

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Asiatic Land Commission

THE *Natal Mercury's* Pretoria correspondent reports the Government is about to announce the appointment of the Asiatic Land Commission, which will consist of Mr. Justice J. M. Murray, a judge of the Transvaal Division of the Supreme Court, who will be the Chairman, Mr. Nimrod Smit, a prominent Farmer in Bethal District and Mr. H. Britten, formerly Chief Magistrate at Johannesburg. The report adds that in Johannesburg and in the smaller rural centres, particularly Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom and in certain highveld centres, the acquisition, by Asiatics, of properties in defiance of the law was proceeding, and that such acquisition was seriously affecting trade. It is complained that in many instances Asiatics were purchasing properties in the name of their European wives, and in the name of companies with European shareholders as dummies.

The report, we must say, reads most alarming, and we cannot for a moment think that the picture is so bad as it is painted to be. The Asiatic Land Tenure Act with the amendments that were effected during the last session is sufficiently stringent as to make it virtually impossible for any Asiatic to purchase property in the Transvaal. Is there any hope of the Transvaal Indians having rest at all? Are they to be penalised with a Commission every other month? What is the Agency of the Government of India during? It seems that nothing is humiliating to the Government of India. Agent-General or no Agent-General, it is for the Indian community of South Africa to see that its name is not besmirched.

Slums

The Natal Indian Congress has written to the Town Clerk giving the resolutions passed by the owner of properties bounded by Warwick Avenue, Old Dutch Road and Acorn Road, which have been declared slum. The Congress letter states that the owners are prepared to comply with all reasonable requirements of the Health Department to repair, renovate or alter all buildings affected under the declaration. They will demolish such of the buildings as

may be deemed necessary. Alarm is expressed at the action of the Council to take drastic action in declaring the areas as slum without taking the owners into its confidence. The Congress fears that the Slum Act is proposed to be used by the Council to remove the Indians from the area where they have resided for over 50 years. It suggests the City Council with certain of its officials, should meet a deputation from the Congress in order to arrive at some arrangement so that the slum conditions may be removed without any injustice being done to the Indian owners.

As we have pointed out in these columns two weeks ago that the Slums Act is the most effective instrument to drive the Indians away from certain areas. By declaring the Warwick Avenue area as a Slum, the Council is looking ahead. With the Borough Market near the Berea Railway Station and with Old Dutch Road as the main artery from the Berea, the Council will not tolerate any Indian living in the Warwick Avenue area.

Housing For Indians

Councillor Mrs. E. A. Benson, that indefatigable worker for the poor, addressed a large gathering of 1,500 Indian Municipal Employees at the Magazine Barracks on Sunday last. Advocate A. Christopher and Mr. S. L. Singh, President and Hon. Secretary of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association were present. Mrs. Benson stated that the City Council was making provisions for the housing of Europeans, Indians and Coloureds and at her suggestion the Indian workers are also to be given an opportunity to shift from their barracks to small houses with a plot of land to each. Proceeding she said that it was a recognised fact that Indians generally were agriculturists and the proposed scheme would give the workers the right to purchase outright these houses and cultivating ground according to their needs. There were three provisions—firstly, those who had freehold land, to borrow monies to build to their requirements and pay of their loans over 20 years at a very small interest; secondly, those who wished to take advantage of buying the houses erected by the Municipality

by paying small monthly instalments and thirdly, houses would be built for those who wished to occupy them on the rental scheme. Mrs. Benson could not give any figures at the meeting as she said the City Treasurer and Borough Engineer were discussing this item but in a short while, the definite position would be placed before them. In any case, she maintained, those who wished to avail themselves of the third and last scheme would not have to contribute anything from their meagre earnings, but that the houses would take the place of the barracks. Mr. Christopher and Mr. Singh also spoke to the gathering and explained the details of the Housing Scheme in the vernacular.

Non-European Front

At the farewell reception accorded to Sir Syed Raza Ali at Johannesburg, the Minister of Labour, the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, spoke of the danger that lay in organising a non-European Front in South Africa. By that he meant that Indians should not ally themselves with the Bantus of this country. Sir Kurma Reddi and the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, both supported Mr. Hofmeyr, the former stating that the proposal was scandalous and would ruin Indian interests.

We shall deal with the matter editorially in our next issue as we feel that the question is much more than of passing interest.

Early Morning Market Squatters

We understand that the Early Morning Market Squatters Association on enquiry whether there is any proposal before the Town Council of Durban to legislate for the Licensing of the Early Morning Market Squatters has received a reply from the Town Clerk that they will not be affected by any contemplated legislation and that the present licensing issue only concerns the stallholders at the Indian market proper in Victoria Street, Durban, which matter is still under the consideration of the Town Council.

February 4th, 1938

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 1938

The Agent-General's Departure

SIR SYED RAZA ALI'S term of office as the Agent-General for India in South Africa is about to terminate and one is naturally inclined to take stock and find how far his office has been able to benefit the Indian community. We regret, we are unable, in this respect to draw a very happy picture. Sir Raza's predecessor had left the community disunited as it has never been in the history of Indians in South Africa. Sir Raza came three years ago with every hope of achieving unity and we must give him all credit for having made a sincere attempt in that direction. Owing to the obstinacy of the leaders, he was not able to achieve his object. The leaders claimed to stand for a principle but their notions about principles have been utterly strange. Had they been half as adamant in fighting on principle against the powers that are ruling over us in this country as they have been in perpetuating disunity among their own ranks, on the false pretention of principle, the community would have made enormous progress. However, as fate would have it, that was not to be.

Another unfortunate incident that occurred soon after this fruitless effort was the Agent-General's marriage with Miss Sammy. Though cases of such marriages have become frequent in recent years, it cannot be denied that they do create a certain amount of unpleasantness and prejudice in the Indian mind, and whilst the marriage was entirely their personal affair and concerns nobody but themselves, the Agent-General would have been better advised, in his own interest as well as in the interest of the com-

munity if he had postponed his matrimony until the expiry of his term of office. It was utterly unwise on the part of some of the Congress leaders to have resigned from the Congress on this issue. This foolish act rendered the Congress in a state of chaos. Since then the Congress has been functioning unconstitutionally and the Agent-General has been a party to it. Those who have resigned from the Congress have avowed not to obstruct the work done in the name of the Congress and thus by their moral support they have acquiesced in every action good or bad, of the remaining leaders.

During the term of Sir Syed Raza Ali several laws have been enacted by Parliament which directly or indirectly affect Indians. These are the Slums Act, the Amendment to the Industrial Conciliation Act, the Sugar Act, the Marketing Act. How harmful these Acts are to Indians has been repeatedly discussed in these columns. The Agent-General has no doubt made representations on behalf of the Indians but such representations have been made in vain. The Agent-General claims credit for the Mixed Marriages Bill, the White Women's Employment Bill and the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Bill having been dropped. While the Agent-General's representations may have had some bearing with the authorities, the opposition of the European Press and public was so strong against the Mixed Marriages and the White Women's Employment Bills that they had hardly any hope of being passed. The Agent-Generals' representations and those made by the present leaders under his guidance were weak-kneed especially in

regard to the White Women's Employment Bill and the assurance given by the Secretary of the Congress with the full concurrence of the Agent-General was humiliating to the extreme.

The Mixed Marriages and the Transvaal Asiatic Land Bills are still hanging over our heads as they form part of the subjects of inquiry by an impending Commission.

Thus there have been no achievements worth the name made by the Agent-General in the interest of the community. On the contrary existing rights and vested interests of the Indian community have also been taken away during Sir Raza's term of office. This has been done by the Immigration Amendment Act and by the recent enforcement of an 1895 law in the Vrededorp location where Indians who themselves not being standholders are living as tenants have been refused trading licences. This latter is a fresh disability imposed on Indians in an area which has been segregated for them. It is for the reader to imagine what fate awaits these long established Indian traders if their licences are not granted.

The Agent-General has given a number of "At Homes" and entertained hundreds of Europeans but we have not seen any signs of a change of heart for the better, having resulted therefrom. Indeed the recent public utterances of the Agent-General give the impression that he goes from this country a disappointed man and will not have a very hopeful report about the future of Indians in South Africa to submit either to his Government or the people of India.

If anything has been brought home to the Indians of South Africa about the Agency it is its impotency. Moreover, rather than doing any good to the community, the Agency has become a means whereby the Indian Government is able to put a damper

on anything which might create a sensation in India and the outside world before the public has any chance of being informed of the true situation. This is how the Government of India with its Agency in South Africa is preserving the friendly relations between the two Governments at the cost of Indians in South Africa. While we have made the above frank ob-

servations about the work of the Agent-General, we would like to say that we have nothing but respect for the person of Sir Syed Raza Ali. As Agent-General he has utterly failed in bringing relief to the Indian community or to enhance their status either politically or socially, but in his person Sir Raza has been approachable to all alike. He has made many

friends in this country, and unlike other Agent-Generals, he has established a personal tie with South Africa. It is to be hoped therefore that when he leaves South Africa, he will not forget it and with the knowledge of the local conditions he will do all he can in the motherland, to help the cause of his brethren settled in this far off land.

THE INDIAN'S PLACE IN SOUTH AFRICA

KIPLING'S "East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet" has of late so rarely been quoted that one might be forgiven concluding that it had fallen into disuse either from motives of expediency or because modern history would appear to have given it the lie. Among scholars the better opinion unquestionably is that in things that really matter in the realms of religion, science, philosophy, literature—East and West have not only met, but actually intermingled if not interblended. Thinkers in the West have gratefully recognised their indebtedness to Eastern thought; the oriental has learned much—including, perhaps, what might better have been left unlearnt—from the occident.

Nevertheless, at the farewell banquet the other evening to Sir Raza Ali, the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr found it convenient to adopt and requote this Kiplingism by way of warning to his Indian audience—who, incidentally were his hosts—that their orientalism constituted them creatures apart and a people who must definitely recognise the futility of aspiring to anything approaching equality of status with the European section of "the twain." Quoth the raven "Never move!" Quoth Mr. Hofmeyr, "Abandon hope, all ye Asiatics (and your South African born descendants) who have entered here.

Ignavia peior est inimicitia (flattery is worse than enmity) is an old Latin tag no less true to-day than when it was coined. "Frankly avowed enmity is better than pretended friendship" is a perhaps fair corollary. The Indians here, and *en passant*, the three hundred millions of India, may therefore feel grateful to Mr. Hofmeyr for reminding them that in this British Dominion of South Africa the sixty-year-old dictum of the Transvaal Republic "No equality in Church or State between Whites and non-Whites!" still remains sacrosanct, and, (God willing) will so remain for all time.

It is, perhaps, something of a digression but in the circumstances, one hopes, pardonable, to ask oneself whether

By

Mr. L. W. RITCH

there is any fundamental difference between the claim of "Europe for Europeans" or "South Africa for (white) South Africans" and "Asia for Asiatics?" Nor would it be unfair to infer that Japan, and to some extent also the Congress party in India—should their attention be drawn to Mr. Hofmeyr's remarks—might fairly read into his words some not altogether unwelcome endorsement of their respective policies. Mr. Hofmeyr has the reputation of being a liberal minded statesman and as such presumably believes in freedom's cause—at least, as far away as Asia is. Except that Japan's contempt of European vested interests in the far East has been somewhat more rudely emphasised—except that is, for the difference in the method employed—is there, *as far as concerns the principle involved*, much if anything, more to be urged, against her "Asia for Asiatics" than the Union's South Africa for *white* South Africans? (This does not, of course, imply any justification or even extenuation of the savage ruthlessness of those methods, though one is tempted to ask, "Who were Japan's examplers? Who taught her the lesson she has learnt—perhaps too well?")

Mr. Hofmeyr had, of course, some nice things to say about India and Indians—in the abstract. Nobody with any pretensions to scholarship and acquaintance with such men as Sastri could have done otherwise without loss of "face." His Indian listeners might, however, have been forgiven had they retorted "It's all very well to dissemble your love; but why did you kick me down-stairs!" For, nice words, notwithstanding, this is exactly what is happening; the Indian, more particularly in the Transvaal, is being kicked, with scant scruples for his feelings or his interest, right down to the bottom landing. Being Asiatic he is, by this or that in-

genious device, being relieved of his ownership of "fixed property" (confiscation under the Slums Act is the latest to be adopted); being "coloured" he becomes a pariah in most every other respect. The Bantu and the "Cape" coloured must reside in "locations"; the Indian in "bazaars." In respect both of residence and trade his segregation is proceeding apace. What "General Smuts' friend Mr. Gandhi" is undoing in India, the Government of Mr. Gandhi's "friend" General Smuts is zealously doing in South Africa. The "hand of friendship" is either unable or unwilling to "avert the whip of calamity."

Mr. Hofmeyr expressed concern regarding alleged "tendencies in our country working for the building up of a united "non-European front". He warned—or was it threatened?—Indians of the dire consequences they might suffer from any such indiscretion. But is not Mr. Hofmeyr's logic faulty? His reasoning inconsequential? The basic factor, the common denominator, that determines the dranding of the Indian, the Cape-Coloured and Bantu as "Harijan" is "colour." That the one is Indian, the other Euro-African, the third Aboriginal, is relatively unimportant, is merely incidental to the major consideration. "There shall be no equality in Church or State between Whites and non-Whites." Yet, having lumped them all together, put them outside the pale, out into the wilderness of a common helotry, Mr. Hofmeyr hopes by either blandishment or veiled threats to escape the inevitable. Mr. Hofmeyr cannot, surely, fail to realise that even the strangest of bedfellows will co-operate to correct a calamity that affects them all similarly.

There is, of course, a better way as Mr. Hofmeyr himself well knows. Indeed, one can almost hear Mr. Hofmeyr voicing it: *Fiat justitia; ruat coelum!* Mr. Hofmeyr has not hesitated to so express himself in other connections. Is justice less important when and where non-Europeans are concerned?

sophy, and life were not regarded as separate departments but were harmonized with one another, and fused into Unity which lies at the root of all our experience.

The Vedanta preaches Unity, and the attainment of this sense of Unity is the *summum bonum* of life. This teaching of the most sublime philosophy in the world runs through all strata of the Hindu society. It has saved the nation from catastrophes in the most trying circumstances in its history. It has enabled her to keep her soul unsoiled and undefiled in the midst of military aggression and revolutionary changes in her political history. Nothing has been able to crush it. The super-imposition of an alien civilization and culture by force of arms has been resisted in spite of temporary lapses. It has assimilated and absorbed races and cultures which, ladled in the mighty cauldron of Hindu culture, have been metamorphosed into something "rich and strange."

Society or state is not a mere conglomeration of independent units through ties of material interests as taught by our political historians and materialistic sociologists. If communities and men are considered to be mechanically united by material ties of self-interest, they are sure to be disunited and disintegrated when these artificial bonds are snapped asunder, when that loose cement of self-interest is slackened. But the higher pantheism of Vedanta has bridged the gulf between God, the soul, and the world by teaching that Atman, through all the temporary aberrations of our earthly existence, is the sole Reality that upholds them all, sustains them all, and merges them, all into one great Unity which is life. Here science and religion do not stand apart, religion and philosophy are not antagonistic. Here the

state and the individual are not categorical imperatives defying unification, but shake hands on the high table-land of thought, of the Ideal, where God or Bliss is the ultimate principle of life itself.

The recognition of this ultimate principle of life, of Unity, of Truth, prevents any conflict between science, philosophy, and religion on the one hand, and the state, the society, and the individual on the other. The satisfactory solution of these apparently conflicting entities is the greatest contribution of India's most sublime philosophy of the Vedanta to the world. That the whole world of men and things is upheld by the knowing subject—the Atman in us, that the selfhood of God, that the existence of the object is only, in relation to the subject, have been delineated in endless dissertations with all the wealth of similes and anecdotes in the Upanisads and with marvellous logical acumen and metaphysical insight in the system of the Vedanta. Here science, philosophy, and religion have not been departmentalized into water-tight compartments as in the West. For the Vedanta is as much science as it is philosophy and religion, but in the West, philosophy is busy with speculations, and religion has dwindled into theology.

Modern science is in search for unity, but this sense of unity is far from being realized in the affairs of men. But it is alone in the Vedanta that the demands of the head are as much fulfilled as the requirements of the heart. The sharp blade of discrimination dissects and analyses the apparent incongruities in the phantasmagoric raree-show of the world. It differentiates between a God of popular religions and the all-embracing Atman or Self. The theistic conception of God who receives our

worship and adoration is contra-distinct from the Self—the ultimate religious experience—of a truly wise man, where the object of knowledge, the subject of knowledge and knowledge itself—where the known, the thing to be known and knowledge—the seer, the sight, and the object of sight—are fused into Absolute Unity; where all discordant notes and jarring sounds are merged into one universal harmony without restraint, without beginning, and without end.

It has been said that a man may gain the whole world but may lose his own soul. So Maitreyi asked her husband, "What shall I do with all these riches?" What good is it for a man if he religiously avoids and is afraid of advancing a step further and transcending the last duality? How useless is human life, if a man fails to attain the Anandam, the Immortal, the Blissful, if he does not feel a deep longing for deliverance, if his heart does not become the flute in the hands of the Master Musician of the universe?

This Atman or the Self is a positive experience and knows no contradiction. It is not non-existence, nor annihilation, nor voidness. It is felt in the heartcave. It is too deep, too profound for words. The necessity and universality of the conception—its all-embracing nature provides no room for discrepancies. It is the Truth—the whole truth and nothing but the Truth. It is wholeness, for Truth for Truth is wholeness. It is identical with Itself. It has no parts. All its parts are harmonious with Itself. Thus the theistic conception of personal God viewed in this light falls below the standard, and though it may be of some use from the utilitarian standpoint for satisfying the apparent needs of suffering humanity, it lacks a positive background of rational explanation for the proper solution of this great mystery of life.

Things In General

Farewell To Sir Raza Ali

And Lady Ali

THE Muslim Institute will accord a farewell reception at the Institute Hall, 138 Queen Street, Durban, on Thursday February 10 at 8 p.m. The Agent will be presented with an illuminated address. The president and secretary extend a cordial invitation to all.

Hospital Advisory Board

Mr. V. Lawrence has received notification from the Provincial Secretary to the effect that he has been re-appointed as a member of the Hospital Advisory Board for a further term of one year.

Asiatics As Landowners

In Transvaal

Penetration into European residential districts of Asiatics was one of the subjects discussed at a meeting of the executive committee of the Municipal Association of the Transvaal, held in the City Hall, Johannesburg, on Saturday last. The matter arose out of a report dealing with the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. A deputation from the association went to Capetown and laid before the Government certain facts. Among them were that the Transvaal law purported to prohibit the holding of land by Asiatics,

and the association advocated the complete carrying out of the law. It was also pointed out that the ownership of land by Asiatics inevitably led to occupation by them, leading to depreciation of surrounding properties and lowering of status and of standards of living. The association was strongly of opinion that the Act should be amended to prevent the spouses of Asiatics, whether Asiatics, Europeans, Malays or coloureds, from acquiring landed property in the Transvaal, and was opposed to any attempts being made to give Asiatics any further privileges, other than those they were entitled to under the existing legislation. After lengthy discussion it

was decided that the association will press the matter at the next meeting of the united municipal executive committee to be held in Capetown in March.

Next Indian Agent-General

It is reliably understood that Mr. Ramchandra, Civil Servant and former Financial Secretary of the Punjab, has been offered the agentship of the Raj in South Africa. His acceptance is awaited.

Hindoo Educational Society

At a meeting of the Surat Hindoo Educational Society on Thursday, Jan. 27, Mr. R. R. Patel was appointed secretary in succession to Mr. T. N. Bhoola, who is leaving for India. Tributes were paid to the good work done on behalf of the society by Mr. T. N. Bhoola and Mr. Bhana Parshotam. Mr. Parshotam is also visiting India shortly. The chairman, Mr. R. Bhoole, was supported by Messrs. M. H. Desai, G. M. Desai, D. K. Patel, M. B. Naik, Pranshankar Maharsaj, Pran-jivan Daya and Mr. Patel, the headmaster of the Surat Hindoo School.

Indian Social And Religious

Reform Move

Backed by influential Indians, a movement has been started in South Africa to abolish the wearing of the fez, the purdah system and child marriages says the Capetown correspondent of *Daily News*. The movement styles itself the Young Indian Social Reform Party and has its headquarters in Johannesburg. The main object of the movement is to carry out "drastic social reforms in the local Indian mode of living, so as to make it conform with modern conditions," "to eliminate all unnecessary rituals and customs in religious ceremonies." Another object is to abolish class and caste prejudices. The members pledge themselves to discard all forms of Oriental headgear except when demanded by religious necessity, and to wear modern attire, which "requires the wearing of a tie and collar with a suit." They further promise not to perform any after-death ceremonies nor will they indulge in extravagant expenditure on engagement or marriage ceremonies. "I shall prevent child marriage by all available means, the age limits being 21 years for males and 16 for females," the pledge goes on. "I vehemently condemn enforced marriage between an elderly man and a young girl and shall try to prevent such a union from taking place. I shall abolish the purdah system in my home and I shall give to my wife, sisters and daughters the benefits of modern education." The members promise not to take part in communal or religious factions, to keep physically fit, and to encourage a knowledge of all progressive movements that will lead to a better

understanding of contemporary events and an enlightened relationship between men and women.

Muslim Debating Society

Mr. Hafiz Mahomed opened the proceedings of the Muslim Debating Society who celebrated their fifth anniversary with a Fruit Party on January 30, and also bade farewell to Mr. D. M. Bassa (vice-president) who is leaving for India to study medicine. The Muslim Institute Hall was crowded. Mr. E. H. Ismail presided. Various organisations were well represented, and songs were rendered by members of the society and an enjoyable evening was spent. The president reviewed the past activities of the society and presented a bouquet to Mr. Bassa. Other speakers included Mr. Warriner (President Indian Eisteddford), Messrs. M. A. Gamiet of Capetown, Sharpjee Banderia, (Secretary, Gandhi Library), H. Kharwa (Secretary Muslim Youth Brigade.) Messrs. A. R. Randereb, D. M. Bassa and Syed Sarfuddin paid eloquent tributes to the good work done by the Debating Society and wished them another successful year.

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Verulam Indian School

The Rev. C. J. Lander, manager of the above school, acknowledges receipt of the following donations towards the erection of caretaker's quarters, painting and repairing of windows and roof, and conveys his sincere thanks to the donors for their financial assistance:—The Central Factory Ltd. £2 2s.; Mr. Madho Singh £1 10s.; Messrs. Ohoonilall Bros., Lutchman Rajoomar and Haripersadh £1 1s. each; J. Radhacherran, A. Perumal, A. Parasuramen, Andhee, and the Verulam Railway Hotel 10/6 each; Dr. A. Brodie, Messrs. A. H. Dykes, T. R. Singh, B. Raghubeer, G. Sewmangal, K. M. Moonsamy, Oddapan, Somaroo, J. Kissoon Bros., P. Ragoonandan and Jamoona 10/- each; Kader Cafe 7/6, Mahabeer Singh, Lutcheeram, Beharee Singh, M. D. Singh, M. Deepnarain Singh, Ramfakir, and V. Subben 5/- each; G. Govind 2/6; Amud Kathrada & Son 28 lbs. paint; Maiter Bros., 20 lbs. and N. Raghavjee 14 lbs.

1st Natal Indian Gillwell Scout

Training Camp

The first Natal Indian Scout Training Course was held at Maritzburg from January 7 to 15, at the Natal Gillwell

Scout Camp, Lexden. The course was organised by the Natal Indian Boy Scouts Association (Durban and District Local Association) and conducted by Mr. H. V. Marsh (Deputy Camp Chief), assisted by Messrs. J. A. Reulings and A. T. Shores. The following passed the course qualifying for Scoutmasters:—H. S. Done, A. George, A. L. Josiah, G. Mungar, R. Nowbuth, N. Nunnen, Perumal Raidoo, R. Dookran, R. Gangaa, S. M. Ismail, B. S. Kalideen, M. M. Naicker, E. V. Naidoo, M. O. Naidoo, L. B. David, N. R. Lutchman, L. R. Naidoo, A. P. Pahliny, R. G. Pillay, M. O. Reddy, R. Regnath, V. George, G. P. Govender, M. M. Naicker, E. D. Sigamoney, B. C. Singh, R. Woodeeth, C. Moonsamy and V. Suran.

America Arming For World War

Mr. Tinkham, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of representatives, referring to the additional rearmament appropriations, contended that Mr. Roosevelt had in mind an aggressive foreign war. "The United States," he said, "is being armed for a world war on the side of Britain, and we are again on the road to a re-enactment of the tragedy of the United States in the role of a puppet State of Britain."

American Goodwill For Britain

"The Americans are far more friendly towards Britain and Britishers than they used to be. In fact they seem to go out of their way to stretch the hand now." So say the officers of the British ship, City of Dundee, which has arrived in Durban from New York; where they call so often that it has become a second "home port." An officer told the *Natal Daily News* that, looking back four or five years, this change of attitude had become most marked. It was not that the Americans had formerly been unfriendly, but their warm friendliness now was notable. "I formed the impression," the officer said, "that this change springs not only from the spontaneous goodwill towards us of the man in the street; but is also inspired by the deliberate propaganda to foster that goodwill."

New Voters' Roll For Durban

Arrangements are in hand to compile a new voters' roll for the municipal elections due to take place in October. Canvassers will start on their rounds early in February and it is hoped to complete the work by the first week in March. Every effort is being made by the municipal authorities to ensure that the compilation shall be as complete as possible, and for that reason the co-operation of all burghesses is invited. All those persons desiring to be enrolled, if not approached by the canvassers, should write or call at the Estates Department, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Durban.

Market Stalls

Several Indians were large suppliers of fruit and vegetables to the City Market for a considerable number of years—some from the days when the City Market was in Gardiner Street. But in 1935, when the tables system was abolished, they were on the representations of the Colonial-born and Settlers Indian Association, allowed to place their goods in the fruit section and also were given stands in the Early Morning Market in Warwick Avenue. Last year they were restricted by the City Market Master to Saturdays only. Towards the end of last year, they were stopped altogether. The Council, in spite of representations, confirmed the action of the City Market Master.

Umzimkulwana Indian School

The Board of Trustees of the above school are as follows:—Messrs. P. Pillay, M. A. Rahim, M. K. Desai, R. P. Naidoo and Kunns Govender; hon. secretary: M. K. Reddy. The above board, on behalf of the residents of Umzimkulwana, desires to thank Mr. P. Pillay for presenting two acres of land to erect a school building thereon.

Minor Earthquake In Tanganyika

Reports from Moshi (Nairobi) state that the whole of the northern province of Tanganyika experienced a slight earthquake, consisting of a series of tremors, which were most marked along a line between Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru. In some cases crockery shot off tables and pictures dropped from the walls. But no real damage was done.

U.S.A. Exports For 1937

The United States ended 1937 with an export credit balance of 262,000,000 over 1936. This favourable balance was created principally during the last few months of the year, when foreign trade was a very bright spot in an otherwise drab industrial picture. World-wide rearmament, and the war in the Far East, were important factors in the increased demand for American machinery, aeroplanes and other products which contributed heavily to the export balance.

"Peace And Storm In India"

"There is now real possibility for collaboration between Britain and India (collaboration on a very different footing from anything known in the past)," opines *The Manchester Guardian* in a leader styled "Peace and Storm in India." *The Guardian* states that whatever may be urged against the new constitution, its operation has clearly had the effect of making Indians think more closely about more of the functions of Government than before. But all this political consciousness and activity means that the Provincial Governments' difficulties are almost alarmingly numerous. "The

Congress ministries in particular suffer from the equivocal advice of their more extreme supporters who remind them that they are supposed to be in office 'not to work, but to combat and end the Act.' Where, it is asked, is combat? And is not the Act doing something suspiciously like working? Certainly the Congress is doing good work, however disappointing this may be to extremists of any sort." Alluding to the outbreak of strikes as given rise to the most serious of recent difficulties which the Provincial Governments had to face, *The Guardian* says: "Labour conditions are more clearly in need of the attentions of the reforming Governments than anything else. On the other hand, strikes have often been conducted in a manner which gave the owners excuse for intransigence. Fortunately, the trouble seems to be subsiding. There may be more if some of the least of workers' aspirations are not quickly satisfied. Congress Governments are doing their best though the problems that hinder any improving of the workers' lot are daunting. Lack of financial resources is the chief one and the danger that employers, if too hard pressed, may decamp with their industries into less exacting States is another." Remarking that the Congress Party is, as a whole, clearly pledged once more to the policy of strict non-violence, *The Guardian* declares that it is this as much as anything else which is responsible for optimism in India to-day.

Fierce Fighting In Abyssinia

The Ethiopian Legation in London states that according to reports received direct from Ethiopia, there has been violent fighting in north-western region of Abyssinia, chiefly in the Provinces of Begamedar, Armachoho, Semien and Lasta. The statement says: "Flying motorised columns of the Italian army tried to recapture posts evacuated or lost some months before, but despite the ceaseless activity of the Italian Air Force, which still continues to make use of bombs and poison gas, these attempts have never been crowned with victory, although occasionally with success which has not been lasting." Three battalions of Eritrean troops have helped to reinforce the Ethiopians, continues the statement, and are helping to resist the Italian forces in the northern region. "This has completed the disorder of the Italian General Staff Officers." A group of Italian soldiers who have deserted are also in the ranks of the Italians. "Highly-paid spies scatter terror and hatred among the Italians themselves, and suicide among Italians for some months past has become a frightful epidemic." The legation states that during the last two months 20 officers and 5,993 men—Italians and Askaris—have been killed. The number of Ethiopian warriors killed during this period is stated to be equally large. A considerable quantity of arms, machine-guns, rifles and field artillery

are also stated to have been captured from the Italians. Reports from other parts of the country indicate that fierce engagements are also taking place there, and by way of reprisals it is stated that from 30 to 40 aeroplanes leave Addis Ababa daily to bombard the towns and villages of Gojan Province. The Legation statement adds that in the Wallega region, more particularly in the districts of Challes, Gaido, Gouder and Ambo, the Ethiopians remain masters of the situation.

"Work, Learn To Fight And Be Strong"

Dr. Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda in Berlin, in a radio talk to boys and girls of the Hitler Youth Movement, reviewed the events of the past five years and said that the dream of all Germans to make their country strong and to restore Germany's honour and to lead her into the circle of nations had become a reality. He appealed to students "to work, learn to fight and be strong."

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Obituary

Death Of Mr. Jachun Baboolal

One of the largest funerals was seen in Durban for a number of years on Tuesday afternoon when the sudden death took place of Mr. Jaichun Baboolal, eldest brother, of Mr. Oogerohand headmaster of the Clare Estate Government-Aided Indian School, Durban. The funeral took place at the Clare Estate Indian crematorium which was attended by more than 200 people representing all sections of the community from all parts of Natal. Mr. Baboolal, who was 35 years old, was very popular and highly respected by all those who knew him and was ever willing to help those in need. He was employed for the last 20 years at Bakers Ltd., Durban, as a clerk. There were numerous letters and telegrams of sympathy from all parts of Natal and Transvaal, and also wreaths and other floral tributes. Messrs. J. M. L. Baumann, F. W. Rose and a number of the European and Indian staff of Bakers Ltd. also attended the funeral. The service was conducted by Mr. Soochith Panday, of Durban, according to Vedic rites.

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India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Students And India's Future

ADDRESSING the students of Karachi in the College Lecture Hall, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai observed, "You are fortunate to be citizens of India at this critical period in the history of her struggle for freedom." Mr. Desai added, "Intellectually India has made progress of which she can be proud. She has produced men and women who can stand on their own legs. Emotionally, too, India has progressed. We have not lost the faculty which reacts to the sense of justice, both national and international. Yet it is regrettable that we are where we were for the past hundred years, still some of us regarding the British connection as a blessing. We want a spirit of cause and action to be created. You, students, have knowledge of the American War of Independence, the Russian Revolution and you can sympathise with Abyssinia and China; yet it has not occurred to you to think of your own lot. This is because you have lost your will to act. You have knowledge and cultivated your emotions, but you have not acquired what makes free citizens. Therefore, you must have the will to act and the spirit to co-ordinate your actions and once you have understood these, India will obtain what it had in the glorious past at a time when the rest of the world was in a savage condition."

Sardar Patel On Congress Ministries

"You should not forget to compare the last administration with the present and compare it also with the expectations raised in your minds and the difficulties under which the experiment is being carried out," said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel speaking on the present situation at the all-India Khadi Industrial Exhibition held in Madras on December 30. He added: "If you find a single Minister not doing his work properly you must not hesitate to call upon that particular Ministry—for after Ministers do not have individual responsibility but collective responsibility—to vacate and collect a better team. If you feel that on the whole the selection you have made is the best under the circumstances, you must declare unequivocally a vote of confidence in the Ministry." Sardar Patel referred to the work of the Congress Ministries in various provinces and observed that they were trying honestly to fulfil their pledges. They had set an example of sacrifice which he hoped would be reflected in the services.

Women And Education

Mrs. Hasina Murshid, M.L.A., speaking on the role of women in the education of to-day at the All-India Educational Conference held recently in Calcutta, said:—"Education to-day stands for certain unmistakable things. Broadly it aims at the fullest development of a child's personality under conditions of joy, freedom and clear thinking on the part of the pupil, and sympathy, understanding and patience on the part of the teacher. It avoids a lop-sided development of a child's more intellectual abilities. Women with their intuitive perception, insight into character, imagination, sympathy, patience and motherly instincts have a better understanding of children. This view is supported by Messrs. Abott and Wood's latest publication on the subject entitled "A Report on Vocational Education in India" which states that in general women have a wider sympathy with young children and deeper understanding of their needs and interests than men have, and consequently they are better fitted to undertake the school education of children. Then again, in the home the mother plays no less an important part in the education of the child than the mistress in the classroom. The fact that women to-day are not in the vanguard in educative activities is due, to a great extent, to their having lost sight of the ideals which the Muslim women, for instance, in the past presented to the world. The history of Islam furnishes us with numerous instances in which women actively participated not only in imparting literary education to the children, but also in educating public opinion through their participation in the administration of the affairs of their states and their country. Nurjehan is one of the many instances of such women. If the Indian nation wishes to reach its highest development it can only do so through the active co-operation where the adult and child are co-partners in receiving the messages of true and ideal education. For, as they say, "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

Object Of Lord Lothian's Visit

After a busy programme was gone through by Congress leaders at Karachi Mr. Bhulabhai Desai addressing the students of the D. J. Sind College urged them to combine the spirit of co-ordinated action and foreshadowed the advent of India's freedom within 10 years. Replying to Pressmen as to the probable object of Lord Lothian's visit Mr. Desai said: My belief is that the

British public are now very anxious to know the real situation regarding India's attitude to the Federation. The situation has altered by reason of the growing recognition in England that Indian opinion is so alive that without taking account of it it is no longer wise to impose any constitution which may affect either the internal or external outlook of India. Replying to Pressmen further about Lord Lothian's visit Mr. Bhulabhai said that there was no question of approach to the Congress nor was Lord Lothian an official mediator, though he would inform the Cabinet of his impressions about the Indian attitude to the Federation. So far as the Congress was concerned they would do everything to resist Federation. Regarding Federation he said that the issue would come up before them within 3 days. He reiterated the belief that they must resist the advent of Federation at any cost. Addressing a meeting in Khaliqdina Hall Mr. Desai said: "You will get the Government that you deserve. If 500 workers go out to the villages taking 19 villages each within a month, the present Government could be dislodged and the Congress Government ushered in."

Indian Students In Britain

Mr. Rama Rao, Deputy High Commissioner for India, stated that British students in the Universities had grown from 22,000 to 50,000 in recent years. It was therefore difficult for Indian students to find entrance to the Universities. He deprecated the colour bar prejudice in some middle class families and emphasised that this prejudice was not found among University authorities. He appealed to students to regard India House as a home and not as an office.

Full Marks For Blank Paper

A student in a High School at Nahan (Sirmoor) secured top marks in mathematics without answering a single sum. Throughout the examination hour his class-mates found him playfully scribbling or looking out of the window. Towards the end he scribbled two sentences on the answer paper which earned him highest marks. His answer was as follows: "I am convinced that Mathematics is an aid to precise thinking but it does not offer any solution to the keen struggle that awaits me in the world outside after my school days. As advised by my parents I do not bother to answer this question paper."

The Sporting World

Durban District Football Association Trust

THE annual meeting of the Durban District Indian Football Association Trust was held last week with Mr. Christopher in the chair. After adoption of the annual report and financial statement represented by Mr. T. M. Naicker, the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr. S. L. Singh was elected chairman and Mr. M. John, hon. secretary and treasurer of the trust.

S.C.D. Indian Football Association

We have received the annual report for 1937 from the secretary of the above association. The report is admirably written and deals most succinctly with every matters that had come before the association during the year. The balance sheet shows the capital account at £1,114 6s. 3d. This is indeed a credit to the Clairwood Indian sporting community. At the annual general meeting of the association, the following officials were appointed:—Patron: Mr. A. Singh; President: Mr. A. R. Ramith; vice-presidents: Messrs. P. R. Pather, T. L. Nanoo, R. G. Pillay, T. G. Govender, P. O. Pather, R. A. Govender and R. R. Pillay; hon. secretary: Mr. N. M. Naidoo; hon. treasurer: Mr. A. M. Pillay; record clerk: Mr. G. M. Pillay; auditor: Mr. R. Gopaulsingh.

All Blacks F.C.

The following office-bearers were elected at the 2nd annual general meeting of the All Blacks Football Club on January 30, at the Muslim Institute hall: Patrons: Messrs. L. Vally, S. M. Vahed and S. M. Desai; President: Mr. M. I. Omarjee; vice-presidents: Messrs. V. M. Latiff, A. M. F. Khan and E. I. Mullah; secretary: Mr. A. R. Randeree; treasurer: Mr. G. H. A. Amra, Manager: Mr. S. M. Vahed; Captain: Mr. G. H. I. Mohamedy; vice-captain: Mr. A. H. Wawda. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Y. S. Mulla.

Muslims Win Panday Shield.

In the divisional final of the Panday's Shield, played on the main ground at Carrie's Fountain, Durban, on Saturday, the "A" section winners, Muslims, beat Star, of the "B" division, by five runs in an exciting match. H. A. Hendricks played a splendid game for Muslims, being undefeated with 61 to his credit. He was the mainstay of his side. Muslims scored 128. Docrat came out best in the bowling with three wickets, followed by Jewa with two wickets, I Khan and A. Khan one each. Star were all out for 123. Docrat lost his wicket at 118 for a well-played 76, and the last four batsmen did not score a run between them. Hendricks bowled well for his

By "Rambler"

four wickets and was ably assisted by Akoojee with two, Hasson two and Jogee one. Schools and Greyville met on the No. 1 Ground in a match which had a large bearing on the league trophy, as both clubs are in the running for the honours. Batting first the Greyville batsmen, batting steadily, scored 109 runs, and B. M. Pillay took four wickets. Schools opened well and at the close of play had scored 63 runs for the loss of three wickets. The Schools innings closed on Sunday at 187. Of the Greyville bowlers Osman Buckus claimed seven wickets and S. I. Immamally the remaining three. By this win Schools have tied with Greyville in the league log. Kismet and Sastri College played on the No. 2 Ground, both teams striving to avoid relegation. Kismet's first innings closed at 144, Manjoo scoring 70. Sastri College were minus three players and managed to score 68 for seven. Kismet, batting for the second time, hit up 23 for four wickets when play closed. In the "B" Division, Bharat beat Sparks comfortably by an innings and 26 runs. Sparks scored 48 in their first attempt, to which Bharat replied with 94 for three and declared. Sparks were all out for 20 in their second innings.

The following are the fixtures for the League Competition, for the week-end:—First Division: 2.30—Ottoman v. Muslims (No. 1); Second Division: 2.30—Stars v. Bharat (Main).

Saturday Night's Wrestling

Mr. Henry Iralinger, who is promoting tomorrow night's wrestling tournament in the City Hall, Durban, at which Johannes van der Walt is to make his first appearance in Durban since his return from overseas, is anxious that there should be no misapprehension about Saturday night. On his poster it has been made to appear that Herb Parks is appearing on the bill, apart from the main bout, in which Van der Walt is to fight Lawrence. The position is that Mr. Iralinger was ready to accept Parks's challenge, but Parks has now notified that he will not be in Durban on Saturday night and as far as this tournament is concerned the challenge has fallen to the ground. The poster was merely meant to indicate that if Parks came along on Saturday night he would be accommodated by the winner of the match between Van der Walt and Lawrence.

S. A. Hockey Team Lose To Nairobi Indians

The fourth defeat in the last five matches and the third in succession was chalked up against the South Africans in Nairobi last week by the combined Indians. The South Africans played grimly, but the Indians were always on top, although the visitors pressed strongly in the second half. The South Africans appeared jaded, none hitting or receiving the ball cleanly. The forwards jumbled and were not taking running passes, while the defence seldom cleared confidently. The game ended in a win for the Indians by 2 to nil, the scorers being Fernandez and Haban Singh.

Border Swimming

M. Barnes of East London, won the Border men's 500 yards swimming championship in 6mins. 53 2-5secs. at a swimming gala at the Orient bath on Friday night last. In a 300 yards team race championship Kingwilliamstown beat East London by three yards in 3mins. 20secs.

Ireland's Rugby Team

The following have been selected to represent Ireland against England in the international Rugby match on February 12: A. N. O'Her, Daily (Harroquin), Bailey, McMahon, Lyttle (Collegians), Cromey, Morgan (North Ireland), Alexander, Graves, Irwin (North Ireland), Mayne, Megaw, A. Loughlin (University College), Ryan and Walker.

Death Of English Cricket And Soccer International

The death is announced in London, at the age of 59 of the English double international, John Sharp. Sharp played against Australia in the cricket tests of 1909, scoring a century at the Oval. He played soccer for England against Scotland in 1905.

Death Of Corinthian Soccer Player

The death has occurred at his home in Johannesburg of Mr. James Edward Grieverson, the father of Ronnie Grieverson, the Old Johannian and Transvaal cricketer. The late Mr. Grieverson came to South Africa with the Corinthian team in 1897, remaining in the country at the end of the tour.

To Club Secretaries

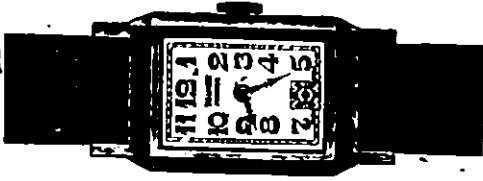
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