

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Indians And The Franchise

**W**E have now a clear statement from the Minister of the Interior in regard to the rumour spread last week about Government's intention to give Indians Parliamentary representation. In an interview in Capetown Mr. R. Stuttaford said he was not aware of any intention on the part of the Government to give the Indian community in South Africa some form of Parliamentary representation.

### What Another Congress Leader Says

We published in our last week's issue the views of some of the Congress leaders on the question of franchise. This is what Mr. S. R. Naidoo, Joint Secretary of the South African Indian Congress, has to say on the question: "My submission is that in regard to the Parliamentary franchise in Natal all doors have not been closed against the Indian and that he may apply to the Governor-General for exemption. I do not see the necessity of passing any laws to give the Indian the franchise, for there is already power under the law. Further, the grant of the franchise to the Indians may be so regulated that there may be no fear of Indias 'swamping' any electorate."

We are sorry we cannot agree with our learned friend. For his suggestion, if carried out, would result in the creation of a separate privileged class in the Indian community on the standard of education or wealth. Those days are now gone when that class will be allowed to rule over the less fortunate class. If Indians are given the franchise at all it should be on the basis of full equality with the Europeans. When we suggested in our last week's article on the subject, that the qualification which existed prior to 1932 in regard to Europeans, namely, that one who pays an annual rent of £10 or owns property to the value of £50 would be entitled to vote, should be applied to the Indian, we did so from a practical point of view, and with this mental reservation, that in course of time when compulsory education would be introduced for Indians even that qualification would be unnecessary. But we would once again emphasise the fact that the question of franchise is not of so much

importance when we are denied even the elementary rights as self-respecting human beings. We can well afford to wait until the time comes when there will not be a shadow of a doubt left in regard to placing Indians on the common roll on the same basis as the Europeans.

### Cure For Foot-And-Mouth Disease

"Why this wholesale slaughtering of cattle when there is an outbreak of foot and mouth disease? Forty-four years ago—before the Jameson Raid—I found a cure for the disease, and whenever there was an outbreak among my cattle I cured them and prevented the spread of infection without slaughtering one." So said 76-years-old Mr. J. Ridsdale to a representative of the *Natal Daily News*. Mr. Ridsdale comes from an old pioneering family and before the South African War he was a farmer and transport rider in the Transvaal. He did his transport riding from Barberton to Crocodilepoort. "My cure is simple, but I naturally do not want to give away the secret. The ingredients are cheap and easily obtainable—it is merely a question of mixing them. I apply it with a brush to the feet of all the infected cattle, and also all the sound cattle in the infected area, as a safeguard. The application of the mixture cures the feet, and the cattle, in licking their feet, take the mixture in their mouth, and the infection there is cured also. For all these years I have been reluctant to mention my cure because I have felt that the vets would pooh-pooh the idea. The present outbreak of the disease is so bad that I feel I might be able to do some good if I got in touch with the farmers themselves. I will undertake to dose every beast in the infected area."

To think that Mr. Ridsdale should be reluctant to give away his "secret" when thousands of dumb animals are being put to death in cold blood is indeed far from being humane. It would be a blessing even if at this late hour Mr. Ridsdale's cure were put to the test and this terrible slaughter ceased.

### High Talk Of British Statesman

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister, speaking at Birmingham, made a brief reference to the world outlook. He said he was convinced the influence that Britain could exert for others as well as for herself was more powerful than that of any other country in the world. That is due partly to our inherent strength and to the many resources of which we are possessed. But it is due also to the general, if not universal, recognition of the fact that our policy as a country is not directed merely by selfish interests, but is rooted in the conviction that there can be no peace or security or permanence of happiness for mankind except under the rule of law and order, of reason and of good faith. Those who endeavour to steer by these general, but deep seated, principles should expect to suffer many disappointments and setbacks. The Government of which I am at present head intends to hold on its course, which is set for the appeasement of the world. We believe that by our exertion and by the example that we set to others we can eventually win through to our goal, and when the time comes for us to hand on our responsibilities to others, we shall be able to leave behind us a calmer and safer world."

### President Roosevelt

"The United States is ready to encourage other great Powers in any effort towards a definite reduction of world armaments," said President Roosevelt prior to reviewing the United States fleet, according to a message from San Francisco. Declaring that everyone in the United States wished it were safe for the nation to spend less on armaments, President Roosevelt added: "We all know that we are faced with a condition and not a theory—a condition not of our choosing. We fervently hope for the day when other leading nations will realise that the present course will inevitably lead to disaster. The year 1939 would be a year of world-wide rejoicing if it could mark definite steps towards permanent world peace."

### Sir John Simon

Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, winding up the debate on

the Finance Bill, which was read for the third time without division in the House of Commons, said that while the course of world trade was not too favourable since he presented the budget the present situation bore no resemblance to the situation which existed before the depression in 1931. Sir John

added: "Britain has resources of character, courage and history which will see it through, but if we do not succeed in finding some way to stop the folly of ever increasing expenditure on armaments, then, indeed, the future we shall be preparing for our children is something to make us shudder."

the office of the Union High Commissioner but if you happen to be an Indian national there is a cold shoulder in store for you at the office of the High Commissioner for India. What wonder then if other countries kick us when we receive kicks from our own "Masters"!

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JULY 22ND, 1938

### Britain's Waning Influence

**B**RITISH statesmen have not yet done with their high talk. It reminds us of Ravana in the Ramayana who, whilst he was about to be slain by Rama, did not cease to talk of his powerful influence. Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister, the other day, making a brief reference to the world outlook said he was convinced the influence that Britain could exert for others as well as for herself was more powerful than that of any other country in the world. "That is due," he said, "to the fact that our policy as a country is not directed merely by selfish interest, but is rooted in the conviction that there can be no peace or security or permanence or happiness for mankind except under the rule of law and order, of reason and of good faith."

We wish we, as a section, by far the largest of the British Empire, and by whose exploitation Britain to-day owes its existence and its powerful influence, could endorse Mr. Chamberlain's "noble" sentiments. We can, however, only chuckle at them. The same sentiments were expressed when the Great War was waged in 1914, and all British subjects were led to believe that the British statesmen who expressed them were sincere and they rallied to give their last drop of blood on the battlefield in fighting what they were misled to believe to be a "sacred war". But they have learnt their lesson

since and they will not allow themselves to be duped again.

These words of ours may be calculated as being disloyal but to profess affection when there is lack of it would amount to hypocrisy. No Indian either in India or outside India feels happy to feel that he is a British subject. India has been given Provincial autonomy in some of the Provinces. It is nothing but a farce. Unless they are given full and unrestricted powers they can make very little headway. And pray why are they denied these powers? Is it out of any philanthropic motives? Out of a benevolent feeling of serving the best interests of the people of India? There are no signs of that. It is only out of the fear that the resources of India would be closed to Britain, which Britain can illafford. India under the British rule has become the dumping ground for all foreigners just because Britain can illafford to make bad friends with them, and yet, no notice is taken by Britain when her British Indian subjects are ill-treated in the other countries. Why even in England, one hears, that if you happen to be any other subject but a British Indian you can get your grievances attended to without the slightest difficulty through the offices of the respective High Commissioners. For instance, if you are an Indian but a Union national you can get through your difficulties without a hitch through

Mr. Chamberlain's high talk about Britain's "reason" and "good faith" has led us to make this criticism. We only wish there was some sincerity behind that talk.

We in South Africa talk of the Indian question having an imperial aspect. Indeed it has and we do wish some of our countrymen in South Africa would not speak so lightly as they do about Indians being merged with the Natives or, with any sense of pride, that Indians are no longer Indians but are Coloureds or Malays. If they consider this position worth being proud of, and are prepared to claim their rights as such and not as Indian nationals, then India should have no meaning for them. India would justifiably disown them and, the Agent-General for India could not represent them any longer.

South Africa is welcome to nurture her independence. But the loose talk of a "White South Africa" sounds arrogant and history tells us that arrogance leads to destruction. Let South Africa realise, that the Indian question has an imperial aspect. Let it view the question from that angle and not take a narrow view of it. The Agent-General very rightly said in East London that "we are living in a world of differences and diversity and we really cannot afford to be divided like this, especially, in a new country which has a tremendous future before it." He further said: "I wish to emphasise the imperial aspect of this problem. It is a problem which affects the whole of the British Commonwealth. I know what a deep interest India takes in this

problem, because it affects the prestige of the Nation." India under the British rule may not count but an India independent as South Africa is to-day *will* count and then

it will be utter folly on the part of South Africa to antagonise an independent India with her teeming millions. Indians in South Africa may have their

shortcomings but no community is perfect; and South Africa would do well to view the Indian question from that broader aspect and deal with it likewise.

## AGENT-GENERAL IN EAST LONDON

**T**HE Agent-General for India (Mr. B. Rama Rau, C.I.E.) and Mrs. Rama Rau paid a brief visit to East London on July 15 on their way to Capetown from Durban. They were given a very cordial welcome by both the Indian and European communities. A mayoral reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Rama Rau was held in the morning, and the Agent-General was the guest of honour at the Rotary Club's weekly luncheon. At the reception Mr. Casoojee, who represents the Congress in East London, took advantage of the opportunity to thank the Mayor and City Council for the fairness and justice shown to the Indian community there. He also expressed great appreciation of the work of the European members of the Indo-European Association, the president of which is Mrs. Bruce-Bays, and said they had given a great deal of their time to the welfare of the Indian women and children of East London. They were grateful to the whole of the European community, and were glad to say that the Indian inhabitants of this city had no grievances whatever. "We are very happy here," declared Mr. Casoojee amid applause.

Mr. Rama Rau spoke appreciatively of the friendly relationship existing between the Indian and European communities in East London, which, he said, set a fine example to the rest of South Africa, and expressed the hope that this tradition would long continue, not only in the interests of the Indian community but of the Union, the best interests of which would be served by a real unity between the two races.

"I do not know what there is in store for us; but we are living in a world of differences and diversity and we really cannot afford to be divided like this, especially in a new country which has a tremendous future before it," said Mr. Rama Rau.

"It was stated during the last election," he continued, "that the Asiatic problem will probably be one of the most important problems before South Africa during the next 10 or 15 years. I would only like to remind you about the history of the small Indian community that lives in South Africa. We came here about 80 years ago. The Natal Government requested the Government of India to send some labourers to this country to save the sugar in-

dustry, which was on the verge of collapse owing to lack of skilled labour. The Government of India complied with the request with great reluctance, and all sorts of promises were held out to the poor Indian labourers who were leaving India for South Africa.

"They came here for a few years and then, when the term of contract was about to be completed, they were given a further inducement by the Europeans to stay on by the grant of land, and this immigration was stopped for a little while. Again the sugar industry was very greatly depressed owing to lack of labour. A further request was made to the Government of India and immigration was resumed.

### Came At Special Request

"It was under those circumstances that the Indians came to this country. They came here not only at your invitation but at your special request, and the Indians you find in Natal and a few in this province are descendants of those people who came here to save an industry which was on the verge of collapse, an industry which is to-day, with the exception of gold mining, the principal industry of South Africa.

"People are rather inclined to forget the fact that the Indian community did not come here to seek a new profession. They came here at your invitation, and the responsibility for solving this problem rests with the European population, who asked them to come here.

"I wish to emphasise the imperial aspect of this problem. It is a problem which affects the whole of the British Commonwealth. I know what a deep interest India takes in this problem, because it affects the prestige of the nation. Those Indians were allowed to leave India on certain promises which were made. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and others promised at the time full citizenship rights to all the British inhabitants of this country."

The Agent-General said he would conclude with the hope that the Mayor and the City Council would always take the same interest in the Indian community of East London as they had done in the past, and that the cordial relationship existing between the Europeans and the Indians would be maintained, thus setting an example to the rest of South Africa.

### More Facilities For Indian Girls

Mrs. Rama Rau said she would like to associate herself with her husband in expressing gratitude to the Mayor, City Council and citizens of East London for the very charming reception that had been accorded them. She hated to sound a discordant note, but she would like to say that during her conversation with the women who met her at the ship she did not feel that everything was quite so happy as they were led to expect from the speeches that day.

She felt very strongly, with the executive committee of the Indo-European Association, that Indian girls could have greater facilities in East London than they seemed to have at the present time, that there still was scope for work to be done with regard to higher and better education, with facilities for the nursing profession and one or two other things that were being looked into by the most energetic group of European and Indian women who belonged to that association.

She would like especially to express appreciation of the work that was being done by Mrs. Bruce-Bays. (Applause.) Mrs. Bruce-Bays was president of that very active and energetic body and she wished to express the hope that she would continue with the extraordinary work she was doing for the Indian community in this town.

### East London Hindu Society

The East London Hindu Society also held a welcome reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Rama Rau at the Society Hall. The Deputy-Mayor presided and a large number of Indians were present. Mr. and Mrs. Rama Rau congratulated the Society on the social welfare work they were doing and advised all sections of the community to unite and to work for the common interests of all.

### Agent-General In Port Elizabeth

The Mayor and Mayoress of Port Elizabeth met the ship in which Mr. Rama Rau, Agent-General for India, and Mrs. Rama Rau arrived when their ship touched that Port on their way to Capetown. Mr. Rama Rau laid a wreath on the war memorial in commemoration of Delville Wood Day.

# THE ONLY WAY

THE establishing of an ideal state necessarily presupposes firstly an idealism sufficiently vital and dynamic for the state to be brought into being, and secondly, a sufficiency in volume and power of sustaining force to preserve the integrity of the state so born.

Just as forms are but the outward signs of an inward grace or disgrace, as the institutions of a nation may be said to express or reflect the general character of its people—"the outcome of it on the universe." Reformed institutions necessitate, therefore, initial reformation in character of the peoples concerned, a change of outlook inspired from within, a more refined conception of duty, a higher standard of righteousness, which to become effective must be supplemented by a fervour and zeal that no opposition can overcome, no resistance withstand.

Reforms are inevitably of slow growth for the reason that character in the mass improves but slowly. Which is not surprising when it is remembered that growth of character is synonymous with growth of the soul, of the real man. Be it also remarked that just as one swallow does not make a summer, so one human blossom, however glorious and fragrant, does not make a garden.

There is, there can only be, but one pathway to the achievement of worthwhile and lasting reforms—self-sacrifice. Egotisms and self-aggrandisement can have no place in the make-up of the conscientious devotee. The whole being of such an one is dedicated to his ideal; into it, as ocean, he pours the full stream of his life-forces; the concerns of the personal—i of him are burned

By  
L. W. RITCH

up disappear in the fire of his zeal for the impersonal cause of his espousal, so that its life becomes his life.

Gandhiji, as reformer, has achieved as considerably as he has done because he has "given himself," not merely figuratively, but in very reality. Yet, we observe, that the conversion he has been able to achieve is proportionate to the number of those sufficiently developed to have been capable of response to his own high appeal. We know that there are subtle vibrations to which only the more highly developed senses can respond, and to which others of a more limited of responsiveness remain unaffected. That the response to Gandhiji's appeal has been as extensive as it has is eloquent testimony to the volume and vitality of India's spirituality. Nevertheless, we see that Gandhiji is far from jubilant over the progress made. Egotisms are hardy weeds that cling very tenaciously, and to so many of us the flesh pots of Egypt continue to be ever so much more seductive than the manna of heaven. Much feeding of the sacrificial fire is needed, ere it be made to burn as steady, unwavering flame.

Gandhiji's latest message to us in South Africa is, in substance: "Liberate yourselves!" His challenge to us might be expressed thus:—"If it really is freedom for which you are thirsting because to you freedom is precious beyond all other acquisitions, you will consider no sacrifice too great to achieve it."

An acid test, but the only true one! Applying it, can we honestly claim that freedom means as much to us as that? Is it not less freedom than greater leisure that is being sought? Licences that would afford us more opportunities of "getting into the game," the game of beggar-my-neighbour, the game of exploitation, of money-making? If not, what do we mean by freedom? Freedom from what? Freedom for what? Gandhiji, when here, led the fight for India's honour and the honour of her children. That fight was waged as an emphatic protest against the degradation implied in the differential legislation objected to, against the implication of racial inferiority. On the banner beneath which we took our stand was "Self-respect!" Principle was the motive, not self-interest. The matter of "loaves and fishes" was merely incidental, and relatively unimportant. The passive resisters who surrendered life, liberty and substance in the struggle wrought in a spirit of sacrifice, not for sordid gain or to secure a larger field for exploitation. Illiterate, and lowly of origin as many of those heroes were, they, by their proven capacity for self-sacrifice and their regard for honour, furnished the completest possible answer to the inferiority imputed to them, and the most potent testimony to their worthiness of the status denied them.

Sincere devotees of freedom must be inspired by the same spirit, otherwise they but do violence to something very sacred. The "wisdom" of the merely "clever" inevitably proves to be no better than foolishness.

## EX-AGENT-GENERAL ON UNION ELECTIONS

Sir Syed Raza Ali, ex-Agent-General for India, made the following statement at Simla on the results of the South African election:—

"GENERAL HERTZOG'S success in the results of the South African general election will be received with satisfaction in India. The rout of the Nationalist party is remarkable and reminds us of going into the wilderness in England of the Conservatives in 1905 and of the Labourites in 1931. The majority obtained by the United Party substantially exceeds the most hopeful forecasts."

"Whether it would be an advantage to General Hertzog's Government to have such an unwieldy majority remains to be seen. Indeed, the evils of a huge majority were brought home in South Africa during the last two years when the Left Wing of his party found itself able to dictate to General Hertzog and

his Government on a number of inconvenient problems, including the Indian question. If General Hertzog and his successor—for the general is not likely to remain in office for a long time—are not faced with a threat by the Left Wing to join the Nationalist party, a peaceful and progressive administration for the next five years can safely be prophesied for the Government.

"The defeat of Colonel Stallard and Mr. Coulter, the leader and deputy leader of the Dominion party, respectively, will be deplored by all those who know the country. Both of them have been subjected to severe criticism for looking on South African politics through British glasses. How true this criticism may be in theory, the Dominion party has its enormous use as long as the Nationalists remain a communal party, namely, a group wedded to promoting the interests of Afrikaans-

speaking people only. On no Indian question did I ever appeal to Colonel Stallard or to Mr. Coulter in vain. It is, however, satisfactory to note that the Dominion party, as a whole, has added to its strength.

"Mr. Hofmeyr and Mr. Pirow are the rising hopes of the United Party and their return will be generally acclaimed throughout South Africa. Mr. Stuttaford, the present Minister for the Interior, had to fight against a tough and resourceful opponent and his return will be particularly welcome to the Indian community. Mr. Long is a tried journalist and is well-known for his sympathy with the Indians.

"No tears would be shed over the defeat of the Rev. Dutoit. An ex-Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, he goes out with the Bible in his hand and most uncharitable and un-Christian

doctrine on his lips. Very different is the other former Minister of the Church, namely, Dr. Malan, against whom the United Party forces were marshalled and who has fortunately succeeded in retaining his seat. It is pleasant to recall that Dr. Malan's outlook on the Indian question is essentially different from that of most of his followers. Indeed, though the Leader of the Oppo-

sition, he abstained from opposing the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill in 1936.

"General Hertzog will be the recipient of congratulations from all over the Commonwealth on his richly deserved triumph. General Smuts has been returned too by a comfortable majority. The only other three candidates in whose success India is generally

interested are Messrs. Leslie Blackwell, Derbyshire and Alexander. Mr. Alexander is a tried friend of our people. Mr. Derbyshire visited India as a member of the South African delegation in 1936 and Mr. Blackwell is a highly distinguished member of the United Party, who has befriended our people for several years at a considerable risk to his own position."

## S. PRITHWI SINGH—THE MAN OF ROMANCE

### ESCAPED REVOLUTIONARY SURRENDERS TO MAHATMA GANDHI

**A**FTER sixteen years of freedom an escaped prisoner, convicted in a conspiracy case, surrendered to Mahatma Gandhi recently when the latter was at Juhu. On Mahatma Gandhi's advice, he surrendered to the police and was arrested by the District Magistrate of Bombay suburban districts at Mahatma Gandhi's residence.

His name is Sardar Prithwi Singh who was convicted in the first Lahore conspiracy case in 1915. He served a portion of his sentence in the Andamans and was, thereafter, transferred to the Rajahmundry jail wherefrom he escaped in 1922. Since his escape he had been acting as gymnastic instructor in various schools of Bombay. He met Mahatma Gandhi on May 18, confessed his past and affirmed his renunciation of violence and his acceptance of the creed of non-violence. Mahatma Gandhi suggested his surrender to the authorities on the moral grounds, but the Mahatma says he will work for his freedom.

#### Lahore Conspiracy Case

The Lahore conspiracy trial of 1915 followed a bomb outrage in Lawrence Gardens, near the Government House, at Lahore.

The gardens are used by many Indians and Europeans for morning and evening walks. A gardener was injured as a result of the bomb explosion.

Another bomb exploded in the Anarkali Bazar, one of the business parts of Lahore.

The outrage was a sequel to the formation of a party, called the "Gaddar Party," in America in 1914. The members of the party were mostly Punjabis, and some of them, including Sikhs, returned to India and hatched a conspiracy to foment rebellion in the Indian army and kill European officers.

About 60 persons were arrested including Bhai Parmanand, the Hindu Mahasabha leader. Many were sentenced to death and others to transporta-

tion for life. In some cases, including that of Bhai Parmanand and Sardar Prithwi Singh, death sentences were commuted to transportation for life.

#### Mahatma Gandhi's Statement

Mahatma Gandhi has issued the following statement on the arrest of Sardar Prithwi Singh:—

"Sardar Prithwi Singh who has been just taken into custody by the Collector of Bombay suburban districts, is a life-sentenced prisoner in connection with the first Lahore conspiracy case in 1915. He served part of the sentence in the Andamans and, as a result of public agitation, that criminal settlement was closed. Sardar Prithwi Singh was transferred to Madras and then to Rajahmundry. There having grown tired of jail life, he made two attempts to abscond. He succeeded in his second attempt in 1922, and has ever since succeeded in eluding the police.

"He is a self-made man. He is a leading revolutionary and, for some time, has been revising his views on armed revolution and ultimately decided, in consultation with his friends, to surrender himself to me and be guided by me. After having had a full conversation with him, I decided to take charge of him and told him that, according to my view of life, there can be no secrecy and voluntary surrender to authorities was in itself a service to the country. He recognised the force of my opinion.

"He came to me on the morning of May 18 and I wrote to the District Magistrate on May 19 informing him that Sardar Prithwi Singh has surrendered himself to me and I was about to put myself in communication with the Government of India with a view to securing his discharge and if the District Magistrate could not legally allow Sardar Prithwi Singh to remain with me he was at liberty to take him into custody.

"The District Magistrate wrote to me to say that he had no authority to leave him free. He himself, accompanied by the Superintendent of Police, arrested him at our residence in Juhu."

#### A Romantic Man

"I have been given to understand that he will be treated as an 'A' class prisoner. I had asked Sardar Prithwi Singh to write an account of his career which is full of romance. So far as I can see he has not been guilty of anything of which he need be ashamed. He developed revolutionary ideas in Canada where he had migrated in his youth. He was witness to the illegal and shameful turning away of the *Kama Gata Maru* from the Canadian shore and he and a band of Indian settlers in Canada decided to return to India and lead a revolution.

"After absconding he had evidently made himself useful to the nation in various ways. He is a very powerfully built Rajput; five months of hunger-strike in the Andamans and injuries received during weathering scuffles with the police, or in escaping from custody, have left no visible trace of weakness on his body. He became a first-class gymnastic teacher, and he was giving physical training in many schools. He knew the art of massage. He gave training in physical culture in many schools.

#### Taken By His Sincerity

"To seek the relief of the political prisoners has come to me in the latter years of my life, as a God-sent mission. To strive for the early discharge of Sardar Prithwi Singh is the latest addition to this mission. He tells me that he is endeavouring to examine the period of non-violence for the deliverance of the country. He says that many of his past revolutionary companions are thinking along these lines. He has no other aims in life but the freedom of India. He was so much taken by sincerity with which he talked to me

that I had no difficulty in taking his word at its face value and I should love to have men like him as fellow-pilgrims in the pilgrimage to the Temple of Freedom.

#### How Arrest Was Effected

Mr. T. E. Streatfield, the District

Magistrate, accompanied by the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. J. Houson, arrived at Mahatma Gandhi's residence at Juhu. They were taken in and Mahatma Gandhi told them that Sardar Prithwi Singh was ready to accompany them wherever they liked.

The District Magistrate asked Sardar Prithwi Singh if he wanted time to get ready. Sardar Prithwi Singh told him he was ready, and, after reverently bowing before Mahatma Gandhi in token of leave-taking, he followed the officials to the waiting car.

## RHODESIA HINDU CONFERENCE

THE third session of the Southern Rhodesia Hindu Conference was held at the Royalty Theatre, Gatooma, on July 10 and 11. There were present delegates from all parts and a large number of spectators were also present. Two days boarding and lodging arrangements were made by Mr. C. Z. Patel and Mr. Bhana Kitya at their own expense.

On Sunday the Subjects Committee met and various resolutions dealing with the upliftment of the Indians in the Colony were discussed.

The open session was held at the Royalty Theatre the following day.

Mr. C. Z. Patel, chairman of the Reception Committee, accorded a hearty welcome to the delegates and other guests present. Mr. Harishanker Vidyarthi then opened the Conference with a few words of advice on unity.

The President Mr. Ashabhai delivered his lengthy speech in the course of which he said, the Southern Rhodesia Hindu Society had an important mission to fulfil in safeguarding and furthering the interests of their Hindu community in that Colony. He appealed to the Hindu community for greater co-operation and solidarity in their ranks. "Let not seeds of disunion and dissension be sown in our midst. Let us strive towards the goal we have set before ourselves. Let the words of Swami Vivekananda be our watchword.

"Arise, awake, and stop not," said the President.

"If we are to maintain the best traditions of our culture we must realise that to our youth we must trust the sacred guardianship. Can we honestly say that our younger generation is prepared to accept the trust? The formation of youth movements as advocated some three years ago by the first president, Mr. K. R. Vashee, must be given practical shape. A feeling of their responsibility must be inculcated in every Hindu youth for in them alone lies the future of our community. I direct this appeal to the older generation not to judge too harshly our youth of to-day but to lead them in the right direction and lend them every assistance to bring out their individuality. Just as the older generation is rather conservative the younger ones are more radical. There must be a certain amount of compromise between the two extremes.

"Our Hindu women have long borne the pangs of subjugation and thralldom. No race can expect to progress as long as the womenfolk are kept in submission and ignorance. I for a moment do not advocate the wholesale imitation of their Western sisters but to take their noble and undisputed place as the mothers of the race. The initiative taken by the Hindu women of Salisbury in forming a Hindu Women's Associa-

tion is worthy of mention. This movement is very commendable and I hope that other centres will not lag behind.

"Anent to this, the education of our girls must be of equal importance that of the boys. If boys are to be trained to the trades and professions surely the girls who are the future mothers must be given training in domestic science, housecraft and other useful instruction to fit them for their calling in life.

"It would be a great pity if parents do not encourage their children to take up their education seriously than at present. If we are to have that faith and confidence in our younger generation then it is imperative that they must be given every facility to prove their worth.

"May I express the hope that the conference will explore the possibility of creating a Bursary Fund so as to enable some of our promising pupils to proceed to the Motherland to study Sanskrit and religion and place the knowledge at our disposal on their return."

After other speeches were made the following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Mr. M. M. Patel (Salisbury) hon. secretary; Mr. Haribhai N. Patel (Salisbury) hon. treasurer; Mr. J. J. Davjeebhai Shengadia (Umtali) hon. auditor. The Conference terminated with a vote of thanks.

## Things In General

### Purchase Of Slum Properties

THE purchase of slum properties in Bell Street, Prince Street and Point Road, Durban, at a cost of £9,024, was recommended by the Finance Committee of the Durban City Council on Tuesday. The properties in Bell Street which the Indians have refused to vacate are not affected by this decision, as they were purchased by the Council a short while ago. The Council intends to erect houses of modern type for Indians in the Point area under a scheme estimated to cost £50,000.

[This is obviously a typographical error for the Council intends erecting houses, we are told, not for Indians but for Europeans.—Ed.]

### Meeting Of Indian Teachers

The annual meeting of the Natal Indian Teachers Society was held at Sastri College, on Thursday, July 7. Members were present from various schools in Natal. Mr. W. S. Seethal, the President of the Society, was in the chair and was supported on the platform by Messrs. A. Rai, T. M. Nafcker, E. J. Choonoo, G. V. Naidoo, E. Thomas (life vice-presidents), B. D. Lalla and Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, of Johannesburg. The apathy of many teachers in the affairs of the Society was referred to in the secretarial report. "We have 600 educated members, and what a force we could be in the Indian community if members took an intelligent interest in our Society; they could

have made their presence felt, instead of which we find teachers have let us down at various times," said Mr. Thomas. The Treasurer, Mr. E. Thomas, disclosed a credit balance of £108 7s. 9d. Mr. Thomas, however, was not without criticism of members who did not pay their fees in time. While 30 schools had paid 100 per cent. of their subscriptions, Mr. Thomas said that 32 schools had made no contributions whatsoever. The following were elected officials for the ensuing year: President, Mr. A. Rai; Vice-Presidents, B. D. Lalla, H. S. Done, R. Ragnath, N. N. Perumal, K. R. Nair and A. Aiden; Hon. General Secretary, Mr. N. K. Sham, B.A.; Assistant Secretary, Mr. S. Coopan, B.A.; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Wm. S. Seethal; Hon.

Auditor: Mr. V. Sirkari Naidoo, B.A. A Council of 25 members was also elected.

### Indian Educational Institutions

#### Wait On City Council

Three deputations asking for land from the Durban Corporation for the creation of new institutions and the expansion of existing institutions for Indian education, were received by the Durban City Council's Finance Committee last week. The first deputation asked for land for the construction of an Indian Technical College. The Committee decided, it is learned, to request the deputation to make their application to the Council through the Government, as the control of technical education was a State matter. An application for the use of two and a half acres of land abutting on the Sastri College as a sports ground for the Sastri College was favourably considered, and it is learned that the Committee has decided to recommend that the use of the ground be granted to Sastri College during the pleasure of the Council and with the restriction that it is not to be built upon. The third application was from the authorities of the Pine Street Indian school who asked to purchase a piece of land between the Botanical Gardens and the Indian sports grounds, to enable them to remove the school from its present situation. An inspection of the ground was made on Tuesday.

#### Indian Youth Council

The Natal Indian Youth League has now, after long deliberations decided to initiate a move towards the co-ordination of the various Indian youth organisations with a view to progress and further its interests of youths in the various spheres of activities. The proposed Youth Council will be a broad organisation, embracing all youth organisations interested in the various spheres of activities, such as sport, music, social, cultural, religious and political aims and objects. The Natal Indian Youth League invites all Indian youth organisation to send one delegate and one observer to a preliminary meeting to be held in the Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, on Sunday, August 28, at 10 a.m. Further particulars could be had from the secretary, 71, Albert Street, Durban.

#### Clock Tower At Currie's Fountain

A clock tower 23 feet high, with a three feet dial electric clock, costing £200, dedicated to the memory of the late Mrs. B. Bodasingh, wife of Mr. B. Bodasingh, of New Guelderland, was unveiled by the Mayoress, Mrs. G. Cyrus, at the Currie's Fountain Indian Sports Ground last Saturday afternoon. Speeches expressing profound appreciation for the gift made by Mr. Bodasingh were made by several officials of the Sports Association. Mr. S. L. Singh said their Association had made representations to the City Council for a

swimming bath at the sports ground but nothing had been done so far. This, he hoped, would be an accomplished fact at no distant date.

#### Natal Indian Congress

A general meeting, convened by the Chaka's Kraal Indian Sporting and Social Welfare Society, of the members of the Natal Indian Congress, residents of the Chaka's Kraal district, will be held at the Chaka's Kraal Government-Aided Indian School, on Sunday, July 24, at 1 p.m. Agenda:—Formation of branch; Affiliation of the Chaka's Kraal Indian Sporting and Social Welfare Society; Election of officials and General. Messrs. V. S. O. Pather, president, South African Indian Congress; S. J. Randeria, vice-president, Natal Indian Congress; A. I. Kejee and Advocate J. W. Godfrey, joint hon. secretaries of Natal Indian Congress, from headquarters will be present.

#### Natal's Cripples

That there are 2,321 native cripples in Natal and Zululand is revealed in the first comprehensive census just completed by the Natal Committee for the Care of Cripples. With 370 Europeans, 170 Indians and 77 Coloureds the total is brought up to 2,938. According to Mr. Arthur Elsbury, secretary of the committee, great difficulty was experienced in getting the names of many of the natives because of a belief that cripples were bewitched. He thinks, therefore, that particulars of quite a few native cripples were not divulged. The census was taken as the result of the gift of £100,000 to the Union by Lord Nuffield for the relief of cripples. The census was made possible through the co-operation in the last six months of the Natal Provincial authorities, magistrates, native commissioners and schoolmasters. Although Miss I. Nangle, secretary of the Central Committee for the Care of Cripples in London, and Professor Girdlestone have been back in England some time after investigating the problem here, no decision has yet been announced as to how the money is to be spent, says the *Natal Daily News*.

#### Empire's Power For Peace

Considerable diplomatic and political interest is being shown in a statement made by Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Secretary for Colonies, when addressing the Chamber of Commerce in Manchester. Mr. MacDonald, speaking on the future of the Dominions, said Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Eire, which had now been declared absolutely equal in status with Great Britain, had made up with Great Britain a British Empire of six sovereign nations, which necessarily now exerted the greatest influence on world affairs. But this group of nations, he added, had not come to anything like its full maturity, and British influence in the world was, therefore, still to some extent limited.

#### Japanese Flood Damage Estimated At £24,500,000

Material damage done in the Central and Western Japan by recent floods was estimated by the Home Minister, Mr. Suetsugu at 420,000,000 yen (about £24,500,000). It was announced at a Cabinet meeting that the government would defray 60,000,000 yen out of the Second Reserve Fund for the repair of public works which were damaged and destroyed. It was stated that 933 people were killed and 3,394 injured, and 9,124 houses destroyed.

#### Cholera Kills 21,000

The Cholera epidemic in the United Provinces of India is driving the inhabitants of North Gharwal Province to seek refuge in the neighbouring forests, notwithstanding the fact that it is infested with bears, states Reuter from Lucknow. In some cases the work of cremating the dead has been neglected owing to the villagers' haste to escape. More than 21,000 have already died of the disease, and army and voluntary workers have been organised under official direction to check the spread of the disease.

## Obituary

#### Death Of Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee's Father

The sad news of the death of Mr. Framrose Sapurji Poonawala, beloved father of Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, was received by cable last Monday. We join the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee in offering them and to the members of their family our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

#### Death Of Mr. Justice Ivan Curlewis

Mr. Justice Ivan Curlewis died in Pretoria last Saturday night after a brief but severe bout of malaria. The elder son of the ex-Chief Justice, Mr. Curlewis and Mrs. Curlewis, the late Mr. Justice Ivan Curlewis was only 42 years old, and the youngest judge on the South African bench to which he was elevated only a few months ago. The deepest sympathy of hosts of friends is extended to his parents, ex-Chief Justice Curlewis and Mrs. Curlewis, and members of his family. His father, the ex-Chief Justice of the Union, retired from his high office at the time when his late son was appointed to the bench.

#### Death Of An Old Muslim High Priest

News of the death in India of Imam Moulana Ahmed Mukhtar, at the age of 90, was received by cable by the President of the Moslem Brotherhood Union, Durban. Moulana Mukhtar was Chief Priest at the Grey Street Mosque until he retired to India six months ago. He was the founder of the Durban Moslem Brotherhood Union, the Moslem Orphanage, the Moslem Service Society and the Youth League.

# Doings In India

## Mahatmaj's Reply To Critic Of The Congress

WE cull the following from a reply given by Mahatma Gandhi to a critic of the Indian National Congress in the Central provinces: "I wholly endorse the correspondent's proposition that the Congress can only rule "by reason and moral influence." He and critics like him may rest assured that the Congress will die a natural and deserved death if and when it substitutes reason and moral influence by goondaism (hooliganism.) One more point. The Congress is composed of ordinary mortals. They share the virtues and vices of the nation which they seek to represent. But after all is said and done, it will not be denied that it is the oldest political organisation in the country. It is the most representative. It has drawn to itself the best talent in the country. It has the highest amount of sacrifice to its credit. Above all it is the one organisation that has offered the greatest resistance to foreign rule and exploitation. Whilst all honest criticism is to be welcomed, I would like to remind the correspondent and other critics that it is open to them to join the Congress and criticise it from within and to try to rid it of all the removable limitations they may discover in it."

## No Compromise on Freedom Issue

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, interviewed by Reuter at Geneva, said that his visit was private and added: "if I am invited to meet any distinguished personages in London to discuss the problems of my country I shall be delighted to do so. We Indians are fighting for our independence and will not rest till we have obtained it. On this there is no possibility of compromise."

## "Fundamentals Have Not Changed"

"It is not enough if an individual wrong is righted or that a few laws are changed. The Congress seeks to right the national wrong. I can see no prospect of this through the medium of Congress Ministries functioning through the Government of India Act." stated Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Minister for Local self Government, United Provinces, in an interview to the *Associated Press*. She added, "my experience of eleven months as Minister has confirmed all the doubts I had as to the wisdom of the Congress accepting office. The difficulties which I had merely imagined have materialised and daily I am confronted with them. It is true that Congress Ministries have been able to accomplish a measure of good, and a certain amount of confidence has been created in the minds of those who

had lost all hopes of a fair deal in the past. But the fundamentals have not changed.

## Power Of Congress

In the course of an address at Chittagong Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Congress President said the Congress was never so powerful as it was now, having control over seven provinces in the country. The Congress, he added, got this power from the poor masses and it should never grudge the discharge of this debt.

## Communalism On Last Legs

Addressing a large gathering at Feni (Noakhali), Mr. Bose said that the Flag was the symbol of national freedom and that its sanctity must be preserved at all costs. Replying to five addresses of welcome which were presented to him by various institutes, Mr. Bose narrated the achievements of the Congress and said that whatever might be the strength of British rule the people of India would not leave aside their birthright, namely, the agitation for independence. He declared that their goal of independence was not far off and urged all of them, men and women, to be prepared to face the situation that might await them. Later, in an interview upon the subject of release of detenus and political prisoners, Mr. Bose said that the negotiations between Mahatma Gandhi and the Government were still being considered, and that in view of the situation he would ask his countrymen to have patience until the final decision was made known. As regards the communal settlement he said that as long as the negotiations were in progress it would be neither possible nor desirable to make any disclosure. He added that much of what had appeared in the Press in this connection was both wrong and misleading. He added that he was full of hope for the future and felt that communalism was on its last legs.

## Promotion Of Industries

The Government of Bombay have created an Industrial Advisory Board for this province with Sir Chunilal V. Mehta as Chairman. The Board consists of fifteen members including prominent industrialists, merchants and the Director of Industries. The Deputy Director of Industries will be the Secretary of the Board. The functions of the Board will be to advise the Government on (1) all new schemes and proposals relating to industrial development in the province of Bombay, (2) all matters of policy affecting various sections of the Department of Industries, (3) all matters of public interest in connection with the Department of Industries and

such other matters on which Government desire to have the opinion of the Board. The Board will constitute sub-committees for (a) marketing handloom products, (b) selection of chemistry and electrical engineering scholars and such other work as the Board may consider necessary.

## Tenants To Be Masters Of Land

Explaining the importance of the Tenancy Bill to be introduced by the U. P. Government to about ten thousand peasants in Pukrayan Tehsil, Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Revenue Minister, said that the Bill might be somewhat detrimental to the interests of landlords but it would afford much relief to tenants. One important feature of the Bill, was that tenants would pay only one-fifth of their produce to (Government) while four-fifths will be theirs. The tenants would be masters of the land and have hereditary rights. Continuing the Revenue Minister said that Government propose to open an industrial bank for workers with a capital of ten lakhs and a co-operative bank with a capital of one crore of rupees which would enable tenants to obtain cash on cheap rates of interest to purchase cattle and seeds.

## Bombay—Durban Flight

A non-stop solo flight from Bombay to Durban is contemplated by Mr. Meno Aryan, a young Iranian, who was till recently in the Iranian Air Force. Mr. Meno has already to his credit several cross country flights the last one being about 18 months ago when he flew from Teheran to Russia, covering the entire route in nine hours. Mr. Meno is now looking for an aeroplane suitable for his enterprise. He obtained a pilot's licence at Karachi in 1930.

## Scientists' Meeting

The British Association for the Advancement of Science have, for the first time, extended an invitation to the Indian Science Congress Association to send their representatives to the next annual session of the Association, to be held in Cambridge from August 17 to 24 next, under the general presidency of Lord Raleigh. The Indian Science Congress Association, it is understood, have elected the following to represent them at the Cambridge Session:—Mr. T. S. Venkataraman, sugarcane expert of the Government of India; Dr. B. C. Guha, professor of Applied Chemistry at Calcutta University, and Mr. W. D. West, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of India and General Secretary of the Association.



# The Sporting World

## Keen Natal Cup Matches.

KEEN soccer matches were witnessed at Currie's Fountain on Saturday afternoon in the Natal Cup fixtures, two games being drawn. On the main ground, in the district final of the juvenile division, Stella and Rangers fought out a draw, neither side scoring. Daffodils and Avondale renewed their struggle in the senior section, the latter winning a hard match by two goals to one. Daffodils were the first to score through the medium of a penalty, but close to lemon time Avondale equalised. In the second half Avondale, helped by a slight breeze, scored their second and winning goal. Star and Stella could not gain any advantage over one another, the final score being two-all. Star opened aggressively and harassed the Stella defence, but a sudden breakaway saw Stella open their account. Stars kept up the pressure, the Stella backs making a blunder to enable an opposing forward to level the scores. Stella were dangerous with rapid breaks and it was from one of these that they regained the lead. Star eventually equalised. The result necessitates a replay. In the junior division, Sastri College avenged themselves against their rivals, winning by the only goal scored. Among the juniors, two league fixtures were played: Daffodils beating Robertsons by two goals to nil, while Warwickshire had to struggle hard to overcome All Blacks, by three goals to one.

## Five-A-Side Soccer.

The annual five-a-side soccer tournament of the Pietermaritzburg District Indian Football Association will be held on Monday, August 1, at the Indian Sports Ground, Pietermaritzburg. The competition will be played for the late S. P. Thompson Cup (senior), the O. Nullich Cup (junior), and for the A. V. Moodley Cup (juvenile).

## Verulam Temple Football Club

A soccer match was witnessed at the Ottawa Indian Ground on Sunday, July 17, where the Verulam Temple Football Club "A" and "B" met the Nightingale Sporting Club "A" and "B" of Mayville in a friendly fixture. Both "B" teams took the field first, which resulted in favour of the visitors, by 1-0. When both "A" teams took the field, some excellent football was witnessed, these teams were evenly matched in their defences and displayed better combinations, which resulted in a draw, 1-1.

Mr. R. L. Beharee, hon. secretary of the Verulam Temple Cricket Club, wishes to notify the officials and members of the club, that the annual general meeting of the above will be held on Sunday, July 31, at 2 p.m., at the Shree Gopal

By "Rambler"

lal Hindu Temple Hall, Verulam. All are earnestly requested to attend.

## Soccer At Rhodesia

During the Rhodes and Founders holidays (July 11 and 12), a team representing Bulawayo travelled to Salisbury to play for Mr. Ashabhai inter-town trophy, as well as to complete in a friendly match with an Umtali XI. On Founders Day (Tuesday, July 12) a Bulawayo XI met an Umtali XI, at 10 a.m., at the Indian Ground, Salisbury. The match was won by Bulawayo, by a big margin of 7-2. In the afternoon at 2.30 p.m. on the Alexandra Ground, Bulawayo met Salisbury. Both sides were more or less evenly matched. The play was not fast, but Bulawayo showed themselves better in defence as well as forward play. When the final whistle blew, Bulawayo came off victorious by 3-1 goals. Immediately after the match the cup was presented to the winning side by the donor, Mr. Ashabhai. Bulawayo has now won this cup for three times in succession.

## Dannhauser Sports.

The annual sports meeting of the Dannhauser Indian School took place at the Cambrian Hotel grounds on Wednesday, July 13. There was a large attendance of parents and others. Messrs. S. Abdul and S. C. Vawda presented the prizes. The headmaster paid tribute to the work done by the late Mr. S. C. Vawda, the school manager and thanked the members of the School Committee for providing the children with light refreshments.

## Non-European Boxing

The non-European amateur boxing and wrestling tournament held at Currie's Fountain on Saturday night staged by Mr. George Maistry in aid of the R.A.F. Dependents Fund attracted a poor crowd of spectators. The programme consisted of five boxing contests and two wrestling bouts which were evenly contested. The refereeing and judging was done by Messrs. Eddie Hagan, Tommy Brongh, Dynamite Fine and M. K. Tommy. Apart from paying minor expenses the net profits amounted to £4 10s. which amount has been forwarded to the President of the Natal Amateur Boxing Association, Mr. Eddie Hagan.

## Boxing At City Hall

It is understood that Mr. Nat Moodley is staging a non-European professional

boxing tournament in the Durban City Hall on July 30, at 7.30 p.m. Kid Khan, of Durban, and O. P. Naidoo, of Pietermaritzburg, will meet in a return contest over ten rounds. The other bouts are as follows:—10 rounds: D. Kid Ally vs. P. M. Pillay; 6 rounds: D. Barton vs. H. Singh; 8 rounds: Cecil Jonosky (Transvaal) vs. Israel Mashabane (Bantu Social Centre). The promoter states that all the contestants are in fine trim and that the sporting public of Durban will witness a really fine show.

## Cape Promoter In Durban

Mr. H. M. Harris, the well-known Cape promoter, arrived in Durban on Friday last. Mr. Harris especially came to Durban to arrange a fight between Mannie Dixon and Bud Gengan. The fight will take place in Capetown sometime in October. In Johannesburg, Mr. Harris interviewed many well-known non-European boxers, and on August, it is his intention to have a boxing contest in the City Hall, Capetown. The star bout for the evening will be between, Cecil Jonosky (Joburg) and Sunny Thomas (Capetown). The preliminaries are as follows:—Gorilla Thompson vs. Benny Herbert; Battling George vs. Johnny Solomon; Mentor vs. Vermy Du Freeze; Fred Wolhuter vs. F. Slinger.

## Indian Lads' Hostel

Messrs. Ganas Naidoo and S. O. Maharaj expect a big attendance at the forthcoming non-European boxing tournament in aid of Motala's Lads' Hostel and Child Welfare Fund. The tournament will be held in the Pinetown Hall on July 30. Several well-known Indian, Coloured and Native pugilists have signified their willingness to take part in the evening's contests.

## Eastward Bound

Mr. R. N. Naidoo, vice-president of the Mayville District Indian Sports Ground Association, sailed in the *Ipcomati* for India on Wednesday, July 13. Mr. Naidoo, who is accompanied by his wife, hopes to return to the Union in four months time.

## Hill View Government-Aided Indian School Building Fund

(Continued from last week.)

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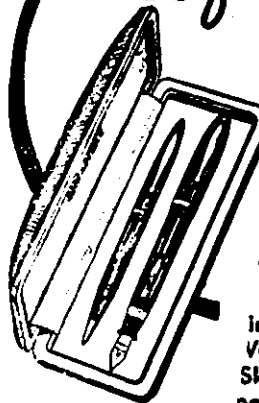
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