

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

ONE Mr. P. Myers, writing from an address in Fordsburg, submits some sweeping proposals for the consideration of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. He suggests that the whole of Vrededorp be allocated to the Asiatic population, and that the European inhabitants be removed therefrom. Alternatively, he suggests that the Asiatics be given the western portion of Vrededorp, as divided by Delary Street. Another suggestion is that a new township be granted to them—for the better and wealthier class of Asiatics, with the protection that no trading be allowed in the township and that no house costing less than £750 be built there. "I suggest," writes Mr. Myers, "that the Commission recommend the issue of licences to all Asiatics holding licences in premises on the first day of January, 1933, on condition that no Asiatic can sell or transfer such a licence even to his own children. In the event of insolvency or death, the said licence becomes null and void and must be liquidated or sold to a white person. The said laws should apply to immovable property."

HERE is a reason why a certain area is fit for Asiatics and coloured people and not for Europeans. Mr. Charles Heatley, a retired jeweller and Minister of the Apostolic Faith Mission, who owns property at the back of Jeppe Station gives it to the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission: "It was isolated and unsightly," he said, "and when it rained a large stretch of water collected in the road at the back of the station. No European would ever live there." Asiatics must be something less than human beings to be fit to live in a locality in which no European would ever live.

THE Secretary for Justice in his annual report for 1932 in giving statistics relative to the estates of wealthy persons who have bequeathed sums for charity has referred to the late Mr. R. K. Khan's charity of £40,000 to be devoted to hospitals and dispensaries for Indians without distinction of caste or creed, primarily in Durban and neighbourhood. Mr. Khan has been very unfortunately described as "a Eurasian attorney." We would inform the Department of Justice that Mr. Khan was a thorough-bred Indian and well respected by his compatriots.

A modern drama, "Chandrasekaran" portraying "Faith in God" and a grand variety show will be staged at the Victoria Picture Palace on Saturday, June 17, at 8 p.m. by the Tamil school pupils in aid of the Hindu Tamil Institute. The play is organised by the Institute in co-operation with the Young Men's Vedic Society and the proceeds will go towards payment of the Bond of £1450 on the Institute.

THE Hindu Tamil Institute is a place not only Tamilians but Indians in general may well be proud

of. It has been a very useful place for holding social gatherings by every section of the community. The Indo-European Council have been holding their meetings regularly in that institute. It is to be hoped therefore that the above play will be well patronised by our brethren.

A PUBLIC meeting of Cape Malays was held in the Fidelity Hall, Primrose Street, Capetown, on Monday, June 5 at 8 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the petition submitted by the Transvaal Cape Malay Association to the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. Mr. Mogamat Sale Eekstien took the chair and among the speakers were Mr. S. Dollie, Imam S. Harris and Mr. M. de Vries. The following resolutions were passed:—

"That this meeting of Cape Malays, in public meeting assembled, having fully considered the petition submitted by the Transvaal Cape Malay Association to the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission, regrets the lamentable reference made therein, but would support any petition submitted to the Commission for the betterment of its community under the Act."

"That this meeting of Cape Malays, in public meeting assembled, having considered the continuous vicissitudes of Mr. M. A. Gamiet, hereby passes a vote of no confidence in him and resolves itself into a true, proper and representative Cape Malay Association."

A MEETING previous to the above was called under the auspices of the Cape Malay Association in the Banqueting Hall of the City Hall, Capetown. The object of the meeting was "to protest against certain evidence submitted to the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission by certain people in Johannesburg purporting to speak on behalf of the Cape Malay Association in which slanderous and unprovoked attack has been made against the Indian community of the Transvaal and that as this hostile attitude does not reflect the true feelings of the Malay community of South Africa, the meeting was to also protest against this unwarranted and unjustifiable attack of the Indian Moslem brethren." Emaan Omar Abass presided over the meeting.

A REPORT of this meeting appearing in *The Sun*, Capetown, states that there was a rowdy anti-Indian element in the meeting which created such an uproar that the meeting had to be abandoned. Mr. M. A. Gamiet, in the course of an interview, explained to a special representative of *The Sun* that the whole trouble was due to a misunderstanding by the interrupters that the meeting was to be held against the Malay community of the Transvaal, which of course was not the case. What the meeting mainly wanted to do was to show the unnecessary provocative nature of statements contained in the evidence given before the Commission of the Land Tenure Act, and the necessity for endeavouring to understand the problems affecting

its particular section of the non-European population. "It was to give the lie to the passages contained in the evidence that this meeting was striving after," said Mr. Gamiet and quoted the passages from the petition of the Transvaal Malays which has already been published and commented upon in a previous issue of this journal.

We can now understand a little the reason for the wrath against Mr. Gamiet. It seems to be that Mr. Gamiet is a pro-Indian whereas the Cape Malays who are responsible for having passed the above resolutions are out and out anti-Indians. We cannot congratulate the Cape Malay Association for the half-hearted resolution they have passed against the Transvaal Cape Malay Association's petition. We cannot understand how the Association can with one breath "regret the lamentable references made therein" and with the same breath "support any petition submitted for the betterment of its community under the Act." It is no use hiding the fact that they are anti-Indians which, as we have already stated, is a most unnatural position for them to assume. These are times when we should unite our forces and not create divisions. The division between Malays and Indian Muslims seems to be highly unwise when there are so many marriage ties between them.

REFERENCE to coloured persons and, crime is reported to have been made by Mr. L. Gane, in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court when he found a European, Hendrik Stephanus J. Muller, water borer, Waterberg district, guilty of illicit relations with a native woman and of failing to maintain the children who were born as a result of that relationship. "It is unpleasant to find a European committing an offence of this nature," Mr. Gane said. "As I have previously pointed out, both races, Europeans and natives, are not at all anxious for mixture. One might say that one of the tragedies of this country is the number of coloured children who are living in towns and rural areas, very often deprived of the benefits of a home, who are criminals, or are fast becoming criminals." Muller was sentenced to three months' hard labour for having illicit relations with the native woman and one month's imprisonment, suspended for a year, on the second count, provided he pays £1 a month towards the maintenance of the children. Notice of appeal was given.

The desire for cremating their dead is fast growing among the Europeans in South Africa. The first decent crematorium was built by the Hindus in Johannesburg some years ago. Until then the European public of Johannesburg knew little or nothing about cremation. But when the Hindus built their crematorium Europeans were attracted and the desire to cremate their dead began to grow. The number cremated each year was round about 30. The Johannesburg Municipality then built a public crematorium and since then the number of cremations has increased up to £200. Johannesburg is now thinking of building a second crematorium at a cost of about £2000.

REFERRING to Mahatma Gandhi's recent fast at the annual meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Archbishop of Canterbury said:

"We may or may not understand Mr. Gandhi's methods of giving witness to his intense concern for his country, but it is a remarkable proof of how one great Indian feels that nothing can be done even in the way of a larger constitution, until race barriers are broken down."

THE WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

EVER since the great war the whole world is in a turmoil. With all the efforts of the League of Nations and various Conferences the world has not been restored to its pre-war conditions. Things have constantly grown from bad to worse. Peace that was lost when the war was declared has never returned. The spiritually-minded will see in it the result of the sins of the great man slaughter indulged in—for what?—hypocritically stated to be, for the protection of the minor communities—but in reality, for the supremacy of power. What was the signing of the Peace Treaty? Was there any sincerity behind it? Was there any repentance for the legalised murders of men, women and children and the flowing of rivers of blood? Indeed no. The parties were exhausted, their resources had reached the bottom and there was no other remedy but to enter into a treaty of peace. But it was outward peace. The spirit of vengeance and animosity did not die. Owing to adverse circumstances they were buried within the hearts. The nations that were at war began once again with a vengeance to recover their used-up resources. Britain, of course, had unlimited resources in India. She had in India a faithful slave. At the stroke of the whip she could be made to do anything, submit to anything. Germany had to look to her own resources to reinstate her ruined industries. She was well-trained and has succeeded to a large extent by her own strength. But, of course, that has not improved matters. Economic conditions have kept on growing worse. America, the wealthiest country, has also been affected.

The League of Nations has been boomed up as being a great institution to end war. But it has not succeeded. Can it show but one single instance of her success? War has not ended. Some nations are at war and others have the spirit of war in them but are not prepared for it. All talk of disarmament is sham. Not a single nation is prepared to disarm herself. Each is anxious to disarm the other for her own safety. It is not out of disgust for war, that disarmament is preached. The trouble is that there is no unity between the robbers and therefore there is no trust between them. Before the spirit of war has ended and before the question of disarmament has been put to rest the world is seriously troubled with the great wave of depression and the grave problem of unemployment that has resulted therefrom. This has caused the summoning of the International Economic Conference which was opened by H. M. the King on Monday. The world is watching with keen interest what the august assembly representing 67 nations and 2,000,000,000 people is going to do to relieve it from her great distress. The following words from the King's speech are worthy of note:

"All nations are suffering from a common ill. This is shown only too clearly by the rise in the figures of unemployment. The meaning of these figures in terms of human suffering has been my constant concern in recent years, and it has been the concern of everyone here to-day upon whom the responsibility of government has rested.

"In the face of the crisis which all realise and acknowledge I appeal to you to co-operate for the sake of the ultimate good of the whole world. It cannot be beyond the power of man so to use the vast resources of the world as to assure material progress of civilisation. No diminution of these

resources has taken place. On the contrary, discovery, invention and organisation have multiplied these possibilities to such an extent that abundance of production has itself created new problems.

“Together with this amazing material progress there has come a new recognition of the inter-dependence of nations and the value of collaboration between them. Now is the opportunity to harness the new consciousness of common interests to the service of mankind.

“In the firm belief that mutual consultation is the first step towards right action, I inaugurate this conference. I shall follow its deliberations with the closest interest and attention.

“I pray that the result of your labour will see the world once more on the path of prosperity and ordered progress.”

If this spirit truly prevails there is every hope for a brighter future. For the sake of the suffering humanity we pray that the deliberations may be blessed with Divine guidance.

Things In General

(BY OBSERVER)

A SOCIAL centre for Natives is to be established in Durban under the management of a Joint Committee of Europeans and Natives. It is proposed to lease a building in Victoria Street. The Town Council has agreed to contribute one-third of the annual upkeep expenses, estimated to be approximately £450, on condition that the Rotary Club and Joint Council of Europeans and Natives collect the balance.

THIS appears to me an excellent idea. It is one that the Indian community might well consider for themselves. I have always felt that the M. K. Gandhi Library, excellent as it is, is only a part of what should be a social centre for Indians. A reading room and library have their definite uses, and it is not advisable to disturb readers by holding meetings and social functions in the small hall. What is needed is a large hall for public gatherings, concerts, lectures, and conferences, and perhaps a smaller hall adjoining for committee meetings.

A SOCIAL centre should also have a room for billiards and other games. This would afford opportunity for those who were not playing, to enter into discussions upon topics of the day, and would form a meeting ground for both Europeans and Indians, with the possibility of educated Natives joining in too. More serious talks and debates could take place in one of the halls. A well-equipped gymnasium would be an acquisition where physical culture could be taught.

IN such a scheme we must also include the women and young children. What is known as “Ladies’ Day” at the Library has not proved a success. This is partly because children cannot be accommodated. At the Social Centre one of the halls could be used for a weekly “At Home” where everybody could come, and I have no doubt it would be much enjoyed.

WHETHER such a Social Centre could be established is a matter for consideration, and it is well worth serious thought. It has unlimited possibilities. The vexed question of a landing library might also be solved at the same time. And why should not a dispensary be added, though preferably not in the same building? Such a scheme is possible. hope

an attempt will be made to establish such a centre in Durban. Other towns having a large Indian population might also consider the same thing for themselves.

Civil Disobedience And Untouchability

Mahatma Gandhi's Attitude

The following statement of Mahatma Gandhi issued by him after his release on the commencement of his fast will explain his attitude in regard to the Civil Disobedience struggle.

I cannot regard this release with any degree of pleasure, and, as Sardar Vallabhbhai rightly remarked to me yesterday, how can I take advantage of this release in order to prosecute the civil disobedience campaign or to guide it. This release, therefore, puts upon me, as a seeker after truth and a man of honour, a tremendous burden and strain. This fast has to continue. I had hoped and I still hope not to excite myself over anything nor take part in any discussions of any nature whatsoever.

The whole purpose of the fast will be frustrated if I allow my brain to be occupied by an extraneous matter that is any matter outside the Harijan work. At the same time, having been released, I should be bound to give a little of my energies to a study of the civil disobedience movement. The civil disobedience movement does not depend so much upon the quantity as on the quality of men and women taking part in it and, if I was leading the movement, I should sacrifice quantity and insist on quality. If this could be done, it would immediately raise the level of the movement. Mass instruction on any other terms is an impossibility, I can say nothing as to the actual campaign. The reflections I have given, I had bottled up all these many months, and I can say Sardar Vallabhbhai is one with me in what I have said. One word I would say, whether I like it or not, during these three weeks all civil resisters will be in a state of terrible suspense. It would be better if the President of the Congress, Mr. M. Anand, were to officially declare suspension for full one month or even six weeks. I do not care if, thereby, it becomes difficult to secure a single civil resister. There can be no doubt that fear has seized the common mass. The Ordinances have cowed them down and I am inclined to think that the secret methods are largely responsible for the demoralisation.

Of course, for the moment, I can only say that my views about civil disobedience have undergone no change whatsoever. I have nothing but praise for the bravery and self-sacrifice of the numerous civil resisters, but having said that, I cannot help saying that the secrecy that has attended the movement is fatal to its success. If, therefore, the movement must be continued, I would urge those who are guiding the movement in different parts of the country to discard all secrecy.

I would make an appeal to the Government. If they want real peace in the land and if they feel there is no real peace, and if they feel that ordinance rule is no rule, they should take advantage of this suspension and unconditionally discharge all the civil resisters. If I survive the ordeal it will give me time to survey the situation and to tender advice both to the Congress leaders and if I may venture to do so to the Government.

I would like to take the thread at the point where I was interrupted on my return from England. If no understanding is arrived at between the Government and the Congress as a result of my effort, and civil obedience resumed, it will be open to the Government, if they so chose, to revive the Ordinances.

ance rule. If there is the will on the part of the Government, I have no doubt that a "modus operandi" can be found.

Of this, so far as I am concerned, I am absolutely certain that civil disobedience cannot be withdrawn so long as civil resisters are imprisoned and no settlement be arrived at so long as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Khan Saheb Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and others are buried alive.

Indeed to call off civil resistance is not within the power of any of the men, who are out of prison. It was possible for the then Working Committee to do so. I refer to the Working Committee that was in existence at the time I was arrested, and I shall say no more on the civil disobedience movement.

Perhaps, I have already said too much, but if I was to say anything, I could say so only whilst I have strength left in me. I would urge pressmen not to worry me any more. I would urge also the would-be-visitors once more to restrain themselves. I shall be unfit for holding political or any other discussions.

I would like to be left in perfect peace and I would like to inform the Government that I shall not abuse the release, and if I come safely through the ordeal and if I find the political atmosphere as murky as it is to-day, without taking a single step, secretly or openly in furtherance of civil disobedience, I shall invite them to take me back to Yeravda to join the companions, whom I almost seem to have deserted.

Woes Of Deck Passengers

On B. I. S. N. Boats

Woes of the deck passengers on the B.I.S.N. Co's boats is not a new subject. It is an age old complaint. The deck passengers have become so accustomed to the hardships that they take them as a matter of course and put up with the three week's ordeal and forget it on reaching their destination. The company on the other hand is so arrogant, not having any other to compete with it, that it takes little notice of the complaints of the passengers who, it knows, must under any circumstances sail by its boats.

One Mr. Ismail Ahmed who recently sailed by the "Takliwa" from South Africa to Bombay did not, however, remain silent but gave a vivid description of the hardships of deck passengers to the *Bombay Chronicle*.

Mr. Ismail Ahmed described the voyage as "a three weeks' ordeal and a tale of terrible suffering."

"In the last few years many things have changed for the better in this changing world, but the woes of deck passengers remain the same" he complained bitterly.

"Like the third class railway passengers, they are considered unfit for any consideration from the authorities. No comforts for deck passengers! They are subjected to untold sufferings and privations, exposed to the rigours of the weather and harrassed in every way.

"Eight years ago I visited Bombay also as a deck passenger. Conditions then were very bad. To-day they are worse still."

"The ship which brought Mr. Ahmed to Bombay was "Takliwa" belonging to the British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.

"This one and her sister ship "Teiria" are new vessels" continued Mr. Ahmed. "They are "tom-tommed" as providing more comforts and facilities to passengers.

"But ask a deck passenger and he will stoutly contest this claim. The authorities in both the ships are as indifferent to the needs and comforts of the deck passengers. They suffer in silence but how long?"

The grievances of Mr. Ahmed are not imaginary. They are given in a tabulated form below:

"There is overcrowding on the deck with the result that passengers are huddled together like cattle.

"There is no water tap for upper deck passengers and they have to go to the lower deck for every drop of water. This is a great hardship to women passengers particularly.

"Deck passengers are completely at the mercy of the sailors every morning when the deck is washed and scrubbed.

"They have to carry their luggage with them and wander about the deck like mendicants till the deck is washed.

"The sailors are rude and impertinent and won't hesitate to pour water over their baggage if it is not removed promptly at the given time.

"At every port of call a large number of deck passengers who are accommodated on what are known as falkas are thrown out bag and baggage to enable the ship to take cargo.

"The passengers thus displaced from the falkas get neither standing nor sitting place and they are exposed to the rigours of the weather.

"The hardship is unbearable at Mombassa where the ship sometimes halts for two or three days together.

"The latrines provided in the ship owing to their peculiar construction are quite unsuitable for urinal purposes.

"Deck passengers have to climb down a staircase with a view to go from one falka to another."

From the point of view of the deck passengers who formed a large bulk of the ship's human cargo, Mr. Ahmed thought that both the ships were unsuitable for long sea voyage.

After going into the details of the catalogue of grievances Mr. Ahmed hoped that something would be done by the steamer company to set right these grievances. He suggested that the clerk of the ship should receive verbal complaint from deck passengers and treat them sympathetically. Many of the passengers he said felt shy of lodging complaints and went through their hardships without a murmur.

Mr. Ahmed also hoped that Government would make a personal inquiry and do something to remove the grievances of the deck passengers.

Indian Women's Association

Social Work In Pretoria

A really splendid and much-needed piece of social work is being done among Indian women and girls in the Pretoria location at the instigation of Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, wife of the Agent-General for India, by Mrs. Laura Ruxton, whose activities are so well known all over South Africa, says *The Star* (Johannesburg).

A few months ago the Kunwarani founded the Indian Women's Association in the Pretoria location, and at her request Mrs. Ruxton has for the past few months been engaging in all the multifarious preliminary work in getting the movement going. Where no organisation at all of this kind existed formerly among the Indian women, the work was enormous, but now some start has been made, and a visit to the association at its weekly meeting on Wednesday was full of interest.

Here about 50 Indian women of all ages and a number of pretty Indian girls garbed in picturesque saris had met together. They are all most anxious to learn as much as they can of allied European associations and are extraordinarily grateful for anything that has been done for them. The organisation is largely founded on self-help, and already about

200 needy Indian school children are given cocoa and bread and jam every morning before starting off for school. This will continue throughout winter. It is not generally realised how much poverty exists among these people.

It is hoped, through the good offices of Dr. Bella Shawsin and Mrs. Siddle, of the Pretoria Trained Nurses' Association, to open a baby clinic very shortly, for nothing of this kind exists for the Indian women, who in cases of illness have to journey out to the General Hospital for advice and treatment. The feeding of needy children has been made possible by donations from members of the association and also from members of the Indian Market Association.

The position of the young Indian girl in South Africa is a difficult one, and the solution to her educational difficulties well-nigh insuperable under the present system. Orthodox Indian parents, of every caste, automatically withdraw their daughter from school at a very early age.

On leaving school they are obliged to remain in their homes, and many are kept very strictly at home and very seldom even emerge into the streets, unless under the chaperonage of an older woman. There are no special schools for Indian girls in Pretoria, their parents will not permit them to go to mixed schools after they reach the age of 11 or 12, and so these girls are denied the educational advantages that can be enjoyed by the native or coloured girl.

What is particularly striking is the eagerness of these girls to obtain knowledge in some way or another. Some, who have brothers, have managed to continue with their studies under their tuition, but until the prejudices of their parents can be overcome, or until some other provision is made for them, the position of these young girls is a sad one. In the meantime Mrs. Ruxton is trying to fill in some measure the need that exists, and she journeys to the location on one afternoon every week, and gives them lessons, but there is no doubt that she would welcome any volunteer helpers. It was a pleasure to watch the girls on a recent occasion when Mrs. Bauman gave them some drilling lessons and instructed them and the elder women in elementary first-aid. Where so much anxiety for knowledge exists, it is a tragedy that such eagerness should not be gratified.

The young Indian girls in the Pretoria location are keenly desirous of forming themselves into a movement akin to the Girl Guides or Wayfarers, and any volunteers who would be willing to instruct them in the principles of the Guides or Wayfarer movement, or something resembling them, would, it is certain, be amply rapid for their trouble by the keenness on the part of the young people themselves.

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

Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Evidence By Indian Commercial Association

(Continued from last week)

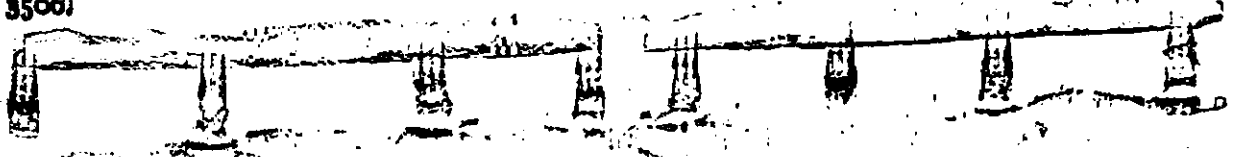
It is then with this idea of allowing some superior localities for the better-class Indian that we have requested the Commission serionally to consider our claims for those areas which are actually largely in the occupation of Asiatics to-day. I think my witnesses will tell the Commission that the Indian community, like the European community, can be divided roughly into three classes. There is firstly the wholesale merchant and the retail merchant class, who are in the comfortable circumstances, together with their professional men—Indian solicitors and Indian doctors. In the second class one might put the smaller trader, the tailor, barber class, shop assistants, and so on; they would fall into a middle class. And then at the bottom end of the social scale you have the Indian labourers, the flower sellers, possibly cab-drivers—those hawkers and pedlars and so on; they are the poorest part of the Indian community.

My lord, another point in this connection that I submit should be borne in mind is that Indians have acquired some wealth and they are sending their children to be educated overseas. These children will come back and they will expect to be able to live like decent human beings in a reasonable locality in the town. One must make some allowance for that, a very important factor to be taken into consideration. And then I understand, too, that even locally the Indians are to-day indulging in sport, football, tennis and cricket. They are advancing upon the lines that they are expected to advance upon and to develop, and they therefore are entitled to expect that they will be allowed those facilities for living in accordance with the standard of life which they are able to adopt.

On page 13 of our memorandum it is stated that about 50 per cent. of the Indians of Johannesburg are born in South Africa; of the Indians in the Transvaal it is estimated that about 50 per cent. were born in South Africa. The percentage will rapidly increase. Western standards and western ideas will spread. And, of course, there is no political representation; so that they are very much to-day at the mercy of the Minister when it comes to assigning to them places where they are to live.

Now, my lord, the next consideration (item 5) are the figures with regard to population which the Commission will find in the memorandum at page 12. From those figures it appears that, as far as we can ascertain, in the Transvaal there are about 700,000 Europeans and about 1,000,000 natives, and the Indians in 1921 numbered 13,500. To-day the estimates vary from 15,000 to 18,000; probably if we include all Asiatics, Chinese and everybody, 20,000 at the very most. A very small proportion of the total population, which can only be increased in the natural way. That represents about 1 per cent. One Indian to forty Europeans, and one Indian to one hundred non-Indians; one per cent. of the total population.

Then as regards traders, my lord, it is pointed out that the general dealers—which is the Indian's particular way of earning his livelihood—of the general dealers' licences they show about 13 per cent. of the total. As regards wholesalers they are



only 2 per cent. of the total traders in Johannesburg. That shows, my lord, that even though they are almost entirely devoted to trade, they are not by any means a large portion of the population. My learned friend Mr. MacWilliam asks me whether there is any figure which we can agree upon in Johannesburg as to the number of Asiatics. The only figure in our memorandum, as your lordship will see, is in 1921, when they numbered 6,229—a figure which included the Chinese community. In 1928 they probably constituted about 13 per cent. of the general dealers. Those are the only figures we have got. I do think there was a census taking in Asiatics after 1921.

While I am on this point, my lord: the Asiatic traders are not a menace to the European traders any longer. I would refer to the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, who are quite willing to concede all licences up to May, 1930, and to the Jeppes-Rate-payers' Association, who favour the protection of licences up to the 1st May, 1930.

THE CHAIRMAN: In regard to the Chamber of Commerce, my impression is that they stated that some date should be fixed.

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: I am speaking from recollection, but is not the date the 1st May, 1930?

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think they suggest that May, 1930, is the date. I think they suggest somewhere an earlier date.

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: "Should this principle be accepted by my Committee is of opinion that some date considerably prior to the 1st May, 1930, should be selected." Yes, I was wrong there, my lord.

THE CHAIRMAN: They confine themselves in this connection I think to suggesting that in order to draw a line the Commission should fix some date and recognise something in the nature of a vested right in the case of persons established as traders in a particular locality prior to that date. They only say that with regard to the date itself that it should be considerably prior to the 1st May, 1930.

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: Whatever that suggestion may eventually come to, the position is this, that there are other considerations, of course, that have to be taken into account, and once an area is set aside there can be no reason why free trading there should not be recognised. My lord, the next point is that the conditions since 1908 in Johannesburg have changed. In 1908 these portions of Johannesburg must still have partaken of the nature of a goldfield. We have the views of the then Attorney-General that it was necessary to pass these laws for the purposes of the police.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brink, we have to take this position now, that it stands under the law of 1922 which in effect re-enacted, with additions the provisions of section 130 and 131 of the Gold Law passed in 1908; additions which made the prohibitions much more stringent against Asiatic and coloured occupation. That is the position with which we have to deal. You cannot invite us to regard the provisions of section 130 and 131 as obsolete because Parliament has, as I say, re-enacted them and strengthened them.

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: I was not going to suggest that.

THE CHAIRMAN: You were telling us that conditions have changed, and perhaps we would view this in a different light. I am pointing out to you that that is not the view which Parliament has taken, and we have to take the law as it now stands.

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: Quite agree. I do not think your lordship has heard me out on the point yet. I never intended to suggest anything such as

your lordship has in mind. What I meant was to draw attention to the fact that the areas we request all round the south of Johannesburg are no longer goldfields because these mines have closed down. That is, I submit, a very good ground for the Commission to keep in mind.

THE CHAIRMAN: Therefore you say that is one of the reasons for the enactment of section 131—that some of the areas to which the old sections apply are no longer areas to which those sections are appropriate?

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: Yes, that is the idea, that they are no longer so applicable to these areas which have ceased to be mining areas and which have become really the permanent abode of the town, and the trading centres of the coloured people of the town, the places when they earn their livelihoods. Now, as I understand, my lord, the Ferreira mine is closed down, and I think there was the Ferrer's Deep. I do not know whether they were separate mines, but I know there was the Ferreira Deep, and that has closed down. The Ferreira has also closed down. One of the Robinson mines is now worked from the Crown Mines, and that has closed down. The Village Main has closed down; the Village Main is incorporated with the Robinson Deep; it is no longer mining from the original mine property, as I understand. Then the Meyer and Charlton has definitely closed down in recent years; and the Goch mine and the Wolhuter mine. They are all along the southern central portion of Johannesburg.

Now those areas in the vicinity of those mines have, as I said before, become the residential centre of the coloured people, and they have become also the centre of certain traders. Now, my lord, I suppose it is clear that an Asiatic trader cannot be put into a location and be told that he must carry on his trade there with coloured people; and that they will all be expected to make a living in that way. It was pointed out as early as the Habib Motan case by the Chief Justice of the Transvaal that they cannot be expected to do that. They must, in other words—and this is a principle which I submit will always be applicable—they must be given convenient access to the public with whom they trade. They make their living in that way, and they also serve that public; they serve them very materially, by easy terms of credit, and low prices and low profits, and so forth. This general principle of allowing them access to the public for the purposes of trade, I submit, becomes very important when the Commission considers our request for certain, what we call, islands—lands in the occupation of Asiatic traders—that they should be exempted. They are very often small areas. I can cite, for instance, that little island in Jeppetown, just north of those booms. I can cite La Rochelle, that little island there of Asiatic traders. And Turfontein—just one little locality where they have set up their businesses, and serve the community, and earn their livelihoods. And also Garland Street, in Ophirton. In Fordsburg your lordship will remember the extreme south end of Fordsburg, near the Main Reef Road—a little island of Asiatic traders almost on the very outskirts of the town—the very south street.

THE CHAIRMAN: You mean the far western portion?

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: I would call it the south, my lord—right up against the Main Reef Road. The south-west.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am not quite sure what the illustration is you have in mind.

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: There is a collection

there of Asiatic shops in a street, and on the corner.

THE CHAIRMAN: You cannot give the name of the street?

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: Corner of Pioneer and Mint Road, I understand; south of Pioneer Road. That is a little trading centre which has been built up by Indians. See our memorandum on page 30, under (A); various stands are mentioned. In each of those cases the Asiatic traders are collected there. They have formed a goodwill there, as it were; people know the shops are there; and there they serve their customers, and there they earn their livelihoods. We are not really dealing with individual trading sites to-day, but this is a principle, I submit, that should be borne in mind when one comes to deal with individual cases too. There may not be a group of Asiatics together occupying an area; there may be merely just one Asiatic in one particular stand; but it is a principle that is equally applicable there. If that man is not to be protected, he is going to be forced to go somewhere else to find a new business site, and he is going to overcrowd, to cut into the business of other people, and so forth. It is going to cause a lot of economic trouble.

My lord, the next principle is mentioned particularly in our memorandum on page 18; the principle of allowing for the natural expansion of the Asiatic population. I understand, my lord, from Mr. Jajbhay that in framing these requests he has merely looked ahead for five or ten years on so, and had regard to providing for the natural increase in Indian population and Indian traders. Young men are growing up and will want to establish businesses of their own and earn their own livings. And that is the reason, my lord, why we have pressed in our memorandum for the south portion up to Main Street, and not, as the Municipality have suggested, Anderson Street. It may say, my lord, we quite realise the Municipality has gone into our requests and they have met us to a very large extent and have fairly agreed to support us in connection with areas which are predominantly coloured. But we do feel that the Municipality has not sufficiently studied the whole question and not sufficiently taken into consideration the expansion of the Asiatic population.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you regard that as a matter which is covered by the terms in which this question is dealt with in Clause 2 of the terms of reference?

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: Referring to those who are in illegal occupation—in the case of coloured persons under (i) (ii), to make proposals as to the exercise by the Minister of the Interior of the power entrusted to him under section 131 (a). It reads as if referring to existing individuals in illegal occupation. But still, my lord, one must remember that these younger Indians are presumably in illegal occupation. Take the sons of an Indian, or his assistants in a shop, who will in the course of the next five or ten years start businesses of their own. They are to-day in illegal occupation, and I think it is covered in the scope of this document, that the Minister will want to exercise his powers with due regard to the position of such persons in the future.

THE CHAIRMAN: I suppose, so far as the terms of reference state considerations which are to be taken into account, it would seem to bring this under (e)—the hardships which the enforcement of the law would involve?

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have to read that clause, in that case, as referring not only to the hardships of the present illegal occupants, but to future generations—the rising generation?

MR. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: It would be a hardship, my lord, on a father to-day who has two young sons in his business and who wants to start them in business in a few years' time. It would be a hardship on the father as well as on the children, if he can find no room to get them a shop, or no place for them to live if they were to marry, or anything of that sort. I do not think, my lord, with a question of this wide nature one should be bound to consider only the actual occupier to-day, and not his family, not those who form portion of his family—portion of his business, assistants and so on. It would certainly be deplorable, my lord, if this whole question were to recur again in ten years' time, to find Indians going over the boundaries of the areas allotted now because they simply cannot help themselves. They are forced out by economic conditions, they have got to seek new pastures, and they will undoubtedly penetrate. And then there will be this question recurring again in ten years' time, or perhaps less. So that it would be certainly an unstatesmanlike view to take the situation now, and merely to provide for existing conditions, knowing perfectly well that the population is going to expand.

(To Be Continued.)

Notice

Transvaal Indian Congress

The recent Conference has decided to present a memorandum on the various disabilities of the Indians in the Transvaal. The executive invites information connected with the refusal of licences, matters of immigration, treatment on railways and other grievances. Owing to the urgency of the preparation of the memorandum to be submitted to the Ministers information should be immediately lodged not later than the 20th, June, 1933, with the undersigned.

D. M. NARSOO,
E. M. MALLA,
Jt. Secretaries.

Box 5390,
Johannesburg.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNTOUCHABILITY
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ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન.

પુસ્તક ૩૧ મં.

શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૬ જુન ૧૯૩૩

અંક ૨૪

નોંધ અને સમાચાર



મલાઇ અને હોંદી

ટ્રાંસવાલ કેપ મલાઇ એસોસીએશને એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્યુર એક્ટ કમીશન સમક્ષ રજુ કરેલાં પીટીશનની ઉપર ચર્ચા કરવા કેપ મલાઇ એસોસીએશનની મીટીંગ કેપટાઉનના શ્રીલીટી હોલમાં શ્રી. મહમદ સાહે ઇકસટીનના પ્રમુખપણા નીચે મળી હતી અને એક ઠરાવ ટ્રાંસવાલ કેપ મલાઇ એસોસીએશનના પીટીશનમાં "શોકબનક સુચનો કરવામાં આવ્યાં હતાં" તેને માટે ખેદ દર્શાવનારો પણ પોતાની કોમની બહેતરી માટે રજુ કરવામાં આવેલ કોઇ પણ પીટીશનને ટેકા આપનારો અને બીજો શ્રી. મહમદનાં આવધાસ દર્શાવનારો ઠરાવ ખતાર કરવા માં આવ્યો હતો. આ મીટીંગ મળી તે પહેલાં એક મીટીંગ કેપટાઉનના સીટી હોલના બેંકવેટીંગ હોલમાં કેપ મલાઇ એસોસીએશનના આગ્રમ હેઠળ મળી હતી જેનો હેતુ ટ્રાંસવાલના મલાઇએ એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્યુર એક્ટ કમીશન સમક્ષ રજુ કરેલાં નિવેદનમાં હોંદીઓ સામે બખાળા કરેલા હતા તેની સામે વિરોધ દર્શાવવાનો હતો. પરંતુ તે મીટીંગમાં હોંદીઓ વિરુદ્ધ તત્વો જે રહ્યાં અને તેણે તોફાન મચાવી મટીંગનું કામ અટકાવી દીધું હતું. શ્રી. મહમદે જે બાબતમાં ત્યાંનાં 'ધી સન' પત્રને મુલાકાત આપતાં ખુલાસો કર્યો હતો કે તોફાન મચાવનાર શોકેલી એવી માન્યતા હતી કે એ મીટીંગ ટ્રાંસવાલના મલાઇએની વિરુદ્ધમાં બેલાવવામાં આવી હતી પરંતુ હકીકતમાં તેવું કશું હતુંજ નહિ. મીટીંગનો હેતુ માત્ર હોંદીઓ વિરુદ્ધ ઉચ્ચકરનારી ભાષા તેઓએ વાપરેલી તેવું બીનબરસિયલ્સ પ્રતાવવાનો હતો અને શ્રી. મહમદે પીટીશન માંથી હોંદીઓ વિરુદ્ધના ફકરા ઠાંકી બતાવ્યા હતા કે જે આ પત્રના એક આમલા અંકમાં અમારી ટીકા સહિત પ્રસિદ્ધ થઇ ચુકેલા છે.

હુધમાં ને હાંદીમાં

એલ્લી મીટીંગે શ્રી. મહમદની સામે રોષ કર્યો છે તેવું કારણ આ ઉપરથી કંઇક સમજી શકાય છે. શ્રી. મહમદ હોંદીની તરફેણ કરતા બચાય છે જ્યારે ઉપલા ઠરાવો પસાર કરનારા કેપ મલાઇએ હોંદીનાં હકહકતા વિરોધી બચાય છે. અમે તેમના ટ્રાંસવાલના કેપ મલાઇ એસોસીએશન વિરોધના ઠરાવને માટે તેમને મુખાગકબાદી આપી શકતા નથી. તે ઠરાવમાં એક થાસે હોંદી બાબતનાં શોકબનક સુચનને વખોડવામાં આવેલું છે અને જેલ થાસે તેઓની કોમની બહેતરીને માટે રજુઆત કરનારાં કોઇ પણ પીટીશનને ટેકા આપવામાં આવ્યો છે. તેઓ હોંદીઓની વિરુદ્ધ છે એ વસ્તુ તેઓ છુપાવી શકતા નથી જો કે અમે બચાવી ગયા છીએ

કે એ સ્થિતિ તેઓને માટે બીજાકુલ અકુશલી છે. આ વખત એવો છે કે જ્યારે આપણે સૌએ એક થવું જોઇએ અને નહિ કે ભાગલા પાડવા જોઇએ અને મલાઇ અને હોંદી મુસ્લીમો વચ્ચે તો લગનની ગાંઠો જેટલી બધી બંધાએલી છે કે તેઓની વચ્ચેનો ભેદ ખરેખર ગેરહકાપણભરેલોજ ગણાય.

હોંદી તામીલ ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટ

શુક્રવાર તા. ૧૭ મી જુનના રોજ રાતે ૮ વાગે "અંદરેખર" નામનો ખેલ તામીલ સ્કુલના વિદ્યાર્થીઓ તરફથી હોંદી તામીલ ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટને મદદ આપવા વિકટોરીયા પીકચર પેલેસમાં થનાર છે. આ ખેલ હોંદી તામીલ ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટ અને અંમ મેન્સ વેદીક સોસાયટીએ મળીને તૈયાર કરેલો છે. અને તેની આવક ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટ પરતું પા. ૧૪૫૦ નું બોન્ટ ભરવામાં આપવામાં આવશે. મલકુર ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટ માત્ર તામીલ કોમનેજ નહિ પણ હોંદી કોમના દરેક વર્ગને મગરૂરી લેવા જેવું છે. એ ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટનો ઉપયોગ કોમના દરેક વર્ગે સામાજિક જલસાઓ ભરવા માટે કરેલો છે. ઇન્ડો-યુરોપીયન કોલેજીયલની લમલમ દરેક મીટીંગ એ ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટમાં નીચમીત લાગતી આવેલી છે. આથી અમે ઉમેદ રાખીએ છીએ કે શુક્રવારના ખેલને આપણી કોમના દરેક વર્ગના ભાઇઓ સાઈ ઉતેજન આપશે અને તેમ કરી ઇન્સ્ટીટ્યુટને બોન્ડમાંથી મુક્ત કરવામાં પોતાનો હિસ્સો આપશે

અમુક લતો હોંદીઓ માટે લાયક હોવાનું કારણ

અમુક લતો હોંદીઓ અને રગીન વર્ણના લોકોને રહેવા માટે લાયક કામ છે અને યુરોપીયનો માટે નથી તેવું કારણ એક શ્રી. આર્લ્સ હાંદી જે જેપી સ્ટેશનની પાછળ પ્રોપર્ટીની માલિકી ધરાવે છે તેણે એશીયાટીક લેન્ડ ટેન્યુર એક્ટ કમીશન સમક્ષ આપ્યું છે. તેણે બચાવ્યું કે "એ લગે એકાંત અને જોવામાં સારો નથી અને વરસાદ પડે છે ત્યારે સ્ટેશનની પાછળ લાંબા પટ્ટા પર પાણી ભરાઇ રહે છે. કોઇ પણ યુરોપીયન ત્યાં કદી રહેવાનો વિચાર કરખો નહિ કરે." જે લતામાં યુરોપીયન કદી રહેવાનો વિચાર પણ ન કરે તે લતો હોંદીઓને રહેવાને લાયક હોય તો હોંદીઓ મતુબ્બ-બત્તી કરતાં કંઇક ઉતરતા પ્રાણીઓ હોવા જોઇએ.

યુરોપીયનોમાં ફક્ત કીયાનો પ્રચાર

યુરોપીયનોમાં મુવેલાને દાટવાને બદલે બાળવાનો પ્રચાર દિનપરદિન વધતો જાય છે. મુસ્લેલી હમપર સમજાન બધવાની પહેલ જોહાનીસબર્ગના હોંદીઓએ કરી હતી. એ સમજાન જોઇને યુરોપીયનો પણ આકર્ષાયા અને પોતાના મુવેલાઓને

