

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

A Dig At The Government Of India

MR. W. H. ROOD, the U.N.C. member for Carolina enquired of the Union Parliament what the functions of the Agent-General in the Union were. If Indians in the Union, he continued, were Union subjects it must be made clear to the Agent-General that he must not concern himself with the Union internal affairs. "What political rights we give to the Indian is our business, and not that of the Agent-General," he said. This speech affords amusing reading reported as it was simultaneously with the publication of the fact that a preliminary commercial agreement has been concluded between the Union and India on the basis of reciprocal most favoured-nation treatment, Trade agreement or no trade agreement, India, powerless as she is, must submit to this insult being hurled at her. The impotency of the Agent-General to the Government of India has once more been proved beyond a shadow of doubt by the speech of Mr. Rood.

Wage Board Inquiry Into

Commercial Distributive Trade

The Wage Board arrived at Durban on Wednesday morning to investigate the conditions in the commercial distributive trade. The Board will be in Durban for a week and the inquiry will be held in camera and inspections will be made. Next week the Board will hold a public sitting to inquire into conditions in laundries and dyeing industries. A large number of our people are engaged in the commercial distributive trade as well as in the laundries and the cleaning and dyeing industries, and it is hoped that adequate representations will be made on their behalf. A feature of the constitution of the Board is the inclusion of Mr. R. Dunlop, the secretary of the Maritzburg Chamber of Commerce who represents the employers in the commercial distributive trade, and Mr. B. Edwards, secretary of the National Union of Distributive Workers. It is but essential in the interests of all concerned, that the Wage Board should

include representatives of the employers and employees in the industries affected. No inquiry could be claimed to be complete if the Board is otherwise constituted.

Adding Insult To Injury

It is reported that the British Government at the instance of the Italian Government is pressing Haile Selassie, late Emperor of Abyssinia, to accept a Vice-Royalty under Italian control. It is suggested that the ex-Emperor should accept the post and enjoy the same status as an Indian Prince, ruling from Addis Ababa, and receiving a salary from Italy. Abyssinia is by no means conquered, and there is no diminishing in the number of killings of Italian officers and troops. These killings have evidently prompted Mussolini to collaborate with Britain with a view to getting Haile Selassie to accept the position of Viceroy. It is exceedingly difficult to understand the mentality of the British Government, for, it will be remembered that despite the protestations from Britain, Mussolini rode rough shod over Abyssinia. Has the position altered for the better, that Britain has acted thus? Or is it that Mussolini's mailed fist is so powerful that Britain is obliged to carry out his instructions? The ex Emperor has declined the offer and he has stated that he will not consider the offer even at a future date. Haile Selassie could not have given a better reply. The offer simply adds insult to injury. Professor Jevous, who is the honorary treasurer of the Abyssinia Association, in an interview, states that "Signor Mussolini has made several offers to establish Haile Selassie as a puppet ruler. The Emperor refused. The only offer he is prepared to accept is one having full approval of the League. Our Association is trying to secure the return of the Emperor as the ruler of the Amharic-speaking Provinces in the centre, west and north-west of Abyssinia, including Gojjan and Shoa. In these districts there has been persistent unrest and revolt against Italian rule and the Italians will find that there is no hope of peace under the present regime."

Modern armaments may be what they may be, but Signor Mussolini and

the likes of him should not forget that there is such a thing as Retribution. More powerful countries than present-day Italy, have crumbled to dust, but modern dictators, drunk as they are with the lust and power, do not believe in the philosophy of Retribution. Time alone will shew that lust and power will not bring peace to the world.

Indian Eisteddfod

The Indian Eisteddfod inaugurated last year has come to stay. Last year it was a huge success. The entries received so far, for this year's Eisteddfod which starts at Durban on the 19th March, have gone beyond the promoters' expectations. They number over 800. It is an indication of the keenness that is being shewn by Indians for all art. In an interview with a representative of the *Natal Mercury* Mr. C. R. Warriner who is the President of the Indian Association, stated that "the Eisteddfod will be run, on the same lines as the European Eisteddfod, but there are many innovations, such as a class for reedpipe playing for solo and groups. I have heard the Sastri College reedpipe band and the music is simply exquisite. There are classes for elocution in which the Indians take a very great interest, debating in English, and in both of these, entries have been received from Indian women, an amazing thing when one considers the minor part that Indian women have always played."

The syllabus includes classes for dramatic art, vocal and instrumental, and English and vernacular folk-dancing. When one considers that Indian musicians have not the tutors who, however, abound in numbers amongst the Europeans, great credit is due to them. Nine out of ten Indian musicians are self-taught. Now that the Eisteddfod is held yearly, musical art in the Indian community will go forward by leaps and bounds. There is plenty of talent in the Indian and it wants developing.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH, 1938

The Future Of South African Indians

IN a few days time the Governments of India and the Union of South Africa, we believe, will simultaneously announce the next Agent-General to fill the place just vacated by Sir Syed Raza Ali. Mr. B. Rama Rau, the Deputy Commissioner for India in London is mentioned as the most likely successor to Sir Syed. The Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association dispatched a cable to the All India Congress to disapprove of the appointment of an Agent-General in view of the impotency of his office in South Africa. The cable immediately brought forth a rejoinder from Advocate J. W. Godfrey, the president of the Natal Indian Congress. The rejoinder was typical of Mr. Godfrey—and if we may be permitted to coin a word—it was Godfreyan in character. Godfreyan and Gilbertian may be taken as synonymous terms. Mr. Godfrey's rejoinder is an attempt to differ without any distinction.

In any event the appointment of another Agent-General is a foregone conclusion. Mr. Rama Rau, if he is the next nominee, will come and go in the same way as his predecessors had come and gone. But the Agents-General coming and going make not the slightest difference to the position of the Indians in South Africa. It is true that the Agent-General enjoys the benefits of the Immunity Act. That is all. That he hails from a race that has thousands of year of culture behind it, is no guarantee that he will be treated slightly better than the resident Indians of this country. The fact that he is a representative of a dark race is sufficient reason to bar his entry—as an individual—into European quarters.

It is for these reasons that one is inclined to agree with the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, that the Agent-General is impotent in South Africa. His protests against any anti-Asiatic Legislations has as much weight behind it as the casual protests that are made against the bombing of women and children from the air.

What of the future of the Indians in South Africa? That appears to us to be of much more importance to be discussed than the appointment of an Agent-General. Our position instead of becoming eased, is definitely taking a shape for the worse. We had expected that the Capetown Agreement which was hailed with the blowing of trumpets, would give us a life of absolute quiet for some years. That was not to be, however. For hardly had the ink used for the Agreement dried when we were met by the full blast of anti-Asiatic feeling in the Tielman Roos Liquor Act. That was the forerunner of many legislations, vitally affecting Indians, passed since the consummation of the Capetown Agreement. It was a bitter pill that we have had to swallow, for, whilst we have kept our part of the bargain, the same could not be said of the Union Government.

The working of one or two of the legislations has just started, and it would not be long before every legislation would be pounding us from every conceivable corner. The Slums Act is operating to our detriment. As we have more than once pointed out in these columns, local authorities could not be armed with a better weapon to drive the Indians further afield, than the Slums Act. The full

effect of the Act is now being felt by the Indians in Durban. We shudder to think what the position of Indian landowners would be if a local authority with anti-Asiatic tendencies has the ear of an anti-Asiatic Minister of the Interior. In that event, God forbid such an eventuality, there is nothing to prevent the whole of Grey Street being declared a Slum. The Marketing Act is another which is going to affect the Indian farmers. The seriousness of this Act would be felt immediately it is operated upon. A taste of its effect is shewn in the Memorandum that was presented to the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture by the Natal Indian Tobacco Growers' Association, a reference to which was made in our last issue. The powers that are being sought by the Tobacco Control Board would be a mere nothing to the powers that the Marketing Board would be empowered with.

The terms of reference of the Inquiry into the acquisition of lands, are wide. Ostensibly the Inquiry is restricted to the Transvaal, but there is a possibility of Natal being included in the Inquiry. A Commission is to inquire into mixed marriages.

These are but a few of the troubles that are in store for us. What is the community doing to combat these onslaughts? In our opinion the Indian community of South Africa is in such a state of chaos that it is not in a position to exert any pressure against the Government of the country. The division in its ranks will militate against any attempt to put up a solid united front.

There is a tremendous amount of work to be done in the community. Political and social spheres yearn for selfless workers. In the interests of the community, an attempt should be made to close its ranks so that once more South Africa could claim to have a united Indian community. That would only be possible if the leaders are earnest to unify the community.

BOMBING IN CHINA

The following passages are from private letters written in October last from China by an American missionary official.—Editor *Unity*.

I HAVE been to Shanghai and back again and that is always an interesting and sometimes exciting experience. The trip down was uneventful enough—a perfect day, the country smiling with plenty, the people and soldiery always pleasant and courteous. It seems impossible that from out of the beautiful clouds above there might come death and destruction at almost any moment. Yet a friend of mine had had his car, flying the British flag, machine-gunned by Japanese fliers only a day or two before on this very road and, on his return a week later, met with the same experience, fortunately escaping with his life by bolting into the rice fields, while another friend had just had his car burned by machine-gun fire on the banks of peaceful West Lake, Hangchow.

As we neared Shanghai, however, driving with lights out, we were greeted with a brilliant display of anti-aircraft fire and searchlights, as the Japanese endeavoured to find the Chinese planes that were reaching their positions. Japanese planes were at the same time bombing Nanking; but we had missed them both on the road.

These night raids are often most spectacular, a first-class pyrotechnic display. A score of Japanese searchlights keep ranging the skies, but never seem to locate their object, while their anti-aircraft from land and every warship in the river shoot in every direction, the only damage done being to innocent civilians who are unlucky enough to get caught by the flying strapnel. The Japanese are notoriously poor marksmen. When I was in Shanghai four weeks ago they had been trying for a month to get the Railway Administration building. Day after day, and many times each day, their planes flew over and dropped their bombs. From the roof of the Navy Y.M.C.A. we had a wonderful view. Three huge bombs leave three planes simultaneously. You can watch them as they descend for the first couple of thousand feet, then with the increasing speed they vanish. Suddenly a terrific explosion,—debris hurled hundreds of feet into the air, a great cloud of black smoke rising 1,000 feet or more in height. It seemed incredible that anything could remain alive within that area. But the Chinese soldiers are still holding the station and fifty of them actually live in the basement of that building. It has been perforated time and again with shells from the warships, but it was not until I was there this last time that they finally succeeded in registering a direct hit with a bomb from their planes.

The Japanese have rained bombs on the railway and on bridges but the track between Shanghai and Nanking, and Shanghai and Hangchow is still intact and not a single bridge has been destroyed. With factories and railway stations and warehouses, which offer a better target in undefended areas where they fly low, they have wrought tremendous havoc, however. There is now hardly a station between Shanghai and Nanking that has not been destroyed.

On my return to Nanking I was stopped by some children in the fields calling "fei chi, fei chi"—airplanes. Far to the right tree planes were flying low and dropping their bombs. A great column of smoke was rising further north—later we learned it was a goods station in Wusih, an important industrial city half-way between Shanghai and Nanking, where now practically all the factories which once gave employment and livelihood to many thousands, are nothing but gaunt ghosts of what they once were. Three more planes, pursuits, came along flying much higher to ward off Chinese attack. We stopped for fifteen minutes until assured that would not head our way.

It was not far from here that three bombers made a forced landing. Their pilots and crews were set upon by the Chinese farmers and literally torn limb from limb, the hearts of some of them being cut out while still in their death agonies. If they had fallen into the hands of the soldiers they would have been protected and treated well as were the sixteen mentioned in my last. But can we blame these farmers for meting even such terrible retribution as this on these fiends who raid their defenceless homes and machine-gun them in the fields?

One news agency says that the Japanese are confining their attacks to military objectives. Evidently the farmer who helps feed the soldier and the hospital which relieves him of his pain when wounded are "military objectives," while our schools and universities foster "anti Nipponism." To date 19 hospitals have been wholly or partially destroyed and in the Shanghai and Nanking area alone 42 universities, colleges and middle schools. And this diabolical bombing and machine-gunning from the air is going on with increasing severity day by day as the Japanese bring more airplanes to this country and construct more air fields. As a good neighbour who has given his pledge to cooperate in maintaining China's integrity we content ourselves by sending messages of sympathy some medical supplies and money, which are truly appreciated, but say we must not involve ourselves in this fight which

does not concern us. When we finally awake to a full realization of our real responsibility it may be too late—both for China and for ourselves.....

On our return trip, we made the first lap of the journey by night, for we wished to go just behind the lines. The Japanese were bombing and shelling this sector incessantly, so it was not at all a healthy place in the daytime. At Nansiang we were less than five miles from the front lines at the very point where the Japanese were making a most determined attack in another effort to break through. It was necessary to drive without lights and while a bright moon helped us, the low lying fog made driving rather difficult, and we constantly had to pull aside and stop for army trucks with ammunition and for Red Cross ambulances. There were hundreds of wounded being brought in, most of them walking cases, but I suppose we passed fully one hundred on stretchers. Only once did I hear a cry of pain from any of these men—they bear their wounds with amazing fortitude.

It took us 4½ hours to make the 64 miles to Soochow and we arrived there, just as we had the time before, in time for an air raid. Bombs exploded somewhere, but fortunately we got to the W. A. S. C. headquarters before being stopped and were soon asleep.....

The third raid prevented our getting away until nearly 3 o'clock. It was another perfect day and the winding road for about 20 miles along the northern shore of Lake T'ai, with its hundreds of brown and white-sailed junks and its mountains and its islands, is as beautiful a drive as I know. But our hearts were pretty heavy with all the suffering we had seen and the bombing which I told of earlier in this letter along the tracks and at Wusih. Darkness overtook us long before we reached Nanking, and under cover of that darkness newly arrived artillery and anti-aircraft were being moved up to the front from Nanking. We could not repress a cheer as they went past. A trio of British naval officers at one of the stations needed the help of an interpreter, for a truck that was accompanying them had broken down. It was about 9 o'clock when we pulled into Nanking.....

There are stories abroad that many of those who are in the higher places go in a funk with every air raid, but I must confess I have seen none of this myself. Most of those I know continue right on their jobs. This is in some measure due to the fact, however, that since the 25th of last month when the Japanese sent 96 planes over the city, with their threat to wipe it out, the

raiders have confined themselves chiefly to the aerodromes outside the walls. Perhaps world opinion has had some effect on the Japanese militarists after all.....

This afternoon I took some of the press and camera men to the Red Cross hospital, which is now housed in the Central University. This place has been bombed four times. Soon it will be the largest hospital in the world, with over 5,000 beds. Here in the huge auditorium, with its glass dome above completely shattered and three gaping holes in its north wall, was the receiving room, from which men were distributed to the different wards. In the great library the long

seminar tables were used as beds. Hundreds of the wounded had to be contented with straw pallets on the floor, but there were proper beds for the more serious cases. Here was a man whose mouth was in a terrible smile—the first symptoms of lockjaw. There is not enough anti-tetanus serum, but fortunately lockjaw is not very common and 50 per cent of the cases are cured. Here a man shot through the neck, his entire body paralyzed—soon he must die. We were shown a case of mustard gas poisoning—photophobia and blisters all over the body, but these cases have been few. So far none of the more terrible types of gas has been used. Here is a mere youngster crying because

of the pain. I asked him his age—he is only fifteen. In the operating room we see two men under ether, one with a ghastly abdominal wound, the other with a bit of shrapnel in the neck. Dr. Ettinger tells us that practically all the cases are artillery wounds—shrapnel, practically none is machine gun or rifle wounds and no bayonet wounds. The Chinese army is sadly lacking in artillery and mechanized units, but the men know how to handle machine guns and trench mortars with deadly accuracy, and some, especially the Cantonese, are famous for their bayonet work. They deserve tremendous credit for holding the line these ten weeks, for the odds against them must have been terrific.

GERMANY

THE EIFEL MOUNTAINS

GERMANY. The Rhine, Bavaria, and the Black Forest. These are the three districts which comprise the average holiday maker's Germany.

After these three, what then?

Germany is by no means exhausted as a holiday land, even when one knows every inch of the Rhine, every peak in those magnificent Bavarian Alps, and every glade and village of the Black Forest.

There are many other equally enchanting districts waiting to be discovered. One might explore the Harz Mountains, scene of Grimm's fairy tales, or the lovely Baltic Coast with its silver sands stretching back to the pinewoods of Mecklenburg, or a most interesting tour could be made to the mediæval Franconian towns, Nuremberg, Rothernburg, Dinkelsbuhl and Nordlingen, which have remained unchanged for five centuries.

But there is one district which seems preeminently suitable for the visitor. This is the Eifel. A little-known range of lovely wooded hills lies between the Rhine and Moselle rivers and the Belgian frontier—the most easily accessible part of Germany for visitors going on from Great Britain.

Cologne is the jumping-off ground. The ideal thing would be to take one's own car. But this is not essential. Trains and buses serve the district adequately. Set out from Cologne to Coblenz along the banks of the Rhine, either by train or by car. Both the railway and the road hug the river bank nearly all the way, and a fine view can be had of the vine-clad castellated banks of the river. In Coblenz a journey up to Ehrenbreitstein, the old fortress beside the river should be made. From the terrace one looks upon the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle.

By

JOY WRIGHT

In "Modern Review"

Coblenz is a pleasant town with terraces along the riverside, gay cafes and the light-hearted atmosphere, which characterises the Rhineland generally.

From Coblenz one might follow the Moselle Valley. Again the railway and the road run close beside the river. Both will take one through the lovely little townlets of Cochem, Bullay, Traben-Trarbach and Berncastel Cues, to Trier, the Old Roman city of Treves, dominated by the Porta Nigra, the wonderful old gateway dating from 275 A.D.

Trier is a veritable treasure-house of antiquity. It is also the capital of the Moselle Vineyards and in its Wine Museum the whole history of viticulture is unfolded. In Trier they will teach you all there is to know about Moselle wine and with practical demonstration, not in theory.

There are actually vineyards in the town itself, close beside the Roman Amphitheatre which lies only a few minutes walk from the Market Square.

If the journey so far has been made by train it would be worth while hiring a car in Trier and making one's way northwards, climbing up into the Eifel Mountains (the roads are surprisingly good) to Daun, a delightful little town ringed around with lakes. One peculiarity of the lake in the Eifel district is that one always climbs up to the lake. The secret is that this was once a volcanic district and the lakes are mostly formed by the craters of extinct volcanoes.

Daun itself possesses a noteworthy chalybeate spring. There is good fishing in the district and excellent bathing in the lakes. Not very far away is the Nurburg ring, the famous motor-racing tracks. Its 18 miles contains 172 curves.

Assuming that by this time the visitor has taken to the road he could fit in a lap round the Nurburg ring on his way north from Daun, and then get across to the Marialaach, the largest of the Eifel lakes, and surely one of the most beautifully situated lakes in Europe. A very fine old Benedictine Abbey here is well-worth inspection.

Then on northward again to Bad Neuenahr: a piquant contrast this elegant and sophisticated spa with its first class concerts, tea dances and cabarets after the simplicity of the little country towns and villages.

Two important hot springs have established Bad Neuenahr among the famous spas of the world, the "Grosser Sprudel" and "Willibrordus Sprudel." The latter rises from a depth of 1,225 feet.

From Bad Neuenahr, a visit should be made to Gemund. Itself a pretty little town in beautiful surroundings, its interest is enhanced by the fact that a mile away is the Burg Vogelsang, the leading training school for National Socialist leaders. It has been called the Eton of Modern Germany.

Another little town which will richly repay a visit is Monschau, the famous old cloth-making town right on the Belgian frontier. Some of the fine patrician homes of the master cloth-makers of old are open for public inspection.

After Monschau the way turns north again along the frontier to Aachen.

Aachen, or Aix la Chapelle was a spa

in the days of Charlemagne. Here he built his favourite palace and the marvellous Palace Chapel which still survives.

In the Cathedral with its odd mixture of architecture are housed some of the

most precious treasures of the Church.

Like all the German spas. Aachen is a gay and fashionable place and gives not the slightest impression of being a resort for the sick.

From Aachen back to Cologne and

the tour of the Eifel Mountains ends. It could be done in a week, but it would be better to take longer and to dawdle among the hills and the valleys with their quaint half-timbered houses and their many orchards.

American Events

(BY H. STEFAN SANTESSON)

Anniversary Of Indian Declaration Of Independence Hailed In New York

AMERICAN and Hindustani friends of the India National Congress met at a dinner on Sunday evening, January 23, to discuss and hail the progress, social as well as political in the India of to day. The meeting was held under the auspices of the India Political Council.

Mr. Norman Thomas, hailing India's leadership in the development of the non-violent method of political expression, stressed India's certain progress with the leadership of the National Congress towards true liberty and emancipation. One people was forming out of many races and languages, one people not afraid to struggle against the mightiest Empire of modern times!

Other speakers included Dr. Haridas T. Muzumdar, Dr. Maneck Anklesaria, Mr. Krishnalal Shridharani the new President of the Hindustan Association, Mr. Omar Miah head of an Islamic Mission in New York, Mr. Mubark Ali Khan Director India Welfare Society who attacked the Congress from the Communalist standpoint, Mr. Ibrahim Choudhry Secretary of the Moslem Brotherhood who spoke as a Congressman, Dr. P. N. Chakravarty of Princeton, N. J., Mr. H. Stefan Santesson of the American League for India's Freedom and the Indian Political Council.

Mr. Ramlal Bajpai, formerly associated with Lala Lajpat Rai, presided. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Khan and Mr. Wazir Khan contributed the music.

The India Political Council is a newly formed committee with members in New York, New Jersey and California. Mr. Ramlal Bajpai is Chairman, and Mr. Santesson Secretary. Other members are Miss Eleanor Metzel and Mr. Roger Baldwin, of the American League for India's Freedom, Mr. Satish Chandra Mondal of the Young India Dramatic Society, Mr. Mohammed Ayub Khan of Afghan, Mr. Ramnath Puri of Fair Oaks, California and others.

January 26th Celebrated In California

As has been the custom for several years, members and friends of the Bharat Welfare Society met on Sunday January 23 at Fair Oaks, California, to

celebrate the eighth anniversary of the Nationalist Indian Declaration of Independence. That meeting was held under the auspices of Ram Nath Puri, California member of the Indian Political Council. Several of those present joined a Congress Committee, paying \$1 each, which is to be sent to India. A Committee was appointed to make a drive for additional members.

Another January 26th Celebration In New York

A Committee headed by Dr. Haridas T. Muzumdar organized a second celebration of the eighth anniversary of the Indian Nationalist Declaration of Independence at the Caravan Hall, 59th Street, Park avenue, in New

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York. The committee of sponsors and participants included Mr. Devere Allen, prominent pacifist, Mr. William D. Allen, Editor *World In Brief* news service, Mr. Ramlal Bajpai, Dr. Maneck Anklesaria, Mrs. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler of the New History Society, Sri Dev Ran Sukul lecturer on Yoga and others. The meeting was arranged on the 24th, circular were mailed out on the 25th, and the meeting held Wednesday evening, the 26th. Dr. Anklesaria, who is connected with the *United Press* of India, and is a friend of Dr. Muzumdar, sounded the keynote of the meeting when he told how, 72 hours before, he had despaired of witnessing in New York any observance of the Anniversary. It was therefore that he had been particularly happy to associate himself with Dr. Muzumdar in this hastily organized celebration. Dr. Muzumdar gave a particularly good description of contemporary events in India. Some short American films, taken in India, were also shown, thanks to Mr. Hari Govil.

India League Of America

The India League of America is a recently organized central membership organization. To quote from its initial circular: "The League aims to promote the interests of our people in America in every way. It will sponsor a publication designed to promote closer contacts between our community abroad and India, and to make contacts between India and America by reporting and appraising significant happenings in both lands. The League office will serve as a clearing house for the problems confronting our people, and will endeavour to supply authentic information about India. The officers of the League include Mr. N. R. Checker, President; Mr. A. Chowdhry and Dr. B. V. Mukerji, Vice-president; Dr. Anup Singh and Dr. Haridas T. Muzumbar, Secretaries; Messrs. M. Chowdhry and K. Rahman, Treasurers. The League has opened offices at 17 East 48th Street, N. Y. C.

News In-Brief

The Young India Dramatic Society met on January 9 and 15 to plan activities for the new year. Mr. Satish Chandra Mondal remains as President, and Mr. H. Stefan Santesson as Secretary, with the other participants including Mr. Ganesh Prasad, Mr. Frederic Vencatakrisniah, and others.

Uday Shan Kar has again been here, capturing all hearts, and giving some superb performances. At the last one of the December—January series the people stood in the aisles, shouting, screaming, calling incessantly for Shan-Kar to appear for further curtain calls. It was one of the most sincere, spontaneous and enthusiastic demonstrations we have seen for a long time.

A reception was held for Mr. Shan-Kar at the Dance International Exhibition in Radio City, on December 20. The participants included Miss Anne Morgan, and Miss Malvina Hoffman, the prominent sculptress.

Mr. Mohammed Sayed Ansari, formerly President of the Hindustan Association has sailed for India to join the staff of the National Muslim University at Delhi who was given a hearty farewell and send off.

THE ARCTIC VIGIL

LAST May a squadron of Soviet aircraft left the islands of Franz Josef Land, and six hours afterwards effected a landing 15 miles from the North Pole. A fortnight later, having unshipped a ton of supplies, a dural framework hut astronomical and meteorological instruments and an electrical generating plant for light and radio, the aircraft returned, leaving four men to face a twelve months' Arctic vigil. These "four gallant men of science," as *The Times* describes them, have, together with a faithful Esquimaux dog, just been rescued by a fleet of Soviet ice-breakers after nine months' isolation during which the ice on which their camp was based drifted nearly 700 miles towards Greenland.

"Isolation" is in a way, hardly an appropriate description of their condition. They were in constant radio communication with Moscow, and M. Papanin the director, was meanwhile a candidate for the new Soviet Parliament, and not only broadcast his election address, but received accounts of the progress of his campaign, culminating in the news of his election. His colleague, Shirshov, learned by the same means that he had become a father, and all of them were, in the intervals of their work of scientific observation, regaled by grand opera from their homeland nearly 3,000 miles away. Radio relaxations played, however, a minor part in their life. The age-old mysteries of the Arctic were scientifically probed. They sounded the ocean depths, tested the direction and temperature of currents, observed the ice drift, recorded the weather variations, gathered data on magnetic problems, and made innumerable studies of organic life. An adequate appraisal

of their labours will probably not be forthcoming for several months after they have returned to Moscow and their charts and records have been analysed. At a comparatively early stage, however, plankton specimens disproved Nansen's hypothesis that there is no organic life in the extreme northerly regions.

Dr. Papanin and his colleagues prepared themselves for their adventure by spending two years in an improvised experimental Arctic camp near Moscow: one of them took a special medical course as a precaution—although none of them became ill, and even their aspirin tablets have returned unused. Their food was not the traditional pemmican, but a special diet devised after a long process of experimentation by the Moscow Food Institute. Yet the physical and mental strain must have been considerable. Polar darkness set in four months after their landing, and was only beginning to break at the time of their rescue. The temperature was often minus 40deg. Fahrenheit and even lower, they were deafened and blinded by fierce blizzards, and as they drifted southwards the ice began to crack and break up. Early this month it parted beneath them, severing them from their store and their base hut, leaving them on an ice-floe 300 by 200 yards in length, surrounded by icy sea.

By this time all the considerable resources of the Soviet Arctic administration were mobilised. It is seldom realised that this almost autonomous institution, lavishly financed by the central Government, maintains more than a hundred polar stations between the Kola Peninsula and the Bering Strait, has a fleet of ice-breakers, and

hydrographic ships at its disposal, together with a radio network and seven hundred aircraft. Its activities are not limited to disinterested science, for has proved the feasibility of the northerly passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific which has taken such a tragic toll of human life during the past four centuries. It claims that the event of war aircraft and supplies can be directly imported without any possibility of hostile intervention over the Polar ice cap from America, and cherishes the ambitious purpose of establishing a trans-Polar commercial air service between the old world and the new.

A fortnight ago the *Taimyr*, *Munmansk* and the *Yermak*, the latter carrying a ski-equipped aeroplane, an amphibian and an autogiro, were blasting their way with dynamite through pack ice to the rescue. In the middle of last week two of their aircraft managed to land on ice, and the scientists welcomed the first human beings they had seen for nine months. Last Saturday the radio transmitter emitted its final message: "North Pole station now closing down"—although in truth it was by now nearly 700 miles away from the North Pole—and a few hours later it was dismantled, and M. Papanin, Federov, Shirshov and Krenkel, not forgetting Jolly, the dog—were safe aboard ship, the crews of which drew lots for the dangerous honour of going over the side and picking their way across the heaving ice-field to carry them to safety. Thus terminates an epic adventure ranking with the record-breaking flight over the Pole to the U.S.A. the *Cheluskin* affair and the *Krassin's* rescue of General Nobile.

FAREWELL TO CAPTAIN AND MRS. WALKER

MANY parents, well-wishers and children were present at the Greytown Indian School on Friday, February 19 to bid farewell to Captain and Mrs. Walker, who, during their stay of 14 years in Greytown, had done much for the upliftment of the Indian community generally.

The headmaster, Mr. Subhan, Mr. Lakhi, Mr. Vanmare, two ex-scholars of the school, Mr. A. B. I. Moolla and Mr. C. V. Ramiah and others eulogised the work done by Captain Walker for the Indian community and they hoped that Capt. Walker would still have his interest in the Indian youth.

"I know no such word as farewell," said Capt. Walker in replying to the parents and children. "You should look upon my going away with joy, for I am going into the wider confines where my voice can be heard. I am leaving you to get out and do more for you."

Capt. Walker's services to the Indian community have been in no small measure appreciated by them. He has worked untiringly for the Greytown School and has brought it to its present well-equipped condition. "I shall never rest satisfied," he said "till I hear of further improvements here, especially in the establishment of a Carpentry Department in this school."

The headmaster took the opportunity of calling upon Mrs. Walker to hand the the Std. VI certificates to the successful pupils. "Since this school started the results have been more than satisfying, there being an average of 80 per cent. passes each year. It is the first time in the history of the school, he went on, that a number of girls have been successful." Three pupils are proceeding with further studies at Sastri and Maritzburg.

The pupils, as a practical expression of their feelings, garlanded Capt. Walker and also presented him with an illuminated address. Mrs. Walker was the recipient of a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Things In General

Bather Rescued From Drowning

ON Sunday the 6th inst. an Indian youth S. M. Soobrayal of 20 Madras Road, Durban, was rescued from drowning by members of the Durban Indian Surf Life Saving Club. At about noon the members of the club saw a bather being carried away by the strong backwash. Only his head could be seen on the surface of the water 100 yards away. Raman Patel, one of the lifesavers swam out to the rescue. He was just in time to get his man and save him from sinking. Ohin Dixon, another of the lifesavers, followed with the belt and brought the patient safely to shore. After rendering artificial respiration the bather recovered and was sent home none the worse for his experience. Had it not been for the prompt action of the members of the club the tale would have been a different one.

Wards Of J.P.s. In Northern Natal Altered

The Wards of Justice of the Peace in Northern Natal have been altered, according to a notice appearing in the Government Gazette of March 4. The Wards of Dundee and Biggarsberg have been divided into three to be known in future as Hattingspruit, Biggarsberg and Dundee. The change has necessitated the re-delimitation of the Waschbank Ward.

Fund To Save Public Frauds

When Mr. F. Smith, president of the Law Society, recently announced that steps were to be taken to curb the activities of fraudulent solicitors, he said:—"I assure you that if the cutting off my right hand could do anything to stop this fearful malpractices you should have my right hand in five minutes."

Ravages Of "T.B." In Capetown

Mr. R. Stuttaford, Minister of Public Health, drew a gloomy picture of the incidence of tuberculosis in Capetown at a meeting recently, but at the same time congratulated the City Council on the efforts it was making to stamp out the disease. Praising the good work done at the Sunshine Home, Mr. Stuttaford said that a similar home for non-Europeans would have to be instituted. The Department of Public Health had arranged that homes of this kind should get their aid through the Christmas Stamp Fund.

There were roughly 750 deaths a year from tuberculosis in Capetown, a position which was tragical.

The Cape Police Force

The enrolment of 60 coloured men in the Cape Police Force has already begun, and it is understood that a number of men applied for positions to Lieut.

Colonel R. J. Palmer, Deputy Commissioner of Police in the Cape Western Division. The final details of the scheme are announced. Coloured constables will receive £72 a year, rising by annual increments of £6 to £108. A coloured corporal will receive £112 a year, rising by £6 annually to 124; and coloured sergeants will receive £130 a year, rising by £6 annually to £148.

"No Peace Without Honour"

Speaking at Chelsea, the Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, said he had observed a feeling of widespread relief that the Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, had embarked on a definite and active policy of reconciliation in Europe. The whole Cabinet did their utmost to persuade Mr. Eden to remain. "The fact remains," Sir Samuel said, "that the Prime Minister and the Government are just as determined as Mr. Eden to uphold the honour and fulfil the obligations of Great Britain and have no intention of supporting any peace in Europe that is not a peace with honour. "We are a proud and brave people. If we are horrified at the methods of modern warfare it does not mean we shall tamely submit to a peace at any price. Our great rearmament programme shows we are determined to make our defence secure and to submit to dictation from no quarter of the world."

Haile Selassie To Rule Abyssinia?

A report that the British Government at the instance of the Italian Government is pressing Haile Selassie to accept a Vice-Royalty, under Italian control, of portion of Abyssinia, is published in London. The suggestion is that the Negus should accept the post and enjoy the same status as an Indian prince, ruling from Addis Ababa and receiving a salary from Italy. Signor Mussolini's dilemma in Ethiopia, so far from diminishing, is growing and killings of Italian Officers and troops, destruction of roads and attacks on outposts continue relentlessly. The Emperor had a long conference with Lord Halifax, but has made no decision.

Negus Turns Down Italian Offer

In the course of a message telephoned to the Paris newspaper *Le Soir*, the Emperor of Abyssinia referred to the alleged Italian offer inviting him to return to Abyssinia, where he would be given considerable territory under Italian sovereignty and an annuity of £10,000 a year, reports Reuter. The Negus declared that he could not accept such an offer, either now or at any future time.

Blind Landing At Durban

Air travel in bad weather in Durban is to be made still safer for South African Airways machines by installation before

July of Lorentz blinding radio beacons. The German Lorentz landing system is already in use at Capetown, and now, at a cost of £15,000, it is also to be installed at Durban and Port Elizabeth.

Prisoners

The difference between Britain and America in regard to crime of a violent character is marked by the latest news from New York that the Federal Government intends in the near future to build a new prison for "hard-boiled" women of the States, probably in either Oklahoma or Kentucky, on the lines of the Alcatraz, the American "Devil's Island" for male miscreants on San Francisco Bay. Britain contrastingly finds it has now too many penal establishments, and the latest to be given up is the famous prison on Dartmoor, in Devonshire.

Where Is Disarmament?

Rear Admiral Du Bose, Chief of the U.S.A. Naval Construction, testified to the Naval Affairs Committee that President Roosevelt's expansion programme would cost more than 1,000,000,000 dollars, says Reuter, Washington. He estimated that 45 warships would cost 731,095,000 dollars, 22 auxiliaries would cost 246,451,000 dollars, and minesweepers and tenders 72,000,000 dollars. The estimates were exclusive of the cost of 1,000 fighting planes.

Hill View Government-Aided Indian School Building Fund

(Continued from last week)

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(To be continued)

India Letter

(NEWS COLLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Ignorance Of Indian Affairs In Britain

MR. BOSE when asked about his impression of the British people's attitude towards India, said that he had found a great deal of ignorance in Great Britain about Indian affairs; nevertheless he had met a section of the British public who took interest in and sympathised with India in her struggle for Independence. But it did not appear to him that this section had much influence with the ruling classes. Mr. Bose said that even outstanding politicians were not well-informed about Indian affairs. The information that they had usually came from official sources or from correspondents of British newspapers in India, who did not always represent the true facts of the situation.

Invitation To Visit Transborder Territory

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on being asked whether he had received any invitation from the Faqir of Ipi requesting him to visit the transborder territory stated that he had received a letter from the Faqir inviting him and other Indian leaders to visit him and inquire on the spot into the various allegations against him. The Faqir stated that he valued the freedom of his people above everything else and was offering resistance to measures that he apprehended would go to enslave them. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru added that he would greatly like to visit the transborder areas, but he regretted that there was no chance of his doing so in the near future.

Maulana Azad's Challenge To Mr. Fazlul Huq

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, member of the Congress Parliamentary Committee, it is understood, has written a letter to Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq challenging him to cite specific instances in the Congress provinces where Muslims have been oppressed. Maulana Azad gives Mr. Huq the assurance that if the latter could give such instances he (the Maulana) as member of the Congress Working Committee would see to it that such grievances were forthwith redressed. The Maulana, however, is emphatic that no such case of oppression has occurred anywhere.

The Rule Of Power

In the Assembly on March 9 the Finance Member, Sir James Griggs, introduced a motion for the consideration of the Finance Bill. The motion was carried by 67 votes to 48. An

earlier announcement by Sir James Griggs that the Viceroy had restored all demands for grants which the House had rejected during the budget debate, thereby annihilating the budget, was greeted with violent opposition and most of the Congress members and a few others withdrew.

Sir Mohd. Mozammillah Khan's Munificence

Nawab Bahadur Dr. Sir Mohammad Mozammillullah Khan, announced a donation of Rs. 1,00,000 for the proposed Technological Institute and the Military College when his Highness the Nawab of Rampur visited Sir Mozammillullah and Bhikampur as the latter could not attend the University Convocation owing to indisposition.

Indian Independence For World Peace

The following is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's message to the Independence Demonstration held recently in London.

I welcome the demonstration organised for Independence in London. The Independence of India has become a vital problem not only for India but for England and the world. Only on the basis of this Independence can the Indian problem be solved and only on this basis India can contribute her proper share to world peace. Only then can normal and friendly relations develop between India and England. To delay this inevitable solution is to add to the insecurity of the world. India can never agree to anything short of Independence but this independence includes the fullest co-operation in world order and real collective security. It does not mean hostility to British people but the basis of a real co-operation for peace and human progress."

Will Justice Be Done?

Below we publish extracts from an article by Mr. G. V. Ketkar, Editor of the *Mahratta*. The article has received wide publication throughout India:

The heart-redding tale of the seven young women who are rotting in jails in conditions dangerous to their health was disclosed by a statement issued a few months back by Jt. Somendranath Tagore, Secretary of the Bengal Political Prisoners Release Committee. The public seems to have passed unnoticed the tale of these young women in the general question of release of politics in Bengal. The tale of Rani Grindallo one of the seven prisoners who hails from Naga hills is recently revealed to the public during the Congress President's tour in Assam. This brave young

woman who in her exuberant love for freedom, tried her steel with the mighty British Raj, has in consequence been serving her life sentence in a jail in Assam. The Assam Mahila Samiti has recently under the presidency of Smt. Amrit Kaur passed resolution demanding the release of this Rani of the hills. Men and women all over India should support the Mahila Samiti of Assam. In the present changed atmosphere of India these women should be released looking to their present state of health and the suffering they have already undergone. It is hoped that men and women of all shades of opinion would take active part in this nationwide move.

Lord Lothian On Constitutional Unity And His Plea For Federated India

Speaking at the Aligarh College Convocation ceremony Lord Lothian said:—

"Europe once had the same kind of cultural and religious unity as India in the earlier days of Christianity. But when in the fifteenth century the new learning of the renaissance and the new movement for religious reform, known as the Reformation, began, because it led to no constitutional unity, Europe fell into pieces and has since remained divided into these national sovereign states whose strifes and wars are not only the ruin of Europe itself, but the principal threat to the peace of the world. "India to-day is undergoing both a renaissance and a reformation in religion. It is also being invited to undertake a social and economic revolution as well. It is now confronted not only with a transformation in its relationship to Britain but in its inferior life and economy as well. Continuing, Lord Lothian said, "You may not like some of the features of the new Federation which emerged from the debates and struggles of the last few years. I do not myself like some of them. Sooner or later some of them will have to be altered. It is not my intention to discuss in any way the merits or demerits of the present scheme. But do not lose your grip on the Federation itself. It is, beyond all question, the greatest boon which lies within the grasp of India and of the peoples and communities within it: Without Federation in some real form, India will go down to a hell as bad or worse than that in which Europe finds itself to-day and for the same reasons. Federation is the condition of her ordered progress to whatever goal her inner genius may lead her.

The Sporting World

Verulam Temple Cricket Club

ON Sunday, February 27, the Verulam Temple C.C. met the Umgeni School Old Boys Sports Club in a friendly match, on the Verulam Indian Sports ground. It was quite an interesting match for the crowd that assembled to witness. The best performer for the day was S. Krishna Maharaj, who scored 20 freely, being not out. The match resulted in favour of the home team by 8 runs.

Dundee Vs. Ottomans

The Dundee Indian C.C. met the LadySmith Ottomans C.C. for the fourth time to decide the District Finalists for the Panday's Shield and were victorious by 31 runs on the first innings. The scores were: Ottomans, first innings 75 all out; Dundee, first innings 106 all out. Ottomans, second innings 96 for 6 declared; Dundee, second innings 59 for 1, at close of play.

Cricket At Krugersdorp

A friendly match was played between the Young Men's Ottoman Cricket Club of Krugersdorp, and the Potohefstroom Indian School Cricket Club, on the Krugersdorp sports ground on February 20. The home team won the toss and elected to bat, scoring 57 runs. N. Coopoo

captured 4 wickets for 20 runs and A. Bismilla 4 for 25. The visitors replied with 201 runs, (O. Omar 50 and Abdul Hak Bismilla 30), thus winning the game by a big margin of 144 runs. The visitors thanked the home team for their kind hospitality and sportsmanship.

Bharat Cricket Club

A friendly cricket match was played between the Bharat Cricket Club and the Verulam Temple Cricket Club at Verulam, on Sunday, March 6. Verulam took the first knock and were all out for 57 runs, (B. Sham 17). Bharat went in and scored 53 runs, (H. R. Tavadia 14). By the great bowling of Tavadia in the second innings, the home team were all out for 31 runs (G. H. Bux 13), Tavadia 6 for 12; B. Daya 4 for 16. Bharat went in and piled up the needed runs for the loss of 5 wickets, P. Kanjee scoring 19 runs. Thus Bharat won by 5 wickets. The visiting team wishes to thank the Verulam Temple C.C. for their kind treatment.

Rose Bank Sporting Club

At the ninth annual general meeting of the Rose Bank Sporting Club, held on Sunday, February 6, the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs, Baboo Paruk,

A. D. Pillay and T. Rughbar; hon. life vice-president: Mr. A. Ponsamy Pillay; president: Mr. A. D. Pillay; vice-presidents: Messrs. G. S. Maharaj, M. R. Varma, C. Dorrie, Dave Naidoo, T. R. Dargha, C. Rughbar, K. Bauchoo, J. G. Naidoo and Julio; secretary and treasurer: Mr. J. Sunassie Naidoo; assistant secretary: Mr. T. R. Dargha; hon. auditor: Mr. M. R. Varma; manager: Mr. N. K. Lalie; assistant manager: Mr. Dave Naidoo; committee: Messrs. B. Muckerdhooj, A. Dooray, K. Bauchoo, N. S. Hanif and M. Lilchund; trainers: Messrs. A. C. James, P. Nadasen and N. Reddy; athletic captain: Mr. C. Rughbar; cycling captain: Mr. Julio; soccer captain: Mr. A. Dooray; delegates: Messrs. Sunassie Naidoo and K. Bauchoo. The secretary's report reflected a successful sporting year for the club, and the work of the secretary was highly appreciated in the remarks made by Mr. M. R. Varma. The treasurer's credit balance was quite satisfactory.

Verulam Temple Football Club

Officials and members of the Verulam Temple Football Club, (A and B), are hereby notified that the annual general meeting of the above club will be held at Mr. Jutta Jeewa's work-shop, 61, Wick Street, Verulam, on Sunday, at 2 30 p.m. All are kindly requested by the secretary to attend.

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