

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Are Relations Improving?

OUR people are lulled into the false belief that the relations between Europeans and Indians are greatly improving. There are instances after instances which give a direct lie to it. Last week we gave the instance of the so-called concessions given Indians in regard to the use of the dining saloons on the railways. This week the reader will find elsewhere in this issue discriminatory traffic by-laws passed by the Johannesburg Town Council barring Indians from making use of motor taxis other than those reserved for the use of non-Europeans or in other words barring them from making use of first class taxis. Under the by-law Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh even with his high office as Agent of the Government of India may not legally enter a first class motor taxi though the lowest type of humanity may do so only if he has the virtue of possessing a white skin.

S. A. I. C. Annual Conference

THE attention of our readers is drawn to an advertisement appearing elsewhere in this issue of the South African Indian Congress in connection with the holding of its Annual Conference. It was originally advertised to be held in Johannesburg on the 24th and 25th November 1934. The venue as well as the time have now been altered. The Conference will now be held in Durban on the 19th and the 20th of January 1935. It is explained by the joint secretaries that the executive has adjourned the conference in order to enable the successor of the present Agent of the Government of India, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, to be present at the deliberations. We do not think this to be a sound reason for postponing the Conference. We do not know why it should be so very essential for the Agent to be present at the Conference.

A. New Indian Doctor Arrives

WE very heartily welcome back home Dr. G. Mohambry Naicker, M.B., Ch.B., L.M., the son of Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Naicker, who arrives in Durban next Sunday from Edinburgh University after completing his medical course. Six years ago Dr. Naicker after studying for the matric at the Marine College conducted by the late Rev. A. Lamont proceeded to

England with the ambition of becoming a doctor. It is a proud day both for him and his parents that their ambition has been fulfilled and the doctor has returned once more to his land of birth and among his old friends and relatives. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Naicker on the brilliant success of their son and wish that he may be blessed with a bright future.

Welcome Reception

A welcome reception in honour of Dr. G. M. Naicker, M.B. Ch. B., L.M. will be given by the Carlisle School Old Boys Club on Sunday Nov. 25, at 7.30 p.m. at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall. Mr. A. D. Lazarus B.A. will preside.

Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee

WE heartily welcome Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee who has arrived from India by the *Karanja* last Wednesday. Mr. Jalbhoy is staying at the "Castle" Mayville at the residence of his brother Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee.

No Extension of Hours on Saturday

THE Executive Committee of the Provincial Council has turned down the Durban Town Council's request that shops trading in groceries and dry produce at the Indian Market be allowed to remain open until 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Under the provisions of the Shop Hours Act, these traders are required to close at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and as a result of a petition from the stallholders the municipality asked that the closing hour be extended to 5 o'clock. The Provincial Secretary has now notified that this request cannot be acceded to. The reasons for the decision are not given. This decision is regrettable for it is unfair to the stallholders in view of the fact that they do not enjoy the privilege of trading on Friday nights as the other traders outside the Market do. On Saturday though the Market remains open till 7 p.m. those trading in other than green groceries will have to close their shops as usual at 1 p.m.

Trading Licence Problem

Interviewed by a representative of the *Rand Daily Mail* regarding the procedure adopted in granting trading licences Mr. T. Newby, chairman of the Licensing Committee of the Benoni Town Council said:

"We are allowed to refuse licences only on certain specified grounds." Competi-

tion and colour are not among the grounds for refusal. Consequently the question of Asiatic trading is a difficult one, and the Council has had to use the utmost caution in refusing licences. In Benoni, however, the question of the Asiatic trader is not a serious one. Local authorities, he went on, could only refuse a licence if the proposed business premises were unsatisfactory, were in an unsuitable locality, or were to be occupied by persons of undesirable character. The Council had no power to refuse applications because it considered that there were sufficient traders in a certain area or because it is believed that over-trading existed.

The Agent in Johannesburg

KUNWAR Sir Maharaj Singh, Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, who is now in Johannesburg is living at No. 12, Berea Mansions, Tudhope Avenue. Mr. C. F. V. Williams, secretary to the Agent of the Government of India, with his wife and son, have taken a flat at Kingsway Mansions, Auckland Park.

Mr. Roos's Central Party

IN the course of his speech at a meeting at Krugersdorp Mr. Tielman Roos who has formed the Central Party explained what his party stood for. "It was out for the economic regeneration of the white races of South Africa," he said. "The Fusion Government since it was formed had not taken a single step to improve the lot of the poorer classes of the country. The policy of the Central Party, Mr. Roos said, was to assist the farmers, the workers and the unemployed. The most essential thing was to uphold white civilisation." Mr. Roos deplored the fact that Indians were allowed to employ white girls, and that in the Transvaal there had been four cases of white girls marrying Indians. He asked the audience how they could support a party which laid down that the rights of the Indians would be acknowledged and maintained.

A European's Impression About Mahatma Gandhi

Mr. Edwin Jones who had been on a short visit to India with the Rev. C. F. Andrews has recently returned to Durban. Mr. Jones told a press representative that he was very much impressed with the personality and sincerity of Mahatma Gandhi in whom he saw one of the rarest human beings in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi's Retirement

THE latest exchanges from India bring the news that appeals were made from all sections of the House to the Mahatma not to leave the Congress. Pandit Malaviya went to the extent of saying that Mahatmaji was not a free agent and had neither the right nor the authority to take the decision he had taken. Some asked him whether he was not leaving the field when "the war" was on. To all these appeals Mahatma Gandhi seemed impervious. In the course of his statement he said the conclusion which he had arrived at after a long deliberation would not be changed. He was going out so that Congressmen can think and act for themselves. So far Congressmen had acted like blind men going round and round the same pole. His retirement did not in any way mean that he was not ready to come back when ever his help was needed.

Maulana Mahomed Abdul Aleem Siddique

THE Maulana Mahomed Abdul Aleem Siddique, on his arrival in Johannesburg was met at the station by Mr. I. M. Valluslah, the president of the Transvaal Muslim Association, the secretaries, Mr. S. M. Nana and Mr. I. M. Valliullah, and several members of the association. The Maulana Saheb, who was accompanied by Mr. C. M. Anglia and Mr. M. Sulaiman, organiser and secretary of the Muslim Youth League, Durban, was garlanded by the president of the Transvaal Association. In the evening the visitors attended a reception at Osrin's Picture Palace, Ferreirastown. Maulana Miya, who presided, congratulated the Transvaal Muslim community on their good fortune in having such a noble personality with them, and asked his brethren to take the fullest advantage of his presence by attending all his lectures. He garlanded the Maulana Saheb on behalf of the Transvaal Muslim Association, and was followed by Mr. Haji Cassim Adam of Pretoria, the president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, and Mr. Moosa, Master of the City League, who garlanded the visitor on behalf of their respective institutions.

The president then called upon Maulana Marghood, Messrs. Mirza Galib Beg and D. M. Narsu, and finally Mr. S. M. Nana to welcome the guests in short speeches. The last named briefly reviewed the activities of the Maulana Saheb in the cause of Islam in various parts of the world.

The Maulana Saheb drew the attention of youths to the necessity of seeking knowledge, both material and spiritual, and asked them to educate themselves and discharge the responsibilities that devolved on them as Muslims.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1934

PIOUS WORDS

This world will only be worth living in if it becomes a world of free men and free women, where everyone has not only freedom of action and expression, but also has his fair share of opportunity to live a good life.—GENERAL J. C. SMUTS.

THE above words have been uttered by General Smuts in the course of one of his speeches during his recent visit to England whence he is now on his way back to South Africa. The words signify either that the mind of the General has undergone a great change or that they are just an exhibition of eloquence and that no more importance need be attached to them. What a heaven would South Africa be if these words were interpreted into action? But South Africa's Native policy, its treatment towards Asiatics and non-Europeans generally is very far from the pious sentiments expressed by General Smuts thousands of miles away from home. "A fair share of opportunity to live a good life." That is just what we have been fighting for in South Africa. If any outsider who has heard the above pious words of General Smuts were to visit South Africa and look up the Statute Books he would find many laws designed to deprive men and women other than white of their freedom and giving them the life of helotage. One would almost think that the world was composed of only white men and women. We do not know that General Smuts could have meant that because he seems to be a staunch advocate of giving India her freedom. Great statesmen have peculiar ways. They may say one thing and do another: General Smuts is one of the greatest of statesmen and the things he has uttered in Britain has won for him laurels from the whole British nation. South Africa has reason to be proud of

having a statesman who can be a guide and philosopher to the outside world. May not the Indians then in particular, who are having discriminatory and humiliating legislation thrust upon them day in and day out and who are being deprived of the right of ownership of land, of the right to trade, of the right to pursue any honest calling without some hindrance or other and many of whom are being thrown out of employment, and non-Europeans in general cherish the hope of a brighter future?

Our Minister of Justice would indeed be worthy of the great position he holds if he were to put but a little into practice of what he has preached. Cannot we say "South Africa will only be worth living in if it becomes a country of free men and free women (without distinction of race or colour), where everyone has not only freedom of action and expression, but also has a fair share of opportunity to live a good life." With this high ideal put into practice South Africa can truly become a model for the world to follow. Will she become so? She would certainly if the above words of South Africa's greatest statesman were not just pious words conveying no meaning.

Fountain of Wisdom

This and this alone is true religion—to serve thy brethren. This sin is above all sin, to harm thy brethren.—TULSIDAS.

Above all other things is justice; success is a good thing, wealth is good also; honour is better; but justice excels them all.—DAVID DUDLEYFIELD.

Wherever the white man has gone in the Orient he carried with him three things, a purse, a cross and a sword. The cross is tucked away under the garment, presumably near his heart. But at every crisis his hand has flown instantly to the sword at his side. With the white man money has been the most important consideration, and religion neglected and forgotten.—REV. CHARLES W. GILKEY.

With her magnificent climate, lofty mountains, mighty rivers and an extensive seaboard, India has limitless resources.—

MAHATMA GANDHI.

OUR INDIA LETTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

MODEL STATE of MYSORE

THE Mysore Treaty which governs the conditions of her existing tutelage was drawn at the time of the Rendition of the State in 1881. Mysore has changed profoundly since these days. She has enjoyed the reputation of being a model state. Naturally the paternal guidance which was thought necessary half a century ago is simply an anachronism to-day. Therefore Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan of the State asks for the retrocession of the assigned tracts and the remission of the subsidy.

Animal Sacrifice Prohibited

After consulting Brahmins and other Hindu opinion the Chief of Athagarh (in Orissa) has issued orders prohibiting all sorts of animal sacrifices before the deities in his state.

Hindu Widows Re-marriage

The Nizam's Legislative Council passed by a majority of nine votes to seven a bill permitting remarriage of Hindu widows. This is said to be the first measure of a social legislation in Hydera-

bad.

In the States of Travancore and Coch-in legislative measures are being introduced to validate marriages between persons neither of whom professes the Hindu, Christian, Jewish or Mahomedan religion or between persons each of whom professes either the Hindu, Jewish, Christian or Mahomedan religion. The measure is permissive and is intended for those who wish to take advantage of this legislation for their protection and also for the protection of their issues.

No Welcome To Governor

By 31 to 16 votes the Ahmedabad Municipality rejected a proposal to welcome H. E. the Governor of Bombay. Those in favour of the proposal urged that when non-co operation failed and ceased to exist they should lay before the Governor their Grievances. Congressite members who were against the proposal did not speak and the President congratulated them for their exemplary silence.

Recently the Municipality was criticised by the Government for having purchased Swadeshi articles in preference to foreign ones.

General Smuts On India

Three years ago when Gandhiji attended the second Round Table Conference as the sole delegate of the Indian National Congress he made out his case for Swaraj so well that General Smuts who was present in London then thought that it would be calamitous if Gandhiji had to go away empty-handed. The General had no doubt that the Indians had proved their right to govern themselves and that nothing could stand in the way. He even offered his help for effecting an understanding between the two nations. But proud England did not see her way to be generous.

A few days ago he received the freedom of the City of Dundee and the reiteration on this occasion of his former advice to England is widely appreciated in this country.

THE AGENT FAILS TO GET PROVINCIAL BARRIERS REMOVED

PLEA FOR BETTER CONDITIONS

BOGY OF OVERWHELMING EUROPEANS

SPEAKING to a group of Europeans forming the Natal Debating Society, Maritzburg, on Thursday Nov. 15, the Agent of the Government of India Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh is reported to have made an admission that he had made representations, but without success, for the removal of the provincial barriers against South African Indians.

"I have spoken to ministers," said the Agent, "for the distribution of the Indian population throughout South Africa, in which both Europeans and Indians in Natal agree, but the difficulty is to get the other Provinces to adopt this. I do urge the House, the Press and the other bodies which express public opinion to get the Government, which is amenable to public opinion, to accept their point of view."

Speaking in support of the motion—that measures should be taken to improve the educational and social conditions of Indians in Natal—the Agent said that he wished to dispel the bogey of fear on the part of Europeans that the Indians would overwhelm them in the Union. While in 1911, the Indian population of Natal had exceeded the European by 35,000, the position today was that there were

20,000 more Europeans than Indians. Throughout South Africa the Indian population represented 2½ per cent of the total population. The decrease was attributable to the fact that Indian immigration had ceased and that many Indians had been repatriated. Though the birth rate was higher among Indians, it was also true that the Indian death rate was higher.

The Agent reminded his audience that 80 per cent of the Indians in Natal were born in Natal, and were therefore British subjects, or Union Nationals, according to whichever reading of the Status Acts they favoured.

Europeans had free and compulsory education in the Union, and facilities for secondary, technical and university education, but the Indians had no such privileges and had to pay for primary and secondary education from bottom to top.

It had been said that the wealthy Indians did not assist their less fortunate fellows, but that was true of any class, and was not confined to Indians. There was also lack of proper provision and equipment in the Indian schools that did exist, including inadequate buildings, poor furniture.

Speaking of the social disadvantages suffered by Indians, the Agent said they had poor lighting in their areas, and insufficient police protection and sanitation compared with Europeans. They were barred from cinemas and other amenities of life, except such as could be provided in their own areas. These disabilities gave the Indian an inferiority complex, which could not fail to effect his outlook on life. The Agent expressed his gratefulness that, recently, a child welfare clinic for Indians had been established in Maritzburg, through the assistance of a number of generous Europeans.

The Agent was also grateful that the Provincial Administration recently had made a grant for the establishment of soup kitchens for necessitous Indian children in Durban and Maritzburg. At the same time, he complained that there still was not so much attention paid to health and prevention of disease among Indians, as among Europeans.

Speaking of what he termed unfair criticism of the Indian trader, Sir Maharaj appealed to the House to remember that the trader had to live. The Indian trader had his faults like most men, but he also was serving the community in

SECONDARY EDUCATION for GIRLS

In July, I appealed to Miss Parkhurst, the originator of the Dalton Plan in America, for a solution to our examination problems. Her only advice was, "Change your examination problems to suit the needs of your students." A perfect ideal and we could carry out in spirit, if we had the whole-hearted support of the parents behind us. "This is what I would suggest at the commencement. Attain the standard of the J.C. and matriculation in the subjects that are going to your girls to have a fuller life and scrap the others for subjects which are more suitable.

A study of history will help them to follow present problems more clearly and have a sounder judgment in connection with any civil or social problems that may arise. To get a really well balanced judgment one must study geography especially the economic aspects and the life long customs and prejudices of the peoples. Natural and Physical science (including Botany and gardening) will encourage a love of beauty in nature and give the student a greater capacity for enjoyment in life. Literature in all its phases is necessary for self-expression, culture, intellectual development and sympathy with mankind as a whole and one's neighbour in particular.

Let these and a limited amount of mathematics (arithmetic only) be taken as subjects for the Junior Certificate and Matriculation, and appeal to the Examination board to allow them to select more suitable subjects than those discard-

By

Miss F. S. SLATTER,

Head Mistress, Mitchell Crescent Government Indian Girls' School.

(Continued From Last Week)

ed. They could then devote the extra time in any of the following in which the pupil is especially interested, such as Domestic Science, with useful needle work and cooking; Art, painting and design with fancy needle-work; Music, singing and musical appreciation; Organised games and physical culture and Hygiene, with a view to improving physique, home life and health, or as an aid to nursing.

Students should take the elementary work in all these subjects for at least two years, before choosing branches of these subjects as special study.

If every parent, European or Indian would take this stand, the University would soon fall into line and make such a choice possible when qualifying for a Junior or Matriculation certificate.

In order to carry on this school on the modern lines suggested a great many reference books are needed, and many of them are expensive. This means financial assistance and we hope that some interested readers will help to swell the school fund, at present built up chiefly by the scholars' own efforts at their yearly concerts. We have made a good start and have acquired a number of reference

books but four or five copies of each are needed so that the students have not to wait any length of time for their turn. We have also the nucleus of a helpful fiction library of over one hundred books and there is a whisper of including our school in the benefits of a special circulating library. Owing to the strenuous efforts of the Kunwarani bursaries, have been offered to this school and electric lights are to be installed. This means that next year we shall be able to participate in radio talks to the scholars and spend afternoons with the epidiascope that is of course if we can find the money for the wireless and the lantern projector—but I am very optimistic.

The Education authorities have realised the importance of Education for Indian Girls and have lowered the fees to a marvellous degree—the fees now range from 1/- in Stds. V & VI to 5/- in Std. X. Formerly the fees ranged from 5/- to 15/- per month. We are now looking forward to a kitchen for domestic science in the very near future.

Yes I feel that our worst days are over and that next year will dawn full of hope and prosperity for our modest little school. More scholars mean more teachers, and more teachers a wider scope in the work under taken. Our very grateful thanks are due to the Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, for her wonderful help and sympathy all through. We shall greatly miss her practical help but know that we shall always have her sympathetic interest.

INDIANS BARRED FROM USING FIRST CLASS MOTOR TAXIS

DISCRIMINATORY TRAFFIC BY-LAWS IN JOHANNESBURG

YELLOW taxis are being run in Johannesburg by a private company known as Yellow Cabs (Proprietary) Limited. These taxis have up till recently been open for use to all without any class or colour distinction. A circular has however, now been sent out to the owners of these taxis signed by the traffic and Licensing Department of the Johannesburg Town Council drawing attention to certain traffic by-laws having been passed by the latter a copy of which has been kindly sent to us by an esteemed correspondent which we publish below and which speaks for itself:—

FIRST CLASS MOTOR CABS CONVEYING COLOURED PERSONS

Dear Sir,

Your attention is drawn to Traffic By-laws, Nos. 132 and 133, which read as follows:—

132 LICENSING OF PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR WHITE OR COLOURED PERSONS

Every applicant for a public vehicle licence to carry passengers shall state whether he requires the vehicle to be licenced for the use of (1) white persons or (2) natives, Asiatics and other coloured persons.

No licence shall be granted to permit the use of any public vehicle by both classes of passengers indiscriminately. Every public vehicle other than a cab, if licenced for the use of natives, Asiatics and other coloured persons shall be marked with the words "For coloured persons only." Cabs licenced for the use of white persons only, (hereinafter called first class cabs) and cabs licenced for the use of natives, Asiatics and other coloured persons (hereinafter called second class cabs) shall be marked "First-class" and "Second-class" respectively.

133 PUBLIC VEHICLES RESERVED FOR PERSONS BELONGING TO CERTAIN CLASS

Public vehicles licenced as aforesaid shall be reserved exclusively for the use of passengers belonging to the class named in the licence, and no person belonging to a class other than that in respect of which any public vehicle is licenced shall enter or attempt to enter such vehicles. Any person who enters or attempts to enter, or, having entered, remains in any public vehicle licenced for the exclusive use of a class of passengers other than that to which such person belongs shall be guilty of an offence if he refuses or neglects to comply with a request by the driver or conductor thereof not to enter, or, if he has entered, to leave such vehicle.

I shall be glad if you will bring the provisions of the above By-laws to the notice of all your drivers, against whom action will be taken where any contravention is observed.

WHY I JOINED GANDHI

MIRA BEN TELLS HER STORY

An English Admiral's Daughter Sacrifices Pleasures and Friends to Become an Indian's Disciple. She Tells Her Story to Marcia de Silva.

The following interesting account of Mira Ben's association with Mahatma Gandhi is culled from the *Pearson's Weekly* :—

TWENTY-FIVE years ago Madoline Slade was a girl of seventeen living the social life of an officer's daughter in India.

To-day, Mira Ben is an Eastern woman, whose gentle, compelling personality has shed all its Western qualities. Tall of figure, her dark, expressive eyes are the eyes of an Indian, and she has the Indian woman's beautiful, soft voice.

I talked to her in her tiny room in an hotel near Hyde Park, while she sat upon the floor in the native manner, barefooted, her hair under the hood of her peasant's homespun saree, shaved close like a nun's.

There were few personal belongings in the room, for Mira Ben, in accordance with her vows, has given up all personal property. A few pieces of clothing, which she had just washed, hung from a rail; a small, cheap suitcase, filled with papers, was open beside her. Somehow her personality had given to that commonplace hotel bedroom the atmosphere of a saintly hermit's cell.

Call of the East

"Ten years ago I joined Gandhi's Ashram," she said. "And never one moment in those ten years have I regretted it. Immediately I entered I felt at home and that the people were the people to whom I rightly belonged.

"It is quite a simple explanation if you believe in rebirth. My soul is really Eastern, though by some chance I was born in the West when I should have been born in the East. In the ordinary course of events I must have waited to die and be reborn to reach the East; but this I have been spared because of Gandhi's strong spiritual force.

"But let me tell you a little of my life. My father was an admiral who for three years commanded a squadron in the East. During that time I lived in India. My life was the usual social life of an officer's daughter. I felt it to be a life of extreme narrowness, and did not like it at all. Of course, I came into contact with hardly any Indians, and when at last I came back to England I was just as ignorant of India as when I went away.

"Soon after my return to England War broke out, and I realised then something that I must always have sub-consciously felt the unsoundness of Western life. This knowledge made me unhappy and unsettled in mind. I did not know what to do. I was seeking for some cause to serve and could not find it. For believing

all bloodshed to be wrong, I could take no part in the struggle.

Wrote to Gandhi

"Then one day I read the work of a French writer, Romain Rolland, and at once felt I must meet the author. I wrote to him, and we met, and in the course of our first conversation he mentioned Gandhi, saying to me quite simply, that here, in Gandhi's person, was a second Christ. Then he told me he had just finished a book on the Mahatma and that I must read it.

"No sooner had I read the book than I knew my problems were solved. I knew that I had found the cause I had been seeking and that I must go out to Gandhi and serve him. In my enthusiasm I booked a passage to India straight away, and only when I had done so did I realise that as yet I was in no way equipped to join him."

"So I spent one year learning to spin and weave and accustoming myself to the Ashram diet.

"At the same time I wrote to the Mahatma and told him of my plans and how I was prepared myself to join him. Then, when I felt myself to be ready I wrote to him again asking that I might come now; and he answered and said that I might.

Daughter of the House

"Vallabhbhai Patel, the famous Indian leader, now just released from prison, met me on my arrival in India; and always when I see him I am reminded of that day—the twenty-fifth of October, 1925.

"Vallabhbhai Patel took me to Gandhi who met me with the words, 'You shall be my daughter.' Then he at once led me to the kitchen to meet Mrs. Gandhi, who was cooking. And ever since that day I have been treated as a daughter of the house.

"In the Ashram we do all the work ourselves, and study to be able to help at work in the villages. I was taught the art of weaving, of cattle keeping, and of course to speak Hindi.

"I was given a little room right on the bank of the beautiful Sabarmati River. Being hard at work from morning to night, and being deeply interested in my surroundings, the time flew by.

"At the end of a year Gandhi allowed me to take the vow of Brahmacharya (celibacy) and to give up for good all thought of worldly possessions. It was then, too, that he agreed for me to have my head shaven, and with his own hands removed my hair."

Mira Ben told me how in the Ashram they work from four in the morning till nine at night. About her experiences—She was sent to prison because of her work for Gandhi against British rule—she was cheerful and not in the least bitter. She feels no bitterness against England, and she smiled when I told her that people were making a mystery of her sudden departure from Gandhi.

"I felt that there was work for me to do in England," she said. "The knowledge came to me suddenly.

"I went upstairs to Gandhi and told him what had become to me. He looked at me quickly and said: 'If you feel like that you should go, and go at once.'

"I could not go unless I felt I had your blessing," I replied.

"You have it," was his answer.

"Within five days I was on the boat sailing for England.

"I am now leaving for a tour throughout England, Wales and Scotland to try to spread the message of truth. Everywhere I am finding interest and sympathy for the Indian question. But today that sympathy is only half conscious in the people's hearts and hidden away from view. Through knowledge of the truth it must become conscious, visible and active."

Britishers' Message To India Mira Ben's Goodwill Campaign

ACCORDING to the London correspondent of the *Servant of India*—Mira Ben was getting the following "Message from men and women of Great Britain to the Indian People and their Leader, Mahatma Gandhi" signed by those whom she was addressing at her various meetings:

"We the undersigned men and women of Great Britain send you, the people of India and your Leader, Mahatma Gandhi, this message of brotherhood and goodwill through your National Congress, which is to re-assemble at the end of this coming October of 1934. We associate ourselves with your desire to control your own destinies as a Nation. We deplore the causes of your deepening discontent, and believe that one of the serious reasons why public opinion is so dissatisfied in your country is because you, as a people, have never yet been able to treat with us as a people, through a body of your own elected representatives for the purpose of setting a constitution. We regard a final, just and peaceful settlement between Great Britain and India's three hundred and fifty millions as a matter of supreme human importance, and believe that such a settlement cannot be reached except by honourable negotiation between elected representatives of our two countries. We therefore, welcome and support your National Congress Working Committee's suggestion of a Constituent Assembly to be elected by the Indian people, for the purpose of drafting an Indian constitution, and hope that a constitution so drafted could be given final and lasting shape by agreement between the elected leaders of our two countries inspired by mutual trust. We British people cherish the ideal of Freedom and Justice through self-determination for ourselves, and we hold it to be the fundamental right of all people."

Original Correspondence

To The Editor, INDIAN OPINION.

Insufficient Police In Springs

Sir,—I wish to bring to your notice the following facts which I trust you will see your way to publish in your paper.

As is generally known I am a Store-keeper carrying on a General Dealers business at corner of First Avenue & First Street Geduld Township, Springs, for the last 30 years. Within the last twelve months my store has been twice broken into, during the night, and I have suffered loss in consequence. The last occasion was on Nov. 12.

I understand there is only one Constable at a time allotted to patrol Geduld township, and if this is so, is it not time to make an addition to the strength of the force at this Centre? Years ago when there were only few shops in this Township, there was always a Constable and sometimes two on duty.

There is no need to dilate on the difference between the Township then and now, I hope the Authorities will manage to keep up with the times. All that I ask is that some addition be made to the present strength of the force for the potrolling of this Township. Will the Town Council, approach the Police Authorities with this end in view?

Yours faithfully,

SAHEB KHAN.

SAHEB KHAN.

Valliam Memorial

Sir,—Permit me through your columns to ascertain from the Trustees of the Valliam Hall, Johannesburg, the following information in the interests of the Indian community, particularly those who had sacrificed in the cause during the Passive Resistance struggle:—

What is the exact position of the vacant land that is in existence?

Has there been any income in the past?

Why should a public property be allowed to lie idle so long?

What steps are the Trustees intending to take in the matter?

Will they be good enough to inform the public?

Why dont the people club together and see that something is done to establish a Memorial Hall in the name of the deceased person in whose name the plot was purchased?

Johannesburg.

P. PILLAY.

LADYSMITH NOTES

(By S. C. M.)

THE Annual General Meeting of the Northern District Indian Cricket Unson will be held on Saturday Nov. 24 at 8 p. m. at the Hindoo Thirukootam Hall, 113, Forbes Street, Ladysmith. The delay was caused by the Secretary's transfer to Durban, after getting all the assets of of the Union correctly done up in the Union's book, and the whole thing is put in a nutshell.

Festival

Mr. Ramsamy Pather of Ladysmith, celebrated "Karthiga Deepum" at the Hindoo Thirukootam Hall on Wednesday last. Many were present to grace the function.

Wedding

Mr. G. H. M. Seedat, son M. E. Seedat, of Messrs. Ismail Mahomed & Co., will be married on Sunday at Port Shepstone Nov. 25.

Cable Message From Mauritius

El. Haj E. M. Asvat of Ladysmith, received a cable message from Mauritius, that his uncle Mr. Dawood Amod Hatia, died at the age of 50, Sympathy is extended to El Haj E. M. Asvat from all sections of the community.

Correction

The report which appeared last week about a tennis game at Estcourt. The report reads as 9 games to 7 games, it is incorrect it should have read as 11 sets to 7 sets in favour of Estcourt. Also Greytown Indian Tennis Club was printed instead of Siegetown I. T. Club.

Thanks

The Royals Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club, Springfield, under whose aegis Deepavali sports and tournament took place at the Royals Sports Ground wishes to convey through these columns its deep sense of gratitude to all those who so kindly assisted in making the event a success.

Special Holiday In Honour of Prince George's Wedding

THE Education Department has notified the head teachers of all Government and Government Aided Schools that the Administration has decided to grant a special holiday to all Government Schools on the occasion of the marriage of H.R.H. the Duke of Kent and H. R. H. Princess Marina of Greece, which is to take place on Thursday the 29th instant. In so far as Government-Aided Schools are concerned, the question of observing the above holiday is left to the discretion of head teachers.

OBITUARY

Death Of Mrs. Baldeosingh

The death of Mrs. Baldeosingh (Mother-in-law of Mr. R. K. Ghoorun and mother of Messrs B. B. Singh, teacher Umgeni Government Indian School, and S. B. Singh) took place at her residence at Carnley Terrace, Umgeni on Manday 12th November. She was 57 years at the time of her death. She leaves a widower two sons and a number of grandchildren. Her remains were cremated on Tuesday 13th November at the Umgeni Crematorium according to Hindu Rites. The pallbearers were her relatives and Pandit Bujrangi Maharaj was the officiating minister.

Those present included Messrs R. K. Ghoorun, R. Ghoorun, B. Ghoorun, R. Rajcoomar, G. Singh, Arjun Singh, B. R. Singh, Rughbeer Singh, Sewgulam Singh, Sewcherran Singh, Rampal Singh, Rampershad Singh, Behari, K. Madan, S. Billet, K. V. Pillay, Ramjuthan, R. S. Maharaj, G. S. Maharaj, Ramsuroop Maharaj, B. S. Maharaj, R. Maharaj, B. B. Maharaj, G. Lala Beesaur, Jugounan, Kunjhal, Ramlakan, R. R. Alfred, S. Sidhoo, J. Kisson, B. Sookdeo, (Durban), Ramnehora Singh, (Verulam), Dhannaah Singh (Tongaat) and Standard VI pupils of Umgeni Indian School.

Wreaths from Works and Bridge Inspector Staff Maintenance Dept. S. A. R. & H.; from sons; R. K. Ghoorun; granddaughters; and numerous floral tributes were received

Death Of Well-known Soccer

Player

The death occurred last week of Mr. R. Junjoon the well-known soccer player of Maritzburg at Addington Hospital, Durban, at the age of 22. The funeral took place from his residence Pentrich, Maritzburg, on Sunday last at the Plessislaer Indian Crematorium, according to Vedic Rites, and was attended by more than 100 friends and relatives from all parts of Natal. Mr. Junjoon was employed for the last four months by the addery staff of the Addington Hospital Durban, and served as a faithful servant, until for the last two weeks he took a sudden illness.

During his stay in Maritzburg, he was a popular figure of Pentrich where he had spent most of his life time, he also represented Maritzburg on many occasions in the Interuown soccer matches, and played for Glyns Football Club for many years. Mr. Junjoon married four years ago, and leaves a wife two children and a large number of relatives to mourn their loss. The service was conducted by Pandith Ramchub Maharaj, of Maritzburg.

Books for Sale

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As Omnibus Edition.

We have just received an omnibus Edition of Mahatma Gandhi's Speeches and Writings from Messrs. G. A. Nateson & Co., Publishers, George Town, Madras (India). It is the fourth and new edition on Mahatma Gandhi. Cloth bound 8s. including postage. This latest edition is revised and considerably enlarged with the addition of a number of important articles from *Young India* and *Navajivan* (rendered into English). The collection has over 1000 pages of well-arranged matter ranging over the whole period of Mahatma Gandhi's public life. The volume begins with the South African Indian question and covers his views on indentured labour and Indians in the Colonies, his jail experiences in South Africa, his pronouncements on the Khaira and Champaran affairs, his discourses on the Rowlatt Bills and Satyagraha, and his *Young India* articles on the Non-co-operation Movement including select papers on the Khilafat and Punjab wrongs, the Congress, Swadeshi, National Education and Swaraj. It also includes Mahatma Gandhi's famous letters to the three Viceroy—Lord Chelmsford, Lord Reading and Lord Irwin, Select Extracts from his celebrated Autobiography, his historic Statement before the Court at the great trial, his Congress Presidential Address and other public utterances, his Speeches and Messages during his great march to the Salt pans of Dandi, the full extent of his Agreement with Lord Irwin and the Speeches implementing the Pact. Then there are his speeches at the Second Round Table Conference followed by the Willingdon-Gandhi correspondence. Another section contains his important studies on the Hindu-Muslim question, as also the statements on the problem of untouchability following the historic letter to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and the Epic Fast which resulted in changing the Premier's Award. Yet another section gives his reminiscences of great Indians like Gokhale, Pherozeshah Mehta, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, C. R. Das, etc. The selection contains chapters on a variety of subjects of miscellaneous interest ending with his famous gramophone record on God. It contains numerous illustrations and an index.

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