for the Congress itself in these coming months so that its point of view may really represent in the best possible manner the whole Indian community and win its entire allegiance on account of the sacrifice and devotion which it represents.

FAREWELL TO 'CHARLIEBHAI'

MR. C. F. ANDREWS came to our help at a very critical time in this country. He landed at Capetown during Christmas week and he is leaving South Africa for England from Capetown to-day the 10th instant. He lived amongst us for nearly three months and a half. During this brief stay with us he worked day and night without rest and he is leaving us with an assurance that a Round Table Conference will meet during this year between the Indian and Union Governments. During his visit to us this time Mr. Andrews has earned the name of 'Charliebhai'. In India he is known as Dinbandhoo i.e. the friend of the poor, but here in South Africa he has allowed us to call him 'Charliebhai'. It has a meaning to us. He has allowed us to take him as our brother. A brother like Charliebhai to all Indians in South Africa is no doubt a great gain. By allowing us to call him Charliebhai he has with his heart and soul assured us that he is always with us in our sorrow and suffering, pleasure and pain. It will in future not be necessary for us in South Africa to urge our Charliebhai to come to our assistance in our time of trial. If he were to know that his brothers and sisters in this country are in distress he will come to our help without waiting for our invitation. How can we repay the service of a brother? Not by giving worldly material things, but by giving our pure love. Our Charliebhai goes away from us with that love. Let us pray to God that his sister who is seriously ill in England may soon recover and that when Charliebhai safely reaches England both of them may joyfully meet each other.

Situation Wanted

A SENIOR trained teacher, of 20 years' teaching experience in the Educational Department of Gujarat, requires a post in any part of Africa. Has, also, experience in Drawing, etc.

Please write soon to the address below:—

HIRALAL LALLURAM DAVE

Naul Hamam, Ghee Kanta,
AHMEDABAD, (India).

(Continued From Front Page)

ference," he concluded, "if, of course, my own health permits it."

Before closing the interview, Mr. Andrews was pressed to say something about the conditions in South Africa. "I think on the whole," he responded, "that the atmosphere has immensely improved, and that there is far greater respect for India as a great country which is engaged in gaining its own freedom. I think a very great deal of this change of atmosphere is due to the remarkable personality of the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, who did so much to gain the respect of all South Africans, of whatever creed or race, for the great country of India which he so finely represented."—*Pretoria News*.

Farewell To The Rev. C. F. Andrews

Indian Congress Tributes

"We must bear in mind that we are not only going to depend on a round-table conference to settle our troubles. We are going to rely on our own legs. We have the weapon given us by Mahatma Gandhi, and that weapon is 'passive resistance.' We have used it in the past. My advice to my fellow-countrymen is 'Be ready and fight for your rights.'"

This statement was made by Mr. P. K. Desai, in a speech at the farewell ceremony given by local Indians, on Saturday night, at the Trades Hall (Johannesburg) to the Rev. C. F. Andrews, before his departure for England to attend the Round-Table Conference.

The president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Mr. Cassim Adam, was in the chair, and said that when they looked back to the stirring times they had passed through since the publication of the Asiatic Land Tenure Bill last year, and compared that period with the present state of affairs, the Indians were grateful to God for sending Mr. Andrews to them. The Asiatic Bill, if it had become law, would have meant extinction, but darkness had been expelled on the arrival in this country of Mr. Andrews.

Known World Over

He paid a tribute to Mr. Andrews for his services to Indians, and said the fruits of his labours would only be seen when the future nation of South Africa was hammered out on the anvil of time. His name would go down in history for his service, sacrifice, and suffering, in the cause of Indians abroad.

The Deputy Mayor, Mr. W. Bawden, also paid a tribute to Mr. Andrews, and declared that his name was known the world over.

Advocate A. Christopher, of Durban, recalled previous occasions on which Mr. Andrews had responded to their call, and declared that if the reverend gentleman had not come out to assist them in connection with the Land Tenure Bill, it would undoubtedly have been an Act to-day.

Professor MacMillan congratulated the Indian community on having Mr. Andrews as their adviser, and declared that so long as they had him in that capacity nothing could go wrong. Mr. A. I. Kajeer said that Mr. Andrews could be termed "God's good man," and appealed to the Indian community to have faith, with which they would come through

the dark times.

Responding, Mr. Andrews declared that sorrow and suffering were necessary in order to win through to happiness, for no one could get anything in this world without suffering, and when they suffered they had to suffer bravely.

"We must have our cross," he continued, "and if we did not, and went through life easily, we would all become very sloppy. It is very necessary for every one of us to take up that cross and go through with it. And suffering is not in vain. If you only look at India to-day, you must see that the glorious dawn is breaking. It is through suffering that we shall win through to victory."

Mr. Andrews was garlanded by Mrs. W. Bawden, after which Mr. and Mrs. Bawden were garlanded by the president.

The Coming Indian Round Table Conference

Mr. Benn's Programme

On Friday March 13 in the House of Lords an important debate on India took place. The Secretary of States for India at that time announced the following programme which we take from the *London Times* :—

What is required now, said Mr. Benn, is that I should make some statement about the practical programme which we hope to pursue.

It is the earnest desire of His Majesty's Government to continue with the least possible interruption the constitutional discussions of the Round Table Conference and, in considering what steps should now be taken, they have had to be guided by what is practicable here and by what is most convenient for the Indian side of the Conference. They have given very careful consideration to a plan by which a Parliamentary delegation should go to India forthwith and reconstitute there the Round Table Conference which sat at St James's with the addition of representatives of Congress. The obvious advantages of this plan were outweighed by important practical considerations. Here, the exigencies of the Parliamentary situation made it difficult to secure an adequate Parliamentary delegation in India. On the other hand, there is much preliminary work to be done as was indicated by the Prime Minister in his announcement, which Indians themselves must undertake; in particular the issue is still left open by the Minorities Sub-Committee. We regard this work in India as of great importance and we desire not to prejudice it. Moreover, the activities which the Round Table Conference pursue must, in the case of most of the Committees await results of expert investigations, which the Conference itself has recommended. Subject to what I have just said, His Majesty's Government will seek the co-operation of leaders of the other parties, in re-establishing contact with the Indian side of the Conference in the most convenient form at the earliest practicable date. There need in particular, be no great delay in bringing the problems which have been entrusted to the Federal Relations Committee under further discussion. Accordingly, as soon as the Indian delegates, among whom I include representatives of Congress, are prepared to resume discussions we propose to invite them to come to London to resume the work of the Federal

Structure Committee. We hope that the Committee's deliberations will make progress here during the Summer, and meanwhile, the expert investigation of particular problems recommended by the Round Table Conference will be undertaken in India. By this means the whole problem would, we hope, be ready for final discussion early in the autumn.

Therefore, we are to meet again at the Round Table. I would remind the Committee of the words used in connection with this Conference by the Viceroy, in his address to the Indian Legislature on July 4, 1930. He said that "Any agreement at which the Conference is able to arrive will form the basis of proposals which His Majesty's Government will later submit to Parliament." The Round Table method is vindicated, the work it has done is preserved. Its deliberations are to continue with all the authority that comes from full representation of all interests in Britain and India alike. In his concluding speech at St James's, the Prime Minister said:—

"One of the secrets of our success thus far, in fact I am not at all sure it is not the main secret, is the personal contact that we have been able to establish. Let us get down to facts, let us face the facts. Let us sit round a table. Let each of us state our claims, state our hopes, state our fears, state our expectations, let each of us be candid one to another and, face to face, there is an enormously better chance of an understanding and an agreement than in any other circumstances. I wish to continue that condition."

That is the spirit and method by which we advance. If anything were needed to prove the necessity for direct contact, it has been the misunderstandings of the last few days; two whispering galleries separated by an ocean. If we can come face to face with our Indian friends, if we can discuss freely our doubts and difficulties, if mischief-makers will be silent (cheers) and men will cease to sow tares then there, is a real hope of peace and understanding.

The Awakening Of India

In the course of a thoughtful article in the *Nineteenth Century* on the Indian problem Sir Francis Younghusband describes in the following words the strivings of a new life in India :—

"Life and more abundant life has come to her. She is being born again. As from the ancient land of Rome a young Italy has come to birth, so it is with India. Out of the old India a new India is arising. She, too, has been caught up in the more vigorous life which is pulsating throughout the whole world. With all the impetuosity of youth she is panting to express herself. They have to come out of her—all the new hopes, the high ideals, the ardent expectations, the eager straining after the heavenly visions. And she will not be restrained. She chafes at every delay and impediment. Her sons and daughters fear neither death nor imprisonment if only she can be free—be rid of the great burden of alien Government which is lying so heavily on her..... India is united as never before. Young Muslims join with young Hindus in devotion to the Motherland. The cities are thronged with processions singing and praying and bearing aloft the national flag. Even the imperturbable villages are stirred. They, too, feel the thrill of new life. India is in the full throes of budding nationhood."

In this connection a contemporary recalls the words of Swami Vivekananda who saw the vision of

awakened India and expressed himself in the following inspiring words:—

"The longest night seems to be passing away, the sorrest trouble seems to be coming to an end at last, the seeming corpse appears to be awakening and a voice is coming to us. Like a breeze from the Himalayas, it is bringing life into the almost dead bones and muscles, the lethargy is passing away, and only the blind cannot see, or the perverted will not see, that she is awakening, this Motherland of ours, from her deep long slumber.....None can resist her anymore; never she is going to sleep any more; no outward powers can hold her back any more; for the infinite giant is rising to her feet."—*Indian Review*.

Gandhi On British Rights In India

New Delhi, April 7.—British subjects in India were compared with Indians in South Africa by Gandhi at the opening session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce.

There was an influential gathering of commercial and financial leaders.

Gandhi said that Swaraj meant the rule of justice, and the Englishman's rights must be protected.

The problem, he said, was like the one which he faced during his talks with General Smuts. Gandhi said that he was told that the real problem was that the South African White settlers wished to safeguard their civilisation against Eastern influences and domination, and he conceded that point of view to General Smuts.

India, he said, was faced with the same problem. She wished to preserve her civilisation against the inroads of other civilisations.

If foreigners respected Indian civilisation and lived as true servants of India, they would have a very honourable place there.—*Reuter*.

New Viceroy Of India

Lord Willingdon, the new Viceroy, on the eve of his departure for India, in an interview with *The Daily Herald* laid stress on the principle of racial equality.

"I worked on that principle," he said, "when I was Governor of Bombay and Governor of Madras, and I believe that the result was on the whole successful. There are still some Britons—fortunately fewer than they were—who believe in racial superiority and inferiority.

"But it is not the race of a man or his creed that counts; it is his character. I believe that there should be no racial discrimination at all. I believe in complete equality of opportunity, regardless of race, caste or creed, and I believe that this should apply in my selection of men even for the highest administrative posts.

"I intend to trust the Indians and to ask them to trust me."

Great Send-Off

Representatives of His Majesty and the Prime Minister, Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin and Lord Reading and a host of friends accorded Lord and Lady Willingdon a great send-off at Victoria Station.

—*Reuter*

Gandhi Waiting For Hindu-Moslem Accord

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Rand Daily Mail* writes:—

Recent communal clashes appear to have affected the prospects of a settlement, and Gandhi has re-declared that he will not proceed to London unless Hindu-Moslem agreements are first reached here.

Although the situation at Cawnpore is now practically normal, the United Provinces Government reports communal rioting at Bithur, where several Moslems have been killed and their houses burnt, and states that the contagion is spreading towards Chaubepur, Sheorajpur and Bilhaur, all near Cawnpore.

Police and armed cars are now patrolling the affected areas.

An unconfirmed report has also been received in connection with rioting in the Unao district, a mile north of Cawnpore, where the bodies of Moslem men, women and children are said to have been thrown into the river.

Many Sikhs have been arrested in the Tarantaran district (Punjab Province) for rioting in which two Moslems were killed and 15 injured, three precariously. The cause of the riot is stated to be the contemplated building of a mosque on a certain site, to which the Sikhs objected.

The Tot System Condemned

Kimberley, April 6.—At the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Good Templars of Central South Africa in Kimberley at the weekend, a debate took place on the motion of Bro. J. McDonald: "That this Grand Lodge, having jurisdiction over the Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia and Griqualand West, enters a strong protest against the tot system as contained in the Bill now before Parliament to amend Act 30 of 1928, or any modified form of such system so as to allow light wines being supplied to Natives as being detrimental to the best interests of both Natives and Europeans."

The motion was seconded by Bro. Hargreaves and carried unanimously.

It was further resolved that a copy of the motion be sent to the Minister of Justice.—*Reuter*.

Refusal To Grant Licence

E. Sullman applied to the Innesdale Council for a certificate for the transfer of a trading licence and the issue of a fresh licence. The Council refused without giving reasons. On March 24 the applicant applied for an order compelling the municipality to disclose their grounds for refusal. The petition was served on them the previous Friday, and an attempt was made to call a meeting on March 23 to discuss the matter, but as no quorum was obtained the Council asked for a postponement. This was granted, subject to the costs of the day being borne by the municipality.

The application was renewed recently at the Supreme Court, Pretoria, when the Council offered no opposition, and an order was granted with costs. Mr. Murray and Mr. Niemeyer appeared for Sullman, and Mr. Naser for the Municipality.

The Pretoria Star Picture Palace

The opening ceremony of the above Palace, which was recently erected at 521 Boom Street, Pretoria, was performed last week.

His Worship the Mayor of the capital city of Pretoria, who was invited to open the Palace, accompanied by the Mayoress and daughter, Col. Mentz, Councillor Defris, Mr. Haing, the Chief Fire-Master, Mr. Galget, Mr. Louw, the Superintendent of Pretoria Locations and about 25 prominent European gentlemen arrived a few minutes before the time, and after chatting for a short while with the officials in the Congress office, went up to the Palace. His Worship the Mayor opened the door and entered with all the ladies and gentlemen and the officials of the Congress and other prominent Indian gentlemen and took seats on the stage.

The function was presided over by Mr. Shaikh Ahamed, the chairman of the Congress and partner of the Palace, who thanked the Mayor for having condescended to open the Palace and grace the function with his august presence. He thanked all the other members who were present for having attended the function. He said that he had chosen this unique opportunity to place before them the following facts about the Indian bazaar:

That there were about half a dozen buildings now in the Bazaar, which had cost about five to six thousand pounds. They did not feel happy or contented over the investments made over these buildings, because they had not adequate security of tenure nor security of any description whatsoever. Hence the value of any property in the Bazaar became valueless. As law-abiding citizens, they appealed to the Councillors to consider their insecure position in a fair manner and grant them full property rights granting to them the same by-laws provided for the European citizens as regards the erection of buildings on approved plans in terms of the Municipal Regulations and sanitary conditions etc. The chairman also stated that the roads and drains of the Bazaar were in a very bad condition and that it was the duty of the Councillors as the City Fathers to grant relief to complaints of the citizens residing in the Bazaar. He appealed to the Mayor and Councillors to kindly relieve them from all disabilities under the Bazaar Regulations and grant them peace and tranquillity.

Col. Mentz, who spoke next, said that he congratulated the owners of the Palace for having successfully constructed the beautiful building for the specific purpose of holding entertainments for the amusement of the Indian and coloured people, and that it was his fervent wish that the owners would enjoy the benefits derived from it, fully supported by the inhabitants of the Bazaar, and that the City Council would do their best to relieve them from their present disabilities.

Councillor Defris also congratulated the owners on their success in having established the Palace and heartily wished they would do good business in it. The residents of the Bazaar, he said, had a worthy man in the Superintendent, through whom they should deal in matters concerning their grievances, and who would assist them in every possible way to achieve their requirements.

The Superintendent also congratulated the owners on having established a grand place of entertainment and wished them every success. He said that he had already appealed to the Council for a further 15 years term of lease.

His Worship the Mayor in congratulating the

owners said that they had established a magnificent building for the entertainment of the Indian and coloured people, and they must be thankful for having such a grand place to amuse themselves. He firmly believed that the owners would attain a very good business in the Palace. He was glad that in the last decade the Bazaar had improved a great deal. The Indian citizens of the Bazaar need not feel unhappy as regards security of tenure and other disabilities, he said, as the Council would do everything to give them satisfaction, and they need not fear of any calamity.

The chairman garlanded the Mayor and presented the ladies present with bouquets.

Refreshments were then partaken of at the Balcony Tea Room of the Palace. The secretary, on behalf of the Management Committee of the Palace and Balcony Tea Room thanked the Mayor and others present, who also replied in a suitable manner. In the evening the visitors attended the Bioscope Picture Show and left greatly pleased.—Contributed.

Tagore On League Of Nations

At the reception given to Dr. Rabindranath Tagore at the Hyde Park Hotel in London by the All People's Association before he left for India, the Poet said among other things:—

We cannot altogether obliterate national temperamental differences. There must be separateness between peoples. When it is merely on the surface, it doesn't hurt; but when it becomes selfishness, creates antipathy which causes separateness, then it is not the separateness of national demarcations but darkness and the bottomless abyss.

You have seen the mischief of this and have tried to bring about peace through the agency of the League of Nations, but there the nations are represented not by their dreamers and idealists but by their politicians. I can't think that this is right in any work which is meant to establish peace. It is like organising a band of robbers into a police department. I have travelled in different countries lately, and everywhere I have seen signs of sufferings caused by these very politicians—how they have bungled their peace conference and to what an end they have brought this great civilization.—*Modern Review*.

Self-Government For India

A nation which is to develop self-government properly must be a homogeneous nation, with a common tradition which enables its members 'to agree to differ,' as members of contending and yet not irreconcilable parties, and to let their differences be decided amicably by the decisions of the majority, writes Professor Ernest Barker in the *Contemporary Review*.

"Moreover, self-Government requires not only national homogeneity, but also individual disinterestedness—a willingness of representatives to serve the nation freely for the nation's sake, and not for the sake of locality, or connections, or family, or self. Such disinterestedness is not an easy acquisition. I am not thinking of the disinterestedness—absolute, ardent, unswerving—which the tense martyr can show as a testimony to a struggling and militant cause. I am thinking of the disinterestedness—steady, daily, prosaic—which the citizen must show, in every office in which he 'bears the person' of the community, when the heroic days of struggle, the Garibaldian days, are over, and the long trial of the ordinary days succeeds."