

Indian Opinion

No. 1—Vol. XXXII.

Friday, January 5th, 1934

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

FIRST PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

OF THE COLONIAL BORN AND SETTLERS' INDIAN ASSOCIATION

THE first Natal Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association was opened at the Royal Picture Palace, Victoria Street, Durban, on Sunday, December 31 at 10-30 a.m.

Delegates were present from Maritzburg, Dundee, Newcastle, Verulam, Stanger, Chakaskraal, Clairwood, Seaview and other places representing every section of the community and almost every trade and employment. Besides the delegates the hall was full with a large number of spectators.

After prayers were offered Mr. D. S. Chetty, one of the Jt. secretaries, read the messages. There were a great many regrets from distinguished Europeans for their non-attendance owing to holiday engagements but who had nevertheless sent their good wishes to the Conference.

Messages From Europeans

The following were among the messages read:—

"I am directed by the Honourable the Minister of the Interior to convey his best wishes to the Natal Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association. He takes the opportunity of expressing the hope that the members of the Conference and those whom they represent will enjoy prosperity and welfare in the New Year."—P. SOHUMAN, Private Secretary to the Minister of the Interior, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr.

"I have pleasure in sending a message for the opening of the Natal Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association and trust that its deliberations will be wisely guided in the best interests of the Indian community and of South Africa.—MR. PATRICK DUNCAN, Minister of Mines.

"Anything that will relieve the position of Indians in South Africa will have my support. I have always held that the policy of absolute justice is the only one that should be pursued towards every section of South Africa, irrespective of race, colour or creed. All men of goodwill should combine in trying to bring prosperity to our common country, and a policy of mutual understanding and respect, based upon justice, is the best one to create happiness and real prosperity in South Africa.

"Trusting that you will carry out your deliberations with calmness and moderation and in accordance with the best Indian traditions.—MR. MORRIS ALEXANDER.

"I would say firstly that in wishing success to the new association, I hope that care will be taken to avoid the mistakes and pitfalls into which other

organisations have been prone to fall in the past. Secondly, that I consider that the safekeeping and true progress of the community in South Africa lies with the rising generation and that the latter is well qualified and competent to advance that progress of the Union as a whole, provided that the spirit of sacrifice and renunciation be cultivated and our Indian youth be brought to realise that the welfare of each individual is involved in the well-being of the whole, of which each is but an integral part.

The tradition of self-sacrifice inculcated by Mahatma Gandhi is still sufficiently vital to be capable of expansion and to produce great and important results. That spirit is moreover innate in Indian character. If your association can by example and precept develop that spirit it will, quite apart from its political and communal activities, have succeeded in doing a great work.

May wisdom inspire your deliberations.—MR. L. W. RITCH.

Other Messages

Mr. S. Muthray of Maritzburg who was not able to be present at the Conference owing to his mother's illness sent the following message:—

"I pray that the deliberations and decisions will be productive of great good to the welfare of the community, and that the proceedings will be characterised by harmony and unity, thus bringing inspiration to those upon whom the future of South African Indians depends.

I conclude with the proverb, which is my strongest belief:— "The Strong *aspire*, the Shrewd *conspire*, and the Weak *expire*, and I would like those who misunderstood our movement to remember Abraham Lincoln who stated:— "You can fool part of the people all the time, all the people part of the time, but never all the people all the time."

"Wishing Conference every success. I pray whole Natal Indians come together and fight common cause. Assure you majority of Transvaal behind you."—M. D. BRABOCHL.

"Pray Conference unanimously adopt policy of united front for retaining and regaining our rights."—MANIBHAI PATEL.

"Pray Providence guide your deliberations to solidarity and success in carving means of facing our grave problems.—S. B. MEHD.

Among others who sent messages of good wishes and every success to the Conference were Mr. Naraynsamy, Mrs. Singariam Pandithar, Mr. E. M. Patel, Mrs. G. K. Naidoo, Mr. Coopoosamy Thambi Naidoo.

Welcome To Delegates

In the course of his speech Mr. Manilal M. Gandhi, Chairman of the Reception Committee said:

"As you all know it is only a few months since our Association has been formed. There have been many causes that have been responsible for its having come into existence. It is not my purpose to enter into a discussion of them here. Whatever those causes may be there is sufficient justification for the formation of such a body in that those born and bred in this country and who know no other home in any other part of the world and those who have permanently settled here and made this country their own by adoption—and it is indeed they who form by far the largest population of our community—have the unchallengeable right to speak for themselves and to decide what is good and what is bad for them. They are no longer in the helpless position of being spooned nor to have thrust into their throats what they do not like. They are sufficiently intelligent to know what is right or wrong.

"This Association has convened this first Natal Provincial Conference. There are many matters that we have to discuss. I do not wish to detain you by enumerating them here. You will, I am sure, find them all referred to in the Conference booklet that the Delegates will presently be presented with.

"To put it in a nutshell this first Conference has been called in order to get into closer touch with one another in a great brotherhood, and to discuss the ways and means of our future welfare in this land of our birth and adoption.

"You have all come from far distances at great inconvenience. I extend to you all a very hearty welcome and in doing so will ask you to make yourselves at home and overlook any shortcomings on our part which there are sure to be, this being our first venture since our inception.

"I am pleased to see in our midst a large number of friends from other communities showing an interest in our affairs. It gives us hope and encouragement. On behalf of our Association I have great pleasure in thanking them for their presence and in wishing them the compliments the season."

Correspondence With The Agent

The Agent of the Government of India was not present nor was he represented at the Conference in which matters vitally affecting the community were discussed. The following correspondence took place between the Association and the Agent which was read by the secretary:—

11th December, 1933.

The Agent of the Government of India,
Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh,
26 St. Andrews Street,
Johannesburg.

Sir,—Our Association has convened a Natal Provincial Conference to be held at Durban. The opening takes place on the 30th instant and the sessions will be continued on the 31st instant and 1st and 2nd January 1934.

We are directed by our Committee to extend an invitation to you and to Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh to be present and to grace the proceedings with your presence.

An agenda of the Conference will be forwarded to you in due course.—We beg to remain, yours truly, S. L. SINGH, A. HARRIS, D. S. CHETTY, Jt. hon. Secretaries.

26 St. Andrews Road,
Parktown,
Johannesburg,
15-12-33.

Gentlemen,—Many thanks for your letter dated 11th inst., received yesterday, and kind invitation for the 30th inst., and succeeding dates. My wife and I regret that we are unable to accept your Committee's kind invitation.

We shall be in Johannesburg on these dates. Please convey our apologies to your Committee.—Yours sincerely, MAHARAJ SINGH.

19th December, 1933.

Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh,
Agent of the Government of India,
26 St. Andrews Road,
Parktown, Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,—We beg to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 15th inst.

Our Committee regrets that you are unable to attend our Conference at which matters of vital importance and urgency to the South African born Indians and permanent settlers will be discussed.

To avoid any misunderstanding our Committee desires us to draw your attention to our invitation to you which was addressed to you in your official capacity as the Agent of the Government of India and we shall be glad to know whether your reply is in your official capacity.

Our Committee would also be glad if you would reconsider your decision.—We are, yours faithfully, S. L. SINGH, A. HARRIS, D. S. CHETTY, Jt. hon. Secretaries.

[NOTE.—No reply, we understand, was received to the above letter from the Agent. While fully appreciating the fact that the Agent may have had other important engagements it is certainly regrettable that he should not have considered the present occasion, when Colonial Born and Settler Indians had gathered to discuss matters vitally affecting their future in this country, as also one of great importance and worthy of his taking note of. If it was possible for the Agent to run down from the Rand to join the officials of the Natal Indian Congress when they submitted their statement to the Provincial Finance Committee, if it was possible for him to run down once again, just for a day, to tender evidence before the Colonization Enquiry Committee the present was surely an occasion when he should have at least sent his representative, if he was not able personally to come down.—Ed. I.O.]

Presidential Address

The following address was delivered by the President, Advocate A. Christopher, to the first Natal Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, held at Durban, on December 31, and January 1:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We who are South African born Indians and permanent settlers in this land have come together to consider our life and our existence in this country. There have been let loose forces in this country which we fear will, as times go on, make our position worse than it is.

You know that for some years the Congress has been in existence and like its predecessors has worked on lines which did not make for the advantage and improvement of all.

We who have been in the Congress and have worked in it have endeavoured to initiate movements for the betterment of all, but they have never been supported by those who were in a position to help. The attitude on the part of some has kept the community back. They have agreed whenever any trouble threatened us in this country to some scheme which had for its object the reduction of our community and we know that such reduction was effected by pressure of economic circumstances and illiteracy of our working class and others which forced them to leave the country.

Colonization Enquiry

We have just now in this country a Colonization Enquiry which is ascertaining to what extent our people would go to other countries and for this purpose an investigation has been taking place into their economic conditions!

On that Committee of Enquiry the Congress is represented and yet no objection has been raised by it or its representative against the Committee conducting such an economic enquiry. But could we expect it to be otherwise?

The last Indian Delegation came to South Africa in response to the urgent call of the Transvaal

Indians in connection with the then Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, now an Act, but the Delegation found it could do nothing about the Bill and the Cape Town Agreement in itself was in danger. It then spoke of a Colonization mission which the India Government was to undertake to explore outlets for its surplus population, and suggested that Indians in South Africa should have no objection to co-operate in such an exploration as they would not in any way be bound by it, for the exploration in itself was to be undertaken on behalf of her surplus population and that the findings of such a mission would be first submitted to the people of India and if it were found to be in any way favourable, it would then be for the Indians in South Africa to consider whether any of them would care to go to these new colonies of India.

The suggestion was agreed to subject to the following terms:

1. The Congress agrees to co-operate with the Governments of India and the Union of South Africa in the former's mission to explore outlets for colonization in regard to her increasing population, provided that such co-operation on the part of the Congress is taken as inspired by patriotic motives, and to ascertain whether there exists any good opportunities for South African Indians in the countries explored, and not on the score of Indians being deemed undesirable in the Union or that the Indian population is to be reduced: provided also that the Assisted Emigration Scheme which formed part of the last Agreement is eliminated and the Congress will be free as part of its policy to oppose it.
2. The Congress also reserves the right to reject the Agreement and to withdraw its co-operation in the above Scheme should any points in the Agreement or other subjects dealt with by the Round Table Conference not meet with the approval of the Congress.

But even this decision was not arrived at unanimously for every attempt was made by several of those who are still in the Congress to agree to co-operate unconditionally because this was what the India delegation required and which we were not prepared to give, and in the end they accepted the assurance of co-operation in the terms set out.

Therefore the terms of reference as announced by the Minister of Interior in June last came as a shock to us, for it was a vital departure from what was the understanding at the time of the last Round Table Conference. The terms of reference were published with the concurrence of the India Government whose Agent in South Africa in no way consulted our people before agreeing to such terms.

Instead of our people considering whether the colonies that India had found for her surplus population would suit us, it was now sought by the terms of reference to ascertain to what extent we would participate in a colonisation scheme.

The Congress has refused to consider the voice of the people in persisting in participating in an enquiry at which the Agent himself has now declared that India has no money owing to the world's economic situation to finance any scheme of colonization, and yet, the world's financial position was worse at the time the delegation was in Capetown!

This admission of the Agent simply confirms the India Government's communique of 15th June last that the reference to colonization from India was merely a reproduction of the language of the agreement. It would appear therefore, that the Indian Government never at any time were seriously concerned with the idea of exploration to find outlets for her own surplus population.

Face The Position Fairly And Squarely

The time has now come for us who are born in this country and represent the fourth and fifth generations of them that came to this country in frail sailing vessels which were storm-tossed for months on the high seas before they could make for Durban and those of us who have adopted this

country as our home must face our position in this country fairly and squarely.

We are the nationals of South Africa, we have to work and live as benefit citizens of this country. We have to work not only for economic equality in the country but for economic equality within the community.

Our ideal is to work for a common brotherhood in South Africa, the members of which would help one another in all undertakings regardless of religious, language and other considerations.

Then only can we see a happy, contented Indian community in South Africa which by its character and its life will contribute not only to the prosperity of South Africa but to its culture.

There will come before you many questions of pressing importance, some of which I shall refer to here.

Racial Discrimination

Unfortunately for us the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has in the case of Rasool v. the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs decided that the discrimination between classes made under statutory authorities is not *per se* bad because it is based on race or colour and that the person who challenges such a discrimination as *ultra vires* must show that it is partial or unequal in its operation as between the discriminated classes. Until this judgment was delivered we felt we were protected from such discrimination so long as a law in its terms was of general application and there could be no class legislation unless a law in its terms dealt with race or class.

We are faced with this new development and while an appeal may be possible to the Privy Council we think the only way the status quo can be finally restored is by an Act of Parliament, but will the Government of India be able to do anything in the matter?

Education

Our people are in need of education. Within recent years there have been improvements, but the need is still there. The education of the masses, the education of the workers, the education of the farmers and the education of the girls, are all pressing matters.

Our economic position is such that free education would be a blessing to many. We must educate our girls if we wish to help our community to progress rapidly.

There are reforms required as to the standardisation and reduction of the number of books used in our schools and the cost of them, the exemption of poor children from payment of fees, the unequal fees charged in Government Aided Indian Schools and their standardisation, and the question of taxation of students by teachers.

Unemployment

But the greatest and the most pressing of all questions is unemployment, and the White Labour Policy is throwing our people out of work to make room for Europeans. We have no objection to White Labour Policy as a standard but as a means of the displacement of Indian and other non-European labour, it is working great harm and suffering. This was a question which was discussed time and again with the last Indian Delegation and we appealed to it to work for its modification or elimination, but it admitted that it was powerless in the matter. We are helpless and we can but appeal to public opinion to work a change in the policy so that we who live and shall die in this country may have the chance of human beings.

The question of relief for our unemployed was brought to the notice of Sir Kurma Reddi, the then

Agent, and a Relief Committee was formed. This Committee carried on the work and when the present Agent came it was with difficulty that he was got to take action in the matter in co-operating to secure relief for the unemployed. To the Union Government and the Durban Corporation we are grateful for such relief as was afforded our people though such relief did not substantially touch them.

We see year by year the schools are sending out our children to seek for bread but where are the avenues of employment. We are living without a thought for our children. Is it not time for us to consider what is to become of them in this country?

They have not the opportunity to work because the State would not employ them and encourages industries to employ White labour, and on the other hand it is next to impossibility for them to trade in any way because they cannot get licences. What are they to do? They cannot get employment and they cannot trade. Are they then to starve or to commit crime to live, for, to work without authority is to work unlawfully.

We have the industrial laws but we suffer under them as we have not the same economic opportunities as the Europeans.

The Indian worker does not get an equal opportunity in the labour market notwithstanding the formation of trade unions among them.

Our unskilled workers on the mines, on the railways and on the estates and in the towns, are displaced by machinery and by white workers.

Our countrymen are not large employers of labour and the question of their absorption in the labour market is pressing.

Condition Of The Farmers

Our farmers live by the sweat of their brow. Year in and year out they toil but they do not to the full reap the fruits of their labour but eke out a bare living. They work for the landlord, the dealer and all others to whom they have to make some kind of payment. They are mostly illiterate and do not know how or where to sell to their profit. Even the dealer finds that with lower railway rates from Delagoa Bay to the other provinces he finds it difficult to sell Natal bananas against those from Delagoa Bay in the markets of those provinces. Much requires to be done for the farmers to give them a chance of getting a return that will improve their methods of cultivation and the distribution of their products.

Personal Tax:

The Personal Tax bears hardly upon the poorer members of our community and the Provincial Executive of Natal will give great relief to them if exemption were granted to them.

Housing Loan

From the Housing Loan granted for Indian housing the Durban Corporation was willing to grant building loans to Indians subject to the land being freehold and other conditions. This offer was not availed of by our people. We would urge that advantage should be taken of this offer and better buildings erected. We would suggest that live fences in the suburbs would improve their properties.

In the erection of living quarters for Indian workers by Local Authorities and others, it would help the Indian workers to live in cottages instead of cement blocks which are not always convenient and aesthetic.

We understand that the Durban Corporation will probably be building on its Oato Manor Estate Tenement blocks for its Indian Employees. We would appeal to them to build cottages on quarter acre sites,

as this land was bought at £50 odd per acre and thus enable its employees to live in better conditions.

Penalty Interest

Indians in the added areas of the Borough of Durban are still liable for penalty interest imposed by the Health Boards and it would be an act of grace for the Durban Corporation to wipe off this imposition.

Hospitals

We are in need of hospitals. Addington has never been popular with our people for its differential treatment. St. Aidan's has been serving a useful purpose but it is unable to cope with the demand. It is appealing for funds and those who are able should not hesitate to contribute. There is a Khan's Trust for hospitals and dispensaries but so far there has been no announcement by the Trustees as to when something would be done. Not long ago Mr. Andrew Weir of the India-Africa Line donated, it was understood, a sum of £6,000 for an Indian hospital. Nothing so far has been heard as to who is controlling the amount or what is being done with it. But the question is urgent and we should not hesitate to appeal to the Provincial authorities for better and more satisfactory provision for Indians at Addington Hospital. Wherever possible we should do our bit to assist in the work of child-welfare.

Immigration

As Indian Immigration to South Africa has been stopped there should be no differentiated treatment of Indian passengers on the boats who are lawfully entering South Africa. The treatment of Mr. Quareishi, a first class Indian passenger recently, is a case in Point.

Provincial Barriers

Union of South Africa has not been a Union to us in so far as we have been confined to our respective provinces. In the well known Gandhi-Smuts correspondence—reference is made by Mahatma Gandhi to our claim for the removal of the Provincial Barriers. This claim has been repeated—and when the India Delegation were last here we urged on them to ask for the removal of the barriers but to no avail. With such removal, will come our distribution throughout the Union and no longer would there be a fear of pressure from us in this Province. We are glad that the recent South African Party Congress in Natal resolved in favour of the removal of the barriers.

Indian Immigration Laws

No Indian immigrant, Hindu or Mahomedan, will be appointed as a Marriage Officer for his class of persons under the existing laws and the Protector of Indian Immigrants or a Magistrate acting under the Indian Immigration Laws is the Marriage Officer for Indian Immigrants. But a Passenger Indian may be appointed as a Marriage Officer for his class of persons. This creates an anomalous position and indicates the need for the repeal of the relative section so that a Hindu or Mahomedan can be appointed as a Marriage Officer for his co-religionists irrespective of whether they are Indian immigrants or passenger Indians.

Marriages registered under Indian Immigration Laws between persons, one of whom was not an Indian immigrant, have been held by the Courts of Natal as invalid, causing loss and suffering to the surviving spouse and children.

We have made representations for the validation of such marriages.

The question, you will remember, was raised by appeal to the Privy Council by the late Govinda-

samy, a public-spirited Colonial-born Indian, whether Colonial-born Indians, the descendants of Indian immigrants, fell within that term, and unfortunately for Colonial-born Indians the Privy Council held that it did.

These Indian immigration laws were passed to meet the conditions prevailing under the indenture system and as those conditions no longer prevail, we think that the time has come for the repeal of these laws.

The Agent Of The Government Of India

We in this country are in a sense living under two Governments. As nationals of South Africa we are under the Union Government but the Agent to the Government of India is here. We have never been able to ascertain what were the duties of such an Agent in this country. We know that while there is a Capetown Agreement the Agent will be here.

We understood that he was to be here not to supersede the organizations of the Indian community but to support them. He stands by the Congress so long as his views agree with the Congress but the moment the Congress disagreed with him and passed resolutions opposing the Land Tenure Act, he at once ignored the existence of the South African and the Transvaal Indian Congresses and recognised a new body styled the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association as representing the Transvaal Indian community and co-operated with it in giving evidence before the Feetham Commission in terms of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act. And having achieved his purpose has gone back to the Congress which, strangely enough, accepted him again notwithstanding they having resented his action in strong terms at the Transvaal Indian Provincial Conference.

The Agent finds in the Congress an ally for the support of the colonisation enquiry and disregarded the almost unanimous opposition of our community to the enquiry and thus once again works his will in opposition to the community.

We hope that the official methods of India will not be introduced to this country and that we may be allowed to grow into a homogenous community.

Franchise

We are now of this country. We are subject to its laws but we have no right to join in the election of lawmakers. We had the Parliamentary and Municipal franchise. Both have been taken away. There is discussion about representation being given to Coloureds and Natives but the question of representation for Indians has not even been mentioned. We appeal to the Government to restore to us our franchise rights and thus give us as South African Nationals full citizenship rights.

Fellow South Africans: By our work, by our life and by our character, and by our contributions to the prosperity and advancement and culture of South Africa only can we prove that we are worthy citizens of a great South African Nation, the contribution of India to South Africa.

Note

Owing to the Conference reports we have been obliged to hold over other important matters for next week. Further reports of the Conference will also be dealt with in our next week's issue.

The Conference Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed at the first Natal Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association held in Durban on December 31 and January 1:—

RESOLUTION No. 1.—EDUCATION

That this Natal Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association whilst appreciating the part played by the Natal Provincial Education Department during the last few years in improving Indian education respectfully urges that provision should be made

- (a) for increased facilities for primary, higher and female education of Indian children;
- (b) for the gradual conversion of all Aided Schools but for the present of all large schools into Government schools;
- (c) for the standardisation of all school fees in Government Aided schools and for the standardisation and limitation of school books;
- (d) for the introduction of Afrikaans in all Indian schools;
- (e) for the establishment of an Indian secondary school at Pietermaritzburg;
- (f) for the supply by the Provincial Stores of school books to Indian school children at cost price as are being supplied to European school children.

Proposed by Mr. P. R. Pather, seconded by Mr. R. N. Naidoo.

RESOLUTION No. 2

That this Conference submits that as it is necessary to educate all Indian children of school going age, the subsidy of the Union Government for Indian education should be increased in the case of Government Aided Schools, pending their conversion into Government schools, to the sum of £7. 7s. per child and in the case of Government schools to the sum of £10 10s. and further urges that such subsidy should be calculated on the estimated number of children likely to attend during the year that the estimates are made for.

Proposed by Mr. P. R. Pather, seconded by Mr. E. M. Chin.

RESOLUTION No. 3

That this Conference realising the urgent necessity for increasing the facilities for adult, technical, commercial and agricultural education of Indians, respectfully urges that the Union Government should assist the Durban Indian Technical Education Committee and other District Committees by substantially increasing its subsidy so that the Committee may increase their activities.

Proposed by Mr. A. B. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. R. S. Venkatas.

RESOLUTION No. 4.—ASSISTED EMIGRATION SCHEME

That although the Assisted Emigration Scheme has been eliminated from the 1926 Capetown Agreement, the retention of the scheme in the Statute is a temptation for workless Indians owing to economic pressure to leave the country, this Conference therefore presses for the repeal of the said scheme from the Union Statute.

Proposed by Mr. S. P. Nicholas, seconded by Mr. M. Beethasee Maharaj.

RESOLUTION No. 5.—MOZAMBIQUE TREATY AS AFFECTING THE INDIAN FARMER

That this Conference submits that the Mozambique Treaty by reason of preference given to produce

from Mozambique, is hitting the Indian farmers who have made this country their permanent home, very severely, and therefore urges that the Union Government should afford protection for produce grown by Indian farmers.

Proposed by Mr. A. B. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. Ettis Pillay.

RESOLUTION No. 6.—INDIAN LADY TEACHERS IN AIDED SCHOOLS.

That this Conference appeals to the managers of all Government Aided Indian Schools to encourage the employment of Indian Lady Teachers in the Schools in their charge.

Proposed by Mr. B. R. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. E. M. Chin.

RESOLUTION No. 7.—LICENSING LAWS.

In view of the fact that discretionary powers of the Licensing Officers and other Local Authorities in Natal are working harshly against the South African born and permanent Indian Settlers and as an applicant has not the right of appeal to the Supreme Court except on renewals, this Conference strongly feels that the time has arrived for the Union Government to revise the Licensing Laws of the Province of Natal, so that the discretionary powers of the Local Authorities might reasonably be limited in the following ways:

(a) The grounds on which a licence may be refused should be laid down by Statute.

(b) The reasons for which a licence is refused should be recorded.

(c) There should be a right of appeal in case of first application and transfers, as well as renewals.

Proposed by Mr. Nathoo V. Morar, seconded by Mr. Vrajlal Raghavjee.

RESOLUTION No. 8.—WHITE LABOUR POLICY.

That this Conference feels strongly that the White Labour Policy used against Indians not as a standard but as a means to displace them for Europeans is causing considerable hardship and adding to the number of unemployed, and urges that there is an urgent necessity for the elimination of such policy.

Proposed by Mr. P. R. Pather, seconded by Mr. C. N. M. Khan.

RESOLUTION No. 9.—PERSONAL TAX.

That this Conference appeals to the Natal Provincial Executive to exempt all Indian workers earning a lower wage than £5 per month and all unemployed Indians from payment of Personal Tax.

Proposed by Mr. P. R. Pather, seconded by Mr. R. K. Naidoo.

RESOLUTION No. 10.—PENALTY INTERESTS ON RATES IN HEALTH BOARD AREAS.

That this Conference realising the hardships of the Indians as a result of the depression, hereby appeals to the Durban Municipality to waive the penalty interests imposed by the various Local Administrations and Health Boards, on Rates due by Indians on their properties, and further feels that the imposition of the penalty at the rate of 10% per annum is usurious.

Proposed by Mr. M. Chengiah, seconded by Mr. E. M. Chin.

RESOLUTION No. 11.—AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

That this Conference is strongly of the opinion that the present Agent of the Government of India

is not working in the best interests of the Indian community as a whole, for in matters vitally affecting our people he is totally ignoring the wishes and aspirations of the majority thus creating a division in the community, and urges that the Indian Government and the people of India should take cognizance of the position created in the Indian community and take such steps as would prevent the Agent from taking sides with and serving a small minority against the majority.

Proposed by Mr. P. R. Pather, seconded by Mr. S. A. Pillay.

RESOLUTION No. 12.—UNEMPLOYMENT

That this Conference appeals to the Union Government and other Local Authorities to afford relief to the Indian unemployed whose distress through continuous unemployment is very acute and causing considerable hardships to their families.

Proposed by Mr. E. M. Chin, seconded by Mr. B. R. Naidoo.

RESOLUTION No. 13.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

That this Conference is of the opinion that Co-operative Societies will be highly beneficial to the Indian community, and suggests that the institution of such Co-operative and Building Societies shall be an object of the Association.

Proposed by Mr. C. N. M. Khan, seconded by Mr. R. K. Naidoo.

RESOLUTION No. 14.—FRANCHISE

That this Conference irresistibly feels that it is not conducive to the best interests of the country, if one section of its people is denied the franchise and therefore appeals to the Union Government, and Local Municipal and Provincial Authorities to restore the franchise rights to the Indians who were deprived of such rights.

Proposed by Mr. Roopsing, seconded by Mr. Vrajlal Raghavjee.

RESOLUTION No. 15.—COLONISATION

That this Conference expresses its opposition to the sending away of Indians from this country, and against the present Committee of Enquiry set up to investigate into the possibilities of a colonization scheme for settling Indians from South Africa in other countries and to ascertain to what extent Indians would be prepared to leave under such a scheme.

Proposed by Mr. S. P. Nicholas, seconded by Mr. Gaffoor Khah.

RESOLUTION No. 16.—TRADE UNIONS

That this Conference urges the Headquarters and Branches of the Association to render assistance to existing Trade Unions and to foster the formation of new unions so that the full benefit of the Industrial Conciliation Act, Wage Act and Apprenticeship Act may be secured by all workers.

Proposed by Mr. B. R. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. E. M. David.

RESOLUTION No. 17.—PROVINCIAL BARRIERS

That this Conference is of the opinion that in order to secure an equal distribution of the Indian community throughout South Africa, the Provincial barriers should be removed.

Proposed by Mr. R. K. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. E. M. David.

RESOLUTION No. 18.—HOUSING LOAN

That this Conference urges that the Executive of the Association shall take steps as may be necessary,

for the purpose of advising owners of land in and around Durban to take advantage of the housing loan.

Proposed by Mr. P. G. Naicker, seconded by Mr. C. N. M. Khan.

RESOLUTION No. 19.—FIRE-ARMS

That this Conference urges that the Native Commissioner should relax restrictions against the issue of fire-arms to Indians.

Proposed by Mr. A. B. Naidoo, seconded by Mr. D. S. Chetty.

RESOLUTION No. 20.—INDIAN IMMIGRATION LAWS

That this Conference directs the Executive of the Association to make representations for the repeal of the Indian Immigration Law, for the validation of certain marriages affected by judgments of the Supreme Court of Natal, and for the rectification of grievances arising under the Immigration Laws.

Proposed by Mr. D. S. Chetty, seconded by Mr. S. L. Singh.

RESOLUTION No. 21.—WITNESSES FEES

That this Conference resolves that the inequalities in the tariff of witness fees based on race adversely affects Indian witnesses and appeals to the Union Government to remove such inequalities.

Proposed by Mr. P. G. Naicker, seconded by Mr. M. M. Gandhi.

RESOLUTION No. 22.—ASPIRATIONS OF COLONIAL-BORN AND SETTLER INDIANS

That this Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association appeals to the Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, the Rt. Hon. J. B. M. Hertzog as the National Leader of South Africa, to consider favourably the aspirations of Colonial Born and permanent Indian settlers who have made South Africa their permanent home and who as nationals of this country are endeavouring to contribute their share to the prosperity and advancement of this country.

Proposed by Dr. M. J. Peters, seconded by Mr. D. S. Chetty.

Current Topics

(BY BHUMKASOOR)

The Conference

The first Provincial Conference of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association took place last Sunday at Rawat's Bio, when the hall was almost packed—over 600 being present—representing nearly all the districts of Natal. Advocate Mr. A. Christopher, D.C.M., presided and the delegates were welcomed by Mr. Manilal M. Gandhi, the chairman of the Reception Committee. This Conference was an eye-opener to many. The arrangement was perfect and credit is certainly due to those stalwart workers who were instrumental in making it a huge success.

Mr. Gandhi pointed out the need for this Association and how it came to be an established fact. He emphasised how it was essential to form a brotherhood of the community who may devise ways and means for the betterment of their interests in this country. His speech was very effective and went right home, if one were to judge from the applause he received at the end of it.

The President

Mr. Christopher in his speech dwelt very ably on nearly all the questions which affect the position of Indians. He in a masterly style pointed out how from time to time we have been losing ground and how it was up to the Conference to protest in an unmistakable manner of this gradual dwindling of our rights in this country.—His address which might be found in another

column, needless for me to state, is well worth perusal as it clearly gives an epitome of our grievances under which we are suffering. It would be seen that the Association has come to stay and it is up to the members to gird up their loins and face the issues ere it is too late.

The Adjournment

On the motion of Advocate Mr. B. Gabriel, the Conference adjourned for its session at the Tamil Institute. There was a muster of delegates when the session opened, representing all shades of opinion. After roll call a book containing close on 200 pages of matter was given to each of the delegates, some of whom preferred to pay 2/6, the cost of production. This book contained a budget of information of the activities of this newly-formed body. During the few months since its inception the volume would signify of the tremendous amount of work the Association has done for the upliftment of its compatriots. I congratulate those who were responsible in neither sparing time or labour in bringing about such a volume for the edification of the public.

The Subjects

It would be presumptuous on my part and in these columns to elaborately deal with the numerous subjects, the interesting debates—delegates vying with each other in a brotherly spirit to put forward their view-point on the issues involved. The question of marriage officers—the teaching of Afrikaans and the office of the Agent for India were questions which took considerable time to be, cause there were men belonging to different schools of thought.

I shall if need be make comments in subsequent issues on these contentions matters.

It was, I might point out, through the tact of the President and Mr. Gandhi that a very strongly-worded resolution re the Agent was heavily defeated.

The End

In conclusion I might state that among those who took part in the Conference were prominent men such as doctors, barristers, journalists, persons belonging to different professions and trades. There is no doubt that the Conference which brought messages from Cabinet Ministers, editors and men of high rank, was a huge success. Soon, when the badges arrive and members giving each other the right salute, there would be a truer brotherhood among them—a factor to be reckoned with.

The Indian Problem In S. Africa

Address By Mr. Quereshi

The M. K. Gandhi Library was packed to capacity on Wednesday evening, 27th December, when Mr. Quereshi delivered an address on the "Future of the Indians in S. Africa." The subject which constitutes one of the most intricate problems of this country was not dealt with very exhaustively, the lecturer merely suggesting one or two probable remedies for the upliftment of the Indians in this country. He was evidently not *au fait* with present conditions in this country when he advocated the establishment of a weekly press. There are already two in this country. And in conclusion Mr. Quereshi exhorted his audience to educate their girls. But this note has already been so loudly sounded that one is inclined to feel that the advice was superfluous. The question of female education in this country, despite the consideration of caste and Eastern custom is largely an economic one but Mr. Quereshi did not remain long enough in this country to realise this fact.

Mr. Quereshi, M.A. (Lond.), F.R.E.S. who visited S. Africa with a London University Scholarship spent his time investigating rural conditions in this country but

his sojourn here has been so short that one feels diffident as to whether he has been able to secure all the information available.

Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri presided accompanied by Mr. B. M. Patel, secretary of the Library Committee, under whose auspices the address was given.

G. S.

South African Hindu Maha Sabha

(Contributed)

A General meeting of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha was held at the Hindu Tamil Institute Cross Street, Durban on Tuesday 26th December 1933, as resolved at the conference held under the auspices of the Natal Prathinidhi Sabha in October last.

In the absence of the chairman Mr. R. G. Bhalja, Mr. M. B. Naik presided and was supported by the secretaries, Messrs. S. R. Pather and T. M. Naicker. Representatives from over 30 different institutions were present and were unanimous in their desire to revive the Hindu Maha Sabha and had pledged their support.

A Sub-Committee consisting of the following gentlemen Messrs. S. M. Moodley, Swami Bhawan Dayal, Suchitt Maharaj, H. A. Thaker, V. S. C. Pather and the officials (ex-office) were appointed to revise the constitution.

The election of officials resulted as follows: President: B. M. Patel, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. M. Padyachee, Hon. Joint Secretaries: Messrs. S. R. Pather and T. M. Naicker. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. A. Thaker. Hon. Auditor: Mr. M. Y. Nainaab. Councillors: Messrs. N. Manickum Pillay, A. B. Naidoo, M. C. Varman, D. Satya Dev, Swami Bhawani Dayal, S. Ramthal, S. M. Moodley, D. V. Naidoo, Parsotam Desai, and V. S. C. Pather.

A resolution was also passed to affiliate the South African Hindu Maha Sabha to the All India Hindu Maha Sabha. A further resolution was passed inviting Pundit Mehta Jaimini B.A., L.L.B., M.R.A.S., Ph.D. a Vedic Missionary, to preside at the South African Hindu Conference to be held at Durban during Easter this year.

Mr. D. Satyadev Secretary of the Arya Prathinidhi Sabha promised all support to ensure the working of the Maha Sabha a success.

Mr. K. Perumal, Hon. Secretary of the Fynlands Thiruvankadar Senthamil Sabha, entertained the delegates to dinner.

A Meeting of the General Council will be held shortly and institutions not already affiliated are requested to do so immediately, and suggestions are invited for the revision of the Constitution.

Indian Boys "Scouts" Rally

More than 50 boys of varying ages representing quite a number of Indian schools in the Province assembled at a Scouts Rally at Beachwood from Wednesday, 17th to Saturday 30th December 1933. The Sir Kurma Reddi School formed the headquarters of the corps which was accompanied by a number of scoutmasters including Mr. T. M. Naicker, President of the Natal Indian Teachers' Society, Mr. R. Ragnath, Hon. General Secretary, Mr. V. S. Naidoo, Mr. B. D. Lalla, Mr. G. Singh, Mr. E. V. Naidoo, Mr. Michael Joseph, Mr. Gunga, Mr. V. R. Nair, Mr. T. G. Pillay.

The boys during their sojourn at the camp did a good deal of hiking, while during the evenings impromptu concerts, a mock trial and a camp-fire concert were the most interesting features of the camp.

This rally which no doubt is obvious signification of

a revival in the interest in the Scout movement among Indians was organised by the Natal Indian Teachers' Society and though the boys themselves contributed in some cases to their up-keep the expenses incurred by the camp were very largely borne by contributions both in kind and in cash by local Durban merchants. To them the Natal Indian Teachers' Society and the boys in particular owe a great debt of gratitude.

The camp broke on Saturday morning when the boys dispersed for their respective homes.

G. S.

હાંદુસ્તાનના તાબ સમાચાર

ગાંધીજીની પ્રવૃત્તિ

ગાંધીજીની હરિજન યાત્રા પુરવેએ ચાલી રહી છે. ૭મીસમઠ માં ગાંધીજીને રૂ. ૨૦,૦૦૦ ઉપરાંતની રકમ મળી હતી.

તા. ૧૩ મી નવેમ્બરથી તા. ૧૭ મી નવેમ્બર સુધીમાં ગાંધીજીને મળેલો ફાળો રૂ. ૮,૮૭૮-૨-૬.

તા. ૧૮ મી નવેમ્બરથી તા. ૨૮ મી નવેમ્બર સુધીમાં મળેલો ફાળો રૂ. ૧૫,૩૭૪-૪-૯.

ન્યુ દિલ્હીમાં ગાંધીજીને રૂ. ૨૦૦૦ ની પર્સ ખીરલા મીલના મજુરો તરફથી આપવામાં આવી હતી. અને દિલ્હી તરફથી રૂ. ૧૦,૦૦૦ ની પર્સ મળી હતી.

ગાંધીજીના હાથે રાષ્ટ્રધ્વજ

ગાંધીજીએ પોતાના પ્રવાસ દરમિયાન રામપુરની મુલાકાત લીધી હતી. સેા માહલ દુરથી લોકો પગે ચાલીને ગાંધીજીના ફર્શન માટે આવી પહોંચ્યા હતા. તેમના આગમન સમયે ગામમાં રોશની કરવામાં આવી હતી. તેમણે એક લાખ માણસોની મેદની સમક્ષ રાષ્ટ્રધ્વજ ફરકાવવાની ક્રિયા કરી હતી. ગાંધીજીએ અર્ધા કલાક સુધી પ્રવચન કર્યા બાદ તેમને રૂ. ૬૬૦૦ ની થેલી અર્પણ કરવામાં આવી હતી.

ભોપાળમાં

ગાંધીજીને ભોપાળમાં અન્નમન કુર્મ્હાન, વિદ્યાર્થી સંઘ, અને ભોપાળ રાજ્ય પરિષદ તરફથી માનપત્રો અને થેલી આપવામાં આવી હતી. અન્નમન તરફથી ૧૯૨ પાઇની થેલીથી હાસ્ય દેલાયું હતું. ગાંધીજીએ જણાવ્યું હતું કે આલાક વિદ્યાર્થીઓનું આ કાર્ય હશે. તમે આનાથી જરૂર વધારે એકલા કરી શક્યા હોત. મારે નવાબ સાહેબ પાસે ફરિયાદ નોંધાવવી પડશે કે તમને મુશ્કેલીઓની ખબર પડે.

'એંએ કોનીકલ' ઉપર ફરોરો

મુખ્ય સરકારના હુકમને અનાદર કરવાના આરોપસર 'એંએ કોનીકલ'ની એપ્રીસપર ફરોરો પડ્યો હતો અને પ્રિંટર તથા પબ્લીશરને પકડવામાં આવીયા હતા.

સ્વ. વીકલભાઇની એસ્ટેટ દેશ કાર્પમાં અર્પણ

સ્વ. વિકલભાઇ પટેલ પોતાની પાછળ રૂ. ૧ લાખ જેટલી રકમ મુકી ગયા છે. જેનો ઉપયોગ હાંદુની રાજકારી ઉન્નતિ અને મુખ્યત્વે કરીને ફરીયા પારના દેશોમાં હાંદુ માટેના પ્રચાર કાર્યમાં કરવાનો છે. નવારે તેઓ પ્રમુખ હતા ત્યારે ચોક્કસ રકમ પત્રારમાંથી ગાંધીજીને આપવાની ઠેરવી હતી તે રકમ રૂ. ૫૦,૦૦૦ જેટલી લગભગ થવા જાય છે.

(અનુસંધાન ગુજરાતી પાને ૮ મે)