

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Office Of The Agent-General

THE Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association has sent the following cable to the All India Congress which assembled last weekend at Haripura:

"Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association appeal Indian National Congress disapprove appointment Agent-General on principal ground Agency in South Africa impotent in absence of Indians' freedom."

The Agency of the Government of India was created under the Capetown Agreement. No doubt it was created with the best of intentions, but events that have followed since the creation of the office, have abundantly proved that it is powerless to be of any assistance to the South African community. Any representations that the Agent-General may make to the Union Government have not the backing of a powerful government. The representations made by the Japanese Government and that by the Agent-General on the employment of European women, serve a striking instance of the weight that each carries. In the case of the former any reference in the Bill to Japanese was immediately dropped. Not so with the Indians. Furthermore the Agency by bolstering up one organisation against another, well knowing the serious split in the community is causing immense harm to the solidarity of the Indian community. It is, therefore, a mere folly to have an Agency in South Africa. The money that is being spent to maintain an Agency could well be spent in other good channels. Little wonder, therefore, that the Government of India is finding it extremely difficult to find a successor to Sir Syed Raza Ali. Non-officials are extremely reluctant to accept the office of the Agent-General and the Government of India is now following on its own ranks to find an occupant for the post.

Non-European Doctors

A Commission has been appointed to enquire into the facilities for medical education for all races. No facilities exist for the training of non-European Doctors in the Union. Thousands of pounds are being spent by Indians to train Indian Doctors, who, perforce,

have to proceed overseas to pursue their studies. It is hoped that when the Commission sits at Durban, the Indian community will not lose the opportunity to present its case.

Agent-General Elect ?

It is learned in unofficial quarters that Mr. Benegal Rama Rau, Deputy High Commissioner for India in London has accepted the post of Agent-General for the Government of India in South Africa.

Dr. Malan's Anxiety

When the Assembly met for the formal sitting after the opening ceremony Dr. D. F. Malan (Nat. Calvinia) gave notice of the following motion:—

"The House is of opinion that the safety and purity of the European race and also the true interests of the non-European sections of the population, having special regard to the Communist activities in the country, render it urgently necessary:

"That immediate steps be taken to establish the landless farming population on the land by means of an effective and comprehensive scheme and to place the farming industry in general on a sound economic basis, inter alia, by an effective mortgage redemption scheme.

"That immediate steps be taken to give practical effect to the segregation policy, providing for:

"(1) Separate representation in the legislative bodies for enfranchised coloured people.

"(2) Separate residential areas for Europeans and non-Europeans in urban areas in conjunction with proper and adequate housing.

"(3) Separate spheres of labour so far as this is possible.

"(4) Restricting the provision of employment in certain directions to white labour or in accordance with a fair quota for Europeans and non-Europeans.

"(5) Legislative measures against mixed marriages and against the employment of Europeans by non-Europeans."

The motion continues: "The House requests the Government in accordance with the terms of this resolution immediately to take the necessary steps."

Dr. Malan's sympathy and interest for the Non-European race are too well known and therefore his motion needs no comment from us.

The National Anthem

At the official opening of the Union Parliament "Die Stem Van Suid Africa" was played once. "God Save the King" was played thrice. The playing of "Die Stem" has created a furore amongst some of the English-speaking members of the Parliament, so much so, that the question was raised by Col. Stallard, the leader of the Dominion Party, who questioned the Prime Minister, General Hertzog, whether it was not a fact that "God Save the King" was recognised as the National Anthem of the Empire. Replying, the Prime Minister stated that "God save the King" is looked upon by the majority of the English-speaking people as the National Anthem of the Union, but as far as the Dutch-speaking people are concerned, he and others, although they have always paid the greatest respect to "God save the King" have always denied that it was their National Anthem. He had always shown it deference and respect because he had always felt it an invocation to the Almighty, and that was the sense in which more than half the people of South Africa had always looked upon it. The poem "Die Stem" was the work of the late Senator C. J. Langenhener. The South African Press fears that the Prime Minister's statement will be made much capital of by the Dominionites in the election campaign. The *Cape Argus* describes his statement as an "inexcusable tactical blunder" and the whole episode is regarded as "a singularly unfortunate example of the art of doing a thing at the wrong time and in the wrong way and explaining it in the wrong language."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1938

Indian Education

THE Report of the Commission to enquire into and report upon the system of education in Natal was released for publication early this month.

The Commission has dealt, somewhat extensively, with Indian education in the Province, and its recommendations call for careful study. The report gives figures in tabulated form, and shows that in the enrollment of pupils an increase of 130 per cent. is shown between the figure for 1927 and for September 1936 and for the same period an increase of 141.7 per cent is shown in the expenditure on Indian Education. Figures are always misleading, for notwithstanding the extraordinary increases shown, out of 40,000 children of school going age, only 21,356 children are in school. Let us see what the Commissioners say for this disparity. They say "yet it should be noted that evidence showed that almost all schools were crowded and many children had been refused admission for want of room. It follows that to provide education for every Indian child of primary school age in Natal it would be necessary to double the present school accommodation, teaching staff etc." This proves beyond any doubt that Indian Education has not expanded to the extent that is claimed to be. The figures show that only half the children of school going age are in school, of the remaining half practically 60 per cent. are girls. Several reasons can be adduced for this. Firstly, and by far the foremost, is the economic position of the Indian. As the commissioners rightly point out the average income of the Indian is only £3 and this meagre sum does not permit of him to send all his children to school. He is not in a position to pay for his children's clothing, school fees and school books. Secondly the Indian is averse to mixed schools, and thirdly the distance of the schools in semi-urban areas from the homes of the girls. There is no doubt there

appears to be a dearth of Indian women teachers who should be the ones to teach our girls, but unless the teaching profession is made attractive in the matter of salaries and other conditions of service, very few of our girls will enter the service.

The question of salaries has been a very sore point with the Indian teachers and we note with despair that the Commission has not tackled the question as it should have. The report points out that the cost of a child in a State Aided School is £3-15-0 and the cost in a Government School is £9-12-0 per child. The big difference is accounted for the fact that in the Sastri College and in one or two other schools, expensive European teachers are employed. This simply means that the European teachers are being maintained at the expense of the Indian teachers who are very poorly paid. The highest salary that our graduates can expect to earn is £231. And that can only be received after eight years service. The salaries that are being paid to our Sastri College graduates are a standing disgrace to the Education Department. The position is much worse in the State Aided Schools. In these Schools only 12½ per cent of the teachers receive salaries on the scale £120—£145 per annum. Indian education will never improve, nor will it reach the European standard unless the scales of salaries are so altered as to attract the best young men. The report points out that there is no justification for the widely different scales of salaries for the Government and Aided Schools and says "that both groups have to satisfy the same departmental inspectors as to the standard and equality of their work, it seems equitable that teachers holding the same qualifications in both groups should be eligible for the same salaries and that both should enjoy the same pension and leave privileges, and the Commission recommends ac-

ordingly. We have pointed out repeatedly that the Aided Schools are being made to pay for the Government Schools. "The Commissioners characterise this as indefensible. We hope to deal with this subject matter fully in our next week's issue.

All India Congress

THE Indian National Congress opened its 51st annual session at Haripura on Saturday last.

Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the President of Congress delivered a brilliant Presidential address.

"The ultimate stage of our progress will be severance of the British connection he declared, when that severance takes place, we shall be in a position to determine our future relations with Britain through a treaty alliance which will be voluntarily entered into by both parties. What our future relations with Britain will, or should be, it is too early to say. They will depend to a large extent on the attitude of the British people themselves.

He said that it was a truism that every Empire was based on a policy of divide and rule. The same principle appeared in a different form in the new Indian constitution. If the new constitution was finally rejected, whether owing to the opposition of British India or owing to the refusal of the princes to join in, he had no doubt that British ingenuity would seek some other constitutional device for partitioning India, and thereby neutralising the transference of power to the Indian people. He therefore declared that any constitution for India which emanated from Whitehall must be examined with the utmost care and caution. He added that their goal was an independent India, which could be attained only through a federal republic in which the provinces and states would be willing partners. There was every possibility that determined opposition to the forcible inauguration of a federation may land them in another big campaign of civil disobedience."

Words Of Wisdom

It is a deliberate and discerning love of a nation that appeals to me, not the indiscriminate love that assumes everything to be right because it bears a national label. . . . Love of one's own nation should not entail non-love of other nations.

—MASARYK.

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

UNDER the caption "Our Slave State: A Farmer's Indictment," the *Star* of the 9th instant gave special prominence to a letter over the signature "Yorkist." In the same edition the leading article was devoted to "Native Malnutrition." Referring to the non-European section, the letter concludes thus:

"The whole economic system of S. A. Slave States is difficult and complex. We want both to have our cake and to eat it. Two thirds of the population are without hope, and until such time as we realise that no man is fit for political freedom, democracy and justice under the law, except he be willing to grant to others what he demands for himself, we are not honest."

A true witness this! Pity that he is not in a more numerous company. But he is not, and for the simple reason that copy-book texts notwithstanding, the world at large remains unconvinced that "honesty is the best policy." Even the oft-quoted recommendation of the man who said he knew "because he had tried both" has, somehow, failed to make converts and we find ourselves daily and hourly confronted with examples in high places, of principles subordinated to cheap expediency, truth to falsehoods advanced to suit the conveniences of the moment. In the long run, taking the long view, honesty doubtless, is the best policy. The time-server, the self-centred careerist, and the like whose horizon extends not beyond this little hour of life that really stretches into an infinite past and an infinite future, naturally seeks to make the most of his worldly opportunities. He finds himself born on a sort of Tom-Tiddler's ground where the spoils are riches, place, power and the pleasures these confer; a battlefield where the weapons that win success

By

L. W. RITCH

are astuteness in turning others needs to one's own profit, and a stern disregard of sentimental considerations concerning them a *sine qua non* of victory. Such is the ideology (blessed word!) we perceive underlies and controls our relationships, individual and collective; social, economic and political; an ideology that is parent of all individual and class conflicts, our national and racial rivalries and enmities; an ideology born of ignorance of the true meaning of life, its extent and purpose.

None the less honesty is the best policy. Truth must eventually prevail, even with those who presently turn a deaf ear to its promptings. It is a human weakness to want to dodge the uncomfortable, to find complacency in our delusions, to prefer not to see a disconcerting truth, to decline to be honest with ourselves. We pretend to believe that the teachers speak truly when proclaiming that as we sow so must we reap. We give the doctrine a sort of nodding acquiescence, because we kind or feel that it ought to be true, even though in actual practice it does not appear to always work out that way. We are confronted with too many instances of people apparently "getting away with it" to feel sufficiently convinced to make it a rule of our lives.

Supposing, however, that the ancient teaching concerning man being a soul periodically incarnating as Hadje Mahomed or Ram Das or John Smith should prove to be true. And, supposing that it be no less true that in the matter of character, opportunity and circumstances generally, "each man's life the outcome of his former living is

that he is presently conditioned by his past desires, thoughts and actions. Supposing that there really is a "Law that moves to righteousness that none at last can turn aside or stay," a law that repays measure for measure, good for good, evil for evil. Supposing it is the sceptics and "they of little vision" who should prove to have been deceived, and they, not God, who has been mocked, what then? Surely, then, they who abused the power they wielded, who betrayed what should have been a trust, to selfish ends; who thought to accomplish self-preservation by oppression and the tyrannical suppression of other's aspirations, surely then, they are in turn doomed to suffer the very wrongs and indignities they inflicted.

Proof? Are the pages of history, written and unwritten, not eloquent with proof? Never a nation, never a "civilisation" but has perished so soon as the canker of unrighteousness was permitted to sap its life energies. Again and again, the mighty have been laid low, the dominant degraded and made servient. The slaver, did he but know it, forges chains for his own enslavement!

The cynic who consoles himself with the thought that "it will last his time," "that whatever happens he won't be there to share it," may be, after all no better than a self-deluded fool destined to a rude awakening. The law of causation responsible for his being here to-day, will then, inevitably ensure his return again and again to take up life's lessons, until at long last by himself "eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" he shall have acquired discernment and discrimination and realised the meaning of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of not only "his kind," but Mankind.

"RICHNESS OF INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE"

AT the Silver Jubilee Session of the Indian Science Congress Association which was opened by His Excellency the Viceroy at Calcutta, Sir James Jeans, the universally famous English scientist, in the course of his presidential speech, paid the following tribute to India's contribution to science:

Nor has India stood idly-by as a mere spectator of this most thrilling period in the history of science. These twenty-five years have not only seen your association increase from infinitesimal beginnings to its present

international importance; they have also seen the phenomenal growth of India as a scientific nation. In 1911 there were no Indian-born fellows of the Royal Society; to-day there are four. In 1911 the Royal Society published no papers by Indians, in 1936 we published ten. Yet statistics are dry things, and even those which shew an infinity-fold increase convey a less vivid picture than a few concrete examples, such as each of us can find in abundance in his own subject. The mathematicians and physicists will probably find their

thoughts turning, as mine do, to the strangely intuitive genius of Ramanujan and to the remarkable discoveries he had made in pure mathematics before death snatched him prematurely away; to the work of Sir Venkata Raman in physics, and especially his discovery of the effect which is known by his name all the world over; to many investigations in sound and the theory of music made by Raman and a host of others; to the work of Saha in astrophysics, which gave us our first

clear understanding of the meaning of stellar spectra, and so unlocked the road to vast new fields of astronomical knowledge; and to the work of many Indians, among whom I would specially mention Chandrasekhar and Kothari, on the conditions in the interiors of the stars. And I am sure that not only the mathematicians and physicists, but

workers in all other fields as well, will be thinking with admiration of the remarkable ingenuity and experimental skill shewn by that great Indian scientist, the late Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose.

If such names and achievements as these come into the mind of a worker in one only of the many vast fields of science, we can form some slight idea of

the richness of India's contribution to science as a whole. Thinking on this great contribution, we of the British Association congratulate you of the sister Association most heartedly, not only on the completion of your twenty-five years of existence, but even more on the wealth of harvest you have gathered in that twenty-five years.

ECONOMIC POLICY OF POPULAR MINISTRIES

WITH the assumption of office by the Congress Party, India is in a position to consider seriously a programme of economic reconstruction. Hitherto it was largely a matter of petitioning, or tendering advice, to a foreign government, which, because of the lack of genuine enthusiasm for the welfare of the people, preferred to dwell on the difficulties. The institution of responsible government and, what is more, the success of a party which even in the days of its unlawful existence laboured hard for the poor has wrought the inevitable change. Hardly any one doubts the fact that, given a measure of freedom from political turmoil, the Congress ministries would make a sincere attempt at improving the economic well being of the people. There are, it is true, a few who are doubtful even about the sincerity. The Socialists in the Congress only recently subjected the Congress ministers to a fusillade of criticism in the A.I.C.C. meeting at Calcutta. There is no reason, however, to suspect that economic reconstruction will be jeopardised by the partiality of the party in power for any sectional interests. The personnel of the Congress Party is so largely drawn from the middle or lower middle class that their sympathy with the people may be taken for granted. The Congress has come into power on the strength of an election programme which unequivocally set rural reconstruction in the forefront.

The practical wisdom behind the programme of the ministries is, however, less indubitable. In a vast country like India, with Provinces physically bigger than the territories of some of the great Powers, with the power over tariffs and even otherwise over the purse in foreign hands, it would be no easy task to devise a scheme which will work. The essential features of a scheme, at once workable and adequate, make a somewhat forbidding list. Firstly, the ministers have to beware of the financial pandits who have of late developed an almost religious sense of taboo. They profess to abhor inflation, deficit budgets and capital expenditure which may not be productive according to their calculations. And their capitalist masters, ever suspicious of a too

By

Mr. P. R. SRINIVAS M.A.

Editor "Indian Finance"

popular party, may run the Congress Party down if it attempts too much for the people. The experiences of the Labour Ministry in Britain, of M. Blum in France and Mr. Roosevelt in the U.S.A. are an unmistakable warning. Finance, thus, is a rock to steer clear of. This means not that economic progress can be achieved by pulpit orations, but that the programme should not rely for its success unduly on the capital market or even the budgetary fortunes of the Provincial Governments. Secondly, the ministers should aim at the development of what may be called an economic consciousness and the release of productive energies rather than the increase of the income of the people through the direct agency of the State. The problem in India is so vast and intricate that a sound start is far more important than what is generally understood by the comprehensive scheme.

To outline a concrete scheme is far from my purpose, if only because of the limitations of space. It would be more useful to clarify a few guiding principles from which practical policies can be directly and obviously deduced. A programme of economic reconstruction, it must never be forgotten, has inevitably both an economic and a political import. The former is quite obvious. But the latter fails to be perceived or is deliberately overlooked. In so far as any programme must tend to a redistribution of wealth or income, it is definitely political; and the authors of the programme must be prepared and make adequate provision for its political repercussions. To be conscious of the political import of an economic programme means either that the authors take care not to provoke the interests concerned to a dangerous militancy or that they are prepared, both politically and economically, for any opposition that might arise. This is not a matter of purely academic importance. Every-

where in India economic reconstruction will have to start with land tenure and agricultural indebtedness; and the Tenancy Bill in Bengal and the agitation against the Moratorium Bill in Madras have given us a foretaste of what is in store for the reformer. The debate in the Madras Assembly on the subsidy to the handloom weaver is, perhaps, another instance. It may be that in regard to the measures so far adopted—and they are all too few—no serious opposition need be apprehended. But as the programme will have to comprise a whole series of measures, the danger of distributing, perhaps unexpectedly, too powerful interests is ever present.

What then should be the guiding principle in regard to what I have called the political aspect of the economic programme?

I would say, "social justice," though the term does not convey all that is important in this context. Though it is taken from the vocabulary of socialist politicians, I attach to it a meaning, which is not, of course, different from its common connotation, but which, if I may say so, has a few peculiarities of a contextual significance. "Social justice" is an admittedly vague term, though today no one in the advanced nations of the world will deny that it denotes a fair wage, maintenance during unemployment, old age pensions and other reliefs which make such a large difference to the life of the workers. But in India where production of wealth pertains more to Nature than to man, and where it would be disastrous to the rich and poor alike to insist on any close relation between work and wealth, relief to the "worker" would smack more of generosity than "justice." But even of such generosity we have need. For, without it there is no chance of converting the ignorant and famished millions into intelligent and efficient workers in the farm and in the factory. Problems of distribution should be viewed, at any rate in the present, not in terms of traditional notions of proprietary rights nor even of the relative contribution of the various factors of production, but from the standpoint of productive efficiency.

It is only when the masses can be taught to put some zest into their lives, to regard material progress as both laudable and feasible and to recognise the avenues of productive activity which will in due course open out before them that we can move from the present position of degrading poverty. The pathetic contentment of the masses must be broken. And if a reduction of taxes or rents will work the miracle, who can say that it is socially inexpedient or unjust?

In other words, social justice in the conditions of India should be viewed not as justice due from society to individuals but from individual to society as a whole. So long as the Government is able to prove that the changes they propose will help to make the workers efficient in production, I think, even the most crass capitalist will readily acquiesce in the reform, no matter what it may cost to his class.

On the economic side there are doubtless a number of considerations on which professional economists would be only too eager to expatiate as vital to success. They have fortunately been gagged at the moment by the circumstance that tariffs and currency—the two most fruitful sources of controversy

—are outside the control of the Provincial Governments. It would be absurd to raise the bogey of inflation or to warn the Provincial Ministries against treading that fatally easy path. Nor does it serve any purpose to discuss protectionism, its benefits or its dangers.

The essential difference between economic planning for the Provincial Governments and economic planning for the Central Government must never be overlooked. It may be that no impressive progress can be made except by a powerful Federal Government which respects the Federal Constitution only in the spirit and not in the letter. And it is in this view unfortunate that some of the most vital reforms may fall through the Federal and the Provincial stools. But as we are at the moment concerned with planning for each province, the only principle that is dangerous to overlook is that of balance in the national economy. In its efforts to help particular sections and interests among the poor, the ministries are most likely to forget that any economic measure must be judged not by its direct good but by its indirect harm. The repercussions are often more important from the standpoint of the national economy than the

immediate effects. If, for instance, the handloom industry should be enabled to increase its output, care should be taken to expand demand so that the mills and the handlooms will not go down alike under the effects of low prices. The market for the increased production is best created by taking measures to increase the income of the working classes. In fact, it is on the basis of a higher standard of life for the masses that India's national economy can at all make any progress. And the standard of life can improve only when they increase their work, both quantitatively and qualitatively. For my part, I believe that a very large part of their increase in prosperity in the future must depend on the basis of goods produced by and exchanged among the cultivators. The reclamation of new lands and increase of food crops, better and more cattle, a larger output of milk product, of fish and vegetables, and of handwoven goods, and house-building—all these could be engineered by an enterprising government without appreciably disturbing the existing economic relations. And it is in this sense that I emphasise the importance of preserving balance in the national economy.

THE CIVILIZATION OF TO-DAY

NEEDLESS to say, the high-souled suggestions, if followed to their logical conclusion, may prove a deterrent to the unbridled display of wild passions in the collective life of nations. But we doubt whether any outward pressure to prevent war without a corresponding mental turn over will be meaningless, as has hitherto been, unless it is accompanied by a spiritual training to open the vision of men to the glorious destiny of the soul. For man is not merely a political animal, but is a philosophical and religious being as well. The craving of the human heart for eternal peace and happiness cannot be silenced once for all by the acquisition of earthly glories and prosperity. There is something hidden in the innermost depths of the heart, which wants to break through all physical barriers and human limitations to visualize the supreme Reality. The realization of this highest Truth is the true measure of greatness in the life of an individual or of a race. For greatness is not a thing of kilometres or an extent in space. The true wealth of a man or a nation is the spiritual genius that shines and radiates, and unless and until this light of wisdom—the realization of the oneness of all being—is kindled in the human mind and it transfigures his entire personality, it would be vain to expect a healthy revolution in the existing relation between man and man,

By THE EDITOR

"Prabuddha Bharata."

(Concluded from last week)

between nation and nation. In fact the warring instincts of mankind cannot be set at rest without a universal seeping of the spiritual ideas into minds and hearts. And this the West must learn from the immortal teachings of the Vedanta, the sacred treasure-house of the accumulated wisdom of the ancient seers of India. Rightly has Sir Francis Younghusband said in the *New York Times Magazine* from his personal experience, "We Westerners may have to put away our airs of superiority and recognize that, if India has much to learn from us in the way of scientific progress, mechanical inventions, big business and the art of Government, we have much to learn from her in just those things of the spirit which we sadly need to possess. . . . Like bees in search of honey in flowers, we must go to them and not expect them to come to us."

IV

India stands before the world as a living embodiment of spiritual culture. In spite of manifold vicissitudes in the sphere of her political life, she has never forgotten the paramount theme of her life—the cult of the spirit. So has the illustrious Swami Vivekananda

declared, "Here in this blessed land, the foundation, the backbone, the life-centre is religion and religion alone. Let others talk of politics, of the glory of acquisition of immense wealth poured in by trade, of the power and speed of commercialism, of the glorious foundation of physical liberty, but these the Hindu mind does not understand and does not want to understand. Touch him on spirituality, on God, on the soul, on the Infinite, on spiritual freedom, and I assure you, the lowest peasant in India is better informed on these subjects than many so-called philosopher in other lands. This is the *raison d'être*, that this nation should live on, in spite of hundreds of years of persecution, in spite of nearly a thousand years of foreign rule and foreign oppression." Materialism and all its miseries," he added, "can never be conquered by materialism. Armies when they attempt to conquer armies only multiply and makes brutes of humanity. Spirituality must conquer the West." No truer words have ever been spoken with such a forecasting vision of possibilities. The very foundation of Western civilisation has been rudely shaken. It has been tried many a time and found wanting. It is time that the spiritual idealism of the East is accepted as the guiding factor in the social and political aspirations and movements of Western nations. There is no other way to unravel the tangled skein of modern problems of international life.

The oneness of being and the infinitude of soul, which is the sanction of all morality and the basis of universal brotherhood, must form the cornerstone of the philosophical system of the West as it has done in the East from time to time immemorial. The supermen of all climes must stand shoulder to shoulder in defiance of their national prejudices and cast their eyes beyond the frontiers of their own countries on the cultural and spiritual glories of their neighbours. Unless such a breadth of outlook and universality of spirit is attained, no earthly machinery, how-

ever strong, would be able to put an effective curb upon the diabolical instincts of human nature and save the civilization of to-day from an impending shipwreck. "The whole of Western civilization will crumble to pieces in the next fifteen years if there is no spiritual foundation. You will find that the very centre from which such ideas as government by force sprang up are the very first centres to degrade and degenerate and crumble to pieces. And what will save Europe is the religion of the Upanishads," so did Swami Vivekananda prophesy about forty years ago. And the

world knows how his prophetic words are going to be fulfilled before its very eyes.

Standing firm on the eternal wisdom of her saints and sages India calls today the militant nations of the world to the cult of the spirit and to fight the malignant forces of materialism that are working havoc in the domain of human thought and culture. It is only in this sublime idealism of spirit that humanity will find the fulfillment of its noblest aspirations and the realization of the democratic dreams of a world federation and universal peace.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THAT NON-EUROPEAN FRONT

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, very aptly reminded Indians at the reception given to Sir Raza Ali in Johannesburg, that the Indians are heading for dangerous ground by thinking of a non-European front. Is it that this was kindly meant? or is there a lurking fear in the mind of Mr. Hofmeyr? When people begin to feel the same pain, the same sorrows, difficulties, the same tyrannical conditions, they will themselves think of a common stand against a common enemy.

It is not the Indian alone who suffers hardships, but what of the Coloured and the Bantu who slaves on the mines? If one were to walk up the streets, go to the beach, the Railway Station, one is at once reminded that he should not be existing, and that he is obnoxious.

Immediately the European fancies a plot of land, they declare it a slum

area, or as they are doing in Port Elizabeth and other parts, call it the Slum elimination scheme, and thus do away with the non-Whites.

Things in the world seem to be moving fast these days when European nations are speeding up armaments, when oriental powers are awakening after years of slumber, when India too is keen about managing her own affairs in her own way. In these days of uncertainty if the British Empire wishes to exist, then the policy of the various Governments come in for a drastic change where non-Europeans are concerned. I have only just arrived from an extensive tour of the Cape Province, and the position of the Coloured people is none too bright.

Mr. L. W. Ritch, in your issue of February 11, asks Mr. Hofmeyr some interesting questions.

Using Mr. Ritch's own words: "Mr. Hofmeyr surely cannot fail to realize that even the strangest of bed-fellows will co-operate to correct a calamity that effects them all similarly!"

I do believe, Mr. Editor, that the leaders of all shades of non-European thought have a common working ground along constitutional lines for the betterment of our fellow human beings. In Capetown such a move is already a reality. I am referring to the "National Liberation League of South Africa" with offices in Capetown.

The president of this institution is Dr. Gool. The League embraces all non-Europeans. Such a move should be started in all parts of this sub-continent.

I am,
S. PATCHAY,
(Psychologist and Lecturer).

SHRI VAITHINATHA EASVARUR TEMPLE

AT the special general meeting of the above Temple held on the Temple grounds, Umgeni Road, on Sunday last, at which a representative gathering was present, Messrs. V. M. M. Achary and V. Muthoo Pillay were elected as Trustees of the Temple vice Messrs. K. K. Pillay and M. N. Pillay both of whom are deceased. The meeting was presided over by Mr. P. Abboy Naidoo, the chairman of the Committee.

Prior to the election of the Trustees, the congregation discussed and passed several amendments and additions to the constitution of the Temple. Discussion was very keen on some of the clauses.

The election of the Trustees brought forth several nominations, but Messrs. Abboy and Muthoo Pillay received the greater support of the meeting. The newly elected trustees and the chairman were garlanded by Mr. S. B. Pather and wished every success.

Mr. Ramdas Gandhi, who was garlanded and welcomed, in a short speech in Hindi thanked the meeting for the welcome and said that it gave him happiness to see that in these hard days of absolute materialism there were young and old countrymen of his who yet believed in the moral value of temples and therefore in God.

The meeting which started at 10.30 a.m. in the morning concluded at 5.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the chair.

WANTED

A Teacher at Bank Station, Transvaal, to teach Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages.

Applicant must state his qualifications and past experience. Boarding and lodging is free, state salary required.

Communicate to the Secretary:

Indian Benefit Society,
P.O. Box 9, Bank Station, Transvaal.

Things In General

Asiatic Tenure Of Land

THE terms of reference of the Asiatic Land Commission appointed by the Government, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Murray, are officially announced. The other members of the commission are Mr. Henry Britten, a former Chief Magistrate of Pretoria and Johannesburg, and Mr. Nimrod Smit, a prominent farmer of the Bethal district. Their reference is:—To inquire into and report whether, and if so to what extent, the letter and spirit of any law restricting or prohibiting the ownership, use of occupation by Asiatics of land is being evaded, and to make recommendation in regard thereto. The foregoing terms of reference shall not apply to proclaimed land under the Precious and Base Metals Act of 1908 (Tvl.) as amended from time to time, to the extent which it has been dealt with by the report of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission appointed on October 4, 1932.

Port Elizabeth Indian Congress

The undermentioned following cable was sent by the hon. secretary, Mr. O. K. Pillay, of the Cape Indian Congress (Port Elizabeth Branch), on February 18, to the president of the Indian National Congress: "Long live the Mahatma. Port Elizabeth Indian Congress pray fifty-first annual Session Indian National Congress success in its deliberations to liberate and emancipate from vassalage and surfdom Indians within and overseas. Deeply deplore unwarranted interference in workings of Congress Ministries. Strongly support all action taken by Congress. Imperial domination and subjection must end. Avert constitutional crisis. Garbled version of Press likely encourage alarmist view. Trust political sagacity of Mahatma."

Mixed Marriage Inquiry

The Government has appointed the following as members of the commission to investigate and report upon the question of mixed marriages in the Union between Europeans and non-Europeans: Mr. Charles William de Villiers, K.C. (chairman), Professor Raymond William Wilcocks, Advocate Clarence Pieter Brink, Mrs. Mabel Katherine Malherbe, M.P., and Mrs. Nellie Brown Spilhaus, M.P.C. The commission is to determine whether such marriages (1) are on the increase and (2) are sufficiently numerous to be seriously detrimental to the welfare of the Union and future composition of the population; and to recommend whether it is necessary that any further steps should be taken to discourage such marriages.

Shree Gopallal Hindu Temple

The annual Sivaratri Festival will be celebrated at Shree Gopallal Hindu Temple, Vernlam, on Monday, February 28. All Hindus are kindly invited to attend. Ceremonies will punctually commence at 5 a.m. on Monday morning.

Riverside Indians' Protest

A general meeting of the residents of the Riverside district, which was declared as a Slum area, was held at Riverside Road on Sunday, February 6, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—Resolutions: (1) That the residents of Riverside strongly protest against the City Council ordering all houses to be demolished before the end of May, 1938. (2) That the residents in the Riverside district declared as slums do hereby most respectfully appeal to the City Council to grant an extension of time for a further six months in order to carry out repairs to those houses, as proposed by the Medical Officer of Health. The residents of this area earn very little, to carry out the repairs by the end of May, 1938. We feel that if time is extended to the end of the year we shall be able to carry out the repairs. (3) That the tenants in this slum area of Riverside are poverty stricken people earning insufficient pay with large family and children strongly appeal for better housing in districts proposed by the City Council before their present houses are demolished. We therefore suggest that the City Council extend the time of notice for evacuation, indefinitely, until such time when the City Council is ready to provide houses for the residents. (4) That the City Council be asked to inform the committee of this district of any housing scheme that they may suggest.

Durban Indian Women's Association

The secretary of the Durban Indian Women's Association acknowledges with thanks the following donations for their Bazaar:—Durban Turf Club, £10; Ackermans Ltd., 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Scott Mc Nab, 10s.; per Mrs. Nundoo, £2 7s. 2d.; Mrs. E. A. Benson, £1; Mrs. R. B. Chetty, 5s.; Mr. J. Joseph, 2s. 6d.; Lever Bros., 1 case sample soap; Tomango, 1 case Tomango Squash; Hind Bros., 1 parcel Ellis Brown Tea; Natal Estates, 1 packet sugar; Simplex Factory, 1 wall mirror; Kajee Bros., £1 7s. 6d. goods; Bombay Bazaar, brass; Durban's Favourite Store, brass; Durban Confectionary Works, sweets; per Mrs. Nundoo, grocery and toys; Shaik Himed 10lbs. rice; M. A. Motala, socks and ties; Ray Bros. 1 gross balloons; A. I. Kajee, cakes and minerals; B. Parmasir, minerals; Springfield Farmers Association, vegetables; Indian flower-

sellers, flowers; 2 market stall-holders, mutton; Dee Bee Bazaars, toys; Miss Lawrence, dresses; Mrs. Ismail, cakes; Mrs. Jhavery, cakes; Mrs. Lawrence, cakes and scones; per Mrs. A. D. Pillay, goods; Miss S. Lawrence, Bobala work; Dartnell Crescent School, cushion; Union Flour Mills, 1 case Semolina.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The council meeting of the Nizamia Muslim Society (Maritzburg), will be held at the secretary's office, 456, Greyling Street, on Monday February 28, at 7 p.m. It is earnestly requested that councillors will make a point of attending same without fail. The agenda is: Minutes, correspondences and general.

Revolutionising Air Travel

Great air liners, carrying 100 passengers each at a speed of 300 miles per hour at a height of nearly 5 miles over the ocean, is the vision of future travel that Col. Lindbergh has taken back to the United States after his stay in England. Col. Lindbergh, as Chairman of the Technical Committee of Pan-American Airways, has called for tenders for the construction of a maximum of 24 ocean air liners to be known as "Yankee Clippers." The estimated cost of each plane is £200,000. These liners will have luxurious state-room accommodation. They will carry 100 passengers each and a crew of 16 with a range of 5,000 miles non-stop. Their cruising speed must range from 200 miles per hour at sea level to 300 miles at an altitude of 25,000 feet.

Hill View Government-Aided Indian School

The hon. treasurer, Mr. S. M. Moodley, acknowledges with thanks the following donations towards the above School Building Fund. Further contributions should be sent to the hon. treasurer, Hill View Indian School, P.O. Sydenham, Durban.

CLARE ESTATE: Messrs. M. Murugas Moodley, £6; S. Moothoosamy, £10 10s. 6d.; Soobraya Moodley, £1; M. Sunichur, £1 1s. Vythilingham Bros., £1 1s.; M. Rungsamy Pillay, £1 1s.; N. R. Moses, £1 1s.; B. Mansingh, 5s.; M. S. Frank, 2s.; Jhurce, 5s.; Sookdew, 5s.; Mrs. Subbamah, £2 2s.; M. Moonsamy Moodley, £10; M. Ramsamy Moodley, £10; Cassim Mahomed, £1 1s.; R. Ramlal, 3s.; K. Coomarasamy Moodley, £5; K. Moonsamy Moodley, £1 1s.; A. Gordhan & Sons, 5s.; M. Murugan Reddy, £10 10s. 6d.; K. Vinayagam Mudaly, £5; M. Govindasamy Goven-der, £5; Murugappa Moodley, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Periannah Pilley, £6; M. Veeramsy Reddy, £5; Mottigan 10s. (first instalment); I. Murugan Padayachee, £11 (first instalment); M. Moonsamy Reddy, £2 2s.; A. J. Moodley, £10; J. F. Peters, £1; P. Santhana Reddy, £8; R. J. Maistry, 5s. and V. M. Chetty, 5s. NEW GERMANY: Messrs. Kistasamy Moodley, 3s.; Govindsamy Moodley, 5s.; P. S. Naicker, 2s. 6d.; N. Govindsamy, £2 2s.; Chinniah Chetty, £5; Rampersadh, £2 (first instalment); Kistasamy Naicker, £2 2s.; M. K. Goven-der, 10s. 6d. and P. N. Thambiran, £5.—To be continued.

India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Amendment Of India Act Inevitable?

THE *Hindu* (Madras) understands that an amendment of the Government of India Act is inevitable. The paper adds that the nine months, in which the Act has been in force, have revealed certain defects, and snags and the amending bill is expected to deal with these. However no major issue is expected to be raised by the amending bill.

Trouble In Lahore College Again

Over 200 students including 8 girl students of the Dyanand Ayurvedic College have again gone on strike. The immediate reason for the same being the Principal's refusal to grant permission to hold a condolence meeting on the death of Shrimati Parvati Devi, M.L.A.

Wiping Out Corruption From Public Services

Sheikh Abdul Majid, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier has established a Public Grievances Bureau at the Secretariat Buildings in Karachi thus implementing a resolution of the Democratic Coalition Party. Sheikh Abdul Majid in a statement to the press says 2,000 workers are required for vigilance work in connection with the eradication of corruption from public services and that he further proposes to open bureaus and branches in the villages throughout Sind.

Congress Success In Civil Elections

Congress has gained phenomenal success in the Taran Municipal Committee in Lahore. The Committee has a membership of 9-2 nominated and 7 elected. In the current general election five Congress nominees have been elected unopposed, while the sixth member, who has also been returned unopposed with no party label has signed the Congress pledge. Thus out of seven elected seats six have been captured by the Congress. The seventh seat is also being contested by the Congress.

Welfare Of Ex-Convicts

With the chief object of looking after prisoners when they are released from jails and to prevent them from reverting to crime. Nizam's Government at Hyderabad has sanctioned a scheme for the establishment of Prisoners' Aid Societies. Mr. S. T. Hollins, Director General District Police is to be congratulated for taking initiative in the

matter. According to the scheme the District Officers have been asked to take immediate steps to set up committees composed of non-officials to devise methods for the welfare of ex-convicts. It is now learnt that District Officers have already started organising Societies in the district and Taluk headquarters. Superintendents of Jails have been ordered to supply monthly lists of convicts about to be released to the District Collector, who, as President of the Committee, shall take necessary steps to get in touch with these ex-convicts released from jails and to provide means for their livelihood.

Tagore's New Book

"Prantik" is the title of a new book of Bengal Poems by Poet Tagore just published by Visva Bharati. Most of the poems, which are in blank verse, have been composed after the Poet's recent serious illness. He has expressed in them his intuitive experiences during the period of his illness. In the last poem composed on last Christmas day,

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the Poet gives an inspired message to humanity on the tragedy of the world to-day. The first edition of the Poet's Science Reader entitled 'Visva Parichaya' having been exhausted in three months, a second edition which has been thoroughly revised and rewritten by the Poet will come out in a few days.

An Unworthy Act

An attempt was made to import cloves via Aden and a consignment of 50 packages of cloves were shipped from Aden to Bombay by Mogul Line Steamer 'Akbar.' In view, however, of the fact that there is prevalent a strong feeling that cloves should not be brought into Bombay and as that was represented to the Managing Agent, it has been arranged by the Managing Agents, Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co., Ltd., that the said consignment should not be landed.

Trade Pact With India

Sir Zafrullah Khan, commerce member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, has resumed his discussions with the

Board of Trade on the negotiations of a new trade agreement with India in replacement of the Ottawa Pact of 1932. The discussions he had with official advisers and with his Government colleagues at New Delhi before returning to Great Britain some 12 days ago have done much to clarify the position, and it is understood that progress is now being made towards a settlement of this outstanding question.

Khadi Purchases By C. P. Governor's Wife

Lady Gowan, wife of Sir Hyde Gowan, Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, has taken to the use of khadi. Recently she invited an organiser of the Nagpur Khadi Bhandar to Government House and asked for patterns of different kinds of coloured and printed Khadi being shown to her and purchased khadi worth Rs. 60 for three dresses. It will be recalled that the Premier Dr. Khare in July last presented two khadi suits to Sir Hyde Gowan, one of which his Excellency wore at a Cabinet meeting.

"Vande Mataram" In Colours

"Vande Mataram in colours" is the latest production of P. S. Ramachandra Rao, the well-known artist and congressman. The conception of the picture is good. The background is the National Flag of India with Bharat Mata in centre clothed in tri colour sari. Even the ornaments adorning her breathe the tri-colour atmosphere. On the Flag are departed leaders like Lokmanya Tilak, Lala Lajpatrai, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Dr. Ansari, Swami Shradhanand, C. R. Das, Vithalbhai Patel and Babu Surendranath Bannerjea. At the feet of Bharat Mata are front-rank leaders of the Congress to-day with garlands in their hands ready to lay their choicest and best at her feet. The facial reproductions are quite good and the printing is of a high quality.

Test Cricket In India

Tennyson's eleven had a bad time when the fourth and final unofficial test match with the All-India team was continued. All India took their overnight first innings score of 251 for eight to 263 (Vinoo Mankad 113; Pope five for 51) and then the Englishmen commenced their first innings. Nobody could stand up to the bowling for long, and it was all the batsmen could do to keep the innings going until stumps were drawn, when Tennyson's side had lost nine wickets for only 84 runs.

The Sporting World

County Indian Football Association

At the ninth annual general meeting of the County Indian Football Association held at Sea View, on February 6, the undermentioned officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patron: Mr. P. D. Naicker; President: Mr. K. Samuels; vice-presidents: Messrs. V. Reddy, D. C. Moodley, P. S. Reddy, S. J. Maharaj, P. Nalliah, G. Naidoo and N. C. Naidoo; hon. record clerk and treasurer: Mr. M. J. S. Naidoo; hon. auditor: Mr. N. Sulaphen; hon. secretary: Mr. J. Naidoo.

Mayville District Indian Football Association

The annual general meeting of the Mayville District Indian Football Association (Sunday League), was held on Wednesday, February 16, at Kapitan's Balcony, Durban. In the absence of the president, Mr. E. M. Chin presided. Six senior clubs were affiliated last season and at this meeting one new club applied for affiliation and was accepted. It is expected that a few more clubs will join. The meeting agreed that the headmasters of the schools be approached with a view to encouraging sports for the juveniles. The following were elected for the season, 1938:—Patrons: Messrs. Sorbjee Rustomjee and K. Baijnath; President: Mr. K. M. Govender; vice-presidents: Messrs. R. Balchen, G. Kajee, R. Mahabeer, S. P. Pillay, A. C. Hayath, J. Raman and R. Lutchman; hon. secretary: Mr. V. S. Vadival Pillay; hon. treasurer: Mr. Jack Nadasen; hon. record clerk: Mr. R. Lutchman; hon. auditor: Mr. R. M. Chetty. New clubs desiring to affiliate are requested to communicate with the hon. secretary, Mr. V. S. Vadival Pillay, Madoline Buildings, Baker Street, Durban.

South End Hindu Cricket Club (Port Elizabeth)

The above team met the Uitenhage team in the final for the Bhikha Kalan's knock-out cup at Uitenhage on Sunday February 6. Both sides were out to low scores, and it was the bowlers' day out on the wet wicket. The scores were:—Uitenhage 1st innings: 40, T. Makan 7 wickets for 29; South End 1st innings: 28, T. B. Kara 4 wickets for 10. Uitenhage 2nd innings: 19, N. Umley 6 wickets for 6; South End 2nd innings: 23, M. B. Kara 5 wickets for 10. The match thus concluded leaving Uitenhage winners by 8 runs, and annexing the B. Kalan's Cup.

All-Out Wrestling in India

In an all-in wrestling match in Bombay, both men were simultaneously counted out and the match was given as a draw. The battlers were Harbans Singh, the "Indian killer," and von

By "Rambler"

Kraemer, the "German gorilla." For nearly two rounds the spectators were treated to a grand display of kicks, bites, punches and some neat though heavy-weight acrobatics. Von Kraemer objected when Singh bit him, but the referee thought it didn't matter. Both men got angry in the second round. Singh knocked the German down three times, and in the battle that followed both men fell clean through the ropes and lay side by side while the referee counted them out. They came to their dressing-rooms after medical treatment. Both had concussion.

Natal University College

Courses For Non-Europeans

Classes leading to the B.A. degree will be held at Sastri College, Durban, on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings beginning on Friday, March 4th, 1938.

Fees per half-year.....£7 10 0
Fee for separate class
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The Adviser to Non-European students will attend at Sastri College to interview and enrol students from 9-11.30 a.m. on Saturday, February 26th, from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday March 1st and on Thursday March 3rd, and at other times by appointment.

These classes may also be attended with the consent of the lecturer by non-matriculated persons who desire to extend their general education.

Loans (repayable after graduation) may be arranged.

Wedding

On Saturday last at the residence of Mr. B. A. Maghrajh, Miss Rajwathi Devi, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Maghrajh, was married to Mr. M. R. Varma, eldest son of Mr. Raghoobeer Varma and headmaster of the Umkomaas Indian School. A large number was present, which numbered over 900. The officiating priest was Swami Bhawani Dayal. The usual marriage ceremony concluded at 7.30 p.m., after which, congratulatory speeches were made by the following:—Dr. B. M. Krantz, Messrs. J. W. Godfrey, E. Reim, V. Lawrence, R. B. Maharaj, R. Singh, S. J. Randeria, P. R. Pather, Satya Deva, A. E. Shaik, C. Raghoobeer Varma, B. A. Maghrajh and many others. The Arya Sangit Mundal, Messrs. Lalbahdur Nanoo and Darrat Singh gave music. The happy couple were the recipients of

many pretty and valuable gifts from Europeans, Indians and relatives. Numerous congratulatory telegrams were received. After the wedding the guests were invited to a sumptuous dinner by the bride's parents.

Social And Personal

Dr. A. H. Allam, who, together with Mr. C. K. Pillay, was instrumental in bringing about an amicable settlement within the ranks of the Port Elizabeth branch of the Cape Indian Congress, sailed for India, in the *S. S. Karanja*, last month. During his short stay in Port Elizabeth, Dr. Allam sacrificed much of his time to the public work in alleviating the distress of his countrymen. Through his departure the Port Elizabeth Indian Congress loses an admirable lieutenant and a wise counselor.

Obituary

Over 500 relatives and friends from all parts of the province attended the funeral recently, of Mr. Ramsurran Mawalall, of 27 Pine Road, Rosburgh, Durban, brother-in-law of Mr. B. Ramchurran, of Maritzburg, and cousin of Messrs. Prowllall Bros., of Mayville, Durban. The remains of the deceased were cremated at the Cato Manor Indian crematorium, Durban, where the service was conducted according to Vedic rites, by Messrs. Sewduth, president of the Cato Manor Arya Samaj, and Satya Bhooshun, of Durban. He was highly respected by all sections of the Indian community. Formerly he was a well-known soccer player, and played for Springbok Football Club for a number of years, and also took part in many important matches for Durban and District. He leaves a widow, an aged mother and seven children. Messrs. B. A. Maghrajh, Ameen, Dewduth and T. L. Nanoo paid tributes to the late Mr. Mawalall at the crematorium. Numerous letters and telegrams of sympathy, and wreaths were sent from all parts of Natal.

Thanks

Mr. Vassanjee Juts, treasurer of the Verulam Temple Cricket Club, wishes to thank all the people who made contributions towards the funeral expenses of the late K. Govindasamy, one of the members of the Verulam Temple C.C., who died recently in the Dundee-Waschbank accident. Mr. Juts, in particular, thanks Messrs. R. Choonilall, S. R. Maharaj, Juts Jeewa, M. K. Maistry and Chiunniah Moonsamy (Dick), of Verulam, who have rendered valuable services.

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