

Indian Opinion

No. 44—Vol. XXII.

Friday, November 7th, 1924.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper
PRICE FOURPENCE

NOTES AND NEWS

WE regret to record the sad demise of Mr. J. W. Cross of Maritzburg at one time Magistrate at Dundee. It would be remembered that during the Passive Resistance Struggle, he presided at the Special Court when Mahatma Gandhi was sentenced. Whilst delivering judgment, he expressed his sympathy with Mahatma Gandhi and paid due respects to the leader of South African Indians. He leaves a widow, four sons and two daughters to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

We understand that Dr. Malan the Minister for the Interior has written to the Secretary Natal Indian Congress asking him to send in the deputation re the Borough Ordinance by the end of the month to Pretoria.

The Secretary, has summoned a meeting for Saturday next the 8th instant at 3 p.m. at the Tamil Institute, to consider and discuss the Borough Ordinance and to elect the members of the deputation.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald tendered his resignation to the King. It was accepted, and Mr. Baldwin, was shortly afterwards summoned to Buckingham Palace by the King.

An urgent message despatched by Reuter from London at 7.30 on Thursday night announces that the composition of Mr. Stanley Baldwin's Cabinet has been officially published.

The Right Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery has charge of the portfolio of Secretary of State for the Colonies. Lord Birkenhead becomes Secretary of State for India.

Mr. Winston Churchill is Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain is Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Borough Police have been busy for some time past distributing the forms in all parts of Durban that are to be compiled into a census which they have been filled in, and the matter is now being pushed forward in view of the fact that November 12 is the return date when forms have to be completed. The forms themselves are voluminous, and are of separate design for Europeans, Natives, Asiatics and coloured persons.

A letter has been received by the South Coast Junction Health Committee, (European) from the South Coast Junction area Indian Health Committee, notifying their formation and assuring the Public Health Committee of their co-operation in all reasonable measures in matters of health in the area. The Committee has replied welcoming their advent which, it is felt sure, will be of considerable assistance in improving the sanitary conditions in certain sections.

The Secretary Mr. W. A. Powys has issued the following notice by order of the Committee and dated the 1st instant:—Notice is hereby given that the Public Health Rates for the South Coast Junction Area, as adopted by this Committee, and applying to the following:

Dwelling Houses, Dwelling Rooms, Hotels, Dairies, Grocers, Greengrocers, Chemists, Hairdressers and Tobacconists, Verandah Stalls, Blacksmith and Wagon Makers, Butchers, Bakers, Drapers, Eating Houses, Furniture Shops, Garages, Motor and Cycle Shops, Jewellers, Markets, Outfitters, Produce Merchants, Tea Rooms, Restaurants, Wood and Coal Merchants, Beer Halls, Race-courses, Factories, other Industrial concern, and Fisheries.

are exhibited at the front of Chemist's shop premises in which this Committee's Office is situated at Clairwood, near to Clairmont Hotel and facing Main South Coast Road, and will remain so exhibited for at least seven days prior to their being submitted to the Administrator for consideration and approval.

The official return issued by the Durban and District Unemployment Committee for the week ended October 21, shows that 240 married men and 140 single men, representing, with the families of the former, 1,079 persons in all, have been supported by relief works in Durban. Durban Corporation thus provides for the Europeans but nothing is being done for the out-of-work Indians. This is justice with vengeance.

One who is *au fait* with matters of Province finance expressed the opinion to the *Natal Mercury* representative that the solution which would inevitably have to be resorted to was the Province income tax. This would probably be a percentage of that paid in income tax to the Union Government, perhaps 10 per cent. with a minimum of £1 or £1 10s. This form of taxation is already in existence in the Transvaal and Free State, "and," added our informant with an inscrutable smile, "it is very popular because the people know that by this means they are paying for the education of their children and the training of their teachers."

A mass meeting of the Hindoos was held on the 2nd inst. at the Tamil Institute. Delegates from many associations of Natal were present. The object was to discuss how to celebrate the Dayanand centenary. A committee was appointed with power to add with Mr. Bhawani Dayal as the chairman Mr. Satyadev as the secretary and Mr. B. A. Megraj as the treasurer.

Two important resolutions adopted by the Council-in-Committee on the subject of Indian housing appear in the report of that committee. Both propositions were moved by Councillor Gilbert and read as follows:—

"That 10 acres of land at the rear of the Greyville running sheds on the Eastern Vlei be reclaimed

for the housing of municipal coloured employees."

"That the estates manager be authorised to investigate certain land and endeavour to obtain an option of purchase for the housing of Corporation Indians."

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S DEFEAT

LABOUR Government defeated. Liberals practically wiped out. Conservatives come in power with an overwhelming majority such were the messages flashed out by everybody's friend the Reuter. The Labour Party in England for the first time came into power with the Rt. Hon. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald at its head. They ruled the British Empire for about eight months with the help of Mr. H. H. Asquith the Leader of the Liberals. Great things were expected of them and there was a feeling abroad that contentment in the Empire will henceforth rule supreme. The Labour Party before coming into power had promised to cure all evils and to create a new haven for those oppressed members of the Empire. They failed to redeem what they had promised and acted in the same manner as their predecessors had done. They were not able to evolve any new scheme for the solution of the unemployment problem; they closed their eyes to the tyranny, oppression and cruelty which were being perpetuated on the unrepresented members of the British Empire. We had great hopes in the Labour Government from what its responsible leaders preached from time to time before taking their seats in Downing Street. We never thought that, no sooner they come in power, they will throw their promises to the wind and allow the suffering humanity to die a natural death. Ireland is still groaning under the heels of the little Englanders; Egypt is not free yet from the thralldom of the British Tommies; India is still suffering brutally at the hands of such naughty boys as Clive of old and the modern plunderers; Indians in the Colonies are being starved to death for being British subjects under the protection (forsooth) of the Imperial Government. Labour Government failed to find a solution to the above difficulties; Liberals in the past fared no better; the Conservatives who ruled the Empire from time to time under different leaders were also not able to make any headway in solving the sufferings of humanity who are dark in colour. To-day, under the leadership of Mr. Baldwin the Conservatives have a majority who could wink at the other parties and carry out their programme without any fear of obstruction from them. India fears that her progress will be retarded and we have no doubt that she has good grounds for her fears, judging from the past history of the Conservatives. We are of the opinion that a steam-roller majority for any party is not a healthy sign, unless Baldwin's Government proves the exception. This leads us to the question that, is Mr. Baldwin strong enough to over rule the reactionary policies of the members of his party, we doubt it. In any case it is rather early for us to form any opinion of Baldwin's Government until such time as we are informed of those who would be asked to join his cabinet. Let us hope that what the Labour Party and the Liberals have failed in accomplishing, the Conservatives will

succeed so that other countries, and other nations who are in the Empire will rejoice at the downfall of the Labour Government. We the members of the Indian community in South Africa are daily being driven to a position which borders on slavery and the Conservatives if they are worth the salt will see that our grievances and our troubles are removed and that the high traditions of the British Empire is not allowed to be trodden down by a handful of the Dutch farmers in this outpost of the Empire.

COLOUR-BAR IN COURTS OF JUSTICE

In an interview the Minister of Justice denied to our correspondent on Oct. 29th at Pretoria says the *Natal Mercury* the statement purporting to emanate from Natal that he is requiring lawyers of that Province to replace their Indian clerks by Europeans.

He has given no such instructions, but what he has done, is to bemoan the practices of certain solicitors in sending Indians and Natives as their agents to issue summonses. This involves that the non-Europeans mix with the Europeans, including the white lady clerks who attend the Court Houses for the same purpose on behalf of that more reputable legal firms.

Protest and complaints have been addressed to the Minister on this matter; the objectors urging that, apart from the undesirableness of white girls and men being required to mix with the Indians and Natives, the Rules of Court, and the Supreme Court Tariff are sufficient for the employment of white labour.

It seems very doubtful whether the practice complained of is legal. In any case the Minister is advised that the only person entitled to issue a summons is the suing party or his attorney, no other agent; the agent cannot depute his function as, for instance, to a clerk.

The Minister has therefore asked the Magistrate of Durban to call a meeting of the European practitioners in Durban and intimate that he proposes to act on the reading furnished him, unless the practice complained of is desisted from.

It cannot also be questioned that it is in the interest even of Indian and Native messengers that they should not serve summonses on Europeans for it exposed them sometimes to unpleasant treatment by white men who object to receive a summons from a non-European.

A case of assault thus originated not long ago in a Durban hotel, and if, as it happened, the attack was largely technical, and the coloured deputy had more of insult than injury to put up with, he doubtless did not like it, nor was it fair that he should suffer where his white principal was to blame.

The Magistrate, it is worth noting, dismissed the charge of assault on the ground that the Indian declined to go round to the back of the hotel with his summons, a request which the Bench hold to be quite a reasonable one, considering the social feeling of the Durban community in the matter of colour.

With respect to the Messenger of the Court officials who draw large fees and are well able to pay salaries of the European standard, it happened that these, so far as they are found in the Province of Natal, fall under that direct control of that Minister. He is therefore notifying them that he cannot assent to the employment by them of Natives and Asiatics in their offices in any capacity after Dec. 31.

If, then, they are not prepared to accede to his views in that respect indicated, he proposes to cancel their appointment. The incident of the assault on the Indian deputy above referred to is one of a class frequently occurring which suggest

difficulty of administering a colour-blind system in this country.

The easiest line of equal treatment may be found in giving each race full rights and privileges in its own areas, but restricted ones in the areas of the other. In an Indian area, for instance, the Indians might not only act as attorney's agents, but become attorney's themselves, and even judges. If we then depend on Indian opinion in the areas referred to, how far the European lawyers got therein, the rule for the legal calling will be that for all the others.

This broadly is the race-policy towards which the present Ministry seems to be working.

Colonel Creswell implicitly laid it down in his address to the Native Conference this morning. Mr. Tielman Roos illustrated to me this afternoon the same principle by illustrating its application to the legal profession in the way I have above shown, and Mr. Piet Grobler declared a week or two ago for an early demarcation by Parliament of areas in which non-Europeans might acquire land so as to make that policy practicable.

(In reference to the above interview with the Minister of Justice at Pretoria, dealing with Indian clerks in lawyers offices, and the broader aspect of Indians in Government employ, we are asked to state says the *Natal Mercury* that no Indian-deputy messengers of Court in the Durban District are, or ever have been employed in serving Court process upon Europeans, a large European staff being employed specifically for that purpose. In respect of the case of assault mentioned which originated in a Durban hotel, the coloured (Indian) deputy concerned was engaged in serving a summons upon an Indian and not upon a European.)

INDIANS IN SOLICITORS' OFFICES

The Government's policy of endeavouring to provide additional openings for European employment is one that has the support of many, says, the *Natal Mercury* in its editorial columns, besides their acknowledged supporters, but some of the methods by which it is endeavouring to achieve its ends are likely to create irritation rather than increase the field it seeks to enlarge. Mr. Tielman Roos' veiled ultimatum to the solicitors of Durban is a case in point. Objection has been taken to the fact that a number of local solicitors send Indian clerks to the magistrate's office to execute the formality of issuing a summons, which in effect amounts to handing a document to an official in the office and paying the necessary fees, it being stated that the Europeans who also attend the office for similar and other purposes object to mix with the non-Europeans. Although these Indians are undoubtedly of a class to which no objection can be taken save on the ground of race, and the difficulty could easily be overcome as it is in many public institutions and stores by the provision of a non-European counter. Mr. Roos has decided to proceed in quite a different fashion. He is advised that under the rules of court the only person competent to issue a summons is the plaintiff or his attorney, and he proposes to carry out the law strictly, "unless the practice complained of is desisted from"; in other words he is quite willing to wink at a breach of the rules if a European is employed, but both his eyes will be very wide open if an Indian carries out the work. It is hopeless trying to increase the field for white labour by subterfuges of this character. It is a still more obvious subterfuge because of the fact that even if the solicitors refrain from sending their Indian clerks to the magistrate's office the admixture of European and non-European will be but slightly lessened, as much other business takes all classes of the population to this particular office. If Mr. Tielman Roos had been a little more frank he would have achieved

much more. What he objects to, and it is fair to say what a considerable proportion of the European public object to, is the extent to which Indian clerks are employed in some legal offices, and had he made an appeal to practitioners to give their clerical work as far as possible to Europeans it is reasonable to believe that he would have received a favourable response. It has to be remembered, however, that most solicitors have reasonable grounds for retaining at least one Indian clerk in their employ. The Indian is without doubt the most litigious section of our community and quite a number of practitioners rely for their practice, some even to a very considerable extent, upon Indian clients. It is essential that there shall be complete understanding between the solicitor and his client, and whilst no doubt many Indians have sufficient command of English to carry on a conversation, in matters where there is need of exactly understanding a client's desires, or of advising him in detail as to the course to take, interpretation is necessary to ensure that there is no misunderstanding. If Mr. Roos suggested to solicitors that it would have been alike in the interests of the profession and of the European community if Indians employed by them were restricted to interpretation and similar work as far as possible, it is likely he would have secured a large measure of agreement; as it is he is likely to cause only a certain amount of irritation, as in very few instances indeed will the work in question justify the engagement of an additional European clerk, and it will in consequence provide an extra duty to be carried out by the present staff.

DR. MALAN ON THE INDIAN QUESTION

Some assurances of a very reassuring nature to the people of Natal in general and of Durban in particular were given to a *Natal Mercury* representative by the Hon. Dr. Malan, Minister of the Interior, who as Minister of Education has been attending the Provincial Congress in Durban during the present week.

As the holder of three portfolios, it may be assumed that Dr. Malan is at all times a very busy man, and his visit to Durban has by no means been in the nature of a rest cure, for in addition to attending Conference whenever matters relating to education were under discussion, he has met the Council-in-Committee twice, received deputations upon matters relating to public health, and also inspected matters such as Indian housing conditions that come within his ken as Minister of the Interior.

TOWNSHIPS ORDINANCE

It was in regard to this latter subject that an expression of opinion was sought from the Minister yesterday, and although he impressed the fact that it was difficult to speak of the matter at present because it was before Government in the form of the Townships Ordinance, he spoke as freely as possible under the circumstances. Regarding the delay in giving assent to the Ordinance, the Minister said it was submitted to Parliament during the session at a time of great pressure of work, and at the time it was impossible to give the necessary consideration to it, whilst in addition a request from the Indian community was received asking that they be allowed to advance their views. It was felt that it would not be right to assent to the Ordinance without hearing both sides of the question, and so the matter was left over, particularly as it was not to take effect until August of next year, which suggested there was no great urgency.

"At the same time," continued Dr. Malan, "the Government wishes to deal with this matter as soon as possible, and will take its decision towards the

end of November after we have received the deputations of Indians. I have given an undertaking that should the Government seriously consider vetoing the Ordinance it will not do so until the Provincial authorities also have had an opportunity to lay their case before us—we must hear both points of view.”

FOUNDATIONS LAID FOR SLUMS

“Yesterday I spent several hours on the Indian question, speaking to officials and others connected with the matter and having a look round, and I think there is no doubt the Indian is encroaching upon the European. A very serious condition of affairs is arising in the districts around Durban, and so far as I have been able to judge, the Indian who was formerly a labourer in the sugar fields is now flocking to the towns and their immediate surroundings, and both from the points of view of public health and town planning this is creating a very serious state of affairs.

“Here in Durban and district I find a more or less similar state of affairs to that which obtains in the Cape Peninsular, where the land around the towns has been bought by companies and others and subdivided into smaller plots without any regard to future requirements; there are no allowances for squares, no provision for public buildings, nor even for streets. In this way foundations are laid for slums; they must necessarily become slums if this system is to continue unchecked. As Minister for Public Health, I am taking steps to use the power given me by the Public Health Act, in consultation with the Provincial authorities and the Municipal authorities.

TOWN PLANNING NEEDED

An endeavour was made to induce the Minister to put a period of time upon the passing of the Townships Ordinance, but he replied that the question was rather too complicated to do that, pointing out that as yet there was no real authority to deal with the matter beyond the Provincial authority generally, so that it might almost be said the matter was out of control. “At the same time,” Dr. Malan added, “the Public Health Act gives the Minister a great deal of power, so that it will not be necessary to introduce new legislation, while regulations under the Act are at present being prepared which will result in a greater measure of control being exercised over the administration of the Act.

“In the Transvaal and the Free State there are Town Planning Ordinances, but there are none in the Cape and in Natal, so that here it will be necessary for the Minister to exercise his powers. I have discussed the subject with the Administrator for the Cape Province, and a Town Planning Ordinance will be introduced there next Session, while I am hoping that Natal will follow suit, so that it will only be necessary for me to use my power under the Act in the meantime. There is no doubt, however, that it is a very serious question in Natal.

LEGISLATION IF NECESSARY

“Are you suggesting that it is already too late for the best results to be obtained,” was a query put to the Minister in this connection, and he replied: “In some instances I am afraid it is too late, and only Parliament will be able to alter existing conditions, but I am certainly prepared to go as far as possible even in that direction, and am, in fact, at present discussing the question with the Cape Provincial authorities. There the matter has been allowed to continue for years unchecked, until an impossible position has arisen. We are up against vested interests, and legislation will be necessary, but the future must be safeguarded.

Dr. Malan expressed regret that at the present juncture he could not go further into the matter, but he reiterated his intention of utilising to the full the powers given him under the Act, and of not hesitating to seek the powers of legislation where necessary.

OPERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Greenwood Park Committee brought to notice of the Provincial Administrator the question of finance, at the conference held in the Mayor's Parlour, Durban, on Aug. 14, 1924. At this conference the Administrator informed the Committees that, if they would send to him an estimate of their respective expenditure for the first six months of their terms of office, the Executive Council would consider the question and would advance to each Committee such sum as was within the means of the Administration and as was considered reasonable. Pursuant to this request the Greenwood Park Committee sent forward a detailed estimate of expenditure amounting to £550. In due course the Committee was notified that the Executive Council could not advance this amount, but were prepared to advance a sum of £300 payable by six equal monthly instalments of £50. The Committee, fully realising that the advances to be made by the Executive Council were of necessity limited by the amount still unexpended of the total placed on the estimates for Public Health for the year ending March 31, 1925, agreed to accept the advance of £300, but pointed out that they had been functioning since July 1, 1924, and asked that the period of six months be allowed to run from the date. To this the Administration offered no objection and accordingly forwarded to the Committee a cheque for £200, being for the months July to October inclusive.

The question of the validity of the Ordinance No. 7 of 1923 bulked largely in the earlier discussions of the Committee and this subject was also fully gone into at the conference on Aug. 14, 1924, when the Administrator and Mr. W. A. D. Russell, M.E.C., both informed the conference that, whilst it was not competent for the Administration to give the Committees any definite guarantee or indemnity against personal loss by members of the Committee, the Executive Council would, should the Ordinance be held to be ultra vires, place an amount on the estimates to re-imburse any personal loss and would use their best endeavours to induce the Provincial Council to pass the Estimate. Realising the position of the Executive Council, and being perfectly satisfied as to the bona fide nature of the promise, made, the Committee decided to carry on and they were fortified in this decision by the fact that the Ordinance had, before coming law, been approved by the legal advisers to the Provincial Council and by the law advisers to the Crown in Pretoria. The Committee were also informed that the Attorney-General of Natal had expressed the opinion that the Ordinance was intra vires.

A very great deal of hard work has been put in by the Committee in drafting regulations in connection with rating, sub-division of land, erection of new dwelling, etc., and these are now in Maritzburg waiting sanction by the Administrator.

They have discussed at very great length the various methods of rating and eventually decided that this question and also the amount of the rate to be levied for the year ending July 31, 1925. This has not yet received the necessary sanction of the Administrator, but it may be stated that the rate is a very moderate one and probably much below that anticipated by the majority of residents in the area. Notwithstanding the low rate it will produce sufficient revenue to meet the requirements of the committee.

The Committee have caused a complete census of the area to be made, including inhabitants, buildings, animals, and land, and this has naturally entailed very arduous work on the part of the Secretary, but the information obtained is of the utmost value and

importance to the Committee, and has enabled them to frame their estimates of revenue and expenditure.

As an instance of the importance of the function of the Committee, says the report, it may be stated that it came to their knowledge that a certain individual was hawking fish and vegetables in the district whilst actually suffering from leprosy in an advanced stage. As a result of the action of the Committee and co-operation in official circles the individual in question has been repatriated to India, having left Natal some few days ago. Comment on such case is surely superfluous.

INDIAN VILLAGE AT CATO MANOR

STANDING COUNSEL'S OPINION

Mr. H. G. Mackeurtan, K.C., the standing counsel for the Borough of Durban, has submitted the following opinion on re (1) Gray and Monzali, (2) Acquisition of land outside Borough:—

These two cases are really one. I do not think it necessary to discuss whether under Law 27 of 1884 and Ordinance 7 of 1914 the Corporation has power to purchase land outside the borough, although if it were necessary to give an opinion I incline to the view that the Corporation are so empowered, provided the land outside the borough is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the Corporation. I may say, however, that I do not propose to discuss this because in the resolution of the Town Council there is incorporated a reference to Section 5 of Act 35 of 1920, and the whole resolution must be read subject to the limitations imposed by that Act, because if there is any conflict between that Act and the other two Acts referred to, Act 35 of 1920 must prevail. (See Section 21.) The matter must therefore be considered as if the Council is acting solely under Section 5 of Act 35 of 1920. Under that it is only entitled with the approval of the Administrator to acquire land for the purpose of the construction of dwellings also approved by the Administrator. Unless and until the Administrator gives his approval to the purchase of the land it is quite immaterial that the would-be sellers have been advised, because there is no contract of sale pending the Administrator's consent being given. If he approves there is then a completed sale. If, on the other hand, he does not approve, there is no contract and no action lies at the instance of the sellers against the Corporation. This brings me to the other question, namely, whether the Corporation is bound to submit details of its proposed dwellings or scheme. In my opinion section 5 of Act 35 of 1920 only empowers the purchase of land for the purpose of a building scheme, and the position would therefore appear to be this: If the Administrator is satisfied that the land is required for the construction of approved dwellings or an approved scheme, he may give his consent to the purchase of the land, which could then be legitimately purchased. But it could not be utilised for any other purpose than the construction of dwellings to be approved by the Administrator, or for a scheme to be similarly approved by him. From the point of view of practical politics it would be necessary in the ordinary way for the Administrator, either to be satisfied that buildings are going to be erected, in which case he could give his consent to the purchase of the land, and the corporation could not, without being interdicted, use the land for anything but these buildings afterwards, or the Administrator would be entitled to require, before approving to the purchase of the land, full details of the proposed scheme so that he could say whether he approved or not.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

It appears, says *New India*, that Mr. J. H. Thomas stated at Pietermaritzburg that the Asiatic problem is a subject of party controversy in South Africa. This view is being sharply criticised and we think with very good reason. For, it is a fact, however unwelcome it may be, that, with a few honourable exceptions, the majority of whites want to squeeze out the Asiatic rival in trade and, for racial reasons, make his stay in South Africa as inconvenient as possible. The South African newspapers harp on the position of untouchables in India and say that Indian nationals enjoy handsome treatment in the Union. The disabilities in India are social in character, not political, and even they are being removed surely, if slowly. But that is no reason why a wrong should be repeated. Is there nothing else in India than an age-long blemish which the enlightened whites need copy? The *Cape Times* suggests that practical steps should be taken to bring South African and Indian Governments together for the purpose of discovering a common view-point. But we are not left in doubt as to what South Africa demands. It is that India should consent to speedier repatriation. This would be surrender and no compromise.

AN ASIATIC ENTENTE

RESULT OF CIVIL WAR IN CHINA

The fulfilment of the dream of an Asiatic-entente, says the London Correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser*, embracing Russia, China, and Japan, is said to be a likely result of the civil war in China and the intervention of the Western Powers in China's affairs.

The cornerstone of this entente has been cemented by the reinforced friendship between China and the Soviet. The leaders of Chinese thought and the vanguard of awakening and independent China are coming to feel more and more that Soviet Russia is their natural ally. The conviction is deepening that when China shakes off her legarthy of centuries of feudalism and attempts to unify her disintegrated Empire, Russia will support her in the struggle to discard Western domination, both economic and political. The result of questionnaire recently submitted to students at a great Chinese university, may be regarded as a straw showing which way the wind is blowing. One question put to the students was "What nation do you regard as China's greatest friend?" Among 800 answers, 400 specified Russia, 100 the United States, 200 suggested that China is too weak to possess any friends abroad, and the remainder indicated a miscellaneous assortment of foreign groups.

BRIDGE ACROSS DIFFICULTIES

Great importance is said to be attached to the recent agreement between Moscow and Chang-Tso-Lin; the military ruler of Manchuria. This understanding, which supplements the Moscow-Pekin Treaty, is regarded as a probable bridge across the Russo-Japanese difficulties. Chang-Tso-Lin—even though only for expediency's sake—is friendly with both Japan and Russia, while he retains a far-reaching influence in the affairs of China and may serve as the link to unite Tokio and Moscow. The great obstacle to the formation of an Asiatic Entente is the deep-seated distrust of Japan, which still prevails in influential Chinese quarters. China has forgotten neither the notorious 21 demands, designed to transform China into a Japanese colony, nor the Japanese annexation of Shantung. China's profound suspicion of Japan's expansionist schemes must be allayed before a China-Japanese Entente is remotely possible. Moreover, Soviet Russia is not prepared to form an alliance with Japan—even the loosest alliance—if

such a move would lead to Chinese doubts as to the sincerity of Russian's friendship for China. The Soviet Government believes that Japan is destined soon to assume the liberal role in China's development, hitherto played by the United States. If this assumption is well founded, the basis for the Asiatic bloc will be created.

"HINDI" DIWALI NUMBER

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the *Hindi* Diwali Number, edited by Messrs. Bhawani Dayal and M. Beethasee Maharaj, published and printed by the former at the Jagrani Press, Jacobs. This annual number of the *Hindi* is always eagerly sought for by those who are interested in the Indian question. This year's number far supercedes those issued by this firm in the past. The general get-up and the up-to-date matter containing in this issue is a credit to this firm and its editors; and is of immense value to the community here and in India. It not only contains numerous illustrations but also messages from Minister's of the Union Government, editors of prominent newspapers, parsons, doctors, Barristers, Town Councillors and leaders of Indian thought. These messages from responsible men and women help to bring about a better understanding between the rulers and the ruled and creates an atmosphere congenial to a solution of the difficulties which taxes our statesmen in this country. We congratulate the editors and publishers on this most useful production which no doubt is an unprecedented success. The price is only 2/- per copy and may be obtained from the publishers or from Kapitan's Tea-Room, Grey Street.

ETHICS OF ORGANISATION

(BY A VALUED CORRESPONDENT),

The consideration of what ingredients are required for the proper conduct of an institution is as important as the proper taking of diet to maintain one's life and health.

The proper understanding of both leads to a living organisation in one case and the enjoyment of an active, healthy state of mind and body in the other.

Organisation requires three essential factors. The proper knowledge of work in hand, the will to do it, and the measure of support it will receive from people. These three things assured, money although important is of secondary consideration. Individuality of leaders, who organise big as well as small things, is also of considerable importance. Men win or lose their battle in private or public life as they understand or misunderstand these essentials in their proper form. The proper maintenance of a social, religious or political fabric depends upon organisation. It is the very life of our existence. How many bodies social, religious or political go under through the disregard or misapplication of these essentials that give success? There is an old saying that unity is strength. This saying is as true as is incontestable, but how many people understand these factors that build up unity. Is it possible to think of unity without knowing the kind of materials required to build unity?

Organisation must precede unity. Without it unity is void, and becomes an empty word. People who want unity forgetful of what requisites are wanted to make it up cry in vain. Organisms of our body because of their harmonised organisation give us strength. Disorganised or diseased organisms disintegrate the body which becomes feeble and incapable, and falls a victim to decay. Its very innate character of the organisms of our body that gives life, and anything that retards it, means death. So it is with living organisations. All the harmonised conditions that are conducive to good,

healthy and living organisms should be applied to living organisation.

When we enquire into the conditions of our organisations, important and unimportant, we find that they lack essentials that are required to give them real life.

It seems that in the state of conditions in which we are, organisations disorganise us, which in turn spell disunity. There is something radically wrong with this state of affairs. The first essential, as we have said, is that unless people cultivate the art of organisation, the power, strength and endurance to maintain it no organisation can prosper, much less carry on and complete to a success the work it has imposed upon itself in a public cause. Before unity of action can be achieved in a given direction organisation, in our opinion, must precede in on proper lines.

News in Brief

Large numbers of Swarajist leaders throughout India, including Gandhi, assembled to consider the situation arising from the Bengal arrests. Gandhi travelled overnight from Delhi by a circuitous route in order to avoid a demonstration. The conference was very secret, and the proceedings are likely to be protracted. It is understood that the conference is at present examining available evidence on which the Government presumably based the Ordinance, and will afterwards draw up a far-reaching national programme of protest against the Ordinance.

The results of the election in Britain, says Ruter, have been received in India with mixed feelings. Anglo-Indians, generally, are pleased at the prospect of a stable Administration, and hope that the Indian situation, which is causing increasing anxiety, will be firmly handled by the Conservative Administration. Indian political circles and the Indian Press are almost unanimously disappointed, and prophesy a gloomy future for India under a "reactionary" Conservative Government. The extremists are pleased to think that the Conservative regime will alienate the Moderates from the Government, thereby strengthening the extremist ranks.

An American physician (Dr. James Gwathmey) claims to have discovered an anaesthetic consisting of scopolamin and morphine in a solution of Epsom salts that will make child-birth both safe and painless. His method is a variation of the "twilight sleep" system, and he states that as a result of it a thousand babies have born in one New York hospital in the last few months without pain to the mother or danger of poisoning to the infants. British medical authorities await further proofs before endorsing Dr. Gwathmey's claims.

Mary Patricia Wilson, of East Malvern, Melbourne, was adjudged the best of the 60,000 entrants in the Empire Baby Competition. Her qualifications were:

Age: Two years eight months;
Height: 3ft. 1½in.
Weight: 2st. 3lbs.
Teeth: Full set 20.
First sat up: At six months.
First stood up: At 8½ months.
First walked: At one year.

St. John's, Oct. 25 (Ruter).—The Newfoundland Government has decided to participate in the Empire Exhibition in 1925.

Printed and Published by Manilal M. Gandhi at Phoenix Settlement, Poona, India.