

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

MAHATMA GANDHI who has undergone another six days fast owing to the Government's refusal to allow him to carry on untouchability work, has been released unconditionally. This news will be received with a sigh of relief by every Indian and thousands of Europeans all over the world whose prayers will go out to the Almighty for his speedy restoration to his normal health.

Mahatma Gandhi broke his fast on the seventh day soon after his release. He has been removed to "Parnakuti" the residence of Lady Vithadas Thakersey, where he went through his fast last May. The Rev. C. F. Andrews and Mrs. Gandhi are at his bedside.

At the mass meeting held under the Natal Indian Congress last Thursday at the Durban Town Hall after both the sides to the proposed colonisation scheme were explained, the chairman took the voting in favour and against the action of the Congress and it was difficult to judge on which side the majority was. The hopes of the Congress having in its favour the vast majority, were, however, shattered.

The difficulties which arose as a result of the refusal of many Indians to have anything to do with the inquiry into a colonisation scheme have by no means disappeared with the decision to co-operate reached at the emergency conference in Johannesburg.

A meeting of Durban Indians was held on Tuesday night as a result of this decision and a new association, known as the Colonial Born and Indian Settlers' Association, was formed, with Mr. A. Christopher, who was at one time president of the South African Indian Congress, as chairman.

The Town Hall has been booked by the new association for Saturday, when a mass meeting will be called once more to protest against any participation in the colonisation committee inquiry and also to disagree with the views of the delegates who attended the emergency meeting.

The decision of the Natal Indian Congress to call a meeting on Thursday night to explain the standpoint of the Congress on its participation in the preliminary inquiry concerning colonisation has incensed members of the new organisation. Mr. Christopher told a representative of the *Natal Advertiser* that he had booked the Town Hall before the Congress thought of holding a meeting but that the Congress had taken the unusual step of calling a meeting at one day's notice simply in an attempt to cut the ground under the feet of the dissentients.

Mr. Christopher maintains that his organisation represents by far the bulk of the Indians in Natal. "We have already had one meeting," he said, "when over 1,000 people voted against the scheme and the Congress with a membership of a few hundred had no right to pretend to speak for Natal Indians in Johannesburg. We are determined to oppose this colonisation scheme, which means nothing more

than Hobson's choice for the poorer Indians. You may be certain that the richer Indians will not leave the country."

ANOTHER TAMASHA

THOSE who know the inner working of the Congress know how the work of the Emergency Conference was engineered and how Natal, Transvaal and the Cape delegates were brought together, how they came with a settled mind and how they passed the resolution favouring co-operation with the colonization inquiry committee. It is true that the leaders of those holding the opposite view were invited but they could never have succeeded in convincing the Conference of the correctness of their standpoint, for who on earth could convince one who does not want to be convinced? They would perhaps have succeeded in convincing a few more or perhaps all of the Transvaal delegates but even then there still remained the forty-five adamant delegates of Natal and the seven of the Cape and therefore the Congress leaders were sure of their success. The amazing part of it all was that even though the Congress had such a stronghold the president refused to allow two members of the opposite view who were present as spectators, but did not participate in the deliberations, to state their viewpoint even though some of the delegates had expressed their desire to hear them. The president defended himself by saying that the constitution did not allow him to permit them to speak. But he could have, if he wished to, used his own discretion and in allowing them a hearing he would not only have acted impartially but would have performed an act of common courtesy. However that was why we predicted the emergency conference to be a tamasha and thus did the first tamasha end.

The second performance then took place in Durban on Thursday night in the Town Hall. Mr. Rustonjee and Mr. A. Ismail of Capetown came for the first time in their life by aeroplanes to Durban on Tuesday noon since they heard that a mass meeting to protest against the emergency conference decision was to be called in the Town Hall on Saturday. Wanting to be on the scene first the hall was immediately engaged for Thursday, two days earlier, and the meeting was called for the purpose firstly of offering prayers for the health of Mahatma Gandhi and secondly to explain the standpoint of the Congress on the Colonization scheme.

From the way in which the meeting was conducted it left no doubt in the minds of those who were present that Mahatma Gandhi was brought on the scene not out of the least reverence for him but merely to exploit his name to draw the crowd. It was indeed a great pity. Those who had the least bit of respect for Mahatma Gandhi and his principles could not but have left the hall

with their hearts wounded. Such was the unbecoming behaviour of those who were responsible for conducting the meeting. Volunteers were supposed to keep peace but they were the ones to indulge in hooliganism. Feelings ran high on both sides owing, it was quite obvious, to an unfortunate incident that had happened the night previous to the meeting, when the Congress officials and the leaders of the opposition went to address the Indians in the Corporation barracks, when one of the secretaries of the Congress, Mr. Bhoola, was hurt by some one who had hurled a stone. We do not know who was responsible for this brutal act but we have no hesitation in condemning it in the strongest possible terms. Whoever the person is, if he is a man, and wishes to serve the interests of his people, should not feel ashamed of coming forward and tender his apology to Mr. Bhoola. This is, however, by the way.

To come to the point, we regret to say that even the chairman of the meeting, at times, forgot he was conducting the meeting and indulged in disturbing the speakers. If we were to compare the recently held mass meeting of Colonial-born Indians on the same question with Thursday's meeting of the Congress we could not help but say that the former meeting was far better conducted. Reasonableness, tolerance, the desire to know the other side or to allow the other side to be known were utterly wanting at Thursday night's meeting. If the Congress had a strong case surely they should not fight shy of allowing the other side being stated as clearly as possible, and yet the fact was that they did.

We have said over and over again that the Congress officials must take the people into confidence and to convince them that they are doing the right thing for them. Let them not spurn and treat with contempt those who hold opposite views. They are as much entitled to their views being respected as the former would wish theirs to be respected. If this tolerance were shown in the beginning matters would not have come to the present stage. One thing that is necessary to do is not to poison the minds of the people with personalities. The people are not concerned with personalities, they are concerned with the cause that affects them. What was the lesson given to the people on Thursday night. It was this to put it in a nutshell! "Leave all talks of principles. You have been compromising principles all your life. View everything from the point of expediency and take what you get." And this lesson was imparted from the platform which was graced with the portrait, bedecked with flowers, of Mahatma Gandhi—a man who is sacrificing his whole life for a principle. If the community has arrived at this stage and is prepared to follow the leaders who preach this doctrine we would say woe be to it. In that case those who hold principles to be sacred will undoubtedly have to seek other fields. But it will be for the community to give the reply.

Says Mahatma Gandhi :

Do not barter away the rights of the poor labouring Indian population for doubtful concessions to the other Indian settlers. The position taken up by the latter is unassailable, and should depend on its own merits. The settlers themselves should therefore refuse to be party to any bargain which would compromise the rights of the less favourably situated brethren. South Africa can easily absorb and accommodate the existing Indian population.

The Proceedings At The Conference

(By A SPECTATOR)

The writer has a knowledge of the working of the Congress and can claim to state things with some authority. It was for the first time in the history of the Congress that Natal had sent her full contingent (thirty delegates, including the officials their number was forty-five) and to spare. There were other much more important conferences, for instance, the last annual Conference when the very vital question of the effects of the passing of the Transvaal Land Tenure Act was to be considered. Natal was most reluctant to go to the Transvaal pleading financial difficulties and insisted that the Transvaal delegates should leave their house burning and come and decide their question in Natal. Of course better counsel prevailed at the eleventh hour and the Conference was held in Johannesburg but the Natal delegates had to go at their own expense. On the present occasion, however, the tables were turned. The house was burning in Natal and the fate was to be decided in the Transvaal.

At the last annual conference when the colonization scheme was discussed the Transvaal delegates evinced scant interest and it was made almost wholly a Natal affair. On the present occasion, however, Transvaal spoke and Natal listened and only when the opposition view was expressed by a Transvaal delegate, Natal rose to the occasion in defence of the Congress. It was all a question of the Congress officials and their word. The community was out of the picture.

The Cape Province was represented by only seven delegates of whom Mr. A. Ismail was the spokesman. The whole discussion, which began at 9 p.m. on Saturday night and was adjourned at 3 a.m. and resumed at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday and concluded at 6.30 p.m., was mainly on the following points:

Those for co-operation on the inquiry argued that the word given to the Government must be kept and that it was, after all, an inquiry into the possibilities of a scheme and that it was premature to denounce a scheme which was not in existence. All agreed, however, that any scheme which had as its object, the reduction of our population, was unacceptable, with the exception of Messrs. V. S. G. Pather and S. R. Pather who advocated a colonization scheme by quoting instances where certain Indians had done well in emigrating to other colonies.

It was held by the other school of thought that behind this inquiry was the intention of reducing the Indian population from South Africa; that such reduction would be made, as it had all along been made, from the poorer sections of the community, which, in effect, meant the bartering of the rights of the poor in order to safeguard the rights of another section. It was, moreover, held that the document signed at Capetown by the Congress representatives was null and void since the conditions attached were not fulfilled and the present inquiry was a clear departure from the understanding arrived at under the said document.

It was, moreover, held by the latter that since we were all opposed to any scheme to reduce the Indian population from this country, we could not consistently participate in an inquiry into the possibilities of such a scheme. However, there was no meeting ground between these two divergent views and the outcome was the resolution appearing elsewhere in these columns.

Questions

One of the interesting questions asked by delegates was about the mass meeting of Colonial-born

Indians held recently in Durban to protest against the inquiry. Mr. Rustomjee, chairman of the committee, stated that the Colonial Burns were not a part and parcel of the voice of the S.A.I.C. and that the meeting was not called by a recognised and constitutional body.

Mr. Joshi asked if the Indian member sat on the Inquiry Committee before or after the protest meeting. "After the protest meeting," replied the chairman.

Feared To Hear Opponents

It was suggested twice that Messrs. M. M. Gandhi and P. R. Pathar, the principal opponents to the colonization inquiry, who were present amongst the audience, be called upon to state their case. Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney first requested the chairman. The chairman, using his own discretion, refused permission. On the second occasion a motion was put by Mr. Sigamoney that "in view of the fact that the position brot by Messrs. Christopher, Gandhi, Pathar and S. E. Singh, the Conference desire to hear them without committing itself."

Those in favour of the motion were Messrs. Sigamoney, E. M. Patel, Billimoria, M. Bayat, G. Baidhoo, C. K. T. Naidoo, Nanabhai, M. D. Mali, S. B. Mehd, P. S. Joshi, Advocate Godfrey and Oswald Christopher (nephew of Advocate Christopher). The rest voted against and the chairman, Mr. Rustomjee, also joined in voting against.

Other Speeches

Mr. A. I. Kaje, secretary of the Congress, referred to the Congress negotiations with the Indian delegation, and declared, in the course of his speech, that if any pressure were put on them to reduce their numbers by sending Indians out of the country they would fight with their backs to the wall.

Mr. J. W. Godfrey deprecated the charge that their representatives had been hoodwinked or, to quote the language of the street, been "humbugged" into agreement. The present inquiry was merely a preliminary and there was nothing binding in its conclusions. At the present time they had no scheme and it was easy to influence the crowd by telling it the Congress wanted Indians to go out of the country.

They had all agreed to have nothing to do with a colonization scheme, but it was certainly not inconsistent to join in an inquiry.

Rev. Choonoo (Maritzburg) said he had no fear of any committee of inquiry. There was a mysterious agency about busy to divide people in this country. They were wolves in sheep garb.

Mr. R. B. Maharaj said, right or wrong, we accepted the agreement and we must honour our signature on it.

Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo, speaking against co-operation, said, why waste time since it is a clear departure from the original agreement. A breach was committed and we should have nothing to do with it any more. "If you don't want a colonization scheme why co-operate with the Government?" The Agent, too, has admitted that it is a departure. Natal friends tell us that by co-operating we will be able to ask the Government to remove the provincial barriers. The terms of reference on that matter are quite clear. They do not allow a discussion of local possibilities. It is no use bluffing us. Let us discuss the question like men and let us feel for the poor people.

Rev. Sigamoney made a vigorous attack on the policy of reducing the number of the Indian population. In this the poor working class Indians of Natal were affected. There was no difference between an assisted emigration scheme and a colonization scheme except that one took them to India and the other outside India. The whole crux of the

position, he said, was the reduction of the Indian population and so bringing them within a manageable compass.

There was another attempt in the displacement of Indian labour. Mr. Heaton Nicholls, M.P., had suggested the introduction of Portuguese natives on the grounds that they were insured against malaria and should be employed on the sugar fields on the North Coast of Natal.

"This is all bunkum," Mr. Sigamoney said. It is an attempt to throw Indians out of employment so that they may be induced to go out of the country. To agree to a colonisation scheme is to sell the birthright of our people.

He felt the question chiefly concerned Natal, and as a domestic difference had arisen there, they came as it were, by the back door to settle their differences here.

Mr. P. S. Joshi made a vigorous speech in Gujarati and said that we could not be a party to any scheme which had as its object the bartering away of the rights of a section of the community for any concessions for another section.

Mr. E. Mall said: "It is asked what harm is there in co-operating. I have one blunt question to ask? Would our representative after having found a country economically, politically and climatically suitable for us come and tell us that though he has found a place he does not advise us to go there? Are we in favour of any scheme for the reduction of our people? What is the motive of this scheme. It is, for a fact, the reduction of our people. In the name of honesty and in the name of God above us, let us come to a conclusion honourably."

Mr. S. B. Mehd expressed his views strongly against the colonization scheme.

The Agent's Views

The Agent of the Government of India addressed the delegates at the Emergency Conference and admitted that the present inquiry was a departure of which he had no previous knowledge. But he said it was a departure in our favour and we should take advantage of it. He said he would be handicapped in asking for concessions for us if we refused to co-operate. He emphasised the fact that Indians in this country were not strong enough to be divided.

Emergency Conference On Colonization Inquiry

Mr. Omar Hajee Amod Jhaveri presided over the Emergency Conference which was opened last Saturday night in Johannesburg by the Agent of the Government of India and concluded its sittings on Sunday night. The purpose of the Conference was to review the situation in connection with the community's participation in exploring the possibilities of a colonization scheme for settling South African Indians in other countries and to confirm the action of the Executive of the S.A.I.C. in appointing Mr. S. R. Naidoo as the Indian member on the Inquiry Committee.

In the course of his speech, the president, after reviewing the events leading up to the appointment of the committee said:—"We have met here to-day to review the position in the light of all that has happened, and to give this conference the opportunity of discussing the position afresh if it so desires. Before deciding this matter, however, it is necessary for us calmly to consider every aspect of the question in dispute. It has been suggested that in allowing our representative to sit on the committee we are dishonest. I maintain that this is not the case. We have never said that we are in favour of a colonisation scheme nor have we committed ourselves to any principle of colonisation."

It would be foolish, he thought, to withdraw at the present stage. It would be time enough if they

were asked to approve of a scheme which was unacceptable. There was every possibility that the committee would report that any attempt to force the Indian population to leave the country was doomed to failure.

"Let us look at the position fairly and squarely," he said. "Let us not turn a principle into a bogey. We are here to guide our people aright and to ensure their just and fair treatment and this can only be accomplished by calmly viewing the present activity of the government with tolerance and patience. The present phase will pass, and the future will bring us further opportunities of proving our right to live as free citizens of the Union."

"I have faith enough to believe that this investigation by the Government, based on whatever motives one may attribute to it, will eventually react in our favour. I would also add that I have faith in the European Press and public opinion turning in our favour (there are already evidences of this) of the abolition of the provincial barriers."

"Let us not therefore do anything that will alienate sympathy at this critical time. A false step such as the withdrawal of your representative from the committee would be misunderstood by the Government and by the large body of fair-minded men and women in this country, who are ready to look at our position from a practical point of view."

"If we are an asset to the country, and we maintain that we are, and could be a greater asset if we were given the opportunity of expansion, neither the Government nor the European population will be willing to 'cut off their noses to spite their face' by driving us away."

"Let me earnestly appeal to you to give this important matter your serious consideration. There have been differences of opinion, but mainly on minor points. We are all of one mind on the main consideration, and that is the welfare of all Indian residents. Whether we are represented on this committee of inquiry, or we decide to withdraw our member, is for you to decide."

"What is perfectly clear to me is that our cause will suffer if we reverse the policy we adopted at our last conference. The vital question at the present is not co-operation, for there can be no co-operation before there is a scheme. Let us not cry 'wolf' when there is no wolf. Rather we should reserve our energies for the time when we may need all the strength we can muster."

"And finally, may I entreat everyone here present to put aside all personal feelings and resentment. Let us forget those things which have been a cause for dissension and remember only that we are brothers striving for the betterment of the whole community. A house divided against itself must fall."

"By consistent effort on the part of our leaders with the able support of our esteemed friend the Agent for the Government of India, we have established the right to be consulted on all matters affecting us. I am sure you will agree with me that the right of consultation, which in the past has been fought for with much suffering, should not be thrown away, but that we should use every opportunity that may be offered us to state our case with dignity and confidence."

"In all these circumstances I have, therefore, no hesitation in urging this Conference to set its seal of approval upon the action of our executive in nominating Mr. S. R. Naidoo as the Indian member on the committee of inquiry."

The Resolution

After sitting in Committee for over twelve hours on the question, at 5-30 p.m. a resolution was presented to the delegates to their surprise. When a protest was made that no time had been given to the delegates to consider the resolution, Mr. Sorabjee

Rustomjee, chairman of the committee, and the mover of the resolution, expressed his regret for having to steam-roll the resolution as the delegates took a long time in discussing the question. The resolution, which was carried by 68 to 8 votes, reads as follows:

"This emergency conference, convened by the South African Indian Congress for the express purpose of reviewing the situation on all matters connected with and incidental to the question of participation by the South African Indian community in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme, hereby reaffirms the previous decision reached by the Congress, both at the discussion on the subject with the members of the Government of India delegation and at the annual conference held at Johannesburg on Aug. 27 and 28, 1932, and reiterates its decision to participate on the following grounds:

"(a) That it adheres to the terms of the statement dated January 23, 1932, submitted to the Government of India delegation, that the Indian community of South Africa, inspired by patriotic motives, agrees to co-operate with the Governments of India and the Union of South Africa in the former's mission to explore outlets for colonisation for the increasing population of India, and at the same time to ascertain whether there exist any good opportunities for South African Indians in the countries explored;

"(b) Such co-operation is not to be deemed as meaning that Indians in the Union are undesirable, or that the Indian population is to be reduced;

"(c) That, although they are prepared to co-operate in exploring the possibilities of a colonisation scheme, they are in no way committed to colonization or any colonization scheme, but are free to act as they deem necessary in the interests of the community."

Amendment Lost

An amendment was moved by Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney and lost. It was: "This emergency conference, in reviewing the whole situation in the light of the present position, is of opinion that the Union Government has failed to carry out its agreement by setting up a preliminary inquiry and, further, inasmuch as other subjects in the agreement dealt with by the Round Table Conference have not met with the approval of Congress, Congress inform the Union Government that they cannot co-operate with the Inquiry Committee, and the nomination of Congress is hereby withdrawn."

Colonial Born And Settlers Indian Association

A Mass Meeting of Colonial Born Indians and Settlers will be held at the Town Hall, Durban, on Saturday, 26th August, 1933, at 7-30 p.m.

Come and hear the Colonial Born reply to the Congress on Colonization etc.

ATTEND IN YOUR THOUSANDS!

A. CHRISTOPHER, Chairman.

M. M. GANDHI, Vice-Chairman.

K. K. PILLAY } Joint Hon.

P. G. NAICKER } Treasurers.

S. L. SINGH

A. HAFFAJEE } Jt. hon. Secretaries.

M. JOHN

European Press On Colonization

'NATAL MERCURY'

The *Natal Mercury* in an editorial in its issue of August 22, writes:—

It still remains to be seen whether the Government Committee which recently sat in Darban to investigate the possibilities of a joint overseas colonisation scheme for South African Indians will be able to make much progress. It is at least something that, despite very strong opposition in its own ranks, the South African Indian Congress is still prepared to co-operate with it, even if that co-operation is not of an enthusiastic character.

..... "If it is found possible to find outlets for an appreciable number of South African Indians in other parts of the world—the hope is not a particularly bright one—then it might be possible to effect a permanent settlement. An Indian population of, say, half its present numbers spread over the whole Union would not constitute any real problem from the European point of view; their proportion to the total of the population would be such that they would find their niche without competing unduly with the other sections of the population. And Natal would be entitled to ask that under these circumstances a permanent solution of this character should be accepted. At Union there was, or it was understood there was to be, a mutual acceptance by the four Colonies of a share of each other's burdens. But Natal's Indian burden—for the presence of a large Indian population confined within her boundaries has created most serious complications—has been refused by the other Provinces although Natal has borne her just part of theirs. With a substantial reduction in the Indians' numbers the dangers which are now seen Overberg if the Indian were no longer restricted to the Province of his domicile should largely disappear. We wonder the Indians themselves have failed to appreciate this. It is true that the possibilities of a successful emigration scheme still remain comparatively remote in these days of almost universal depression, but if the prices of primary products once reach a reasonable level there seems to be no reason why many of our South African Indians should not find a congenial outlet in other parts of the British Commonwealth."

'THE STAR'

In the course of a leading article in its issue of August 21, *The Star* (Johannesburg) while welcoming the decision of the Emergency Conference of the S.A.I.C. "because it is in accordance with common sense and the necessities of the situation" says: "We can understand and up to a point sympathise with the attitude of the Rev. Mr. Sigamoney, but his policy of non-co-operating with the Inquiry Committee would, on tactical grounds, be a mistake. The proposed inquiry into the possibility of colonisation schemes involves no slur on the Indian population of South Africa any more than it does on the population of India. It merely recognises the existence of certain practical difficulties—which do not grow less acute as time goes on—and the need of investigation of all possible measures of relief. The 1927 Agreement, which provided for the voluntary repatriation of Indians, also included a declaration by the Union Government of its adherence to "the principle that it is the duty of any civilised Government to devise ways and means and to take all possible steps for the uplifting of every section of the permanent population to the full extent of their capacity and opportunities." This is a very definite statement to which presumably the present and any future Union Government will

adhere. We have, however, to face the realities of the existing position, more particularly in Natal. There are two aspects—the economic and the political—and whatever steps, if any, that can be taken to relieve the economic pressure now bearing so heavily on many Indians in South Africa and to guarantee them political and other rights they do not now enjoy, should have the most careful consideration. If any colonisation scheme offers satisfactory prospects in these directions, the Indian community as a whole would obviously benefit. The Indians absorbed in the new colonisation would have chances denied them in existing circumstances, and the remaining Indian population, reduced in numbers, could look with greater confidence to the removal of disabilities and the settlement of just grievances. The Union is under a special obligation to deal fairly with the Indian community, which, outside of Natal, represents only an infinitesimally small percentage of the population. When the question came before the first Union Parliament, a very able and distinguished Natalian, the late Sir David Hunter, used words which we heartily endorse: "It was time," he said, "that people spoke with moderation. The Indians did not come to Natal of their own accord, but were imported by the colonists for their own advantage. They had done very good work, and industries existed there which could not otherwise have been worked at all. In many ways the Indians had done excellent service, and whatever happened they should have the fairest and most impartial treatment."

Kimberley Indians Protest

The following letter was addressed to the president and members of the South African Indian Congress in Conference at Johannesburg, by Mr. T. Rajgopal Pillay, hon. secretary Indian Political Association, Kimberley. Mr. Pillay is one of the executive members of the S.A.I.C. :—

"Mr. President and Gentlemen,—The members of the Indian Political Association send you greetings and the best wishes for a successful issue of the vexed question that has brought about this conference.

"We are grieved at the inability of this Association to be represented in person but respectfully request that the resolution of this body be placed before the Conference as representing the views of Kimberley in the vital matter of the participation of our people in the enquiry into a new form of repatriation and which is known as the "Colonisation Scheme."

"In order that our views may be fittingly presented we have deputed Mr. S. B. Medh of Johannesburg to represent our Association at this session of the Congress, and he has full power to act on our behalf.

"We desire to bring to your notice that a mass meeting of Indians, held under the auspices of this Association in the Indian School Hall, Kimberley, on Sunday, 13th instant, and at which Mr. P. M. Dawson presided, the colonisation scheme was reviewed and an exhaustive discussion took place which resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following resolution :—

"That this mass meeting of Indians, assembled in the Indian School, Kimberley, appeals to the members of the South African Indian Congress, meeting in Conference in Johannesburg, to review and rescind the resolution passed at the session during September, 1932, whereby Congress undertook to co-operate in an enquiry into the possibilities of a scheme for the repatriation of Indians."

riation of Colonial-born and Settler Indians from the Union of South Africa."

"In support of the above resolution, we wish to add that it is the considered opinion of this meeting that the acceptance of the idea of a scheme for the colonisation of Indians in other countries, and the decision that Congress accept a seat in the committee of enquiry, was undertaken without a full regard to the principles involved and the humiliating sacrifice of self-respect entailed thereby. We would remind members of the Congress of the position of Indians under previous schemes under which our compatriots suffered untold miseries in British Colonies. We know too of the disastrous experiences of South African Indians repatriated to India under the Union Government's scheme to reduce the Indian population to what is termed "manageable proportions." Is it not scandalous that we should be willing partners in a plan to assure our position in this country at the sacrifice of the freedom of our brothers and sisters? Can Congress face with equanimity the prospect of having on its hands the crime of having sold our birthright and heritage of freedom and liberty."

"We cannot believe that members of this powerful Congress could be so remiss to their sacred trust that their position as the bulwark of the weak of our community could be a basis of bartering to ensure security in this country for that class of our people who are economically independent."

"The 'rejected' of this land—we can find no other term by which to identify our repatriated compatriots—could not expect to find in any land an honourable reception or just treatment and their position must inevitably be worse than in this country of their birth and adoption."

"We are of opinion that if the Government desired to solve what is to them a 'problem of population' there is much territory within the boundaries of South Africa that could be made available for the settlement of such people. We cannot, however, subscribe to the view that a section that counts only 5 out of each hundred of the populace can be regarded as constituting a 'problem' in a sparsely populated country like South Africa."

"Our community is still suffering from the acute division caused by the secession from the Congress through its adoption of the Government's scheme of condonation, and our prayers and efforts should be directed along lines that would avoid the present crisis precipitating a further division. Do not let a body of high principles descend to attain class privileges through expediency, and let us remember that honour is the lifeblood of a nation."

News In Brief

The Provincial Council elections took place on Tuesday, August 22, and we rejoice at the fact that Rev. A. Lamont who has at all times been a strong bulwark of justice, irrespective of race or creed, was returned for the Greyville constituency. Mr. S. J. Smith also, we are pleased to learn, for Congella beat his opponent G. R. Burne by a majority of 242.

Six months rigorous imprisonment has been forced upon Sardar Sardul Singh (acting-president of the All-India Congress) who was recently arrested for picketing shops selling foreign cloth.

Original Correspondence

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

COLONIAL-BORN INDIANS AND SETTLERS

Sir,—I must confess my doubts as to whether anything I may have to say in connection with the formation of a central body for the Colonial-Born Indians and Settlers will likely serve any useful purpose. But as Colonial-Born Indian I feel that my right and the rights of my fellow Colonial-Born Indians and Settlers are being infringed and as such I must speak.

To-day in Durban and its suburbs the talk of the day and every day is: "What are Messrs. Christopher, M. M. Gandhi, Beethasee Maharaj, P. R. Pather and S. L. Singh doing? Are they at all going to promote the formation of a Central Body for the Colonial-Born Indians and the Settlers? Or are they going back to the Congress?"

Be that as it may, can one for a moment say that the answers to the above are in the negative. It cannot possibly be. They are in the affirmative. I am confident that our loyal leaders will not betray us. I am sure that they are silently working behind the scenes for our good welfare and I am also more than sure that as long as they claim to be Indians and Indians alone they will not lame their fellow Colonial-Born Indians and the Settlers and go back to the Congress—a body whose object is to reduce the Indian population—a principle which our leaders and we bitterly opposed to the core, are opposing and will always oppose. Anyway, it is hoped that the resolution passed on Sunday July 23, 1933, will not be the "be-all and end-all" of our movement.

Should it happen to be so, then it would be sufficient to acknowledge that Indian public life means the three-fold activity of speech-making, article-writing and resolution-moving! I need, perhaps, hardly observe that the tongue and the pen alone have never achieved anything worthy of historical note in the life of a nation.

As the matter is one of vital importance, may I with the due permission of our leaders, Messrs. Christopher, M. M. Gandhi, Beethasee Maharaj, P. R. Pather and S. L. Singh, humbly suggest that they should lose no time but to hammer out a skeleton Constitution for the formation of a Central Body and thereafter call a monster mass meeting of Colonial-Born Indians and the Settlers. To begin with, in the way of assisting, I am quite prepared to hold myself responsible for the cost of about 5,000 circulars conveying the meeting. I hope this suggestion is not a dictation to my honourable friends, but if it appears in their opinion to be so, then in such event, I voluntarily tender, as I hereby do, my most heartfelt apology.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I do feel that darker days are in store for us, sterner laws are threatening us and our very existence is in peril. Such being the case, unless a united front is shown by the Colonial-Born Indians and the Settlers immediately, I must say without any hesitation that life will not be worth living in this the country of our birth and adoption.

G. R. POKAN:

Durban:

Christ's Church (Sydenham)

Kunwarani Lays Foundation Stone

A new page was opened in the history of the St. Aidan's Indian Mission on Tuesday afternoon, August, 22nd, when the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, before an extra-ordinarily large crowd, laid the foundation stone of the new Christ's Church at Sydenham. The choirs both of the Christ's Church (Sydenham) and of St. Aidan's (Durban), were present and sang hymns appropriate to the occasion.

Christ's Church was originally St. Augustine's which was set up in Musgrave Road, Durban, in 1883. It was then handed over to the Indian Mission which had it re-erected in its present position at Sydenham, adjoining the Indian boys school. Recently, however, the old dilapidated building was considered dangerous and unsafe for worship and consequently efforts were made to have the Church entirely reconstructed. The laying of the foundation stone on Tuesday is the fruition of these efforts.

The Ven. Archdeacon H. Harris, the Rev. W. H. Satchell, who is priest-in-charge of the St. Aidan's Mission, the Rev. J. M. Sundrum and Father Frank Scoggins were the officiating clergymen on the platform.

The Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh then laid the foundation stone concluding with a brief but inspiring speech.

Special significance was attached to the ceremony as 1933 is the Jubilee year of the St. Aidan's Mission.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Mr. Mahomed Jajbhay's Evidence

(Continued from last week)

CHAIRMAN: Is that what you call the Council areas, or the Indian Association's?

MR. MACWILLIAM: I first put the Indian Association's areas?—(Witness): No, Sir. The natives have occupied at present some areas, and the municipal scheme is a very slow one. It takes a long time.

Just a moment. When you say you have taken these areas in relation to the coloured and Asiatic population, you have also assumed, I put it to you, that the natives in those areas at the present time are going to continue to reside there—isn't that so?—Temporarily, not permanently, because we know that the Urban Areas Act has been promulgated, and as accommodations are provided in the location, those people will be shifted by proclamation.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. MacWilliam, you will give us some evidence about that, I presume?

MR. MACWILLIAM: Yes. I was just putting the proposition to you, Mr. Jajbhay, that if you eliminate the natives there is a very considerable area asked for by the Indian and coloured representation, far in excess really of the needs of their population?—Not very considerable.

There was a small point about your illustration in Market Street. That was the portion that we saw at the last inspection, my lord.

CHAIRMAN: The part east of Delters Street?

MR. MACWILLIAM:—Yes. That particular area, Mr. Jajbhay, is really not a factory area, is it?—There are a few factories in the same street.

Bar one small blacksmith shop or a small furniture shop. Broadly speaking, that is more of the wholesale trade area in Johannesburg than anything else, is it not?—From east of Delters Street?

Take it up to Delters Street, going eastwards?—No, it is not a wholesale area; it is a retail area.

Do you regard that as a retail area, and you want that for expansion for retail business?—Yes, and occupation. I would point out, if the Commission allow me, that the wholesale trade has expanded towards the station way, instead of expanding the lower way.

Has there not been a fairly steady extension of the wholesale houses eastwards down Commissioner Street?—That is between the streets, not in Market Street. Not the area we have asked for.

At any rate in the neighbouring streets it is extending down eastwards, that way?—Only towards town—not the lower end.

My point to you is, if you know that area, the expansion of the wholesale merchant houses has been a steady expansion from west to east down that way, hasn't it?—Not very far up to Delters Street. The expansion has been in the vicinity from the centre of the town up to near Delters Street.

It has reached near Delters Street to-day?—Yes. But it has been progressing from west towards east, hasn't it?—Very slowly.

In any case from the west towards the east?—Yes.

That is possibly—isn't it—the explanation of what we heard from some of the Indian retail merchants there, that they have gradually gone further east? There was one retail merchant who informed His lordship, I think, that in a comparatively short period he had moved three shops; that was going further east?—When he mentioned short periods, it was since 1905. He was shifted away because the Elephant Trading Co. wanted to build a big building.

CHAIRMAN: That is a wholesale business, isn't it?—Yes.

MR. MACWILLIAM: Now just this question as regards the trade of the Indian community. You told us, you gave my learned friend a picture of what happens to a suburb. If it is a European suburb, and if the European gets wealthier, he goes on to another suburb; apparently he becomes a social climber and eventually the Asiatic comes in. Now with very few exceptions, Mr. Jajbhay, the Indian as a trader carries on his trade with the poorer whites, the poorer class of European and the natives, does he not?—Not necessarily. There are many cases, in big numbers, who are dealing with good-class people. You take the example of Turffontein, of La Rochelle: they are not dealing with the poor type.

Just a moment. In the first place you have got a few Indian silk merchants who carry on their business in what is the best business quarter of the town. Now those individuals are comparatively few, are they not?—A small number.

There are then a few Asiatic traders who trade in suburbs such as Turffontein or La Rochelle?—Yes.

The enormous proportion of their trade in the poorer quarters of the town, don't they? It is difficult to say that the enormous number trade with the poorer class of the town. If you take an area like Market Street West, you will get all classes of trade there.

Market Street West—quite true. There you are dealing with what is looked upon as the Indian Fruit Market area. Quite true: that is fairly put. It is a probable exception that in the Indian Fruit Market area you get all classes going to purchase

fruit there. But outside the fruit trade and the silk trade, the rest of the Indian trade is done amongst the poorer quarters, is it not?—I could not say that. It depends. Each area would have to be dealt with on its merits. That is to say, in one area you have got the poor type: you find an Indian there who caters for the poor type. If he is in a better locality he caters for that type. A lot has to be said as to what locality he is situated in.

May I put it this way—I don't want to tie you down to numbers: you find more Indian traders round such an area as Woluter or old Doornfontein?—Very small.

Than you would, for example, in La Rochelle or Turfontein?—The numbers are small even in Turfontein or La Rochelle. It is difficult.

Take Fordsburg, and compare that with La Rochelle. There are infinitely more Indian traders in Fordsburg than there are in La Rochelle?—Yes, according to the locality.

Now the reason for that is that they find their trade much more with the poorer European population than with the better European population—isn't that so?—No, because there are restrictions. His movements are restricted as far as the better class of trade is concerned. If he is allowed to travel freely he will cater for the better class.

(To be continued)

Sporting News

(BY SPORTSMAN)

Soccer

Senior Natal Cup: Pirates vs. Newcastle Stars.

Despite the fact that the soccer season is gradually coming to a close, some excellent football was interested over the last week-end. The matches were keenly contested. The semi-finals and finals are now being staged and as can be expected keen tussles are the rule rather than the exception.

On Saturday, 19th inst. the Pirates of Durban met the Stars of Newcastle at Currie's Fountain in the final for the Natal Cup (Gandhi's Memorial Trophy), a trophy much coveted by soccerites throughout the province. The match was a fast one but the Stars emerged victorious, contrary to expectation, by the narrow margin of 1—0. The Pirates, evidently, were suffering either from a superiority complex or excessive training. Miskicking and lack of combination were their chief defects. The inability also on the part of the Pirates' forwards to shoot when an opportunity occurred was also conspicuous. On the whole the Stars deserve their fine win.

After the match Advocate A. Christopher presented the trophy to the winning Captain who suitably responded.

The officials and members of the Pirates Football Club gave a banquet in Mr. B. M. Singh's Hall in honour of the visiting Newcastle team. There was a fair crowd and many felicitous speeches were made.

The Newcastle Stars left for home by car on Sunday morning, 20th inst.

DURBAN VS. ESTCOURT

On Sunday, 20th August, the Durban intertown team (Sunday division) travelled to Estcourt by road to play the local team in the final for the Inter-district Cup (Mr. B. M. Singh's Trophy). Fortune favoured the

house team which won after two extra-halves by the very narrow margin of 4—3. Apparently, the Durban team had suffered considerably from the strain involved in travelling, and secondly they seem to have experienced some difficulty in adopting themselves to the extraordinarily hard ground.

The issue of the match was only decided in the second extra-half when the referee, Mr. Lala of Estcourt, awarded the home team a somewhat doubtful penalty. This they converted to their advantage and maintained their lead up till the final whistle.

Immediately after the conclusion of the game, which was played in ideal weather, Mr. E. G. David of P. M. Bvrg presented the trophy to the winning skipper.

The Durban team returned by road the same evening.

RICHMOND VS. CLARE ESTATE

Owing to the absence of the Durban team there was only one match at Curries' Fountain on Sunday, 20th inst. Richmond travelled down to play Clare Estate. There was a fair crowd in attendance. The game was a fast one from which the local team emerged victors by 4—2. Mr. M. S. Badat, of Durban, officiated as referee.

BOXING

Durban is once more in the grip of the boxing fever. Speculation is rife as to the various chances of the different contestants and there is no doubt that apart from colonisation boxing is the only topic that looms in the forefront at the moment. The following is the programme for September 2nd in the Durban Town Hall:—

Mottee (Kid) Singh vs. Sonny Thomas 12-3 min. rounds.

Steve Paulser vs. L. Veeran 12-3 min. rounds.

Bennie Singh vs. Mannie Dixon 10-2 min. rounds.

Young John vs. Kid Chin 6-3 min. rounds.

The programme is a bumper one and the star bout will undoubtedly be an exhibition of sane classic boxing. All who have seen Sonny Thomas in action against Bud Gengen opine that he is certainly a fine match for this "Fighting Rajah" from the U. S. A. Kid Singh is at present hard at practice and will have to fight at his best if he is to repeat the decision he gained over Frenchman at the last tournament.

The next bout of paramount importance, in view of the fact that it is a title fight, will be between Steve Paulser of the Cape and L. Veeran of Durban. Veeran is a plucky and consistent fighter and will take some beating; while Steve Paulser, we are told, is the recognised fly-weight champion of the Cape. He is also a hard hitter and at the moment includes among his sparring partners both Sonny Thomas and A. Martin.

The winner of the next bout is between Midget Chin and Young John will fight L. Veeran later for the fly-weight title of Natal.

The Capetonians, including Sonny Thomas, leave the Cape on August 27th with their manager, Mr. S. M. Ringquest will be in Durban on August 30th.

This definitely will be the last fight of Kid Singh in Durban. Thereafter he leaves for the Cape by car with his manager, Mr. V. M. Maistry to fulfill the terms of his contract with the well-known promoters, Messrs. M. Mohamed and J. B. Panday.

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