

Indian Opinion

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TRANSVAAL INDIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS

A MEETING of Indian women was held last Sunday in Johannesburg under the auspices of the Transvaal Indian Women's Association. Mrs. Singaram Pandithar was in the chair.

Chairwoman's Speech

The following speech was delivered by Mrs. Pandithar:-

"My sisters and countrywomen,—We have met to consider the part Indian women of the Transvaal are to play in the movement our menfolk have at last determined to make for the vindication of their honour and ours; for our natural rights as civilised and law-abiding citizens; for what we owe to our children for whose future we are responsible.

"You will, I think, agree that the word "persecution" is not too strong to describe the treatment to which we have been subjected during the past 30 years. We have been told again and again that we as Indians, are to be got rid of if possible, to be branded and treated as an inferior order of human beings if we cannot be persuaded, induced or spurred into leaving the Union. It is as if our rulers felt they were handling a community they held in utter contempt, a people devoid of all sense of honour or self-respect.

"We Indians have learned the lessons of patience and long suffering. We have swallowed the insults that have been hurled at us, the humiliations and disabilities that year after year have been heaped upon us, hoping throughout that with the passing of time and the growth of better understanding, more humane, more liberal counsels would prevail and our patience and confidence be rewarded. This year, parliament has seen fit to put the final touch to our degradation in the form of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act, which is practically segregation for the great majority of us, disguised somewhat, in some cases put off for a couple of years, but in all cases burning afresh into our very souls the brand-mark of racial and national inferiority and undesirability; emphasising that we are pariahs to be treated only as outcasts.

"It seems to me that the time has at last arrived for us to prove that we are worthy of the claims we have advanced on our behalf and that we are not the contemptible sordid creatures we are supposed to be. A people that is too cowardly to suffer for freedom is worthy only of the helotage that has been our lot. Hitherto we have endured but not from cowardice. We prayed that our rulers might be influenced to a change

of heart. It is now evident that we have waited in vain. To accept without protest this our latest humiliation would be an act of cowardice and betrayal. It must not be charged against us that we are afraid to suffer for Indian honour and Indian self-respect.

"If our men are putting up a struggle our place is by their side, to encourage their efforts, to share their sufferings. If our men should prove feeble-hearted or be imprisoned or deported it is for us to set the example or fill the gaps. We who are wives have to see that our husbands behave as honourable men. We who are mothers have to safeguard the honour and the just liberties of our children.

"Let us prove to our European sisters by our courage and our sufferings that we are worthy of their respect and of the consideration we claim as our due."

Resolution

The following resolution was then moved with a patriotic speech by Mr. O. K. T. Naidoo's daughter Miss S. Naidoo and supported by Mrs. Padyachee, Mrs. Chetty, Mrs. Moody, and Mrs. Ramdayal Singh:—

"That this mass meeting of the Indian Women's Association solemnly resolves to co-operate in the Passive Resistance movement about to commence in protest against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act regarding it as the culminating indignity imposed upon the Indians of this Province.

"That volunteers be enrolled and a list of their names be forwarded together with a copy of the minutes of this meeting to the Transvaal Indian Congress.

"That a Committee of five be appointed to act in consultation with the men passive resisters.

"That the following constitute the said Committee:—
Mrs. Williams, Mrs. P. K. Naidoo, Mrs. V. S. Naiger, Mrs. Singh, Miss S. Naidoo."

Transvaal United Patidar Society

A meeting of the above Society was held at the Patidar Hall, Johannesburg, on August 22, under the chairmanship of Mr. Mooljee Nathoobhai. The meeting passed a resolution supporting the action proposed to be taken by the Transvaal Indian Congress to oppose the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act.

THE CONFERENCE

WE are pleased to announce that the wishes of the Transvaal Indians have at last been respected and it has been decided to hold the Conference of the S.A.I.C. on the 27th and 28th August in Johannesburg. The important questions before the Conference will be the Capetown Agreement, the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the Colonisation Scheme.

In so far as the Agreement is concerned it has been rendered a scrap of paper by the Union Government by passing legislation such as the Asiatic Land Tenure Act and sanctioning of the Licences Control Ordinance passed by the Transvaal Provincial Council which are quite contrary to the letter and spirit of the Agreement. In so far as the Indian community is concerned it has honoured the Agreement to the best of its ability but the Government has painfully failed in doing so. There is the uplift clause in the Agreement which reads well but it has been flouted by the Government with the introduction of its white labour policy. The Conference cannot but express the opinion, therefore, that the Agreement is a worthless document.

Much has already been said about the Asiatic Land Tenure Act. We need not, therefore, discuss here the details of the Act. To be consistent, the Conference cannot but denounce that Act as an obnoxious piece of legislation which no self-respecting person could be expected to respect. If we do not resist to our utmost ability this black Act on the Statute Book and if we fail to do our utmost to get it effaced our children's children will have reason to very deservedly spit on the graves of their forefathers for having submitted to their being branded as a race as helots. The Conference cannot possibly advise the people to submit to that legislation.

With regard to the Colonisation Scheme, the wording in the Agreement is:—

"The Government of India will co-operate with the Government of the Union in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians, both from India and South Africa, in other countries. In this investigation, which should take place during the present year, a representative of the Indian community in South Africa will, if they so desire, be associated."

Here, too, one needs to be consistent. We opposed the Assisted Emigration Scheme because of its underlying principle. We did not desire that our brethren should be made to sell their birth-right or domiciliary rights in this country and to be sent out to a land which was practically unknown to them. Moreover we did not wish to purchase a few rights for ourselves at the cost of our brethren losing for ever their birthright. Is this new scheme, the possibilities of which are to be explored, in any way different to the Assisted Emigration Scheme? Are we prepared to consent to our brethren being thrown in a foreign country having resented their being sent even to their Motherland? If not, what purpose will be served by our participating in the mission to explore the possibilities of such a scheme? Are we going to advise our brethren in this country to sell their birthright if there are possibilities of colonisation into other lands? If not, would we be honest, in participating in a thing which we know we are not going to support when and if it materialises? We think

not. And it is for this reason that we feel that the Conference will be well-advised not to be a party to the exploration scheme.

May the deliberations of the Conference be guided by wise counsel. We wish it every success.

OUR STARVING INSTITUTIONS

WITHIN the last two or three weeks the public has been given accounts of the working of several of our institutions and the cry of each of them is that it is suffering from the want of funds. First we got to know of the "Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee." This body has done useful work in relieving the distress of our poorer brethren but the work is handicapped because there is practically no support either from those of us who are blessed with wealth or from the Government. Then we had an account of the working of the Technical Education Committee which is conducting classes to impart technical education to our men, women and children. The Agent of the Government of India has been charmed with the very useful work this Committee is doing and it has received the blessings of many distinguished Europeans. Mr. Harold Wodson the Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, spoke very sympathetically at the meeting of this Committee. The *Natal Advertiser* has written a very sympathetic leading article on the subject and has urged the Municipality to support this useful effort on the part of the Indian community at uplifting their own brethren. It has pointed out in no uncertain terms to the anti-Asiatics that, viewing this matter even from a purely selfish point of view, it would be their duty to support it and not to cry against it. It has given a very gentle but a well-deserved rebuke to us that we should have felt a little ashamed of ourselves in applauding the fact that much of our present technical education equipment was bought by the Carnegie Trust while our wealthy brethren had done practically nothing in aiding the work.

While we do not agree with our contemporary that the doors of the Technical College should be entirely closed to us we must very gratefully acknowledge that it has put our case so strongly that no further persuasion is necessary as to the duty of the Durban Corporation to support our effort at self-help. If the words of our contemporary will fall on deaf ears our words will surely have no weight at all.

Then we had, only the other day, a very good meeting of the Social Service Committee which was not only attended by a large number of European friends but a large number of distinguished Europeans, we are happy to feel, are actively supporting the work of the Committee, and the Health Committee of the Durban Town Council, too, is taking a keen interest in its work. This institution has also received the blessings of the Agent of the Government of India and of no less a person than the Mayor of Durban. This is perhaps the only institution which can boast of having a credit balance but that, too, is not worth the name, in view of the great work the institution has at heart—that of building a hospital for Indians. In this respect this institution too could be said to be starving for funds. The

Committee's object is a laudable one. We have on more than one occasion pointed out in these columns to the need for an Indian hospital and while we have many Parsee Rustomjees in this country in so far as wealth is concerned, if we had but a few with the magnanimous heart that he possessed this is a thing that could be achieved without any difficulty.

There is yet another institution which will have its sad tale to tell shortly. We refer to the Indian Child Welfare Society. That too is languishing for want of funds. It has not that liberal support of our wealthy brethren that it deserves.

All these institutions represent an act of self-help on the part of Indians in the matter of uplift. Each of them has given a good account of its work. But it has yet to be proved what the Government has done under the uplift clause embodied in the Capetown Agreement for the Indian community. In return for the work already done and in return for our contribution to the State treasury and to the coffers of the Municipality we have a legitimate right to ask for the liberal support of both and to strongly protest if they fail to give that support. But we must as strongly condemn the action of our brethren who are blessed with wealth if they fail to discharge their responsibility to their poorer brethren and it is evident from the facts already published that they have sorrowfully failed.

Agent At The Durban Rotary Club

Plea For Race Tolerance

A striking plea for racial tolerance was made by Kunwar Maharaj Singh, Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, who was the guest of honour at the Durban Rotary Club lunch last Tuesday.

"Ever since I have been in this country," he said, "I have been struck by the atmosphere of suspicion, mistrust and misapprehension in the Indian community.

"Whenever one speaks to them, even away from the public platform, one finds this atmosphere of suspicion. They are constantly telling me of anti-Asiatic legislation, of anti-Indian administrative measures in the past, and of worse measures to follow both in the Transvaal and in Natal.

As representing the Government of India I must confess that we Indians and the Government of India do feel—I am especially speaking of the Transvaal—that a great deal of what we consider unnecessary and undesirable anti-Asiatic activity has taken place, especially when one considers that in the Transvaal the total number of Indians is only about 15,000, a mere drop as compared with the very large number of Europeans and the even larger number of Africans.

Then I am constantly told that the European community wish to segregate the Indian community in this country and to have nothing to do with them.

"I think the position they have taken up is in some respects true, but in some I think it is not correct. When I see such institutions as Rotary and those who belong to it here I am convinced that much of the suspicion can and will be removed by the carrying out of one of the objects of Rotary—the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Personal Knowledge

"Very few of the Indian community know you individually, they only know you as a community and they are apt to regard it as a hostile community.

"If only they would know you as individuals, as I have known Europeans from the time of my youth up to the present day, I am perfectly convinced that a great deal of this suspicion and mistrust, which I dare say also prevails among your community, will, if not disappear, at any rate diminish.

"We ought to come together far more than we have done in the past in what I might call quiet, personal and even social intercourse. We want to get to know each other.

"I have many friends in England with whom I am in continual correspondence and friends in at least 20 of the 30 countries I have been privileged to see. After an unusually wide experience of different races I can say with confidence that human nature is much the same all the world over.

Similarities

"I think a good deal of disservice is done to the various races by the different communities always stressing the differences which lie between us instead of attaching greater importance to the many similarities between race and race and even between man and man."

The Kunwar suggested to his hearers that they should get to know well individually one or two Indians, and said he was confident that after making allowances for so-called superficialities they would thereby gradually learn to have a more appreciative view of the Indian community as a whole.

He went on to refer to a number of organisations in Durban which were doing good work among the Indian community, and mentioned first the Technical Education Committee which had been recently inaugurated for the benefit of Indian boys and girls in order to teach them to be better at their jobs. He hoped more voluntary helpers would come forward for this work which he believed would do much to inculcate higher principles of business morality in the Indian community.

Defects In Community

"I should be the first to criticise, and at times unsparingly, the faults and defects in my own community," said the Kunwar. "I know there are certain defects which they have. I know that the way they live is not altogether as sanitary as you and I would desire; I know that in certain aspects of business morality there is room for improvement.

But on the other hand, remember that a community which has no voice and no vote in the administration, a community which is constantly on the *qui vive*, constantly suspicious, is apt, in some respects, to degenerate.

I would ask you to remember that there are certain qualities in them which they can rightly claim as good qualities and as such they are entitled to your consideration and respect. They are very industrious, peaceful, law-abiding and thrifty."

The Agent also praised the work of the Social Service Committee, in which European and Indian men and women took a common part in an honorary capacity, and the Indo-European Council, which, worked for the improvement of race relations.

He pleaded also for more opportunities for Europeans and Indians to meet in the friendly rivalry of sports.

Mr. B. M. Narbeth voiced the thanks of Rotarians to the Agent.

Mr. S. T. Amos, who presided and welcomed the Agent-General, assured him of the sympathy of Rotary in the difficulties which confronted him in his high office.
—Natal Mercury.

Indians And Technical Education

'Natal Advertiser's Comments

The *Natal Advertiser* writes the following leading article in its issue of August 17, referring to the meeting of the Indian Technical Education Committee held the previous night at the Parsee Rustumjee Hall:—

The Agent-General of the Indian Government addressed some wise words to those present last night at a public meeting called by the Indian Technical Education Committee when he stressed with great emphasis the place such education must play in the advancement of any section of the community. The question of Indian education in Natal is one that invariably provokes a great deal of heartburning in many European minds, and is responsible for many manifestations of the extreme illiberality of the European point of view. If the Indian is untaught, ignorant and illiterate, he is roundly condemned as a menace to the society around him. If he attempts to get education, he is denounced as one aspiring beyond his appointed place and is viewed with alarm as a person who may become a rival and a competitor to the European. If he asks the State or the Provincial authorities to finance his schooling, he is charged with filching funds intended for his betters. If his own well-to-do compatriots furnish moneys for this schooling, the European rejoinder is that there is some deep conspiracy afoot between rich and poor Indians to undermine, by educational effort, the ascendancy of the white man.

Of course this kind of reasoning, popular though it is, is fallacious in the extreme. Every instinct of self-preservation and national advancement should induce the Europeans in this country to extend the bounds of education as widely as possible *among those people who have the capacity to assimilate it*. This capacity is shared to a high degree by very many Indians; and whether or not it is a desirable thing that a large Indian population should remain as a source of political irritation in the midst of a limited European community, it ought to be manifest that the more educated those Indians are the less will they be a peril to the society of which they are part. You can negotiate with educated people; you can reason with them; you can bring them to a proper appreciation of the practical difficulties of a communal problem. But where ignorance and depression abound there will be found also dirt, disease, apathy, and those recurring surges of race prejudice and so-called race-consciousness which are so easily inflamed in ignorant bosoms by the self-seeking arts of soap-box demagogues. No man knows what the future of the Indian in South Africa is to be. But this we say without hesitation. The better educated he is, the better not only for him but for ourselves. Sometimes, in these perplexed days, one is disposed to accept finally the maxim of him who wrote "There is no sin but ignorance."

If general education is a good thing for the Indian, technical education is a still better thing; for its immediate results are that whatever contribution the Indian makes to the work of the country (which ultimately means the wealth of the country) is a better and more worth-while one. Nor can we imagine any but the most implacable and unreasoning anti-Asiatic resenting the teaching of domestic science, nursing and hygiene to Indian girls and women, or bookkeeping, accountancy or scientific market-gardening to Indian boys and men. If the Indian is to live in our midst, is it not better that

he should live cleanly and hygienically than, as so is the case to-day, as one who does not seem to care about any of the amenities of civilised life. If he is to trade or barter in our midst, is it not better that he should learn the principles of trade and thus cease being a menace to others as well as to himself in his daily transactions? There are some forms of so-called technical training that we are sorry to see being popularised in this early technical education adventure among Durban Indians. We hope, for instance, this mistake will not be made (as has been made in our European life) of turning out shorthand-typists as if by mass production; making the present glut a still more unassimilable one. Shorthand and typing are not really technical education in the correct sense of the word. They do not co-ordinate brain and hand sufficiently to deserve the name. But, be that as it may, we hope the day will not come when a surplus of Indian students, having attained a certain uniform standard of aptitude in these clerical pursuits, will turn round in reproach on their mentors (as hundreds of our European girls and boys have to do to-day) and remind them that everyone types nowadays, everyone writes shorthand, so that the labourers are many and the employers few.

The Durban experiment in technical education, very successful so far, is in urgent need of funds to continue the classes started in the last three years. Partly for the reasons adduced earlier in this article, and partly because it will be only an act of tardy justice, we hope the Durban Town Council will vote the very modest sum the Committee is asking from that body. The Council, it is true, makes a grant annually for technical education to the Technical College. It might, in the circumstances, be disposed to urge that the Technical College should finance, from that grant, the Indian experiment. The obvious answer to this plea is that, since Indian technical education is a new and additional activity, born in the past three years, the "Tech" could only accept financial responsibility by either starving European work to the extent of the grant made to the Indian experiment or by inviting the Indian students to join the European classes in Berea Road. Neither of the courses is prudent, so all that remains for the Corporation is either to help the Indian Committee in its present praiseworthy efforts after separate Indian technical training, or else boycott a legitimate effort at uplift on the part of a community that is said to pay one-fifth of the rates of this borough.

We think the Town Council should meet the modest requests of the Committee. But, in a much more generous measure, we think that the well-to-do Indians of this town should come to the support of this experiment. Several speakers at last night's meeting waxed wroth that there are many Indian trusts in Natal which remit moneys regularly to India for "uplift" purposes; money which has been made and is being made in Natal. The sentiment of the gathering, almost to a man, was that money earned in one country should not go overseas for benevolent ends but should be spent on those same ends in the place where it was made. We commend the sentiment, and are sorry our Indian friends did not have it in mind when they so warmly applauded the fact that much of their present technical education equipment was bought by the Carnegie Trust! But this is by the way. The main points are that the Durban Corporation ought to be generous to this experiment because it draws a great deal of its revenues from Indian sources, and the well-to-do Indians themselves should give even more generously because it is by education and by education alone that the Indian ultimately will win his ardently-desired and long-delayed place in the sun.

Technical Education For Indians

A meeting of the Indian Technical Education Committee was held on Wednesday night, August 17, at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban. Mr. B. M. Narbeth presided and among the distinguished guests present were Kunwar and the Kunwarani Maharaj Singh, Mr. H. Wodson, Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, and many other European friends.

After welcoming the Agent and the Kunwarani in their midst, Mr. Narbeth outlined the work of the Committee. In doing so he said the Committee was engaged in part-time education. They had at present three sections—at Carlisle Street up to Standard VII, commercial classes at the Sastri College and domestic science for women at the Sastri College. "We had a flourishing class of 70 at Clairwood," he said, "but owing to the expense the work had to cease."

There were afternoon classes for waiters, but this also was suspended owing to economic causes.

At Carlisle Street the classes were attended by some who were 50 years of age. They were babies in matters of education but enthusiastic in their work as men. The tuition at Carlisle Street was carried on by qualified Indian teachers who did excellent work. It was interesting to remember that the Indian teachers in charge of these classes did not receive any regular pay.

Mr. Narbeth referred to the commercial classes at the Sastri College, which had a high percentage of passes—in some cases 100 per cent. For the typewriters, he said, they were indebted to the Carnegie Corporation, which had provided sufficient funds to purchase a dozen typewriters and tables. It had also helped in the equipment of sewing machines for the domestic science classes.

"Our work," went on Mr. Narbeth, "has encouraged us. We want to go very much further. The Agent has already referred to the importance of work among women. We want to teach physiology and hygiene to the women. We are looking forward to training nursery nurses and then hospital nurses. At the present time there is no place in South Africa where Indian women can be trained."

The work entailed money. Their finance was derived from two sources—namely, a Government grant and students' fees. The amount they had received this year was £275, which was an increase on the £150 received the previous year. "Though the increase is a step in the right direction, we want double this amount," he added. Revenue from fees, he stated, had been reduced owing to the depression. In order to continue the work without curtailment it meant more money. They must appeal to wealthy Indians. So far they had not had very great assistance from them, though it was said that some of the wealthiest men in Durban were Indians.

Help From The Wealthy

"The wealthy should help the poor and the poor should help themselves, and with this combination we hope to go forward. There are trusts whose funds go to India, but it should be like charity which should begin at home. Unless we get further financial assistance our grant will not pay for teachers till the end of the year. I regret that there will be some considerable curtailment in the work," said Mr. Narbeth in conclusion.

Mr. H. Wodson made a very impressive speech in which he stressed the necessity for technical education in order to increase the efficiency of the worker to be a useful element in the community.

Mr. P. R. Pather said, the Capetown agreement provided a Western standard for the Indian community, and while they tried to raise their young men up to the observance of that standard they could not allow the older ones to lag behind. In this work he expected the financial support of wealthy Indians if they did not want to see

some of the classes closing down. The Indian community was endowed with much wealth. They were faced with a crisis of the first magnitude, and if the moneyed men did not come forward, the wealth would not serve them nor their children.

Mr. A. Christopher after paying a tribute to the work of Mr. Narbeth and to Dr. C. T. Loram, said "there are numerous Indian trusts, with their income ear-marked for India, except one trust—the Rustomjee Trust to which a number of buildings in town testify its assistance. The money should be used in the country in which one lives. If Indians themselves do not play the game they cannot expect assistance from the Union Government."

The Agent's Speech

The Agent was then garlanded by the chairman and the Kunwarani was presented with a bouquet. In the course of his speech the Agent said, this was one of the best institutions he had visited in Africa. "Technical education always makes a special appeal to me inasmuch as the older I grow the more I realise the lamentable mistake I made in not going to a technical school. It is not altogether my fault, but partly due to those responsible for my education. In my time there were very few evening classes that you have the privilege of seeing in Durban."

He was particularly pleased, continued the Agent, that "babies of 50" could be admitted to the classes. Perhaps when he had time after they had finished killing him with their kindness he would seek refuge in the classes. He was particularly impressed with the speech made by Mr. Wodson, whom he claimed to have known by repute for years as a fair and just-minded man. He was sure they would agree with him that he (Mr. Wodson) had made an excellent speech, for there was a good deal of truth in what he had said. He hoped that more of them would make themselves proficient in technical education. More support, he felt, should come from the Government, even from a selfish point of view, for education invariably increased the taxable quality of the individual.

Speaking to young men, the Agent said that contrary to the advice given by Punch to those who were going to marry—"Don't"—he would say "Do," but "provided you get a wife who has been in the Durban continuation classes." His answer to those who asked why was simple: There she would be taught to cook good curry and would be able to mend socks. (Laughter).

In conclusion, Kunwar Maharaj Singh said he was serious in what he was saying and thought it would be scandalous if certain classes were closed, or the work languished for want of funds.

"I cannot allow it to languish, and if this is allowed to happen, to use a stronger word, I shall be disgusted. You have my full support in realising the objects of this excellent institution. May I in conclusion thank those on your behalf who have devoted themselves to this philanthropic work."

The Kunwarani's Message

"I feel that I cannot begin any message without personally thanking those who have helped so honestly to carry on the work. All honour to them. I shall be greatly distressed if their noble example is not followed," said the Kunwarani. They should make up their minds, that the work should not languish. She was perfectly certain that all of them could make an effort to part with a little money for the cause. It would be well worth while to equip their people to be efficient.

Pleading guilty to her inability to cook a decent meal, the Kunwarani felt she might also have an opportunity of learning at the classes. Women wanted as much efficiency in their line as men in theirs. A great deal rested on themselves. "We want to run our houses so nobody will be ashamed to be our neighbours. I would

like to feel we are making a definite effort to clean our houses, perhaps our neighbours' houses, too."

She suggested the formation of little bands of workers who might be able to do social work in this direction. "Unless we see our faults and improve our faults we cannot do much good."

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee paid a tribute to the work of the Committee and Mr. T. M. Naicker and Mr. S. L. Singh expressed the Committee's thanks to the chairman and the guests of the evening.

Indian Social Service Committee

The Fifth Anniversary

The fifth annual general meeting of the Indian Social Service Committee was held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall on Friday, August 19. The Mayor Councillor Mr. Oliver Lea, presided. The hall was fully packed. Among those present were a large number of European friends including the ex-Mayor and ex-Mayoress Mr. and Mrs. Lamont, Mrs. Benson, Rev. Satchell, Dr. May and others. The Agent and Kunwarani Maharaj Singh were also present.

The Mayor paid a high tribute to the very useful work done by the Indian community through the Committee and said it was an effort that was to be heartily supported by the Corporation.

The Agent, the Kunwarani, Mr. Lamont, Dr. May and Mrs. Benson also praised the work of the Committee and urged the necessity of working in this direction with more zeal and thus make ourselves more useful citizens of the Borough.

The Committee's Report

Mr. V. Lawrence, the chairman of the Committee, in presenting the Committee's fifth annual report, stated that the membership of the Committee was 31 which had not increased since the last anniversary. The Committee held during the year fifty-two weekly meetings, one special general meeting and three executive meetings. Social service work consisted mainly in the distribution of health leaflets every Sunday and a collection from sympathetic Indians. Occasional visits were paid by members of the Committee to the barracks provided for their Indian employees by the South African Railways and Harbours, the Durban Municipality, the Indian restaurants, meat stalls in the Indian market, and the Biscopes. Some private houses were also visited. A visit was paid to the Mayville Local Administration area in connection with the unsatisfactory condition of a particular locality and the matter was taken up with the Health Board concerned. The Indian Immigration Hospital in Shepstone Street was also visited.

The want of shelter for the squatters in the new market built in Warwick Avenue and the building of latrines in such close proximity to the tea room in that place and the burning of cart-loads of refuse from the Indian and Borough Markets, close to the Indian market, near the Queen Street bridge, are engaging the attention of the Committee.

Free Dispensary

During the year under review over three hundred cases, an increase of over eighty on the previous year, received free medicines. These cases comprised Mahomedans, Hindus and Christians. The Committee was indebted to Mr. L. Jacobs, on whose premises investigation of these cases was conducted,

for the facilities he had so generously provided. Many cases were sent to the Addington Hospital for treatment and the Committee's thanks are due especially to the medical Superintendent of the hospital for treating the cases free. The Committee is also indebted to Drs. J. Morgan, M. S. Merchand and B. M. Kranz for examining cases sent to them and especially to the first named who treated the majority of cases free of charge.

Society Of Friends

The chairman of the Committee was associated with the above society who undertook the feeding of over 200 Indian, Coloured and Native destitute school children during July holidays at the Albert Street Government School. Indian children numbered on an average of 90 per day. The Committee expresses its warm thanks to the above society for the kindness shown to the Indian children.

The investigation of the Committee has shown that there were a very few instances of juvenile delinquency among Indians.

Racial Adjustment Committee

The chairman of the Committee has been elected a member of the above committee consisting of Europeans, Bantus and Indians which was formed during last year under the chairmanship of the Ray. A. Lamont the then Mayor of Durban, with the object of promoting racial harmony, better understanding and good fellowship among the various sections of the South African community.

Municipal Health Week

The Durban Town Council has decided to have another "Health Week Campaign" in October next and the chairman of the Committee has again been elected to serve on the main Committee and also on the propaganda and publicity Sub-Committee thus recognising the services rendered by the Indian Committee in the matter of health and cleanliness among their own people.

Indian Hospital

The Committee has under contemplation the building of a free hospital for the poorer classes of our community which would at the same time provide accommodation for the better class of our people, thereby making the institution a self-supporting one. Conversations had already been carried with a medical practitioner who had shown his very deepest sympathy in the project. Ways and means are being devised for this purpose and a reserve fund has been created to form a nucleus. It is estimated that the equipment for a 20 bed hospital will cost about £500 and the monthly expenses for the upkeep about £130. The land and building would cost over £8,000.

The Financial Statement

The financial statement was then submitted by Mr. N. K. Chetty, hon. auditor of the Committee, which showed a credit balance of £158-13-2.

Presentations

The Mayor and the Agent were garlanded and bouquets were presented to the Kunwarani, the Mayoress, Mrs. Benson and other distinguished guests. The Committee's badges were also presented by Mr. Lawrence on behalf of the Committee to the Mayor and Mayoress and Kunwar and Kunwarani Maharaj Singh.

The enthusiastic meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair and the distinguished guests of the evening and with three cheers for the Mayor and the Mayoress.

Surat Hindu Association

Welcome To Agent And The Kunwarani

The Surat Hindu Association welcomed the Agent and Kunwarani Maharaj Singh at the Association hall on Wednesday night last week. Mr. M. H. Desai who was in the chair spoke a few words in Gujarati welcoming the Agent and his speech was then read in English.

"We have, ever since the creation of the office of the Agent to the Government of India in South Africa, heard of your name being mentioned as a likely person to fill the post, and knowing your unbounded capabilities, having successfully held similar distinguished positions in and out of India, we are confident, said the chairman, that under your care and guidance our position in this country will be improved.

"We look forward to the day when the dark clouds now looming over our community in the Transvaal will be cleared by your endeavours, and there will be a sense of understanding between the Government and our people, so that we can live in this country as good citizens of the Empire and with all the respect befitting a nation which has a great and ancient civilisation. With a blending of both Western and Eastern civilisation, we hope to go forward in peace and harmony, which are so essentially desirable for the progress of this resourceful country."

Referring to the presence of the Kunwarani, Mr. Desai declared: We also look forward to the social upliftment of our women in this country, as without the enlightenment of our womenfolk we cannot become progressive citizens. In this respect the Kunwarani would be of immense help to us. There are already signs of an awakening among our women, and hope that such awakening will ever grow."

The Agent's Reply

After a number of other speeches Kunwar Maharaj Singh expressed the pleasure both his wife and himself had felt at being present amongst them. He could not claim the privilege, he said, of being in Gujarat on more than one occasion—the home province of his hosts—but he had spent a short time at Ahmedabad where he was received with great kindness and was shown the beauty spots of the city.

Touching on the objects of the association, which included charity, the Agent stated that they certainly appealed to him. "I understand," he said, "that you have considerable funds at your disposal and I am told by your chairman that it is used for good objects. I see a number of your young people who, I hope, benefit by the existence of such an institution." Proceeding, he said that Gujarat had produced some of the great leaders in India and they who had come from that province should maintain its high reputation.

"Many of you have spoken of your difficulties, I sympathise with you. I have always felt that as men who are thrifty as you are, industrious as you are, and as honest both to others and to yourselves, you will overcome greater difficulties than you have yet experienced."

Kunwarani's Rebuke

"I wonder if you deserve anything from me," said the Kunwarani who spoke in English. "I have been let down badly. I came to see the women and there are only a few present. If you ask me to another gathering, I hope you will be present with

the members of your family. I need hardly tell you how eager we are to help you, and if I have your support I am perfectly certain we shall have something to show to the European of South Africa."

"At Home" To Kunwarani Maharaj Singh

Last Monday afternoon the "Botanic Villa," Cowey Road, Durban, the residence of Mrs. R. A. Maghrajh, was the scene of much gaiety and colour, when she gave an "At Home" in honour of the Kunwarani Maharaj Singh, the wife of the Agent-General to the Government of India in South Africa.

In spite of the dull weather, a representative gathering of both Indian and European women, numbering 125 assembled to do justice to the many delicacies provided for the occasion.

The Kunwarani expressed her thanks to the hostess for the fine reception accorded her and said she was extremely delighted having met so many responsible women of the Indian community.

The function ended with a song by Miss M. Bhagwan-deen composed by her in honour of the Kunwarani.

Amongst the many guests present were: Mrs. A. Lamont, Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, Mrs. M. A. Byron, Mrs. A. Christopher, Mrs. I. A. H. Moosa, Mrs. M. M. Gandhi, Mrs. B. M. Singh, Mrs. and Miss J. Rustomjee, Mrs. Bicketts, Mrs. J. W. Godfrey, Mrs. R. B. O'hatty, Mrs. B. M. Patel, Mrs. B. Purmasir, Mrs. O. H. A. Jhaveri, Mrs. Bosman, Mrs. G. R. Paul, Mrs. P. Choudree, Mrs. R. Choonoo, Mrs. P. R. Pather, Miss Slatter, Mrs. Lutchan Panday, Mrs. B. A. Tilakdharee, Mrs. K. B. Singh, Mrs. H. L. Paul, Miss Fisher, Mrs. P. R. Singh, Mrs. and Miss Muna Bhagwandeen, Miss Moodley, Mrs. Lachmin, Miss Standing, Mrs. Morel, Mrs. Satchel, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. and Miss McLaughlin, and Mrs. Hill.—Contributed.

A Review

"What I Owe To Christ"

(Hodder and Stoughton, 5/- Net)

(By C. F. ANDREWS)

Rev. C. F. Andrews, that great and noble personage whose name is known practically all over the civilized world and particularly among the Indians in South Africa, has just presented to the reading public his latest contribution in the form of an autobiography published for the first time in April, 1932. As indicated by the title, the author deals chiefly with the history of the spiritual side of his life and dedicated, as it is, to the dear memory of his father and mother, the book is one long account of an ardent and never-flagging faith in Christ. With religious doubts and fears the author's mind has often been impregnated and though he rejects passages like the Athanasian Creed, the love of Christ is always uppermost in his heart and soul.

To Christ he owes everything; it is upon Christ and Christ alone that he depends for strength and the reinforcement of his own will in the practical sphere of life. It is the deed and not words that counts with him.

Mention is made of several personages of reputable note with whom the author has come into contact and under whose influence his outlook on life has been considerably changed. That noblest of spiritual leaders, Mahatma Gandhi, India's great poet, Rabind-

dranath Tagore, that true disciple of Christ, Sundar Singh, Samuel Stokes, Susil Rudra, Albert Schweitzer, Sir Walter Scott and numerous others, figure as having played some part in the author's spiritual growth and development. To all these he is extremely grateful as well as to his beloved parents who first imparted to him the teachings of Christ. But, as one would expect, Christ is ever foremost in his life.

Mahatma Gandhi, in an article 'What Christianity has done for me' once remarked: 'In so far as I am asked to accept the life of Christ as a model in the light of which I am to guide my own life, then I am a Christian.' It is this that Mr. C. F. Andrews has in mind when he says: 'Devotion to Him (Christ) is not sentimental but practical.' Christianity, then, for the author consists in accepting the life of Christ as the moral standard. He further avers, and I think with perfect truth and justification, that solutions for all our social evils and maladies like unemployment, racial prejudice etc. are to be found in the well of Christian principles. 'It seems to me an impossible thing to observe as Christians racial or other discrimination in human life.'

The test of Christianity therefore consists in the endeavour to live a Christ-like life and speaking of the Passive Resistance (Satyagraha) movement organised by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa, he says: 'These Indian passive resisters were better Christians though they remained Hindus and Muslims just as they were born.' The author's broad-minded view of Christianity, his acceptance of the universality of Christ, and his belief in the common fatherhood of God, are throughout apparent.

In 1904 the author set foot in India for the first time and ever since he has identified himself with the cause of the oppressed Indians not only in India but particularly in the Colonies. He has been twice to Fiji and seven times to South Africa; and it was chiefly through his instrumentality that the heinous indenture system was abolished in 1920. In all these efforts to help the oppressed Indians, the love of Christ, he avers, has carried him through.

A whole chapter is devoted to South Africa, 'whose racial divisions,' the author writes, 'appear to me to be most deep-rooted and their problems the hardest to solve.....in this way I have come to know and love the South African people.' The book ought therefore to be of specific interest to all South Africans and in particular to the Indians in this country, many of whom are frequently mentioned by the author.

Viewed from a literary point of view the book is remarkably well written. Those who have read previous books by the same author will find the unusual clarity and the easy flow of the style coupled with the profundity of the thought expressed, intensely delightful and certainly most elevating.

It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that all will make an endeavour to read this thought-provoking book written by one who has always so unstintingly devoted himself to the cause of the Indian people.

GEORGE SINGH.

News About India

Muslims And The Nationalist Movement

"We earnestly assure all communities in India and all people abroad that Indian Muslims as a community are next to none in their love of freedom or the will to live peacefully and harmoniously and to stand shoulder to shoulder with other fellow Indians in the task of leading the country to its highest destiny. Self-respect, self-reliance and faith in the progress of humanity are among the articles of their faith and they are convinced that they would serve Islam more faithfully by strict adherence to these principles," so concludes a manifesto issued on behalf of the Jamial-ul-Ulema Hind.

It continues: "We are under no circumstances apprehensive of any aggression on the part of any community under (a democratic) constitution. In fact we are convinced that justice would be easier of achievement under the new system and it would not be as hard as it is to-day to fight successfully against any justice."

The manifesto is a counterblast to a recent statement of some anonymous Muslims who have claimed special treatment for their community for several reasons including its loyalty and opposition to the Congress.

India And The Ottawa Conference

The Hindu (Madras), in the course of a leading article on the above subject writes that no trade agreement as has been entered into between Britain and the Dominions is possible in the case of India, and that, "Whatever trade agreements may be possible, it is not at the Ottawa Conference that they may be arrived at so far as India is concerned. The Indian delegates at Ottawa are the nominees, not of the Indian people directly or indirectly, but of the India Office—a limb of His Majesty's Government. It will be ridiculous for them to claim any authority to act on behalf of India and we hope they will not arrogate to themselves a position which the whole country has proclaimed is not theirs."

Mr. V. J. Patel's Visit To Dublin

Mr. V. J. Patel, ex-president of the Indian Legislative Assembly who, it was recently reported, had visited Dublin to meet President de Valera told Renter that the main object of his meeting President de Valera was to acquaint the head of a friendly European country with the real political situation in India. They also talked about the Press ordinance and to other Ordinances in India.

Terrorists To Be Sent To Andamans

In the Commons last month Sir Samuel Hoare announced that the transfer to Andamans had been approved of a hundred convict terrorists as a measure necessary in the interests of good discipline which terrorists had done the utmost to undermine.

Notice

INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Will employers of Indian labour kindly notify the undersigned of any vacancies in their establishment.

WRITE: Hon. Secretary, Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee, 175 Grey Street, Durban, or Phone Central 3506.