

# Indian Opinion

No. 42—Vol. XXVI.

Friday, October 26th, 1928.

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

**L**ORD Birkenhead's resignation as Secretary of State for India has been officially announced. Lord Peel has been appointed to succeed him. Lord Birkenhead, in the course of his letter to the Prime Minister, said he did not believe that his four years at the India Office would be ultimately pronounced to be the most unfruitful of his life. Mr. Baldwin, in his reply, merely says: "It is too early yet to estimate the value of your work at the India Office, but I am confident that the historians of our time will do it justice." In recognition of his services the King has conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of India on Lord Birkenhead.

Lord Birkenhead will rank among the Odwyers and Dyers who have by their bitter sternness indirectly rendered very valuable service to India, in that, they have stimulated the growth of Nationalism in that country which it was the avowed policy under British rule to keep for ever subdued if not to entirely kill it.

Attempts are being made in the Maritzburg Town Council to oust Indian flower sellers. Mr. P. H. Taylor said, this thing is Indian competition. Is there any member of this council who would entertain the idea of allowing an Indian to open a shop next to him in Church Street? This street within a defined area is a European area, and Indian licences are not granted there. To be logical, the same rule should apply to flower sellers, who are Indian competitors with European flower sellers. We should not tolerate the competition of Indian flower sellers against the European business houses. Carter's, the flower sellers, pay heavy rates to the Corporation. Mr. Taylor moved to the effect that the City Solicitor be asked to frame a by-law on the lines suggested by the City Treasurer, that stands for the sale of flowers be provided for at the market. Mr. Taylor's resolution was however referred to by other speakers as too drastic and Mr. Jolliffe's motion that the matter should come up in six months' time on the same day was carried.

In the course of his electioneering speech at the South African Party Congress Colonel Mentz, chairman of the Party in the Transvaal referred to "the utmost importance" of keeping a watchful eye on some matters amongst which was included the Indian question. "The Indian," he said, "now more than ever ousted the white trader, with the result that there was a constant increase of workless European shop assistants. Indians could now obtain licences even if they entered this country illegally, inasmuch as this illegality had been approved of by the Government, as was borne out by permits issued to 1,337 Indians under what was known as the condonation scheme. Furthermore, under the "Gentleman's Agreement," the Indian was now busy firmly establishing himself as a South African citizen. The Government boasted about the number that left for India, but forgot to state how many returned."

Having acquainted itself with the views of its affiliated units in regard to the formation and registration of non-European trade unions, the Trade Union Congress has arrived at the conclusion, that where existing unions in a given industry are prepared to admit, and in fact do admit, as members all workers in the industry who are otherwise qualified, irrespective of race or colour, the creation of parallel unions for non-Europeans should not be encouraged, and if they are formed they should not be registered. On the other hand, where existing unions in a given industry or trade refuse to admit qualified members solely on account of race or colour, the creation of parallel unions for these workers is justified and no opposition should be offered to their registration.

The Vedic Indian Lawn Tennis Club invited the Overport Social Club to a friendly tennis game to be played at their court. The game was played on Sunday the 7th instant resulting in a win for Overport by 12 games to 5. A return game on the 21st instant was played at the Overport court where the visitors, out of the 24 games played, won only 3 and lost 21.

## HOUSING OF INDIANS

**B**Y the time these lines are in print the Central Housing Board will have completed its inquiry into the sanitary and housing conditions of Indians in and around Durban. This inquiry is said to have taken place in terms of the Capetown Agreement. In fact, however, it is not so. For in the Agreement it has been explicitly stated that the investigation was to include, among other things, the limitation of the sale of municipal land subject to restrictive conditions, with the hope that more municipal land may be available for Indians which at present, owing to the restrictions based on racial differentiation under the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance No. 14 of 1922 and the Natal Boroughs and Township Ordinance No. 5 of 1923, is not available. This important question, however, has been left out of the terms of reference of the Board, the object of the inquiry being thus defeated. The inquiry can, therefore, be called, if anything, an eye-wash.

A great deal of overflowing sympathy was evinced for the poor Indian by the Durban

Town Council before the Board. But it was in words only. "You are killing your poor people," said the Mayor to Mr. Christopher who, in stating the Indian case, pointed out to the segregation policy of the Town Council, "by all this sort of political agitation. Think of your own poor, unfortunate brethren. We are trying to help the poor who need proper homes; we are not concerned with segregation and the hundred and one other things which are brought forward as objections." How the Durban Town Council are concerned about the poor Indian is not far to seek. They could have shown that sympathy to their own Indian employees. But the Rev. C. F. Andrews had to come out from India to point out to them the appalling conditions in which they were housed. And if the Town Council are now taking steps to improve those conditions it is more out of shame than out of a sense of duty.

Then again if the Town Council were moved by philanthropic motives and not guided by the segregation devil why was the Durban Land Alienation Ordinance rushed through in face of the strong protest by the Indian community? That Ordinance stands as a black Ordinance in the Statute book and to appease the agitated Indians an undertaking was given by the Town Council that Indians would not be wholly excluded from bidding for Town lands. They claim to have fulfilled that undertaking by allowing Indians land outside the Borough at Cato Manor, a mile and a half from Toll Gate and about five miles from the centre of the town, and they ask Indians in the Borough to go outside for there is no land available for them within. Supposing 17,000 European immigrants came to settle in South Africa and chose to reside in Durban. What would the Town Council do? Would they ask them to clear out of the Borough as there was no room for them or would they take steps to make room for them? We have no doubt they would take the latter course. Is it not their duty, then, to accommodate the existing population of the Borough? And if they are so overflowing with sympathy for the poor Indian as they claim to be, then that in itself should prompt them to accommodate the Indian in their midst. It is utter tom-foolery to say that the Town Council do not wish to segregate but to help the poor Indian when they have once bolted the door against them and then talk of

giving him an ideal place outside. That may be the Western mode of courtesy, it is certainly not the Eastern.

How the sympathy for the poor Indian is overflowing is further evidenced by the way in which he is treated in the Health Board areas. Indians have no voice whatsoever in the local administration of these areas. The local authorities have power to impose taxation at their whim and will and the poor Indian has no representation. It is not openly stated, but the inner motive in creating these Health Boards is not to see to the sanitation and health of the residents, but, it would appear to be, to make life impossible for the poor Indian. Thus there is no room for the Indian within the Borough and he is heavily burdened with taxation outside the Borough. This is the actual position of the Indian.

We see no sincerity in the talk of giving the Indians the opportunity of expressing themselves in the building of an ideal Indian village. While there is this high talk on the one hand, there is, on the other, the talk of Indians having to adopt the European standard of life if he wishes to live in this country. The two things cannot go together. Under the Capetown Agreement it has been agreed to all intents and purposes that those Indians who wish to remain in this country must adopt the European standard of life and that the Government should afford every facilities to the Indians to reach that standard. The Europeans in this country have no fear now of the country being flooded with Indians because the door is entirely closed for any further immigrants and it is closed also for the wives and children of the condoned Indians who could otherwise have brought them in. Furthermore, steps are taken by means of the assisted emigration scheme to reduce the existing Indian population by repatriating Indians who come forward with their own wish to abandon their domicile in this country. The question then remains only of the remaining Indian population who wish to make this country their own and to live up to the European standard.

The time has, therefore, come when the question of segregation and other restrictive measures based on racial discrimination should be thrown overboard and the Indian should be looked upon as part and parcel of the general population and treated as such. Unless that is done the Gentleman's Agree-

ment will be a scrap of paper and nothing else.

In view of these facts if the Town Council think there is not sufficient room for the existing population of the Borough then it is their duty not to drive a portion of that population outside but to extend the Borough with all its conveniences and to spread out the population. In doing that the Town Council requires no advisory committees of Indians or anything of that sort. In the present circumstances if Indians were asked to advise, the very first advice they could give is to repeal the Land Alienation Ordinance, or, to let Indians within the Borough have their equal share of land and equal facilities. To acquiesce in anything else without that would amount to being a party to the segregation policy of the Government which on principle they cannot.

## The Housing Question

### Central Board Inquiry

#### Town Council's Evidence

Members of the Central Housing Board arrived in Durban on Wednesday to investigate the housing and sanitary conditions of Indians in and around Durban.

The visiting members, who constitute the Executive of the Board, were Sir Edward Thornton (chairman), Mr. J. Lockwood Hall, F.R.I.B.A. (architect to the Board) and Mr. R. S. Gordon (secretary).

The Board occupied one of the Town Hall Committee Rooms, and the same afternoon met representatives of the Durban Town Council and members of the Indian community. The Mayor (Mr. A. Eaton), Councillors Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Knight, T. Burman, and O. Lea, with the Town Clerk, represented the Council, while for the Indian people there were present: Mr. Advocate A. Christopher (deputy-president of the S.A. Indian Congress), Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee (president of the Natal Indian Congress), and others.

At the outset the Chairman said the discussions would be of an informal character, and invited the Mayor to express his views.

The Mayor prefaced his remarks by saying that the Council's representatives were not in a position to commit the Council in any way. He said the Council had been doing its utmost to improve the housing conditions of its own employees, and the position could now be described as eminently satisfactory having regard to the fact that the Council had authorised further expenditure.

On the general question of the housing of Indians, the consensus of opinion was that unless one looked beyond the borders of the town for further development, with the assistance of the Government, very little progress could be made in solving the problem. The Council realised the difficulties of the problem and its weakness in coping with what appeared to be essentially a national question, as evidenced by the discussions at the Round Table Conference.

## What The Council Has Done

The Mayor put in, through the Town Clerk, a report by the special committee on housing, detailing the points agreed upon by the committee for submission to the Central Housing Board:—

"The Corporation have bought land at Wentworth, Springfield and Cato Manor, suitable for the housing of Natives and Indians, which land will be made available for these purposes in fulfilment of the Council's undertaking to the Administrator upon the passage of Ordinance 14 of 1922, which gave the Council power to introduce a restrictive clause into its conditions of sale.

"The Indian community is not inclined to co-operate with the Council in the establishment of an Indian village at Cato Manor.

"The Council is spending this year an amount of £36,000 in improving the barrack accommodation for its own Indian employees.

"If the Council embarks upon housing schemes for Indians in the peri-Durban areas, what means are there of ensuring that these houses are occupied by Indians living in Durban, and thus ameliorating the conditions within the municipal area, instead of being taken up by or transferred to Indians who already live outside the Borough boundaries?

"There is no land available within the municipal area for sale to Indians.

"The Local Administration and Health Boards in the peri-Durban areas are raising difficulties in regard to the use of the land owned by the Corporation in their jurisdictions, and also in regard to the size of the sites which may be sold.

"On the committee considering the names for the delegation to represent the Council at the meeting with the Central Housing Board, Councillor Kemp moved the following resolution:—

That as the matter of the housing of Indians resident in the areas adjacent to Durban and within Durban, is a single problem to be solved by co-operation, financially and otherwise, between the Union Government and the Durban Corporation, this Council will be prepared to take such steps on a co-operative basis suitable to both sides.

"There was no seconder to this motion, and the committee decided to appoint a delegation to meet the Central Housing Board (Councillor Kemp dissenting.)"

This report, the Mayor explained, was by the Housing Committee, and had not yet been confirmed by the Council.

In answer to the chairman, the Mayor said the committee was convinced there was no room in the Borough for the housing of Indians, and therefore it was necessary to go outside the Borough. The question of the extension of the Borough boundaries had been considered; a sub-committee was dealing with the matter and endeavouring to get the people outside the Borough boundaries to agree to incorporation.

"That was the position in 1908; has it progressed any further?" the chairman inquired.

The Mayor said it had progressed to this extent, that there was now a section of the community outside the Borough definitely dealing with the question. A committee had been appointed representing the residents of the Sydenham and Springfield areas, and the Council had placed before them definite conditions on which incorporation could be effected. They were practically in the position now of calling a meeting to make the final decision.

### Public Health Interests

The Chairman: I take it the Council has recognised for years that it would be in the interests of public health of Durban to incorporate a considerable portion of the outlying area?—Yes, we are quite convinced about that. The Council is willing

to incorporate the outside areas within a reasonable radius of Durban.

As a matter of fact, the town's profitable trading concerns have been extended beyond the boundaries?—Yes. I won't say they are altogether profitable, but we are giving service outside.

At a profit?—We hope so, but we don't make any profit in the first stages.

Would it be true to say that hitherto the Council has been prepared to go beyond the boundaries where there is a profit sticking out?—No. Our trading concerns are run on a business basis. If we incorporate the Sydenham area, for the first few years it will mean a considerable cost to the Borough. But from the public health point of view we are prepared to do it, even if it costs some thousands.

Opposition to incorporation has come not from within the Borough, but without?—It has come mainly from without, because of the fear that the rates would be beyond the capacity of the people. They left the Borough, so it was stated, because they could live under conditions where no rates were payable, and some seemed to be anxious to preserve those conditions.

Generally speaking, the Council is willing to extend its boundaries, notwithstanding the fact that it will undoubtedly cost the ratepayers something in taking over the extended area?—That is so. The town has grown considerably and can bear a greater loss than it could in 1910.

Councillor Kemp (interrupting): "No, Mr. Mayor."

Councillor Mrs. Knight said that since there had been a number of epidemics in Durban, the Council and the burgesses had realised that health came before most things, and the feeling was very strong that the outside areas should be taken in the interests of public health.

Councillor Kemp said he wanted to make the position clear with regard to the extension of the Borough boundaries. The one objection to incorporation during the campaign in 1914 was that the people inside were not prepared to pay for the cost of stormwater drainage on the top of Ridge Road.

### National Liability

The people in his Ward, No. 1, were not prepared to take on any obligations of a national character. When the Round Table Conference met and passed its resolutions the Durban Town Council and the Natal Provincial Council were never consulted with regard to the financial obligations involved the Union Government took over the assets of Natal they took over the liabilities as well.

The Chairman said he thought Councillor Kemp had misunderstood him. He was quoting from the official report of the Medical Officer of Health for Natal, which stated the Borough of Durban was willing to take on any outside service of a paying nature, but no other liability.

Councillor Kemp: He does not speak for the ratepayers of Durban. I am prepared to consider the question of Indian housing, but I am not prepared to accept any responsibility for housing unless the Government finances it; I don't mean by way of a loan, but by coming in with us.

Councillor Burman said he did not go all the way with Councillor Kemp, but he did feel that while they kept Durban's front door very clean, the back door was in a very imperfect state. They had approached the Provincial Council with regard to the outside areas and arterial roads, and they wanted to know how far the Administration would assist them when these areas were released from the Administration's control. The Provincial Council, however, said they had no money. He thought Durban should have some financial assistance from the Government, seeing that the Provincial Administration was being relieved of obligations. The Council had spent £100,000 in purchasing land outside the

Borough, and it was prepared to spend more, but when they talked of Indians occupying it there was immediately a cry of "segregation." He regretted that that should be said, because the Council was prepared to put this land on the market on most liberal terms in order to meet the Indian community.

### The Indians' Case

Mr. Advocate Christopher, deputy-president of the South African Indian Congress, drew the Board's attention to the correspondence which passed between the Government and the Town Council in 1922, when the Corporation promoted the Land Alienation Ordinance which legalised the anti-Asiatic clause in respect of municipal land. Mr. Christopher contended that the Corporation undertook to provide land for Indians within the Borough, and pointed out that although there had been 14 municipal land sales all the land was earmarked for Europeans, and none for the Indian population. He held this to be a breach of the undertaking by the Council to the Government.

Asked what land was available in the Borough, Mr. Christopher said there were thousands of acres. He was promptly corrected by the Town Clerk, who pointed out that the total area of the Borough was only 8,000 acres, and there were only about 600 acres left suitable for building purposes. He expressed the view that the Council had fulfilled its undertaking by the purchase of land at Cato Manor, Wentworth and Springfield.

In reply to the chairman, the Town Clerk said there was no doubt the Council's land at Cato Manor, one and a half miles from Toll Gate, would be brought into the Borough in the near future.

Mr. Christopher persisted that the Indian community were entitled to land in the Borough, and should not be asked to go outside the Borough.

### Ideal Indian Village

The Mayor said he utterly failed to understand the attitude of the Indian community in the matter. By offering facilities at Cato Manor the Council would be giving the Indians the opportunity of expressing themselves in the building of an ideal Indian village, but at once the cry of "segregation" was made. How could progress be made in face of such futilities?

For the rest of the afternoon, debate centred round this point with regard to the establishment of an Indian village outside the Borough; to which, according to Mr. Christopher, the Indian community objected.

"What is the fundamental objection to the proposal," the chairman asked.

Mr. Christopher: "The Council has no right to go outside the Borough and establish a village on land of which it is only the landlord. We want to live in the Borough."

If that land were brought in the Borough and the Council assisted in the building of houses, would you object then?—No, so long as it does not take any form of segregation.

Mr. Lockwood Hall pointed out that the garden cities of England were more or less on the principle of segregation.

Mr. Christopher: "Yes, but not on racial lines."

Mr. Hall: "We are not discussing racial lines on this question."

The chairman pointed out that so far as the proposed Indian village was concerned there was no compulsory segregation.

Discussing the value of land in Durban, the Mayor remarked that at the last land sale the prices reached an average of £3,000 an acre. It would be absurd to suggest that the Council or the Housing Board should be called upon to assist those who could afford to buy land at that figure. It was for that reason Cato Manor was suggested as affording

land at a low figure suitable for the poorer class of Indians. The Council was not concerned with those who could afford to pay big prices.

Councillor Lee questioned Mr. Christopher on the objection to going outside the Borough, and wanted to know what possible difference it could make.

Mr. Christopher said the European residents lived in the outside areas by their own volition, but the Council wanted to take the Indians out to an Indian village on land over which the Council had no rights as a local authority at all.

This drew a heated protest from the Mayor, who declared that the Council's desire was to look after the poorer people.

"You are killing your people," he said, "by all this sort of political agitation. Think of your poor, unfortunate brethren. We are trying to help the poor who need proper homes; we are not concerned with segregation and the hundred and one other things which are brought forward as objections."

At a later stage, the chairman asked whether the Indian community would be against a scheme by which the Indians would acquire land and obtain housing loans without any question of segregation, other than voluntary segregation!

Mr. Christopher: "Yes, because they are entitled to land in the Borough."

But assuming the land is brought within the Borough as it will be?—We would have to consider it.

Councillor Mrs. Benson appealed to the Indian community to consider favourably the proposal to establish an Indian village in which they would be able to live in far more hygienic surroundings than under the present conditions.

The inquiry was adjourned until 9.30 next morning.—*Natal Mercury*.

## Mr. Sastri In East London

Amongst the passengers from the Edinburg Castle who spent the day ashore on Friday Oct. 19, was the Right Honourable V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, the Agent for India in South Africa says the *East London Daily Despatch*. Mr. Sastri, who was accompanied by Mr. P. K. Rao, was met at the wharf by the Mayor (Mr. J. Bowie, M.P.C.), Mr. S. Casoojee (President of the local British Indian Association), Mr. A. M. Chetty (secretary), and members of the British Indian Association. He was garlanded with a beautiful rope of carnations by Miss Casoojee.

During the morning Mr. Sastri was entertained to tea by the Mayor in the City Hall. Amongst those present to meet him were Brigadier-General the Honourable J. J. Byron, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.L.A., the Rev. Dr. Douglas, Messrs. Steer, Ross-Thompson, Moorshead (Mayor of Cambridge), Jansen (Resident Magistrate), Hankinson, Pemberton, Beavan, Nisbet, Casoojee, Chetty, Parbhoo and others.

The Mayor, in a brief speech of welcome, said how glad they all were to welcome Mr. Sastri once more to East London. He had thought that this would be Mr. Sastri's last visit to the city, but he was glad to hear that he hoped to pass through East London on his way back to Durban. He was sorry Mr. Sastri was leaving this country shortly. He wished that he could be made to stay and complete the great work which he had begun. He did not know whom the Government of India proposed sending as his successor. Whoever came could not be a finer statesman than Mr. Sastri. Once again he would say how they all appreciated Mr. Sastri's great work, and how pleased they were to see him in East London.

Mr. Sastri, in reply, thanked the Mayor for his

It is only they who do their duties in everyday and special matters who fulfil them on great occasions.  
—Charles Kingsley

welcome. He was very pleased to be in East London. He hoped to be here again in November, when, however regretfully, he would have to say "Good-bye." He did not propose to make a speech now. He could only say that whatever he might have been able to do in South Africa, he had only been able to carry out with the courteous and willing co-operation of the South African community. He again thanked the Mayor for his kindness.

Mr. Sastri was entertained to lunch at the residence of Mr. Casoojee. The Mayor was also present. In the afternoon Mr. Sastri was entertained to tea by Mr. Parbhoo, the Vice-President of the British Indian Association.

Interviewed by a *Daily Despatch* representative, Mr. Sastri said he was very pleased with the progress made under the condonation scheme. He referred to certain Indians who were opposing the scheme, and said that they were not only foolish, but were likely to do an incalculable amount of harm to themselves and the whole Indian community.

When reference was made to the affair at Klerksdorp, Mr. Sastri laughingly waived the matter aside. "I have forgotten it," he said, "and I assure you I do not consider it worthy of being treated as a matter of any importance."

Mr. Sastri said that much as he was moved by the good wishes of all sections of the public, who were begging him not to leave South Africa, he had definitely decided to leave early next year. He did not know who was likely to be his successor. It might possibly be Maharaj Kunwar Singh. He did not think it would be Mr. Jayaker of Bombay.

## Rating Powers Of Health Boards

### Important Case On Appeal

During the month of July, 1927, various summonses were issued by the Mayville Local Administration and Health Board for the recovery of rates in terms of Ordinance 4 of 1926, and an appearance to defend was entered by one B. A. Naidoo, who pleaded, inter alia, that the Board in assessing the rates had exceeded its powers in estimating and budgetting for the rates on an expenditure in respect of buildings, etc., of a permanent nature, thus burdening the ratepayers of that particular year with the entire costs of such buildings which would be used and enjoyed by ratepayers in the following years without their having to defray any of the expenses of the erection of same.

The case above mentioned, where the defendant was sued for £18 3s. rates and interest, was heard in the Magistrate's Court, Durban, on Jan. 20, 1928, and judgment was given for the Health Board with costs.

The case was then taken to the Supreme Court in Maritzburg, who upheld the Magistrate's decision.

On the 17th instant, Mr. Streeten, instructed by Messrs. C. P. Robinson & Goulding, made application to the Appellate Division, Bloemfontein, for leave to appeal, which leave was granted, Mr. Acting Chief Justice De Villiers stating that the case raised very important points as regards the powers of the Board and that it certainly did not present any very simple proposition.

The appeal is being proceeded with and it will be a matter of two or three months before a final judgment is delivered.—*Natal Mercury*.

The true test of life is character. All else is extraneous, belonging only to the husk which shall fall off the day of open trial; character is the kernel, the wheat, that which is enduring.  
—J. R. Millet

## Indian Repatriates

### Questions In The Indian Assembly

The following discussion took place in the Indian Legislative Assembly on September 6 on the results of the Assisted Emigration Scheme :—

Mr. C. S. Ranga Aiyar, enquired : Will the Government state : (a) If they propose to take steps to put a full and immediate stop to repatriation of Indians from South Africa; (b) if they are aware that the scheme of repatriation has failed and repatriated Indians are anxious to return to South Africa; (c) if they are aware that several of the repatriated Indians are domiciled South Africans, mostly born and bred in South Africa; (d) if they are aware that repatriated Indians find they have neither friends nor family attachments nor work in this country; (e) if they will ascertain opinions in writing of the repatriated Indians whether they like to stay in India or go back to their places of domicile ?

Mr. Bajpai, in reply said : The answer to part (b) is in the negative. (c) Some of the assisted emigrants were born and brought up in South Africa, but the majority of them are children of those repatriates who originally emigrated from India. (d) The Government of India have received no report from the Government of Madras to the effect that the majority of assisted emigrants have neither friends nor relations to go to. As regards work, the hon. member is probably aware that a special officer has been appointed in Madras to find work suited to the inclination and attitude of those who apply for it. Reports so far have been that the returning emigrants do not want work. Their anxiety is to get to their relations and friends. (e) The Government do not consider that such an enquiry is necessary; but if the hon. member has knowledge of any widespread dissatisfaction with the conditions of life in India among the returned emigrants, they will be glad to look into those complaints if the hon. member will pass these off to us. (a) From replies given to parts (b) and (e) of his question, the hon. member will infer that the answer to part (a) is in the negative.

### Emigration To Malaya

Mr. C. S. Ranga Aiyar asked : (a) Will the Government state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have requested the Madras Government to negotiate with the authorities of Malaya States, with a view to finding employment for a number of repatriated Indians from South Africa, Trinidad and other places ? (b) Is it a fact that a large number of repatriated Indians arrived in this country some time ago and the majority of them finding that the conditions in India were not suited to them were anxious to return to their places of domicile across the seas ? If so, what is the exact number ? (c) What arrangements have been made for their return to their places of domicile; if none, why not ? (d) Has any work been found for them in Malay States ?

Mr. Bajpai, in reply said : (a) The Government of India have asked the Government of Madras to ascertain from the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya whether he would be prepared to offer facilities to certain returned Indian emigrants at Matlabruz to emigrate to Malaya. So far as the Government of India are aware the majority of these returned emigrants come from Trinidad, Mauritius and British Guiana. (b) The majority of the people who emigrated from India to various colonies in the past under a system of indenture were entitled to a free return passage. Many of these avail themselves of this right and a number of emigrants returned to India every year. The number, however, of those

who have expressed a desire to leave India again is small : about eight hundred or so as compared with 50,000 who returned to India during the last 9 years; (c) I would invite the hon. member's attention to Section 2 (i) (b) (i) of the Indian Emigration Act which defines the conditions under which a returned emigrant may be assisted to return to the part of the world to which he originally emigrated. Two Colonial Governments, viz., Fiji and British Guiana have aided 350 and 173 returned emigrants to go back to their respective colonies. The rest of those now at Matlabruz have, it is understood, expressed a desire to go to Malaya and their request has been referred to the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya. (d) The reply of the Government of Madras through whom the Emigration Commissioner for Malaya has been approached is awaited.

## Health Boards' High-handedness

### Complaint To The Provincial Executive

The Indian ratepayers of South Coast Junction are somewhat perturbed over the Local Administration and Health Board's proposed revised rating by-laws. It is contended that the proposed rate of 10s. per acre is a totally unjust one. A deputation of three representatives of the Indian community of Isipingo, Messrs. A. R. Naidu, M. A. Jadwat, and C. R. Naidu, waited on the Provincial Executive and presented their case. Mr. C. R. Naidu, acting as spokesman, read a memorandum in which it was stated :—

"The area from Umlas River to Umbongotwini was under the jurisdiction of the Isipingo Health Committee until July, 1926, when it was incorporated with the South Coast Junction area owing to the Isipingo Beach being proclaimed as a Local Board. Strong representations desiring exclusion of our area were made at the time, because the area in question was a very sparsely populated one, and the few Indian inhabitants residing there constituted the farming community. These representations, however, were ignored. Since the inception of the Public Health Board in the district all Indians have regularly paid in rates and taxes, but received little or no benefit up to the present. The Indian ratepayers are sadly handicapped by inadequate sanitary and other public health arrangements, and, moreover, the apathetic attitude of the Board towards the Indian community has created a most unfavourable impression in the minds of the ratepayers.

"Under the circumstances we would suggest that the Administrator be asked to exclude the Isipingo area from the control of the said Board and bring it under the jurisdiction of an Advisory Health Committee consisting of both Indians and Europeans.

"With reference to the 1928-1929 rating by-laws of the South Coast Health Board now awaiting your assent, we make the following observations:—Under the rate assessments Indian leaseholders are compelled to pay a land tax of 10s. per acre on uncultivated land. In certain districts land is rented out at £1 and £2 an acre per annum, and unless the present assessment is waived rents will be increased by the landlords and the poorer section of the farming community will suffer. In previous years each dwelling house was allowed five acres free of rates, but this year no such allowance has been made.

"Early last year we were informed that as soon as the Board had liquidated its liabilities to the Provincial Administration it would reduce the existing high rates. This has not been done, although we understand that a financial settlement has been effected. It is stated that the Board is seriously contemplating an increase in the existing rates.

"The Board should have a considerable sum of

surplus money on hand now that it is free from debt, and we feel that this money should be utilised for the purpose of constructing the proposed new roads in all the areas.

"The sliding scale up to 100 acres under the section referred to as 'cultivated land' is also very high. Previously the rate was 3l. per acre over and above four acres, and if the new scale is put into operation, farmers will be faced with a serious set-back. Interest at 10 per cent. per month on unpaid taxes is very extortionate, and a great many of the poorer section of the Indian community will be unable to pay this."—*Natal Mercury*.

## The Story of My Experiments With Truth

[ BY M. K. GANDHI ]

### Part IV. Chapter XXXIII.

#### LITERARY TRAINING

It was seen in the last chapter how we provided for physical training on the Tolstoy Farm, and incidentally for the vocational. Though this was hardly done in a way to satisfy me, it may be claimed to have been more or less successful. Literary training, however, was a more difficult matter. I had neither the necessary resources, nor the literary equipment, besides which I had not the time I would have wished to devote to the subject. The physical work that I was doing used to leave me thoroughly exhausted at the end of each day, and I used to have the classes just when I was most in need of some rest. Instead, therefore, of my being fresh for the class, I could with the greatest difficulty keep myself awake. The mornings had to be devoted to work on the farm and domestic duties, so the school hours had to be kept after the midday meal. There was no other time suitable for the school. We gave three periods at the most to literary training. Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati and Urdu were all taught and tuition was given through the vernaculars of the boys. English was also taught. It was also necessary to acquaint the Gujarati Hindu children with a little Sanskrit, and to teach all the children elementary history, geography and arithmetic. I had undertaken to teach Tamil and Urdu. The little Tamil I knew was acquired during voyages and in jail. I had not gone beyond Pope's excellent Tamil Hand-book. My knowledge of the Urdu script was all that I had acquired on a single voyage, and my knowledge of the language was confined to the familiar Persian and Arabic words that I had learnt from contact with Musalman friends. Of Sanskrit I knew no more than I had learnt at the

High School, and even my Gujarati was no better than that which one acquires at the school.

Such was the capital with which I had to carry on. In poverty of literary equipment my colleagues went one better than I. But my love for the vernaculars of my country, my confidence in my capacity as a teacher, as also the ignorance of my pupils and, more than that, their generosity, stood me in a good stead.

The Tamil boys were all born in South Africa, and therefore knew very little Tamil, and did not know the script at all. So I had to teach them the script and the rudiments of grammar. That was easy enough. My pupils knew that they could any day beat me in Tamil conversation, and when Tamilians not knowing English came to see me, they became my interpreters. I got along merrily, because I never attempted to disguise my ignorance from my pupils. In all respects I showed myself to them exactly as I really was. Therefore in spite of my colossal ignorance of the language I never lost their love and respect. It was comparatively easier to teach the Musalman boys Urdu. They knew the script. I had simply to stimulate in them an interest in reading and to improve their hand-writing.

These youngsters were for the most part unlettered and uneducated. But I found in the course of my work that I had very little to teach them, beyond weaning them from their laziness, and supervising their studies. As I was content with this, I could pull on with boys of different ages, and learning different subjects in one and the same class room.

Of text-books, about which we hear so much, I never felt the want. I do not even remember having made much use of the books that were available. I did not find it at all necessary to load the boys with quantities of books. I have always felt that the true text-book for the pupil is his teacher. I remember very little that my teachers taught me from books, but I have even now a clear recollection of the things they taught me independently of books. Children take in much more and with less labour through their ears than through their eyes. I do not remember having read any book from cover to cover with my boys. But I gave them in my own language all that I had digested from my reading of various books, and I dare say they are still carrying a recollection of it in their minds. It was laborious for them to remember what they learnt from books, but what I imparted to them by word of mouth they could repeat with the greatest ease. Reading was a task for them, but listening to me was a pleasure, when I did not bore them with failure to make my subject interesting, and from the questions that my talks prompted them to make I had a measure of their power of understanding.

## The Silver Wedding Fund

G. G. Vairmare

10 shillings.

## दिव्याणी महोत्सवमां हिंदी भाषाओने उत्तम तऽ

भारे त्यां तमाम सभर्तनी हलकी अने भारे नानी तमज भोटी दिवाळनी बेगळोरे टोपीओ आवेल छे. नन. उदर्याओनी पणु तमम सभर्तनी टोपीओ मणरो. भव ८ धी मऽ जयरीओ, तमम नतनी उवे भदेव ओनेसी हेधमनी छपीओ. दुवाउ, विगेरे विगेरे मणरो भारे, भणो वा लणो,



यतां रऽ सुधीनो छे. तमज भारे हींग, हलकानी सभरो, सदी त्या छापेल अने येऽदी नतनी देशी नीवनी हलकी भारे पायवारनी भाडीओ, घोतीओ, आवती सावना रो मेल अरीसा, अय्यानां रमडडां, यडर, इनीड,

हरिदास अणाराम ठाकरे,

१६६, ग्रे स्ट्रीट, डरबन.