

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

All Races Equally King's Subjects (7)

MR. J. H. HOFMEYR, Minister of Mines, Education and Labour and Social Welfare, addressed a united Coronation service for non-Europeans at the Buitenkant Street Methodist Church, Capetown. After reminding his audience that the service had been arranged more especially for the non-European people of Capetown to enable them in their own way and in one of their own churches to meet together in a spirit of reverence and worship on the day of the crowning of their King, Mr. Hofmeyr said to them, "This day should mean as much to you as to any other section of His Majesty's subjects..... "For our rejoicing we have a two-fold ground," said Mr. Hofmeyr. "First, we should rejoice in the crowning of our King as the symbol of our own nationhood and, in that regard, not least as a bond of union for all the people of South Africa—whatever their origin, whatever their race, whatever their colour, are equally the subjects of His Majesty the King. He is as much the King of the humblest among us as he is the King of the Prime Minister of this land. To him all have the right to look for equal justice; in him we all may equally take pride."

Sentiments Which Have

No Meaning

These are very fine sentiments but do they mean anything to the non-Europeans of South Africa? How can they be unconscious of the fact that they are classed as "untouchables" of this land? With this inferior status imposed upon them how can they be expected to rejoice in the crowning of the King as a bond of union of all the people of South Africa, and to feel that whatever their origin, whatever their race, whatever their colour, they are equally the subjects of His Majesty the King and that in him all had the right to look for equal justice. Little does the King know what grave injustices are perpetrated in his name. There is nothing but cant hypocrisy in the sentiments expressed by the Minister. Not that he himself is not sincere, but the whole system of Government is such as would create despair among the non-Europeans rather than joy and happiness on this occasion. One would have thought

that this bond of union of the people South Africa, irrespective of race or colour, would, at least, have been demonstrated on this great occasion of the crowning of the King, and that the white, the black and the brown races would have all mingled together and shared each other's joys and pleasures. But even that was not to be. The non-Europeans—and we are grieved to have to include among them Indians too—have been so accustomed to the status of untouchables that has been imposed upon them that they are now satisfied, indeed delighted, with the crumbs thrown to them. But even more painful was that on a day like this we read of a jarring note in the Durban City Hall when a public dance to celebrate the occasion was on, that some non-Europeans who were found seated among the crowd, were cleared out of the Hall. We would not at all wonder if many such incidents took place in the Union. The only solace the non-Europeans, who are the down-trodden of this country, can find, is not in the King that is crowned, but in the King of Kings of Whom one can without doubt say that, He knoweth not origin, nor race nor colour. To Him the mightiest of the mighty and the lowliest of the lowly are all equal and will be dealt with equal justice. Would that the haughtiness of the White man is subdued by this thought.

Just Read This!

On the Vote Union Education in the House of Assembly Mr. J. D. H. Verster (U.P., Zwartkops) said he was surprised to learn that there were no fewer than 44 non-European students at the Capetown University. He did not think that it was proper that European and non-European students should sit together at a university. These non-European students had established their own sporting clubs. He had no objection to that, but he was strongly opposed to these students wearing the blazers and badges of the University. Even in the swimming baths attempts were being made by the non-Europeans to swim together with the European students.

Replying to the Rev. C. W. M. du Toit, Mr. Hofmeyr said that he thought that there were 37 coloured students in the Capetown University, and five in Johannesburg. Mr. Du Toit said he was not opposed to coloured people enjoying higher education, but he thought that once their number grew, some existing coloured institution should be extended to accommodate them.

Mr. Hofmeyr, replying, said that as far as non-Europeans in South African Universities were concerned, it was clear that without legislation the Minister could not interfere, and he was not prepared to introduce such legislation. At present it was left to the discretion of the Universities, and if the policy followed by the Universities was not approved of by the public, they would lose the support of the public, on whom they were largely dependent.

Dr. Malan said that he would like to urge the present Minister of Education to consider applying the principle of separate education at the Capetown University where the position, he said, had developed to such an extent that it had become intolerable. He suggested that the Minister should seriously investigate the possibility of making some arrangement whereby non-European students could receive separate higher education.

The Minister of Education (Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr), replying, said he would certainly consider the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition to institute an investigation in the direction of separate higher education for Europeans and non-Europeans. At the present moment it would be impracticable to apply that principle to the Capetown University, where the number of non-European students was so limited.

Now how could one reconcile Mr. Hofmeyr's fine sentiments which we have quoted above with this perverse mentality of White South Africa?

Indian Question To Be Discussed At Imperial Conference

The question of Indians in South Africa will be discussed between Indian and South African representatives at the Imperial Conference. The question, says a Reuter's message from London, cannot rightly be raised in the constitutional sub-committee which will deal with questions which arises from the status of the Dominion and other nationals within the Empire, but Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan stated that he and Mr. Bakadur Bejjal are taking advantage of the presence in London of General Hertzog and other South Africans to discuss informally the matter of the recent anti-Asiatic

legislation in the Union. Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan added that he was anxious to present a case which should preclude Indians in South Africa living under disabilities compared with other Union subjects.

The Agent-General

The Agent-General for India and Lady Ali left Capetown for Johannesburg on May 15. Mr. F. Ridley, Secretary to the Agent-General accompanied them. After spending a fortnight in Johannesburg, Sir Raza and Lady Ali will come to Durban for four months, and will then return to Johannesburg until they go to Capetown for the next session of the Parliament.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MAY 21ST, 1937

Further Immigration Restrictions

HAVING accepted the closed door policy in 1914, with the exception of six educated entrants per year, it was expected that those Indians who were domiciled in the Union and their lawful descendants would not have imposed upon them any further restrictions in regard to their entry and residence in this country by the Government. These hopes were, however, shattered when in 1927 a fresh restriction was imposed upon domiciled Indians, that they would lose the right of entry into the Union if they remained outside longer than three years. Then, again, in 1931 the Transvaal Registration Certificate, which gave the holder an undisputed right of entry in the Transvaal, was rendered null and void, if the holder of such certificate remained over three years outside the Union. It need hardly be stated that this was a flagrant breach of the 1914 Smuts-Gandhi Settlement by the Government wherein the latter had promised that the existing rights of domiciled Indians would not be interfered with. Of course since then Indians have lost many of their existing rights which have time and again been enumerated in these columns and it is not our purpose to deal with them in the present article. We wish to deal here only

with the restrictions on immigration.

A fresh piece of enactment has emerged from the present session of Parliament known as the "Immigration Amendment Act, 1937." In introducing the Bill in Parliament, the Acting Minister of the Interior, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, gave the House to understand that the main object in introducing the Bill was to facilitate the importation of Native labour for the mines. The whole debate took place on this point and the other amendments embodied in the Bill were passed without a single word having been uttered about them. The Act is published in the Union Gazette Extraordinary dated May 8. On reading the Act we find that it is not as innocent as it was thought to be and that it detrimentally affects the Indian community in that it deprives many of their birth-right in this country and curtails the rights of exempted Indians.

The principal Act provides, that any person born in any place outside the Union, whose parents were at the time of his birth domiciled in any part of South Africa, included in the Union, would have the same rights as though he were born in the Union of domiciled parents. That is to say, he would have a birth-right in South Africa. The amending Act of 1927 added a proviso to this

that such person will enjoy the said right if he enters or is brought into the Union within three years from the date of his birth. This proviso, however, did not apply to those persons born prior to the Act of 1927. The Immigration Amendment Act of 1937 now makes it incumbent on all those born outside the Union of parents domiciled in the Union to enter the Union *before the first day of June, 1937* or within three years from the date of their birth. This would mean that if all such persons born prior to 1927 and since fail to enter the Union before the *first day of June 1937* they will lose their birthright in this country. Quite obviously, it is physically impossible for such persons to enter the Union before that date and, therefore, by a stroke of the pen, their birth-right in this country has been taken away. Moreover should such persons be minors and their parents have lost their domicile by death or other reasons, they may never enter the Union at all.

It is indeed more than surprising that the Acting Minister of the Interior, Mr. Hofmeyr, who is known and respected for his broad-mindedness should have been responsible for getting the Act through Parliament with such an unjust provision, in that it does not provide for a reasonable opportunity to persons affected to enter the Union in order to protect their birthright. Surely it is reasonable to expect that such persons should be given sufficient notice before they are deprived of their rights which, in the present instance, has not been done.

One would like to know what the Agent-General for India, who is here to see that the rights and interests of Indian nationals are safeguarded, has done in this matter. If it has unconsciously been overlooked, surely there should be no further delay in making representations to the Authorities to, at least, grant an extension of time beyond the 1st of June, 1937, so that persons affected by the new Act could be duly notified and enabled to protect their right in this country by entering the Union. There are other provisions in the Act which require to be carefully scrutinised. Much will depend on the interpretation given them by the Immigration Authorities.

THIS EXPLOITATION

"I want my country to have nothing to do with this enormous engine of exploitation in Asia and Africa."—PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

IN this pronouncement the President of the Congress has struck the true and only worth-while note. For the poison at the root of India's troubles, South Africa's troubles, the world's troubles is this same Exploitation, the false notion that any people can make any lasting growth and progress along the path of exploitation.

Our civilisation is no better than an adaptation of jungle ethics to the lives and affairs of men. Within certain limitations only the weak remain the legitimate prey of the strong, the less shrewd of the more astute, the simple of the cunning. Needs are regarded as but opportunities for profit-making, exploitation, "acquiring something for nothing." The "system" has degenerated into little better than a universal game of grab. The stronger nations grab bodily from the weaker in order to furnish wider fields for grabbing their own nationals, "expansion" is, I believe, the politer if more euphemistic expression employed.

The extension of "spheres of influence," the enslavement of weaker peoples in order to make them "customers" i.e.

By
L. W. RITCH

providers of the "something for nothing" called "profit," payers of the "something for nothing" called "interest," becomes imperative when the domestic field for exploitation approaches absorption point, that it has, itself, been exploited to the point of exhaustion. Wherefore, Britain's hold upon India; Italy's predatory exploits in Abyssinia; Germany's 'gratuitous' interference in Spain; Japan's buldgeoning of China.

What needs to be grasped is that national, imperial, racial exploitation is but the mass application of conduct that expresses the normal mental and moral outlook of the individuals composing the larger units. Nor do we find the smaller and weaker units more free from the exploitation complex than the bigger and stronger; the servient any more so than the dominant. Governmental labels make no difference. Exploitation is the common denominator of human relations equally with the "free and independent" Republic of America as with the Dependency of India. The "enormous engine," as Panditji terms it, moulds, and dominates our relationships individual and

collective, only because it is the creature of our own creation, the soulless robot constructed of the materials of our cupidity, our selfishness, our unbrotherliness. Of the world's peoples Russia, alone, would appear to have resolved upon banishing the monster. Whether or not she will succeed still remains to be seen. Certain it is, however, that an A 1 order can never be created out of the C 3 ingredients of selfishness and egotism. Reforms must invariably be initiated from within; the would-be free become worthy of freedom. The slavish are fit only for their bondage. Is a man of mean and cramped soul free and worthy to rule though he be master of his own household? As Gandhiji has pointed out, self-rule is an indispensable condition precedent to true freedom. Except the self-seeking "I" of conflicting interests be dethroned and replaced by the Self that is common to mankind, no freedom can be; for exploitation enslaves the exploiter no less than the exploited. The latter may be starved in body; the former becomes starved in soul. Moreover, unless the wisdom of the sages is no better than so much foolishness, the exploiter of one day shall assuredly become the exploited of another, the selfish be made to eat the bitter fruits of his own selfishness

ASIATIC QUESTION AGAIN BEFORE PARLIAMENT ASSURANCE BY THE GOVERNMENT

A LAST minute attempt to revive the Asiatic Bills controversy was made in the Assembly on Monday last, before Parliament adjourned for the recess. The Rev. Mr. Du Toit (Nat., Colesberg) introduced the subject on the Appropriation Bill. He recalled that although three Bills dealing with relations between Asiatics and Europeans had been introduced this session none of them had been passed. The Acting Minister Mr. Pirow had actually gone so far at one time as to state definitely that by the end of the session no white girls would be employed by Asiatics, but he had had trouble with his colleagues in the Cabinet and nothing had come of that undertaking. Two of the Bills were referred to a select committee, upon which he (Mr. du Toit) and Mr. Strydom had served. They had proposed that no Europeans should be allowed to work for a non-European, but all the other members of the select committee had voted against this. When the select committee reported the Minister (Mr. Pirow) said that it had made legislation impossible. If that was so the majority was to blame. No blame could be attached to him and

Mr. Strydom. They had also proposed that Europeans and non-Europeans should be segregated but that proposal had also been defeated.

Some striking evidence had been given before the select committee concerning marriages between white girls and Asiatics. In one case the evidence of European witnesses had been contradicted by Asiatic witnesses and the select committee decided to make inquiries. The chairman (Mr. Hofmeyr) telegraphed for the information but when it arrived he made one excuse after another for not laying it before the select committee. It was only when a question was put to him in the House that he was compelled to make public the reply he had received from the magistrate concerned. The reply revealed that the father of the white girl had been allowed credit by an Asiatic, and when he could not pay had been persuaded to allow the girl to work in the Asiatic's shop. He was allowed more credit, and when he was again unable to pay he was induced to allow the girl to marry the Asiatic. There were six children, all of whom were brought up as Mohammedans. He

(Mr. du Toit) was convinced that the chairman of the select committee (Mr. Hofmeyr) had deliberately withheld this letter from the committee. There were other similar cases, all of which showed how urgent legislation was if South Africa was to be kept a white country.

Not The Proper Time

The Acting Prime Minister (General Smuts) said that he did not think that it was the right time to start a debate on this matter. The Prime Minister had clearly announced the Government's policy. Personally he felt that before Parliament undertook any legislation on a matter on which there was such a diversity of opinion in the country it should have the full facts before it.

Mr. Du Toit: Aren't these the facts I quoted.

The Minister: These are not the facts. The select committee tried at several meetings to get at the facts. I feel that we have not got right to the bottom of the matter, and we have not got the full facts and figures.

(Continued on page 244)

SASTRI ON DEADLOCK IN INDIA

The following is full text of the statement made by the Rt. Hon. Srinivas Sastri, to the *Hindu* (Madras), on the recent political crisis in India as a result of the refusal of the Congress members to accept office in the Provincial Legislatures:—

“ALL that has been said and written in defence of the Congress demand for an assurance from the Governors fails to convince me that the step was either necessary or prudent. Fresh from their resounding victory at the polls and conscious of their strength, Congress ministers could well have gone to work for the benefit of the people and waited until the other side opened fire. The demand, however, having been made by the Congress, was it not proper to allow each Local Governor full liberty to negotiate with the leader with whom he had to deal? The Government of India or the Secretary of State seem to have taken up a non possumus attitude and directed each Governor as politely and as smoothly as possible to refuse compliance.

“I cannot believe that the law, as it stands, prevents the adoption of a wise and liberal policy. The ingenuity of lawyers is quite equal to the task of

devising formula which would have saved the scope and tenor of the law, while giving the Congress cabinets security from the interference which they desired. The resolution of the A.I.C.C., on the other hand, should not have been interpreted so rigidly as to prevent the local leader from giving to his Governor the assurance that he was not seeking a convert extension of the Act or diminution of the status of the Governor. If it was to be a Gentleman's Agreement, the two High Commands ought not to have tied the hands of the gentlemen who were to agree.

“It is particularly lamentable that Whitehall and Delhi should be so blind in their conservatism as not to see what is so abundantly clear—that the country has made up its mind not to submit quietly to the Government of India Act and its restrictions and that if the growth from the present position to a larger measure of democracy is to be easy and safe the right course for the Governor is to be generous in the interpretation and operation of the enactment which, both on its merits and by provoking the circumstances in which it was brought into being, has trampled on their pledges and on the wishes of the Indian people. History proclaims that

a large electorate, roused to a sense of its power would expect its decisions to be treated with respect and consideration. To flout them and to try to carry on the King's Government in defiance of their clear mandate is not merely to exasperate them, but greatly to increase their strength and their determination to fight the constitutional struggle to a finish.

To withhold from the Congress the opportunities necessary to prove the merits of its policy and the test of its strength and its weakness and to consign it to the shades of opposition is even from the narrow standpoint of Government only to put more and more power into its hands and make the task of administration full of difficulties and frustrations.”

Concluding, Mr. Sastri said: “Since the Third Round Table Conference, the so-called National Government of Britain has only been blundering disastrously in its treatment of India. The story of Ireland has taught it nothing. The perverseness of its Indian policy can only be measured when the outbreak of the next world war shows the extent to which the loyalty of the people has been alienated.”

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TAMILIANS AND TELUGUS

TO THE EDITOR “INDIAN OPINION”

SIR,—There appeared in your issue of the 14th instant, an article written by “Indian” in connection with Mr. A. A. Peter's organisation of the Indian Radio Programme on Coronation eve.

I have no desire to enter into any controversy on the merits of your correspondent's logic in this matter, but wish to criticise a passage appearing in his letter, viz.,

“he has divided even the Tamilians into two sections—the Telugus and Tamilians.”

Sir, I wish to point out to your correspondent that, Telugus are not Tamilians nor the Tamilians are Telugus.

How could the two communities be classified as one by your correspondent, when the languages of both differ so vastly? The Andhras say that the Telugu language is a direct offspring of Sans-

krit, and this is proved by the immense number of Sanskrit words used in their lingo; on the other hand, the Tamilians claim Tamil to be “a language on its own.”

If your correspondent is a constant reader of your worthy paper, he would have read in your issue of April 23, that the Telugus had celebrated their New Year on April 11 and the Tamilians on April 13. If these two sections are one community, why have two separate New Years.

Sir, I only quote these two examples to show that the Telugus and Tamils are as wide apart as the two poles. Perhaps your correspondent is misled due to certain amount of “admixture” taking place in this country among some families in both communities by intermarriages, nevertheless, if an

Englishman marries an Afrikaan's beauty, will you call the Englishman an Afrikaaner. Certainly not; so Sir, it is always best to call a spade a spade.

Yours etc.,

L. KRISHNAYA NAIDOO.

Fountain of Wisdom

“There is no wealth but life: life including all its powers of love, of joy, and of admiration.

That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings.

That man is the richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest helpful influence both personal and by means of his possessions, over the lives of others.”—F. ROUSSEAU.

SUGAR CRISIS IN THE UNION

THE introduction of quota for the manufacture of sugar and sugar cane plantation, by the Union Government, appears to be somewhat unusual to this country. Natal, which has a vast acreage under cane and the milling efficiency for the purpose, when compared with the world's production, cannot be termed as a keen competitor in the sugar market. The largest output comes from Java, Cuba and Mauritius for the export trade. Therefore the question arises whether the Union Government, for that reason, should adopt a policy to hinder her own industry when millions of acres of fertile land in the cane belt remain undeveloped, by introducing the tonnage system. Quite apart from bestowing my opinion it is also a matter to decide whether the steps taken by the Union Government bear out justification and distinction in the interests of the millers planters and consumers.

Must Be Encouraged By Government

I would suggest that if the Government desires to give the opportunity for the sugar industry to flourish, there is a possibility of solving the problem without introducing the quota scheme. To commence with, the sugar industry, on which practically the whole of Natal rests for its prosperity, must be encouraged by the Government as any other industries in the Union. However, in view of a sugar crisis the Government anticipates, time has arrived for the high prices of sugar at present ruling, which on the other hand amounts to a semi-starvation of sugar diet among the consumers is done away with by distributing at a reduced price to enable the sugar consumption to increase by two folds to the advantage of the millers, planters and all concerned.

There are about ten million inhabitants in the Union, of which seven millions more or less are aborigines. I am almost certain that of this huge figure hardly 25% of the population make use of sugar as freely as they should. It is, therefore, evident that if the prices are brought down to their lowest level, the sugar crisis to which the Government attaches so much importance could be overcome and the industry maintained.

Praying For Drought

A few years back when the severe drought set in, we prayed for rains for an abundant harvest. It is strange to note that the Government have now pursued a policy indirectly praying for drought by means of restricting the sugar cane tonnage to a limit, and every planter is to deliver in accordance

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By  
C. VARADHARAJULU NAIDU  
(Stanger)  
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to his quota provided by the Central Board.

It would be a folly on the part of the Government to control the sugar industry by the tonnage system. By doing so, it is obvious the Government have a scheme contrary to the laws of Nature. Should, in the opinion of the Government, there be a likelihood of a sugar crisis in the Union, then I would suggest the *Acreage Quota* which would be far more satisfactory to the millers and planters. Doubtless that this method would make it a workable scheme and the tonnage quota must be condemned as a whole.

Against Laws Of Nature

Let us give the matter a broader view still, as I feel it deems necessary. Supposing good rains came down, and as you are aware rains vary every season. Assuming the rains were exceptionally good and as a result of which the tonnage of that particular lot of farmers increased. What happens to the extra tonnage in the field? Does it mean to comply with the regulations of the Government that the cane must be allowed to rot and perish in the cane field without turning it into sugar, or can we blame Providence for having sent extra rains? In the past we have realized the Supreme Ruler of the Universe and naturally we prayed for rains during the time of severe drought. The connection between the Universe and the human necessity on earth is conducted by the Supreme Power and in the face of it to bring about a scheme which is in direct conflict to the laws of Nature would be wholly absurd. It is high time the Government reviewed the situation and made amendments to suit the adverse weather conditions which are likely to prevail from time to time.

Indian Farmers Not Getting Fair Deal

While I am on the subject, I must be pardoned for having to point out that the Indian planters are not receiving a fair and square deal from the Government. For the reason that provisions have been made for the smaller and the largest European planters, and nothing for the Indian planters. From what I could see after a careful study of things, the Indian is not classed as a planter. Where an Indian has 80 tons to reap for the season his quota is 2 tons, and where the largest Indian planter has 10,000 tons his quota

4,000 tons. The European side of the story in the quota scheme is entirely different. Where the smallest European planter has the least tonnage e.g. 100 tons, the quota is 3,500 tons. Under the circumstances the gross injustice done to the Indian planters is as plain as possible. I must boldly say that if the quota is to exist any longer, the Indian planters would be wiped out with unimaginable losses within a narrow period of time.

The words of the Minister of Agriculture viz: "Indians in South Africa will ever remain a tragic community" are sufficient to enlighten the civilized world as to the state of friendship between the Government and the Indian Settlers. This goes to show that although there appears a sugar crisis in light, the Government has grasped the first opportunity to crush the Indian planters to bits by introducing the quota system. I deplore the attitude of the Minister of Agriculture, a high authority of the so-called just Government in having uttered words which are likely to create a gulf between the Union and Indian Governments. There are far-sighted Ministers in the Cabinet who certainly realize the changing world, and there are some short-sighted ones who groan in darkness without surveying the future.

In conclusion I would remind the Union Government who are responsible for a measure to reduce the Indian farmers to nothing, and for passing many anti-Asiatic Bills to retard the progress of the Indians in South Africa to foresee the future, and the dangers hanging in many corners of the globe. India makes the largest member in the British Commonwealth of Nations and anything unpleasant spoken of her and her children harassed abroad, would react in the future development of the British Commonwealth. India is marching for Dominion Status to be purely run by the Indian Nationals and every act of injustice shown to the Indians in South Africa would receive their serious consideration. It is important that the Union should seek India's friendship of goodwill and peace rather than enmity.

Priest And Teacher

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Box 93,

Boksburg North.

ASIATIC QUESTION AGAIN BEFORE PARLIAMENT]

[Continued from page 241

The Government intended during the recess to carry out a thorough investigation into the facts of all these cases that had come before the select committee. On these data if it was necessary, legislation could be introduced. This report which Mr. du Toit had quoted was not, in his opinion, convincing. It was not written with the fullest inquiry. All the facts, not only in this

case, but in the whole situation should be properly investigated by an impartial commission. With regard to the attitude of the Acting Minister of Interior, Mr. Hofmeyr, he would say that the Minister had also felt that the full facts were not before him and that that report of the magistrate was not adequate. There were denials not only

from the Indian Congress, but also from the woman who married the Indian.

The Acting Minister of Finance said he hoped the House would be satisfied with General Smuts's statement that two commissions were to be appointed to investigate the Asiatic question, one on mixed marriages and the other on the acquisition of land. These would be appointed as soon as possible.

INDIAN TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1936

The following report for the year 1936 was submitted by Mr. B. M. Narbeth, chairman, at the seventh annual session of the Indian Technical Education Committee:

It may be said that the year 1936 was in some ways the most difficult, and at the same time the most successful, of the brief history of our Committee. By overcoming our difficulties we have made secure the foundations upon which a solid and substantial system of Technical Education for the Indian community in Natal may be built up.

The actual work of the Institute is done by teachers and students in the classrooms, but to make this possible, organization and administration are necessary. To build up a sound institution the work in both aspects must be sound and efficient; if either is defective, the work of the Institute as a whole will suffer.

Owing to the backward condition of Indian education in this province, much of our work for the present and for some time to come must be of an elementary and preparatory nature. Our students, male and female, are all beyond the ordinary school attendance age. Many have never been to school and consequently have to start from the beginning, learning to read and write. Hence in our Continuation sections our classes begin with those which correspond to the Infant School and continue up to Standards VI and VII.

The Union Government has intimated its intention of withdrawing its support for that section of our work which is below Standard VI. It is very unfortunate that the Education Authorities in South Africa attach so much importance to Standards and Examinations. Modern educational opinion elsewhere is strongly against this, but bases its classification on age rather than on Standard basis in the Day Schools. To assess the work of older students on this basis is to misjudge the social value and importance of our work and, when we come down to the actual work done in the classes, this procedure becomes both impossible and

unjust. This is illustrated by our classes for working women at Depot Road. So far as we can standardise this work, the highest attainment in this branch is Standard IV, and it is not likely, and I doubt if it is desirable, that for some long time to come any of these pupils should be able to pass a Standard VI examination. Their work includes reading, writing, simple arithmetic, hygiene, making under-clothes, faggoting, crochet and fancy work. To attempt to force these women through the standards would involve our giving up their practical needlework and concentrating on the Primary School Standard Syllabuses. This is not what they need, or wish for, and the attempt would result in the disbanding of these classes where we have been doing invaluable pioneer social-educational work amongst Indian women. The building up of this section, which includes over one hundred women and girls, I regard as perhaps the most important and promising piece of work which we have so far accomplished.

In the continuation part of our work we have the following four sections:—
1. Carlisle St. Evening Continuation School: Boys and men up to Standard VII; 2. Depot Rd. Evening Continuation School: Boys and men up to Standard VI; 3. Depot Rd. Afternoon Classes: Girls and women up to Standard IV; 4. Clairwood Evening Continuation School: Boys and men up to Standard VII; with an average enrolment of 94, 60, 117 and 97 respectively totalling 368.

The more advanced classes included Commercial Subjects, Junior Certificate and Senior Certificate Classes carried on at Sastri College and Domestic Science Classes at Sastri College and Albert St. School. The total enrolment in these classes was 130.

The total number of students enrolled for the year 1936 was 498 of which 368 were in the Continuation Classes and 130 in the Technical and Commercial Classes.

These figures show a considerable expansion over those of the previous year and constitute a record. The

increase is mainly due to two factors:—
(1) The reopening of the Clairwood Branch in October and (2) The transfer of the two Depot Road sections from the ramshackle building of the Corporation Barracks to the Hindu Temple, but there is also an increase in the Commercial Classes held at Sastri College. Detailed reports of the various branches by the teachers in charge are appended.

SASTRI COLLEGE—Mr. Titlestad in charge. The work included the following sections, the average number of class enrolments being given in each case:—
Evening Commercial Classes 110, Junior Certificate Classes 117.5, Senior Certificate Classes 52, Domestic Science Classes 19.5, totalling 299.

The number of individual students enrolled was 130, which, I believe, constitutes a record for this Section. As an indication of improved quality of the work done by the students we had a larger number of entries for the Natal Commercial Examinations and a larger number of successes than ever before.

The special classes for teachers preparing for the National Junior Certificate and the National Senior Certificate, which were offered in 1935, were continued and although the enrolments were good at first, many of the students lost heart or interest and fell away. I regret to add that they gave much trouble in the collection of fees, many of which are still outstanding. For the benefit of the faithful few, the classes which had become numerically very small, were carried on to the end.

The policy previously adopted of engaging Indian lecturers of sufficient qualification and adequate teaching ability when they became available was put into force with considerable success. Mr. V. Sirkari Naidoo who took over certain book keeping classes fully justified his selection and the Committee has proceeded further with this policy in 1937 in consequence.

I am glad to speak in high terms of all the European Lecturers in this Section. To the excellent quality of their teaching, they have added a keenness of interest in their students which could hardly be excelled.

It has been put on record that our lecturers and teachers, both Indian and European, greatly appreciate the more prompt payment of their monthly salaries since our administration was re-organized.

The Carlisle St. Branch which is our oldest section continued to do good work under the superintendence of Mr. S. M. Moodley, and for three months when he was absent on leave, of Mr. T. M. Naicker. The enrolment was not a record, possibly owing to the facilities offered at Depot Road and Clairwood. The quality of the work was maintained. Four complete passes were obtained in Standard VI and 37 Subject Passes. There were also 4 complete passes in Standard VII (Preliminary Commercial Certificate) with 24 subject passes. Attention has been drawn to weak subjects and meanwhile the good services of the teachers continue to be appreciated by the Committee.

The Committee were able to give an increase of 20% in teachers' salaries as funds became available. The teachers' request for a further increase will be

considered by the Committee during the year.

At Depot Road Men's classes the work under Mr. R. O. Jithco has been difficult and the interest of the students who belong to a very poor class, was fluctuating. It is hoped that now that more suitable accommodation has been provided this work and numbers will steadily improve. 60 pupils were enrolled and the average attendance was 45.

In the Women's classes at Depot Road, superintended by Miss Sigamoney 117 pupils were enrolled and the average attendance was 112. Very useful work was done and the transfer to new quarters proved a great benefit.

Our new branch at Clairwood, which was opened in September and taken over in October, has the benefit of excellent premises and a good staff under the superintendence of Mr. H. S. Done. A good foundation has been laid and we have every reason to expect considerable developments both in numbers and in quality of the work during the coming year.

In the latter part of the year preliminary enquiries were made with a view to opening classes for Furniture

Apprentices under the Apprenticeship Act. So far only one apprentice is available, but investigations are being made to see if we can get together a sufficient number on a non-compulsory basis.

Our thanks are due to the Union Government and the Durban Corporation for their grants-in-aid, to the Provincial Administration for granting us accommodation for our Classes at Sastri College, Albert Street, Carlisle Street, to the Indian Education Trust for the use of the premises at Clairwood and to the Durban Corporation and the Hindu Temple authorities for the use of their premises at Depot Road.

I have already referred to our indebtedness to the teaching staff for their devotion to this work. I also wish to express the thanks of the Committee to our Accountant, Mr. Hopewell, our Secretary, Mr. Titlestad and our Auditors, Messrs Mattinson and partners for their expert services.

To all, the Vice-chairman, Hon. Treasurer and the other members of the Committee, I desire to tender my sincere thanks for their invaluable services and loyal support.

Things In General

Coronation Celebrations

THE Coronation celebrations were observed in all parts of the Union last week, and Indians both adults and children participated whole-heartedly. In Durban, the Indian celebrations were held at the Currie's Fountain. In Maritzburg, they were held at the Indian Sports Ground by the local Indian Social Service Committee. Dannhauser Indians made a pomp affair at the Cambridge Hotel ground. In Umzinto, the occasion was celebrated with unprecedented enthusiasm, and at New Guelderland the celebrations took place at the School grounds while at Ladysmith the Coronation sports were held at the Indian Sports Ground.

Indian African Clearing Station

The hours of attendance at the Indian Clearing Station and Dispensary in Beatrice Street, Durban, have been altered to 8.30 to 9.30 and 11 to 1 o'clock in the morning and 2 to 3 o'clock in the afternoon daily except Sundays, Public Holidays and Saturdays only in the morning.

Death Of General J. S. Wylie

The death took place last Saturday night in the Durban City Hall, of General James Scott Wylie M.V.O., D.S.O., V.D. The tragedy occurred just before the commencement of the united-ex-servicemen's concert, one of the Coronation events. General Wylie was representing the Minister of Defence. General Wylie was 75 years of age. He arrived in Durban from Scotland, his birthplace, at the age

of 25, and in 1896 was in charge of several hundred colonists who compelled two ships with Indian immigrants to stay outside Durban harbour for 10 days, when the agitation against the immigration of Indians was at its highest.

Teachers' Vacation Course

At Umzinto

A specially arranged vacation course conducted by Inspector Mr. O. M. Booysen, M.A., was held at Umzinto for teachers of the South Coast Indian schools. It lasted for two days and there were thirty-three teachers present. The course opened at St. Patrick's Government Aided Indian School on May 6, while on the following day it was held at St. Anne's Convent. After the vacation course a meeting was held over which Mr. J. Samuel, the headmaster of St. Patrick School, presided. Mr. M. R. Varma, the headmaster of the Umkomaas Indian School, stressed the need for frequent vacation courses and the desirability of the courses being conducted by the Inspector in charge of the district. Mr. Varma then moved the following resolutions: (1) That this meeting of teachers of the South Coast, attending the vacation course conducted by Inspector Mr. O. M. Booysen, records its sincere appreciation of Mr. Booysen's valued assistance at this course, (2) That this meeting of teachers unanimously desires to make a request to the Natal Education Department to make this vacation course an annual feature; and, as far as possible, the course be con-

ducted by the District Inspector. This meeting makes this request while alive to the fact that no facility whatsoever for the training of teachers on the South Coast is available. The headmaster of the Esperanza Government-Aided Indian School, Mr. C. T. Singh, seconded the motions and was supported by Mr. J. J. Hammond, the headmaster of Sawoti Government-Aided Indian School. In reply Mr. Booysen expressed his pleasure in having been able to render some assistance to the teachers. If opportunity permits, he would do his best to make the course an annual feature, if not, a bi-annual one. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. G. Vasuthevan, headmaster of the Thornville Government-Aided Indian School.

Another Terrible Air Crash

The German Zeppelin Hindenburg, the greatest airship in the world, crashed in flames at Lakehurst, New Jersey, on Thursday May 6. The Hindenburg had just completed her first trans-Atlantic flight of the season and was preparing to moor, when there was a terrific burst of flames from the hull and within a few minutes the airship's blazing and twisted framework crashed to the ground. The Hindenburg was specially designed to avoid a fate similar to that of the R101. The ship contained hardly an inch of wood, everything being built of duralumin. She was the first Zeppelin on which passengers were allowed to smoke. Portions of the framework of the R101 were actually embodied in the Hindenburg, having been purchased by the German Government. Thirty-five lives are reported to have been lost,

India Letter

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

Congress And Muslims

THE Muslim masses joined the Hartal of April 1 so enthusiastically in spite of the efforts to the contrary by the loyalists and reactionaries among the Muslims that the inference seems irresistible that the Muslim masses have raised a definite signal of revolt against reactionary leadership. The reaction is noticeable to a certain extent among the rank and file of the educated and politically-minded Muslims as well. Dr. Mohammad Alam who had left the Congress some time ago and who had fought the last election on non-Congress ticket, has already re-entered the Congress by signing the Congress Parliamentary pledge. In a public statement he has denounced the so-called Muslim parties as being "really parties of the few, run only to bolster up the claims of certain sectional leaders," asserted that "the mass of the Muslims can expect no substantial good from the change that occurred on April 1, or from people now forming the Ministry" and has appealed to his co religionists to join the "only people who will and can do something for the people and down-trodden masses, those who, by their sacrifices have proved to the country that neither lure of office and power, nor fear of repression will keep them away from the path of their duty and service to the people or their country." In Bengal a large number of the Muslim members of the Assembly and the Council have already protested publicly against the Ministry and characterised it as a clique of the landlords having no sympathy for the grievances of the Muslim masses.

Indian Legislatures

The echo of seething indignation in the country against the new Constitution loudly resounded in the Legislative Assembly as it closed its budget session after 44 sittings in course of a little over two months., its legislative output during the fortnight under review was not much. The only important law passed was a reactionary amendment to the Payment of Wages Act, under which the employers will hereafter be free to regard as absent from duty those who may be sitting in the premises in pursuance of a stay-in strike. The amendment, in fact, provides economic penalty of a severe nature for an act which is not otherwise liable to be punished under any other law. The Assembly also passed an amendment to the Tariff Act to continue a small protective duty on imported broken rice.

The importance of the last few sittings, however, lies in the fact that the Congress partly utilised the Assembly as a forum to voice the opposition of the

people to the Constitution and the indignation felt at the conduct of the Executive before and after the anti Constitution Demonstration. The ban on the organisation of Hartal by the Police Commissioner of Calcutta could not be discussed by the Assembly because the Government won their point of order on a technical ground. But the conduct of the Delhi Police on the Hartal day came in for severe condemnation and the Government were censured for their defence of the officials concerned. Eloquent and respectful eulogy was offered by leader after leader to the National flag—which was dishonoured by the Police in the streets of Delhi—and Mr. Desai characterised it as more than a mere political symbol—a sacred symbol of faith in methods of peace by which the world will be ruled in times to come. Each and every member of the Congress party proudly wore it on his head-dress to demonstrate in what high esteem it is held by the people of India. The assault on the grand-daughter of Swami Sradhananda was similarly condemned

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in the strongest possible terms. The opposition proved its case so conclusively that the Government had no answer to give and they swallowed the censure practically without protest.

Information of importance and interest were elicited on varieties of subjects in the Legislative Assembly. It was revealed, for example, that in 1936 India had to pay well about Rs. 4 lakhs to remunerate "experts" who were imported by the Government to examine such questions as the allocation of revenues between the Centre and the problems of Education, Railways, agriculture and broadcasting. It was also learnt that at the end of February last there were as many as 393 persons detained without trial in the centrally administered areas and that their allowance had been reduced by one rupee per head. The figure, of course, excludes the large number of detenus who are detained in the provinces, especially, Bengal.

Repression

The nation-wide awakening as evidenced during the general elections had

since been having a devastating effect upon the balance of the bureaucratic mind. The grim prospect of having a national demonstration against the Constitution on April 1 had a still stronger unnerving effect. The bureaucracy completely lost its head when soon after the Delhi Convention, President Nehru issued an appeal for the observance of "Hartal". The Police Commissioner of Calcutta was the first to react and immediately afterwards issued a proclamation banning all processions, meetings and other forms of demonstrations to organise the Hartal. An order under Section 144 Cr. P.C. was promulgated by the District Magistrate at Patna, banning processions without licence and when a licence was applied for, it was refused by the superintendent of Police. The story was the same at Karachi where a procession was disallowed by the Police Chief. At numerous big and small cities individual Congressmen were served with notices restraining them from taking part in the organisation of the "Hartal". On the day of the Hartal the Police activities increased a hundredfold. The traders and shopkeepers who had voluntarily decided to abstain from all business, were coaxed and cajoled to keep their business open. At Delhi, a prominent businessman was approached by a high Police officer and offered the services of the entire Police and military forces of the Government to enable him to keep his business going. Such offers, of course, were disdainfully rejected all over the country by the persons to whom they were made, and the Hartal was successful even beyond the expectation of the Congress. The demonstration everywhere was peaceful, but not so the conduct of the Police. At Patna, several prominent Congressmen, including Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, General Secretary of the All India Congress Socialist Party, were arrested for leading a peaceful procession on the Hartal day. In the evening another batch of Congress workers was arrested on a charge of making a demonstration in front of the Chief Minister's house. At Delhi the Police went much further, not only did they make indiscriminate arrests of Congressmen, but pulled down the National Flag and trampled it under foot. They committed further atrocity of assaulting a prominent Congress woman, to wit, the grand daughter of the late Swami Sradhanandha, to the extent of tearing open her blouse near her neck. Numerous other arrests were made in other big and small towns on flimsy grounds.

The Sporting World

Tennis.

Jawahar Sporting Club

A MEETING of the Jawahar Sporting Club was held at Gandhi Bharat Vidyalaya, Johannesburg, to bid farewell to Mr. S. P. Patel, the president who is departing for India. Mr. Maganlal Hira took the chair. Several speeches wishing Mr. Patel a pleasant voyage and a speedy return were made, and Mr. Patel in return thanked the members of the club for the honour done to him. He said he would pay a visit to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru whose name the club bears, and convey to him their best respects.

Memorable Tennis Final At Johannesburg

Saturday's finals for the Bantu Men's Singles Championship (wherein entries were received from the well-known Tennis Stars, of the Coloured, Indian and Bantu community) will live in the memories of a record number of spectators who witnessed them. The standard of tennis exhibited should set at rest any fears for the future of our non-European tennis. There was hardly a dull moment. Dr. Taylor, Chairman of the Bantu Men's Social Centre, when presenting the trophy to Mr. Hoosen Jajbhay, said that he had never witnessed such high standard of tennis played by non-Europeans. Jajbhay's superlative skill as a tactician has never been better illustrated than in this match with Oliphant. Oliphant kept him moving by cleverly changing the direction of his attack and kept him thinking, too, by the clever way in which he mixed his volleys. Frequently he would hit the ball hard to Jajbhay's back hand corner, but this proved insufficient to collect a point, as Mr. Jajbhay returned same with his back hand gaining points in his favour. There were times when Jajbhay broke the shackles of Oliphant's generalship, by the vigour of his usual forceful forearm drives for which he is so well-known. There were many long rallies from either side in the last set, and Jajbhay won the match in his favour by three sets to one. He fully deserves the following titles he has won: The South African Indian Singles, Transvaal Coloured and Indian Singles and Doubles, Western Province Singles and Doubles, Joh'burg Singles and Doubles, Bantu Men's S. O. Singles and Doubles (1934-35, 1936-37). Jajbhay is clearly in a class by himself in South African tennis, and there is every indication that the Men's Singles and Doubles titles will not change hands for some time.

South African Indian Tennis Association

A special general meeting of the above association was held on Sunday May 16 in Durban. In the absence of the president, Mr. S. Rajpaul was elected to the chair, and Mr. Mahabeer acting secretary,

By "Rambler"

Fixtures for Mr. M. M. Govender's Challenge Trophy, Natal vs. Transvaal will take place on July 4, in Natal. National Indian Singles Championship of South Africa for Mr. M. Hassim's Trophy, entries close on June 6, and the match will be played after the Inter-Provincial Tournament in Natal.

Singh's Bowls Tennis

The Dannhauser Stars Tennis Club met the Victoria Tennis Club, at Dundee on May 9. The match resulted in a win for the Dannhauser Stars by 30 games

Soccer.

Verulam Temple F.C.

On Sunday May 16, the Temple Football Club of Verulam met the Stella Football Club of Durban in a friendly match at Verulam. The game was fast and exciting and within 10 minutes of the start, Gavin Maistry opened the score for the home team. In the first half, Temples were leading by 1-0. Within a few minutes in the second half, S. Gopaul netted and thus made Temples to lead by 2-0. At this period the visitors pressed hard and were able to open their score. The play became more exciting and Gavin Maistry netted the third goal for Temples. The home team won by 3-1.

In a previous match played at Verulam on May 9, between the Temples and United stars of Durban, the home team beat their opponents by 5 goals to 2.

On Sunday May 23, the Verulam Temples will play Sparks Football Club of Durban, at the Verulam Indian ground, at 3 p.m.

At Ladysmith

The Schools met Rangers in the Asmal Bros. league final on Saturday last. The Schools won by 3 goals to 1.

Chaka's Kraal Indian Sporting And Social Welfare Society

The fourth annual general meeting of the above Society was held at the Chaka's Kraal Indian School recently. After the report of the Society's past year's work was submitted by the Secretary and adopted, the following election took place for the ensuing year: President: Mr. P. K. Moodley, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. T. S. Naidoo and R. Bhagirathie, Hon. Joint Secretaries: Messrs. P. Moonsamy and C. K. Moodley, Auditor: Mr. S. Paramunsee, committee: Messrs. R. D. Naidoo, R. N. Moonsamy, M. Maslamoney, A. K. Moodley and Cassim Dawood.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Mancherji and their youngest daughter Miss Maneck Mancherji after having spent two years in India have returned to the Union by the *Takliwa* which arrived in Durban last Wednesday. They will shortly proceed to Capetown,

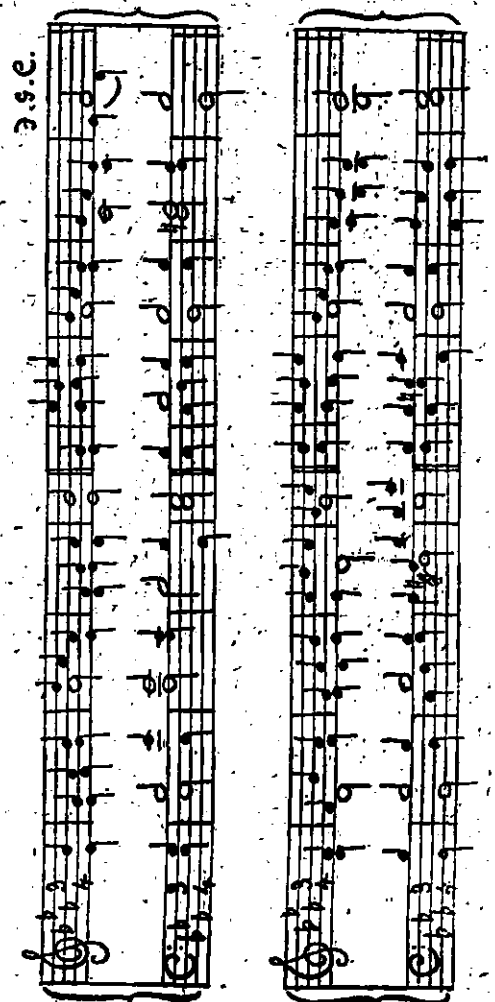
Magna Carta Day

MAGNA CARTA DAY is a symbol of the democratic nations of the world and the idea to observe the anniversary originated in the United States about thirty years ago. For several years now June 15 has become known as Magna Carta day throughout the Empire and the third Sunday in June has been observed by churches in various parts of the world as Magna Carta Sunday.

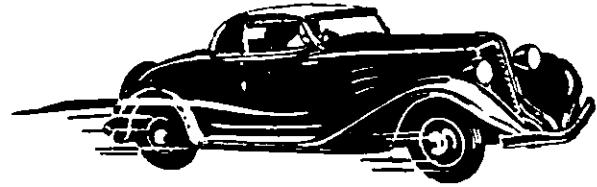
In 1935 the International Magna Carta Day Association incorporated secured the following poem by Mrs. J. D. D. Bacon to celebrate the anniversary:

Great God of all nations,
We, sons of one speech,
Pray now for the wisdom Thou only
canst teach:
So, strengthened in union,
So weakened apart,
Thou gavest one tongue, Lord, Oh, give
us one heart!
One Charter confirmed us,
One Scripture we knew,
One bard is our glory, all history through.
Now grant us one vision,
Now show us one goal.
Thou gavest one tongue, Lord, Oh, give
us one soul!
Now, shoulder to shoulder,
Hand reaching to hand,
What traitor shall part us? What foe
can withstand?
What cannon shall thunder
Our voice cannot still?
Thou gavest one tongue, Lord, Oh, give
us one will!

The following tune has been composed by Dr. F. G. Cawston, the national executive officer of the association, in the Union:



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