

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. Hofmeyr

On The Indian Question

ADDRESSING a function given in his honour by the Transvaal Indian Congress in the Selbourne Hall, Johannesburg, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr said

during the last three and a half years he had been intimately associated with the Indian community. He was genuinely sorry that that association had come to an end. The work associated with the office of the Ministry of the Interior in relation to Asiatic affairs was difficult, involving contentious issues, and very often when one's feelings drew one in one direction, one was forced to go in another direction by the policy laid down by the law. He had learned to know the Indian community as his friends. His hope was that he would continue to do so, for to him the essential human relationship, in the knowledge that they all came of one Divine Father, was the ultimate and important thing. He had tried to be just and understanding in those relationships. "I want to assure you of this, that that will continue to be my desire, and that if that were not my desire then I doubt very much if there would be any place for me in the politics of the country. It seems to me there would be nothing more worth while for anyone who believes, as I do, in these essential human relationships than to make it his object to promote justice and fairplay." Mr. Hofmeyr said that in dealing with the Asiatic question in South Africa there was need for great faith and for great patience. It was easy to solve these problems on paper; it was not so easy to translate these paper solutions into facts. "You lead public opinion," he said, "but you cannot go very far in advance of public opinion, and the process of leading public opinion is a very slow one."

The New Minister

Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr further said at the above function that

He realised that he had laid down his office as Minister of the Interior at a somewhat difficult time. There were all the implications of the Feetham Report, there were racial feel-

ings being engendered by a certain section of the population, and other matters, but there was no one among his colleagues to whom he would have more readily transferred the duties of that office than to Mr. Stuttaford. Mr. Stuttaford would bring to bear on the problems he had mentioned a clear and unprejudiced opinion, a sound judgment and a liberal outlook.

Agent-General's Mis-statements

Sir Syed Raza Ali and Lady Ali have sailed for London for South Africa on December 24. At a reception in London on Dec. 17, attended by Mr. R. A. Butler and Mr. C. Te Water, the Agent-General is reported by Reuter to have said that,

the educational, social and political positions of Indians in South Africa are surely improving. He paid tribute to the Union Government's help for Indian community, by devoting large sums to the education of Indian boys and girls. In one respect, the Indians in South Africa were in a better position than in India because they would get the old age pension.

We are pleased to learn that Sir Syed Raza Ali is beginning to feel vigorous once again after his recent ill-health owing to which he had to take a trip to Europe. We are, however, not pleased with the above statement reported to have been made by him. In the high and responsible office that he holds as the Agent-General for India, we should have thought Sir Raza would be a little more accurate in his public utterances on the Asiatic question. We are not aware that the Union Government has devoted large sums to the education of Indian boys and girls and it is totally wrong to say that Indians would get the old age pension. The Old Age Pension Act positively does not apply to Indians and a sum of £5,000 has been granted for indigent Indians which is quite different from being given old age pensions.

Indian Licences Refused

Three appeals against the decision of the Durban Licensing Officer in refusing to grant applications for new licences were heard by the Durban City Council on Monday afternoon. Two applications, one by Ismail V. M. Jooma, for a

general dealers's licence at Sydenham, and one by Ramdas for a tea room licence at 312 Randles Road—were dismissed, the Licensing Officer's decision being upheld by a majority of the Council. The Newcastle Licensing Board on Thursday, December 17, refused the application of G. H. A. Seedat for a general dealer's licence in respect of premises 370 Murchison Street, fronting Allen Street. Applicant is said to have had 26 years experience of business in Natal and had a capital of £400. It is also understood that no objection had been lodged in connection with the application.

Disabilities Of Indians Abroad

The General Secretary to the Indian Colonial Association, Etawah, has issued the following statement to the Press:

"During the last session of the Legislative Assembly at Simla, a statement was laid on the table of the House, in which the Government of India dealt with the disabilities of Indians settled in various parts of the Empire. Though efforts were made to clear many points relating to the problem, yet at several places the statement was found to be inaccurate in several important particulars." Mr. Jinarajadasa, a well-known Indian Theosophist, in the course of a Press statement sent from Adelaide, has pointed out the inaccuracies of the statement made by the Government in regard to the condition of Indians in the Dominions: "The Government statement about New Zealand says that there was no restriction to enter that country if the formalities regarding the possession of a valid passport were fulfilled. Nor were there any restrictions on temporary visits for the purpose of business. This statement is inaccurate in two particulars, viz., (1) Indian is permitted to land if he intends to settle; New Zealand is barred to Indians, though not legally but as a matter of fact by the rigour imposed by the customs; (2) even a temporary visitor (for business) must deposit £10 (ten pounds) on arrival, which is a gratuitous piece of insult to our countrymen. And in this connection, a further nuisance consists in the fact that he has to collect a refund of this deposit on the day before the steamer leaves. Last year, when I arrived in New Zealand, I was required to deposit £10."

Indian Birth Rate**Makes Durban Think**

Serious concern is being felt in Durban, it is said, at the marked disparity between the Asiatic and European birth-rates. The November vital statistics show that the Asiatic birthrate is more than double the European, although the Asiatic population is more than 6,5000 less than the European. In November, 119 European children were born to an European population of 86,918. The Asiatic population is 80,045 and the number of births was 270. The matter was raised at a meeting of the Public Health Committee recently. It was not considered advisable to debate the matter, however, as the special sub-committee on Asiatic penetration, appointed by the Natal Municipal Association, is expected to submit its report very shortly.

It will be interesting to know what this special sub-committee has to say on "Asiatic penetration." But might we suggest to the Europeans who are so obsessed with the fear of being swamped by the Asiatics owing to the increased birth-rate among them, whether the drop in the birth-rate among Europeans is not largely due to birth control measures in which they are much more efficient than Asiatics. In that case should they not rather curse their own fate than cursing Asiatics?

Activities Of A Member**Of That "Goodwill Delegation"**

Mr. J. Grobler, M.P., who was a member of the Union Parliamentary delegation that recently went to India on a "goodwill mission," has requested the Christiana Town Council to furnish him with the following information: The number of trading licences in the hands of Indians and Europeans respectively in Christiana in 1920 and at the present day, and the Council's opinion on Indian trade. He has also asked if the Council would be willing to send a delegate at its own expense to Capetown to give evidence before a committee if such a committee were appointed. The Council has decided to give the details requested, but it states that it cannot see its way clear to send a delegate to Capetown.

Feetham Commission**Nearing Conclusion**

The work of the Asiatic Land Tenure Commission, of which Mr. Justice Feetham is chairman, and which has already presented six volumes of its report is gradually nearing completion. Two more volumes are in course of preparation and then a ninth volume is to be issued, summarising the findings and recommendations of the Commission. These will be issued early next year. Appointed during the time when Dr. D. F. Malan was Minister of the Interior, the Asiatic Land Tenure Commission started its inquiry in October, 1932. Up to the end of March, 1935, the cost to the State had amounted to £13,988.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 1936

The Old And The New Year

WITH this issue falling into the hand of the reader the year 1936 of the Christian era will be about to end and the dawn of the new year will soon be visible in the horizon. Christianity is playing an important part in the world as it is at present the religion that rules. There is merry-making at the end of the year in every religion and the Christian religion is no exception. People all over the world are wishing each other a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Even the poorest of the poor will try to forget their misery just for these few days and make themselves look as happy as they possibly can. This has become almost conventional.

The more thoughtful, however, will look into the past and examine how they have fared—what progress, if any, they have made—how usefully they have spent their life in the service of their fellow creatures—how faithful they have been to their Creator.

If one throws a passing glance into the past there is hardly anything that fills one with pride. On the contrary there is much that could fill every true Christian with horror.

What has happened in Abyssinia, what is happening in Spain is in utter violation of the Christian principles. These are most glaring instances which go to prove that Christianity is on the wane. The treatment of the Jews in Germany, the treatment of Indians in India under the Christian rule and the treatment of the non-European races under the Christian rule in the Union, are further instances of that fact. Then there is the spirit of war and hate prevalent throughout the European Christian world and deadly weapons are being forged that make even the man in the street shudder as to what is to become of him and his innocent little children if ever war breaks out in the near future.

To add to this the highest living authority on Christianity is advocating war by declaring that it is sanctioned under certain circumstances. To crown all is the unfortunate incident of ex-King Edward desiring to wed a woman he loved in violation of the Christian principles. Though the tragedy has been averted by his abdication the incident, has nevertheless, cast a severe blow to Christianity and has left an inauspicious mark on the throne.

Thus Christianity is not able to show any progress during the year either in the political field or in the moral or the social field. Let us not be misunderstood to mean that the followers of other religions are better than the followers of Christianity. All are perhaps sailing in the same boat. But Christianity being the religion that rules has a far greater responsibility and is expected to set a nobler example to its followers as well as those who are destined to be under its rule. It is for this reason that we are taking particular note of it here at this time when we are naturally inclined to turn our eyes towards the past in order that we may try to do better and live more righteously in the future.

While the happenings of the past have been such as to fill us with despondency there is still time to make amends and to turn despondency into bright hope. But it requires an indomitable courage and selflessness and, above all, the grace of God, which can only be achieved by humble prayer and without which all else is useless.

The foregoing thoughts should occur to all Christians in particular and other religionists in general during these holy days.

It will be fitting to conclude this article with the words of Mrs. Mabel Palmer expressed on a similar occasion in 1928:

"I will resolve:

"to do all in my power to promote comradeship and mutual understanding as between nation and nation, between men and women, between race and race, between class and class, between denomination and denomination; not denying the existence of natural differences nor refusing to make allowance for them, but unhesitatingly insisting that natural distinctions shall not be used as a justification for contempt or exploitation of one group by another, but rather as a basis for the higher organisation which results from harmonious mutual co-operation."

The highest Christian principle is embodied in the foregoing resolution and with the fervent prayer that it should find a place in the heart of everyone during Christmastide we wish all our Christian brethren

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

OBSCENE ADVERTISEMENTS

A SISTER sending me a cutting from a well-known magazine containing the advertisement of a most objectionable book writes:

"The enclosed came under my eye when glancing over the pages of —. I do not know if you get this magazine. I do not suppose you ever have time to glance at it even if it is sent to you. Once before I spoke to you about 'obscene advertisements'. I do so wish you would write about them sometime. That books of the type advertised are flooding the market today is only too true, but should responsible journals like — encourage their sale? My woman's modesty is so utterly repelled by these things that I cannot write to anyone but you. To think that what God has given to woman with intent for an express purpose should be advertised for abuse is too degrading for words. . . . I wish you would write about the responsibility of the leading Indian newspapers and journals in this respect. This is not the first by any means that I could have sent to you for criticism."

From the advertisement I do not propose to reproduce any portion except to tell the reader that it describes as obscenely as it can the suggestive contents of the book advertised. Its title is 'Sexual Beauty of the Female Form' and the advertising firm tells the reader that it will give away free to the buyer two more books called 'New Knowledge for the Bride,' and 'The Sexual Embrace or How to Please Your Partner'.

I fear that in relying on me in any way to affect the course of the ad-

By
MATMA GANDHI In "Harijan"

vertisers of such books or to move the Editors or Publishers from their purpose of making their productions yield profits, she relies on a broken reed. No amount of appealing by me to the publishers of the objectionable books or advertisements of them will be of any use. But what I would like to tell the writer of the letter and other learnt sisters like her is to come out in the open and to do the work that is peculiarly and specially theirs. Very often a bad name is given to a person and or she in course of time begins to believe in the badness. To call a woman a member of 'the weaker sex' is a libel. In what way is woman the weaker sex I do not know. If the implication is that she lacks the brute instinct of man or does not possess it in the same measure as man, the charge may be admitted. But then woman becomes, as she is, the nobler sex. If she is weaker in striking, she is stronger in suffering. I have described woman as the embodiment of sacrifice and *ahimsa*. She has to learn not to rely on man to protect her virtue or her honour. I do not know a single instance of a man having ever protected the virtue of a woman. He cannot even if he would. Rama certainly did not protect the virtue of Sita, nor did the five Pandavas of Droupadi. Both of these noble women protected their own virtue by the sheer force of their purity. No person loses honour or self-respect but by his consent. A woman no more loses her honour or virtue because a brute renders her senseless and ravishes

her than a man loses his because a wicked woman administers to him a stupefying drug and makes him do what she likes.

It is remarkable that there are no books written in praise of male beauty. But why should there always be literature to excite the animal passions of man? May it be that woman likes to live up to the titles that man has chosen to bestow upon her? Does she like to have the beauty of her form exploited by man? Does she like to look beautiful of form before man and why? These are questions I would like educated sisters to ask themselves. If these advertisements and literature offend them, they must wage a relentless war against them and they will stop them in a moment. Would that woman will realize the power she has latent in her for good, if she has also for mischief. It is in her power to make the world livable both for her and her partner, whether as father, son or husband, if she would cease to think of herself as weak and fit only to serve as a doll for man to play with. If society is not to be destroyed by insane wars of nations against nations and still more insane wars on its moral foundations, the woman will have to play her part not manfully, as some are trying to do, but womanfully. She won't better humanity by vying with man in his ability to destroy life mostly without purpose. Let it be her privilege to wean the erring man from his error which will envelope in his ruin that of woman also. This wretched advertisement is merely a straw showing which way the wind is blowing. It is a shameless exploitation of woman. It would not leave alone even "the beauty of female form of savage races of the World".

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU'S ADDRESS TO STUDENTS

"I WANT the students of India to think more in terms of something wider than nationalism, for nationalism is not wholly good enough to-day. It is restricted creed—narrow creed. Of course for India to day, it is an uplifting creed. But nationalism has dangerous aspects in it, as will appear clear from all that is obtaining in Germany at present. Unless our younger generation learns to profit by the lessons of Germany, when freedom comes to India we shall remain narrow and limited and shall not take part in the great freedom movement of the world." This note of warning was sounded by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in an illuminating address delivered to a

large gathering of students at the Albert Hall.

Appealing to the students for cultivating a wider prospective of things, Panditji said: "Some momentary irritations, some domestic troubles sometimes oppress us terribly although they are not important. For a moment they become terribly important, but they may not last a week or two after. For the moment this trouble has come to us in the shape of British Imperialism. It seems to be permanent, but if we have eyes to see, we shall find that it is gradually fading out of the world. British Imperialism is a thing, not so much of to-day as of yesterday."

Continuing Panditji said: "I see a terrible future. I hope that the ultimate future would be better. But I do see terrible conflicts and violence in immediate future. I see a conflict of enormous forces, which might bring about the destruction of a great deal that you and I and every one of us hold dear in this country. As young men and students, therefore, I want you all to think in terms of independence—in terms of the world. In its ultimate analysis what is nationalism? In a country like India, nationalism may be an uplifting creed to-day, because we work for India. But this nationalism in Germany is not an ennobling thing—it is an aggressive thing, which threatens the freedom of others."

A SOUTH AFRICAN ON INDIA

WORLD'S RICHEST POTENTATE

FAMOUS NIZAM WHO LIVES THE SIMPLE LIFE

The following is the fourth of a series of articles contributed to the *Rand Daily Mail* by Mr. Leif Egeland M.P. a member of the South African Parliamentary Delegation that recently visited India. Further articles will be reproduced in subsequent issues of **INDIAN OPINION.**

WE spent some days as the guests of the Nizam of Hyderabad, the ruler of the largest and one of the most progressive of the independent Indian States under the suzerainty of the British Crown. His realm is bigger than England and Scotland together, and he exercises unfettered powers over upwards of fourteen million subjects. Rumour credits him as being the world's richest man possessing 80 millions or more, and many are stories about him and his wealth.

We were accorded an audience and had tea with his Exalted Highness. I was struck by his simplicity and utter unostentatiousness both in manner and in dress. Although he owns a magnificent summer palace at Faluknuma a few miles away, a palace containing exquisite treasures of jewelled art and comparable in splendour or aesthetic appeal to such places as Fontainebleau and Sans Souci, the Nizam prefers the comparative simplicity of his town residence. The visitor to his dominions will hope in vain to see the stately pageantry of elephant processions such as characterise the Dasara ceremonies in Mysore, another of the five principal States whose rulers are entitled to a salute of twenty-one guns. So far as Hyderabad is concerned, elephants are banned and camels are rare.

None the less one is struck in Hyderabad by a sense of colour, by the picturesque survivals of feudalism. On occasion one feels as if suddenly whisked into a scene from the Arabian Nights, as for example at one of the sumptuous banquets of leading noble in palaces with illuminated gardens, crimson-carpeted corridors and marble court yards.

We saw much of beauty and charm during our short stay, not least the Nizam's two daughters-in-law, Durreshahwar and Nilofer, known officially as the senior and Junior Princesses. Both are of the Imperial Family of Turkey. The wife of the future Nizam, a daughter of the ex-caliph, is regal, tall, blue-eyed and rather serious, while her cousin, Nilofer, is vivacious, petite and unaffected.

Evening Glory

Another unforgettable memory—quite different from the Princesses—was of coming back into the main thoroughfare near that gem of Mohammedan architecture, the four-turreted gateway called Char Minar, in the afterglow of a rich sunset. The Street was thronged as only an Eastern street can be. My host, the Nawab Sahib, who had left Oxford about the time I was born, had been showing me the graceful symmetry of the Mecca Mosque, where as if conscious of the fact that it is against strict Moslem tradition to have mausolea inside places of ordinary worship, the Nizam's predecessors rest beneath simple inscriptionless marble slabs.

The Nawab Sahib had just told the story of how a British Resident, Kirkpatrick by name, over a hundred years ago won for his bride, despite all the restrictions of purdah, a spirited young Begum, whom he first glimpsed for a few moments in the course of a procession. As we threaded our way through the crowd there passed a wedding procession on its way to the mosque. Led by a gaily bedecked camel and followed by several richly caparisoned horses and members of the bridal party bearing upon cushions what appeared to be chaplets of flowers, it was accompanied by a band of Arabs wildly firing their guns into the air for the sheer joy of adding to the general din.

Hyderabad is an autocracy, within which the Nizam's word is law. It is true that here, as in about thirty other States, there is a Legislative Council (composed overwhelmingly of officials) and an Executive of Ministers, but all action taken or laws passed are subject to the ruler's absolute veto. In respect likewise of the High Court of Justice, established in 1922, the Prince retains full authority over both judges and their verdicts, though in practice he rarely interferes.

Enlightened Rulers

During the present reign Hyderabad is a good illustration of progress where the Ruler is guided by Ministers of such far-sightedness, and administrative brilliance as Sir Akbar Hydari. Where, as here, the aid is to keep pace with British India in the fields of administration, education and social progress, there can be little occasion for interference by the British Resident. Such has not always been the case in other States, and at times blatant misrule has necessitated British intervention and

enforced abdications—once even in the case of a first-class State like Baroda.

An amusing story is told against Lord Curzon about a delightful and obese old scoundrel of a lesser prince who was deposed for his eccentric ways of government. Soon afterwards the Viceroy paid an official visit to the State concerned, but completely ignored the fallen greatness, who bearing no malice had turned up to welcome the great Curzon. Not long after, Curzon himself was involved in differences with his Commander-in-Chief, Lord Kitchner, and resigned his Viceroyalty. He was cheered to receive from the fat ex-Maharaja the following telegram:—"Now that we are both in disgrace, may we not meet?"

Feudal Relic

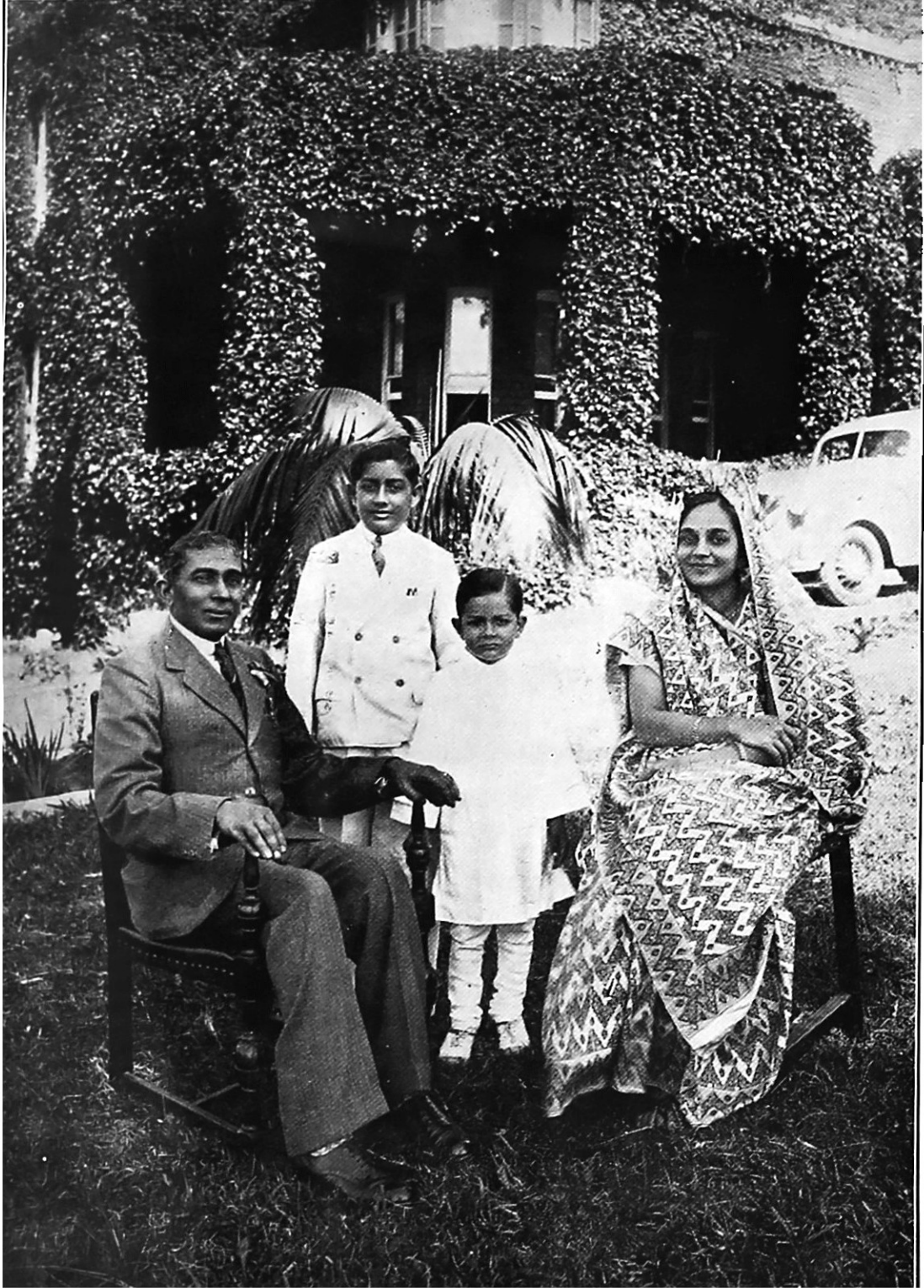
Not the least interesting of the 17 or more universities of India is the Osmani University of Hyderabad. Here for the first time the medium for instruction chosen is not English but a vernacular, namely Urdu, the language of the Moslem minority which rules over a State preponderatingly Hindu in population and almost entirely surrounded by non-Muslim states.

This 18-year-old institution, generously financed by the Nizam, is developing fast. An entirely new campus with buildings of rare architectural appeal, representing that pleasing blend between Eastern and Western styles which is characteristic of modern buildings in Hyderabad, is in the course of construction. With the rapid growth in numbers of graduates from Osmania one wonders how long it will be before here, too, the demand for the intelligentsia for some real say in government will become irresistible. As yet there seems to be no such clamour, certainly not open clamour.

To the hostile and Communistically-minded Nehru Hyderabad is still a perfect feudal relic. So far as I could ascertain popular newspapers or public political meetings are unknown, while the courtly and cultured ruling Moslem minority, practically speaking, are the intelligentsia.

Nevertheless, in agreeing to a Federation of All-India the Princes must have realised that the days of unfettered despotism are numbered, and that whatever may be guaranteed them in the new Constitution by the paramount Power of their former status and powers, they will have to come to terms with the majority as the nobles did in Europe and the Samurai have done

THE WELL-KNOWN INDUSTRIALIST AND PHILANTHROPIST
OF UGANDA



[Photo by Crown Studio.

MR. NANJI KALIDAS MEHTA, M.B.E., MRS. MEHTA, AND THEIR SONS.

યુગાંડાના પ્રતિષ્ઠિત શાહસોદાગર અને દાનવીર

શ્રીમાન શેઠ નાનજી કાળીદાસ મહેતા. એમ. બી. ઇ., તેમના
ધર્મપત્નિ એ. સૌ. સંતોડબેન અને તેમના સુપુત્રો.

in Japan. My host, the Nawab Sahib, a powerful Minister of the Nizam, takes a gloomy view of the future. Communism, he thinks, is bound to triumph over Fascism and democracy, and on the ruins of our present civilisation a new but not necessarily bad Communistic order will arise.

Backward Conditions

Some of the Princes have already started to put their house in order. States like Mysore, Travancore and Baroda claim—and competent observers concede the claim to be a head of British India in certain respects. In most Native States, however, conditions are still backward if not stagnant. To the Congress politician of British India all the States are bulwarks of reaction and a major irritation because their existence, dotted about India under treaty rights with the British Crown, rules out as impracticable all hope of "Purna Swaraj" or independence outside the Empire—even more absolutely than the position of Ulster thwarts the realisation of an All-Ireland Republic outside the Commonwealth.

A marked characteristic of the Princes is their personal attachment to the King-Emperor. They draw a distinction between the functions of the Crown's representative as Viceroy vis-a-vis themselves and as Governor-General over the provinces of British India, and this distinction the 1935 Act is careful to observe.

The decision of the Princes to cooperate within the framework of Federation was a historic one, and has opened up the possibility of self-government for United India within a much shorter period than had ever before appeared practicable. The developments and discussions of the last few years must have bred increased cohesion and community of interest among the Princes, and the party they are likely to play within Federation is that of a steadying influence against extremism or sedition. To the Federal Council of State the Princes will have the appointment of 104 representatives out of 260, and to the Federal Assembly of 125 representatives out of 375.

Bulwarks Against Sedition

To the wiser among British officials in India, who see in the States more than mere bulwarks against sedition, they may be expected to provide a sphere in which Indian administration may fairly develop on indigenous lines. And if as many think democracy is not the form of government best suited for India, some more acceptable alternative may be evolved within the more progressive of the principalities.

We were able as the concluding function of our tour to get a happy glimpse of one other Native Principality, Porebunder, where incidentally Gandhi was born. Its ruler, the Maharaja Rana Saheb is, a devout Hindu, claiming descent from Hanuman, the god represented in the Hindu pantheon in the

shape of a monkey. A well known sportsman and former captain of India's cricket team, he is also recognised as a progressive prince.

Our stay at Porebunder was very short, but in that time we probably saw most of His Highness' subjects. The entire town seemed to have turned out to greet us, State police, bazaar denizens, boy scouts and schoolboys cheering lustily in striking contrast to the silent, reverent and naively graceful salutations of the hundreds of school girls lining the route from the harbour to the hall where an address was presented. Here the male members of the delegation strove to look less silly and more dignified than they felt when, in addition to being garlanded and presented with bunches of flowers they survived the aromatic ceremony of Ittar-Gulab. This consisted of having some drops of scented oil sprinkled on the hand from a golden receptacle which looked like a cross between a vase and a coffee-pot.

After luncheon with Their Highnesses in the new, and modern Palace, the delegation bade good-bye to India, and the State launch started back towards our ship in the outer anchorage, leaving a substantial crowd which had gathered to assist the Maharaja in speeding us on our way, faintly perplexed at the strains of "Sarie Marais," which—delivered with full-throated postprandial verve—they then heard for the first and possibly the last time.

(To be continued)

IS NEW WAR LIKELY

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF WORLD SITUATION

The Foreign Department of the Indian National Congress has issued the following in connection with the observance of the Anti-War day:—

OLD-FASHIONED history ascribed the last world war to the murder of the Austrian Crown Prince, the mad ambitions of the German Kaiser, the violation of Belgian neutrality and such like occasions which only bad thinking can confuse with the real causes. In a like spirit, the entry of the United States into the War on the side of the allies is ascribed to the sinking of American ships by German submarines. It is now common knowledge that the heavy loans financed by American bankers to England and France forced the American Government to save the debts of its nationals. Likewise, the real causes of the last war are to be found in the sharp clash of Imperialist interests between Britain and Germany on the one hand and the crumbling Empires of Austria and Russia on the other. There were other

contributing causes in each of which it is easy to detect a genuine conflict of rival trade, industry and capital.

To realise whether a new war is likely and what will lead to it, it is necessary to enquire if conflicts of rival imperialistic interests are getting sharper. Recent events have made the Mediterranean Sea and Eastern Europe again the storm-centre of the world. If there was in 1914 the German B.B.B. plan (Berlin-Byzantine Basra Railway) to endanger the communications of the British Empire, Fascist Italy and Germany are in the Mediterranean an equal threat to-day. The clash of rival imperialist interests, both on the sea-line and the mainland of China, has already occasioned wars from which the rest of the world was insulated with considerable difficulty. There are several such centres of conflict in other parts of the world.

Where conflict of rival imperialist is pitting one country against another, another type of conflict, not so acutely

present in the period before the last War, is increasingly disrupting the unity of the nation and dividing it into warring camps. The war in Spain is an example of this conflict. Democracy and progress have to-day no meaning if they do not bestow increasing economic power on the masses and have, therefore, aroused the warlike hostility of the ruling castes, the financial, landed and army interests. In Spain, this is on the surface and has resulted in inhuman barbarities. France, is, however, not immune from it.

The progress of the Civil War in Spain has shown that this hostility between progress and reaction is likely both to hasten the outbreak of the world war and give it a character distinct from all previous wars. The Non-Intervention Committee is only a proof of the terrible anxiety of world politicians to insulate the Spanish conflict. They have, however, not succeeded in hiding from the world the intensely sincere demonstrations of sym-

pathy with the Spanish Government that the world's democratic and working class forces have made. The Fascist Powers are widely believed to have helped the Spanish rebels with money and munitions. The Spanish Delegate to the league of Nations rightly remarked that, with the Civil Wars in Spain the era of national wars had ended and the era of international wars had begun. The character of the next war will be different from the last. If the armies of different countries will be pitted against one another, so will be the mutually warring classes of the nations that are fast disrupting. Only the progress of the next war will determine how far it resolved into civil wars.

The imperialist powers and the ruling castes of the world are, keenly alive to the dangers and conflicts that are ahead and are therefore, making for war. Soviet Russia is another thorn in their side. They dread it very much that Russia should ever become the organising centre of their own working class and progressive populations and fight them in the event of a world war.

The movement for freedom among the colonial peoples are to day much stronger and more conscious than they were before the last war. They are gathering strength and clarity as each day passes. Imperialism might like to take time by the forelock and embark upon a war before it is too late. In any case,

the next war will not find the colonial peoples meekly submitting to Imperialist demands for men and money.

Resistance to war is growing everywhere. There is the International Peace Campaign which seeks to organise the widest possible world front for peace. There are other Peace movements which make a more dynamic approach to the problem and seek to fight Fascism and Imperialism which are finally the cause of war. There are Pacifists who will stubbornly resist an imperialist war. Workers are being trained not to handle war transport and peasants to refuse conscription.

MR. NANJI KALIDAS MEHTA M.B.E.

MANY FUNCTIONS IN HIS HONOUR

MR. NANJI KALIDAS MEHTA, M.B.E., the distinguished visitor from Uganda has spent a busy week in Durban. There have been functions in his honour everyday. The first was by the Natal Indian Congress where Mr. Mehta was welcomed to the City by the Mayor. The Bombay Presidency Association, the Surat Hindu Association, the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha and the Mahila Mandal gave welcome receptions to Mr. and Mrs. Mehta. There were representative gatherings at all the meetings. Glowing tributes were paid to Mr. Mehta for his unique career in the industrial world and for his great acts of charity irrespective of class or creed. It was stressed by the various speakers at all the functions that the best honour that could be done to Mr. Mehta was for the rich men in this country to emulate the noble example set by our distinguished guest. The one note sounded by Mr. Mehta while expressing his profound appreciation on behalf of himself and Mrs. Mehta for the great affection their countrymen were bestowing upon them was that of unity. While sympathising with the Indians for the unfair and humiliating treatment they were subjected to in the Union Mr. Mehta said that the one and only remedy for that was to stand united. Unless there was unity in their ranks, he said, there was no hope whatsoever of their success. How could they expect better treatment in this country when humiliations were piled upon them in their own Motherland. And neither in India nor outside India can we expect our

conditions to improve unless we were absolutely united.

Saurashtra Mandal

An At Home was given in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Mehta last Saturday afternoon by the Saurashtra Mandal on the lawns at the Mayville Castle. A large number of guests representing every section of the community was present the function was presided over by Mr. Manilal Gandhi

Mrs. Mehta who was a little indisposed was not able to be present at the function. A garland with best wishes was, conveyed to Mrs. Mehta through Mr. Mehta

At Phoenix Settlement

On Sunday morning, Dec. 20, Mr. Mehta visited the Phoenix Settlement with a party of about fifty. Mr. Mehta was delighted to breathe the country air after being suffocated with functions in the city. He was very pleased to have been able to see the place of Mahatma Gandhi's activities in South Africa. He described it as a place of pilgrimage. After taking light refreshments the party left for Verulam where Mr. Mehta was entertained to lunch by Messrs. Choonilal Brothers. Over a hundred guests were present. A little after lunch Mr. Mehta visited a leachie garden nearby and made a feast of that delicious fruit of South Africa and placed an order for a hundred cases to be sent for the members of his staff in Uganda.

The same evening Mr. Mehta visited Tongaat where a welcome reception was given in his honour by the local

Indian community representing all sections at the Gokhale Hall. After the welcome Mr. Mehta and the party accompanying him from Durban and Verulam were entertained to tea by Mr. A. A. Gandhi of the well-known firm of Messrs Gandhi and Co. At about 7 p.m. Mr. Mehta returned to Durban.

During the week Mr. Mehta paid visits to several Sugar Mills and met various Indian and European planters.

Mr. Mehta will be leaving for the Transvaal on or about the 28th.

Proposed New Immigration Bill

In an interview at Capetown on Saturday the Minister of the Interior, Mr. R. Stuttaford, discussed the proposed legislation to deal with Immigration. This will be one of the first measures to be introduced during the coming session, he said. Under the new regulations the onus will be on immigrants to show that they are fit and proper persons to be admitted into the Union. The regulations will not apply to British-born subjects, who need only comply with the usual formalities. Further important provisions will give the Government power to restrict the immigration of persons engaged in any trade or occupation where there is in the opinion of the authorities a surplus of personnel. The Minister emphasised that immigrants of suitable class and type would always be welcome, but the Union would not be obliged to receive unwanted citizens of other countries.

South African News In Brief

Indians' Message To The King And Queen

MR. K. SOOBRAMONEY, the joint hon. secretary of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg branch), intimates that the following telegram has been forwarded to the Governor-General for transmission to the King and Queen:—"On behalf of the Indian community of Maritzburg, we humbly request you respectfully and cordially to convey to Their Majesties the King and Queen our heartiest congratulations and best respects on their accession to the Throne, and with extreme pleasure we desire to assure them of our loyalty and devotion. We fervently pray for a long and prosperous reign. Wishing His Majesty very many happy returns of the day on his 41st birthday."

The Exhibition's Finances

Within a few days the attendance at the Empire Exhibition will have passed the million mark. If the attendance can be raised by another million in the four weeks from last Monday to midnight on January 16, when the Exhibition will close down, it will be a financial success, and will justify the promoters in their faith that South Africa has arrived at a stage in its national development when it can support such big schemes.

Indian Trade With Union

The Indian Trade Publicity Officer in London has decided to organise Indian trade bureaux and trade exhibitions in the various commercial centres of the Union, and later Canada, and Australia. This development will be followed by the appointments of Indian Trade Commissioners in the various Dominions. The Indian Trade Publicity Officer, it is stated, will shortly be proceeding to South Africa.

Giant Store For Export Fruit

An event of great importance to Table Bay Harbour, and to the South African fruit industry, took place on Friday December 18, when the giant pre-cooling store on the South Pier, the largest in the world, was put into commission for the first time. Simultaneously the East Pier pre-cooling store, which has handled all Capetown's fruit exports during the last 10 years, went out of commission. As a result of the change, alterations have been made in the berthing arrangements of the homebound mailships. With the departure of the *Edinburgh Castle* for England the last mailship for England to leave the Victoria Basin—which has been the harbour proper for 50 years—was taken out. In future all the home-bound mailships will take their departure on Friday afternoons, from the new basin. The change takes effect from this week,

Insolvency Charge Fails

Mr. T. J. Conway gave judgment on Friday in the case under the Insolvency Act in which K. S. Raniga, a storekeeper, of 122, Victoria Street, was charged with failing to keep proper books, having a deficiency of 40 per cent. in his assets, and with contracting debts within six months of insolvency without reasonable prospect of meeting them. Raniga was found not guilty on all three counts, and was discharged. Mr. A. S. Knox defended.

St. John Ambulance Brigade

District Officer Mr. W. D. Kyle, of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Natal District) was present at the St. John Ambulance Headquarters Hall on Tuesday December 15, to present the silver trophy and medals to the winning members of the First Natal Indian Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in a divisional competition held recently. The winning members were: 1, K. Samuels (silver trophy); 2, C. R. George (silver medal); 3, G. Pillay (silver medal). Mr. Kyle congratulated the members on their success and said this being the first com-

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petition held by the Division it was most encouraging to the members. The Division has been in existence for nine years. The Divisional Superintendent, Mr. T. W. Gannon, was the donor of the silver trophy and the medals were presented by Messrs. Pather and Nulliah. On behalf of the members of the Division Superintendent Gannon thanked Mr. Kyle for being present to make the presentations, and at the conclusion of the function Mr. Gannon was presented with a canteen of cutlery by the members of the Division as a token of appreciation for his services as Superintendent.

Middelburg Indian And Coloured School

A large number of parents and interested spectators were present on Wednesday December 9, at the above school sports, which was held on the school ground. A list of 19 sporting items was gone through. At the distribution of prizes, Mr. G. W. Minnaar, Mayor of Middelburg presided. The Principal submitted his annual report of good progress. Mr. Minnaar congratulated the head master on his successful year, and

also spoke of the goodwill towards Indian community. Mrs. Hoffmeyr spoke on girls education and appealed to the Indian parents to send their daughters to school. Mr. P. A. Morkel M.B.E. also spoke. On behalf of the Indian community Mr. P. M. Mannekporia thanked them all. After the speeches, refreshments were served.

Dannhauser Indian School

Two years ago, the Indian school at Dannhauser was extended to provide room for an additional teacher. Mr. Sheik Abdool, the Chairman, advanced the necessary funds for the extension, and the school is now in debt to him. The present roll requires an additional teacher which the Education Department does not want to grant until an extra class room is available. The roll is expected to increase next year and children will be refused admission because of no space, with the result that many children of school going age will be deprived of education. Mr. C. S. Vawda, the manager, and Mr. Sheik Abdool appeal to friends for financial help.

Springfield Shree Ramulu Temple Society

The foundation stone of the above Temple was laid by Mr. S. P. Chetty, the Trustee of the Temple, on September 3, and ceremonies in that connection were conducted by Messrs. B. Gundiah, Y. Ramswami, P. Malutohee and B. A. Ramswami. A piece of land for the erection of the Temple was purchased for the sum of £200 (Two hundred pounds), this sum has been donated by the congregation of the Temple. £500. is still required for the completion of the Temple for which the officials make an appeal to all generous and kind hearted people for their financial assistance to complete the above undertaking. Already £71-13-9 is collected and goods in kind. All further donations to be sent to:—Mr. Ramswami, c/o 61, Silver Willow Avenue, Pantans Hill, Durban.

Tamil Lecture On "Rama"

An interesting lecture in Tamil was delivered by Mr. R. Veerasamy Naidu on "Rama" at the Sabha Hall on Sunday, December 13. Many prominent Hindus, were present. The address was given under the auspices of the Stanger Hindoo Youth Club. Mr. C. V. Naidu was in the chair. The Club's orchestra provided light music before and after the lecture,

India Letter

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

New Year Hopes

SIR Stafford Cripps, the British Socialist leader, has sent the following new year message to the people of India through the All-India Congress Socialist Party: "I send you my greetings for the New Year to the Indian people. The past was dark indeed with ruin of hopes and aspirations of many, who struggled for improvement of the lot of India. May the future be brighter with the determination of your great leaders to triumph over all difficulties and tribulations that may beset them. The workers of Great Britain stretch out their hand of friendship to the workers of India in the hope that they may help one another to achieve freedom from age-long exploitation under which they both suffer. The leaders may direct counsel to the masses and workers, but it is those masses who must by their political action determine the future of themselves and their people. To-day each one of us requires new and fresh determination to challenge all that we see in the world that is evil, hateful and cruel. Freedom and peace will never be accomplished until the people of India are drawn together into a firm bond of common purpose and common interest. Unity must be inscribed upon your banners, for unity means victory to the cause of freedom. May the New Year bring to the suffering millions of India new hope, fresh courage and unrelenting determination to win them freedom."

Indian Labour In Malaya

The following communique has been issued:—The Government of India have for some time had under consideration a proposal to send a deputation to Malaya to examine the conditions of Indian labour there. The Malayan Government themselves expressed a wish that such a deputation should be sent and the proposal received the approval of the standing Emigration Committee of both the Houses of the Indian Legislature. The Government of India have now appointed the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa S stri as their delegate. Mr Sastri sailed from Calcutta on Nov. 29 and will be accompanied by Mr. G. S. Bozeman, I.C.S., at present additional deputy secretary to the department of Education, Health and Lands as an adviser. The delegation's terms of reference are to examine the condition of Indian labourers in Malaya with special reference to (1) rates of payment wages, (2) hours of work, (3) provision made for residence, medical treatment, education and subsidiary occupation, e.g.

by allotment of land for cultivation, (4) sex ratio, (5) political and social status, and to make recommendations as to (a) what improvements are desirable in respect of these or any other matter in the interests of the Indian labour force already in Malaya and (b) whether assisted emigration to Malaya would be permitted in future and, if so, on what conditions.

Indian Trade Commissioners

The Government of India are actively considering the question of appointment of trade commissioners in East Africa and Japan, regarding which Sir Mahomed Zafrullah made a statement during the last session of the Assembly at Simla. According to reports current in New Delhi, it seems likely that for the East African post, a suitable non-official may be appointed through the Public Services Commission and for Tokyo, the name of Mr. R. R. Saxena, Secretary to the Central Board of Revenue, may be considered. If Mr. Saxena should accept the post, the chances are that Mr. R. K. Nehru, I.C.S., will succeed him in the Board of Revenue.

Indian Pavilion In New York World Fair

Americans and Indians in the United States are eager to promote the establishment of an Indian Pavilion at the World's Fair in the city of New York in 1938. In order that this may be done a considerable amount of planning and actual work is necessary now. The organisers of the Fair are favourably disposed towards the establishment of such a pavilion. Co-operation from interested business firms in India will be welcome.

Restrictions On "Frontier Gandhi"

The Frontier Legislative Council by 20 votes to 8 rejected Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's resolution recommending to the Government to remove all restrictions on Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and to allow him unconditional entry into the Frontier to participate elections to the Provincial Assembly. The Home Member said that the Government felt no rancour against anyone. It was merely attempting to fulfil a primary function of maintaining law and order. He added that the time had not yet come to place on the background the central figure of Mr. Abdul Gaffar Khan. The Red Shirts were preparing not for constitutional struggle but for a war of independence to which they had already resorted in 1930-31.

Prime Minister Of Bikaner State

A private message received at Allahabad from Lucknow indicates the possibility of Mr. V. N. Mehta, Commissioner, Allahabad Division, being appointed shortly Prime Minister of Bikaner State. It is believed that the Bikaner Durbar has moved the Government of the United Provinces for a loan of the services of Mr. Mehta.

Buddhist And Hindu Temples

The honorary secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha informs the Associated Press that Mr. Jugal Kishore Birla has purchased a piece of land in Bombay for erection of a Buddhist temple and another plot at Dadar (suburb in Bombay) for Hindu Sabha work under the guidance of His Holiness Shree Jagadguru Shankaracharya, President of the Hindu Mahasabha. Mr. J. K. Birla has also built a Buddhist temple at Calcutta, and Kashipur, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, besides a free lodging house at Sarnath for the stay of Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world. He is also securing buildings for the Mahasabha in various provinces of India with a view to give stability to the work of the organization.

Mr. Chintamani Not To Contest Election

It is stated that Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, leader of the Liberal Party, does not propose to seek election to the new U.P. Legislative Assembly owing to unsatisfactory state of his health. It is likely that he may contest from the Etawa constituency if his health shows improvement.

Chief Scout To Visit India

Lord Baden Powell, Chief Scout, is arranging to spend his 80th birthday in India, which he is visiting early next year with Lady Baden Powell, Chief Guide. They will leave England on January 8, to visit All-India Scouts Jamboree which will be held in Delhi in February.

Mahatma Gandhi's Pathetic Plea To Gujerat Literateurs

An appeal to literary men to write books for illiterate people living in seven lakhs of villages was made by Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the Gujarati Literary Conference held recently in Ahmedabad. He described the condition of people, specially women, living in Segaoon, and with sobs declared that if he lived he hoped one day to write something which they could understand.

The Sporting World

Londos And Van der Walt Draw

A CROWD of 7,000 witnessed the belt contest between Jim Londos, of America, and John van der Walt, of South Africa, in their wrestling contest at the Wanderer's Ground on Saturday night. After eight rounds of fast wrestling there were no falls, but plenty of thrills. The last time both men had a draw with the South African on top. The first round opened with the men wary, but quick. Generally, the South African was on top, with Londos getting punishment from an arm bar. The second round was faster with both men exploiting arm bars and headlocks, while the South African clapped on a troublesome standing splits when the gong went. The crowd resented Londos running away when in trouble. Londos came more into the picture in the third round when he had the South African in some bad arm bars, the South African retaliating by getting on splits which held Londos locked for some time. This round was definitely all Londos's. In the next round, the South African roughed Londos with mule kicks and butting. Van der Walt seemed to get on top with Londos weakening, but the latter was always dangerous. In the last round the South African mule kicked Londos round the ring. Finally Londos cleverly dodged, van der Walt going through the ropes heavily. Although shaken the

By "Rambler"

South African fended off Londos to earn a good draw.

Western Provinces Tour

It has been finally decided by the Western Province Cricket Union to tour Natal at the beginning of next year. The team will be the picked side of their Union and will arrive in Durban on December 29. It has been arranged by the Natal Cricket Union that the visitors play a Durban side in a day match on the New year, and the following Saturday and Sunday engage the best of Natal.

Larwood Visits India

Harold Larwood, the famous Notts and England bowler, has arrived in India at the invitation of the Maharaja of Patiala. Larwood is available to the provincial cricket associations for coaching. For about 10 days before his departure in the first week of March, 1937. Larwood will be available to the Cricket Club of India in Bombay. The Maharaja has permitted him to play for the Europeans in the Bombay quadrangular during Christmas week and for the Retrievers at Secunderabad in Moun-dowlah Gold Cup tournament.

Pathfinder Movement

A conference of 50 Bantu, Coloured and European delegates, representing 15,000 non-European Scouts, is meeting at Florida, Transvaal, to accept a new constitution offered by the South African Boy Scout Association providing for the recognition of the Pathfinder Movement as a parallel, independent self-governing section of the Boy Scout Movement. Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones has been elected Chief Scouts Pathfinder Commissioner. Mr. Rheinallt Jones served as Chief Pathfinder for many years.

Esperanza Indian School Sports

The second annual sports of the Esperanza Government Aided Indian School was held on December 12. There was a large gathering of parents and friends, including many prominent Europeans. Mr. O. T. Singh, the Headmaster, expressed satisfaction at the new extension. He emphasised the fact that there was need for another annex owing to the increase in the roll. He thanked Mr. T. B. Bremner, School Manager, for his support and co-operation, Mrs. R. O. Hawksworth for consenting to distribute the prizes, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Crookes for their keen interest in Indian Education and the school staff for their loyal support. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Crookes; Mr. and Mrs. Hawksworth, Mr. and Mrs. Gee, Messrs. Camp and Dalsis, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Naidoo, Mrs. O. T. Singh, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Pillay, Messrs. Jonathan, M. M. Naicker and Rajoo.

Mahatma Gandhi's Speeches and Writings

An Omnibus Edition.

This omnibus Edition of Mahatma Gandhi's Speeches and Writings has been published by Messrs. G. A. Nateson & Co, Madras. It is the fourth and the latest edition on Mahatma Gandhi. It is revised and considerably enlarged with the addition of a number of important articles from *Young India* and *Navajivan* (rendered into English). The collection has over 1000 pages of well-arranged matter ranging over the whole period of Mahatma Gandhi's public life. The volume begins with the South African Indian question and covers his views on indentured labour and Indians in the Colonies, his jail experiences in South Africa, his pronouncements on the Khaira and Champaran affairs, his discourses on the Rowlatt Bills and Satyagraha, and his *Young India* articles on the Non-co-operation Movement including select papers on the Khilafat and Punjab wrongs, the Congress, Swadeshi, National Education and Swaraj. It also includes Mahatma Gandhi's famous letters to the three Viceroy—Lord Chelmsford, Lord Reading and Lord Irwin, Select Extracts from his celebrated Autobiography, his historic Statement before the Court at the great trial, his Congress Presidential Address and other public utterances, his Speeches and Messages during his great march to the Salt pans of Dandi, the full extent of his Agreement with Lord Irwin and the Speeches implementing the Pact. Then there are his speeches at the Second Round Table Conference followed by the Willingdon-Gandhi correspondence. Another section contains his important studies on the Hindu-Muslim question as also the statements on the problem of untouchability following the historic letter to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and the Epic Fast which resulted in changing the Premier's Award. Yet another section gives his reminiscences of great Indians like Gokhale, Pherozeshab Mehta, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, C. R. Das, etc. The selection contains chapters on a variety of subjects of miscellaneous interest ending with his famous gramophone record on God. It contains numerous illustrations and an index.

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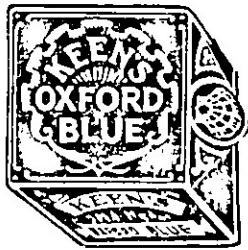
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