

INDIAN OPINION

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Let Us Be True To Ourselves

LAND is a basis of all human existence. General Smuts' greatness as a world statesman must have some foundation and if local white pressure has thrown him off his balance, is it not yet possible that something may happen which may show General Smuts in a better light. Nothing is impossible. His announcement has not yet become the law of the land as there is hope still that better counsels may prevail.

World opinion must realise that a large number of Indians in South Africa who are born or domiciled in this country are to be isolated in such a way that they shall not buy land from non-Indian races or sell land to non-Indian races and that they shall not be free to live anywhere. They shall only live in places pointed out to them by the Government and those who administer the Law.

The Indian community is naturally agitated and alarmed at the prospect before them. India is concerned and has expressed herself as a united Nation in this connection in the Central Assembly of India when the Congress and the Moslem League and the Government stood together to speak out against the threatened segregation of Indians. The world itself cannot be unconcerned when General Smuts the man who drew

the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations Organisation should now be found so woefully wanting in what he preached.

Europeans with the power of might behind them look on at the colour conflict they are provoking in the desire that they alone shall have the freedom of the land and all that goes with it. Emotions are the order of the day but who will rise above the emotions to lead the way out of the present unhappy position into which South Africa is being thrown.

In the midst of all this turmoil, the South African Indian Congress is meeting at Cape Town. A great responsibility rests on all those who are participating in the Conference. They have to remember that they are South Africans and that they and the generations to follow are Union Nationals. For better, for worse, their lot is cast in this country. They are also Nationals of India by blood ties. They in a sense have a dual allegiance. Their deliberations must recognise these hard facts. They must consider ways and means of winning for themselves something more than a recognition by Law as Union Nationals. They must win a place for themselves as Union Nationals in the every day life of South Africans. They must have the franchise. There must

be no discriminations in the eye of the law based on race or colour. They have an undoubted right to resist whether by passive resistance or moral means the taking away of any rights they have today and they have a right also to ask for rights that have been taken away from them or otherwise diminished. They have a right to be treated as South Africans in every respect. They have according to their opportunities contributed to the advancement of South Africa and are prepared to do more and more as greater opportunities are given to them.

The Round Table Conference is undoubtedly the way out and we cannot think that the Representatives of two great nations like India and South Africa would not be able to work out a settlement for the time being.

The Conference has it, in its power, to show to the Government and all people concerned that they are prepared to consider all questions in a statesmanlike manner and that in the Round Table Conference they find lies the future of happy relations not only between the inhabitants of this country but between two great nations who are neighbours and on whom depends also much that will affect the future relationship between the East and the West. The keynote of the Conference should be goodwill. It may be said that goodwill is difficult in a time of oppression. But Mahatma Gandhi has never said that. And we therefore urge on the Conference even

now that its members must show that they are only moved by what is being done and threatened to them but above that they will follow in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi so that all men and women of other races both in this country and out of it will recognise that Indians are worthy of an honourable place in the structure of South Africa.

Mr. Deshmukh Arrives In Durban

Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, High Commissioner for India, returned to Durban on Wednesday after a visit to India, where he had consultations with members of the Government and the Commonwealth Relations Department.

Speaking of his visit to India, Mr. Deshmukh said its purpose was to enable him to have discussions with the Commonwealth Relations Department and to examine the "line of action indicated by the Assembly" in matters affecting the Indians of South Africa. He would investigate the possibilities of pursuing this programme and the suggestion that a delegation from India should visit South Africa to confer with the Government.

"First of all, I have to become acquainted with the provisions of the Land Tenure Act," he said. "The freezing order was announced after I left."

Mr. R. M. Deshmukh was asked by a representative of the *Natal Mercury* to comment on the remarks on the South African Army made in the Indian Legislative Assembly by Mr. Frank Anthony, representative of the Anglo-Indians (Eurasians). Mr. Anthony had declared that, while they had their exceptions, South Africans made poor soldiers on the whole. Mr. Deshmukh pointed out that Mr. Anthony was a representative of a minority, and his statement could not be considered as the expression of a representative opinion. In South Africa there were individual cases of politicians who made equally sweeping statements.

1946

By L. W. RITCH

ANOTHER year ended, another year begun. Fresh footsteps about to be imprinted on the sands of time. Leading whither and, in what direction? Towards the light or into deeper darkness? Progress or decline? These are questions that will occur to all but the most thoughtless of us. Dare we attempt to find the answer? It certainly requires courage, but, perhaps is worth while for that very reason, even in face of the proverb about fools and angels.

To all save those whose horizon is limited to concern for their shop and family welfare the broad tide of human affairs generally is a matter of intimate and profound interest. Moreover, the wise realise that as they share to to-days so, too, they will be sharing the to-morrows, however far off they be. Greatly daring then let us attempt an analysis of the position and an examination of the materials available and see whether they warrant the drawing of any and if so what definite conclusions.

The first thing we need to determine is what really constitutes mankind's progress.

A correct answer to this depends, of course, upon a right understanding of the reason if any of our being here at all, and since we are here what, if any, is our goal or objective, our purpose.

Having answered that, it is necessary to know at least something about our constitution or make-up, of the powers we possess and must cultivate to effect our purpose, and the way such powers are or may be developed. Without this preliminary information, it would obviously be dangerous to draw conclusions and decidedly unwise to give directions.

Now, the commonly accepted notion of progress is associated with improved living conditions, security from want, increased comfort, more leisure and greater scientific achievements, i.e. the physical, emotional and mental demands upon the man and which he seeks to satisfy. The horizon of progress so regarded is limited to satisfaction of the wants and appetites of what may be summed up as constituting the average personality—man, the Smith, Ramdas or Alli of our every-day acquaintance.

Of course, if there were nothing more to it than just that, if the personality life of bodily, sense and mental wants, appetites and enjoyment comprised the totality of the life of man, the fullness of his life, and the limit of his growth and possibilities, then ease and comfort and as good a time on earth as each could

secure for himself would without doubt, be the logical outlook to adopt. And, indeed, such is precisely the philosophy by which many of us actually do live our lives as reflected in the outlook of the "Go-Getter," of the ambitious careerist, of the astute and clever exploiter of the ignorance and weaknesses of others, of the apostles of the "first I come" doctrine. And just as the multiplication of wants and of the wherewithal to satisfy them is regarded as the hall-mark of civilisation, so success has come to by synonymous with self-aggrandisement and the "outsmarting" of rivals and competitors. Our notions of progress would at best seem to be progress in securing and enjoying "the good things of life," plenty, and increased opportunity for its enjoyment.

Now unless the religious dispensations mankind has received from time to time for its enlightenment and to furnish a "dharma" or rule of conduct for the advancement of man's evolutionary progress are no better than fraudulent impositions or at best baseless superstitions, unless the great body of spiritual lore bequeathed to us under the name of "The Vidya" is just so much moonshine, unless the recorded experiences of saints and mystics are to be dismissed as delusions and mere figments of the imagination, the self-consciousness that wells up in each of us as "I am" arises from the presence in man of a spiritual principle that is the man's real Self or, as it is more commonly called, "soul", and which as much transcends the limited personality—I of body as the Light of the Sun exceeds candle-light.

This "I" of the personality that identifies itself with the life of the body, senses and mind and so creates the illusion of separateness from its parent Self and source, has been likened to a ray of sunlight cast on to the wall of a dark room. In the darkness of his ignorance the man fails to discern the wall and the reflection on it as what they actually are, and so deluded becomes incapable of tracing the reflected point of light to its source. Like the story in AEsop's Fables shadow is mistaken for substance, appearance for realities, the not-self for the Self. He ascribes the light reflected on to the "wall" from the soul of him as originating in the wall. His powers of willing, thinking and feeling are similarly regarded as products of the

"wall" instead of his soul-self. He is that strange being, a creature blind to his own light.

If then, as the religions and the philosophers declare, Man, the self of him, is a spiritual being, functioning through body, senses, and mind in a long pilgrimage towards the goal of complete self-realisation; if as is taught, this earth of ours is but the starting point of his evolutionary progression towards that goal, it would seem to follow that development of the spiritual or divine powers involved and latent within him must be his line of true progress, and that Longfellow was right when he declared that

"Not enjoyment and not sorrow is our destined end and way

But to work that each to-morrow

Find us farther than to-day."

Man is blind to his own light, the soul-light of his spiritual, his real Self, because he has turned his back upon it. No real progress is possible unless he "about face." The teaching of the wise regarding the fatherhood of God and the brother-

hood of mankind have either a spiritual meaning or no meaning at all. Only when man's relationship to God is recognised as a fact, has become an unshakable conviction, will there emerge the possibility of a real brotherhood of Mankind.

Progress in that direction and to that end is the only progress that can truly be so styled, and if it is to be embarked upon will necessitate a very radical change of outlook. Things spiritual and material must be seen in their proper relationship, and a truer sense of proportion, a more correct appraisal of values, arrived at. The horizon of man's possibilities and the powers that may be his for the developing, must be extended incomparably farther than mind can presently envisage.

Environmental conditions can, of course, be improved and made more favourable to progress, once it has been resolved upon; but those conditions must be subordinated to the larger purpose, the real purpose of man's existence. That perhaps, has never been better expressed than in Goethe's lines,

"Here at the roaring loom of Time's ply,

And weave for God, the Garment thou see'st Him by."

AUSTRALIAN'S CRITICISM OF S.A.

"A BUBBLE of feudalism miraculously surviving into the atomic age" and "a soil well prepared for Fascism" is how an Australian journalist, Mr. Duncan Thompson of Consolidated Press, describes South Africa in two articles in a Sydney daily news paper. Mr. Thompson has just returned to Australia after a prolonged stay in South Africa.

Steamer headlines over one article in the newspaper say: "South Africa has the world's worst colour bar and it lives on fear."

Mr. Thompson says that the colour bar is in evidence everywhere—in social life, trades unions and "even in churches."

"Life, inside the bubble is pleasant—for the right people," he writes. "The right people, of course, are the Whites, Afrikaner and British. The wrong people are the poor Whites, Coloureds, Natives and Indians. For them life is not nearly so good."

"Two million politically divided Whites riding on the backs of 9,500,000 others is an equation which breeds fear."

Mr. Thompson tells of people he talked with who seemed to him to be afraid.

"Afraid," says Thompson, "of the inevitable day when the Coloureds will come into their own."

The South African formula, he goes on, is to keep Natives and Coloureds in their places by keeping them aware of their inferiority and that "everywhere in the

Union you meet brutal and un-Democratic reminders of this in the form of bilingual notices: Europeans only—Slegs vir Blankes."

"On the beaches, sharks alone seem to be completely without prejudice," he continues.

"Discrimination against colour is so flagrant that one is amazed at the good temper of the Natives."

Mr. Thompson does however, give the rejoinder of a Capetown journalist to whom he made these complaints.

"You Australians settled your Native problem by killing them off," said this journalist.

Compared with Australia's White population of 7,000,000, there are now about 50,000 full-blooded aborigines and about 270,000 of mixed blood. At the time of White settlement in 1788 their were probably about 350,000 aborigines.

Mr. Thompson says he found Communism making some headway among Coloured university students, "who even talk of joining the Natives if the Whites won't have them."

Among other things Thompson tells Australian women about the South African women's "abundance of servants" with this explanation: "Most South African girls are plump, most women incredibly fat."

"They blame the Dutch strain for this, but doctors attribute it to too much food and too little to do."

INDIAN ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON S.A. LAND TENURE BILL

New Delhi, Monday.

THE Central Assembly will this evening debate a motion raised on the adjournment by Mr. Govind Das regarding the imbecile attitude of the Indian Government and its failure to protect the vital interests and peaceful existence of its nationals in South Africa, which are threatened by the introduction of a Bill to freeze property deals between Indians and other races in South Africa, as announced by General Smuts on January 22.

Economic Sanctions Urged Against South Africa

Economic sanctions by India against South Africa were urged by Seth Govind Das, when he moved the Congress Party's adjournment motion in the Indian Legislative Assembly, on the South African Government's proposed legislative measure intended to freeze property deals between Indian and other races.

Spirited speeches from both sides of the House marked the debate; and almost for the first time in the history of Assembly, the Congress Party, Moslem League and the Government voiced the same sentiments, and the motion was carried without a division.

Mr. Das said: "I know economic sanctions would not harm South Africa much, but they would have their own moral value in the year 1946. If economic sanctions are applied and the High Commissioner recalled, I know a satyagraha (civil disobedience) movement will be started in South Africa."

Mr. Das attributed the new Bill to the "greediness for power—greediness in old age" on the part of General Smuts.

Sir Hassan Suhrawardy (Moslem League) said the self-respect of Indians was at stake. After the great sacrifice which Indians made in men and money, General Smuts ought to be ashamed of himself in tabling a Bill of this kind.

Mr. R. N. Bannerjee, secretary of the Commonwealth Relations Department, said the Government had no official intimation of the exact provisions of the new measure.

Mr. Frank Anthony, representative of the Anglo-Indians, supported the motion. He said he had occasion to meet South Africans "and while they had their exceptions, they made poor soldiers on the whole."

"That these same people should initiate a policy of dis-

crimination towards the Indians, but for whose soldiers South Africa might have conceivably have been overrun, must be intolerable."

Mr. Anthony said that he thought the motive behind the policy of South Africa was one of fear that the Indian community, "essentially more virile," would acquire great prominence. He suggested that every South African community in India should be subjected to the same economic and social disabilities as those imposed on Indians in South Africa.

Mr. Anthony uttered a warning that "South Africa would sow the seed of a colour war which would flame around the world."

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Congress), addressing the Treasury benches, said: "Please ask your White masters to quit India. Unless and until the British quit India, we are not likely to get our rightful place anywhere else in the world."

"The white population of South Africa is of cosmopolitan composition. Opposition to Indians on racial grounds is mainly by people of pure British origin. It is this section that instigates the white population."

Dr. N. B. Khare, a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council Foreign Relations Department, said: "Adjournment motions may come, adjournment motions may go, but the question of South Africa will remain so long as India is not a free country."

Dr. Khare said the High Commissioner had gone back to South Africa with certain instructions from the Government of India and would tell the Raj (Indian Government) what the result of his talks with the Union Government was.

Dr. Khare added: "As far as I am concerned personally, I am convinced that all our efforts will fail. I have no doubt that in spite of all we do, the Government of South Africa is not going to listen to us. I assure the House I shall do all I can."

As regards the High Commissioner, Dr. Khare held that he should go on functioning in South Africa for the present, adding: "one thing is certain—the time has come to devise certain measures, and there is no escape now"

"I hope I shall be able to announce to the House something which I should do in the course of the present session. If

I fail to achieve anything, nothing can prevent me from crossing the floor."—Sapa-Reuter.

Sir Shafa'at On Anti-Indian Bill

Lahore, Monday.

Commenting on the proposed legislation to control the acquisition of landed property by Indians in South Africa, the former High Commissioner Sir Shafa'at Ahmed Khan said that the implications were so serious that the Raj should make strong representations to the Union Government against it. He suggested that the proposed legislation should be discussed at a round table conference of leaders of South Africa and India so that a constructive policy for the Indian community may be evolved and a political pattern devised for the Indian in South Africa. He urged that contro-

versial legislation of this nature should not be rushed through the Assembly as they rushed the Pergiug Act through in 1943.

In The House Of Commons

London, Friday.

The Union Government's contemplated legislative action to restrict the sale of property to Indians in South Africa is to be the subject of a question in the House of Commons next Monday. Dr. D. N. Pritt (Independent Labour) gave notice that he would ask Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Under-Secretary for India, "whether his attention has been drawn to the recent announcement by General Smuts in the Union Parliament proposing legislation to prohibit the acquisition of property by Asiatics in other than certain restricted areas, and if he will take up this further discrimination against Indians in South Africa either with the Union Government or with the United Nations' Organisation on behalf of Indians."—Sapa-Reuter.

PRESS COMMENTS SOUTH AFRICA AND INDIA

Under the above heading the *Natal Mercury* writes as follows:

INSULTING and intemperate language such as that used in the Indian House of Assembly during the debate on proposed Indian legislation in South Africa will certainly not help in any way to settle the Indian problem in this country. In particular, the gross and inexcusable affront to the South African army will be bitterly resented by every section of the community here. There is no need to refute it, nor to indulge in recriminations, though speakers in the Union House of Assembly are unlikely to refrain from scathing comparisons between the conduct of South African troops and that of Bose's Indian army which fought on the side of the Japanese. The magnificent record of the Union's forces needs no defence, and the ridiculous slur of Mr. Frank Anthony, the Anglo-Indian representative in the Legislative Assembly, will inevitably recoil on the head of his own compatriots. In this connection it should be made clear that the term "Anglo-Indian" has long since lost the meaning it originally had. It is not now applied to British residents in India, but to Eurasians.

As for the threats of economic sanctions and the recall of the Indian High Commissioner, they will leave South Africa cold. The whole atmosphere of the debate in the Assembly serves only one purpose: to make even more difficult the task of liberal-minded people in this country who have striven for years to help the Indian. There will, not unnaturally, be an unfortunate reaction when the Indian Bills come before the Union House of Assembly, and it will be surprising if General Smuts finds it an easy task to obtain any concessions at all for the Indian community. So far as the High Commissioner is concerned—and this is no reflection on Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, who has striven unremittingly for moderation ever since he was appointed—the best thing South Africa could do would be to say bluntly that the time has come when the status of the High Commissioner should be altered. At present his duties differ from those of other High Commissioners in that he looks after the interests of the Indian community in South Africa and is at liberty to make representations regarding them to the Indian Government. When the

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Indian is granted a Parliamentary franchise, surely the necessity for this will cease? Either the Indian in the Union has to ac-

cept the fact that he is a South African citizen, or he must elect to be an alien, with all the disabilities that attach to an alien.

SOUND AND FURY AT NEW DELHI

The *Natal Daily News* writes as follows under the above heading:

It would be difficult to imagine anything less likely to contribute to good relations between India and South Africa, or to help in settling the problems raised by the Indian population in this country, than the senseless immoderation of the debate in the Indian Legislative Assembly in New Delhi. As an explosion of wild and reckless talk it was certainly impressive; as an exploration of a question of Commonwealth importance it was as meaningless as it was undignified. We are not concerned, at the moment, with the Indian legislation which will be placed before the House of Assembly at Cape Town this session. Its terms, apart from the acquisition of property decisions, are as unknown to us as they certainly are to the fiery speakers at New Delhi. What is of present importance is that those speakers are busy creating a picture of the Indians' position in the Union, and of the Indians' part in the Union's war effort, which is an utter travesty of the facts. People who are prepared to believe that South Africa's Indians saved South Africa in the war and that as a reward they are being politically enslaved, will obviously believe anything. Such talk makes the ramblings of our wilder Nationalists sound almost like sense.

The whole subject is distasteful, but it is necessary to point out some of the more fantastic

accusations. Mr. Das's charge, for example, that the legislation will be a sign of General Smuts's "greediness for power—greediness in old age" reaches rock bottom. What man has greater knowledge of South African realities, and international aspirations, than General Smuts? Who has tried harder to reach an accommodation in this matter, and who has been more bitterly criticised by many White South Africans for his liberal attitude to the Indian people here? But this is on a par with much else in the debate. It suits Indian politicians in India to depict their compatriots here as impoverished, enslaved, ill-treated and yet as the very salt of the South African population and the backbone of its war effort. Those who know something of the Indian community here, and something of the conditions under which the average Indian lives in India will rub their eyes in wonder at this caricature. A Mr. Frank Anthony, an Anglo-Indian representative and a member of the Indian National Defence Council, saw fit to decorate the occasion by gratuitously insulting South African troops, who, he said, despite exceptions, "made poor soldiers on the whole." The excellent relations and the high regard entertained for each other by Indian and South African formations on many fronts, during both this war and the last, stamp this utterance of the ineffable Mr. Anthony as offensive nonsense.

LAND TENURE BILL AND INDIANS

The Capetown political correspondent of the *Daily News* reports:—

THE intention of the Government to introduce during this session a Bill dealing, among other things, with land tenure in Natal, was announced in the Assembly on January 21 by General Smuts.

"The provisions relating to land tenure will apply to the whole province and will contain a prohibition against transactions for the acquisition of fixed property between Asiatics and persons who are not Asiatics, other than fixed property in certain

exempted areas which will be specified in the Bill and in such other areas as may be exempted by parliamentary resolutions from time to time," General Smuts said then.

The Bill will also provide for certain restrictions in regard to occupation by Asiatics or Europeans respectively, of land or premises outside these exempted areas.

This statement indicated the framework of the Government's legislative plans. It is understood that similar action will be taken in respect of the Transvaal, where areas for Indian occupa-

tion will be set aside as exempted areas in the same way as in Natal.

The Transvaal Indians will thus receive the right to purchase fixed property in areas which have been specifically set aside for them.

Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, the High Commissioner for India in the Union, who has been in India for discussions with the Indian Government has returned to Capetown and will interview General Smuts.

It is expected that Mr. Deshmukh will press for another round table conference between the Union and Indian Governments. It is not likely, however, that the Union Government will agree to this course of action.

Moreover the Indian Bills will have to be passed by Parliament before General Smuts leaves the Union in April to attend the Peace Conference, which is to be held early in May.

It is understood that the new legislation will make provision for the Indians in Natal and the Transvaal to be given representation in the Union Parliament and in the two Provincial Councils. The Indians will be registered on a communal roll and not on the ordinary voters' rolls. Their election of Senators, M.P.'s and M.P.C.'s to represent their interests will be on a communal basis.

The so called Indian problem in the Transvaal and Natal is no longer regarded as a domestic matter. It has international implications under present-day conditions.

The manner in which the Indian question is solved obviously has a bearing on the future of the mandated territory of South-West Africa, which the Union is anxious to incorporate.

The Natal and Transvaal Indians seem determined to resist the Government's proposals as far as possible even to the extent of sending delegations to the Indian Government and to the United Nations Organisation. They are opposed to being granted a communal franchise, because they want the same voting rights as the Europeans.

General Smuts has agreed to receive a deputation from the South African Indian Congress on Monday. He will interview representatives of the Natal Municipal Association and the Durban City Council on February 15.

South African Indian Congress

The South African Indian Congress will meet at Capetown on the 8th, 9th and 10th of this month, and will meet General Smuts on Monday on the proposed new legislation to be introduced this session on the Indian question. Thirty-five delegates each from Natal, the Transvaal and the Cape will attend, besides the High Commissioner for India and well-known Indian leaders. It is likely to be the biggest Indian Conference held, bigger even than the Conference in 1922 when Dr. Malan's Class Areas Reservation Bill was discussed. Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, M.P. (Native representative), will open the Conference in the banquet hall of the Capetown City Hall on Friday evening and the Mayor, Mr. A. Bloomberg, will welcome the delegates.

Smuts Fears Natal BECOMING AN INDIAN PROVINCE

General Smuts did not deny that the Government's proposed Bill for Natal Indians would raise serious issues as it was known that the Government of India took a grave view of the matter. Although the Prime Minister was unwilling to commit himself definitely, he gave the impression that neither he nor his Government would ever consent to Natal becoming an Indian province—as it might well become if the contemplated Bill were not passed.

Engagement

Mr. V. R. Parekh, proprietor of the well-known firm of Messrs. Chuntal Bros., received a message from India on Wednesday the 6th instant that his eldest son Mr. Ratilal is engaged to Miss Panha Kumari, daughter of Mr. M. Vibhakar of Bombay. To celebrate the occasion, Mr. V. R. Parekh invited Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, High Commissioner for India, Messrs. Jalbhay, Sorabjee, H. Dhupelia, Dr. Desai and members of his own family to dinner. *Indians!*

WANTED

Wanted an experienced qualified teacher for Lusaka Aided Indian School, to relieve teacher going on leave from 1st March, 1946. Must have experience in teaching English and Gujarati. Service for five months or more. Salary £240 per annum, plus house allowance upto £5 per month.

Apply with original testimonials by regd. post to: Secretary, P.O. Box 126, Lusaka.

SENATOR SMITH ON FOOD PROBLEM

SENATOR SMITH, speaking in the Senate, said that if the Government had a plan to use the country's vast natural resources it could become "the pantry of the world." Producers should know that they had a fixed price and a guaranteed consumption of their products for 10 or 15 years.

Given that guarantee farmers could treble production and then, by cold storage and processing, a reserve could be built up which could prevent the country ever from being short of food.

There was no rationing because such a scientific plan would expose to the whole world that there was not a quarter enough food to feed the people. South Africa would have to admit if rationing were introduced that for generations a vast section of the population had starved by degrees.

Africans were fainting at their work in Durban for lack of food. For the first there was a black market in bread in Durban, and Africans had to pay 1s. and 1s. 6d. a loaf.

The Government should make it a punishable offence for restrictions to be put on the production of sugar cane and should guarantee cane planters that every ton of cane produced would be milled.

He had seen tens of thousands drilled, trained, well-clothed, well-fed and fairly well paid Africans coming home from the North. What was going to happen to them now? Was all the training to be wasted? Were they to be sent back to their kraals where they would sit

down and tell the stories of their campaigns for the rest of their lives?

Had the Government ever thought of recruiting them into shock-battalions to help the country produce food? The Government should make an experiment and, as the African soldiers returned, let trusted people go among them and ask for volunteers to create a vast army of workers for the land, who would be well-paid and clothed.

Machinery was available and tractors could be obtained and with trained men—no longer raw Natives—he was sure South Africa could make an effort at food production equal to the war effort.

Pondoland and Natal alone could produce more food than the whole of South Africa could eat.

The Government should harness also the food-producing abilities of the Indians in Natal. All they needed was land, machinery and good facilities to produce vast quantities of food. If the Government had the vision and the enterprise it would be able to harness to food production 10,000 or 20,000 Indians in Natal—the best food producers in the world.

With the industrialisation of Durban, the Indians and their market gardens were being pushed out and no plan was being made for them. The Government had spent millions of money on schemes for European small-holders. It should be possible to spend some money for the Indians to engage in their natural pursuit.

SOCIALISM AND GANDHISM

By PROF. ANATH GOPAL SEN In "The Modern Review"

(Continued from last week)

There is no escape from war or its attendant horrors, however much we may swear by the highest ideals of socialism. I will not speak of non-violence here, because our rational mind and scientific conscience are likely to be shocked. But I cannot help mentioning of truth, though here also practical men of affairs have no faith in it as a guide. They dare not condemn openly but to them truth also smacks of spiritualism and they don't like its stench in business affairs. But what whatever their conviction about the utility of truth in political and worldly matters, we cannot live without it. In fact, truth rightly under-

stood, is not really a spiritual thing but the truest science and highest logic. It is the concentrated essence of rationalism of which we are so proud as modern men. The function of science is to ascertain the law which upholds and directs this universe. The correct knowledge about that law is truth. In this living universe when we find the existence of both matter and spirit, there is no reason why physics alone and not metaphysics should be regarded as science and why the forces working in the mental, moral and spiritual spheres, the story of their actions and reactions, their growth and decay should

be regarded as irrational faith or a blind prejudice. If we fail to recognise the spiritual forces and do not care to develop, control and utilise them, the fate of all human society will be as fruitless as ever and socialism to the extent that it is based on truth, cannot also reach its desired goal. So long we have watched with admiration and wonder the amazing achievement of Soviet Russia, but we are afraid we have to watch with a grievous heart her grand preparation for suicide along with other capitalistic nations unless there is a complete change of heart on their part. However noble and high the goal of Soviet Russia may be, no power on earth can fight against the law of nature and achieve lasting results by the strength of man-made laws.

Now let us turn to Gandhism. To secure the results and liberties of the underdogs is also the life's mission of Gandhiji. But to achieve his goal he is not prepared to use any any means which cannot stand the test of truth and non-violence. What is truth and what is non-violence is the subject of his life-long research and for the political and economic salvation of India, nay of the whole world, he is experimenting with them in a spirit of an ascetic of a Fakir keeping himself above all personal desire, possession and greed. We underrate truth and non-violence, even deride them, because we have never cared to understand or study them. Truth is not the exclusive property of the spiritual world not to be introduced in matters mundane. It is an equally powerful weapon in politics, if one desires permanent peace and eternal strength for mankind. Neither non-violence is cowardice or a meaningless fad, having no application in national struggle or in war of offence or defence. To quote Gandhiji,

"Non-violence is not a passivity in any shape or form. Non-violence, as I understand it, is the most active force in the world. Its hidden depths sometimes stagger me just as much as they stagger fellow workers."

These are no vain words of a vain politician but they are words wrung out from the deepest depths of a lifelong seeker of truth of a great hero and a lifelong fighter. It is not possible for me to unfold here in detail the hidden strength and beauty of truth and non-violence which Gandhiji has been able to explore by his untiring experiments with them by means of total self-denial and self-effacement.

He has realised this much

from his experiments (with truth and non-violence) that the life-current of the universe cannot be ordered by any human power to flow in a particular channel according to his desires. This evolutionary force is subject to any convention or theory however carefully prepared and adopted by the most learned men. He has seen that by divine will, light and darkness, truth and untruth, life and death, live side by side, one as the counterpart of the other. You cannot think of one without the other. But the eternal march of man is from darkness to light, from untruth to truth, and from Death to Eternal Life and Bliss. We cannot drive darkness, untruth and death altogether out of existence by force, but we can rid them of much of their poison and make them harmless. Because we can do it, so has it been possible for us still to exist. However much and aloud jealousy, greed, egotism, senseless bigotry and strife may shout and proclaim themselves as the masters of the situation, the principal actors of the stage, they are not the real heroes, or the moulders of the world-destiny. They are not even in majority, though it may be admitted that in recent times their activities have increased to a fearful extent. But the tragic fate of Hitler and Mussolini, of Tojo and many others ought to serve as a timely warning to those who are still blinded by greed and power. The Anglo-American and Russian heroes may also learn lessons from it. Churchill's fall from power is also a good pointer. The writings on the wall are quite clear.

(To be continued)

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SAPA-REUTER NEWS

Again Remanded

London, Tuesday.
Abdul Hack Kajee (21) an Indian from Durban charged as a fugitive offender was again remanded when he made his fifth appearance at the police court here today. The reason this time was the indisposition of the Magistrate, Mr. McKenna.

Ex-Prime Minister Of Burma

Rangoon, Tuesday.
Mr. U. Saw, a former Prime Minister of Burma, described how Mr. Churchill appeared very aggressive and provocative at an interview in London when he was there in 1941 to ask for dominion status for Burma. Mr. U. Saw said that at the interview the first question Mr. Churchill asked was whether Burma was not happier under British rule than under the last Burmese king. Mr. U. Saw, who was detained by the British Government after alleged contacts with the Japanese authorities in 1942 and has now been released, said "it is true that I met the Japanese Legation at Lisbon, but the object of my interview was just to ask them to request the Japanese Government at Tokio to look after Burmese students in Japan." An announcement from 10 Downing Street, London, in January 1942 said it has come to the knowledge of the British Government that Mr. U. Shaw has been in contact with the Japanese authorities since the outbreak of war with Japan. This fact has been confirmed by his own admission. The Government have accordingly been compelled to detain him.

Fear Of Famine In Bengal

Bombay, Thursday.
Doctor Profulla Chandra Ghoss, a member of the Congress Party Executive, said that he feared another famine in Midnapore. Doctor Ghoss who has just returned from Midnapore which was badly hit in the 1942 and 1943 famines, said that the harvest this year was only 1-6th of normal. Many families will begin to starve in March and unless steps are taken worse things will happen than in 1943. The *Times Of India* commenting on the food situation said that without an improvement in food imports there would be some famine this year. At the present there is no need for panic. We do not face the same conditions as in 1943. A good distribution machine exists and there is no war to be won. Shipping is available for urgent needs: world grain stocks are short but not so short as to necessitate a famine,

No Confidence Motion

New Delhi, Thursday.
The Indian Legislative Assembly carried without division the All-India Congress Party's adjournment motion censuring the Government for recruiting European officers to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service in view of the declared intention of the Government to hand-over administration very shortly to the people of India.

R.I.A.F. Strike

New Delhi, Thursday.
The strike of 4,000 men of the Royal Indian Air Force at Cawnpore ended today. The Indian airmen had continued their strike after 5,000 R.A.F. men at Cawnpore resumed duties two days ago.

Forced Feeding Of Political Prisoners

Bareilly, Thursday.
The prison authorities have resorted to the forced feeding of 15 political prisoners in the Bareilly district jail who started a hunger strike for better treatment and reading and writing facilities. They threatened to fast unto death unless their grievances were redressed.

Federal Court Dismisses Appeal

New Delhi, Thursday.
The Federal Court of India today dismissed an appeal by Birpal Singh, former ruler of Bhajji of Himla Hill states who was contesting his detention in a mental hospital. The Court held that it had no jurisdiction. Birpal Singh was deposed in September 1940 and detained in Lahore mental hospital.

Assembly Rejects Congress Party's Motion

New Delhi, Friday.
The Legislative Assembly today rejected, without a division, an adjournment motion tabled by the Congress Party censuring the Government over the question of reparations. The motion referred to the quantum of reparation legitimately due from Germany and Japan to India, and the failure of the British Government of India to get the proper quota by consenting to a figure out of all proportion to the sacrifices made. This is the fourth adjournment motion moved by the Congress Party in the New Central Assembly. Two of the motions, censuring the Government for the use of Indian troops in Indonesia and for the recruitment of Europeans for the Indian civil and police services, were carried. The third motion was dropped after lengthy discussion.

Gandhiji To Be Weighed Against Silver

Madras, Friday.
Mahatma Gandhi has agreed to be weighed for the first time in his life against silver at the request of a Madras businessman. The ceremony will take place shortly and the silver, estimated at £400, will be given to Mahatma Gandhi's followers for uplifting Harijans (untouchables). Mahatma Gandhi weighs 98 lbs.

Coalition In Sind

Karachi, Saturday.
A coalition of the Congress Party, Nationalist Moslems and the Syed group (progressive Moslem League Party) has been formed in the Sind assembly, commanding 30 out of 60 seats. The second largest party will be the Moslem League with 27 seats while the European group hold three seats. The coalition with the Congress Party was announced by the leaders of the other two parties in a joint statement which said that the step had been taken in the interests of the province of Sind which has suffered grievously in the past.

Protest Against Rationing

Lucknow, Sunday.
Some 50,000 people made a hunger march through the main streets of Lucknow yesterday and held a demonstration in front of the Government buildings as a protest against the reduction of the wheat ration. On January 31 the United Provinces Government issued an order reducing the wheat ration and increasing the rice ration as from February 1 to May 1 (until the arrival of the new crop) owing to the shortage of wheat which is the staple food of this province. Those taking part in the procession who were from all political parties—Congress, Moslem League, Hindu Mahasabha, and Communist—carried party flags and shouted such slogans as "Down with Rationing" and "Hindus and Moslems United." Some in the procession carried chappates (wheat cakes) cut in half to symbolise the cut in the ration. The procession ended with a meeting which was addressed by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant a former Premier of the United Provinces. Pandit Pant said the present food and cloth scarcity in the country was the result of incompetent administration by a foreign government. The meeting passed a resolution declaring that a national and popular government alone could lay down an effective policy and provide food and other necessities for the Indian people.

Ruler Ordered To Leave His State

Allahabad, Sunday.
Sir Gulab Singh Bahadur the recently deposed Maharajah of Rewa in Central India has been officially asked by the political department of the Indian Government to leave his state within three days. According to Sir Gulab the period of exile had no time limit, and he has been exiled from the United and Central Provinces, all central Indian states and Rajputana. It was announced on Wednesday that the heir apparent Martand Singh Bahadur has been recognised as the new Maharajah of Rewa and that his father had been deposed for breaches of the conditions on which he was allowed to return to Rewa after an enquiry in 1942 on allegations concerning the death of two of his secretaries.

News In Brief

Motions of no confidence in the Government which were moved by leaders of the Opposition during the war years occupied nearly 40 days of Parliament's time, and cost the taxpayers £650,000. On conservative estimate the House of Assembly costs £200 an hour while it sits.

The Minister of Finance, replying to Mr. Haywood (Nat., Bloemfontein District) said that the Union Treasury had benefited by £1,072,182 by sharing with the British Government profits made on the sale of gold in India. The total amount obtained from gold realisation charges from June, 1940, to September, 1945, was £11,999,847, of which £10,016,400 had gone to the State and the balance to the gold mines.

Mr. Churchill is to receive the honorary degree from the University of Miami. It is confirmed that he will meet President Truman after the latter's arrival in Florida, on February 11.

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NEW INDIAN LEGISLATION

BOTH European and Indian commentators have drawn a number of hasty conclusions from the statement made by General Smuts in the Union House of Assembly on the legislation to be introduced during the Session to replace the Pegging Act, which expires at the end of March. The Prime Minister's statement did not purport, and was not intended to give an indication of the nature of the impending legislation. It was made with a very limited but specific and essential purpose, namely to make it clear that the Bill would have retrospective effect as from January 21, as far as transactions for the acquisition of fixed property are concerned.

General Smuts' statement does not cancel out the undertaking in the speech from the Throne that the new legislation will approach the Asiatic problem "on a broad basis." Therefore, until the legislation is revealed it would be prudent to withhold criticism. There will be time enough for that later on. Rash deductions based on what must inevitably be an inadequate knowledge of the facts, cannot do any good; they might do a lot of harm by inflating passions and exacerbating feelings.

No Monopoly Of Reaction

THAT reactionary race attitudes are not a monopoly of one section of the South African

people was once again demonstrated in the House of Assembly. During the debate on the Nationalist motion of no-confidence, both General Kemp, joint Nationalist leader in the Transvaal and Colonel Stallard, leader of the Dominion Party, referred to the current crime wave, analysed its causes, and suggested certain remedies. Significantly enough, the attitude towards the native revealed in these two speeches bore a striking resemblance, and what the one said might just as easily have been said by the other.

The Indian problem, of course, has in the past provided a common meeting-ground for reactionaries, whether they be English or Afrikaans-speaking, and will, no doubt, do so again during the present Session. None, for example, is so violently and

aggressively reactionary in his attitude towards the Indian community as the member of the Dominion Party; indeed, no Nationalist would want to go further in his anxiety to "keep the Indian in his place."

In these days it is well that we should bear these facts in mind, for a section of English-speaking South Africans is all too prone to blame the Afrikaner alone for preaching race-extremism. It simply is not true. What is true and what constitutes a real danger to progress is that the reactionaries of the two European sections may some day get together on a platform of racial exclusiveness and intolerance as far as the non-European is concerned. That would, indeed, be a sad day for South Africa.—Forum.

RID OF ALL RHEUMATISM

NOW FEELS YEARS YOUNGER

TO suffer continuously from acute rheumatism as did Mrs. Mollie Niemann, of Victoria, is to know what misery really means. Life under such circumstances, instead of being a pleasure, becomes a burden.



MRS. MOLLIE NIEMANN

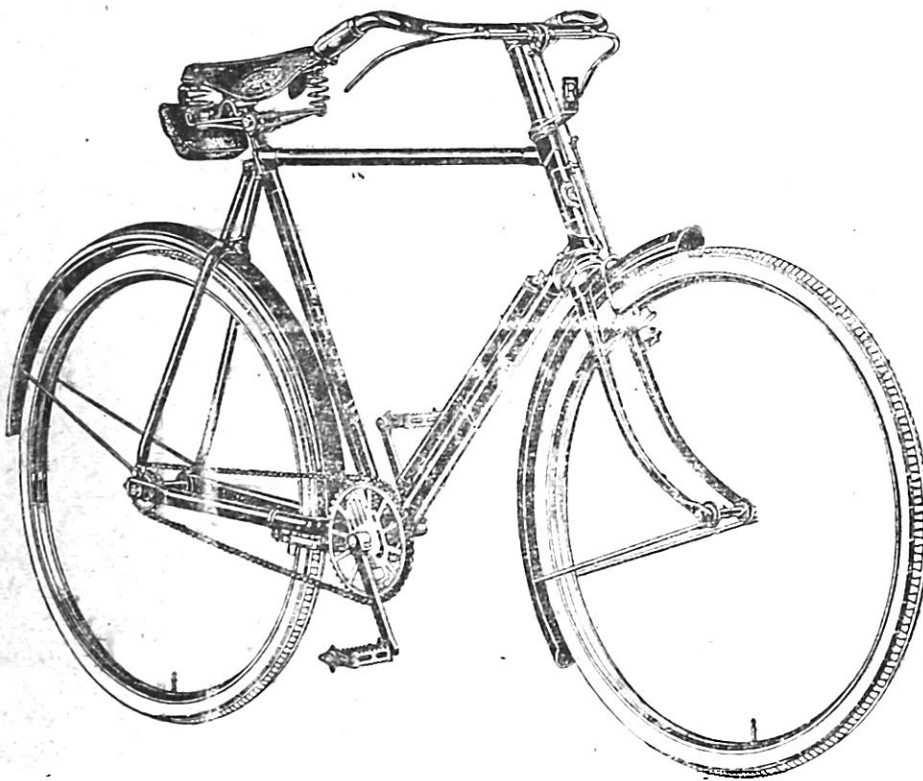
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