

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 51.—Vol. XXXVI.

Friday, December 30th, 1938.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.
Price Fourpence.

NOTES AND NEWS

A Christmas Message

THE *Forum* of December 24 publishes a Christmas message by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr M.P., from which we cull the following:—

"It was Christianity that declared to all men, whatever their estate, that no human being can ever be a mere chattel, that in everyone there is an inviolable essence—an immortal soul—which makes him heir of all the ages. That message of Christianity, which is the real inspiration of the ideal of freedom, is still valid to-day, and as at the Christmas season we joyfully receive again its good news and reaffirm our belief in the inevitability of Christian principles, we cannot but have our faith restored and confirmed in the ultimate triumph of freedom over the assaults of the new barbarism of to-day. In the spirit of Christmas we reject decisively the myth of race-superiority, in the spirit of Christmas we believe that tyranny and oppression, menacing though they appear at the moment, must run their course. In the spirit of Christmas we await with confidence the day when the ideal of liberty will prevail over the earth as the waters cover the sea. But, of course, if we accept that Christmas message, we must not fail also to apply it to our relations in our own land with the less privileged elements of its population. If we assert the ideal of freedom for ourselves, we must also extend freedom to them—freedom to develop the best that is in them. If man, irrespective of colour or race, has an inviolable personality given him by God, then he has the right to the development of that personality to the limit of his capacity, and no one of us dare say to him nay. In the Voortrekker wagon procession as it passed through Pretoria there was a float purporting to depict segregation. On it were two pictures side by side, but with a very clear barrier of division between them—the one picture was of a beautiful European homestead, the other of a Native hut with primitive Natives gathered round it. I asked myself whether, but for the Natives, homesteads such as that depicted would be in existence to-day. But I asked myself also whether segregation meant that

for all time the Natives were to continue to live as the picture showed them. And I could only reply that, if that were so, then, whatever else it may be, segregation is not a Christian policy."

Messages From Gandhiji And Pandit Nehru

The *Tanganyika Opinion*, the mouth-piece of Indians in Tanganyika territory has celebrated its fifteenth anniversary by publishing a Special Number containing many articles of interest. The paper publishes a message from Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru which though addressed to Indians in East Africa may well be taken note of by Indians throughout Africa. We reproduce the messages below:

From Mahatma Gandhi

"I am unable to guide you off hand. I can only say therefore that the local persons are the best men to decide. The caution that I would like to utter is that, whilst the local men are the best persons to decide, they are expected in anything that they may do not to compromise the dignity and honour of the Nation as a whole. Experience has hardened my faith in Ahimsa. From all that is happening around me I do not learn the lesson of Himsa, but of Ahimsa. I may be totally wrong, but I have no knowledge or feeling of wrong about me."

From Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

"I think it should be made perfectly clear to all concerned in East Africa that Indians have not gone there to injure the interests of the inhabitants of the country in any way. If necessary, the Indians ought to be prepared to have a back place so far as the natives of the country are concerned. On no account should there be rivalry between the two. Indians who go to foreign countries go there not to exploit the inhabitants of those countries but to live in co-operation with them for the mutual advantage of both. We go on those terms abroad. We want no one to come to India to exploit us. I shall be very glad if the greatest emphasis is laid on this position and every assurance is given to native chiefs.

Indian Flower Sellers' In Maritzburg

The recent action of the Town Council of Maritzburg in removing the Indian flower sellers from the centre of the town to the Market Square has provoked protests from several Europeans including a distinguished personality like Mr. Justice Jarvis. A correspondent signing himself as Alfred Lister writes the following letter in the *Natal Witness*:

"I wish to associate myself in the protest by Mr. Justice Jarvis and Colonel Fulford, against the arbitrary action of the Town Council in removing the Indian flower sellers to the Market Square. The bright array of flowers in the centre of the city is one of our beauty spots, and has often won favourable comment from our visitors. Besides how many ladies will tramp to the square to buy flowers? The Indian flower sellers cater for and supply a want which is not met by our florists. These poor people have as much right to live and make a living as we have. Why, then, should they be deprived of this right? I trust that the Town Council will ponder these Hitler methods, rescind their resolution, and allow the flower sellers to remain where they are.—(Sgd.) ALFRED LISTER.

General Hertzog On Indian Culture

We cull the following interesting note from the *Prabuddha Bharata*:

Not long ago Swami Adyananda of the Ramakrishna Mission received from General Hertzog, Premier of the Union of South Africa, a very appreciative letter about Indian thought and culture, in acknowledgment of the former's gift of the three volumes of "The Cultural Heritage of India" to the latter. We reproduce the greater part of the letter below for our readers who may find it interesting:

"Dear Mr. Adyananda,—Since receiving your kind gift, the three volumes of "The Cultural Heritage of India," I have been very greatly interested in their contents, and desire to convey to you my hearty appreciation for the fine

Continued on page 484)

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 1938

The Rustenburg Case

IT is with grief and a sense of shame that we are having to discuss this case in these columns. The case which is reported elsewhere has ended in the conviction of five Indians out of thirtyone who were originally arrested, and these five have been sentenced. The charge was that of public violence or, alternately, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The story is that Indians who were constantly molested by European youths who pelted stones at their residential quarters by night had complained to the police authorities, and since that did not have any salutary effect they took the law into their own hands and sought to find out the culprits and suitably punish them. In doing so, we are told, that an innocent youth fell a prey and was most cruelly beaten by these Indians.

Of course individual cases of assaults are becoming quite a common occurrence now-a-days; in fact, lately, hardly a day passes when even murders are not reported. In such cases the law takes its own course and no further notice is taken. The case in question, however, has gained some public significance and it cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed.

Indians in South Africa, generally, have had the reputation of being a peaceful and law abiding community. The highest authorities have admitted this fact and this tribute has been paid by South African statesmen when the Indian question was discussed at the various Imperial Conferences. Our brethren in South Africa should not only feel proud in this fact but they should be zealous in trying to keep up that reputation and not mar it by any thoughtless act. It is for this reason that we have stated above that it is with grief and a sense of shame that we are having to notice in these columns this Rustenburg affair. Not even the worst provocation justifies the taking of the law into one's own hands, which amounts to hooliganism, and we would certainly wish to see Indians being the last to indulge in it. It would be wise if a lesson were to be taken by our brethren wherever they may be not to do anything that might be provocative

even to the extent of denying themselves certain liberties which they may be entitled to but which would do them no harm in not taking them. This would go very far in preventing the the causes of bitterness or strife. We in South Africa should never lose sight of the fact that we are representatives of a country whose great civilisation and culture we so often boast of. We should also remember that we belong to a country wherefrom Mahatma Gandhi is preaching the doctrine of non-violence to the whole world and that we in South Africa were his first soldiers in a non-violent struggle which he carried on for our rights and interests in this country and emerged victorious. We should therefore be the ones to set an example in non-violence to this country and not to mimic the Westerners in resorting to methods of violence.

Having said this much to our brethren there is one fact which we must bring to the consideration of the authorities. That is that Indians who are voteless, voiceless and even weaponless—for firearms for protection are very sparingly granted to Indians—they must at least expect adequate police protection against wild demonstrations inspired by bitter race prejudices. In the present case it was observed that Indians were constantly molested by night by European youths pelting stones at their residential quarters, and previous to that there had already been a case of assault by a European on Indians. Perhaps the matter would not have come to this stage had there been adequate police protection from the beginning. Then again owing to this case and the public feeling being roused almost all the Indians were obliged to clear out of Rustenburg and the Court refused to release on bail even those arrested unless they too went out of Rustenburg, untill the date of the hearing of their case. Had there been adequate protection given to the Indians of the town they would not have had to leave their shops and homes and fly away elsewhere for safety. This does not speak well of the efficiency of the police authorities and smacks more of Nazism than anything else. Whilst, we have, therefore, much to say to our own brethren in regard to their behaviour we have as much

if not more to complain about the lack of a sense of duty on the part of the authorities in so far as Indians are concerned. Let us hope this case will afford a lesson to both.

Gandhiji's And Nehru's Messages

IN our Notes we have reproduced from *Tanganyika Opinion*, messages to Indians outside India, from Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Both the messages are worth keeping before us in our every day life. Gandhiji tells us that, we are expected in anything that we may do not to compromise the dignity and honour of the Nation as a whole. There is a great deal of meaning in this and all our responsible public men when they enter into agreements with Government on questions affecting the community should not see to the material interests of a few which may be involved, as is invariably done, but to see to the honour and dignity of the whole nation.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gives us another very sound advice, namely, that in as much as we do not like anyone to come to India to exploit us so should we not go to foreign countries to exploit the inhabitants of those countries, but that we should live in co-operation with them for the mutual advantage of both. Thus in South Africa our action should not be such as would injure the interests of the Natives in any way and if need be we should be prepared even to have a back place in so far as they are concerned. We have hitherto never had the charge laid against us of being exploiters of any section of the people of this country. Under many restrictions we have with difficulty been able to earn a livelihood and in doing so our relations with the Natives have always been the happiest. The Natives are now fast advancing intellectually and they have every right to claim all the rights and privileges that other sections are enjoying. In this we should not only not be grudging but we should give them all the help and support in their just cause.

Both these messages have come to us when we are on the threshold of a New Year and may they be helpful to us both in our thought and in our action thus making easier our uphill fight for our existence in this country and bringing happiness and prosperity to all.

MY POLITICAL FAITH

By

J. H. HOFMEYER M.P.

I HAVE been trying to formulate in specific terms the things for which I more especially stand in political life. That is something which every politician should do from time to time. And he should not evade the issue by pointing to the programme of principles of the party to which he belongs. After all, rightly conceived, one's party is merely the particular instrument which one finds best fitted for the attainment of one's individual political ideals.

Among those political ideals I would put first the desire that the time may come as speedily as possible when the terms 'Afrikaans-speaking' and 'English-speaking' will very largely have lost their meaning in the political life of South Africa. To-day we still tend to divide South Africans into two classes on the basis of the language which they speak. The very fact that in ever-increasing numbers they are able to speak both languages deprives that classification of most of its value.

But there is something more important than being able to speak both languages, and that is the attitude of mind which makes us regard both languages as *our* languages because they are the languages of South Africa.

General Hertzog once spoke of Afrikaans as his language by birth and English as his language by right. The implication was that they were both his languages. That is the true spirit of South Africanism. When that spirit prevails throughout South Africa, we shall no longer need to talk of the ideal of national unity, because essential unity, will in fact have been realised.

If national unity is my first ideal, tolerance is the second. The two things are inter-connected. National unity implies tolerance as between the two main sections of our European people in South Africa to-day—but tolerance must also prevail in the relations between those two major elements regarded as a unit and the minority and unprivileged elements in the community.

I think first in that connection of the reproach of anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is to-day stronger in South Africa than in any part of the British Commonwealth. It has been wafted by evil winds from across the seas like the seeds of some poisonous plant but it has taken deeper lodgment in the soil of our popular mentality than, having regard to our national antecedents, one would ever have believed possible.

It is a danger to South Africa—if only because all too often in other countries anti-Semitism has been used to prepare the ground for dictatorship—it is also a reproach, a derogation from our

worthiness as a free nation. We must use every effort to ensure that South Africa does not relapse into the new barbarism of anti-Semitic persecution. We must keep the banner of our national honour unsullied by that blot.

But there is also the question of our attitude to the non-European peoples of this land. It is that which presents to our South African nation its supreme, its most crucial test. It is by our response to that test, more than by anything else, that we shall be judged before the bar of history.

We are told sometimes that it must be the aim of our policy to save European civilisation in South Africa. It is natural that we should wish to do so. But to preserve European civilisation is not the same as to preserve the privileged position of the European living in South Africa. If we seek to do the latter on some basis other than that of merit and desert, if we deny essential human rights to unprivileged elements in our population, then the structure which we are erecting will be found to have the seeds of decay at its base. It is a poor sort of European civilisation which you protect at the cost of the essential principles of justice and tolerance and fair play, which alone can make that civilisation worth while.

The adoption by South Africa of the concept of trusteeship in native policy is a recognition of these facts. But we must be on our guard against the use of the term trusteeship as a conscience-stiffening mumbo-jumbo. We must not allow trusteeship to become simply an excuse for keeping the native in his place—a place of inferiority and subjection. The guardian must envisage the day when his ward will grow up, and be able to look after his own affairs. Trusteeship cannot be permanent. We must face fearlessly the implications of that fact.

I think next of my position in regard to social and economic policy. In the sphere of economics our policy has of late been almost entirely the resultant of forces exercised by various pressure-groups. In the conditions which have prevailed in the world, that has perhaps been unavoidable, but we shall gradually have to build up a freer and more natural economic system.

In the sphere of social welfare there is great work still to be done. There are far too many people in South Africa who have not attained even the meanest standards of health and civilised living. We must work to enable them to attain adequate standards, and that, in as

many cases as possible, not by charity or patronage but by right and from the working of a sound economic system. Above all we must reject, and reject decisively, the doctrine that we cannot spend more on social services for non-Europeans than the amount they produce in taxation. No nation applies that principle to the poorest classes of its population.

Finally, there are the questions which arise with reference to South Africa's position in relation to the world outside. I start with the realisation that the barriers of South Africa's isolation have broken down. We cannot, if we would, live unto ourselves alone. That also is a fact which we should be ready to face boldly and without fear.

There is our position in Africa. Ours is the one settled and firmly established European civilisation south of the Sahara. Surely it is not without a purpose that we are here. Surely we are called increasingly to leadership, at least in the southern half of the continent, and that not in any spirit of aggression, nor with any desire to extend our borders, but simply in readiness to lend our aid to other African communities with whom we are united by common interests in a common task.

There is our position in the British Commonwealth of Nations. That I regard as a settled fact, by virtue of the acceptance of the concept of free association. For all practical purposes to-day there are no legal bonds of Empire. Such as still exist we are in fact free to break at any moment, if we were foolish enough to do so. The real bonds uniting the Commonwealth are freedom, friendship and faith. These we should do all in our power to maintain and strengthen.

There remains our position in the world. Whether we like it or not, we live in a world where there is a conflict of ideologies—a struggle between democracy and dictatorship. Of course we all desire earnestly that the conflict shall not be resolved by war; it is none the less an issue which constantly presents itself to each one of us, one on which we cannot evade the necessity of assuming position. And when we have regard to the democratic, liberty-loving traditions of the peoples from which most of us are descended, we can only take a firm stand on the side of democracy. South Africa can have no truck with dictatorship, nor with the ideals of dictatorship.

There then, compressed within necessarily brief limits, are the political ideals for which I stand. I could sum it all up in a few words: National unity, tolerance, freedom, these three—and the greatest of these is freedom.

—Natal Daily News.

THE RUSTENBURG CASE

5 SENTENCED 26 DISCHARGED

MR. V. R. VERSTER, Acting Magistrate of Rustenburg, gave judgment on December 23 in the case in which 21 Indians appeared on a charge of public violence or, alternately, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The Crown asked him to find there had been premeditated violence on the night of November 19, said Mr. Verster. He was asked to deduce this from the evidence that there had been a crowd of Indians at a certain spot, that they were armed with pick-handles and sticks, that in one of the two cars from which the Indians issued to go toward an injured European boy there were sticks and empty bottles which were subsequently used, and that there had been a background of complaints by the In-

dians to the police and to the Magistrate of molestation and assault on them by European youths some time before.

It would, however, be dangerous to find that the occurrence was a premeditated one and he would therefore decide the case on the basis of assault by these Indians, against whom the evidence proved they had participated in the assault.

He then proceeded to examine the evidence and found the case had been proved. Four of the Indians were convicted for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and one for common assault.

One of the Indians was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, and another was fined £50 (or

six months), a third £25 (or three months) and others to six and eight cuts respectively.

In sentencing them, Mr. Verster said he would not allow anyone to take the law into his own hands and pointed out that the European youth had been caned for assaulting Indians. The assault was serious, the boy Gouws having had his leg and arm broken. Ludick was also injured by a blow from a stone which hit him on his mouth as he ran away.

The boys had done nothing and had not taken part in an assault or molestation on Indians.

Originally 31 Indians had been charged, of whom nine were discharged at the close of the Crown case and 17 at the close of the whole case.

A CZECH'S ARGUMENT

It is a curious coincidence that a little before Gandhiji wrote that article "If I were a Czech" stating the position of an imaginary Pacifist Czech, the *Peace News* published an interview with a Czech, who was a Pacifist but who had not remained one for reasons he had stated. He said that he knew that war was sin, that there was nothing about it which was good, or heroic or excusable, but "if my country must fight, I shall fight. I shall fall into this sin, knowing that it is a sin." His wife said: "I was always for peace. Never to kill, I said. Now I say, yes, go; yes, fight. It is better to fight than to live as slave." "Listen to my reasons," the Czechoslovak said. "War is the religion of the Nazis. You may make economic concessions to Germany but it will not change their minds on this point. They will take all, all. If we submit they will come into our country and make it what they have made of their own, a prison for minds. If we fight, some of us will die. And why not? If I cannot read, speak, think freely I would rather die. I would rather Anna and the boys died.....You cannot make peace with these people. In the end they will not let you.....I say, keep out these slaves who will make slaves of us, who will take away Heine from our shelves, who will imprison our pastors, who will bring our children up to believe in war so that their tender minds are twisted and corrupted beyond cure. I would rather my children were killed by Nazi bombs like the children in Spain than edu-

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By M. D. In "Harijan"  
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cated by Nazi methods.....*Shall I submit by myself, I with my few pacifist comrades? You see, they are few even if they are thousands. Or shall I run together with all my other friends to defend all that my country has believed and made? And when I look in my mind I know I could not submit. And I know I could not endure a life without freedom. To take away my Heine!*"

I have condensed the Czechoslovak's argument in his own words, and to this interviewer, apparently a Pacifist too, said there was no reply, there could be none!

Without meaning any offence, one is inclined to exclaim, 'wonderful Pacifists these!' The words I have italicised show that there is no question, in case of the non-violence of the brave, of *submission to wrong or tyranny, of enduring a life without freedom, of living as slaves.* I would invite all "pacifists" to read, chew and inwardly digest Gandhiji's words: "*I would not be a vassal to any nation or body. I must have absolute independence or perish.* To seek to win with a clash of arms would be pure bravado, Not so, if defying the might of one who would deprive me of my independence *I refuse to obey his will and perish unarmed in the attempt.* In-

so doing though I lose the body, I save my soul, i.e. my honour."

Far better than ignoble or cowardly submission would be fighting an unequal battle with the enemy; but if the will and the strength to die be there, far more heroic than fighting with arms would be to refuse to bend the knee to Baal and to fill his belly with willing sacrifices until it bursts. This technique has not yet been tried in international conflict. The net result of perishing unarmed would surely be glory and a unique example to the world of non-submission to tyranny at the price of a few or many lives, and without any cost in the shape of munitions of war-material; that of armed warfare could only be a doubtful possibility of victory at an incalculable cost of lives, munitions and money, and at even greater cost of keeping alive the embers of hatred and revenge. The case of Abyssinia is pertinent. In no case would the material loss of Abyssinia have been greater than it has been, had the Abyssinians refused to take up arms and challenged the Italians to enter Abyssinia by marching over the dead bodies. Whereas the moral gain would have been something incalculable, even if Italy had chosen the ignoble part of occupying a sepulchral but martyred Abyssinia.

The ignoble peace arranged at Munich affords all pacifists a unique opportunity, if they will seize it, of working out a non-violent technique for the settlement of all conflicts, including armed aggression.

WHAT MAHATMA GANDHI TOLD FRONTIER PEOPLE

"I AM DOCTOR OF PEACE"

MAHATMA GANDHI'S forceful and at times deeply moving Bannu speech (during his recent tour of the Frontier Province), the longest he had made during the past several years, dealing mainly with arson, murder, raids and kidnappings was full of many neat, and pithy epigrams consistent with his life philosophy and outlook on men and affairs. Some of them are hereunder:

* * *

In no case whatever am I prepared for making cowards of people. As for me I do not want to meet a single coward.

* * *

If the bandits kidnap my wife or grand-daughter and demand ransom they cannot have it from me. Of course, they can have my head.

* * *

The world cannot march onward in

peace with the weak and strong living side by side.

* * *

I cannot believe the bandits will remain bandits from generation to generation. We can melt their hearts through language alone. I regard them as much my brothers as any.

* * *

He who has made non-violence his weapon and shield is capable of performing the greatest deeds.

* * *

The Congress Ministry is of the people's making. You can end it at your will. Even I myself may ask Dr. Khan Saheb, who is your Chief Khidmitgar, and not your Chief Minister, to relieve himself of his work, but remember his prestige is your prestige.

* * *

Khan Saheb (Gandhiji addresses Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan by his name) has

removed the sword from the Khudai Khidmatgars' hands but if they have not removed it from their hearts and are only awaiting for an opportunity to take it up again, it would be both grievously dangerous and untruthful.

* * *

Subhas Bose is to-day the "King of India." If people demand that he should go, he can go at any moment for he has neither sword nor firearm.

* * *

I claim to be a doctor of peace and I try to diagnose the malady to the best of my capacity.

* * *

I wish I could go to these people (tribesmen) with my message of love and non violence, but the British Government would not let me. If I turn a rebel they would throw me in gaol. —United Press of India.

FROM FAR-OFF NEW ZEALAND

The following letter was received by Mahatma Gandhi from Dr. Kalidas Nag from Auckland:

“**A**FTER the Commonwealth Relations Conference, I joined the delegates from New Zealand who were returning, and they did their best to make my visit useful and interesting. While visiting the cities of Australia, I was glad to meet Indians in Freemantle, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. They spoke to me about their difficulties resulting from the 'White Australia policy.' Pandit Kunzru and myself, supported whole-heartedly by two Muslim fellow delegates (Ghyasuddin adn Amjed Ali), entered emphatic protests against such degrading racial discriminations.

Coming to New Zealand I found the condition of the Indians slightly better. The old settlers and their children have citizenship rights, but they cannot bring any new member of their family or other friends to help them in developing their business. Parsis and Sindhis

generally found amongst our Indian groups abroad are conspicuous by their absence here in New Zealand, where the majority are Gujaratis from Surat Navasari together with a few Punjabis, engaged in dairy farming, while the Gujaratis are specializing in vegetables and fruit selling business. A few Indian students from Fiji come to study medicine and other technical subjects here.

On Sunday the 25th September the Indian residents of Wellington and of Auckland assembled especially to celebrate your happy birthday. Over one hundred in Auckland and about fifty-five in Wellington participated, and the Wellington group especially invited me to deliver an address on your life and teachings. It was real joy and privilege for me to expound in my humble way the principle of non-violence for which this war-sick modern world would come to India for cure. That, as has been pointed out by you, is the only way of escape from ruin,

there is no other path for emancipation.

I gave them also some stories about your Segaoon Ashram which I had the privilege of visiting, your latest thoughts on self-supporting education, your loving services to the cause of the Harijans. I was very glad to find that our Indian friends of New Zealand in the Gandhi Jayanti meeting recited a few shlokas from Bhagavadita with Gujarati translations. They showed me also files of *Harijan* in English and Gujarati, and when I was about to leave them, they collected £12 New Zealand—£9 12s in English coin which is in the enclosed draft.”

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NOTES AND NEWS]

gift which has brought me into a relationship with Indian thought and culture that has been, and will continue to be to me, a great and exceptional source of information and delight.

"I feel positive that the publication of these volumes will prove to be a great service not only to India but also to the rest of the world, where ignorance of India and Indian culture has been a very great obstacle to the due appreciation of the part played by India and Indians in the civilisation and progress of the world.

"I should be greatly indebted to you if you would be so kind as to convey to the members of the Ramakrishna Mission my heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the great gift which will always be a valuable and treasured asset in my library. . . .

"With very kind regards and greetings. I remain, yours sincerely, (Sgd.) J. B. M. Hertzog."

A Review

Reviewing the Cultural Heritage of India, in the *Times' Literary Supplement*,

London, the reviewer has made the following weighty observations about Indian genius and India's future role in the history of mankind: "For centuries their (Indians') one great aim has been 'the realization of God.' The book is a revelation of the extent to which they have attained their object and entered into harmony with the Great Spirit of the Universe. And it may well happen that it will be to India, as well as to Palestine, that we shall have to look for the Spirit which will unite men in building a kingdom of God upon earth."

[Continued from front page

Things In General

Trade Prospects In South Africa Next Year

AN optimistic note was struck by Mr. W. E. Williamson, President of the Cape Chamber of Industries, in a Christmas letter to members dealing with the world trade position and its effects on local conditions. Reviewing the past year, Mr. Williamson stated that the slowing up in trade experienced in the Union was chiefly due to international difficulties. Of these the most important was the serious depression in the United States. When the trade barometer was apparently "set fair" for a period of prosperity, he continued, a wave of pessimism created by a series of unintelligent legislative enactments caused a complete loss of confidence in the administration on the part of industrialists and led to an almost complete paralysis of American industry. At first it was hoped that the American difficulties would be localised, but in the world as it is to-day this proved impossible and by degrees all the countries trading with the United States became affected. The serious political disturbances in Europe caused a further setback in world trade and had its repercussions in the Union. Referring to the European situation, Mr. Williamson asserted that almost certain war in Czecho-Slovakia having been averted, there seemed no reason to anticipate that any Power in Europe would endeavour to prevent the further eastward progress of Germany, which would appear to be far more important for her than any possible Colonial ambitions in Africa. Mr. Williamson said that a definite advance in the price of gold during the year seemed more than likely, a contingency which might lead to the gold mining industry experiencing a year of record prosperity. This would have a beneficial effect on the trade of the country as a whole.

Appeal For S.A. Plebiscite

An appeal for a plebiscite on the question of a South African Republic was contained in a declaration handed to the Press at the conclusion of a public meeting at Skeerpoort. The declaration was signed by Mr. O. J. du Toit, Chairman of the Skeerpoort branch of the Nationalist Party, and Mr. L. S. van der Linde, Vice-Chairman of the Skeerpoort branch of the United Party.

St. Aidan's Young Men's Club

Over 200 people assembled in the St. Aidan's Boys School hall, Sydenham, on Saturday, December 17, in response to an invitation by the St. Aidan's Young Men's Club to accord a welcome reception to Miss E. Duncan, the founder of the club, who had arrived from England. In welcoming Miss Duncan, Mr. C. R. Warriner (Patron), thanked her for having laid the foundation of the club 17 years ago. Miss Duncan, he said, had been solely responsible for the forming of the club in 1921, and up till 1927 she acted as the secretary and treasurer. During the period 1927 to 1929, she was a vice-president, but acted as the secretary and presided at nearly all the weekly meetings. Miss Duncan said she was very grateful for the delightful function that the members of the club had arranged for her and said that she was very pleased indeed to see that the club still existed, notwithstanding the very many obstacles that were in the path of the club for the past 17 years. She thanked the President, Mr. S. S. Pillay, in whose care she left the club in 1929, for having steered the club through many storms. Under his capable hands, the club still meets regularly every Tuesday, besides a physical culture class conducted by the secretary, which meets thrice a week. Among other speakers were Messrs. S. S. Pillay, J. W. Godfrey, B. D. Lalla, A. Ephraim, Naraidoo, J. Nadassen Naidoo, and Miss Howard. After the reception, refreshments were served and the members entertained the

audience with musical items and songs. An excellent physical culture display, which was highly appreciated by those present, was given by the members of the club.

Sir Charles Smith

Sir Charles Smith is one of Durban's most notable personalities known as the father of the sugar industry in Natal. Founder of the well-known business of C. G. Smith and Company (Pty.) Ltd., Sir Charles, on Tuesday, December 27, celebrated his 80th birthday, his recovery from ill-health and the jubilee of the establishment of his business. He was inundated with messages of congratulations not only from the various sugar mills and the captains and crews of his vessels, which ply along the coast, but also from friends and acquaintances. His staff and a group of friends met at Sir Charles's house to congratulate him on the auspicious occasion when presentation was made to Sir Charles on behalf of his staff. Replying, Sir Charles said it was difficult to remember how long he had been in business in Durban, but he had resided in the town 77 years. "When a man is 80," he continued, "any speech he makes will be reminiscent, and reminiscences, from my experience, are not very interesting. "Perhaps I am singular in the fact that I have never been insolvent nor divorced. Actually, nothing exciting has happened in my career. I think I should have a golden medal." Sir Charles made some caustic remarks about Parliament. "To-day" he said, "Parliament is full of the biggest lot of duffers we have ever had. Any person wanting a long rest should go to Parliament and sleep on those long benches there while all the rubbish is being fired off." Sir Charles remarked that he had been in bed for eight weeks. He had never been seriously ill before and he did not wish it to happen again. He hoped that next week he would be able to go down to the office and visit the staff. "That is not so

as I will be able to see what you are doing," he said, "I know well enough what you have been doing, but I want to go down so that I can shake you all by the hand at your places. We have got a highly respectable and good-looking staff—especially the ladies, whom I'd like to see married before I go to my grave."

[We have no doubt we are voicing the sentiments of the Indian community when we say that we join Sir Charles's many friends in offering to him our good wishes.—Ed. I. O.]

Four Provinces To Confer

The Provincial Consultative Committee, a body composed of representatives of the four Provinces and presided over by the Minister of the Interior, will meet in Capetown on January 31.

Colonial Born And Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch)

On behalf of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch), a deputation consisting of Dr. M. R. Peters and Mr. K. Soobramoney, recently made representations to the District Commandant, South African Police, Maritzburg, in connection with criminal summonses being served by Native police to Indians, and also with reference to the authorities requiring death certificates signed by two doctors for cremation purposes, thereby imposing hardship, particularly upon the poorer section of the Indian community. The District Commandant sympathetically viewed the representations, and intimated to the deputation that hereafter, as far as possible, criminal summonses would be served by Indian police to Indians, and that only one doctor's death certificate would be required by his department.

Mr. V. S. C. Pather In Port Elizabeth

A public welcome was accorded to Mr. V. S. C. Pather of Durban, by the Port Elizabeth branch of the Cape Indian Congress, on Sunday, December 25. Mr. Pather, accompanied by Mrs. Pather, is on a holiday and is taking advantage of his tour to consult the constituent bodies of the South African Indian Congress, throughout the Union. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. P. Daya, local president, Mr. S. R. Naidoo welcomed Mr. Pather. Messrs. M. E. Bhatay, A. G. Moodley and C. K. Pillay also spoke. Mr. Pather thanked the Indian community of Port Elizabeth for the cordial reception they had given him. The Agent-General for India, said the speaker, had spoken very highly to him of the efficient manner in which the Congress had discharged its duty at Port Elizabeth and paid a very high tribute to the secretary and all those officials who had assisted him in his arduous task. Referring to the S. A. I. C. Conference which was to have been

held at Port Elizabeth during this year and which was frustrated, the speaker said that the headquarters may again ask Port Elizabeth to take this centre as the rendezvous of conference which would be held during the coming Easter recess, and he had every confidence that the local officials of the Congress would give this important question the consideration it merited. A grant of £30 per annum for tuberculosis was another subject touched upon by the speaker, who said that the headquarters were now negotiating with the authorities in regard thereto. The formation of a women's branch of the Congress in Durban was also outlined by the speaker, who gave a comprehensive survey of what the branch had done by way of social service, reform and hygiene. Mr. Pather also stressed the necessity of enrolling women members to the Congress. Amongst various subjects outlined the speaker next touched upon the constitution and said that the Natal Indian Congress was now busy preparing a revised constitution which would be registered under the Companies' Act and this would be adopted throughout the Union, thereby bringing about unification and co-ordination in the rules. Mr. and Mrs. Pather who were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Chetty of Walmer Road, left for Capetown by the *Dunnotar Castle* on December 27.

Examination Results In The Hindi Language

The following are the passes in the Hindi Prathamik Examination of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, India, held at Tongaat by Mr. S. N. C. Varadaacharyulu, on September 18:—
First Class: 1821, K. P. Desai. Second Class: 1815, Gopallal Hurban; 1816, B. Rampershad; 1817, A. Dasrath; 1818, B. Anirudh; 1819, R. Manmohanlall Maharaj; 1821, Miss R. Prabhavathy Devi; 1822, D. Ramnarain; 1824, M. Kishori Maharaj; 1827, S. H. Maharaj.

All India Hindu Mahasabha Conference

The 20th Session of the All India Hindu Mahasabha Conference meets this year at Nagpur, India, and deliberations commenced on Wednesday. The President is Vir V. D. Savarkar. The South African Hindu Maha Sabha had received an invitation, but was unable to send any delegation owing to insufficient time. A cablegram was sent by the South African Hindu Maha Sabha reciprocating their kind invitation and good wishes.

Death Of Mahatma Hansraj

A public meeting under the auspices of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha was held at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, on Thursday evening Dec. 22. The chair was occupied by the president Mr. B. M. Patel and amongst those present were Swami Bhawan Dayal, Messrs. M. C. Varman, P. G. Desai, K. Baijnath, Shapurjee Randeria,

M. B. Naik, A. M. Padayachee, Padam Singh, D. Satyadev, H. A. Thaker, P. G. Naicker, P. B. Singh, H. S. Done, L. Rajcoomar, and the secretaries Messrs. S. R. Pather and T. M. Naicker. Tributes were paid by various speakers to the great services rendered by Mahatma Hansraj in propounding the Vedic religion. A resolution of condolence was passed and cabled to the bereaved family.

"Robot" Man Dead

The death has occurred at Prague of Karel Capek, the well known Czech-Slovak author and dramatist. He was the originator of the term "robot" in his play "R.U.R." in 1920.

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Social And Personal

MR. KISANCHAND HASARAM, son of the proprietor of the Bombay Bazaar, Durban, who is managing the Calcutta branch of the firm, arrived with Mrs. Kisanchand in Durban by the *Kenya*.

—o—

Mr. Pirow, Minister of Defence, arrived in the Union from his European visit on Friday, December 23.

—o—

Out of five Indian candidates for medical examination in the Transvaal Medical University two have been successful, namely, Miss K. A. Nagdi and Dinsha P. Tavadia.

—o—

Sergt. Beesly, who has been in charge of the Police Station in Tongaat since August 1936 has been transferred to Overport. Tongaat and district Indians accorded a farewell reception to him and paid a high tribute for the manner in which he discharged his duties.

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The officials and members of the Shree Gopal Hindu Temple and the trustees of the Verulam Hindu crematorium and burial ground wishes to thank Mr. A. Ramsunder of New Glasgow for his princely and magnificent gift of one acre of land and building towards the Verulam Hindu crematorium and burial ground. Also the trustees wish to convey their thanks to the executor or trustee of Mr. Ramsunder (Mr. T. P. Sam) for his kind consent towards the sanctioning of the gift.

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A farewell reception was given to Mr. Maganlal Jata, youngest son of Mr. Jata Jeewa of Verulam by the officials and members of the Shree Gopallal Hindu Temple at the temple hall on the eve of his recent departure for India. On behalf of the temple committee the president presented to Mr. Maganlal with a shaving set in a leather case and a bouquet and wished Mr. Maganlal a safe and happy return. Amongst the other speakers were Messrs. S. R. Maharaj, C. Raghavjee, N. Raghavjee, L. Rajkumar and many other friends.

Doings In India

"When Men Turn Beasts"

THE following letter has been written by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore to a friend in Czechoslovakia: "I feel so keenly about the suffering of your people as if I was one of them. For what has happened in your country is not a mere local misfortune, which may, at the best, claim our sympathy. It is a tragic revelation that the destiny of all those principles of humanity, for which the peoples of the west turned martyrs for three centuries, rests in the hands of cowardly guardians, who are selling them to save their own skins. It turns one cynical to see the democratic people betraying their kind when even the bullies stand by each other. I feel so humiliated and so hopeless, when I contemplate all this—humiliated to see all the values, which have given modern civilisation whatever worth it has, betrayed one by one, and helpless that we are powerless to prevent it. Our country is itself a victim of these wrongs. My words have no power to stay the onslaught of the maniacs, nor even the power to arrest the desertion of those who erstwhile pretend to be the saviours of humanity. I can only remind those who are not yet wholly demented that when men turn beasts, they sooner or later tear each other. As for your own country, I can only hope that it will maintain its native integrity and falling back upon its own inalienable resources, will recreate a richer national life than before."

Gandhi Seva Sangh Conference

A budget of Rs. 50,000 for meeting the expenses of the Gandhi Seva Sangh Conference to be held at Brindaban Ashram in Champaran in March next is reported to have drawn up by the Working Committee of Champaran District Congress Committee. Gandhiji is expected to attend the Conference. A purse of Rs. 2,509 will be presented to Mahatma Gandhi at the Conference.

Muslims Can Protect Their Interest By Joining Congress

"Mussalmans by joining the Congress in overwhelming numbers and by becoming as much part and parcel of the Congress as they are of the Indian nation and by taking their legitimate share in the development of the Congress policy, in the formulation of the Congress programme and in the direction of the Congress organisations, can better protect the rights and interests of their community from within the Congress than from the platform of a separate communal organisation," said Mr. Yakub Hassan, Minister for Public Works, in a message to the Congress

mindful Muslim Conference of South India, held at Krishnagiri, Salem District, recently. Mr. Yakub Hassan added that no communal organisation, without British support, can hereafter hope to advance the interests of its community to any appreciable degree by defying a national organisation. Free India, he says, can only be one homogeneous nation and not a coterie of several heterogeneous nations constituted on a religious basis. He hoped that the atmosphere would soon clear and more and more Mussalmans would see things in their true perspective and they would realise the importance of interviewing "the woof of communal interests with the warp of national gain."

It Is Their Leadership That Is In Peril

Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan, General Secretary, Anjuman Nasir-ul-Mussalman, has issued the following statement to the Press:—"Some self-styled Muslim leaders are shouting at the top of their voice the cry of 'Islam is in danger,' but in reality it is their leadership that is in danger. By raising such false cries the illiterate masses are being exploited in the name of Islam. These League leaders care more for their own leaderships than the interests of Islam. They are quite ignorant of Islamic principles and yet they pretend to be the 'protectors of Islam.' It is an undeniable fact that with all their boasts they have done nothing for the uplift of the Muslim masses. 'The Muslims should know that if they are desirous of getting two square meals a day, if they are anxious to see their children well-fed and well-nourished, and if they yearn to see India on a footing of equality with other nations of the world, they should join the Indian National Congress. The Muslim League or any other communal organisation, however strong it may look, is incapable of solving the complex problems that face us to-day. The Congress alone is competent to do so. By its sufferings and sacrifices the Congress has brought about a wonderful change in the political outlook of the people. The little political power that the people enjoy to-day is in a large measure the direct result of the efforts of the Congress and with its success is linked up the political future of India. Such an organisation should be strengthened by all possible means. We must all, therefore, rally round the tri-colour flag. The poor masses, whether they belong to urban areas or to rural areas, have no greater friend than the Congress. Let them, therefore, lend strength to it. I strongly appeal to the Muslims to join the Congress in large numbers, as I am

convinced that the salvation of the country and the community lies in the strength of the Congress. It is the only organisation which is open to all and which has the real good of the country as its only object."

Miss Jinnah Marries Mr. Neville Ness Wadia

The marriage was celebrated on Nov. 15 at the All Saints Church, Bombay, of Miss Jinnah, daughter of Mr. M. A. Jinnah, the president of the All-India Muslim League, with Mr. Neville Ness Wadia, son of Sir Ness Wadia, the well-known Bombay millowner. The Lord Bishop of Bombay, the Right Reverend Richard Duke Acland, blessed the couple after the ceremony. The ceremony, which was very simple, was concluded in less than 45 minutes.

Afridi Malik Calls On Mahatma

During his recent tour of the Frontier Province Mahatma Gandhi had a mirthful interesting two-minute meeting with an important Afridi Malik (tribal head), who came all the way trekking from far away Tirah, lying in independent territory. The grey-bearded husky Malik, as he warmly clasped Gandhiji's hands in his, almost shaking Gandhiji's slender frame by his exuberant enthusiasm, hastily spoke the following words of friendship in Pushto: "Long have I heard of you and far and wide is spread your fame. Far have I walked to meet you. Bless me and pray for me."

Late Mahatma Hans Raj

All the institutions run by Arya Samajists, including boys' and girls' schools, colleges and other similar institutions, remained closed as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mahatma Hans Raj, a veteran Arya Samaj leader of Lahore, who passed away on the night of November 25. Prof. Sudhakar, M.A., Secretary of the International Arya League, Delhi, sent the following telegram to the President of the Arya Pradeshik Sabha, Lahore: "International Aryan League mourns irreparable loss sustained by the death of Mahatma Hansraj. He leaves Arya Samaj much poorer. A great leader, educationist, reformer and personality passed away. May God give us the like of him again."

Prof. Enayat Khan Dead

The death had occurred at his Calcutta residence of Prof. Enayat Khan, the sitar player. He was regarded as one of India's foremost musicians. He was suddenly taken ill at Allahabad while attending a Music Conference and was brought back to Calcutta,

The Sporting World

Reception To Kid Vengan

AFTER an absence of more than 12 months engaged in boxing contests in England, Kid Vengan, the well-known Durban boxer, was welcomed at a public reception given to him at the M. K. Gandhi Library Hall on Wednesday, December 21. Mr. G. Maistry, in welcoming Vengan, stated that he was the first South African Indian to tour England on a boxing mission, and incidentally was followed by others. Kid Vengan, in a short speech, said that as soon as he regained his health he will be leaving for England probably early next year.

South African Non-European Tennis Championship

The competitions for Singles and Doubles in the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals took place at the Natal Spruit Indian courts on Boxing Day, Dec. 26, and continued on Tuesday the 27th. The following are the results: Singles, H. Jajbhay (S.A. champion) beat Sikakane (Bantu champion) 6-1, 6-0, 6-3 and also beat J. Oliphant (Coloured champion) 7-5, 6-0, 6-4; C. A. du Preez (Coloured champion) beat W. Thomas (Natal) 6-2, 6-0, 7-5; Xorile (Bantu) beat S. Maharaj (Natal champion) 7-5, 6-3, 6-1, and also beat du Preez (Coloured) 6-3, 6-4, 8-6. Doubles: H. Jajbhay and du Preez beat Hajee and C. F. du Preez 6-2, 6-3, 6-1; Hajee and du Preez beat Xorile and Matshaya 6-2, 6-3, 6-1; Molefe and Sikakane beat Mothabe and Mofekeng 6-4, 6-0, 6-4. In the finals of the Men's Doubles, H. Jajbhay and C. A. du Preez (S.A. champions) met Molefe and Sikakane and the evenly contested match resulted in a win for Jajbhay and du Preez beating Molefe and Sikakane 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-8, 6-4. In the finals of the Singles, H. Jajbhay beat M. Xorile 6-4, 6-0, 6-4, the former scoring in the Singles competition without dropping a single set. This being the 30th championship victory in South Africa for Mr. Hoosen Jajbhay within 5 years, creating an excellent record among non-Europeans.

Indian Inter-Provincial Tennis Tournament

There was a big crowd of spectators to witness the Inter-Provincial Tennis Tournament for the Govendar's Challenge Trophy and Hassim's Memorial Trophy. Under the distinguished patronage of Mr. Rama Ran, the Agent-General for India. The competitions for the Singles and Doubles commenced at 9.30 a.m. on December 27, at the Natal Sports Indian courts. The following are the results: Men's Singles 1st round, H. Jajbhay beat Wesley Thomas 6-0, 6-1; S. Maharaj beat M. Hajee 6-3, 6-3. 2nd round, H. Jajbhay beat S. Maharaj 6-1, 6-0; Wesley beat Hajee 6-4, 6-3. Men's Doubles 1st round, H. Jajbhay and N.

By "Rambler"

Williams (Transvaal) beat S. Maharaj and Wesley Thomas (Natal) 6-4, 6-2; I. Bramdaw and J. Narain (Natal) beat M. Jajbhay and M. Hajee (Transvaal) 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. 2nd round, H. Jajbhay and N. Williams beat I. Bramdaw and J. Narain 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; S. Maharaj and W. Thomas beat M. Jajbhay and M. Hajee 6-3, 6-3. Summary of competitions, Matches tie 4-4, Sets tie 9-9. Games, Transvaal 81, Natal 72. Transvaal won by 9 games. Mr. N. K. Naidoo, President of the South African Indian Lawn Tennis Association, at the conclusion of the competitions briefly commented upon the fine sporting spirit by Transvaal and Natal and complimented Transvaal for its great victory in the both competitions and thanked the members of the Reception Committee for the excellent way they carried out their duties. Further competition for the Men's Singles for the Hassim Memorial Trophy commenced on Wednesday, December 28, at 9.30 a.m. at the Johannesburg-Natal Spruit courts. Transvaal will be holders of the Govendar's Trophy for two years in succession, while young Maharaj of the Natal Province received much praise by spectators for his brilliant display being the youngest competitor in the tournament.

Mayville District Indian Cricket Union

The secretary's report for the first half season submitted at the last committee meeting of the Mayville District Indian Cricket Union, makes mention in brief of the activities of the union. The report makes special mention of the administration work which has been carried on so far very efficiently and speedily and same was made feasible through the regular attendance of the officials and delegates at the meetings. Particular mention is made of the President, Mr. R. Mahabeer, Messrs. C. D. Boulton and E. M. Chin (Patrons), K. A. Naicker (treasurer), Amod Kajee (record clerk), O. A. Tommy, Ettie M. Pillay, S. Thaver, J. Arabi and S. A. Muckdoom. The first round for the Mahabeer's Memorial League Cup having also being completed with the Natal Steam Laundry C.O. leading. The report also records the improvements made by some of the players on the merits of the game, both batting and bowling. The report also recorded congratulations of the union to Messrs. Maduray Subban (Natal Steam Laundry C.O.) and Rama B. Singh (Old Collegians C.O.), for having scored 133 and 52 respectively in their last match.

Woman Wrestler Floors Her Man Opponent

A record gathering witnessed a wrestling match between the woman wrestler, Omid Banu, and Hissam-ud-Din, a

wrestler, at Jullundur, recently. Omid Banu received a tremendous ovation when she floored her opponent in two and a half minutes' time. The wrestling match provoked a considerable resentment among local Muslims. At a public meeting of Muslims speeches were delivered condemning the wrestling match between a man and a woman.

Was 51 Stone

Mrs. Alvine Pedriks, claimed to be the world's fattest woman, has died here, states a *Sunday Times* message from Tallinn. She weighed about 51 stone. Mrs. Pedriks was originally of normal size but began to grow fat after a nervous illness eight years ago. When she came to hospital after repeated heart attacks there was some difficulty in finding a bed for her. She owned a small provincial hotel but in recent years she allowed herself to be exhibited and sometimes earned as much as £22 a day. In spite of her size she was fond of clothes. She needed about 12 yards of cloth to make a dress.

Battle Between A Cat And A Hawk

A battle between a cat and a hawk—hundreds of feet above the ground—is described by natives in Kowie West. The hawk, it is stated, swooped down and, seizing the cat with its claws, flew away. In the air the cat must have killed the hawk, as a little later its body, with outstretched wings, fell slowly to the ground. The cat clung to the bird and descended as if attached to a parachute until it was within striking distance of the ground, when it sprang off and disappeared into the bush.

How To Destroy Bed Bugs

A correspondent in the *Natal Mercury* writes: A very satisfactory method I have used in exterminating these pests (bed bugs)... is to use a painter's petrol blow lamp, which penetrates all crevices in bedsteads and corners, killing both bugs and their eggs. One can thus avoid resorting to the more troublesome and costly mode of fumigation.

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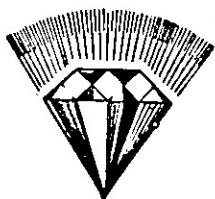
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