

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Not A Pat On The Back

IN an interview with reference to the withdrawal of "anti-Asiatic" Bills Mahatma Gandhi is reported to have declared:—

"There can be no rest for Indians in South Africa till legal status has been secured for Indian settlers throughout the Union." Mahatma Gandhi praised the courage of Mr. Hofmeyr in standing up for the Indians but said that the position was extremely unsatisfactory. "General Hertzog's acceptance of the pledge of the South African Indian Congress (to dismiss European females in the employ of Indian establishments), he said, "is good, as far as it goes. Nevertheless it is clear that racial antipathy has not diminished, and till Indians are treated as equally as the other partners in the British Commonwealth of Nations a slur must remain on South Africa's name."

The above message from Mahatma Gandhi is conspicuous for its absence of a pat on the back of the Congress representatives assisted by the Agent-General for their bravado before the Select Committee. It only speaks about South Africa and gives a piece of advice as to how it can keep unblemished its own name. His very silence on the Congress attitude is eloquent in its condemnation.

### Sir Purshottamdas On

#### Congress Compromise

"There is nothing on which India can congratulate the South African Indian Congress," said Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas in an interview with Reuter on the compromise between the South African Indian Congress and the Union Government on the question of the Asiatic Bills. He added that no concrete evidence had been adduced before the select committee of abuse actually resulting from the employment of European women by Asiatics. In the face of this, Congress would have to produce convincing arguments to Indians that they had not unduly prejudiced the position of Indians abroad in their anxiety to avoid a legislative check. The moral undertaking, as given by the Congress, was as serious as a check imposed by legislation.

### What A Correspondent In

#### "The Star" Says

"R.F." writing in *The Star* (Johannesburg) says: "The Indian community seem to be pleased and satisfied with the 'Gentlemen's Agreement,' though it is difficult to appreciate what the Indians have gained either in honour or dignity. They have agreed to declare themselves persons unfit to employ white women, rather than have a law prohibiting such employment. How is the stigma of such legislation obviated through avoiding the Statute Book? Rather is the reverse the case, since there could be no shame to the oppressed in finding themselves in a state of oppression and persecution. The Indians, as a community, have lost much more in voluntarily participating in this so-called compromise, since they are now a party to an arrangement which brands them as 'untouchables.' The stigma of legislative persecution and racial discrimination of the worst kind could surely only humiliate the people responsible for this legislation and since the practical results are the same, what has been gained? Can the Indians indulge in such a play of make-believe and sincerely think that chains, when self put on, are easier to bear than the same chains when put on them by force?"

### Slums Act In Maritzburg

During the Budget debate in the Natal Provincial Council, Mr. P. H. Taylor (U.P., Maritzburg South) referred to the slum conditions which were springing up just outside municipal areas in Natal. As pressure was applied to Indian slum dwellers by the demolition of their houses, they went over the municipal boundaries, where the Town Councils had no authority over them. He urged the inclusion of a building clause in the Provincial Town Planning Ordinance. Mr. William Power, M.E.C. (U.P., Maritzburg Suburbs), replied to Mr. Taylor's statements about Indian slums and said that the Provincial Council had not found Maritzburg City Council helpful. It was hoped soon to do something to control the position.

This sounds quite different to what we were given to understand from the Minister of Health that he would not countenance any action on the part of

the local authorities of driving Indians out of their present dwellings under the Slums Act unless other housing accommodation was provided for them. Mr. Taylor would, presumably, have Indians to exist in the air.

### Advocates Free Education

#### Up To Matric

Mr. P. H. Taylor during the Budget debate, hoped that by the end of the life of the present Council, Natal would have free education up to Matriculation. Indians need not glee over this. Mr. Taylor is not so liberal as to advocate the extension of this privilege to them. Dr. Wallace, on the other hand, it is pleasing to note, favoured the abolition of the Personal Tax and the extension of hospital schemes for all races.

### Another Anti-Asiatic Resolution

Mr. Hosking (U.N.P., Dundee) introduced the following motion in the Natal Provincial Council:

"In the event of a Union Government Commission being appointed to inquire into Indian problems, the Council strongly urges that the question of Indian penetration into European residential areas be included in the terms of reference and that the foregoing resolution be transmitted to the Union Government by telegraph."

The Chairman said that the time for the discussion of private members' resolutions had lapsed and, on the motion of Mr. Hollander, the debate was postponed to a later date.

### India's Political Deadlock Continues

The All-India Congress Working Committee met at Allahabad on Monday to consider the question of accepting office in the Provincial Legislature under the new Constitution. Mahatma Gandhi attended by invitation and made a statement. The committee's view is stated to be that the Government having refused through the Governors to give the required assurance on the use of their special powers must now take the next step to bridge the gulf. Mahatma Gandhi has agreed with this view. According to Reuter, Mr. R. A. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, announced in the House of Commons that the Government was

unable to accept Mahatma Gandhi's proposed arbitral tribunal. He mentioned that the Government had no intention of countenancing the use of the special powers of the Governors for other than the purposes for which Parliament intended them. It was certainly not the intention that the Governors, by a narrow or legalistic interpretation of their own responsibili-

ties, should trench upon the wide powers which it was the purpose of Parliament to place in the hands of the Ministries and which the Government desired they should use in furtherance of their programmes. If Mahatma Gandhi or any other leader wished to make a request to the Viceroy, the Government would give it consideration.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH, 1937

### A False Notion Of White Man's Prestige

**S**ENTENCE of eight lashes and four years imprisonment passed upon a European named William Charles Plewman, partner in a motor business at Nigel, by Mr. Justice C. L. Botha at the Circuit Court at Kroonstad, last week, for being convicted on three counts of theft, forgery and uttering and fraud, has caused uneasiness to some Municipal Councillors in Durban who feel that corporal punishment should never be inflicted on white persons, for it would be degrading in the eyes of the large non-European population existing in South Africa.

To get a better idea of the case in question the reader should know a few more facts. Accused admitted having been convicted on 62 separate charges of a similar kind. He pleaded that he had committed all his offences when he was drunk. He admitted being warned of indeterminate sentence by Mr. Justice Greenberg in Johannesburg in August last year, and within a month he had committed further offences at Kroonstad and Kimberley. He had been given a suspended sentence of four years by Mr. Justice Greenberg and this now comes into effect. Counsel for accused quoted an extract from an essay by Miss Olive Schreiner dealing with convicted criminals, which stated that they were largely the victims of circumstances. Mr. Justice Botha, who was not moved by this, addressed accused in the following manner: "That is all very fine, but it is my duty to protect society. Five hundred witnesses could not alter the hard solid facts of this case. While you were drunk you forged cheques. You have been warned of the indeterminate sentence, but immediately after being placed on your honour with a suspended sentence you proceeded on your fraudulent career. I have found that in cases where Natives have been warned of the indeterminate sentence the solitary punishment of lashes has more effect than imprisonment, and I am going to try that upon you. I sentence you to four years' imprisonment to run concurrently with the present term and to receive eight lashes in addition."

The above incident has caused fifteen Durban City Councillors to telegraph a petition to the Minister of Justice, General J. C. Smuts, urging him to delete the sentence of eight lashes upon accused which, in their opinion, is not warranted, having regard to the nature of the crime. The petition was signed by the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. C. H. Stott, and the following Councillors: Mrs. E. A. Benson, Mrs. V. Burnside, O. Lea, H. L. Buzzard, H. H. Kemp, H. G. Capell, J. Fyfe, S. J. Smith, S. Pettersen, G. F. Westgate, P. Osborn, J. L. Farrell, J. M. Harris and L. J. Coughlan.

"I consider that only in a case of gross cruelty or ruthless brutality where a man has made somebody else suffer terribly and intentionally is there justification for a flogging or lashes," says Mrs. Benson who was the originator of the above petition. "Such a case as this in my opinion does not warrant lashes and more especially when a man's downfall is attributed to drink," she says.

"I never like lashes in a country like this," says Councillor O. Lea. "I think it is rather demoralising to the White race to have a White man whipped. I think there should be some other means of fitting the crime. I have not the same feelings with regard to some other races, but I think Europeans in this country, if it is possible to fit the crime, should be dealt with in some other way. I do not like a White man to be lashed, although it may be deserved."

Councillor J. L. Farrell says he rather looked with a certain amount of dismay on Europeans in this country being subjected to lashes on account of the degrading effect it has upon White people. "Humane reasons from the point of a White man being flogged in a country where there are so many Blacks," actuated Councillor G. F. Westgate in signing the petition. "I think the crime is undoubtedly serious," he added, "but not that kind of seriousness which would call for such drastic punishment."

Let us now compare with the above a few recent cases of crime and punishment, where the black man has been involved.

Seven strokes with a cane were

ordered on a Native, Philemon Mablall, who was charged with stealing a pint of milk, by Mr. Conway in the Durban Magistrate's Court.

A European woman in the Dundee Magistrate's Court was fined £1 for pushing her Native boy's head down on to the floor and hitting him with her fists, and eventually thrashing him with a belt.

Two white farmers at Helpmekaar were fined £1 each by Mr. J. F. van der Plank for making their native boy lie down and thrashing him with a double whip for the "crime" of not greeting his master.

Recently a native was sentenced in the Durban Magistrate's Court to receive five strokes for ignoring the police signal while riding his bicycle and these were inflicted so brutally that a sympathetic correspondent drew the attention of the public by criticising it in the *Natal Mercury*.

We can go on quoting hundreds of such cases of corporal punishment inflicted on Natives for trivial offences and of Europeans being let off very lightly for the most serious crimes. But why has it never occurred to these good friends, who have raised so much objection to corporal punishment being inflicted on Plewman, on the professed ground of being bad in principle, to raise their voice against such punishment when inflicted upon natives? We admire those who have been brutally frank in admitting that they are against the punishment in question because they feel it is degrading to see a White man receiving lashes. They are actuated by the consideration of the White man's prestige.

While sympathising with their wounded feelings we would humbly suggest that that is a false notion of the White man's prestige. The White man's prestige will never be enhanced by overlooking the crime of, or dealing with a milder standard of justice, the white man against the black man. Indeed it will only lower his prestige in the eyes of the black man. The White man's prestige will be enhanced only when exemplary severe punishment is inflicted on the White man who is guilty of a crime against the black man. Let it be remembered that Plewman has a voice in the Government of this country, and when he has reached such depths of degradation what a sad reflection it is on his defenders and sympathisers, and on the entire ruling race and on the civilisation which it represents and boasts of so much? Had not the fifteen City Fathers and Mothers of Durban been better advised to mind their own business and leave the matter of Plewman in the safe hands of the Department of Justice, we wonder? In our humble opinion they would in that case not only have saved their own prestige, but saved the fallacy of the prestige of their race from being exposed.

## Fate Of Transvaal Indians Sealed

**T**HE Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Further Amendment Bill was passed by the Union Parliament last week and it replaces the Feetham Commission by a permanent advisory committee to which the Minister of the Interior may refer any matters arising from the Commission's report or recommendations. The Feetham Commission was appointed in October 1932 in terms of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act, which was unanimously rejected by the South African Indian Congress, as violating the Capetown Agreement in that it established the principle of segregation in law and imposed on Asiatics

an unnatural restriction by prohibiting them from acquiring ownership of land.

The principle of the 1932 Act was, it is stated, that notwithstanding the prohibitions of the Gold Law, it would be legal for Asiatics to occupy land, and, in certain cases, to acquire ownership of land. This is put in rather flowery language. Bluntly speaking it was to condone the action of those who had evaded the Gold Law by acquiring ownership of land by forming companies and to tighten up the law so as to render further evasion impossible. The Feetham Commission has inquired into every individual case of occupation by Asiatics and coloured persons of land proclaimed under the gold law, and has recommended for exemption blocks of land in proclaimed areas where Asiatics

and coloured predominate. The Commission has further set up a series of registers in which the various classes of permissible Asiatic occupation and ownership has been clearly defined.

This Act is the most unsatisfactory piece of legislation placed on the Union Statute Book. Apart from being bad in principle the practical results of it will be that a large section of the community will have to be at the mercy of rack-renting landlords, both Indians and Europeans, and to live a life of eternal insecurity. Far from devising ways and means of uplifting the domiciled Indian population of the Union, as is stated under the upliftment clause of the Capetown Agreement, the Act is an instrument to devise ways and means for the extinction of the Indian population from the Transvaal.

## INDIANS AND MARKETING BILL

**"I**t is not strictly correct to say that the Minister of Agriculture has declined to grant representation to members of your community on any regulatory board established to administer a scheme under the proposed Marketing Act," states the Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry in a letter replying to the South African Indian Congress

"Actually there is provision in the Bill as it stands for the representation of all classes of producers since no mention is made of the personnel of a regulatory board, which may, therefore be representative of every class of persons engaged in the production of the product concerned."

The Congress in a memorandum to the Minister, stated that the interests

and livelihood of a large section of their community was affected, and asked that provision be made: (a) for representation of the Indian community on the regulatory board, and (b) an amendment to the powers of the regulatory board to prevent the Act from being administered in a racial manner to the disadvantage of their community.

### Wrong Assumption

"It would appear" the letter from the Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry continues, "that your representations are based on the assumption that a regulatory board on which any class of the community is not directly represented will administer a scheme to the detriment of such class.

"I feel you will agree, however, that such an assumption cannot be justified as any regulatory board must, in the operation of a scheme, necessarily consider the interests of all concerned.

"Regarding the second point, the inclusion of a proviso in Section 19 on the lines suggested would not, it is thought serve any useful purpose and would, in effect, amount to an admission that the Bill in its present form permits of discrimination, which is decidedly not the case. The only differentiation is as regards voting schemes and any discrimination in other respects would therefore be illegal. Any party who is dissatisfied with a decision of a regulatory board involving such discrimination would be able to bring the decision to review in the Courts."

## LICENSING TROUBLE

### MARITZBURG RURAL BOARD GRANTS APPLICATION

A. Bhoola, the proprietor of the Sutherlands Supply Store, in the Maritzburg district, applied for the transfer of his licence to Edendale. His case is that he had been in business there since 1932, and that most of his trade had been with Natives in the Sutherlands area. In 1935-36 the Natives had been moved, under the Urban Areas Act, to Edendale. His trade had dwindled, and he had leased some land from one Lutchman at Edendale and applied for the transfer of his licence to those premises. His application had been granted last October on the ground that he should be permitted to follow his customers, but very soon after that a dispute had arisen between himself and Lutchman over the legitimacy of the lease and in the meantime in December

1936 his general dealer's licence in respect of his store at Sutherlands was renewed.

In March, 1937, Bhoola had been offered a building site about 60 feet away from Lutchman's property, and Bhoola said he was prepared to accept this offer subject to the transfer of his licence to that site being authorised.

His application was opposed by the Mandivi Trading Company on whose behalf it was argued (1) that there was no necessity for another store at Edendale, and (2) that in January and March 1937 applications for general dealers' licences in respect of the same locality had been refused by the Board. That although necessity had been proved in

October and the application for a certificate of authority had been granted, the applicant had not been able to avail himself of it before December 31, by which time the licence under which the certificate of authority had been taken out expired itself, and so caused the certificate to lapse as well. Any transfer from one person to another or from one place to another meant, in effect, a new licence, and the Board should, therefore, regard this application on the same footing as the other applications which had been brought since and refused.

The Board has granted the application subject to premises satisfactory to the Police being built within three months. An extension of time can be granted at the discretion of the chairman of the Licensing Board.

# A DISCOURSE ON NON-VIOLENCE

BY MAHATMA GANDHI

Mr. Mahadev Desai reports in *Harijan* dated March 20, an interview two Negro gentlemen, Dr. Tobias and Professor Mays, who went to India for the recent world's meeting of the committees of the Y.M.C.A., had with Mahatma Gandhi. We reproduce it below as, we have no doubt, it will be both interesting and instructive to our readers:—

“YOUR doctrine of non-violence has profoundly influenced my life,” said Dr. Tobias. “Do you believe in it as strongly as ever?”

“I do indeed,” said Gandhiji. “My faith in it is growing.”

“Negroes in U.S.A.—12 million—are struggling to obtain such fundamental rights as freedom from mob-violence, unrestricted use of the ballot, freedom from segregation, etc. Have you, out of your struggle in India, a word of advice and encouragement to give us?”

“I had to contend against some such thing, though on a much smaller scale, in South Africa. The difficulties are not yet over. All I can say is that there is no other way than the way of non-violence—a way, however, not of the weak and ignorant but of the strong and wise.”

“Travancore indicates that your full identification with the untouchables is bearing fruit. Do you think Travancore's example will be followed by other States in the near future?”

“I shall be surprised if it is not.”

“What word shall I give my Negro brethren as to the outlook for the future?”

“With right which is on their side and the choice of non-violence as their only weapon, if they will make it such, a bright future is assured.”

Prof. Mays was lucky enough to find Gandhiji free in Segaoon to give him as much time as he wanted, and in the course of the talk with him Gandhiji disclosed the secret of the conviction of a life-time.

## A Misnomer

“Passive resistance,” said Gandhiji, “is a misnomer for non-violent resistance. It is much more active than violent resistance. It is direct, ceaseless, but three-fourths invisible and only one-fourth visible. In its visibility it seems to be ineffective e.g., the spinning wheel which I have called the symbol of non-violence. In its visibility it appears ineffective, but it is really intensely active and most effective in ultimate result. This knowledge enables me to detect flaws in the way in which the votaries of non-violence are doing their spinning. I ask for more vigilance and more untiredness. Non-violence is an intensely active force when

properly understood and used. A violent man's activity is most visible, while it lasts. But it is always transitory. What can be more visible than Abyssinians don't to death by Italians? There it was lesser violence pitted against much greater. But if the Abyssinians had retired from the field and allowed themselves to be slaughtered, their seeming inactivity would have been much more effective though not for the moment visible. Hitler and Mussolini on the one hand and Stalin on the other are able to show the immediate effectiveness of violence. But it will be as transitory as that of Jhenghis' slaughter. But the effects of Buddha's non-violent action persist and are likely to grow with age. And the more it is practised, the more effective and inexhaustible it becomes, and ultimately the whole world stands agape and exclaims, ‘a miracle has happened.’ All miracles are due to the silent and effective working of invisible forces. Non-violence is the most invisible and the most effective.”

## Can Masses Be Trained?

“I have no doubt in my mind about the superiority of non-violence,” said Prof. Mays. “But the thing that bothers me is about its exercise on a large scale, the difficulty of so disciplining the mass mind on the point of love. It is easier to discipline individuals. What should be the strategy when they break-out? Do we retreat or do we go on?”

“I have had that experience,” said Gandhiji, in the course of our movement here. People do not gain the training by preaching. Non-violence cannot be preached. It has to be practised. The practice of violence can be taught to people by outward symbols. You shoot at boards, then at targets then at beasts. Then you are passed as an expert in the art of destruction. The non-violent man has no outward weapon and, therefore, not only his speech but his action also seems ineffective. I may say all kinds of sweet words to you without meaning them. On the other hand I may have real love in me and yet my outward expression may be forbidding. Then outwardly my action in both cases may be the same and yet the effect may be different. For the effect of our action is often more potent when it is not patently known. Thus the unconscious effect you are making on me I may never know. It is, nevertheless, infinitely greater than the conscious effect. In violence there is nothing visible. Non-violence, on the other hand, is three-fourths invisible, and so the effect is in the inverse ratio to its invisibility. Non-violence, when it becomes active, travels with extraordinary velocity, and

then it becomes a miracle. So the mass mind is affected first unconsciously, then consciously. When it becomes consciously affected there is demonstrable victory. In my own experience, when people seemed to be weakening there was no consciousness of defeat in me. Thus I was fuller of hope in the efficacy of non-violence after the renunciation of Civil Disobedience in 1922, and today I continue to be in the same hopeful mood. It is not a mere emotional thing. Supposing I saw no signs of dawn coming I should not lose faith. Everything has to come in its proper time.

“I have discussions here with my co-workers about the scavenging work we are doing. ‘Why can't we do it after Swaraj?’ they say. ‘We may do it better after Swaraj.’ I say to them, ‘No. The reform has to come to-day, it must not wait for Swaraj; in fact the right type of Swaraj will come only out of such work.’ Now I cannot show you, as perhaps I cannot show some of my co-workers, the connection between Swaraj and scavenging. If I have to win Swaraj non-violently I must discipline my people. The maimed and the blind and the leprous cannot join the army of violence. There is also an age-limit for serving in the army. For a non-violent struggle there is no age-limit; the blind and the maimed and the bed-ridden may serve, and not only men but women also. When the spirit of non-violence pervades the people and actually begins to work, its effect is visible to all.

“But now comes your poser. There are people, you say, who do not believe in non-violence as you do. Are you to sit quiet? The friends ask: ‘If not now, when will you act?’ I say in reply: ‘I may not succeed in my life-time, but my faith that victory can only come through non-violence is stronger than ever. When I spoke on the cult of the spinning wheel at Faizpur, a newspaper correspondent imputed astuteness to me. Nothing could be further from my mind. When I came to Segaoon I was told the people might not co-operate and might even boycott me. I said: ‘That may be. But this is the way non-violence works. If I go to a village which is still farther off, the experiment may work better.’ This thing has come in my search after the technique of non-violence. And each day that passes makes my faith brighter. I have come here to bring that faith to fruition and to die in the process if that is God's will. Non-violence to be worth anything has to work in the face of hostile forces. But there may be action in inaction. And action may be worse than inaction.”

**Violence In A Spirit Of Love?**

"Is it ever possible to administer violence in a spirit of love?"

"No. Never. I shall give you an illustration from my own experiment. A calf was lame and had developed terrible sores; he could not eat and breathed with difficulty. After three days' argument with myself and my co-workers I put an end to its life. Now that action was non-violent because it was wholly unselfish, inasmuch as the sole purpose was to achieve the calf's relief from pain. Some people have called this an act of violence. I have called it a surgical operation. I should do exactly the same thing with my child, if he were in the same predicament. My point is that non-violence as the supreme law of our being ceases to be such the moment you talk of exceptions."

"How is a minority to act against an overwhelming majority?" asked Prof. Mays.

"I would say that a minority can do much more in the way of non-violence than a majority. I had an English friend called Symonds. He used to say: 'I am with you so long as you are in a minority. After you are in a majority we are quits.' I had less diffidence in handling my minority in South Africa than I had here in handling a majority. But it would be wholly wrong, therefore, to say that non-violence is a weapon of the weak. The use of non-violence requires greater bravery than that of violence. When Daniel defied the laws of the Medes and Persians, his action was non-violent."

**Consequences To The Enemy**

"Should the thought of consequences that might accrue to the enemy as a result of your non-violence at all constrain you?"

"Certainly. You may have to suspend your movement as I did in South Africa when the Government was faced with the revolt of European labour. The

latter asked me to make common cause with them. I said 'no'."

"And non-violence never rebound on you, whereas violence will be self-destructed?" interposed the Professor.

"Yes. Violence must beget violence. But let me tell you that here too my argument has been countered by a great man who said: 'Look at the history of non-violence. Jesus died on the Cross, but his followers shed blood.' This proves nothing. We have no data before us to pass judgment. We do not know the whole of the life of Jesus. The followers perhaps had not imbibed fully the message of non-violence. But I must warn you against carrying the impression with you that mine is the final word on non-violence. I know my own limitations. I am but a humble seeker after truth. All I claim is that every experiment of mine has deepened my faith in non-violence as the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. Its use is not restricted to individuals merely but it can be practised on a mass scale."

# MARITZBURG ARYAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

THE 23rd annual general meeting of the Aryan Benevolent Society, Maritzburg, was held on Sunday, April 18. Mr. R. Manicum was in the chair.

The secretary, Mr. R. M. Moorgas, in submitting his 23rd annual report and statement of accounts in respect of the administration, building and sinking fund, also the balance sheet of the society for the year ending February 28, 1937, stated that the society's constitution allowed of an unlimited membership of either sex in the community, and it was evident that sooner or later women would not only have to assume their due share of responsibility, but also predominate in the circle of social workers among the community.

The clinic work at the home under the auspices of the Indian Women's Association, showed marked progress during the year.

The society had provided accommodation at the annexe to the home for the soup kitchen conducted by the Indian Soup Kitchen Committee, and also had allowed the Maritzburg Indian Relief Committee to hold its distribution of provisions to the unemployed Indians.

**Increased Grant**

It was gratifying to report that the annual grant from the Provincial Administration had been increased from £30 to £60, and from the City Corporation from £15 to £30, and a further sum of £100 had been received from the Indian Immigration Trust towards the annexe, the total sum thus received from the trust amounting to £500, and the society's appreciation and grateful

thanks are due to the trust for this benevolent gesture towards the home.

He also desired to place on record the society's appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Mr. S. R. Naidoo, the trustee of the society, who, with the co-operation of the society's officials, was instrumental in obtaining this sum from the trust.

**Finance**

The statement of accounts reflected in the administration account revenue was £135 5s. 1d. and expenditure £130 13s. 10d., leaving a credit balance of £4 11s. 3d.; and the sinking fund, comprising land, loan and building income, £380 1s. 4d., and expenditure £346 8s. 10d., leaving a credit balance of £33 12s. 6d.

The secretary said he found it necessary once more to draw the attention of the public to the need for relief in some of the Indian homes, and the society had been frequently requested to afford relief to distressed cases outside the home. However much the society recognised the need for it, it was unable to render any assistance; as it was, the society had been coping with the ever-increasing demands made upon its resources and, besides providing a home for the aged and decrepit in their midst, it also accommodated those who came under the direction of the magistracies in the northern parts of Natal and even from Johannesburg, Pretoria and Kimberley.

There had also been instances where parents, through unemployment, illness or low wages earned, had not been able

to provide for their families; in addition they were required to pay fees for the education of their children and provide books. He had good reason for stating that in the absence of adequate support from the authorities these disabilities would ultimately lead to distressing conditions.

Whatever relief was now given by way of free meals and the distribution of provisions was totally inadequate. The Indian community of Maritzburg was doing its very best, and it would be most unfair to burden them with additional demands, as the present home and annexe may be cited as an illustration of their loyal support.

The only course left open, therefore, was to seek financial assistance from the authorities, who, it was felt, would not be unmindful of their obligations in this connection.

**Need For Other Centres**

Although it was not within his province to touch upon conditions prevailing in other centres, yet for the good of the community as a whole, he might be allowed to state that the absence of a home in the larger centres was very conspicuous. The position, as he saw it in the light of his own experience, was that numerous bodies had been working in isolated groups and the social need today was to assemble these forces so as to form an organised body for the removal of these social disabilities.

In conclusion, the secretary said that appreciation and thanks were due to Dr. M. R. Peters for free attendance and professional services rendered. Mr. H.

M. Bass for free medicines supplied at reduced charges, Mr. G. S. Maharaj, of the City Funeral Furnishers, for free services rendered, Mr. N. P. Reddy for typing all correspondence, notices, documents, etc., and the Press for the publication.

The chairman appreciated the services of the secretary, and then moved the adoption of the report.

### Supervisor's Report

The honorary supervisor, Mr. N. P. Reddy, in his report stated that the year began with 18 inmates; during the 12 months a further six others were admitted, totalling 24, out of which five died and four left of their own accord. There were 15 females and 12 males in the home during the year. Shelter was offered to 34 persons, and meals were provided; temporary aid was given in the home to eight of them who were in

great distress. He also submitted a statement of provisions apart from cash received amounting to £107 7s. 3d.

The number of visitors to the home was 352, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Allison, Messrs. E. G. Douglas, F. J. Lewis, E. C. Tooth, Dr. C. C. P. Anning, Mrs. E. M. Shirely, Mr. and Mrs. J. Meikle and Mr. T. R. Swaminathan, of Madras, India.

The supervisor was highly complimented for his work.

### Inspector's Report

The report of the inspector, Mr. R. N. Moodley, was submitted, in which he stated that begging must be stopped. He found one or two stray cases had been brought to his notice and the society should seek assistance of the authorities. He also referred to women workers, and asked the society to continue sending its appeal forms to various business houses asking for donations and kind.

The inspector was thanked and his report adopted.

### Elections

The following office-bearers were elected for the year: Patron, Mr. F. J. Lewis; trustee, Mr. S. R. Naidoo (re-elected); hon. life vice-presidents, Messrs. S. R. Naidoo, R. N. Moodley and M. S. Williams; president, Mr. R. Manicum (re-elected); vice-presidents, Messrs. J. M. David, G. K. Naidoo, F. Satyapal, V. George, S. Saravanam (re-elected) and M. P. Govender; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. R. M. Moorgas (re-elected); hon. supervisor, Mr. N. P. Reddy (re-elected); hon. inspector, Mr. R. N. Moodley (re-elected); hon. physician, Dr. M. R. Peters (re-elected).

Emergency committee: the president, the hon. secretary, the hon. supervisor, the hon. inspector and a vice-president, Mr. F. Satyapal; committee, Mrs. R. N. Moodley, Messrs. G. N. Padayachee, M. G. Naidoo, R. H. Rajah, L. N. Pillay (re-elected), K. Soobramoney, S. Dhew, H. S. Padayachee and S. Saravanam.

## South African News In Brief

### Govindasamy's Heroism

HEROIC action on the part of a young Indian resulted in a three-months-old baby being rescued from a blazing house in Durban a few seconds before the roof collapsed. The blazing rafters fell on to a cot in which the baby had been lying. The house is in Rochdale Road, Sea Cow Lake. Shortly after two o'clock on Thursday afternoon last week, the mother left her three-months-old child asleep in the cot and went into the back garden. A little later an older child went into the house to get something from his room. Finding the room dark, he lit a candle and while he was looking under the bed for the article desired, the candle set the bedding alight. He did not notice the flames and left the room and went out into the grounds of the house. The mother, who was working in the garden, happened to look towards the house a few minutes later and saw the left hand portion of the building was on fire and burning fiercely. She rushed up to the house to try and rescue her daughter, but the flames were so terrific that she was forced back. The smoke and her screams attracted the attention of some of her neighbours, who rushed to the house to try and extinguish the flames. A young Indian named Govindasamy, hearing of the small child being in the house, wrapped his coat around his head and fought his way through the smoke and flames and managed to get to the child. He had just emerged from the house when the roof collapsed. A number of Indians formed themselves into a fire fighting party and tried to fight the flames with buckets of water drawn from a well about 20 yards away from the

house. But the heat of the flames was so terrific that they could not go within 10 yards of the conflagration. Within half an hour the house, which was built of wood and iron, was burned to the ground and the only part that was left standing was the fireplace and the chimney, which were built of bricks. All the furniture of the house and clothes were destroyed. It is estimated that about £500 worth of damage was done.

[Note: Though no one can go against destiny, one thing our Indian mothers especially, and Indians generally, have to learn from this incident, is, that candles should never be left burning anywhere and, above all, little children should never be allowed to light and handle a candle. The heroism of Govindasamy, the saviour of the three-months-old child, is worthy of public recognition. We very heartily congratulate him.—Ed. I.O.]

### Asiatics In Klerksdorp—Commission's Recommendations

Thirty-two stands bounded by Commissioner, Pretoria, Kimberley and King Edward Streets are recommended for exemption from discrimination against coloured persons in Klerksdorp by the Transvaal Land Tenure Act Commission, whose report was laid on the table of the House. The report, describing the origin of Asiatic trading in Klerksdorp, states that it started as early as March, 1888. There were two licensed businesses in existence before the South African War. In 1907 there were 11; in 1920 there were 15; in 1933 there were 20; in May, 1936, there were 13; and in December, 1936, 22. In a report

submitted to the Commission by Captain M. Davis, District Commandant S.A.P., he described the Asiatics as "a law-abiding community," and said: "They give particularly no trouble at all." The attitude of the Klerksdorp Town Council was that there should be no exemption of land in townships, but that the Government should obtain, if necessary, by expropriation, land outside the town contiguous to the European settlements on which provision should be made for the accommodation of Asiatics and coloured people. This was in effect a proposal for the removal of all Asiatic traders to an Asiatic bazaar. Asiatic traders in Klerksdorp depend in the main on European custom, and enforced removal to a bazaar outside the township therefore means, in most cases, the closing down of their businesses. Later the Town Council modified the proposal and suggested that there should be an area in the township where reasonable occupation by Asiatics would be permissible.

### Union's Debt To Britain

"The visit of General Hertzog and Mr. Havenga, Mr. Fourie and Senator Clarkson (the Cabinet Ministers who have left to attend the Coronation and the Imperial Conference) to London is a matter of outstanding importance in the history of South Africa," declared General Smuts, addressing a public meeting at Capetown on April 17. "Not only was this the first time that South Africa, as a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, was to be represented at a Coronation of our King but our representatives would also attend one of the most important Imperial Conferences in the history of

he Empire." The Imperial Conference, said General Smuts, was a meeting of young and virile nations whose aim was peace and progress and it would be a mighty factor in promoting the interests of peace. General Smuts referred to the danger of South Africa turning away its best friends and said: "We must remember that, as a Sovereign State any quarrel we get dragged into we will have to deal with ourselves. Without the assistance of the Navy one enemy battleship is enough to lay most of the coastal towns in ruins." General Smuts mentioned the Bill for the prevention of European women working for Asiatics and said that very little evidence had been forthcoming about such cases. Both the Indian Government and Japan had lodged strong protests against this measure and the Government had now decided not to proceed any further with the Bill this year but to investigate the matter very thoroughly.

**Appointment Of Acting Ministers**

In the absence of the Union Ministers who have gone to attend the Coronation and the Imperial Conference, General Smuts has been appointed Acting Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. Mr. O. Pirow has been appointed Acting Minister of Finance and of Commerce and Industries and Mr. F. O. Sturrock has been appointed Acting Minister of Public Works and of Posts and Telegraphs.

**Indian Estate Agents Of Natal**

In view of the proposed legislation in the next Session of Parliament to protect and consolidate the estate agency business in South Africa, as suggested by the European estate agents and in connection with which a conference is to be held in Bloemfontein next June, the Indian estate agents of Natal have formed an institute of their own to protect their vested interests and to defend their rights against any encroachments or interference with such rights. This has been found necessary because membership of the Natal Real Estate Agent's Institute is restricted to Europeans only. The membership is restricted to bona fide Indian estate agents only. The Institute is prepared to cooperate with the European institute in all matters.

**Bursary For An Indian Boy**

Several gentlemen of Dundee have agreed to award one Indian boy a bursary amounting to £5 per month to continue further studies after having gained school continuation certificates. As arrangements are at present, a fund sufficient for one year is in hand, and undertaking for future years can be made at short notice after the selection of the candidate. Any Indian boy having received his school continuation certificate, and not being able to proceed with further studies owing to financial inadequacy, should communicate with Donors, P.O. Box 14, Dundee, Natal, when his applica-

tion will be considered. Please give full details, such as age, certificates held, future ambition, etc., etc.

**Nutrition Of School Children**

A sum of £4,000 has been provided in the supplementary estimates under the Public Health Vote, for a nutrition survey of children and the Secretary for Public Health, Sir Edward Thornton, when interviewed after the tabling of the additional estimates said this amount would probably be increased to £7,000. "We want to make a flying survey of the nutrition of school children throughout the country," he said. "The proposal is that we should co-operate with the Provincial Administrations in the work, employing extra staff if necessary. Malnutrition may be due to a number of sources, said Sir Edward. It may be insufficient food or it may be food which is sufficient in quantity but deficient in balance. Obviously where food is insufficient in balance remedial measures are possible. If it is a question of lack of knowledge education is the remedy. If it is poverty a bigger issue is involved which, to a large extent, is outside the scope of the Health Department and be-

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comes a matter for the Department of Labour and Social Welfare. What we are really anxious to do is to collect accurate information in regard to the physical standards of children in each district as well as information relating to dietary habits and any other factors which may have a bearing on the subject."

**New Tamil School Building**

A spacious school building at Pentrich, near Maritzburg, donated by Mr. Koopie Murrie to the Tamil Protective Association, will be formally opened by Mr. F. D. Hugo, Superintendent of Education, on May 2, at 10 a.m. The Tamil Protective Association was founded in 1916, with the object, among others, of imparting Tamil vernacular education. A Tamil school was conducted in a wood and iron building at Camps Drift for a number of years, but this was found to be unsuitable and detrimental to the health of the children. On representations made, Mr. Koopie Murrie agreed to build and donate a substantial building to accommodate a large number of children.

**Nizamia Muslim Society**

A committee meeting of the Nizamia Muslim Society was held at the secretary's office, Maritzburg, on Thursday, April 22. After the confirmation of the

last minutes, the secretary reported useful services having been rendered to deserving cases. Fourteen new members were admitted to the society, making a total of two hundred and forty-three members on the register. It was unanimously decided to open a class for the purpose of studying first aid and many things arising therefrom. These classes are to be held in the evenings. Two vacancies in the committee were filled by the election of Messrs. Oadar Banoo Shaikh and Shaik Ebrahim. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

**Shri Ramnavmi Festival**

The birthday celebration of Shri Ramachandra, known as the Shri Ramnavmi Festival, took place at the Chakas Kraal Hindu Temple on Monday, April 19. There was a large gathering. The girl pupils of Mr. J. Misra said prayers and Miss Chundravati Devi, daughter of Mr. S. Roopsigh, and Mr. J. Misra, spoke on Ramnavmi celebration and Messrs. Sewshanker Tewary, Sewshanker Paramunsee and J. Misra spoke on education.

A similar festival was celebrated at the Shri Sanatan Dharma Temple at Randles Road, Sydenham, Durban, on April 19. Interesting speeches were delivered by Pandit Tulsiaram and Mr. D. M. Koobair. Over twelve hundred people were present. A grand entertainment was provided by the Springfield Dramatic Club.

Muslim-Bana Samrodi of Durban has received an acknowledgment from the secretary of H. E. the Governor-General expressing His Excellency's thanks for the welcome message sent by him.

**Colonial Born And Settlers' Indian Association**  
**MASS MEETING**

A mass meeting of the Colonial Born and Settler Indians will be held at the Victoria Picture Palace, Victoria Street, Durban, on Sunday May 2 1937, at 2-30 p.m.

**ATTEND IN YOUR HUNDREDS**

Business:—(1) To consider the present position of Indians in South Africa and to decide thereon.  
(2) To protest against the assurance given to the Government.

A. CHRISTOPHER,  
President.  
S. L. SINGH,  
D. S. CHETTY,  
A. HAFEEJEE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries

# India Letter

(EXTRACTS FROM A. I. C. O. FOREIGN LETTER)

## Oath Of Allegiance To Congress

**T**HE most solemn and impressive occasion during more than a week of intense national activities in Delhi was witnessed when members of the National Convention took the oath of allegiance to the Congress and pledged themselves to the services of India. President Nehru administered the oath which was repeated word for word in Hindustani by every member of the Convention, the whole House standing. The oath ran as follows:

"I, a member of this All-India Convention, convened by the Indian National Congress, pledge myself to the service of India and to work in the Legislatures and outside for the independence of India and the ending of the exploitation and poverty of her people. I pledge myself to work under the discipline of the Congress for the furtherance of Congress ideals and objectives to the end that India may be free and independent and her millions freed from the heavy burdens they suffer from."

## Government Of India Act

The Convention reiterated the opinion of the Indian people that the Government of India Act of 1935 had been designed to perpetuate the subjection of the Indian people and to strengthen the hold of British Imperialism on India. In view of the unmistakable verdict of the Electorate the constitution stood condemned and utterly rejected by the people through the self-same democratic process which had been invoked by the British Government. The Convention, therefore, reiterated its demand for a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult suffrage and having the power to determine finally, in order to frame a constitution for the genuine democratic State in India where political power has been transferred to the people as a whole.

## President's Address

In his address, President Nehru explained the significance of the election. "How carefully and lovingly the Government had nursed the great vested interests of India, encouraged the big landlords and communalists, helped them to organise themselves to oppose us and looked confidently for success in its evil venture! Where are they now, these pillars of Imperialism in India and exploiters of the Indian people? Sunk almost without trace, overwhelmed by the sea of Indian humanity, swept away by the big broom of the masses from the political scene. Like a house

of cards, they have fallen at the touch of reality; even so will others go who oppose India's freedom and a day will come when British Imperialism throttles and crushes our people no more and is a dream of the past for us. If there is any meaning in democracy, if this complicated and expensive apparatus of elections and voting has any sense behind it and is not an impertinent farce, then the Indian people have spoken so that even the deaf might hear, and proclaimed that they will not have this constitution."

## Election Results

The Congress secured approximately 65% of the total votes cast and 74% of the total seats in the Madras Assembly. In Bombay 56% of the votes and 49% of the seats; in United Provinces 65% of the votes and 59% of the seats; in Bengal 25% of the votes and 22% of the seats; in Central Provinces 61% of the votes and 62.5% of seats; in North West Frontier Province 38% of the total seats; in Orissa 60% of the seats and in Assam 35%; in Sindh 12% of the votes and an equal percentage of the seats. Out of the 482 Muslim seats in all the Provincial Assemblies, the Congress contested 58 and won 26. In the Frontier Province, the Congress captured 15 out of 36 Muslim seats. Out of a total of 38 labour seats in all the provinces, the Congress contested 20 and won 18. Of the Landholders and Commerce and Industry seats numbering 37 and 56 respectively, the Congress won 4 of the former and 3 of the latter.

## Indian Legislature

The ruthless suppression of the civil liberties by the Government and the perpetuation of the repressive measures originally intended to meet the situation created by the Civil Disobedience movement, formed the subject-matter of a cut motion which was passed by the Legislative Assembly by 61 votes to 55. The policy of detention without trial came in for scathing condemnation and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, leader of the Opposition, exposed the utter hollowness of the policy recently adopted by the Government of Bengal, of imparting industrial training to the detenus prior to their release. It was, said Mr. Desai, simply a method of covering a wrong indication of the Government's utter lack of courage to acknowledge a wrong done. If the Government felt that terrorism was due to unemployment and that the way to combat terrorism was to qualify terrorists for employment, then they should have adopted the present policy at the very beginning without "piling

up so much misery and suffering and loss of human life and liberty." The real intention of the Government in promulgating all the repressive measures was to suppress the spirit of patriotism in the Indian people. "It is only because," said Mr. Desai, "you dare not condemn mere patriotism that you give it the false name of anarchism and then proceed to treat like dogs respectable young men who, under better circumstances and under a freer Government, would be the best material for the defence of the country."

A cut motion was also carried by a substantial majority censuring the Executive Council for the general policy of the Government and their failure to ameliorate the conditions of the people. It should be noticed that in any free country in the world a single censure on any one of such issues would have been enough to drive the Ministry out of office. In India the Ministry goes on merrily to function in spite of half-a-dozen censures! That is the most eloquent commentary on the British dictum of Dominion Status being at work in India.

## Finance Bill Thrown Out

As in the case of the budget demands for grants, so also in that of the Finance Bill, the debate in the Assembly only brought to the fore the irresponsible character of the Government of India. The Finance Bill embodied a miserable piece of statesmanship and was remarkable for the absence of any provision for the relief of the taxpayer. The taxing of the poor man's salt was to remain as usual and no relief was to be given in the shape of cheaper post card to the poor peasants and labourers with their relatives to write to in distant places. In addition, the sugar industry which is still in its infancy, was to be burdened with an additional excise duty. Naturally such a Finance Bill came in for trenchant comments and judicious shearing. By a fair margin the Assembly passed two amendments, one abolishing the additional sugar excise duty and another reducing the price of the post-card. In conformity, however, with their traditional irresponsibility, the Government refused to accept the amendments. They requisitioned the over-riding power of the Viceroy with the result that His Excellency certified the Finance Bill as having been passed by the Assembly in its original form. The Assembly, in its turn, refused to take the insult lying down. For the third time in succession the certified Finance Bill was rejected by the Assembly *in toto*, not a single elected member voting for it. The final rejection of the Finance Bill was followed by the loud opposition cries of "resign," "resign!"



# The Sporting World

## Coronation Sports

**P**REPARATIONS are speeding ahead for the Adult Coronation Sports Meeting to be held at Currie's Fountain, on May 12. For the various events, over £50 of fine trophies have already been purchased by the committee in charge and some more are to be purchased during the next few days. This should be an excellent incentive to athletes who in the past have suffered from a dearth of sports meetings. Details regarding the sports meeting for May 12 may be had by writing to the Secretary of the Coronation Sports Committee, c/o Currie's Fountain, Durban. The events are only for the residents of Durban.

## Soccer.

### Last Saturday's Matches

There was a fine crowd present at Currie's Fountain last Saturday to witness the second day's soccer in the Durban Indian League. A slight breeze marred sport to some extent but had very little difference on the scoring chances of respective teams. In the senior division, Stella met the Daffodils on the main ground in an early match. With the advantage of the breeze Stella netted early, but could not score again before the interval. The wind made ball-control a little difficult and the Stella forwards lost several valuable opportunities through mis-judged shooting. On the resumption the Daffodils equalised. Later Stella took the lead again and were unfortunate in the last few minutes of the game when the Daffodils managed to call a draw by equalising (2-2).

The Star-Pirates match was a more one-sided affair, the Stars predominating the game for the most part and scoring even against the wind. Stars emerged victors by 2-0. This is the second match the Pirates have lost so far.

On the No. 1 ground the Sydenham took easy toll over the Collegians, winning by the comfortable margin of 4-0. The second match on the No. 1 was a more ding-dong affair between the Shamrocks and the Avondales. Both teams played scrappy soccer, however, and there was little to choose between either from the point of view of combination or ball-control. Avondales were fortunate to win by 2-0.

### The Juveniles

The first juvenile matches were contested last Saturday. Two matches were played. In the first, Sastri College A. beat the Flemings by 4-1, while the Sastri College B. went down to Stella by 4-1.

By "Rambler"

### Fixtures

The following are the fixtures for Saturday, May 1:—

Seniors: Avondales vs. Stella (Main) 2 30 p.m.; Pirates vs. Sydenham (Main) 3 45 p.m.; Daffodils vs. Shamrocks (No. 1) 2 30 p.m.; Stars vs. Collegians (No. 1) 3 45 p.m.

Juniors: Daffodils vs. Stella (No. 2) 2 30 p.m.; Victorians vs. Red Rovers (No. 2) 3 45 p.m.; Sastri B. vs. Sastri A. (No. 3) 2 30 p.m.; Sparks vs. All Blacks (No. 3) 3 45 p.m.

Juvenile: Avondale vs. Flemings (No. 4) 2 30 p.m.; Sastri A. vs. Stella (No. 4) 3 45 p.m.

Sunday League: Olare Estate vs. Silver Stars (No. 1) 3 p.m.; Silverton vs. Swifts (Main) 3 p.m.

### Newcastle And District Indian Football Association

The seventeenth annual general meeting of the Newcastle and District Indian Football Association was held at Newcastle, on April 17. Affiliations were received from four senior clubs, two from Newcastle and two from Dannhauser. The president, Mr. O. J. Christopher, in his report, congratulated the League winners of the past season and stated that in view of the attitude of the Natal Indian Football Association last year in setting down the fixtures for the final in both the Intertown and Natal Cup at the coast, compensation should be made this year by setting both these fixtures in the north. Newcastle had kept their fixture for the Intertown match in the final at Durban and lost on a narrow margin. The Newcastle Indian Football Club failed in their fixture against the best team of the Klip River, but the later also travelled to Maritzburg to fulfil their final fixture. After the usual business of the meeting had been disposed of, the following elections took place:—Patrons: Messrs. E. I. Lockhat, Sheik Abdool, S. Loganathan, I. S. Vawda, A. M. Ephraim and Ramlalsingh; President: Mr. O. J. Christopher (re elected); Vice-Presidents: Messrs. M. Chetty, C. Gopaul, N. G. Nulliah, G. G. Chetty, S. Nobath, D. Pachai and M. Ally; Hon. Secretary: Mr. N. P. Naidoo; Hon. Asst. Secretary: Mr. S. Booderam; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. Chetty; Hon. Auditor: D. Pachai; Hon. Record Clerk: Mr. A. M. Ephraim; Delegates to the Natal Indian Football Association: Messrs. O. J. Christopher and Loganathan; Nominee to the Natal Executive: Mr. R. Pachai, Durban. After the appointment of sub-committees, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

## Local And General

### Muslim Institute

At a general meeting of the Muslim Institute held in Durban on April 11, the following new office-bearers were elected:—Patrons: Messrs. A. I. Kaje, A. S. Kathrada and M. A. Motala; President: Mr. E. H. Ismail; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. R. Randeree, D. M. Jeewa and C. L. Amra; Hon. gen. secretary: Mr. E. I. Moola; Councillors: Messrs. V. M. Latiff, A. M. Langry, A. E. Jeewa and M. I. Omarjee; Auditor: Mr. D. M. Jeewa.

### Week-end Camping At

### Umbogintwini

A correspondent from Stella Hill writes:—

About 40 children of the Stella Hill Indian School, of which 23 were girls, including six teachers, Mrs. B. L. Naidoo and a few young men of the district, left the above school on April 23 by lorry under the supervision of Messrs. M. M. Naicker and R. L. Naidoo, to camp at Umbogintwini. This was the first "mixed camp" in the history of the school and proved very successful. The party, after enjoying itself with delicious meals, prepared by Messrs. M. M. Naicker and R. Gosh, arranged for a variety concert on Saturday night (April 24), the music being conducted by Messrs. S. Narain, G. Samuel and L. R. Naidoo. The most interesting item was the "Indian Folklore Dance," given by the girls with their beautifully coloured saris. After visiting the "Tiger Rock" and other places of interest, the party left for home on Sunday afternoon. Very great thanks are due to Messrs. S. A. Naidoo, Chin Naidoo, and also to Mr. Clarke of Isipingo for allowing the party to camp on his property and for the use of his water.

## Obituary

### Death Of Mr. M. E. Asmal

News has been received in Durban of the death of Mr. M. E. Asmal in Kathor, India. Mr. Asmal was the son of a prominent Durban Indian businessman, the late Mr. Ebrahim Asmal, and was well known in Durban for his sporting activities. The news of his death was received by the Secretary of the Natal Muslim Youth's Brigade, Mr. H. A. Kharwa. Mr. M. E. Asmal played a great part in establishing the Natal Muslim Youth's Brigade, of which he was formerly a chairman and commander-in-chief. He was also a member of the Muslim Cricket Club, which he served as captain for two years. He left Durban for India on holiday last August and his sudden death at the early age of about 28 has shocked the local Indian community. We extend to the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy.

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