

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Death Of Shrimati Swarooprani

Nehru

WE regret to record the sad death of Swarooprani Nehru, the widow of the late Pandit Motilal Nehru. She passed away at Allahabad on the 11th of this month. Born and bred under affluent circumstances, she, with her husband and children lived in comfort and ease until the family came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi. Pandit Motilal Nehru had in her a companion who never stood in the way in his enormous sacrifices for his country. With her husband she has served India most faithfully. She has been to prison to liberate India from the yoke of the Bureaucratic Government. She had been subject to the brutal lathi charges during the last Civil Disobedience movement. She leaves her son Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the present President of the Indian National Congress, and two daughters Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, a Minister in the U.P. Congress Cabinet and Mrs. Krishna Hati Singh to mourn their loss. We, along with the whole of the South African Indians, tender our heartfelt sympathy to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his sisters for the irreparable loss they have sustained.

Springfield Indian Gardeners

The Durban Turf Club has agreed to the Durban City Council's offer, on lease, of the 150 acres at Springfield. The land is presently occupied by Indian Market Gardeners. The lease is for 5 years at a rental of £500 per year, with a right to the Turf Club to purchase the land at £75 per acre. The Turf Club is to indicate to the Durban City Council what it proposes to do in regard to the Indian Market gardener tenants. The tenants, through Mr. A.

Christopher, President of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, have petitioned to His Honour the Administrator of Natal, to prevent the lease or the option to the Turf Club of a purchase by private treaty for £75 an acre being exercised.



The Late Shrimati Swarooprani Nehru.
ਮੱਧਮ ਸਵ. ਸਦਗਤ ਸਵਰੂਪਰਾਣੀ ਜੋਤੀਬਾਏ ਨੇਹਰੂ.

A Warning To The East

Sir Ian Hamilton, speaking as a guest at a Monte Carlo Club dinner, stressed the Asiatic menace to Europe. After referring to Spain and the European trouble, he said: "In the meanwhile pawns are being placed in readiness for the battle of Armageddon. The Emperor of the East is on the march; his fighters cross mighty rivers, and the wings of his planes darken the sky. He hopes to capture Hong Kong and Singapore. Yet we Europeans are worrying ourselves over Spain. Half a million Chinese have already been killed in the opening battles. What is the moral to my tale? Surely, that

somehow or other Europe should forget old feuds and prepare to stand shoulder to shoulder against Asia, which is fairly on the move.

Whilst it is all very well for the veteran General to speak of the danger in the East, he was studiously silent when Italy ruthlessly walked over Ethiopia. Europe stood silent whilst Mussolini massacred thousands of innocent Ethiopians on his march for victory.

Housing For Coloured People

The Durban City Council, according to Mrs. Benson who recently addressed a public meeting of the Coloured community at the Emmanuel Hall, is to erect 26 semi-detached cottages for the coloured aged people on 2½ acres of ground on the newly acquired Sparks Estate at Sydenham. It was felt that the type of people who would occupy these cottages are such that they would prefer comfortable homes and would not desire grounds for gardening. The Council had also agreed to erect 24 single, sub-economic cottages, 12 of which would be three roomed and 12 four-roomed. In addition 10 four-roomed cottages would be built on the Sparks

Estate under an economic system, under which occupiers could buy the houses. The meeting indicated that 300 families wanted Corporation housing immediately.

Coloureds And The Vote

In the course of his speech at a meeting of the Coloured community held under the auspices of the European and Coloured Christian League, at the Emmanuel Hall, the chairman, Mr. T. V. Holland deplored the wicked growth of colour prejudice. He stated that one of the principal injustices that has been perpetrated upon the Coloured community was the removal of the franchise. It was taken away from them

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 1938

A Scandal

THE Durban City Council has offered the Durban Turf Club, the lease of certain 150 acres from its Springfield Estate for a training track. The lease is for 5 years at a rental of £500 per year, the Club to have the option of purchase at £75 per acre. The land affected is now in the occupation of Indian gardeners, who have been growing vegetables on the land for the last fifty years. The Turf Club has accepted the offer, and the City Council has now written to the Club to ascertain what provisions, by the way of compensation would be made for the Indian gardeners who would be displaced from the land.

Whilst negotiations were proceeding between the City Council and the Turf Club, the Indian gardeners have not been asleep. They lodged a protest, in the strongest terms possible, against the City Council leasing the property to the Club. Several meetings of the affected Indians were held at which resolutions were passed and forwarded to the Council. We are informed that at one of the meetings, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Benson and Councillor H. H. Kemp were present. The Indian gardeners did not rest at protesting. They went further and have actually offered to purchase the 150 acres at £100 per acre, which is 33½ per cent. more than the price that the Durban Turf Club would have to pay if the option were exercised.

The Council has taken no heed of the representations made on behalf of the Indians on the land affected. The Council appears to be more concerned with the lease of the land to the Durban Turf Club.

The action of the Council can only be described as scandalous. The Springfield Flats have for over two generations, been supplying vegetables to the City of Durban. The Flats, although subjected to periodic floods from the Umgeni River, have been tenaciously held by the Indian gardeners. Year in and year out, in season and out of season, Springfield gardeners have never failed Durban in supplying the people with vegetables. The City Council is now endeavouring to push aside these gardeners who have so faithfully served Durban.

The equity of the case of the Indian gardeners aside. We feel that the Indian community has not had a stronger case to represent than that of the Springfield Indians. They have, through their spokesman Advocate A. Christopher, made a definite offer for the purchase of the 150 acres at a price considerably in excess of that to be paid by the Durban Turf Club.

One cannot imagine the City Council negotiating with the Club, when a better offer has been received from Indian gardeners. That is against public policy. And we cannot imagine His Honour the Administrator of Natal, to whom Advocate Christopher, has appealed, giving his consent to the proposed lease to the Turf Club.

If the City Council lease the land to the Durban Turf Club over the heads of its Indian tenants, then the grossest injustice would be perpetrated.

The case of the Indian tenants is just and strong therefore in their fight against this injustice we would suggest that after every constitutional method has been exhausted they should not refrain from even resorting to Passive Resistance. Let there be no compromise. We would rather they die fighting than accept compensation from the Durban Turf Club.

although thousands of them fought for the safety of democracy. The League was going to press to the uttermost for the restoration of that franchise.

So This Is War

A recent report from Salamanca reports that two hundred school children had a narrow escape on Friday last during the worst air raid on Salamanca since the Spanish war started. The bomb scored a direct hit on a school for infants known as Jesuitia's School, which is run by nuns. There were 200 baby girls on the premises at the time, but the only casualty, it would appear, was a nun who was wounded while conducting a class to safety.

To the occident this is war. How Europe, which boasts of a civilization, "par excellence", can exhibit such acts of brutality is incomprehensible. Has Satan got the better of Europe?

Post Office Will Not Be Fooled

People who enthused in sending through the Post Office 'puzzle' address, will in future, have to think twice before they send a letter with such a foolish address. The Postmaster General states that any letter with a puzzle address will be returned to the sender stamped insufficiently addressed.

Licensing Office Hours.

The Traffic Advisory Board of the Durban City Council has recommended that arrangements should be made for the Municipal Licensing Offices to remain open from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on week days to enable people to obtain their motor licences during the lunch hour period.

The New Agent-General

The *Tribune* reports that it is most likely that the successor to Sir Syed Raza Ali will be Sir Kailas Narayan Haksar, of Gwalior State. It will be remembered that Sir Kailas played an active part at the Indian Round Table Conference.

Destiny Of South Africa

Speaking at East London on Saturday night at a civic dinner in honour of himself and Lady Duncan, the Governor-General said that the time had long passed when people both in and out of South Africa spoke of it as a land which, though richly endowed with mineral wealth, was destined to go back to its old state when that mineral wealth was exhausted—and it was then thought that it would be soon exhausted. "That idea," he said, "has been discarded. It has been replaced by a new consciousness of our national destiny, and we are using our mineral wealth and the prosperity derived from it to build up our national progress. There is ahead of us a great deal of work, in which we should strive to forget the differences of the past in a greater view of the future—an ideal for which we can all work for the future good of South Africa."

PLIGHT OF THE TRANSVAAL INDIANS

YONDER IS THE PRECIPICE

[We have pleasure in publishing Mr. Ritch's article on the plight of the Transvaal Indians. Never was an article more opportune. Mr. Ritch refers to the Slums Act. What the Class Areas Bill failed to achieve, the Slums Act will not only achieve but also outdo the provisions of that Bill.—Ed. I. O.]

THE drag-net is gradually closing in on the Transvaal Indian community, and the segregation policy so long and indefatigably pursued against them promises—or is it, threatens?—to become an accomplished fact within the very near future.

The Gold Law, tightened up as it has been from time to time, the Townships Act, the Licensing Ordinances, and, finally, the Slums Act, provide a combination against the attack of which there is no escape. What the one misses, the other catches. To change the metaphor.....if the mills of reaction have ground slowly, they will be found to have ground exceedingly small by the time they stop revolving. One scarcely needs to be prophet or seer to visualise the position of our Indians in the now very near future. Their exodus from suburban areas has already gone far. The Slums Act is being relentlessly employed to expropriate properties registered to Indian companies what time such corporations were within the law in owning fixed property. Where and when trading licences are renewed at all, by reason of their antiquity, they are so renewed only provisionally and conditionally. Johannesburg is being "zoned" into areas European and non-European. Renewals of trading licences are en-

By Mr. L. W. RITCH

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dorsed as being granted (and accepted) subject to the Council's future requirements under the provisions of any present or any future Town Planning scheme. Which is equivalent to "at our pleasure." The Malay Location will, almost certainly, have to be evacuated; a vigorous agitation is being engineered to have it declared a slum. The Lessees have never been much better than tenants-at-will. They have no security of tenure or title beyond a receipt for the stand rentals, yet many have built expensive shop-premises. This week some seventy applications for renewals of trading licences for these stands—nearly if not quite all by Indian shopkeepers—were held over to allow the Council to consider its attitude. (The shopkeepers in question are, many of them, sub-tenants who, strictly speaking, are illegally occupying)

The very small shopkeepers in such remoter suburbs as Newclare are in similar jeopardy. All in all it is no exaggeration to say that the prospects of the small Indian trader are extremely gloomy. Their problem of to-morrow is going to be a double-sided one: How are we going to live? as well as, Where are we going to live?

The big men are still comforting themselves with the belief that their size and relative importance will ensure their escape from the net or the mill-stones—according to which metaphor is preferred—and some of the more astute have, it is believed, actually planned to turn to profitable account the opportunities for exploitation they

foresee will come their way as the exodus of their poorer brethren proceeds.

Jungle ethics are jungle ethics the world over; brute force and brute cunning the resources of the strong to devour the weak. There is, however, this difference between the sub-human jungle dweller and us denizens of the jungle we superior animals call "civilisation" that in the former "dog does not eat dog"; in the latter there are no such scruples. The Indian who does not hesitate to exploit his fellow Indian and who little reckons what befalls his brother so long as he escapes disaster has no legitimate ground for squealing when his own shoulders are made to feel the whip of calamity wielded by hands still stronger than his own. Justice is ever just; mercy is to the merciful. The selfish, the avaricious, the pinched and cramped little souls imprisoned within the prison of their sordid ambitions and egotisms have yet to learn the truth concerning "Am I my brother's keeper?" Nor, will the excuse that they are no worse than their neighbours, that they but follow the example of their "betters," avail. The privilege of the oppressed is to shew himself the moral superior of the oppressor. We, on the contrary, have occupied ourselves in exhibiting our own cleverness at the oppressor's own game of beggar-my-neighbour. Dacoity naturally resents competition and rivalry in its own business, and the stronger side naturally uses its power to reduce the weaker to impotence. Salvation for the community is possible only one way, Gandhiji's way. When that is perceived and tried there will be hope; till then.....!

POSITION OF INDIAN WORKERS IN NATAL

LABOUR M.P.C. URGES NEED FOR ORGANISATION

AN appeal to Indians to emancipate themselves and derive from life a few of the worthwhile amenities of existence was made by Mr. A. T. Wanless, M.P.C., at a lecture in the Tamil Institute Hall, Cross Street, Durban, on Tuesday night. Mr. Wanless discussed many of the labour problems which confronted Indians in Natal and Durban. He said that the lot of the Natal Indian was anything but an enviable one. He was the subjective minority of the community and was without the redress of political influence. He was exploited in labour, both by reason of race and colour. He could not engage in the primary interests of the country where

his ability would tell, but was driven into other avenues of employment where he was invariably exploited. The speaker dwelt at length on the position of Indians in the secondary industries. "Some work at the deplorable wage of 8s. and 9s. a week," he continued. "They may be mere youths, but there are a large number of Indians in the sweated dens who have families to keep on this wage. People who allow this sort of thing to exist without taking steps for improvement cannot be called human beings." Mr. Wanless emphasised that it was necessary to form some organisation so that a few of the repressive measures could be relieved.

It would be preferable if this was done in conjunction with other organisations of similar sympathies. He felt that there was a real capacity behind the Indians when they exerted themselves, but it was their duty to push ahead without waiting for help. He enumerated several points which he considered the Durban Indians would have to face in the near future. Make sure, he warned, of the nature of the organisation and its purpose. "Define its relationship between Indian and European workers, and then fight for political expression," he advised in conclusion.

REAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE real spiritual life is the life of relationship between a human being and God or, in other words, the relationship of one individual soul with the Universal Soul. Spiritual life presupposes the existence of God, and does not call for any proof through the instrument of reason. Seekers of real spiritual life have no doubt whatever about His existence. What they are constantly longing and labouring for is greater and more increasing contact with Divinity. They know that this increasing contact is obtained through the unselfish service of others. To them, the aim of human life is absorption in God, union with Divine Life, resulting in everlasting peace, bliss, and salvation. They seek to help others also along the same path.

On the other hand, there are persons who have either no time or no inclination to seek or follow spiritual life. They are satisfied with what is commonly known as material life, *i.e.*, with the pursuit of wealth, power, and honour for their own sake. Their energies of youth are focussed on obtaining knowledge and then wealth; and from this source they expect to obtain all comfort, to be able to live in peace and happiness eventually. Some persons add the pursuit of worldly honour, or social distinction to their chase for wealth. There are still others who like to acquire power, so as to be able to rule and dominate their fellow-men. These acquirements are frequently intended for self-glorification, for self-aggrandisement. These are persons who can be said to live for themselves, a purely material life. For these followers of pure material life the words "Spiritual Life" have no meaning. Some of them openly declare that religion is a fraud, a hoax practised by clever, unscrupulous men upon ignorant minds or upon gullible fools. For them Avatars (Incarnations), prophets and sages who lived the life of love, faith, and service, were either mythical characters unknown to history, or absolute frauds.

There is another important section of the human race, whose apparent occupation in life is pursuit of wealth, but whose inner life of worship, faith and devotion remains hidden, even from their closest friends. According to them inner life is sacrosanct and should be effectively screened from the public gaze. They love and worship God in private, without making a show of it; they take their guidance from Him before the daily round of duties, remember Him in their task during the day and then return to Him for solace after the day's work is done. An average man only sees their outer life, and wonders if they have any inner life at all. But

By

R. R. KHANNA M.Sc.

In "Prabuddha Bharata."

their actions speak louder than words. Their spirit of service, sympathy, and kindness speak out for themselves.

An average man, however, only sees two distinct classes of persons, existing side by side, in this world of strange contradictions. One class attempts to collect all the goods of the world and the other class is contented with what little it has. The average man is, however, not aware of the state of mind of the two different types of men, *i.e.*, of men without any faith in God and of men with faith in God: followers of pure material life and followers of spiritual life. The difference is, however, enormous.

Most of us will doubtless have experienced that there comes a time when one or other of our ties of life snaps: a dear one dies, a misfortune overtakes us, or we feel great helplessness in some other way. A sort of earthquake brings down our house of cards, built on insecure foundations; our false values then become too apparent. Then we see Truth in the couplet: "The Great Hunter has His eye on every branch of every tree: It is His Will that I should not build my nest anywhere except in Him." We all know that there are occasions when we find ourselves face to face with death, agony, starvation, disease when only some Higher Power can save us from a critical situation. Even the most confirmed atheist, who proclaims his atheism when he is well off, on such an occasion cries out either aloud or in his heart of hearts, "Oh! good God," and then he checks himself by force of habit and says, "Is there a Power that can still save me from this sudden death, this agony, this disease? If so, let Him come and help me." His agonizing tears shed in secret, his contrite heart are sufficient to move the tender heart of our Great Loving Father. He comes readily to the rescue of the misguided one. The situation is invisibly averted and the agony is spared. A fresh lease of life is thus obtained. For Lord Buddha the sight of one corpse was sufficient to divert his attention from princely life to the life of the spirit. Similarly, for some grateful souls one mild shock is sufficient to give them a permanent awakening to real values. There are, however, others like me upon whom the incident of a critical situation averted through sincere prayer is soon lost and its lesson is quickly forgotten. The same agnosticism starts again. The grateful soul,

however, having once seen a situation of complete helplessness of man turns to establish its relationship with the Almighty God on a permanent basis. In our lives many shocks have perhaps failed to arouse us from our slumber. That is why we ask: "Is there a Creator for this universe? Can His existence be proved with reason? Why should I worry about Him at all?" Apparently we need more shocks; it is a mercy that they don't come more often. Perhaps because the Loving Father cannot see His children suffer. And yet, we are not prepared to learn without suffering!

While we think seriously of the deeper problems of life, the following questions naturally suggest themselves to us: (a) Is it reasonable to assert that this universe, consisting of the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, the planets, etc., exhibiting such wonderful beauty and clock-work regularity, should be without a supreme controlling Power? (b) Do not the laws known to Science suggest to us that there must be a Master-Mind behind them? Does Science make laws of nature or merely discover them? (c) Is it right to deny the existence of the Science of Chemistry or Bacteriology, because we have not received any training in these Sciences? (d) Have the atheists definitely made a search for God and failed? Have they followed the instructions of those who know Him? Much has been made of reason in this age. Reason has its own sphere of action but that sphere is limited like the sphere of all other human faculties. The human eye cannot see the infra-red region or the ultra-violet region. Other delicate instruments know these regions perfectly well. The human ear can hear only within a limited range. The "wireless" shows us the existence of other regions clearly. Similarly the boundary of reason is also limited. For example, reason finds itself bewildered in the region of love. Love is known to be blind. It is not surprising, therefore, that reason cannot understand faith. The position of reason is very insecure. Four persons, whose reason is not strongly developed, sitting together will be found at peace with one another—whereas four persons whose reasoning faculty is strongly developed will be found quarrelling with one another in a short time. Each one of them will claim his reasoning to be right. Which one should we follow? You cannot build the house of your life on such shifty, sandy soil. One argument tomorrow may upset all my reason of to-day. We must look for a surer foundation to form the bed rock of our lives.

For the benefit of those of us who have not yet made a beginning in

spiritual life, but desire to do so, I would respectfully suggest that they should assume for a time that God exists very near us, that He is all-powerful: also that he loves us. The Creator loves his creation. This is perfectly simple. The Father loves His children. Each of us has a daily task to perform or some difficulty to face. For most of us the load appears to be heavier than we can carry with joy. Let us therefore pray to our Father, to our Master for help, before starting. Let us pray to Him for help, imagining that He is standing before us in human form, listening to all we say. Imagine that He is full of power, full of love, anxious to help us when we ask Him for it. Who would not like the friendship of a powerful being? Then, let us thank Him for what He has given us—for we are better off than many round about us. If we are deprived of any of our present belongings, any of our organs of knowledge, we shall then learn to prize these gifts greatly. Let us express our deep sense of gratitude for all these, because He has given them to us unimpaired. Let us also beg Him for help in our day's duty. I have found that help does come *invariably* and I can now carry my load with joy, because of His help. This is available free, merely for the asking, to everyone of us, provided we are sincere in our asking. Try this experiment and you will like the results. If you find that this prescription

works and results are satisfactory then forge ahead. Your assumption with which you started will stand proved. You will find the most difficult task becoming easier. If after sufficient trial you find that the prescription has failed, then either give it up or go to someone who can help you along. He will tell you the cause of your failure. You will find that your faith will grow from strength to strength. Life will become a joy instead of a burden. The language to be used in prayer does not matter. God knows all languages. The most effective language is the language of the heart. Any time you select for prayers according to your religion is good. God is available at all times. Follow your own religion and carry out the teaching of the Founder of your religion with sincerity and love. But, remember to get down to the *original teaching*. No change of religion will be necessary.

Let me describe to you the state of mind of a man or woman without faith. My observation is that a man without faith is the weakest animate being of all creation. Don't be deceived by his external make up; don't be bluffed by his apparent bravado. See him when the rude shock of life comes to him. That is the time to test the strength of a man. He is then found unprepared; he will look like a ship without an anchor trying to meet a storm. His reason refuses to help him then. Reason gives poor solace to a man whose heart

is broken. Can the pain of the heart be relieved by an appeal to the head? On the contrary, a man endowed with faith, finds a permanent support for his mind in God. In all such situations, his mind travels back to the feet of his Lord; to whom he presents his afflicted heart for the healing balm—love. He receives internal support and fights his battle again with renewed vigour, and greater faith.

Real spiritual life consists of this relationship of love between human beings and their creator; call Him by any name you like; worship Him in any form you like; pour out your heart to Him in any language you like; at any time you like. He will respond to all sincere worship, to all true devotion. This relationship is held firmly together by the cement of faith, through all stresses and storms. We observe that the sun, the moon, the earth, the air, the water, belong to all of us. God, their Creator, similarly belong to all of us. He cannot be the monopoly of any one religion; He belongs even to those who do not seek Him. He loves them even though they do not love Him. A father loves his child even though the child be a truant child; even if he is disloyal for a time. He likes to see us all happy and loving each other truly. Those who strive in this direction obtain joy and happiness in this life; their faces are bright and glowing with radiant joy. This road is open to all.

CONGRESS WAS NEVER STRONGER THAN TO-DAY SAYS PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU delivered a powerful speech at a public meeting held recently in Purshottamdas Park (Allahabad). He declared that the Congress was never stronger than to-day. They must carefully study the international situation and take advantage of it and of the psychological background in India to fight Federation and win freedom. Pandit Jawaharlal said there were undoubtedly conflicts which the Congress ministers had to face, but these were minor issues compared to the big issue facing the country, viz., independence. Congress was the only organisation which could lead the nation successfully through the impending crisis and they must strengthen the Congress. That was what mattered at present. Europe to-day was like a boiling cauldron and any moment flames might leap out and destroy the continent. After few years,

he thought, the whole world would be changed.

Congress Ministries

Referring to Congress Ministries, he said that they were working under serious limitations of law on the one hand and insistent demands of Kisans and labourers on the other. He did not think their troubles could be ended under the present circumstances. Democracy, he said, demanded discipline as well as freedom of expression of views on the part of the public for formulation of national policies.

Referring to Federation, Pandit Nehru said that the A.I.C.C. had sent out a sort of a 'diplomatic' note to the Government at its last meeting. Some people said the resolution was very mildly worded. He wanted to tell them that the Congress was in the position of the Govern-

ment now and they had couched their resolution as one Government would do in sending a note to another Government. It was the power behind that note that mattered. As for the steps to combat Federation, he thought it was somewhat premature to discuss them at present.

Replying to a question from the audience as to why Mr. Parmanand had been arrested under Section 124-A, Pandit Nehru said he did not know the facts of the case, but in broad outline he laid down what should be the Congress policy in such matters. He said the Congress Ministers could not countenance speeches tending to cause violence and create danger of the breach of peace. Congress Ministers would not do anything that would antagonise the public, as they had to rely upon the goodwill of the people.

Things In General

Natal Indian Farmers' Union

THE delegation, comprising of Messrs. J. Khan (president), K. Thambran, M. S. Reddy, M. A. Reddy, B. J. Naiker, S. Sarjeewan and S. M. Moodley, of the Natal Indian Farmers' Union, that set out a few weeks ago to tour the Union and Lourenco Marques, has just returned to Durban. The object of the tour was to make an extensive and a thorough investigation from the economic and general point of view in so far as the fruit traffic is concerned. It is expected that the delegation will make a full report shortly.

Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association

Amongst the matters that were discussed at the last meeting of the above association were the following:—

The age of Indian women who were entitled to receive relief grants had been reduced from 65 to 60. Further representations are to be made for an additional reduction with minimum age.

The association is to write to the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs in order to investigate the possibility of obtaining a grant from the Indian Immigration Bureau Funds for welfare work amongst Indians in the Transvaal.

It was learned that Mr. Jajbhay was prepared to give £1,000 towards the establishment of a Maternity Home for Indian women.

Hindu Temple On The Reef

The first step towards remedying the lack of cultural and religious facilities for the Hindu community in Johannesburg has been taken. A temple is to be built by the brothers Messrs. Kale-Churen Rain and Kale-Churen Dawnarain, the sons of the late Mr. Male-Churen, who in his lifetime desired the opportunity to build a temple for the Hindu community of the Transvaal. His wish was not realised, but his sons have now decided to erect as a memorial to him a hall and temple on a site in Meyer Street, Martensdale. It is expected that the building will be completed by the end of April, when regular services will be held. The memorial hall has been designed so that it may be used for school purposes and for public functions and meetings. Efforts are being made to get a prominent citizen to open the hall. The temple will be the first of its kind in Johannesburg and will be unique in that it is being provided at the expense of one Indian family. It may be the forerunner of many similar institutions for the cultural and social advancement of the Hindu community.

Weights And Measures Act

In a circular addressed to the Indian merchants and importers, the joint secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress advise that Government officials have informed that body that some binding twine imported from India and sold in Natal was under two ounces, which was a breach of the regulations framed under the Weights and Measures Act. The circular gives the relative regulations in details for the information of the importers.

Indian Mayor

For Mauritius Capital

Mr. Goolam Mahomed Dawood Atohis, the unofficial Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, has been elected Mayor of Port Louis for 1938. This is the first time that an Indian has been

M. K. Gandhi Library And Parsee Rustomjee Hall Committee.

A farewell reception will be given to Pandit Rishiram B.A. on Saturday, January 29 at the the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, 140, Queen Street, Durban at 2.30 p.m. All are cordially invited to attend.

O. H. A. JHAVERI,
Chairman.

S. J. RANDERIA,
Hon. Secretary.

raised to the mayoralty of the capital, notwithstanding the fact that Indians comprise 75 per cent. of the Island's population.

Mr. Varma's Activities

Mr. Garudath R. Varma, who recently made an extensive tour of the Cape Province will be the guest of the Parkhill Fraternity Club of Greenwood Park, on Sunday, January 30. During his sojourn at the Cape, Mr. Varma made a close study of the conditions of non-Europeans and it is his desire to publish same in a series of articles in the non-European Press in Durban. During his stay there, Mr. Varma approached several organizations with the same ideals and aspirations, and he feels confident that a conference of all organizations may be convened at Capetown or Durban some time in December. At Capetown, Mr. Varma officially represented South African Youth Movement (Durban Indian

Branch), Ilanga Lase Natal, South African Hindu Maha Sabha, Umkomaas School Board and Parkhill Fraternity Club. His investigations there will also be the text of an interesting lecture to the club at a future date.

Young Men's Muslim Association

The following telegram was sent by the Young Men's Muslim Association, Durban, to King Farouk and Queen Farida, on the occasion of their marriage: "Accept our heartiest congratulations and good wishes on this felicitous occasion of your marriage."

Ermelo Indian Government School

A well represented gathering of parents and scholars assembled at the Ermelo Government Indian School on Sunday last, on the occasion of the presentation of certificates to the successful scholars who passed their 6th Standard. Amongst the prominent merchants present were: Messrs. Ismail Dendar, Cassim Bhagalia, Ismail Cassim, Ahmed Joosub, Mahomed Ravilla and Ismail Jasat. Mr. Ismail Dendar presided. The principal read the brief report of these boys and wished them every success, and he sincerely pleaded with the parents to make every endeavour to afford them higher education by sending them to a college. The successful students for 1938 were: Abdul Haak Bhagalia, Omar Joosub Moonda, Salim Bhagalia and Ismail Moola. The meeting decided to extend the present school building and to open a boarding house for country boys. A scholarship will be established to enable successful students to further their studies. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair. Those present then partook of light refreshments.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The treasurer of the Nizamia Muslim Society, (Maritzburg), begs to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations:—Collection on Eid Day, £7 3s. 8d.; Messrs. International Harvester Co., £5; Hillman Bros., Hendler & Hendler, United Tobacco Co., African Tobacco Co., and Jones & Co. Ltd., £2 2s. each; O. H. C. Peer, £1 10s.; Atlantic Refining Co., A. H. Arnold, Kaffarian Steam Mills, Prices S.A. Ltd., Vacuum Oil Co., and Monat & Co. Ltd., £1 1s. each; Miss J. Fell, Mrs. E. A. Harwin and Ramthulla Basha, £1 each; A. Fakier, 15s., D. E. Noorgat, 11s.; S. Yacoob, Binder Gerung Co., G. R. Bradlow & Co., L. Dingler Ltd., H. Evans & Co., Globe Chair Factory and Saffer Bros., 10s. 6d. each; Ireland & Co., R. Fuller, S. A. Mall Deen Mahomed, Est. E. I. Mandivi, M. D. Jasat, Shaik Yusuf and I. A. Soosiwala, 10s. each; S. E. Kader, 8s. 9d.; Nabbie Buckas and Allaodeen, 5s. each,

Lord Lothian Meets Mahatma Gandhi

The Bombay correspondent of *The Times* states that political circles are evincing great interest in Lord Lothian's conversations with Mahatma Gandhi at at Sheogaon, in the Central Provinces. Lord Lothian is living in a mud hut adjoining Mahatma Gandhi's and is partaking of the same food as members of Mahatma Gandhi's settlement. His interviews with Mahatma Gandhi last only an hour a day, owing to Mahatma Gandhi's weak state of health. Lord Lothian, who is the 11th Marquis, was Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Indian Office in 1931-32, and in the latter year he was chairman of the Indian Franchise Committee. He was secretary to the Prime Minister from 1916 to 1921. His connection with South Africa goes back to 1905, when he was appointed assistant secretary of the Inter-Colonial Council of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. He was editor of the Round Table from 1910 to 1916.

Bitter Fighting In Snow

The bitterest fighting of the China war is taking place in blizzards, snow and sleet on the Lunghai railway front, says *The Daily Telegraph's* special correspondent in Peking. Japanese columns driving towards Suchow, a vital railway junction, are encountering stubborn resistance. Both sides are having great difficulty in supplying their men with food and munitions owing to the weather. About 30,000 Chinese troops are reported to be entirely out of supplies and to be roving over the countryside frantic with hunger. Bombing by Japanese planes has completed the destruction of their lines of communication which storms had begun. A five-hour battle at Mingkuang, near Pengpu, ended in the Chinese positions being stormed at the bayonet point. The retreating troops blew up the bridges over the river. Japanese artillery attempting to cross on the ice crashed through into the water and engineers had to work up to their waists in the freezing river making temporary bridges. The intense cold has made this battle, which is being waged over a vast area, one of the cruelest of the whole campaign. Frost bite is taking a heavier toll than the actual fighting.

Chinese War Lord Executed

Standing in the bitter cold under a cheerless drizzle, General Han Fu-chu faced a firing squad at Wuchang, on January 24, across the river from Hankow. Previously General Han Fu-chu had heard the verdict standing in stony silence, but his face paled as the fatal words he himself had so often pronounced were uttered. The execution is expected to result in the strengthening of discipline in the Chinese army. Gene-

ral Han Fu-chu was one of the great War Lords of China. The charges against him included disobedience of military orders, undertaking an unauthorised retreat, the forcible sale of opium to people of the Shantung province, the forcible exaction of taxes and other levies and seizure of public funds.

British And German Protests

The British and German Consuls-General in Tsingtao have made representations to the Japanese authorities regarding cases of illegal entry of property of their nationals. British property was concerned in four cases and German property in two. The most serious case occurred when a British subject, Mr. Malcolm Young, found a drunken Japanese soldier on his premises and was assaulted when he attended to eject the man.

Trials Of Monster Plane

One of the world's largest aircraft, the first of 14 Armstrong Whitworth "Ensign" monoplane ordered by Imperial Airways, was seen by the public for the first time on June 24, says a Reuter's message from London. Trees had been cut down and fences removed to make way for the giant plane. The plane took off after a very short run and landed in an equally short distance. It left Hamble the same afternoon for Coventry to carry out further tests. The craft, which has accommodation for 42 passengers, has a wing span of 123 feet and an overall length of 110 feet. It weighs 20 tons and has a speed of 200 miles an hour.

M.C.C. Commission's Findings

Drastic recommendations are included in the findings of the Commission appointed by the Marylebone Cricket Club to investigate the problems confronting first class counties. The recommendations include reduction of championship competitors from seventeen to fifteen, and twelve points for a win instead of fifteen. No points will be awarded to the side losing the first innings. The innovations not recommended include an eight-ball over, though it is admitted that it would be time saving in time-limit of cricket. The report also recommends that the clubs making arrangement with professionals should insert a clause that no player should accept a tour overseas unless the consent of M.C.C. was obtained after consulting his committee.

Death Of R.A.F. Pilot

A Reuter's message from London dated January 24 states:—Pilot Officer Charles Hober Percy, who was killed on Sunday while practising landing on Aircraft Carrier Glorious, his plane crashing into the sea near Malta, was the son of Mr. Neville Henry Hober Percy of Tower House, Tuxedo Park, United States.

New Year Calendars

We acknowledge with thanks, calendars for the New Year from Messrs. E. P. & Commercial Printing Co. Ltd., Seligson & Clare Ltd., Mercantile Printing Works (Durban); N. M. Pillay (Molteno); and B. N. Patel (Johannesburg).

Acknowledgment Of Good Wishes

The following replies to Christmas greetings sent to members of the Royal Family have been received by Mr. M. C. Muslim-Bana, Samrodi, Durban.

QUEEN MARY

"I am commanded by Queen Mary to thank you very much indeed and your family, for the charming Christmas greeting. Her Majesty is very much touched by your letter, and reciprocates your good wishes."

DUKE AND DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER

"The Equerry to the Duke of Gloucester has been directed by His Royal Highness to thank Mr. M. C. Muslim-Bana for his kind Christmas wishes, which their Royal Highnesses much appreciated."

DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT

"The Private Secretary to the Duke of Kent is desired to convey to Mr. M. C. Muslim-Bana the sincere thanks of the Duke and Duchess of Kent for his kind wishes on the occasion of Princess Alexandra's first birthday."

American Jews And Palestine

At a national conference to appeal for a united Palestine, American Jews were asked to raise 45,000,000 dollars this year to provide a home for Jews from Rumania, Poland and Germany in Palestine. The conference resolved to ask for a British assurance that the restrictions on immigration to Palestine would be temporary, and expressed a wish that "the British Government will not swerve from its solemn undertaking to co-operate with the Jewish people in establishing a Jewish national home in Palestine."

Social And Personal

MR. F. J. Naidoo, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Naidoo, of Grahamstown, has returned from Ceylon by the *Gujarat* which arrived in Durban on January 7. Mr. Naidoo has been 16 years in Ceylon, and during the past nine years, has been a lecturer at St. Peter's College, Colombo. He left for Grahamstown on January 10 to join his father's firm.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Coopan, of Ohetty's Cafe, Durban, wish to express their appreciation for the kind assistance rendered by numerous friends on the occasion of their son's wedding on January 19. They also desire to thank those friends who sent congratulatory messages and gifts to the bridal couple.

India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Congress President

CONGRESS headquarter's announce that Subhas Bose, who is now in London, has been elected president of the 51st session of the Congress which is being held in Haripura next month, states a Reuter message from Allahabad.

The Fire Of Hunger

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru speaking at a largely attended meeting at Sylhet (Assam) said: "What is important to-day is not so much the local problems as the problem of India as a whole. Think in terms of India, and to some extent, in terms of the world. When a house is on fire, our first duty is to contemplate efforts to extinguish it. The fire of hunger has broken out in India to-day, and I wonder how the people in our country can dissipate their energies over petty problems in the face of that danger. I have no patience with persons who quarrel over petty disputes, utterly disregarding the solution of the big problems first." Continuing, Panditji confessed his feeling of embarrassment at the language of excessive praise showered on him in which the addresses presented to him were couched. "These show," said Mr. Nehru, that people expect magic things from me. I am afraid there is nothing like magic in this world, otherwise "Swaraj" should have been attained long ago. On the other hand, you have to try hard and work incessantly for the fulfilment of the ideal in our view. It may be right to show affection for an individual, but in India it is dangerous to exalt an individual too much. We have had too long a list of persons sitting not only in an exalted position, but on the shoulders of humanity. We want now the forgotten and down-trodden men to come up in their turn."

Bombay Wants Titles Banned

The Congress Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution expressing the opinion that the conferring of titles by the King or the Viceroy on any persons in the Bombay Presidency should be discontinued.

"India Extraordinarily Peaceful"

Lord Lothian in a broadcast speech from the All India Radio, Bombay, declared that: "India is extraordinarily peaceful, compared with the countries of Europe. It seems to me that whereas there are no bombing planes at Bombay there is no city in Europe which has not some 500 bombing planes within hundred miles of it, and so I am very glad indeed to be in India where every-

thing is so peaceful and pleasant." Lord Lothian said that he was very anxious to find how conditions were in India now that the new constitution had come into being. Asked if he hoped to see Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders, he replied in the affirmative and hoped that Mahatma Gandhi would very soon be restored to perfect health.

Wardha Educational Scheme

"Education, if sound in its principles, should be imparted through some craft or productive work, which should provide the nucleus of all other instruction provided in School," says Dr. Zakir Hussain, Chairman, Wardha Education Committee, in his report, which outlines a seven year course as the basic education for boys and girls and a three-year course as training for teachers. The report, which, at the outset condemns the present educational system as "functioning listlessly and apart from real currents of life, unable to adapt itself to the changed circumstances,

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neither being responsive to the realistic elements of the present situation nor inspired by a life-giving creative ideal" emphasises that the object of this new educational scheme "is not primarily the production of craftsmen able to practise some craft mechanically but rather exploitation for educative purposes of resources implicit in craft work. This demands that productive work should not only form part of the school curriculum—its craft side—but should also inspire the method of teaching in all other subjects. Stress should be laid on the principles of co-operative activity, planning, accuracy, initiative and individual responsibility in learning." The report also stresses that the teachers and educationists who undertake this new educational venture should clearly realize the ideal of citizenship inherent in it. The new scheme will aim at giving the citizens of the future a keen sense of personal worth, dignity, efficiency and the will to strengthen in them the desire for self-improvement and social service in a co-operative community. The following are sug-

gested as the basic crafts in various schools for a seven-year course:—(1) Spinning a weaving; (2) carpentry; (3) agriculture; (4) fruit and vegetable gardening, (5) leather work and (6) any other craft for which local and geographical conditions are favourable. The report also lays emphasis on proper teaching of the mother tongue, elementary knowledge in mathematics, social studies, general science, nature study botany, zoology, hygiene, physical culture, knowledge in the stars, chemistry, drawing, music and Hindustani. The teacher's training course is also designed on similar lines.

Madras Premier At Law College Students Union

Sjt. Rajagopalachariar the Premier of Madras, addressing a gathering of Law College Students Union at Madras the president Miss Vilasini Shenoai, presiding replied to a question asked whether it will not help to secure for the unemployed law graduates some places, if the separation of the Executive and the Judiciary was effected." If the Executive and Judiciary are to be separated it will have to be done on grounds of principle but not with a view to creating a few more posts for the unemployed lawyers. Separation will certainly entail additional expenditure. The question is, whether in the present state of affairs, it will be wise to launch upon it when we have more urgent things to attend to." Mr. Rajagopalachariar continuing refuted the suggestion made in certain quarters that separation of Executive and Judiciary would not entail additional cost. The Premier put forth a vigorous plea to the Law graduates to go and settle themselves in villages and be of help to themselves and their countrymen like medical practioners in rural areas. They could tender advice to the villagers and settle disputes among them. They should keep villages in good sanitary condition and should become preventive and curative lawyers and sanitary officers. The lawyers should know something of everything. The Madras Premier then said that lawyers, both men and women, had a great future if they took to this work. He even foresaw a greater future for women lawyers if they settled in the villages, than their male brethren. In that they would more tactfully and gracefully settle disputes among the villagers. Concluding, Mr. Rajagopalachariar said that he envisaged a new curriculum of legal education to adapt the profession to villages and make young men and women best fitted to be village lawyers.

The Sporting World

Cricket At Sea View

AT Sea View, on Sunday January 16, the Shamrocks Cricket Club beat Malvern Cricket Club, by an innings and 74 runs. The Shamrocks batted first and scored 163 runs of which Alex Peters, who opened for the Shamrocks, hit up a forceful 97 not out in 110 minutes, this being the highest individual score ever made in Sea View. Jack Naicker who partnered him hit up a breezy 27, the partnership adding 84 runs for the second wicket. In both innings, the Malvern collapsed against good bowling by Jack Naicker and Edgar Peters, who took 8 and 9 wickets respectively in both innings. Malvern replied with 41 in their first innings, and were made to follow on to score 19 for 9 wickets. They were all out for 48 in their second innings. Mr. P. D. Naicker captained the Shamrocks, and must be complimented on his success.

Transvaal Coloured Cricket Union

Mr. Sol. D. Royeppen, one of the delegates chosen to represent Transvaal at the Board meeting in Kimberley on January 19, writes:—Everything in terms of the request made at the South African Cricket Conference in Durban was car-

By "Rambler"

ried out most satisfactorily. With the exception of Natal, the Board meeting was fully represented. The deliberations having been completed, Mr. Royeppen, the acting secretary of the South African Coloured Cricket Board in the Transvaal Province, was requested to advise the affiliated centres accordingly. The venue of the next South African Coloured Cricket Tournament for the Barnato Trophy is now definitely decided to take place in Transvaal during Christmas and New Year holidays. A formal welcome was extended to the delegates of the visiting centres by Mr. Bonar Richards, president of the Board, when the latter announced that the Board was revived and will resume its activities at headquarters, Kimberley, until the next South African Cricket Tournament. Mr. G. Moosa, president of the Western Province Coloured Cricket Union, paid a tribute to the president of the Board. Throughout the proceedings of the meeting, the president displayed a spirit of friendliness, and the fact that Mr. Richards held the presidentship of the Board for quite a number of years, was an indication of his integrity and ability.

Jack Doyle In The Picture

Jack Doyle is likely to fight Walter Neusel in London during March. Several promoters are after the match and negotiations are likely to be concluded within a few days. Doyle is at present fulfilling a music hall engagement but is keeping in light training. His manager said that although nothing had yet been fixed it was practically certain that Doyle's first opponent would be Neusel, who is still in Germany. Larry Gains has challenged Tommy Farr to an Empire title fight but the Board of Control are unlikely to sanction it. Gains has written to the Board claiming the title in view of his recent successes and Farr's non-acceptance of his repeated challenges but the Board told Reuter, "Farr is Empire champion."

Japan Votes £300,000 For Olympic Games

The Japanese Government has set apart the sum of 4,300,000 yen (about £300,000) in its budget for the organisation of the 1940 Olympic Games. The demolition of the Meiji Stadium in the heart of Tokio will begin shortly, and the Olympic Stadium will be erected on its site.

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