

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

COUNCILLOR A. E. EATON is elected Mayor of Durban in place of the retiring Mayor (Councillor H. L. Buzzard), and the Rev. A. Lamont is elected Deputy-Mayor. Mr. Eaton is not very much of a pro-Indian. In Council meetings he had very little sympathy to lose over Indians when any question arose affecting that section of the citizens of Durban. In so far as the Indian community is concerned, therefore, the election of the new Mayor is not a very pleasing one. But leaving ourselves aside for the moment the new election is hailed with satisfaction by the rest of the ratepayers of Durban who are in the majority and we join in that satisfaction as being in the general interests of the town. It often happens that when a person is charged with an important responsibility he begins to feel that he is not for himself alone but has to see to the interests of one and all those whose destiny he has been entrusted with. Realising this he uses more control over his speech and action and makes them both in conformity with the public responsibility that has been imposed upon him. There is no reason why we should not view with that hope the election of our new Mayor. The following words were uttered by the new Mayor (Councillor Mr. Eaton) in reply to the honour bestowed upon him:—

"I feel I have been called to do a very human job of work, and thinking over the responsibility, it struck me that the Mayor's duty is not only to occupy the chair and conduct the affairs of the town, but to take an intimate interest in the lives of the citizens and the progress of the Borough. For that reason I hope I will never lose sight of the fact that my job is to see that there is the maximum of welfare in our town."

These are indeed hopeful words and if put into practice in a really good spirit the Indian burghesses need have nothing to fear.

At a committee meeting of the Natal Indian Congress held last Tuesday it was decided to hold another mass meeting of Indians at the Royal Picture Palace, Victoria Street, Durban at 2-30 p.m. on Sunday, August 12, to explain the Condonation Scheme in the light of further correspondence passed between the Congress and the Union Government. We understand that the meeting will be graced with the presence of the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri.

Similar meetings will also be held under the auspices of the Congress at Maritzburg, Ladysmith and other important places in Natal.

It was also decided by the committee to open offices in Durban where responsible officials of the Congress will be present to advise and assist those who desire to apply for Condonation and to deal with any case in which an applicant may have been treated unjustly.

A deputation of the Transvaal Indian Congress consisting of Messrs. M. D. Bharoochi, the Rev. B. L.

E. Sigamoney, S. B. Medh, C. K. T. Naidoo and P. K. Deesai accompanied by two Europeans Messrs. John Bell and Graham waited upon the Johannesburg Town Council in connection with the recent new By-laws proposed to be passed by the Council to deal with hawkers, pedlars, flower-sellers and other street sellers. The deputation was given a sympathetic hearing by the Council who explained that the by-laws would not affect vegetable hawkers in the suburban districts and promised to sympathetically consider the case of flower-sellers.

Mr. V. Keshavjee whose name appears among the convenors of a mass meeting of Indians of Pretoria and District last Sunday at which "leaders of the Transvaal British Indian Association of Johannesburg" are supposed to have "delivered the explanation on Clause No. 5 and the Condonation Scheme," writes to us that his name as one of the convenors of that meeting was added without his knowledge and consent.

In connection with a report appearing in the *Indian Views* dated August 3, of a meeting of the Indian community held under the auspices of the Kimberley Political Association at the Indian School Hall on Sunday July 22 to hear Messrs. C. M. Anglia jt. secretary of the "South African Indian Federation" and C. Williams jt. secretary of the "Vigilance Committee, Capetown" who are touring the Cape Province "to explain the disadvantages of the Condonation Scheme" and wherein it is stated that "the meeting was fully satisfied that the Condonation Scheme was of no advantage to the Indian community and that it was not acceptable to them in its present form," the hon. Secretary of the Indian Political Association (Mr. T. V. Rajagopal Pillay) writes to us from Kimberley as follows:—

"Total misrepresentations by *Indian Views*. Association not rejecting Condonation Scheme."

The following will represent India this year at the Assembly of the League of Nations: Delegates, The Right Hon. the Earl of Lytton, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., Captain His Highness Nawab Sir Tale Muhammad Khan Sher Muhammad Khan, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., Nawab of Palanpur, Sir Basanta Kumar Mullick, I.C.S., Substitute Delegates: Sir Edward Maynard Des Champs Chamier, K.C.I.E., Sir Kurma Venketa Reddi Nayadu, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Rtd.)

The King has approved the appointment of Major-General Sir Frederick Hugh Sykes, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., M.P., to be Governor of the Presidency of Bombay in succession to Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, G.C.I.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., whose term of office will expire next December. Sir Frederick Sykes, who was born in 1877, has been M.P. for the Hallam Division of Sheffield since 1922. In recent years he has been director of a number of industrial and commercial undertakings, including the Underground Electric Railways of London and the London General Omnibus Company. Lady Sykes is a daughter of the late Mr. Bonar Law.

LEST YOU MAY FORGET!

HERE are a few days over a month and a half now left for those who desire to be condoned to apply for condonation certificates. After the 30th September no one's application will be considered. It is therefore calamitous to delay any longer. After the assurance of the Government, that it is not desirous of making the condonation scheme a means of securing conviction for persons who in the past assisted illicit entrants to evade immigration laws, there is no room for entertaining any doubt about its sincerity. The "Federationists" and the "Vigilants" still continue to make misrepresentations about the scheme and thus confuse the minds of those concerned. They accuse the Government for not giving a general amnesty—a free pardon to the guilty. Had the Government given a general amnesty no one would have been more pleased than we and we would have considered it the highest act of grace on the part of the Government. The oppositionists, however, seem to argue as though it were an inherent right of the community to demand a general amnesty for the guilty persons. We must confess we are unable to go that length. A Government that wanted to be shamelessly harsh would have justifiably refused point black to condone the action, either past or future, of a single illegal entrant and would have even justifiably dealt with those who aided such entrants. And, in that event, we do not think we would have been able to do anything beyond criticising the harshness of the Government and appealing in the name of humanity for an act of clemency. But the present Government has not been so harsh as that. Is it because it has not been quite so harsh that the oppositionists are making unmerited attacks on it. Let us be firm and powerful where it is necessary to be, but let us not transgress the bounds of modesty, moderation and truthfulness, and let us not forget to give credit where credit is due. That the Government has not gone the length we would have wished it to is an admitted fact but let us be thankful for the length it has gone and make the best of it.

It is said by some that it is humiliating to have to confess one's guilt. One who has such a sense self-respect would not have committed the offence in the first instance; but letting that alone, will it not be even as humiliating to be caught at a later

date and summarily dealt with? The "Federationists" and the "Vigilants" are busy explaining the "disadvantages" of the Condonation scheme. If they were to only refrain from making utter misrepresentations their act would be a blessing to the community. But, obviously, they have not at heart the welfare of the community so much as the desire to achieve their own selfish ends at the risk of harming the community. The only disadvantage we are able to see in the condonation scheme, if disadvantage it can be called, is that the condonee will be known once for all to the Government that he was an illegal entrant; but that act of his will be condoned and he will be as safe in the Union as a holder of a legally obtained registration certificate or any other document. The condonation certificate, with the written undertaking therein by the Minister, that it will not be cancelled unless the holder is guilty of a deportable offence is no more temporary in nature than the registration certificate he may be holding and which will still be in his possession together with his condonation certificate; for the simple reason that even a registration certificate will not serve its holder should he be found guilty of an offence for which he may be liable for deportation.

With all this, it is left for the concerned party himself to choose whether he will run the risk of being hounded out at a later date or whether he will admit his guilt and be condoned. We would, of course, advise the latter course. A mass meeting in this connection is to be held on Sunday which will give an opportunity to the public to be acquainted with more facts about the much discussed scheme.

END OF BARDOLI STRUGGLE

THE news of the settlement of the no-tax campaign in Bardoli will be received with a sigh of relief by Indians in South Africa generally and those who have interests involved in that District especially. The news was transmitted by Reuter's Agency at Poona in the following message:—

"It is understood that a settlement has been reached in connection with the no-tax campaign recently begun in the Bardoli district, and it is practically certain that an inquiry into the revised land revenue assessment will be conducted by a judicial officer assisted by

a revenue officer. The former's opinion will prevail in all vital matters. The Government will exercise clemency freely in reinstating village revenue officers who resigned on the issue; and also in giving relief in extreme cases of suffering among cultivators."

Another message from Bombay states:—

"Facilities will be granted to the peasants concerned to give evidence or to test evidence at the inquiry, assisted by their legal advisers. Meanwhile it is understood that the Government has ordered all those arrested for refusing to pay taxes to be released."

In the Bardoli case published in our last week's issue it was pointed out that the peasants had pledged themselves to pay no assessment until either (1) the enhancement were cancelled; or (2) an independent impartial tribunal were appointed to examine the whole case.

After the statement made recently in unmistakable terms by Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor of Bombay, addressing the Bombay Legislature, "that his offer to order the special inquiry on new assessments, provided the taxes were paid forthwith by the Bardoli no-tax campaigners, was definite and final," and that if the edict of some unofficial body was to be obeyed as against his Majesty's writ "the Government was prepared to meet it with all its power," one felt that there was much suffering in store yet for the Bardoli peasants. How the tables have turned so suddenly is difficult to surmise without being in possession of further detailed reports. That a compromise has been arrived at is, however, in itself very satisfactory and we congratulate Sir Leslie Wilson's Government for at last coming to reason and yielding to public opinion.

Human Brotherhood

The race of mankind would perish did they cease to aid each other. From the time that the mother binds the child's head, till the moment that some kind assistant wipes the death-damp from the brow of the dying, we cannot exist without mutual help. All, therefore, that need aid, have a right to ask it from their fellow-mortals; no one who holds the power of granting can refuse it without guilt.—Sir Walter Scott.

T.B.I.A. Meeting At Pretoria

Terminated in Disorder

Does the Government's Condonation Scheme for Indians who entered the Union by illegal means, deprive them of any privileges which they hold to-day?

This was the main point at issue and discussed at considerable length by a large gathering of the Indian community of Pretoria and district at the Bombay Star Bioscope hall last (Sunday Aug. 5) evening says the *Pretoria News*. The hall was crowded to the doors. From the outset it was obvious that the meeting was likely to be stormy, as opinions were divided on the scheme.

The election of chairman was the first sign that the proceedings would not be without considerable excitement. By a narrow margin the occupant of the chair at the opening of the meeting retained his seat.

Mr. N. A. Camay, joint secretary of the Transvaal British Indian Association, spoke of what he termed the fraud which had been practised by the administrative officers of the Government, and stated that for these mal-practices—allowing Indians to enter the Union illegally—lawful Indians were now being called upon to pay. If certain Indians had been admitted by fraudulent means, the Government's own officials were to blame, and it was unfair to demand redress and make those Indians suffer now after they had made due payment for their privilege.

Mr. Camay stated that when the measure was introduced Mr. Patrick Duncan had asked the Minister to be generous and let bygones be bygones by declaring a general amnesty. At the second reading of the Bill, Mr. Alexander made a similar plea. The Rev. Andrews had made a definite assurance that no retrospective effect would be given to the particular section which dealt with condonation certificates. But this had not been honoured by the Government.

The condonation scheme, continued Mr. Camay, was something which was evolved in Government circles. Indians had not asked for it. The Minister has given his word that condonation certificate would be cancelled except for a deportable offence. "What right has he to do that? What law in this country gives the Minister discretionary powers of this description? None that I know of. You will hear from the legal opinion, which I will read, that no powers of this sort can be usurped by Dr. Malan or any other Minister."

The condonation certificate, the speaker said, gave temporary residence and that after many years in South Africa. It remained to be seen whether Indians would accept the scheme, of which the Transvaal British Indian Association did not approve. He considered an exemption certificate should be given them. Any scheme which did not permit the condonees to bring their wives and families into the country could not be accepted. It was a slur on the Indian race and should be rejected.

At considerable length the speaker explained a legal opinion obtained from Advocate P. Millin, from which it appeared that the Indians were being asked to give up certain registration rights and accept something—condonation certificates—which could be cancelled at the will of the Minister of Interior. It was on this opinion that the Transvaal British Indian Association based its views that the proposals should be rejected.

Lively Heckling

If the proceedings had been quiet up to then, matters livened considerably when those present

were permitted to ask questions. Asked whether the T.B.I.A. was recognised by the Government, Mr. Camay said he had not expected to be asked this question. He said he did not know whether they were recognised. All he could say was that they got replies to their letters.

Someone interjected that this was only courtesy and asked the speaker to answer the question direct. He did so by stating that, when making certain representations, the T.B.I.A. had received a reply stating that the Indian Congress was the body the Government recognised.

Throughout his speech Mr. Camay had made disparaging references to the Indian Congress and at question time he had to run the gauntlet of a succession of questions regarding his connection with the Congress.

"Were you a member of the Congress?" asked someone in the hall. Mr. Camay began to give a lengthy explanation, which brought forth the remark from the questioner, "I can also make a speech. When I ask a question I expect an answer, not a speech." Mr. Camay then admitted he was a member at the time the agreement with the Government was come to.

Did as he was Told

Did you sign the agreement? Once again the reply was lengthy. During the course of his response the speaker stated he had no time to read the agreement. The Rev. Andrews told him to sign and he did so believing that the reverend gentleman had gone into the matter thoroughly.

"So you signed something you did not see?" came from the body of the hall. "Yes," said Mr. Cama. "You were blind then?" "Yes, I was."

"So you sold us," was shouted and disorder reigned for several minutes.

At this stage Mr. Cama explained that the Rev. Andrews had implored him to rely on him. The speaker struck a suppliant attitude, raised his hands as if in prayer and gave his audience a demonstration of how the reverend gentleman had come to him. "You all know," he said, "how smooth and sweet Mr. Andrews can be. He was in one of his most persuasive moods and I fell."

Reconsideration Requested

Asked what scheme he would propose as an alternative to the condonation scheme, Mr. Cama stated that they proposed to ask the Minister to reconsider the matter in the light of the amicable settlement between the Governments of India and South Africa. If the Government was sincere regarding condonation, then there should be no difficulty in devising a scheme that would not make the Indians distrust the Government. He suggested that the Minister should grant persons holding registration certificates exemption permits to remove doubts. The temporary permits revocable at the will of the Minister, inspired no confidence whatever.

He suggested that a way out of the difficulty would be to suggest to Mr. Sastri that, in the event of the Government being averse to reconsidering the condonation scheme, he withdraw from South Africa as a protest and request the Indian Government to cancel the Hertzog agreement.

The meeting became more stormy as the two factions fired questions and replies at one and another. It was obvious that those who favoured the scheme could not secure a full hearing and the meeting broke up in disorder.

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c/o INDIAN OPINION,
Phœnix.

Trust Properties Held By Indians in Transvaal

The following is a copy of a letter received by the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Agent of the Government of India, from the Minister of the Interior in regard to the above matter :—

No. 209/76.

Department of the Interior,
Union Buildings,
Pretoria,
3rd July, 1928.

Dear Mr. Sastri,—I have received your letter of the 16th ultimo and enclosure, relative to the holding of trust properties such as temples, mosques and schools by Indian Companies, and have carefully considered the suggestions made but regret that it is not possible to introduce legislation as suggested in Mr. Pen's letter of the 27th May.

I have recently consulted the Department of Lands in regard to the reservation of a piece of ground required by the Mahomedan community of Pietersburg as an extension of the area on which the Mahomedan church stands. This property cannot, in view of the provisions of Section 2 of Act No. 37 of 1919 be transferred to the Government in trust for, or on behalf of, that community. The Government is prepared, however, provided the community concerned agrees, to take unconditional transfer of the ground in question and thereafter to reserve it formally in the name of the governing body of the Mahomedan church, Pietersburg, for religious purposes in terms of Section 12 of the Crown Land Disposal Ordinance No. 57 of 1903 (Transvaal).

Arrangements can be made for other properties to be similarly reserved on application by bodies representing the Indian community.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sgd.) D. F. MALAN.

The Right Honourable
V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C.,
483 Currie Road,
Durban.

Book Review

"Satyagrah in South Africa"

by M. K. Gandhi. Translated from the Gujarati by Valji Govindji Desai. Published by S. Ganesan, Triplicane, Madras. Price Rs 4—8—0. This is a well-printed bulky book written by Mahatma Gandhi containing the history of the Indian Passive Resistance Struggle in South Africa. The book contains fifty chapters of which thirty were written by the author in Yeravda jail where he was imprisoned for six years by the Indian Government but was released long before the expiry of the term. "My only object in writing this book" the author writes in his preface, "is that it may be helpful in our present struggle (in India), and serve as a guide to any regular historian that may arise in the future." The Passive Resistance struggle will ever remain a historic event in the life of the Indian community in South Africa. As authentic history of that struggle was badly needed and this volume is the only one of its kind and can be the only one, being written by the leader of that struggle himself fulfills that long desired need. This book will serve as a textbook to all those who believe in non-violence. To Indians in South Africa and especially those who took part in the struggle it will doubtless be of immense interest.

The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[BY M. K. GANDHI]

Part IV. Chapter XXIV.

THE ZULU "REBELLION"

Even after I thought I had settled down in Johannesburg there was to be no settled life for me. Just when I felt I should be breathing in peace, an unexpected event happened. The papers brought the news of the outbreak of the Zulu 'rebellion' in Natal. I bore no grudge against the Zulus, they had harmed no Indian, I had doubts about the 'rebellion' itself, but I then believed that the British Empire existed for the welfare of the world. A genuine sense of loyalty prevented me from even wishing ill to the Empire. The rightness or otherwise of the 'rebellion' was therefore not likely to affect my decision. Natal had a Volunteers' Defence Force, and it was open to it to recruit more men. I read that this force had already been mobilised to quell the 'rebellion.'

I considered myself a citizen of Natal, being intimately connected with it. So I wrote to the Governor, expressing my readiness, if necessary, to form an Indian Ambulance Corps. He sent immediately an affirmative reply.

I had not expected such prompt acceptance of my offer. Fortunately I had made all the necessary arrangements even before I wrote the letter. If my offer was accepted I had decided to break up the Johannesburg home. Polak was to have a smaller house and Mrs. Gandhi was to go and settle at Phoenix. I had her full co-operation in this decision. I do not remember her having ever stood in my way in matters like this. As soon therefore as I got the reply from the Governor, I gave the landlord the usual month's notice to vacate the house, sent some of the things to Phoenix and left some with Polak.

I went to Durban and appealed for men. A big contingent was not necessary. We were a party of twenty-four, of whom, besides me, four were Gujaratis. The rest were ex-indentured men from South India excepting one who was a free Pathan.

In order to give me a status and to facilitate work, as also in accordance with the existing convention, the Chief Medical Officer appointed me to the temporary rank of Sergeant Major and three men selected by me to be sergeants and one to be corporal. We also received our uniforms from the Government. Our Corps was on active service for nearly six weeks. On reaching the scene of the 'rebellion,' I saw that there was nothing there to justify the name of 'rebellion.' There was no resistance that one could see. The reason why the disturbance was magnified into a rebellion was that a Zulu chief had advised non-payment of a new tax imposed on the Zulus, and had assailed a sergeant who had gone to collect the tax. Whatever may be the case, my heart was with the Zulus, and I was greatly delighted, on reaching the headquarters, to be told that our main work was to be to nurse the wounded Zulus. The Medical Officer in charge welcomed us. He said the white people were not willing nurses for the wounded Zulus, that their wounds were festering, and that he was at his wit's end. He hailed our arrival as a godsend for those innocent people, and he equipped us with bandages, disinfectants, etc., and took us to the improvised hospital. The Zulus were delighted to see us. The white soldiers would peep through the curtains and see us, and they would try to

dissuade us from attending to the wounds. And as we would not heed them, they would be enraged and pour unspeakable abuse on the Zulus.

Gradually I came into closer touch with these soldiers and they ceased to interfere. Among the commanding officers were Col. Sparks and Wylie who had bitterly opposed me in 1896. They were surprised at my attitude and they specially called and thanked me. They took me to General Mackenzie and introduced me to him. Let not the reader think that these were professional soldiers. Col. Wylie was a well-known Durban lawyer. Col. Sparks was well-known as the owner of a butcher's shop in Durban. General Mackenzie was a noted Natal farmer. All these gentlemen were volunteers and as such they had received military training and experience.

The wounded we were in charge of were not wounded in battle. A section of them had been taken prisoners as suspects. The General had sentenced them to be flogged. The flogging had caused severe sores. These, being unattended to, were festering. The others were Zulu friendlies. All these had badges given them to distinguish them from the 'enemy.' They had been shot at by the soldiers by mistake.

Besides this work I had to compound and dispense prescriptions for the white soldiers. This was easy enough for me as I had received a years' training in Dr. Booth's little hospital. This work brought me in close contact with many Europeans.

We were attached to a swift moving column. It had orders to march wherever danger was reported. It was for the most part cavalry. As soon as our camp was moved, we had to follow on our foot with our stretchers on our shoulders. Twice or thrice we had to march forty miles a day. But wherever we went, I am thankful that we had God's good work to do. We had to carry to the camp on our stretchers the Zulu friendlies inadvertently wounded and to attend upon them as nurses.

Natal Indians and Some Risks Of River-Fishing

(BY F. G. CAWSTON, M.D.)

Although the Indian population of Natal is constantly being augmented by the arrival in South Africa of Arab traders from other parts of the world, the vast majority of Indians who arrived in Natal during the latter part of the last century to establish the sugar industry of Natal came from the Madras Presidency.

Fresh-water fish are a common article of food amongst Madras Indians, and both children and adults spend a great deal of their time catching the fish that thrive in the rivers of India. The fish are wholesome, and the industry is not associated with any of the diseases to which fishermen in some other parts of the world are constantly exposed.

On their arrival in Natal to work on the sugar plantations along the Natal coast and in the suburbs of Durban, these emigrants immediately resorted to their favourite pastime, quite unconscious of the fact that standing in the semi-stagnant pools that are formed along the slow-flowing rivers of Natal is invariably associated with the common disease of African streams caused by the Bilharzia parasitic worm.

This parasite depends for its existence on the presence along the banks of rivers and over flow pools of certain species of fresh-water snails which are common in Natal. The disease is very prevalent in the Nile Delta of Egypt, and a similar condition prevails amongst the Chinese

who live along the course of the Yangtse Kiang; but, so far, it is doubtful if the parasite has ever attacked a person in Madras who has not previously resided in Natal.

Not only have a large number of Indian children contracted this disease and suffered from it throughout their school years in various parts of Natal, but investigations have shown that the disease is contracted and spread very largely by the Indian population. For this reason there is ample justification for renewed efforts to bring the danger to the notice of the general public, besides what has already been done to warn those Indian children who attend the various schools at Durban.

It is very probable that the aversion to fish that is common amongst the native races of South Africa is associated with the fact that this intractable disease was known to occur very commonly amongst those natives who spent much of their time in shallow water catching fish. To this hatred of fish in rivers we may owe the use of the poison plant which the primitive races of Natal employ to poison their fish; though the crushed root of "Tephrosia" is also used by them and by some of the European settlers to paralyse those fish they wish to catch easily for eating. The very great value that the natives place upon their cattle influenced them to take use of a local plant which was harmless to both men or beasts, though fatal to fish, even if used in only a dilute proportion in running water. The effectiveness of the crushed root of this common plant, which also occurs in Egypt and in Mozambique Territory, suggests that it might be used extensively in the destruction of those fresh-water snails which serve as the carriers of the Bilharzia parasites, especially as the poison has been shown to be particularly lethal to the common Bilharzia snail-host throughout the Union of South Africa.

The introduction of the crushed root into semi-stagnant pools would, of course, be detrimental to fish life, but the possibility of destroying the carp of Natal and introducing trout and similar more wholesome fish is even now under the consideration of the Fisheries Board. Where a pool is known to be heavily infested with the free-swimming Bilharzia parasite, the destruction of the snail-host which produces the parasites in enormous numbers is of even greater importance than the survival of a few carp; and, if these should happen to share the fate of the snails in infected districts, their death would simply discourage susceptible persons from standing knee-deep in the water whilst engaged in fishing.

The greatest factor at work in the lessening of Bilharzia disease along the Natal coast of recent years is the growth of sugar cane and the cultivation of swampy land in those outlying districts where the Indian population of Natal have built their houses and planted their vegetable gardens. Much of the marshy soil has thus been reclaimed and now produces a large proportion of the vegetable supply of Durban and other towns in Natal. Pools which were until recently heavily infested with the parasite have gradually been filled in and transformed into gardens where carnations are produced for the market or for the supply of the flower-seller.

Amongst those influences which have helped to dry up these stagnant pools are the construction of roads, the extension of the Railway line and the growth of the wild hyacinth. This plant constitutes a serious problem where it is allowed to grow uncontrolled; but, at the present time, it is of great value in sapping up the moisture of infested pools in brickfields and other places, thus preparing the way for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. The habit of keeping domesticated ducks is also a commendable one; for these birds help to keep clean any collection of water and feed greedily on fresh-water snails without themselves becoming affected by the parasites which they produce. The construction of suitable bore-holes and other modern means of sanitation all help to discourage the dangerous procedure of using the same pool for washing purposes and for collecting drinking water, a practice which is still common amongst the poorer classes of Indian labourers in Natal and elsewhere.

"South African Experience Changed all my Ideas"

Durban Man's Statements to International
Gathering in London

(FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT)

"I went out to South Africa with certain preconceived notions. My experience there has changed every one of them." This was the declaration made at a meeting at the International Guest House, Sydenham Hill, London by Mr. Maurice Webb, the publisher, on Saturday night (July 15). Mr. Webb has come home on a visit to his parents who are old Sydenham residents. The company to which he spoke was composed of the guests at the new International centre for visitors to London for which the Holiday Fellowship, the Service Council of the Society of Friends, the Adult School Union and other bodies have made themselves responsible. It stands in six acres of wonderful wooded grounds, close to the Crystal Palace. Among Mr. Webb's audience were not only British guests and local residents, but a party of German students and schoolboys from Cologne, and American and Czechoslovakian visitors.

Mr. Webb explained that his ideas when he arrived in South Africa included a belief that Union had broken down difficulties between white South Africans, that Empire was an entirely bad thing, that race prejudice was a silly illusion, that missionaries were a nuisance, and that 'International Labour' was the hope of the world. "Realities in South African life," said Mr. Webb, "have shown me my mistakes. Although in some cases I wish I were still able to feel I had been right. For instance, while I profoundly deplore race prejudice, one has to recognise it as a fact. Having faced the facts, however, we must do all we can to study the reason for them, and work for changes where we believe they are necessary."

When he and his wife attended the baptism by the Bishop of Natal of the baby of an Indian Anglican Priest, and were part of a congregation of British, Indian, and Africa, he believed it was an occasion particularly unique in the history of Africa.

VACANCIES For TEACHERS

The attention of those interested is invited to the list of vacant posts in Government Schools appearing in a supplement to the *Transvaal Provincial Gazette* of the 1st August, 1928.

Applications must reach the school Boards not later than the 18th August, 1928.

Copies of the supplement may be obtained on application to the various School Boards in the Transvaal, or to the Secretary, Transvaal Education Department, Pretoria.

F. S. MALAN,

Secretary,

Transvaal Education Department.

इमे भाई आपकी ओ

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