

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Durban's New Draft Ordinance

IMPORTANT proposals for inclusion in the Durban Corporation's 1936 Draft Ordinance will be considered by the General Purposes Committee of the City Council. The items include legislation against Indian penetration; establishment of Licensing Appeal Board;

Dealing with the question of Indian penetration it is suggested that the following clause be inserted in the draft Ordinance:

If the owners of any two or more contiguous areas of land within the City of Durban shall lodge with the Town Clerk thereof notarial declarations restricting the future transfer of their land to persons of a class to be specified in such declaration, which declaration shall be filed in a register to be kept by the Town Clerk, it shall not thereafter be lawful for any such land or portion thereof to be transferred by such person or persons of his or their successors in title to any person not belonging to such class without the approval of the City Council to be evidenced in the manner set out in Section 1 thereof.

The question of obviating the existing tedious method of hearing licensing appeals will be considered by the General Purposes Committee. A legal opinion is to be sought as to the possibility of the Council delegating its powers to a special committee or board.

Natives Object To Be Vaccinated

The Shembeites refuse to be vaccinated. They are the last of the Zulus to decline to submit to the Government's edict that all natives must be vaccinated under penalty of a heavy fine. Government health officials, after trying every peaceable method to persuade the tribe that vaccination is for their benefit and protection from disease, have now taken decisive action. A deferred fine of £5 per head has been levied on every member of the tribe failing to be vaccinated within the next 14 days. The chief has been warned that this full penalty will be

exact. He has also been personally warned that, as he is a Basuto and not a Zulu, his opposition to the Government's wishes may result in his removal from Zululand, where he has no legal claim to reside. Great interest awaits the outcome of this official action, which comes after a period of prolonged diplomatic negotiations which were unproductive of results.

Many eminent persons object to vaccination and there are anti-Vaccination Societies but we wonder what are the grounds on which the Shembeites are basing their objections.

Alteration In Telephone Tariff

The legal aspect of Durban's new telephone tariff is now being investigated by the city solicitors with a view to ascertaining whether the proposed changes are in agreement with the old Natal Parliament Act of 1897, amended by Act No. 19 of 1909. This Act states that in the event of the Council adopting what is known as the message rate, the tariff will not exceed the following: "For business telephones including those of doctors, a subscription of £8 a year, and for domestic telephones £5 per annum, with the right to initiate not less than 500 telephone calls from his own instrument without further payment and thereafter a charge of 1½d. a message for the next 3,000 messages, 1d. per message for the next 3,000 messages, ½d. per message for all other messages to be payable monthly or otherwise." The City Council, by their new rates, intend to make a basic charge of £3 12s. a year and 1d. per call without granting any free calls. Legislative powers are to be sought to bring in the new scale of charges, but the suggestion is to introduce the new scale on February 1, and it is now found that any amendment of the Ordinance is not likely to be promulgated until about July. It is understood the City Council will ask for retrospective powers which will enable them to charge their proposed new scale from February 1, and it is considered almost certain that such power will be granted.

The Colour Bar Controversy

"If the head committee of the Fusion Party decides to introduce a colour bar in the party constitution I shall be compelled to resign from the party," declared Mr. H. G. Lawrence, M.P., at a well-attended meeting of railwaymen at the Salt River market, during the lunch hour on Thursday Dec. 19. "The view I take of the resolution passed at the Port Elizabeth Congress is that at the present time no colour bar has as yet been introduced into the constitution. There has only been an instruction to the head committee to introduce a colour bar for the rural areas. I entirely disapprove of this resolution and of such a policy." Mr. Lawrence said that if he was compelled to resign from the party it would not be because he had anything against the Government. "I have nothing against the Government and its policy, and I think it is our duty to support the Government in its larger issues."

Moving The Municipal Market

The transfer of the barrier section sales of fruit and green vegetables from the Pine Street Market to the Warwick Avenue market is recommended to the Durban City Council by the Acting Marketmaster, Mr. J. D. Davidson. He suggests the move be made at the earliest possible date, and that extra furniture and fittings for the purpose be provided at the Warwick Avenue sales hall at a cost of £106. Mr. Davidson also suggests that Municipal transport be provided to and from Warwick Avenue. His idea is that buses should be run at half-hour intervals from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., from the Pine Street market to Warwick Avenue. The buses should be run at the penny stage, he adds. The matter will be discussed by the Markets and Abattoir Committee.

Minister Prohibits "Bonsella"

A regulation prohibiting the giving or supplying of any article in connection with the sale of tea or coffee other than the tea or coffee so sold appears in a recent *Gazette*. Such supply, it is stated, will be regarded as a benefit under the Trade Coupons Act as from March 13, 1936.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 1935

The Old And The New

WE are nearing the end of the old year and shall soon be on the threshold of a new one. All business men are busy taking stock to find out what profits they have made and losses they have sustained. At the end of the year it is but meet that every one individually as well as collectively should look into the past to see what progress they have made with the passing of the time or how far they have retrogressed so that it may act as a guidance to them on entering into the New-Year.

Looking backwards we find that the past had many unpleasant features. The outstanding one has been the Quetta earthquake with all its horrors reminding mankind that however great his power may be he may not be arrogant, for within the 'wink of the eye' the almighty will cause his earthly creation to crumble to dust. There can be no more effective, no more sounder lesson on humility. This has not been the only calamity that has befallen India. Heavy frost has increased the sufferings of the already unhappy agriculturists by destroying their crops. Coming to the political field we find that India is still struggling for emancipation. The physical sufferings caused by imprisonment, lathi charge etc., has been fortunately at an ebb during the year but the mental and spiritual sufferings still remain unmitigated. A new Reform scheme has been thrust upon India in the teeth of the opposition of the majority of all the Parties in India. We cannot count that as a blessing on India. Whether it will drag India towards retrogression or progress will remain entirely upon the degree of awakening among the people of India. The bright feature in an otherwise gloomy outlook in India is the great progress made by Mahatma Gandhi and his band of active workers in village reform work and the emancipation of the depressed classes. Though Dr Ambedkar the supposed leader of the depressed classes created a sensation by the announcement of his threat to forsake his own religion and to embrace another which gave him a better status brought strong protests from every direction including a great majority of the depressed classes has proved to the hilt that untouchability is on its last legs. India has not yet got rid of the curse of communalism which is the main thing that is retarding the progress of India towards Swaraj.

Turning our eyes towards the other parts of the world we find Europe is

seething with unrest. The talk of disarmament, the talk of ending war as a means of settling the nations disputes has remained just as a pious ideal to be accomplished at a date which seems yet to be far distant. The nations are competing in armaments, actual warfare is going on in China and we find it in its worst form in Abyssinia whom a Italy which boasts of being a first class civilised nation is attempting by a "civilised" form of barbarity to crush out of existence, and all for what?—for land grabbing! The pity of it all is that there is not a single power that has the courage to come forward to rescue the victim who stands like a lamb before a lion. Then there is unrest in Egypt where the fight of freedom is still being fought. In Germany there is a class war led by Herr Hitler, who is trying to eradicate the Jewish element. In addition to all this there have been instances of nature's wrath here and there like the Formosa Island in Japan being wiped out by earth quake.

In South Africa generally things have not been as gloomy as they appear to be in other parts of the world. Owing to the boom in gold mines the country has been fairly prosperous. Every possible thing is being done for the happiness and prosperity of the farmers—of course, we mean, European farmers. Though there is a slight clash between the English and the Afrikaner there is every hope that they will mingle together in harmony. The drought has been causing a certain amount of anxiety and it is the fate of the non-Europeans to be the greatest sufferers.

So far we have dealt with the general conditions prevailing throughout the world. We will now glance over our own past. How have we progressed socially, morally or politically? We cannot think of a single act that we can put to our credit. In the Cape things have been quiet. In the Transvaal Indians have been suffering under the effects of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the Licences (Control) Ordinance. The worst feature of the effect of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act is that our poorer brethren are suffering through the ungenerous act of their own well-to-do brethren who are taking advantage of the Act by increasing the rents of their properties. This is a sign of moral degradation. The Licensing Law is gradually depriving our brethren of their only means of livelihood and there is a pin prick policy throughout the Province with

a view to wiping them out. There is on the other hand the Indo European Council which hardly does anything beyond holding academic discussions on the Indian question. There has come into existence a Welfare Committee which, as, has been already reported in previous issues of this journal has been doing some practical relief work among the Indian community who owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. Hoernle and other European friends for their selfless services. But this institution too, we regret to have to say, is suffering for want of financial support from the community. During the year in Natal we had the visitations of the devastating floods which rendered hundreds of our poorer people homeless and helpless. Thanks to the formation of the Central Indian Flood Relief Committee and to the very generous donations given by European well-wishers the sufferers were to a large extent reinstated. In this Province Indians are suffering under the licensing laws and recently under the Slums Act which instead of clearing slum conditions is used as a means to clear the Indians from wherever they consider them an eyesore to Europeans and to herd them into segregated areas. We must acknowledge with a sense of gratitude that educational facilities have to a slight degree improved in that the grant to the Indian Technical Committee has been increased by the Government and facilities for degree classes are contemplated at the Sastri College.

For our political disabilities we are definitely of the opinion that we are ourselves to blame. The mere talk of self-respect and honour has no meaning at all if there is not the readiness to sacrifice all to uphold them. We cannot claim to have made any progress socially or morally. The differences in the community as between the Colonial-born and the Home born, the capitalist and the labourer is taking deep root and signs of communalism too are not absent. All this augurs ill for the future of the Indian community in South Africa. We have not been able to give a very good picture of our past. But whilst we are on the threshold of a new Year it will be wise to take account of our shortcomings of the past and to make firm resolutions to overcome them and pray to the Almighty that under His Divine guidance we may safely march but another year towards the path of progress. With this wish and prayer we wish our readers every happiness and prosperity in the coming New Year.

COLONIAL BORN AND SETTLERS' INDIAN ASSOCIATION

MARITZBURG BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

STEPS taken to achieve unity among the Indian community were referred to by the leading speakers at the annual meeting of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, which was held in the H.Y.M.A. hall, Maritzburg on Sunday.

There was a fair attendance of members and the branch president, Dr. M. R. Peters, presided. Dr. Peters was supported by Mr. A. Christopher, president of the parent body.

Touching on the "peace conference" called by the Agent, Sir Sayed Raza Ali, last August, Dr. Peters explained the conclusions of that meeting. The conference had adjourned at the point when it had decided to adopt a name for the new body, the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Congress, but nothing more had been done. "We can say most earnestly," said Dr. Peters, "that we desired reconciliation. Our side made very forceful speeches to achieve unity. We could not be blamed if this had not come about." Dr. Peters referred to the other activities such as the Indian flood relief and other matters which they were called upon to deal with during the year.

The report of the secretaries, Messrs. B. R. Naidoo and K. Soobramoney detailed the work of the association for the year under review. Commenting on

the conference they state: "An informal conference was arranged by the Agent between the representatives of our association and the Congress. At this conference, which lasted until very late in the morning, a decision was reached that the new name of the amalgamated bodies be the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Congress. It was resolved that the name suggested be approved of and agreed to at the meetings of the respective bodies. The representatives of the association were Messrs P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh, L. Gabriel, P. B. Singh, D. S. Chetty and Dr. M. R. Peters. Nothing further has been heard in this connection."

The financial statement showed receipts of £22 18s. 3d. and expenditure of £22 5s. 1d. Both the reports were confirmed.

Officials were elected as follows: Patron: Mr. P. Thompson; president: Dr. Peters; vice-presidents: Messrs. V. K. Pillay, I. A. Cassimjee, M. R. Naidoo, P. M. David, S. Ruthnam; joint secretaries: Messrs. K. Soobramoney and B. R. Naidoo; treasurer: Mr. S. Kadir; auditor: Mr. S. Ruthnam; committee: Messrs. G. Manicum, R. P. Naidoo, G. S. Maharaj, Shaikh Ahmed, A. Poon-samy, S. Francis, B. Sunder, M. Moorgas, S. B. David, R. M. Padayachee, G. P. Naidoo, P. N. Pillay, G. R. Reddy, M.

Coopsamy, R. Ragwan, M. Yacob, P. Enock, A. Frank, J. M. Dick and Bilmuckand Maharaj.

Mr. S. Ruthnam drew the attention of the meeting to what he described as the "treatment meted out to Indians at the Maritzburg market when they were compelled to accept segregation. When we are on the European side our bid are not accepted," he said. Another point the same speaker made was that their association should see that they had their representatives on the Personal Tax Exemption Committee. In both cases the meeting decided to take up the matter to the proper quarters.

In the course of a powerful appeal to the Colonial-born Indians Mr. A. Christopher, of Durban, urged them to better their economic conditions. It was only by doing this that they could hope to secure the respect of the other sections. They could not for ever be the hewers of wood and drawers of water. "We are not out to blot any section of the community, but to level up our section with the other," he added. Mr. D. S. Chetty followed in a similar strain.

Exception was taken to the Agent's recent reference to the use of the word "coolie" as carrying no stigma. A resolution was passed protesting against the use of the term.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY

THE annual meeting of the Indian Child Welfare Society was held at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, on Saturday, Dec. 14. Among those present was Mr. M. G. Fannin, Magistrate of the Durban Juvenile Court. Mrs. S. Moodley presided. The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. G. Christopher, read a letter from Mr. Wilfred Louchars enclosing a cheque for £250 to the Society, which he desired to be used specially for alleviating distress among sick Indian children and indigent elderly Indian men and women. Mr. Fannin referred to the workmanlike manner in which the affairs of the society were being conducted. There was plenty of work to be done in connection with young Indian delinquents and he felt that they should be brought under good care. In the case of the Natives, Mr. Brandon, the ex-Magistrate, was good enough to donate his property in Mayville, which has been turned into a hostel, where 20 young Native delinquents are taken and cared

for. It would be well if a similar hostel were established for the Indian youths. The Government would then subsidise the Institution. The following officials were appointed for the ensuing year: President: Mrs. R. D. Sundaram; Vice-presidents: Mrs. S. Moodley, Mrs. R. Singh, Mrs. E. Royeppon, Mrs. E. Thomas and Mr. B. A. Maghraj; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. A. D. Lazarus, B.A.; Hon. Secretary: Mrs. G. Christopher; Executive: the Rev. J. M. Sundaram, Messrs. P. B. Singh and P. R. Pather. A committee of 15 was appointed. The work at the clinic at the Durban Municipal Barracks, said the report, was growing, as it must with its population of about 5,000. During the year over 1,524 cases were attended to in this clinic. "We have also since July last, it is further stated, "opened a clinic in Mayville district in premises kindly placed at our disposal by the Aryan Benevolent Home. We have received appeals to open clinics in other districts, and this is receiving our consideration."

Durban Indian Benevolent Society

With the object of investigating and relieving the wants of aged, distressed

and destitute Indian families within the borough and districts of Durban, and of securing employment for Indians in distress, the Durban Indian Benevolent Society was formed at a meeting held at the Hindu Tamil Institute, on Saturday, December 21. The following officials were elected to carry on the first year's work: Patron: His Worship the Mayor of Durban, Councillor F. Johnstone; President: Mr. P. G. Naicker; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. V. M. Maistry, L. Rajoomar, A. M. Padayachee, S. L. Singh and Mrs. R. R. Moodley; Joint Secretaries: Rev. J. M. Sundaram and Mr. P. B. Singh; Joint Treasurers: Messrs. B. D. Lalla and N. K. Chetty; Hon. Doctors: All Indian Doctors; Committee: Mrs. A. Christopher, Mrs. J. M. Samuel, Mrs. J. M. Sundaram, Miss O. Sigamoney, Messrs. M. Thajmoon, A. Christopher, S. Salikram, George Singh, C. R. Naidoo, P. R. Pather, M. B. Lazarus, J. Bennett Mumford, E. M. Chin, A. D. Lazarus, S. O. Naidoo, R. P. Das, R. P. Pather, A. G. Naraidoo, S. Gopaul and G. V. Naidoo.

INDIANS OVERSEAS AND THEIR FUTURE

WHAT INDIA SHOULD DO TO HELP THEM

IT is not inappropriate this year, which witnesses the centenary of the indenture system to which are to be attributed many of the grievances and disabilities of Indians abroad, to take stock of the present position and to plan for the future.

The Indian communities overseas are developing a character, an outlook and a method of life of their own, differing very largely indeed from those of the Motherland; and the more so the further they are or the more they are cut off from India. An ever increasing proportion of them are "colonial born." For example, four-fifths, at least, of the Indians in the Union are South African born. Their language tends to be English, their habits European or Europeanised, their economic standards more expensive, their attitude towards religion and custom less traditional and more critical. They are becoming self-conscious more rapidly than, and in a somewhat different manner from, their countrymen at home. They are claiming a larger and a more important share in the good things, social, economic and political of the new lands that they have done so much to develop and enrich. They are more readily receptive to new ideas. They are resenting more readily artificial impediments in their progress, especially when based upon racial injustice. But when these are lacking, they make common cause with the other elements of the local populations to demand from the Imperial authorities those powers and responsibilities to which they feel that they, in common with their fellow-colonists, have become entitled.

India's Flag

With all this they have never ceased to remember their country of origin and they have sought to serve the Motherland abroad as, perhaps, they might not have been privileged to do at home. They have held aloft the flag of India as an emblem of inspiration. India's honour has been very dear to them, and they have resented any slur upon it. Racial differentiation in law and in practice they have detested and resisted, often at great sacrifice. Where circumstances have, for the time being, been too powerful for them or internal weakness has prevailed, they have sought to safeguard India's interests even when they have been obliged to accept a *de facto* situation under protest. Though among themselves Indians abroad may have at times differed much, it has seldom been on grounds of religion, but as often as not on a point of principle, or because of a general feeling of impotence in the face of difficul-

By

H. S. L. POLAK.

In the "Hindustan Times"

ties, or merely on some personal issue; but India's honour has hardly ever been besmirched either by action or abstention on their part. And they have looked to India for leadership and advice whilst they have watched with hope, admiration and encouragement the efforts of their countrymen at home to raise the Motherland in the esteem of the nations and to achieve Swaraj. Not seldom, when she has been smitten with disaster, have they come to her aid with generous contributions.

Attack And Exploitation

What is being done to-day to preserve Indians overseas from attack and exploitation by privileged communities and hostile vested interests; to protect such rights as they have acquired after great suffering and painful effort, and to help them in the struggle for further opportunities of service to themselves, their country of choice and their Motherland?

In days gone by, when the duty of such protection and guardianship was exercised by the Secretary of State for India in Council, pressure could be brought to bear upon him both in and outside parliament, and the sympathies of the British press could be called out on behalf of the harassed Indian communities abroad. The debates in both Houses and the representations of British sympathisers outside Parliament and in the press may be readily recalled. The Secretaries of State for India and the colonies were in close and frequent communication regarding the grievances and disabilities of Indians in the "colonies," and when the latter was inclined to indifference or to act slowly the former could usually be relied upon to exercise timely influence with his colleague and so afford at least temporary relief to the victims of injustice and oppression. Questions affecting Indians overseas were found regularly on the agenda of Imperial Conferences.

Centre Of Gravity Shifts

Since the War and with the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and the change in the status of the Dominions, resulting, among other things, in the separation of the Dominions Office from that of the Colonies, the centre of gravity has shifted to India, and in an increasing degree the duty and the responsibility of protecting Indians overseas have been transferred to and exercised by

the Government of India. The public opinion that is now brought to bear upon the overseas problems is Indian rather than British. In some ways this is an advantage, for the initiative can now be taken by the Government and country that are mainly concerned with the welfare of these Indian emigrants and their descendants. Responsive to Indian opinion as the Government of India had for many years been even before the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, as those who remember the efforts of the late Mr. Gokhale and his colleagues will agree, it was not responsible to that opinion as it now is or regards itself. The Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature, when the latter's personnel is energetic and efficient, is exceedingly influential, and the Emigration Department of the Government of India is always anxious to carry that Committee and the Legislature with it in its handling of its problems. It is not easy, too, to measure the value of the unofficial work done by the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association and by certain sections of the Indian press in educating the Indian public, and pressing reforms and suggestions for relief upon the attention of the Department concerned.

The Disadvantages

But there are disadvantages and weakness in the present situation that ought to be borne in mind. In the first place, racial oppression and colour prejudice show few signs of diminishing. On the contrary, attacks upon Indian rights and interest abroad are increasing and spreading to places which were formerly immune. The burden upon the Government of India becomes greater than ever. The Indian Office no longer acts spontaneously, having transferred the initiative to the Delhi authorities; and awaits the latter's despatches before it addresses itself to the Colonial Office. Parliament and the British Press have other and more immediate pre-occupations. With the Dominions the Government of India deals direct.

And whilst greater responsibilities are exercised at Delhi, there is the danger that, in the midst of political excitements and unrests, and of economic depression at home, Indian opinion may become absorbed in domestic problems and the internal struggle, and public attention may be diverted from the welfare and the interests of Indians overseas.

Invalid Argument

I am aware that there is a school of thought that considers that so long as the status of India is itself precarious and unsatisfactory it is difficult, if not impossible, to do anything effective on behalf of her children abroad. I remember being told this when I first went out to India on behalf of the South African Indians. It was not even a half-truth then; it is a still more invalid argument to-day. It is only too easy to get entangled in the events of the day so that one cannot see the forest for the trees. No one who remembers the conditions then can honestly say that Indian opinion is not better organized and vastly more influential for the protection of the overseas Indian communities than it was twenty-five years ago, when Mr. Gokhale first took up the cudgels in defence of his countrymen abroad.

India's Honour

But if it is only partly true that the unsatisfactory status of India necessarily has its effect upon negotiations for the betterment of the conditions of these overseas communities, everything that happens to their detriment must react adversely upon India's own well-being, and must be resisted as energetically, as promptly and as unanimously as ever India's honour is directly involved in every fresh attack upon Indians interests

abroad and in every new disability imposed. India is far stronger at home and more influential in the Councils of the Empire, in spite of occasional setbacks, than ever before; and it would be deplorable if, in the heat and burden of domestic controversies and under the pressure of economic distress at home, the welfare and the status of Indians abroad were forgotten, neglected or relegated to a relatively inferior position among the problems calling for solution.

India's Support

The overseas communities themselves, by their numbers, their growing self-consciousness, their independence of judgment and action, their pride in and sacrifice for the Motherland, and the increasing complexity of their environment, cultural, economic and political, are entitled to the utmost support and the strongest encouragement from India. Nothing, indeed, could well be more injurious, both to their affection for all that India has stood for with them and to their own advancement, than the belief that Indian public men have allowed party strife or any other factor to obscure their vision of what should be done on behalf of these gallant communities.

Official Agencies

Nothing would give them greater hope than to know that funds were made available to the Government of

India by the Legislature for the establishment of well-equipped official agencies in the principal colonies and the setting up of a permanent Secretaryship for overseas Affairs. Had such agencies with highly qualified officers at their heads, and such a whole-time Secretaryship, been established earlier, it is certain at least in some places, the Indian position would not have deteriorated as it has done or the damage might have been, if not prevented, more easily repaired.

In the near future, when the needs of the local communities, in regard to commerce, education, agriculture and land, will have become more acute, such official investigation and help on the spot would be of the utmost value, and it is to be very earnestly hoped that the Indian Legislature will take early steps to see that these needs are satisfied and the help so urgently called for is granted unstintingly. The Indian communities overseas owe affection and moral allegiance to the Motherland. These can best be retained by watchfulness and generous aid on the part of the Indian leaders at home, in collaboration with an expanded Department of the Government of India, well-experienced in its problems and anxious to satisfy Indian opinion that it is alert and willing to act promptly.

CASTE HAS TO GO

IN the course of an article in the *Hartjan*, Mahatma Gandhi, to whom Sir Govindrao Madavkar had addressed an 'open letter', writes:—

1. I believe in Varnashrama of the Vedas which in my opinion is based on absolute equality of status, notwithstanding passages to the contrary in the Smritis and elsewhere.

2. Every word of the printed works passing muster as 'Shastras' is, not in my opinion, a revelation.

3. The interpretation of accepted texts has undergone evolution and is capable of indefinite evolution, even as the human intellect and heart are.

4. Nothing in the Shastras which is manifestly contrary to universal truths and morals can stand.

5. Nothing in the Shastras which is capable of being reasoned can stand if it is in conflict with reason.

6. Varnashrama of the Shastras is today non-existent in practice.

7. The present caste system is the very antithesis of Varnashrama. The sooner public opinion abolishes it, the better.

8. In Varnashrama there was and should be no prohibition of intermarriage or interdining. Prohibition there is of change of one's hereditary occupation for the purposes of gain. The existing practice is therefore doubly wrong in that it has set up cruel restrictions about interdining and intermarriage and tolerates anarchy about choice of occupation.

9. Though there is in Varnashrama no prohibition against intermarriage and interdining, there can be no compulsion. It must be left to the unfettered choice of the individual as to where he or she will marry or dine. If the law of Varnashrama was observed there would naturally be a tendency, so far as marriage is concerned, for people to restrict the marital relations to their own Varna.

10. As I have repeatedly said there is no such thing as untouchability by birth in the Shastras. I hold the present practice to be a sin and the greatest blot on Hinduism. I feel more than ever that if untouchability lives, Hinduism dies.

11. The most effective, quickest, and the most unobtrusive way to destroy caste is for reformers to begin the practice with themselves and where necessary take the consequences of social boycott. The reform will not come by reviling the orthodox. The change will be gradual and imperceptible. The so-called higher classes will have to descend from their pedestal before they can make any impression on the so-called lower classes. Day-to-day experience of village work shows how difficult the task is of bridging the gulf that exists between the city-dwellers and the villagers, the higher classes and the lower classes. The two are not synonymous terms. For the class distinction exists both in the cities and the villages.

South African News In Brief

Administrator's Christmas Message

IN the Christmas message to the people Mr. H. Gordon Watson, the Administrator of Natal, states:—There can be no doubt that those qualities of determination, courage and faith, which have so notably characterised all sections of the community in times of distress and difficulty, will be evidenced none the less in times of comparative prosperity, resulting in that progress which energy and enterprise invariably achieve.

Licences For Net Fishing May Not Be Renewed

Drastic action in regard to net fishing licences in Durban is to be taken following a number of raids carried out at night on Durban Bay by officials of the Natal Fisheries Department. Many nets were seized in these raids, carried out in a fast boat equipped with a searchlight, owing to their being of much smaller mesh than allowed under the regulations. The result was that many very young fish were killed. All fishing licences expire at the end of this month, and it is understood that the licences of those Indians convicted of infringements will not be renewed.

Durban Building Activity

Buildings to the value of £1,044,216 have been erected in Durban during the past 11 months of this year. Of this sum £457,975 is the total value of flats built since January 1 last. The totals for the last five Municipal years reveal the huge increase in building activity in the City since the end of the depression period. They are:

1930-31	£646,909
1931-32	£601,942
1932-33	£373,002
1933-34	£1,015,594
1934-35	£1,182,342

Superintendent Of Grey's Hospital

A Durban doctor has received the appointment of Medical Superintendent at Grey's Hospital in succession to Dr. R. E. Stevenson, who has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the new non-European hospital in Durban. The new Medical Superintendent of Grey's is Dr. W. E. Skaife, M.A., M.D., M.R.O.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Dr. Skaife is at present Assistant Medical Superintendent of Addington Hospital. The date when Dr. Skaife will take up his appointment has not yet been fixed.

Indian Tobacconists Fined

For an offence under the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Act, two Indians were fined £2 each in the Durban Magistrate's Court on Monday. They were Ahmed Mahomed Gora Randeree and Ismail Ahmed Randeree, both tobacconists, of 122 Grey Street. The

charge was that on October 9 the accused, not being chemists or druggists, sold to an inspector appointed under the Act a bottle of freckle cream which contained 12.92 per cent. of white precipitate (ammoniated mercury), a poison listed in Division 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the Act. The accused signed admissions of guilt and deposited £2 each, these sums being converted into fines.

New Wards At Barberton Hospital

New Native and Indian wards at the hospital at Barberton were opened on Wednesday afternoon Dec. 13 by Mr. C. L. Worrall, chairman of the Hospital Board.

Mahomed Ebrahim Lakhi Ward

The laying of the foundation stone of the Mahomed Ebrahim Lakhi Ward will take place at Grey's Hospital, Pietermaritzburg, by Sir Sayed Rasid Ali, Kt., O.B.E., Agent of the Government of India, on Monday, January 6, 1936 at 3 p.m.

Indian Airmen's Plane Damaged In Gale

The three Indian aviators who are touring the Union gave flights to 75 children on Wednesday morning Dec. 11, at Port Elizabeth. They had intended continuing throughout the day but by 11 o'clock in the morning a suddenly arisen wind developed gale strength and the flights had to be abandoned. The plane was anchored but a gust broke a strut, which will have to be replaced before the flights are resumed. We hope it is replaced by now.

St. John Ambulance Brigade East London

For the first time in the history of the Cape Province twelve Indians were trained for Home Nursing and ten were successful. The following are the Indian women candidates successful in the recent Home Nursing Examination: Chetty, Kate Marion; Samuels, Irene; Francis, Clara; Samuels, Charlotte; Chetty, Sybil; Francis, Ruth; Augustine, Angeline; Moonsamy, Veronica; Samuels, Constance; Augustine, Salome.

Proposed Building For Students

The Durban City Council at Monday's meeting arranged to exchange with the Natal University College approximately one acre of Municipal land for 5½ acres at Cato Manor. The College authorities intend to erect a £10,000 extra-mural students' building close to the Technical College within a period of two years.

Indigent Indians' Dispensary

A deputation of five from the Indian Hospital Advisory Committee met the Mayor (Mr. Fleming Johnston) and the Town Clerk (Mr. A. O. Jones) on Thurs-

day morning Dec. 19, and submitted a request that a vacant site in Beatrice Street be given as a gift by the Corporation to the Indian community for the erection of a clearing station and dispensary for indigent Indians. Mr. V. S. O. Pather, who headed the deputation, in submitting his case said that the site was considered suitable for the object suggested and that the Estates Manager, the City Engineer and the Medical Superintendent at the Addington Hospital had already approved of it. The building would cost £5,000 and an extra £1,000 would be required to fit it out. The Indian community intended meeting this outlay, after which they would hand over the clearing station to be carried on as a non-European annexe to the Addington Hospital. The Mayor stated he would submit the matter to the meeting of the Finance Committee. The following are the officials of the Indian Hospital Advisory Committee, Trustees: Messrs. A. H. Rennie, S. B. Seidle, M. O. Bassa, Mahomed Ebrahim; Chairman: Mr. E. M. Paruk; Vice Chairman: Messrs. V. S. O. Pather, S. G. Randeria, Mahomed Ebrahim, V. Lawrence; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. A. Motala; Hon. Secty. Mr. R. M. Naidoo; Committee: Messrs. S. A. G. Roussouille, T. M. Naiker, Hans Magraj, Rev. J. M. Sundrum, M. L. Sultan, E. Thomas, B. Parmasir, S. Rustomjee, Advocate A. Christopher, B. M. Patel, M. A. Karim, and M. O. Bassa.

Mr. Anand Rai In New Delhi

Mr. Rai writing on Nov. 22 from the Royal Hotel, New Delhi, states that after 3 or 4 days he will be leaving for Bombay via Mathura and Baroda and expects to remain there until the end of November. He will then take train for Calcutta via Nagpur and Jubbulpore. "It is so costly," he says, "to live in the hotels in India but one can't help it." Travelling alone in a strange land thousands of miles he continues is no joke but keeping good health as I do, I am having the experience of my life. Mr. Rai is making a study of the people and their conditions and thinks India is a wonderful land—a land of great extremes. At Agra he was shown the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort, both are he states, wonders of the world. "Their erection, finish and history could only be imagined by those who have seen them. At Aligarh, he saw the Muslim University. "What an institution—so large, so grand, so perfect. I could never have believed it. The Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and all others are gentlemen (Muslims) of very broad mind. Aligarh University in another 10 years would change the whole outlook of Indians. I have also travelled, he continues, in the interior and have seen what village life of the people is. It is nonsense when Indians talk about comfort

and homely life with no troubles—Native kramls are better built than the mud huts of the villages in the U. Province and Madras. Water condition is bad. Clothing and general appearance of women are not at all pleasing. In Bengal, he considers the rural conditions much better. The Zemindars would compare favourably with the high class Hindoos of Natal." The villagers ran away when they saw Mr. Rai strolling in and with great difficulty he was able to manage to make them understand that he was their friend from far away.

Indian Bus Route To Sydenham

Opposition to the application to alter the route of Indian buses plying for hire between Old Dutch Road and Sydenham via Overport to via Toll Gate and Randle Road is expressed by Durban's Tramways Manager, Mr. J. A. Bromley, on the grounds that they will be in competition with the Corporation's own service in which provision is made for both Europeans and non-Europeans. The Corporation bus runs from Pine Street to Sydenham via Toll Gate with a fare of 3d. for non-Europeans. The Indian bus fare is only 2d. and in Mr. Bromley's opinion, the alteration of the route would ruin whatever traffic the Corporation enjoyed.

Umgeni School Old Boys' Club

At a general meeting of the ex-scholars of the Umgeni Government Indian School

held on December 15, the "Umgeni School Old Boys Club" was formed. Mr. B. B. Singh presided at the meeting. The following officials were elected:— Patron Mr. G. V. Naidoo; President Mr. B. B. Singh, Vice Presidents Messrs. V. R. Moonsamy, M. Maduramuthoo and S. B. Singh; Joint Secretaries Messrs. D. Mudhun and J. Sewnath; Treasurer Mr. D. Mudhun; Auditor Mr. N. Gopaul Naidoo; Committee Messrs. O. P. Moodley, A. B. Moonsamy, C. Moonsamy, C. Coopan, S. Bridgemohan, E. B. Sahib, K. Moonsamay, M. Chadayan, M. Sillikram and M. L. Pillay.

The Greytown Indian Board

On Friday Dec. 20 a farewell reception was given by the above Board to Mr. S. C. Narayadoo, a teacher of the local Indian School, who is transferred to Pinetown. Among those present were Messrs. M. Subban (Headmaster), G. G. Vanmare (hon. secretary), A. G. Alwar, A. E. Alwar, G. Singh, Ramharack and a few others. The Headmaster, Mr. Subban, who acted as chairman for Mr. M. E. Lakhil, delivered a lengthy speech. He said that he will be missing Mr. Narayadoo greatly, as during his service as a member of the staff for the last six years, Mr. Narayadoo was very keen in his work and was extremely helpful to him. Further he said that the school children will greatly miss him as he was always kind to them with beneficial results. The

secretary, Mr. G. G. Vanmare expressed his regret for losing Mr. Narayadoo who he said was not only useful as a schoolmaster, but was of great help to the Indian community. Mr. Narayadoo, he continued was a very simple gentleman who looked upon all as brothers. A suit case was presented to Mr. Narayadoo by the Advisory Board as a token and appreciation of his invaluable service rendered to the School and the Indian public of Greytown. Mr. Narayadoo suitably replied.

Y. A. S. Patshalla

The prize distribution took place on Sunday Dec. 22, under the auspices of the Yuvak Arya Samaj when every child of the Y. A. S. Patshalla was given a prize and the children were taken out for a picnic to Brighton Beach, where refreshments and light lunch were served. The function began with a Maha Havan. The chairman Mr. R. B. Booshun pointed out the activities of the Patshalla which has been in existence for the last 3 years and thanked the teachers, Messrs. D. Rabebrum and K. Heeralal for conducting the Patshalla in a satisfactory manner. The Samaj provides books for 50 poor children and no fees are charged. The function terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair by Mr. S. M. Maharaj.

Things In General

Mr. Eden Appointed As Foreign Secretary

THE appointment of Mr. Anthony Eden as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, officially announced in London on Sunday night, is generally welcomed in Britain, the only adverse comment coming from anti-sanctionist sources. French official circles are not so pleased, their fear being that Mr. Eden will press for an oil embargo. The Left parties, however are delighted, seeing in the appointment a continuance of Britain's policy of full support of the League. At Geneva Mr. Eden's promotion is viewed with the greatest satisfaction but a very different view is held in Rome, where his consistent advocacy of sanctions has won him the hatred of the Italian Press. Germany's attitude is non-committal, but the Germans are stated to be pleased. Sir Austen Chamberlain was not appointed in view of his pro-French sympathies. It is learned that no special significance is attached to the fact that the post of Minister for League Affairs will not be filled. It is pointed out, there are two Under-Secretaries for the Foreign Office, Lord Stanhope and Lord Cranborne.

The latter was formerly Parliamentary private secretary to Mr. Eden and was associated with him at Geneva. It is believed Lord Cranborne therefore will continue to have a close connection with League work.

Tribute To Salisbury School And Temple

A European writer in *Rhodesia Herald* states:—

When you find yourself one day wishing you could see something new, I suggest that you pay a visit to the Hindoo School and Temple, when you will be assured of an interesting morning. It was an eye-opener to me to find the other day not only that European women were permitted to enter the Temple, but that visitors are made very welcome. In fact, the Salisbury Hindoo Society would be glad to see more people taking an interest in their school. The school and Temple were built in 1928 at a cost of £7,000, the Government giving the site. With the exception of a few donations from European friends, this money was collected among themselves, running costs which amount to approximately £80 per month also being borne entirely by the

Hindoo community, which consists of about 250 all told. The school is a very fine building containing two well-ventilated classrooms and a library of English and Hindoo books. Upstairs there is a large, airy dormitory, empty at present, but ready to receive boarders from the country districts as soon as funds are available. Twenty applications have already been received. I was treated to a very entertaining exhibition of drill, singing in Hindoo and in English, reading and conversation in English. There are about 50 children, both girls and boys, with two teachers who conduct the work on the lines of a European school. I was greatly impressed with the extreme cleanliness of the building and children, and with the fine discipline and keenness prevailing. It was interesting to learn that work starts daily with worship in the Temple, during which incense from 135 different fragrant aromatic woods is burned for purification purposes as well as for religious reasons. Before leaving, one is entertained to a daintily served tea, of which the prominent members of the Hindoo Society who have come to honour a guest also partake.

INDIAN SCHOOLS BREAK UP

SASTRI COLLEGE PRIZEGIVING

A SUCCESSFUL function was held at Sastri College on December 12, when a large crowd of parents and friends assembled to witness the distribution of prizes and enjoy a play presented by the Dramatic Club. In his report the Principal said that the year had been a satisfactory and strenuous one, and referred specially to the social activities of the College and the value of the social and dramatic clubs, the organized games, athletic sports and the publication of a magazine in broadening the boys' outlook. The prizes were presented by Mrs. R. A. Banks, wife of Inspector Banks, of the Natal Education Department. The audience thoroughly enjoyed a comedy entitled "The Dumb Wife of Baghdad," which had been easternised by Mr. Roy Warriner, who was assisted by Mr. H. Miller, of the staff, in producing the play. The stage was artistically arranged to present an Eastern scene, and the play owed a great deal of its success to the rapid pace maintained throughout. Special mention must be made of the excellent acting of Adam Osman as the physician, and Chetty as the lawyer, effectively supported by Jooma as the merchant, Rajput as the dumb wife, Harichand, Nagin, Dewchand, Gabriel and Magraj.

List Of Prizes

Standard X—Class prizes: 1, Jack Naidoo; 2, G. K. Nulliah; 3, B. Randeria. Subject prizes: English, C. D. Naidoo; Latin, Jack Naidoo; History, G. K. Nulliah; Mathematics, Geography, Science, Jack Naidoo.

Standard IX—Class prizes: 1, Michael Gabriel; 2, George K. Maghraj; 3, Nandas B. Rajput. Subject prizes: English, Thamodren Pillay; Latin, Michael Gabriel; History, George K. Maghraj; Mathematics, Dawchund Jumna; Geography, Thaveraj Singh; Botany, Adam Osman.

Standard VIII (a)—Class prizes: 1, Prag Rama; 2, P. Muthukistna; 3, S. Moodley.

Standard VIII (b) Class prizes: 1, E. Jadwat; 2, S. N. Moodley; 3, P. Veer-anah.

Standard VIII (c) Class prizes: 1, D. M. Bassa; 2, B. C. Singh; 3, Amod Akbar.

Standard VIII (d) Class prizes: 1, E. Najarally; 2, L. P. Naidoo; 3, G. Lade-gourdie and S. Sookharie.

Standard VIII (a to d)—Subject prizes: English, O. Bhagvanjee (VIII.a); Latin, P. Muthukistna (VIII.a); History, S. Moodley (VIII.a) and P. Rama (VIII.a); Mathematics, O. Bhagvanjee (VIII.a); Geography, D. Hari (VIII.a); Arithmetic, J. Ramjagudh (VII.c); Botany, P.

Muthukistna; (VIII.a); History (in VIII.b), M. H. Keerath (presented by Mr. Holgate).

Standard VII (a) Class prizes: 1, Abbai Naidoo; 2, Ishwarbhai Amin; 3, Nagin V. Morar.

Standard VII (b) - Class prizes: 1, S. Oree; 2, N. B. Maharaj; 3, P. Praem Singh.

Standard VII (c)—Class prizes: 1, M. Vamblie; 2, P. Bala Naicker; 3, M. E. Jadwat.

Standard VII (d)—Class prizes: 1, D. Baboolal; 2, S. Chetty; 3, Vasudhaven.

Standard VII (a to d)—Subject prizes: English, Latin, Abbai Naidoo; Arithmetic, Mathematics, Geography, Ishwarbhai Amin; History, Nagin V. Morar, Botany, S. Oree (VII.b).

Teacher Training Department—T3, B. Originality and general usefulness, A. Khan; highest average percentage in criticism lessons, V. G. Augustine; consistent work and improvement, Miss F. Lawrence. T5; Improvement, N. Sewnarayan.

Good fellowship prizes (presented by Mr. C. R. Warriner)—Junior: Roy Haffee. Senior: Jack Naidoo.

Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh Prize (presented by Sir Maharaj Singh for a period of five years to the two best all-round boys in the College)—Junior: Prag Rama. Senior: G. K. Nulliah.

Staff Prize (for outstanding ability in sport): M. Yusuf.

Malvern Indian School

A large number of parents and interested spectators was present on Sunday Dec. 15 at the Malvern Indian School sports. The judges were Messrs. K. P. Moodley, S. J. Maharaj, M. S. Moodley, A. B. Naidoo and V. K. Naidoo with Mr. C. Munsamy as record clerk, Mr. F. M. Charles as starter and Mr. E. Sheik as timekeeper. After the various events a demonstration was given by Sonny Moodly's troupe which was much appreciated, as was a fancy dress parade open to boys and girls. At the prize-giving in the afternoon adults filled the school hall, there being no room for the scholars, who were lined up outside and as their names were called came up for their prizes. Over 250 prizes were presented, a creditable effort on the part of the school committee. Mr. Howard Middleton, a member of the Malvern Health Board and a patron of the school, presided at the afternoon function, and later presented the prizes. Mr. Munger, the headmaster, submitted his annual report of good progress the school has made. There were now 322 pupils, of whom 240 were members of the Thrift Club. Another 147 Union

Loan certificates had been taken out during the year. He paid a tribute to his staff, who had co-operated wholeheartedly with him to get the best results during the year. Mr. Sirkari Naidoo, B.A. (president of the school sports committee), in the course of his remarks, said it was hoped to carry out many necessary alterations and additions to both the school and playground within the next year. He thanked the many donors for their generous assistance which had helped to make the present function such a success. Other speakers were Messrs. S. M. Saib and K. M. Reddy. Mr. Middleton, before presenting the prizes, congratulated the headmaster on his successful year. He assured Mr. Munger and his staff that it was a pleasure to do anything to assist them in the furtherance of education. He appreciated very much the reception that had been accorded him that afternoon. Amid enthusiastic applause, the trophy presented by Mr. B. M. Reddy was presented to N. Arjoona; a similar trophy was presented to S. A. Pusapalutchnie, the winner in the girls' section. Good fellowship prizes were presented to Mabel Charles Vengepathy and R. Ramchunder. A Variety programme of songs, recitations, humorous dialogues and sketches followed, and as a finale the play "Dharmum-a-Jayam," was staged, the scholars sustaining their characters excellently and acquitting themselves remarkably well throughout the eight scenes.

Umkomaas Indian School

A successful sports meeting was held at the Indian School at Umkomaas Drift on December 15. There was a list of 17 sporting items, including a Marathon race, and a Boxing demonstration by a team brought from Durban. Two orchestras provided music. Mr. Ali gave a conjuring exhibition which was appreciated. Many well known people from Umkomaas were present including Dr. and Mrs. Wallace, Captain Wise, Dr. and Mrs. Wildish, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Tytherleigh, Mrs. Bone, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Philips, Miss Wheeler and Miss Johnson. Scoutmaster Van Dokkum and his troop gave valuable assistance in judging and starting the races and other events. The prizes were presented by Mr. C. J. Tytherleigh, Chairman of the Umkomaas Town Board, who paid a tribute to the organising work of Mr. R. C. Naidoo, the Chairman of the School Committee, and Mr. M. R. Varma and his staff. During the afternoon Father Christmas visited the grounds and distributed presents and sweets to all the children.

Dannhauser Indian School

The annual prize distribution of the Dannhauser Indian School took place on Friday Dec. 13. The prizes were distributed by Messrs. O. S. Vawda and Steik Ablool. The Indian community of Dannhauser contributed towards the purchase of prizes. The school has upwards of 300 scholars and the accommodation is now fully taxed. The Indian population are hoping that the Natal Education Department will recognise it as a Government school, and not as a

Government-aided school, as at present. Mr. R. Loganathan and his staff were congratulated on the excellent conditions prevailing at this school.

The Doornfontein Indian School

Nearly 2,000 people attended the prize distribution on Wednesday Dec. 18 in the Majestic Hall of Doornfontein Indian and Coloured Government School, presided over by Sir Syed Raza Ali, C.B.E., Agent for India. Captain H. L. Seligson, President of the Transvaal Rotary Club, presented the prizes. The principal, the

the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, in a review of the school's activities, said that, owing to the increasing number of pupils, the Transvaal Education Department had hired a bigger building which had eight classrooms and was capable of accommodating 318 children. In the bursary certificate examination eight out of 10 candidates had been successful. The school was prominent in social activities of the community, and anything that tended to uplift the Indian community the children were encouraged to support.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HOW TO PREVENT WAR

To The Editor "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—The League of Nations found itself incapable of effective action at the beginning of the Italo-Abyssinian conflict. Its efficiency has been found wanting at the present juncture. It may be that the Powers thought that there might come an opportunity for them to extend their respective spheres of influence in Abyssinia. I have no desire to justify Italy's treatment of the League of Nations. I think quite definitely that she flouted its rightful authority and acted contrary to the new spirit which the nations were seeking to introduce into international relations following the great war. If the present Italo-Abyssinian conflict is not brought to a speedy conclusion before the end of the present year I fear that it will make for a world war of terrible intensity and duration. Half the people who talk about war have not the slightest idea of what it is. Without imagination, they have no conception of what the future war is going to be like. War, in a short sentence may be summed up to be the culmination of jealousy and hatred of which human nature is capable. The only way to muzzle the dogs of war is to stop the supply of war materials to the belligerents. Nickel and tungsten are key minerals essential to modern warfare; both strictly limited in quantity; and the principal sources of supply are in British hands. What then is to prevent Great Britain from utterly preventing war? Are the sources of supply in the hands of British-money-making firms who expect dividends from the sale of such commodities; or are in the actual ownership of the British Government? As Great Britain is far involved with the League of Nations, it would be easy to come to an arrangement to place all supplies of nickel and tungsten in the care of the League of Nations alone and refuse it to any other control. If Great Britain could do this without delay, she would be the only Power which would have shown the sensible and human way

in which to deal with the dread possibility of further wars. Or if that is not possible then the British Trade Unions can effectively demonstrate their strength by getting the workers to refuse to produce war materials. If the British Trade Unions could accomplish this they would have created a strong precedent, and would be in a position to check further wars and work for the good of civilised humanity.—I am, etc.,

G. S. PILLAY.

Term "Coolie" Has No Stigma

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me a space in your valuable columns. As a South African born Indian, I approve the quick action of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association in their protest to the Government of India resenting the term "coolie" as applied to Indians by our Agent Sir Syed Raza Ali. Perhaps, if the Agent knew the actual interpretation to which class of people the word "coolie" might be applied and to whom it may not, he would certainly refrain from making any speech offensive to Indians in South Africa. The word "coolie" may not mean anything to our Agent nor to Ramsay MacDonald, J. H. Thomas, or to British "coolie" Government but in South Africa the word "coolie" is abusive, and is used as a word of contempt. If exceptions are taken by Indians, they are justified in their action to correct and point out to our Agent that they are not coolies. Our Agent perhaps has not realised that our struggle for freedom and justice in this country depends upon our self-respect. It seems that in South Africa the word "coolie" has no concrete meaning, except as a common term generally used for Indians no matter what his dignity, rank or profession may be,—he is a "coolie" if he is a labourer, or a "coolie" if he is a merchant.—The word is used as an offensive language to aggravate the feelings of Indians, through

trade jealousy or through the economic conditions of Indians in South Africa. The Indians in South Africa are far advanced to be termed coolies being the fourth and fifth generations of our early settlers, and this fact both the Government of India and the European community are well aware. If such utterances come from a representative of the Indian Government, they are not very encouraging for any Indian to improve his status in the Union as a respectable citizen. However weak we may feel in our political conditions in this country, we Indians can boast of a civilisation that no country in the world has had. If our appeal can be heard in our Motherland India, let it be known that we in South Africa strongly resent the word "coolie" as a gross insult to the three hundred million of our Indian population who would undoubtedly endorse our feelings.—I am etc.,

SOUTH AFRICAN BORN INDIAN.

Eight Million Wedding Rings To Go In The Melting Pot

Eight million wedding rings are expected to go into the melting pot during this month in response to Italy's appeal for gold to help the Fatherland. The remaining 2,000,000 wedding rings worn in Italy are believed to have been already given. December 18 was set apart as a "day of faith." On that day a melting pot will have been set up before the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Rome, and Queen Helena will head the procession of women who will drop their rings into the melting pot. Similar ceremonies will take place at all Italian cities and where there are no monuments to the fallen the ceremonies will take place beside graves at local cemeteries.

PROBLEM BEFORE BRITAIN TO COERCE INDIA OR CONCILIATE HER?

LABOUR'S aim in India is two-fold—political and economic. First, to open the road to the same independent self government as exists in the Dominions; second, to hand over the present British control, not to the interests, but to the people of India.

The more formidable enterprises. The denial of political liberty has already united against Britain the greater part of Indian patriotic feeling.

Mr. Montague said: "We are sitting on an earthquake." That was nearly twenty years ago. Since then much has occurred, mostly for the worse, and to-day it is certainly true to say that the whole of Indian youth is arrayed against us.

Six years ago, an effort was made to win agreement. For the first time, Dominion Status was declared to be our aim, and the Indian National Congress was invited to send representatives not as witnesses or delegation as heretofore, but as equals, to a Round Table Conference.

There was just a chance of success, but Mr Lloyd George combined with Lord Birkenhead to destroy it and there followed a year wasted in conflict.

But in the end co-operation was won. The Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi drew up the Delhi Pact, laying down an agreed basis of discussion. Civil conflict voluntarily ceased, and Mr. Gandhi came to London. But it was too late.

And now four years, which should have been spent in the desperate battle for understanding with India, have been frittered in coddling die hards and coaxing Tory peers, in wheedling the acquiescence of small cliques who in no conceivable circumstances can help in the vital work of appeasement.

If the political problem is baffling, the economic is far more difficult. Science and invention have already faced the Western world with an impoverishing surfeit. But they have also been at work in the East.

Japan, though partially industrialised, is already a megalopolis. Since her producers are too poor to buy what they make, foreign markets must be found. To this end Manchuria has been seized, and Manchuria is but a first step in the dismemberment of China by Japan.

But China and India are ten times as populous as Japan. What will happen as they also become industrialised?

It is beginning. In Peking last year thousands thronged to see an exhibition of all Chinese Manufactures.

India, too, is, or will be, equipped with the most modern machinery. Like China, she has great natural resources

By

Mr. Wedgewood Benn, Ex-Secretary
of State for India in the "Daily Herald"

and millions of operatives. What is to happen fifty years hence to the then boundless output of the East,

In India paternalism was good in its day. But no outside power, however well-intentioned, can now guide her economic evolution. Leadership must be racy of the soil.

For this reason, it is vital that the new Constitution should give power to the people. Otherwise when we withdraw we hand over an exploitation far worse than that of Industrial Revolution in Britain. For further particulars on this point students should read the Whitely Report or consider the uncontrolled factories of Shanghai.

India's political and economic needs are the yardstick with which to measure the value of the new Act.

On the political side, its obvious weakness is that it commands no popular Indian support. Bargaining was inevitable, but patriotic assent was within reach, if sought. Yet for the promise of Dominion Status has been substituted the Preamble of the old Act.

That Preamble is wilful frustration of independent growth. It was drafted in 1919, seven years before Mr. Balfour had defined that voluntary association which is the basis of our Commonwealth. To repeat it to-day is to return deliberately to direct Westminster control.

On the economic side the Act aims at fortifying existing interests and denies to the Indian people the constitutional means of winning economic emancipation.

It makes great advances. At the centre, and much more in the Provinces, Indian power has been increased. The momentous question is: How will it be used?

At Delhi the Congress can put up a group, but it is generally agreed that they will capture all but one or two of the Provincial Council, and must be prepared to see them use their new strength, wherever possible against us.

Every issue will be presented as a dispute between Indian and British interests.

There are plenty of such questions. The appointment and control of the Civil Service is one. Finance and Currency is another, for in the present world war of economic nationalism control of currency is a sharp weapon

by no means to be handed over to outsiders.

But the most promising field for those who wish to create conflict is, of course, the Tariff.

Protection and Imperial Preference may in time break up the British Commonwealth. They have certainly created tremendous obstacles to understanding with India.

The "National" Government wishes us to believe that our prosperity depends on the ruthless use of the Tariff in "defence" of our own producers. Will it be any wonder if Indian politicians employ the same arguments, and with success, in their own Assembly?

India, it will be said, and truly, is incomparably poorer than Britain. Can she, ought she, to neglect means which are declared on the highest authority to be effective?

Yet the moment that duties are imposed with the prime aim of benefiting (as will be claimed) Indian trade, then the whole apparatus of Whitehall interference must be dragged out, to the infinite profit of those in India, who are pleading for a complete break.

Had the new Constitution given so generous a franchise as to put their economic freedom within reach of the Indian themselves, then there would have been work to do. But this is not so. The continuing and tragic poverty will be ascribed to the British connection and not to its fundamental causes.

That national feeling will grow is certain. That disputes will occur is probable. And conflicts arising under the new and more autonomous constitution will be far more dangerous than any we have seen in the past.

Those who believe "firmness" should study the respective histories of the South African Union and the Irish Free State and consider the present relation of each to Great Britain.

In the one case, bold action was taken in 1906 in the face of the bitter opposition of the Tory Party. In the other, half a century was wasted in a futile struggle with the House of Lords.

The first method gave us honour and a willing partner. The second repression, national shame and surrender and left an insurgent State, the evil consequences of worse estrangement from the Commonwealth none can foresee.

INDIA'S CHAMPION WRESTLERS

A RANKING LIST

IT was probably Nat Fleischer, the famous American boxing critic says a writer in the *Leader* (Allahabad), who set the custom of issuing a periodical ranking list of professional boxers. This custom was adopted by the International Tennis Federation as well as by the controlling associations of lawn tennis in every country where there were good tennis players. While tennis stars are ranked annually, Fleischer issues a monthly ranking list of boxers of all the body-weight classes, because the boxers shift in their positions more frequently than do the tennis player.

Although this has become a prevalent custom so far as tennis and boxing are concerned no one has thought of ranking the leaders in the other forms of popular athletics as probably they are not so widely popular as the tennis or the boxing stars. These can undoubtedly claim to have a universal following.

In India it is of course different. I had the privilege of ranking our tennis players long before the A. I. L. T. A. did so. But to me the Indian super-wrestlers provided a novel opportunity. Frankly speaking there is no other form of sport in India, not even football, whose followers can be counted in millions and they include the man in the street as well as the prince on his throne. I was further tempted to rank these wrestlers not because they represent an indigenous form of sport but because each of them named hereunder can win and keep the world's championship wrestling crown. I made the first ranking in 1932 with the help of an old timer, Chunnilal of Sialkot, who himself was a top-notch wrestler in his own time. That list was like this:—

1. Gama;
2. Imam Bux, Rustam-i-Hind, (champion of India);
3. Gunga alias Ferozeuddin;
4. Young Gama;
5. Hamida;
6. Ganda Singh;
7. Ala Bux;
8. Daula Muhammad;
9. Atu Khan.

In September 1934, Gama himself helped me to make a fresh ranking. There are some new names in this list. They do not belong to novices but are of real might who have made their way up by repeatedly qualifying themselves for higher rank. Gama's list is more fair than that of Chunnilal's, it is like this:—

1. Gama;
2. Imam Bux, Rustam-i-Hind;
3. (a) Gunga, (b) Hamida, (c) Young Gama, (d) Yankappa Bular;
4. Atu Khan;
5. Daula Muhammad;
6. Ala Bux;
7. Sahabuddin;
8. Ganda Singh;
9. Gobar Babu, light heavy-weight champion wrestler of the world.

Gama—The Supreme Leader.

The above list stands unchanged to-day as the following discussion will show.

Gama although, he is 55 and although he does not hold any official position is yet the supreme leader of the Indian super-wrestlers. Age has been powerless to make any impression on him. It is true he has not been put to any test since he defeated Jess Patersen, but judging from his fine physical condition I saw last he is unbeatable as ever. Besides, he has made it extremely difficult for any young and ambitious wrestler to engage him as to do so one has to qualify by defeating his redoubtable brother, Imam Bux, who in his person presents an insurmountable barrier to young aspirants.

Imam Bux is fifty today and like his famous brother does not worry about his age. He has held the Indian title since 1918 when his elder brother relinquished it in his favour. Imam was beaten only once in his career by Gunga but he has conclusively proved his mastery over that younger and terrible wrestler by beating him twice. Once I thought that absence of serious competition was making him soft, but I had to change my opinion when on the last Silver Jubilee day he held Gunga at bay for five long hours in Lahore. The result of that fight was a draw. It seems that his position will remain unchanged so long as he does not retire from wrestling.

The third position is occupied by four men each of whom is capable enough of winning the world's title. Gunga about 36 years old now, is easily the best among them. He has defeated Young Gama thrice and drawn against Hamida and Bular. His victory over Imam Bux counts in his favour and makes him the leader in the third position.

Hamida the youngest of the super-wrestlers, for he is only 28, is undoubtedly Gunga's equal. He had a technical win over Bular on the last Silver Jubilee day in Amritsar. There can be no test of strength between Hamida and Young Gama as they are first cousins and also belong to the same club. Neither can any of these men make a bid for the first two positions as both Gama and Imam are related to them by marriage. They also regard Gama as their preceptor.

Greatest Of Hindu Wrestlers

Gama repeatedly asked me to see Bular, the Kolhapur champion for in strength, build and ferocity Bular is almost the double of the famous Kikkar Singh. Bular is about 40 now and he

is undoubtedly the greatest of Hindu wrestlers since the days of Biddu. He is a menace to the dit notchers, but he has been held successfully at bay. He has drawn against Gunga, was beaten by Young Gama and Hamida and in his turn has beaten Ala Bux thrice and Ganda Singh once.

Atu Khan was once beaten by Young Gama.

Daula Muhammad was once beaten by Hamida and he once fought to a draw against the same wrestler. In 1932 he made a wrestling tour in Canada and the U. S. A. taking on all-comers. He took part in 122 battles the majority of which he won and drew in the rest.

Sahabuddin, whom I have named Primo Camera of India for his gigantic frame and herculean strength, easily defeated Ganda Singh but was beaten by Young Gama once.

Only Indian Wrestler Recognized In U. S. A.

Gobar, the Calcutta wrestler, was engaged to fight Gama, but the match did not take place. He has won great fame in Europe and the U. S. A. His experience of foreign wrestling and wrestlers is great. In 1915 he defeated Jimmy Esson, the champion of the British Isles, but it is not known whether the British title was ever conferred upon him. He took part in the famous Nouveau cirque tournament in Paris organised by Maurice De Riaz. He had as his training partners such men as Stanislaus Zbysco, Dick Shigkat and Georges Hackenschmidt. At a much later date he easily won the light-heavy title and his defeat in the fight for the world's championship was not at all a fair one. He won a fall against Strangler Lewis, the then world's champion, and had given away one. In the contest for the deciding third fall Lewis fouled him. Although Gobar protested against the foul the verdict was given in favour of the American champion. Gobar is the only Indian wrestler who is officially recognised in the U. S. A.

Gama included two more names in the list, that of Bussah, and his own nephew, Ghulam Mohiuddin. I have discarded both, as Bussah, although a first class wrestler, could never merit a place in a list of super-wrestlers. Mohiuddin is a youngster of 24, full of promise, no doubt, but yet he has to prove his mettle in the lower ranks.

The Sporting World

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Muslims Play Schools In Final

MUSLIMS met the Schools last Saturday in the semi-final for the Panday's Natal Shield, on the main ground in the "A" section, and the Sastri College met Aryans on the No. 1 ground in the "B" section. In the league competition, Pirates engaged Kismet on the No. 2 ground, while Greyville-Bharat occupied No. 3. School won the toss and sent Muslims to bat. The opening pair being D. E. Paruk and O. V. Mahomed with K. Thambadoo bowling from the town end and P. Moosa racecourse end. Paruk was clean bowled after he had scored seven runs by Moosa. The score board reading 20. The score coming to a slow rate, while the bowlers were keeping a perfect length and the fielding keen. G. Mahomed now partnered O. V. Mahomed. The first boundary of the day was sent by G. Mahomed for four. The half-century was hoisted in 25 minutes. Both batsmen having settled down and the runs being scored freely. Another boundary by G. Mahomed was sent for four. The century was reached in 120 minutes. The bat-men collared the bowling and the score board jumped freely. G. Mahomed scored another four to the boundary, and playing a splendid innings. G. Mahomed after scoring 80 runs was caught by R. A. Naidoo off G. V. Naidoo. Two wickets down for 138 runs. This second wicket partnership realising 118 runs. O. V. Mahomed still batting had reached 44 runs. Other results were:—Sastri College, 161 for five wickets. Pirates, 105 for five wickets. Greyville, 122 for four wickets declared. Bharat 26 for four wickets.

Australia And South Africa—Second Test

The Australian and South African teams for the second Test, which opened at the Wanderers on Tuesday Dec. 24 were selected Monday morning. The Australian team is the same as that which won the first Test at Durban and was published in our last week's issue. The following is the South African team. H. F. Wade (captain.), B. Mitchel, E. A. Rowan, I. J. Siedle, A. W. Briscoe, R. J. Crisp, G. Bock, A. D. Nourse, J. B. Robertson, A. B. C. Langton, F. Nicolson, K. G. Viljoen, twelfth man. The complete scores of the Test would be given in our next issue. At the time of going to Press the scores were: South Africa first innings 157, Australia first innings 168 (For 3 wickets.)

Indian Intertown Fixtures

Alternative fixtures were drawn up, one being confined to Durban and Maritzburg and the other including the Northern Districts, which are as follows:— Intertown.— Maritzburg v. Durban, at Durban, on January 4 and 5. Panday's Shield.—Durban v. Maritzburg, at Maritzburg, on February 9. Alternate Fixtures. — Intertown: Maritz-

By "Rambler"

burg v. Durban, at Durban, on January 4 and 5; Northern Districts v. winners, on winners' ground, on January 25 and 26. Panday's Shield.—Durban v. Northern Districts, on February 9, at Ladysmith; Maritzburg v. winners, on winners ground, on March 1.

Boxing.

Joe Louis On Top Again

There was a capacity crowd at Madison Square to watch the contest between Joe Louis and Paolino Uzondum. Among the 21,000 spectator were Braddock, Carners Dempsey, Tunney and Jock McAvoy, British middle-weight champion, who was introduced from the ring. Joe Louis beat Paolino Uzondum on a technical knockout in the fourth round. Louis confirmed the opinion that he is the greatest heavy weight prospect. Louis was ever looking out for an opening, which he seized when Uzondum, trying to lead, left himself open for a fraction of a second in the fourth round. Louis crashed in a terrific right to the jaw and followed up with his left. Paolino went down for a count of eight and staggered up with blood streaming down his face and chest. The referee, to the astonishment of Paolino and the crowd, stopped the contest. Uzondum's face was smothered with blood and was still groggy after 20 minutes under the shower. Interviewed by Reuter, he said Louis was a great fighter and would go a long way.

Mike Jacobs, promoter to the Twentieth Century Club, under whose auspices the Joe Louis-Max Baer fight was staged, has received a cable from Max Schmeling, former heavyweight champion, offering to fight Louis for a purse of 250,000 dollars (£50,000).

Wrestling.

Van der Walt Loses To Oswald

Hank Oswald won a sensational match at the City Hall Capetown on Tuesday Dec. 17 one fall to nil. The moment the gong sounded Oswald charged out of his seat and butted van der Walt all round the ring, dazing him to such an extent that he was able to pin van der Walt in under 80 seconds. On one occasion Oswald had van der Walt in an armlock and shouted: "I'll break it," and on another when van der Walt had a leg hold on Oswald the crowd shouted, "Break it." Oswald was not very popular with the crowd owing to his repeatedly seeking refuge outside the ropes and the usual missiles were showered on him. Van der Walt made a desperate effort to even up matters in the last round, but was unable to secure a fall.

The World's Speed Records

Here is a list of some leading world speed records. They make interesting reading.

SEAPLANE: 440.68 m.p.h., Lientaers, Francesco Agello.

AEROPLANE: 312.21 m.p.h., Raemo-Delmotte.

Automobile: 301.337 m.p.h., Sir Malcolm Campbell.

Motorboat: 124.86 m.p.h., Gar Wood.

RUNNING: Mile in 4min. 06.7secs., Glenn Cunningham.

WALKING: Mile in 6min. 25.8secs., H. Goulding.

SWIMMING: Mile in 21min. 06.8secs., Arne Borg.

RUNNING HORSE: Mile (straightaway) 1min. 32.8secs., Keppelstone.

49 Nations Entered For Olympic Games

Now that the Principality of Liechtenstein has also announced its intention of taking part in both the Winter and Main Games the list of 49 nations participating in the Olympic Games is as follows:—Afghanistan, Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Haiti, Holland, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Irish Free State, Italy, Japan, Jugoslavia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, United States of North America.

Sporting Chips.

The match between Tarrant's Australian team and the Central Provinces and Bechuanaland was continued on Saturday last when in reply to Central Provinces' first innings score of 121 the Australians scored 351. Morrisby scored 119 and Hendry 92. The pair added 178 runs in 145 minutes for the third wicket. At the close of play Central Provinces scored 11 runs for two wickets in their second innings.

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"On Saturday morning Mr. Khan, secretary of the Young Muslims C.O.," says "Cypher" in the *Natal Advertiser*, "brought me an envelope containing pound notes, a number of shillings, sixpences, ticeys, pennies and half-pennies, the whole amounting to over five pounds, as contributions from the members of his club to the Cameron fund. It is an extremely nice gesture on their part. No doubt the donation will be duly acknowledged in the columns of this paper. Mr. Khan told me says, "Cypher," that his club had received 24 complimentary tickets for the test match from the Australians, and these were deeply appreciated."