

Indian Opinion

No. 34—Vol. XXVI.

Friday, August 31st, 1928.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

A REUTER'S message from East London states:—
With regard to a conference called by a body styling itself the Cape Indian Vigilance Committee in opposition to the condonation proposals, it is stated here that the British Indian Association, which has branches all over the Eastern Province, has given no authority and instruction for calling this conference and it strongly supports Mr. Sastri, Agent-General, in the action he has taken in the matter.

While this is so we deeply regret that there is a friction among the Indian community at Kimberley. Our humble advice to those who wish to dissociate themselves from the Indian Political Association is to take the wiser step of making their position secure if they are doubtful of it by applying for condonation before the expiry of the date fixed, namely, September 30. Their dissociation from the Association and their opposition to the scheme will neither help them nor the Association nor the Indian community. Even the oppositionists say that they do not wish to be in the way of those who wish to avail themselves of the condonation scheme and that if they have not the courage to fight they should submit to the scheme. We say, if they *have* the courage they should avail themselves of the scheme without delay so that they will be armoured when the occasion does arrive—God forbid that it should—to fight.

Mr. Desmond Young who is shortly leaving the charge of the *Natal Witness* to join the *Cape Times* was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Orient Club. Among the notables present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. Eaton), Lady Young, mother of Mr. Young, Mrs. Young, the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Mr. J. D. Tyson, Mr. P. K. Rao, Mr. C. S. Ricketts and guests from Maritzburg included Messrs. M. L. Kajee, S. R. Naidoo and D. Bramdeo.

A happy wedding ceremony took place last Sunday of Mr. K. Rajagopaul Naidoo son of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Naidoo with Miss Muthulakshmi daughter of Mr. S. Pavadai Naidoo at Mr. R. K. Naidoo's residence at Umgeni. The ceremony was attended by a large number of prominent Indians. The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri was also present.

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Agent of the Government of India, left for the Transvaal last Monday by the 5.40 p.m. train. The officials of the Natal Indian Congress and leading members of the Indian community were present at the station to see the Agent off. Mr. Sastri was garlanded on the platform by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee. During his stay in the Transvaal Mr. Sastri will visit Vereeniging, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp and Heidelberg. He will return to Natal at the beginning of October for a few days prior to proceeding to the Cape.

A cable from Poona states that it was understood that Mr. Sastri had informed the Government of

India that he did not wish his term of office as Agent for the Government of India in South Africa extended for another year. Mr. Sastri has intimated in the course of his recent speeches that he desires to leave the Union next January.

At a meeting held on Sunday (Aug. 26) afternoon at the Indian School Hall, under the auspices of the Indian Political Association, Kimberley, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "That this meeting of the Indian Political Association desires to place on record as having the fullest confidence in the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., Agent-General to the Government of India in the Union, and the South African Indian Congress, and strongly condemns the attitude of the few who threaten to jeopardise the best interests of the community at large."

"Observer" writing in the August number of *Universitas* pays a compliment to two representatives of the two despised races in this country—the Native and the Asiatic—who were present at the Students Christian Association Conference held recently at Port Elizabeth. The heroes are Messrs Yergan and Mr. P. Kodanda Rao who are described thus:—

"What a valuable enrichment of the Conference, whether on the platform or at the dinner table, or in the grounds, was the presence among us of Messrs Yergan and Rao! My own very strong feeling is that the address of the former on the Sunday afternoon marked the spiritual high-water mark of the Conference. It must have seemed strange to many that the people responsible for the programme chose a negro to address this European conference on the subject of the "The World's Student Christian Federation." Yet how fitting in many ways, and, in actual experience, how inspired the selection. It was one of those occasions which can hardly escape being memorable. Add to that his masterly review of the great Jerusalem conference on an earlier evening, coupled with these his very moving appeals on two occasions on the subject of the Native Youth of South Africa, and you will begin to realise how much Mr. Yergan brought us on the platform alone, apart altogether from other less public occasions.

"Even more unfamiliar to us was the trim, distinctively clad figure of Mr. Rao, the first Indian ever invited to one of our conferences. Yet how soon and how completely his charm and friendliness banished any sense of strangeness. And what a full and ready mine of information he was to all questioners. Before conference closed it had become quite a normal feature of the landscape usually somewhere in the vicinity of the office building, to see a crowded circle of delegates four or five rows gather in intense interest round some invisible object, which on closer inspection would prove to be our good friend Mr. Rao, looking rather like a nice pocket-edition amongst the long-legged up-country Anakins, but meeting the unceasing questions with ready courtesy and reliable information. His address on Saturday evening was most impressive in its fairness and frankness, and of great value to all who would form reasonable and Christian judgments on the Indian question. We shall hope to reproduce it, at least in part, in our next issue, and

we hope also that it may be possible to introduce Mr. Rao to the Natal students, who are more directly concerned with the Indians, and who, unfortunately, were hardly represented at Port Elizabeth."

OBSCURE OBJECT OF THE LAW

AN important judgment has been given by the Vryheid Magistrate in the case of an appeal by a Chinaman against the Registrar of Asiatics who refused to grant him a registration certificate under the "Asiatics in the Northern Districts of Natal Act 1927" on the ground that he was there under employment "not of a permanent nature." In so far as Asiatics are concerned the Northern Districts of Natal which include Vryheid, Utrecht and a portion of the district of Wakkerstroom are part of the Transvaal and under the Act of 1927 above mentioned, Asiatics can remain in those districts only by obtaining registration certificates as in the Transvaal. It is provided in Section 2 that an Asiatic shall be entitled to register under the Act if he was domiciled in the Northern Districts at the commencement of the Act; but it also includes a proviso that Asiatics introduced at any time into the Northern districts "for employment on contracts of labour or for domestic service or for any other form of employment not of a permanent nature, shall not be entitled to registration but shall, on the expiration of such contracts, domestic service or other employment, depart from the Northern districts." Now, those Asiatics who had not entered the districts for employment of a temporary nature but had gone there and actually settled with their families for over ten, fifteen and twenty years naturally interpreted the above proviso in the ordinary sense and doubted nothing tricky about it and applied for registration certificates. About forty such applications were made and practically all of them, it was learnt with much surprise, were rejected and the applicants served with notices to leave the districts. The appeal referred to is of one such applicant. The Acting Registrar of Asiatics on behalf of the respondent for the first time let the cat out of the bag that "the intention of the Act is that any employment is not of a permanent nature, and that any person introduced at any time must depart and is not entitled to a registration certificate." If that was the purpose of the Act the use of the word "domicile" in the Act was only to throw dust into the eyes of

the public. For what meaning could the word "domicile" have if a permanent residence of an Asiatic for over ten or fifteen years in those districts would not give him the privilege of being considered domiciled? The main object of the Act, in the light it has been put by the Acting Registrar of Asiatics was, obviously, not to confer rights of residence on those who had settled in those districts as it would appear to be, and to prevent others entering the districts but to rid the districts of those Asiatics who were already there for years. This would be an extremely ungenerous policy. The Court of justice has, however, come to the rescue and has given a common-sense interpretation to the term "permanent employment" that "if the position occupied could be reasonably considered permanent and a man held that position for a period of five years, and then left it of his own free will and accord the employment should be regarded as permanent, otherwise there would be no such thing as permanent employment." The Court has therefore ordered the granting of a registration certificate to the appellant. Thus a great injustice has been averted by the Court and we hope the Government will allow the matter to remain where it now stands and will be pleased to grant registration certificates to other applicants also who may be in similar circumstances as the appellant.

WILL MR. SASTRI NOT GRANT OUR PRAYER?

IT is needless to say with what great disappointment the Indian community throughout the Union has received the news from Poona that Mr. Sastri did not wish his term of office as Agent of the Government of India extended for another year. We all know what a great sacrifice it has been for Mr. Sastri to have come here even for a period of one year. Notwithstanding, he respected the wishes of the community and prolonged his stay for another six months. But we are not yet satisfied. We wish him to stay yet a little longer. The saying "too much familiarity breeds contempt" is proved false in the case of Mr. Sastri. The more familiar one gets with him the more attached one becomes to him. This has been as true in the case of Indians as in the case of Europeans. From the highest to the lowest European, however prejudiced he may be

against Indians as a race has never been heard to utter a word against Mr. Sastri. His name is uttered with the deepest respect and veneration. This is what his eloquence and great personality has been able to attain. Apart from his services in his official capacity Mr. Sastri has been a source of strength, a leader and a guide to the Indian community. The admirable progress made by the Indian community in the matter of self-help is due only to the presence and guidance of Mr. Sastri. The Social Committee, the Child Welfare Committee are begotten by Mr. Sastri. They are yet in their infancy. The great education scheme which is the very foundation of the upliftment of the Indian community would never have materialised to the extent it has without the presence and personality of Mr. Sastri. That great work has yet to be accomplished. If Mr. Sastri leaves the Union at this juncture it is felt that these may die a premature death. In view of these and many other facts it has been seriously felt that Mr. Sastri should, if at all possible, to be persuaded to remain in the Union at least another year. The Executive of the South African Indian Congress which meets in Johannesburg during the week-end, it is understood, will discuss this question as a matter of urgency. We can certainly show Mr. Sastri as well as the Government and the people of India by public demonstrations throughout the Union how keen we are to have Mr. Sastri in our midst yet a little longer, and we feel sure that if we are sincere in our prayers God will grant them even if Mr. Sastri does not.

Indian Social Service Committee

The first anniversary of the Indian Social Service Committee was celebrated at the M. K. Gandhi Library on Thursday, August 23, over which the Mayor (Councillor Eaton) presided. Among those present were the Mayoress, the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, Messrs. V. Lawrence, chairman of the Social Service Committee, S. A. Mahomed hon. treasurer, P. M. Pather hon. secretary. Among others who were present were Councillors Mrs. E. L. Knight and S. K. Elgie, the Revs. G. Hibbert-Ware, H. Cotton, W. Simon and R. Choonoo, Miss Mackenzie, the Rev. Father Huss, Dr. K. F. McMurtree, Messrs. Westbrook and Bromley, Advocates Christopher and R. K. Khan and other prominent leaders of the Congress and of the community.

Mr. Lawrence submitted a very lengthy report of the work done by the Social Service Committee during the year.

The Mayor congratulated the Committee for the services it has rendered in the interests of the community and advocated a better understanding between the European and Indian communities.

Other speakers were the Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri, Advocate Christopher, the Revs. Hibbert-Ware and Cotton, and Councillors Mrs. E. L. Knight and Elgie.

The Committee honoured Dr. A. H. Allam by presenting him with a bouquet through the Mayor for his invaluable service to the First-aid Class.

Status of Asiatics In Northern Natal

What is Permanent Employment?

Important Judgment in Local Court

A case of far-reaching importance came before the Magistrate of Vryheid on Monday August 20, under the Asiatic Registration Act, No. 33 of 1927, when Leong Shing Lue, a Chinaman, appealed against the Registrar of Asiatics to issue a registration certificate to the appellant under Section 2, Act 33, 1927. Mr. Arthur Turton, of Jan. C. Rossouw and Co., appeared for appellant, and Mr. T. R. Hartshorne, Acting Registrar of Asiatics, for the Registrar.

Following were the grounds of appeal:—

1. The appellant was not introduced into the Northern Districts for employment on contract of labour or for domestic service or for any other form of employment not of a permanent nature; but he came himself of his own free will and agency into the district of Vryheid in 1913.

2. Appellant had grown up in Natal, and on attaining majority had acquired a domicile of choice in Natal. In 1913 he was at Ladysmith and from there came to Vryheid and took employment with W. G. Johnston, of the President Hotel, as a laundryman, which he retained for five years till Johnston gave up his business. The appellant remained living in Vryheid as his home and that of his family, employed in laundry work, except for the past year in which the appellant has been employed as assistant in a store in Vryheid.

3. In 1911, while living in Durban, appellant married Caroline Ada Williams, a coloured woman, daughter of a coloured man, Williams, who for many years had been living and working in Natal. By her he has a number of children in Vryheid, to which place she came in 1913 and established there a home. The appellant had been domiciled in Vryheid, in the Northern Districts of Natal, since 1913. The appellant says that his first employment in Vryheid and (except for his present employment) other employment he had, ceased before January 1, 1928; and the employment or contract he may have had at that date is not the kind of contract referred to in the proviso to Section 2 of Act 33, 1927, which does not apply to him.

Appellant's Evidence

Leong Shing Lue, duly sworn, deposed as follows:—

I am the person who has given notice of appeal in this matter. I made an application to be registered under the Act 33, 1927, and in reply I received a letter. I then instructed my solicitor, Mr. Turton, to note an appeal.

I am a Chinese, born in China. I am 47 years of age. I came to Natal in 1891 and was then nine years of age. I came with my uncle, Leong Foon, who lived in Maritzburg and had a grocery business there. I was brought up there and went to a Roman Catholic school. I went back to China in 1898, to Canton, remaining there only one and a half years, and then returned to Natal in 1900. I came back to Maritzburg and continued to live there. In 1904 I got a certificate from the Magistrate, so that I should not be mixed up with the Chinese labourers.

While in Maritzburg I did interpreting in the Court

and for the police, and I hand in testimonials. In 1911 I went to Durban, and when in Durban I married Caroline Ada Williams. My wife is a Cape coloured woman.

After a time I went to Ladysmith in 1913, and worked as a furniture repairer. While there I met Mr. W. G. Johnston, proprietor of the President Hotel, Vryheid. He offered me work as overseer to the laundry department of the hotel on a salary of £4 10s. a month and all found. The agreement was made in Ladysmith. On that I came to Vryheid in November, 1913, and started work at once. He paid me from the date of my engagement in Ladysmith, and he paid my fare and expenses from Ladysmith to Vryheid. My wife joined me about six months later. I continued to work for Mr. Johnston for five years, when he gave up his business. My wife also worked in the hotel laundry. After my wife came I took a house in which we lived. An Indian worked under me in the laundry.

Ran His Own Business

When Mr. Johnston gave up business he sold the hotel to Mr. Morris and left Vryheid. I remained with Mr. Morris for two months and then left in 1918. I remained in Vryheid but went to Mount Ngwibi and ran a laundry of my own. This place is in the Vryheid district about 24 miles from town. I worked there for eight months and then came back to Vryheid as manager of the Vryheid Laundry. My wife is still with me. I kept this position till about a month ago, when I took employment as a store assistant to Mr. Perotti, Vryheid, and am still so employed.

I have five children alive. My first child was born in Durban and all the others in Vryheid. Two small children died in Vryheid, and they were buried in Vryheid Cemetery. I bought a burial plot, 9ft. by 18ft., in Vryheid Cemetery for £3 from the Corporation. My children are buried on this plot and it is my wish to be buried there also alongside my children. I did this as I had intended to make Vryheid my home and live and die there.

Questioned by Mr. Hartshorne.—I did not sign a contract for labour with Mr. Johnston. It was a verbal agreement. I never did any waiting in the hotel. On January 1, 1928, I was in Vryheid and had not been out of the district since I came here.

Mr. Hartshorne handed in the application by the appellant for a registration certificate under Act 33, 1927, and two affidavits made by the appellant, but called no further evidence.

Definition Wanted

Mr. Turton addressed the Court as follows. Appellant is domiciled in the Northern Districts as laid down in Section 2a, Act 88, 1927, and Section 10, Act 37, 1927. What is the meaning of employment not of a permanent nature. Does it mean for ever, or a life long period? Common-sense must be applied, and it is submitted that five years should be considered as employment of a permanent nature. The provisions of the Act should only apply in cases where employment is still continuing, but not where the contract ceased years ago. The appellant is not under contract, and therefore does not come under the proviso of the Act.

Mr. Hartshorne, addressing the Court, held that the intention of the Act is that any employment is not of a permanent nature. Any person introduced at any time must depart, and is not entitled to a registration certificate, but suggested that application should be made under Section 13 of the Act.

Mr. Turton, in reply, said that under the Act, according to the Registrar there is no such thing as permanent employment, and therefore the Court must take a reasonable view and define what may be considered as permanent employment.

Judgment

The Magistrate (Colonel W. E. Peachey) gave the following judgment:

In the opinion of the Court the question at issue resolves itself into an expression of opinion as to what

may be considered the correct definition or meaning of the words "employment not of a permanent nature."

It is admitted that appellant was introduced into the Northern Districts, and it is not necessary therefore to deal with that point; but was he introduced for employment not of a permanent nature? What is employment of a temporary nature?

The Act gives no assistance in so far as a clear definition is concerned, and it is therefore left for the Court to decide.

If it were clear that the contract in the present instance was temporary and not of a permanent nature there would be no difficulty, but there is no mention of such a condition. The appellant worked for a period of some five years under the contract through which he was introduced, and as long as the employer who introduced him remained in the business. He then left and embarked upon occupation in his own interests. He was certainly employed, though not engaged to work for others, and has apparently been employed in one capacity or the other in the Northern Districts since his introduction. It is not fair to say then that he was introduced for employment not of a permanent nature seeing that there was no mention at the time of his introduction that his contract was of a temporary nature or for employment not of a permanent nature, and in view of the fact that he has been permanently employed ever since.

The Court feels that it is bound to apply an interpretation which in its opinion would be commonly regarded as the generally accepted meaning of "permanent employment," and that would be, that if the position occupied could be reasonably considered permanent and a man held that position for a period of five years, and then left it of his own free will and accord, the employment should be regarded as permanent, otherwise there would be no such thing as permanent employment.

The question of domicile is one which appears to have been established by appellant.

The Court therefore orders the Registrar of Asiatics be directed to issue to the appellant a certificate of registration as defined in the Act.—*Natal Witness*.

Sastri College

Laying of the Foundation Stone

Amidst a large gathering of representative Europeans and Indians the laying of the foundation stone of the Indian Training College and High School, which the donors to the fund to erect the institution have now decided very appropriately to call the "Sastri College," was performed by the Administrator (Mr. H. Gordon Watson) at Warwick Avenue, Durban, last Friday afternoon Aug. 24. Notable among the Europeans present were the Mayor of Durban (Mr. A. Eaton) and the Mayoress, Dr. O. T. Loram (Superintendent of Education), Sir C. G. Smith and many others.

Mr. Sastri's Speech

The Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri in his opening speech said:—

"The promoters of this movement desire me on this auspicious occasion to make a short statement of its origin and progress. The inadequacy and unsatisfactory condition of Indian education has long been known to leaders of the community and the responsible authorities. The principal defect was the lack of an institution for professional training of the Indian teacher. The Department was naturally unable to undertake any large programme of extending educational facilities so long as it could not expect a supply of teachers who could be trusted to impart the rudiments of education according to approved methods. Nor were such men as could be found willing to teach equipped with sufficient general knowledge. We were advised that, if the commu-

nity could erect a suitable building for the purpose, the Provincial Council might be persuaded to take it over and conduct a normal school. As the idea came to be thoroughly discussed, it was apparent that the zeal of the leading members of the Indian community was equal to the erection not only of a training school but of an institution of the secondary grade. It was then resolved that funds should be raised for building a combined normal college and high school. The estimated cost was £20,000. As an inducement to donors, we offered to call a room in the institution by the name of each donor of £300 and over. Enthusiastic workers went round among wealthy Indians in Durban and all over Natal. Before long 31 gave their names for donations of £300 and over. Six of these have promised £500 and over. One whose name we have not his leave to mention, will give £750. We intend to name the library after him. The large hall will bear the name of four brothers who promised each £300 on that understanding. So far the promises total up to £16,374. The promoters are confident that the balance required will be forthcoming with a small margin in addition.

This site was chosen because three Indian schools are situated in the neighbourhood and it would be easy for the teachers under training to do practical teaching work under proper supervision. An additional attraction is the proximity of the Indian playground. Till the college secures its own playground we may have to depend on the hospitality of the authorities of this playground, and it is to be hoped that it will be willingly and generously accorded.

The ground belongs to the Town Council of Durban. After much negotiation they granted us two acres on a lease of 25 years renewable at our option for a second period of 25 years. Subject to certain conditions which need not be detailed now, the leasehold of the two acres was sold to us at a public auction. The nominal price was £5, and the annual rental has been fixed at £60. We wish to record our gratitude to the Town Council for their kindness and help.

We submitted our proposals at an early stage to the Natal Indian Education Commission which sat recently in Pietermaritzburg. They were pleased to approve of them and on their recommendation the Provincial Council have accepted charge of the institution when it should be ready. To the Commission and the Council our thanks are due and we render them now in all sincerity. His Honour the Administrator has allowed me to approach him frequently on the subject and extended courtesy and attention which I cannot sufficiently acknowledge. From Mr. Hugh Bryan and Dr. C. T. Loram I have received an unfailing flow of sympathy, advice and assistance.

Our architects, Messrs. Kallenbach and Kennedy, have prepared rough plans which are now on view. They will show that we intend to build, besides the actual schoolhouse, a residence for the Principal and a hostel for about 40 inmates.

The promoters of this education scheme are conscious of its modest scope and therefore value in a special degree the recognition that His Honour has been pleased to give it by consenting to lay the foundation stone this afternoon. We trust that it is a sign that the institution will pass in due time under the fostering care of the Provincial Administration, and the Department of Education, whom we earnestly request to maintain it in efficiency and popularity.

The presence too of many European ladies and gentlemen in response to our invitation we regard as a happy augury. Their sympathy and goodwill are

not only valuable but indispensable for the welfare of our institution, which can flourish only in a friendly environment. Now and then the Indian community pass under a cloud of political animosity which makes itself felt in various ways. Whatever these may be, let us hope that one of them will never again be the curtailment of the funds which ought to be devoted to their children's education. They surely are innocent and may not be punished for the real or fancied sins of their parents. To deny educational facilities, even though in part, to a community is to condemn it to inevitable stagnation and decay. Since the Capetown Agreement the accepted policy of the Union and therefore of Natal is that in respect of educational and other facilities the Indian community should not be suffered to lag behind any other element of the population.

"In the name of that noble policy we implore you this afternoon to countenance and support this school as an instance of the self-help of the Indian community, not indeed the only instance, but the most striking of many such instances."

The Administrator

The Administrator then laid the foundation stone and in the course of his speech said:—

"It is with the very greatest pleasure that I have come here to-day in my official capacity as Administrator of the Province to lay the foundation stone of the training college and high school for Indians.

"The Provincial Administration is charged with the duty of educating the children of the province of whatever race, so that it is no more than my duty to be present. But, added to this, there is the pleasure of associating myself and the Provincial Administration with the honourable and noble gentleman whose wisdom and activity has made it possible for the Indians of our Province to have in their midst this important educational institution. It is unnecessary for me to say that I refer to my friend Mr. Sastri.

"Mr. Sastri was for many years a school master. It is common knowledge that he combined in his person the scholarship and breadth of vision of the trained thinker on educational matters with his self-denial and love of teaching of the old-fashioned village teacher of India.

"Mr. Sastri was called from his work of teaching to undertake important public work for the Government of India. He became one of the servants of India—a member of that devoted band of Indian brethren who at the instigation of Mr. Gokhale separated themselves from the mass of the people and bound themselves in a brotherhood to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to any part of the world where they could be of service to their country.

"Since he came to South Africa Mr. Sastri has had the dual function of attempting to secure for his people sympathetic and kindly treatment from the Europeans and their Government and at the same time to elevate the Indian people and to make their standard of living such that there may not be between the Europeans and the Indians an economic gulf which has in the past been the cause of ill feeling.

"How well Mr. Sastri has performed the former function we all know. The Indian agreement is largely the result of his efforts to improve the position in which Indians find themselves to-day can be traced almost indirectly to Mr. Sastri's eloquent missionary work.

"Of the second part of Mr. Sastri's task, that of raising the standard of living of the whole Indian

Club Member: "I say, old man, a fellow I know is charged with stealing whisky. Will you take the case?"
 Sastri: (hesitatingly) "That's a hard one to find my way out of."

Lawyer: "Well, if you want my hottest opinion—"
 Sastri: "No, no, I want your professional advice."

community is of course a difficult and slow process. Like a wise man he sees that the future of the people depends upon their education. He cannot hope to do very much with the older population but he plans that if he can have the first impressionable years of youth he can mould the people so that they can become what he wants them to be.

"After he came to South Africa it did not take Mr. Sastri long to see that there could be no adequate Indian education without proper schools and that the schools would be just what the teachers made them. A satisfactory education would be dependent on the teachers trained in the craftsmanship of their profession and stimulated with the great ideal of service. It is a pleasure to be able to say that we have some such teachers to-day but they are not nearly enough. Hence the need of this institution to-day at whose birth we are privileged to be present. We see before us to-day the beginning of Mr. Sastri's work. Soon from this spot will rise a great institution for the education of the Indians of South Africa. What it may develop into it is hard to say. To-day it is a training college and high school—in a few years' time it may develop into a university college with its academic and professional branches.

"I would like to pay tribute to the public spirit of the members of the Indian community of Natal who have by private subscription provided the necessary funds for the erection of this building. I am happy to be able to assure them that when the time arrives for the Provincial Administration to assume control of the college it will be regarded as a trust to be administered with the sole object of furthering the educational aspirations of the Indian community in this province."

Vote of Thanks

Advocate Mr. Christopher then moved a vote of thanks to the Administrator and the European guests. In the course of his remarks the speaker said:—

"I thank the Administrator for his presence here to-day and for having laid the foundation stone of the training college. We are glad that he has come to give us a start in the new era in the educational life of the Indian and we have no doubt that, as the years go on, he will help to develop and support this aspect of the endeavour of the Indian community.

"In the passage of time a better feeling may develop between the Europeans and Indians of this country to the benefit of South Africa.

"We also appreciate very much the presence of Mrs. Gordon Watson and of the Mayor and Mayoress Mr. and Mrs. Eaton. We are particularly glad of the presence of the ladies for we know that no great movement can hope to succeed without their kindly influence.

"Mr. Sastri has said that we are about to embark on a new era, an era that unquestionably will lead us to a better understanding of each other and to a strengthening of that unity which is apparent between us."

The proceedings then terminated and tea and light refreshments were served at the Indian Sports Grounds. The gathering dispersed at about 4-30.

What is the exact pace through the air, of a cricket ball, bowled by a fast bowler like Constantine or Larwood? A mathematical genius says that the time which a ball delivered by a slow bowler like Rhodes takes to reach the batsman—or rather a foot or two in front of the batsman—is under one second—say, roughly, 66ft. in one second, or 45 miles per hour. It is therefore computed that a ball from a fast bowler comes down the pitch at the rate of at least ninety miles an hour. The fastest bowler who ever lived was C. J. Kortright, with J. J. Kotze, second, and E. Jones third. The "muzzle velocity" of Kortright is estimated at ninety-five miles an hour.

Kimberley Meeting

Condonation Divides Community

The Secretary of the Kimberley Indian Political Association sends us the following report:—

A meeting of the Indian Political Association was held in the schoolroom on Sunday August 12. Mr. G. N. Naidoo presided. The chairman stated that the meeting had been called in order that arrangements may be made to wipe off the deficit with which the Association was saddled at the present time.

Mr. R. V. Padayachy moved that a committee be appointed to collect monies to clear off the deficiency. Mr. Sayed Camroodeen seconded.

Mr. M. S. Wookey proposed that two members be elected from each section to form the committee. Mr. R. Samy seconded and the same was approved of the following committee being appointed:—Messrs. S. Camroodeen, H. M. Barday, R. V. Padayachy, N. K. Pillay, Kesha Wallabh and B. Lala. At this stage Mr. P. M. Dawson arrived and took the chair.

Mr. Camroodeen who was given permission to discuss the condonation scheme said that it was felt that the Association was showing antipathy in the question of condonation because in his opinion the Madrassi section was not affected by the scheme. His section however felt deeply on the question and desired that the Association should be represented at the Conference which was being convened by the Federation at Capetown and that they had decided to secede from the Association in the event of their proposal being defeated. Messrs. M. S. Wookey and S. I. Chanekar also deplored the action of the Association in supporting the Government's scheme.

Mr. G. N. Naidoo made an appeal to the individuals who came with the threat of breaking away should the Association not accede to their request which was very unfair. No right thinking man would take up an attitude of this nature. The South African Indian Congress had done its utmost, and this was the best possible concession obtained under existing circumstances for those who illegally entered this country. The speaker doubted whether they had a just claim to demand more than conceded by the Government, to those who lived in fear. Mr. Naidoo made a fervent appeal to the community not to be misled but to take advantage of the scheme.

Mr. T. V. Rajegopal Pillay made an appeal for the maintenance of a united front pointing out that the Association could not be worked in sectional interests. The Indian community as a whole was affected by the scheme. The speaker deprecated the attitude of the previous speakers on this question. He pointed out that the Association was functioning along constitutional lines and the officials were bound to respect and carry out the decisions of the majority.

Mr. K. Wallabh considered that a meeting should be arranged for the 16th inst., and suggested that Mr. A. Ismail and Mr. C. M. Anglia be invited to debate the question in terms of the former's challenge issued during his last visit. Mr. S. I. Chanekar supported Mr. Kesha. At this stage information was placed before the meeting to the effect that Mr. Anglia would not be able to remain in Kimberley until the 16th instant.

Messrs. Camroodeen and Chanekar said that even if such a meeting were arranged and decided in favour of the scheme their section and the Gujaratis were determined to support the sending of delegates to the proposed Conference.

The chairman stated that he could not put a motion on the lines suggested by Mr. Camroodeen as the Association was part of the S.A.I. Congress. Such an action would not only lower the dignity of the Association and the S.A.I. Congress but would also be unconstitutional.

Finally Mr. P. M. Dawson appealed for unity and warned his hearers that the Federation or any other body would not be able to do more than what already had been done by the South African Indian Congress who had the

sympathy and support of Mahatma Gandhi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu and the Indian National Congress.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Shop Assistants' Wages

Memorandum of Natal Indian Congress

To the Wage Board

The following memorandum signed by the President and the Secretaries of the Natal Indian Congress has been addressed to the Chairman and Members of the Wage Board, Union Buildings, Pretoria :—

Sirs,—We have carefully considered the draft recommendations made by the Wage Board, and in response to your invitation, we, on behalf of the Indian Community, beg to make the following observations and suggestions on various matters contained therein.

We feel that in enquiring into conditions of and determining the wages to be paid to commercial workers, the existing conditions to a large extent should be taken into consideration so that the least amount of inconvenience may be felt by both employers and employees in adopting the recommendations of the Wage Board.

Moreover the Indians, as a class, should receive sympathetic consideration, in view of the fact that compared with the European trader, they are placed at a disadvantage in many ways. As already pointed out in our previous Statement, the Indian is, as a result of the administration of the Licensing Laws of the Province relegated to certain parts of the Town or Village where his activities are limited and restricted. His earning power is reduced and as a consequence he is obliged to employ the cheapest labour. As an illustration the case of one Mr. Motala was placed before the Board. Mr. Motala who has an Outfitter's shop in West Street, West End, pays his assistants a similar wage to or higher than that paid by the White Outfitter in the same locality. Mr. Motala went further to say that he would be able to increase the present wage considerably if his shop were situated next to Messers Harvey Greenacre's.

Having no facilities for his training in technical and commercial education, the Indian Youth is inefficient and therefore his earning power is small. In view of these and other disabilities, we submit that the Board should take a generous view of the question as it affects the Indian Community and make its recommendations in order that the least hardship is created. We are not unmindful of the difficulties that confront the Board in arriving at a satisfactory solution but we feel that the Board has not strictly adhered to the principle of "equal work for equal pay" in determining a higher scale of wages for men and a lower for women under the pretext that existing custom demands the consideration of male employees as the actual or potential heads of families who will be dependent upon them. Its recommendations in some trades have not been based irrespective of class or race.

Further, we maintain that, unlike other trades, where a set standard of efficiency is obtained, mental ability is the test of efficiency in commerce. In the standardised trades physical ability is looked upon as a greater factor, and consequently based on an average that can be determined while on the other hand mental ability cannot be readily measured, its range is unlimited and therefore beyond the possibility of standardising or determining the correct average.

In considering the scale of wages suggested by the Board, we irresistibly feel that the recommendation is far too high and will adversely affect the Indian community. It will not only bring about the commercial

ruin of the community but will also add considerably to the already large number of unemployed. If the Kimberley Agreement were to be taken as a criterion, it would be observed that the recommendation now made is about 40 per cent above the scale laid down in that Agreement.

We therefore urge that the wages should be based on a gradation scale and that, in any case, the scale of minimum wage suggested in our previous memorandum be taken as a fair determination by Indian community.

In view of the fact that Indians do not as a rule employ female assistants, the ratio of male and female employees would be disadvantageous to our community. To illustrate this point, we give the following analysis :—

Indians employ :—

2 Qualified male assistants } at £5 per week	10 0 0
4 Unqualified male assistants in the } 4th 6 months at £1-12-6 per week	6 10 0
6	<u>£16 10 0</u>

whereas Europeans similarly placed employ :—

1 Male qualified assistant at } £5 per week	5 0 0
1 Female qualified assistant } at £2-15-0 per week	2 15 0
4 Unqualified male or female assistants in } the 4th 6 months at £1-12-6 per week	6 10 0
6	<u>£14 6 0</u>

But if the European choose to employ females only the figure will still be lowered and will be a distinct advantage to him.

In bringing this aspect of the question before the Board while it sat in Durban, the representatives of the European Commercial Interests admitted that a case for differentiation had been established, but as the Act disallowed any such differentiation, it was felt that as a partial relief, an increase of the ratio of unqualified assistants where female assistants are not employed should be given. But the Board in its draft recommendations, has instead of increasing ratio, decreased it. This is a distinct hardship on the Indian community and we beg to urge that this may be rectified.

We beg to again reiterate the fact that great inconvenience would be caused if the payment of the wages were made weekly. It would not only entail extra labour and expense to the employer but would also dislocate the whole of the system which has been in vogue and found to be practical for a long number of years.

We would urge that in the definition of the Employer, such shops that are owned by Limited Liability Companies should be included and that each Partner or Manager who is in charge of a department be deemed to be a qualified assistant.

In conclusion we beg to support the view held by the Durban Chamber of Commerce in matters that are common to both communities and trust that the Wage Board would give its earnest consideration to our observations.

CRIMINAL!

His Highness the Raja of Pudukota, who died in Paris recently, was a keen devotee of lawn tennis, writes *The Field*. A regular visitor to Cannes, where he had a villa, he watched the principal tournaments on the Riviera for many years past and was a competent student of relative form. Nor did he fail to follow with great zest the championships at Wimbledon and St. Cloud.