

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

A Hearty Welcome!

WE heartily welcome Seth Govind Das, M.L.A., who has arrived in Durban yesterday after spending a week in the Transvaal. Seth Govind Das will be sailing for India on January 2, in order to be able to attend the Legislative Assembly which opens at the end of that month. Owing to the very short time at his disposal he will not be able to visit other parts of the Union. He will be staying in this Province until the time of his departure. From the moment he landed Seth Govind Das has had a busy programme and has been able to see much and to experience much of the Indian situation in the Transvaal and we have no doubt he will have a busy time in Natal. We wish Seth Govind Das every success in his patriotic mission.

No Happiness And Contentment Without Freedom

Speaking at an At Home given in his honour at the Patidar Hall, Johannesburg, on Monday evening, Seth Govind Das is reported to have said:—

"It is impossible for any individual or people to be happy and contented when not free. One ideal throughout India to-day is to be free and some of you here will one day hear that India is free. India wants to be free. You cannot keep a great people in subjection. India does not want freedom for her own sake, but for the peace of the world and I am sure India will achieve freedom by non-violent means. We are not enemies of Great Britain. We have no such thought. We want freedom in order to have friendship with Great Britain and other nations of the world. As soon as India is free its ties of friendship with Great Britain will be strengthened." Seth Govind Das said he did not agree that Indians remained in South Africa because they believed they received equity. Economic circumstances kept them here. Racial prejudice in South Africa against Indians would disappear with a fuller knowledge and understanding. He, to that end, regarded reciprocal visits by the representatives of the two countries as imperative.

Mr. Leslie Blackwell's Hint

Mr. Leslie Blackwell, K.C., M.P., who was one of the guests at the At Home in honour of Seth Govind Das joined in the welcome and expressed the hope that the distinguished visitor would preserve a sense of balance and perspective, and in going back to India would not picture the condition of the Indian community in South Africa as entirely black. The truth was that one Indian in South Africa in a thousand would go back to India and that, after all, was the acid test. "We are not fierce, intolerant, racial bigots. We are a kind and hospitable people," he said.

India And Britain

Seth Govind Das wrote the following letter to the Editor of *The Star* (Johannesburg): "Sir,—In the report of my speech at the welcome accorded to me by the Transvaal Indian Congress, published in the issue of your esteemed paper on the 17th instant, the following passage appears: "Seth Govind Das made a strong appeal for closer and better relations between South Africa and India as they were neighbours and bound by the ties of friendship as associated members of the British Commonwealth." The present position in India is not such that I could have said what has been reported. The goal of the Indian National Congress is complete independence, including the severance of British connection if necessary. The Congress does want friendship not only with Great Britain, but with all the nations, but it is the firm belief of the Congress that this friendship is not possible without the independence of India."

Councillor Kemp Points Out Evils Of Credit System

A demand that the Durban City Council should take immediate steps to suppress the introduction into the City of a credit system of supplying goods to Natives has been made to the Town Clerk, Mr. A. O. Jones, by Councillor H. H. Kemp. Mr. Kemp has drawn attention to the fact that Indian firms are supplying goods to Native employees of large firms and, at the end of each month, vouchers are handed to the

employing firm so that the cost of the goods may be deducted from the Natives' wages. "It seems to me," states Mr. Kemp, "that the store-keeping firms in question are exceeding the authority of their trading licences in dealing with these unfortunate Natives, as it means that the latter are tempted by the ease with which they may get credit to squander their earnings with consequential detriment to themselves and their dependants. I shall be glad if these facts may be made known to the City Council as soon as possible with a view to taking such protective steps in the interests of the Natives as are necessary."

Papa vs. Perumal

We reported in our last week's issue that the petition to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision of the Appellate Division of the Union in the case of one Papa seeking to nullify her marriage according to Hindu custom to one Perumal who was her maternal uncle, was disallowed by the Council. The following are further details of the proceedings before the Privy Council:

On the 9th December 1937 Mr. L. P. E. Pugh, K.C. who appeared with Mr. T. B. W. Ramsay in the Privy Council on behalf of the petitioner, submitted *inter alia* that the marriage was incestuous under the common law of South Africa and, was therefore null and void, that Section 75 of Law 25 of 1891 did not repeal the common law as to consanguinity and that this section could and should be construed in conformity with the common law. Their Lordships held that this was a matter of domestic legislation and, in view of the fact that the Courts in South Africa had been unanimous and that it could not be shown that substantial injustice had been done; they were of opinion that special leave to appeal should not be granted.

How The Native Legislation Is Viewed

At the opening of the Congress at New Brighton Location, Port Elizabeth, on December 20, Mr. R. H. Godlo, president of the Location Advisory Boards of South Africa, referring to the recent Native legislation, said it purported to

draw a perpendicular line between the political and residential interests of the two races. The drastic provisions applicable to areas proclaimed under Section 12 of the principal Act were tightened up to such an extent that the conditions under which people were going to live in such areas would border on slavery. The measure was a wicked

one which, like the rest of the legislative output of the Union Parliament, was destined to effect a gradual but systematic policy repressing Africans under the cloak of segregation. The express purpose of the legislation was to secure the knot of the rope that was being put round the African's neck in a designed process of strangulation.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 1937

Some Thoughts On Christmas

"Whatsoever ye would wish that men should do unto ye, even so do ye unto them."

WE are naturally tempted to quote on the eve of the very sacred day of Christmas, which will be celebrated throughout the Christian world, this golden rule which Christ has given to the world, and to wish that every person would ponder over it until it sinks into the very depths of everyone's heart. If that rule were observed there would assuredly not have been so much disquiet and discontent, a reign of terror, cold-blooded murder and arson, a race of armament and the like that is our misfortune to see in the present world. The observance of that golden rule would have been an armour in itself, which no earthly power could ever have been able to pierce. But alas! things have come to such a pass that it is bemoaned incessantly, even from the pulpit, that humanity has forgotten the Divine Law, and never will there be peace on earth so long as that Law is not reverently and in all humility implicitly obeyed.

We hardly need to look at what is happening in China, nor in Spain, nor speak about Italy's doings in Abyssinia. We have more than sufficient deeds of our own in the Union to look at.

While the outside world has been in dire trouble owing to warfare, depression or some such causes, it has been the good fortune of the Union to have had comparative peace and plenty within its own bounds. And yet, have we been thankful to God for that, and have we behaved ourselves by obeying His Law, and thus tried to make the bit of contribution for the world peace? Oh no, indeed not. On the contrary, we have been busy violating His Law by creating divisions between the Jews and gentiles, between the Afrikaans and the English, between the Whites and the Blacks, between Europeans and Asiatics and by talking about republicanism and cessation from the Empire and what not. And yet, chicken-hearted as those who indulge in this babbling are, they are not slow in bowing down to Italy,

for instance, who, they find to be more powerful, or to Japan, because it happens also to be a powerful country; but they are showing enormous courage in crushing the Natives who are a powerless people, and humiliating and crushing the Indians because they find India to be weak. This is how we are acting in our own land which is abounding in peace and plenty. It is not the merry-making, but a little introspection on these lines and a prayerful attempt to make amends that will make the observance of this great day profitable not only to ourselves but to humanity at large. With these sentiments, we wish all our Christian friends, A Merry Christmas and A Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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Mr. Blackwell And The Indian Problem

AT one of the functions in Johannesburg in honour of Seth Govind Das M.L.A., who has come as a representative of the Indian National Congress to gain first-hand knowledge of the conditions of Indians in the Union, Mr. Leslie Blackwell, K.C. M.P., expressed the hope that the distinguished visitor would preserve a sense of balance and perspective, and that in going back to India he would not picture the conditions of the Indian community in South Africa as entirely black. The truth, he said, was that one Indian in South Africa in a thousand would go back to India and that, after all, was the acid-test. "We are not fierce, intolerant, racial bigots. We are a kind and hospitable people," he said. This pious advice, coming as it does from Mr. Blackwell, does tickle us a little. If Mr. Blackwell will allow us to go a little into his past history we would like to say that we have not yet forgotten him as a leader of the anti-Asiatic movement in the Transvaal. If Mr. Blackwell would have preached to his adherents then to preserve a sense of balance and perspective, we feel sure there would have been no Asiatic

question in the Union. Might we remind Mr. Blackwell of his own words which he had then uttered. This is how Reuter had reported him:

Captain Leslie Blackwell urged that the time had come for the Europeans of the Rand to deal with the Asiatic menace.....He was convinced the Asiatic was a parasite, and did not add one penny to the wealth of the community. In crime the Asiatic specialised in illicit gold dealing, liquor dealing, and insolvency. The solution of the problem lay in confining the Asiatic to tropical East and Central Africa. He came to the Transvaal unwanted and uninvited.

If Mr. Blackwell will have us believe that these words are in conformity with what he has been quoted above, then he must have got a code of his own to interpret what he says. A leopard will always be a leopard however much he may try to change his skin, and Mr. Blackwell will always be Mr. Blackwell however much he may try outwardly to appear reformed. Is there not a certain amount of resentment in his statement that the acid test was in the fact that one Indian in a thousand would go back to India? We are sure Mr. Blackwell is sorry that he has not been able to clear them all out of South Africa, and yet he will tell us: "We are not fierce, intolerant, racial bigots." This is where the East differs from the West. Our Eastern culture teaches us to allow others to form a judgment about us. It would be considered impertinent on our part to form our own judgment. Seth Govind Das must have, for the first time in his life, experienced an insult from a liftman as he did in Pretoria while going to pay a courtesy call to Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr. If Seth Govind Das has to take back with him reminiscences of this and many other similar things Mr. Blackwell surely cannot expect him to sing the glories of South Africa.

But while whatever Seth Govind Das may say to South Africa might not carry weight, it being obsessed with race prejudice, what will it say to the following opinion expressed by a prominent European ex-official from India:

"South Africa has a real reason for treating the Indians well if the country remembers that the Indian population is 370,000,000, that the average, annual income of every man, woman and child in India is something under the equivalent of £7 and that if that were increased by only 10s a year, an extra spending power of £180,000,000 would be available of which South Africa, as a near neighbour, could draw handsomely...and for that reason it is up to the Union to maintain the most friendly relations with India."

If South Africa cannot or will not understand this, it will be no wonder if judgment is passed against it of not only being fierce, intolerant, racial bigot, unkind and inhospitable, but also being unintelligent.

SETH GOVIND DAS IN THE TRANSVAAL

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

SETH GOVIND DAS, the Congress member of the Central Legislative Assembly at New Delhi, arrived in Johannesburg on Thursday morning, December 16. He was met by a very large crowd of Indians at the Park Station and was garlanded on behalf of the Transvaal Indian Congress. Almost all the prominent Indian merchants in Johannesburg were present and the Agent-General for India was represented by his Secretary, Mr. Ridley. Seth Govind Das was then taken to the house of Dr. Dadoo where he stayed as the guest of the Transvaal Indian Congress. After breakfast Seth Govind Das had a very long conversation with the Agent-General who was a colleague of Seth Govind Das while they were members of the Council of State in India.

In the evening, Mr. Kallenbach, an old friend and associate of Mahatma Gandhi, invited Seth Govind Das to dinner. At 8 o'clock in the evening he was given a public welcome at the Patidar Hall. Such was the public enthusiasm over the visit of Seth Govind Das that the hall was crowded to over-capacity and many people had to stand in the doorways and near the windows. Sir and Lady Raza Ali were also present.

From numerous speeches of welcome it became apparent that Seth Govind Das had suffered and sacrificed much on account of his convictions and worked for the liberation of the Motherland. Although being born with a silver spoon in the mouth, because he happens to be a grandson of a very big Zamindar who gets his income from and has control over nearly 800 villages in the Central Provinces, and who has the title of a "Rajah," he gave everything and was disinherited by his father merely because he joined the forces of the Indian National Congress in its fight for independence. At one time he was a member of the Council of State but resigned during the non-cooperation days and was thrice imprisoned during the Satyagraha struggle.

The Agent-General, in his speech of welcome particularly expressed the hope that Seth Govind Das would do his level best to bring about reconciliation between the South African Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association.

In reply to the welcome Seth Govind Das spoke briefly in English and then

addressed the gathering in Hindustani, saying that India and Africa were commercially connected with each other from time immemorial. There was mention of a commercial relation between the two countries in the Hindu scripture and historically, he added, Vasco da Gama particularly noted the fact that Indians were trading in large numbers on the shores of Africa. Seth Govind Das also referred to the fight for independence carried on by the Indian National Congress. The fight for freedom began, he said, in 1905 when Bengal was partitioned. The movement gained its immediate objective of abolition of the Bengal partition and subsided after two years. Thereafter in 1920 and 1930 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, whose precepts, Seth Govind Das claimed to follow devoutly—a greater mass consciousness was engendered in India which was much nearer its goal as a result of these two Satyagraha struggles. The acceptance of the office by Congress members in seven provinces of India was also a step in the right direction to achieve greater strength of service and sacrifice for the masses as a whole. He expressed the hope that the final struggle which may be waged by the Congress would secure without any doubt freedom for India. He concluded by alluding to the waning influence of communalism in India and said that Hindus, Moslems, Parsis, Sikhs, Christians and all others were joining Congress in increasing numbers to fight the battle of freedom, and exhorted the Indians in South Africa to follow that example.

On Friday the 17th Seth Govind Das went on a visit to Pretoria accompanied by the Secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress. Seth Govind Das went by appointment to visit Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr at the Standard Bank Building at Pretoria. A very insulting and humiliating incident occurred then. The liftman in the building point-blank refused to take Indians in the lift, because, he said, it was against his conscience to do so. The matter was reported to the Minister and his Secretary had to come down to escort the visitors. The interview between Seth Govind Das and the Minister lasted for 45 minutes and it is believed that many matters concerning India and Indians were freely discussed. In the evening Seth Govind Das heard, at the Patidar Hall, an elaborate presentation of the Indian grievances in the Transvaal and he assured the Indian community that he would place them before the Central Legislative Assembly and the people in India.

Seth Govind Das also thanked the Union Government for the courtesy and

consideration shown towards him especially in regard to railway facilities.

Seth Govind Das left for Durban on Wednesday afternoon.

Interview With 'The Star'

The Star (Johannesburg) writes:

Grandson of a rajah, and the only rebel in the family, Seth Govind Das, a member of the Indian Legislative Assembly, Delhi, is making his first visit to South Africa to study the Indian situation. Because he is a rebel against the British Government, he has been disinherited by his father, who is pro-British, and very wealthy.

Mr. Das toured East Africa for 10 days, using an aeroplane because he had very little time at his disposal.

Describing his mission to a representative of the *Star*, Mr. Das said that the important question in East Africa to-day, and in India, was the question of the clove trade of Zanzibar, which had long been in the hands of Indians.

On this, the main trade of Zanzibar, the whole Indian population had been living, but the Government of the island passed a law, known as the Clove Decree, the object of which they said was to protect the native, but which, in the opinion of the Indians concerned, and also in the opinion of people in India, was designed to create a monopoly, ostensibly for the protection of the native, but actually to secure a monopoly for a European syndicate, and thus eliminate the Indian community.

"That is the reason why," he said, "the Indians of Zanzibar, notwithstanding tremendous sacrifices, have totally and successfully boycotted this trade in Zanzibar, and the Indian National Congress has organised the entire boycott of cloves imported from the island. It is noteworthy that 50 per cent, of the cloves produced in Zanzibar has heretofore been imported into India."

Situation In Union

"It has been the experience of Mr. Das, as an old member of the Central Legislature, that some question or other affecting the Union, is always arising. He has, therefore, thought it advisable that an Indian, preferably a member of the legislature, should study for himself the situation in this country.

"I have come here for that purpose," he said, "and after studying the matters on the spot, I will try to do as much as I can for the protection of the rights of Indians here, by placing the facts of the situation before my party in the Central Assembly, and also in the Assembly itself.

"So far as the Indian National Congress in India is concerned, it is the supreme political organisation of the country. Of 11 provinces, seven are being governed by Congress Ministers.

"It is wrong to say that the Congress is a Hindu body. Moslems are joining the Congress in large numbers, and the influence it has on the Moslem community may be gauged from the fact that in the recent elections at Bijnor, in the United Provinces, in a Moslem constituency, the Congress candidate defeated the Moslem League nominee by a majority of 5,000 votes, the Congress candidate getting 7,000 votes and the Moslem League candidate only 2,000 votes. Both candidates were Moslems.

"The goal of the Indian National Congress in India is complete independence, including the severance of the British connection if necessary."

In reply to a question about the Far East, Mr. Das said: "So far as the Indian National Congress is concerned, it stands for the protection of the rights

of humanity. It is always with those countries which are oppressed and against those which are aggressive.

"Our sympathies are with China, just as they were with the Abyssinians in the Abyssinian war, and with the Arabs in the recent troubles in Palestine. I may say that I have been thrice in gaol for my espousal of the cause for which the National Congress stands."

Tea Party At Langham Hotel

A Tea Party was given in honour of Seth Govind Das on December 19 by Messrs. Master Bros. There were many distinguished Indians and Europeans present. The Agent-General for India was also present. Mr. D. U. Mistry, who was one of the speakers, said that the Congress in South Africa should follow in the footsteps of the Indian National Congress. He requested Seth Govind Das to use his good influences to bring about the much needed unity in the community.

The Agent-General, Sir Syed Raza Ali, eulogised the services of Seth

Govind Das and, criticising the remark made by Mr. Mistry said that if following in the footsteps of the Indian National Congress meant Passive Resistance it will not be a practical thing. Passive Resistance was a weapon of the weak. Besides, the Indian population in this country was not large enough for such a step. If, however, there was any suggestion for any constructive work then he had no objection to it.

Seth Govind Das, after thanking the hosts for their kind reception said it was wrong to say that Passive Resistance was a weapon of the weak. In fact it was a weapon of the strong. Passive Resistance did not depend on the numerical strength of a people. A small number could also offer Passive Resistance if the circumstances were favourable, and the community was prepared and the cause for which it was launched was sound.

After the function Seth Govind Das paid visits to the Indian locations at Springs, Benoni and Germiston.

A PROMINENT EUROPEAN VISITOR FROM INDIA

ADVOCATES FULL CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS FOR INDIANS

SOUTH AFRICA in its own interests should adopt one of two courses regarding its Indian population. It should either exclude them from the country or grant them full civic rights and it is up to South Africa to maintain the most friendly relations with India because of the inevitable improvement in the Indian economic level from which South Africa will undoubtedly benefit.

That is the considered opinion of a prominent European ex-official of the Indian Government who is on a business visit to the Union.

In a special interview with the *Natal Mercury* he gave an intimate picture of the developments in the Indian sphere and indicated the trend of events to which, he considered, the Union should pay the closest attention, if only from the commercial viewpoint.

Amplifying his assertion that the Union should adopt one of two courses with its Indian population, the ex-official said: "South Africa has a real reason for treating the Indians well if the country remembers that the Indian population is 370,000,000, that the average annual income of every man, woman and child in India is something under the equivalent of £7 and if that were increased by only 10s. a year, an extra spending power of £180,000,000 would be available of which South Africa, as a near neighbour, could draw handsomely."

That 10s. increase—an arbitrary figure—is almost inevitable, he added, and for that reason it is up to the Union to maintain the most friendly relations with India.

"Within the last 12 months," he continued, "Indians have been given the opportunity of governing themselves through the introduction of Provincial autonomy. The economic standard in India has been low because of various factors, many of which, such as religion and custom, we foreigners, could not interfere with. The Indians themselves, however, have been able to do it and there is no doubt that among the Indians there are politicians who to-day could rank among the most brilliant of the world's politicians.

"But it will be through British approval and assistance that that economic standard will be raised and as inevitably as the sun will rise and set to-morrow, that economic improvement is coming."

Asked if India would secede from the Empire, the *Mercury's* informant considered it most unlikely. Mahatma Gandhi was one of the most extraordinary powers wielding influence over India to-day and, Nationalist as he was, he was thoroughly loyal. Gandhi was not an enemy of Great Britain. If Gandhi were Prime Minister of India there never would be even the slightest suggestion of India seceding from the Commonwealth.

"Jawaharlal Nehru, his right-hand lieutenant, is another great influence but he has not got the breadth of vision of the little Mahatma. He has been badly bitten by the Socialist or even the Communist bug and onlookers have never been able to appreciate how he reconciles the Socialist or Communist with the Hindu ideology.

"He undoubtedly has a great hold on the youth of India, but Communism in India, unless specially organised and aided by Moscow, will never obtain a great hold.

"Gandhi, on the other hand, may be past the zenith of his physical power because he is now 69 and that is a great age for an Indian but he is certainly by no means past the zenith of his moral influence. In fact that may be regarded as greater than ever for in India it is the moralities and religions that tell more than anything else.

"In the interests of the British Commonwealth of Nations one can only hope that he will live for very many years. If he does not, his successor will automatically be Nehru and that will inevitably result in a split of the Congress Nationalist Party which the personality and influence of Gandhi has held together for ever so long.

"Anybody who has not been in India or even pretty intimately mixed up in Indian politics cannot have more than a very faint realisation of the influence that one small man wields over virtually a whole sub-continent."

MR. KODANDA RAO ON INDIANS ABROAD

ADDRESSING a meeting at the Ewing Christian College, Allahabad, on "Indians Abroad," Mr. P. Kodanda Rao referred to his recent tours in foreign countries. He stated that though he had introduction from the Government of India and Mahatma Gandhi, he went out as a private student and in no representative capacity. He was not permitted to visit French Indo-China.

Mr. Rao said that conditions in different countries varied and it was not possible to generalise about all countries and he confined his remarks mainly to the condition of Indians in Fiji, British Guiana and Trinidad. Indian emigration could be broadly divided into free and indentured. Indians had gone to Fiji, British Guiana, Dutch Guiana and Trinidad as indentured labourers to take the place of the emancipated Negro slaves. Indian emigration stopped finally in 1920. Indians, lowest in the economic and cultural scale, were selected for recruitment and transported to the colonies to work for five years with the option to return to India at the end of the period.

Permanent Population

But gradually conditions were made difficult to return to India, with the result that a good proportion of them settled down in the colonies as a permanent population. Neither the Government nor the planters took much interest in the education and social amelioration of Indian "coolies." The only organization that laboured for the welfare of the Indians was the foreign Christian missionaries who were entitled, therefore, to the gratitude of India, notwithstanding that their work had limitations both internally and externally.

To-day Indians occupied various vocations. There were professionals like doctors, lawyers, skilled artisans, landowners and tenants and agricultural labourers. If some of the lowest of the low from India, with such limited aid as the Christian missionaries could give, in spite of heavy odds from other quarters, could make so great a progress, it was not inconceivable that they might have made still greater progress if conditions had been very propitious and helpful.

Emancipated Negroes

Proceeding, Mr. Rao said that compared with similar classes in India, Indians in the colonies were better off in almost every way, though compared with other communities, among whom

they lived in the colonies, they came last. Even a Negro treated India with contempt because Indians went there to take the place of emancipated Negroes. Moreover, they had taken from India some very old-fashioned ideas. Among Indians whether born in India or in the colonies there was, however, great love for India and deep concern for her welfare and progress. Among many there was an ardent desire to return to India, even if they might be worse off in India. There was great sentimental attachment for India.

In Trinidad and British Guiana schools and political institutions were common to all races and religions. There was a common franchise and common schools. Perhaps in consequence the relation between different races was more cordial than in Fiji where life in almost all its phases was cut up along racial lines. There were separate schools and franchise for differ-

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ent races. The relation between the Whites and the non-Whites were none too cordial.

Battle Of Tongues

Unsatisfactory as was the attitude of the Government of Fiji towards the Indians, their education was further weakened by internecine battle of tongues. Mr. C. F. Andrews, who more than any other single individual, had done most to emancipate the Indians in Fiji, had advocated Hindi as the medium of instruction in the first three grades of the elementary education for Indian children. The Government accepted it but some South Indians were not reconciled to it, and they in consequence raised funds to build schools of their own to give education in the South Indian languages. They urged that the earliest education of a child should be either in the mother-tongue of the land, which in the case of South Indians was other than Hindi or in the language of the State, namely English. They re-

sented the compulsory imposition of Hindi, which was as foreign to them as English and not so useful either.

Need For Research

Finally Mr. Kodanda Rao pleaded that universities and colleges in India should conduct a research and give courses of lectures on Indians abroad and help to form a well-informed public opinion in the country. He also pleaded that organizations of repute and resources should send out accredited agents, well-educated and highly cultured to work amongst Indians abroad who were becoming increasingly conscious of their racial, national and cultural individuality. There was an element of danger in that, against which statesmanship must guard itself. The danger was of that individuality being pressed so far as to estrange Indians from other races amongst whom they had to live and create suicidal problems for themselves. The Indians abroad needed the best men and women in India to go out and help them.

Fountain of Wisdom

There are three kinds of silence. Silence from words is good, because inordinate speaking tends to evil. Silence or rest from desires and passions, is still better, because it promotes quietness of spirit. But the best of all is silence from unnecessary and wandering thoughts, because that is essential to internal recollection, and because it lays a foundation for a proper regulation and silence in other respects.—*Madame Guyon.*

Be cheerful. It is better to live in sunshine than in gloom. If a cloud rests upon your heart, turn its silver lining to your friends, and the glow of cheer it will cast upon them will be reflected on you, and the cloud will give way before the brightness and joy its own light has begotten.—*Great Thoughts.*

Man is an intellectual animal, and therefore an everlasting contradiction to himself. His senses centre in himself, his ideas reach to the ends of the universe; so that he is torn in pieces between the two without a possibility of its ever being otherwise.—*William Hazlitt.*

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARITY A CURSE

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—Every few months we hear of big donations running from four to seven figures from single individuals for charitable purposes. We also hear of some huge funds collected for some such purposes. This apparently shows the moral and spiritual progress of the people from amongst whom there come out such philanthropists. But on further thought there arises a doubt. Is charity always an unadulterated blessing? Frequently we come across cases of respectable poor people committing suicide in strained circumstances where they cannot earn enough to maintain their wives and children. Why? Could they not beg for help or charity from their friends and relations? Rather they prefer death to living on charity. The present-day charities for the blind, cripples, old persons, widows, deserted women and children, orphans, needy poor, unemployed, both won't work and can't work, and many such others, bring degradation and loss of self-respect. It manufactures beggars. For one donor of charity running to five figures, how many recipients should there be to benefit by it? Does it show prosperity or adversity? Where children, old people, women and decrepits are left destitute by their parents, sons, husbands friend and relations to depend on charity for their living, is it a moral progress or retardation? These charities sound rather like the kind and careful treatment of vivisectionists who introduce germs of horrible diseases in poor, innocent animals and then give them free and charitable treatment. It shows the exploitation of the masses; and what remains superfluous after making a bonfire of the wealth so collected, is given out as charities. Soviet Russia is criticised for taking away the care and maintenance and education of the children in Russia, that thereby they break asunder the tie of love between parents and children. What a gross misrepresentation! There every parent contributes his or her share to the State for their children, their old and decrepit. The State-aid is virtually their drawing upon their collective savings, and naturally they ought to feel proud to have saved and to be drawing on those savings. There is no degradation and no loss of self-respect. There no children are unwelcome guests and there is no unemployment. The State there might be going to an extreme in this function, but on principle it is on the right path. In nature it is not for seas and oceans that collect water in tons to distribute it in parts. It is the domain of nature to exact more from

where it is more and less from where it is less and distribute it evenly to the world. Blessed is the country where charities go a-begging in search of the needy to receive them.—Yours etc.,
N. M. BHUTT.

India's Sympathy With The Chinese

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—It grieves me a lot to think that you, a son of the great Mahatma, should hold principles and give expression and publicity through the medium of the columns of the above journal, principles that no decent thinking Indian should have. You express sympathy with the Chinese, and ask whether our public organisations in Natal have had no time to call public meetings to express sympathy for China in her hour of trial! I am happy that this useless and senseless "advice" of

Pen-Friends

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yours was not taken. Who are we Indians, I ask you, to sympathise with the Chinese? Do you not realise that a strong Japan, allied with China, with or without her consent, by hook or by crook, means a stronger East. Do you not think that an all-powerful Japan, could and would help us to get free from the British yoke? In any case, even if Japan Imperialistic ambitions, is it not better to be under an Eastern race rather than Britain? Is it not plain that Britain is engineering all the hate and "outraged conscience all over the world" against Japan? Do you realise that Britain is manoeuvring to get as many nations as possible to stand against Japan, and help China, not for humanitarian reasons, but for her own selfish ends to give vent to jealousy. Why are you being so foolish as to write such articles as your editorial appearing in your issue of December 3. Perhaps you have been overwhelmed with compassion and pity

for China after reading the newspapers which mostly publish news, issued through British news agencies noted for their "John Bull" sense of fairplay? and justice?

Please cancel my order for your paper as from above date.—Yours truly,

M. S. CHETTY.

[Note: The writer has exceeded all bounds in his perverse mentality. If he can allow thousands of innocent lives to be butchered in cold blood, his selfishness is certainly no better than that of the British. If his rebuke applies to us, it applies also to the great leader of India and the whole Indian nation who have expressed their sympathy with the Chinese.—Ed. I.O.]

Thanks

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—Will you please allow me a little space in your valuable weekly to express my sincere gratitude to the very many "Health and Strength" Leaguers, Physical Culturists and friends in Durban and Johannesburg, for the kind hospitality they extended to me during my recent visit to Durban and Johannesburg. I wish them all every success, good health and happiness throughout the year 1938.

C. G. PILLAY, G/W. D.O. (Eng.)

1933/34 South African Light Weight Olympic Champion.

P.O. Box 382,
Port Elizabeth.

How To Clean A Sink Pipe.

IF there is any stoppage in the sink drain, the pipes may usually be cleaned by dissolving ½ lb of caustic soda in a pail of water and pouring this down the drain. This mixture removes grease which so often coats the pipes. Or put down a gallon of boiling water to heat the pipe, then pour a cupful of paraffin to form an emulsion with boiling water. Ordinary washing soda is not enough, as often it combines with the grease and needs gallons of boiling water to remove it.

SRI RAMAKRISHNA TEMPLE AT THE BELUR MATH

AN APPEAL TO OUR COUNTRYMEN

READERS of the Life of Swami Vivekananda are aware that when he succeeded in finding a permanent home for the sacred remains of his great Master Sri Ramakrishna at the Belur Math, near Calcutta, in the year 1899, he heaved a sigh of relief as having discharged a heavy responsibility. It was his firm belief that the Master would live in that sanctuary for ages to come, "for the welfare of the many, for the happiness of the many;" for did he not say to his beloved Naren, "I will live wherever you will carry me"? That the place has a peculiar attraction for men and women from all parts of the world holding diverse beliefs, is patent even to a casual observer who watches the ever-increasing crowds of visitors that gather there everyday particularly on festive occasions. A large percentage of these people come with sincere religious hankarings in their hearts, and never fail to experience an inward peace and blessedness. All this is attributable to the divine presence of Sri Ramakrishna, who was the embodiment of purity, love and spiritual power.

Swami Vivekananda had dreams of erecting a temple of Sri Ramakrishna on the grounds of the Belur Math. He had even prepared under his directions a plan and design of the temple, which was to be an imposing stone structure with a spacious Natmandir or prayer-hall capable of accommodating a thousand devotees. But he did not live long enough to carry out his project. The cruel hand of death cut short his event-

ful life in its very prime. The plan and design he left for his proposed temple remained a sacred heirloom with his brother-monks, who could not get together the necessary funds for such a big undertaking. Recently, however, an offer to help came from an unexpected quarter. Some self-sacrificing Western devotees proposed to contribute Rupees six lakhs and a half exclusively for this purpose, with a request that the temple be completed as early as possible. Accordingly, a plan and design of a part-stone structure consisting of a Garbhamandir (main shrine) faced with Chunar stone and a Natmandir (prayer-hall) partly faced with it, were prepared on the bases of the plan and design left by Swami Vivekananda, and construction started under the supervision of Messrs. Martin & Co., Calcutta. The edifice, when complete, will be a unique work of beauty and grandeur, which will harmoniously blend some of the salient features of Oriental and Occidental architecture, and be strong enough to withstand the ravages of time for centuries to come. It will certainly be the first one of its kind in Bengal, which possesses no stone temple worth the name.

But the promised donation from the West, although princely, has proved insufficient for the purpose, and needs to be supplemented by other contributions to the extent of at least Rupees one lakh and a half to finish the temple and to construct other necessary works connected with it such as kitchen and store-rooms, a landing ghat and a pro-

tective embankment. The construction will be finished by March next. So the above sum must be collected forthwith. It occurs to us that there may be thousands of devotees and admirers of Sri Ramakrishna all over the country who sincerely feel that the temple erected in his honour at the Belur Math must be as strong and imposing as possible, and they would naturally like to contribute their quota in materialising the cherished project of Swami Vivekananda. We, therefore, consider it our duty to acquaint the public with the present situation regarding the temple and invite their kind co-operation. Our reticence in this matter has led many to conclude that the whole of the estimated cost has been subscribed and that consequently no further help is necessary. But it is not so. Now is the time for our countrymen to demonstrate their admiration and regard for Sri Ramakrishna, according to their means. Here is an opportunity for them to join hands with our Western friends, so that both East and West may unite in paying homage to this great Prophet of the Harmony of Religions, whose advent was for the good of the whole world. Any contribution sent to the President, Ramakrishna Math, P. O. Belur Math, Dt. Howrah, mentioning the Temple Fund, will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the undersigned.

SWAMI MADHAVANANDA,
Acting Secretary,
Ramakrishna Math, Belur.

Things In General

Mr. Stuart Cloete's Protest To Union Government

MR. Stuart Cloete, author of "Turning Wheels" which has been banned in the Union, and the publishers, Messrs. Collins, have cabled the Union Government protesting against the censorship ban and offering to withdraw the offending passage in the book which do not affect the theme of the story. The alterations, if approved, will be in a special edition for the Union only. Failing this compromise, Mr. Cloete informed the *Daily News* correspondent at London that the publishers intend contesting the powers of the Censorship Board under the statute. "My book cannot be banned on grounds of pornography like previous

South African bannings which closely followed English decisions. What agitators ought to be thankful for is not what I've put in, but what I've left out. The book does not pretend to be historical, but purely fiction. If it is fact that the critics desire, however, I can supply more than they want from official publications."

Indian Scouts Under Canvas

The fourth annual camp of the Natal Indian Boy Scouts Association was held from December 17 to December 20 at the Umbogintwini Bird Sanctuary, near the bridge on the New Drive off the main South Coast Road, past the Isipingo School. Approximately 100 Scouts were

under canvas. The following Troops were represented: Malvern, A.Y.S. Mayville, Essendene, Roosfontein, Clairwood Senior, Isipingo and Springfield Methodist. The 1st Durban Rovers also joined. Mr. Done, the Divisional Commissioner, with his assistants, visited the boys.

7,000 Homeless In Rome Floods

It is estimated that 7,000 are homeless in the outlying suburbs of Rome as a result of floods and the overflowing of the Tiber. Several people were drowned in Rome and the Provinces. The Tiber had risen 44 feet above normal. Many acres of land have been swamped, stocks of grain destroyed and many sheep and cattle drowned. The flooding of the Tiber is the worst recorded for 37 years.

Rhodesian Industrial Conciliation Act

In the House of Commons at question time Mr. Malcolm MacDonald informed Mr. A. Creech Jones (Lab., Shiplay), that the provisions of the Bill introduced by the Legislative Assembly of Southern Rhodesia under which it is proposed to amend the Industrial Conciliation Act did not involve the fixing of a colour bar.

Mr. Creech Jones: Will an opportunity be given for discussing this Bill before the Secretary gives his sanction to it?

Mr. MacDonald: The main effect of the Bill, which has now been passed, is

to give power to the Governor to apply to natives in municipal areas the terms of industrial agreements which have been previously declared binding upon those who are not natives engaged in the industry concerned. I have already informed the Governor that His Majesty will not be advised to exercise his power of disallowance in respect of the Act.

Most Costly Shipwreck On South African Coast

The *Stuart Star*, the 11,884-ton Blue Star liner, is lying on the rocks 200 yards from the shore, east of Hood Point, about two miles south-west of Buffalo Harbour. She was bound for East Lon-

don from Algoa Bay and ran aground in dense fog at 9.45 on Friday morning. Frequent attempts were made by the tugs *Fuller* and the *Eriksen* (the Durban tug) to tow her off, but they were unfruitful. The loss of the vessel will probably be the most costly shipwreck that has taken place on the South African coast this century. She is the biggest ship ever to be wrecked on the African Continent south of the Equator. It is estimated that the value of the ship and cargo at the time of her loss would be round about £400,000. Fifteen passengers and the crew of 93 were brought ashore. She had on board 1,864 tons of general cargo. Hopes of salvaging it have been given up.

India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Mahatma Gandhi Has Heart-to-Heart Talk With Bengal Governor

SEATED under a banian tree on the banks of the Ganges inside the Government House compound at Barrackpore, Mahatma Gandhi on November 9 discussed with the Governor Sir John Anderson, for two hours, the most burning problem of Bengal and India, namely "Relief to political prisoners and detenus." Despite weak health, Mahatma Gandhi insisted on having the interview as previously arranged at Barrackpore although, it is stated, the Governor was prepared to motor down to Calcutta to avoid an unnecessary strain on Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi issued the following statement to the Press subsequent to the interview: "I had nearly a two-hour interview with his Excellency at Barrackpore. Owing to my illness, the interview was considerably arranged on the grounds. Naturally, the talk was confined to the relief of political prisoners and detenus. The public won't expect me to describe the conversations in detail for the sake of the common cause. I would ask the Press and the public to be satisfied with the statement that I have pressed my point of view to the best of my ability and it was fully discussed between his Excellency and myself. I would like the Press not to indulge in any conjecture about the nature of the conversations which has to be in the nature of things private."

Congress Hold On Masses

The extent of the hold of the Congress on the masses in the Province of Bengal will be gathered from the fact that as many as 245,000 men and women have this year enlisted themselves as members of the Congress as against only 18,000 enrolled last year. This would enable Bengal to send her quota of 515 delegates to the forth-

coming session of the Indian National Congress. Of the thirty districts, which have contributed to this tremendous figure, Tipperah, enrolling 50,000 members, is leading. Calcutta, with four districts—Central, South, North and Pura Bazar, comes next, enrolling nearly 49,000.

China's Reply To India's Sympathy

Poet Rabindranath Tagore has received the following letter from Mr. Ying Kiang, Chairman City Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. T. T. Poon, President Young Men's Christian Association, Canton (China):—

"We have read in the Press dispatches of the protests which you, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the Indian National Congress have made against the inhuman bombing of civilians in the unjustified attack which the Japanese militarists have made upon our country. We wish to express to you our appreciation of the spirit of justice you have shown, and we should like to have you to convey our appreciation to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and to the members of the Indian National Congress. China will resist, but the help of India and other countries is needed in pressing an economic boycott against the Japanese. Japanese militarists are a menace not only to China but to all countries of the world including Japan herself."

American Journalist's Observations About India

"India is throbbing with a new type of nationalism," declared the Rev. F. A. Wilmont, correspondent of the *New York Times*, in an interview given to the *Hindustan Times*. "I have been in India a little more than a month," said Mr. Wilmont, "and yet in that brief period, I have met Gandhiji, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Pandit Jawahar-

lal Nehru, the Congress Premiers and many others who are laying the foundations of a New India which, it seems to me, will be a spiritual democracy such as the world has never known before. It has been thrilling to see how the youth of India are responding to the new spirit—for it is in their awakening and in their spirit of sacrifice that the new day will be ushered in."

Desai Elected President Of Bombay P.C.C.

At a special meeting of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, Leader of the Opposition in the Central Assembly, was elected President of the Committee for the current year.

Subhas Bose In England

Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, according to Indian exchanges, has gone to England in the middle of last month by air for about six weeks' stay there for reasons of health.

Paper From Coco-Nut Husks

A young Madras graduate, Mr. S. R. K. Menon, claims to be able to make paper from coco-nut husks. His experiments were carried out in Ceylon, the price of coco-nut husks there being cheaper than in Travancore, the important coco-nut-growing centre of India, where the coir (coco-nut fibre) industry is highly developed. Mr. Menon's process consists in reducing the husk to a brown pulp and then bleaching it. He declares that 10,000,000 acres of coco nut plantations in India and Ceylon could supply the world with cheaper and better paper. According to this scheme, husks to the value of 3s. could produce paper worth 36s., and he has asked the Coco-nut Board for aid in his researches.

The Sporting World

Indians Beat Natal Coloured XI At Cricket

ON Saturday afternoon, December 18, at Currie's Fountain, the Durban Indian XI beat the Natal Coloured XI by 48 runs on the single innings. The teams were:—Indian XI: Osman Buckus, M. C. Reddy, G. Mahomed, E. A. Mangoo, G. H. M. Doerat, D. E. Paruk, E. I. Bhorat, Roy Haffeejee, J. Ohengiah, P. Moola (capt.) and A. G. Kazi. Coloured XI: J. Davis, F. Williams, J. Meintjes, E. Yon, E. Montgomery, H. Hayden (capt.), B. Fatar, C. Ryan, B. Bredenkamp, A. Lazarus and D. Vester. The Indians were in a bad plight with four wickets down for 30, but with the advent of Bhorat a splendid recovery took place, both Mahomed and Bhorat playing safely. They carried the score past the century, when Mahomed was caught on the leg side with a chanceless 67 to his credit, the total being 110 for six. R. Haffeejee was next man, and this pair consolidated the position, scoring all round the wicket and holding the fort until the close of play, the total being 172 for six. Continuing on Sunday at 9.45 a.m., Bhorat lost his wicket at 178, his individual score being 59, and this is the first occasion on which this youngster has topped the half-century in big cricket. The innings closed for 191. Bredenkamp, who took ill on Saturday, bowled well on Sunday and was responsible for three wickets, C. Ryan claiming four, Meintjes two and Montgomery one. After an early collapse the Coloured side's total was taken to 102, when Meintjes was bowled by Bhorat for a well-played 47. Bredenkamp filled the vacancy, only to lose Ryan at 105. He had contributed a useful 30. They were all out for 148, Ohengiah took three wickets, Kazi three, Bhorat two, and Paruk one. In their second innings the Indians scored 118 (Doerat 36). Hayden was the most successful bowler, claiming six wickets; while Bredenkamp followed with two and Meintjes and Vester with one each. With 45 minutes' play the Coloured side opened the second innings with a leeway of 166 runs and in a carefree manner hit up 62 runs for the loss of five wickets, the chief scorers being Hayden 25, Meintjes 16 and Montgomery 17 not out. Of the bowlers O. Buckus and Doerat were responsible for two wickets each, while G. Mahomed claimed the other. A most pleasant game ended in favour of the Durban Indian side by 48 runs on the single innings.

Verulam Temple Cricket Club

On Sunday, December 19, the Verulam Temple C.C. met the Queens C.C. of Umgeni, in a friendly match on the Verulam Indian Sports Ground. It was quite an interesting match for the crowd

By "Rambler"

that assembled to witness. The match ended in favour of the Verulam Temple C.C., who defeated their opponents by 8 wickets.

The Verulam Temple C.C. will tour the Northern Districts during the week-end. They will be leaving Verulam on Saturday, December 25, and will put up for the night at the residence of Messrs. Boodhoo & Sons., of Pomery. The following day they will leave for Dundee, and meet the Dundee United C.C. in a friendly match. Leaving Dundee the next morning, will travel to Ladysmith, where they will play against a Ladysmith XI. It is expected that the Verulam Temple C.C. will be away for about four days.

Transvaal Coloured Cricket Union

Mr. Sol. D. Royeppen, holding office as hon. secretary of the Transvaal Coloured Cricket Union for over fifteen years, has been nominated to represent Transvaal at the forthcoming South African Cricket Conference which takes place in Durban on January 2. The South African Coloured Cricket Board, which was then in existence, has failed to stage the bi-annual tournament for the Barnato Trophy for quite a number of years. As a result of which, the Western Province Coloured Cricket Union and Transvaal, have agreed to Natal's proposal to discuss the position of the present South African Coloured Cricket Board at the forthcoming conference. Mr. Bonar Richards, the president of the South African Cricket Board, who resides at No. 30, Ross Street, Kimberley, had been advised of the proposed conference at the kind request of Natal. It is hoped, however, the president will endeavour to be present at this important conference without fail.

Aryan Cricket Club (Port Elizabeth)

A cup match was played at the Aryan ground on Sunday, December 12, between Aryan C.C. and Kismet C.C. Kismet had the batting first. The match resulted as follows:—Kismet: first innings, 45 runs; Aryan: first innings, 42 runs. Kismet: second innings, 24 runs; Aryan: second innings, 35 runs for 2 wickets. Aryans won the match by 8 runs and 6 wickets.

Dundee C.C. vs. Estcourt C.C.

On Sunday last, the Dundee C.C. met the Estcourt C.C., at Ladysmith. Estcourt batted first and registered 62 runs to which Mangoo scored 37 runs, and Nanjee took 3 wickets for 8 runs. The Dundeeites batted and replied with 98

runs to which M. C. Peer scored 46 runs. James David took 4 wickets for 24 runs. Thus Dundee won the first innings by 36 runs.

Northern District Indian Cricket Union

The following will represent N.D.I.C.U. at Durban on 1st and 2nd January 1938, in the Intertown Competition:—A. Rawat (Capt.), C. Essay, M. C. Peer, Doorssamy, Nanjee, S. Paul (Dundee), M. Manjoo, J. David, J. Augustine, A. Beeran (Estcourt), S. Jackdeo, M. O. Ismail (S.A.R.I.C.C.), V. G. Augustine, V. K. Naidoo, and M. Joseph (Ladysmith C.C.). The above team is without the services of the Ottoman and Young Moslems C.C. Owing to the holidays, many will be occupied in shops, to open a new sheet for business for the coming year.

Presentation

The officials and members, on behalf of the Northern District Indian Cricket Union, made a presentation to Mr. E. W. Ellison, who has rendered invaluable services towards the Indian Cricket World in Ladysmith for the past years. The presentation was made by the president, Mr. H. R. Singh. Messrs. M. Thomas, J. Augustine, E. I. Chupty, R. Kallie and Fred Kallie spoke at length on the occasion. Mr. Ellison suitably expressed his thanks.

Non-European Boxing Challenge Accepted

No time has been lost by Bud Gengan's manager in accepting the boxing challenge issued by Mannie Dixon recently. Both Gengan's manager and his trainer (Mr. Johnny Sullivan) are confident that Gengan will beat Dixon again, as he has already done on two previous occasions. Although Gengan has not made an appearance in the ring for a couple of months, he has been under Johnny Sullivan's care during the whole of that time. Articles have already been signed, and it is understood that the fight will take place in February.

Canoe Races At Olympic Games

The Japanese Olympic organisation proposes to include a canoe race in the 1940 Olympic Games to be held in Japan. It is expected that this will be approved at the general meeting of the International Olympic Committee at Cairo next year. The International Canoe Club at Munchen has already guaranteed six entrants.

To Club Secretaries

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