

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

A High-handed Action

THE high-handed action of the Durban Falkirk Co. Ltd., in closing Bonnington Road—a road that is contiguous to their properties and which runs from the Jacobs Railway Station to Teakwood Road—deserves condemnation in the strongest terms possible. This road, it would appear, has been in use for a considerable number of years, and without any warning whatsoever the Company has closed the road. At the request of members of the Indian community, the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association took the matter up with the City Council, pointing out that the road had been closed without giving any notification to those interested. The City Council replied to the Association stating that the Finance Committee had approved of the closing of the road and that the procedure for the closing of roads is provided in Section 138 of Ordinance No. 19 of 1924 and that "the Estates Department is at present in communication with Messrs. The Durban Falkirk Co. Ltd. and their surveyors with a view of obtaining the necessary plans etc, to enable notice to be served upon all adjoining owners and the placarding of the street which is to be closed.

Now to the procedure to be followed laid down in Section 138 of the Boroughs Ordinance. It provides, amongst others, a notice in the papers and a written notice to all adjoining owners calling upon them to lodge any objections, if any, against the closing of the road. The Durban Falkirk Co. Ltd. has totally ignored the provisions of the above section by closing the road without following the procedure laid down. And the letter from the Council to the Association reveals the astounding fact that it is ignorant of the road having been closed. One does wonder whether the Durban Falkirk Co. Ltd. and for that matter, the Durban City Council, would have resorted to this high-handed action if the users of the road were Europeans. We are pleased to learn that the Association is pressing the matter further.

Motala Indian Lads' Hostel Near Pinetown

Mr. M. A. Motala's generous donation of a house and land for this Hostel has enabled the Committee to fulfil a long-felt want in the care and the reform of Indian Juvenile Delinquents and uncontrollables. This District was the first in Natal to have a Hostel established for this purpose some 12 years ago. That Hostel was for European lads. It seems proper, therefore, that Pinetown should also lead the way where Indian lads are concerned and the whole community in Natal and South Africa is grateful to the donor for his public-spirited generosity. The property which is situated five miles from Pinetown in beautiful surroundings with a plentiful water supply is to be vested in five Trustees, of whom three shall be Europeans and two shall be Indians. Mr. Motala is himself one of the Trustees. The affairs of the Hostel will be managed by a Committee appointed by members of the public, European and Indian, who pay an amount of 5/- per annum to Hospital funds. The initial expense of starting a hostel is always heavy. The Commissioner of Asiatic Affairs has promised a donation of £250 to meet the initial cost of running the Hostel, that is, until such time as grants-in-aid from the Department of Social Welfare can be received for lads committed to the Hostel by the Courts, but this amount is given on the understanding that no part of the amount is to be used for capital expenditure such as repairs to buildings, fencing and furniture etc. The equipment to run the Hostel includes gardening and farming implements, school books and furniture. It is intended to train the lads as small farmers and market gardeners in addition to giving them the usual education. The Committee appeals to the general public to meet this capital expenditure. Cheques should be made payable to the Honorary Treasurer, Motala Indian Lad's Hostel, Pinetown.

We feel that the public should without any hesitation do its best and support this very welcome institution and we congratulate Mr. M. A. Motala for his generous donation.

Hitler Regime In Austria

From accounts appearing in the local press, there appears to be a great deal of suffering by those who did not see eye to eye with the Nazis. Not content with occupying Austria forcibly, the Nazis have commenced persecuting the people. The Jews are the worst sufferers. They are reported to be staying in their homes, going out only in mornings or evenings for food, and persecutions seem to be more intense than in German cities. The position is so grave that it has prompted the Duke of Windsor to personally appeal to Hitler to protect and release his friends, Professor Neumann, the famous ear Specialist, the members of the House of Rothschild. Among those arrested is Schuschnig, the ex-Chancellor.

One could only gather from the events of the last fortnight, that no country is safe. For fear of their cities being wiped out by aeroplanes, the weaker countries have, perforce, to meekly submit to the stronger. That is what has happened to Austria. Rather than resist Hitler, who with his enormous resources in men and material would have wiped Austria from the map of the world, Schuschnig threw the sponge, as it were, and walked out. To-day it may be Austria, but to-morrow it may be France or England. Where it is going to end, we do not know.

Indian And British Subjects

Elsewhere in this issue we reproduce a report from Rhodesia on the ruling given by the chief registering officer on the question of Parliamentary franchise. We are pleased to note that the Indian community in Rhodesia is to test the position in the High Court. Without the franchise the Indian community is doomed. Nothing would be more fatal than to give in to the decision of the registering officer.

Cheaper Butter

The European-Coloured Christian League has voiced its strong protest against the discrimination between Europeans and Coloureds in the supply of butter under the State-aided scheme. One of the speakers said that "Tuberculosis and kindred ailments are due to malnutrition and bad housing. No community in South Africa suffers more

from tuberculosis than the coloured community and they therefore require the butter under the State-aided scheme even more than the members of the other races. The Government has, apparently, the impression that the Coloured people have not the same need for nourishment as the Poor Whites."

The Government in differentiating in all State-aided schemes, as it has

done in the supply of butter, is doing a grave injustice to sections of the community who have no voice in the governance of the country. A Government which mothers one section of the population only, can only be characterised as short-sighted. A community, suffering from malnutrition and bad housing, placed in the midst of a flourishing community, will ever be a drag. The results would be disastrous.

teachers that though they might be employees of the Education Department, their Society, should be recognised by the Department as the voice of the people on educational matters.

We referred, at some length, to the Report of the Natal Education Enquiry Commission. There are matters on which the Natal Indian Teachers Society should have hastened to voice its opinion. No better body of men can speak on Indian Education than the Society. But it seems that the Society is afraid to express an opinion for fear of falling foul of the Education Department. We cannot imagine any Government victimising any of its employees for expressing honest opinions, and advancing their cause by constitutional methods.

As we have pointed out, the Natal Education Enquiry Report, contains recommendations of far reaching importance which needs our closest scrutiny. Much depends upon the Indian Teachers to give a lead to the Indian community. One of the recommendations, to which we have not yet referred, is the creation for a separate Department to control Indian Education. We do not know in what light the Society looks upon this recommendation, but the Indian community will condemn this recommendation, for, a separate Department will sound the death knell of Indian Education in the Province. It will be suicidal to accept such a policy.

We would utter a note of warning to the Indian Teachers that until they realise that they are the torch bearers in the educational progress of our community, they will always suffer from that inferiority complex. The tendency with the present day teacher is not so much to serve the children that are entrusted to his care, as to be interested in as many ventures as will bring him increased emoluments. This is extremely dangerous, and the Teachers Society should not countenance it.

We do hope that the Indian teachers will move in the direction we have suggested and make their organisation a living institution worthy of the profession.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH, 1938

The Natal Indian Teachers' Society

THE Natal Indian Teachers' Society was formed primarily to protect the interests of the Indian members of the teaching profession, and incidentally to hold a watching brief, as it were, for Indian Education in Natal. The Society should have been the most powerful organisation in Natal, and should have been in the position of shaping the destiny of our children's education. We are afraid the Society has fallen far short of our expectations. Instead of occupying a position of eminence in matters pertaining to education, the Society occupies a position not in keeping with the dignity of the teaching profession. In our opinion the Society suffers from an inferiority complex. That to our mind, is due to the utter lack of the spirit of disinterestedness amongst those who are in charge at the helm of affair. It is with considerable reluctance that we write in this manner, but our sense of duty calls for certain criticisms on the working of the Society. Moreover, the time appears to be most opportune, now that the report of the Education Enquiry Commission is public property.

The Society is capable of doing splendid work in the cause of Indian education, but it seems to be satisfied with the one spectacular demonstration in July of each year, when it holds its annual conference at Durban, which is usually attended by several hun-

dreds of teachers from all parts of Natal. We must admit that we have an aptitude for spectacular demonstrations, and even our teachers are prone to this weakness. Conferences are convened at which the presidential address is delivered and resolutions are passed. That is all. No one concerns himself with the work of the Society.

What is wrong with the Society? Candidly speaking, we think that every teacher is afraid of his job. We appreciate his apprehension. Natal is a land of "no jobs" for Indians. We share the fear that the Indian teacher has, that is, if he loses his post, he would find it difficult to work elsewhere. But the Indian teacher has no need to entertain such a fear, if his organisation is a powerful body, and is run on Trade Union principles. The Department of Education dare not dismiss an Indian teacher on flimsy grounds or transfer him to another centre, if the Society stands by that teacher. That comradeship amongst the teachers, we believe, is sadly lacking.

The Society should be in a position to be looked upon by the Education Department as a body of strong willed men—all determined to advance the education of the Indian children—and not as a servile body. That is only possible by making drastic changes in the policy of the Society and having at its head men who could express their views fearlessly. This much must be brought home to the

IS PARLIAMENT A WASTE OF TIME?

At least 11 Cape members of Parliament will not return to the House after the next general election. Seven members did not offer themselves for nomination, while two who sought nomination have lost it. In two constituencies present M.P.s will be opposed to one another.

The members who have not sought nomination for the general elections are: Mr. P. A. Bergh (Malmesbury), Mr. J. Chalmers (Rondebosch), Colonel F. H. P. Creswell (Bellville), Mr. R. A. Hockly (Fort Beaufort), Mr. A. J. MacCullum (Woodstock), Sir Ernest Oppenheimer (Kimberley), and Mr. J. W. J. Wessel Roux (Ceres).

Mr. E. W. Douglaass, K.C., M.P. for Queenstown, lost the United Party nomination there to Mr. C. M. van Colter, M.P. for Cathcart a constituency that has disappeared.

Mr. L. J. Steytled, whose constituency, Albert, became Albert-Colesberg in the new delimitation, let the nomination for that seat go to Mr. Manie Wium, and opposed Mr. S. Bekker, M.P. for the nomination in Mr. Bekker's seat, Wodehouse. He lost.

At Stellenbosch Mr. H. A. Fagan M.P. for Swellendam, is fighting the sitting Nationalist member. Mr. W. Bruckner de Villiers, and at Humansdrop, Mr. Gerdener, M.P. for George, will try to wrest his seat from Mr. P. O. Sauer, another Nationalist M.P.

Vanished Glamour

In interviews with a representative of *The Argus* several M.P.s who are leaving the House after the next session gave their reasons for retiring.

Mr. A. J. MacCallum, M.P. for Woodstock, said:

"In 1931, after I had been in the House for two years, I addressed a public meeting called by the Empire Group. I then said that there was a certain glamour surrounding Parliament, and that all men and most women cherished a latent ambition to become members of that body, but that when they got there the glamour disappeared.

"I said that Parliament was not what it was cracked up to be, and that it was to a large extent a waste of time for any intelligent man to sit there and have to listen to the twaddle so often spoken; that clear and reasoned speaking was practically unknown; that political morality was conspicuous by its absence; and I attributed this to the lack of education of the average member and to the fact that most of them were after jobs.

"In addition, there was the fact that a considerable percentage of membership was steeped in racial bitterness, with a further admixture of republican prejudice.

"Oh, For A Cromwell!"

The passage of seven years has not only confirmed but has actually intensified these views. For the present, at any rate. I have no intention of wasting time, much less money, on contesting a seat at the forthcoming election.

"There is, I fear a considerable amount of insincerity among members. For instance their attitude towards non-Europeans whether Natives, Coloureds or Indians, is in itself proof of such. Many members have rounded on their previously expressed views, which were friendly towards these races. Of course, there, are exceptions, but, unfortunately, they are very few.

"The views of the average member, when he speaks of votes in the House, appear to be coloured in 90 per cent. of the instances by self-interest, and seem to be directed towards the future, in so far as possible jobs for pals are concerned. An Oliver Cromwell might well be of use to-day!

"While expressing these views, nevertheless my experience of nine years in the House has been something I am glad to have had. Certainly, I now know how our laws are made or 'turned out.' Even at its worst it has been a good club to belong to.

"But taken all round, the basic truth of the old saying, 'All is not gold that glitters,' has been very forcibly brought home to me, as also the saying, 'One man's meat may be another man's poison.'

Mixed Feelings

Mr. J. W. J. W. Roux, M.P. for Ceres, said he had first been elected for Ceres in 1920, and had held the seat in 1921, 1924, 1929 and 1933.

"In 1933," he explained, "the chairman of the then South African Party, Mr. E. W. Krige, gave me such splendid support that I decided not to oppose him if he sought election again. When I heard he was going to stand I said that I would not oppose him, though I was asked to do so, both personally and by letter.

"It is with mixed feelings that I say good-bye to Parliament. It is very pleasant to be a member, but it can

also be very inconvenient. The various relief schemes which the Government has introduced—money to buy stock, to build dams, to transport stock and so on—have created many difficulties for members representing county constituencies. They continually have to deal with people whose circumstances do not justify their being helped; and who think it is the members' duty to intercede for them.

Wife's Illness

Mr. J. Chalmers, M.P. for Rondebosch, said he had nothing to add to the statement he had made to his constituents when he told them last December that he would not seek election again.

He said then that he had come to this decision after a great deal of serious thought. It had been taken in view of his wife's recent illness, and the fact that the strain and anxiety of another election would retard her complete recovery.

THE FRANCHISE IN RHODESIA INDIAN AND BRITISH SUBJECTS

CONSIDERABLE surprise and much resentment has been aroused among the Indian community by a ruling by the chief registering officer for the parliamentary franchise that Indians born in an Indian State are not British subjects but British protected persons, and are accordingly not eligible for the parliamentary vote except in such cases as were included in the 1928 rolls. The registering officer says it has been legally ruled that protected persons are not British subjects and he holds that this applies to all Protectorates, such as Bechuanaland and Nyasaland as well as to the Indian States. Persons born in Protectorates, he rules, take the nationality of their parents and this law applies equally to White people. Naturalisation is essential to secure any other nationality. He has volunteered to take a legal ruling on this point if the affected Indians so desire. The decision affects a large number of Indians in the Colony, including many property owners. It is probable that the position will be tested by formal appeal to the Magistrate and thence to the High Court.

RESOURCES OF JAPAN AND CHINA

CONTRAST IN MINERAL WEALTH

A COMPARISON of the resources of China and the Japanese Empire, from economic maps published in *The Times Trade and Engineering Review* shows the contrast between the potentialities of the two countries, and in view of the present hostilities some of the facts revealed are probably of considerable significance.

China, with an area considerably greater than that of the combined Japanese islands, can obviously show far greater agricultural resources than Japan but it is in mineral resources, which are not necessarily dependant on area or the fertility of the soil, that the most striking contrast is seen.

Japan's total mineral resources are considerably less than that of China. She is, for instance, very poor in coal, only four fields of any magnitude being shown, and only one of these, on the island of Hokkaido, is within 80 miles of the nearest iron ore deposits.

In China, on the other hand, coal deposits abound. Some of the largest are in Shansi, Hopei, Honan and Shantung Provinces, which border Jehol and Manchukuo. These coal fields are closely associated with, and in some cases surround, iron ore deposits. They are close to the Hwang Ho River, which enters the Gulf of Chihli, less than 200 miles from the Japanese harbour, Port Arthur.

In addition the iron and coal fields lie at the head of one of the biggest wheat, barley, tobacco, cotton and silk producing areas of China, and border on a large soya bean district. The soya bean, incidentally, is becoming one of the most economically important crops in the Far East, and the only Japanese possession, where it is extensively grown is Korea, part of the mainland of China.

Japan has no deposits of tungsten or antimony, whereas China is an import-

ant exporter of the ores of both these metals. Tungsten is becoming increasingly important in steel production and antimony plays an important part in armaments manufacture.

In both countries there are copper deposits, although those in China are considerably more extensive. The same applies to tin, zinc and lead.

It is interesting to note that in 1936 Japan imported £3,000,000 worth of coal, £3,000,000 worth of metallic ores, and iron and steel to the value of £7,900,000. The major portion of China's resources are still undeveloped, and her total exports of ores and metals in 1936 amounted to only £3,400,000.

Japan therefore imported a considerable proportion of her metal and mineral requirements from other countries, where production costs, owing to a higher standard of living, were probably higher than in either China or Japan.

A PEACE METHOD FOR THE FRONTIER

It is of no small importance that the people of Great Britain should pay attention to what has been happening on the North-West Frontier of India, and to the events connected with "the recent disturbances" in Waziristan. For though the costs of the military operations that are being carried forward are borne by the Indian taxpayers, the policy behind these operations, their determination and control, are in the hands of the Government of India and of the Cabinet and Parliament of Great Britain, to which alone the Government of India is responsible. Indian opinion as to Frontier policy, or in respect to military operations arising therefrom, is neither sought nor considered at present. These things are reserved to the Viceroy and his Secretariat and the British Commander-in-Chief. The part assigned to India is to pay the bill.

No one who has seen this wild country will conceive that the Government of India is facing an easy or simple problem. It may be asked, and India does ask it. Why a frontier to India right up in this wild Pathan country? What real defence is there for India in this forward policy? Is not the driving motive a simple imperialism that will not, in the end, stop short of the Afghan border?

It has been maintained by an able but anonymous writer in *The Times* that a far sounder policy would be to draw

By

CARL HEATH

In "The Indian Social Reformer"

a purely defensive line along the border of the Administrative Province, and to leave the mountaineers to themselves. The Government of India would then content itself with the making of raiding into India very costly for the tribes, if not impossible. This is sometimes known as the "closed border" policy. The cost of such a policy, it is affirmed, would be but a fraction of the present heavy and recurring costs.

In Simla and Delhi it appears to be supposed that there are but three policies available, viz., the present one of a restrained but forward policy (more encircling and strategic roads with each fresh trouble, together with a tightening grip); the one of withdrawal within the Administrative Province, outlined above i. e., the closed border policy; and that of establishing full military control right up to Durand line, that is, the line separating the tribal sphere of British India from that of Afghanistan. Military imperialism however does not appear to be prepared for any such drastic step as this last at present.

There is, however, a fourth policy, widely demanded in India, and one which opponents of war methods, and of air bombing in particular, should

support. It is a policy which combines a political freedom, or guarantees against imperial incursion and penetration for the tribal territories; an economic co-operation so that the mountain tribes do not suffer from an ever recurring winter starvation; assistance in educational and hospital services, both of which are badly needed; and the development of genuine friendship between these peoples and their kinsmen on the Indian side of the border.

Like all the hill peoples these mountaineers are intensely jealous of their freedom. They resent the military roads as meaning domination, which they certainly do. They constantly resist their construction, realizing only too well their "encircling" and "strategic" purpose.

In these bare lands the primitive mountaineer is often without food. Therein lies the economic problem of the frontier, which after all is at the root of much of the recurring trouble, and which is not met by *danegeld* subsidies to chiefs. Applying this fact all along the Frontier, what seems to be needed is an inquiry into the economic needs of tribes. Such an inquiry however can only be effective in so far as it is made by and with the co-operation of sympathetic Indians, and notably Pathans of the North, men of the same kindered, the same language, and the same religion.

Little need be said of the civilizing values of educational and social services,

and what these mean in the hands of competent persons. They are obvious but are too frequently impossible because of the costs and exigencies of military rule and expeditionary expense.

An integral freedom and economic co-operation without ulterior imperial purpose, of educational and social services, and of a disinterested friendship, has yet to be tried on the Frontier of the North-West and under frontier con-

ditions. And tried by and with the sought to operation of the kinsmen on both sides of the border.

There are several policies for *enforcing order* on the Frontier when conditions become too violent, and for *maintaining order* and pursuing penetration by road-making meanwhile. There is, however, but one way of *appeasement*, and that is along a path of constructive, co-operative kinship. Britain has tried

the several policies of force for nearly a century, with no permanent success. She is to-day, with 37,000 troops in the field, engaged in one more repression. It is time that the way of peace were tried. But it is well to understand with clarity that in these days, with the eleven Provincial Government of India in the Indian hands, this cannot be done imperially, without India and the Indian people—and succeed.

RHODESIA INDIANS' FAREWELL TO MR. NAGRANI

THE last two weeks have been full of activity among local—Bulawayo Indians, due to the coming departure to India of one of the leading merchants and a prominent member of the community Mr. V. B. Nagrani.

On Sunday February 27 a meeting of the British Indian Association of which Mr. Nagrani is the secretary, was held. The chairman Mr. Vashee, after eulogising the services rendered to the community by the secretary, wished him and his family a bon voyage to India. Other members from the audience also spoke. Mr. Nagrani was then garlanded, who replied suitably to the kind words spoken in his favour. At the same time he outlined the Association's work in the past four or five years. During his absence the secretaryship will be fulfilled by Mr. D. B. Naik.

On March 5, Mr. Nagrani was given a farewell by the recently formed Hindu Youth Club. Mr. Nagrani spoke on some aspects of the Indian situation in

S. Rhodesia, and in an interesting and clear way exhorted the youths of the town to do their share there that would lead to the progress of the community. His speech was listened to most attentively. Refreshments were served in his honour and other two young members of the Club who are also proceeding to the Motherland.

The Indian Tennis Club held an informal meeting on Sunday morning, March 6 to give a hearty send off to its founder Mr. Nagrani. Incidentally Mr. Nagrani was the first Indian to start tennis in Bulawayo, and through his efforts the present tennis court and interest in tennis has been possible.

In the afternoon a tea party was given to Mr. Nagrani and family by Mr. L. G. Patel, an enthusiastic member of the community, at his residence. Quite a few persons were present, and it was indeed a very happy function which was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The Arya Mitra Mandal convened a meeting in the evening when the opportunity was taken to bid good-bye to Mr. Nagrani and family. The chairman Mr. L. G. Patel, presented a beautiful tray, on behalf of the Mandal, to the departing guest. After speeches were made by members, Mr. Nagrani very effectively and appropriately responded, and requested those present to upkeep the Mandal's prestige.

Finally on Monday March 7, the School Advisory Committee, of which Mr. Nagrani is the secretary, thanked him for his invaluable service in the cause of the establishment of the Indian school, and garlanded him.

Messages of goodwill, pleasant journey and safe return to give more service, were expounded, and to which Mr. Nagrani promptly and ably answered. He was granted a six months' leave during which period his work will be carried on by some other member.

HOT SPRINGS IN S. W. AFRICA

REPORTS of rumblings and earth tremors at the Ai-Ais hot springs, South-West Africa, for which some remarkable cures are claimed, have been investigated by a correspondent of *The Star* who lives in the area and has frequently visited the springs.

There are three springs, the water temperature being 176 degrees Fahr., situated in the Fish River gorge in wild country similar to that about Goodhouse on the Orange River.

All are known as Ai-Ais—a corruption of the Hottentot word for hot water—and they are more or less equidistant, the two extremes being about 20 miles apart.

The rumblings reported at the springs are quite a normal occurrence and vary in intensity at different seasons of the year, and also from year to year.

The wildest rumours have been circulated periodically about the rumblings which are sometimes accompanied by earth tremors, but in living memory the springs have not appreciably altered. And they still have a long life before them.

Cures Claimed

The centre spring is reasonably easy of access and is visited every year by from 300 to 500 people from all parts of the Union and South-West Africa.

The medical qualities have never been properly investigated, but there is no doubt that some striking and genuine cures have been achieved.

During the season, from about April 15 until the middle of August, the South-West Administration has a man in charge to ensure, at least, an elementary degree of sanitation.

At all other times of the year the heat and insect pests make the place uninhabitable.

The distance from Warmbad or Kalkfontein to Ai Ais is approximately 100 miles, by a very fair motor road. Owing to the danger of going astray, however, the visitor should not venture on the road without a guide, as no water, petrol or other supplies are available.

To those knowing the road there is no danger.

Why People Fled

As an instance of the effect of the rumblings, I recall a day in June, 1936, when some were heard. That evening there was a slight earth tremor and a few rocks rolled down the mountain-side—but these can never endanger camping sites.

I had, unfortunately, just departed, but was told that certain persons began to distribute largesse among their poorer neighbours. Others knelt in prayer; others, again, packed up in haste and fled. Many of those who had intended visiting Ai-Ais heard of the 'catastrophe' and decided to remain at home.

Visitors to the springs have a daily hot steam bath.

They always go well laden with supplies. They take complete camping equipment, food supplies for the full period of the stay, and also petrol for the return journey.

Klein Karas station is the nearest railhead for Ai-Ais, approximately 45 miles, but there is no hotel or other accommodation, although there is a store. The nearest hotels are at Warmbad and Kalkfontein.

THE PROBLEM OF MASS EDUCATION IN INDIA

IT is the common experience of all that a national movement, however, well consolidated, becomes more often than not an isolated phenomenon in the corporate life of the people when it fails to respond to the needs and aspirations of the country as a whole. Every noble undertaking for national well-being must draw its sustaining sap from the intelligent co-operation of the people who are the dynamic centre of a national organism. In India the danger and folly of an attempt to start and guide a national movement without the requisite moral support of the populace have not been realized a day too soon. And it is a hopeful sign of the times that the leaders of the country have made it an integral part of their national programme to admit the mute millions to the privileges which had so long been the monopoly of a handful of men. But it must be borne in mind that the support of these inarticulate masses who have not the adequate intellectual equipment to assess the true worth of a sacred cause or have not developed sufficient civic consciousness owing to a sheer want of education is also fraught with grave dangers. For, very often it ends, as it has done in many other countries, in social disruption and political cataclysm of a nature that serves eventually to defeat the purpose for which such blind forces are pressed into service. It is therefore a matter of supreme importance that, though the hearty co-operation of the masses is a desideratum in any such collective movement, their appalling illiteracy must first be seriously combated so as to make them fit to realize the magnitude of their responsibility and share in the corporate activities of the country. But it is to be regretted that no such serious attempt has hitherto been made either by the government or by those who look upon themselves as the responsible custodians of the physical, intellectual and spiritual interests of the people at large. These bumb millions whose labour and life have contributed to the affluence of the pampered aristocracy of the land, have, by a mysterious combination of circumstances, been reduced almost to the level of brutes and forced to lead a life of utter intellectual stagnation in their own homes. Their existence is a weary endless round of mechanical drudgery unreleived by a spark of intelligence or higher graces of life. They have ever been made to serve as footstools to the persons in authority and ultimately knocked down when they have demanded a fulfilment

By THE EDITOR

"Prabuddha Bharata."

of their legitimate claim to the rights and privileges. They are always the sacrifice—the innocent victims of economic exploitation, political camouflage and social tyranny. Nowhere in the world the masses are so indigent and ill-fed, so illiterate and helpless as in India. And it is not for naught that Sir Daniel Hamilton indignantly remarked, "If Britain has to leave India as suddenly as Rome had to leave Britain, then England shall leave behind a country minus education, minus sanitation and minus money." Indeed it is the woeful want of education of the Indian masses that lies at the root of these hydra-headed evils. The problem of mass education should be taken up and tackled in right earnest at an early date, so that their intellectual vision might be unsealed to the multiple malignant forces that are at work to

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emasculate them and drain them dry of all their resources. Needless to say the support of the people to any constructive national movement becomes spontaneous and effective only when it is the outcome of an intelligent apprehension of their actual position in the country.

The recent statement of Dr. Frank Lauback, a member of the World Literacy Committee of New York, who visited India some time back, discloses startling figures of the illiteracy of the world and of India in particular. According to him sixty-two per cent. of the world's population cannot read or write, and out of these billion illiterates in the world nearly two-thirds inhabit the continent of Asia, and the remainder live in Africa, South America and the Pacific Islands. And so far as India is concerned, ninety-two per cent. of her people are still without the elementary knowledge of the three R's. The world figures of the progress of literacy between 1921-1931 show an increase of four per cent., whereas India's progress during the same period was not even one per cent. He therefore

concludes that at the present rate of progress it would take India not less than 1200 years to liquidate mass illiteracy. The figures, though disconcerting, are revelatory of our actual position in the educational world. What is more regrettable is that every year a large number of primary schools is being closed down or discontinued for want of funds and that no constructive scheme has hitherto been formulated to cope with the appalling educational backwardness of the Indian masses, while in the countries outside India vigorous efforts are being made to raise the masses to a recognizable status of literacy.

Wu Te-chen, the quondam Mayor of Shanghai, while addressing the members of the Shanghai International Educational Association in March, 1937, made a few significant observations. He said, "The fundamental force which is responsible for the advancement of a nation and for the development of its culture is knowledge. The height of the level of knowledge may safely be taken as a gauge indicating the progress or decline of culture, as well as the gain and loss in potentiality, in any country. With reference to historical evolution education is therefore not merely the initial step towards the establishment of a nation but is also the starting point of human progress." These words must be an eye-opener to those Indians who are trying to shape and guide the destiny of their motherland. What with the callous indifference to the hard lot of the grovelling masses and what with the absence of any legislation for free compulsory education, illiteracy in India has assumed serious proportions. While the shining lights of the country are busy increasing the number of colleges and spending huge sums for the maintenance of efficiency in the universities, the dumb masses who form the bulk of the Indian population and have not even the wherewithal to make the two ends meet, have been thrown in the cold shade of neglect with the result that, as Dr. Tagore has aptly remarked, a two-storeyed structure has been created without a staircase to connect the two floors. Verily, the educational edifice of India looks today like a pyramid built with its apex turned upside-down.

(To be continued)

Things In General

Shocking Plight Of Jews In Austria

THE new administration is rapidly assuming control of every aspect of public life in Austria. There has been a purge in every department of administration, particularly the police. Hardly an Austrian police officer is visible in Vienna, all their duties having been taken over by Herr Himmler's S.S. men. There are two very dark sides in the picture of the Nazi success. Firstly there has been a number of suicides of prominent opponents of the regime, details of which have not been published. The latest of these fatalities include Neustadt Sturmer, former Austrian Minister to the Interior; Kurt Sonnenfeld, editor of the *Neufreie Presse*; and *Egon Friedel*, a distinguished historian. Secondly there is the pitiful plight of 200,000 Jews in Vienna who have suddenly found themselves faced with the most severe form of anti-Semitism. Fully 90 per cent. of shops in Vienna have been taken over and few of those left at present are doing no business. Bereft of their livelihood, unable to leave the country and treated like cattle by the ruling classes, the Jews are desperate and suicides are increasing.

Appeal To City Council

An appeal to the Durban City Council to deal with the Clairwood slums area in the same way as it is dealing with Warwick Avenue—permitting the owners of properties to repair, demolish or rebuild their properties—and not to resort to expropriation straight away, was made by about 200 Indians in a resolution which was passed unanimously at a mass meeting held in the Krishna Theatre Bioscope Hall, Clairwood, recently. Swami Bhawani Dayal, who presided, deplored the fact that nothing had been done to help the Indians. He referred to the assurance given several years ago that there would be no misuse of the Slums Act and to the promise that provision would be made for the rehousing of those evicted from slums. As far back as 1926 an inquiry into the housing of Indians was made and £50,000 placed on the estimates for the use of the Durban Corporation to build houses for Indians and issue loans. But nothing had been done. The Indians were in favour of slums clearance but they would oppose expropriation by all the powers they could obtain.

Suggestion To Council

A suggestion that the Durban City Council should buy all land belonging to Wood Estate within the area bounded by Jacobs Road, and the Bluff Railway line, and build sub-economic houses is made in a joint letter to the Council from the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association and the South Coast Junction

Indian Ratepayers Association. "Our Association are as just as much concerned with the elimination of slum conditions in Durban as the City Council, but they are totally against any attempt by the Council to proclaim any area a slum before making provision for housing of those who would be displaced," the letter declares.

Housing Loans For Indians

The first Durban Municipal housing loans to be granted to Indians in the City under the new scheme whereby loans to a maximum of £500 may be granted, were sanctioned by the City Council. Two Indians made applications and these were granted. The loans are at the rate of 3½ per cent. and are repayable over 20 years.

Motala Indian Lads' Hostel

(NEAR PINETOWN)

Suitable applicants are invited for the post of Superintendent in Charge of the Hostel, preferably a married person whose wife could also undertake the position of Matron.

Applicants should be competent to teach Syllabus of the Natal Education Department. A knowledge of market gardening is essential.

For further particulars apply:

Secretary, c/o Government Indian School, Pinetown.

Good Work Of

Bantu-Indian Society

The first annual meeting of the Natal Bantu and Indian Blind Society was held in the Mayor's Parlour recently. Mr. H. G. Arbuthnot (Native Commissioner, Durban), presided. Mrs. Gordon Cawston, who founded the society, read the report for the year. Mr. M. G. Fannin (Native Commissioner, Pinetown) described the hard lot of blind natives and Indians and the successful welfare efforts being made in his area. Mr. E. Thomas, headmaster of the Carlisle Street School, expressed the thanks of the Indian community for the valuable work being done. Mr. A. Sillio, committee member, said the president, by her sympathy and knowledge of the native language, had largely overcome prejudices formerly existing among the native people. Mr. Lugg (Native Commissioner, Natal) wrote wishing the

society success. Mr. R. S. England was re-elected hon. secretary. The society has now over 800 blind natives and Indians registered in its books.

New Faculties For University Of Capetown

It is notified in the Gazette of March 18 that the Governor-General has approved of the establishment of a Faculty of Fine Art and Architecture in the place of the existing Faculty of Fine Art at the University of Capetown.

Postage Rates

The postage rate from the Union to S. Rhodesia, on letters, is 1½d. per ½ oz. each way. The same rate applies to letters sent by air mail.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The second annual general meeting of the Nizamia Muslim Society will be held at 449, Church Street, Maritzburg, on Sunday April 3, at 2 p.m. sharp to transact the following business:—Agenda:—To read and confirm minutes; read and confirm joint secretary's report; to read and confirm treasurer's report; to amend and modify constitution; elect office-bearers and deal with general business. It is earnestly requested, by the secretary, that members will make a point of attending without fail.

British Government

And Foreign Affairs

The policy of the British Government with regard to foreign affairs is likely to be outlined by the Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, in a speech in the House of Commons some time this week as follows:—

(1) No special guarantee of military assistance for Czecho-Slovakia in the event of an attack by Germany can be given now; (2) The Soviet invitation to a conference of all democratic Powers on Fascist aggression in Europe be rejected as serving no useful purpose; (3) The policy of non-intervention in Spain to be continued, but there appears little prospect of the Non-Intervention Committee being summoned; (4) The Austrian coup to be regarded as a *fait accompli*; (5) The opening of planned Anglo-German conversations are "inopportune" at present; and (6) Anglo-Italian conversations are proceeding satisfactorily. It is understood that at a full Cabinet meeting agreement was reached regarding the broad outline of the statement to be made by Mr. Chamberlain on foreign policy this week. A further meeting of the Cabinet will be held to give final approval to the details of the statement.

India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Average Englishman's Ignorance

ONE of the picturesque figures of London diplomatic circles is Sir Phiroz Khan Noon, the High Commissioner for India. Early this month he went to Liverpool to tell the Royal Empire Society branch that the average Englishman is very ignorant about India and that the average Continental has only fantastic ideas about it. The British went there 88 years ago, which, so far as Indian history is concerned, is a very small period. But Sir Phiroz Khan believes that, on a basis of mutual goodwill and benefit, the association is going to be a lasting one, to the advantage of both countries. In fact, in his opinion, the only difference between England and India politically is that India wishes to be like the other Dominions in status, whereas England, "like a good old mother," thinks the child has not yet grown up to be able to look after itself.

India's Value To Empire

The population of India at the 1931 census was 300,000,000, and if it increases at the rate of only 1 per cent. by 1941 it will have gone up to nearly 400,000,000. That, as Sir Phiroz Khan represents 75 per cent. of all His Majesty's subjects within the whole Empire, and the power of consumption which so vast a mass of humanity represents is a "tremendous asset to Empire trade." A most interesting fact about modern India, mentioned by Sir Phiroz Khan among many others, is that it has the largest controlled irrigation in the world—much larger than the United States of America. He showed, too, that in certain respects it is one of the most Socialistic countries, with its State-run railways, State-owned land, State-owned mineral wealth and State hospitals with medicine free of cost. In tobacco it claims to be the largest producer in the world. If the raw materials of India could be organised properly for the support and strength of the Empire and its people, it would mean, Sir Phiroz Khan assured Liverpool, "a great deal in cash, comfort and prosperity to all within the British Empire."

Overseas Indian Reciprocity Bill

It is understood that the Governor-General has given his sanction for introduction in the Central Assembly of the Overseas Indian Reciprocity Bill which has been sponsored by eight members of the Congress Party of that legislature. The Bill is based on the recognised and accepted principle of reciprocity and its main theme is that

India will retaliate against those countries which discriminate against our countrymen. No fewer than twenty-five lakhs of Indians reside in different parts of the British Empire and have built up large interests by their money and enterprise. But the pity is that in the Empire itself they are not accorded a treatment which as British subjects they deserve. Their economic condition is being steadily endangered while socially they are looked upon as no better than pariahs. We have so long followed the policy of placating such countries as have treated our countrymen badly but with no result. It is time we demonstrate to these countries that we could also retaliate if necessary.—*Amrit Bazar Patrika.*

Prohibition In Sind

It is encouraging to note that prohibition is spreading even to non-Congress provinces. Sind is reported to be experimenting with progressive prohibition, beginning with a form of local option. It is proposed for the present to reduce the number of liquor shops and to restrict the localities in order to avoid shops near mosques, temples and churches. And as a general rule, it is proposed that if two-thirds of the number of residents in a locality object to the proximity of a liquor shop, it will be closed down. Now, it is up to prohibition enthusiasts, Congressmen in particular, to be up and doing and see that every locality makes a good use of the option given to it. No locality should allow itself to be made a dumping-ground for liquor shops objected to by others.

India's Favourable Budget

India's Budget proposals show that it has been possible to provide for the cost of the introduction of provincial autonomy, the separation of Burma, and the expenditure on the Waziristan campaign and at the same time balance this year's and next year's Budgets without imposing new taxation. The revenue is estimated at £64,000,000, with a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £67,000. The total provision for defence services estimated at £33,000,000, which is £1,500,000 less than the current year's provision.

Eighteen Feet Statue Of Late Mr. V. J. Patel

Vinayakrao Karmarkar, a Mayo medalist in art, has just finished an eighteen feet high statue of the late President Vithalbhai Patel, after whom the Haripuragar has been named. The statue was made to stand in the middle

of the square in Vithalnagar. Bearing a striking resemblance to the late leader, the statue which was conveyed to Vithalnagar via Madhi, is a sample of superb art. Karmarkar has for the first time, used cement concrete in the making of the statue, which he believes will stand at least for 80 years to come. Mr. Patel has on his right the lion and a bullock on his left. They are meant to indicate his great courage and spirit of sacrifice. The statue of the great leader is a humble present from the artist to his motherland. He completed the huge task within six days, working 18 hours a day with five assistants.

Jullundur Judge's Fiat

An extraordinary meeting, recently held at Banda Bahadurgarh passed a resolution to lodge a vigorous protest against the orders of the District Magistrate, Jullundur, asking Master Mota Singh Anandpuri, a prominent Socialist leader (under trial on a charge of sedition) and other visitors to his court to take off shoes of Indian pattern before entering the court. It was also resolved to request the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi to take necessary steps in the matter and to ask the Punjab delegates to move a resolution in the Haripura Congress session to appeal to the country to pledge themselves to wear only Swadeshi shoes (Indian pattern) and boycott boots and shoes of the Western style.

Independence Day

Indians in the United States of America, in Japan and elsewhere observed the Independence Day.

The military assisted by the local police prevented the citizens of Lansdowne, garrison town in the United Provinces, from repeating the Pledge of Independence.

Relief To Madras Agriculturists

On January 30, 1938, the Madras Legislative Assembly passed a Bill to be known as the Madras Agriculturists Relief Act of 1938.

Federation

The Bombay, Madras and United Province Provincial Assemblies have passed resolutions against the introduction of the federal scheme of the new constitution. They have urged the Government of India not to spend monies from provincial revenues in this connection.

The Sporting World

Verulam Temple Football Club

At the 5th annual General meeting of the Verulam Temple Football Club held on March 13, the following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Messrs. R. Talawantsingh, Ochoonilall Raghavjee, G. H. A. Kathrada, L. Rajkoomar, Jata Jeeva, H. Boodhco, Nathoo V. Morar, Raghoo-nathsingh, T. P. Sam, A. Moosamy and G. H. Maiter; President: Mr. S. R. Maharaj; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. J. Morris, E. P. Juggath and J. R. Talawantsingh; senior captain: Mr. N. Sewduth; junior captain: Mr. Y. V. Harry; Senior vice-captain: Mr. J. Dallis; junior vice-captain: Mr. M. R. Harry; hon. secretary: Mr. R. L. Beharee; hon. treasurer: J. P. Juggath. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair; In conclusion the chairman thanked Mr. Jata Jeeva for allowing his shop for the meeting.

Pirates Football Club (Dundee)

At the 12th annual general meeting of the Pirates Football Club held at Dundee on Thursday March 3, the following office-bearers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year:—Hon. Life vice-Presidents: Messrs. S. O. Keshwar, O. M. Bob and N. V. Morar; Patrons: The Mayor Mr. O. W. Mackay, Messrs. W. T. Healop, Moosa Ayob and Jamalodeen Ahmed; President: Mr. Thos. Setas; vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. N. Chinnah, F. Kallie, N. V. Morar, K. M. Joseph, T. S. Tommy and M. S. Reddy; hon. sect. and treasurer: Mr. M. N. Naicker; asst. secretary: and captain Mr. D. Dorasamy; manager: Mr. D. Wilson; vice-captain: Mr. S. Paul; Delegates to the D. & D.I.F.A.: Messrs. T. S. Tommy and Sunny Paul.

Pirates Football Club (Nigel)

The first annual general meeting of the above club was held at the residence of Mr. Moodi, when the following officials were elected for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Messrs. J. D. Prajapathi and S. L. Mistry; President: Mr. Sababathie Pillay; vice-Presidents: Messrs. Pretorius (Town Clerk), E. P. Moodi, Councillor McKenzie, Johnson (Supt.), Moola, Tommy Pillay and V. Dayal; hon. secretary: Mr. Gopal Gossi; treasurer: Mr. P. M. Tavadia; senior captain: Mr. Rathnam Govender; vice-captain: Mr. G. Manickum; Manager and trainer: Mr. L. Soobhis.

Dannhauser United Indian F.C.

The second annual general meeting of the Dannhauser United Indian F.C. was held at the Indian School on March 17. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Dr. S. R. Campbell, Messrs. Sheik Abdool and A. L. Ross; President: Mr. S. Gopaul; vice-presidents: Messrs. J. Maharaj, M. D. Moola, R. Patak, H. M. Vawda,

By "Rambler"

Shaik Emain, I. D. Vawda, S. O. Vawda, D. R. Mistry and S. A. Gaffoor; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. R. Loganathan; assistant secretary: Mr. S. Ruthra; captain: Mr. R. Hoosen; vice-captain: Mr. B. C. Chetty; committee: Messrs. H. Nanjee and A. Gaffoor. In the past season the club won all trophies competed for in the Newcastle and District Indian Football Association, and also won the D.N.C. five-a-side trophy.

Mayville District Indian Cricket Union

The following players have been selected to represent the above union in a friendly inter-District match against the South Coast District Indian Cricket Union on Sunday March 27, at Chairwood, commencing at 10 30 a.m.:—V. Abrabams (captain), D. Gordon, S. Ismail, and B. Rama (Old Collegians C.C.); A. K. Hayath, J. Chinsamy and Abas Khan (Schools C.C.); Govindsamy Naidoo, Eesop and Mao (Natal Steam Laundry C.C.); Harilall (Durban United C.C.). Reserve:

NOTICE.

Candidates for the N.T.C. Examinations conducted in June by the Union Dept. of Education are reminded that Entries close at 12 noon, 2nd April.

Particulars from:

G. M. TITLESTAD,
Local Secretary.
(non-European)

c/o Sastri College,
Durban.

Simon Phillip and A. Rassool (Old Collegians C.C.); M. R. Singh (Schools C.C.); C. Applesamy (Natal Steam Laundry C.C.). Manager: Mr. R. Mababeer.

Success Of Indian Eisteddfod

The second annual eisteddfod organised by the Indian Society for the Advancement of Music and Art was opened by the Mayor, Councillor Fleming Johnston, at the Sastri College Hall on Saturday night. Mr. R. Warriner, President of the Society, spoke of the great enthusiasm and interest aroused by the eisteddfod. At the first event last year they received 750 entries. This year there were 1,050 entries, and the Society was justly proud of a remarkable achievement. Mr. P. B. Singh, Vice-President said that the Society had not dreamt that enthusiasm would reach so great a pitch, and added that the success of the venture was due to the indefatigable work of Mr. Warriner. Mr. Singh garlanded the Mayor and presented bouquets to the Mayoress and Mrs. C. Roper. The Mayor congratulated the Society on its

record achievement and wished it continued success. The following were the results:—Casreda: 1. Dada Osman's Trio; 2. Madressa Anjuman Islam. Folk dancing: 1. Centenary Road Girls' School; 2. Centenary Road Boys' School. Percussion bands: 1. St. Anthony's School (junior); 2. St. Anthony's School (senior). Vernacular bands: 1. Hindu Youth Club; 2. Sarasvathie Orchestra.

Hill View Government-Aided Indian School Building Fund

(Continued from last week)

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In The Supreme Court Of South Africa

(Witwatersrand Local Division)

ABDOOL HAMID EBRAHIM BIVAT, formerly of Johannesburg, Transvaal, but whose present whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby required to enter an appearance to this Summons in Person or by proxy not later than the 6th day of May, 1938, at the office of the Registrar of the said Court at Johannesburg, to answer GEORGE GORDON FERGUSON, of 35, Long Street, Germiston, Transvaal, (hereinafter called the Plaintiff), in an action wherein Plaintiff claims:—

(a) The sum of £5,000 (Five thousand Pounds) being damages sustained by him arising out of a collision which occurred on the 19th day of March, 1935, on the Main Reef Road, near Rose Deep within the jurisdiction of this Court, when a motor car driven by you collided with and severely injured Plaintiff who was riding a motor cycle, the said collision being due to your negligence;

(b) Alternative or other relief, and

(c) Costs of suit.

Further, take notice that in default of your appearance, the action will be proceeded with, and judgment prayed for against you without further notice. Johannesburg, this 18th day of March, 1938.

(Sgd.) J. GEO. HANTZENBERG,
Asst. Registrar of the Court.

(Sgd.) L. JAPHET,
Plaintiff's Attorney,
101/106, Winchester House,
Loveday Street,
Johannesburg.

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