

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Springfield Indians And The Durban Turf Club

It would be recalled that the Durban City Council resolved to lease 150 acres at Springfield presently let to Indians, for a term of 5 years with a option to purchase the land at £75 per acre. One of the conditions in the resolution of the Council was that the Durban Turf Club was to make satisfactory arrangements with the Indian tenants with regard to compensation or otherwise. As a counterblast to the City Council's resolution, the Indian tenants wrote to the Council with an offer to purchase the land at £100 per acre, which was £25 more than the option price of the Turf Club. The club made various attempts to see the Indian tenants in order to comply with the requirements of the City Council, but it was in vain. The Indian tenants refused to have anything to do with the Club. A stage further in the negotiations, has been reached. The Springfield Estates Committee have now written the following letter to the Secretary of the Durban Turf Club. "Following an interview with the Town Clerk, at his request, a special meeting of the Springfield Estates Committee was held on May 28, at which I was instructed to communicate with you again on the following lines and without prejudice to our position in the matter: "Your letter of April 4 detailed no terms and conditions on which your Club would sub-let the land to our members in the event of your Club becoming the lessee. "Following on the above, no information was set out by your Club as to what land will be given in place of the land which would be taken away for training track purposes, and what compensation would be offered to make the "new" land property fitted for market gardening purposes, and during such time such land is being prepared for full cultivation, what allowance would be made to meet the loss which would eventuate? "Further, if your Club at any time acquires the freehold of the whole of the area, what security of tenure of leases and the terms and conditions of such leases, would be offered by your Club to the tenants? This is a factor

of importance, as my Committee is anxious to know, before concluding any agreement, the future prospects, which lie before them and which should be agreed upon by all parties concerned." There is no doubt that what is preying in the minds of the Indian tenants is the fact that as tenants of the City Council they are assured of security of Tenure. With a change of ownership that security would undoubtedly vanish.

The Indian Scout Movement

It is pleasing to note that the Scout movement, amongst Indians, has come to stay. From a small beginning it has grown beyond all expectations. Much credit is due to Mr. H. W. Bristow who has been with the movement from its initial stages. The latest report of the Natal Indian Boy Scouts Association (Durban and District) states that there are now 1550 Scouts, 114 Cubs, 80 Rovers, 71 Scouters and 20 Scout officials. The numbers pay eloquent tribute to the organising abilities of the Scout officials. There are quite a number of schools in the District districts, which take no interest in the movement. The Heads of such schools should be asked to interest themselves in the movement. The spirit of brotherhood, which we so sadly lack, could only be instilled into our youngsters through the Scout movement. The movement therefore deserves the warmest support of the Indian community.

The National Anthem And South Africa

The English speaking section of South Africa is considerably perturbed over the dropping of the National Anthem "God Save the King" at the Union Day Parades. In place of the National Anthem, "Die Stem van Zuid Africa" was played. That was a tactical blunder is vouchsafed by the chorus of South African Press opinions against the dropping of the Anthem. Journals like the *Rand Daily Mail* and the *Cape Times*, which have contributed in no small measure to the success of the United Nationalist Party at the recent Elections, have severely criticised the action of the Minister who was

responsible for the occurrence. So deeply was the matter taken to heart by the English speaking section that the Hon. Mr. Stuttaford, the Minister of the Interior tendered his resignation to the Prime Minister as a sign of protest against this act. The resignation was, however, withdrawn by Mr. Stuttaford, after he had been assured by General Hertzog, that the dropping of the National Anthem was not meant as a slight to the English people and that in future National Anthem would be played on appropriate occasions. It is a strange coincident that just at this moment we should learn that the Calcutta Radio Station had decided to drop the playing of the National Anthem at the closing of the station. Mr. Sen, who controls the Station, stated in an interview that it was most inappropriate, that "God Save the King" should be played at the conclusion of each programme. It should be played on particular occasions and not on every occasion. Mr. Sen was supported by the *Statesmen* an Anglo-Indian paper of Calcutta. The same arguments were advanced a few days ago by our contemporary the *Natal Daily News* in its leading article. It said that the playing of the National Anthem on every conceivable occasion was to make the Anthem very cheap. In a country like South Africa, where efforts are being made to cement the feelings between the English and Dutch, and where there is a strong desire for both the communities to work towards the advancement of their country, we think it is scandalous for anyone in authority to wound the susceptibilities of either the Dutch, or the English speaking section of the community.

Mahatma Gandhi And Reuter's Distorted Version

Elsewhere we reproduce the statement that was issued to the Press by Mahatma Gandhi, on the eve of his interview with Mr. Jinnah, the President of the All India Muslim League and Sjt. Mahadev Desai's note on Gandhiji's views on political prisoners and hunger strikes. What a strange contrast between Reuter's Report and Mahatma Gandhi's statement? This is a example of Indian news that is dished out by Reuter. Mahatma Gandhi's statement was of such importance that Reuters should have given us the most essential points in the statement rather than certain sentences, which, when read without the full statement before us, does not give the desired or correct impression intended.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH, 1938

Housing Scheme For Indians

THE Durban City Council is now making a definite move towards providing homes for Indians. However belated the move may be, the Council is to be congratulated. It will be recalled that some years ago, the Union Government placed in the hands of the Durban Municipality, the sum of £50,000 to provide houses for Indians. The Municipality moved not an inch with the result that the Government issued a warning that unless the Council made an attempt, the £50,000 would be withdrawn.

Prior to the incorporation of the added areas into the Borough of Durban, the Council attempted to sell land to Indians from its Cato Manor holdings, but that attempt was strenuously opposed by the Indian community, on the ground that it meant segregation. Although one sixteenth of the properties in the old Borough was held by the Indians, the Council has treated our community most shabbily. Since 1922 only one sale of Municipal land was held, at which Indians were permitted to purchase. The properties offered for sale were situated in Beatrice and Lorne Streets, essentially Indian localities. And since 1922 hundreds of Municipal sales have been held, at which any amount of unalienated lands were sold to the Europeans with restrictive clauses. It would be remembered when Mr. Whyte, the previous Estates Manager, was asked about 15 years ago, whether any land within the boundaries of the old Borough of Durban, was available for Indian occupation, he replied that there was only one and a half acre of land and that was in Umgeni Road. At the time there were hundreds of acres of unalienated lands on the Eastern Vlei and in the Glenwood areas

the latter at that time being virgin bush. Curiously enough the land that was pointed out by Mr. Whyte as suitable for Indian occupation, has been built upon, the buildings being occupied not by Indians, but by Europeans. And years afterwards, the Council found land for Indian Hospital and Schools in the Centenary Road and Warwick Avenue areas. The Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri with all his eloquence and personality, had to move heaven and earth for the 2 acres of land for the Sastri College. We merely mention these instances to shew that the Durban Municipality has treated the Indian community very niggardly in the matter of providing lands for Indian occupation.

The City Council's projected Housing Schemes for Indians, provide for economic and sub-economic sale of lands and buildings at Cato Manor and Springfield. As both these areas have been incorporated, our opposition on the ground of segregation, no more holds good. In the Springfield Estates, 25 plots of quarter acre each, are to be sold at prices ranging from £85-0-0 to £95-0-0 per plot, and in Cato Manor 50 plots from £83-10-0 to £85-0-0 per plot. Purchasers of these plots will have to apply for loans to build their houses. This is referred to as the economic scheme. And then there is the economic sale of land and buildings. In the Springfield Estate 14 houses are to be built and sold at prices ranging from £65-0-0 to 75-0-0, the monthly repayments being from £3-0-0 to £4-0-0. In Cato Manor 50 houses are to be built and sold at prices ranging from £350-0-0 to £650-0-0, and in these cases the monthly repayments would be from £1-10-0 to £3-0-0.

The Sub-economic Scheme is to consist of 75 houses in the Springfield Estate, which would be let at a monthly rental between £1-7-0 and £1-8-0. At Cato

Manor 75 houses are to be built for Indian Municipal employees which would be let to them between £1-5-0 and £1-15-0 per month. A Municipal employee would receive a credit of 15s. per month if he hired one of these cottages. It would be observed that provisions are being made to house 289 Indian families. Although this number hardly touches the fringe of the question of Indian Housing, they would nevertheless, help to ease the situation.

A charge, that the Indians did not take advantage of the Housing loans, has often been levelled against them. The answer to that is the number of houses that were built by Europeans for, one of the conditions of the loan, was that the house should be built by European builders. It is a misnomer to call these erections as "houses" because they are no better than hen coops. One cannot expect Indians to purchase hen coops. We feel that the conditions governing these Housing loans should be relaxed. A suggestion was made by Mr. A. Christopher, the President of the Colonial Born & Settlers Indian Association, to the Housing Committee of the Durban City Council, when he led a deputation on the Jacobs Slum Clearance. He suggested that the City Council should act in the same way as private lenders who make no restrictions in regard to the nationality of the builders.

The Indians could employ their own builders, and the amount of the loan could be paid out as the building progressed. The certificates of payments could be issued by the City Council's own Inspectors. If these suggestions were followed, we feel sure, that a considerable number of houses would be taken up by Indians. The Indian community have a number of efficient builders, and, after all, the Council is safeguarded, as any private lender is, by the fact that the amount of the loans would only be paid as the buildings progressed.

We have no doubt that the houses under the present schemes would be taken up without any difficulty.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. GOONAM

My Dear Miss Goonam,
MY first impression I formed of you was at the docks fresh from your studies, here I stood enthralled and enraptured, I listened to your speeches at the various clubs and institutions. I thought here was the one woman we have been long waiting for, who could better the economic and social conditions of her fellow sisters in South Africa. I have been waiting for a long time to see such a move as you are about to initiate in the political world for the welfare of your unfortunate sisters, but you must have been disappointed as myself as when told that "Women are not sufficiently advanced to receive representations." You were no doubt, considerably deterred, at this suggestion. However, your intelligence was yours and you made another attempt. You were successful the presidential assurance was given you "That the constitution of the Natal Indian Congress is open to Indian women." You have won.

Dear Dr. Goonam, I have formed an admirable impression on you, as I mentioned earlier that you were the one Indian woman we were long looking for, I do not wish to flatter you, but in you I see the goods. Our women cannot go on for ever living in hopes, because we will know what our state of mind will be at the finish. Yet there is no reason why we should die in despair.

However, I will submit the following questions to you and hope to see the answers produced in the journal which is so assiduously behind you:

1. Do you maintain that by seeking political representations for Indian women, you could better their only positions in this universe...economic and social?

2. With the majority of the Indian women illiterate, will you be able to impress upon them the need of such a movement?

3. Knowing their age old customs and practises in their social surroundings,

etc., will you ever be able to bring about a unity amongst the women?

4. Do you maintain that the different political opinions, if any, held by both the husband and wife will coincide, if not what will be the ultimate result?

5. Do you maintain that if women political leaders such as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu were in our midst, would they be able to revive the gloomy outlook that is prevalent amongst the various sections of the Indians in South Africa?

6. Do you maintain that the women of South Africa are in need of a women's united front?

7. Do you agree with the aims and objects, if any, of the Durban Indian Women's Reading Circle? If not, Why?

8. Are you aware that the slum infected areas in and around Durban could be improved first, and politics last?—Yours etc., GEORGE MAISTRY.

Orange Grove, Durban.

ARE YOU A GOOD CITIZEN?

Do You Know—

THAT whatever you gain by gambling is gained by the cost of others?

That, according to the estimate of the Royal Commission of 1932-33, the total sum spent annually by the public of Great Britain in the various forms of legalized gambling was about £232,000,000?

That from 35 to 50 per cent. of this sum goes to the promoters and the balance provides no benefit to the community beyond a thrill for the comparatively small number of those who win more than they lose?

Do You Care—

That "the gambling fever lowers the national output of wealth by at least 20 per cent. annually," owing to the effect of workers who slack on their

jobs in their excitement over gambling events? There is a definite and serious drop in production on the days of such events.

That gambling is a frequent cause of the breaking-up of homes and neglect of children, through the staking of money required for the family subsistence? Do you encourage your wife to gamble?

That gambling leads thousands of young people into crime to recoup their losses?

Do You Realize—

That gambling corrupts every sport that it touches?

That gambling has a serious effect on honest and useful trade, reducing sales, increasing bad debts and demoralising employees?

Will You Then—

Refuse to sign petitions in favour of a state lottery?

Support the efforts of the Federation of Ratepayers' Associations to abolish greyhound racing?

Support the movement to make pin-tables and similar gambling machines illegal?

Assist in the suppression of football pools?

And in general adopt the attitude of a *responsible citizen* towards the gambling evil which threatens to get a strangle hold upon South Africa?

Take a definite stand on Christian principal against this evil so that thereby your influence may deter your friends from supporting sweep stakes and other forms of gambling?

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY

I AM convinced that China is not going to lose this war," writes Mr. Vernon Bartlett, Foreign Affairs Editor of the *News Chronicle*, who has just completed a tour of the Far East in connection with the international situation, and is very definite in his review of the situation.

"We can assist her by sending her the means to defend herself, just as we can still save Spain, if we send the Spanish Government the means for defence.

"Japan has taken on a campaign which is going to smash her."

Speaking of reactions in the Far East

to Britain's policy, he says: "In the Far East no Englishman can help realising how low British prestige has sunk, and how great is the indignation in places like India, Singapore, and Hong-Kong that an Empire which is still so mighty is doing so little to defend itself."

NEED OF THE HOUR

I

THE question of Hindu-Moslem unity is one of the most burning topics of the day. Never did this problem assume such serious proportions and so deeply engage the attention of the leaders of India as it has done to-day. Time was when these two major communities of the land were hand in glove with each other and lived in towns and villages without any unseemly communal clash and conflict. Even a decade and a half ago every village was the joyful scene of mutual co-operation and help, and every religious festival and social function was graced and enlivened by the mirthful presence of the rank and file of both the communities. In short their relation in matters social and religious, reached a high water-mark of cordiality and, as a result, a spirit of mutual confidence, coupled with a feeling of genuine comradeship, guided the march of their daily life and activity. But to-day this time-honoured relation of cordiality has undergone all on a sudden a miraculous transformation. And it is really regrettable that at this psychological hour when all the scattered energies of India's collective life should be pooled to fight the forces of evil and to ensure her steady march on the path of progress, the two sister communities have fallen foul of each other in total disregard of the magnitude of the danger ahead. The rivalry has reached such a high pitch that it has blinded them even to their common history and national tradition, the points of the mutual cultural contact, their identity of economic interests and, above all, to the multiple malignant forces that are silently working to devitalize the body-politic of India.

Nothing is more painful than the newly developed tendency amongst a certain section of the people to drive a wedge between the two members of the same national organism. In fact the interests and destinies of the two communities are so closely interwoven that they cannot be thought of as two diametrically opposite units in the framework of Indian life. Economically, no less politically, they stand bound to the Indian soil by the same interests. And it would not be a mistake to presume that the question of Hindu-Moslem differences is a fictitious problem so far as the masses are concerned. It is only some interested fanatics who have raised to-day the bogey of "religion-in-danger" and are attempting to disturb the peaceful relation existing between the Hindus and Moslems of the land. Rightly did Mrs. Sarojidi Naidu remark in her eloquent address at the first meeting of the newly established Hindu-Moslem Unity Association, held

By THE EDITOR

"Prabuddha Bharata."

under the presidency of the Newab Bahadur of Murshidabad at the Albert Hall, Calcutta: If they studied the situation aright and went to men who toiled from dawn to dusk, men to whom the changes in Government did not matter and the administration of political bodies did not count, but who looked at the sky and would wonder whether it would rain to-day or it would be hot, who looked at the field and wondered whether there would be good harvest or not, who looked at the exploiters and wondered when their exploitation would cease—men who were not able to study the fluctuation of markets but who could tell of the emptiness of their homes—she wondered if they could go down to these men and ask them if they wanted separate Muslim and Hindu rights or whether they wanted to live in water-tight compartments or they wanted to have Hindu or Muslim Raj. What would be the answer of these men who were not corrupted by men of the city? They would say that they did not care to know anything of the Raj, and what they were concerned with was the question of bread. That was the answer of the masses of India from north to south and from east to west. Theirs was the question of bread. In this question of bread, hunger did not distinguish between a Hindu and a Mussalman. For, economically both are welded to-day into a single whole, and to think of a Hindu India or of a Moslem India betrays nothing but a woeful lack of political wisdom and a misreading of the history of the socio-economic life of these two communities in India. She therefore rightly condemned "those who called themselves enlightened, educated, and who talked of national solidarity and yet for personal purposes utilized every tiny and obscure incident to fan the fire of communalism so that their leadership might be established and maintained."

I I

Whatever be the actual genesis of communal tension it cannot be denied that it is, in a large measure, due to an incorrect understanding of the religio-philosophical systems of the various religious bodies also. The non-essentials and outward forms of every faith are so much accentuated and held to prominence that the very soul of religion is ignored and thrust into background. Prof. Radhakrishnan has therefore aptly remarked, "While true religion is an instrument for growth and life, the religion we practice leads us to death and despair. Whether

Hindu or Muslim, we are all worshippers of form and routine. Our religion is not the genuine article but pseudo stuff, a sort of dope drugging our sense of evil and making us insensitive to the sufferings of others... True religion is creative and life-giving and has nothing in common with mechanism, the mechanization of mind or dogmatism. It is time we get back to the roots and rediscover religion; for only those who rediscover religion in themselves will be able to reconstruct society." Needless to say a serious attempt should be made to go beyond the outer crust of apparently contradictory forms to discover the underlying unity and beauty of all existing faiths of the world, and to point out the striking points of similarity, instead of wrangling over the non-essentials of different religions. And we doubt not if such a course is resorted to and a consolidated effort is made to present to the world the common meeting-ground of various faiths, the petty communal strife or religious bickerings could be reduced to a minimum, and a universal fellowship of faiths could be established. The Parliament of Religions held forty-five years back in the World's Fair at Chicago was but a living expression of such an anxiety of the master-minds to bring into closer relation the members of the different religious groups on a common platform of brotherhood. The recent Parliament of Religions held in Calcutta in 1937, under the auspices of the Ramakrishna Birth Centenary is but a replica of the past, and furnishes a tangible proof of how the spirit of harmony has ever since been struggling to secure a permanent foothold in the citadel of actuality. Is it not meet and proper that at this hour avenues must be opened to ensure a speedy reconciliation of the faiths of the two warring communities of India—the Hindus and the Moslems, for their own well-being as well as for the good of humanity at large?

It has been rightly observed by Dr. Bhagavan Das in the *Essential Unity of the Religions* that when the followers of different religions quarrel with one another, "the plain cause is that they are not sincere devotees but arrant egoists, that none of them really honours and follows the great Master whom he pretends to honour and follow, but each really loves his own narrow and conceited little self, and wishes to impose that little self and its small minded opinions upon all the world, for the satisfaction of his own vanity and the tasting of a false greatness under cover of the true greatness of the Master, which true greatness he only

belittles and drags in the mire by his own false understanding of it." But, he further adds, if the followers of the several religions were only loving and simple and straight of heart, they would fill their own homes and all other

homes of the whole world with pæans of joy and with mutual service and the real blessings of religion, instead of, as they have been doing century after century, with the cruel cries of hate and war, bloodshed and torture. The

worst about these terrible conflicts is that they are all about words and names, non-essential forms and superficial trivialities.

(To be continued)

"COMMUNAL UNITY IS DEAR TO ME AS LIFE ITSELF"

MAHATMA GANDHI has issued the following statement to the Press:—"I observe that the forthcoming interview between Sri Jinnah and me is not only attracting wide attention but it is also inducing hope amongst some friends who gravely warn me against this visit and against building any hope on the interview. It is better, therefore, for me to take the public into confidence and tell them why and how I am waiting upon Shri Jinnah on the 28th instant.

He has himself published my first letter to him showing my attitude on the question of communal unity which is dear to me as life itself. In that letter I clearly stated that all before me was darkness and added that I was praying for light, if anything, the darkness has deepened and the prayer has become intenser. Added to this is the fact that for causes, some of which I know and some I do not, for the first time in my public and private life, I seem to have lost self-confidence.

I seem to have detected a flaw in me which is unworthy of a votary of Truth and Ahimsa. I am going through a process of self-introspection, the results of which I cannot foresee. I find myself, for the first time during the past fifty years, in a slough of despondency. I do not consider myself fit for negotiations

or for any such thing for the moment. *There is no need for any speculation as to the cause of my despondency. It is purely internal.* It comes from within. It must be now clear that if I regarded the forthcoming interview as between two politicians I should not entertain it in my present depression. But I approach it in a prayerful and religious spirit, using the adjective in its broadest sense.

Continuing Gandhiji says: My Hinduism is not sectarian. It includes all that I know to be best in Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. I approach politics, as everything else in a religious spirit. Truth is my religion and Ahimsa is the only way of its realisation. I have rejected once for all the doctrine of the sword, the secret stabbing of innocent persons. The speeches I read in the papers are hardly the things leading to peace or an honourable settlement. Again, I am not approaching the forthcoming interview in any representative capacity. I have purposely divested myself of any such. If there is to be any formal negotiation it will be between the President of the Congress and the President of the Muslim League. Nor do I approach it as a Hindu. Orthodox Hinduism will most assuredly repudiate me. I, there-

fore, go as a life long worker in the cause of Hindu-Muslim unity. It has been a passion with me from early youth. I count some of the noblest of Muslims as my friends. I have a devout daughter of Islam as more than a daughter to me. She lives for that unity and would cheerfully die for it. I had the son of the late Muazzin of the Jama Masjid of Bombay as a staunch inmate of the Ashram. I have not yet met a nobler man. His morning Azan in the Ashram rings in my ears as I write these lines during midnight. It is for such that I wait on Shri Jinnah. I may not leave a single stone unturned to achieve Hindu-Muslim unity. God fulfils himself in strange ways. He may, in a manner least known to us both, fulfil himself through the interview and open a way to an honourable understanding between the two communities. It is in that hope that I am looking forward to the forthcoming talk. We are friends, not strangers. It does not matter to me that we see things from different angles of vision. I ask the public not to attach any exaggerated importance to the interview. But I ask all lovers of communal peace to pray that the God of Truth and Love may give us both the right spirit and the right word and use us for the good of the dumb millions of India."

GANDHIJI'S APPEAL TO BENGAL DETENUS

IMPORTANCE OF THE CREED OF NON-VIOLENCE

MAHATMA GANDHI'S concern for the Bengal detenus and his views on hunger strikes by political prisoners is the subject matter of a Note by Mr. Mahadev Desai in *Hartjan*. Mr. Desai gives the gist of Gandhiji's reply to the detenus whom he interviewed in the Alipore Jail some time ago.

"There should be no hunger strike on any account," said Gandhiji to the detenus. "Though there are circumstances conceivable in which a hunger strike may be justified, a hunger strike in order to secure release or redress of

grievances is wrong. If you resort to it whilst I am carrying on negotiations, you will clip my wings.

"But why think of a hunger strike when you have got me as a good substitute for a hunger strike?"

"My days are numbered. I am not likely to live long; may be, I may live a year or little more. Let me tell you that much of that time is going to be given in order to secure your release. I want to see you discharged before I die.

"That is the word I am giving to you,

and I want you to give me your word that so long as I live to work for you you will not go on hunger strike. I cannot have peace or comfort so long as I have not secured your discharge. You have to believe what I say. I can believe and lives.

"My function is not that of a lawyer but of a humanitarian and a votary of non-violence. Non-violence will not spread so long as you prisoner are kept in prison, and that is why I have staked my life for the mission. No thought, therefore, of hunger strike, please."

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS ACTIVITIES

Isipingo

THE annual meeting of the Isipingo Indian Society was held at the Indian School on Sunday the 22nd May. Mr. M. A. Jadwat presided. Among those present Pandit Bhawani Dayal and Mr. A. I. Kajee, President and Secretary respectively of the Natal Indian Congress, both of whom strongly urged the necessity of forming a united body which will work for the welfare of Indians at Isipingo.

The meeting unanimously decided to form a branch of the Natal Indian Congress which would be called the Natal Indian Congress Isipingo branch (with which is affiliated the Isipingo Indian Society);

The following office bearers were elected:—Patrons: Messrs. R. D. Chowthee, G. R. Rhoorohoo, M. Mahabeer, K. N. Moodley and Jimmy; President: Mr. M. Jadwat; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. K. Nowbuth, M. K. Peter, K. Moonsamy, A. Raiman and B. Natalie; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. R. Gopaulsingh; Assist. Hon. Secretary: Mr. T. Subramany; Committee: Messrs. J. Varden, S. Gokul, M. George, D. S. Cassim, H. Binda, R. Dehaloo, B. M. Sookmundan, K. Ramnath and I. S. Singh; Auditor: Mr. N. Gangaa.

Sea View

Last Sunday the Indian School Hall was crowded with the members of the Natal Indian Congress in order to form a new branch.

Pandit Bhawani Dayal the president of the Natal Indian Congress and Mr. A. I. Kajee the secretary, explained the aims and objects of the Congress and also referred to the political situation of the Indians in South Africa.

After due consideration the meeting decided that the members of the Natal Indian Congress residing at Sea View

and District constitute a branch of the Natal Indian Congress at Sea View, to be styled the Natal Indian Congress (Sea View and District Branch).

The following officials were elected: Chairman: Mr. W. Ballaram; Joint Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. P. Appleton and A. G. Moodley; Joint Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. B. K. Naidu and C. Babenia; Committee: Messrs. R. Tomy, P. S. Reddy, Kitty Samuels, P. D. Naicker, B. A. James, A. Harry, R. K. Reddy, Abdul Karrim, P. Krishna, B. Sookaye and Patrick Nulliah.

Verulam

On Sunday last a general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was held at the Madressa Hall, Verulam at 3 p.m. The gathering was addressed by Pandit Bhawani Dayal the president of the Natal Indian Congress and Mr. A. I. Kajee the secretary.

Mr. Kajee said that the wave of enthusiasm that was passing over the community for a united body was a sign of the time. He was glad to see a surging tide for Indian unity is now flowing through the provinces.

"At one time," said Mr. Kajee, "the allegation was made that the Natal Indian Congress only worked for the Indian business and ignored the claims of the poorer classes. Today that charge is no longer true. During the last 2½ years the Congress has gained relief in various directions, such as grants for the aged, loans for the improvement of Indian housing and exemption from Personal Tax for indigent Indians."

It was resolved that a branch should be formed at Verulam which will be called the Natal Indian Congress (Verulam Branch).

The following officials were elected: Patrons; Messrs. Ahmed Kathrada, Raghavjee Devjee and Raghavjee Reg-

nath; Chairman: Mr. R. Talwantsingh; Vice Presidents: Messrs. S. Sham, G. H. Maiter, A. Parasram and G. H. Kathrada; Joint hon. secretaries: Messrs. S. R. Maharaj and Nathalal Raghavjee; Treasurer: Mr. Choonilal Raghavjee; Committee: Messrs. C. Kisten, S. M. Singh, E. B. Jagruth, A. Kader, G. Ramnath, V. Govindsamy, S. S. Maharaj, Chota Vawda, Tuppo Jutha, Soobiah Naidoo and Girdar Govind.

Clairwood

Unprecedented enthusiasm was shown at the annual meeting of the Clairwood and District Branch of the Natal Indian Congress held at Laksmi Narayan Hall, Clairwood, last Sunday afternoon when there was an unusually large muster of members indicative of the new spirit pervading Congress activity.

Pandit Bhawani Dayal, Messrs. A. I. Kajee and S. R. Pather addressed the gathering appealing for greater interest and activity in the people's welfare. The keynote of the proceedings throughout was that all activity in the area should be concentrated within the folds of the Congress and preference should be given to service for the poor.

The secretary's report and the treasurer's financial statement were adopted. The election of officials for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President: Mr. S. R. Pather; Vice Presidents: Messrs. M. E. Sigamoney, S. C. Pillay, M. C. Naicker, B. J. Singh, and Ellahi Bacus; Joint hon. secretaries: Messrs. Karanduth Persadh and A. N. Govender; Hon. treasurer: Mr. G. R. John; Committee: Messrs. B. Ramchunder, S. Gopal, R. B. Boos hun, M. K. Ebrahim, S. M. Singh, R. Budree, R. K. Govender, R. B. Lall, Kasav Singh and Rev. A. J. Choonoo.

EAST BLENDS WITH WEST

ALL the elements making for unity in diversity were present in the City Hall at the prize-winners' concert of the second annual Indian Eisteddfod promoted by the Indian Society for the Advancement of Music and Art.

The Indian Agent-General, Mr. Rama Rau, who distributed the trophies to the successful competitors, declared that art had no nationality, creed or colour, and because of its character of universality had to-day an added importance in a world of differences.

Mr. Rau expressed his warm appreciation of the services of Mr. C. R. Warriner, who had given the audience an opportunity of appreciating Indian musical talent.

"The cosmopolitan nature of the audience," said Mr. Rau, "is very appreciative of the magnificent performance that Mr. Warriner has organised to-day."

The Mayor, Mr. Fleming Johnston, and the Mayoress, Mrs. G. Cyrus, were present.

A feature of the concert was the successful combination of Western instruments in the rendering of Indian songs and dances, the harmonium and the violin blending in harmony with the tabla drum. A picturesque performance—in fact one of the outstanding items at the concert—was the Tamil Indian folk dance, the "Kummi" rendered by the pupils of the M. K. Gandhi Senthamil School. Clad in sarees, the performers danced with a grace and beauty that

evoked the prolonged applause of the audience. Another outstanding performer was the violinist, P. Vythilingum Pather who secured the highest marks at the Eisteddfod. He played a Tamil piece; "Kamboji."

A girl of 12, Ayesha Jhavery, conducted a band of 13, consisting of the pupils of the St. Anthony's Government-Aided Indian School.

Urdu song and music found able exponents in the Dada Osman trio, who were supported by a band of turbaned instrumentalists.

The winning choir of the church musicians was the Christ Church Male Voice Choir, of Sydenham, who rendered "All ye Nations Praise the Lord." The Sastri College Senior Choir sang "The Bay of Biscay" in English.

Things In General

Indian Merchants And Match Supply

A CHARGE of making racial discrimination on the part of certain manufacturers against Indian merchants was alleged at a meeting of the Natal Indian Congress Commercial Sub-Committee held at the Congress Office recently. There was not a single wholesaler in Natal, said Mr. A. I. Kajee, secretary of the Congress, who were supplied direct from the match factory. There were 10 Indian wholesalers in Durban, who, as distributors, sold many matches than any of those on the list and were prepared to pay cash on delivery, but because of their race they could not get direct supplies. The Indian wholesalers, declared Mr. Kajee, were prepared to abide with regard to price, term of credit and other requirements as laid down by the Natal Match Distributors' Association. Mr. Kajee pointed out the fact that matches as a commodity was removed from the Unlawful Prices Determination Act and is receiving two kinds of protection, namely, custom and dumping duties, as imposed upon matches from overseas, and secondly its exemption from the Unlawful Price Determination Act, which was for the purpose of guarding the public against the exploitation of rings. It was resolved that this matter should be brought to the notice of the Agent-General for India for such attention as might be deemed necessary, as well as to the Department of Commerce and Industries.

Early Closing On Fridays

The Divisional Council of Capetown decided at the last monthly meeting that chemists, druggists, general dealers, barbers, hairdressers and butchers will close at 7 instead of 9 p.m. on Fridays. Mr. S. Dollie said that he considered that whether the shops closed at 7 or at 9 the shopkeepers would still get their share of the trade. It was only a question of educating the public to shop before 7 o'clock.

Linking Cape With Natal

The Railway Board set at Kokstad last week to discuss the linking of the Cape with Natal by alternate railway routes, namely, Umata-Kokstad-Maclear or Matatiele-Maclear. A meeting of public bodies agreed to support the latter route.

Newspapermen Invade

Czecho-Slovakia

One hundred and twenty foreign journalists have arrived in Czecho-Slovakia during the past few days, according to a Transocean message. This influx of newspapermen is taken to mean that the world expects an outbreak of hostilities. The German Press, however, points out that by sending journalists to Czecho-Slovakia it will only aggravate the situa-

tion as the Czechs seem determined to magnify the present difficulties on the frontier.

Change In Licences Ordinance

The Administration-in-executive-committee has approved of draft legislation being prepared to amend the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance, 1931, to provide that the owner of a business shall apply to the local authority for approval of the person in actual control of the business, and that the provisions requiring a police report on such person be applied to every change in management or control of trade or business falling within the scope of the Ordinance.

Engine Drivers

And Non-Europeans

A resolution dealing with the possible encroachment by non-Europeans on the preserves of the South African Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association was discussed at the annual council meeting of the association. A resolution was passed instructing the executive committee to watch the position carefully, and to take necessary steps "to protect our traditional policy with regard to membership and interests."

Pretoria Tamil League

A general election meeting of the Pretoria Tamil League was held at the Tamil School on Sunday May 22. Two subscribing members, Mr. Mulloo, the secretary of the Pretoria Indian Congress, officials of the Germiston Tamil School Board and other local Tamilians were present. As Mr. V. S. Pillay, the president of the above league has passed away, one of the vice-presidents, Mr. P. S. Velloo, presided and commenced the meeting with prayers. After the president's speech, the following office-bearers were elected for the coming three years:—Chairman: Mr. V. A. Nayagar; vice-chairmen: Messrs. C. T. Pillay, O. B. Pillay, N. Rethina Achariar and G. S. Frank; joint secretaries: Messrs. V. Vardharajulu Naidoo and G. Krishnan; joint treasurers: Messrs. V. S. A. Pillay and I. D. Naidoo; auditor: Mr. A. Veerappen; caretaker: Mr. C. T. Pillay; committee: Messrs. C. A. Pillay, G. Perumal, C. K. Moodley, C. Bala Sundaram, N. Moothoosamy Pillay, V. A. Soopayan, P. Soopayan, V. Govindasamy, G. Moothoo, O. M. Coopoo, M. Vithiananda Naidoo, Willie Kolappan, P. S. Velloo, K. Pehesamy, P. Velayutham, Tommy Soobramanian Pillay and V. Moonsamy. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read at a previous general meeting and adopted. The treasurer's report leaves a credit balance of £203. The new officials thanked the gathering for supporting and electing them. After

prayers the meeting terminated with great enthusiasm and hearty cheers for the new office-bearers.

A Farewell Reception

A joint farewell reception was given to Mr. Jata Jeewa, Vice-President of Gopalall Temple, Life Patron of Dipawali Sports Union of Verulam, and the donor of the Jata Jeewa's Shield; and to his son Mr. Vassanjee Jata, treasurer of Verulam Temple Cricket Club, on the eve of their departure to the motherland. The farewell reception was held at the Gopalall Temple hall. To make the function a grand occasion the Dipawali Sports Union, the Temple Cricket Club and Gopalall Temple Committee joined together and made it a grand function. Verulam Sungeeth Mandal graced the occasion with their orchestra, for which the committee wishes to thank them. The chairman of the temple, Mr. R. Talwantsingh, garlanded Mr. Jata Jeewa and presented him with an illuminated address printed in Gujarathi and a Bhagvath Githa, and to Mr. Vassanjee Jata a bouquet of flowers, a fountain pen and a autograph book. In his speech, the chairman wished both Mr. Jata Jeewa and his son a bon voyage and a safe return, and also spoke on his activities as vice-president for the last 40 years. The chairman of the Dipawali Sports Union, Mr. Sham then spoke briefly of the good work done by Mr. Jata Jeewa for the Indian community in Verulam, and wished them bon voyage and presented Mr. Jeewa with a cigarette case and a lighter, and to his son a diary on behalf of the Dipawali Sports Union. Mr. Maurice, chairman of the Verulam Temple Cricket Club, also wished them a safe return and presented Mr. Vassenjee with a leather suit case. Amongst other speakers were, Messrs. S. R. Maharaj, R. D. Maharaj, Vallabjee Soni, Raghavjee Ragnath, Raghavjee Devjee Parekh, L. Rajkumar and Choonilall Raghavjee. In conclusion Mr. Jata Jeewa thanked all the speakers and the general public who were there to grace the occasion, and also thanked the various bodies for the presentations made, and hoped sincerely that the Temple hall, which was intended to be built, would be ready when he returned from India. He donated a sum of £25 towards the building of the new hall. Mr. Vassenjee Jata also spoke, in which he thanked each and every one for being present and said that he was so pleased to see that various bodies had joined together and made the function a great success. The Temple secretary, Mr. S. R. Maharaj, on behalf of the temple, thanked Mr. Choonilall Raghavjee and Mr. Phalad, who were instrumental in bringing this function to a grand conclusion.

India Letter

(NEWS COLLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Uniform Policy In Congress Provinces

MR. MAHADEV DESAI, who had been specially deputed by Mahatma Gandhi to pay a visit to the North-West Frontier Province, has returned to Delhi. While at Peshawar, Mr. Desai had a busy time, meeting members of the Congress Government and also of the minority communities of Sikhs and Hindus. Mr. Desai's visit to this distant Congress province is believed to have been the outcome of discussions held recently in the Working Committee meeting at Calcutta, which has all along considered it vital that uniform policies be pursued in all Congress provinces on questions of major importance. That such uniformity has, in fact, been maintained in a remarkable degree is a tribute to the strength and discipline of the Congress organisation.

Problem Of India's Defence

Scrupulous secrecy is being maintained with regard to the defence talks now proceeding between the British War Office and the Government of India as represented by the Secretary of State. It appears that the Government of India and the British authorities are not seeing eye to eye with regard to the financial implications of the proposed schemes for making the Indian army troops especially the British units easily available for movements in case of emergency. It appears that while the Government of India may be prepared to co-operate with any scheme for defence of India or making the Indian army troops available for emergencies, they are pressing for larger contributions from the British exchequer for modernization of the army or for making successful the army schemes evolved after the negotiations now proceeding in London.

Scheme For Cottage Industries

Mr. J. C. Kumarappa of the All-India Village Industries Association discussed with the Ministers for agriculture and rural development and industries and labour the possibilities of developing cottage industries, particularly jaggery making. Mr. Kumarappa had sent to the Government a memorandum on the development of rural industries most suited to the Madras Presidency and the Government had decided to send thirty students to Wardha each month on a stipend of Rs. 15 to enable them to receive training at the All-India

Village Industries Association, Wardha. This training will extend over three months. The industries selected for training being paper making, jaggery making and soap making. On completion of their training the trained persons will be distributed in various parts of the Presidency in turn to train more people and thus help the development of rural industries.

Details Discussed

Mr. Kumarappa discussed the details of the scheme and the qualifications of the candidates selected for training. Palm jaggery making has been developed at Salem as a valuable cottage industry, particularly after the introduction of prohibition in the district. The Association feels that there is considerable scope for developing this industry in Northern India and a number of young men could be deputed to Salem for special training in this industry. Details of the scheme were also discussed and when the All-India Village Industries Association makes an application the Government will sanction the scheme.

War Against Illiteracy In Bihar

"In this great war against illiteracy, we would not go for forced mobilisation, but we call upon teachers and students and the educated public in general to mobilise in large and pool their intellectual and material resources to wage this war with great determination," said Dr. Syed Mahmud (Minister of Education) inaugurating the campaign against mass illiteracy at a public meeting of students, teachers and public men of Bihar. "Bihar in the past," Dr. Mahmud concluded, "has given to the world some of its greatest thoughts. Nalanda University, once the pride of the ancient world, existed in Bihar. Let us organise ourselves and teach a lesson of voluntary conscription with a view to combat the forces of evil of ignorance. For this is a war not to kill but to create and conserve."

Naval Base In Kathiawar

It is learnt that the Government of India are considering a scheme for establishing a naval base in Kathiawar. The Resident of the Western India States Agency visited Mangrol and Veraval, two ports in the Junagadh State, for the purpose. It is believed that the coast between Sil and Veraval is suitable for a naval base. Correspondence between the Agency and the Junagadh State is going on in this matter.

Bengalees In Bihar

Babu Rajendra Prasad will be meeting Mr. P. R. Das, representing the Bengalee community in Bihar in order to discuss the situation arising out of the grievances of Bengalees against the attitude of the Congress Ministry in connection with appointments in Government departments. It may be recalled that Mr. P. R. Das, on behalf of the Bengalees in Bihar, represented the matter to the Congress Working Committee which deputed Babu Rajendra Prasad to act as sole arbitrator to settle the question.

Statue Of Late Nageswara Rao

Tributes to the memory of the late Mr. Nageswara Rao were paid by the Speaker of the Madras Assembly, Mr. Sambamurthi, and Mr. Prakasam, Mr. Giri and Mr. Gopala Reddi, Ministers of the Madras Government, at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Andhra Congress Committee. It was resolved to erect a memorial hall and a statue in honour of the departed leader. Mr. Prakasam who moved the condolence resolution suggested that the statue be erected on the High Court beach where Mr. Nageswara Rao performed salt satyagraha.

Rs. 45,000 For Punjab Institutions

The Maharaja of Darbhanga has given a sum of Rs. 45,000 to the following four institutions in the Punjab: The Sanatan Dharma College, Rs. 10,000; the Mahabir Dal, Rs. 10,000; the Sanathan Dharma Pratinidhi Sabha, Rs. 5,000; and the Dindayal Memorial Missionary College, Rs. 10,000.

B. K. Dutt Taken To Bhagalpur

B. K. Dutt, an accused in the Delhi conspiracy case, who is serving a sentence of transportation for life, has been brought to Bhagalpur and lodged in the local central jail.

Rush Of Applications In Bareilly

Out of 200 applicants, a selection committee which met at the house of the District Magistrate, selected 49 for appointment as honorary magistrates. The District Magistrate after making more enquiries about persons selected, called another meeting for final recommendation to Government.

The Sporting World

South African Weight-Lifting Championship

SINCE January this year the South African Weight-Lifting Federation has been a busy organisation in connection with the staging of its fifth National Olympic Weight-Lifting Championships, which will be staged at Johannesburg on June 25. There will be six divisions competing, ranging frombantam to heavy weights and the competitions will be decided on the usual 3 Olympic lifts, namely, two hands press, two hands snatch and two hands jerk. So far a number of entries have been received from the Transvaal, Free State and Cape Province weight-lifters, and in every respect this will be the greatest event ever held in Africa south of Cairo. It will perhaps interest many enthusiasts to know that the South African Weight-Lifting Federation has now decided to stage the 1939 event at Durban, and the 1940 Olympic Games trials at Bloemfontien. It is hoped that there will be many entries from Durban weight-lifters to compete in this championship, especially after the weight-lifting challenges and dispute at the end of last year between some Durban weight-lifters and a well-known lifter from Port Elizabeth. This is the only opportunity for local weight-lifters to exhibit their strength and skill and thereby achieve honours in the "Weight-Lifting World".

Stanger Hindu Youth Club

The annual general meeting of the Stanger Hindu Youth Club was held at the Sabha hall, on Sunday, May 22. The chairman, having submitted his report, thanked all those who contributed to the success of the year's work, and hoped that the in-coming officials will have further year of successful progress. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. N. Bodasingh, R. Padiachy, A. P. Naidoo, P. Thomas and M. M. Moodley; President: Mr. V. Thomas; vice-presidents: Messrs. V. A. Padayachee and S. A. Pather; secretary: Mr. T. Yadivalu; treasurer: Mr. V. D. Padayachee; auditor: Mr. S. M. Pillay; committee: Messrs. S. M. Govender, N. S. Moodley, Ganas Murugan, V. R. Rau, K. Reddy, V. Naidoo and A. G. Reddy. The meeting concluded with an unanimous approval of holding the second annual celebration in July this year.

Tennis At Verulam

At a meeting convened at Verulam on the 1st inst., it was unanimously decided to form a tennis club at Verulam under the name of "The Verulam Indian Tennis Club." A fair gathering attended and the following officials were elected: Patrons:—Messrs. G. H. A. Kathrada, A. Parsaraman and R. Choonilall; Presi-

By "Rambler"

dents: Mr. S. Sham; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. G. H. A. Maiter, N. Raghavjee, V. Subban, G. Bechoo, T. P. Sam, T. R. Singh and A. Moonsamy; Hon. Secretary: Mr. L. G. Joshua; Assiat. Hon. Secretary: Mr. B. Sham; Treasurer: Mr. C. Kisten; Auditor: Mr. S. M. Singh; Captain: Mr. G. Bechoo; Vice-Captain: Mr. V. Govindsamy and a committee of five. Mr. S. Sham occupied the chair. The convenors of the meeting were: Messrs. A. I. Bhaba, S. Chinsamy, V. Govindsamy, B. Sham and L. G. Joshua.

The Ozone Club

The Ozone Tennis Club (holders of E. H. Ismail K.O. Shield) and the Natal Indian B. Doubles Championship Cup) met the Central Tennis Club on Sunday, May 29, for the Wagmarae Shield, at the Ozone court. The match resulted in favour of Ozone by nine matches to nil. The results in detail (home team mentioned first) were:—S. I. Mohamedy and I. A. Bassa beat Jogie and Govender 8-6 6-2; E. I. Mohamedy and S. E. Vaid beat Jivan and Pillay 6-1 6-1; H. I. Motala and A. M. Paruk beat Johnny and Nadesh 6-2 6-3; S. I. Mohamedy and I. A. Bassa beat Jivan and Pillay 6-3 7-5 7-5; E. I. Mohamady and S. E. Vaid beat Johnny and Nadesh 6-1 6-3. The remaining four matches, the Central scratched in favour of Ozone.

Hill View Government-Aided Indian School Building Fund

(Continued from last week)

GREYSTON: Messrs. B. S. Singh £3 3s; Ranchod. Munsha 5s. 3d.; H. M. Akholunya £1 1s.; I. S. Jassat 10s. 6d.; L. M. Dosi 5s. 3d.; K. K. Patel 5s. 3d.; Shue Tak 2s. P. G. Patel 5s. 3d.; E. Ismail 10s. 6d.; L. B. Maharaj £1 1s.; Kalia Singh £1; Ebrahim Amoojee £1 1s.; C. M. Moodley 10s. 6d.; D. J. Patel 5s. 3d.; Daya Vanmali Patel 10s. 6d.; P. R. Patel 10s. 6d.; N. D. Patel 10s. 6d.; G. N. Patel 10s. 6d.; Govan Nana 10s. 6d.; M. S. Essat 10s. 6d.; Magan Morar 5s. 3d.; BENONI: Mr. C. Moodley £1 1s.; VERRENIGING: Messrs. T. G. Naidoo £1 1s.; P. K. Pillay 10s. 6d. R. C. Mestry 10s. 6d.—To be continued.

—:0:—

Indian Women's League

A general meeting of the above League will be held in the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, on Sunday, 12th June, 1938, at 3 p.m.

Business:—1. Housing. 2. Women Medical Students. 3. Indian Women Students.

G. Christopher,
Acting Secretary

Colonial Born And Settlers Indian Association (Clairwood Branch)

The annual general meeting of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Clairwood Branch) will be held in the Krishna Theatre Hall, Jacobs Road, Clairwood, on Sunday, 12th June, 1938, at 2.30 p.m.

Advocate A. Christopher and other officials from the headquarters will be present to address the meeting.

P. M. Pillay, Chairman.
T. L. Nanco, Vice-Chairman.
N. M. Pillay and Pavadal R. Pather, Joint Hon. Secretaries.

Colonial Born And Settlers Indian Association (Stanger Branch)

The annual general meeting of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Stanger Branch) will be held at Stanger in the Sabha Hall, on Saturday, 18th June, 1938, at 2 p.m. Officials from headquarters will address the meeting.

Business:—1. Report. 2. Election of officials. 3. General.
A. P. Naidoo, Chairman.
P. Luke, Hon. Secretary.

Natal Indian Tobacco Growers And Dealers Association

A general meeting of the Natal Indian Tobacco Growers and Dealers Association will be held at the Govt. Aided Indian School, Glen Roy, Indututu, on Sunday, the 12th June, at 10 a.m. The object of the meeting is to explain to the farmers the effect of the proposed Marketing Scheme affecting the tobacco product and the memorandum submitted to the National Marketing Council opposing the scheme. Other business will also be considered at the meeting.

Natal Indian Congress

A Special General Meeting of the members of the Natal Indian Congress is hereby convened to be held at the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall, on Sunday, 12th June, 1938 at 3 p.m.

Agenda:—1. Election of Delegates to the forthcoming S.A.I.C. Conference to be held at Capetown. 2. To consider new Draft Constitution.

A. I. KAJEE,
J. W. GODFREY,
Joint Hon. Secretaries.

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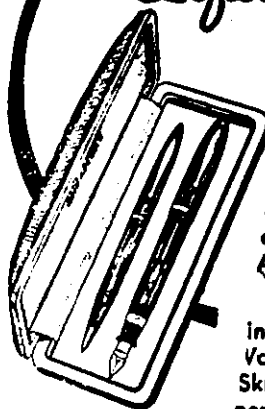
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