

Indian Opinion

No. 12—Vol. XXIII.

Friday, March 20th, 1925.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

THE Klerksdorp Municipal Council has resolved to adopt new regulations governing the sale of foodstuffs and the issue of licences in connection therewith. By a notice appearing in the Press the public of Klerksdorp were informed that a copy of the By-laws was lying for inspection at the Municipal Offices and that objections, if any, should be lodged in writing with the Town Clerk within 7 days from the date of the notice, that is, the 13th instant. The object of these By-laws, we are given to understand, is to place further restrictions on the local Indian traders. We are awaiting a copy of these regulations.

A petition has been forwarded by the Natal Indian Congress addressed to the chairman and members of the Natal Provincial Council protesting against the proposed Draft Townships Franchise Ordinance.

Mr. Nathan (S.A.P., Von Brandis) is reported to have asked the Minister of Justice recently (1) whether he is now in a position to inform the House how many of the prisoners who had been sentenced for contravention of the liquor laws and for other offences, and who were released in February before the expiration of their sentences, have since their release found (a) employment, (b) their way back to gaol, and (2) whether he is aware that among those so released was a person who after his release was sentenced on March 1 at Johannesburg to one year's imprisonment with hard labour for again selling liquor to a Native, and that the said person when pleading guilty to the charge, admitted eight previous convictions. The Minister replied (1) it is not possible to obtain this information, (2) I have no knowledge of this. The prisoners released were not imprisoned for life so I presume the same difficulties would arise a few weeks or months later when they were due for release.

Commenting on the action of the Union Government in sanctioning the Natal Boroughs Ordinance the *Hindu* (Madras) writes — "If every province in the Dominion may, as Natal has done, deprive Indians of their deeply cherished rights one by one, then, what is the Gandhi-Smuts Pact worth? That Pact may, in that case, be shorn of all its substance by provincial legislation under the theory that provincial autonomy is sacrosanct; and who knows that, under the guise of upholding that autonomy, the white Africa policy will not be gradually, steadily and fully realised to the detriment of the Indian population? This is the danger that now besets Indians in that Dominion and it is up to the Assembly to see that their rights are protected against this new menace."

Thus the *Hindu* (Madras) — "Hundreds of monkeys are being exported from this country for the purposes of what is called thyroid gland treatment in Britain and Germany. The question arises, on

purely ethical grounds, how far it is justifiable to take the life of a creature of God for human selfishness, especially when that animal does little harm to man. Is the monkey to be victimised for the sin of his thyroid gland being graftable on the human constitution? After all, is it possible to say that the rejuvenation of decrepit men is a greater object in the scheme of the universe than the protection of an innocent animal's life? Even granting that the end justifies the means could it be said that the degree of success gained in the thyroid gland treatment justifies the killing of so many of God's creatures? The treatment, we believe, has not passed much beyond the experimental stage and, even so, it has hardly been proved that the length of life after this treatment or the quality of the rejuvenated life is so great as to justify the wholesale killing on purely materialist calculations. It is a poignant thought that modern civilisation has so far exaggerated man's place in God's Universe that every other life in it is deemed created only to serve man's ends.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

(By MR. M. K. GANDHI IN 'YOUNG INDIA')

THE Viceregal answer to the Deputation that waited on His Excellency was sympathetic but non-committal. It betrays unnecessary consideration for the difficulties of the Union Government. It is just for one Government to appreciate the difficulties of another but the performance might easily be overdone. The Union Government observed no delicacy when it had to make its choice. The Indian Government has had many an occasion to make such a choice. Each time except once it has surrendered. The exception was made by Lord Hardinge who hurled defiance at the Government of South Africa and ranged himself on the side of Indians in South Africa. There were reasons for it. The Indians were fighting by direct action. The method was new. They had proved their capacity for resistance and suffering and yet they were demonstrably and wholly non-violent. But at the present moment Indians of South Africa are leaderless. With Sorabji, Kachalia, P. K. Naidu and now Rustomji gone, they do not know what they should do or can do. There is ample scope for non-violent action. But it requires thinking out and vigorous working out. That seems hardly possible at the present moment. I have, however, great hope of one or two young men who are resident in South Africa. Not the least among them is Sorabji, the brave son of the brave Rustomji. Young Sorabji is himself a seasoned soldier in Satyagraha. He has been to prison. He organised the wonderful receptions that were given in Natal to Sarojini Devi. **Let our countrymen in South Africa realise that they must work out their own salvation. Even heaven helps only those who help themselves. They will find that if they show their original grit and**

spirit and sacrifice, they will have the people of India, the Government of India and the world helping and fighting for them.

There is a passage in the Viceregal pronouncement which needs supplementing. His Excellency says, "It is stated in your address that 'the Municipal Franchise was solemnly assured to Indians by the Natal Government when in 1896 Indians were deprived of the Parliamentary Franchise.' But you have not indicated the exact source or the nature of the assurance. My Government are making the necessary enquiries to verify the position." The statement made by the Deputation is substantially correct. It was, however, not in 1896 but probably in 1894 that the assurance was given. I am writing from memory. The facts are these. It was in 1894 that the first disfranchising bill was passed by the Natal Assembly. Whilst it was passing through that assembly a petition was presented to it on behalf of Indians wherein it was stated that the Indians enjoyed the Municipal and indirectly even the political franchise. Fear was also expressed that the deprivation of the political franchise was likely to be a prelude to that of the Municipal Franchise. It was in answer to this petition that the late Sir John Robinson, the Premier of Natal, and the late Mr. Escombe, the Attorney General, gave the assurance that there was no intention to go further and deprive the Indians of the Municipal Franchise at a future date. The disfranchising bill was disallowed by the superior Government but another non-racial in character was passed. The assurance referred to by me was several times repeated by Mr. Escombe who had charge of all the bills and who was virtually the dictator of Natal's policy whilst he was in office.

VICEROY'S SPEECH AT THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE

ON INDIANS OUTSIDE INDIA

The following is the text of the portion of H. E. the Viceroy's speech at the opening of the Indian Legislature on the 20th of January dealing with Indians outside India. —

When considering the affairs outside India, attention naturally and inevitably turns to Indians overseas. When I addressed the Legislature in January last the position of Indians in Kenya was critical, and I foreshadowed the appointment of a Committee to make representations on behalf of the Government of India regarding the Immigration Ordinance in Kenya in particular and other questions relating to Indians in the Colonies. The personnel of the Committee was announced in March last, and the Committee began their labours in London in April. They had a number of interviews with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the officials of the Colonial Office and made representations regarding many important matters affecting Indians in Kenya, Fiji and the mandated territories of Tanganyika. I cannot too highly praise the thoroughness and ability with which they performed their delicate task, and I am grateful for the very patient hearing which the representative of His Majesty's Government, Mr. Thomas, and the officers of his department accorded to them. As regards Kenya, the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Thomas were announced in the House of Commons on August 7th last. On the question of franchise and the Highlands there was no change in the position, but as regards immigration His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies after hearing our representatives was not satisfied with the data from Kenya, and was unable to agree with the Kenya authorities that a case had been made out

to justify the Ordinance. He, therefore, gave an assurance that the Immigration legislation would not be placed on the Statute Book. The further restrictions then on the point of being imposed upon the immigration of Indians were accordingly removed. As regards Indian colonisation, Mr. Thomas announced that it was proposed to reserve an area in the Lowlands for agricultural emigrants from India; but that before the scheme took final shape an officer with experience of the needs of Indian settlers and agricultural knowledge would be sent to report on the areas to be offered for colonisation. Reports in regard to the areas have now been received by my Government, and we are considering the question of deputing an officer to examine these areas from the aspect of their suitability for Indian settlement. These are substantial gains, and our gratitude is due to the committee for the clarity and earnestness of their representation of the Indian point of view to His Majesty's Government. Moreover, these gains are not the only advantages which accrued from their visit. A better atmosphere has been created and that wider understanding of different points of view has grown up, which is the outcome of personal discussion and free and frank interchange of view.

EAST AFRICA

In June last, His Majesty's Government announced the appointment of an East-Africa Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Southborough to consider and report on certain questions regarding the administration and economic development of the British East-Africa dependencies. Having regard to the importance of the enquiry in Indian interest, my Government made representations to secure a hearing of the Indian point of view before the committee came to conclusion. I am glad to inform the legislature that the representations have been accepted, and the Southborough Committee will hear the opinion of Indian representatives nominated by my Government upon all matters coming within their purview.

NATAL BOROUGHS ORDINANCE

If the pendulum has swung in the direction desired by India on these questions, the position in South Africa, on the other hand, has been less favourable. Towards the end of December, the news was received that the Governor-General of the Union of South Africa had given his assent to the Natal Boroughs Ordinance. This measure, while safeguarding the rights of Indians upon the electoral roll of the boroughs, will prevent further enrolment of Indians as Burgesses. The serious implications of the measure on the future of Indians, who have special vocational and trading connections with the towns in South Africa, will readily be realised. From the outset the Government of India had recognised the effect this measure might have upon the position of the resident Indians in Natal, both as regard their civic and economic status, and my Government made strong representations to the Union Government as soon as a copy of the Ordinance was received in August last. At the time, there was reason to hope that since a similar but more drastic measure had been disallowed previously by the Governor-General, this Ordinance would also share the same fate. To our regret, however, the Government of the Union advised the Governor-General to give assent to the Bill and, accordingly, the measure has now become law. The situation created is engaging the most earnest attention of myself and my Government. We have lost no time in making representation, in an emphatic manner, the difficulties in which resident Indians are likely to be placed by the operation of this law. Every endeavour will be made to discover a remedy, but in view of

the powers of Dominion Governments in internal and domestic affairs, the position is one of delicacy and a solution will not be easy to find. Patience will again be necessary. I may remind you that when the position in Kenya seemed not unfavourable, temperate arguments and full and frank discussion resulted in a better understanding of the Indian point of view and in a measure of relief to the disabilities felt by the Indians. I hope that, as in the case of Kenya so also in this case, some remedy may be devised.

ANTI-ASIATIC AGITATION IN THE TRANSVAAAL

We take the following from the *Rand Daily Mail* :—

The picketing of Indian stores in the Southern Suburbs by youths and men in bicycles has had a remarkable effect on Asiatic traders in the district.

Last year the Municipality issued over 90 licences to Indians in the Southern Suburbs. This year, it is stated, there has been a reduction in the number of licences issued of about 33 per cent.

This information has been secured by the Southern Suburbs European League, which proposes to the figures at the Municipal Offices,

Landlords who have let premises to Asiatics are displaying signs of anxiety, and there is no doubt too the League's influence has been felt. One landlord has broken a three-years' contract with an Asiatic and has declared that in future only whites are to occupy this premises.

Mr. N.

have as
whether
how
for
offences

THE MENACE OF THE ASIATIC

M. Ross, President of the Southern for
European Association writes in the *Rand*

A misunderstanding seems to exist as to the object of our Association. It came into being some eighteen months ago to protect the interests of the white residents as a whole and not any particular section. We were alarmed at the ever increasing numbers of Asiatics entering the district and dumping themselves down as traders, and we realised that something must be done to prevent the southern suburbs from developing into an Asiatic location.

A misapprehension seems to prevail that this is a storekeepers' movement, but, when one thinks of all these residents who have put their whole life's savings into their own homes, it will be realised that we are working in the interest of every European resident, irrespective of his trade, calling or profession.

This Asiatic menace is the most serious of the many problems confronting this country, but it is one of the problems that can be solved by the people themselves if they are in earnest, if they have any pride in their country and consideration for their own children's future.

I was present at the meeting of the Federation of Ratepayers when Doctor Porter gave his excellent lecture on the health conditions of Johannesburg during the past twenty years, and pointed to the appalling conditions in the Malay location. When we realise that Asiatics from these quarters are trading daily in our midst it is surely time that white population were educated up to the point of self-defence.

Every effort has been made by the Medical Officer of Health and his staff to get these Asiatics to improve their standard of living, but without success. In fact one speaker said that Indian landlords were receiving monthly rents up to £250 for these slum hotels.

Dr Porter said he had had to employ a special

draft of police to force these people to be vaccinated at a time when his inspectors had found cases of small-pox, in many cases the patients being hidden away to avoid detection. The country is threatened with another out-break of plague, and whilst our health officers are doing their utmost to prevent it spreading, thoughtless white citizens are encouraging these plague-carriers to roam about in their midst, handling eatables and mixing freely with themselves and their children.

Regarding a decent standard of living, many years of experience has taught us that the Asiatic prefers to continue under the conditions he has been accustomed to from birth. As a trader, he is not an asset to this country. He adopts methods which no reliable white trader has any desire to adopt. The insolvency court has proved this times without number.

They employ only their own class, because they can get them for next to nothing, and yet some people say: "Let the white storekeeper reduce his prices equivalent to the Asiatic."

I can give you an excellent example of two shops that trade in similar lines, one owned by a white trader and the other by an Asiatic. The white storekeeper pays over £200 per month in wages alone, while the Asiatic's wages bill is practically negligible.

We believe that white people who trade with the Asiatics have no right to expect employment themselves from a white employer.

The solution is in the hands of the people themselves. Let us take a broader view on the question and make a little sacrifice, if necessary, in the interest of ourselves, our children and South Africa. This is not a sectional movement, but one on which depends, to a large extent, the progress of the white race in this country.

PATRONISE THE WHITE TRADER

The following leading article appears in the *Rand Daily Mail* under the above heading —

Recently the Minister of the Interior announced in the House of Assembly that legislation dealing with the Asiatic question is now in course of preparation, and will probably be introduced at a later stage in the session. The country may, therefore, shortly be made acquainted with the Government's policy. Dr. Malan, it will be noticed, did not give an absolutely definite assurance, and meanwhile the Asiatic question is certainly not becoming less acute, except here and there where the European public seems determined to work out its own salvation.

In this connection we would draw special attention to the position in the southern suburbs of Johannesburg and to the letter published in the *Rand Daily Mail* from Mr. H. M. Ross, president of the local European Association. That organisation came into existence some time ago. It was realised that action must be taken if that part of the city, where hundreds of white people have bought or erected their own homes, was to be prevented "from developing into an Asiatic location." Support was quickly forthcoming, and so effective have the Association's measures proved that Asiatic licences have decreased by 33 per cent.

What Turffontein and the adjoining districts have accomplished can be done by other suburbs and in other towns. Lydenburg furnishes additional testimony, for the other day it was stated that Asiatic licences there had also become fewer. In Natal, Indians have entrenched themselves so strongly that the Asiatic problem cannot be solved without help from Parliament, but elsewhere, as we have repeatedly urged, the solution lies largely, if not wholly, in the hands of the people themselves. No law can compel them to patronise Asiatic traders or to lease their property to Asiatics. Decidedly, no

Indian can complain if white people make up their minds only to support men and women of their own colour.

It is important to remember, as Mr. Ross points out in his excellent letter, that this is not simply a storekeepers' movement. If the Asiatic question concerned them alone they might be left, perhaps, to find their own remedy. But the future of the white race in South Africa is vitally affected, and the sooner that truth is recognised by every European, man or woman, the better will it be for the country. The Asiatic standard of living is much lower than that of the whites. Europeans cannot reasonably object to that, but they can, and must ensure the elimination of conditions which, in the long run, will bring about the lowering of the European standard. That is a duty which they owe to themselves, to their children, and to their country, if they wish to see European civilisation permanently established. Moreover, they dare not overlook that the more they support Asiatic traders, the less work will there be for persons of their own race. These are paramount considerations today.

No injustice will be done to Asiatics by the firm determination of Europeans to restrict their support to their own kith and kin. In their own country Indians have again and again resorted to the boycott. It is one of their favourite weapons. They cannot grumble if the Europeans in South Africa also find it useful.

[We reserve our comment on the above for our next issue.—Ed I. O.]

OUR LONDON LETTER

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

19th February 1925.

The League of Nations Union held an International Assembly at the Imperial Institute, London University, in mail week. The great hall was decorated and around it on the massive pillars near the walls were white cards each of them bearing the name of a Continent.

Viscountess Cecil of Chelwood and the Vice-Chancellor of the London University received the guests—students resident in London—who came from the Dominions and foreign countries representing many races and many cultures. Here there was no consciousness of the existence of a colour problem in the world. Here the colours intermingled.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor E. A. Gardiner presided and in welcoming the guests referred to the objects of the League of Nations and the necessity of mankind working for those objects.

Professor Gilbert Murray, who with Earl Grey and Viscount Cecil, is well known for his endeavours on the League of Nations that it should become the harbinger of peace and goodwill between all nations on this earth, spoke of the League of Nations. He recalled the work of General Smuts in England in connection with the League of Nations and upon the phrase General Smuts had then used that "Humanity is on the march" he addressed the Assembly present. (But the writer wondered as he listened why General Smuts did not apply his bigness of vision to the treatment of Indians in South Africa, whom he with his late Government has reduced to a lower status in the country with lesser opportunities of existence.) Prof. Gilbert Murray urged upon the students to carry on the work of the League in their own countries and so help towards the world peace and happiness. Young men and women were interesting themselves in international policy in a way they had never done before, and there was the opportunity for greater

service, as the pioneers in the work will soon pass away, leaving them to go on with that work.

Lord Willingdon, a former Governor in India, was pleased to talk of that great country, India, in which he had spent many years of his life. He regretted that there was misunderstanding in that country. He thought the governors and the governed should come more together and that social meetings helped to remove misunderstandings. He also then referred to the League of Nations.

Prof. P. J. Baker spoke of the proposed formation of a permanent International Assembly in London and that as a first step an experimental assembly will be held at Birbeck College of the London University on February 27th and it was proposed to invite the late Prime Minister Mr. J. Ramsay MacDonald to attend. "Security and disarmament" is to be the subject of discussion. It will then be decided whether the Assembly is to be a permanent body.

The speeches were followed by refreshments, dancing continued till 12 p.m. and most of those present joined in it and among them were noticeable Indian ladies in Saris.

MR. ANDREWS ON THE KENYA LOWLANDS

Mr. C. F. Andrews writes as follows in the columns of *Young India* :—

I had intended immediately to protest against the action proposed by the Government of India in sending an Indian Official to Kenya to consider whether suitable land is available for Indians, as a compensation for the White Paper decision to reserve for Europeans the Kenya Highlands. To take such an action will entirely compromise the whole Indian case, and make India *particeps criminis*,—a partner in the wrong, that has already been done, to the Africans. The simple fact is, that not a single acre of land in East Africa ought to have been alienated from the Africans. When East Africa was made a 'Protectorate' this was the least protection that ought to have been offered. The Indian claim has never been that Indians should be given *free* grants of land, but only that they should be allowed to *purchase* land, when it was put up for the sale in the open market. To send out an Indian officer to inspect any area in the Lowlands, with a view to *free* grants of land being given to Indians, implies two things :—

(i) That Indians finally give up their legal claim to purchase land in the Highlands.

(ii) That they wish to take away from the Africans a large area of Kenya, similar to that which has been alienated to the whites in the Highlands.

The one truth about Kenya, which must always be remembered is this, that there is no fertile land at all anywhere in Kenya which could not be fully occupied and cultivated by the Africans themselves, if only they were properly protected and allowed room to expand.

THE NEWS FROM EAST AFRICA

It is very difficult to make out what has happened recently in East Africa at Nairobi at a meeting of seventeen persons, which was called a 'Special East African Indian Congress Meeting.' Its president, Mr. Abdul Wahid, is entirely unknown to me, and I do not think that a meeting of such a small number of people under his presidency can possibly represent the whole of Indian opinion in East Africa. I understand that Mombasa, Zanzibar and Tanganyika Indian leaders have already dissociated themselves from its conclusions. No news has yet reached me from Uganda. Therefore I would urge readers of *Young India* to discount reports of what has happened, until full news has come to hand. Meanwhile, it appears to me a matter of urgency, that a responsible Indian leader should go to East Africa and consult with the people and the leaders on the spot.

INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION IN NATAL

(By COUNCILLOR THE REV. A. LAMONT M.A., B.D.)

It is now five years ago since that humanitarian and true friend of the Indian community in Natal passed through Durban on his way to Calcutta—the Rev. C. F. Andrews. He was right royally entertained by such public spirited Indians of Durban as the late lamented Parsee Rustomjee whose death a few weeks ago caused sorrow not only to his own compatriots but also to many a European in Durban who could appreciate his sterling worth and largeness of heart.

The state of the Indian question in Natal is at present appalling. The spirit of the British Empire is being outraged every day by men calling themselves Britishers who think they are doing good service by preaching the doctrine of hounding the members of the Indian race from Natal and from South Africa. But there is a parallel to this state of things indelibly engrained in the page of human history. Israel in Egypt built up the fortunes of that great state—the greatest of the world of that day—by slave labour. The struggle when it reached the final stage proved that the stout hearted Egyptians were spoiled. The slave nation evacuated Egypt by a Mighty Hand.

History repeats itself. Sugar rings and Sugar kings of Durban have for generations exploited the Indian in Natal. By a strange process of gyration and somersault these interests are allying themselves to mob psychology to "oust" the Indian after he has made these interests rich and powerful. But gratitude counts for nothing. And so does Nimesis.

Indian Education in Durban has for quite twelve months been at a loose end. The primary schools, such as Depot Road and Carlisle Street Upper Grade schools, the latter dignified with the title "Higher Grade School" have pursued the noiseless tenor of their way. A semblance of countenance was lent to Carlisle Street School when teachers exclusively reserved for secondary work were generously supplied to the Higher Grade School by the Natal Education Department. But twelve months ago after the defeat at the polls of a statesman-like Provincial Councillor—Mr. F. C. Hollander—a new spirit began to assert itself with a new Executive Council and a new king arose over Egypt who knew not Joseph.

By one fell swoop in the compulsory retirement of the two secondary school teachers the higher education for Indians in Durban was killed off. Since that time (Dec. 1923) Carlisle Street School despite the able management of the School under its exceptionally gifted headmaster Mr. George Rutter is now more than it has ever been—a primary school. The new Provincial Council would not have it otherwise. And yet the Indian Education Advisory Board, by diligent remonstrances and expostulations, has somehow compelled the Natal Education Department to toe the mark and keep up a semblance of Carlisle Street being "higher grade" Carlisle Street School is no more higher grade in reality than such elementary schools as Mansfield Road, Stamford Hill or Melbourne Road. The brutal truth is that Higher Education for Indian boys in Durban has been not merely a step-child but even tabooed with the Administration for quite some years past. The Departmental attitude to progress in Indian education is the attitude of the devil to holy water. The present Provincial Council, Education Department and all, has fallen into the anti-Asiatic vortex. The Zeitgeist is: "Keep the Indian from rising in the Education scale."

It is therefore gratifying to know that in the Marine College, 85 Leopold Street a gifted young Bachelor of Science from Witwatersrand University, Mr. J. I. Papert B.Sc. has stepped into the breach and made it possible for ambitious youths of the Indian community to go forward to Matriculation which after all with the Indian as with the European is the strait gate to the learned professions. The Marine College cannot however grow and prosper without the support due to it by the Indian community of Durban. We understand that

several competent teachers have joined the staff of Mr. Papert and are well able to assist their principal in carrying out his one design—to make the new College an avenue for the Indian youth of Durban and Natal generally so as to give Indian youths "a place in the sun" within the educational horizon. When many are talking merely Mr. Papert is acting.

One would venture to suggest to the Indian Advisory Committee on educational matters to call a halt with respect to their expectations from the present Natal Education Department. For years that Committee has not got beyond correspondence and requisitions. During these years they have asked for bread and have got only a stone. And the bread which is even now speciously promised will turn out in the end to be no more than a stone.

One would also hope that the Indian National Congress would take stock of this genuine movement to give the Indian boys a chance in their struggle for higher education. If only the Congress realised the true position of matters, the tens of boys now in Marine College would speedily become hundreds if not thousands.

MR. SRINIVASA SASTRI'S WARNING.

The Right Hon'ble V. S. Srinivasa Sastri interviewed by a representative of the Associated Press of India about Kenya problem is reported to have said—

From a brief summary which is all I have in this place of the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the houses of Legislature, I gather that the Government of India is about to take steps in regard to this matter which, in my humble judgement, ought not to receive the support or indirect acquiescence of the people's representatives. I refer to the appointment foreshadowed in the speech, of an Indian officer to investigate the areas in lowlands of Kenya which it is proposed to set apart for exclusive occupation of Indians as a sort of compensation for their being shut out from the Highlands. The idea was first formulated by Lord Milner when he was the Secretary of State of Colonies. From that time till the other day not only our countrymen in Kenya but, so far as published documents go, the Government of India and India office have given no countenance to the suggestion. As to the press in India and our political leaders, they have always denounced it as a bait which should be avoided and bribe which should be unhesitatingly rejected.

MONTAGU—CHURCHILL NEGOTIATIONS

Throughout the weary negotiations between Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Montagu, this attitude was steadfastly maintained. One cannot assert what line the recent Colonies Committee took, but I have reason to believe that they firmly adhered to the Indian position. To depute an officer to examine the lowlands with a view to Indian settlement is the same as the acceptance by the Government of India of the principle of communal segregation. Its effect on our position in South Africa and elsewhere would be disastrous. Luckily the Government will have to ask the sanction of the Assembly for necessary appropriation of funds. The members of that chamber will know best how to deal with the proposals of the Government in the matter. Meanwhile I would suggest questions be asked in both the Houses to elicit the information and also to intimate popular view to Government. Perhaps the State of business in the Council of State will allow of a resolution on the subject at an early date.

DOOR OF HOPE SHUT

Sir B. N. Sarma steadily refused to publish papers and used to claim that there was substantial identity of view between the Government and non-official public on overseas question generally. We have in the past gladly allowed this claim and

given the Government of India full credit for firm and thorough going advocacy of our cause. Let us hope that it will do nothing now to forfeit this claim. I am aware that the refusal of the Labour Secretary of State for Colonies to re-open highland's question shuts the door of hope. But that is no reason why India should by voluntary action of hers seem to accept the principle involving stigma no her nationals

RISHI DAYANAND CENTENARY (Contributed)

The centenary celebrations in commemoration of Rishi Dayanand commenced in Durban on Monday the 16th and terminated on Sunday the 22nd of February 1925. Needless to mention the reforms that have taken place from the time of the great reformer have been manifold, and to pay the necessary respect and homage was part of the duties of the Hindu community, and as far as was possible, success attended every effort of the committee. From the 15th lectures were delivered nightly on the life and teachings of the Swam which were listened to by appreciative and attentive audiences. Songs were sung at intervals to enliven the proceedings.

On Saturday the 21st a meeting of scholars was held at the Tamil Institute commencing at 12 noon where the life and teachings were placed before them. This function was brought to a successful conclusion by the distribution of pamphlets on the principles of the Arya Samaj.

A conference was held at Rawat's Bio Hall, commencing at 2-30 p.m. on Saturday the 21st where delegates from all parts of Natal were present. The attendance at this function was greatly pleasing, for all sections of the Indian community were present and the hall was well filled. Mr. Rughoonath Singh of Ladysmith presided over the proceedings which commenced with prayers, followed by songs by Messrs. Shank Mehtab and Esser Prasad, after which congratulatory telegrams and letters from all parts were submitted wishing the function every success.

After the speech of the Reception Committee Mr. R. K. Kapitan, the President in the course of his speech gave a full history of Rishi Dayanand and appealed to his hearers to follow the teachings of the Rishi and try and emulate some of the deeds performed by the reformer.

A most enlightening song and lecture followed by Kumari Dhurn Devi of Maritzburg (a young lady of some 13 summers) on the various aspects of man's duty to his women folk and was listened to most appreciatively. This young lady has a great future before her. On the termination of her speech, Mr. A. Dookan through the president, presented her with a pair of gold bangles in appreciation of her effort. A song by L. Nanoo followed, after which a proposal for the adjournment of the conference to the next day was carried.

In the evening a procession took place from Rawat's Bio Hall to the Tamil Institute where proceedings were terminated with the performance of the Yagna ceremony. At 10 a.m. on Sunday proceedings commenced, when the more serious business of resolutions was dealt with. It is most gratifying to report that a great number of Indian ladies were present and took part in the proceedings, and it is indeed a happy augury when such a state of affairs exist in our community.

The following resolutions were adopted—(1) Prohibition of alcohol, (2) Performance of Sanskars in accordance with the Vedas, (3) Establishment of a Central body to further the Vedic religion, (4) Performance of Sandhya and Yagna at vernacular institutions, (5) Upliftment of the poor and

destitute, (6) Vernacular education, (7) Appreciation to reformers of the Vedic religion in this country.

Speeches by the following ladies were delivered:—Kumari Kunakpathy on the Purdah system, Mesdames Beehook, Bugwandeem and R. M. Naidoo on facilities for education to women folk, Misses Sakuntala and Kamla on the doings of the Maha Rishi.

The formation of a central body then took place, which will be known as the Arya Pratinidi Sabha. The business of the conference terminated with a vote of thanks to the officials, members and others who helped to make the centenary celebrations a success.

Transvaal British Indian Association

Notice is hereby given that a General Election Meeting of the above Association for the appointment of its Office Bearers will take place on Sunday the 12th April 1925, and that all nominations for the election of such officials must reach the Honorary Secretary on or before the 29th March 1925.

The offices open for election shall constitute One Chairman, three Vice Chairmen, two Joint Treasurers, two Joint Secretaries and a Committee of not less than 12 members.

Address—

P. O. Box 6522.

Johannesburg.

N. B. The exact time and place where such meeting for the above General Election will take place shall be notified duly by means of handbills.

I. I. HAZAREE,
Hon. Sec. T. B. I. A.

ટ્રાંસવાલ બ્રીટીશ ઇન્ડિઅન એસોસીએશન

આથી જણાવવામાં આવે છે કે ઉપલી એસોસીએશનના કાર્યવાહકોની ચુંટણી માટે એક જનરલ મીટીંગ રવીવાર તા. ૧૨ એપ્રિલ ૧૯૨૫ ના રોજ મળશે અને એવા કાર્યવાહકોની ચુંટણી માટેની પસંદગીઓ એન. સેક્રેટરીપર તા. ૨૯ માર્ચ ૧૯૨૫ સુધીની અંદર મોકલવામાં આવવી જોઈએ.

ચુંટણી નીચે પ્રમાણે થશે:—એક પ્રમુખ, ત્રણ ઉપ-પ્રમુખો, ૨ જો. ટ્રેઝરર, ૨ જો. સેક્રેટરીઓ અને એછામાં એછા ૧૨ સભ્યોની કમીટી.

જોહાનીસબર્ગ.

એક્સ ડ્યુપરર,

નામ—ઉપલી મીટીંગ મળવાનું સ્થળ હવે પછી હેન્ડ બીલ્ડ મારફતે જણાવવામાં આવશે.

આઈ. આઈ. હઝારી.

એન. સેક્રેટરી ટ્રાં.બ્રી. ઇ. એ.