

Indian Opinion

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MAHATMA GANDHI ON FASTING

IN view of the fact that there are so many people who do not understand why Mahatma Gandhi should starve himself the following article entitled "Thinking Aloud" by him appearing in *Harijan* dated April 15, prior to his last fast, will be read with interest:—

Both C. F. Andrews and I have the habit of thinking aloud. Here is a sample from one of his letters:—

"I have enclosed—'s letter because I hardly think you realise how very strong here is the moral repulsion against 'fast unto death.' I confess as a Christian I share it and it is only with the greatest difficulty that I find myself able to justify it under any circumstances. I was convinced at the time last year when in desperation the way seemed open for nothing else and only this one door seemed unopened. But even then it was an agony to me. I know also that I must bow to God's will even when it comes in very strange forms. Also I know that it has had its place in the past in Hindu religion and I have to try to understand exactly what it means to a Hindu. All this I am trying very hard to think out. But it has not come out all clear yet.

"I felt that it would be good to tell you all this at a time when there is no immediate prospect of such a thing happening. Meanwhile I am trying to think out the whole matter. I have again and again defended over here your last fast and pointed to its results and to the fact that such a tender conscience as Gurudev's could see in it only what was great and noble. But in the great effort that you yourself are making (and we are interpreting to the very best of our power) to convert the hearts of Englishmen, whom you love and respect, to side with you and not against you in freeing your country, the following is true:—

1. It is easy to get their sympathy with the removal of untouchability. Their hearts are truly touched.

2. It is *not* easy to get sympathy with the idea of committing suicide by fasting unto death. The horror and repulsion are too great, and the mere threat of such a thing benumbs instead of awakening the conscience.

I know you would love me to tell you all that just now, if I have not an immediate issue, I can write calmly."

I publish this letter because it deserves a public reply. I do want every ounce of real sympathy from every part of the world in the very difficult

and anxious work of the purification of Hinduism, which, as I have claimed, is in a way purification of the whole human family.

I know the English repulsion to fasting for religious ends and especially 'fasting unto death.' I should like to own also that even the fast which *Deenbandhu* Andrews reconciled himself to, though very reluctantly, has had untoward results in India, as I have discovered to my sorrow. Hindus had become delirious and done acts which, when they became sober, they undid. They opened temples and wells to Harijans freely during the fast. Some of these were closed soon after the end of the fast. A very large number of educated caste-Hindus in Bengal do sincerely feel that, in the midst of the excitement caused by the fast, a grave injustice was done to Bengal in the allotment of seats to Harijans. I know, too, that in some other provinces the Yeravda Pact was assented to under the pressure of the fast. All this was bad. I certainly had not anticipated it all when I embarked on the fast. But I do not repent it. In the first place, the fast was not of my doing. Secondly, though the respective acts were done under the pressure of the fast, they were not in themselves evil. Were they evil, I should move heaven and earth to undo the evil.

But my purpose just now is to examine, not the effects of the fast, but the fast itself as a necessary part of the divine scheme. If it is a part it, it ought not to need elaborate explanations each time it is undertaken.

Although the sanatanists swear at me for the fast, and Hindu co-workers may deplore it, they know that fasting is an integral part of even the present day Hinduism. They cannot long afford to be horrified at it. Hindu religious literature is replete with instances of fasting, and thousands of Hindus fast even to-day on the slightest pretext. It is the one thing that does the least harm. There is no doubt that, like everything that is good, fasts are abused. That is inevitable. One cannot forbear to do good, because sometimes evil is done under its cover.

My real difficulty is with my Christian Protestant friends, of whom I have so many and whose friendship I value beyond measure. Let me confess to them that, though from my very first contact with them I know their dislike for fasts, I have never been able to understand it.

Mortification of the flesh has been held all the world over as a condition of spiritual progress. There is no prayer without fasting, taking fasting in its widest sense. A complete fast is a complete and literal denial of self. It is the truest prayer.

"Take my life and let it be, always only all for Thee" is not, should not be, a mere lip or figurative expression. It has to be a wreckless and joyous giving without the least reservation. Abstention from food and even water is but the mere beginning, the least part of the surrender.

Whilst I was putting together my thoughts for this article, a pamphlet written by Christians came into my hands wherein was a chapter on the necessity of example rather than precept. In this occurs a quotation from the 3rd Chapter of JONAH. The prophet had foretold that Nineveh, the great city, was to be destroyed on the fortieth day of his entering it.

"So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and the nobles saying, 'Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water. But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from fierce anger, that we perish not?' And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."

Thus this was a 'fast unto death.' But every fast unto death is not suicide. This fast of the king and the people of Nineveh was a great and humble prayer to God for deliverance. It was to be either deliverance or death. Even so was my fast, if I may compare it to the Biblical fast. This chapter from the book of JONAH reads like an incident in the *Ramayana*.

It is only proper that friends should know my fundamental position. I have a profound belief in the method of the fast, both private and public. It may come again any day without any warning even to me. If it comes, I shall welcome it as a great privilege and a joy.

Untouchability is a big sin. It may not be washed without the blood of many servants. But they will have to be fit instruments. The occasion will come to me if I am found worthy for the sacrifice. I would like my friends to rejoice in it, if it comes. They should neither be repelled nor unnerved.

M. K. GANDHI.

Notes and News

AT the conference of the National Union of South African Students, to be held in July, the representatives of the University of the Witwatersrand will move that the Fort Hare College be invited to join the organisation. This means that the students will be asked to admit Bantu representatives from Fort Hare to join in the discussions affecting students of universities throughout South Africa.

THE question for this so far has only reached the stage of a proposition, which will be put forward by the representatives of the Witwatersrand University. If the National Union as a whole approves of the suggestion, it is possible that Bantu students will sit in conference in 1934 with European students from the various universities.

THE decision to put forward the motion to admit Fort Hare representatives to the National Union was a unanimous one on the part of the Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand, according to Mr. M. Gluckman, a prominent member of the council, who in the course of a letter in *The Bantu World* states that the move is yet another indication of the desire of South African students to be just to the Bantu.

WE congratulate the Students' Representative Council of the University of the Witwatersrand for this splendid gesture and sincerely trust the National Union will whole-heartedly adopt their motion. It will at least be a first step towards the removal of the colour bar between the black and the white races in this country and as such we heartily welcome it.

THE Secretary for the Interior, Mr. P. J. Hoogenhooft, has informed the joint secretaries of the South African Indian Congress that the committee appointed to explore the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for Indians is to start its inquiries as early as possible. An executive meeting of the Congress is being called at Durban on July 9 to consider the appointment of its nominee on the Committee.

IN six years since the assisted emigration scheme was introduced in August 1927 nearly 13,000 Indian immigrants and their descendants have left Natal. Under the scheme an adult Indian receives a grant of £20 and a child one of £10. They may not return to South Africa until one year has expired, after which they are given two years in which to decide whether they will stay in India. If they wish to return they must refund all the monies they have received from the Government. It is interesting to note that during the whole period of the scheme only 265 have so returned.

THE Krugersdorp Town Council has in deference to the desire of the Department of the Interior decided not to take legal proceedings against the owners and occupiers of 16 residential stands, with a view to removing Asiatics from those stands, pending consideration of the matter by the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. This decision is subject to the condition that no further occupation takes place in Krugersdorp. In the event of such penetration occurring, the Council will exercise its right to take legal proceedings not only in the new cases, but also with regard to the 16 stands at present in question.

THE Krugersdorp Town Council has acted wisely in deferring its proposed action while the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission is sitting for that very purpose.

OUR FORTUNATE BULAWAYO BRETHREN

OUR brethren in Bulawayo have built a school for their children which was recently opened in the presence of a distinguished gathering of Europeans and Indians by the Colonial Secretary. A noteworthy fact about the school is that £1500, being half the cost of building the school, was contributed by the Europeans of Bulawayo—a thousand pounds of which was donated by the trustees of the estate of the late Mr. C. Solomon, from the sum of £5000 set aside by the deceased in his will to be used for charitable purposes without distinction of class or colour.

Our Indian friends in Southern Rhodesia owe a deep debt of gratitude to the trustees of the late Mr. C. Solomon's estate for this magnificent gift. In doing what they have done the trustees have considered the question of colour of little importance before the much higher question of imparting education to human beings no matter whatever nationality they may belong to. We heartily congratulate them for their very fine gesture worthy of being emulated by all. Such a gift made by an European estate to a body of Indians is to our knowledge the first of its kind in this country and will be very greatly appreciated by the whole Indian community.

There is much to learn from this generous act on the part of the trustees. All thinking men have very rightly said that enlightenment will remove all misery from the world. Darkness will increase it. The colour problem in this country is acute. It has been caused by the lack of true enlightenment. It has been accentuated by the wrong notion of keeping those against whom so much prejudice exists—the black people—in darkness. We will not say that there are no facilities for their education. But whatever are provided are provided grudgingly. They are given a lower standard than the Europeans. Why should their standard be lower? The reason is clear—that they may not surpass the Europeans in intellect. This is a short sighted policy for any government or a people to adopt. People enlightened to their fullest capacity are never a burden but always an asset to the State. One thing to learn from the above gesture is that there should be no race or colour barriers in the intellectual development of a community. It is pleasing to note that this is slowly being realised by some people at least in this country. The resolution of the students of the Witwatersrand University to admit the Fort Hare Native College in the Union of the students of the South African Universities is a proof of that. It augurs well for the future of this country. We can but hope that this spirit continues to grow.

There is much that our brethren too may learn from this great act of generosity. It should inspire the well-to-do amongst us, who have hitherto done comparatively so little for the education of the children of their poorer brethren, to do at least as much, if not more than, friends who do not belong to our race have done for us. At the risk of appearing to be after the blood of our brethren who are blessed with wealth, for, indeed, we have had to criticise their chicken-heartedness whenever they have been called upon to open their purse strings in the interests of their fellowmen on several occasions,

we would venture to point out to them the need for utilising their wealth in the upliftment of their poorer brethren. We are beginning to feel that the policy of the present Government is going to be much more liberal in regard to the Indian question than the past and it is only right that we should not be found wanting in our own zeal to do our bit for our own brethren.

In conclusion there is a comparison we are tempted to draw from the report of the opening of the Bulawayo Indian school. The school building, we are told, is worth £2500 and the Bulawayo Municipality has generously made a free gift of land for the building with adequate space for a play ground for the school children. Compare this with our Sastri College—a building worth £20,000, all subscribed by Indians, and the Durban Town Council after a fervent appeal made by the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri as Agent of the Government of India, condescended to grant only a little more than two and a half acres and that two on lease!

We heartily congratulate our brethren in Bulawayo for the very generous treatment they have received at the hands of the authorities as well as the European public and trust that they will prove worthy of it.

India Bound To Get Dominion Status

Mr. Duff's Interview With 'Advertiser'

Mr. R. J. Duff, general manager of the New India Assurance Company and Mrs. Duff were given a dinner party by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee on the eve of their departure from Durban last Saturday night at the Castle, Mayville.

Mr. and Mrs. Duff sailed by the *Taira* for Lourenco Marques whence they are bound for Cairo. In the course of an interview with a representative of the *Natal Advertiser*, on the future of India Mr. Duff expressed the opinion that the day is bound to come when India will have full dominion status, with all the rights and responsibility of self-government in making trade agreements and in considering the requests of foreign business organisations to establish branches or offices in India.

The future of India, said Mr. Duff, was important to South Africa, because the geographical proximity of the two countries opened up possibilities of extensive trade. In these circumstances the need for continued harmonious relations between the Government of India and South Africa was clear.

One of the first impressions he had received on his arrival in South Africa from India, said Mr. Duff, was how the relations of Indians and Europeans differed in the two countries. In India the two races mixed much more freely than in South Africa, the friendly relations of Indians and Europeans in social life and sport being nowhere more faithfully expressed in India than at the Willingdon Club, by no means the least of Lord Willingdon's creations.

In South Africa, on the other hand, there was a disposition for the races to remain socially very apart, and he had found very few bodies, social, commercial or administrative, on which both races were represented.

From these remarks on the difference between India and South Africa he wished to offer no conclusions, since he had to confess to being almost entirely unacquainted with local problems.

In India, said Mr. Duff, ownership of commercial

and industrial enterprises was steadily passing into Indian hands and most public companies were heavily subscribed to by Indians and in most cases also controlled by Indian boards of directors and Indian officials. As general manager of the New India Insurance Company, he had himself worked for many years under a board of directors consisting of Indians. In the Civil Service also Indians were being moved into all the high administrative positions, and the time did not seem very far distant when there would be an Indian Governor-General. Already an Indian had acted as Governor of a province.

When he left, said Mr. Duff, things were quiet again in India, in marked contrast to the troubled times caused by the recent Congress activities, when it was hard to get away from an atmosphere of strained relations. Gandhi, he said, had introduced a method of resisting Government control that was almost impossible to meet. If his idea of passive resistance, in conjunction with civil disobedience, were practised universally in India, a situation would be created which no government in the world could deal with successfully.

Things In General

(BY OBSERVER)

AFTER a great many years of delay, the Durban Corporation has at last made provision for the Indian farmers attending the Indian Market, who have been compelled to sell their produce in the street with no cover and in the midst of danger from the traffic.

A NEW market has been built in Warwick Avenue and this will be ready for use on the 1st August. Separate stands will be provided for producers, speculators and dealers. This market will be opened every evening and will close its gates at 9 a.m. Although the closing hour has been in vogue in the street market, it has been found difficult to carry it out strictly.

IN order to induce the laggards to move off, a water cart is brought into action, and this display of force has the effect of making things unpleasant for the housewives who come to buy, and so the crowds slowly disperse about an hour after 9 o'clock.

IN fairness to the stallholders inside the Market it is essential that the early morning sales should cease punctually. In future the simple action of closing the gates will bring this about without persuasion or argument. With a large portion of the new market under cover there can be no doubt that the new conditions will be much more comfortable for both sellers and buyers.

THE separation of the markets, with the extra capital expenditure involved, is, I understand, likely to cause an increase in the rates for stands both for the inside and outside markets. This perhaps is unavoidable, but it is to be hoped that the Town Council will not place too great a burden upon a class of people who find it difficult in these times to keep their heads above water.

FOR a good many years the Natives of the Inanda district have held an annual Show where cattle, produce and articles of home industry are exhibited. This is an excellent idea and credit is due to those enthusiasts who have continued this good work from year to year without apparently much success.

Speaking at the opening of the Show, Mr. E. W. Sampson, Assistant Director of Native Agriculture for the Union, said that a herd of Kerry cattle has been sent from the Cape for the purpose of improving the cattle of the Natives of Natal. He also stated that arrangements had been made whereby Natives could obtain eggs from the best pedigree poultry in Natal at a special reduction.

ALL speakers at the ceremony, we read, "spoke with considerable firmness" to the Natives on the necessity for agricultural improvement. It is a remarkable fact that the Natives of this country show little progress in agriculture, in spite of assistance by the Government. As the Rev. J. L. Dube remarked, "white leadership is still necessary," and added: "It will require a big effort on the part of the Native people but that effort must be made."

WHILST having every sympathy with the Natives in their efforts at agricultural improvement and wishing them success, one cannot help drawing comparisons. Without Government assistance and very often under well-nigh overwhelming odds, Indian farmers and market gardeners have turned many a useless swamp into a vegetable garden and transformed a rocky hillside into a luxuriant plantation of bananas, pineapples or oranges.

ONE is led to ask: would not a little assistance by the Government bring forth wonderful results if granted to Indian agriculturists? There would be no need to think of any colonisation scheme outside the Union if the Government would but realise the possibilities of establishing unemployed Indians on the land. Everyone knows that the motive underlying the Government's suggested scheme is to decrease the Indian population. A study of what the Indian has done and what he would be willing to still further do in developing agriculture would convince any sensible body of men that he is a great asset to the country and not an evil to be got rid of.

The Agent Addresses The Indo-European Council

The Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh addressed the usual monthly meeting of the Indo-European Council in the Tamil Institute, Durban, on Tuesday, June 27. There was a small but representative gathering, among whom was the Kunwarani.

The Kunwar's address was largely a survey of the work which he, in his official capacity as Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, had done during his brief sojourn in the Union.

Among interesting facts mentioned was the munificent gift of £1250 by Mr. Cassim Adam of Johannesburg towards the erection of a special ward for Indians in the Johannesburg General Hospital. The Kunwar then showed how through his instrumentality the Union Government had agreed to contribute £1000 for the same purpose, and that negotiations were being made to bring the Government contribution to £1250. The Durban Indian Technical Institute, too, whose headquarters is Sastri College, had also benefitted by the sum of £100 which brings the annual Government subsidy to this Institute up to £350. Indian unemployed also had obtained relief; work had been found for 260 indigent Indians in Durban and 50 in Maritzburg.

These achievements were only a few of the several mentioned by the Kunwar who pointed out that the presence of an Agent considerably enhanced the status of the Indians in this country. During their stay in the Cape the Kunwar and the Kunwarani had given no less than twelve garden parties and the atmosphere which

existed at these fetes, at which there had been several Europeans, showed that the race problem in South Africa was largely artificial.
Mr. Maurice Webb presided,

East London Public Welcomes The Agent

Europeans and Indians of East London gave a royal welcome to Kunwar Sir and Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh when the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa touched that Port on his way to Durban from Capetown.

The Agent was met on board by leading Indians of the town and on landing at the jetty the Kunwar received an official welcome from his worship the Mayor (Cr. J. Bruce Bays) who was accompanied by the District Commandant (Major G. Lloyd Lister) and Mr. J. Swilair Thompson, the Town Clerk.

A public welcome reception was held in the City Hall where Councillors and numerous citizens were presented to Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh and the Kunwarani.

The president of the British Indian Association garlanded the Mayor and the Agent was presented with an illuminated address.

The Mayor in the course of his speech said that on behalf of the citizens of East London he extended a very hearty welcome to Sir Maharaj and Lady Singh. It was always a pleasure to welcome distinguished strangers, and seldom had there been more distinguished visitors than those he greeted that morning. (Applause.) East and West were blended in a perfect combination in Sir Maharaj and his lady. To Lady Singh the Mayor extended a special welcome. "I have been told," said his worship, "that Lady Singh is known as 'Silver Tongue.' All the ladies can, of course, lay claim to this to some extent—(laughter)—but in the case of our visitor it is particularly true."

The Mayor said that all present had read in the Press the number of honourable positions previously held by Sir Maharaj Singh, but the speaker ventured to think that none had been discharged in more able a manner than his duties as Agent for the Indian Government. South Africa and India, continued the Mayor, had not always seen eye to eye, but with the help of such minds as possessed by their guests these differences would disappear. (Applause.)

In East London, continued the Mayor, the Indian community was probably the most law-abiding of all sections. They were a highly intelligent and industrious people. The only complaint against them was that they made too much money. (Laughter).

The Mayor said that he felt it was the apex of all honours received by him during his terms of office to be garlanded by his friend Mr. Cassoojee. He concluded by emphasising the great pleasure derived from the presence of Sir Maharaj and Lady Singh.

The Kunwar's Speech

Amid applause, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, who spoke in a clear and a resonant voice, said that it was a great pleasure to be there that morning. The Mayor and other officials were kind enough to greet them on landing and he was very grateful for that gesture. Continuing he said: "You have assured us, and so have the Indian community, that they are happy under your jurisdiction. That is a great happiness to me, as it is not always that my countrymen can tell me so. Often when I visit

them at other centres in this country they have grievances, and substantial ones. In the greater part of the Cape Province there is no discernment against the Indians and they are happy. It is only right and meet that they should be received kindly by those within whose jurisdiction they live, and on whom Providence has put a great responsibility. It must not be forgotten that many Indians gave their lives for the British Empire during the Great War. I had a brother killed at the front, and to our pride he received the Military Cross before his death." (Applause).

Continuing, Sir Maharaj said: "The Government of India has given me the duty of promoting in South Africa goodwill between the European and Indian races. Lady Singh and I can say that ever since our arrival in your wonderful country the unfailing courtesy and kindness received from the European and Indian communities has been a great pleasure to us, and an augury of eventual success. From His Excellency the Governor-General downwards, in Johannesburg, Durban and Capetown, kindness has been showered on us. It is my sincere hope that in the same proportion you will mete out this same kindness to the poorer members of my people here.

"Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your kindly greetings, and those present for the cordiality of your welcome. I wish you every prosperity in this favoured city and sincerely trust that the relations between Europeans and Indians will improve. Increased mutual goodwill between India and South Africa is essential. These two great continents are near each other and are bound finally to come nearer still. It is incumbent upon both sections of the population to improve relations. The existing differences are far from being insurmountable. Of the total European, Native and coloured population of the Union the Indian represents only three per cent. But if small in number, he requires his proper recognition and consideration from the many."

In conclusion, Sir Maharaj Singh said that the pleasure of his visit to East London had been enhanced by meeting once again the Rev. Frank Oldrieve, who used to visit his father's house in Simla, and an old Oxford contemporary, Mr. B. A. Steer.

The Kunwarani's Appeal

A pretty figure in her bright native costume, Lady Singh next held the attention of the gathering, speaking fluently in a liquid soft voice. The Kunwarani made a stirring appeal for help and encouragement to be given the Indian women in East London. She said: "It is difficult to live up to the reputation of 'Silver Tongue,' and if you knew how it worries me to stand up and speak you would not take it for granted. But if there is any service I can do for my people in South Africa it is my great pleasure.

"I have just come after meeting a group of delightful Indian women, and to all of them in East London I ask you to offer your help and hand. They are a small group, these women, with no chance of improving their condition. But your lady Mayoress (Mrs. Bruce-Bays) has promised to help, and I want to see organised here a small association for the self-help and development of local Indian women. I assure you they have it in them to give more to the city to which they owe their allegiance.

"I trust that, with the assistance of your lady Mayoress, a little club may be formed for the Indian

women and girls, where V.A.D. and Red Cross instruction can be given. The company and friendship of European ladies for one hour a week would mean a lot and would widen the horizon of the Indian women. And I venture to say that it would broaden your outlook, too, if you went down and saw how the Indian women live. If I can feel this will be done, the great desire of my heart has been realised."

Concluding, Lady Singh said that she was very grateful for the sincere welcome given and wished that it were possible to stay longer. But Durban called, as there was far more need there for the Agent and herself. "I am prepared to leave the care of Indian women in the hands of the European women of East London," declared the Kunwarani.

No Problems Here

After the speeches an adjournment was made to the Quadrangle, where the Mayoress entertained the large gathering to tea and present further citizens to the guests of honour.

In a short chat with the representative of the *East London Despatch*, Sir Maharaj stated that there were no real problems affecting the Indians in East London at the present time, and for that reason the date of his next visit here was not yet definitely fixed. He declared himself pleased with the general living conditions and happiness of the local Indians, and stated that it was in Natal and the Transvaal that his hardest work lay.

Speaking vivaciously, Lady Singh told the Pressman that a definite assurance had been given her by Mesdames J. Bruce-Bays and A. M. Newman that a movement would be begun to assist the Indian women along the lines indicated in her public remarks. The Kunwarani said that this response had delighted her and that eventually she hoped to see an Indian representative in the National Council of Women.

Indian School In Bulawayo

Magnificent European Contribution

The opening ceremony of the Bulawayo Indian school was performed by the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. W. M. Leggate, C.M.G. There was a large gathering of Europeans and Indians present. The Colonial Secretary complimented Mr. R. R. Vashee and Mr. V. B. Nagrani, chairman and hon. secretary respectively of the Indian School Committee, on the success of their long continued and well-directed effort, to allow little Indian children the better to perform their function in the world.

Mr. John Liver in a short speech said the lives of all who lived in this beautiful land should be made as happy as possible, irrespective of their race or colour. India had been loyal to Britain in the world war, and he had no doubt of their continued loyalty.

Among the gathering were several members of the Legislative Assembly and of the Bulawayo Town Council, as well as the principals of European schools, Government officials, and no representatives of every public body in to the town.

European Contribution To The School

Mr. Vashee who on behalf of the British Indian community of Bulawayo extended a warm and hearty welcome to the visitors pointed out that for many years Indian children received their education at the Government coloured school, but it was felt that the younger children were at a great disadvantage in not having teachers to address them in their own language. They were taught at home in their mother tongues and were totally

ignorant of the English language.

Until by association with English-speaking children they were able to acquire some knowledge of English, they were greatly handicapped, and it was felt that they were not receiving the fullest benefit of their tuition during the early stages of their school attendance.

"We believed that our children would make better progress if they could be given instruction in the first stages in their mother tongue, but this obviously was impossible unless the services of Indian teachers became available. To overcome this difficulty the local Indian community aimed at erecting a purely Indian school.

"To our great good fortune the late Mr. O. Solomon set aside under his will the sum of £5,000 to be used for charitable purposes without discrimination as to colour, and my community took the opportunity of explaining to his trustees the necessity for an Indian School in Bulawayo. The good cause of education appealed to the trustees and they decided to grant £1,000 towards the cost of the erection of the necessary school building.

"An Indian school committee was immediately formed and negotiations were entered into with the Government, with the result that the Government agreed to conduct a school for Indian children with Indian teachers if the whole of the cost of the school building could be raised by the Indian community.

"We received further donations of about £500 from the European mercantile community and thus half of the cost of the building was received through donations from the European community and the other half was collected from the local Indians numbering not more than three hundred. To all who so liberally contributed to the fund I tender the thanks of my community.

A Free Site

"I must also thank the Bulawayo Municipal Council for a free grant of a suitable piece of ground upon which the school is erected with ample space for play grounds for the children. Very valuable services were rendered to the cause by the Director of Education, Mr. Foggin and the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Cowling, who co-operated with us and gave advice.

"It would not be proper for me to speak of political matters on this occasion nor to take this opportunity of discussing our troubles, but I may, I trust, be permitted to mention," went on Mr. Vashee, "that we are British Indians and we belong to the Empire and as such we cannot be blamed if we strive for equal opportunities and treatment.

"I am glad to say that our relations with the Government are happy on the whole, but there have been occasions when we have not felt too happy about our position under the local authority and I appeal to you, ladies and gentlemen, that there may be no discrimination on the ground of colour against those Indians who are now resident in Southern Rhodesia.

"I may mention that Indian immigration to this Colony has ceased for eight or nine years and the proportion of Indian to the European population to-day is as 1 to 50, and while the European population is increasing every year the Indian population remains practically stationary, so that fears of an 'Indian problem' are groundless. This being the position I appeal for continued fair treatment.

"I am pleased to say that generally, my community is satisfied with the treatment received from the Government. I must thank the Government for meeting us whenever we have had cause to make representations and we assure the Government and the public that we will not be found wanting in our loyalty to the country of our adoption if given the opportunity."

After thanking all who had assisted in building the school, Mr. V. B. Nagrani said: This school starts with 65 children on its roll, and will indeed be a real blessing to the Indian community; not only of Bulawayo,

but of Southern Rhodesia in general. The Committee has collected £2,700, out of which £2,500 has been paid to the Government for the erection of this school. The balance is being kept for improvements.

"Here in Rhodesia, we stand by the great dictum of the late Cecil Rhodes, of equal rights for all civilised people and long may this be the watchword of the country. We enjoy justice and freedom, and everyone, white man, brown man and black man alike, is given a living chance. May I offer our grateful thanks to the statesmen who have so ably guided the destinies of Rhodes and who have so loyally upheld the ideals of Rhodesia who lies sleeping in our midst in the Matopos Hills.

"I extend a very hearty welcome to the staff of this school, who have recently arrived from India. May they be guided to teach and instruct our children, not merely to acquire knowledge, but to become worthy citizens of this beloved Rhodesia, and may they create the nucleus of truly fine traditions and ideals for this school."

Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Mr. Mahomed Jajbhai's Evidence

Mr. Mahomed Jajbhai was duly sworn and examined by Mr. Brink, K.C. :—

MR. BRINK K.C. : I believe you were born in Natal?—Yes.

About twenty-nine years ago?—Yes.

And you came to the Transvaal when you were three years old?—Yes.

You have resided in Johannesburg ever since then?—Yes; ever since.

And to-day you are the joint secretary of this Association which has been formed?—Yes.

The other secretary is Mr. J. Hazaree, a solicitor in this town. Do you hold any other position in your Indian community here? Yes; I am the secretary of the Orient Club.

What sort of club is that?—It is a social club.

Anything else?—I am also secretary of the Malay Location Standholders' Association, and trustee of the Jajbhai Memorial School, which caters for free education for children.

Were you connected with the South African Indian Congress as an executive member?—Yes; last year.

You have resigned?—Yes.

Are you a property owner?—Yes.

Where?—I am a leading property owner in the Malay Location, and represent various absentees.

Anywhere else?—Also in that part of the town—Burghersdorp, Fordsburg, Fersisrastown.

You own properties there?—Yes.

Through companies which you control?—Yes.

Are they in areas in which the Municipality have any dispute about?—No.

Are they in areas which the Municipality in their recommendations recommend?—They recommend.

All of them?—All of them.

What is your occupation, or profession, or work?—Property owner.

You have business premises in the Malay Location, in the front street there?—Yes.

What is your business?—Collecting rents, and relying on investments there.

Do you act as estate agent for other people at all?—Yes.

Is that for absentee owners and so on?—Yes.

In view of the fact that your properties are all situated in the Malay Location, or in parts of the

town where the Municipality recommend that there should be withdrawal of the provisions of the Act, you have no personal object to serve here at all?—No.

In what interest have you come forward?—In the interests of the community in general, and of course, being the secretary of the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association.

This memorandum which has been submitted to the Commission: are you responsible for its contents?—Yes, I am responsible for its contents.

CHAIRMAN: I think you had perhaps better tell us something about the Association.

MR. BRINK: Yes, my lord. (To witness) When was this Association formed?—This Association was formed after representations had been made to his lordship. We felt that having large interests at stake, some particular body should make representations. That was in October of last year.

After this Commission was appointed?—Yes.

Can you tell us roughly what value of property is represented by the members of your Association. How many are there?—We have twenty members on our Executive, which consists of the most influential members of the Indian community.

In Johannesburg?—In Johannesburg. Approximately the value is in the vicinity of two million pounds, represented by the Association.

In property?—In property and business.

How many general members are there apart from the executive committee of your Association?—Twenty.

Twenty; that is forty altogether?—Forty altogether. In the general members we have included members from Turfontein, Ophirton, Johannesburg central, and particularly those who have been affected by the legislation.

CHAIRMAN: What exactly do you mean by that?—Isolated cases in areas in which they have leading interests.

MR. BRINK: Isolated instances of traders who are on proclaimed ground and who are affected by the provisions of the amending Act of 1932?—Yes.

Then, in order to put your views before the Commission you drafted this memorandum?—Yes.

Were you assisted by other people?—Yes; I was assisted by the secretary for the Agent-General who represents the Government of India, possibly in his unofficial capacity.

He unofficially assisted?—Yes; I cannot definitely say. It is for him to say to what extent he was officially assisting me.

Who supplied the information here?—The information has been supplied by me, not by Mr. Meeser.

To whom?—To him. The Agent-General for the Government of India has also been consulted before this memorandum was approved.

Did he approve of it, do you mean to say?—He approved of it.

Officially or unofficially?—I could not say.

Generally speaking is the information you have put up here within your own knowledge, or had you to depend on other sources of information?—Most of that information is within my own knowledge.

As far as your knowledge goes, are the statements in here correct?—They are correct.

Can you tell us more particularly where you had to rely on other people's information; in what respects?—That is in respect of the marking of the plans, which was left to Mr. Meeser to do.

As to how far the different particular areas are occupied by coloured and Asiatics, for that information you would depend upon Mr. Meeser's information?—To a certain extent I depend on his information.

tion, and in addition to that inspections were made by me in various areas time after time.

Time after time you went and inspected these areas yourself and made your own observations.—Yes.

And that is what is recorded in these areas there?—Yes; and in the majority of the inspections I found that practically he was correct. There were very few mistakes. The mistakes are infinitesimal.

Mistakes in regard to a few particular instances?—Yes.

As a person who has lived in Johannesburg for 22 years and more, I take it, round about these areas—Fordsburg; where you have lived?—In Fordsburg.

In the Malay Location?—In the Malay Location.

You have noticed how parts of the town seem to sink from white occupation right down to native occupation?—Yes.

Will you tell the Commission the process as you have noticed it yourself?—Yes. First you will find an area is occupied by the best type of Europeans. That is in the early days.

CHAIRMAN: What are you beginning with?—From my recollections; somewhere about 1912.

How many years have you lived in the Transvaal?—25 years, not allowing for the small age.

Since you have been grown up?—Yes; that is so.

MR. BRINK: Now you say you are going back to about 1912?—Yes. According to my observation an area is being occupied first by the best type of Europeans. Gradually they trek into another area, where a new township is opened and where possibly the European gets the standard of living he can afford; and some of the better type have shifted into other private townships. He is followed by the poor white, and from the poor white, as the expansion grows, from one area to another, according to that particular person's wealth. For example; you have the European who at one time used to live in Fordsburg and was very comfortable. When he found his position bettered, he shifted into a locality like Doornfontein, and as his position still improves he goes into a locality such as Norwood, and then from Norwood he goes to Hongton Estate. So one section of the community follows another in various localities.

What happens in the area the first one leaves?—That area in the end becomes occupied by natives.

What are the stages?—The stages are that the poor whites follow into the area which has depreciated; after the poor whites have left that area for another locality, they are followed up by the decent coloured man, who is more or less living according to a standard of European life. He is then followed by the Indian, and eventually the Indian is swamped out by natives.

If an area is occupied largely by natives, can that area be occupied by whites again?—No.

By Asiatics?—By Asiatics only if the area is properly improved.

Can you give us an instance of an area which is practically now in native occupation?—We have areas in the middle of town, for example, City and Suburban.

If the natives were moved out of that area of the City and Suburban, would the area be suitable for Indians to live in?—It would not be altogether suitable, in view of the area being surrounded by factories. It would be suitable to the poor type.

The poorer type of Indian?—The poor type, yes. But not for the better class?—Not for the better class.

How would you divide the community, roughly?—Roughly; one could class them into three sections.

The first section would be?—The wholesaler, or a

man who could afford to live to the best of his ability according to the standards of European life.

The type of Indian whose circumstances enable him to live up to European standards?—Yes.

You put that in the first class?—Yes.

And the second class?—You get the second class who have small shop—small traders; efficient book-keepers; clerks; etc.

That type?—That type.

And the third class?—You have the hawkers; peddlers, cooks, waiters working in hotels.

Generally speaking are they the poorest of the Indians?—They are.

The humblest section?—Yes; and the man who works at a lower wage—people who get wages of £5 to £6, or £10.

What is the occupation of the majority of Indians in this town?—They are traders.

Can you give the Commission a rough idea of the percentage of traders, what percentage they form of the whole community, or have not you thought about that?—It is very difficult to say. That could be more correctly given by the Municipality. They have the figures before them.

With regard to the Indian traders I would like you to tell the Commission something about the status of the trader's wife, in regard to the question as to whether it is possible to separate his business place from his residence; whether there are any objections from the Indian point of view?—An Indian has difficulties in that way. He is not altogether brought up here on western lines; his wife being accustomed to the Indian life in the majority of cases is under seclusion—what they call the purdah system. It is a very strong point in our religion that our womenfolk shall not associate with men. If the Indian is given the right to trade and not to occupy with his wife and children, the result will be that the children will grow up and will not be under the strict supervision by the father. One will always find that the wealthier classes are in smaller number and the poorer classes in larger number. It would be difficult for the small shopkeeper to take other premises in another area and pay rental in respect of the two areas.

You mean the double rental for his home and shop fall very hardly upon him?—It would fall very hardly upon him.

What is the present position in that regard? How do traders reside?—Those who can afford to do so take premises adjoining a shop. Those who cannot afford that live at the back of the shops.

Would you say more of them live behind the shops than next door. Which would be in the majority?—It is difficult to say actually, but one would find that in the majority of cases nowadays the Indian tries to find extra house accommodation.

CHAIRMAN: We saw some premises in which they lived above the shops—upstairs?—Yes.

MR. BRINK: That is in Diagonal Street; that is the part your lordship is thinking of. There the premises have been specially built to give the Indian accommodation above the shop?—(Witness) Yes.

From the point of view of burglary insurance and the protection of the stock, is it important that he should live near the shop?—Yes; it is very important, because the locality in which he is trading caters for a certain class of trade, and therefore it is necessary for him to live in.

He is catering for a certain class of trade; that is, trade with poorer people—Coloured, Natives and poor whites. You say it is necessary for him to live there himself. Why?—To look after his premises.

At night as well as by day?—At night as well

Another difficulty is that if an Indian is told to carry on business on the premises and not to reside there, he will have to go into some areas which are not suitable to him particularly. Possibly he would be in a congested area, or a slum area and the result will be that he would not enjoy then the healthy life that he is now enjoying.

(To Be Continued.)

Pagel's Circus

Throughout the last 28 years, the above ever popular circus have always brought to Durban the best obtainable in the way of circus fare. This year will be no exception to the rule and Pagel's new programme will be one which will compel attention from all. The season opens on Friday June 30, on a site opposite Cartwright's Flats. The leading features this year will be the famous Cannon Queen "Clandia Alha" the lady who has startled the world with her remarkable strength feats and juggling. The Sangers are also new comers and who give a very thrilling act on the aerial wires. The Gridneffs are a band of Russian high flying Trafegists, and who are artists of a very high order. In all the company consist of 20 acts and with Mr. Pagel and his many new performing animal acts, still commands attention as the leading animal teacher of the world. His methods are particularly his own and he maintains that kindness will subdue the wildest of any specie which he proves in his performance. The prices are popular and no one should miss this brilliant show.

News In Brief

The Indian community of South Africa will be extremely pleased to learn that Sanskrit may now be taken as a qualifying subject for the Junior Certificate. Although Sanskrit, like Latin, is in many ways archaic, it is hoped Indians will avail themselves of this privilege.

On the 8th August, Prof. Edgar Brookes, who is well known in South Africa, will address the Indo-European Council in the Tamil Institute Durban.

Mr. Maurice Webb, a close friend of the Indians, and Chief Municipal Librarian, will leave shortly for America, where, for six months, he will study the problem of "Adult Education." During his absence Mr. L. Byron will preside over the Indo-European Council's deliberations.

Miss Slatter, Head Mtstress, and Mrs. P. Morel, of the Mitchell Crescent Indian Girls' School, are to be congratulated on the fine performance of the pupils of the above school, at a concert given on Saturday, 24th June. Mr. Lawlor and Mr. Macleod, inspectors of the Education Department were present. During the interval, Mr. Lawlor spoke on the necessity of educating Indian girls. The Knowarani then spoke in a similar strain and presented the prizes. Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh also addressed the very large gathering. After the prize-giving the 38 girls of the school staged "Princess Ju-Ju," a play which was most successful and highly appreciated by those present.

A MEETING of the Melrose (Transvaal) Hindu Temple members has decided to open the temple to all Hindus. A large number of Tamilians were present. Mr. V. G. Naidoo, the chairman, said many of the leading Tamil Hindus desired to give a lead to Johannesburg by removal of all restrictions upon

certain sections of Indians at the Melrose Hindu Temple, and thereby end that unfortunate problem of "untouchability" here. After a discussion Mr. V. S. Naiker moved that the temple should henceforth be opened to all Hindus without distinction of caste or creed. The resolution was carried unanimously. The meeting also authorised the temple council to arrange for a day of prayer within a fortnight to pray for the speedy recovery of Mr. Gandhi.

The Union Parliament has been adjourned until December 15 instead of being prorogued in the usual way, because they did not know what might happen in these times with the Economic Conference sitting.

The new South Africa House in Trafalgar Square, London, was opened by His Majesty the King who was accompanied by the Queen and other members of the Royal family, and also Mr. Charles de Water, Union High Commissioner in London, General Smuts and other notabilities. The King described the house as "a monument of concord and unity."

The King granted an audience to Sir Kurma Reddi last Saturday says a Reuter's message from London.

News agents may not even unknowingly sell periodicals containing libellous matter was established by the Law Courts in London, when the well-known distributors Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son, Ltd., were ordered to pay the Sun Life Assurance Society of Canada £3,000 damages. Defendants contended that it was impossible for them to organise a scrutiny of journals or posters passing through their hands. A special jury found the defendants were innocent of knowledge of the libel which appeared in the periodical or poster concerned but were negligent in not knowing they contained libel.

Sporting News

BOXING TOURNAMENT

July 8th will be a red-letter day in non-European boxing circles. Boxing fans will feast to their hearts' content on the splendid programme arranged by the well-known promoters, Messrs. J. B. Panday and M. Mahomed. The venue of the tournament will be the Town Hall.

Mothie (Kid) Singh, known as the "Fighting Rajah" in England is the first non-European professional pugilist to visit these shores and is laying no stone unturned in his attempt to beat Frenchman of the Cape. He is in fine mettle and a popular figure.

Frenchman is a pupil of Arthur Cupido and for this particular bout has been in strict training for the last six months. Later reports state that he is in the pink of condition.

In 12 rounds contests Sunny Thomas has beaten both Bud Gangan and Henry Julies on points. Now the latter two are to be matched for the first time.

Cecil Jonosky who fights Bennie Singh is leaving Johannesburg, where he is at present training under the supervision of the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, on July 5th. During the fight the padre will be his Chief second. Jonosky is the recognised non-European light weight champion of the Transvaal.

Both Frenchman and Julies will arrive by train with

their manager Mr. De Vries, on Sunday, 2nd July at 9-15 a.m.

It has been intimated from authoritative sources that this will be the only fight by Kid Singh in Durban. He fights once in the Transvaal, once in the Cape and then he leaves for France. His term of contract expires at the end of three months.

Two Sastri College soccer teams travelled to Stanger on Sunday, June 25. They were very hospitably entertained by the members and officials of the Stars Football Club. Both College teams won, the B team by 2-1 and the A team by 3-1.

In a friendly return match with the Taylor Street Native School, Sastri College beat their opponents by 5-2 on June 28.

It is with pleasure that we learn that a touring soccer team—drawn from the Transvaal schools—will arrive in Durban on Tuesday morning, July 4. The team will be housed at the St. Aidan's Hall, Cross Street, Durban, and it is expected that scholars and teachers will avail themselves of the opportunity of coming into contact with the Transvaal boys and teachers. A welcome reception will be held in the Gandbi Library on Tuesday July 4 at 7-30 p.m.

The following is the itinerary:—

Wednesday	5th	vs. Cato Manor School	at Cato Manor School
Saturday	6th	„ „ Sastri College	„ Curries Fountain.
Sunday	9th	„ „ Tongaat School	„ Tongaat
Monday	10th	„ „ Carlisle St School	„ Carlisle Street
Tuesday	11th	„ „ Sydenham School	„ Sydenham
Thursday	13th	„ „ Depot Rd. School	„ Depot Road
Saturday	15th	„ „ Durban Schools	„ Curries Fountain
Sunday	16th	„ „ Roosfontein School	„ Roosfontein

At a recent meeting of the Witwatersrand Junior Indian Football Association the following were elected officials:—Patron: The Agent for the Government of India, Vice-Patrons: Messrs. Mahomed Jajbboy and Musapha Hassim, President: Mr. S. D. Royeppen, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. Nana and John Peters, Hon. secretary: S. Moodley, hon. treasurer: Nursai Govind, hon. auditor: Mr. M. Naidoo, record clerk: Master A. Peters. The teams will now participate in the Gloria Phyllis Challenge Trophy, presented by Mr. Royeppen, and the Saloojee trophy.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNTOUCHABILITY

RECENT INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS

The following books can be had at this office. Remittance to be sent together with the order. C.O.D. orders will not receive attention.—Manager "INDIAN OPINION," Phoenix, Natal.

THE EPIC FAST (By PYARELAL)

An account of Mahatma Gandhi's Fast in September 1932, and events leading up to the Yeravda Pact, with all relevant documents. 320 Pages. 2s. 6d.

PLIGHTED WORD (By C. RAJAGOPALACHARI)

The case for the two Bills introduced by Mr. Ranga Iyer in the Assembly is explained in full detail with all relevant documents in this book. It is a complete exposition of the history and object of the legislation and meets all the objections raised. 34 Pages. 9d.

"MY SOUL'S AGONY" (By MAHATMA GANDHI)

A carefully revised, authoritative edition of what Mahatma Gandhi has recently said about the Anti-Untouchability Movement in his statements and interviews. The book has been compiled and edited under his immediate direction.

154 Pages. 1s. 6d.

DURBAN'S LATEST ATTRACTION

Opening Opposite Cartwrights' Flats

From Friday June 30th and following evenings
at 8-15 p.m.

Matinees Saturday July 1st and every following

Wednesday and Saturday

at 3-15 p.m.

PAGEL'S NEW 1933 CIRCUS

and performing Menagerie

GRAND NEW PROGRAMME FEATURING

"CLAUDIA ALBA"

The strongest woman on earth, perfection

in figure, strength, beauty and mind.

—Also—

THE SANGERS—sensational airtel thrillers.

—Also—

The Gridneffs—The wonder unsupported

Ladder marvels.

IN ALL 20 ACTS BY 30 ARTISTS AND 60 ANIMALS

supported by that famous wild animal teacher

W. PAGEL.

In a series of new animal acts.

Prices 5/-, 3/- and 2/- plus tax.

Children Half Price

Special reduced prices for children to Matinees

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.