

Indian Opinion

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THE LATE MR. HASAN IMAM

THE death of the Hon. Mr. Hasan Imam, a prominent Nationalist Muslim leader, is reported to have taken place at Patna on April 21:—

The late Mr. Hasan Imam, brother of the late Sir Ali Imam, belonged to a highly respected Syed family, the members of which obtained great distinction during the Moghul period. He was born on the 31st August, 1871, at Neora, a little village in the District of Patna.

Owing to ill-health young Imam was sent to school only about the close of his ninth year. At school he was far more ahead in English literature than in other subjects. English poetry and English history were his favourite subjects, and while yet in his fourteenth year, he was believed to have read most of the English poems. In July, 1899, his mother sent him to England. While in England, apart from studying for the Bar, Mr. Hasan Imam took a keen interest in the affairs of his own country. He was the secretary of the Indian Society, whose president was no less a person than the late Dadaboy Naoroji. He was the secretary also of the Anjuman Islamia of London. He

had also had the great privilege of living with the late Mr. William Digby for 4 months and of acting as his private secretary during the time Mr. Digby was touring in Wales. The late Mr. Digby and his family had a great admiration for him and his magnificent library at Hasan Manzil is full with all the works of that great friend of India with the words "with the author's esteem" written on the first page of each of them by the author himself.

The late Mr. Imam was one of the principal canvassers for Mr. Naoroji in the General Election of 1891 for Central Finsbury. Having thoroughly equipped himself for the battle of life, the late Mr. Hasan Imam left England in 1892 after having been called to the Bar. Needless to say that within a short period he proved his worth and became the undisputed leader of the Patna Bar. In November, 1910, Mr. Hasan Imam transferred himself to

Calcutta. His large Bihar clientele followed him there too and he very soon acquired considerable practice on the appellate side. In April, 1911, he was elevated to judgeship. On the bench, Mr. Hasan Imam was soon able to distinguish himself as a fearless and upright judge, ever keen to dispense justice tempered with mercy, vigilant and watchful of the people's rights. When the proposal

for the establishment of the Patna High Court received the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, the people of Bihar and Orissa passed resolutions almost in every district praying the Government to transfer Mr. Imam from the Bench of the Calcutta High Court to that of Patna. Such was the esteem in which he was held by the Biharees. But it is said that the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Bayley, threatened to resign, should Justice Hasan Imam be transferred to the new Patna High Court. As an able Judge he had won the tributes of such exacting critics as Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Earldley Norton and reputed Indian lawyers like Lord Sinha, Sir P.



THE LATE Mr. HASAN IMAM.

C. Mitra and Mr. C. R. Das.

But the damp climate of Calcutta did not agree with him and his health was shattered almost beyond redemption. He was advised by the doctors to leave Bengal and go to a drier climate, and in the year 1913 Mr. Imam went back to Patna and joined the Patna Bar where it did not take him long to win back his old position. He was soon after offered a seat on the Bench but he had so much identified himself with politics and had entertained so many public claims upon his time that he regarded his translation to the Bench as the betrayal of a national trust. He, therefore, refused the offer and contented himself with the practice of his profession.

Public Benefactions

"No observer of incidents in this country, harsh and agonising as are the jarring elements that make our nation, will hide from you the fact that till we

establish harmony amongst ourselves, a foreign hand must guide our destiny," said Mr. Imam, on a memorable occasion. "Let the Motherland be the first in your affections, your province the second, and your community wherever thereafter you choose to put it." He asked everyone he came across to do the same, to remember that he was an "Indian first and anything else afterwards." Consistently with this he kept his religious beliefs all to himself as rules for his private guidance and he did not let his judgment on any matter of public character be in the least influenced by them. His public generosity had raised him above the level of ordinary publicists, in that he gave equal donations to the two great Indian Universities of Aligarh and Benares. Mr. Imam devoted a considerable portion of his time and a large amount of money to the education of the Biharees and outsiders. The Bihar National College has received substantial support from him. He spent a very considerable amount of money, in educating a number of Hindu and Moslem young men at his expense and he was well-known as a liberal patron of needy students. Mr. Hasan Imam presided in 1909 at the fourth session of the Bihari Students' Conference at Gaya. His inspiring message to the student community, was in the words of the famous Frenchman Mirabeau, that India wanted her sons to acquire three and only three virtues, viz., "first, courage; second, courage; third, courage." The student movement in Bihar had one of its warmest supporters in Mr. Imam.

Public Work

As in his profession so also in political life Mr. Hasan Imam attained the highest eminence. He served his apprenticeship in Indian public life as a member of the Municipality and the District Board of Patna. He was elected president of the Special Congress at Calcutta. Consistently with his political creed Mr. Imam had been in principle opposed to the granting of special electorates to the Mahomedans. In his speech at the Allahabad Congress of 1910, in support of a resolution which strongly deprecated "the extension or application of the principle of separate communal electorates to Municipalities, District Boards or other Local Bodies," Mr. Imam said:—

It is quite apparent that when a few thoughtful men of this country at the time that the Reforms were inaugurated raised their voice of protest against any scheme of separate electorates, they fully realised the consequent effect of such scheme... every thoughtful man in the land realised, and justly realised, that this pernicious scheme would travel down from the Chamber of the Viceroy's Council to the chambers of the District and Taluk Boards. It was then that we considered that our voice ought to be raised against all institutions that might create a division between the various classes that inhabit this land.

In August, 1917, Mr. Imam presided over the Bihar Provincial Conference held for the purpose of protesting against the internment of Mrs. Besant and the policy of antagonism to the Home Rule agitation on the part of the Government which was then in evidence.

As A Social Reformer

Mr. Hasan Imam held that "much of our troubles is due to our social condition" and that the reform of social institutions must go side by side with, if not precede, political advancement. "With the depressed classes in a state of eternal servitude, and the woman in a state of hopeless neglect and unreasonable subjection, your wheel of progress will more likely run backward than forward" passionately exclaimed Mr. Imam at the Gaya Students' Conference. He was convinced that unless we emancipate our Zanana "our claims to equality of treatment with the more advanced peoples of the world has to be examined before it can be decreed," and that the foundations of the world's great successes were always laid by the fireside of the home. To put into practice what he preached Mr. Hasan Imam

overcame the tenacious opposition of near relations and brought his two daughters out of purdah and gave them the best education that was possible in the culture of the East and the West. It was his courageous example that inspired the Maharaja of Tikar to endow his whole estate worth about 3 crores for the education of Indian women.

In July, 1918, Mr. Hasan Imam was, with the unanimous approval of Congressmen, elected to preside over the special session of the Congress held at Bombay. This was the time when the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Scheme had been promulgated and once again divided the political leaders. He played a very prominent part in bridging the gulf to some extent.

When Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated Satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act, Mr. Hasan Imam was one of the very first of the Congress leaders to extend his moral support to it.

When the time came for urging the Reforms in England in 1919, Mr. Imam led the Home Rule League Deputation and served the cause of India with his accustomed zeal. He also took part in presenting the case for the Turks to the British Government on behalf of the Indian Muslims.

In February, 1924, Mr. Hasan Imam gave evidence before the Lee Commission at its Patna sittings.

The late Mr. Hasan Imam was a staunch Nationalist and one of his latest acts was to preside over the U.P. Muslim Political Conference which met last month to discuss the new Reform proposals. In the course of his speech the late Mr. Hasan Imam said: "Muslims have always stood for constitutional methods in agitation and Government can rely upon them for support in all matters, which are conducive to good Government in India, but our help cannot be promised for keeping India in slavery and bondage. Islam and slavery are antithesis."

Mr. Hasan Imam's death at this critical juncture is a severe blow to India. May his soul rest in peace.

Notes and News

FROM the special messages we have been receiving from Poona we are happy to announce that up till the time of writing this Mahatma Gandhi has been standing the strain of his fast quite satisfactorily. The latest message which is dated Wednesday April 17 states that Mahatma Gandhi was examined by a medical board and found an all-round improvement in Mahatma Gandhi's condition. Although there is considerable exhaustion it is stated that there is much less anxiety as to the likelihood of Gandhiji pulling through the fast than prevailed a few days ago. Nevertheless doctors hesitate to give any definite prognosis. Gandhiji continues to sleep well and there has been no complication. By the grace of God half the period of Mahatma Gandhi's fast is completed. That he may pull through the remaining period successfully will be the fervent prayer of all.

A special message received by us from India states that General Smuts' appeal to Mahatma Gandhi to postpone his fast for old friendship's sake and for the sake of humanity was widely appreciated by the country. Another message states that Gandhiji is pleased with the active constructive work that is being done throughout the country for the uplift of the untouchables.

AN Associated Press telegram from Calcutta stated in connection with the demonstration organized by stranded emigrants: "The emigrant problem appears to be assuming gradually serious proportions. Although a committee has been appointed to concert measures to ameliorate the condition of stranded

emigrants and despite monetary relief from the Government, the exact solution has not been found." Commenting on this *The Leader* (Allahabad) writes: "We know, it is not easy for the Government to find out a solution in view of the present economic depression and unemployment in the country, and the absence of an outlet abroad. At the same time, we fail to see how the continued arrival from South Africa of emigrants, who are being repatriated under the assisted emigration scheme, will make the task of the Government easier. About 2,000 Indians were repatriated from South Africa during 1932 alone. But so far the Government have done nothing to make known to intending repatriates the deplorable condition of emigrants who are already here."

The hon. secretary of the Transvaal Indian Women's Social Centre, Johannesburg, states:—The Transvaal Indian Women's Social Centre enrolled twenty candidates for the Red Cross Home Nursing Course. Seventeen pupils appeared for the examination which was held in the Oriental Nursing Maternity Home, Bree Street, Johannesburg on May 8. The successful candidates are:—Tholasy Pillay, Baikunth Krishnasamy Singh, Tilda Simon, Santhee James Naidoo, Nimlah Krishna Pillay, Philemon Peters, Theresa Peiers, Anthee Francis Pillay, Beatrice Saldhana, Rookmoney Roberts, Angela Pillay, Philemon Abraham, K. M. Pillay, Beatrice Francis, Thelma Hutton, Joan Nurseo and Gloria Phyllis Royeypen. The last named being the youngest of all the pupils. The maximum marks for oral is 100, and practical is 100. The average marks achieved by pupils are 60 and 60 respectively.

ADVOCATE J. W. Godfrey who was recently charged with perjury, defeating the ends of justice and fraud, in connection with a motor transaction has been discharged the Attorney-General having declined to prosecute.

OFFICIAL figures for Union imports and exports issued in Pretoria show that imports during April last amounted to £3,525,367 which exceeds the figure of April 1932 by about £670,000. The total imports for the four months of the present calendar year amount to £13,987,431, exceeding last year's figures by approximately £2,627,000. Exports during April 1933 amounted to £5,300,536, a decrease on April 1932 of about £686,000. This is accounted for by the smaller wool export and less gold being exported during this month than was the case in April 1932. Gold bullion and specie (excluding the premium) amounted to £3,808,041 and in April 1932 it amounted to £4,326,259. The wool export amounted to £352,779 in April, 1933 and to £666,433 in April 1932. The total exports for the four months of the year, to April, 1933, amount to £26,286,737 compared with £24,002,595 during the same period last year.

We draw the attention of the reader to a new advertisement appearing in this issue of "Tribune" which is recommended as an effective preventive for malaria.

The news published recently that India would not be taking part in the Davis Cup competition, would have been received with disappointment by all lovers of sport in India and outside. Though it is difficult to expect India to survive the preliminary rounds even if she participates, still the fact that she participates in international sport is itself a factor of great importance. In the field of hockey, India has retained her world-title, and in cricket she is forging ahead. In the years to come it will not be a matter

for surprise if India steals a pace or two and goes ahead of New Zealand or South Africa in Test cricket. India's participation in international sport is steadily enhancing her prestige.—*New Times*.

PLIGHT OF THE REPATRIATES

THE reports about the condition of Indians who have been repatriated from South Africa under the Assisted Emigration Scheme are far from satisfactory. It is said that although monetary and other assistance is rendered them by the Government their problem yet remains unsolved. With the acute unemployment prevalent throughout the country together with the present economic depression the problem of the repatriates has come as an additional burden on India which she finds she is unable to bear. We have been hearing about the miserable condition of the repatriates from the time the very first batch went from here under the Scheme and we are hearing of their sad plight even to this day.

The question to be considered now is what is to be done with them? Mahatma Gandhi whilst discussing the problem in his *Young India* said in effect that the Government as well as the well-to-do people of India should take up the responsibility of making their repatriated brethren feel comfortable. There are philanthropic people and institutions in India and in conjunction with the Government we should think it should be quite possible to devise some scheme to see that these unfortunate people are settled down in their Mother country. Of course they cannot expect to be made quite happy but they should at least feel the satisfaction of having the opportunity even if it is thrust upon them of doing their bit in the struggle for the independence of their Motherland and that they might after all be a little better off than many of their other brothers and sisters. This is the only way we can look at the problem to make it look as bright as possible. The other course of course is that the Government of India should set aside a sum for the repatriates and from it help those of them who can in terms of the Assisted Emigration Scheme return to South Africa to do so. But we doubt very much if they will be happier here, for here too they will find themselves faced with the problem of unemployment. In whatever way we may view the question, for those who are at present in India the former course is the only one that appeals to us as being the right one.

Now with regard to the intending repatriates, Congress vehemently opposed the Assisted Emigration Scheme during the last Round Table Conference and urged its elimination from the Capetown Agreement. Sensibly or insensibly the Congress was a party to the scheme which it was embodied in the first Capetown Agreement in 1927 and it had therefore not a free hand to oppose it. The scheme although no longer forms part of the last Agreement arrived at as a result of the second Round Table Conference it is not eliminated from the Statute, and the Union Government continues to work it. But the Congress now is free to work in opposition to the Government and to dissuade our people from the temptation of taking advantage of the scheme. We know that at times

there are many among the intending repatriates who refuse to listen. But it would be only right on our part to acquaint them thoroughly with the state of affairs existing in India and as to what their lot will be when they land there. Pundit Bhawani Sanyasi who has done a great deal in bringing to light the sufferings of the repatriates in India would, we think, be the right person for this work. During his recent tour of the Main Line he has been speaking on repatriation and his hands could be strengthened by the authority of the Congress. And in view of the fact that it is admittedly impossible for the Government of India to look after the repatriates in India we do not know why some official statement should not be made by it. *The Leader* (Allahabad), very rightly says: "So far the Government have done nothing to make known to intending repatriates the deplorable condition of emigrants who are already here." In the circumstances a statement from the Government would go a long way in saving many of our brethren in this country from being stranded in India what is to them but a strange land.

TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

THE Transvaal Indian Congress has convened a Provincial Conference to be held at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on May 24 and 25. The object of this Conference is to discuss the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, the question of trade licences, Immigration laws as affecting the Transvaal Indians, the question of education and in general the whole Indian question. Indians in the Transvaal are faced with a very serious problem. Their future seems to be very gloomy indeed. We can well visualise the effects of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act. There will be locations or bazaars in every place where Indians will be expected to reside and trade among themselves. Those who will be fortunate enough to survive will live there and others will gradually die out. That will be the lot of our friends in the Transvaal. We do not know how far these frequently held conferences will help the community. It certainly cannot help unless there is some power behind it—the will to sacrifice. All high talk and eloquent resolutions will be of no avail unless they are followed up by eloquent action. The conference has been well advertised and a large attendance is expected. Indeed the attendance at the conference will be proof of how much our friends are interested in regard to their future in that Province. We have only one suggestion to make and that is not to indulge in tall talk but to measure their words according to their strength. They may decide to do anything but above all let them not sell themselves for paltry material gains. May the proceedings of the conference be guided by wisdom, moderation and patriotism.

THE LATE MR. HASAN IMAM

THE death of the Hon. Mr. Hasan Imam comes as a severe blow to India at the present juncture especially when an intelligent Muslim opinion is so very necessary in the country to bring about the much desired unity. The late Syed Hasan Imam was a staunch nationalist and always held that in matters concerning their country in general Indians should always stand as Indians first and last irrespective of whatever religion they may be. He was strongly opposed to special electorates for Mahommedans. He believed in making common cause with all the other sections of the community and to face the common enemy with a united front. That he had twice the highest honour of being the President of the Indian National Congress conferred on him is ample testimony of the high esteem he had won of the people of India. Indians in South Africa join their brethren in India in mourning the loss of one of India's great patriots.

Elsewhere we publish a life-sketch of the late Mr. Hasan Imam which we have no doubt will be read profitably by both young and old. We are indebted for the information contained in the life-sketch to Messrs. G. A. Natesen and Co's publication the "Eminent Mussalmans."

Things In General

(BY OBSERVER)

THIS is election day. At the time of writing (Wednesday evening) no results were known. But it is certain that the Coalition Government will have a large majority and be in a strong position to carry out any programme they choose. One can only hope that in their strength they will remember the obligation of the strong towards the weak.

I enquired in Durban whether any of the old Indian voters still remained on the roll and was informed that there were one or two who were entitled to vote but they themselves neglected to maintain the right; and in fact, their names did not appear on the printed roll.

ONE feels inclined to speculate whether all this goodwill displayed by Generals Hertzog and Smuts will be extended to include non-Europeans. The anomaly of hundreds of thousands of His Majesty's Indian subjects, resident in the Union, being taxed without representation, voiceless and powerless amidst a free people, is one to make the whole world wonder.

AND who can possibly justify the absurd and unjust position created by the Provincial boundaries? We are told that the Act of Union made four Provinces into one country, under one Government. Customs and other barriers were done away with. And yet, though the heavens fall, an Indian resident in one Province has no right to enter another! Because we have become accustomed to this restriction, Indians have ceased to agitate for its removal, but that is no reason why such an injustice should for ever remain.

It is good neither for Europeans nor Indians that liberty of movement and residence should be denied to any race or people. Is it too much to expect that, now we are to have peace between the two white sections of the population, and the bitter feelings of the past are to be forgotten, a little of the milk of human kindness, with the addition of good sense, might be administered in the solution of this problem?

IN the course of a chat with Mr. B. M. Narbeth, the Principal of the Natal Technical College, I gathered that there is a serious danger of the Indian Technical Institute classes for men and women being discontinued unless the Indian community rise to the occasion and render the necessary financial assistance. The amount required is not very large and, considering the importance of the work, there ought not to be any difficulty in raising £100 or so.

WHAT stands out most clearly, however, is the small number of students attending the classes. With a greater membership there would be a larger income. Teachers have to be paid salaries however small the number of students. The remedy lies therefore largely in the hands of the younger generation who might join the ranks of those who are seeking knowledge which will fit them for a better position in life.

VERY often the question has been asked: "What is to become of our young people who are receiving higher education?" The question might very well be answered by another: "What is to become of our badly educated youths?" In whatever walk of life we enter, those who are untrained have a very poor chance of success. The technical classes provide an opportunity of acquiring knowledge which was not to be had in the elementary schools.

So, in order that this fine work may continue, it is up to the community to see that financial assistance is given. In consideration of the grant of £250 from the Government and £100 from the Durban Municipality, it surely is reasonable to ask the community to contribute another £350 per annum. Then the work could be extended. Home nursing for Indian women would then become possible with far-reaching effect upon the health and lives of young and old. Surely this is something worth while.

Now that Mr. Gandhi has commenced his fast, one cannot but feel anxious regarding his physical ability to withstand the ordeal. "Whether I survive or not," he says, "is of little moment." And he adds: "Without it I would have been useless for further services to the untouchables."

IN other words, Gandhiji is so sure that the time has arrived when this enormity in the Hindu community must be overcome, that he feels, unless this cruel and unjust oppression ceases, life would indeed not be worth living. For him the salvation of India can never come so long as one Indian dares to place his heel upon the neck of his brother.

HOW often has the European in South Africa flung the taunt against the Indian regarding this intoleration, and said in so many words that he deserved all the kicks he received in this country. That, of course, was a mere excuse to justify his racial prejudice; and, as we say, "two blacks do not make a white."

"We can all join in praying, not only for the safety of Mr. Gandhi, but also for the success of the great object in view—the complete emancipation of all India from communal differences. For not till then is it possible for India to take her place in the great commonwealth of nations as a free people. When that state of affairs is brought about, many will join General Smuts in describing Mr. Gandhi as a "great South African" and "one of the great men of the world."

Land Tenure Act Commission

Method Of Procedure

Statement By Mr. Feetham

The first public sitting of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission was held in the New Law Courts, Johannesburg, on Tuesday May 9.

Mr. Justice Feetham, who is sitting with Mr. H. Britten, former Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg, and Mr. D. J. Stewart, registrar of mining titles, explained that to-day's sitting was to settle the procedure to be followed by the commission in dealing with the proposals submitted in regard to the exercise of powers conferred on the Minister of the Interior, and to arrange for certain inspectors in loco.

"A word of explanation should perhaps be given," remarked Mr. Justice Feetham, "as to the order in which the commission is proposing to deal with the two main divisions of the task entrusted to it under its terms of reference. We are required to inquire into the occupation by coloured persons of proclaimed land in the Transvaal so far as such occupation is affected by the provisions of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, 1932; and with that object in view:—

"(1) To examine each individual case of occupation of proclaimed land by coloured persons in the Transvaal, and to compile a register of (a) those individuals who are in illegal occupation;

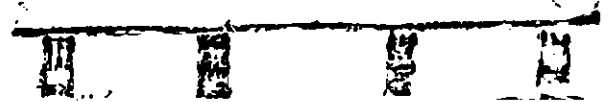
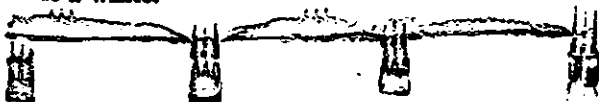
"(2) In the case of coloured persons (a) (b) to make proposals as to the exercise by the Minister of the Interior of the power entrusted to him under Section 131 a of the Precious and Base Metals Act as amended; and certain considerations which are then specified as considerations which are to govern the proposals put forward by the commission as to the exercise of the power referred to."

Powers Of Minister

Mr. Justice Feetham said that the section conferring that power was to the effect that the Minister of the Interior, after consultation with the Minister of Mines, may issue a certificate withdrawing any land specified therein from the operation of the provisions of Sections 130 and 131 of the Act in so far as they prohibit residence upon or occupation of any land by a coloured person, and thereupon those provisions shall not prohibit any coloured person from residing upon such land or from occupying it for any other lawful purpose.

"We propose to begin with the question of proposals as to the withdrawal or exemption of areas of land from the operation of the prohibitions, and, so far as possible, to defer dealing with questions affecting the occupation of individual sites and the registration of individual occupiers until decisions have been reached on the more general questions as to withdrawal of areas.

"We have consulted the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Hofmeyr, on this point and I am authorised to state that the course which we are proposing to follow has his approval. I may, perhaps add that



his predecessor Dr. Malan, whom we consulted on the point some months ago, has also approved of this course being followed."

Saving Time

Mr. Justice Feetham explained that the commission was adopting this plan of dealing first with the question of withdrawal or exemption of areas before inquiring into individual cases to save time and expense and unnecessary labour.

The individual cases of proclaimed land within the municipal area of Johannesburg, notified in the forms sent in either to the Minister or to the commission, total 3,235 excluding native cases. Of this number 2,445 are Asiatic cases, and 967 South African coloured. It appears that rather more than 50 per cent. of these cases fall within areas which have been recommended for withdrawal by both the City Council of Johannesburg and the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association.

Mr. Justice Feetham explained that the Commission proposed to devote three half days to a general inspection. It is desired that a programme should be drawn up to enable the commission to visit certain areas at certain prescribed times, and to have such matters of importance pointed out to the commission as those interested thought should be pointed out.

Mr. Justice Feetham said the Commission would sit on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It was possible that the next sitting would be on Friday week.

The secretary to the commission is Mr. J. R. Hartshorne.

Mr. J. V. Brink, K.C., with him Mr. Morris Franks (instructed by Messrs. Sloop and Brodie), appeared for the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association; Mr. R. F. MacWilliam K.C. with him Mr. C. T. Blakeway (instructed by Messrs. Moodie and Robertson) for the Municipal Council; Mr. J. Turnbull for Mrs. Herrmann and a number of other property owners in Lower Commissioner Street; Mr. B. P. Manderson on behalf of the La Rochelle Ratepayers' Vigilance Association; Mr. de Jongh for the Braamfontein Hospital Hill Ratepayers' Association; Mr. Charles Walsh for the Western District Property Owners' Association; Mr. C. I. Egan for the Jeppestown and District and District Ratepayers' Association on behalf of a number of Fordsburg residents; Mrs. Wordingham for the Denver Property Owners' Association; Mr. G. W. Crowe for the Transvaal Coloured People's Welfare Association; Dr. N. Liang for the Chinese Consul; and Mr. A. Mear on behalf of himself and certain tenants on the farm Doornfontein No. 24. — *The Stars*, 11/11

Transvaal Indian Congress

Provincial Conference

A Provincial Conference of the Transvaal Indian Congress will be held at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on the 24th and 25th May, 1933, at 10 a.m.

Affiliated bodies and district organisations are requested to send 3 delegates. The names of the delegates should reach the secretaries not later than 20th May 1933. Agenda—1. Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, 2. Licences, 3. Immigration, 4. Railways, 5. Education, 6. General.

D. M. NURSOO

E. M. MALB

Joint hon. Secretaries.

P.O. Box 4111, Johannesburg

Natal Indian Congress

Supplementary Report Of The

Jr. Hon. Secretaries

The following is the text of the supplementary report submitted by the Jr. Hon. Secretaries at the adjourned annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress held in Durban on Sunday April 30.

Since the presentation of our last report the most important work which your Congress interested itself was the Round Table Conference held at Capetown from the 12th of January to the 8th day of February 1932.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONFERENCE

Prior to the Round Table Conference the South African Indian Congress convened an Emergency Conference at Johannesburg on the 29th and 30th days of December 1931. The Conference was convened for the purpose of obtaining the mandate of the community for the Round Table Conference. Your Congress was fully represented at the Conference. The Conference resolved that each Province should elect four members for the purpose of proceeding to Capetown and preparing a Statement to be submitted to the Indian delegation. Your Congress appointed Messrs. A. Christopher, S. R. Naidoo, V. S. Q. Pather and Manilal M. Gandhi. These four gentlemen proceeded to Capetown where they were stationed with the officials of the South African Indian Congress and those of the other provincial bodies for over three weeks.

KUNWAR MAHARAJ SINGH AND THE KUNWARANI

Your Congress arranged a welcome Reception in honour of Kunwar Maharaj Singh and the Kunwarani on their arrival at Durban, at the Royal Picture Palace. The Hall was filled to its utmost capacity and the distinguished guests were given a rousing reception.

As was the case with his distinguished predecessors the Kunwar consults your officials on all matters concerning the Indian community and recognises the Congress as the mouthpiece of the Indian community in Natal.

The Kunwarani is doing splendid work for our community. She is devoting her time to uplift our women and we have no doubt that her presence in this country will be of much assistance to our community.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS

The Annual Conference of the South African Indian Congress was held at Johannesburg on the 27th and 28th days of August 1932.

Your Congress sent its full quota of delegates to the Conference. The chief item of discussion at the Conference was the Transvaal Land Tenure Act. Your delegates contributed largely to the discussion at the Conference at which the Agent Kunwar Maharaj Singh was present throughout and spoke on several matters.

LICENCES IN THE NEWLY ADDED AREAS

Representations were made to your officials in regard to the drastic steps that were being taken by the Licensing Officer of Durban against the issue of Licences on several grounds, the chief ground being that the stores were of wood and iron structure. Realising that the action of Licensing Officer would entail considerable hardship on Indian Storekeepers, your Congress sought an interview with Col. Molyneux. The deputation was led by Mr. A. Christopher and consisted, apart from your officials, representatives from all the districts.

Mr. Christopher pointed out the difficulties under which our storekeepers were carrying on and stressed

the fact that all the store premises were passed by the Health Boards. For these reasons the insistence of brick buildings, the Congress maintained, was unreasonable. Col. Molyneux who had with him Dr. Gunn informed the deputatibn that no harsh steps would be taken but that each case would be dealt with on its merits. He stated however he would insist on brick stores on all Main trunk roads.

PERSONAL TAX

As in previous years, your Congress assisted our poorer and indigent countrymen by securing exemptions from or extension of payment of Personal Tax. A number of our people were brought up before the local Courts for non-payment of Personal Tax. Your Congress arranged with Mr. Godfrey to appear free of charge on their behalf. The cases were the means of bringing to the public the utter inability of many of our people to pay the personal Tax. As a result of these cases and the publicity given to them, the Receiver of Revenue, who had up to then given exemptions extremely sparingly, issued exemptions to our people in accordance with equity.

SECRETARIAL

It is over five years since we accepted office as Secretaries of your Congress. Since then many and far-reaching changes have taken place in our community. As you would have observed from the lengthy report which we submitted at the Annual Meeting in December 1931 a tremendous amount of work fell to the lot of your Congress. This work we could not have done without the co-operation of the Committee.

We beg to record our deep sense of gratitude to our President Mr. S. Rustamjee, for his defatting and ever-ready help and assistance to us at all times and to the other officials and members of the Committee for their kindness and courtesy shown to us during our term of office; and to Mr. A. Christopher for his services in many ways and particularly in leading practically all the Congress deputations.

We also record our thanks to the INDIAN OPINION, Indian Views and the Natal Advertiser for giving publication to Congress activities and to the two former journals for publishing Congress notices and statements free of charge.

News About India

Mahatma Gandhi And Astronomy

While in Yeravda prison Mahatma Gandhi was keenly interested in astronomy and had two large sized telescopes placed at his disposal by Lady Vishaldas Thakersey. Questioned by an Associated Press representative Mahatma Gandhi said astronomy had always interested him but after entering the jail this time he was devoting himself to it with greater interest than ever before and "now it has become a passion with me" he proceeded "every minute I get I devote myself to it. It is a wonderful subject and more than anything else impresses upon me the mystery of God and the majesty of the Universe. To be lying on your back in the open air on a starry night and regarding Universes after Universes in the immeasurable expanse, you cannot help becoming a worshipper of God. My mind leaps with joy as I do so. Oh, it is marvellous" he exclaimed. It did not require a study of higher mathematics, he added, as his interest in Astronomy was not professional. He had been reading numerous books on the subject and with the aid of the apparatus before him he would see more of those 'Universes' with his own eyes.

Sarojini To America

To the nations outside India, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu sent the following message through the United Press of America after her release from prison last month:—

"Many waters of political repression cannot quench the burning fire of patriotism in the heart of Indians.

"I have emerged to-day from my year-long seclusion behind high prison walls with all my flaming passion for India's liberty as radiant and intense as ever.

"I hold that India alone can achieve her own special version of liberty in accordance with her own unique social, political and spiritual needs."

Criticism On White Paper

Mr. C. Y. Ghintamani, the Leader of the Opposition in the Indian Assembly and a leader of the Liberal Party, critically and tersely analysing the proposals for reform in India in the White Paper issued by the British Government, said that they were not based on the maximum agreement among the British and the Indian Delegates at the Round Table Conference. One feature of Federation was that all the members of the Federal Legislature would not be elected. Unless Government was willing to respond to India's demand, warned Mr. Ghintamani, God help India and England in the the crisis that was bound to overtake both the countries.

Denouncing the Government's Indian proposals at a meeting of Indians in London, Mr. V. J. Patel alleged that they were made with a "view to goading the people in India to violence." He said Britain knew that India would not remain for a moment a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

As soon as India got anything of the nature of freedom that Ireland had got the cards that de Valera played to-day would be played in India to-morrow. When India got freedom, she would immediately ask for reparation. Britain knows it, therefore the British Government had no desire to give complete independence, or even Dominion status.

The goal of India's youth was "Republic of the United States of India," and to prevent that goal being reached, Britain had produced these proposals.

Mr. Patel foresaw constant deadlocks and friction between various authorities, if the proposals were ever operated. The problem was what to do with them; the solution would require care and patience, but they would not be turned from the objective of a free India.

Referring to his American tour, Mr. Patel said that British propoganda was so powerful there, that unless India took measures to counteract it her case would go by default.

"It is mere adroitness to say that we are giving self-government to India when the very spirit of self-government is withheld. Let us honour our pledges of Dominion status," said Lord Snell in the course of the recent House of Lords Debate on India replying to Lord Sankey's motion on Indian Reforms, concurring with the Commons resolution passed on March 29. Reaffirming the Labour declaration made by Mr. Lansbury in the Commons debate, Lord Snell appealed for the release of all political prisoners and thus show a gesture of goodwill before inaugurating the reforms.

Mahatma Gandhi Was Never Approached

We had news published recently in the local daily press stating that the Government of India had sent

a copy of the reform proposals for India with notes by the Government on them and had asked for and obtained the views of Mahatma Gandhi on them. The latest exchanges from India, however, bring the news that Sir H. Hague, Home Member, replying in the Indian Assembly said, "Neither the Viceroy nor the Government of India asked Mahatma Gandhi to give his views on the present situation or on the proposals which emerged from the third Round Table Conference or on the White Paper nor did Mahatma Gandhi on his own initiative address any such statement to the Viceroy or Government."

Prof. Jabavu On Native Disabilities In South Africa

In view of the overwhelmingly large non-European population of South Africa, it might be striking a pessimistic note to say there is a conspicuous dearth of non-European leaders in South Africa, of men who can be regarded as being capable of giving clear and lucid expression to the grievances and disabilities of non-Europeans in this country. And yet, at the moment, is it possible to refute this now almost indisputable fact? The reasons, however, for this are manifold; but this state of affairs can, with truth, be attributed largely to the lack of proper educational facilities in the past; and it is consoling to note that, given the opportunities and equal facilities for education, the non-European will prove himself capable of what has been and even of what has not yet been achieved by other races, which for centuries past, have been enjoying the most modern and scientific systems of education. To-day, as testimony to this contention, we can cite no more conspicuous figure than Prof. D. D. T. Jabavu.

Prof. Jabavu, a South African Native, and a member of the Xosa tribe, left South Africa at an early age and after a fairly long sojourn in England, returned, an Arts graduate of the London University, to take up an appointment at the South African Native College at Fort Hare. Ever since his interests have been wide; yet nonetheless profound. And at the moment Prof. Jabavu is reputed to be the most reliable authority on the race question in South Africa, as his various publications on the problem testify.

His latest political booklet ("Native Disabilities in South Africa," Lovedale Press, 1/-) is an excellent guide to anyone intending to study the race problems in this country; it is an exhaustive treatise. It is extremely cursory and is, in the main, an enumeration of the manifold disabilities from which Natives in this country suffer. Still, as an introductory treatise on the subject, the pamphlet is unparalleled. It is the essence of several addresses delivered in England and America on behalf of the South African non-European Congress, of which Prof. Jabavu is chairman.

G. S.

Indian Child Welfare Society Centre 150, BROOK STREET, DURBAN

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

Lady doctors give free attendance.

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

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

Statement Of Account For Period Ending 29th April 1933

EXPENDITURE

To registration of Telegraphic address & Postal Box fee	3 13 6	
" Telegrams, Stationery and Postages	9 10 5	
" Printing	19 14 6	
" Wreaths and Garlands	16 1 6	
" Wages to Congress clerks, assistants, etc.	14 4 11	
" Patrol expenses	2 10 0	
" Organist	1 1 0	
" Stationery, printing & fares to officials travelling to Capetown and Lourengo Marques re Round Table Conference	157 12 6	
" Presentation to Sir K. V. Reddi	27 6 0	
" " to Mr. A. I. Kajee	15 17 0	267 11 4
" Paid outstanding debts as follows:		
" Rowell & Sons	3 0 0	
" United Press	7 15 0	
" Universal Printing Works	9 0 0	
" Mercantile Printing Works	17 6	
" Gestener's	6 2 0	
" Standard Printing Works	1 13 10	
" Bundaree	10 1 6	
" Rex Printing Works	8 10 8	
" Union Printing Works	1 10 0	
" W. R. Parkes' Successors	18 5	
" F. Boodhan Bros.	20 0 0	
" R. & T. Smith	5 5 0	
" Natal Mercury	1 15 0	
" Natal Advertiser	1 12 0	
" Natal Provincial Council	1 2 6	78 12 5
" Amounts due to:		
" Mr. S. Rustomjee	107 1 9	
" Mr. A. I. Kajee	174 14 6	
" Mr. P. R. Pather	139 9 7	421 5 10
		<u>6767 9 7</u>

RECEIPTS

By members' subscriptions 1931	36 12 6	
" Donations	128 17 3	
" Donation—Parsee Rustomjee Trust	150 0 0	
" Amount advanced by Mr. S. Rustomjee	30 4 10	
" " " " Mr. A. I. Kajee	34 12 4	
" " " " Mr. P. R. Pather	25 16 10	
	<u>396 3 9</u>	
Less amount held in trust for Chinama a victim of the Dannhauser disaster	50 0 0	346 5 9
" Balance		<u>421 5 10</u>

6767 9