

Indian Opinion

No. 30—Vol. XXXI.

Friday, July 28th, 1931

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
Price Fourpence.

MASS MEETING

PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED COLONISATION

THE Victoria Picture Palace was the scene of great enthusiasm last Sunday afternoon when Indians had assembled in their hundreds to voice their protest against the proposed exploration of the possibilities of settling South African Indians in other countries. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity by 2-30 p.m. and the meeting commenced at 3 p.m. with Hindu, Mahomedan and Christian prayers. The huge assembly represented Colonial-born and other Indians of every section and all were allowed to vote. There were also present the leaders of the Congress, Messrs. S. Rustomjee, S. R. Naidoo, J. W. Godfrey, A. I. Kaje, B. M. Patel, O. H. A. Jhaveri, Shaikh Eimed, B. A. Meghraj, V. Lawrence and many others.

The Agent of the Government of India, Kunwar Sir Mabaraj Singh was also present but did not speak.

Mr. S. L. Singh who took the chair, in his opening remarks, stated that they had gathered there that afternoon to voice their protest in no uncertain terms against any colonisation scheme to settle South African Indians in other countries. By lack of activities on our part we had lost thousands of our brethren from this country and we did not wish to lose any more. "We wish to discuss the question impassionately," the chairman went on, "and the fullest opportunity will be given to all those who wished to speak for or against the resolution."

Mr. A. Christopher then moved the following resolution:

"That this mass meeting of Colonial-born Indians protests against any inquiry having for its object a scheme of colonisation for Union Indians in other countries, and protests, furthermore, against the continuance of the assisted emigration scheme."

Mr. Christopher referred to the negotiations between the Congress representatives and the Government of India delegation at the last Round Table Conference which led to the Congress agreeing to the Colonisation scheme and explained why we could not co-operate in the Government's inquiry.

In the original arrangement by the Governments of India and the Union to explore the possibilities of colonisation in countries other than South Africa, it was clear, the speaker held, that the colonisation of the South African Indian was merely incidental. The Government of India was looking for suitable lands in which to settle part of its overflowing population, and at the same time it was thought convenient for the South African Government to take a hand in this investigation, in view of the existence already of an Assisted Emigration Scheme. There was, however,

to be no participation by the Government of India in the inquiry which the Union Government was now setting afoot, apart from the granting of its approval and the offer of such assistance as could be afforded by the Agent and his staff.

"Is there anyone here who wants to leave South Africa to settle in some other country?" demanded Mr. Christopher. There were loud shouts of "No!"

"Why, then," asked Mr. Christopher, "should we take part in an inquiry whose purpose it is to consider what we do not want?"

Messrs. Ajam Haffeejee, Satyadev and Manilal Gandhi spoke in support of the resolution. Mr. Gandhi said he could not see the wisdom of participating in a thing we were opposed to on principle. He spoke against the Assisted Emigration Scheme and said it ought never to have been agreed to by the Congress. That scheme had sent away over 18,000 Indians from this country and the working of it had not yet ceased. People say there was no colonisation scheme as yet. But it was in the making, said the speaker, and if it came into existence it would be an additional evil, and it was time that it was nipped in the bud. "If we were teetotallers," he said, "how could we explore or participate in exploring the possibilities of drinking?"

The meeting was unanimously agreed on one point—that South African Indians were unreservedly opposed to colonisation in any country outside South Africa and that there should be no consideration whatever of the question of Colonial-born Indians giving up their birthright.

The cleavage was purely over questions of procedure, the meeting having been called to protest against the line taken officially by the Congress. The main argument against representation on the Government's committee of inquiry was that, since Indians were wholeheartedly opposed to the principle of colonisation outside South Africa, no purpose was to be served by participating in any inquiry which had for its purpose the realisation of this very principle. There was very strong opposition to any subordination of principle to expediency, or merely for the novel favour of participation in a Government commission.

Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, S. R. Naidoo, J. W. Godfrey, and A. I. Kaje, leaders of the Congress, spoke against the resolution and in favour of participating in the inquiry. They were given the fullest opportunity to state their case and at times when the crowd was a little impatient the chairman made an appeal to give them a full hearing and then use their own judgment in giving their vote.

The Indian member-elect to the committee of inquiry, Mr. S. R. Naidoo, said he was speaking as a South African Indian. As to the scheme itself, he went on, there could be no two voices, but the present committee was an occasion when an opportunity would be given to them to present their case. They were not considering whether the scheme was practicable or impracticable, but they wanted to show to the committee their feelings in the matter. Their cause was unchallengeable and stood on the rock of justice, and they were not afraid to submit their case to any tribunal in the world. To retreat would be a sign of weakness. After the committee had heard and framed its report there was yet another commission to sit in terms of the Round Table Conference conclusions and to report on the matter. The final position lay in the hands of the Indian community. No decision could be taken in their name without their approval.

Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee said this was a God-given chance. An Indian member had been elected, which was a precedent they should establish. He pleaded for co-operation with the Committee of inquiry.

Mr. J. W. Godfrey was also in favour of co-operating with the committee and said that in South Africa there was space enough for all. There was Zululand, Swaziland, Basutoland and the Transkei. Let the barriers be removed and the whole question would be solved.

Mr. A. I. Kajes, secretary of the South African Indian Congress defended the action of the Congress and spoke against the resolution. He moved the following amendment:

"That this mass meeting whilst opposed to any scheme of colonisation in countries outside the Union, agrees to co-operate with the inquiry committee."

It was 6 p.m. at this stage and several convenors of the meeting were disappointed at not having been given an opportunity to speak. They were, however, satisfied to feel that the Congress leaders were given a fair chance to state their case.

The chairman then clearly explained the resolution and the amendment to the meeting and put the amendment first. 56 hands were raised in favour out of an assembly of over 900. The resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority.

A further resolution was passed, reading as follows: "That this mass meeting of Colonial-born Indians, while appreciating the relief afforded to Indian unemployed by the Union Government and the Durban Municipality, stresses that such relief barely touches the fringe of Indian unemployment, and supports the endeavours of the Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee and the Agent of the Government of India to obtain further relief for the Indian unemployed, and also for the restoration of the wage cuts of Indian railwaymen."

The meeting then terminated having deliberated for four hours.



THE LATE J. M. SEN GUPTA
the Bengal Nationalist leader and former Mayor of Calcutta, who died on July 22, behind prison bars in the service of his country and his people.

Notes and News

It is with feelings of profound regret that we have to place on record the untimely passing of the eminent nationalist leader, J. M. Sen Gupta, who was formerly Mayor of Calcutta. An ardent disciple of the doctrine of non-violence, Sen Gupta was always in close sympathy with the Swarajist movement in India and recently became an open advocate of Home Rule and civil disobedience. This bold and decisive step on his part earned for him popularity among the people. He was resolute and put country before self. His death in prison is an indication of the conditions under which millions of passive resisters against British domination, are labouring in India. Though his incarceration may not have been the direct cause of his death, yet the fact that Sen Gupta died in fetters is abundant testimony to the greatness and sacrificing qualities of the man. He stands out high and majestic, a noble example of a true nationalist leader. Deepest sympathy of the Indian nation will go out to the sorrowing widow and family of the late Mr. Sen Gupta in the great loss sustained by them.

A meeting was convened in the M. K. Gandhi Library by the Natal Indian Congress on Tuesday evening, July 25, to pass a resolution expressing sympathy with the Indian nation on the death of Mr. Sen Gupta. Mr. V. Lawrence, presiding, drew the attention of the audience to the fact that Sen Gupta had sacrificed his all and had embraced the hardships connected with civil disobedience, to fight for Swaraj. Mr. Lawrence felt that in honouring the memory of Mr. Sen Gupta they might unite in settling differences existing within the ranks of the Congress. "Let us sink our differences," he declared, "and fight our cause for better status and a right to live as citizens in South Africa in the same spirit which characterised Mr. Sen Gupta's life." In associating himself with the expression of loss, Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee referred to Mr. Sen Gupta's interest in South African Indians. As a member of the deputation to India in 1924, he said, Mr. Sen Gupta had officially welcomed them and provided an opportunity for them to meet other great leaders who were helpful to their cause. Other speakers who joined in paying tribute to the memory of Mr. Sen Gupta were Messrs. A. Christopher, M. M. Gandhi, A. I. Kajee and Satya Deva.

CABLE reports from Calcutta state that a crowd estimated at 100,000 watched the cremation of Mr. Sen Gupta's corpse. His body exposed on an old bedstead was carried in a procession of 20,000, for five miles to the Temple of Kali, the Goddess of Destruction, where it was cremated in a burning ghat. Mr. Sen Gupta's English wife was also present.

"THE Indian community must endeavour to preserve the fragment that is left of the Indian ratepayers' civic grants," said Mr. A. I. Kajee, the secretary of the South African Indian Congress, to a *Natal Advertiser* representative in commenting on the considerable reduction of the Indian municipal vote in Durban. Every year, said Mr. Kajee, the number of Indians qualified to vote in municipal elections is becoming less and less. The Borough Ordinance of 1924 has deprived Indians, other than those already on the roll, of the municipal franchise, so that now there were only 400 Indians on the roll as compared to 50,000 Europeans. No European would grudge this number from drawing attention, at one time or another, to the civic needs of the Indian community.

THE Agent of the Government of India will visit Verulam and Tongaat on the North Coast on Sunday, July 30.

KUNWARANI Lady Maharaj Singh is doing active work among the Indian women. An Indian women's Association has been formed under the presidency of the Kunwarani with Hindu, Mahomedan and Christian ladies as officials and members.

We learn that Mr. C. Von Mengershausen, assistant immigration officer, Durban, has retired from active service.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

NOT for some considerable time have we had such a large gathering as was witnessed at the Victoria Picture Palace last Sunday to express the opinion of the community as to whether we should or should not co-operate with the Committee appointed by the Government to explore the possibilities of settling South African Indians in other countries and to report to what extent Indians would participate in such a scheme. Though the Executive of the Natal Indian Congress had unfortunately rejected the request to call a special general meeting of the community, last Sunday's meeting was representative of all sections of the community and its voice could not be ignored. There was a difference of opinion among the Congress workers and both sides were given an opportunity to state their case. The meeting was convened by those who held the view that we should not co-operate with the Committee and yet those who were in favour of co-operating were allowed to hold the platform without any time limit. They could not, therefore, complain that they were not given a hearing. It must be said to the credit of the huge crowd also that it gave them a very patient hearing. In the end, however, the meeting decided by an overwhelming majority that since we were wholly opposed to the principle of colonisation outside South Africa no purpose was to be served by participating in any inquiry which had for its purpose the realisation of this very principle. The meeting acted wisely in voting against the amendment proposed by Mr. A. I. Kajee, that the meeting should be opposed on principle to any scheme of colonisation in countries outside the Union, agreed to co-operate with the inquiry Committee. In the interests of the Congress it was wise to have rejected the amendment for if it were allowed to pass the Congress would have been placed in a hopelessly ridiculous position.

The more this subject is discussed the more the absurdity of the position held by the Congress is being revealed. Mr. S. R. Naidoo, the member elected by the Congress Executive to be appointed on the Inquiry Committee said, "as to the scheme itself there could be no two voices," in other words the whole community was unanimously opposed to it. "I want you to realise," said Mr. Naidoo, "that the decision for or against any colonisation scheme must come not from the Congress but from the whole of the community. Until that decision is called for the Indian commu-

nity is not being committed to anything." The interpretation of this would be that Mr. Naidoo would be sitting on a Committee whose purpose is to form a scheme to which the Indian community is opposed, and would be helping, in the name of that community, in the formation of such a scheme, and when the Committee, with the help of Mr. Naidoo, has actually formed the scheme, Mr. Naidoo will report to the community that in their name he has helped the Government to form a scheme to which they were opposed! We cannot imagine a more absurd position and we are sure both the Governments of India and the Union could not fail, in the circumstances, to see the absurdity of our co-operation.

If the Congress is still not satisfied that public opinion is not with them on this vital issue and if they wish to adopt the right course it can do so only by calling an emergency conference of the South African Indian Congress to decide the question and inform the Government, in the meantime, that the matter is still under consideration.

CHILDREN OF DESPAIR!

SOON after last Sunday's meeting Mr. A. I. Kajee, secretary of the South African Indian Congress, gave an interview to the *Natal Advertiser* on the Congress attitude on the proposed colonisation scheme. In defending the attitude of the Congress, Mr. Kajee referred to the document submitted to the Government of India Delegation at the Round Table Conference agreeing to co-operate with the Government of India in the latter's mission to explore outlets for colonisation in regard to India's increasing population out of patriotic motives, and to ascertain whether there existed any good opportunities for South African Indians in the countries explored. Mr. Kajee seems to have ignored the fact that the signatories to that document were against any scheme that would be a substitute for the Assisted Emigration Scheme and that after having got a clear understanding that it was the Government of India that was desirous of exploring outlets for India's increasing population and that they merely wanted our co-operation, being experienced colonists, and that, incidentally, we could ascertain whether there existed any good opportunities for South African Indians, that they agreed to co-operate with them. This is, indeed, why the document in question distinctly refers to the Government of India's mission. Quite obviously, the people of India are quite unaware of this and in the communique issued by the Government of India announcing the appointment of the Inquiry Committee an attempt has been made to explain away the fact by stating that "reference to colonisation from India is merely a reproduction of the language of the Agreement."

The above facts ought to be clear enough to show that there is a departure in the appointment of the present Committee from the original arrangement and that departure is not a slight one, as Mr. Kajee would have us believe, for it alters the whole position. Then again our co-operation was conditional, one of the conditions being, that nothing in the results of the Round Table Conference would be detrimental to the Indian community. There are no two opinions as to the fact that the second Round Table Conference has proved an utter failure in so far as the interests of the Indian com-

munity are concerned. That document is, therefore, now meaningless.

According to Mr. Kajee's interpretation those who refuse to co-operate with the Committee of inquiry are children in despair and fear and he attempts to give them courage by stating what the Congress is going to state before the Committee. "Are not following facts clear and telling," Mr. Kajee asks:

"There is no country in the world that will accept any immigration—they all have their unemployment problems—and what country in the world is better than South Africa which has ample space within its borders for all its people?"

"(b) Is there not a strong case for the removal of provincial barriers, and allowing the Indians to settle in the same manner as Europeans in the native territory so that the concentration of our men in Natal may be lightened?"

The above facts only go to prove our contention that the present inquiry is not necessary for its terms of reference only allow of two things, viz., the exploration of the possibilities of colonisation outside South Africa and to ascertain how many Indians are prepared to go. The Committee has no right to go beyond its terms of reference. Those who are opposed to the inquiry are neither afraid nor are they in despair. The crowd at the Victoria Picture Palace certainly did not look to be in despair! They know the justness of their cause and are therefore, fearless of their case going by default by their non-co-operation. Much has been made of establishing a precedent by the appointment of our member on an inquiry committee. Why was this not recognised some ten or twelve years back when the British Guiana scheme was on foot and the Government suggested that an Indian member should accompany the then Protector of Indian Immigrants to investigate into the conditions in that country for South African Indians? Why did not the Congress think it then an honour to be appointed to that Commission? Has the Congress grown wiser since?

Mr. Kajee further states that it is not enhancing the authority of the South African Indian Congress in holding meetings repudiating what has been decided after weeks of deliberation. The present decision of the Congress was arrived at after two hours of hurried discussion in Johannesburg last August. Whenever the authority of the Congress was questioned in the past its authority was established and enhanced by means of public meetings. If it is not now enhancing its authority in holding public meetings there must be something radically wrong which calls for amends. If the Congress is doing the right thing it should not fear public meetings but should be able to carry public opinion with it. If it fails to carry public opinion with it it certainly cannot claim to be representing the people.

Fountain Of Wisdom

In all things social we may be as separate as the fingers; but the hand is necessary for mutual progress—Booker T. Washington.

Wisdom is oft-times nearer when we stoop than when we soar.—WORDSWORTH.

The Proposed Colonisation Scheme

Indian Government's Communique

The following communique was issued by the Government of India from Simla on June 15 :—

It will be remembered that as a result of a conference held in Opatown early in 1932 between representatives of the Government of India and the Government of the Union of South Africa, it was agreed that the Government of India would co-operate with the Union Government in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme of settling Indians both from India and South Africa in other countries and that in this investigation which, at the time it was expected, would take place during the course of 1932, a representative of the Indian community in South Africa would, if the community so desired, be associated. The Union Government have now decided to appoint a committee to undertake the preliminary investigation in South Africa with the following terms of reference :—

"To undertake preliminary investigation in South Africa in connection with the proposal set forth in paragraph three of the Agreement arrived at by the 1932 Round Table Conference for the exploration of possibilities of a colonization scheme for settling Indians both from India and South Africa in other countries and to report as to the country or countries wherein further investigation as to the successful operations of such a scheme might advantageously be made, having regard to political, climatic and economic conditions in such country or countries and to the extent to which Indians in the Union would participate therein."

The Committee will consist of Mr. James Young, ex-Chief Magistrate, Johannesburg, Mr. G. Heaton Nicholls, M.P., and Mr. P. F. Kincaid, Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs. A representative of the South African Indian community will also be invited to be a member of the Committee. The Committee has been appointed by the Union Government and its activities will be limited to reporting within its terms of reference as to the possibilities of Indians in the Union participating in any scheme of colonisation in countries which the Committee might recommend as suitable for investigation as to the successful operation of the colonisation scheme.

Reference to colonization from India is merely a reproduction of the language of the Agreement. The recommendations of the Committee will be communicated to the Government of India for consideration and no decision as regards countries where such exploration should be undertaken or personnel or terms of reference of the Commission to which such investigation if decided upon should be entrusted, will be taken until the recommendations of the Committee now appointed by the Union Government have been considered by the Government of India. Meanwhile the Government of India have informed the Union Government that their Agent and his staff will be at the disposal of that Government and the Committee now appointed for giving such formal help as might lie in their power.

What India Thinks About The Scheme

The following are extracts from the views expressed by papers in India on the Committee appointed to explore the possibilities of settling South African Indians in other countries :—

'BOMBAY CHRONICLE'

"Our objection is to the scheme itself, and the principle it represents, for Indians have as much right to be in South Africa as the South African Whites. Neither are children of the soil, though both have firmly taken root there. The fact that the Whites have decimated the native population and possessed themselves of the latter's property gives them no moral right to oust South African Indians. If there is any meaning at all in Pax Britannica, and if Indians are real citizens of the Empire, they have every right to remain there instead of being cleared out of South Africa bag and baggage at the behest of a few whites.

It is deplorable that the Government of India should be associated in this questionable enterprise. But since Lord Hardinge's great-stand in 1913, no Government in this country has ever stood by the Indian community in South Africa, as it should have done. Now it appears that the long expected final squeeze has begun with the appointment of this Committee, for which the ground has been prepared by making the conditions for Indians to live in the country practically intolerable."

'THE LEADER' (Allahabad)

"The fact that the Indians who by their labour have contributed so much to the present prosperity and development of South Africa, should on account of the racial disabilities, injustice and harsh treatment to which they are subjected, have to leave that country and seek their fortune elsewhere, while alien Europeans who in no way make better settlers than the Indians, should be welcomed with open arms, does not add to the glory of the British empire. . . . We are under no illusion as to the motives which have prompted the Union Government to undertake such investigation. They want to get rid of the Indian population. . . . It does not matter to them where they go. But go they must. In regard to the assisted emigration scheme they feel that its possibilities are now practically exhausted. Now the colonization scheme is to be given a trial. Hence the appointment of the present departmental committee to investigate its possibilities."

'THE HINDU' (Madras)

"We cannot enthuse over the appointment by the Union Government of South Africa of a Committee to consider the question of finding outlets for the colonisation of Indians from South Africa. But we are afraid that, taking all circumstances into consideration, it has been set an impossible task."

"INDIAN EXPRESS"

"In the Agreement of 1932, it was laid down that the possibilities of colonising the Indians in South Africa in other countries should be explored. The Union Government are now reported to have appointed a committee to make preliminary investigations. The whole idea is unjust. It cannot be claimed that the South African Union is over-populated. It is only racial prejudice that seeks to drive out the Indian who has played such a considerable part in the development of that country. . . . It is only when India can speak as a real equal that South Africa will be disposed to render justice to Indians. But, we are entitled to call upon the British Government in India not to compromise the position of our countrymen in South Africa by further surrenders. All schemes of repatriation and recolonisation must be resisted tooth and nail. The Indians in South Africa have as much right to live there as the whites. If the people of India or her present Government cannot help to enforce this

right, they should allow South African Indians free scope to suffer and die for it. To co-operate in projects like the present colonisation scheme, is to undermine the right itself and this is an injury far transcending any hardships that Indians may be put to as a result of our Government's refusal to help the extinction of the Indian element in South Africa.

Indian Women's Association

A great forward move for the improvement of Indian homes is contemplated by the newly-formed Indian Women's Association under the presidency of the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh in Durban. Each group-leader is being made responsible for her own neighbourhood—for its social welfare, home hygiene and general improvement. In addition, matters like first aid, education for adult women and girls and all other matters touching on the life of women will form the work of the association.

In its working, said the Kunwarani, the association would be non-communal, non-party and non-political. It would be linked up with the National Council of Women of South Africa.

Lady Maharaj Singh generously acknowledged the assistance and co-operation of European women in the cause of the uplift of her women compatriots. In Pretoria, Johannesburg, Capetown, Port Elizabeth, East London and other places European women had come forward to help them. In Durban she was also promised their support.

The other officials of the association are: Vice-presidents: Mrs. L. A. H. Mooosa, Mrs. J. W. Godfrey, Mrs. S. Moodley and Mrs. M. M. Gandhi; joint secretaries, Mrs. V. Lawrence and Mrs. O. H. A. Jhavery; treasurers: Mrs. Coovadia and Mrs. B. M. Singh; executive: Mrs. A. Christopher, Mrs. E. Thomas, Mrs. Nundoo, Mrs. Rathipal Singh and Mrs. Royopen.—*Natal Advertiser*.

South African Indian Congress will require to be reversed.

(3) The correct constitutional course therefore would be to requisition for an Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress for this purpose.

The following signed the requisition, Messrs. M. I. Kaje, S. J. Randeria, V. S. C. Pather, B. M. Patel, Shaik Himed, R. B. Chetty, M. N. Bhoola, A. I. Essack, E. A. Jeewa, M. K. Lodhia, M. Haffajee, A. S. Kaje, and A. M. Lockhat.

I was asked to preside, and declined to do so. I suggested that Mr. B. M. Patel should take the chair; he however declined, stating that he had already moved supporting the suggestion that I should take the chair. So to avoid a deadlock I consented to take the chair.

In my opening remarks I asked an executive member to express any fear, as we had before us pressing contrary views that there will be no harm done in calling a public meeting. The whole meeting with the exception of myself held the views of the counter requisitionists, and accordingly Mr. B. M. Patel moved that the requisition was out of order in that it was felt that this was a matter that must be decided by an emergency meeting of the South African Indian Congress; the whole house voted for the resolution with the exception of myself.

I felt that it was useless to record a vote from the chair against the resolution but intimated that the secretaries should fully record the dissenting view expressed by me.—Yours etc. B. A. MAGHRAJ.

[Note] The counter-requisition referred to above makes the position of the Congress officials more absurd than ever. But since the rejection of the first requisition is regretted by all those who have been acquainted with the facts and also by those who were responsible for the action, a further discussion on the subject will serve no good purpose. Mr. Maghraj, we think, blundered in the first instance in taking the chair, for the dead lock would have perhaps turned in favour of the requisitionists of whom he was one. In the second instance he ought to have made sure of his opposition being recorded, for the reply sent to the requisitionists by the joint hon. secretaries of the N.I.C. distinctly states that the resolution declaring the requisition out of order was passed unanimously and our representative in fact, saw it pass unanimously. But evidently some evil spirit must have held sway over the officials at that time as to make them do the wrong thing at everyturn. Ed. I.O.]

Original Correspondence

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

MR. B. A. MAGHRAJ EXPLAINS

Sir,—your editorial of the 21st inst. contains remarks in reference to me which are uncalled for; the representative of your paper came to the executive meeting of the Natal Indian Congress, at rather a late stage of the meeting and evidently was not aware of what had transpired at the meeting before his arrival.

The executive of the Natal Indian Congress met to decide upon a requisition received signed by fourteen members of the committee including the writer for the calling of a meeting anent the colonisation scheme and also to consider a counter requisition by thirteen members, stating that the meeting asked for was unnecessary. These were the reasons:

(1) The proposed Colonisation Scheme inquiry was a matter discussed by the Conference of the South African Indian Congress which accepted it in principle and therefore the Natal Indian Congress is bound by that decision.

(2) If the community through its representative were to refrain from taking any part in the said inquiry the decision already arrived at by the

CONGRESS AND COLONISATION SCHEME

Sir,—The appointment of a representative to act on behalf of the South African Indian Congress in connection with the proposed enquiry by the Union Government into the possibilities of the settlement of South African born Indians in other countries is a terrible blow to the prestige of all Indians residents in this country.

The Agent-General has on many occasions pointed out that our section form three per cent. of the total population, and this does not by any means suggest a problem. As members of the British Empire it does appear incongruous that we should be sought out with solicitous care for deportation while thousands of foreigners are permitted to enter into the country yearly.

The arguments in favour of assisting the enquiry can only be described as puerile. No Indian grumbles that "this country is not a good

country for us." What is contended is that this is the country of our birth or adoption; and that the laws of the land should not be discriminative against us. The question of facilities for acquiring affluence is not a deciding factor but the holy principle of the right of the individual to develop in his own country is at stake. Can the word given to the Government, in the light of our past experience, be kept when it involves the despoiling of our birthright and the sacrificing of the trust of our brethren? No! I say that to, withdraw from that unworthy promise is to show true courage and the will to place love of our brothers before self. It is unworthy of a leader of a proud race to suggest that expediency should be practised and to discard principle. Our wives and children must live in this country but what can be the outlook of our future generations and what will their feelings be when they remember that they are here at a cost greater than borne by a conquered people and it would be better for us if in the defence of right and honour we were deported to India or incarcerated in prisons.

"Life and honour grow in one."

"Take honour from me and my life is done."

It is gratifying to see that our Colonial-born brothers are not allowing the action of the Executive of the South African Indian Congress to go unchallenged and they can count on full support from Kimberley and we have not the slightest doubt from all parts of the Union of South Africa.

T. V. RAJAGOPAL PILLAY.

Kimberley.

Africana At South Africa House Missions In The History Of South Africa

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT)

The catalogue of the Exhibition of Africana which is open just now at South Africa House does not indicate the generous part which several missionary societies, notably the London Missionary Society, the Methodist Missionary Society, and the Moravians, have played in the effort to build up a new collection of books, prints and documents to replace those of the Cypbins Collection which was lost in the Christmas Eve fire at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, 18 months ago. Most of the valuable manuscripts and printed records contributed by them are not on view, being penitible for exhibition purposes. But Miss Gladys Buhler, Assistant Secretary of the Witwatersrand Library Appeal, told a correspondent that the new collection, which is designed to be the nucleus of the great South African Folk Museum, owes a great deal of its valuable material to the generosity of the missionary societies.

There are more than 300 books, prints, maps, coins and other exhibits on view, and quite a number of them illustrate the large part which missions have played in the history of South Africa. One of the most attractive things in the exhibition, for instance, is a coloured engraving by George Baxter of Robert Moffat. There is a presentation copy, printed at Kuruman in 1838, signed by Robert Moffat, of his hymn book in Bechuana language, and a copy of his "Missionary Labours and Scenes in Southern Africa." There are also two engravings of John Campbell, the first missionary to the Transvaal, and there in his own account, published in 1815, of his pioneer journey to Lattakoo undertaken at the request of the London Missionary Society, which twice sent him out to inspect their mission stations. Bishop Colenso is represented by "First steps of Zulu

Mission," and two volumes of that higher criticism which led to his excommunication by Bishop Gray, while he also figures among the collection of "Vanity Fair" cartoons which include also Sir H. M. Stanley, and Cecil Rhodes.

Among an exceptionally interesting collection of coins is a set comprising a 21, 5d, and 10d, pieces, minted by the London Missionary Society 1816 for use amongst the natives at their station at Griquatown. This was the only time coinage has ever been struck under the auspices of a missionary society.

This exhibition is to be open until the 8th July, when the collection will be packed by and dispatched, in due course to Johannesburg. Already some 22,000 books have been sent from this country towards the 40,000 volumes required to replace those in the university library which were lost in the disastrous fire.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Mr. Mahomed Jajbhaj's Evidence

(Continued from last week)

I want you to explain to the Commission the necessity the Indian trader finds himself under in regard to following his market?—One might have a licence by which you are protected under the 1919 Act, and that particular Indian finds a difficulty in making a living in that particular township.

He must be confined to the township?—Yes. If he leaves and moves across the road, which is in a different township, he loses that protection. He cannot help himself owing to the trade being attracted to that new locality, and he would have to take up a new licence.

Can you tell the Commission why the trade moves, why the sites alter for trading purposes, and so on?—If a particular customer moves to that particular area, he must move with the times.

Has there been a change in those particular areas round Wolbuter, City and Suburban, Marshalltown and those parts?—I could not say much about Wolbuter and Marshalltown, but in some other areas I have seen that.

What have you noticed?—In a certain area they have a good business. After a certain period it lapses, and the business is transferred to another block to which people are attracted.

Does the closing of mines affect trade from the Indian point of view?—The closing of mines does not affect trade as far as Indians are concerned.

Who does it affect?—It affects the European traders.

I believe your Association is very opposed to the suggestion of setting aside disused mining areas?—Yes.

Would you tell the Commission why?—Firstly, if a community is to be taken away from a position they should at least be given a township in which they do not suffer from the mine dumps. By giving us a disused mine dump, our houses would be full of dust. It would be entirely unsatisfactory.

And for health and sanitary reasons, you object to being in the vicinity of mine dumps?—Yes.

Have you any other objections to that policy? Yes; we do not believe in segregation. Segregation retards the progress of a community.

In what way?—You will find that wherever Indians are segregated, very little attention is paid by municipalities. You have that example in the Prospect Township and the Malay Location, where for a con-

siderable number of years nothing was done. We are not given the same treatment that a man would have who has voting power. We have no influence over the Municipalities.

"I see in your requests to the Commission you have various quite small areas that you ask to be exempted—what you call islands. Would you explain to the Commission what the basis of that request is?—Yes. The particular persons situated in that island are catering for the needs of that particular class or that particular territory. To shift them to another particular area would be to shift them to where other people were crowding that area and the result would be that neither of them would be able to make their living.

Mr STEWART: But those islands have a way of growing. You people encroach on the white people, on the white landholders in the neighbourhood?—Yes.

Is your suggestion that these islands should be exempted, and additional property round about you?—No. Only those particular people who are in that particular area. And the whites have plenty of field in which to develop whereas we are restricted very much.

(To Be Continued.)

News In Brief

The Annual General meeting of the Cape Indian Congress (Port Elizabeth Branch) was held in the Kshatriya Gujarati Mochi Mandal Hall, on Sunday, July 16, Mr. A. E. Haffeejee presiding. After correspondence had been dealt with, the Secretary, Mr. A. H. Cader Beg, submitted his financial statement showing a credit balance of £4 3s 7d in favour of the Congress. At the elections the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patron: Mr. R. G. Teikamdas, President: A. E. Haffeejee, Vice presidents: Messrs. S. K. Merchant, Amcer Khan, V. V. Divan and S. R. Naidoo, Secretary: A. H. Cader Beg, Asst. secretaries: Messrs. M. C. Karbelkar and Dullabh Fakir, Treasurer: Mr. Mahomed Ishmail, Committee: Messrs. M. Hosen Begg, G. S. Chetty, M. E. Bhattay, O. R. Pillay, J. F. Bansda, P. B. Umley, K. N. Bhagat, Ebrahim Saleh, K. G. Choochan, Dullabh Raga, Makan Bhana, S. I. Moodley, Sheik Ismail, Soma Bava, M. E. Bhana and A. V. Lingbam.

Colourful scenes, glorious weather and an overwhelmingly large crowd of spectators, marked the annual 'Great Day' at Shembe's, on Tuesday, 25th July, when a huge coterie of disciples, old as well as young of both sexes, gathered at headquarters, near Phoenix, to pay homage to their religious leader, who was also the recipient of innumerable presents. The Shembeian sect, which boasts of a large following, also has within its folds a number of Indians. In the afternoon, large arrays of men in national costume and women, who had apparently spared no pains over their coiffure, danced in perfect harmony to the incessant (though monotonous) beat of the tom-toms. The disciples, drawn from every niche in Natal, reside annually for one month—if circumstances permit—at Shembe's. This is supposed to serve as an inspiration and refreshment for the months to follow.

TAILORS' CUTTING SCHOOL

35 Permanent Buildings, Mercury Lane, Durban,
Day and Evening Classes—Individual Tuition.

W. W. CONNON, Principal.
(Lond. Dep.)

Sporting News

(BY SPORTSMAN)

It is now definitely intimated that the new Tennis Courts at Currie's Fountain, which will be under the supervision of the Durban Indian Tennis Club, are to be officially opened on Saturday, 29th inst, at 3 p.m., by Lady Maharaj Singh. All interested are requested to be present.

An official cablegram received by the Secretary of the S. A. Indian Football Association, Mr. M. John, last week, states that the contemplated Soccer tour of the Union by an All-Indian team, (will) not materialise this year.

We are informed that the Annual General Meeting of the O. toman's Cricket Club will be held on Sunday afternoon, 30th July, at the Madrasa Arcade. Intending members are asked to be present.

The visiting Transvaal Schools Team defeated a Stanger team by 4-1 on the Stager ground on Sunday, 23rd July.

The following are Saturdays' (22nd July) Soccer results—Seniors (Tandaree's Cup):—

Avondales 1.	Daffodils 1.
Pirates 3.	Blue Bells 2.
Grey Stars 3.	Sastri College 2.
Sydenham 1.	Stamford Hill 0.

Juniors (Natal Cup)—District final (after extra-half):—

Railways 3.	Daffodils 2.
-------------	--------------

A new soccer field, for the exclusive use of Railway labourers, both Native and Indian, was opened, off Somtsen Road, Durban, by Colonel Herschell, on Sunday, 23rd July. A soccer match the same day, between representative Indian and Native eleven, resulted in a win for the latter by 3-2. Later in the afternoon there were war-dances in which both Nyasaland Natives and Zulus participated. There was a large gathering of Indians and Natives present, among whom were Messrs. W. D. Hamilton, Compound manager A. E. Lowe, and J. M. Greathead.

In the first test against England the West Indian team failed to come up to expectations. But in the recent second test played over the last week-end at Manchester, the visitors, who were in fine mettle after sufficient time for acclimatisation, gave an indication of what they are capable. Both Barrow and Headley were responsible for centuries; the latter who is regarded by critics as a perfect batsman and a 'black Bradman' shouldered his bat to the pavilion at the conclusion of the innings, after registering a brilliant and undefeated 169.

The scores were:—

West Indies 1st innings 375

Barrow 105

Headley 169.

England 1st innings 374

West Indies 2nd innings 225

The match ended in a draw.