

Indian Opinion

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COLONIZATION OR FORCED EVICTION

WE reproduce the following leading article on the above subject, from the *Searchlight*, Patna, dated June 23, which is of special interest to the Indian community in South Africa at the present moment:—

The announcement has been made that the Government of the Union of South Africa has appointed a Departmental Committee to undertake preliminary investigations in South Africa in connection with the proposal set forth in paragraph 3 of the Agreement arrived at by the 1932 Round Table Conference between the representatives of the Union Government and the Government of India, for the exploration of the possibilities of a colonisation 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 operation of such a scheme might advantageously be made, having regard to the political, climatic and economic conditions in such country or countries and to the extent to which Indians in the Union would participate therein.

The Union Government is bent upon seeing South Africa rid of the Indians and the investigation into the possibilities of a colonisation scheme of settling Indians from South Africa in other countries is only another step in the direction of the achievement of its objective. Frankly speaking, we are extremely apprehensive as to the possible result of the Committee's investigations. Indians have been in South Africa for nearly three-quarters of a century. They did not go there of their own free will in search of pelf and profit. They were taken there by the Government of South Africa to help in the development of the country and it is to their efforts and hard labour, often under most trying conditions, that the present prosperity of South Africa is to no small extent due. But the only reward that they are getting for their hard work in the cause of the South African Europeans is that they are being practically hounded out of the country, being considered as aliens who have no political or economic rights, although the present race of the South African Indians is almost wholly South African born and knows not India at all.—If South Africa, for which they have worked so hard, has no room for them, does it stand to reason that any other country in the world, for which they have done nothing, will be ready to welcome them and offer them political and economic rights that have been and are being denied them in the country of their adoption and birth? It may be that a country,

situated and conditioned as South Africa was in 1860 or thereafter for a number of years, may express its willingness to receive them for the time being, but what guarantee is there that after they have colonised the country and contributed to its development and prosperity they will not be turned out in the same way as they are being done by South Africa.

A scheme of settlement in some other country, therefore, does not enthuse us. On the other hand, it only produces misgivings in us that the troubles of the South African Indians are to be perpetuated in the future but in a different clime. The colonisation scheme is only an attempt to transfer the obligation of South Africa to some other country. The position of the Indians is virtually to be like that of a shuttle-cock which is driven from one side to another and back again by two players whose primary interest is the amusement that the operation provides. It is true that according to the terms of the Agreement of 1932 a representative of the South African Indians is to be associated with the investigation into the scheme and that the approval of the Government of India is a preliminary condition for its final adoption. But past history does not provide any basis for the belief that the presence of these conditions will ensure a satisfactory outcome of the investigation. Was it not the approval of the Government of India that was responsible for the emigration of the Indians to South Africa? Was it not again the approval of the Government of India that led to the adoption of the scheme of repatriation which, as is well-known now, has been the cause of untold miseries to thousands and thousands of South African Indians who have literally been tempted back to India by alluring offers only to find themselves reduced to the position of fishes who jump out of the frying pan into the fire? The condition of the association of a South African Indian representative with the Committee appointed is no bar against the final approval and adoption of a scheme which may be more injurious than beneficial to the Indian residents of South Africa. The Government of India, even under the much boomed and boosted Reforms in incubation, will not be a free agent to act only in the interests of its own nationals or their brethren settled overseas. The undoubted authority of the British Government and Parliament will be there to coerce it into acceptance of what the Europeans in any part of the Empire

want. Kenya and other British colonies, directly under the Crown, furnish splendid examples of what the British Government can do for its European subjects even against their own pledges to the Indians. And the Government of India will never be able to say "nay" to anything which the British Government, acting through the Secretary of State for India or the Governor-General, will declare as essential for the preservation of friendly relations between the different parts of the Empire.

After all, we do not see the propriety or the justice of any attempt to investigate the possibilities of a colonisation scheme in other countries, so long as South Africa continues to deny to the Indians even elementary rights of citizenship and is actively engaged in promoting legislation for the abolition of even those rights which they have been enjoying for a long time past, some of which were agreed to by the Union Government itself in past agreements. A scheme of settlement in other countries at a time when every right—inherent or acquired—is being assailed can be but a scheme of coercion, of forced eviction. The bonafides of the Union Government can be accepted only when it has settled all disputes and allowed full rights of citizenship with all that it implies to its Indian subjects. Not until then can its present efforts for evolving a suitable colonisation scheme be viewed in any light other than that of studied attempts to secure the final extinction of the Indian community so far as South Africa is concerned and this by all means, fair or foul.

'INDIAN SOCIAL REFORMER'

COMMENTING on the appointment of the Committee to undertake a preliminary investigation into the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians both from India and South Africa in other countries, the *Indian Social Reformer* writes:—

"We have protested against the attempt on the part of the Union Government to send away Union-born Indians to countries which a few years later may decide that the Indian is not wanted there either. The Government of India has extended its co-operation to the Union Government in the inquiry. We should like to know what serious effort has been made in this country to solve the unemployment problem before the exploration of possibilities of Indians of this country colonising other countries has been deputed to another Government. The phrase "Indians from India" has evidently been added to the announcements both of the South African and Indian Governments as a sop to the South African Indian. The impression conveyed to the reader of the communique is that the South African Government has no intention of accepting the domiciled Indian as its subject and of discharging its responsibilities towards him and that somehow the Government of India has accepted this position."

Notes and News

THE feeling in India against repatriation or assisted emigration from South Africa is immensely greater than from other Colonies writes the *Servant of India*. The cause of emigration from the former is not and need not be economic. As the Special Officer in Madras officially admits, Indian employment in Natal was swelled by the deliberate policy of the South African Government of displacing Indian labour by white labour. Even this racial discrimination, however reprehensible, is not confined to South Africa. The same cry is heard from Kenya and from Malaya. Bitter complaints have been made that in effecting retrenchment consequent on economic depression, Indians as such have been unfairly sacrificed. As recently as the 26th June last, the Hon S. Veeraswamy moved the adjournment of the Federal Council in Malaya to discuss his allegation that the Government's policy of retrenchment was unfairly directed against non-Malaya.

WHAT adds to the resentment of India against the policy in South Africa is, the paper goes on, that most of the assisted emigrants from South Africa were born in South Africa, have their homes in that country and are strangers to India. They are not seasonal emigrants with their roots in India. Their standard of life is far different from that obtaining in India. The climate of India is decidedly unfavourable to them. But, more than all, there is a most bitter sting in the assisted emigration scheme from South Africa. It is based on the proposition that the Indian is an undesirable in that land and must be persuaded to get out. There is no right of free entry for Indians into that country, nor have they political rights. They are just "helots" in that Dominion. The returned emigrants from Malaya or Ceylon are free to go to these Colonies again and when they wish. But that is practically impossible in the case of South Africa. As the Special Officer in Madras stated in his report, many repatriates from South Africa would gladly return to the Dominion, but they were unable to do so for want of money to refund the bonus they had received from the South African Government, which spent nearly Rs. 5 lakhs during the year on that account. Even if they could find the money, they would be defeating the purpose of the policy if they returned to South Africa in any numbers. Repatriation from South Africa stands on a far different footing from that of other countries. Its motive is not economic but political and racial.

"THERE have been impressions abroad, particularly in India, that the doors of the Colonies are shut to Indians, who are not welcome there," declared Sir Abdul Quadir, delegate to the World Economic Conference, at a meeting of the Overseas League. He added, says a Reuter's message from London: "Certain laws of the Colonies give countenance to this view, but whenever I have come into contact with the people of the Dominions, they have shown great interest in India and a great desire to be better friends. The more this spirit develops the more our difficulties will disappear, to the benefit of both parties."

UNFORTUNATELY a nation cannot be composed of all Gandhies, all Sastris, all Sarojinis or all Abdul Quadirs. Otherwise we would certainly have no trouble in the Colonies. But we have our doubts if even then they would be tolerated if they were to reside permanently in the Colonies. Nevertheless we do agree with Sir Abdul Quadir that our difficulties in the Colonies would certainly be much

lessend if periodical visits were paid by distinguished Indian leaders to the Colonies. This suggestion has often been made and it would be a useful service rendered to Indians outside India if it were seriously considered.

DURING his visit to Stanger last Sunday, the Agent, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, learnt from Mr. Hindson that he was willing to give employment to a maximum of 20 unemployed Indian families on the tea estate which he has in Stanger. In addition to pay and lodging rations would be provided. The rates of pay would be 32/- a month for an adult man, 16/- a month for a woman and a smaller amount for each working child.

NEARLY half of the 451 immigrants from alien countries entering South Africa during the first six months of this year were Russians. Next were Lithuanians and third Germans. The figures as published in the "Government Gazette" of July 28, are as follows: "Russians, 224; Lithuanians, 74; Germans, 33; Poles, 22; Hollanders, 16; Latvians, 13; Italians, nine; Greeks, nine; Jugo-Slavians, seven; Rumanians, six; Austrians, five; Norwegians, four; Americans, four; Swedes, three; Turks and Ottomans, three; Palestinians, three; Swiss, three; Danes, two; Portuguese, one; Esthians, one; Belgians, one; French, one; Armenians, one; Spaniards, one." But for *British Indians* the door of South Africa is barred.

FLOUTING PUBLIC OPINION

THE Congress officials are still adamant. After the resolution passed by the mass meeting held in Durban on July 28, and subsequently by another mass meeting in Maritzburg the duty of the Congress officials was clear enough. The voice of Natal, the most concerned party, having opposed the decision of the South African Indian Congress, the officials of that Congress should have immediately stayed their hands, in fact, the Natal Indian Congress should have insisted on it, and the question of our co-operation in the investigation of the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for South African Indians should have been discussed *de novo*. Notwithstanding the fact that the Natal Indian Congress officials had admittedly acted wrongly in not calling a special general meeting in response to a requisition sent to them the convenors of the mass meeting, with a view not to create a dissension, thought it wise not to move a vote of censure against the Congress officials which was on the agenda, thinking that the voice of that meeting would not be ignored and that necessary steps to satisfy public opinion would be promptly taken. The officials of the Congress, however, have dared even to flout public opinion and to go on with their work.

A committee meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held last Monday night to consider the resolution of the mass meeting. The writer was present at the meeting. We are sorry to say we cannot pay compliments either to the chairman of the meeting, Mr. Lawrence, or the secretaries for the way in which the meeting was conducted. If there was any desire at all to cement the differences that were unfortunately created, not only would there have been strict impartiality observed but full latitude given to the injured party to state their case fully and to allow the members of the Committee to listen with an open mind and then give their decision. That was

the method adopted at the mass meeting and if the same method had been copied by the chairman at the Committee meeting of the Natal Indian Congress the differences would perhaps have been greatly removed. But that desire was wholly absent and some of the committee members, being disgusted with the ridiculous rulings given by the chairman, actually left the meeting. To add insult to injury the Committee decided to call upon those who were present at the Round Table Conference, the following day, to present themselves to explain their attitude and the part they played at the Round Table Conference, a step which they should have taken at the Executive of the S.A.I.C., before rushing the motion to co-operate with the Inquiry Committee through. These members were present at the mass meeting held on July 28, and had fully explained their position. A very apt reply was sent to the secretaries of the N.I.C. by one of the members thus called upon in which the attitude of the Congress officials was compared with Nero fiddling while Rome was on fire.

Blunder Upon Blunder

The Congress officials said there case was unchallengeable and that they should not fear putting it before the Committee. Is that why, we notice, the Congress officials have made a request to the Colonisation Committee that the Congress might be represented by counsel to lead evidence? We can only say that they are dragging the Indian community into degradation. It was said that those who refused to co-operate with the Committee were doing so out of despair. The case seems to be quite the reverse. Those who are co-operating seem to be so hopelessly in despair that they are seeking the aid of counsel to defend them like a person who has committed a heinous crime, while the Committee really wants to know only one thing from them, namely, whether they desire to take advantage of the proposed Colonisation Scheme or not.

Last week we gave the instance of the attitude of the Congress when the question of settling Indians in British Guiana was broached twelve years ago. We would remind the readers of another instance when the community took up a firm stand on the question of principle in 1918, when the Solomon Commission was appointed. The Indian community boycotted that Commission just because it was not consulted as regards the personnel. Mr. Gandhi, who was our leader in those days, had received opposition to that attitude from his friends all over the world but he did not budge. He did not fear the community's case going by default. It was a question of principle and he staked his all for it. We maintain that the present one is a question of a much higher principle than the one in 1918. But the Congress officials have lost their equilibrium. Where is their consistency? Is not their present attitude as condemnable as that of the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association? The Congress has boycotted the Land Tenure Act Commission and has condemned the action of the Commercial Association in tendering evidence before the Commission, because the principle of segregation has been established by the Land Tenure Act and the Commission has to investigate into the possibilities of segregating Indians under that Act. Similarly the principle of settling South African Indians in other countries is established by the Round Table Conference and the present Committee is to make preliminary investigations into the possibilities of doing

so. We fail to see how the position of the Congress is different to that of the Commercial Association.

Mr. Rustomjee And The Congress

Mr. Rustomjee has long ago resigned from the Natal Indian Congress and although he had sent in his resignation as treasurer of the S.A.I.C., some time ago, he was inspired to take part in the Executive meeting of the S.A.I.C. on the proposed colonisation scheme and took advantage of his resignation not being accepted. He also took great care in getting his resignation accepted at that meeting. Mr. Rustomjee, therefore, holds no office in the Congress now and yet he is about the most active person going in getting the community to co-operate with the Colonisation Committee. Most of the decisions of the Congress are influenced mainly by him. We are sorry to have to state that his energies in this respect are misdirected.

Bonafides Lacking

At a function given in honour of the Colonisation Committee by Mr. Rustomjee, Mr. Heaton Nicholls is reported to have said that, "in the colonisation scheme they were seeking to do what all nations had done in finding room for their people abroad." Will Mr. Nicholls tell us what country has singled out just one section of the whole community to find room for it abroad as South Africa is doing in the case of the Indian community? Mr. Nicholls asks us to believe that he is our friend. How can we believe him to be our friend when his openly declared policy is to relieve Natal of its burden of Indians?

M. James Young, the chairman of the Committee, spoke of the spirit of goodwill. Yes, indeed, we wish there was the spirit of goodwill behind this proposed scheme. We are utterly at a loss to see the spirit of goodwill in attempting to find possibilities of sending outside Indians born and domiciled in this country. It rather shows the height of inhospitality. The following from the *Sourchlight*, a well-known Indian paper, expresses eloquently why we are opposed to any participation in the proposed colonisation scheme or in any inquiry thereof: Those who have eyes please read, those who ears please listen, those who have brains please think:

"We do not see the propriety or the justice of any attempt to investigate the possibilities of a colonisation scheme in other countries, so long as South Africa continues to deny to the Indians even elementary rights of citizenship and is actively engaged in promoting legislation for the abolition of even those rights which they have been enjoying for a long time past, some of which were agreed to by the Union Government itself in past agreements. A scheme of settlement in other countries at a time when every right—inherent or acquired—is being assailed can be but a scheme of coercion, of forced eviction. The bonafides of the Union Government can be accepted only when it has settled all disputes and allowed full rights of citizenship with all that it implies to its Indian subjects. Not until then can its present efforts for evolving a suitable colonisation scheme be viewed in any light other than that of studied attempts to secure

the final extinction of the Indian community so far as South Africa is concerned and this by all means, fair or foul."

Fountain Of Wisdom

*Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.*

—GOLDSMITH.

A Personal Explanation

(BY MANILAL GANDHI)

Having taken a leading part in opposing the Congress on the colonization question I feel I owe an explanation of my attitude to the public. I am not unconscious of the fact that I hold a peculiar position in South Africa, I am not in the position of a person who has come just to seek a living. I could profit much more by being nearer my beloved parents in India especially in these days of suffering. But my father has spared me for service in South Africa and that I have been rendering, to the best of my ability, by conducting this journal which was established by him thirty years ago with no mercenary motives but purely for the political, moral and spiritual uplift of Indians in this country and for the bringing about of a better understanding between Europeans and Indians. During the sixteen years of my career I have always kept this object in view. I have worked with and supported the Congress from its very inception, though I have not always agreed with the Congress workers in their methods. There are certain matters of principle, too, in which I have totally disagreed with them, but owing to my absence from this country just at that very time, I have never, hitherto, had occasion to stand apart and demonstrate my opposition. On the present occasion, however, I have felt it my duty to take up a firm stand against the Congress. My association with the Congress has been so close that people are apt to be a little surprised at my present attitude. It is by no means a small responsibility that I have shouldered. If I am in the wrong I am liable to be ridiculed by the public. I should not fear it for it would only be a fit punishment for the wrong act on my part. But I would be doing more harm than that, namely, of misguiding the people who would have placed their faith in me and followed me not, perhaps, for any merits of my own but for the great name of Gandhi attached to my name and which they all revere. God forbid, therefore, that I should act thoughtlessly or irresponsibly.

On the question of colonization, I conscientiously believe that the step taken by the Congress is entirely wrong and I have resolved not to associate myself with it. If in that I would have stood alone I would not have feared, for I have the firm conviction that I can face the whole of India and, more than that, my own father and convince them that in the step I have taken, I have done what I have conscientiously believed to be right and in the best interests of the community. But I am happy to feel that I am not alone. I have the very able support of my friend Mr. A. Christopher who has been one of the strongest pillars of the Congress and a most sincere friend of the poor, and of many others who have also been strong supporters of the Congress.

I have always considered it a first class blunder on the part of the Congress to have ever been party

to the Assisted Emigration Scheme. More than the scheme itself it was the principle of bartering away of the rights of a section of the community for the advantage of another section which no civilised community could ever accept. And now the proposed colonisation scheme. All those who have followed the discussions at the Round Table Conference and especially the Congress representatives who discussed this question with the Government of India Delegation, would be false to themselves and to their people if they were to say that the proposed scheme was not based on the very same principle as the Assisted Emigration Scheme. And why has this principle been accepted by the Government of India? Because the Union Government refused to discuss the Indian question with them if they did not accept it. Well, the simplest thing that could have been done by the Government of India delegation, if the Union Government did not agree to more honourable terms than those, was to have retired and left Indians in South Africa to fight their own battle as best they could. It certainly does not behove a responsible body like the Congress to agree to such a dishonourable agreement. The blame for the 13,000 Indians—most of whom are South African-born—who have retired from this country for the benefit of those who remain rests not on the Government of India but on the Congress. And now they are co-operating with the Governments of India and the Union in the formation of a colonization scheme and thus committing another blunder. When we are against the very principle of a scheme we cannot possibly participate in an investigation into the possibilities of the realisation of that very scheme. This is a simple problem that a primary school boy can solve.

It is this persistence of the Congress officials in doing the wrong thing that has driven me to associate myself with the Colonial-born Indians, who in this matter are the most concerned. The term 'colonial-born' is, as a rule, taken in its narrow sense. It is considered to mean the descendant of the original Indian labourer. I would not be doing wrong even if I did take it in that narrow sense and worked for them, for, indeed, they are the real sons of the soil. They are the descendants of those by whose tomes and blood this land has been enriched. This is their birth place. They know no other country in the world. Even India is a strange land to them. They have as much right to live in this country as the South African European has, and if I can sacrifice my whole being in serving their cause, I will have the satisfaction to feel that my life in South Africa has been well spent and that my being away from my parents and brothers in the present anxious days in India will have been adequately recompensed. But the colonial-born Indian includes every Indian born in this country, and in serving his cause I feel I am serving the cause of the Indian community. Those born in India are thereby not neglected. Their cause is served when that of the majority is served. It is time that they realised their duty to their poorer brethren to whom they owe, to a great extent, their present prosperity. I, therefore, ask every young man to join hands with me and the older ones for their co-operation and blessings.

The Agent's Visit To Tongaat And Stanger

The Agent of the Government of India, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh paid his first official visit to Tongaat and Stanger last Sunday, July 30. The Agent was accompanied by Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh and his secretary Mr. Bozman and Mrs. Bozman.

Tea was served at 11 a.m. at Mr. E. J. Ochoonoo's residence at Tongaat where a large number of Europeans and Indians were invited. After tea a public meeting was held in the Gokhale Hall presided over by Mr. R. G. T. Watson, chairman of the Health Committee.

The chairman said that, on behalf of the residents of Tongaat and Maidstone, he desired to welcome Sir Maharaj and Lady Singh.

Out of the evils of malaria, he said, had come good. There was diminishing sickness due to cleaner dwellings, better roads and improved sanitation, and they had also arrived at a better understanding and sympathy between the various sections of the community.

Mr. E. J. Ochoonoo said they had sunk their differences when they had associated with the health committee in fighting against the common danger of malaria. He desired that the Agent might be able to get some financial assistance from the Minister of Health, Mr. Hofmeyr, on a pound for pound basis, to combat malaria successfully.

Other speakers adding to the welcome included Moulvi Yusuf and Mr. P. Desai.

Agent's Reply

In returning thanks the Agent acknowledged his pleasure at being present and to hear the good relationship between European and Indian.

Speaking in the Gokhale Hall reminded him of a very old friend, Gopaul Krishna Gokhale, who was a man of great ability and indefatigable energy. Mr. Gokhale had spent some time in South Africa, and the cause of the South African Indians had affected him so deeply that, despite advancing death he thought of the South African Indians. He (the Agent) felt that they would cherish the memory of this great Indian.

Speaking of Indian grievances and complaints, went on the Agent, he was told that they had nothing worth mentioning. Regarding Tongaat itself, the local administration was being conducted with a deep appreciation of the rights of all the residents. He was delighted to hear that in the fight against malaria both Europeans and Indians had co-operated so successfully. He deeply sympathised in the losses they had suffered during the last epidemic.

"These sugar plantations," he declared, pointing around him, "are produced by hard toil, and I congratulate you on your labour. Tongaat could not have been in its fairly flourishing position without the industry of the Indians."

Turning to the Indians, Sir Maharaj said, "In your success, I want you to realise the help you, too, have received from the Europeans."

In conclusion, he discussed points of contact for mutual understanding between Europeans and Indians, such as the advisory committees that had been mentioned; otherwise how could they get to know their common difficulties?

Kunwarani's Speech

Adding her own thanks, the Kunwarani urged the importance of education but vernacular educa-

tion was not enough. They saw what Mrs. Sarojini Naidu had done and what respect she had secured for the womanhood of India. "I want you to produce another Mrs. Naidu. Teach your daughters as far as you can. Things have developed tremendously and conditions have improved for our people. Wherever I have gone people have been eager to help, for it is realised that Indians have done something, even for Tongaat."

To the European women present, Lady Singh said that there was nothing more than she could ask if some of them came forward and did uplift work among the Indian women, who they all knew lacked the opportunities of education; they could also help in forming women's associations.

Mr. T. M. Naiaker interpreted the speeches in Tamil.

The distinguished visitors were entertained to lunch by Mr. Saunders, the managing director of the Tongaat Sugar Mills, and before leaving for Stanger paid a visit to Messrs. Gandhi and Co., leading Indian merchants of Tongaat, by whom was entertained the party that had accompanied the Agent from Darban and Verulam.

At Stanger

On the arrival of the Agent and Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh at Stanger they were entertained to tea as guests of the Stanger Indian Ratepayers' Association at the Victoria Hotel. Here they met many of the leading Europeans and Indians of the district. After tea the party adjourned to the Ender Hall, where a public meeting was arranged.

Mr. W. H. Smithers, chairman of the local board, who presided, said they had met to do honour to their guests.

"Standing as we do to-day within a few yards of our historic ground, I refer," he said, "to the grave of Ohaka, the Zulu Hero, one's thoughts naturally turn to the history of this small centre. The thought at once suggests the possibility of history being made by this small community in connection with the so-called Asiatic menace. Personally, I think history has already been made inasmuch as Stanger has demonstrated to the rest of South Africa that it is possible, by the exercise of mutual forbearance and toleration, for two sections to live in perfect amity."

Proceeding, Mr. Smithers recalled the occasion when Mr. Sastri visited Stanger. They would probably remember that on that occasion he had ventured to offer a little friendly advice to the leaders of the local Indians in connection with the moderate representation of their complaints, with which Mr. Sastri had cordially agreed. Perhaps the present was a fitting occasion to acknowledge quite ungrudgingly that the very much improved relations now existing were due to some extent to the spirit in which that advice was accepted, but to a larger extent to the tactful handling of affairs by the local leaders of the Indian community.

"Speaking from the purely domestic point of view," proceeded Mr. Smithers, "I think I can honestly say that the Indian community is now satisfied that the local authority is animated by one desire only, and that is the exercise of its powers impartially, and indeed in the case of the Indians, in a benevolent spirit, making every allowance for the call for gradual instruction in the principles of sanitation and other measures undertaken in the interests of the community as a whole.

"I do not know, sir, what preconceived ideas, if any, you may have in respect of local conditions but I hope I have said enough to convince you that whatever problems confront you in other parts of the Union your responsibilities in respect of this

part of the province will be very light indeed."

On behalf of the Indian community, Mr. P. Luke, Mr. E. M. Moola and Miss Rukayia Khan, who pointed out the need of a girls' school at Stanger, joined in the expression of welcome, as also did the president of the W.C.T.U., Mrs. B. W. Scheffer.

"I am glad," said the Agent in the course of his reply, "that the one-time so-called Asiatic menace has now become a chimera and hope that this happy state may long continue. The Indians have co-operated with the largest industry in Natal, the sugar industry. They came to Natal at the express request of the sugar planters of Natal, and they surely have worked hard, and you will agree with me, worked well. Because of their labour they have helped in establishing this industry. The Europeans have helped the Indians, who are grateful to them for all assistance. There is no community more grateful than the Indian community in the recognition of help received. I can therefore claim that Stanger is the result of co-operation."

He was going to make an effort, said the Agent, to get free primary education at least for girls. In the Transvaal and Cape they had free primary education, but in this province they would be surprised to know that free education was only for Europeans and coloured children, but not for Indians. Therefore in his efforts for girls' education he had, he felt sure, the sympathy of every woman, both European and Indian; for an uneducated community was always a drag to those who strove for the good of this great country of South Africa. He had great hopes for the progress of Indian womanhood in the Union.

"I am grateful for the kindly words of encouragement and appreciation. But for the disappointments we get from time to time we are glad of your words of appreciation," remarked the Agent before concluding.

"If you want to give me real pleasure and encouragement, bring out you women," said Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh in her plea for women's education.—*Natal Advertiser*.

Protest Against Proposed Colonisation

Mass Meeting in Maritzburg

More than 500 Indians were present at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Maritzburg Indian Young Men's Club in the H.Y.M.A. Hall last Sunday afternoon, when the following resolutions were unanimously carried:—

1. "That an endeavour by South African Indians in the direction of co-operation partly or wholly with the proposed colonisation scheme is totally undesirable and unworthy, as it undermines the very principle they are striving for in this country."

2. "That although the provisions contained in this scheme are general in their application, yet in effect one section of the Indian community will suffer thereby."

Mr. R. P. Naidoo presided. The principal speakers were Mr. S. Muthray, Mr. R. G. Milburn, a visitor from India, who brought greetings from the Rev. C. F. Andrews, and Messrs. S. Ruthnam, R. Maharaj, C. R. Naidu, C. A. Pillay, R. N. Moolley, Omar Singh and R. N. Pillay.

In moving the resolutions, Mr. S. Muthray, president of the Indian Young Men's Club, quoted the history of Indian settlement in Natal since 1859. He maintained that the Indians were being treated

as undesirable and attacked the South African Indian Congress and the Indian Government for having anything to do with the scheme and for agreeing to a principle without taking the sanction of the people whom they claim to represent. The speaker said, our fight in this country has all along been one of principle and referred to the phrases so often used by the Congress leaders as "standing for dignity, self-respect and honour," "stigma of inferiority," "would not be a party to any compromise which has for its object a virtual degeneration," "a blot on the character of the Indians" etc. The speaker suggested that all this high talk seems now to have come to an end and the leaders are out to bargain with the Government by sacrificing the rights of the poor.

Mr. S. Ruthnam seconded.

Port Elizabeth Indian Women's Association

(From a Correspondent)

The first monthly meeting of the Kunwarani Indian Ladies' Association was held on Sunday, July 23, in the Kshatriya Gujarati Mochi Mandal. The president, Mrs. (Dr.) Douglas Cameron, presided.

The president outlined the proceedings at the meeting which was presided over by the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, when the following officials were elected: President: Mrs. Douglas Cameron, Vice-President: Mrs. V. V. Divan, Treasurer: Mrs. A. V. Lingham, Secretaries: Mesdames Fitz Simons and A. Nagan.

The president then for the benefit of those who were not present at the previous meeting, read out her speech and also that of the Mayoress, Mrs. Caulfield.

Mrs. Cameron remarked that she looked upon herself as one of the latest arrivals, therefore more in touch with "the spirit of the East," than some of her audience. Her heart was with India. She asked for harmony. Let that be their motto, for without harmony there is no pleasure, only discord. (Hear, hear). She wanted to see this club a live one, and it was up to every individual member to shoulder the responsibility to make it so.

Mr. A. H. Cader Beg, general secretary Cape Indian Congress, addressed the meeting in English and Gujarati.

Mrs. Will Stuart stressed the essential that every woman should have a knowledge of first-aid and that it would not only be a benefit for others but to themselves in their own homes.

Mr. M. H. C. Begg, divisional secretary, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Overseas, gave a brief outline of the objects of his organisation such as the rendering of first-aid to the sick and injured, and the elementary principles and practice of nursing and of sick-room ventilation and sanitation.

Mr. G. S. Chetty, secretary of the Vinayaga Educational Institute, spoke briefly in Tamil, paying a high tribute to the yeoman services of Mrs. Cameron in the interest of the advancement of the Indian women of Port Elizabeth.

A working committee was elected as follows:— Mesdames S. R. Naidoo, L. Jossie, H. Ohinnian, J. F. Bansda, M. E. Bhattey, H. Daya, M. Ooposamy, U. K. Bhagattjee and Miss Athiemoolam. Of the European ladies, Mrs. Will Stuart was elected, and the election of the other ladies was left to the next meeting.

Maidstone Loses An Old Resident

(From A Correspondent)

On Wednesday, July 26th, Fairbreeze, Maidstone, lost one of its old and prominent resident, when Mr. Hussein Saib, a farmer and merchant of the district passed away peacefully at the age of 57. Mr. Hussein Saib was born at Fairbreeze and spent all his life in the district, where his parents settlers as farmers.

He enjoyed good health until about three years ago, since when he suffered with diabetes, despite all the possible medical treatment and the careful attention given by his children, he peacefully passed away leaving a widow, eleven children, of whom seven were married, a number of grand children and a large family of mourners. His charitable disposition and generosity were much to be appreciated. He was ever willing to give all possible assistance in the welfare of his countrymen.

The loss of Mr. Saib is greatly felt by the Indian community who held him in high esteem for he was one of the leading men of the district. As a public worker he was one of the trustees of the Tongaat Habibia Mosque, chairman of the Fairbreeze Indian School Committee, trustee of the Estate late Rajmahomed, and patron of the Fairbreeze School Sporting Club and has held these offices for a number of years.

News In Brief

The annual general meeting of the East London Hindoo Society was held in its hall on July 23. The reports and balance sheet were adopted with an expression of appreciation to the office bearers. Mr. P. Bhagwan was appointed temporary chairman. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman: Mr. D. B. Parbhoo, vice-chairman: Mr. D. Jivan, hon. secretary: Mr. L. Harry, hon. assistant secretary: Mr. R. Makanjee, joint treasurers: Messrs. J. Makan and Premjee D. Bhikha, committee: Messrs. Keshowlalbai, B. L. Gopar, D. Bhavan, Gopar Narsai, P. Bhagwan, K. Khoosal and Pandubhai Ethoo.

Messages of condolence to the bereaved family of the late Mr. Sen Gupta were sent by the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Transvaal Hindoo Seva Samaj.

The National Commercial Examination results were published this week and it is pleasing to note that of five candidates who were members of the Indian Technical Classes at Carlisle Street, Durban, two secured complete passes, while the remaining three obtained provisional passes. This, to all intents and purposes, spells a 100% pass and as such, is indicative of the high standard of work reached in these evening classes. The two candidates who obtained complete passes in the Prel. Commercial Certificate (Std. VII.) of the Union Dept. of Education, were J. Christopher and M. Chinn Soodyal. The subjects taken for the examination were English, Arithmetic, Geography, History and Civics. It is also learnt that the entries for the November Commercial Examination close on August 31. The classes are already open and intending members are advised to join immediately.

The 44th general meeting of the Indo-European Council will be held on Tuesday, August 8, at 8. p.m.,

when an address on "The Place of the Indian in South Africa" will be delivered by Professor E. F. Brookes, chairman of the Institute of Race Relations. Members as well as the public are requested to attend.

The sad death, after an extremely prolonged period of ill-health, of Abdulla Apollis, at the age of 26, took place at his residence in Beatrice Street, Durban, on Friday, July 28. Although broken down in health and in spite of his continuous illness, Abdulla Apollis was of a likeable disposition and was very popular among his numerous acquaintances. The funeral took place on Saturday, proceeding first to the Grey Street Mosque and then to the Mahomedan cemetery where the body was finally interred.

At the usual fortnightly meeting of the Indian Wesleyan Guild held in the Lorne Street Church on Tuesday evening, Aug. 1, an interesting address was given by Miss Hewitt, B.A., and the "Duties of Every Day Life." Mr. E. Thomas presided. There was a crowd present.

The new buildings of the Aryan Benevolent Home, situated on the Home grounds on Bellair Road, Oato Manor, will, it is learnt, be officially opened on Sunday, August 6, at 2-30 p.m. The Mayor, Councillor Oliver Lea, will preside. Mr. H. Robinson, the Protector of Indian Immigrants, will perform the opening ceremony while both the Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh and the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh have kindly consented to grace the occasion with their presence. The new buildings are the successful fruition of incessant endeavours on the part of the members of the Arya Yuvak Sabha and as this home caters for a definite need in that it provides shelter for scores of destitute, deserted and homeless indigents, irrespective of sex, age, caste or creed, who would otherwise be assailing the streets as mendicants. It is earnestly hoped that a large crowd will be present at the opening.

Sporting News

(BY SPORTSMAN)

THE TRANSVAAL TEAM

Sir,—I will esteem it a great favour if you would allow me to put my views, in reference to a report published in your issue of the 21st July regarding a Transvaal Indian School football team which played against Natal Indian Schools, organised by Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney. I would like to inquire of the latter what induced him to represent the Transvaal Indian Schools, when only Rand school pupils were chosen, and country schools absolutely ignored. Of course we must admire that most reverend gentleman for considering country pupils "mugs" as he seems to consider them. Give an opportunity to prove their mettle, and then include them in the team. The result would then have been more successful, and all Transvaal represented. Of course I must admit that the laurel of victory would not then go to Rev. Sigamoney alone but to other organizers too. It seems apparent his motto is, "every man for himself." I do sincerely hope that such unsportmanlike act shall never be repeated again. Remembering:

"When men of judgment creep, and find their way the positive pronouncement without dismay."

I am etc. A TRANSVAAL TEACHER.

Wimbledon, the Mecca of the tennis world has been in the forefront in recent weeks. Great Britain, after 21 years of incessant struggle for the Davis Cup, has at last won the much coveted trophy, the annexure of which is usually an indication of the extremely high standard of tennis which the fortunate country at the time of its victory has attained.

Crawford, the Australian champion has carried for himself the Singles Championship title. Last year he was defeated in the semi-finals.

The following are Saturday's soccer results:

Seniors (Tandree's Cup):

Sydenham 3.	Grey Stars 1.
Daffodils 3.	Avondale 3.

Juniors (Moonlighters Cup):

Shamrocks 1.	Railway 0.
Stella 3.	Daffodils 3.

JUVENILES:

Red Rovers 5.	Stella 3.
Natal Estates vs. Greyville—walkover for Natal Estates.	

MARITZBURG FIVE-A-SIDE

The annual Five-a-side Soccer Tournament of the Maritzburg Indian Football Association, will be held on the Maritzburg grounds on Monday, 7th August. The competition will be keen in all divisions: Seniors, Juniors and Juveniles, as a number of Durban teams have entered. Handsome trophies are to be contended for.

OPENING OF NEW TENNIS COURTS

Favourable weather conditions as well as a large crowd of tennis enthusiasts drawn from all nationalities, attended the official opening by the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, of the two new well-laid-out tennis courts at Currie's Fountain, Durban, on Saturday afternoon, July 30. Advocate A. Christopher presided. He gave a brief resume of the historical development of the grounds and pointed out that the opening of these two tennis courts marked definitely a further step, in the fulfilment of the original plan which had been formulated by the Indian Sports Ground Association, for the ultimate laying out of the grounds. Referring to the late Mr. J. M. Francis and the late Mr. M. Emmamall, both former members of the Sports Ground Association, Mr. Christopher said he was sorry these two sporting stalwarts were not present on the occasion of the opening of the courts, to witness the fruition of their gargantuan endeavours. In conclusion, Mr. Christopher touched upon the vitality of sport and averred that if the Indians in this country were good sportsmen, they had little to fear. The Kunwarani then opened the courts. She said she felt highly honoured in having had the privilege of opening the new courts. She hoped the club would have a prosperous future. The Kunwarani endorsing the remarks by the Kunwarani, said he was pleased to be associated with the new club as he himself was a keen tennis enthusiast. Mr. Dixon, chairman of the Natal European Tennis Union and Mr. S. L. Singh also spoke. After the presentation of a bouquet to the Kunwarani by little Miss Gandhi, tea and light refreshments were served while the Kunwarani, the Kunwarani and others indulged in a game of tennis.

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