

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Practice Better Than Precept

IF we set out to assure the future of the European element in South Africa we are not, in the long run going to do it by keeping down the non-European" so said Mr. J. H. Holmeyr, Minister of the Interior, at the University of the Witwatersrand last week. If these words and the words of the Industrial Legislation Commission appearing in another note were only to be put into practice there would perhaps be no colour problem left in South Africa. But the pity of it is that our South African Statesmen will wax eloquent but their precept is never put into actual practice. If the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance, the Slums Act, as it is being applied at present in Durban, The Asiatic Bazaar Regulations, to mention just a few, if these measures are not to keep down the non-European, one would like to know what they are.

Johannesburg City By-law Invalid

A by-law of the Johannesburg Municipality which prohibited the holding of or taking part in public meetings in any open space except with the previous consent of the Council in writing, was held to be invalid in the Supreme Court, Pretoria, by Mr. Justice Tindall, acting Judge-President. The appellants in the case, two natives, T. Madutsani and J. Kamudi, wishing to hold a meeting outside the second gate, Western Native Township, on June 23, wrote to the Council on June 18 asking for permission. On June 21 the town clerk replied saying that the application could not be granted. On June 30 Madutsani and Kamudi held a meeting at this place and were subsequently prosecuted for contravening the relative section of the by-laws. The by-law, which refers to parks, gardens, pleasure grounds or open spaces vested in the Council, enacts that in any such place the following acts are offensive:—"Delivering, uttering or reading any public speech, prayer book or address of any kind, or singing any sacred or secular song, or holding or taking part in any public meeting or assemblage, except with the previous consent of the Council in writing under

the hand of the town clerk." It was not disputed that the place where the meeting was held is an open space within the meaning of the by-law and that it is vested in the Council. "The question," said the judge, "is whether a by-law prohibiting the holding of a public meeting in a public place without the consent of the Council falls within the power to make by-laws for regulating and controlling gatherings in public places. It was held by His Lordship that the by-law was not within the powers conferred by the enabling statute. "It will be reassuring to the public to know that a municipal council has not got the powers that this Council takes under the by-law. Such a power is one that might be used oppressively by a Council towards persons or bodies of whose political or other views the majority of the Council disapproves. "No doubt, circumstances sometimes exist in which it is necessary in the interests of the public that public gatherings should be prohibited, and one can understand the Legislature giving, as it has given the executive government, power to prohibit public gatherings in such circumstances. But it is not desirable that such powers should be conferred on a body exercising only the functions of municipal government, and I cannot believe that when the Legislature gave the Council power to regulate and control gatherings in public places it meant that the Council, without laying down any circumstances under which such gatherings might be held, could say autocratically that no gatherings may be held at all, except with its consent. "The appeal is allowed and the conviction and sentence are set aside." Here is a leaf that the Bench in India could well take from the South African Bench.

Industrial Legislation Commission Deprecates Colour-Bar

A warning against trying to "hamstring" Indians in the Union, and against placing undue restrictions on the free movement of Indians from one labour market to another, is given in the report of the Industrial Legislation Commission. The Commission points out that, the greater the lack of facili-

ties to enable Indians to qualify for skilled occupations, the greater the restrictions upon their employment, their trading rights and their property-owning rights, the more serious must their competition become in those spheres which are still open to them, and in which they compete with Europeans. "This imposition of any further restrictions, therefore, instead of leading to a solution of the problem, would only lead to intensification of the competition in the further narrowed spheres of activities which are left open to them, it is stated. "To what extent, if at all the applications of our wage-regulating machinery has raised 'colour-bars' against non-Europeans in the different Industries and trades, we are not in a position to state. We do know, however, that the Wage Board as far back as 1926 adopted the principle that no colour-bar can be recognised in wage-fixing under the Wage Act, and that any wage laid down must be for the occupation, irrespective of the colour of the worker. In the case of the Industrial Conciliation Act, the fact that few, if any, employers' organisations and trade unions admit natives to membership perhaps lends support to the suggestion that that Act has been used to create a colour bar," the report points out. That a responsible Commission should express this view against colour-bar, which seems to be increasing in every direction, should set the authorities thinking.

Does This Signify A Change of Heart?

Largely as a result of representations by the Von Brandis Ratepayers Association to the City Council, attempts have been made by the Council in the last few years to prohibit natives and coloured persons from using Union Ground. In 1932 it was ascertained that the Council had not the powers to do so. The matter was then taken up by Mr. J. W. Higgerty, M. P. with the Minister of Lands, but, at first, without success. As a result, however, of renewed efforts on the part of the parliamentary representative of Von Brandis, the Johannesburg town clerk has received a letter from the Secretary for Lands stating that the Officer Administering the

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1935

The Congress

THE first notice of the annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress must have been published at an inauspicious time that there is no end to its postponements. It appeared on May 3, 1935 announcing the meeting to be held on June 9, 1935. On June 7, a notice postponing the meeting to July 7, was published. On July 5, again a notice was published further postponing the meeting to July 28. On this occasion circulars requesting people to enroll as members of the Congress were distributed. The meeting announced for July 28 was again further postponed to August 18, and yet again to October 20. But it was announced on the last occasion that this was *positively* going to be the *final* postponement. That was, however, not to be, for there was no meeting held on October 20, the reason given being that there was a poor attendance, and now the meeting has been indefinitely postponed. We are quite in the dark as to the actual reason for so many postponements.

In the meantime we have before us a circular sent out by the Natal Indian Congress to its Committee members containing proposals to amend the constitution and rules. The amendments proposed are: (1) That the affairs of the Congress shall be governed by a Committee consisting of a patron, a president, 11 Vice-presidents, one secretary, one treasurer and 15 committee-men. The present constitution provides for no patron, 10 vice presidents, two secretaries, two joint treasurers and 30 committee-men. (2) That six members shall form a quorum for a committee meeting. The present constitution provides for twelve members to form a quorum. (3) That an executive will consist of the president, one vice president, secretary, treasurer and three members of the committee and three members to form a quorum. The present constitution provides for the president, four vice presidents, both secretaries, both treasurers and five members of the Committee, and six to form a quorum.

In these days of Hitlerism and Mussolinism no doubt this proposal for amendments is in keeping with the times. An ex member of the Congress who held an honoured position in that body as long as he was in it said that these amendments were to reduce the Congress to a 'manageable compass' even as the Union Government is seeking to reduce the Indian community to a 'manageable compass'. We think his judgement was quite correct. Our complaint against the Congress has been that it has been work-

ing autocratically and the proposed amendments will enable it do so now constitutionally. If there was one person in the Congress who could claim with a clear conscience that he is working for the people disinterestedly and that he places the interests of his people above self, that man would indeed be held in the highest esteem by the community who would without hesitation place its future entirely in his hands. Is there such a person? We can from our own observation without fear of contradiction say that there is not such a person in the Congress as described above. We do not therefore blame the Congress. It is human nature to be self interested. To renounce oneself for the good of the people requires a good deal of austerity. Such men are rare in this materialistic world. In the circumstances, it is not a wise policy to narrow down the working body as has been proposed. It is neither in the interests of the people nor in the interests of the workers, on whom a check is always desirable to guard them against going astray.

Another point we wish to refer to here is that of unity. Sir Syed Raza Ali, Agent of the Government of India, we regret to note, has gone away to the Transvaal without any public announcement in regard to his efforts to bring unity among the ranks of the workers, who are divided into two camps. All we learnt was that a round table conference was held in the Agent's apartment in the Marine Hotel and finally broke up with two leaders of the Congress vehemently opposing the suggestion made by the oppositionists that the present name of the Congress be changed. We do not know what has transpired since. Might we respectfully make a few observations here for the edification of the leaders of the community who should be big enough to sacrifice their sense of false pride and prestige for the sake of the greater cause of their people. Surely if there was the faintest possibility of the two parties uniting to work in harmony for a common cause, the mere name should not be allowed to frustrate that possibility and it would be extremely regrettable if the Agent has failed to use his good influences in getting that difficulty solved. We are reminded of an incident that happened in 1914 when Mahatma Gandhi was in South Africa. Some of Mahatma Gandhi's co-workers had fallen out and when he found it impossible to work with them he left the Congress which was his own creation and formed another body known as the Natal Indian Association to satisfy the will of the people, and even his farewell receptions

were not held under the auspices of the Congress but of the Association. The Congress which had gone into the hands of irresponsible people was subsequently interdicted and stands in that condition this day.

Cannot the Congress leaders then, who claim to revere Mahatma Gandhi, follow in his footsteps and place, even as he did, the great and far more important cause they have to fight in this country above everything else.

NOTES AND NEWS (Contd.)

Government has now approved of an amendment of the condition contained in the Crown grant, by which it was provided that the land "shall for ever remain dedicated for the purposes of or incidental to the recreation and amusement of the inhabitants of Johannesburg." The amendment provides for the insertion of the word "European" before "inhabitants" the effect being that the ground will be reserved for Europeans on and after the date from which the amendment comes into force.

Mr. S. B. Mehd Still In Hospital

Mr. S. B. Mehd and Mr. Tavarua who were severely injured in a motor accident recently are still in the Johannesburg hospital. Mr. Jinwala has been released. Mr. Tavarua will be released in a few days but Mr. Mehd's condition is still bad and will take at least another month to recover. Messrs. Mehd, Tavarua and Jinwala wish to express through these columns their sincere thanks to the many European and Indian friends who have very kindly visited them and for the love and sympathy they have shown to them which has been a great comfort to them.

Dr. Seedat Ill

We regret to note that Dr. K. M. Seedat has been laid up with pneumonia for the last fortnight. We are, however, glad to learn while going to Press, that he is out of danger and is progressing satisfactorily. We join with his many friends in wishing Dr. Seedat a speedy recovery.

Mr. Man Mohan Singh In Durban

Mr. Man Mohan Singh, technical aviation adviser to the Maharajah of Patiala, who is the first Indian airman to fly from England to South Africa, arrived in Johannesburg last Sunday and is due to arrive in Durban on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Man Mohan Singh is on a mission of goodwill to establish closer links between India and the various African territories. He has been fostering air-mindedness by giving "flips" to young and old alike without distinction of race or colour. 1500 children we understand have already enlisted themselves in Johannesburg for "flips." This will be the first act of such extravagant generosity ever known in the history of South Africa. In the name of the Indian community we heartily welcome Mr. Man Mohan Singh to the Union.

MR. MANMOHAN SINGH ARRIVES ON RAND

EVENTFUL FLIGHT FROM CROYDON

GIVING "FLIPS" TO YOUNG AND OLD

A RECORD flight from Croydon to Khartoum, a crash in Northern Rhodesia, and then a journey south in a new plane—these were incidents in the eventful trip of Mr. Man Mohan Singh, who landed at Baragwanath aerodrome on Sunday morning October 27. He is the first Indian to fly from England to the Rand. His last "hop" was from Pietersburg.

Mr. Singh is technical adviser on aviation to the Maharaja of Patiala. He is on a mission of goodwill to establish closer links between India and various African territories. In the course of his southward flight he has been fostering air-mindedness by giving "flips" to both Indians and Europeans, especially children.

There was a large gathering of Indians to welcome Mr. Singh at the aerodrome. News had been received of his departure from Pietersburg at 9.30, and at 11.50 his plane appeared as a speck in the northern sky. A Light Plane Club machine turned in front of the visiting plane to indicate the position of the aerodrome, and then, after circling round twice, Mr. Singh made a perfect landing.

The crowd gathered round the plane as the turbaned and bearded figure of the young airman stepped from the cabin. Mr. Z. V. Parekh, a vice-president of the

Transvaal Indian Congress, garlanded him on behalf of the Congress, and a representative of the Indian sporting clubs in Johannesburg presented him with a bouquet.

Among the prominent Indians present were other representatives of the Transvaal Indian Congress, the Muslim Association and the Hindoo Sava Samaj.

Mr. Singh, who is only 25 years old, has spent most of the last ten years in England, having studied at the Bristol and London Universities for five years. In 1930, when still a student, he made a solo flight from Croydon to Karachi. In January of last year he attempted a record flight from England to the Cape in a specially built machine, but crashed 70 miles from Paris and was seriously injured. He remained in hospital for eight months.

Mr. Singh was not discouraged, however, and at 6 a.m. on August 12 last he left Craydon on another attempt on the London-Cape record. He reached Naples at 6 p.m. and at 6.30 p.m. the following day landed at Cairo.

Then he flew through the night to reach Khartoum at 7.30 a.m. on August 14—about seven hours ahead of the record.

"I think I hold the solo record for the 27,000 miles from Croydon to Cairo, too,

but I am not certain of that," Mr. Singh said to a *Rand Daily Mail* representative.

His chances of achieving a record over the whole distance were spoilt when he was detained 36 hours in Khartoum through a broken oil pipe in the brake system. His southward flight continued without further mishap until he had to make a forced landing in a "dambo" in Northern Rhodesia on August 19.

Two days later he tried to take off, but struck a small tree and wrecked his plane. The wreck was taken to Broken Hill, but it was found that it could not be repaired.

After buying his present machine in the Belgian Congo, Mr. Singh flew back to the spot where he had had the forced landing to give himself the satisfaction of having covered the whole distance by air. On October 13 he left Broken Hill for the south. He spent a few days in Salisbury and Bulawayo, and arrived at Pietersburg last Tuesday week.

In Salisbury, Bulawayo and Pietersburg he gave "flips" to about 900 people, 750 of whom were children. About half his passengers were Indians. He expects to take up 1,500 passengers in Johannesburg, where he will probably stay for about a fortnight before going to Cape-town via Kimberley and other centres

RECONCILIATION?

The September number of the Bulletin of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association, "the official organ of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch)," contains the following article under the above caption:—

THE Indian Press of Natal has, of recent months, been calling upon the leaders of the Indian Community to unite. The Agent of the Government of India since his arrival in South Africa, has made many approaches to the leaders with a view to bringing the parties together. In this article it is not our purpose to "rake up old sores" but to consider whether there is any possibility of reconciliation. Nor is it our purpose to cry Wolf! Wolf! and tell our people that unless the Indian Community united the Union Government would legislate against our people.

But to come to the question of reconciliation. Is there an honest endeavour to bring about unity in the community? We ask this question pertinently because

judging by what is being said and done, the attempt to unite is not backed by honesty of purpose.

Unity there must be. No one denies that. We go further than that. The ideal of the Colonial Born Indian is that there should be one political organisation to safeguard the interests of the Indian Community in this country. No organ-

Our Regret

We regret to announce that owing to the absence of several of our best workers the publication of this issue has been belated and many important items have had to be held over.

isation which has not the Colonial Born element as the predominating factor and which fails to interest itself in the welfare of the Colonial Born Indian, will survive in this country. Gone is the day when it was thought that the Colonial Born Indian did not merit any consideration. Gone is the day when it was thought that the Colonial Born Indian was incapable of asserting his rights,

The time has arrived when the Colonial Born Indian sits up, thinks for himself and speaks for himself. The time has arrived when he finds that although his element comprised 85 per cent of the total population, his interest has always been of minor importance to the leaders. Education is fast spreading and the method of spoon feeding the masses is fast disappearing.

The Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association has not lagged behind in responding to the approaches of Syed Sir Raza Ali for reconciliation. The Association has done everything possible to bring about reconciliation. But reconciliation can only be achieved if there is an honest endeavour on the part of those who want unity, prestige and pride, if brought into play in such an endeavour, would widen the gulf rather than bridge it. Technicalities will be the means of raising a "hornets nest."

The trend of recent events do not suggest that there is an honest attempt at reconciliation.

T. I. C. PRETORIA BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Annual General Meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Pretoria Branch, was held as advertised, at the Royal Kinema Bioscope, Asiatic Bazaar, on October 20. Mr. Dawood Omar presided.

Before the Chairman delivered his speech, a vote of condolence was adopted, members rising as a mark of respect, for the late Messrs. B. Maharaj, A. C. Tayob, Noor Mahomed Ayob, Tulsi Mooloo, Ramanand Mooloo, R. K. Padayachy.

The chairman in the course of his speech said, "Since our last election held on the 21st. December, 1930, much has happened in the history of our people.....As you are all aware, our position in this country is very precarious, and in spite of the representations of the Agents of the Government of India on our behalf, the position remains unchanged. In fact, it looks as if it is going to get worse. While I wish to confine myself to local matters I cannot help but point out that the passing of the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance of 1932 is a flagrant breach of the Capetown Agreement and is designed to slowly but surely squeeze out our people from this Province. The Feetham Commission under the Land Tenure Act has found that the Indian community in the Transvaal is predominantly a trading community, therefore, as I have already said, the Licence Ordinance is a machinery invented to exterminate our people root and branch. All over the Transvaal the Municipalities are exercising the power granted under this Ordinance, and although the Ordinance is made to look of general application, to our deep sorrow we find that it is only applied against our people. A law that prevents the people from getting redress from the Courts of Justice, can well be termed a lawless law, a law that deprives a section of the population of their only means of livelihood on the score of colour and race is devoid of all Christian principles. It is unjust to the core when it is enacted by a Christian Government.

"As long as this Licence Ordinance remains on the Statute Book, the upliftment clause in the Capetown Agreement is a camouflage, therefore, as far as we Transvaal Indians are concerned, the Capetown Agreement is a dead letter to us.

"Not content with having obtained the unjust power to refuse trading Licences without assigning any reasons, the Municipalities in the Transvaal are now seeking power to segregate our people indiscriminately into Bazaars or Locations, to stew in their own juice. At

their Annual Conference held at Springs just a few days ago, they are reported to have carried a resolution "that the Congress reaffirms the urgent necessity for the creation of legislation whereby local authorities will have the power to prohibit Asiatics from renting properties or residing in European residential areas."

"If the powers as requested in the resolution just referred to are granted, then I fear, gentlemen, that our people will be forced out of existence in no time, all our hopes and aspirations will be shattered to pieces. We shall be herded in a location or bazaar to live and to trade amongst ourselves, where, owing to want of avenues to earn a decent living, we shall gradually have to die out. Furthermore, compulsory segregation will be a national insult to us.....We have heard much of that phrase "change of heart" on the part of our rulers. If laws such as the Licence Ordinance, and requests by the Municipalities to grant them powers to segregate our people indiscriminately into Bazaars or Locations, are examples of that change of heart then such a change of heart has no meaning to us.

"In view of all this, I appeal to you, Gentlemen, to forget your differences, if there are any, be united, and face the common danger courageously. Time after time we are reminded that there is a serious split in the ranks of our leaders. Therefore, if my voice can be made to reach the leaders of our community, I appeal to them that they must in the interest of their community, give up all their differences, and join hands together. I am sure, gentlemen, that you are all with me when I say that the disunity must now stop. The masses are sick and tired of this petty squabbling, especially when no principles are at stake any longer. I earnestly hope that the efforts of our Agent, Sir Sayed Raza Ali, in uniting the disrupted forces will be crowned with success.

"Turning to our local affairs, it is my duty and privilege on your behalf, to thank our friend and leader, Khan Bahadur Hajee Cassim Adam, for the magnificent Indian Ward he has built for us at the General Hospital. The Indian community of Pretoria shall ever remain grateful to Khan Bahadur and his name will remain everlasting with us.....I trust that he will be spared many long years, and that he

will continue to serve the interest of our people.

"There are various disabilities under which we suffer in this City, and especially in the Bazaar, where it is almost becoming impossible for any self-respecting man to stay; owing to the short-sighted policy of some of our landlords, many natives and coloureds, contrary to law, have found accommodation in our midst to the detriment of our own people. To such members I appeal that they should, in their own interests, become more patriotic, and let their premises to their own people, who owing to overcrowding, are finding difficulty in getting accommodation. The authorities must share the main responsibilities for allowing this state of affairs. The roads are in a very bad condition and require doing up. Rowdiness has taken the place of peace, and tranquility and steps will have to be taken to eradicate the evergrowing menace of rowdiness. The burning question in the bazaar, is of obtaining a long lease from the authorities. In all this work I trust that the incoming Officials will be able to achieve success during their term of office.

"In conclusion, gentlemen, I trust that you will elect office-bearers in whom you have full confidence of achieving the above, and who will carry out their duty faithfully to the benefit of us all, I hope that the trust you are going to lay in them will be amply proved by them at the end of their term of office. With these words, I thank you one and all for the patient hearing you have given me."

Election

The following new office-bearers were then elected:—President: Mr. M. Essop Ackoojee; Vice-presidents: Messrs. C. T. Pillay, Baba Mia, Omarjee Moosa, P. S. Velloo, K. K. Khoja, Hajee Habib, V. N. Nayagar; Joint secretaries: Messrs. R. Mooloo, and Nanabhai Sita; Joint-treasurers: Messrs. Nathalal G. Kala and Shaikh Amod of the firm of Messrs. Mahomed Ally Shaikh Amod; Joint auditors: Messrs. P. M. Joshi and K. S. Shah; Committee Members: Messrs. R. Lugenberthy, Essop Moosa, Dajie Chiba, Krishna Pillay, Moosa Kara, Solomon Ernest, S. A. Pillay, Jiva Mahomed, Dawood Omar, H. N. Keshavjee, Picharam Pillay.

India Letter

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Protest Procession Banned

DURING October the attention of India was more diverted to the international situation created by the Italo-Abyssinian war.

Anti-war demonstrations are being held all over India. A large procession was organised by the labour organizations of Bombay to demonstrate their feelings of protest at the Italian consulate office. The Police Commissioner however banned the procession and the Italian consulate was strongly guarded by armed policemen. Protest meetings were held in this connection at Chowpatty and Parel.

Bombay Gives A Lead

Mr. K. F. Nariman the Mayor of Bombay convened a huge meeting of the citizens of Bombay and resolutions of protest against Italy and of sympathy towards Abyssinia were passed and it was also resolved to boycott Italian goods. The suggestions to lend money to Abyssinia that she can buy arms for self protection was also made.

A fund for medical help to Abyssinia has been started.

Viceroy's Visit

It is understood that the Viceroy in view of the war situation will not be able to leave the headquarters and so his visit to Kathiawar States will be cancelled.

A Keen Contest

The Congress having decided to enter the legislatures, there is a keen contest between the Nationalist party of Pandit Malviyaji and the Congress party.

After the last Congress session of Bombay, Pandit Malviyaji and other Hindu leaders like Sjt. Aney having sharp difference of opinion on the matter of communal award, have formed their own party known as the Nationalist party. This party stands for the outright rejection of the communal award which gives statutory majority to Moslems in Punjab and Bengal. This party has somewhat a good hold over Bengal and Punjab and hence at present there is a keen contest going on in Punjab between the Congress candidates and the Nationalist party candidates. Electioneering speeches and propaganda are going on in full force. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Sjt. Bhulabhai Desai went to Jullunder to strengthen the election campaign in favour of the Congress candidate, Lala Raizada Hansraj and there are chances of success for the Congress nominee.

Labour Changing Its Tactics

During the last struggle in 1930 and 1932, the labour leaders and the rank and file of the labour organisations had kept aloof from the civil disobedience movement and when there was a big labour strike in Bombay and elsewhere the Congress was not much concerned with it. The result was that both the Congress and the labour were defeated in their purpose by the government and capitalist Millowners. When the Civil Disobedient movement was stopped, repressive measures were also taken against the labour organisations. Since then the labour workers have changed their tactics and are making common-

cause with the Congress against the government.

Radical Youths' Conference

Recently there was held a Radical Youths' Conference at Madras under the presidentship of Miss. Maniben Kara, a labour leader of Bombay. She advocated socialism as the only panacea of all the social political and economic evils. She also laid stress on the necessity of joining ranks with the Congress, and the collaboration of the middle and the working classes.

Shrinivas Ayengar To Come Back?

In the province of Madras there is a strong move to bring back Sjt. Shrinivas Ayengar, the veteran politician and an ex-president of the Congress, into politics. He has long retired from active politics, and at present the younger section of the Congress, who is against the acceptance of offices under the new constitution, wants to give a tough fight under the leadership of Mr. Ayengar to Mr. Satyamurti and others who stand for the acceptance of offices. Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, a Congress leader of U.P., recently met Mr. Ayengar in this connection and it is hoped he will again enter the political field.

Release Of Dr. Satyapal

Dr. Satyapal, a Congress leader of Lahore, has just been released from Dum Dum jail after a long imprisonment. He has already left for Jullunder to conduct the election campaign in favour of Raizada Hansraj. Lahore showered all honours due to a patriot on him after his release.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. H. G. WELLS AND ZOROASTRIANISM

To the Editor "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—To settle an argument will you or any of your readers inform through the columns of your paper, whether Mr. H. G. Wells has read or studied the Zoroastrian religion.

This query is raised in connection with the article entitled "The World Has Only Three Great Men," which you have reproduced last week from *The Tribune*.

I am confident that if this query catches the eyes of Mr. H. G. Wells he will no doubt give his reply to it.

In the meantime I trust you will be good enough to publish the following passage by Mr. R. P. Masani dealing with The Gospel Of Service preached by Prophet Zoroaster.

"Here this law is designated as good, inculcating sacrificial service of God, abolishing strifes, causing the weapon of fight to be led aside and creating kinship or brotherhood. By the sacrificial service of God are meant self sacrificing virtuous deeds. What are called offerings stand for righteous conduct and the beneficent effects thereof on the state of

society. For instance we learn from the scriptures that the offerings which Zoroaster offered to God were the life vitality of his body, all the excellent deeds inspired by his reason, and the revealed knowledge of the word of God. Thus the Zoroastrian ethical code aimed at the elevation of individual character, the elevation of society and the establishment of peace and brotherhood on Earth. Love and service, the two fundamental principles of Christianity and other religions are clearly reflected in it. *Relieve those who are fallen in distress* is the exhortation of the *Visparad*, and in the *Atash Niyayish* a devout Zoroastrian prays *Grant me a child that relieves distress*. The great fundamental principle of love and service, compassion and charity, is made binding on the human conscience by all prophets. To translate this principle into action is man's mission on earth. It is God's law for human society. Society is, so to say, a chain of human beings. The strong is linked to the weak, the rich to the poor, the instructed to the ignorant,

by a tie of lasting obligation. The strong must succour the feeble, the rich are under the sacred obligation of service to the poor, the educated must share the fruits of knowledge with the ignorant, the virtuous must give a helping hand to the fallen and lift them up from the abyss of vice and degradation. This duty finds beautiful expression in the saying of Christ: "He that is the greatest among you shall be your servant." This great doctrine of religion in life is as yet only dimly understood, but, let us hope, it will some day solve all the social, religious and political problems of humanity, ushering the new Earth and the new Heaven for which humanity has yearned and suffered for aeons and aeons and is still waiting and suffering."

For further information as to the ethical teachings of Prophet Zoroaster I beg to refer to your readers to a book named "Zoroastrian Civilisation" by Dastur Dr. Dhalla.—I am etc,

S. J. RANDERIA.

South African News In Brief

Armistice Day

Reuter is informed by the Secretary to the Prime Minister that His Majesty the King has approved of the arrangements for the observance in the United Kingdom of Armistice Day, November 11, on the same lines as in previous years. The Prime Minister of the Union takes this opportunity of expressing the hope that Armistice Day may also be observed here in the customary manner.

New Judge-President For Cape

Mr. Justice H. S. van Zyl has been appointed Judge-President of the Cape Provincial Division of the Supreme Court in succession to the late Mr. Justice Gardiner. The appointment is effective from October 8.

Bantu And White Civilisation

At the 32nd annual conference of the Orange Free State African Teachers' Conference, which sat at Bethlehem recently. Dr. C. P. Theron, who is a member of the Public Health Council of the Union, uttered a serious warning to the Bantu races against imitation of white civilisation in manner of living and dress, which was threatening the degeneration, if not the ultimate extermination, of the races. Dr. Theron said that although close association with European civilisation had its advantages there were also disadvantages, which, if not guarded against, would bring about the complete ruination of the aboriginal classes. Imitation of European dress was another disadvantage facing the Bantu races, if it encouraged the growth and spread of disease, which was assisted by badly ventilated homes. The wearing of thick clothes, with the resultant elimination of the health-recruiting sun's rays on the native body, contributed largely to the weakening of disease-resisting powers. In his matted hair, thicker skull and pigment of the skin, Nature had provided the native with the protection which the European must find in thick dress and head covering. A further disadvantage, but by no means the least important, was the use by the native of the alcohol introduced by white civilisation. Two of the very great evils introduced by white civilisation into this country, which were playing havoc with Bantu races, were venereal diseases and tuberculosis. The latter was taking a heavy toll so much so that in certain areas in the Union amongst the coloured section the mortality was one to five.

Mr. Alexander In Durban

Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., will address a meeting of local Jewry at their club on Sunday evening, when he will speak on the general Jewish position in this country. The meeting will end the tour which Mr. Alexander conducted at

the request of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. It was aimed at combating anti-Semitic activities and establishing more harmonious relations between Jew and Gentile.

Our Special Number

The *Natal Advertiser* in reviewing our Special Number says:— To celebrate the Hindu New Year, INDIAN OPINION has published a special number which is notable for the excellence and variety of articles it contains. Dedicated as a labour of love by the producer, the publication is of considerable interest to European and Indian alike. A short leader covers the growth and development of INDIAN OPINION, and other features included are several short articles on current topics, affairs of particular interest to Indians being prominent. The bulk of articles are attractively short. Pleasingly set out and well produced, the special number is published in both English and Gujarati.

A Ladysmith Licence Refused

Mr. G. H. Milburn, the Ladysmith Borough Licensing Officer has refused the application of Essop Ismail Seedat, for a general dealer's licence at 306 and 308 Murchison Street, on the grounds that the convenience of the public was sufficiently catered for by the existing licences.

Sailed For India

Mr. Jalbhoj Rustomjee sailed for India last Monday by the *Karanja*. There were many friends at the boat to bid *au revoir*.

City Indian Musical Club

The following officials were elected at the annual General Meeting of the City Indian Musical Club, Pietermaritzburg, for the ensuing year:— Patron: Mr. D. M. Vaher, (re-elected), President; Mr. M. V. Naidoo, (re-elected) Vice-Presidents: Messrs. M. O. Naidoo, and R. N. Pillay, Secretary: Mr. B. Swaminathan, Treasurer: Mr. M. O. Naidoo, Committee Members: Marriappa Pillay, T. Sinthal, C. Govindsamy, Tutor: Mr. R. N. Pillay, Manager and Music Conductor: M. O. Naidoo, Assistant: V. G. Pillay.

Deepavali Festival At Tongaat

The ceremonies connected with the above festival was performed at the Gokhale Memorial Hall Tongaat on October 26 1935. The prayers were chanted by the pupils of the Hindi School. After the speeches of Messrs. A. A. Gandhi, V. H. Soni and others, prizes were distributed to the children. Parsad and light refreshments were provided, which brought a happy afternoon function to a close.

Candella Estate Indians

A mass meeting of Indian residents of Candella Estate and surrounding Districts convened by Messrs. Ramloutansingh, Rampersadsingh, L. Ramthirath, B. Lutobman, B. Bodha and S. H. Hammond and others was attended by a large gathering. Some of the prominent gentlemen present being Messrs. Ramsuroop, Ragnath, Ramthaj Maharajh, Ramloutan Maharajh, Sultan Ali, Dilmohomed, T. G. Desai, S. Gokool, Munsi Khader, B. R. Singh, B. Sundarsingh and others. Mr. George Hindson the Manager of Indian Schools was also present. As a result with interviews with the authorities of the Education Department Mr. George Hindson emphatically declared that no further grant for Indian School beside the grant to Shree Sanathan Rastriya Samalan in Candella Estate will be given until it became necessary for another school to be built in the district. He severely criticised the attitude of the few members of Hindu Sangtan who had presented themselves for the purpose of disturbing the meeting. He expressed regret at the split and hoped that the Indians of the Districts will come forward and help to complete the good work in hand, through the efforts of Shree Sanathan Rastriya Samalan. Two resolutions were unanimously passed: (1) That this mass meeting of Indians of Candella Estate and surrounding districts convened by Messrs. Ramloutansingh, L. Ramthirath, Rampersadsingh, P. Bodha, S. H. Hammond and Lutobman held at Candella Estate on the 20th October 1935, places on record its emphatic protest against the other society namely the Hindu Sangtan of Candella Estate for the purpose of another school in the district of Candella Estate in view of the fact that the Shree Sanathan Rastriya Samalan constitutionally functions in the interests of the public and are constructing a building to meet the needs of English and Vernacular educations, and that this resolution shall remain into effect until the school now in the course of construction by the said Shree Sanathan Rastriya Samalan has become overcrowded. (2) That this mass meeting held on the 20th October 1935, requests the officials of the Hindu Sangtan of Candella Estate to convene a public meeting whereat they shall submit the financial statement of the said Hindu Sangtan for approval and confirmation of the public on or before the 23rd day of November, 1935. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair— Contributed.

The Sporting World

Wrestling.

Ali Bey Beats Jensen Again

ALI BEY (The Terrible Turk and undefeated Turkish Champion) 205 lbs met again Leo Jensen 200 lbs (Pacific Coast Champion) in a six ten minutes rounds contest on Saturday at the Sanger Picture Palace in a star bout of the evening, before a crowded house of Europeans and Indians. Ali Bey in the third round secured his famous Boston Crab, and when the fourth round started Leo Jensen could not continue and Referee Mr. Fred Avvakum awarded the match to Ali Bey, after an exhibition of good fast and furious wrestling. In the preliminary Paul Borg (S.A.) beat Fred Avvakum (Greece) by two falls to one (submission) the match was refereed by Mr. Arnold. The duties of M.C. were ably carried out by Mr. E. H. Ismail of Durban.

Ali Bey Draw With Hanks

All Bey wrestled a dull draw with Hank Oswald at the Wanderers open air stadium on Saturday Oct. 19. There were no falls for six seemingly endless rounds, the two men using three or four holds with monotonous lack of imagination, but there was more attempt at real wrestling than there has been in recent heavyweight bouts. Hank, whenever danger threatened, evacuated the ring while the crowd obligingly booed towards the end of the bout the crowd were frankly bored and began to leave the ground when the last round started.

Mr. Ali Bey's Last Bout

Mr. E. H. Ismail writes to me as follows:
Sir,—Kindly permit me the hospitality of your columns by publishing the attached item, and Mr. Bey's record to date. This Saturday is his last bout with Harry Mamos. He leaves this country next week, via Capetown where probably he will have his last contest in South Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Bey has asked me to express to you and the Indian Sporting fraternity their thanks for the support during his lengthy stay in Durban, and bids farewell to all wellwishers.

Ali Bey's Record In South Africa

Won—(Twice) Masked Marvel, Geo. Boganski, Leo Jensen.

Won—(Once) Louis Pergantis, Red Demon, Harry Mamos.

Drew—(Twice) Masked Marvel, Harry Mamos,

Drew—(Once) Hank Oswald

Won 9, Drew 5, Lost 0.

By "Rambler"

Bey And Mamos To Meet In Non-Stop Match

Having wrestled two drawn matches in the Durban City Hall, Ali Bey, the Turk, and Harry Mamos, the Tiger, have been rematched by Mr. Henry Irelinger, and will meet for the third time on Saturday November 2. In view of the draws between them, this contest is to be one to a finish, of the non-stop variety, so that there is certain to be a good long performance. The only rests the men will have will be when falls have been secured, otherwise they will go on for the customary two hours without breathing space. Both are clever wrestlers and both are always on the move, so that the show should be a good one. The bill is a double topline, for Leo Jensen the popular but rather light heavyweight, is to go in for six rounds with Bill the Basher, who is considered the best among the South Africans, in action at the moment.

Soccer.

Soccer At Scottburg

The annual five-a-side tournament for the B. C. N. Rajoo Floating Trophy was held on the Riverside ground, Scottburg, on Sunday. Eighteen teams entered. In the semi-final the Harding team beat Port Shepstone Pirates by three goals to nil. In the final match Mount Edgcombe Springboks beat Harding Fandalee, by three goals to nil, in an exciting game. The members of these three teams each received silver medals. The Cup was formally presented to the winning team, Mount Edgcombe Springboks, by Mr. A. A. Wood. This is the first time that the cup has been won by a team from outside the Umziuto district. The tournament was played on the knockout system. Any team winning the trophy for three consecutive years is entitled to retain it.

Malvern Five-a-side Tournament

The seventh annual sports of the Malvern and District Deepavali Sports Committee will be held on Nov. 10 at Malvern, starting at 8.30 a.m. The programme for adults consists of a five-a-side football tournament for a floating trophy presented by the late Mr. J. R. Maharaj, and there will be various events for children.

A Friendly Match at Verulam

A friendly football match was played between "Grey Stars" of Verulam vs. "Lightning Stars" of Mount Edgcombe

on Sunday Oct. 20 on the Verulam Indian Recreation Ground. The match commenced at 1.30 p.m. before a good many spectators and ended in a draw.

Hints On Health.

The Vitamin Alphabet

THE vitamin alphabet is growing. Vitamins A, B, C and D are household words and old family friends.

But there are seven others clamouring for popular recognition, and the discovery of a new substance by biochemists in Copenhagen University which is believed to prevent anaemia, brings the list down to the letter K.

There is no doubt about the nature and properties of vitamins A' to E.

Vitamin A is present in the liver-fats of grazing animals, fish liver oils, milk, butter, cream and many green vegetables.

It promotes growth and increases the resisting power of the body to disease germs.

Vitamin B is found in seed germs, yeast, egg yolk, nuts and many vegetables.

It wards off neuritis.

Vitamin C has received a new name—scurbic acid. It is present in most fresh fruits and vegetables.

It is a valuable preventative of scurvy.

Vitamin D which prevents rickets is found in most of the substances in which vitamin A is present, except in animals' livers.

Vitamin E is absent from cod liver oil, but is abundant in wheat germ oil and in lettuce and peas.

It prevents sterility.

The discovery of vitamin F was claimed by one research worker; but biochemists doubt whether it has a separate existence.

They are inclined to think that it is only one of the better-known vitamins under another name.

Vitamin G, which is present in most of the substances containing vitamin B, helps the nerves and digestion.

Vitamin H is said to exist in cows' milk, human milk, yeast, kidneys and liver, but all that is known about it so far is that one research worker believes that its absence was the cause of a skin disease on a baby trout.

Vitamins I and J are according to the Pharmaceutical Society, unproved. Research workers claimed to have discovered them; and learned papers were written about them.

The new vitamin K, which is found in the fat of pig's livers, hempseed and certain vegetables, has undergone exhaustive tests which prove that its presence prevents anaemia and hemorrhage in chickens.

At any rate it is not vitamins A or B masquerading under another name, for it is absent from some of the substances which are the richest in those vitamins.

MARITZBURG HINDU YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE Hindu Young Mens' Association's Main Hall (Pietermaritzburg) was decorated gaily with flags, buntings, photos, and greens, on the occasion of the 30th. anniversary of the Association. The Hall was full with men, women and children and the scene was indeed in every way of an eastern character. Numerous telegrams and letters of congratulations were received from all parts of the Union. Almost all the important Indian Associations of Natal were represented through their delegates, who were seated on the platform of the Hall. After prayers and other formalities the President of the Association Mr. V. K. Pillay delivered a very interesting and appealing presidential speech. Speaking on the establishment and the activities of the Association, now 30 years old, Mr. Pillay said that it was through the unselfish, untiring, persevering and hard work of the older officials who saw periods of struggles and strife that the present successful position was made possible. The Association was established in 1905 and throughout this period there were some Officials and Members whose contribution to the Association was great and unfortunately they are now deceased. The meeting stood up to respect their memory. The President paid great tribute to the founder Professor Bhai Parmanand M.A. of Lahore, India. It is indeed very regrettable, he said, that the Professor is not with us here to join in the celebrations of the 30th. anniversary, nevertheless his good wishes are with us and reference was made to the cable from the Professor conveying congratulations and good wishes for the occasion. It was prayed that long life and health be afforded Bhai Parmanand so that he may carry on his noble work for the community in which he is now engaged.

Mr. Pillay made reference to the saintly name of Mahatma Gandhi and prayed that God's protection be with him.

The Association is now in a happy position, he said, to find itself free from all debts including the mortgage bond, arrear rates and interest, sewerage loan, arrears teacher's salaries etc., and a generous cash credit balance being on hand. It would be admitted Mr. Pillay

continued, that the present Officials took up a responsibility and faithfully carried it out. The income of the Association for the past year had been over £1,000 through funds collected for the Association in the Transvaal, Eastern Cape Province, and Natal. He offered the Association's grateful thanks to those responsible for the collection regardless of their own time and work. Special thanks were announced to all the generous donors and helpers.

The President announced that an old resident of the City and a member of the Association Mr. Kuppie Murrie has undertaken to donate building by an



BHAI PARMANAND M.A.

The following message was sent to the Association by Bhai Parmanand who is the founder of the Association: "Greetings. Congratulations splendid work. Wish Anniversary success Strongly hope you would keep alive Hindu cause. Devotion your Motherland."

annexe, costing approximately £500. This news was received with applause.

Much stress was laid on the question of obtaining the services of a teacher from India for the purpose of encouraging our children in the vernacular and the Hindu religion.

The community he said, is now very much alive to the occasion and this fact is proved in the presence of a lady delegate (Mrs. Vatshala M. John) representing the Durban Hindu Tamil Womens' Association.

In concluding, Mr. Pillay appealed strongly to the community for their support and co-operation for the future.

The Joint Secretaries of the Association Messrs. K. S. Moodley and M. S.

Naidoo submitted a very lengthy and interesting Secretary's report detailing the activities of the Association, including the financial side, covering the period of the past year.

The various delegates contributed much suggesting ways and means to uplift the community and the vernacular. The children of the Association's Tamil School rendered songs, lectures, and dialogues which were much appreciated by the delegates and audience. Lunch and tea were served to all present and the happy function terminated with the singing of "Mangalam" and prayers. Thereafter a group photograph of Officials, members and delegates was taken in front of the Association's Hall.

Rural Licensing Board

The appointment of members for Rural Licensing Boards in Natal, with effect from November 1, is announced as follows:—

ALEXANDRA COUNTY: Magistrate, Umzinto (Chairman); Messrs. R. G. Arohibald, T. B. Bremner, H. W. Payn and A. A. Wood.

ALFRED COUNTY: Magistrate, Harding (Chairman); Messrs. A. Eyles, J.P., H. L. Lennox, H. S. Moore, O. E. Stuart.

DURBAN COUNTY: Magistrate, Pinetown (Chairman); Messrs. F. W. Athor-such, H. A. Green, Nelson P. Palmer, J.P., and J. H. White.

IXOPO AREA: Magistrate, Ixopo (Chairman); Messrs. F. Christie, P. H. Grant, J. E. Newlands and J. B. Stone.

KLIP RIVER COUNTY: Magistrate, Ladysmith (Chairman); Lieut.-Col. D. Creswell, Major W. F. Edwards, Mr. A. J. Oldacre, Major E. A. O. Schwickard.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS: Magistrate, Vryheid (Chairman); Messrs. J. Erlend, M. Liebenberg, C. H. Lilje and Captain H. Wilkins.

MARITZBURG AREA: Magistrate, Maritzburg (Chairman); Messrs. A. H. Cockburn, W. F. Gubers, J. H. Holley, R. D. Talbot.

UMVOTI COUNTY: Magistrate, Greytown (Chairman); Messrs. H. J. Comins, M.P.C., T. J. Maritz, C. Tatham, T. I. van Rooyen.

VICTORIA COUNTY: Magistrate, Verulam (Chairman); Messrs. F. Adlison, C. R. James, G. P. Ladlan, R. T. Polkinghorne.

WEBBERN COUNTY: Magistrate, Estcourt (Chairman); Mr. T. E. Turner, Captain J. W. Johnson, Col. D. W. Muckey, Mr. P. J. van Rooyen.