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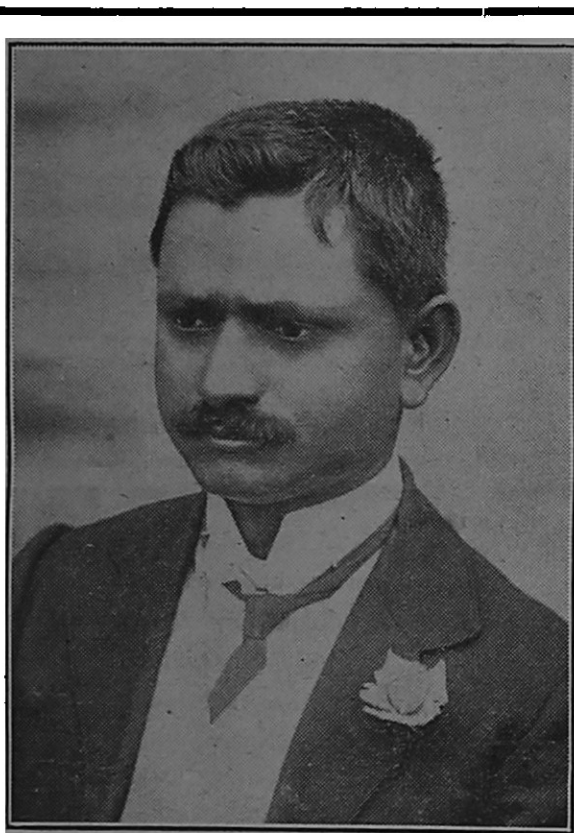
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NOTES AND NEWS

The Late Mr. M. B. Maharaj

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sad death of Mr. Matabadal Beethasee Maharaj, which took place at the King Edward Hospital, Durban, on Wednesday, February 3, at the age of 54. Mr. Maharaj, in his early days, was a leading personality among the Hindustani section of the Indian community. His name is recorded in the early history of Indians in South Africa, in every phase of public life from 1906 to 1924. He was one of the prominent figures on the platform, and in many a deputation to the Government on the Indian question. He was an educationist, a merchant, a journalist and a public worker. In 1917-18 Mr. Maharaj was connected with *Dharma Vir*, a journal published in Hindustani, and, later, with the assistance and co-operation of the late Mr. G. D. Lalla and other enthusiasts, he started *Swaraj*, a journal in English, the special annual number of which contained messages from prominent leaders in India. Mr. Maharaj had the talent and the enthusiasm but lacked in finance and, owing to poor support from the public, these projects were, unfortunately, short-lived. Mr. Maharaj was a contributor to the daily newspapers and an occasional contributor to *INDIAN OPINION* under the name "Bhussmasoor" which made him known to all his friends by that name. Mr. Maharaj was a successful businessman and held a respectable position as a merchant. But, as fate would have it, he suffered a loss and his later years were unfortunately spent in great depression. Mr. Maharaj had great devotion for Mahatma Gandhi and was one of the active workers under his and Mr. H. S. L. Polak's leadership. Mr. M. B. Maharaj has rendered willing service to *INDIAN OPINION*, off and on,

whenever his services were required and was continuously on *INDIAN OPINION* staff for the last three and a half years. The late Mr. Maharaj leaves behind him



The Late Mr. M. B. Maharaj

a widow and several little children to mourn the loss of their only breadwinner. We regret to have to state that they are in poor circumstances. We do not think it would be too much to suggest that it would be a humanitarian act if, in recognition of the past services of the late Mr. M. B. Maharaj, a fund were to be made in aid of his widow and children. We would appeal to the Hindustani section in particular and the Indian community in general, to contribute to this fund. All contributions should be sent to the Manager, *INDIAN OPINION*, Phoenix, Natal, the receipt of which will be acknowledged in these columns. In appreciation of the services of Mr. Maharaj to *INDIAN OPINION* we commence this fund by contributing £10. Will other well-wishers please follow suit?

Proposed Amendments To Slums Act

The Slums Act Amendment Bill, of which the Minister of Public Health, Mr. Stuttaford, gave notice last Friday, says the Capetown correspondent of the *Rand Daily Mail*, is an attempt to remove some of the difficulties experienced by municipalities in the working of the Act of 1934. Last year a conference was held between the Central Housing Board and the Government (represented by the Minister and the Secretary for Public Health, Sir Edward Thornton), the larger local authorities and the united municipal executive. The conference discussed the working of the Act and the policy of the Government in regard to housing. Municipal representatives suggested a number of minor amendments to the Act, which, it was hoped, would make it work more smoothly, and these have now been embodied in the Bill.

Will our leaders concentrate on this important question and make representations to the Minister that the object of the Slums Act should be to clear the slums and not the slum dwellers as is proposed to be done by the Municipalities? They will, in that case, have rendered much greater service to the community, especially the poorer section, than by shedding crocodile tears over the mixed marriages Bill.

Sub-Economic Housing Scheme

The Finance Committee of the Maritzburg City Council has considered the question of recommending to the Council that the erection of additional buildings for Indians and Natives and the application for loans with which to do so be approved in principle. This question has arisen in connection with a sub-economic housing scheme under which the Slum Committee recommends the building of 200 houses at a cost of about £200 each.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1937

Shed All Hypocrisy!

IN our previous issues we referred to the growing disabilities of the Indian community in the Transvaal and Natal under the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the Slums Act. We referred to the anti Asiatic activities to restrict the trading rights of Asiatics and to prohibit Asiatics from employing Europeans in their businesses. The recommendations of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission are strongly opposed by various Municipalities such as Roodepoort-Maraisburg, Krugersdorp and Springs, where public meetings have been held by Europeans and deputations have been sent to the Minister. In addition to this the Marketing Bill is causing great anxiety among the poor Indian farmers and market gardeners who have so long been carrying on undisturbed, at least, that one vocation in life, but are now in danger of being surrounded by restrictions which might cause even that honest means of livelihood to be snatched away from them.

One would like to know what, in the circumstances, the Congress, the only organisation recognised by the Government of India, and what the Government of India is itself doing, through its Agency in this country, to safeguard the rights of Indians. Sometime ago a banquet was given by the Transvaal Indian Congress to a Government official. Beyond that we have not known anything of its activities. Not a word of protest is known to have been raised by that body, though we hear that Bertrams, Prospect Township and even Vrededorp might, in the very near future, be cleared of their Asiatic residents. A deputation did, indeed, run up to Capetown when the interests of the well-to-do Indians were jeopardised under the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, accompanied by certain officials of the Congress, whose condemnation of that Act as an obnoxious measure establishing the principle of segregation, is recorded in its minutes, and sold away the principle for which the community

always stood, for paltry material gains, by the protection of property interests afforded to a few individuals. The result is that their poorer brethren, who cannot afford to become property owners, are suffering untold hardships under rack-renting landlords.

And, pray, what is the Agency doing? The Bombay correspondent of the *Sunday Express* states that influential quarters consider that the Indian Government should take more interest in the affairs of Indians residing in South Africa than has been the case in the past. Indeed, if we have heard any thing about that office it has been that Mr. Moodley, a clerk in that office, was alleged to have attempted to poison the acting Agent-General and his staff and while he was out on bail, pending his trial, he committed suicide. The office of the Agent-General did, at least, owe the public a clear statement on the subject in view of the fact that there were two versions, one, that Mr. Moodley attempted to poison the Acting Agent-General, and the other, that he attempted to administer some Native drug which was not actually poison. We do not wish to cast any reflection on the office of the Agency in this respect but such a tragic happening in a high office should, in our opinion, not have been buried without a precise statement. This is, however, by the way. We have not known in what respects the office of the Agent-General has been of advantage to the community during these troublous times. Of course, we do not expect the Agent-General to deal with individual cases. His work is to intervene in matters of principle and to see that the honour of India is safeguarded. To this, we know, an answer will readily be flung at us. We are told the Agent-General, with the co-operation of the present Congress officials, is vehemently opposing the mixed marriages Bill, which is considered by those opposing it to be merely a link in the chain of segregation. We are sorry to have to say that we still adhere to the views

we have already expressed in these columns on the subject. We utterly fail to see cause for so much perturbation over the Bill. In furtherance of our arguments we would say that, while we have always been fighting for equal rights and equal opportunities and even for social equality with the Europeans, we have never asked for the right of inter-marrying. And, if Europeans have had the one fear in giving social equality to Indians, it has been the fear of inter-marriages resulting from such equality. If we are quite honest why should we resent a measure prohibiting such marriages. We are amazed at the great anxiety shown by our opponents, as though, by this Bill, the very heavens were going to fall down upon them. If our opponents really believe, as they profess to do, that we should preserve the purity of our race, we are unable to see any sense in their objecting to the prohibition of mixed marriages. If we are not utter hypocrites we should readily concede to the anti-Asiatics this safeguarding measure and not waste time over imaginary grievances. We should concentrate on the real issues that vitally affect the Indian community in South Africa and which not only go to stigmatise Indians as pariahs but will eventually bring about their ruination.

No matter what may be said otherwise, we make bold to say that in expressing the above views we are voicing the sentiments of a large section of our people in this country. But, even though we may be solitary, we are thoroughly satisfied that we have said what we sincerely believe to be true and in the best interests of our people. If we truly believe that the honour of our Mother-country has been injured, as it surely is, by worst measures than the mixed marriages Bill, it is high time that we shed all hypocrisy and girded up our loins to fight, not by words, but by deeds, a sacred cause considering no sacrifice to be too great in doing so. If the present leaders feel that they are too weak to lead their people they should cease to continue to act irresponsibly on their own. They should convene a meeting of all the leading men to seriously consider, in collaboration with the Agent General, the future line of action.

THE PATH TO FREEDOM

MAHATMA GANDHI ON THE VALUE OF SPINNING

IN a powerful speech at the exhibition grounds at Faizpur on December 27, Mahatma Gandhi declared: "We have lost our independence step by step, firstly, through our loss of the art of spinning. Show me some way through which we can get independence and I won't lay stress on it. We have lost independence through leaving out spinning and we will win it by reviving it."

Political Situation

Referring to the political situation in the country, Mahatma Gandhi said: "It is not a big thing for 35 crores of Indians to throw stones at a few thousands of Britishers in the country. But God won't be pleased by this. We are Satyagrahis. I am filled with the same strength as I possessed before. I assure you of this. Show me the way and I am prepared to go to jail again. I am prepared to be hung. I feel the same about Pandit Jawaharlal. I am not sitting in a drawing room and saying this. I am declaring it in an open meeting where there are press representatives who could convey it, if necessary, to the proper quarters. If you do all I want you to do, Lord Linlithgow will say: "I am wrong. I thought you people were terrorists, and if you so want us, we Britishers will go back by the next steamer." We will then say to Lord Linlithgow and the Britishers: "Why go? India is big enough to accommodate you and many more like you. That is my Swaraj. I see a perfect vision of India under such Swaraj." I had said that through spinning you could win Swaraj. People thought it was sheer madness to say so. After experience of these 20 years I realize, and the country would have realized, that it was not madness. We have declared that no outside power can rule us and it must be our own Government. All of us should be happy. None should starve. Getting a piece of bread alone is not happiness. Happiness involves getting all the things necessary for living comfortably. After independence our men and women should be beautifully clothed. You will be surprised to see from the exhibition how in olden days *Khadi* was prepared and worn. We must improve our economic conditions side by side with improving our political conditions. India should have a home-made constitution and not a constitution imposed from outside. Countries in the world have their own systems of Government. Whom shall we follow? My conception of freedom is essentially Indian. If you ask me what the system of Indian government would be in future, I can't say it now. Many might say that I am not saying anything new.

This land does not belong to anyone in particular. It belongs to Gopal—God. Neither zamindars nor millowners nor anybody else can say that it is purely theirs. This has been told to us by our own old sages.

Social And Moral Questions

"Apart from politics and economics, there are two other things which we should attend to—social and moral questions.

"We should perfect them also. We have to develop them in this country and not follow others. Our approach to this question must be legitimate and non-violent. When you say you believe in God something religious comes into it. Even if everything goes and the world is destroyed one thing will remain and that is truth. In the *dharma* of my conception there is no place for quarrels between Hindus and Muslims, and Sikhs and Musalmans. I am talking about *dharma* which is above all this and without which nothing is possible. It is our duty to believe in that power which shapes our destinies, without which nothing can move. According to me, if you perfect this we will get Swaraj, Poorna Swaraj, and Ram Raj."

Parliamentary Programme

Referring to the Congress parliamentary activities, Mahatma Gandhi said: "For the parliamentary programme only a few are required. Only a few hundreds need attend to it. Those going to the Legislatures are our servants. It is our duty to give them an order. The most that we can do for them is to cast our votes in their favour since they are Congressmen. I don't know how many of you have votes, but I may tell you that I have no vote. The Government will ask me if I was sentenced to six years, I will say yes and they will not include me in the voters list. I would like to know whether you would like me to join and work for three and half crores of voters or for the remaining 31½ crores of people without the vote." Here Mahatma Gandhi paused for an answer to his question and the answer came from many around him: "We want you to work for the 31½ crores."

Disbelief In Legislatures

Mahatma Gandhi proceeded: "You know better how many of the three and half crores can get into the Legislatures. Only a few hundreds. Every one seems to be anxious to go. There seems to be a regular competition as to who should go there. I have heard that there are disputes in certain provinces. I have been told of dissatisfaction among

many Congressmen regarding the parliamentary programme. What is there to quarrel about? I do not see anything in it. Those who enter the Legislatures in the name of the Congress will have to carry out the directions given by the Congress. Otherwise they will have to leave the Congress. I assure you that I still hold that nothing can be got from the legislatures."

Ordinance Rule

Continuing, Mahatma Gandhi said: "There is ordinance rule in India to-day and similarly there is ordinance rule inside the Congress. Those who are in the Congress and follow the Congress and work in the name of the Congress will have to implicitly carry out the directions given by the Congress. What did Pandit Jawaharlal do at Lucknow? He carried out the orders of the Congress. I know that Pandit Jawaharlal would not only enter jails again but would mount the scaffold with a smile in his face if that was the command of the Congress to him. I am very confident of that. What can you get by entering the Legislatures? I hear it is possible that Mr. Subas Chandra Bose may be released from detention, but I can't vouchsafe for it."

Freedom Through Spinning

"We have lost our freedom step by step. It began with our giving up spinning. I don't blame the Britisher for it. We gave up spinning and began importing cloth from Lancashire where not a single piece of yarn was being produced before. I maintain that we can get our freedom through spinning. Is there anyone who can show another way consistent with our principles of non-violence and truth by which we can win back our freedom? If I am convinced that the method shown is consistent with the principles of truth and non-violence I am to-day prepared to publicly state that I was a mad man and I shall leave off spinning and I will no longer lay any stress on it and I shall become a slave to the person who shows me the method. But so far no one has come forward with any new method. We have lost independence through giving up spinning and we shall win it back through spinning. If we have lost our freedom the responsibility for it is more ours than the Britishers'. Since the East India Company landed in India unemployment has consistently grown and we have become so lethargic that many think that it is our right to be unemployed. If we stick to the principles of truth and non-violence, the only way in which the unemployed can earn their living is by spinning and not by selling toddy or

opium. I am confident that if every Indian realises the importance of spinning and *khadi* then Swaraj will be at our doors. There will no longer be any need for the parliamentary programme."

Communal Relations

Referring to the relations between Hindus and Musalmans he deplored the recent happenings in Bombay. He said: "What is it that you have been seeing about the relationship between the two? Go to Bombay and you will see the Saitan Raj there. I gave a programme for Hindu-Muslim unity. Has it been achieved in full? I gave you a pro-

gramme for the removal of untouchability. I wanted caste Hindus to remove from their brains the very idea of untouchability. Have they done it? Of course recently the young ruler of Travancore had lifted the ban on Harijans. It was certainly praiseworthy, but what about caste Hindus all over the country? I had asked students to leave schools and colleges and I had asked lawyers to leave law courts and legislators the Councils. Have you carried out these? Then I gave you in simple language a dynamic programme. I am asked why I, who was always opposed to Council entry

programme, blessed it in 1934 both at Ranchi and at Patna. I am a realist and I thought as a realist it was necessary for me to bless the Council-entry programme then."

Mahatma Gandhi, explaining the importance of *charka*, said that it was the sun of the solar system and the village industries were the planets.

Concluding Mahatma Gandhi said, "I do not know whether I will be able to meet you and address you next year. Not that I am on my death-bed, but I am nearer death than many of you, and one cannot say what will happen during the next year"

HOSTILE SOUTH AFRICA

Commenting on the position of Indians in South Africa *The Hindu* (Madras) writes as follows under the above heading:—

THE Indian National Congress has once again expressed its sympathy with the plight of Indians overseas and its grave concern for their future welfare and reiterated its view that, until India comes into her own, she will be helpless in compelling other countries to be fair to her nationals settled abroad. Generally speaking, in most of the countries where the problem exists, it cannot be said that the position has improved. On the contrary, there has been deterioration which calls for strenuous action on the part of the Government of India. The report of the Agent-General to South Africa for 1935, a belated publication which can only have a certain amount of historical value, records very little progress so far as Indians in the Union are concerned. A few minor concessions have been made. For instance, a small grant has been given for the purpose of technical education. Indian children have been brought under the scheme of supply of milk to children in primary schools. A sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 per annum has been set apart for providing old age pensions for Indians. Assurances have been given that the Slums Act, what is called the civilised labour policy intended to provide work for the "poor Whites," and the Rural Dealers' Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance, will be so worked as not to affect Indians prejudicially. But the major grievances remain unredressed. The Agent-General is of the view that the Feetham Commission's recommendations in regard to the Asiatic Land Tenure Act are fair and just, within the terms of reference, but he himself has sounded a warning as regards the future working of that obnoxious legislation. In the absence of a right to own property, Indians, he says, would have no remedy against exploitation in the form of rack-renting.

He again doubts whether, in exempted areas, there is adequate provision for extension. In non-exempted areas, there is no guarantee against the exactions of landlords or against difficulties in obtaining trading licences. Further, the position of Asiatic companies which acquired immovable property before 1932 "was far from satisfactory." The result of the Act is that Indians in the proclaimed areas stand to lose valuable property rights, besides being subject to the humiliation of being segregated. In sheer self-defence Indians cannot but continue to oppose the Act, in spite of Mr. Hofmeyr's satisfaction as regards that legislation and the Agent-General's somewhat surprising attitude of complacency. A writer in the *Manchester Guardian* has described how the colour bar has already resulted in bringing about grave unemployment among Indians in urban areas. It is the settled policy of the Government in the Department of Labour to insist that every industry should employ a certain proportion of European labour, that there should be a minimum wage and that the grant of protection under the customs tariff shall depend on the employment of a certain fixed proportion of European workers. The correspondent further says that the resources of the Department of Labour and of the Government generally "are used without hesitation to close avenues of employment for non-Europeans in the towns in order to make sure of ample opportunities for European workers." "As a consequence, Indians have been sent out of the railways and organised industries. The situation is indeed very grave. Indians possess no political rights and such rights of franchise as they enjoyed at one time have now been completely taken away. As INDIAN OPINION observes, the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, the Slums Act and

the Sugar Act are being applied to restrict the rights of Indians to trade and reside. Further, municipalities and the leading political parties have all adopted resolutions 'that Indians should not be allowed to trade with Europeans, that they should not be allowed to reside in European localities, that they should not be allowed to acquire ownership of land and that all the avenues whereby they are able to do so should be closed by means of legislation, that Indians should not be allowed to employ European women, and that Europeans should not be given subordinate positions to Indians in any field of employment.' As the *Manchester Guardian* observes, commenting upon the "Goodwill Tour" of the South African Parliamentary Delegation in India: "Undoubtedly much goodwill was needed before Indians could come to feel that South Africa was not actively hostile to them, both individually and still more as members of a sister-Dominion!"

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"Joy Of Being Free"

"Think of the joy of being a free man in a free country, the equal of other civilized men; of breathing—an India at last purged of the poisonous atmosphere of coercion; of knowing that liberty of person and safety of property cannot be touched save by open trial, that one cannot become a criminal unconsciously, and at the whim of an Executive, shrouded in darkness; that one enjoys the ordinary liberty of a civilized human being in a country ruled by law alone, uninterfered with by arbitrary Executive Orders. That security can only come to us with Home Rule.—MRS. ANNIE BESANT."

BIRTH-CONTROL THROUGH SELF-CONTROL

THE following letter has been lying on my file for a considerable time:

"The craze for birth control is today sweeping all over the world, and India is no exception. I have been closely following your articles in support of self-control in which I believe. Recently a 'Birth Control League' has been started in Ahmedabad. It advocates the use of modern contraceptive appliances to enable men and women to practise unlimited self-indulgence with impunity.

"It seems to me strange that good people who have themselves attained the afternoon of their life should favour a movement which must result in the vitality of the whole race being drained. How one wishes that instead of a 'Birth Control League' these friends had set up a 'Self Control League' for realizing their goal. I would ask you, when you visit Gujarat, to take up this matter and show the light to the women of Gujarat.

"Our doctors and *paidyas* today seem to fight shy of taking their stand on self-control for fear of losing their bread. They do not seem to realize that if the new-fangled craze is left to pursue its course unchecked it will inevitably lead society into the abyss of self-destruction. Only a timely adoption of the sovereign remedy of self-control can save it from a certain doom. A wide-spread use of contraceptives will and can only result in plunging the country into an orgy of self-indulgence and abuse, with the

By
MAHATMA GANDHI In "Harijan"
 inevitable consequences of endless disease and misery."

I did not get any chance, during my recent brief visit to Ahmedabad, to take up the suggestion of this friend, but it is well-known that I hold strongly to the views attributed to me. Wherever contraceptive practices have taken root they have let loose a host of evils which even he who runs can see. But birth control enthusiasts fail to recognize this fact because they hold indulgence to be in itself good and have persuaded themselves that the spread of birth-control methods is morally desirable.

I am afraid my correspondent has been led into exaggeration when he says that the Ahmedabad League advocates the use of modern contraceptive appliances to enable men and women to practise unlimited self-indulgence with impunity. But whatever the good motives of the promoters of the said league might be, their activity can only result in an aggravation of the evil of self-indulgence. For, as sure as water runs down hill, the use of contraceptives must result in the down-hill path of self-indulgence.

Similarly my correspondent also seems to have done an injustice to the doctors and *vaidyas* when he ascribes their failure to inculcate self-control purely to a fear of losing their bread. The fact is that the medical profession have so far regarded the subject of self-

control as being outside their purview. But there are gathering signs of a coming healthy change in their outlook. The goal that the medical science has set before itself is the discovery of the cause and the cure of disease. An honest pursuit of that goal is bound at last to bring it up against self-indulgence and lack of self discipline as the prime cause of many diseases. For, with the advance of knowledge and insight, society is bound to insist more and more on prevention of disease by the removal of the root causes, rather than its cure alone. Complete eradication of disease is an utter impossibility unless the people learn to observe the elementary rule of self-discipline. The fact is so obvious that its recognition cannot be long delayed, and with its recognition will come greater emphasis on the part of the medical profession on self-discipline and self-control as a factor in a healthful existence. The Birth Control League of Ahmedabad should understand that spread of contraceptive knowledge and practice can only aid the growth of self-indulgence and abuse and its inevitable concomitants, misery and disease. I would, therefore, honestly suggest to the promoters of the said league that if they will only utilize their time and energy to study deeply the evils of self-indulgence and inculcate upon the women the necessity and naturalness of practising self-control as a means of attaining birth control, they will find that they have discovered the best and quickest method of realizing their goal.

A SUCCESSFUL LICENSING APPEAL

ON Thursday night, Feb. 4, the Estcourt Town Council sat in the Council Chamber to hear an appeal, from the decision of the Licensing Officer, of Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Haffjee in respect of an application for a certificate of approval to the renewal of a general dealer's licence to December 31, 1937, for a business carried on under the style of The Estcourt Trading Store, of which the applicant is the registered owner. The store was formerly known as Pinto's Store.

Applicant applied for a licence on May 9, 1936, and the records disclosed that the application was heard on June 11, 1936, and refused by the Licensing Officer. The applicant brought the matter to the Council on appeal on July 10, 1936, when the Board granted the licence on condition that certain alterations were to be made to the premises before December 31, 1936.

On August 17 the applicant submitted plans for the alterations, but the Council was not satisfied and rejected the plans. On August 31 applicant submitted further plans, but the Council was still not satisfied and a sub-committee was appointed to visit the premises and point out what was actually required. Applicant was then advised by his contractors that it would be inadvisable to proceed with the alterations as the building, being built mostly of green brick, would not stand them. Applicant thereupon decided to erect an entirely new building and on October 3 submitted new plans for an entirely new building, which plans were approved and passed by the Council. No move has been made to erect the new building other than obtaining a tender, which was not accepted, but Mr. Haffjee asked for an extension of time to complete the new building.

The Licensing Officer held that by reason of the condition imposed by the

Council in respect of the alterations to the old building not having been carried out by December 31, the licence lapsed on that date and that he was not empowered to grant a renewal of the licence, thereby setting aside the Council's condition.

The Licensing Officer also contended that a condition imposed on a new licence could not be imposed by him on a renewal.

Mr. T. Hellett appeared for the applicant and contended that there was no wilful failure on the part of the applicant to comply with the conditions laid down by the Council.

The Board retired in Committee and on resuming the Mayor, Mr. A. H. Doig, announced that the appeal would be upheld and the renewal granted subject to the condition that the new building be completed by July 31, 1937. Should the new building be not completed by July 31, 1937, the licence shall be cancelled.

South African News In Brief

C. B. & Settlers' Indian Association

A PROTEST mass meeting under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg branch) will be held on Sunday, February 14, at 2.30 p.m. sharp, at the H.Y.M.A. Main Hall, corner Church and William Streets, Maritzburg, to protest against the Marketing Bill (now before the Parliament), Wage Bill, Maritzburg City Council's Segregation Scheme, and the Mixed Marriages Bill. Advocate A. Christopher, President of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Durban) will address the gathering. The Indian community are earnestly requested to attend and to record their emphatic protest.

Colonel Saves 50 Indians

From Flood

The lives of more than 50 Indians living in barracks on the banks of the Dorpspruit (Maritzburg) were saved on Saturday last by a warning given by Colonel Royston, who lives on the outskirts of Maritzburg, that the river was coming down in heavy flood as the result of a cloudburst. An hour after Colonel Royston had telephoned the warning to the police, the household articles of the Indians living in the barracks were floating in six feet of water.

Aliens In South Africa

Seven hundred applications were considered by the Immigration Selection Board at its first meeting in Capetown on Tuesday. These applications are from aliens within the Union on temporary permit and from aliens in Southern and Northern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa. Most of the Union aliens who are seeking permission to remain in the country arrived before the Aliens Bill became law, but their applications will be considered in the light of the new legislation. It is considered that the work which will fall to the new Board will occupy its attention for at least one full day every week. This does not mean that a rush of applications is expected. On the contrary, the stringency of the regulations is likely to result in a decrease.

Police Commission's Tour

The Police Commission of Inquiry, after finishing its tour of the Cape on March 2 at Queenstown, will come on to the Transkei Territories, arriving at Umtata on March 4, and staying there until the 6th. It will sit in Kokstad, at the Courthouse, from March 8 to 10. The farmers of the district will, it is understood (acting through the East Griqualand Farmers' Congress), make representations, chiefly in connection with stock theft. The dates of Natal sittings are: Maritzburg, March 11-15; Durban, March 16-26.

New Judge In The Transvaal

A message from the *Natal Advertiser's* correspondent at Capetown states that Mr. Justice N. J. de Wet, of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court, is to be appointed to the Appellate Division in Bloemfontein. The vacancy was created by the death of Sir John Wessels, who was succeeded by Mr. Justice J. S. Curlewis. The appointment of Mr. Justice de Wet will create a vacancy on the Transvaal Bench, and it is understood that Mr. J. M. Murray, K.O. will be elevated to the Bench when the term opens on February 15. During the absence of Mr. Justice D. de Wasi, Mr. Justice B. T. Tindall will act as Judge-President.

Union's Return To Prosperity

There are few more convincing indications of South Africa's return to prosperity than in a review of last year's activities at the Companies Registration Office at Pretoria where all previous records were eclipsed. During the year 1,512 companies, with a total nominal capital of £26,775,774, were registered. The total in 1935 was 1,200 companies with a total

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capital of £13,676,525 and, in 1934, 1,197 companies with a capital of £27,370,447. This brings the total number of companies registered in the Union up to 9,039 and the amount of capital involved up to £126,691,692. In addition to these South African companies 12 foreign companies were registered in the Union last year with capitals amounting to £565,300.

Indian Cyclists' Lecture

A public meeting of Indians was held under the auspices of the Muslim Debating Society at the M. K. Gandhi Library on January 26 to welcome the three Indian cyclists who recently arrived in Durban. Mr. E. H. Ismail, who presided, ably introduced the tourists and praised their achievements and sportsmanship. After the presentation of bouquets to the cyclists and to Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee, their host in Durban, lectures describing their adventures in India, Afghanistan, Turkey, Persia, Europe, England, East and South Africa, were delivered for two hours by two of the cyclists, Messrs. Karas and Rustom Ghandi. Messrs. V. Lawrence and Shapurjee Jivanjee thanked them for their interesting talk.

Their Excellencies' Farewell Visit

To Maritzburg

Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and Lady Clarendon, will pay their farewell visit to Maritzburg on February 25. They are expected to arrive by road from Durban and will be welcomed at the Provincial Council at 1.25 p.m. Three officers and 104 rank and file of the Royal Natal Carbineers will form the Guard of Honour, accompanied by the Regimental Band. The Natal Field Artillery will fire a salute of 19 guns. It is understood that their Excellencies will attend a lunch given by the Administrator of Natal, Mr. H. Gordon Watson. All Native Chiefs and many leading Natives in Natal and Zululand have been invited to Maritzburg to take leave of the Governor-General, and a Native dance may be arranged. In the evening of February 25 a civic reception in honour of their Excellencies will be held in the City Hall.

Scouts' Gift To Lord Clarendon

A statuette in bronze, which was designed by the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell, will be presented by the Council of the South African branch of the Boy Scouts' Association, to the Governor-General, Earl of Clarendon, Chief Scout in South Africa, on the occasion of his departure from South Africa.

£2,000,000 Rise In Union's

Revenue

The preliminary State revenue figures up to the end of January show that the revenue for the ten months of the current financial year is close on £2,000,000 more than it was at the end of the corresponding period of the last financial year. This confirms the view that the Minister of Finance will be able to announce an outstanding Budget surplus to the House shortly. The total revenue to the end of January amounted to £31,302,681. At the corresponding date last year it amounted to £29,443,760. The revenue during January differed very slightly from that collected in January, 1936, the respective figures being £3,472,659 and £3,467,709. Expenditure up to the end of January, 1937, amounted to £30,797,804, while up to the end of January the previous year it amounted to £30,546,504.

Trade Mission To South Africa

A trade mission to South Africa has been undertaken by the commercial manager of the Clyde Navigation Trust, Mr. Harold M. Ford. His object is to promote reciprocal trade with Scotland. Mr. Ford, who arrives in Capetown on February 12, aims at placing South African fruit and other primary produce on the markets of Scotland and Northern

Britain and also at finding markets for Scottish products in South Africa. He will visit all the major centres of the Union and the Rhodesias in order to establish contact with business firms and others interested. Durban will be among the centres he will visit.

Natal Bantu Teachers' Union Protest

At an Executive meeting of the Natal Bantu Teachers' Union held in Durban on January 30, it was unanimously decided to register a protest against the appointment of European headmasters to the Newcastle and the Ladysmith Bantu Day Schools. The following resolution was passed:—"That the Education Department should continue its accepted policy of appointing Bantu headmasters in Bantu schools; that there are available suitable and competent Bantu graduates who could fill these positions; that the employment of European teachers further limits the opportunities for the employment of Bantu teachers; that the positions were not advertised to Bantu teachers; that Bantu opinion was not consulted on the matter of the appointment of European headmasters in the Newcastle and the Ladysmith Bantu Day Schools; that the European headmasters of the Newcastle and the Ladysmith Bantu Day Schools will draw higher salaries than Bantu headmasters in the same positions, whereas we have always been made to understand that no improvements could be made on the present salaries of Bantu teachers because of limited funds." The Executive wishes to make it clear that this protest has nothing to do with the qualifications of any European who may be appointed to the Newcastle and the Ladysmith Bantu Day Schools. The Executive states that it is simply a question of policy and principle.

Loskop Gunman Executed

Ntimane Sundwana, known widely as "The Loskop Gunman," was executed at Pretoria Gaol on Monday. It will be remembered that he admitted the responsibility for no less than six murders of Indians and Africans, and when sentenced to death, pleaded for another chance, stating, "I will never do such a thing again!"

Purchase Of Land For Natives

An important and reassuring statement on the native land purchase position was made to the Parliamentary correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser* last Tuesday by Mr. G. Heaton Nicholls, M.P., who is a member of the Native Affairs Commission. The correspondent drew Mr. Nicholls's attention to the fears which were being widely expressed over the delays stated to have arisen in the Government's scheme for the acquisition of land in scheduled and released areas for native occupation under the Native Land and Trust Act. Mr. Nicholls assured the correspondent that the difficulties which

had been encountered during the last week or so had been completely overcome, and that the active purchase of farms was now proceeding. He pointed out that the £1,000,000 which had been set aside for the acquisition of the farms was not in the same category as funds which, if not expended by the end of the financial year, must be returned to the Treasury. The whole of the £1,000,000 would be available, and would probably be expended by the end of the financial year. There was complete co-operation between the Land Department and the Native Affairs Commission in the acquisition of the land. The task of valuing and negotiating for hundreds of farms had been a colossal task for the Central Land Board, and it was a testimony to their efficiency that they had made the progress they had. "We have never before been asked to buy land on this wholesale scale, except immediately after the war, when it was required for European settlement," said Mr. Nicholls. "The Lands Department has had great experience, and the purchase of this land has shown that both buyers and sellers have been very reasonable." Mr. Nicholls said the difficulties which had arisen had been mainly administrative ones.

Message From Their Majesties The King And Queen

Mr. M. Cassim, "Muslim-Bana," Samrodi, Durban, received the following reply from Their Majesties King George VI and the Queen from Buckingham Palace dated January 6:—"The Private Secretary is commanded by the King to convey Their Majesties' sincere thanks to Mr. Mahomed Cassim and his family for their message of loyal assurance."

Fewer Smokers

A writer in the *Sunday Express* states: I think that smoking to some extent is losing favour with the politicians. The majority of the Cabinet themselves do not smoke, and I notice that quite a number of the younger members of Parliament are non-smokers, and those that do smoke do not smoke heavily. General Hertzog was at one time a pipe smoker, a heavy pipe smoker at that. Some years ago his throat gave him a good deal of worry and his physician advised him not to smoke, so he gave it up immediately and has felt better for doing so. General Smuts, Mr. Pirow and Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr have been non-smokers all their lives. The Speaker, Mr. E. J. Jansen, is also a non-smoker. Colonel Creswell has reduced his cigarette smoking from forty to five a day and feels a new man.

Hindu Youth Club

The chief item on the weekly programme on Sunday evening February 7, was the Table Tennis Competition at the Hindu Youth Club, Durban. This was purely a club affair, and all those who

participated played excellent ping-pong, and some very good tussels were witnessed. After a number of hard matches, Mr. B. A. Pather ran out winner, with Mr. Mynie Singh runner-up. In the absence of the president, the vice-president Mr. J. B. Chetty, made the presentation of prizes to these two gentlemen. After other business had been got over with, the Table Tennis team selected to do duty for the Hindu Youth Club on Feb. 17, against the Hindu Youth Movement was announced. A grand Bazaar and Sale of Work, in aid of funds for the Durban Indian Benevolent Society will be held by the Club at the M. K. Gandhi Senthamil School Hall, May Street, Durban, on Saturday March 27. All donations in kind and in cash will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Donations may be sent to officials of the Hindu Youth Club. The Club announces that they are staging a Natal Indian Table Tennis (Singles) Tournament, in Durban during Easter week. Arrangements are now well in hand, and the actual date and place where the tournament will be held, will be announced in the near future. Enquiries and other particulars may be had from the Hindu Youth Club T. T. Committee, c/o 171, Umgeni Road, Durban.

Maharaja Of Baroda In East Africa

The Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda paid a visit to East Africa last week where a magnificent reception in his honour was given by the Association of State Subjects of Baroda. In an interview the Maharaja said he was so impressed by the beauties of East Africa that he hoped to return soon for a more extensive stay. He left by Imperial Airways for Paris and London, where he will attend the Coronation.

Natal University College

Courses For Non-Europeans

Classes leading to the B.A. Degree are to be held at Sastri College, Durban, on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, beginning on Friday, February 26th, 1937.

Fees per half year	£7 10 0
Fees for separate class per half year	2 10 0

The Adviser to Non-European Students will attend at Sastri College to interview and enrol students from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, February 26th, and from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23rd, and on Thursday, February 25th and at other times by appointment.

These classes may also be attended (with the consent of the lecturers) by non-matriculated persons who desire to extend their general education.

It may be possible to arrange tutorial classes for students working for subjects not included in the regular curriculum. These classes can also be taken in preparation for the cultural section of the T.2 examination.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Adviser to Non-European Students: P. O. Box 1525, Durban.

India Letter

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Congress Resolutions

THE resolutions passed at the Faizpur session of the Indian National Congress included, among others, the following subjects: (1) Detenus, (2) Indians overseas, (3) Colliery disasters, (4) B. N. R. Strike, (5) Mass contact, (6) Authorising the A.I.C.C. to decide the time of the next session of the Congress, (7) Suppression of Civil Liberties, (8) Rejection of the new constitution, (9) Formation of a national convention, (10) The Agrarian Problem, (11) Election appeals, (12) Non-participation in the Coronation celebrations, (13) Observing 'Hartal' on April 1 and (14) Deciding to hold the next Congress session in Gujerat. The resolution on non-participation in the King's Coronation in India and the one enjoining on the people of India to observe 'Hartal' on April 1 when the new Constitution is to be inaugurated, were both from the chair and carried amidst scenes of considerable jubilation.

Press Opinion On President's Speech

That Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's presidential address is worthy of the occasion and of the man, is the gist of the comments made by Nationalist papers in Calcutta. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says: "The address fully sustains the reputation he has built up as a clear thinker and a vigorous writer. The speech gives a courageous lead to Congressmen and the country. The flag is held high and there is no sign of weakness in the hand that holds it. It may be possible to pick holes in the speech on the 'dohai' (plea) of realities of the situation, but the high idealism and direction of activity should inspire all." The *Forward* writes: "The chief merit of Pandit Jawaharlal's presidential address lies in this that it is a masterly clarification of the situation and definite disentanglement and fixation of the main issue, out of the mumbled web of confusion. In his address, he has displayed a remarkable synthesis of vision and practical commonsense." The vernacular daily *Ananda Bazar Patrika* characterises the address as short but full of suggestions for relevant problems. According to the paper, the address does not attempt to unduly excite the minds of national workers and politicians but puts before them live issues of the day in an analytical way.

Indians Overseas

It is a significant, if sad, fact that with the approach of the new Constitution which is expected to confer Dominion Status in action upon this country, the lot of Indians overseas, instead of getting better, is gradually worsening, says the *Bombay Chronicle*. Apart from the condition of Indians in the various territories in Africa, even India's neighbours like Ceylon and Burma are evincing an unmistakable anti-Indian feeling during recent months. We are thus not much impressed by the optimistic note in the report of India's Agent-General in South Africa which has just been issued. We give due credit to Sir Syed Raza Ali for having done his level best to ameliorate the condition of his countrymen in the Union. But a survey of the report proves that the improvement, such as it is, is only in matters of detail and minor concessions. The fundamentals of the problem like the colour complex and racial hostility yet remain untouched, nor have we any grounds to hope that the recent visit of the South African goodwill delegation will have any radical effect upon the prevailing tendencies. The fact is that Indian nationals abroad will have to bear their hard lot, as long as Indians themselves are not masters in their own house. To speak in terms of present-day politics, there are no sanctions behind our countrymen abroad. This very sentiment is expressed in the resolution passed on this subject by the Faizpur Congress. Mere sympathy is bound to remain sterile until India attains freedom for herself and "the power to protect her nationals abroad."

Mr. C. Y. Chintamani Declines D.Litt. Degree

Mr. C. Y. Chintamani, Editor of the *Leader* (Allahabad) has issued the following statement:—

"As stated before, I deemed it right, in the circumstances known to the public, to decline with grateful thanks the kind proposal of the authorities of the Lucknow University to confer upon me the degree of Doctor of Literature. An Associated Press message from Lucknow reporting the last Convocation as well as the *Pioneer's* report mentioned the degree being conferred upon me in absentia, with the result that kind friends have been sending messages of congratulation. I am grateful to them but beg it to be noted, that I am no "D.Litt." and, therefore, no congratulations are due to me. I again thank all friends, including the authorities of the Lucknow University."

Muslims And The New Constitution

"Mussalmans are as much dissatisfied and even disgusted with the new Constitution as any of their fellow-nationals and they have denounced it in no uncertain terms. Mr. Jinnah has given his assurance beforehand to all parties in the future legislatures that Mussalmans will give their whole-hearted support and co-operation to any party that sincerely and equitably works for the salvation of India. I want my fellow-Congressmen to so conduct themselves in the legislatures as to earn and deserve the confidence of a great limb of the Indian nation without whose co-operation India can never dream of attaining independence," said Mr. Yakub Hasan in opening the Tamil Nadu Provincial Conference at Vellore. Continuing he said: "The only way of abolishing the Communal Award, as the British Government themselves have pointed out to us, is by bringing about a complete agreement among the communities concerned."

Indian Philosophical Conference

"The world has greater need of philosophic consolation and guidance to-day than ever before," said Sir G. S. Bajpai opening the 12th session of the Indian Philosophical Conference in the Old Viceregal House, New Delhi. Continuing, he said that every human institution and every human belief was under challenge. The social and economic foundation which seemed everlasting has been shaken everywhere and in many places shattered. New concepts of obligation and right claimed man's allegiance. The ideal of personal liberty faced a rival in the ideal of corporative state, capitalism in communalism and religion in rationalism. To the extent that choice between opposite ideals remained free individual judgment was hampered by their multitude no less than by the dust and noise of partisan tumult. Was it unnatural, he asked, that in this fierce class of old loyalties and new prophets, ordinary man should be bewildered and long passionately for a detached but firm guidance, and who was better fitted to supply this than the philosopher? Religion alone was not enough, for the youth of to-day were apt to question the authority of what rightly or wrongly they regarded as dogma or codes of conduct of mere prescriptive sanctity.

COLONIAL BORN AND SETTLERS' INDIAN ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

The Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch) have addressed the following letters to the City Council in connection with the flood that occurred on Saturday night in Maritzburg, and also with a view of opening a child welfare clinic at Pentrich:—

The Town Clerk, Maritzburg:

SIR,—We desire to report to you of the flood that occurred on Saturday February 6, at about 8 p.m. resulting in the Chase Valley area, the Oliff's Barracks in Retief Street Extension, the lower parts of Hathorn's Hill, the Corporation Barracks and along the Dorp Spruit being covered with water. We may mention that the timely warning given to the residents in the areas indicated above averted a dangerous situation, which gave them sufficient time to abandon their homes, and very fortunately no lives were lost; the only damage to a very great extent in the neighbourhood of about £150 was sustained by the Indian gardeners in their produce etc. being washed away, and this matter we leave to your City Council for their consideration to afford some relief to the victims by way of compensation. We wish to record the fact that our officials rendered all possible assistance to the flood victims during the night.

We desire to draw your attention to the fact that at all times when floods occur in these areas, particular portions are easily overflowed, and this we attribute to the rivers being narrow and with many existing bends, preventing the water from running freely, and this is certainly responsible for the Corporation Barracks being always flooded. This is of very great danger to all concerned and involves poor Indian gardeners into heavy losses, and in the circumstances for the future safety of all the residents, we beg to submit the following for your due consideration and attention:

(a). "That the Dorp Spruit and Chase Valley rivers be straightened, widened and deepened, and the soil thereof to be placed on each of the banks for the purposes of raising same."

(b). "That the Corporation Barracks be removed from the present site or the river banks be raised and a brick wall erected near the barracks, or otherwise have walls constructed on the verandahs with two or three brick steps."

We suggest the above in order that some protection would be afforded, and you will appreciate the fact that recent floods caused great damages, and the poor Indian gardeners who solely depend on their crops were hard hit, and we trust that the Council will give its earnest consideration and immediate attention to the points raised herein, for which we thank you.

We are also instructed by our committee to approach the City Council with regard to the opening of a Child Welfare Clinic at Pentrich for the benefit of the Indian community. At a public meeting of the residents of Pentrich held under the auspices of the Indian Young Men's Association (Pentrich) on November 22 last, at which the officials of our association were present, the urgent necessity of establishing a children's Clinic was stressed by all the speakers, and the meeting unanimously resolved to make the necessary representations accordingly.

We desire to draw your attention to the fact that there are about 700 adults (males and females) in the area, and majority of these comprise the poorest section of the Indian community; judging from the conditions of these people and their low earning capacity, this is one of the places that requires a Clinic. We also wish to mention that statistics were obtained of the children, and there are about 300 children under 5 years, and about 400 school going children. A room for the purpose of conducting the Clinic will be placed at the disposal of your Council free of charge.

We might mention that the distance from Pentrich to the present Clinic in Pietermaritz Street (Maritzburg), is too far to permit them to attend same, and great inconvenience is caused to them to walk the distance with the children, as they are unable to obtain conveyance owing to being financially embarrassed. In the circumstances our

association will be gratified if your Council will establish a Clinic at Pentrich, and thereby serve a section of the community least able to look after itself, for which we thank you in anticipation. Further, we are prepared to render you all co-operation and assistance.

—o0o—

Sir Andrew Wingate

THE death of Sir Andrew Wingate, K.C.I.E., which occurred on New Year's Day at Territet, Switzerland, has removed a devoted Evangelical layman, who throughout a long life rendered distinguished service in connection with the Indian Civil Service. The eldest son of Rev. William Wingate, an honoured missionary to the Jews, he was born in 1846. After studying at the Universities of London and Heidelberg, he passed into the Indian Civil Service at Bombay. He did excellent work as Famine Secretary under the Chief Commissioner of Mysore and also in the Udaipur State and in Kashmir. During the 'nineties, he threw himself into the administration of plague measures with characteristic energy. He also served in various administrative positions, revealing at all times a profound understanding of, and sympathy with, the thoughts of the people. The Christian outlook which had characterized his Government work found new opportunity on his retirement in 1902, when he gave himself wholeheartedly to promoting the work of the Bible Society, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., and Anglo-Indian education. First among such interests, however, was that of Missions to Israel. He was President of the British Jews Society. He addressed many meetings, and in all his activities had the enthusiastic support of Lady Wingate, a daughter of Col. Duncan Scott Pemberton, R.A. Two daughters took up Christian work in India. Sir Andrew also employed his pen to good purpose. Among his volumes were "Mesopotamia, the Gateway of Palestine," "History and Prophecy," and "Palestine, Mesopotamia, and the Jews."

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NOTE.—Remittance should accompany the order V.P. ORDERS will not receive attention. Postal Orders to be made to "Indian Opinion" at Phoenix. Postage Free on all books.

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