

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

THE *Natal Advertiser* London correspondent states:—Mr. J. H. Thomas is contributing a series of articles to *Answers* on "Our Empire: What it really means."

In the first article the ex-Colonial Secretary declares that India's demand for self-government "some day must unquestionably be granted, with all that it involves."

Referring to the native question in Africa, Mr. Thomas says, "Our black fellow subjects must be dealt with justly, patiently and paternally. We have accepted a great trust which we must faithfully discharge. It cannot be shirked, and must not be neglected. Our only justification for attaching these lands to our Crown is the beneficial nature of our administration, and the fact that no exploitation of native races is possible under our flag. We, in fact, by our own choice, are 'guide, philosopher and friend' of the undeveloped races of the earth, and it thus becomes our duty, certainly to lead and teach them, and occasionally to scold them."

"And all this has but one end in view—not exploitation for 'Imperial purposes' of these immature races, but rather their progress towards higher forms of life."

A Reuter's message from Calcutta dated Dec. 29 states:—

The Bengal Legislative Council will meet on Jan. 7 to consider a Bill to give effect to the Ordinance promulgated on Oct. 25, under the Emergency Powers by the Viceroy, who was satisfied that the anarchical movement was deep seated and dangerous, and that plans for criminal outrages had developed to a dangerous extent. Wholesale arrests followed the promulgation of the Ordinance, which is legally effective for six months only. The Bengal Government has issued a memorandum in which it announces that the Bill will provide a right of appeal to the High Court from the tribunal of three Judges. It is generally anticipated that the Council will not pass the Bill owing to the opposition of the Swarajists.

In *Current Thought* Mr. C. F. Andrews states:—

All that I know is that the inevitable trend of human history, as its tide is moving forward to-day, is towards unification. The scientific discoveries of the modern world are pointing to unification. The irresistible urge within man is towards unification. All the higher spiritual forces have their goal in unification. Every deed of love and sacrifice, of brotherhood and fellowship, leads to unification. When mankind has achieved its goal, it may be that other forms of colour and beauty will reveal themselves, by which the Man will be realised anew, before becoming merged again in the One. But all that is beyond our present range of knowledge. For us, as we enter into our own great heritage of the future, the way is clear. We should give to our thoughts and ideas, our hopes and aims, no less wide a range than that of humanity itself. There

is ultimately one brotherhood of us all,—the Brotherhood of Man.

Bernard Houghton gives it as his opinion in the same review that—

Wars are not, as the histories and newspapers pretend, made from some sudden quarrels between statesmen or from breach of a treaty. They result from the clash of economic interests. Britain's entry into the recent war had as much to do with the German invasion of Belgium as with a solar eclipse. Nor did the Czar's Government order a general mobilization on July 30th, 1914, thereby giving the signal for war because of the wrongs of little Serbia. It became the world slaughter in order to seize Constantinople, the way to which the secret council in Petrograd in February had accurately stated to be through Berlin. The immediate cause which brought in Britain was the secret understanding of Mr. Asquith's inner cabinet with the French Government, the ultimate cause the rivalry between the British and German ironmasters and exploiters of tropical peoples. The war was the conflict of rival Imperialisms for the exploitation of the world.

### A RETROSPECT

IN considering the present position of our community in South Africa in general and in Natal in particular, a review of the happenings of the past year discovers in all its grim nakedness to the civilised world within and without, the grave injustices that are sought to be perpetrated on our people in the name of white superior civilisation by a Christian people and by the so-called Christian rulers. The dawn of the past year was to us but the beginning of fresh troubles and disabilities and the passing by the Provincial Council of Natal—the most Christian Province of the Union—of the Hulett's Township Ordinance with such unanimity and with such *non-halance* in the teeth of our community's united opposition—and notwithstanding the veto of the Governor-General-in-Council three times previously of a measure similar in its provisions, was a fore-runner of the anti-Asiatic legislation that was to follow. This Ordinance deprived the Indian Townships of their right to vote in the election of members for local boards and offered gratification to Indian womanhood. A deputa-<sup>tion</sup> of the Natal Indian community was constituted to visit the legislative capital of the Union in order to protest for the <sup>same</sup> level of last year to protest for the <sup>same</sup> level of passing of that Ordinance and for the <sup>same</sup> measure was reserved by the Council on the recom-<sup>mendation</sup> of the SHOP WHITE picketing of the

Party Government. The egregious author of this Ordinance claimed that it was a just one and was necessary on the ground of self-preservation. This was followed by the publication by the Central Government in the Union *Government Gazette* of the now defunct Class Areas Bill whose provisions meant a slow and sure process of annihilation of our community in South Africa. This caused such consternation among our community throughout the Union that it was at once stirred to action. The South African Indian Congress Executive met in Capetown and decided upon the line of action to be pursued. An influential deputation of the community waited upon Mr. Patrick Duncan the then Minister for the Interior and vigorously protested against the introduction of same in the Union Parliament, which was then in session. The dramatic dissolution of the Parliament after its first reading and the defeat of the South African Party at the general election that followed, naturally put it out of action. The present Government have avowed that it was not their intention to re-introduce the same measure but we presume that they contemplate bringing in at not a distant date something different and far more drastic in its operation. We are firmly convinced that they in advising the Governor-General to give his consent to the passing of the Natal Boroughs Consolidated Ordinance, which was the next shot fired at us for our ultimate undoing, have done it with a view to ascertain how far the community is prepared to go in resisting it and what result it is likely to produce, whether of its own volition or through the intervention of either the Imperial or the Indian Governments, so that they might be guided in their own time in dealing with the bogie of "Asiatic menace." There will be further attempts by the local, Provincial and Central Governments at cribbing our right to remain in this country as peaceful and law-abiding citizens, there is not the least doubt, unless saner counsels prevail and the Infinite Justice of God, makes them wiser in their generation. Like the sword of Damocles, a great suspense hangs over the community now more than ever. What is in store for our degradation and slow but sure extermination, during this year, can best be imagined than predicted. What the Indians have done to merit this treatment passes our understanding. Are they to be despised because of their industry, frugality and simplicity? Are these not the qualities that ought to appeal and commend themselves to a God-fearing people, whose worship of the one, true and living God inculcates the universal brotherhood of man? O ye countrymen we say be united, be ever on guard, bear ye one another's burdens. Your future of this country will depend a great deal on the way you conduct yourselves, morally, socially, politically. To the leaders of the community sink your differences, come to a common understanding and means of taking concerted action to safeguard and pre-

### THE ASIATIC PROBLEM

#### THE ECONOMIC ASPECT: DANGER OF RACIAL DETERIORATION

The following article has been contributed specially to the *Natal Witness* by a European writer who "has had some 30 years' South African experience, and has been brought into close contact with Indians of all classes" —

The promulgation of the Borough's Ordinance with its restrictive clauses relating to Indian municipal franchise, has evoked a storm of indignant protest from Indians in all parts of this country and in India itself.

With the object of elucidating the full significance of the present situation, the following facts have been collected and various deductions drawn which may prove of interest to the earnest student of this most important and far-reaching problem. The writer has had some 30 years' South African experience, and has been brought into close contact with Indians of all classes. His deductions may be open to criticism in some directions, but the historical accuracy of the facts stated is beyond question, and the views expressed emanate from an entirely unbiassed source.

#### IMPORTATION OF COOLIES

Indian coolies were first brought to Natal in 1860 in order to secure a reliable supply of labour for the sugar planting and other agriculture on the coastal areas, 1,000 coolies arriving that year, and periodic shipments as required during the ensuing 36 years. Subsequently to 1880, many coolies were indentured to up-country farmers, mines, and other industries. These Indian coolies were imported under an indenture which provided for their repatriation on completion of five years' service, but with a condition that in the event of their re-indenturing for a further period of two years such Indians would, on the expiry of the seventh year, be granted passes permitting them to remain in the Colony of Natal as free Indians. With comparatively few exceptions these coolies elected to remain in Natal, where they established families on small holdings. The Indian population of Natal is now 141,649, of which total approximately one-half were born in South Africa and have never been in India. The ratio of increase of the Indian population in Natal during the past 13 years was 6 per cent. per annum.

#### IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS

Until 1897 there was no embargo against Indians entering Natal, but under the Immigration Restriction Act of 1897 (amended by Law 30 of 1903) no person was permitted to land in Natal who failed to write out and sign in any European language an application to enter the Colony. This had the effect of excluding every uneducated Indian. Since Union, the Immigration Regulation Act of 1913 was passed. This Act *inter alia* entitled the Minister to prohibit the entry into South Africa of any persons "on economic grounds or on account of standard or habits of living being unsuited to the requirements of the Union or any Province thereof." Shortly after the passing of the Act the Minister issued a "Pronouncement" declaring all Asiatics prohibited immigrants under this section.

Two or three years after the arrival of the first consignment of coolies, a few Bombay merchants and ship-owners brought cargoes of rice and Indian condiments for the consumption of their compatriots. They established businesses in Durban, Verulam and Stanger. By the year 1870 (ten years later) 668 Indians had gravitated to Durban, and two Indian traders had secured trading licences. In 1875 there were 698 Indians living in Durban, of whom eleven held licences, and Indians owned property to the value of £3,000. In 1880, their numbers had risen to 3,309, the value of property owned by them to £15,000, while 37 Indians held trading licences.

In 1889, the Indian population of Durban was 53, they owned properties valued at £28,840; 250 Indians had become ratepayers (i.e., burgesses with voting privileges), and 124 licences were held by Asiatics. The following figures show the gradual increase of Indian holdings of property in Durban:

	Value of properties owned by Indians.	Percentage on total valuation of Borough.
1889 ... ..	£28,840	0.178
1899 ... ..	200,880	3.59
1909 ... ..	501,750	5.284
1919 ... ..	652,880	5.104
1921 ... ..	940,050	6.04
1922 ... ..	1,002,980	6.212
1923 ... ..	1,021,670	6.147
1924 ... ..	1,098,230	6.308

#### LICENSING RESTRICTIONS

Under the Wholesale and Retail Dealers' Act of Natal (No. 18 of 1897), the Municipal Corporations were enabled to restrict the number of licences issued to Asiatics. Full advantage of this power was taken by the Durban Corporation as evidenced by the fact that while in 1919 the total number of trading licences held by Indians in Durban was 628, in 1924 only one additional licence had been granted.

#### PEACEFUL PENETRATION

Throughout Natal Indian storekeepers have established themselves wherever there is any likelihood of making a living by catering for either European, native, or Indian trade. There is scarcely a village in Natal without an Indian store, and in the majority of the smaller places the Indian storekeeper has secured the bulk of the trade, in some cases entirely ousting European competition—for example, take Richmond, Verulam, Stanger, Tongaat, and Nottingham Road. In Durban, Maritzburg, Ladysmith, Newcastle and Dundee the Indian storekeepers have secured a large portion of the European retail trade and practically the whole of the Indian and native trade. In Durban there are a number of wealthy Indians carrying on wholesale and importing businesses. It is frequently stated that the Indian is an unfair competitor with the European storekeeper by reason of the fact that his necessities are fewer than are those of the European storekeeper. While this is true to a certain extent, it would appear to be an unfortunate fact that the Indian is a better business man than the average country storekeeper; that his business is the Indian's sole object in life; and that no trouble is too great for him to take in order to oblige his European customers. Were this not so, it is doubtful whether European wholesale houses would give such favourable credits to their Indian customers.

#### CLASS AREAS BILL

The immediate effect of the publication of this Bill was to cause Indians to exert every means within their power to acquire property, not only in areas where they were already established, but in fresh districts. There is a notable example of this in a village some 19 miles from Durban with a latitude of over 2,000 feet where Durban people have some bungalows and pleasure farms. A few months ago Indians started buying properties there, and when remonstrated with one replied: "You remember the tactics your Army employed in Flanders; you entrenched yourselves. We Indians are now digging in wherever we can."

#### INDIAN CAPITAL IN NATAL

It is impossible to secure any reliable data as to the amount of capital owned by Indians in Natal. So far as Durban is concerned, in view of the fact that Indians own Borough properties assessed for rating purposes at £1,098,230, it is considered that

£10,000,000 is a conservative estimate of the amount of capital owned or influenced by Indians in that town.

#### REPATRIATION

Were it possible to deport the Indians resident in this country—which is doubtful in view of the fact that one-half of the Indian population of Natal were born in this Province—the economic results would be unfortunate to a large section of the European community. The spending power of 141,649 Indians is an important factor to business and banking institutions. So far as the latter are concerned, the fact that both the National and the Standard Banks have opened branches solely for the convenience of Asiatics in the centre of the Indian business area in Durban is conclusive proof that the Asiatic banking business is anything but a negligible quantity. The closing down of all Indian accounts with big wholesale merchants would have serious consequences, one of which would undoubtedly be the immediate reduction of the number of white employees, with resultant unemployment for Europeans. The compulsory disposal of over £1,000,000 of landed property in one town would at once depreciate the property market.

#### COMMUNITY VALUE

It must be admitted that without the coolie the sugar industry of Natal would not have been developed so satisfactorily, nor would Natal tea-planting have assumed any degree of success. From 1860 to 1900 natives could not be relied upon for continuous service, and consequently they did not attain the proficiency of the coolie. Along the coastal belt even to-day it is extremely difficult to secure farm labour from local sources. It is now the practice to arrange through Native Labour agents for the supply of boys under contract to work for a given period, but the result cannot be considered satisfactory. The removal of all Indian labourers would have unfortunate results in such coastal districts. Indians are largely employed in many industrial concerns, and in some factories it is doubtful whether such businesses would be able to produce in competition with imported articles if they had to pay full European rates of wages for certain skilled and semi-skilled labour now performed by Indians at much lower rates of pay. It is fallacious to assume that in the event of Indians being removed white labourers would be employed in their places. There are but few positions held to-day by Indians which the average European would care to fill. Consequently such positions would be taken by either natives or half-castes. Proof of this is afforded by the fact that in the Orange Free State, where Indian occupation is strictly prohibited, 58 per cent. of the employees in that Province are coloured.

#### INDIAN EDUCATION

Several pertinent questions arise in view of the seriousness of the present position:

(a) Are we justified in providing schools right up to Matriculation standard for Indian children, thereby fitting them to compete with European boys in various walks of life?

(b) Why should we spend Provincial revenue in providing schools for Indian children while we neglect to provide schools of a similar character for the native population?

(c) Why should Indians be given the same educational facilities in our towns and villages as that given their origin to European enterprise?

#### RACIAL DETERIORATION

The most serious sociological problem is undoubtedly the grave deterioration as a consequence of the picketing of the coloured problem are agreed.

approximate, the European deteriorates. There must either be a small white aristocracy with a large black or coloured population or a large white population with a small coloured one if the two races are to live together under the same climatic conditions.

#### KHILAFAT CONGRESS WEEK CONCLUDED

Reuters message from Belgaum dated Dec. 29, reads as follows :—

The Khilafat Congress week concludes to-morrow with the departure of Gandhi, who has practically dictated the political programme of the Congress. Although many sincerely believe in his message to his supporters to use the spinning wheel, as the only alternative to violence, others, mainly Swarajists, have agreed to the proposal for reasons of expediency. The measure of success which Gandhi will achieve in promoting the production of "Khaddar" or homespun cloth, in 1925, will probably determine his future hold on the Congress.

The chief feature of the week has been the demonstration that the communal spirit is spreading among the Hindus, Mahomedans and Non-Brahmins who have all voiced their feelings in this connection. From statements made, it appears that all the communities are preparing to receive the full benefit of any future transference of power to the Indians, with the result that the movement in favour of independence has lost adherents.

This, possibly, was responsible for the resignation from Congress of Hasrat Mohani, hitherto the leader of the movement.

#### INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

##### SUICIDAL DECISION BY CONGRESS

Nairobi, Dec. 29th (Reuter).—The East African Indian National Congress, after a two-day's stormy session at Nairobi, placed on record an epoch-making [suicidal in our opinion.—Ed.] decision which had been engineered by the new President, Abdul Wahed, a Kenya merchant pioneer who, after 25 years' residence in the Colony, is now its wealthiest Indian citizen with very great interests.

It is interesting to note that Wahed originally met the Hon. Ormsby Gore, the present Under Secretary for the Colonies, in London, and again during his recent visit in Nairobi.

In the course of his presidential address, he urged that Indians should make peace with Europeans for the next three years in the hope that thereafter it would be productive of ever-lasting amity.

In the course of subsequent debate, the non-cooperative element was eliminated, and eventually Congress passed a resolution deciding to abandon the policy of non-co-operation in Kenya.

In accordance with this decision it was agreed, first, to accept the five nominated Indian seats in the Legislative Council, to acquiesce in the payment of a poll-tax, and thirdly, to accept representation on municipal bodies on the basis of five Asiatics to ten Europeans.

Further resolution was adopted advising Indians to accept the proposal that one Indian be nominated to the Uganda Legis-

For the next three years the Indians are to co-operate with Europeans in the hope that they will meet with reciprocity from the latter in the way of collaboration in the

#### TURKEY OF TO-DAY

In the course of his interesting lecture on the above subject in the Aligarh University, Sved Sajjad Hyder, the Registrar of the Muslim University, is reported to have said :—

"I have been a student of Turkish affairs and movements for a very long time. I spent 3 years in Turkish Arabia, and visited Constantinople twice and having some acquaintance with the language of the Turkish, I had good opportunities of meeting, in various classes and conditions of men and having a comparatively intimate intercourse with them.

I have seen Turkey under the absolute autocracies, I mean during the days of Sultan Abdul Hamid; during the early days of constitutional monarchy and lastly when Turkey is one of the youngest and most thorough-going of Republics.

I happened to meet a German Professor, an Orientalist in Berlin, who had just returned from Constantinople, and I put a question to him: "What struck you most during your visit to Turkey?" He at once unhesitatingly replied:

"The great wave of nationalism that is passing over Turkey at present."

After visiting Turkey, I endorse every word of what he said. The present-day Turk is an out and out nationalist. He is Turk, first, second and last. He may have been something else some time ago, Pan-Islamist or Pan-Asiatic for example, but he is no longer so now. My belief is that he is not much even of a Pan-Turanian at the present moment.

He was a Pan-Islamist just before and at the beginning of the Great War, then became a fervid Pan-Turanian, but has finally settled down as a Turk, of the little Englander type. He does not think in terms of empire or of expansion or of conquest or of suzerainty or spiritual or temporal. His only care is to consolidate the Republic that he has set up and of which he is intensely proud."

After dwelling in detail on the awakening of national consciousness among the Turks and their political evolution, the lecturer referred to the emancipation of Turkish Womanhood as a striking feature of modern Turkey and said :—

"Turkish women were never accustomed to such strict seclusion as is observed by or imposed on Indian ladies. They went about in the bazaars and did their shopping but they went out veiled and shrouded. True, the veil was more often than not a transparent one, but it was a necessary part of the outdoor dress of a Turkish lady.

Now, however, all this is changed. There is generally no veil now and, not only that, they move about with greater freedom and less reserve than heretofore. The tram-cars used to have the portion reserved for ladies screened off; the screens have been taken away.

These are however only the outward signs of the Feminist movement in Turkey which is going forward with a great momentum. Women are invading all departments of life, they are working in offices, in firms, banks, hospitals and scores of other places. It was a revelation to me to find in the Stamboul University lady students studying in the same class with young men.

Then again, every girl of good breeding in Turkey tries to learn Music and painting. There is a college of music called Darul-al-han where both the theory and practice of advanced music are taught."

The lecturer then referred to the rapid educational advancement of the people of Turkey and drew special attention to an institution subsidised by the Government for training people for the stage. After referring to the Military and Medical Colleges and to the professional skill of the Turks in surgery, Mr. Syed Sajjad Hyder, in concluding, said :— "I must here also note a great change. The Turk who was depicted, and not unjustly, as passing his

time in leisured ease, smoking his nargilah and thinking of houris, present and prospective, has suddenly become an ardent sportsman. Yachting, rowing, horse races, shikar, football, hockey, tennis, are attracting the Turkish young men in their thousands; but with all their forwardness I have not seen ladies playing any outdoor game. Unfortunately the Turk has also become a great wine-bibber. He drinks openly, and urges his women folk to quaff from the cup. Perhaps my audience will be surprised to learn that balls and dances have been introduced in Turkish Social life and are just now the craze. The fact is that the Turk has deliberately and definitely turned his face towards the west, and wants to go the whole hog. The picture that I have drawn is not applicable to all the strata of society. It is only the higher classes who indulge in these things. The middle classes have not yet taken to them."

#### IF I WERE A VICEROY

Mahatma Gandhi writes in a recent number of his *Young India* :—

Two English friends seeking to justify the repressive policy now being pursued in Bengal asked me what I would have done if I had been in Lord Reading's or Lord Lytton's place. The answer came ready to my lips. But I observed that I gave no satisfaction to the friends. The reason of dissatisfaction was that they thought that it was easy enough for me to give the answer so readily, as I was not as a matter of fact in the place of these distinguished Englishmen. But as, after having thought over my answer from every point of view, regard it to be sound, and as I have no doubt that many Englishmen, who honestly believe that repression is justified, think like the two friends, I venture to reproduce my answer with some amplification.

The very first thing then that I would have done would have been to summon Indians of position and trust, and I would have shown them all the papers and would have been guided by them. In the case of Subhas Chandra Bose, I would have confronted him with my suspicion and published his statement. In consultation with those Indians of position and trust, I would also have summoned Deshabandhu Das and put the whole burden of responsibility on his shoulders; in so far as the suspected members of his party were concerned, by this procedure I would have quietly ensured public peace or been assured that the information given to me was wrong. This is the least I would have done, and that too if I had no trust in my legislature, or if there was no time to summon it. What is more, I would have realised my own unenviable position. I would have seen at once its hypocrisy. Having therefore dwelt with the crisis, I would have tried to discover the true disease, of which the crisis was but a symptom. For that purpose I would have summoned representative Indians before me and tried to ascertain why there were young, able and otherwise peaceful men, who would mercilessly kill innocent men and recklessly put their own lives in danger. I would have learnt that they had no selfish end and that they wanted liberty for their country. I would therefore have been guided, in dealing with the root cause, by the advice of the summoned representatives, taking care that no legitimate foreign interest was thereby jeopardised, and having done this I would have breathed free in the knowledge that it would be equally the business of my legislature as mine to deal with any such future eruption.

I know that in the foregoing I have made no new suggestion. But its staleness is its merit. The

existing system has lived on terrorism and Viceroy after Viceroy as a rule has shut his eyes to the obvious necessity of consultation with Indian opinion. The obduracy proves not the uselessness of the advice, it proves the worthlessness of the system, under which such systematic defiance of public opinion is possible. No wonder the Viceroy, instead of obtaining the public support which he thought he should have had, is obliged to face severe condemnation from practically the whole Indian opinion.

#### THE LATE MR. PARSEE RUSTOMJEE

##### TRIBUTE FROM MR. SIGAMONEY

Mr. Bernard L. E. Sigamoney has sent the following tribute to the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee :—

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Proverbs, 22.1.

I have just heard of the sad death of Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, generally and lovingly known amongst the Indian community of South Africa as Kakajee. It is common knowledge to Indians in South Africa, the wonderful and admirable part he played in the affairs of the Indians, whether it was in religious, social, political, or whether it was in sports. His charity towards the orphans and poor was a notable feature in his amazing career. There are hundreds of Indian merchants in South Africa to-day who have made thousands of pounds from their countrymen in the ordinary course of business, but amongst them all, the late Parsee Rustomjee stands head and shoulders above the others for his great philanthropic work. He puts them to shame, and to-day there are living monuments in Durban which will bear testimony of his unselfish work. He spent his money amongst the people, and to the Colonial-born Indian he was good and kind, ever encouraging them by kind or hard words, because below all his apparent scoldings and harshness there was the undying love for his people. The Indians to-day have suffered a great loss—much greater than they realise.

To some my testimony may come as a surprise, because of my difference with him in many things, but even though we disagreed I was never blind to his wonderful generosity and goodness of heart and his readiness ever to help any cause which had for its object the amelioration of the down-trodden and suffering. His house in Field Street was the home of the Indians, and Indian sportsmen, I am sure, will feel the loss of one who was ever present at their meetings and one who took a live interest in their work. The sportsmen of Natal are under a deep debt of gratitude to him for the two trophies he has presented for their competition. There were many who profitted through him and by him, from his acts of kindness were done quietly.

No public man is free from criticism, and I had to take his share, but if we were to compare with him other Indian merchants at the same financial position, we find how different was. And it will not be out of place to say that some of the wealthy Indian merchants are doing for their people the way of giving them employment in improving the

**FAIR BREEZE INDIAN SCHOOL  
TONGAAT**

The annual prize distribution of the above school was held on Tuesday the 23rd December 1924. The school-room was artistically decorated and a platform was erected by the skilful hands of the members of the school-staff. At 11 a.m. the Rev. J. Metcalf the grantee of the school with the Rev. Hodges the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Indian Mission motored down from Durban to distribute the prizes.

The school-room was crowded with children and friends of the school to its utmost capacity. The Rev. J. Metcalf occupied the chair. The following is an extract from his speech "How pleased I feel to express my appreciation to the donors of these beautiful books and toys. I also very heartily congratulate the Headmaster and staff upon the very successful work of the past year. This is one of our oldest schools and it continues to be one of our most successful ones. I am delighted to think that you boys and girls are here to receive instructions which will be of the highest value in your future life."

His speech was followed by a well arranged programme of dialogues, drills and recitations. Prizes were then distributed. The Rev. Hodges in his short address spoke highly of the discipline of the school and the good work done by the Headmaster and his staff.

During the latter part of the day sports were held and all the winners were awarded prizes. The school in the evening was once again crowded when some of the European friends were also present among whom were Dr. G. Bonfa, Mr. and Mrs. Bower and others. Mr. Captain Hastibeer opened the function with prayers. Rev. R. Choonoo was elected to the chair. Short speeches were made by some of the friends. Mr. A. R. Singh in his speech promised £3 towards the necessity of a tank for the school. The function terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.—Contributed.

**અડવાડીક પંચાંગ**

વ્રત	ખ્રીસ્તી ૧૯૨૫ જાન્યુ- આરી	હીંદુ ૧૯૮૧ વૈશાખ	મુસલમાન ૧૩૪૩ જમાદીલ આખર	પારસી ૧૨૯૪	સુચાંદ્ય ક. મી.	સુચાર્ત ક. મી.
શુક્ર	૯	સુદ ૧૫	૧૩	૩	૫-૬	૭-૦
શનિ	૧૦	૧૫	૧૪	૪	૫-૭	૭-૦
રવિ	૧૧	૧૬	૧૫	૫	૫-૮	૭-૦
સોમ	૧૨	૨	૧૬	૬	૫-૯	૭-૦
મંગળ	૧૩	૩	૧૭	૭	૫-૧૦	૭-૦
બુધ	૧૪	૪	૧૮	૮	૫-૧૧	૭-૦
ગુરુ	૧૫	૫	૧૯	૯	૫-૧૨	૭-૦

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**વેચવાના પુસ્તકો**

**સુધારેલું લીસ્ટ**

નીચેનાં પુસ્તકો તરફ અમારા ગ્રાહકોનું આસ્થા ધ્યાન ખેંચીએ છીએ. તેમાંનું એક એક પુસ્તક દરેક હિંદીએ વાંચવા લાયક અને પોતાનાં પુસ્તક કાલયમાં સંગ્રહ કરવા લાયક છે. નકારી નવલ કથાઓ વાંચવી એ કીંમતી ચખત ગુણવત્તા જેવું છે અને વળી તે મગજને ભ્રમીત કરી ઉંધે માર્ગે દારવે છે. એવાં પુસ્તકોનો અમે સંગ્રહ કરીએ તો અલખત ઘણાં ખપાવી શકીએ. પરંતુ એવું વાંચન અમે પસંદ કરતા નથી અને તેને ઉત્તેજન આપવા ઈચ્છતા નથી. અમે જે પુસ્તકોનું લીસ્ટ આપીએ છીએ તે સારામાં સારી કેળવણી આપનારાં સ્વદેશાભિમાનની લાગણી ઉત્પન્ન કરનારાં અને તેને પોષનારાં અને મનને તંદુરસ્ત રાખનારાં છે, અને મન તંદુરસ્ત હોય તો શરીર તો તંદુરસ્ત રહેજ. નીચેનાં પુસ્તકો 'ઈન્ડિયન ઓપીનીયન' ની ઓફીસેથી મળી શકશે. મંગાવનારાઓએ ઓર્ડર સાથે પર્ષ સા મોકલતાં ચુકવું નહિ કેમકે પર્ષ સા વગરના અને વી. પી. ના ઓર્ડરોને ખીલકુલ ધ્યાન દેવામાં આવશે નહિ. કાગળ લખવાનું ઠેકાણું નીચે પ્રમાણે:

Manager,

INDIAN OPINION

Phenix Natal.

થી. પે

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