

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

DISCUSSING the appointment of a successor to Sir Kurma Reddi, retiring Agent of the Government of India, who returns to India with the Indian delegation, Sir Fazl-i-Husain is reported to have said, "South Africa is entitled to India's best. We will be extremely careful to see that a worthy successor is found to replace the last Agent-General." The choice would not be confined to non-officials, as it had been in the past, but they would see that the best selection was made for the post from the ranks of either officials or non-officials. Speaking of the visit of his delegation to the Union, Sir Fazl-i-Husain said that they had had a most cordial reception and had met goodwill on all sides. In future, ever increasingly, the goodwill of Dutch and British was bound to be a very important factor in the adjustment of such difficulties as exist.

THE Hon. Evelyn Baring, says Renter, will act as Agent-General for the Government of India in the Union until a successor has been appointed to Sir Kurma Reddi. The Indian community throughout South Africa had hoped that Sir Kurma could delay his departure from the Union until the next boat, but this has been found to be impossible in view of the Indian Government's special request that he should return with the delegation.

DURBAN'S Indian housing policy was criticised by Mr. H. H. Kemp in addressing a meeting in support of his Ward I Town Council candidature in the Winder Street area. Mr. Kemp pointed out that when the Council acquired the Cato Manor Estate he had urged that Corporation Indian employees—some 1,800 and, with their families, 6,000 persons—should be housed there with the exception of emergency employees. "Had the Council adopted this policy it would have escaped erecting £32,000 worth of buildings on valuable Eastern Vlei land and £10,000 on the Indian barracks," Mr. Kemp said. It was true that the local Health Board required that residential sites at Cato Manor should not be less than a quarter of an acre in extent, but this objection did not touch his argument that by providing for Indians at Cato Manor a large section of that community would also be attracted to the locality.—*Natal Mercury*.

THE Brakpan Town Council has, it is stated, associated itself with Krugersdorp on the Asiatic problem and has adopted a resolution passed at a public meeting in the West Rand Municipality. This resolution viewed with alarm the "increasing Asiatic menace" in the Transvaal and decided "to have petitions signed over the length and breadth of the Transvaal in which the Government, by humble petition, will be asked to introduce legislation to curb rather than extend residential as well as commercial rights to Asiatics."

PANDIT Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi, who had come to Bombay to discuss with Mahatma Gandhi the question of Indian repatriation from South Africa, says the *Tribune* (Lahore), interviewed Gandhiji on the 29th December. Mahatma Gandhi is emphatically against the repatriation of Indians from South Africa in any form. He is of opinion that the scheme was a mistake and that under no circumstances the Government of India should have agreed to the repatriation of colonial-born Indians. He hoped, however, that at the time of the revision of the Capetown Agreement the rights of poor Indian labourers would be fully protected. He believed that South Africa could easily assimilate the existing Indian population. Pandit Bhawani Dayal also interviewed the Secretary of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association and was told that the Association had all along been working against further reduction of the Indian population in South Africa.

THE Working Committee of the Indian National Congress recently passed the following resolution:—

"The non-violent and righteous movement depends for its success upon gathering round it the strength of public opinion. This public opinion of the world, the Working Committee gratefully acknowledges, is being slowly but surely drawn in an ever-increasing degree towards India's fight for national independence.

"On the eve of a fresh ordeal, whereto the nation has been summoned, the Working Committee invites the free peoples of the world and their Governments to watch and study the progress of the movement and, if they are convinced of the justness of the unique means adopted by the Congress for reaching the national goal, to give to the movement their enlightened support in a greater and more effective measure than hereto.

"In the opinion of the Working Committee the non-violent method adopted by the Congress gives it world-wide importance and if the method becomes demonstrably successful it is likely to furnish an effective moral equivalent for war and thus make a lasting contribution to the progress of humanity groaning under the deadweight of armaments."

THE Synod of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Grahamstown and district has passed the following resolution:—

"This Synod views with grave anxiety the proposals of the Native Service Contract Bill for the Transvaal and Natal, now before the House of Assembly, particularly the proposed establishment of a system of virtual forced labour by means of contracts, signable in some cases without the consent of the minors concerned, the extension of the right of whipping minors and others and the ninth clause of the so-called squatting, whereby thousands of natives will be turned into homeless wanderers, rendering more acute the present economic distress. The Synod regards the proposals and the whole trend of the Bill extremely dangerous and earnestly appeals to the Honourable the Minister of Justice and members of the House to reject this retrograde and objectionable measure."

Indian Delegation Farewell Speeches

Farewell speeches were made by the members of the Indian delegation at a crowded meeting held in the City Hall, Capetown, on Sunday under the auspices of the Cape Indian Congress.

The leader of the delegation, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, made his first speech after his recent illness. Speaking in a quiet tone, he laid emphasis on the interest taken both by the Government and the people of India in the welfare of South African Indians. "The Indian Government had taken every opportunity of studying, very carefully, the question, and was prompted by the best motives in the interest of the Indians of South Africa."

Was it not love for Indians of South Africa, he asked, that had led Mr. Sastri to come in spite of indifferent health and made this country his home for two years? But he desired to warn Union Indians of being emulative of what was being done for political advancement in India. Conditions were wholly dissimilar in India and South Africa, and the progress of Indians of this country lay along the lines of constitutional agitation. He would say for the South Africans that they should have their own organisation. They should stand united, but they should not interfere with the politics of India.

Professing his faith in the high-minded character of both Dutch and British, Sir Fazl declared that Indians worthily could secure the consideration and support of the Europeans. "It may be a long road, but I assure you that it is the right road. There can be no short cut," he observed.

Sir Kurma Reddi

"How far I have succeeded, it is not for me to say," declared Sir Kurma Reddi, retiring Agent-General, in referring to his three years' work in South Africa. The work of an Indian agent, he said, was different from that of any other diplomatic agent. In the course of time, when the historian turned up records in archives of South Africa, or in the dusty rooms of Simla, of his work in South Africa, he, the speaker, would not need to be ashamed of any single word he had written that would be considered as a stain on the fair name of India.

Proceeding, Sir Kurma attributed the success of his work to the support given by the officials of both India and the Union and the co-operation of the Indian community of South Africa in general and the South African Indian Congress in particular.

"I cannot say," he said, "anything of the result of the conference, but I can assure you that the delegation of the Government of India has done nothing that cannot come into the category of an honourable act. It has left no single stone unturned that touches the honour and dignity of India that is entrusted to their keeping."

Referring to the last agreement, Sir Kurma said that Indians had made a genuine effort to adapt themselves to the Western standard of civilisation. Indians in Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape had tried to conform to the standards of life of their European neighbours, but there still was a good deal

of racial discrimination. He did not know any other country in the world where racial discrimination played so important a part as it did in South Africa.

East And West

After all, he said, there were reconciling factors in the civilisation of the East and West. If the Europeans in this country would study the Eastern culture and philosophy and would try to assimilate the best of these in their own civilisation, they would transcend the bounds of humanity regarded as contained in watertight compartments; they would believe in one race, and that the human race.

South African Indians, said Sir D'Arcy Lindsay, should try to develop trade with India. "You have friends in India, why not use them and show to this country that you are valuable to South Africa?" he observed.

"I don't want you in South Africa," said Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, "to march towards an Eastern culture, but Westward Ho! You South African Indians, though of Indian descent with a Western training, have a valuable contribution to make to the life of this country."

Referring to the settlement reached at the conference, Mrs. Naidu said that she regarded the conclusions as establishing friendship between India and South Africa.

Mr. Sastri, who was present at the meeting, did not speak.

A warm send-off was given to the members of the Indian delegation at Capetown station on Monday morning, and those present included the Minister of the Interior (Dr. D. F. Malan) the Secretary of the Interior (Mr. Hoogenhout) Commissioner of Asiatic Affairs (Mr. H. Venn) and leading members of the Indian community.

Arrival Of Delegation In Johannesburg

The Government of India delegation arrived by special train in Johannesburg on Tuesday afternoon at 3-20. The officials of the Congress and a large number of Indians and Europeans were present on the platform to greet them. Farewell addresses were presented by the South African, Transvaal and Natal Indian Congress to Sir Kurma who was returning with the delegation his office as Agent being terminated. His services were much appreciated by the community. The leader and other members of the delegation were garlanded on behalf of the South African, Transvaal and Natal Indian Congress, and the president of the Congress wished them a hearty farewell. Sir Kurma thanked the community, and Sir Fazl-i-Hussain and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu expressed thanks on behalf of the delegation. The special train left Johannesburg at 5-30. The delegation was accompanied by representatives of the Congress on their way to Lourenco Marques. They were heartily greeted by Indians at Witbank, Middelburg and Ressano Garcia. The special train arrived at the docks on Wednesday morning at 8-30 where there was a large crowd of local Indians present to bid farewell to the delegation which sailed by s. s. *Karagola* at 9-30, taking with them the good wishes of the community. The Transvaal Indian Women's Association gave valuable presents to

Mrs. Naidu and Sir Kurma. An interesting little function took place on the train when the leader of the delegation presented to Mr. Devaal Davies a silver cup with the signatures of every member of the delegation engraved on it, as a token of their appreciation of the good services rendered by him during their stay in this country.

“Opportunity”—For What?

(By L. W. RITCH)

Much has been written and spoken concerning the so-called “uplift” of the South African Indian community, and equality of opportunity has been claimed, and rightly so, on the principle that every section of a people is morally entitled to encouragement to develop the best that is in them. As has been pointed out by thoughtful and informed champions of the Indian cause, notably by Mrs. Naidu and Mr. Sastri, no class or section of a people can live for itself alone, but must develop and express its uniqueness in order that thereby it may make its contribution to the welfare and uplift of the larger whole of which it forms an integral part.

Peoples are not brought together by mere “chance”; such contacts do not merely “happen.” We live in a world that is governed by Rule and wherein forces are directed and adjusted to an appointed end. The Man-to-Be—the Mankind-to-Be—is but in the making, and They who guide its destinies know well how to combine the ingredients. But ingredients do sometimes lose their special virtue, and when that happens have to be cast aside and replaced. That the Indian has a contribution of undoubted value to make to the product that is being fashioned in this sub-continent is not open to serious question. But, he will fulfil his function in that regard to the extent only that he preserves the special virtue that is his characteristic, and furnishes it for incorporation in the ultimate product that is presently a-fashioning.

For, what is in process of “uplift” is the whole compound, not only some one or other of its parts. Like the notes in a symphony, or the colours in a picture, each has its own particular part to play towards the production of the complete harmony. To that end there must, however, be preservation of identity combined with harmonious blending; maintenance of individuality side by side with co-operation; otherwise monotone, not harmony, will be the result. Nor is a measure of adaptability to new environment and conditions inconsistent with such preservation.

The chief distinction between the civilisation of India on the one hand and of the West on the other is to be found in the order of the caste system as contrasted with an individualism that has run perilously near to the limits of “laissez faire.”

The distinction is fundamental. The order of caste is based upon the ideal of service; service of the state; service of the whole of which each section of the community recognised itself to be an integral part. The order was Duty, first—the duty of service; then, profit and enjoyment. The spirit that underlay and inspired individual activities was the spirit of sacrifice. Competition was not, as now, a

mere selfish scramble for self-enrichment at the expense of the community, but rivalry in the rendering of services that would enrich the community in every department of its life. The server not the exploiter, the contributor not the parasite was the honoured one. Power was a trust to be employed for the commonwealth, not a means of self-aggrandisement. In the words of the “Gita,” “right action was the motive; not the fruits of action.”

The Indian always has had, and still retains, an instinct and an aptitude for sacrificial service. Even the unfair competition of which he is accused, not infrequently quite unjustly, might be traced to the traditional idea of making the question of reward secondary to that of rendering services. The point was well taken by a certain Mohammedan trader who put it thus:—

“If I am willing and able to serve the needs of my neighbours at the cost of little for myself, am I a better or worse citizen than one who will not serve except for a larger reward?”

The doom of the go-as-you-please scramble for wealth that has been the dominant note in modern civilisation since the Fifteenth Century, is writ large for those who have eyes to see. The game of Tom Tiddler’s Ground is virtually played out. The hellish doctrine of “Each for himself and the Devil take the hindmost” is becoming no longer tenable because such naked selfishness is seen to be working its own undoing. A re-orientation, some new and improved formula, a truer perspective in the matter of human values and human relationships, one or perhaps all are inevitable in the near future if chaos and disintegration are to be averted.

True civilisation may be regained only if the ideal of Service be reinstated in the place it should, and sooner or later must, occupy. Jungle ethics cannot be pursued ad infinitum; they are incompatible with human progress.

It is here that the Indian genius should find its truest expression, its real opportunity. For, “Equality of Opportunity” may mean either liberty “to get into the game” and to slide down Hellwards, with the rest, or freedom to choose the better way, the way of loyalty to ancient and hallowed ideals. Indian self-sacrifice and suffering may yet prove to be the world’s salvation—India its regenerator. In this task—this dharma—there is none so lowly and humble that he may not share. In this task, South Africa is the true field for the Indians of South Africa. In this regard the Indian need be dependent for his “uplift” on no minister, government, or parliament. He is already free to bring out the best that is in him, and though in “so achieving, so pursuing” he may stand condemned and despised by the blind and deluded, may have to renounce “the flesh-pots of Egypt” for the sake of the Faith that is in him, he will have the consolation of moving in a very select company and the certainty of at long last being written down, like unto Abou ben Adhem, “as one who loved his fellow-man.”

The Final Effort Towards Peace

I

We reproduce below, from *Young India*, the recent telegraphic correspondence between Mahatma Gandhi and the Viceroy, through his private secretary, as the last overture towards co-operation: **Gandhiji's 1st Telegram To The Viceroy**

I was unprepared on landing yesterday to find Frontier and U.P. Ordinances, shooting in Frontier and arrests of valued comrades in both on top of Bengal Ordinance awaiting me. I do not know whether I am to regard these as an indication that friendly relations between us are closed or whether you expect me still to see you and receive guidance from you as to the course I am to pursue in advising Congress. I would esteem wire in reply.

II

Viceroy's Conditions And Objections

His Excellency desires me to thank you for your telegram of the 29th instant in which you refer to Bengal and United Provinces and N.W.F.P. Ordinances. In regard to Bengal it has been and is necessary for Government to take all possible measures to prevent dastardly assassination of their officers and of private citizens.

His Excellency wishes me to say that he and his Government desire to have friendly relations with all political parties and with all sections of the public and in particular to securing co-operation of all in great work of constitutional reforms which they are determined to push forward with minimum delay. Co-operation, however, must be mutual and His Excellency and his Government cannot reconcile activities of Congress in United Provinces and N.W.F.P. with the spirit of frank co-operation which the good of India demands.

As regards the United Provinces, you are doubtless aware that while the Local Government were engaged in devising means to give all possible relief in the existing situation the Provincial Congress Committee authorised a no-rent campaign, which is now being vigorously pursued by the Congress organisations in that province. This action on the part of the Congress bodies has compelled Government to take measures to prevent a general state of disorder and spreading of class and communal hatred which the campaign, if continued, would inevitably involve.

In the N.W.F.P., Abdul Ghaffar Khan and bodies he controlled have continuously engaged in activities against Government and in fomenting racial hatred. He and his friends have persistently refused all overtures by the Chief Commissioner to secure their co-operation and, rejecting declaration of the Prime Minister, have declared in favour of complete independence. Abdul Ghaffar Khan has delivered numerous speeches open to no other construction than as incitement to revolution and his adherents have attempted to stir trouble in the tribal areas. The Chief Commissioner, with the approval of His Excellency's Government, has shown utmost forbearance and to the last moment continued his efforts to secure assistance of Abdul Ghaffar in carrying into effect, with the least possible delay, intentions of His Majesty's Government regarding constitutional reforms in the province. Government refrained from taking special measures until the activities of Abdul Ghaffar Khan and his associates and, in particular, the open and intensive preparation for an early conflict with Government, created a situation of such grave menace to peace of the province and of the tribal areas as to make it impossible further to delay action. His Excellency understands that Abdul Ghaffar Khan was in August last made responsible

for leading Congress movement in the province and that the volunteer organisations he controlled were specifically recognised by All-India Congress Committee as Congress organisations. His Excellency desires me to make it clear that his responsibilities for peace and order make it impossible for him to have any dealing with persons or organisations upon whom rest the responsibility for activities above outlined. You have yourself been absent from India on business of the Round Table Conference and in the light of the attitude which you have observed there His Excellency is unwilling to believe that you have personally any share in the responsibility for or that you approve of the recent activities of Congress in the United Provinces and the N.W.F.P. If this is so, he is willing to see and to give you his views as to the way in which you can best exert your influence to maintain the spirit of co-operation which animated the proceedings of the Round Table Conference. But His Excellency feels bound to emphasise that he will not be prepared to discuss with you measures which Government of India, with the full approval of His Majesty's Government, have found it necessary to adopt in Bengal, the United Provinces and the N.W.F.P. These measures must in any case be kept in force until they have served the purpose for which they were imposed, namely preservation of law and order essential to good Government. On receipt of your reply His Excellency proposes to publish this correspondence.

III

Gandhiji Explains

I thank His Excellency for the wire in reply to mine of 29th instant. It grieves me for His Excellency has rejected in a manner hardly befitting his high position, an advantage made in the friendliest spirit. I had approached as a seeker wanting light on questions in which I desired to understand Government version of very serious and extraordinary measures to which I made reference. Instead of appreciating my advance His Excellency has rejected it by asking me to repudiate my valued colleagues in advance by telling me that even if I became guilty of such dishonourable conduct and sought an interview I could not even discuss these matters of vital importance to the nation. In my opinion the constitutional issue dwindles into insignificance in the face of Ordinances and acts which must, if not met with stubborn resistance, result in utter demoralisation of Nation. I hope no self-respecting Indian will run risk of killing national spirit for doubtful contingency of securing a constitution, to work which no Nation with stamina may be left. Let me also point out that as to Frontier Province your telegram contains a narration of facts which on face of them furnish no warrant for arrests of popular leaders, passing of extra legal Ordinance making life and property utterly insecure and shooting unarmed peaceful crowds for daring to demonstrate against arrests of their trusted leaders. If Khan Saheb Abdul Ghaffar asserted right to complete independence it was a natural claim and a claim made with impunity by Congress at Lahore in 1929 and by me with energy put before British Government in London. Moreover, let me remind the Viceroy that despite the knowledge on the part of Government that Congress mandate contained such a claim, I was invited to attend London Conference as the Congress delegate. Nor am I able to detect in a mere refusal to attend the Durbar a crime warranting summary imprisonment. If Khan Saheb was fomenting racial hatred it was undoubtedly regrettable. I have his own declarations to the contrary made to me but assuming that he did foment racial hatred he was entitled to an open trial where he could have defended himself against

the accusation. Regarding the United Provinces, His Excellency is surely misinformed because there was no no-rent campaign authorised by Congress but whilst negotiations were proceeding between the Government and the Congress representatives the time for collecting rents actually arrived and rents began to be demanded freely. Congressmen were, therefore, obliged to advise tenants to suspend payment pending the result of negotiations and Mr. Shervani had offered on behalf of the Congress to withdraw this advice if the authorities on their own initiative suspended collections pending negotiations. I venture to suggest that this is not a matter which can be so summarily dismissed as your wire has done. The controversy in the United Provinces is of long standing and involves the well-being of millions of a peasantry known to be economically ground down. Any Government jealous of the welfare of the masses in its charge would welcome voluntary co-operation of a body like the Congress which admittedly exercises great influence over the masses and whose ambition is to serve them faithfully and let me add that I regard the withholding of payment of taxes as an inalienable ancient and natural right of a people who have exhausted all other means of seeking freedom from an unbearable economic burden. I must repudiate the suggestion that the Congress has the slightest desire to promote disorder in any shape or form. As to Bengal, the Congress is at one with the Government in condemning assassinations and should heartily co-operate with Government in any measures that may be found necessary to stamp out such crimes, but whilst Congress would condemn in unmeasured terms methods of terrorism it can in no way associate itself with Government terrorism as is betrayed by the Bengal Ordinance and the acts done thereunder, but must resist within limits of its prescribed creed of non-violence such measures of legalised Government terrorism. I heartily assent to the proposition laid down in your telegram that co-operation must be mutual. But your telegram leads me irresistibly to the conclusion that His Excellency demands co-operation from the Congress without returning any on behalf of Government. I can read in no other way his peremptory refusal to discuss these matters which, as I have endeavoured to show, have at least two sides. The popular side I have put as I understand it but before committing myself to definite judgment I was anxious to understand the other, that is the Government side, and then tender my advice to the Congress. With reference to the last paragraph of your telegram I may not repudiate moral liability for the actions of my colleagues whether in Frontier Province or United Provinces but I confess that I was ignorant of the detailed actions and activities of my colleagues whilst I was absent from India and it was because it was necessary for me to advise and guide the Working Committee of the Congress and in order to complete my knowledge I sought with an open mind with the best of intentions an interview with His Excellency and deliberately asked for his guidance. I cannot conceal from His Excellency my opinion that the reply he has condescended to send was hardly a return for my friendly and well-meant approach. And, if it is not yet too late, I would ask His Excellency to reconsider his decision and see me as a friend without imposing any conditions whatsoever as to the scope or subject of discussion, and I, on my part, can promise that I will study with an open mind all the facts that he might put before me. I would unhesitatingly and willingly go to the respective provinces and with the aid of the authorities study

both sides of the question and if I come to the conclusion after such a study that the people were in the wrong and that the Working Committee including myself were misled as to the correct position and that the Government was right, I should have no hesitation whatsoever in making that open confession and guiding the Congress accordingly. Along with my desire and willingness to co-operate with the Government I must put my limitations before His Excellency. Non-violence is my absolute creed. I believe in civil disobedience as not only the natural right of a people especially when they have no effective voice in their own Government, I regard it also as an effective substitute for violence or armed rebellion. I can never therefore deny my creed. In pursuance thereof and on the strength of uncontradicted reports supported by recent activities of the Government of India to the effect that there may be no other opportunity for me to guide the public, the Working Committee has accepted my advice and passed a resolution tentatively sketching a plan of civil disobedience. I am sending herewith a text of the resolution. If His Excellency thinks it worth-while to see me pending discussion operation of the resolution will be suspended in the hope that discussions may result in the resolution being finally given up. I admit that correspondence between His Excellency and myself is of such grave importance as not to brook delay in such publication. I am, therefore, sending my telegram, your reply, this rejoinder and the Working Committee's resolution for publication.

IV

Viceroy Rejects

Your telegram of January 1st has been considered by His Excellency the Viceroy and his Government. They much regret to observe that under your advice the Congress Working Committee has passed a resolution which involves the general revival of civil disobedience in India unless certain conditions are satisfied which are stated in your telegram and the resolution. His Excellency and his Government regard the attitude as the more deplorable in view of the declared intentions of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India to expedite the policy of constitutional reform contained in the Premier's statement.

No Government consistent with the discharge of its responsibility can be subject to any condition sought to be imposed under the menace of unlawful action by any political organisation, nor can the Government of India accept the position implied in your telegram that its policy should be dependent on the judgment of yourself as to necessity of the measures which the Government has taken after the most careful and thorough consideration of the Pact and after all other possible remedies had been exhausted.

His Excellency and the Government can hardly believe that you or the Working Committee contemplate that His Excellency can invite you with the hope of any advantage to an interview held under the threat of the resumption of civil disobedience. His Excellency and his Government must hold you and the Congress responsible for all the consequences which may ensue for the action which the Congress have announced their intention of taking and to meet which the Government will take all necessary measures.

Gandhiji's Choice

Thanks for your wire of even date. I cannot help expressing deep regret for the decision of His Excellency and his Government. Surely it is wrong

to describe an honest expression of opinion as a threat. May I remind the Government that the Delhi negotiations were opened and carried on whilst civil disobedience was on and that when the pact was made civil disobedience was not given up but only discontinued. This position was reasserted and accepted by His Excellency and his Government in Simla in September last prior to my departure for London. Although I had made it clear that under certain circumstances the Congress might have to resume civil disobedience, the Government did not break off negotiations. That it was made clear by the Government that civil disobedience carried with it the penalty for disobedience merely proves what civil resisters bargain for but does not in any way affect my argument. Had that Government resented that attitude it was open to them not to send me to London. On the contrary, my departure had His Excellency's blessings.

Nor is it fair or correct to suggest that I have ever advanced the claim that any policy of the Government should be dependent on my judgment. But I do submit that any popular and constitutional Government would always welcome and sympathetically consider suggestions made by public bodies and their representatives and assist them with all available information about their act or Ordinance of which public opinion may disapprove. I claim that my messages have no other meaning. Time alone will show whose position was justified.

Meanwhile I wish to assure the Government that every endeavour will be made on the part of the Congress to carry on the struggle without malice and in a strictly non-violent manner. It was hardly necessary to remind me that the Congress and I, its humble representative, are responsible for all the consequences of our actions."

Maritzburg Council Rejects White Labour Policy Government Request Turned Down

A suggestion by the Department of Labour that Maritzburg Council should employ an increased amount of White labour was turned down at last Tuesday's meeting of the City Council.

The Mayor, Mr. P. H. Taylor, strongly supported the suggestion of the Labour Department. "These men are now part of our community," he said, "and as far as I can see they will always be on our hands. It is an obligation on us to uplift these men by giving them work instead of keeping them by giving them a double dole through the Benevolent Society."

Mr. Taylor suggested that the men be employed on scavenging and cleaning work in the City.

Mr. N. C. T. Harper pointed out that it would soon be found that if Whites were employed the amount of work done per £1 paid out would hardly be half of what was done by Coloured labour.

Mr. R. Dunlop said that it was deplorable that the City should be called upon to support these Whites, who were not even from Natal, and were not the City's obligation. He also held that in view of the new Native Service Contract Bill there would be an influx of Natives into the towns, and the Council would not be acting wisely if at this stage it started to employ more White labour.

City Natives First

Mr. Dunlop said that there were 13,000 Natives in Maritzburg, and they had preference before Whites from other Provinces.

Mrs. W. A. D. Russell and Mrs. E. M. Shirley agreed that even if unemployed Whites were taken on by the Council they would still take payments from the Benevolent Society, and in any case the secretary would be called upon to support the Coloured people who were replaced by Whites.

Mr. Dunlop moved that the Council did not see its way to accept the proposal of the Labour Department and the motion was carried unanimously. —*Natal Mercury*.

Mr. Pirow's Funny Notions

Proterea News editorially comments as follows in its issue of Feb. 8:—

Mr. Pirow is a man of intelligence and enlightenment, but occasionally he exhibits a streak of medievalism that would do credit to the most purblind reactionary in the Government, which is saying quite a lot. His ideal on how the native question should be tackled is a case in point. He approaches the natives bearing in one hand a tot of Cape wine and in the other a strap, the one to be used when the natives are good, the other to be used when they are naughty. Both, he declares, are for the native's good. But it seems to us that the native deserves to be safeguarded against both forms of kindness, every bit as much as white civilisation in South Africa deserves to be protected against the stigma which such legislation would place upon it in the eyes of the world. There are cynics who will allege that the one form of punishment is more to be feared than the other. Indeed, if the Minister of Justice himself had such a choice thrust upon him, we should not be at all surprised if he preferred the strap to the "tot." There has been no demand by the natives for Cape wine, and we can only conclude that the sole justification for such a proposal is that the supply will itself create the demand.

The whipping powers with which the Minister is seeking to invest the Magistrates of the Transvaal and Natal have their basis in the fact that the natives are merely children, and that to spare the rod is to spoil the child. Mr. Pirow asks Parliament to face up to the fact that the natives are regularly beaten by the farmers of the Transvaal to-day, and to acknowledge that he is therefore only legalising what is now an irregular but a long-established and widespread custom. If that is ever to be made a justification for new laws, then Parliament is going to be kept busy. Instead of dealing with the irregular whippings that everyone knows go on, the Minister proposes to appoint an additional but official whipper for every district. Public opinion, he announces, would never support the abolition of corporal punishment for the disobedient native, therefore why not recognise the fact and make it legal? The natives themselves accepted the practice, and, generally speaking, had no objection to it. At the outset Mr. Pirow was anxious to make all natives, young and old, subject to this whipping clause, but a Select Committee of Parliament decided to make it applicable only to juveniles, though the Minister expressed grave doubts as to whether this was in the best interest of the natives.

It is now to be left to the free vote of the House of Assembly to decide whether or not all natives should be liable to whipping, or only juveniles. The result will show the extent to which European civilisation in South Africa has progressed since the old slave days at the Cape. For the sake of its good name, South Africa must at all costs keep this blot off its Statute Book. Then there is the other peculiar

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proposal which Mr. Pirow has put forward to levy from the farmers a tax of £5 a head for every squatter on his land. What exactly it is hoped to achieve by such a policy has still to be stated. The natives cannot pay, the average farmer will not. The inevitable result will be that the native squatters will be driven off. And driven whither? There is no place where they can go. Most of them are content where they are, and most of the farmers are content to let them remain, while being unprepared to pay for the pleasure of letting them remain. Tens of thousands of natives are affected by this proposal, and the effect will be to drive them from the land, a band of homeless wanderers, who will drift inevitably into the towns to complicate a problem that already exists. A more short-sighted contribution to the solution of the native question it would be difficult to imagine.

Tribute To Sir Fazl-i-Husain

A marble tablet, commemorating the visit to the Union of Sir Fazl-i-Husain, K.C.S.I., the leader of the Indian delegation to the Round Table Conference in Capetown, has been erected at Sastri College.

The tablet which has been placed on one of the handsome brick pillars at the entrance of the drive, was unveiled by the Mayor of Durban, the Rev. A. Lamont, on February 5.

The Mayor addressed the staff and students. He urged the latter, some of whom were already well-known to him, to take every advantage of the opportunity they now had of improving themselves and to do their share in building up the prosperity of the country which was their home.

Mr. Lakhi's Generosity

His Worship added that Mr. M. E. Lakhi, of Greytown, had given largely to the building fund of the College, had helped towards the establishment of one of the hostels and, not content with all that, was meeting the quite considerable expense of fencing the grounds; and he was sure they would all show their gratitude by making the College a success. He (Mr. Lamont) regretted that circumstances had prevented the members of the Indian Delegation from visiting Durban, which was the real centre of the Indian population in this country.

Mr. W. M. Buss, B.A., the Principal of the College, briefly thanked the Mayor for sparing the time to be with them on this occasion, and expressed their great gratitude to Mr. Lakhi. The fence was all that could be desired in the way of workmanship and material. It added dignity to the building, and it would now be possible to make the grounds neat and attractive so that the whole would be an asset to the neighbourhood.—*Natal Mercury*.

Indian Child Welfare Society Centre

150, BROOK STREET, DURBAN

Open daily, Monday to Saturday, 8-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Infants, young children, nursing and expectant mothers.

Lady doctors give free attendance.

Tuesday morning 8-30 o'clock, Friday afternoon 3 o'clock

Gandhiji And The Minorities Agreement

The Sri Dharma offers the following comments editorially on the attitude Gandhiji has taken on the Minorities Agreement at the R. T. C.:

Gandhiji's speech on the Minorities agreement at the Round Table Conference deserves to be read and re-read by every earnest student of politics and by all who are interested in the nation's welfare. In our opinion it will ever be a most valuable document in defence of Indian nationalism as opposed to sectarian, caste and communal interests or representation. The arguments he has urged therein against reservations and special representation for the minorities, are unassailable and have most convincingly exposed the defects of the proposals contained in the so-called Minorities agreement submitted to the Premier in the name of the minority communities in India. We are glad that Gandhiji himself has more than once pointed out to the British Statesmen the inherent weakness and the unreality in the very composition of the Round Table Conference, the Round Table Conference delegates not being the chosen representatives of the communities whom they are asked to represent. The delegates were there by nomination and by invitation and not only the British public but also the whole world must be aware of that glaring fact. In this connection, it is worthy of note that the three important and influential All-India Women's Organisations have unanimously declined to ask for special favours and concessions, for reservations or special representation if their claims to equality and equal citizenship be recognised in the new constitution and they had accordingly cabled to the Premier appointing Mrs. Naidu as their spokeswoman. It is a matter of joy and pride that the thinking and the leading women of India have declined to ask for special representation. We are particularly pleased to note that Gandhiji has very appropriately referred to the Premier to this memorandum submitted by the All-India Women's Organisations when commenting on the inaccuracy of the figures quoted in support of the minorities agreement, namely that "46 per cent. of the population of India will agree to the minorities agreement" that "they have had, on behalf of the women a complete repudiation of special representation, and, as they happen to be one half of the population of India this 46 per cent. was somewhat reduced." "It should be the proud privilege and duty of every one of these so-called special classes to seek entry into the legislatures through the open door of election and the approval of a common body of electorate." We are in perfect agreement with the above considered view of Gandhiji and the conditions prescribed for those who seek posts of honour and responsibility in the constitution. Service to the nation and the fitness of the individual for such a service should be the only qualification that should weigh with the electorate for choosing their representatives. Admitting that it will take some years to educate the electorate on those right principles or methods of election, still it is worth while to try and learn the right method rather than begin with the easy wrong system and go on perpetuating the evils which have reduced India to a state of subjection and slavery.

Greater Durban Development

Council And Health Boards To Confer

Decisions governing the more immediate improvements to be effected in the peri-Durban area on incorporation are to be discussed in Durban next Tuesday states the *Natal Mercury*.

Representatives of the Local Health Boards have been invited to confer with the Municipality on problems of Greater Durban.

In a letter to the Boards, Mr. A. O. Jones, Town Clerk of Durban, states that in order that the change over of control after incorporation may be made as smoothly as possible, a special committee of the Town Council has been formed to deal with the matter. It is this committee that will meet the representatives of the Health Boards.

The letter states that a comprehensive scheme for the general development of the districts is at present receiving consideration by the responsible officials of the Council. This scheme, which is of considerable magnitude, will lay down the general principles upon which development will take place in the districts over a period of years, outlining a programme which will be carried out as time progresses. Its preparation will occupy some considerable time, and in these circumstances it will be some time before effect can be given to its recommendations.

"On the other hand, the Council feels that there will probably be certain small works of public improvement and development, such as road construction and drainage, which in the opinion of the Boards could be undertaken without delay. Obviously the Boards are in the best position to indicate which of these works are the most urgent in the general interest, and at the meeting to which representatives are invited the Council's Committee will be willing to discuss the items which fall under this category of urgency, with a view to putting certain of them in hand as early as possible."

The *Tribune* (Lahore) writes:—

The *News Chronicle* (London), which approves of the Premier's rebuke to extremists in India, emphasises the heavy responsibility at present resting on Mahatma Gandhi. We admit the responsibility but not the conclusion which the journal deduces from it. "Mr. Gandhi's apparent offer to advise the Congress to co-operate with the Round Table Conference if the Ordinances are repealed," it writes, "implies that his influence will be effectively exerted to check the criminal movement against which the Ordinances are directed, but can he guarantee that his influence will be effective for the purpose?" Surely the journal understands the plain meaning of its words. The effectiveness of Mahatmaj's influence can be proved only in one way, by making him responsible for the Government. Why does not the British Government try the experiment and allow the Mahatma to break the criminal movement or himself get broken in the process? That surely is the only practical way to test the effectiveness of his influence. If the Government is not prepared to take that step immediately, let it strengthen his hands by suspending its policy of repression entirely, and permitting him to try other methods. If he fails, it will be open to it to revert to its own methods.

An Appeal To The Public

The 2nd annual Avoca to Verulam-and-back Cycle road race starts on Sunday the 14th February at 3-30 p.m. from the foot of the Avoca Hill, where the officials of the Avoca Indian Youngmen's Sporting Society will be in charge. Though some of the corners will have Marshals who will, of course, do their duty, yet the public is asked to exercise special care on this afternoon. A special appeal is made to the Taxi and Bus drivers to keep clear of the competitors and not to crowd or hamper them in any way.

The promoters will greatly appreciate that care and consideration which was so generously accorded by the public in the past.

MAHOMED ADAM,
Jt. hon. Secretary,
Avoca Indian Youngmen's
Sporting Society.

NOTICE

The annual general meeting of Vishwaroop Temple and Dharamsala will be held on Sunday the 28th February 1932 at 1 p.m. at Gokhale Memorial Hall, Tongaat. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Business:—

1. Minutes.
2. Secretary's Report and Financial Statement.
3. General.

S. D. MAHARAJ, Chairman.
V. P. DESAI, Secretary.

Indian Technical Education Committee

EVENING COMMERCIAL CLASSES AT SASTRI COLLEGE

These Classes have now been re-opened after the Summer vacation. Students intending to take advantage of these Classes are advised to enrol without delay.

For further particulars apply to Mr. W. M. Buss, Principal, Sastri College, Warwick Avenue, Durban.

P. R. PATHER
S. M. MOODLEY

Joint Hon. Secretaries.

Little Grey Street,
Durban.

