

Indian Opinion

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MR. VITHALBHAI PATEL'S STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF THE 2nd ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

MR. Vithalbhai Patel, ex-President of the Indian Legislative Assembly, issued the following statement on the results of the second Round Table Conference to the Press on his arrival at Bombay from Europe, which was circulated by the Associated Press of India:—

I should like, in the first place, to explain the meaning and implications of the White Paper, and next to state how far the national demands as embodied in the resolution of the Karachi Congress have been conceded.

At the close of the first Round Table Conference the Prime Minister announced the policy of His Majesty's Government in regard to India, and the White Paper now issued at the close of the second Round Table Conference merely reaffirms that policy without any modifications.

It is significant that the White Paper ignores altogether the most important document, namely, the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which secured the co-operation of the Congress to the Round Table Conference.

Those who maintained that the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was an advance on the declaration of the 10th January 1931, must have been thoroughly disillusioned. The words in the pact 'in the interest of India' by which Congressmen swore till yesterday have not even been mentioned in the White Paper.

Conditions In The White Paper

According to the policy outlined in the White Paper, India is to have responsibility at the centre if, and only if, the Central Government and the Central Legislature are constituted on All-India Federal basis. Even so, the responsibility is to be subject to the following conditions:

(1) Defence and external affairs are to be reserved to the Governor-General.

(2) Control over finance is to be subject to such conditions as would ensure the fulfilment of the obligations incurred under the authority of the Secretary of State, and the maintenance unimpaired of the financial stability and credit of India.

(3) The relations of the princes to the British Government are to remain with the Crown.

(4) There must be no unfair economic or commercial discrimination against the British trader.

(5) The Governor-General must be granted the necessary powers to enable him to fulfil his responsibility for securing the observance of the constitutional rights of the minorities. He must also have the power to enable him to fulfil his responsibility

for ultimately maintaining the tranquility of the State.

It is true that conditions No. 3 and No. 4 have not been expressed in the White Paper; but the speech of Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for India, in the House of Commons, makes specific mention of them. Mr. Baldwin, leader of the Conservative Party, in his speech, also made it clear that there was no difference of any kind between what Sir Samuel Hoare said and what was contained in the White Paper and the Secretary of State's speech was the White Paper and the White Paper was his speech.

Mr. Baldwin further explained that Mr. Macdonald spoke for 20 minutes and Sir Samuel Hoare for 40 minutes, and therefore the former could not have covered all the ground, the latter had done.

Reading the two declarations together with the debate in the House and the report of the Federal Structure Committee, there can be no doubt whatever that the principle of control at the centre foreshadowed in the White Paper is subject to all the conditions I have just briefly enumerated.

Congress Resolution

I now state the National demands as embodied in the Karachi Congress resolution. They are:

1. Complete independence, and, in particular,
2. Complete control of defence,
3. Complete control of external affairs,
4. Complete control of finances,
5. India's right to secede at will,
6. Examination of the debt position of India by an impartial tribunal to ascertain how much of it is justly chargeable to the new Government of India, and how much must be shouldered by the British Government.

The Congress mandate also gave power to its delegate at the R.T.C. to accept such adjustments as "may be demonstrably proved to be in the interest of India."

I have no doubt that any impartial reader of the White Paper and the Congress resolution will come to no other conclusion than that the White Paper rejects every demand made by the Congress.

Reservation of national defence and external affairs in the hands of the Governor-General means the rejection of the Congress demand for complete independence even in that limited interpretation of the phrase, namely, "voluntary partnership with Britain."

Insult Added To Injury

In his speech in the House of Commons the Prime Minister goes further and adds insult to injury when

in answer to some interruptions, he more than once declares that there is no intention to give independence, and that India does not want it, in that it agrees to the reservations regarding defence and external affairs.

In the opinion of the Prime Minister, therefore, the Congress demand for the control of defence and external affairs, is not a national demand, but the view expressed by some other British-Indian delegates that in the present circumstances the two subjects should not be entrusted to a Minister responsible to the Indian Legislature, represents India's demand. The mentality underlying this statement explains why the Conference has failed to consider the demands of the Congress seriously.

Throughout the deliberations of the conference the Congress was regarded as one of the many parties representing India, and it was never recognised, or perhaps conveniently forgotten, that the Congress represented an overwhelming majority of the people of India.

Control Of Finances Illusory

With defence as a reserved subject, the control of finances, apart from other conditions sought to be imposed by the White Paper, becomes illusory, inasmuch as 45 per cent. of the central revenue is expended on the military.

If we add to this, the huge amount representing the salaries and pensions of persons appointed by the Secretary of State, together with interest on debt and similar charges, very little indeed would be left for the Legislature to vote upon. Even so, the White Paper, by imposing two other conditions, namely, that suitable provision should be made in the constitution as would effectively ensure the fulfilment of the obligations incurred under the authority of the Secretary of State, and the maintenance unimpaired of the financial stability and credit of India, renders even that limited control of finance still more farcical.

What self-respecting Indian would be prepared to hold the portfolio of Finance under the new Government with these humiliating limitations? It is, therefore, quite clear the Congress demand for the control of finances has been rejected.

Examination of Debt Position

The next demand of the Congress for the examination of the debt position of India, was not even discussed at the Conference. But there can be no doubt that the White Paper, by imposing a condition that the obligations incurred under the authority of the Secretary of State are to be effectively guaranteed, rejects this claim.

India's Right To Secede

The last and the most important claim of the Congress is India's right to secede. This was not and could not be raised, as India's claim to be admitted into partnership with Britain was refused.

As if these conditions, which reject every demand made by the Congress, were insufficient, the White Paper imposes other conditions before His Majesty's Government would be prepared to recognise the principle of responsibility at the centre.

Discrimination Between Nationals And Non-Nationals

I should like to refer to one of them at this stage. The first R.T.C. decided upon the following formula at the suggestion of the British delegates in regard to India's right to discriminate between nationals and non-nationals.

"At the instance of the British commercial community, the principle was generally agreed to that

there should be no discrimination between the rights of the British commercial community, firms and companies, trading in India, and the rights of Indian born subjects, and that an appropriate convention based upon reciprocity should be entered into for the purpose of guaranteeing these rights."

Public opinion in India strongly protested against this serious curtailment of the right of India's future Parliament, and Mahatma Gandhi made it clear on behalf of the Congress that any constitution which in any way impaired the power of the future legislature of India to discriminate against non-nationals, when it considered it necessary to do so in the national interest, was not worth having, and would not be acceptable to the Congress.

Some Indian members of the R.T.C., in defending their attitude, relied upon the word, "generally," in the formula and contended that this word left it open to the legislature to discriminate in exceptional cases.

The second R.T.C. extended the scope and purpose of this recommendation in a variety of ways. The improved recommendation dropped the word "generally," gave protection not only to the British traders, but to all subjects of the Crown; not only against legislative discrimination, not only in regard to trade, but also in regard to taxation, holdings of property and a host of other matters.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I shall quote the words of that recommendation :

"The Committee are of opinion that no subject of the Crown who may be ordinarily resident or carrying on trade or business in British India, should be subject to any disability or discrimination, legislative or administrative by reason of his age, descent, religion or place of birth in respect of taxation, the holding of property, the carrying on of any trade, profession or business, or in respect of residence or travel."

I hardly need add that the new constitution is to make provision vesting in the Governor-General the power to take such measures as he may consider necessary to maintain the peace and tranquility of the country.

Transition Period

IS IT GOING TO BE FIVE YEARS OR FIFTY YEARS?

We have been told that, after all the so-called reservations and safeguards are meant to apply only during the period of transition, and that a few years are nothing in the lifetime of a nation. Neither in the White Paper nor in the report of the Federal Structure Committee do we find the period of transition specified. Heaven only knows whether it is going to be five years or fifty years.

Mr. Baldwin, in his speech in the House, in reply to a query from Mr. Wardlaw Milne, stated that nobody could say how long the transitional period would last. He further added that it would last as long as it was the will of Parliament it should last, and if and when the constitution was set up, nothing in that constitution would be relaxed without the assent of Parliament.

It is thus clear that all talk that the new constitution would automatically lead India to its cherished goal, or that the period of transition would be brief, is merely moonshine.

Viceroy's Extraordinary Powers

It has also been argued that the extraordinary powers to be vested in the Governor-General would by convention fall into disuse, as has been found to be the case in self-governing Dominions. This is not the view of the British Government, and we know to our cost that such extraordinary powers have been and are being exercised with vengeance by the Governor-General in India.

I have endeavoured to show that the second R.T.C. has failed. A third conference has no doubt been promised, and several committees will shortly be set up to work out some of the details of the scheme. But neither the third conference nor any of the committees will be entitled to override the express terms of the declaration. They will be found to work within the four corners of those terms, and can have no power, for instance, to recommend the transfer of control of defence or foreign affairs or the grant of any other demand of the Congress, which have been categorically refused by the declaration.

Series Of Insults

I repeat that the Conference has failed, and that British diplomacy has, at any rate for the time being, triumphed all along the line since the the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which, in my opinion, was the masterstroke of that diplomacy. From the day of that truce up to the present, it has been one long and painful chapter of a series of insults and humiliations for Congress and Congressmen, both in India and in England.

Whilst the authorities in India have all along treated the truce as a scrap of paper, as can be demonstrated by instances too numerous to mention, the Congress and its leaders have consistently and earnestly endeavoured to secure the strict observance of its terms by the people.

Clever Manoeuvring

At the R.T.C. the British Government played their cards so well that our delegates were drawn into a discussion of the communal problem and other details before the Conference could come to grips with fundamentals. As a result of this clever manoeuvring, to which, unfortunately our delegates were willing victims, the impression created in the international world has been that the British Government is all willing to give freedom to India, but India's people are so hopelessly divided amongst themselves that they do not know what they want and therefore the continuance of British rule is the more necessary in their own interest.

Mahatma Gandhi, no doubt with the best of intentions and in the larger interests of the country, pocketed insults and humiliations hurled at him from various quarters, and continued to serve on the Conference. He had gone to London with a firm determination to make every endeavour to turn the Truce into a permanent settlement, and in order perhaps, to create an atmosphere for that purpose, he sometimes made statements, both in and outside the conference, tantamount to substantial concessions to Princes, Britishers and others. In fact, I often felt that Mahatma's attitude in this respect was hardly consistent with the spirit of the Congress mandate. The British statesmen interpreted this attitude of Mahatma as weakness on the part of the Congress, and the Conference failed.

(To be Continued.)

The sad death at the age of about 55 of the mother of Mr. P. R. Pather Joint Hon. Secretary of the Natal Indian Congress took place last Wednesday morning after a prolonged illness. Mrs. Pather had recently been on a holiday to Mauritius where she contracted malaria which proved her fateful enemy. The funeral which took place at 5-30 p.m. was attended by a large number of friends. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the bereaved family.

AGREEMENT IN DANGER

THE Indian community is still waiting anxiously for the result of the Round Table Conference. We were told it would be known before the middle of March. March has ended and we are still in suspense. The Calcutta correspondent of our morning contemporary last week gave us the not very happy news that the Agreement was in danger as the Select Committee which was responsible for the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill had refused to accept the modifications recommended by the Round Table Conference—or was it only the Government of India delegation? Being in the dark one does not know what the actual position is, and it would be premature on our part to discuss it. The Congress, on behalf of the Indian community, has, of course, made it quite clear that the Bill will not be acceptable to it, no matter however modified in form it may be passed. The Bill is obnoxious at its very root and the mere clearing of a few branches will not improve it. But we may not make any further comments on the subject without knowing the details. The message referred to in the present article should, however, serve as a warning to the Indian community not to sit idle but to be wide awake and alert if it is at all concerned about its future in this country for there may be every likelihood of its being faced with a grim fight. Much will depend upon the strength of the community expressed in deeds rather than in words. We have no reason yet to lose hope in view of the fact that the appointment of a new Agent has been announced. We have not had the pleasure of being acquainted with the new Agent but from the few facts that have come to our knowledge we have reason to believe that he will prove worthy of his charge. The news of the appointment of the Agent has come after the message of the Calcutta correspondent and therefore the Agreement is perhaps *not* in danger.

Since writing the above we learn that an announcement will be made regarding the Agreement on Tuesday next by Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior.

Pinetown's New Indian School

The handsome new Pinetown Indian Government school, which is situated just off the main road near Hogarth's metal works, was opened by Mr. W. W. Sykes, M.P.C., in the presence of about 500 people, including a large number of representative Europeans.

The building is of brick and comprises seven class rooms, staff room, headmaster's room, two cloak rooms, with prospective addition to the general building. It lies in nearly seven acres of grounds, which command beautiful views of Kloof and Wyebank on one direction and Mount Moriah and the undulating country towards Durban on the other. The building cost £3,750 and accommodation is provided for 300 children.

Those Present

Among those present were Mr. W. W. Sykes, M.P.C., Mr. J. MacLeod (inspector-in-charge of Indian schools in the Province), Inspectors Cliff and du Toit, Mr. D. A. Stewart (resident magistrate), and Mrs. Stewart, Dr. Field, Dr. Whitaker, Rev. G. Thorne (vicar of Pinetown), Mr. de Wet (headmaster, Pinetown Government School, Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee (President Natal Indian Congress), Mr. V. K. Pillay (chairman Pinetown Indian Association), Sergeant Norman, Mr. F. F. Dales (representing the Pinetown Public Committee), Mr. Rennie (Pinetown S.M.), Mr. Smith (bank manager), Mr. G. V. Naidoo (the headmaster).

Mr. MacLeod opened the proceedings and apologised for the unavoidable absence of Mr. Hugo, Inspector Education Department. He expressed great pleasure at seeing such a large gathering and said that he was naturally deeply interested in Indian Education. He called upon Mr. V. K. Pillay, who had done so much to push forward the course of Indian Education and the building of the new school to speak first.

Mr. Pillay's Speech

Mr. Pillay extended a hearty welcome to all present on behalf of the Pinetown Indian Association. The presence of the European community was a testimony to the keenness shown by them in the education and uplift of the Indian people, for in their (the Indians') efforts to educate and uplift their people they looked to the Europeans, who represented the ruling race, for help and guidance. There were about 250 pupils on the roll, but there were about 100 pupils of school-going age who were not attending school at present. This was due to the fact that their parents were too poor to bear the cost of school books.

His association intended appealing to the wealthy members of the community for financial assistance in order to help those poor children, and they felt sure that the appeal would not be made in vain. He paid a warm tribute to Mr. Hugh Bryan, late Superintendent of Education, and also to Sir K. V. Reddi and Mr. Sykes for all they had done for the education of Indians.

Mr. G. V. Naidoo appealed to parents to see that their girls were sent to school, as their numbers were very few. He also appealed for regular attendance of all scholars.

Support Promised

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee said that the Pinetown Indian Association were to be congratulated upon the result of their efforts in promoting the educational welfare of the children. He also spoke in the highest terms of the efforts of Sir Kurma Reddi, Mr. Sastri and Mr. Sykes to have the school built. He promised financial assistance for the appeal made by Mr. Pillay.

The resident magistrate offered a few congratulatory remarks.

Mr. Sykes, M.P.C., thanked the Administrator, the Education Department, and the Indian community for inviting him to open the new school. He did so with pleasure, as he was satisfied it was only through education that all classes could become better citizens. The best policy a State could embark upon was free, compulsory primary education. The new school was a very handsome and up-to-date one, and he knew that the Indian community were sincere in their heartfelt thanks to the authorities for giving it them.

The Headmaster

In their headmaster they had a man of very high principle, and one of the best teachers on the Provincial Indian staff. With regard to Mr. Pillay, Mr. Sykes said that the greatest credit was due to him for what he had done. He had taken a deep personal interest in having the school erected, and his good work for Indian education would long be remembered. Mr. Sykes appealed to the Indians to regard the Health Board in a favourable light as that board was doing its best and was a very cheap means of insurance. He referred to the Indians as one of the hardest working races in the world, and finally again congratulated them in their splendid new school.

The new building marks an important forward movement in connection with Indian education in this part of Natal. All the visitors expressed high admiration at which they saw, and the afternoon proved to be a most interesting and enjoyable one.

Viceroy Meets The Princes

Calcutta, March 28.—Addressing the Chamber of Princes at Delhi to-day, the Viceroy attempted to dispel the fears of Indian States, and promised the Princes that their treaty rights would stand in the country's new constitution.

The Princes themselves, in meeting the Chamber, adopted for discussion a resolution to the effect their Highnesses favoured federation provided that as a sine qua non they get "50-50" representation in the Legislature, so as to ensure 150 seats being allotted to the Native States, or, as many as will give individual representation to Chamber States, and provided that safeguards which they consider necessary to their interests are embodied in the new constitution.

The resolution leaves open the questions as to whether the Legislature should be unicameral or bicameral, and how far the Indian States should approach equality of representation among themselves.

Government Reticent

There has been no movement on the part of the Indian Government towards reconciliation with the All-India Congress. The conversations at present taking place are only to convince reasonable Indian opinion of the Government's intentions and goodwill.

This is the official reply to the conclusions drawn from the sudden visit of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas and others to the Viceroy, Lord Willingdon, and the Marquis of Lothian in Delhi, and of Mrs. Naidu's visit to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya at Benares.

The two visits of Mrs. Naidu (suggested by many as the self-appointed Congress dictator and reputed to be like a cat to have nine lives because the Government has not so far imprisoned her) to Delhi since her recent return from South Africa, her stay in Delhi on each occasion with the arch-enemy of the Congress—namely, the Indian Government—and her prolonged interviews with Malaviya, are, however, regarded in some quarters as suggesting that the Government's attitude will not be one of "nothing

doing" if only the Congress will see the folly of its ways and immediately abandon its menacing arrogance.

General Federation Still Undecided

Calcutta, March 29.—Despite the Viceroy's assurance, the Indian princes are still undecided whether or not they should enter the proposed All-India Federation.

The prospective Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, namely, his Highness Jam Sahib of Nawanganar—better known in the cricketing world as the famous Ranjitsinhji—is believed to be a far from convinced supporter of the Federation, and there is a strong contingent from his part of the world who want to see the Federal scheme in action before they consider joining.

Bengal Change of Governorship

Calcutta, March 29.—The ceremonies attending the departure of Sir Stanley Jackson, on relinquishing office as Governor of Bengal, and the arrival of his successor, Sir John Anderson, passed off quietly as a result of most elaborate precautions taken by the police. All houses along the routes used by the officials were searched and guarded, and there were no unseemly incidents.—Reuter.

Mrs. Naidu Denies A Rumour

The *Daily Telegraph's* Bombay correspondent says that the persistent rumours that Mrs. Naidu's visit to Delhi was connected with sudden peace parleys between the Government and the All-India Congress are absolutely denied by her. "My Delhi visit," she said, "was only regarding my South African mission and nothing else. The only person who could negotiate on behalf of the Congress is Mr. Gandhi. But there is no chance of peace while the Government maintains its present attitude."

Government Punishes Indian College

Poona, March 28.—Long awaited disciplinary action regarding the attempt on the life of Mr. Hotson, the Acting Governor of Bombay on July 22, has been taken.

It will be remembered that while Mr. Hotson was inspecting the Ferguson College a student shot at him.

The Government has ordered the authorities to reduce the number of students at Ferguson College from 1,700 to 1,200 under pain of withdrawal of support for the college.—Reuter.

Indian Interpreter's Retirement

An interesting event took place at the Court Room, Verulam, on Saturday afternoon, March 19, when several officials and a large section of the Indian community made a presentation to Mr. V. Samuel Joshua, the Indian interpreter for the Inanda district, on his retiral from Government service. Mr. H. C. Lugg, Magistrate of the district, presided, and made the presentation, which consisted of a handsome solid silver tea service from the Indian community and a silver tray from the staff. The balance of the sum collected, which amounted to nearly £40, was contained in a wallet.

Mr. Joshua joined the service of the Natal Government Railways under Sir David Hunter in 1886, and in 1901 he was transferred to the Department of Justice, and from that time remained in that Department.

Mr. H. T. Dickinson, speaking on behalf of the Verulam Bar, joined with Mr. Lugg in saying farewell to Mr. Joshua. He had never heard a single word against Mr. Joshua's integrity in the carrying out of his duties.

The Anti-Asiatic League And A Factory Lease

Sir,—In reply to R. Heggie regarding a lease he proposes should be granted to an Indian from Lourenco Marques, may I point out that there are two petitions signed by 100 firms and residents of the area concerned, objecting to the leases being granted to the two Asiatic manufacturing firms. I may mention that the presence of Indian factories near the Beach would not have the effect of making it more popular. All the hotel proprietors are much opposed to the suggestion.

There are many owners of property here in Durban who do not let their properties to Indians under any circumstances. If they all took up that attitude, then the Indian menace would be considerably reduced.

I have been told that Mr. Heggie's building has been empty for a year. I did my best to find him a tenant, but the rent is too high, according to suggestions made to me. If the building were divided and the rent reduced to £12 10s. for each half, there should be little difficulty in finding tenants of the right and desirable complexion.

The whole matter goes to show how necessary it is for the Durban Town Council to introduce a proper system of segregation, which is demanded by the people of Durban in no uncertain voice and which matter is having the serious consideration of our Government at Capetown. The people demand it, and they will doubtless say so at the forthcoming municipal elections early in August.

S. OELLERMANN,
Chairman, the Anti-Asiatic League
of Natal.

—Natal Mercury.

Children's Aid Society

Joint Committee

The usual monthly meeting of the Children's Aid Society's Joint Committee was held in the Board Room of the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, 4th instant, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. D. Rheinallt-Jones.

Discussing the question of caring for destitute or abandoned Non-European children, Mr. Handel Thompson reported that a Sub-Committee had been appointed to consider the raising of funds for the establishment of a shelter for these children.

Mr. Rheinallt-Jones informed the Committee of an institution at Faure, C.P., for the reception of blind Non-European children, and that the Rev. Blaxall had been appointed the Superintendent. It was decided that the Rev. Blaxall should be asked for full particulars of this institution.

Mrs. Le Pere reported on the work of the Newclare Coloured Women's and Children's Welfare Society, and Mr. Rheinallt-Jones and Mr. Thompson undertook to visit.

The question of organising local "Health Committees" to act as feeders to the Joint Committee was raised but discussion of this was postponed until the next meeting of Committee, which will be held on Friday, 1st April.

Dr. W. Godfrey writes that his son, Dr. E. L. L. Godfrey, has obtained his diploma in public health.

Indian Child Welfare

Society's Good Work

The Annual General Meeting of the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society took place at its Centre at 150 Brook Street, Durban, on Saturday the 19th inst. Mr. Abdoola Ismail Kajee was in the chair, Mrs. V. R. R. Moodley the chairwoman of the Committee, Mrs. J. Lawrence Hon. Treasurer and Mrs. G. Christopher Hon. Secretary, Miss S. W. Standing, the Health Visitor in charge of the Centre, Mrs. Bryan Gabriel, Mrs. E. Royeppen, Mrs. P. Singh, Messrs. V. Lawrence, P. G. Naicker and A. Christopher were among others present.

The Committee submitted the Annual Report and Financial Report as follows:—

We have pleasure in submitting the fourth report of the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society from the period 1st December 1930 to 30th November 1931.

ATTENDANCE

There were 4928 attendances during the year under review showing an increase over the previous year of 1194.

MEDICAL SESSIONS

Ninety Medical Sessions were held by Dr. J. Jackson and Dr. M. Alper at which there were 2328 attendances.

INFANTS

There was also an increase in the attendance of babies under one year of age the total being 580.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

340 school children were examined by one or other of the lady doctors. A great number of school children came for dressing and treatment when there was no Clinic.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Attendances of Ante-Natal cases were 266.

MATERNITY CASES

The Midwife attended 60 cases.

ADOPTED AND PROTECTED INFANTS

The adoption of one child was arranged and a number of foster parents are waiting on our list to adopt children. The case of an illegitimate child was taken up by the Society and everything possible was done in Court to get an Order against the father for its maintenance. In another case a motherless child was neglected by its father, pressure was brought upon the father to make better arrangements for the child.

DESERTED WIVES

Five cases in which the husbands deserted their wives and children were dealt with.

FOOD AND MEDICINE

158 lbs. of Lactogen, Cod Liver Oil Emulsion and Medicine were given free to necessitous cases, and in other cases a nominal charge was made.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

These meetings were held regularly once a month.

JUMBLE SALES, CONCERT, BAZAAR

Two Jumble Sales, a Concert and a Bazaar was held in aid of our funds.

GRANTS-IN-AID

The Natal Provincial Council gives us £50 a year.

The Durban Municipality now bears the salaries of the lady Health Visitor who is in charge of the Centre, of a Midwife and of an Indian lady assistant, and allows the use of the building with telephone

and electric light in Brook Street as our Centre. A sum of £18 was allowed for furniture.

Since the formation of our Society the work among our women and children has been developing rapidly. Each year shows a big increase. The need for more workers is great. The unemployment among our people is acute, thousands are workless, consequently women and children are suffering from want the most.

We are sorry to have to say that very little financial help comes from the rich among us, not that they do not know our needs, our personal appeals to them have fallen on deaf ears.

With better financial support from our rich, our work in many directions can be more fully developed.

We have to express our gratitude to the Durban Municipality for the greater interest they are now taking in our work, and the increased support given to it. We hope in the coming year they will also enable us to give away more free food and medicine in this connection we have also to thank Mrs. Benson the Chairwoman of the Health Committee, Mr. Rayburn, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dr. Gunn, Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. K. McNeill in charge of Child Welfare Department.

Among others our thanks are due to Miss Standing, our Health Visitor for the interest she takes in the work. Dr. M. Alper and Dr. J. Jackson who by their free help have contributed much to the success of our Centre. Dr. Seedat who attended a few emergency cases, Mrs. Wedd who assists at the two weekly Clinics. Mr. Lawrence who attends regularly at the Centre to help; the donors to the Bazaar and Jumble Sale, the contributors to the Concert and Mr. S. J. Randeria the Auditor.

S. MOODLEY

Chairman,

G. CHRISTOPHER

Hon. Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE DURBAN INDIAN CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY

From 1st December 1930 to 30th November 1931.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Sale of Lactogen and Medicine	41	4 6	Nurse's Salary	120	0 0
Maternity cases	68	2 8	Aya's Salary	34	0 0
Provincial Council grant	37	10 0	Durban Corporation water fee	4	7 9
Donations	3	17 0	Maternity & Child Welfare Dept	44	17 6
Optional subscriptions	5	0	Printing	2	10 6
Proceeds of Concert	31	6 5	Allen & Hanbury's	39	5 9
Proceeds of Jumble Sales	8	6 11	Petty Cash	2	0 0
Balance on 30th Nov., Natal Building Society & Standard Bank of S.A. Ltd.	111	15 3	Sundries	3	2 1
	£ 299	14 9	Balance	49	11 2
				£ 299	14 9

J. LAWRENCE

P. R. PATHER

Jt. hon. Treasurers.

This is to certify that I have this day audited the books of the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society and have found them to be true and correct.

S. J. RANDERIA,
Hon. Auditor.

Durban, 12th March 1932.

The Report and Financial Statement were unanimously adopted.

Statement Submitted By S.A.I.C.

To Government Of India Delegation

(Continued from last week)

Exempted Indians

The Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1914 included a condition that six "educated" Indians should be allowed to enter the Transvaal Province annually. Subsequently it may be noted, the provision was extended to the Provinces of Natal and the Cape. The exempted persons were not to be required to hold Registration Certificates.

The considerations that led up to this demand by Mr. Gandhi on the one hand for the exemption of at least a handful of Indians from the racial, class and colour distinctions created by the registration law of 1908 and Immigration Law of 1913, and the acquiescence by General Smuts on the other hand, are both historically and practically interesting and important.

Both the above Statutes were resisted in turn by way of protest against the imputation they expressed of racial and national inferiority and undesirability. It was mutually appreciated that this arrangement in regard to the annual admission of a small number of exempted Indians would, at least, to some extent, remove the sting of that imputation. The exempted persons were to be protected from the racial disabilities imposed in the respective provinces of the Union upon the rank and file of their Indian populations. The class of person contemplated and in practice permitted thus to enter was what is ordinarily termed the educated class.

At the outset the exempted persons so admitted received a simple form of exemption certificate unclogged by conditions. The position occupied by the "exempted" was at least in no way inferior to that occupied by the holders of registration certificates.

After a comparatively brief period, however, conditions and provisions became inserted in the documents issued to such entrants and this in spite of strong protests on the part of the Indian community. The comparatively recent case of Medh versus Principal Immigration Officer, A.D. 1928 page 451 decided that it is not competent in exempting a person under Section 25 (1) of Act 22 of 1913 to attach terms and conditions to such exemption and should any condition be attached to such exemption such condition will be regarded as pro non scripto.

For some time past the practice of issuing letters of Exemption to educated entrants in terms of the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement would appear to have been discontinued. By way of substitution it is proposed that temporary permits be issued to educated entrants, such permits to be renewable annually at the pleasure of the Minister. The suggestion was, of course, no new one having been advanced as far back as 1908 and rejected by the community. Mr. Gandhi pointed out at the time that the principle involved was such that the acceptance of temporary permits in regard to exempted persons would defeat that very principle. As previously pointed out its importance lies in the recognition that the door of immigration was not to be banged, bolted and barred against Indian

Immigrants on the score of their race and nationality.

The 1914 "Settlement" also laid emphasis upon the principle herein involved. This matter has been treated in detail with some elaboration with a view to impressing the Delegation to support the Indian attitude that the principle involved should not be disturbed.

Explanatory-Exempted Indians

In the correspondence that passed between the Indian and Colonial Offices and the Colonial Government in 1909, the Colonial Government stated that it was prepared to allow the admission of six Indians to a Province as permanent residents. The number was subsequently increased from six to ten.

Under the 1914 Settlement, provision was made for admission into the Transvaal, Cape and Natal of two classes of Indians outside of the class entitled to enter under the Statutory Laws.

Class A :—The small number of educated entrants previously referred to, i.e. ten per annum for each Province were to receive Letters of Exemption freeing them from the necessity of holding registration certificates. In practice these were persons selected by the respective communities of the respective provinces for their educational qualifications.

Class :—Comprised temporary visitors, e.g. priests, teachers and the like whose entry and stay it was contemplated should only be temporary.

The authorities, it would now appear, propose to delete Class A and to allow the admission only of Class B. As previously indicated this change of policy is regarded by the community as a violation of principles established at the cost of considerable sacrifice and suffering.

The proposal of the Department of Interior in regard to the entry of and domicile of educated entrants was accepted by the Congress, subject to the proposals not abrogating any of the rights conferred by the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement.

D. I. 91 Form

This is a form evolved under the Regulations published under Act 22 of 1913, the object and purpose of which is to establish to the satisfaction of the Immigration authorities the relationship claimed by a man to a woman as the former's wife, and by parents to children it is sought to introduce into the Union. The form is an administrative one and was intended to be a means for satisfying the authorities, but certainly not the sole means of or evidence in favour of one of the above claims. The Department has, however, converted this form to constitute it as the only conclusive proof and to exclude wives and children of domiciled Indians, who desire to enter the Province, unless they are protected by this Particular Form. Formerly, such women and children were allowed to enter temporarily on deposit, then frequently investigation of the claims would proceed and the D.I. 91 Form might be furnished the Department at a later date; the deposits be returned and the claims of the claimants be recognised.

The importance of the departure is that the persons concerned are now generally declared prohibited immigrants in spite of other convincing evidence in the absence of this particular form, thus involving the Indians in needless expense and anxiety; and also endangering their legitimate rights.

The Question Of Domicile

The Immigration Act of 1913 as amended by Act 15 of 1931 provides that a person shall have been deemed to have lost his domicile within the Union if he absents himself therefrom and does not enter the Union within three years from the date of his departure or from the commencement of the Act of 1927 whichever period may be the later and that irrespective of whether he is the holder of a Registration Certificate or a Certificate of Domicile or of any other document issued under any prior law permitting his entrance to or residence in the Union or recognising his domicile in the Union or any Provinces thereof.

This proviso, while appearing impartial, is in reality made to operate for the purpose of restricting a return of Asiatics. It will be seen that the Registration Certificate no longer confers the right to be here and the right to come and go. This Section should be repealed.

Numerous cases of extreme hardship have arisen through the strict application of the law as amended.

(To be Continued)

Carnegie Non-European Library Service

After many negotiations it has been found possible now to take advantage of the generous offer of £1,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the organisation of a circulating library to serve the Indian, Bantu and African communities of the Witwatersrand and neighbouring districts. A deputation consisting of Mr. M. M. Stirling, Organiser of the South African Library Conference Executive Committee, and Mr. J. D. Rheinallt-Jones of the South African Institute of Race Relations, waited recently on the Committee of the Germiston Public Library which consented to organise the service. A representative Committee has been formed to co-operate with the Germiston Library Committee and a stock of books has been purchased. Applications are invited from institutions which are prepared to make arrangements for depots at which boxes of books can be lodged for free use of borrowers. Communications should be addressed to Miss D. D. Riley Honorary Secretary, Carnegie Non-European Library Service, P. O. Box. 246, Germiston.

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.

Outward Bound

What happens after death? This is a question to which some of the ablest Hindu scholars have devoted their most profound and subtle thought in the hope of finding some satisfactory answer. On Monday night, April 11, at the Victoria Picture Palace members of the Indian community will have the opportunity of seeing the answer propounded by a European playwright, Mr. Sutton Vane.

On that night the St. James Dramatic Society will present "Outward Bound," a play that deals in vividly interesting fashion with a group of who have died. When the play opens they are on board ship but are still unaware that they are actually dead and each person regards himself or herself as being on an ordinary holiday trip. Gradually and dramatically the realisation is driven home to them that they are dead and are bound for a harbour which holds for each one possibilities of which they had never hitherto dreamt. What they ask and with them the audience, is going to happen to us?

Each reacts according to character, one defiant another truculent, a third determined to bring into play all the snobberies and flatteries that secure social success. They learn that they have to face an "Examiner" and in the final act is shown the punishment or reward meted out to each one.

Naturally with such a theme the play grips from the beginning and even at the fall of the final curtain it still leaves one with more questions than it has answered. The play is especially notable for its interesting and dramatic presentation of the age-old speculation about what happens after death and its chief merit is that it tells its story through human beings who can be understood by all. The play will be performed by a strong European cast and doors will be open at 7.30, while tickets are obtainable at Peter's Cafe.

Outward Bound

A GREAT DRAMA

At

VICTORIA PICTURE PALACE

Have you bought your ticket for "Outward Bound"?

This great Drama is to be presented by a highly distinguished European Cast at the Victoria Picture Palace on Monday 11th April at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets on sale at Peter's Cafe and Kapitan's Balcony Hotel. Price 2/6, 1/6 and 1/-.

SNOEK

Prime Red Oily Snoek at lowest market prices. Quotation on request. Coast Trading Co., 917 Kershaw Street, Capetown.