

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

SPEAKING to Natives on the life of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gama Sigma Club, Johannesburg, the Indian Agent-General, Kunwar Maharaj Singh, observed that the Round Table Conference which was then meeting in London would recommend the grant of a large measure of self-government for India. "I have no doubts," he added, "that within the next 10 years India will enjoy self-governing status in the same respect as the other Dominions." This status, he contended, was bound to improve the position of Indians overseas, and in turn other non-European races. After dealing with the various incidents in the life of Mahatma Gandhi the Kunwar asked what made this figure so much respected and venerated throughout the world? Mahatma Gandhi was not a man of physical beauty; in fact, he was an extraordinarily ugly man. A redeeming feature was his smile and his fondness for children. There were other great qualities—his fearlessness, his love of truth, his humility, his unselfishness, his honesty, his wide love embracing humanity. Each of these qualities the Kunwar illustrated with some personal anecdote. Commending some of the features of Gandhi's life that might be emulated by the Bantus, the Kunwar thought there might be all absence of bitterness in their lives. There were several occasions when they all felt bitter, but they should forget and forgive and continue in making progress. They must have confidence in themselves, confidence in their race, and all would be well. The Agent-General professed his own personal interest in the advancement of the Bantu race. He made bold to say that no Indian in India had come in so close a contact with Africans as he had, meeting and learning of them and from them in many parts of the world. One thing he felt sure about was that there was an increasing band of Europeans and Indians who were sympathetic with the aspirations of the Bantu people.—*The Star*.

As an outcome of a conference with his advisers, Mahatma Gandhi is believed to have indefinitely postponed his "fast unto death," being satisfied that everybody concerned is doing his utmost to maintain progress towards the removal of untouchability, says a message from Poona.

GENERAL HERTZOG in a New Year message to the people said:—

"To-morrow a New Year will begin its course. It is my earnest prayer that with this new year national happiness and prosperity will again be shared by every Afrikaner house and hearth. May those of us who look to the future with anxiety soon feel themselves called with hopeful joy to a new and happy life. It is my earnest wish for the people of South Africa that the peace which has recently again been brought to the world with renewed joy may enter into the feeling of every section of the community—a peace which is perpetuated by the unwavering loyalty and devotion of men and women who are conscious of their

noble calling to raise themselves to a noble and powerful South African national existence. To the Nationalists whose loyalty and steadfastness has awakened to such a large extent the envy of our enemies I merely appeal not to become too perturbed over the defection of the few in our ranks whose disloyalty appears to give the enemy so much cause for rejoicing. No disloyalty, no treason can do more than to spur us on to greater alertness and greater endeavour in the fulfilment of the task entrusted to us and in the achievement of our goal. The enemies of our country and our people are for the moment triumphant. Organised finance, supported by Afrikaner treason, has forced South Africa off the gold standard. The deep wound of national humiliation, of national dishonour and material ruin which has thus been caused by malicious conspiracy and treason will create in more than one of us a feeling of doubt, if not of despair, in the future of our people. Such doubt, which is the result only of a temporary frame of mind caused by grave disappointment, however, is devoid of all grounds for justification; and notwithstanding the setback which so maliciously has been given to Afrikanerdom our people will, true to itself and its part, triumphantly gain its object and fulfil its high calling.

"I wish everyone a happy New Year."

PROTEST was made at the distribution of forms of information required by the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission in Indian schools at the executive meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress. The meeting unanimously passed the following resolution: "That the secretaries be authorised to forward the committee's strong protest against the harmful system in the distribution of leaflets by the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission among school children in the Government Indian schools, and trust that the Minister of the Interior forthwith instruct the Department of Education for the withdrawal of the said leaflets from the respective Government Indian schools." Resolutions of sympathy were passed, condoling with the families of the late Mr. Mawjee Premjee Patel and the late Mr. M. S. Dongar, both of whom recently passed away. Mr. Kalubhai Fakira was unanimously elected treasurer of the Transvaal Indian Congress in place of the late Mr. M. P. Patel.

THE Hindu (Madras) writes:—

Further enquiries show that Mahatma Gandhi has stated in his letter to Lord Sankey that by instinct he is a co-operator. He has been dying for co-operation. The Government's actions in forcing the Ottawa Agreement down unwilling throats, trying to crush the spirit of freedom and perpetuating what he calls legalised terrorism are hardly suggestive that the Government are anxious to transfer real power to the people. The Government were, in his opinion, actually demoralising the people by carrying on repression. Stopping of civil disobedience, which is an article of faith with him would not

prevent the Government in their efforts to cow down the people. He has admiration for the courage and industry of the Lord Chancellor. If the Government show a real change of heart Lord Sankey will find Gandhiji in his pocket.

SPRINGS COUNCIL'S INDISCREET ACTION

THE Town Council of Springs has refused to renew Indian hawker's licences. The Council in its reply has not even disclosed the reason for its refusal to renew existing licences. But it is learnt from conversation with the officials of the Town Council that the applicants in question have no right to occupy the premises in which they live.

The existing rights of the Indian community of Springs to reside and trade freely have been taken away by a stroke of the pen by the Union Parliament. The Transvaal Supreme Court had decided that the Township of Springs does not come within the terms of the Gold Law of 1908, and, therefore, the right to reside and trade is freely enjoyed by the Indian community at Springs. The anti-Asiatics in the Springs Township agitated and pressed the Union Parliament to bring the township of Springs under the operation of the Gold Law of 1908, and a clause to this effect was inserted in the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the existing rights of the Indian community of Springs were thus taken away.

The Transvaal Indian Congress vehemently protested against it. Even the mighty Government of India, which rules over 350 millions of Indians, protested against it but the Union Government did not listen to its protest.

There exist friendly relations between the Indian and the Union Governments. The representatives of both these Governments sing the praise of friendly relation before the world. The Agent of the Government of India is officially acting here and yet the rights of the Indian community, which were upheld by the highest tribunal of the country, are being taken away in his presence. Wonderful friendly relation indeed!

The Town Council of Springs, which has the power now under the Asiatic Land Tenure Act, has refused to renew the hawker's licences of Indians. The Springs Town Council has taken this action in spite of the fact that the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission's report has not yet been

presented. The Commission has yet to take evidence of individual Indians residing on and occupying proclaimed land. The Commission has yet to go into the question of each Indian's legal position on proclaimed land and after having surveyed the whole situation, has to submit its recommendations to the Minister of Interior. Therefore, the action of the Town Council of Springs is premature. The status quo should be maintained till the considered report of the Commission is published. We think the chairman of the Commission should circularise the Municipalities concerned not to take any action as far as the question of renewal of existing licences is concerned till he presents his report to the Union Government.

It is a well-known fact that the Transvaal Indian Congress has passed an unanimous resolution to resist the Land Tenure Act passively, and the South African Indian Congress in Conference supported the action of the provincial organisation. It was also decided that the question of resistance to the Act would be considered after the Commission's report, but the indiscreet action of the Springs Town Council and of other Municipalities in refusing the renewal of existing licences may force the Indian community to take action in accordance with the resolution. Sooner than expected the attention of the Agent of the Government of India is also drawn to this question and we hope he will do his utmost to avert this crisis.

LORD LLOYD IN INDIA

THERE is hardly any India-born Indian in this country who does not know the name of Lord Lloyd. Indians living in the Bombay Presidency know, to their cost, his five years' administration in that Province. In the year 1921 when Mahatma Gandhi started the great mass movement of non-co-operation, Lord Lloyd was Governor of Bombay. It was he who ordered the arrest of Mahatmaji who was sentenced to six years' imprisonment. At that time he very proudly said that he "buried Mr. Gandhi alive." There was a great stir in the country and the people in India, from one corner to the other, resolved to carry on the fight for freedom. Lord Lloyd was the father of the scheme of filling up the Backbay in Bombay, and he bungled terribly. Millions of rupees of the tax-

payers of the Bombay Presidency were wasted. This noble Lord holds the opinion that India should permanently remain under the bondage of his country. He belongs to the Churchill school of thought in England. He was High Commissioner in Egypt and was recalled by the Labour Government. He is now on a visit in this country. After his landing at Capetown he delivered a speech on India at the University Club, which we reproduced in our last week's issue. In his speech Lord Lloyd said: "The importance of India, not only to the United Kingdom but also to the Dominions is not sufficiently realised. Upon an area of vast importance we are trying to thrust a form of Government which not only is entirely alien to the myriad nationalities of that country, but which has crashed in ruins in every Eastern country in which it has been introduced—China, Persia, Egypt and Turkey." The people of the Eastern country never desired foreign domination. They would all like to be left alone and work out their own destinies without interference from any power. The people of Eastern countries, especially India, never invited the British people to rule over them. They came to India, and she, being a hospitable country, welcomed them and allowed them to remain in the country. We have no desire to go through the dark pages of British history in India here. We simply want to say this much: That India does not desire that the British people should thrust on them a form of government which is alien to them. Let India be alone and the world will see whether or not she can work out her own destiny. It is Britain's domination and her brute force that has played and is still playing havoc in India. Hindus and Moslems have not shed as much blood as the Roman Catholics and Protestants have done in Lord Lloyd's country. India is an ancient country with her own civilisation and culture. When no one in the world knew where England and English people were, the might of India was known. She built up empires and ruled over them for centuries. There was no Lord Lloyd then to teach them how to rule. Indians feel and rightly believe that the British nation of yesterday has no right to come to India, and say whether we are fit to govern ourselves or not. Rise and Fall is a law of nature; and India has gone through this natural course many a time,

and being under England's crushing domination she has still survived. She has still to play the part of a leading nation in the world as she has done in the past and, God willing, she will do so in spite of many Lord Lloyds and Churchills.

It is indeed painful to the South African Indians to learn that Lord Lloyd chose to speak on India in this British Dominion. We know too well in this country how England utterly failed to give protection to us here. Our struggle for existence in this country, the humiliating legislations that are heaped on us, one after another, branding us ever as undesirables and inferior people, in spite of Gentleman's Agreements between the Indian and Union Governments, read like a tragic history. We are always reminded of the fact how the so-called mighty Imperial Government of England most miserably failed to protect us. There is no meaning to us to-day in calling ourselves His Majesty's British Indian subjects. The foreigners of Europe, who are not the subjects of the British Commonwealth of Nations, enjoy full rights of citizenship in this British Dominion, while we Indians, who are taught about the rights of British citizenship, are treated like helots in the British Dominion. Our appeals for help to the Imperial and Indian Governments fall on deaf ears. We know that they are helpless, and a Government that is weak in protecting the rights of its subjects in a British Dominion has no right to rule a day more in India. If the British Government in India cannot protect their subjects in a British Dominion, we feel that that Government must cease to rule in India and make room for the Indian people to rule themselves without England's interference so that our own national Government may soon decide our destiny in British Dominions. We would like to know what Lord Lloyd has to say about our problem in this British Dominion. He was good enough to warn this Dominion of the importance of India to Britain as if it was not sufficiently realised by it. Let him now come out as an Englishman and admit that English people are not in a position to defend the rights of British Indian subjects within the British Empire.

MR. TIELMAN ROOS AND "COOLIE MERCHANTS"

MR. Tielman Roos delivered a public speech in the Johannesburg City Hall before a large audience on the 28th of last month. At the end of his lengthy speech he declared his policy of the building up of a White South Africa and also his attitude towards the non-European population in this country. He said:—

What he particularly wanted to see was the building up of a white South Africa, not the kind made by giving a white labourer a pittance on the roads and breaking up his health and that of his family in a year. Work must be provided of a proper nature by the Government.

A law should be passed that only such industries should be protected as employed at least 70 per cent. white labour. The department should also see that there was no mixing up of white and black in common working rooms in the factory, a practice that was gaining ground in many factories to-day.

It should be made a criminal offence for any employer to mix up white and black in this way, for coolie merchants to employ white girls, to get such girls into their power by letting them run up debts which they could not pay, or for coolie merchants to marry white girls. Whatever was allowed in other countries it should be made a heinous crime in South Africa.

Miscegenation could be prevented. It was a wicked thing. The communists who said it was good would be his bitterest enemies to his death.

A voice: How about native chauffers?

Mr. Roos: They should not be allowed either. No native should drive a motor car for a white man and no white man should drive natives. No non-European should drive a motor car for a white man and vice versa no white man should drive a non-European. The same held good in shops. One must be perfectly fair to both sides and he was prepared to make such a policy out both ways.

A voice: Why give licences to native drivers at all?

Mr. Roos: Why should a native not drive a native? You should be fair. A native was entitled to be driven by another native. Mr. Roos added that he had no objection to trading in locations being confined to natives and to Asiatics in Asiatic bazaars.

We are surprised to find that a leader of the people, who aspires to be the Premier of this country, makes such a stupid speech. Mr. Tielman Roos dares to insult Indians by addressing them as 'coolies.' He in-

entionally uses this word in order to insult them and to show contempt towards them. Mr. Roos must not forget that he flings this insult at India. India has produced such great leaders that Mr. Roos is not fit to tie their shoe lace. He calls Indian merchants as coolie merchants before a vast audience in a public meeting. This is intolerable and we feel that by doing so he insults that great country—India. How great a leader Mr. Tielman Roos may be, he has no right to insult a member of another race. We can also say much if we start to make comparison of two peoples, but our view is not to create race hatred which Mr. Roos seems to be an adept at doing. His attitude towards the non-European population of the Union could be clearly seen from his speech. If his policy is followed in this country we have no doubt that progress and racial co-operation in this country would be impossible, and there would certainly be a feeling of unrest amongst the non-Europeans of this country.

The Natives of this country are progressing rapidly day by day. What will be the fate of the European population if the Natives take into their heads that under no circumstances will they co-operate with the white people of this country! Mr. Roos's policy is such that the Natives and the other non-Europeans would be driven to pursue a course of non-co-operation.

In our opinion, Mr. Roos, holding the views such as he does, is not a fit and proper person to be the future Prime Minister of this country, which is mainly populated with races of different nationalities.

Muslim Girl Burns Down Her Veil

Will Work for Emancipation of Her Enslaved Sisters

Four years ago Muslim members of the Legislative Council of Behar and Orrisa opposed the Bill enfranchising the women of that province. Two years ago one unforgettable evening in the same province, a Moslem girl revolted against her social slavery, tore off her veil—symbol of centuries of feminine servitude—and burnt it. To-day she is the proud professor of a London University diploma and the only Moslem girl of that education in that province and she is coming back to India to fight for the redemption of her fellow-women from the bonds of a conservative society. She is Begum Naurah Jan, daughter of a barrister. She is now specialising in different Western systems of education.—*Tanganyika Opinion.*

Indo-European Relations

Agent-General's Appeal

Stimulating speeches in favour of the revival of inter-racial relations were made at a meeting of the Indo-European Joint Council of Johannesburg held in the Medical Hall.

Professor Watt, who presided, said they had primarily met to welcome the Kunwar and Kunwarani Maharaj Singh.

"I need not tell our members that the Council is not very active these days," he said. "We were started with a great flare some four years ago by Mr. Sastri, but we have not been active for the last year or two."

While professing to be relatively a stranger to Johannesburg, the Indian Agent-General, Kunwar Maharaj Singh, ventured, he said, to suggest some ways in which the Joint Council could function in that city.

"The Press," he added, "is one of our best mediums, and as far as I know the newspapers of Johannesburg are fairminded and sympathetic to the Indian as well as the other sections of the community."

He suggested that interest might be created in Indian affairs by the contribution of articles on Indian art, philosophy, religion, and so on. In this way useful propaganda would be done.

Another suggestion the Kunwar made was that the correspondence columns of the newspapers might be used with advantage from time to time to clear up controversial matters relating to Indian questions.

The Agent felt that societies who sought to understand Indian affairs might be enlisted for the propagation of Indian knowledge, which would serve to establish contact between the races. In this connection he mentioned the Theosophical and other societies.

Turning to the European members of the council, the Agent said that they might speak to their friends and acquaintances in order to try to get them interested in the Indian cause. In this country they could not only take part in social work, but also help in political effort.

He felt that victory was secured in the recognition of Indians as nationals of this country when the Minister of Labour had at last decided to give relief to Indian unemployment at Durban. He thought that more could be accomplished in this direction by the joint co-operation of Europeans and Indians.

"I am grateful to you who sometimes go against public opinion and help in the development of a more favourable opinion which is slowly and steadily changing for the better. At times it may appear there is retrogression, but I am sure that in the long run we shall succeed." (Applause).

Advancing the Indian women's point of view, the Kunwarani said that she felt more and more as time went on that a great deal depended on the improvement of their social conditions here. Towards this end, she appealed to the Indian men to bring forward their women.

Proceeding, she thought that there should be more points of contact between the two races, such as women's clubs. If they could carry the people with them, they could do something more definite, if not politically, at least socially, which would be a great step forward.

Contributing to the discussion, Mr. Rheinalt Jones felt that they had made tremendous progress in the last five years in regard to the question of race relations. He mentioned the fact that the

National Council of Child Welfare in regard to non-European children, Medical and Nursing Council, all of which were committed to a policy concerned with the well-being of all sections of the community.

An interesting discussion followed on how they might rescue the society from its present moribund condition. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Council on January 30.

India's New Constitution

It is unlikely that the Bill embodying a new Constitution for India will become law until well into the New Year of 1934, as a glance at the timetable of the proposed procedure will show, says the *Sunday Times* London correspondent.

A White Paper containing the conclusions of the conference just ended in London will be completed in February. Then the Joint Committee of the two Houses, with associated Indian delegates, will not finish their sittings until June and will not have their report ready before August.

The Government will then have to draft its Bill, which cannot be introduced before September or October, and its consideration by Parliament will require one complete session.

Served Good Purpose

The conference just concluded has served the salutary purpose of bringing home to the Indian delegates the grave practical difficulties which must be faced in making the Constitution workable, especially in the fields of defence and finance. Events in Persia, technical discussion during the conference, and a visit paid to the city and the Bank of England by the delegates have brought Indians at last face to face with realities.

The problem now confronting them is how they are going to bring these difficulties and further problems to which they give rise before the mass of Indian opinion which has been concentrating for years on controversial political issues rather than on the means of making the constitution workable. That is the reason why the delegates are so guarded in their pronouncement concerning the results of this last conference.

Princes' Attitude

The attitude of the Princes is also causing some misgivings. The Princes are proving hard bargainers.

In Churchillian circles in London fears are being expressed that the control of the Viceroy over such issues as law and order, the rights of public services, loans, and so on, are being taken away and handed over to ministers, whose threat to resign will enable them to get their own way.

Mr. Hartshorne Retiring

Distinguished Services For The Union

Mr. J. R. Hartshorne, chief clerk in the Department of Immigration and Asiatic Affairs, has retired after many years' valuable service. He will carry on the work of secretary of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission until the report is presented. A tribute to his work has been paid in a letter from the Secretary for the Interior, Mr. P. I. Hoogenhout, expressing the Government's appreciation of his loyal and faithful service.

Mr. Hartshorne came to South Africa in 1900 as a member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and on leaving the army he secured a position as clerk in the Cape Government Railways. He later passed

the Cape Civil Service examination and was appointed as clerk to the Commissioner at Robben Island, then a mental and leper institute. After this appointment he joined the colonial office at Capetown as clerk, and was shorthand writer and clerk to the Cape Civil Service Commission of Enquiry from 1904 to 1906.

Mr. Hartshorne served as secretary to the Cape Archives Commission until 1911, when he came to Pretoria from Capetown on transfer to the Department of Interior. From 1908 to 1911 he acted as personal clerk to Mr. Noel Janisch the Permanent Head of the Colonial Office. He was then appointed senior clerk and was in charge of the general branch in the Department of the Interior from 1912 to 1917, when he took over the duties of principal immigration officer and registrar of Asiatics in the Transvaal.

Part of Mr. Hartshorne's most interesting work was to proceed through the Union as the Union Government's representative with the Indian deputation, headed by the late Sir George Paddison. In 1926 he was a member and the secretary of the Union Government deputation that visited India under the leadership of Mr. Justice F. W. Byers.

His final post in the service was in 1927, when he became chief clerk in the office of the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs. He acted as Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs during the absence of Mr. Venn, and as such he welcomed Sir Kurma Reddi as Agent-General for India when the latter arrived in Durban in 1929. —*The Star.*

Mr. V. J. Patel In Washington

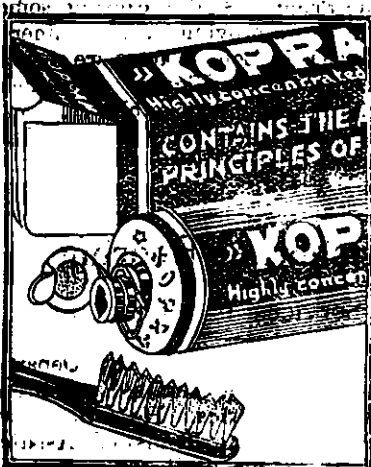
Soon after Mr. Vithalbhaj J. Patel, the unofficial Indian ambassador, landed in the United States he did an act which appealed to patriotic Americans. Following the custom of distinguished European visitors and members of royalty, the Indian statesman journeyed to Washington to pay his respects to the memory of George Washington, whom he credited with, in his interview to the press, being the inspiration of modern India. He visited scenes

which have close association with American history and laid a wreath before the tomb of the first President of the United States.

The main object of Mr. Patel's visit to America is to tell of the actual conditions in India. He believes that the Indian problem should come up at the World Economic Conference, and voices the hope that the American participants in the parley will use their influence to have the question of India thrashed out. He asserts that if problems like those of India are not permitted an airing before the international conference, it is foredoomed to failure. "Upon the right solution of the Indian question," says Mr. Patel, "hangs the salvation of the world. World trade and world economic structure cannot thrive or improve as long as vast regions are held and exploited to the exclusive benefit of one nation, and while vast populations are compelled to work for starvation wages. Nor is that all. England in India blocks the road to world disarmament. As long as England rules that part of the world, it must maintain a mighty navy. It must have something with which to control 85,000 miles of coast line and more than 13,000,000 square miles of other people's land. What is the use of pacts and conferences, in such conditions?" Mr. Patel impresses his American hearers with his air of quiet confidence when he points out that India's quarrel with England affects more than 350,000,000 Indian souls. It is of the greatest importance to the entire world.

Mr. Patel is an effective expounder of the political philosophy and the ethical system of Mahatma Gandhi. Therefore, a few of the more unsophisticated Americans expected him to appear in the abbreviated costume of the Mahatma. Mr. Patel, however, wears a white cotton cap which is known the world over as the Gandhi cap. He is usually attired in the same simple white coat and pantaloons which he wears in India. This raiment, coupled to his snowy hair and beard, gives him to American the appearance of a prophet of biblical times —*The Hindu.*

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