

Indian Opinion

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CONTENTS.

	Page
NOTES AND NEWS	377
Past And Present (Leader)	378
South Africa And Non-White Races	380
Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association	381
Cancellation Of Swami Bhawani Dayal's Passport	381
Indian Colonial Association	382
Transvaal Notes	382
News In Brief	"
Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission	"

Notes and News

The Late Rev. A. Lamont

The death of the Rev. Archibald Lamont which took place at the Durban Sanatorium last Monday afternoon at the age of 69 after an illness of two months removes from the life of Durban a very prominent figure. His death is mourned alike by Europeans and Indians. Before entering the political field Mr. Lamont was known and respected by Indians as an educationist. Long before the Sastri College came into existence there was the Marine College which was established by Mr. Lamont for higher education for Indians and many of the qualified Indians in Durban and who are at present studying in England have been matriculated under him. Mr. Lamont was Mayor of Durban from 1929 to 1931 and it could be safely said, in so far as the Indian community is concerned, that it has found no mayor more sympathetic than Mr. Lamont. During his office there was not a public function which he did not grace with his presence. All those who have had the pleasure of coming in touch with him have known him both in his private and official capacity to be most sympathetic and obliging. Shortly before his death Mr. Lamont was returned to the Provincial Council as a Home Rule Party candidate for Greyville and the Indians anticipated a good friend in him. The Late Mr. Lamont leaves a widow and three sons, one of whom recently entered Glasgow University to study medicine. Our profound sympathy goes out to them in their great loss.

Some Telling Figures

THE Agent of the Government of India headed a body of 16 members of the South African Indian Congress who gave evidence before the Provincial Commission in Pretoria on Friday, Nov. 17. The Agent quoted fairly extensively from the South African Year Book for 1931-32 in regard to statistics of licences, serious crime, etc., which showed that for 1932, European insolvencies totalled 2,330 and Asiatic 229. In 1931 the figures were respectively 2,309 and 247. With an Asiatic population of between 10 and 11 per cent. of the European population these figures the Agent said were if anything slightly in favour of the Asiatic. The figures for serious crime in 1931 were 2,303 Europeans and 225 Asiatics. "Our figures are smaller than our popu-

lation would warrant," said the Agent, "for proportionately more Indians are illiterate than Europeans, and it is well-known that there is more crime among the illiterate than among the literate. There again the balance is on our side."

S.A.P. Advocates Removal Of Provincial Barriers

A resolution urging the Government to introduce legislation to remove provincial restraint on the movement of Indians within the Union, sponsored by the Umbilo Branch, was passed at the South African Party Congress held recently at Maritzburg. Mr. J. T. Jackson, urging that Provincial barriers to Indians be removed, maintained that at the time of Union all the Provinces pooled their resources and agreed to share alike. It was no part of the contract that any one Province should continue to bear an excessive burden. According to the 1931 census, nine of the principal towns of the Union had a total of some 72,000 Asiatics among them. Of this number no fewer than 52,000 were in Durban, while Maritzburg's share was 7,000. Durban and Maritzburg between them had some 82 per cent. of the Asiatics in the nine towns. The people of Natal felt that they had not had a square deal.

Remove Illegal Entrants

THE Point Branch of the S.A.P. demanded that the Government take steps to remove from the Union any persons who might have entered illegally and whose presence had not been legally condoned.

A Vernacular School In Springs

A meeting of Indians in Springs (Transvaal) was held recently in the local Hindu Temple Hall under the chairmanship of Mr. B. Gangadeen. The necessity of opening a vernacular school for Indian children was stressed by the various speakers and a collection was made forthwith for the purpose, as a result of which, about £120 were promised on spot. A committee was formed which we understand is to go out to collect more funds for the establishment of a school in the district.

We congratulate our brethren in Springs for their gesture of self-help and we have no doubt every parent with any sense of responsibility for his children will not hesitate to help generously the cause of education. A similar move was recently made by Indians in Nigel (Heidelberg) recently but we are surprised that nothing further has been heard about it.

'White South Africa—Meaningless Phrase'

Mr. E. I. Patel, a leading Indian merchant of Johannesburg, gave a banquet in honour of the Agent and the Kunwarani at the Langham Hotel on Tuesday night Nov. 21. Mr. C. D. Don, editor of *The Star* in proposing the toast of "The Union of South Africa" at the above function made a noteworthy speech. Speaking of the present and the immediate future, Mr. Don pointed out that in a time of world economic stress South Africa could consider itself one of the luckiest countries on earth. "On the other hand," he said, "we have problems before us more intricate, more formidable, and of more far-reaching significance than those of any other Dominion. They will test to the full our courage, the

quality of our statesmanship, our capacity for sacrifice, and the sincerity of the principles we profess. We talk of a white South Africa—surely a meaningless phrase unless we mean by it that the highest ideals of European civilisation are what we, the dominant minority, should keep steadily before us. We have the power, and that power carries with it very great responsibilities and obligations. If we discharge them in a liberal spirit of justice and fair play to all, as well as of firmness and consistency, we need not fear the result."

PAST AND PRESENT

(II)

"What doth it profit a man who gains the whole world but loseth his own soul."—The Bible.

IN our previous article we forgot to mention yet another Act that was passed in the presence of Mr. Sastri in this country as the first Agent. That was the Transvaal Liquor Act. It has nothing to do with drinking liquor but it prevents Indians being employed on licensed premises. It was designed indirectly to throw out of employment some hundreds of Indians working in hotels as waiters. Mr. Sastri had to leave the country before he could bring any relief but during Sir Kurma Reddi's office as Mr. Sastri's successor he was able to get an exemption clause introduced and Indian hotel employees in the Transvaal are at the mercy of the Minister in whose power it lies to grant them exemptions.

Together with it has been introduced the Government's White Labour policy whereby hundreds of Indians in Municipalities, Railways, Mines and Sugar Estates are constantly being replaced by white labour.

All this happened during the time of Sir Kurma Reddi as the second Agent of the Government of India in this country.

Sir Kurma Reddi was however very fortunate to leave these shores without having had to actually blacken his hands. For he was able to get the Governor-General-in-Council's assent to the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance withheld and to postpone the passing of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill pending the revision of the Capetown Agreement.

His greatest achievement was the exemption clause in the Transvaal Liquor Act which saved hundreds of Indians from being immediately thrown out of employment and the creation of the Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee which he initiated with a donation of £25 from himself and which has brought relief to hundreds of suffering souls.

Be it said to the credit of Mr. Sastri whom we look upon with great reverence and do not wish in any way to belittle the work he has done at very great sacrifice; that he has been responsible for many acts of self-help on the part of the Indian community which alone will enable them to live in this country as a self-respecting community. They are the Sastri College, the Social Service Committee and the Child Welfare Committee. He can well be proud of these institutions which are rendering useful service to the community.

So far there was little of surrendering of principles excepting in the acceptance of the assisted emigration scheme and much work was done

through self-help for the uplift of the community which was in keeping with its sense of honour and self-respect.

Since the last Round Table Conference, however, and with the advent of Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh as the third Agent, some evil spirit seems to have entered into us which is constantly dragging us downwards.

No sooner did the Round Table Conference end than the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill was passed and the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance received the assent of the Governor-General-in-Council.

The Congress met in Conference in Johannesburg in August 1932 and condemned the action of the Government in passing the two obnoxious laws and heartily supported the resolution of the Transvaal Indian Congress to resist them. Now if the Congress claimed the right to speak in the name of the South African Indians it spoke in no uncertain terms on the Transvaal laws. The Agent who recognised the South African Indian Congress as the representative body of Indians should have taken note of its voice. But he did not. The Congress has hoodwinked the action of the Agent and has ignored its own resolution. Then came the colonization scheme.

The Congress, as we have already stated, agreed (and be it remembered that this agreement was not with the Union Government but with the Government of India Delegation) to co-operate with the Governments of India and of South Africa in the former's mission to explore outlets for colonisation in regard to her increasing population..... and to ascertain whether there existed any good opportunities for South African Indians in the countries explored. (Italics are ours).

The Congress was totally against sending South African Indians out of this country. It confessed its blunder in having been a party to the assisted emigration scheme after having viewed the working of it for five years and solemnly declared that it would not countenance the scheme any longer nor accept any substitute thereof.

The above agreement which was reluctantly entered into did not mean in any way that the principle of reducing the Indian population in the Union was agreed to. It only meant that India was going out on a mission to look for outlets for her own increasing population assisted by the Government of South Africa and the Congress would co-operate with her in her mission and indirectly ascertain if there existed any good opportunities for South African Indians in such countries explored by India.

To agree to an assisted emigration or assisted colonization or a repatriation scheme and to migrate independently to a country which India has found for the settlement of her own increasing population are quite different things.

Now the present Inquiry Committee, notwithstanding the fact that it is a preliminary inquiry, has changed the position entirely. The work set out for it is, to explore the possibilities of a colonization scheme for settling South African Indians in other countries and to find out the extent to which Indians in the Union would participate therein.

The Congress leaders who spoke irresponsibly of there being no room for men of conscience and self-respect in this country and that their place was either in India or in gaol, the inference being that those that they claim to represent are men of no conscience or self-respect, are yet evidently possessed with a super-consciousness of their "word of honour," their "solemn pledge." We must confess that our small minds are too small to understand that philosophy. Our sense of honour tells us that "that is not what you agreed to, you conscientiously believe that that is not what you desire, therefore in co-operating in such a thing you will be deceiving yourselves and those whom you offer your co-operation."

The Congress has, however, thought fit to flout public opinion and is going the wrong way, and thus in the vain hope of material gains is out to sell its own soul. The Congress has fallen to such depths that even now, when the present Colonization Committee has actually gone far beyond its scope of inquiry bound by its terms of reference, and is inquiring into the economic position of Indians, it is still stumbling.

It has fallen in with the view of the Agent so often given expression to that we have neither "principles" nor "birthright" in this country and therefore it is no use talking about them. That the same thing applies to India and that if India had not consistently fought for her birthright as she has done for nearly fifty years she would never have reached the present stage, is completely forgotten. The Congress has become so weak and helpless that whereas in the past, it could face the Government independently and make its own representations, every deputation from the Congress now must be led by the Agent, a thing which did not happen even in the time of Mr. Sastri or Sir Kurma Reddi. They introduced Congress deputations but did not lead them. In its superconsciousness it is perhaps not able to see any loss of prestige or self-respect in it. While our brothers and sisters in the Motherland are growing out of serfdom the Congress is apparently growing into it. These are some of the causes which have led to the present unfortunate cleavage in the community.

The leaders in the past, although they have not been able to actively offer resistance, have never been a party to any surrendering of principles. Now they are heartily co-operating in surrendering them for any crumbs that may be offered them. If the leaders have fallen there is surely no hope for the community to rise.

We have personally nothing against the Agent. We admit that the position of the Agent is a very difficult one especially when he is an official. The past two Agents were non-officials. They were better able to understand the mind of the people, we felt some personal touch about them and even in their official capacity they would instinctively hesitate to do certain things which an official would instinctively not hesitate to do. The characteristic of an Indian official, be he an Indian or a European, is to play upon the weaknesses of the people and this is what happens to be the case at present. It pains us to offer these remarks and we would un-

reservedly withdraw them if we were convinced that they were groundless.

A self-respecting community will not play into the hands of the Agent, or, for that matter, any official. It will have its own mind and will fearlessly express it. That is no longer the case with the Congress.

We are passing through difficult times. With the Government's segregation policy in the Transvaal, which exists to a certain extent, if not in law in practice, also in Natal, with the pursuance of its white labour policy aggravated by the general depression makes the position of Indians in this country almost unbearable. But what is the remedy? Indeed not to sell one's soul. Mahatma Gandhi has said in one of his messages to South African Indians through *Young India* that "we are ultimately to win by our own endeavours which does not mean sharp practice, but self-purification, which again means reform from within and purging ourselves of evil customs and superstitions, educating our children, and contributing money for education as well as other measures of social reform." In other words it means that what we cannot get from the Government without loss of self-respect we must try to achieve through self-help. If our poorer South African brethren are suffering the remedy does not lie in finding them another place to go to. Rather should the well-to-do go out and make room for them or open up their purse strings and give them education which is denied them by the Government and explore the possibilities of a scheme whereby avenues could be opened up to give them work to earn their daily bread and live in peace and happiness in the land of their birth. Our salvation in this country lies entirely in self-help. Our co-operation in a policy of reducing our population will ultimately result in bringing about our total extinction.

Fountain Of Wisdom

*To some of luxury be wiser,
Know happiness for ever flies
The cold and solitary breast;
Then let the social instinct glow;
And to feel another's woe,
And in his joy be blest.*

—HEATIE.

NOTICE

Transvaal Indian Congress

A mass meeting of the Congress will take place on Sunday the 10th of December 1933, at the Patidar Hall, Terrace Road, Fordsburg, Johannesburg at 2-30 p.m. sharp.

Agenda: (1) Joint Secretaries' Report.
(2) Election of officials of the Congress.

Every Indian is cordially invited to be present at this election meeting.

D. M. NURSOO } Joint hon.
E. M. MALL } Secretaries.

South Africa And Non-White Races

The following letter appearing in the *Rand Daily Mail* above the nom de plume "Bless" is reproduced here because it requires to be while digested by all those who are suffering from the superiority complex.

Sir,—I am sure that the object of Mr. Hedley A. Chilvers's warning in his book, "The Yellow Man Looks On," is not entirely that of soulless and selfish protection of the white races of South Africa.

I cannot for a moment imagine that Mr. Chilvers ever intended, in his book, to rouse petty national feelings of a very parochial character, which would inevitably result in race-hatred or war.

South Africa must rise to the heights of doing what is right and just by her non-white people in order to ward off the great clash between the East and West. In the councils of the world—whether rightly or not, and whether South Africa merits it or not—there is a strong feeling in all walks of life that South Africa does not play the game by her non-white subjects. That being so, the feelings of prejudice in the minds of the yellow man, the brown man and the black are so strong that one day South Africa will clash with the East.

The yellow man is not the only one who is looking on. There is the brown man (the Indian), being close to the yellow man who, with eager eyes, is watching the trend of events in this land. How can he avoid it—for his kith and kin are here and he sees their sufferings?

Far back comes the black man, emerging from a state of barbarism into a state of civilisation. The black man, with eyes and ears open, is taking everything in; and he is thirsting for education, for he realises how essential it is for him to have knowledge, which means power. It is a weapon that he will be able to use one day to emancipate himself from serfdom.

In South Africa the white man only grudgingly allows the Bantu to progress, but in spite of this the Bantu is making rapid strides, and he will catch up to the white man. The Bantu in the territories north of South Africa is being given every opportunity, by a benevolent white people, to develop his faculties, and the Bantu in the south knows it. So the position in Africa will be that the black man will not only look on, but he will be fully conscious of growth into real manhood, and will want to assert it one day by taking the stretched out hand of the East across the waters.

The Indian having wrested freedom from his rulers, Japan free already, China, stung by the treatment meted out to her by Japan and unable to prevent it because of having no discipline and no national unity—these three nations will ultimately be driven to the point at which, in order to maintain their position, they will unite and make common cause against Communism on the one hand, and on the other hand, against the flaunted boast of white superiority.

South Africa will be a strategic point for the brown and yellow man to secure for the realising of their ambitions.

This picture may be only a dream, but it may become real.

If we were to follow the suggestions of Mr. Pellet and organise against the yellow man, then we should invite real trouble. No one can prevent any nation from selling its goods so long as there are plenty of buyers. South Africa may not see her folly now in her treatment of non-white people, but she is sowing seeds which her children will reap with bitter tears.

I think our attitude should be to take to heart the words of that great Indian poet, Rabindranath

Tagore: "The East and West are alternate beats of the heart, and we need the help of the West as the West needs the help of the East."

BLESS.

Colonial-Born And Settlers Indian Association

Clairwood Branch

Report Of Work Done

Election Of Officials

A general meeting of the above Branch was held on the Clairwood Boy's School grounds on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 3-30 p.m. Over 200 people attended. Officials of the parent body were also present.

The joint Hon. Secretaries on behalf of the provisional committee submitted their report which stated that during the month of August 1922, a public meeting was convened when the officials of the parent body addressed the meeting on the advisability of forming a Branch. Unanimous resolutions were also passed at this meeting condemning the action of the Natal Indian Congress in connection with the Colonization Enquiry. It was then agreed that subsequent meeting be convened for the formation of branch and election of provisional officials.

During the month of September 1933 a general meeting was convened, when the branch was formed and Officers provisionally elected. Over 2,000 Indians were preents at this meeting and a unanimous vote of no confidence in the Congress was passed.

The Committee got busy in enrolling members and giving wide publicity to the establishment of the Branch and its aims and objects, and over 200 members have been enrolled. Several Committee meetings were held and important matters were discussed.

On October 8, a public meeting was convened by the Branch for the purpose of discussing the increased valuation by the Durban Corporation in the added areas. Over 300 Indians attended this meeting when various matters in connection with the increased valuations were discussed and the Association undertook to help all those who intended to object and to appeal.

The Committee's thanks were expressed to Mr. B. Ramohander for kindly allowing the use of a portion of his premises and to Messrs. R. P. Das, G. M. Pillay and N. P. Naidoo for their kind assistance. Over 150 Indians have been attended to and their objections lodged.

Organising meetings were held in surrounding district and were addressed by Messrs. P. M. Pillay, L. Ganesh, L. Nanoo, A. Singh, N. M. Pillay, P. R. Pather and J. M. Perumal, and Mr. H. S. Done was thanked for allowing the use of his School room.

After the adoption of the above report Mr N. P. Naidoo explained the meeting about the objections lodged with the Durban Corporation regarding valuation with the able assistance of Messrs. A. Christopher and P. R. Pather and the success they had acheieved.

Mr. R. P. Das moved a resolution highly appreciating the services rendered by the Provisional Committee which was unanimously carried.

The following office bearers were then elected:—
Chairman: Mr. P. M. Pillay, Vice Chairman: Mr. L. Nanoo, Joint Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. N. M. Pillay and P. R. Pather, Hon. Treasurer: Mr. L. Ganesh, and other Committee members were also elected.

Mr. A. Christopher spoke at length on the subject of worker's continuation classes which he hoped

would commence in the District in the very near future. He asked those present to take full advantage of those classes.

Among the other speakers were Messrs. M. M. Gandhi, S. P. Nicholas, A. Singh, and C. N. M. Khan.

Cancellation Of Swami Bhawani Dayal's Passport

Questions And Answers In Indian Assembly

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, M.L.A., asked the following questions in the Indian Legislative Assembly at Simla :—

(a) With reference to the reply of Government to my question regarding the cancellation of passport of Swami Bhawani Dayal Sannyasi to visit Fiji, that Swami Bhawani Dayal is a South African national and, therefore, the Government does not propose to make any enquiries; are Government aware that this gentleman possessed landed property in India and is a registered voter in the province of Bihar and Orissa? When and how has he lost his nationality or domicile in India, and what is the evidence in possession of the Government to show that he is a South African National?

(b) Have not the Government of India from time to time made representations on matters concerning South African Indians, who may be nationals in that country; and if so why have they refused to take action in the case of the cancellation of the passport of Swami Bhawani Dayal?

(c) Is it not one of the primary duties of the Indian Agent in South Africa to protect the rights of the South African Indians, whether they may be permanent residents in the colony or otherwise?

(d) Are Government aware that some time back Dr. Malan, the Minister of the Interior, described the Indians in South Africa as 'aliens' in the Union Parliament? If so, will the Government kindly define their attitude with regard to the Indians who may be in South Africa as nationals or as temporary residents?

Mr. Bajpai replied on behalf of the Government:

(a) Swami Bhawani Dayal Sannyasi is recorded as proprietor of certain villages in Bihar and Orissa, jointly with his brother, but is not a registered voter in that Province.

(b) Swami Bhawani Dayal was born in South Africa, retains his domicile there and travels to India on a South African passport. Government are, therefore, justified in treating him as a South African national which appears to be supported by the definition of Nationals given in sub-section (a) of Section 1 of the Union Nationality Act No. 40 of 1927. According to the information given by the hon. member in his previous question the communication from the Fiji Government was addressed to the Union Government. It also relates to a passport granted by the Government of South Africa. The matter was, therefore, primarily one for the Governments of Fiji and South Africa.

(c) Yes. So far as the Government are aware, the Agent was never approached by the Swami.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the position of the Government of India in regard to the rights and privileges of the Indian community in South Africa has been repeatedly explained. They wish to see a progressive improvement of the status of the community and will always continue to work for this.

[NOTE—Swami Bhawani Dayal, we learn, was a registered voter in the Province of Bihar and Orissa under the name of Bhawani Dayal Singh. Of course Mr. Bajpai could not be expected to know that that name has undergone several changes since but representing the same person. From Mr. Bhawani Dayal Singh it was changed to *Pandit* Bhawani Dayal, at one time *Sharma* too, we understand, was affixed and then it was changed to *Pandit* Bhawani Dayal *Sannyasi* and at the present time it is *Swami* Bhawani Dayal *Sannyasi*. Like the Heavenly Father the name may change but He is The One.]

Indian Colonial Association

Resolutions Affecting Indians Outside India

The second session of the Indians Overseas Conference of Ajitmal (Etawah) was held in the Hindu Maha Sabha Pandal at Ajmer, under the presidency of Mr. Chaud Karan Sharda, B.A., L.L.B., Advocate, on October 18. Among the prominent personages present were Bhai Parmanand, M.A., M.L.A., Mr. Jagat Narayan Lal, M.A., L.L.B., Pandit Jyoti Shanker Dikshit, Mr. Shrish Chatterjee, Mr. Govil of America, Mehta Jaimini, B.A., L.L.B., who is expected here shortly, Dr. Bhagatram from London, Mr. D. N. Sharma from Assam, Pandit Shrikrishna Sharma of Fiji and many delegates from Africa, Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad and other Colonies. The following resolutions were passed :—

- (1) This Conference appreciates and admires the bold stand taken by the Colonial Indians in facing the oppressive and prejudicial policy pursued by the various Colonial Governments and declares that Indians will always stand by them in their political, religious and other struggles.
- (2) This Conference draws the attention of the Government towards the present situation of the Indians in Kenya and South Africa and urges upon it to safeguard their interests and privileges against the unjust demands of the white settlers.
- (3) This Conference fully agrees with and appreciates the just demand for common electoral roll of the Indians of Fiji, the principle of which was enunciated by White Paper No. 3574 presented by the Secretary of State for Colonies and requests the Fiji Government to fulfil their demand and further adds that the Indian and British Governments will be pleased enough to look into the matter so that the principle of common franchise is granted to them.
- (4) That this Conference condemns the action of the Government regarding the refusal to grant permission and passports to Swami Bhawani Dayal Sannyasi and Pandit Shrikrishna Sharma to go to the Fiji Islands and demands the Government's reconsideration over the matter.
- (5) This Conference proposes to call the third conference at a suitable time and place in India in order to find out ways and means to assist in removing the grievances of Indians abroad.

Transvaal Notes

(From A Correspondent)

Orion Nursing Home

Sister Frances, assisted by her husband Mr. Holland, has started a Maternity and Nursing Home at 98 Bree Street, Johannesburg. A cottage has been converted into well equipped wards and the place is well furnished and made attractive. The Home is for Indians and Coloured persons.

Sister Frances is to be congratulated on her noble enterprise and she deserves all the support she deserves.

Late Mr. Samson Paul

The untimely death of Mr. Samson Paul at the age of 39 years came as a great shock to his many friends and admirers. The deceased was chief steward at the Country Club for the past 20 years and he enjoyed the absolute confidence of Col. Dawson Squibb and the members of the Committee. He was only ill for a short time. Mr. Samson Paul was a vice-president of the Colonial Born Association, treasurer of the Transvaal Hotel Employees' Union, one time vice-president of the Transvaal Indian Football Association, president of the Oamsin League F.C. He was of a very generous nature and no visitor who paid a visit to the Country Club left it without tasting his hospitality. He identified himself with all charitable causes and quite recently assisted the Hospital Drive.

He was buried on Thursday 23rd Nov. at Brixton where there was a large attendance at the graveside. Col. Dawson Squibb, Messrs. D. M. Nursoo and W. Ernest spoke in eulogistic terms.

Transvaal Hindu Samaj

A farewell reception was held on Sunday, Nov. 26 at the Patidar Hall, Newtown, by the Transvaal Hindu Seva Samaj in honour of Messrs. Gopaldas of Messrs. Telkandas and Mr. C. G. Patel (Mr. Tribhawan) of Messrs. I. O. Ashabhai & Co. Both these gentlemen have been members of the Congress at one time the former as vice-president, the latter as treasurer. They each contributed £501 towards the building of the Hindu Temple, Gandhi Hall etc.

A great crowd was present at the Station on Monday evening to see them off for India by the Lourenco Marques train.

Sympathy

Mr. E. Mall (one of the joint secretaries of the Transvaal Indian Congress) and Mrs. Mall lost their daughter six months ago. She was buried at the Moalem cemetery. We express our sympathy in their sad bereavement.

News In Brief

Mr. Iswarbhai Patel the partner in the firm of Messrs. I. O. Ashabhai & Co., of Johannesburg, who was once hon. treasurer of the Transvaal and the South African Indian Congress has returned by the last boat from India.

Mr. K. P. Desai (of Messrs. Gandhi and Co), captain of the Tongaat Indian Tennis Club who sailed for India last Monday was given a farewell reception by the officials and members of the club on Saturday November 25 at the Gokhale Memorial Hall.

The total Union imports during the ten months ended October 31, amounted to £39,507,190. Exports during the period were valued £59,966,163.

The main items of exports for the ten months were: Bullion, excluding the premium, £39,571,070; specie, excluding the premium, £1,351,155; diamonds, £1,787,654; wool, £5,355,259; maize, £332,972; hides and skins, £1,217,814; other merchandise, £7,411,371; and bunker coal and ships' supplies, £761,438.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Evidence of Mr. Mahomed Essop Gathoo

(Continued from last week)

Mr. MACWILLIAM: When was your Victoria Land Company registered?—In 1914, as far as I remember.

When you say, as far as you remember, you know that 1919 becomes an important date?—It was 1914 as far as I remember.

Have you your Title deeds that you can bring?—I have Title deeds.

Can you bring us that information?—Yes.

Did you get transfer of all those six stands at the same time, or did you get them at different times?—As far as I remember, I think the same time.

Can you also get us that information and bring it to us?—Yes.

Say, for the sake of argument, that it was 1914. Since 1914 who has been in occupation of these properties?—All Indians.

I am now talking about your properties?—Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What are you referring to?

Mr. MACWILLIAM: I am referring to his portion of the block.

CHAIRMAN: Still on Malherbe Street?

Mr. MACWILLIAM: The property facing Malherbe Street, The western half of the block. (Witness) There are cottages and one shop.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Is there a shop on one of the corners?—Yes; on one of the corners. On Malherbe Street we have shops. The others are all cottages.

You say that so far as the cottages are concerned they have always been let to Coloured people.

Coloured or Indian?—As far as I remember, yes.

As far as the other portion of the block, that is, belonging to the Suliman Mia Company, how long have you known that portion?—Since some time about 1905.

Can you tell us how long has Suliman Mia been there?—I cannot tell you exactly, but I think roughly about 20 years.

I understand that nobody will be called from Suliman Mia. You do not know of any witness coming from Suliman Mia?—No.

CHAIRMAN: I see there is a claim in respect of some of these properties. There is a general dealer on Stand 239 Minnaar St.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Yes. That was the point at which we are dealing.

CHAIRMAN: That is the eastern end. That shop is said to have existed there since 1912.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Is there any claim for exemption as regards the balance?

CHAIRMAN: The balance of the properties appear to be residential. There is no vested right, owing to the 1919 Act, as regards residential properties.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: My trouble at the moment is that we have not been furnished with a list of the exemptions.

CHAIRMAN: Who is going to furnish you with that list?

Mr. MACWILLIAM: I understood it was in such a form that we could get the list from the Secretary to the Commission.

CHAIRMAN: You recollect the remarks I made early this morning. It is most difficult to see from the forms whether or not there is a serious claim for vested rights—I had better use that expression—sometimes it is clear enough and in other cases it is obscure. In this case I find the only claim for a vested trading right in this block north of Minnaar Street is apparently relating to Stand No. 230 where the present occupant says he has been in occupation since 1912.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Do I understand your lordship correctly; when your lordship says there is one claim for exemption, does it include the whole 12 stands?

CHAIRMAN: The claim for exemption must include the whole block. The only for a vested right so far as it appears on these forms appears in connection with Stand 239, which is the only trading stand occupied by Indians in this block. In other cases, residential claims are put in dating from a comparatively early period—some from 1912; a good many of these from 1912.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Did I understand your lordship correctly that there is no claim for exemption.

CHAIRMAN: Please do not say "exemption," Mr. MacWilliam.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: I beg your lordship's pardon; I should say "vested rights." Does your lordship refer to the whole of the block?

CHAIRMAN: I am referring to the whole block in Minnaar Street. It is mainly a residential block, but there is one general dealer's store at the eastern end which is said to have been in Indian hands since 1912. What are the numbers of stands?

Mr. MACWILLIAM: It is very difficult to see here. I am afraid that without a magnifying glass I cannot make the number out.

Mr. BRINK: 234 and 222. There is a European furniture factory.

CHAIRMAN: 222. There are Indians resident on it. No. 234 I have no particulars of as to occupation. But that is the position, there is one Indian business claim, and there are a number of residential claims, as you may call them, but they have no title to vested rights under the 1919 Act. With regard to these two other areas, the small areas in this portion of Burghersdorp, Mr. MacWilliam, there is the Indian Government school for one, and an area, so far as I recollect, of warehouse adjoining it, in that triangular block.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Facing the Rand Aid?

CHAIRMAN: You can call it facing the Rand Aid; between Bree Street and that next street near it.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Bree Street and Carr Street.

CHAIRMAN: I should be glad to know at a later date what objection there is as far as the Council is concerned in regard to that point?

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Your lordship is referring to the triangular block?

CHAIRMAN: There is one triangular block; there is an Indian Government school provided by the Indians and occupied for school purposes, and they require additional ground. They cannot acquire it unless not only their present site but the adjoining area is exempted.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: I appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN: They cannot occupy it for this purpose unless the ground is exempted. Then there is this residential block where the witness says he has houses. I just call your attention to these small areas.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: I may say I have asked for some information, but I am not yet certain of it and I may be able to make statement later. I may say, my lord, the same remark applies to that area in Market Street down towards the Pass Office. I am having certain enquiries made in regard to that, but at the moment I am not in a position to make a statement. I do not propose to ask any question about it, but I am not in a position to make any statement.

(To Be Continued)

Colonial Born And Settlers Indian Association

A Mass Meeting of protest will be held in the Victoria Picture Palace, Victoria Street, Durban, on Sunday, 3rd December 1933, at 2 p.m., against:

- (1) White Labour Policy which is throwing Indians out of employment.
- (2) Colonization Enquiry which is looking for a new country for South African Indians.
- (3) Repatriation which is the temptation for workless Indians to leave South Africa.

Colonial Born Indians and Settlers come in your Thousands.

A. CHRISTOPHER,
President.

S. L. SINGH, } Jt. Hon.
A. HARTJES, } Secretaries.
D. S. CHERRY, }

P. G. NAUCKER, } Hon.
M. JOEN, } Treasurers.

Notice

INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

Will employers of Indian labour kindly notify the undersigned of any vacancies in their establishment.

WRITE: Hon. Secretary, Sir Kurma Reddi Unemployment Relief Committee, Indian Sports Ground.

ઇન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન.

પુસ્તક ૩૧ મું.

ફ્રીડેસ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧ ડિસેમ્બર ૧૯૩૩

અંક ૪૮

નોંધ અને સમાચાર

વિષય મુચી

નોંધ અને સમાચાર	૪૯૦
ભત અને વર્તમાન (અગ્રણ્ય)	૪૯૧
ઇન્ડિયન કોસ્ટનીયલ એસોસિએશન	૪૯૩
સ્વામી ભવાની દયાબેનો પાસપોર્ટ	૪૯૪
ટ્રાંસવાલના ઉબરમઈ	"
ડૉ. હિંદુ સેવા સમાજ	૪૯૫
હિંદના કુમર સ્વોમના પિતા	૪૯૬
બંદોબસ્ત તેલુ (વાતી)	૪૯૭
વિવિધ સમાચાર	૪૯૮
મીતા મન્યન	"
રબકથ	૪૯૯
હિંદુસ્તાનના સમાચાર	"

મરહુમ રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટ

ડરબનના માણ મેયર રેવરન્ડ એ. લેમોન્ટ જેઓ એ માસ થયાં ગંભીર બીમારી ભોગવી રહ્યા હતા તેઓ ગયા સોમવારના રોજ બપોરે ડરબનના સ્નેહોદારીયમમાં ૬૯ વર્ષની વયે મરણ પામ્યા છે. તેમના મરણથી ડરબનના જીવનમાંથી એક પ્રતિષ્ઠિત વ્યક્તિની ખોટ થઈ છે. રાજદારી ક્ષેત્રમાં દાખલ થવા અગાઉ રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટ હિંદી કામમાં એક કેળવણીકાર તરીકે માન પામેલા હતા. શાસ્ત્રી કોલેજ ખુલવાની લાંબી મુદત અગાઉ તેમના હસ્તે મરીન કોલેજ ખોલવામાં આવી હતી જેમાંથી ધણી હિંદી યુવાનો તેમના હાથ નીચે મેટ્રિક થયા હતા. આને ઇંગ્લાંડથી ડાક્ટરી અભ્યાસ કરી આવેલા ધણી ખરા અને જેઓ હજુ ત્યાં અભ્યાસ કરી રહ્યા છે તેઓ તેમના હાથ નીચેજ શિક્ષણ પામેલા છે. રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટ ૧૮૨૮ ની સાલથી ૧૮૩૧ સુધી ડરબનના મેયર હતા અને સહીસલામત રીતે કહી શકાય છે કે હિંદી કામ તરફની દિલસોજીમાં મેયર તરીકે રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટને આંટી શકે તેવા ખીજા એક પણ મેયર થયા નથી. હિંદીઓનો ભાગ્યેજ એક પણ બહાર મેળાવડો થયો હશે કે જે તેમણે પોતાની હાજરીથી શોભાવેલો નહિ હોય. જેઓને રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટના સહવાસમાં આવવાનો લાભ મળેલો છે તેઓને તેઓ અત્યંત માયાળુ અને લાગણીવાળા હોવાનો અનુભવ થયેલો છે. તેમના મરણની મોડીજ મુદત પહેલાં રેવરન્ડ લેમોન્ટ નાટાલ પ્રાંતિક કાઉન્સિલના પ્રેવીલના મેમ્બર તરીકે સુઠાયા હતા અને હિંદીઓ કાઉન્સિલમાં તેમને પોતાના એક મીત્ર તરીકે ભેખલા હતા. મરહુમ પોતાની પાંજળ એક વિધવાને આ મથક મુખ્યેને શોક કરના મુખી ગયા છે જેમાંના એક પુત્ર

કે મુદતપરજ આસગો યુનીવર્સિટીમાં ડાક્ટરીનાં અભ્યાસ માટે દાખલ થયા છે. તેઓને થયેલી મહાન ખોટમાં અમે અંતઃકરણથી દિલસોજી ધરાવીએ છીએ અને મરહુમના રૂઢને શાંતિ મળે એવી ધન્ય પ્રયે પ્રાર્થના કરીએ છીએ.

હજી મુખ્યારક

નાટાલ અને ટ્રાંસવાલથી હજી પડવા સ્ટીમર પીયાવેનાં ગયા સોમવારે ડરબનથી ધણી હાજીઓ વિદાય થયા હતા. ડરબનમાં તેઓના માનમાં અનેક જલસાઓ થયા હતા જેમાં સૌથી લંબ મી. સોરાબજી રસ્તમજી તરફથી થયો હતો. ઉપડનારા જાણીતાઓમાં નીચેના હતા:—

મી. અને મીસીસ એ. એચ. મુસા, મી. અને મીસીસ ઇસ્માઈલ એ. એચ. મુસા, મી. અને મીસીસ એસ. એમ. રાંદેરી, મી. અને મીસીસ એ. એમ. દેસાઈ, મી. અને મીસીસ એસ. એમ. લાખી, મી. અને મીસીસ આઇ. એસ. હાટીયા, મી. અને મીસીસ એસ. ઇ. મોટાલા, મી. અને મીસીસ એમ. એસ. રાંદેરી, મી. અને મીસીસ એસ. ઇ. મુલાં, મી. અહમદ કાસમ મુલાં, મીસીસ આમદ આઝબાઇ, મેસર્સ ડી. સી. દાદાલાઇ, સૈયદ ફકરુદ્દીન, સૈયદ હસન, એસ. ઇ. રાંદેરી, મહમદ કોલા, ઇસિય આમદજી, એમ. ઇલાહીમ, મહમદ હાસમ, મીસીસ એ. એમ. ડોકરાત, મી. એમ. એ. ડોકરાત, મીસીસ ફુસેન મહમદ બદાત અને મી. મહમદ ગુલામ ગેરા ડીમોલ.

ઉપલા તેમજ તેઓની સાથે ગયેલા ખીજા સાહેબો અને સાહેબાઓને અમે હજીમુખ્યારક ઇચ્છીએ છીએ. ખુદા તેઓને સહીસલામત લઇ જાય અને તેઓની સધળી લલી ઇચ્છીએ પાર પાડી સહિસલામત પાછા લાવે. આમીન.

સા. આ. પાર્સીની પ્રાંતિક બંધનો દુર કરવાની હિમાયત

મેરીટબર્ગમાં મળેલી સાઉથ આફ્રિકન પાર્સીની કોંગ્રેસમાં અખીલોની શાખા તરફથી હિંદીઓની આંતર પ્રાંતિક હીલચાલ પર રાખવામાં આવેલું બંધન દુર કરવાને સરકારને કાયદો લાવવા વિનંતિ કરનારો મુકવામાં આવેલો ઇરાવ પ્રસાર થયો હતો. મી. જે. ટી. જેકસને ટેકા આપતાં જણાવ્યું કે યુનીયન સ્વપાયું તે વખતે સધળા પ્રાંતોએ એક ખીજની જવાબદારીઓ અરસપરસ ઉઠાવવાનું કમુલ્યુ હર્ષ, અસુક એકજ પ્રાંતે પોતાનો વધારે પહોતો ભોજો સહી લેવાનું ચાલુજ રાખવું એવા કંઈ કરાર થયા નહોતા. ૧૯૨૧ ના વસ્તીગણક પ્રમાણે યુનીયનનાં નવ મુખ્ય શહેરોમાં એશીયાટીકોની કુલ સંખ્યા