

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Germiston Asiatic Bazaar Raid

THE Town Council of Germiston has dissociated itself from the police action taken recently against the coloured wives of Indians residing in the Asiatic Bazaar at Germiston, according to a letter sent to the secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress by the town clerk. On congress representations on the police raid, the Finance and General Purposes Committee directed the town clerk to advise the congress that "neither the Council nor its officials, including the location superintendent, were advised of the intention of the police authorities to carry out this raid, and that the police had been advised previously of the understanding which the Council's sub-committee had come to with your representatives at the meeting held on June 17 last. The committee expressed regret that this action had been taken by the police in view of the arrangements come to at the joint meeting."

This does not speak well of the police authorities whom the recent inquiry commission on police methods almost glorified for their good services and behaviour. In so far as non-Europeans are concerned, however, the police methods are anything but satisfactory. In view of the Germiston Town Council's denial we feel it is not enough that this matter should be allowed to end with the decision of the Court which was recently given. The incident calls for a departmental inquiry followed by adequate measures to prevent their recurrence. Where others than Whites are concerned the police authorities seem to forget entirely that their duty is to safeguard the peace of the people and not to molest them.

The Character Of A Public Worker

Mahatma Gandhi observes in *Hartjan*: "There is in modern public life a tendency to ignore altogether the character of a public worker so long as he works efficiently as a unit in an administrative machinery. It is said that everybody's character is his own private concern. Though I have known this view to have been often taken I have never been able to appreciate, much less to adopt it. I have known the serious consequences overtaking organi-

sations that have counted private character as a matter of no consequence"

These words were directed to public organisations like the Harijan Sevak Sangh for the guidance of those who work among the ignorant masses. Our public workers in South Africa as well as in other parts outside India can profitably take them to heart.

Marriage Reform In India

A Bengal M.L.A. has prepared a bill for the Bengal Legislative Assembly with a view to reforming some of the marriage rules and practices. One provision in it is that before a man can marry he must produce a medical certificate that he is free from any contagious, infectious or dangerous disease. Another object of the Bill is to prevent marriages of men of 50 or past 50 with women under 25. It also seeks to place restrictions on the system of exacting or extorting dowries.

This should be adopted not only by Bengal but by the whole of India, and it will mark the removal, at least, of one of the black spots which give outsiders cause to point a finger of scorn at India.

If India Decides To Leave Empire

If India was to decide to leave the Empire, Britain would become a second-class Power, stated the very Rev. Dr. J. A. Graham, C.I.E. honorary Superintendent of St. Andrew's Colonial Home, at Kalimpong, Bengal, when commenting upon the present position of India. Dr. Graham said that during the last few years India had advanced greatly in all branches of politics and it was his opinion that she was very shortly going to secure dominion status. It would then be for the country to decide whether it would remain a part of the British Empire or become an independent State. He thought, however, that when India did rise to dominion status she would be content to continue as a part of the Empire. If she decided against this course, Dr. Graham considered that it would mean the beginning of the fall of Britain. Were the Empire to lose the support of 300,000,000 people in India, Britain would certainly become a second class

Power. At the present time the extremists in India desired to leave the Empire and obtain complete independence for the country, he said. There was also a growing inclination towards Communism in some sections of the people, but in most cases, the people were of a law abiding nature and had little interest in Communism. Religion is everything to the Hindus and the Mahomedans and they have little interest in anything that will destroy their faith. Mr. Gandhi, who is working for the tremendous numbers of oppressed Indians, is also a strong supporter of his religion, and the Indian states have little interest in a force that will destroy their power. He urged, however, that nothing should be done to annoy the people of India. "British citizens go into India freely and without question, but they impose unfair restrictions on the entry of Indians into their own lands. If they are not careful they will find that their entry into India will also be restricted, he said."

Youth Front's Programme

The South African Youth Front, according to its chairman, is an independent body following the ideals of the United Party. The constitution of the body was adopted with minor amendments at the first congress held in Bloemfontein recently. The programme of principles included the following:

"The object of the South African Youth Front shall be to consolidate South African youth as a national force to promote and protect our cultural and national possessions to combat disintegrating influences in our national life and generally to promote and maintain the interests of South Africa as a united and sovereign independent State on a strictly national basis with the slogan of 'South Africa first.'"

"The Front stands for the strict maintenance of race purity of the European population in South Africa, and abhors all miscegenation between Europeans and non-Europeans.

"The Front believes that the European section of the population of South Africa is called to retain and maintain control of the Union for our-

selves and our descendants, but acknowledges the right of the native people to develop along their own lines and to participate in the advantages of Christian civilisation under the benevolent trusteeship of European South Africa.

"The Front acknowledges the existence of the two great cultural streams in South Africa and the right

of everybody to honour his own particular cultural course.

"The South African Youth Front acknowledges the complete freedom of the people as the basis on which the Union is founded, respect the right of the people to change its form of government in a constitutional manner should a united South African desire it."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 1937

Malay Location

THE European residents of Vrededorp at a mass meeting have passed a resolution urging the Government to declare the Malay location a slum and have it removed immediately. Mr. J. L. Brill, M.P., has taken a prominent part in this propaganda. The resolution reads as follows: "This mass meeting respectfully requests the Government to proclaim the Malay location a slum and have it removed. The location is over-populated and threatens the health of surrounding areas. Living conditions are very bad. The City Council of Johannesburg has declared Vrededorp a slum. We resent the stigma, which is undeserved. We ask the Government to use its powers to strike at the root of the evil by removing the cause, the Malay location."

One thing that the Europeans might have borne in mind is that whenever an area in which they are living is declared a slum they are always getting something better than what they had in the past. They are adequately compensated for any losses they may have to suffer and great care is taken to see that they are comfortably placed in their new abodes should they have to change their old ones. It is therefore utterly futile for them to raise a hue and cry over nothing. They should indeed be thoroughly satisfied with the very elaborate housing schemes the Government are launching upon.

If they had the slightest sense of responsibility they would not act so narrow-mindedly towards their fellow citizens who are not placed in so fortunate a position as themselves. The position, however, is that they soon take offence when some one treads on their toes but they do not mind treading on others' toes. They object to the Government declaring Vrededorp a slum but they are asking the Government to proclaim the Malay location a slum and have it removed.

If the Vrededorp European residents have a case to put before the Government so have the Asiatic residents of the Malay location. Asiatics have been residing and trading in the Malay location now for over 40 years. The Malay location was at one time in an appalling condition owing to the negligence of the Municipality, which was then scathingly criticised by the Lange Commission. Since then it has greatly improved. We quote here the words of Dr. Milne, the Medical Officer of Health, from the report of the Feetham Commission:

"Conditions in the Malay location have improved beyond recognition in the last five or six years. The Asiatic tenants have responded wonderfully to every housing demand made upon them by this Department. One can honestly say that these Indian tenants, and Indians constitute the bulk of the standhold-

ers, have co-operated in good faith and with alacrity with this Department in bettering housing conditions."

The report further discloses that £100,000 had been spent in the three previous years by owners in improvements and in reconstruction.

We are, however, prepared to admit that there is still room for great improvements in the location but they can only be effected if the residents are given the opportunity to do so.

Speaking in the House of Assembly in regard to the Malay location last year, the then Minister of the Interior, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, said, "one of the most potent causes of the production of slums has been that these people have had no right to acquire their own properties and no inducements to improve the properties they have occupied."

In a memorandum recently submitted by the Malay Location Stand Holders and Traders Association, to a joint sitting of members of the General Purposes, Town Planning, Public Health and Parks and Estates Committees of the City Council of Johannesburg, it was stated that, "the Indian community of Johannesburg is most anxious to raise its standards of living and housing and to live under European conditions. Give to it inside the Malay location the same security of tenure that is given to Europeans in their own areas and the era of slumdom so far as that location is concerned will come to an end."

So the question of the Malay location will not be solved in a fair and just manner—if fairness and justice at all count in the case of the non-White communities—by throwing out the people who have been residing and trading there for nearly half a century, as demanded by the European residents of Vrededorp, but by giving them security of tenure and by removing the causes that create slum conditions in which the authorities are given the assurance of the community's whole-hearted co-operation.

TURF CLUB AND SPRINGFIELD INDIAN TENANTS

RACE COURSE OR GARDENS

AT a well attended meeting of the Indian tenants at Springfield, on Sunday last, the chairman, Mr. Heeralal, made pointed statements against the proposed sale of 150 acres of the Springfield land to the Durban Turf Club. Mr. A. Christopher, President of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, was also present.

The chairman referred to the last meeting of the tenants held a few months back, when it was decided that the tenants were quite prepared to purchase the land outright conditionally that it be used perpetually for gardening purposes, or, in the alternative, that the land inside and outside the precincts of the training track should not be interfered with and that those who would be displaced by the track should be given land elsewhere.

Although the last meeting was held in June last, when a copy of the resolution was sent to the Town Clerk, it was only on the 11th of this month that a reply—and that was after two reminders were sent to the Town Clerk—was received advising that the Council had decided to grant the Turf Club a lease of the land—150 acres. The chairman felt very strongly that as Springfield

supplied a large portion of the vegetables for Durban's requirements, the Indian tenants should have received prior consideration from the Durban Town Council. In any case the fact that the tenants had been on the land for a considerable number of years, should have weighed with them and they should have granted them an interview before deciding upon the Turf Club's application.

The sale of the land to the Indian tenants, with a restriction that it be used as market gardens, would ensure a gardening area in the Borough for all times and be a distinct amenity. The tenants were prepared to pay a reasonable price for the land. The tenants of the low lying land were also tenants of the Corporation on the hill tops and on which they had erected houses and paid yearly rental as well as rates. Many tenants paid such rents and rates from their income derived from their gardening. He felt that the Council should give the tenants, through the Springfield Estates Committee who represent them, an opportunity which they had promised when the Turf Club's application was turned down on a previous occasion. "This," said the

speaker, "the Council has not done and the matter appears to have been side-tracked as, in his reply to the Estate's Committee, the Town Clerk makes no reference whatsoever in regard to the offers of the tenants to purchase the land. The Town Clerk simply writes to say that the Turf Club must make arrangements satisfactory to the Council for safeguarding the present tenants. While we are grateful for that provision it is unknown at present what those safeguards would be. Even at this stage we would again appeal to the Council to give the tenants the opportunity to present their case."

There were several speakers who supported the chairman and urged that an appeal be made to the Council to reconsider the whole matter.

The meeting unanimously agreed to the committee making further representations in regard to the offers of the tenants and any matters arising in connection with the Springfield Flats.

Reference was also made to the housing scheme for Springfield and the committee was authorised to act on this question and report to a further meeting.

INDIANS IN ZANZIBAR

Mr. Govindlal Shival Motilal, who presided over the second quarterly meeting of the Indian Merchants' Chamber held recently in Bombay, referred, among other matters, to the question of Indians in Zanzibar. In the course of his speech he said:—

“YOU are all familiar with the tragic history of Indian colonials. It is one of the tragic consequences of our being under a foreign domination that Indians cannot emigrate to any Colony with the same freedom and liberty of action as is enjoyed by nationals of other countries. Nor can we enjoy the same rights and privileges even in the lands which we have helped in developing—the same as those enjoyed by colonials, say, from Great Britain or other colonies. One after the other, each Colony has been declaring a sort of a taboo for us, and though Indians continue to live there, they live under sufferance and under great humiliation and harassment. The latest of these instances is proved by Zanzibar, which Indians have served to develop since the last three centuries, before any of the European races had thought of going there. Notwithstanding this, since the last three years, efforts are being strenuously made to cut out Indians from Zanzibar. There was some

satisfaction for Indians fighting in Zanzibar and for us fighting for them here, and the Government of India, on this question, were giving their support to the Indian cause. It is, however, incomprehensible why they took a suddenly different turn altogether and declared their agreement with the Government of Zanzibar without even consulting Indian opinion. It is now announced that there will be a provision for two Indians in the Managing Body of the Clove Growers' Association and two Indians in the Advisory Committee, besides which there will be facilities for licensing the Indians, etc.—In all, the agitation that is now going on, for the last three years, Indians have never demanded any seats on these bodies. The whole protest was lodged against the very fundamental principle of monopoly and this monopoly still remains though perhaps a smoke-screen is spread over it to hide the really sinister nature of the Clove Growers' Association. If I may put it so, the Government of India have let down the Indian cause. I was one of the first to appreciate what the Government of India were doing until recently for Indians in Zanzibar, but now that things have taken a different turn, I am sorry I have to express my feelings in strong terms. The Gov-

ernment of India could have taken into their confidence Sir Purshottarnadas Thakurdas, the President of the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, who is in London, H. H. the Aga Khan and some other Indians who are interesting themselves in this question and who also happen to be in London, or they could have taken into their confidence some of the prominent Indians here, say Mahatma Gandhi or Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, both of whom have made this important question their own. Unfortunately, nothing of the sort has been done and a sudden Press "communique" was preceded by a characteristically propagandist letter from Simla appearing in one of the local papers. Your Committee naturally took strong exception to this and sent a telegram of protest urging that the only course now open for the Government of India was to impose an embargo on the imports of cloves in this country. Several of the large clove importers in Bombay have already announced their voluntary cessation of trade in cloves and such a step on the part of traders, if it is followed by Legislative action, will bring home to the Government of Zanzibar that our Government is not prepared to take unjust measures against Indians lying down."

FIFTY YEARS OF POLITICAL PROGRESS

THE occasion naturally brings before my mind's eye many interesting episodes and incidents of the earlier days of Congress activities, and their results. A complete survey of them would be highly instructive. But I propose to refer briefly to a few only of the momentous changes that have come about since I began my apprenticeship.

Recalling some of the events and incidents of the last forty-four years, during which I have been intimately connected with many phases in the public life of the country, I am struck with the remarkable progress which India has made during this period of less than half a century. In 1893 (except the wholly official executive councils, to assist the Governors of Madras and Bombay) there were no Executive Councillors or Ministers, in any of the other provinces, and thus by far the greater part of British India was literally under one-man rule—the "one man" at that time being either the Lieutenant Governor or the Chief Commissioner. And not even the executive councils in the governments of Madras and Bombay, had a single Indian official—to say nothing of Indian non-officials. Thus the governments of all the provinces were, frankly speaking, absolute "despotisms," in theory, though benevolent in practice, which they cannot be said to be now, with so many elected representatives in the provincial governments as Premiers and Ministers, all administering important departments of State, almost throughout the length and breadth of the country.

Then, as against not dozens and scores but the over two thousand elected members,—to be exact 2,035—in the eleven provincial legislatures, besides about 150 in the central legislature, who represent no less than three crores of people, many of them with such consummate ability as would do credit to the members of the House of Commons itself, the whole of British India then did not possess even one single elected representative in any legislature. Later in the same year, when Lord Cross's India Act (which had been placed on the statute book in 1892) was put into operation, the country came to be represented in the then Imperial Legislative Council by no more than four elected members, but all of them technically "nominated," being the nominees of the Governor-General, and each representing the non-official members of the provincial legislatures of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the then North Western Provinces (now the province of Agra and Oudh), Bombay and Madras. These four provincial legislative councils—which were then the only one in existence as against the eleven we have now—had a few non-

By
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In "The Indian Social Reformer"

official "nominees" of the Governors and the Lieutenant-Governors of the same four provinces, and they too were recommended to the heads of the local governments by the members of the district and municipal boards.

The Morley-Minto reforms—which broadened, to some extent, the franchise and increased the numbers of the elected officials, but kept the official block in a permanent majority everywhere (except in Bengal)—did not come into force till some sixteen years later, in 1910. By reason, however, of the maintenance of the official majority in the legislatures brought into existence, it was impossible for the non-official representatives to carry any point, be it ever so sound or well-reasoned. But we never despaired or lost patience, but, "pegged away" at

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our arduous work in spite of the great discouragement. On one occasion during the debates, in 1920, in the Imperial Legislative Council, on the then Punjab disturbances, I adapted to the requirements of the situation the famous lines from Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade," which was appreciated by even the solid phalanx of official block, which I successfully ridiculed as follows:—

Theirs not to reason why
Theirs not to make reply
Theirs but to vote and die.

But the official block—though not the official majority—did not disappear altogether till the first of April last when the New Reforms came into operation.

To turn now to some other matters of interest, I may say that Responsible Government, as a political term applied to India, was then not only unheard, but was beyond the mental horizon of even the most advanced politicians of that time. Nor was "Swaraj"—either as a term or an ideal—better known or better understood. Till many years later, in fact, a claim for Swaraj was taken by the executive authorities to be synonymous with the preaching of sedition, and there were many con-

victions under Section 124A for demanding it; while any reference to Dominion Status, to say nothing of 'independence,' as an element of practical politics, would have given the shock of his life even to an advanced public man or publicist. The name of Mahatma Gandhi was absolutely unknown outside a small circle of educated Indians at the time, though he had moved a resolution at the session of the Congress, held in Calcutta, in 1901, under the presidency of the late Sir Dinshaw Wacha; while the now popular expression "direct action" (embodying in its programme boycott, non-co-operation and civil disobedience) as a measure of practical politics, was beyond the remotest ken of even the most advanced politician. This very brief reference to the state of political affairs even after the introduction of the Morley-Minto reforms, in 1910, will enable you to appreciate the great advance in political ideals and methods the country has made in the last quarter of a century.

As for the proceedings of the then legislatures there were no Presidents, non-official or even official, other than the head of the administration of the country or the province,—the Viceroy, the Governors of Madras, Bombay and, later, Bengal, and the Lieutenant-Governors—and the speakers addressing them had thus to be constantly "my lording," "your Excellencying" or "your honouring" them, on pain of incurring their grave displeasure, and also being charged with grossly bad manners. Then you had to read out your speeches, all the time glued to your seat as it was evidently apprehended by officialdom that if permitted to address standing it would be too close an imitation of the House of Commons, which would possibly lead to dire results to the Indian Empire. The Viceroy—as did Lord Curzon on several occasions when I was present, as a sight seer, in the Imperial Legislature—might thump the table, or even stamp his foot when giving point and emphasis to the manuscript eloquence he was inflicting, but not so could do the poor non-official member, who was expected to be on his best behaviour, and to address the Sovereign's august representative with bated breath and in down-right whispering humbleness.

Once, in 1900, when Pardit (now the Right Hon'ble Sir) Tej Bahadur Sapru and I attended a meeting of the provincial legislative council, at Allahabad, on the occasion of a debate on agrarian legislation, we witnessed a scene which neither of us has forgotten or can ever forget. The opposition to the Government Bill was being led by a patriotic and independent-spirited zamindar who was also a "Rai Bahadur," who had prepared a searching criticism which

he had begun to read out. His views were evidently highly annoying to the President, who was none other than the then Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and the Chief Commissioner of Oudh, rolled into one. Even before the speaker had come to the main part of his address, the President lost patience with him, with the result that he began to shout at the top of his voice—"No, no, no, this will not do. Either withdraw what you have said, or I shall get it all expunged from the proceedings. Do you withdraw it or not?" The poor speaker had no alternative but to give in, and his remarks were, I believe, omitted from the report of the proceedings. On another occasion he came into an open conflict with the late Pandit Bishambhar Nath—long one of the acknowledged leaders of the vakil section of the Allahabad High Court Bar—but he failed in circumventing that learned, able and independent lawyer, who managed to beat the President on his own ground.

Even some years later, Lord Curzon not unoften attempted to hector his non-official Indian colleagues, in the central legislature, into submission, and he tried this game sometimes even with Mr. Gokhale but gave it up after a few unsuccessful efforts, as he soon found it to his cost that the great Indian leader was not inclined to take the Viceregal reprimands lying down. I was present at some of these memorable encounters between Lord Curzon and Mr. Gokhale, in the Calcutta Council Chamber, in the course of the debates on the then highly controversial University Bill, and can never forget those unfortunate scenes between those two gigantic intellects ranged against each other—Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India representing the might of British Imperialism, and Mr. Gokhale that of the rising tide of Indian nationalism. In the end Lord Curzon lived to learn that it was not to the advantage of his position and dignity to persist in such tactics, and later he became a fervent admirer of that great Indian leader, whose premature death is even now sincerely mourned by those who had the privilege of knowing his work and worth, as a devoted and selfless worker in the cause of India.

Many of you are no doubt familiar with the working of dyarchy in the provincial governments, during the last sixteen years. Its greatest defect from not only the popular but the administrative point of view, was the retention

of a fairly large official block, for carrying on the work of Government not only on the reserved, but even on the transferred side. This fatal defect prevented the Ministers, under dyarchy, of ever thinking of forming a truly political party. At best the ministerial parties, in all the Governor's provinces, were mainly composed of members held together by means of caste or communal interests—as opposed to sharing in common economic and political principles and ideals. The result was that a great and splendid opportunity for political training was lost over a long period of sixteen years, by reason of the enforced dependence of the ministers on the official block—as if, like the Executive Councillors, they also were responsible to Parliament, and not to the legislature. In this particular respect, the reforms now in operation are, fortunately, free from this serious defect, and are, to that extent, an improvement.

Apart from this particular feature of the present reforms, the other which seems to have been appreciated widely is the extension of the franchise on a fairly large popular basis.

Speaking the other day on the subject, Babu Rajendra Prasad declared that, "there was one benefit in the Act, and that was the enlarged franchise." The same view has been expressed even more emphatically by Mahatma Gandhi himself. Writing in a recent issue of his *Harijan*, in the course of a signed editorial on the subject of acceptance of office by Congressmen, he has declared his views as follows:—"The Government of India Act is universally regarded as wholly unsatisfactory for achieving India's freedom, but it is possible to construe it as an attempt, however limited and feeble, to replace the rule of the sword by the rule of the majority. The creation of a big electorate of three crores of men and women, and the placing of wide powers in their hands, cannot be described by any other name."

These two aspects, therefore, of the new reform—namely, the abolition of the official block, and the fairly wide extension of the franchise—deserve acknowledgment. But there they end. For the rest all shades of public opinion are emphatic in their demand that the sooner the present Act is replaced by one more in consonance with the requirements of the political situation in the country, and more in harmony with the aspirations of the people, the better it would be in the interest of all concerned.

Now, the mere recalling of these few facts—picked at random from my recollections—will show the vast and varied changes, for the better, which have come over our public affairs, especially since the inauguration of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms in 1919. Instead of the rather demoralising and subservience-breathing atmosphere in which public activities had then to be carried on—as if it were on sufferance—we have now our central and provincial legislatures with none other than elected representatives of the people in them, and in which they work on terms of absolute equality, under the guidance of elected Indian Presidents, the most notable of whom was my late lamented and esteemed friend, Mr. Patel,—the distinguished President of the Central Assembly—who, by his remarkable ability, intense devotion to duty, commendable courage and rare independence, exalted the dignity of the great office which he so well adorned, and thereby added a memorable and an enduring chapter to the history of Indian progress in the twentieth century, and whose great example should thus be steadily kept in view by all the Presidents of our legislatures.

In fact, however dissatisfied we may be—and not at all unjustly—with our present economic and political position, and the gloomy prospects of constitutional progress leading, in the near future, to the establishment of Responsible Government in this country, that should not blind us to the fact that during the twentieth century India has achieved a most notable progress in many directions, and that too in various spheres of activities—spiritual, moral, political, educational and economic. A great deal, no doubt, yet remains to be achieved, much leeway has yet got to be made up before we can expect to reach the destined goal, and ever so much greater patriotism will have to be evoked, and a much larger measure of self-sacrifice incurred than has been done so far.

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Things In General

Death Of Mr. Burne

THE death occurred on Friday, September 10, at the old age of 79, of South Africa's oldest practising advocate, Mr. William Burne, K.O. He was the head of a noted Natal legal and sporting family. Mr. Burne is survived by six sons, four daughters and 21 grandchildren. Two of the sons and three of the grandsons are lawyers. Everyone of his sons at one time played for the Queens Park Football Club, of which he was President for 47 years. Another grandson was Bob Kirby, the Springbok tennis player. Mr. Burne had a large Indian clientele and Mr. L. Panday was in his service for nearly 50 years. At the age of 12, William Burne joined the legal firm of a Clerk of the Peace in Durban named Waller, as an office boy. Five years later he resigned to join the Natal Mounted Police, where he remained nine months. After that he went trading in Zululand, and often saw Cetewayo's impis on parade. Returning from Zululand, Mr. Burne began his association with law and was admitted as a solicitor in 1881 and as an advocate six years later. He practised in Durban continuously from 1881 until the time of his death. He took silk in 1912. He had a distinguished legal career and before Union won seven appeals before the Privy Council. In 1895 he was offered, but refused, a judgeship. In all his dealings he had a reputation for scrupulous honesty. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the bereaved.

St. Aidan's Young Men's Club

The 16th annual general meeting of the St. Aidan's Young Men's Club was held on Tuesday, September 7, at the club room (St. Aidan's Boys' School, Sydenham). Mr. J. Nadasen, the secretary of the club, presented a lengthy report of the activities of the club for the past year, and after the adoption of the minutes, reports and financial statement, the following gentlemen were elected officials for the current year:—Patron: Mr. C. R. Warriner; President: Mr. S. S. Pillay; vice-president: Mr. H. R. Jithoo; secretary and treasurer: Mr. J. Nadasen; committee: Messrs: Alfred Naidoo, J. Raman, Barney Thandroyen, Joseph Francis and W. Nundoo; physical culture instructors: Ldrs. J. Nadasen and R. Kisten.

Appeal To Government

For Native Education

The Christian Council of South Africa, representing 34 churches in the Union, has decided to make a united appeal to the Government on behalf of native educational and recreational institutions and has sent a resolution to the Minister of

Native Affairs. Medical work among non-Europeans has been receiving the attention of the council, which urged that non-European sanitary inspectors be employed for non-European work, and that non-European nurses be trained in more hospitals so as to supply the present demand. Anti-malarial work is also under consideration by the council.

Clairwood Indian Social

Service Committee

Under the auspices of the Clairwood Indian Social Service Committee a mass meeting was held on Sunday, September 5, at the Krishna Theatre Hall, to discuss the number of school children who are indigent and who require free tuition, the number of children of school-going age who have been refused admittance, extension of grants to private schools in the districts, conversion of the present Government-Aided School to the status of Government School and the Police control of traffic in the vicinity of the schools. The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—(1) "That this mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Clairwood Indian Social Service Committee, resolves that since the district is inhabited by a very large number of Indians whose income is a meagre one, and as some of the parents have appealed to this committee for its assistance by way of admitting their children as free pupils in the schools, this meeting authorizes the committee that all genuine indigent cases be investigated and the proper authorities interviewed on the subject matter;" (2) "That in view of the fact that about 600 children of school-going age in the district are unable to gain admittance in the local schools, owing to lack of accommodation, and because these children, apart from growing illiteracy, would become a burden to the Indian community owing to many turning delinquents etc. this meeting humbly prays that the Provincial Administration be approached to meet its obligation in this connection;" (3) "That although the Provincial Administration has extended education facilities to some extent in the district, which is highly appreciated; it, nevertheless, strongly feels that local Indian associations who have provided buildings for educational purposes, should be granted aid by the Provincial Administration immediately, so as to cope with the urgent needs of the Indian community;" (4) "That in view of the Clairwood Indian School being one of the largest schools in the province, this meeting feels that the conversion of the present boys' and girls' schools to Government status, would be a benefit to the local community at large, and therefore, this meeting hereby resolves that in this connection the committee be authorized

to co-operate with other bodies interested in the matter, to fulfil the earnest desire of the meeting;" (5) "That this meeting viewing with alarm the number of accidents that have occurred recently in the vicinity of the schools, in which school children have been involved, strongly feels that the Chief Constable of the City of Durban be approached to have Police control of traffic, particularly at the junctions of Jacobs and main South Coast Roads, Jacobs and Done Roads and Station and main South Coast Roads, to insure safety to children going to and from schools."

Arya Samaj (Cato Manor)

The 15th annual general meeting of the Arya Samaj, Cato Manor, was held on Sunday, September 12. The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £57 10s. 9d. The following office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected:—Patrons: Messrs. K. Baijnath, S. Prawlal, Drs. Bhagat Ram Sahagal, and Mehta Jaipini; President: R. Devduth (re-elected); vice-presidents: R. Rajoomar (re-elected), and G. Essarprasad; secretaries: S. Gokul (re-elected), and M. Ramprasad; treasurer: O. M. Singh; auditor: O. N. Rana; Acharya L. Krishna Maharaj (both re-elected); committee: S. Basant, K. Ramlagan, O. Devnarien, B. Hariprasad, P. Devipersad, L. Krishnamaharaj and R. Rampersad. The Hindi school is open daily to impart free vernacular education. There are 42 boys and 47 girls attending the school. The society lacks funds to bring its work to a satisfactory standard.

Sanathan Dharam Vishnu Mandir

The annual general meeting of the Sanathan Dharam Vishnu Mandir will be held at the Mandir yard, 284 Randles Road, Sydenham, on Sunday, September 19, at 2.30 p.m. An appeal is made by the secretaries to all Hindus to attend, as the present organising members are requiring support, without which the objects of the Mandir may not be carried out.

Indian Settlers In British Guiana

The Indian Colonial Association in British Guiana recently held its second annual conference at which Indians from almost every part of the Colony were present. The conference requested the Government of the Colony to give adequate representations to Indians on the public bodies of the country, to enforce the compulsory Education Act more rigorously, to appoint an Agent-General on the same lines as the Agent-General in South Africa and for the employment of Indians in the Civil Service of the Colony. The other points discussed related to repatriation, social and political questions.

First Rossburgh Indian Rover Scouts Crew

The third annual meeting and the anniversary of the First Durban Indian Rover Crew was held at the Rover Den Clairwood Boys' School on Sunday, August 29. The Rovers camped out on Saturday night in the school grounds. In spite of the inclement weather many visitors were entertained by the rovers who gave musical items and humorous sketches. Messrs. H. W. Bristow, R. Regnath and E. V. Naidoo were in camp with the rovers and a jolly week-end camp was spent. The camp broke out with the annual meeting at which Mr. H. S. Done, the Commissioner for the Natal Indian Boy Scout Association, was present. The Scribe presented in brief the activities of the Crew for the year under review, which showed an increase of membership as 45 to last year's 34. The Commissioner in paying tribute to the rovers' good work and spirit, said that he was really proud to see the youngmen of the district combined together in one perfect bond of brotherhood thus becoming the brothers of 2½ million scouts of the Universe. He spoke of the ideals of scouting and its values, forcing home the value of character. He thanked Mr. H. W. Bristow for his valuable services not only to the crew but to the association and scouting amongst the Indian community. Of Messrs. Regnath and E. V. Naidoo, he said that in these two the crew had really hard-working scouts to help roving in the district, and appreciated their many sacrifices up to-date. He concluded by urging the rovers on their good work, and wished them every success in the fields of Scouting (Rovering). Messrs. R. Regnath, H. W. Bristow, E. V. Naidoo and C. Moon-samy spoke, encouraging the rovers. The following office-bearers were elected: President: Mr. R. Regnath; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. P. Naidoo, N. G. Chetty, E. Sigamoney, J. Naidoo and N. Nunnan; scribe: Mr. Kit Ruthnam; treasurer: Mr. M. C. R. Naidoo; scout master: Mr. E. V. Naidoo; crew leader: Mr. M. C. R. Naidoo; representatives to the association: Messrs. S. V. Naidoo and A. Francis. Mr. H. S. Done has very kindly consented to give a site in the school ground for the erection of a Den for the rovers. In terminating the meeting the president thanked Mr. Done for his kind guidance, and appreciated his generous permission for the Rover Den site. He also thanked Mr. Bristow, Mr. E. V. Naidoo and the members of the crew, for the good fellowship that prevailed during his term of office.

£2,388,000 Left By

Lord Runciman

It is learned, says Reuter (London), that Lord Runciman, the shipping magnate who died recently at the age of 90, left estate valued at £2,388,000.

Glencoe Junction Indian School Society

At a special meeting of the Glencoe Indian School Society held on Sunday, September 12, the following were elected as trustees: Messrs. I. A. Ameen (chairman), N. G. R. Naidoo (vice-chairman), A. C. Peer (secretary), J. J. Singh (treasurer), E. M. Hansa (school manager), Bob Narandas, E. I. Kajee, R. J. Aheer, A. R. Jamalooden, I. M. Moola and G. R. Maharaj.

Union's Trade With East Africa

A note of warning about the trade position between the Union and Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar is sounded by Colonel R. B. Turner (Commissioner for the Union in these territories) in his report for 1936. Colonel Turner refers to the Union's increasing adverse trade balance, and the fact that industrialists have benefitted only very slightly from the increased purchasing power of the native population. The reason for this state of affairs, he says, is that industrialists in the Union do not cater sufficiently for native requirements. The population of these territories were steadily increasing their production of raw materials that the Union required while the Union had very little to offer at competitive prices in the way of manufactured articles. The Union's exports to Kenya and Uganda increased from £89,185 in 1934 to £109,170 in 1935, and £119,696 in 1936. Japan continued to make the best use of the market offered by the East African territories, and held the first place among foreign suppliers with Germany in the second place.

Union's Income And Expenditure

Exchequer receipts for August amount to £7,296,053, approximately £150,000 more than in 1936. From April to August the Treasury has received £17,711,837; £1,400,000 more than in 1936. Customs and revenue figures for August, show an increase of over £40,000, being £1,211,173 against £1,179,642 in 1936. Postal revenue is up £44,000, the figures for August being £388,352 in 1937 and £344,137 in 1936. Inland revenue figures for August amount to £5,695,918; and for August 1936, £5,618,916. Increases of revenue under each head, are revealed for the period April 1 to August 31, 1937. Total expenditure to August 31, is £16,896,716 against £16,177,162 for the same period in 1936.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The following message has been received by the Nizamia Muslim Society (Maritzburg), from the private secretary to the King Farouk, of Egypt:—

"Sir,—I have had the honour of submitting your letter of July 29 to His Majesty the King, my August Sovereign, who has commanded me to convey to you His thanks for the good wishes of your Association, on the occasion of His Majesty's accession to the Throne."

Hospital Committee Appeals For Funds

An appeal to the Durban European and Indian public has been made by the Indian Hospital Advisory Committee for subscriptions for the Indian-African Clearing Station in Beatrice Street, Durban. To date £1,050 has been spent on equipment, of which £650 has been collected from the Indian community. The liabilities are about £400 and £700 is now owing to the Durban Corporation for the land. The committee's report says: "An appeal was made to the Corporation for grant-in-aid of £700, but this application has been turned down and we have been referred to the Provincial Administration for assistance. The dispensary and clearing station was started with a donation from Sir Andrew Weir and was invested in a committee of three Indian merchants."

Viceroy Opens Joint Session

Members of the Indian Congress Party absented themselves from the House on September 13 when the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, opened a joint session of the Legislative Council and the Assembly, at Simla. Reviewing the situation in India, Lord Linlithgow, is reported by Reuter to have described the constitutional changes recently introduced as "the great turning point in our political history." This had been successfully negotiated, but the question of federation was still being discussed. Preliminary work, however, was nearing completion. The Viceroy added that a settlement of the Waziristan dispute appeared to be in sight.

A Correction

Mr. S. J. Randeria, secretary of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall Committee, writes:—

With reference to the report which appeared in the English and Gujarati columns in your paper of September 10, there is a slight error in the print which kindly rectify in the following manner:

"Mr. C. T. Poonater moved the adoption of the minutes of the fifteenth annual general meeting which was seconded by Mr. M. H. Tootla and the secretary's report for the period ended 31st August, 1937, was seconded by Mr. M. B. Naik. Mr. A. I. Manjoo, in commenting on the report, said that the library was serving a very useful purpose to the community, and being a regular visitor to the library, he was treated with equality and no distinction whatever was made between class or creed."

U. S. Birth-rate Sinks

The birth-rate in the United States last year was nearly the lowest on record. There were only 16.6 live births per 1,000 population according to the Census Bureau at Washington. This is 0.3 below the rate for 1935, and only 0.1 above that of 1933, when the number of births registered was the lowest in the history of America.

India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Tilak Day In Delhi

MR. ASAF ALI, M.L.A., presided over a meeting held recently in Delhi in connection with the celebration of the Ministry and Tilak Day. There was a large gathering present. Mr. Asaf Ali said that August 1 would go down as an important day in the annals of Indian history for on that day was inaugurated the first Non-co-operation movement in connection with the fight for India's freedom. On that day also fell the 17th anniversary of the death of Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak who bravely fought, throughout his life, for India's freedom. They were also celebrating the Ministry Day and Mr. Asaf Ali regretted that Dr. Ansari was not in their midst. It was he who, four years ago, took a prominent part in the move for Congress entry into legislatures and, as a logical sequence, they had Congress ministries to-day. Mr. Asaf Ali made a fervent appeal for Hindu-Muslim unity. The following resolutions were then passed: "This meeting of the citizens of Delhi held on the anniversary of the passing away of that great captain of India's millions in her struggle for freedom, Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak of revered memory, and also on the anniversary of the commencement of the Non-co-operation movement which has brought strength and awakening to India's masses and carried them far on the way to Swaraj, reaffirms the Congress resolve to gain Independence for the people of India. The meeting pledges itself anew to work for the attainment of this full freedom and for the removal of exploitation and poverty of the Indian people. This meeting fully realises that the new policy of the Congress, to accept ministries, is only another phase in India's struggle for freedom, which must be carried on till the full objective of the Congress is attained. In this struggle real strength comes from the people and, therefore, as pointed out by the Working Committee, Congress work must be carried on outside the legislatures as vigorously as possible and the Congress message taken to every village. This meeting sends friendly greeting to the Congress Ministers in the six provinces where they have taken upon themselves, in spite of limitations and handicaps, the heavy responsibility of steering public policy in accordance with Congress ideals. In this task of realising Congress objectives, and of combating the new constitution on the one hand, and of prosecuting the constructive programme on the other, this meeting assures the ministers of its full co-operation."

Pandit Jawaharlal's Call To Muslims

Addressing a huge public meeting of Muslims at Madanpura (Bombay) held recently under the auspices of the Mahfile Afzal-e-Paigambabi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Congress President, referred to the relation between the Muslim masses and the Congress and asserted that the Congress, being a nationalist organisation, had a right to approach them. Panditji said that it was nearly 15 months since he had addressed a meeting in the same locality when much enthusiasm was evinced among them. Pandit Nehru cited the example of Palestine where also, at the root of the communal question, were the hands of imperialism. The imperialists were not interested in any religion and their only motive, he declared, was to divide and exploit. The Congress, said Panditji, was not a religious organisation. Its function was the uplift of the country, politically and economically. As regards religion, the Congress had laid down the principle that everyone would have complete freedom in the choice and practice of his own religion. In conclusion the Congress president appealed to the Muslims to join the Congress in their thousands.

Popularising Khadi In Bombay

Great fillip to "Khadi" in particular and other cottage industries in general will be given when the new scheme of the Government in this connection comes into force. It is understood that it has been decided that "Khadi" should be used almost exclusively hereafter in all Government departments and articles of non-Indian origin should be restricted to a minimum. Orders have been issued already that no article of non-Indian origin should be purchased without the previous sanction of the Ministry concerned. To cope with the great demand for "Khadi" the production will be increased and a scheme is under consideration of introducing handspinning in jails and schools throughout the Presidency. Mr. Shankarlal Bankar, Secretary, All-India Spinners' Association, had a lengthy conversation with the Premier and the Home and Revenue Ministers in connection with the development of handspinning and connected industries. It is understood that Mr. Bankar made a suggestion for introducing spinning in schools, technical institutions and jails and discussed the question of the purchase of "Khadi" for Government departments and also discussed the question of establishment of a research

workshop for making experiments for devising more efficient implements and accessories for hand-spinning and connected industries. It is also understood that the suggestion is being duly considered by the Ministry and suitable action will be taken shortly.

Indian Women And Social Service

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Social Service Group of the National Council of Women held recently in London, Begum Mir Amiruddin (wife of the District and Sessions Judge of Mangalore), who was a delegate from India to the World Congress of Faiths, gave an account of the social work in which the women of India are to-day engaged. Referring to the Madras Presidency she spoke in eulogistic terms about the work that was being done by the women of Madras City to improve the condition of lepers, of the assistance rendered to her by the women of Salem in promoting the cause of education in that district, and of the efforts of the women of Mangalore in raising substantial amounts for the Quetta and Bihar Earthquake Relief Funds. The problem of India, she said, was the problem of the reconstruction of its villages, as 84 per cent. of its inhabitants were agriculturists. The main factor that served as a handicap to the improvement of the country, she stated, was the illiteracy of the masses. The tragedy of India was that only 12 per cent. of its men and 2.9 of its women were literate. The social problems confronting the country all broke on the bedrock of mass ignorance; the many reforms needed in the condition of the women and children all acted and reacted on education. In her opinion, when illiteracy would be conquered, most of the ills from which the body politic was suffering would disappear of themselves.

The Aga Khan To Visit India

Sir A. H. Ghuznavi has received a communication from H. H. the Aga Khan, confirming His Highness' visit to India in cold weather when he hopes to spend a few days in Calcutta. Sir A. H. Ghuznavi has been authorised by His Highness to deny the allegation that he is coming to form a new Conservative Muslim Party.

Orissa Rejects Government Of India Act

It is understood that the Orissa Ministry will introduce a resolution during the next session of the Assembly, urging rejection of the Government of India Act, and demanding the summoning of a Constitutional Assembly on the basis of adult franchise and joint electorate, as envisaged in the Faizpur resolution.

The Sporting World

Natal Wins Sam China Cup

THE second match between Frontier and Western Province was a run-away victory for the former by 13-2, mainly due to the latter's goalkeeper who was an unsuitable substitute.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 7, Eastern Province caused a sensation by defeating Transvaal 3-2. The players from the Transvaal were lethargic in their movements and greatly under-estimated their opponents. Play opened at a slow pace, both sides enjoying an equal share of the game until a combined move by the Transvaal forwards produced a result, the inside right scoring a snap goal. The Province team equalised in a scrimmage and gaining a slight ascendancy were rewarded with a second goal. Near the interval the Transvaalers equalised. On resumption Eastern Province set up a sustained attack, a penalty, after half an hour's play, giving them the lead. This they held to the end, and Transvaal sustained their first defeat of the Tournament.

On Wednesday, Sept. 8, owing to defection of Griqualand West only one match was played, Natal meeting Eastern Province. From the commencement the Natal men set the pace and with the following wind soon opened the scoring. Goals came at regular intervals, half-time coming with Natal having a useful lead of five goals. In the second half the same position was maintained, and except for spasmodic raids, Easterns were out of the picture. The rate of the scoring was maintained to the end, the final whistle being sounded with Natal winners by 12-0. The scorers being L. Vinden (3), S. Pillay (3), D. Rajoo Pillay (2), P. Naraidoo (2) and N. G. Naidoo (2).

Natal won the Sam China Cup by defeating Transvaal by one goal to nil in the final match of the inter-provincial soccer tournament at East London, on Saturday last. In an effort to stem the tide of success gained in this tournament by Natal the Transvaal sent down six players specially for the final match but Natal remained undefeated. The game produced some of the best soccer football ever seen in East London, for both teams were at their best. Natal finished the tournament undefeated and the score sheet against them blank. The following is the log:—

	Goals						
	P	W	L	D	for	agst	pts.
Natal	4	4	0	0	31	0	8
Frontier	4	2	2	0	19	17	4
Transvaal	4	2	2	0	11	10	4
Western Prov	4	1	3	0	15	30	2
Eastern Prov	4	1	3	0	8	27	2

By "Rambler"

At Currie's Fountain

Soccer at Currie's Fountain (Durban), was at its ebb last Saturday afternoon. The weather was pretty hot, and in spite of the open gates, due to no senior fixtures, very few spectators took advantage of it. Those matches that were played showed very little keenness of the game. The effect of heat was clearly noticeable on those who played. Only three matches were set down, two junior fixtures and one juvenile. In the junior division, Sastri (A) met Shamrocks on the main ground for the final for Moonlighter's Cup; and Victorians were posted against Park Hill to complete a fixture for Schoebel's Cup. Sastri, in opposing Shamrocks, lacked cohesion and attack, often characteristic of the team. There was no keenness in

Dr. Tagore Seriously Ill

NOT only the Indian nation but the whole intellectual world, will be distressed to learn about the serious illness of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, the revered poet of India. A Reuter's message dated September 11 gave the news that he was suffering from high blood pressure and erysepelas. The outside world have been kept in suspense ever since. May God spare him for many more years will be the fervent prayer of the Indian community and his European admirers throughout the Union.

the game, with the result that the play was dull, though there were many moments when both sides failed to take advantages of the chances of scoring. Both teams lacked their usual form, particularly the forwards, who took a day off. Shamrocks, however, were the first to score, and by a mere chance Sastri managed to equalise before the full time. Extra time, therefore, was called for, and after feeble attempts, Sastri was lucky to obtain a lead, which was made possible by a member of the Shamrocks mis-heading the ball into his own goal. The match ended in favour of Sastri by 2-1, and who now hold the Moonlighter's Cup. With regard to the other junior match in which Victorians and Park Hill figured on No. 1 ground, it was perhaps better played than the first one. In spite of quite a stout defence put up by the Park Hill, Victorians with their usual steadiness ultimately ran out victorious by 6-2. Park Hill, consequently, are now knocked off from any soccer fixtures. Although a match was fixed between

Avondale and Sastri (B) in the juvenile division, it did not come off, because of Avondale failing to field a team. It being therefore understood that Sastri (B) had a walk-over win over their opponents.

A friendly match on Sunday afternoon last, between United Stars of Durban and a team from Maritzburg was played, and resulted in a win for the home team by 3-2, after some really hard work. The visitors played well and were pleasing to watch.

At Sezela

On Sunday, September 12, the Sons of Stars F.C. (A and B), of Milkwoodkraal, met the Sezela F.C. (A and B) at the Sezela Football ground, and beat Sezela (A) by 1 nil, and the (B) team by 3-1.

Greyville Indian Cricket Club

At the annual general meeting of the Greyville Indian Cricket Club the following officials were elected:—Patrons: Nawab of Pataudi, Messrs. A. I. Kajer, G. H. Maither and F. M. Ally; Hon. life vice-presidents: Messrs. M. Thajmoon, C. Anglia, O. N. M. Khan, P. Ally Bocus, D. A. Ally and A. Haffjee; President: Mr. O. N. M. Khan; vice-presidents: Messrs. E. M. Ally, M. K. Desai, S. Williams, Ismail Moula Bux, A. K. E. Bux, Anod S. Kajer, C. M. C. Khan, K. Singh, A. G. Thajmoon, R. K. Chetty, R. B. Chetty, A. K. Khatib, Ebrahim Essop, A. A. Ephrahim and A. G. Goolam Sabib; captain: Mr. S. M. Emmamally; vice-captain: Mr. Osman H. Bux; hon secretary and treasurer: Mr. S. Y. Emmamally; assistant hon. secretary: Mr. G. R. E. Bux.

Table Tennis Tournament

The Tongaat Indian Lawn Tennis Club held a Table Tennis Tournament in the Gokhale Memorial Hall, Tongaat, on Sunday, September 12, for Mr. R. Sancho's Trophy to be won out-right. The enthusiastic competitors were Messrs. A. P. Naidoo, M. Hurbans, R. Sancho, Vigiyaiah Naidoo, Sansia, C. R. Naidoo, Ramouthar Kandhai, Seetharam Timol, Cassim Saibe and Varadayiah Naidoo. Keen interest was shown by the participants, and after a day's enjoyable game, Mr. Cassim Saibe emerged the winner. Mr. M. Hurbans, the hon. secretary of the above club, wishes to extend the club's grateful thanks to the officials and members of the Vishwaroop Hindu Temple and Dharamshala for the use of their hall.

To Club Secretaries

Secretaries are requested to send in their reports for publication to reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

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નંગ ૧ ની શી. ૧-૦.

વહેલો તે પહેલો

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