

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Further Grant Of £275

MR. B. M. Narbeth chairman of the Durban Indian Technical Institute, we understand, has received intimation from the Minister of the Interior that the appeal of the Institute for a further increase in the present grant has been considered favourably and that the grant has been increased from £350 to £625. The Indian Technical Institute is an example of how great results are achieved from small beginnings. The Technical classes were originally started by Mr. Christopher with the voluntary help of a few Indian teachers. The usefulness of the Institution increased rapidly and a committee was formed. Mr. B. M. Narbeth who was then the principal of the Durban Technical Institute began to take a keen interest and has ever since very generously helped in building up this institution, in fact it owes its present position to a great extent to Mr. Narbeth. The Indian community owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Narbeth and also to the Minister of the Interior for having so generously increased the grant, thus recognising the need and usefulness of imparting technical education to Indians. We need hardly say that this institution needs every possible help that those of our countrymen who are blessed with wealth can give it.

Congress' Indiscretion

THE South African Indian Congress has chosen to elect Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh as their president. We think it is a most indiscreet selection, for more than one reason. Firstly, it is a well known fact that Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, while he may have been a popular personality among the members of the Congress, there was a large body of people who was against his policy. In fact it was felt, whether rightly or wrongly, that he was actually in the way of unity among the Indian community. Well, his term of office was over and a bone of contention was removed. We have turned over a new leaf and for the sake of peace at least the Congress would have been better advised not to have taken the step they have taken. Secondly, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, unlike his two predecessors and his present successor, was a civil servant of

the Government of India and so far as our knowledge goes he is to continue to be so. In the circumstances under what canon of rules the Congress could have elected a Government Official to be their president and how a Government Official could accept such a post surpasses us. We can only say that there was nothing to warrant such an unusual step on the part of the Congress and it were far better not taken, especially at the present juncture, when it is essential to create an atmosphere which can be congenial to bring about unity. After all we have now to deal with the present Agent.

Minister Questioned On Durban Asiatics

Mr. J. G. Derbyshire (Greyville) asked the Minister of the Interior (Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr) in the Assembly: (1) Whether, in view of the fact that householders in Durban are constantly warned of the penalties attaching to the letting of premises to natives in any area not proclaimed as a native urban area under Act No. 21 of 1923, the Government will favourably consider the placing of restrictions upon Asiatics resident in European areas in Natal; and (2) Whether the Minister's attention has been directed to the increasing number of cases in which Asiatic penetration in Durban residential areas has led to the sacrifice by Europeans of the property with the object of avoiding uncongenial Asiatic neighbours? Replying to the first question the Minister said: "Such action is not contemplated by the Government;" and to the second: "I have no specific information on this point."

Slum Clearance At Mayville.

THE provisions of the Slums Act are to be carefully studied by the municipal Public Health Committee before its members take any steps to give effect to the Borough Engineer's scheme for slum clearance of the Mayville area bounded by Orient Lane, Randles Road and the Maritzburg main Road. The committee recently recommended that this area, approximately 19 acres in extent, be declared a slum clearance zone in terms of the Slums Act's provisions. It has now to be determined whether expropriation of all premises, whether fit or unfit for human habit-

ation, is to be enforced within this zone. As a first step a list of those premises deemed unfit for human habitation will be prepared. When furnished with this data the committee will review the policy to be adopted.

As we go to Press there are further developments with which we hope to deal next week.

London Journalists Protest

THE President of the Indian Journalists' Association has released for publication, the text of the resolution unanimously adopted at the meeting of the London Indian journalists' Association. It reads:—

"The Indian Journalists' Association in London records its emphatic protest against the non-inclusion of any Indian editor of any of the well known Indian journals among the Press representatives invited to the Imperial Press Conference to be held in South Africa in spring next and denounces the idea which seems to prevail of securing representation of Indian Press through three non-Indian editors of the journals published in India."

We commented on the absence of any of the prominent Indian journalists, of whom there are so many in India, at an important gathering like the Imperial Press Conference. It might be pointed out that Mr. Tushar Kanti Gosh, editor of the *Amrita Bazaar Patrika* was invited to Melbourne and has the honour to be the vice-president of the Worlds' Press Conference.

"Due Place" For India


THE draft instrument of instructions to the Governor-General of India on the conduct of his office under the new Constitution has been issued for the approval of Parliament. It gives directions on the spirit of the principles in which the Governor-General is to exercise his powers and responsibilities and repeats the present instruction to the Governor-General that his trust should be so exercised that "the partnership between India and the United Kingdom within the Empire may be furthered to the end that India attains a "due place" among the Dominions." The draft of similar instructions to the Provincial Governments has been issued simultaneously.

Well, there is, quite obviously, no hope of India being given an equal status with the Dominions. She has yet to attain a "due place" among them. It is a very ambiguous phrase. A definition of it might at least have given India an idea where she actually stands.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1935

THE AGENT'S ACTIVITIES

 OUR new Agent, Syed Raza Ali, we are happy to note, has not allowed the grass to grow under his feet. During his seven days' stay in Durban he has been so active that he has been able to achieve what he would perhaps not have achieved in seven months. But it cannot yet be quite said of him like Caesar, that he came and he saw and he conquered. The Agent has come amongst us, has seen a great deal, has spoken a great deal, has heard a great deal and has acted a great deal but he has yet to conquer. From the moment he landed Syed Raza Ali's one theme in every speech he made was unity. He has brought an olive branch from Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu for both of whom the Indian community of South Africa claims to have profound reverence. In fact, during the last eight or ten days there has been a resounding chorus of unity. In his Town Hall speech Syed Raza Ali said:

"It may be that the time is not yet ripe for amalgamation, but I am prepared to make allowances. Amalgamation must however come about eventually. I am not going to apportion blame to any section of the community, but I think that it is the duty of the two bodies ultimately to unite and have only one political association in South Africa."

The Agent has also succeeded in persuading the South African Indian Congress to pass the following resolution:

"In response to the appeal made by the Agent of the Government of India on his arrival

in this country, this conference desires to record, first, its firm conviction that the political interests of the Indian community demand that the community should be united, and, secondly, *its willingness to do all in its power to promote this ideal.*

This we think is our new Agent's first great achievement for which the community owes him its profound appreciation. But that is not enough. The Agent has acted like a true leader and has done and is doing all he possibly can to bring the community together. It is for the community now to adequately respond to his appeal. If the words of the Congress resolution we have italicised are truthfully and honestly interpreted into action we shall have made a great advance towards unity. We can only wish that with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu we would all have the good sense of avoiding methods which would in the slightest degree wound the susceptibilities of any of us. Our reverence for Mahatma Gandhi can be true only if we are prepared to fulfil his desire, and if we can succeed in doing so at this juncture the honour we will have done to Syed Raza Ali will be worth a thousand fold more than all the most expensive addresses and garlands we may bestow on him. May Heaven guide us in the gloom that has encircled us and lead us back to that glorious and invigorating light that we may meet each other better to work and to die together for a common cause.

THINGS WE'VE FORGOTTEN.

Twenty-five Years Ago

INDIAN OPINION.

Jan. 8th, 1910.

COLONIAL-BORN TRADERS

MR. Morcom (Maritzburg) presents a petition signed by 361 Colonial-born Indians asking that further steps be taken to protect their interests and urging that the present system of licensing was unfair to Indians.

—*Natal Witness.*

In a footnote to a letter by "Colonial-born" in the *Times of Natal*, the Editor says:

We have always held the opinion that the Colonial born Indians cannot, with justice, be discriminated against, and are entitled to all civil rights of citizenship. To describe as a self-governing nation the white oligarchy that has with our connivance, fenced itself against admission of the ablest and most progressive members of races living in their midst and by general admission capable of a civilisation at least as high as that of the ordinary white wage earner is (says J. A. Hobson in the *English Review*), an outrage to political terminology. Deliberately to set out upon a new career as a civilised nation upon a definition of civilisation which takes race and colour, not individual character and attainments as the criterion, is nothing else than to sow a crop of dark and dangerous problems for the future. Such a Government; such a constitution, must fall between two stools.

Fountain of Wisdom

He who greedily seeks honours and riches may be compared to a man suffering with thirst, which he tries to quench with the water of the sea. The more he drinks, the more he wants to drink, till at last he dies of drinking it.—ARABIC PROVERB

A man asked, "what does a fault really consist in?" The Prophet (Mahammed) said "when anything prickles your conscience, forsake it."—MISHCUT-AL-MANABIT.

Covetousness alone is a great destroyer (of merit and goodness). From covetousness proceeds sin. It is from this source that sin and irreligiousness flow, together with great misery. This covetousness is the spring also of all the cunning and hypocrisy in the world. It is covetousness that makes men commit sin.—MAHABHARATA

RADIO MESSAGE BY THE AGENT

The following message was delivered from the Broadcasting station, Durban by Sayed Raza Ali, the Agent of the Government of India on Monday Feb. 18:—

I AM very keen on establishing personal touch with my countrymen in South Africa, as also with the European population. It is for this reason that I seized the opportunity when it was offered to me of broadcasting this message to you all.

I would very much have liked to meet as many of my countrymen and European friends as possible and have a heart to heart talk with them, but the time at my disposal in Durban is so short that I must postpone it to some time in June or July, when I come back to Durban to take up my residence here for several months. During my next visit I hope to see a large number of people and to discuss with them questions of common interest at some length.

The welcome I have received all along the coast of Africa from all communities has greatly touched me. Here in Durban all sections and classes of the people, whether European or Indian, have been most kind and considerate. The reception that was given me at the Durban City Hall on Thursday evening, where hundreds of Europeans and Indians mustered strong to welcome me, was really overwhelming. As I sat in the City Hall listening to most eloquent speeches saying very kind words about me, I almost felt as if I had never left the Indian shores.

Welcome Change In Nine Years

I was in South Africa nine years ago, and it is with the greatest pleasure I have noticed the change that has taken place during this period. Much of it, perhaps, cannot be seen on the surface, but those who know in what direction the current was running in 1925, when as a member of the Paddison Deputation I visited this country, are in a position to judge for themselves. Not only has the uplift movement of the Indian community made considerable headway, but, what is particularly important, is that the foundation of a common and better understanding between Indians and Europeans has been well laid. I am sure this is the result of the efforts not only of those who appear as principal actors on the scene, but of a very large number of unknown European friends, who are anxious to bring about the best of relationship, and who prefer to work silently.

Education Of Boys And Girls

I need hardly say that the relaxation of restrictions imposed upon Indians in political, commercial and social matters, depends on their advance in education. The establishment of the Sastri College and the greatly increased education grants by the Government, would be

welcomed by every patriotic citizen of the British Commonwealth of Nations. In my judgement the disabilities of our people will decrease in proportion to the advance we make in education. It is most pleasing to find that my Hindu fellow countrymen are fully alive to the importance of girls' education, but I have noticed all along the coast of Africa, and in South Africa, that Mahomedans do not avail themselves of the facilities offered to them for the education of girls. There can be no greater blunder, and if the Mahomedan community in this country is desirous of obtaining rights of citizenship in common with other Indians, it is their first and foremost duty to educate both boys and girls alike.

Duty Of Wealthy Indians

I am delighted to find that there are a number of well to do and many even wealthy Indians in this country. I will appeal to them to help their less fortunate brethren. Acts of individual charity are quite good as far as they go, but in these go ahead times, we must have organised charity. Those who are in possession of large wealth must share it with those who are not equally advantageously placed. I appeal to rich Indians to help poor Indians. Not only that, I go a step further: I say since Indians have made this country their home it is the duty of the rich members of the community to give freely of their wealth, both to Indians and Europeans. Nothing would indeed be more pleasing to me than to see an Indian establish a ward in a hospital, found a University Chair, or to contribute a large sum of money to the building of a maternity ward. Indians are not birds of passage in this country, and they should behave like responsible citizens.

While on this subject, I would like to add a word: social disabilities should always be distinguished from hospitability. I am strongly opposed to any social disabilities being imposed on my people in South Africa, but at the same time I would remind them not to demand hospitality from quarters where they may not be welcomed. The rules of hospitability differ essentially from the rules of social intercourse, and while the latter is to be promoted by all reasonable means that are open to us, it is impossible to agree with the demand that every Indian is entitled to be shown hospitality by every European of position and vice versa.

Appeal For Unity

The last thing I have got to urge, and urge with all the emphasis at my command, is the duty that my people owe to themselves. During the last four or five days that I have been in the country, I have heard something about the political differences that obtain between two important political bodies representing Indian public opinion in this country. They must remember that they are thousands of miles away from the parent country; they have settled in a land where manners and customs are very different from what they are in India. The attitude of some of the people amongst whom they are living is not sympathetic. If, in spite of these handicaps, they choose to split themselves up into rival political factions, it cannot but work to their detriment. It is futile to say that they are justified in having political parties in this country, because there are political parties in India. Having regard to the conditions, what is true of India can never be true of South Africa. The duty of my countrymen and countrywomen here is to close up the ranks. It is open to them to have a number of associations to promote the social welfare of sections of the population; for instance, the Bohras, Memons, Gujaratis, Madrasis, Mahomedans, and Christians can have their own representative bodies to interest themselves in their social upliftment, but there could be no greater mistake than to fritter away the energy of the community in setting up rival and opposing political factions. Questions of the greatest political importance arise the moment you concede the right of two political associations to speak in the name of Indians in this country. What, for instance, are the Union Government, the Government of India and the Agent General to do if two rival political associations speak with two different voices. I appeal to them to close up their ranks, forget petty, personal or other differences and to come nearer together. I sincerely hope that my appeal will be responded to by those who have the good and welfare of the Indian community in South Africa at heart.

I am very glad to say that the South African Indian Congress has this afternoon passed a resolution whole-heartedly responding to my appeal for unity. It is to be hoped that this example will be followed by others.

THE NEW AGENT HONoured

WELCOME RECEPTION BY CONGRESS

SEATING accommodation was at a premium in the Town Hall on Thursday night, Feb. 14, when the Natal Indian Congress gave a welcome reception to Sayed Raza Ali, C.B.E., the new Agent of the Government of India in South Africa.

In welcoming Sayed Raza Ali, Mr. J. W. Godfrey, the President of the Natal Indian Congress, sketched briefly the history of the events which led up to the establishment of an Indian Agency in South Africa in 1927 when Mr. Srinivasa Sastri was sent out to the Union. The fact that the hall was well filled, he contended, was adequate proof of the popularity of the Agency. "I think," he said, "that during the eight years in which the Agency has existed in this country the Agents have all assiduously worked for a fair deal for the Indians. To-day we can count many more Europeans among our friends than we could in the past, but the hardest part of the work is still to come." He drew attention to the Agreement which was drawn up by the Union Government and the Government of India, but the question was how much of the Agreement was still to be fulfilled?

In 1925-26 when the Syed was in South Africa, he mooted the "upliftment clause" in the Agreement. To-day the work of fulfilling the upliftment clause lay at the door of the Syed.

In conclusion, he said, "We members of the Natal Indian Congress will stand solidly behind you. We undertake to co-operate with you in all your work and we undertake to render to you all the services that is possible to make your Agency a successful one."

Mr. Godfrey then garlanded the Sayed and the Mayoress of Durban, Mrs. S. Copley, and presented bouquets to the Mayor and his wife.

Address

Mr. Ashwin Choudree, one of the joint secretaries then read the address of welcome inscribed on a silver salver. It read: "We appreciate the fact that you are no stranger to us, for in December 1925 you came to us at a critical moment as a member of the Government of India deputation, led by the late Sir G. E. Paddison, K.C.S.I., I.C.S. which by its labours, we are happy to record, paved the way for a Round Table Conference between the Indian and the Union Governments, with the result that an agreement was arrived at and the threatened Class Areas Bill was dropped. Your acceptance of the high office of Agent-General of India at a great sacrifice to your good self is much valued by us and we trust that your

mission, like that of your predecessors, will be crowned with success." The address was signed by Mr. J. W. Godfrey and by the hon. secretaries and treasurers of the Congress.

In a pleasant, short speech, the Mayor, Dr. S. Copley, welcomed Mr. Raza Ali on behalf of the people of Durban. Mr. Ali was following in the footsteps of three very eminent men who had left a definite mark on South African history. He felt that the present selection of the Government of India would leave a similar mark upon this country. Coming from a country that was itself filled with troubles, he hoped that the Syed would find some solution for our problems. It is no use saying that our problems are insoluble. We should all co-operate with the representatives of the Government of India who had come here to help us. "I feel," he said before resuming his chair, "that when the time comes for Mr. Ali to go home again, he will have built another stone in the arch of our South African unity."

Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri

Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri, the President of the South African Indian Congress, referred to the excellent work done in the past by the various Agent-Generals. He hoped that Mr. Ali would be as successful as they had been.

Mr. Maurice Webb

Mr. Maurice Webb was the next speaker to welcome the Agent. He recalled how, ten years ago, he had attended an anti-Asiatic meeting in the Town Hall, and drew attention to the changed spirit which had now overtaken the country. He was glad that this anti-Asiatic spirit had now definitely disappeared. "I would ask our guest to give us this one gift from his wide experience—that he should help us, black, brown and white, to live together in peace and goodwill."

The Agent's Reply

After several others had spoken on the same lines, the Agent rose to reply. Speaking for the first time to a large meeting in his capacity of Agent General, Syed Raza Ali, C. B. E., said, the warmth of their welcome had overwhelmed him. "I offer you all—Europeans and Indians—Dutch and English, Indian born and Colonial-born, my grateful thanks for the warm reception you have given me since my arrival yesterday." The Agent recalled the pleasant days that he had spent among them in December 1925 and assured them that his stay among them, although it was confined to only a few days, and his stay of four months in South Africa, was one of the pleasantest recollections of his life.

In making a strong plea for unity the Agent said:

"I make a very strong appeal to the Congress and the Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association to come together. It may be that the time is not yet ripe for amalgamation, but I am prepared to make allowances. But amalgamation must come about eventually. I am not going to apportion blame to any section of the community, but I think that it is the duty of the two bodies ultimately to unite and have only one political association in South Africa."

Referring to the extension of education among the Indians, the Sayed was gratified at the improvement that had already been made and looked forward to the day when education, although not compulsory, would be at least free. He made an eloquent plea for the education of the girls and gave his own mother the credit for his career. To the Mahomedans he stressed this fact particularly. It was the only reproach on the religion of Islam—whose founder advocated the search for knowledge,—that in the past they did not educate their girls.

Addressing the audience on the India Bill, Mr. Ali said that he felt it had arrived rather too late. In one respect he welcomed it, while in another he did not. Speaking generally, however, he would advise India to accept it. Loud applause greeted the conclusion of his speech.

During the evening Mr. Raza Ali inspected a guard of honour of 80 members of the Muslim Youth League and Indian Boy Scouts. About 100 Europeans attended the function.

Social And Personal

Mr. Harold Wodson, Editor of the *Natal Advertiser*, returned to Durban from Capetown last Sunday by the Balmoral Castle from the Imperial Press Conference.

The many friends of Dr. G. Mohambry Naicker M. B.; Ch. B. (Edin) L. M. Dublin who recently returned from Scotland, will be pleased to learn that the Doctor has commenced practice at his surgery 24-26 Short Street. His phone No is 4900. We wish Dr. Naicker a successful career.

Bishop Ferguson Davie and Mrs. Ferguson Davie, who were in Capetown for the Anglican Synod, are now at Alice. The Bishop is warden of the hostel at Fort Hare, and was for some time superintendent of the Anglican Mission in Durban.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS

FIFTEENTH SESSION IN DURBAN

THE fifteenth Conference of the South African Indian Congress was opened in Durban on Sunday Feb. 17, at the Royal Picture Palace and ended on Tuesday night the rest of the deliberations having taken place in the Parson Rustonjee Hall.

Messages

The following messages were received by the Congress:—

MAHATMA GANDHI

"Hope your deliberations will result in preventing impending, confiscation of Indian rights.

GENERAL SMUTS

"May I wish the South African Fifteenth Indian Congress a most successful meeting. It is my sincere wish that its work may prove constructive and helpful to the Indian community and to South Africa generally. It meets at a time fraught with fateful issues for the mother country. Congress, while voicing its sympathy with Indian ideals, may be able to give a lead to Indian opinion in its attitude towards the great constitutional advance towards freedom now under consideration."

MR. J. H. HOFMEYER

"I wish the conference of the South African Indian Congress every success and trust that its deliberations will be conducted in a spirit of goodwill and friendliness, and be in the interests of the whole of the Indian community in South Africa."

KUNWAR SIR MAHARAJ SINGH

"With the lifting of the economic depression, the steady growth of Indian education, improving social standards and an increasing number of European sympathisers, I trust that better times are in store for the South African Indian community.

Need For Co-operation

"It has been the practice," said Syed Raza Ali, in opening the Conference, "for my predecessors to be present at your conference and show to the Indian people, many of whom have been here for generations, that the Government of India still considers its duty to take an interest in the welfare of the Indian people in this country. It has not the least desire to impose its will on you. Here you are situated in a very difficult position, subject to certain disabilities, which all of us deplore. It is your duty to remove these difficulties by adopting all constitutional methods for the purpose.

"I am sure that as a result of a number of talks with responsible Indians holding

important offices in your Congress, the need of closer co-operation of all sections of the Indian community is fully realised. It is not only mine or the Government of India's wish that Indians in South Africa should be working together but it is also the wish of the Government of South Africa, which will welcome this co-operation.

"I am sure that the result of your deliberations," said Syed Raza Ali, in conclusion, "will be a very important one and you will formulate resolutions for the benefit of the Indians of South Africa which will be fitting as coming from the oldest political institution in South Africa."

The Deputy Mayor

In welcoming to Durban both the Agent-General and the delegates to the conference, the Deputy-Mayor, Mr. W. L. Langton, said that they in Durban appreciated the importance of the Indian community in their midst. "There is no question," he said, "that the Indian community has not only a say in Durban but throughout Natal, and a good say too. I know that you are not quite satisfied with that say, but times are moving and you will get in time what you are entitled to."

Mr. H. O. Lugg, the Chief Native Commissioner for Natal, joined in the welcome extended to the Agent-General. Situated as he was, he said, he could appreciate the difficulties with which the Agent-General would be confronted and would have to deal with in South Africa. "The Indian problem will receive my sympathetic treatment," he added.

The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. J. W. Godfrey, welcomed the visiting delegates to the conference. Replies were made by Mr. A. Ismail (Cape) and Mr. S. M. Nana (Transvaal).

Presidential Address

Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri, president of the Congress delivered a lengthy speech touching on the various disabilities of the Indian community throughout the Union.

Resolutions

The following were among the resolutions passed by the South African Indian Congress:—

SLUMS ACT

"This conference welcomes the principles underlying the Slums Act and instructs the Provincial bodies, in consultation with the executive of the South African Indian Congress, to co-operate with local authorities to abolish slum conditions so far as they affect the Indian community and to make special efforts to

establish better housing conditions for the poorer section of the Indian people.

"This conference considers further that should it be found that any local authority is not prepared to accept reasonable suggestions put forward by the provincial body concerned, the South African Indian Congress Executive should take up the matter and make further representation to the Minister."

WHITE LABOUR POLICY

Congress reiterates its strongest protest against, as it has hitherto done, to the application of the White labour policy, which has been instrumental in displacing Indians from their legitimate occupation, and thus has been the direct cause, to a large measure, of distress and unemployment among Indians. This conference respectfully asks the Union Government, in terms of its recent declaration that it was not aimed at Indians, to abandon this policy, which is regarded as being in direct conflict with the spirit of the 'uplift' clause of the Capetown Agreement."

MINIMUM WAGE BILL

"In view of the fact that Union Government proposes to introduce a Minimum Wage Bill to regulate the payment of wages for certain classes of employment, this conference instructs the executive to examine the provisions of the Bill and to take such action as may be necessary to protect Indian interests."

EDUCATION

"Conference considers it eminently desirable that in addition to existing commercial and continuation classes, facilities for technical education should be provided by the Union Government for Indians. Conference resolves that the education authorities be urged to provide for the free admission of Indian children of indigent parents into Government-aided schools, and also to discontinue the practice of changing class text books yearly, so as not to unduly burden parents financially.

VERNACULAR EDUCATION

"That this Conference of the South African Indian Congress requests the Union and Provincial Councils of Natal, Transvaal and the Cape to give consideration to the question of vernacular education being included as an optional subject in the curriculum in Government and Government-Aided Indian schools or as an alternative to extend the system of grants in aid to vernacular schools, conducted on approved lines."

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

"That this Conference is of opinion that the Union Government should provide Indians with facilities for agricultural education on modern lines and

should further extend to Indian agriculturists the same facilities as are enjoyed by Europeans and Natives in order to assist Indians to acquire an expert knowledge of farming."

ASSISTED EMIGRATION SCHEME

"This Conference respectfully desires to draw the attention of the Union Government that in its opinion the continuance of assisted emigration, under the statutory provision of the Relief Act, is in direct conflict with the agreement arrived at in 1932 by the Governments of the Union and India, which declared that it was recognised that the possibilities of the Union scheme of assisted emigration to India is now practically exhausted, owing to the economic and climatic conditions of India, as well as to the fact that 80 per cent. of the Indian population of the Union are South African born." This conference, therefore, urges upon the Union Government to consider seriously whether the statutory provision, providing for emigration to India, should not be repealed."

MUNICIPAL VOTE

"That this Conference hereby resolves that the Executive of the South African Indian Congress take such steps as may be deemed advisable for the restoration of the Municipal vote to Indians in Natal and for the extension of such vote to Indians in the Transvaal Province, and that the co-operation of the Agent of the Government of India be sought in making representations to the provincial councils concerned."

LICENCES (CONTROL) ORDINANCE

"That notwithstanding the Union Government's interpretation of the licensing clause in the Capetown Agreement, this conference of the South African Indian Congress takes the view that the initiative to revise the licensing laws of the Union is with the Union Government and further this conference is of opinion that such revision is long overdue, it respectfully asks that steps be taken to give effect to the revision contemplated in the Capetown Agreement."

Draft Pretoria Asiatic Bazaar Regulations

The Transvaal delegates drew attention to the "humiliating" measures proposed in the draft Pretoria Asiatic Bazaar regulations. It was regarded "as a retrograde measure humiliating to the Indian community," and requested the Minister of the Interior to receive a deputation of the Congress before he proceeded further with the matter.

TRANSVAAL LAND TENURE ACT

On the question of the Transvaal Land Tenure Act the conference resolved that further consideration should be postponed until the publication of the Commission's report and authorised the Executive of the Congress to examine the report and to take such action as it might deem necessary.

INDIAN COLONISATION INQUIRY COMMITTEE

The conference also resolved that further consideration of the report issued by the Indian Colonisation Inquiry Com-

mittee be postponed until after both the Indian and Union Governments had made known their views on the report.

LIQUOR ACT

While expressing its appreciation to General Smuts, the Minister of Justice, the Conference requested the Minister to amend the Liquor Act to remove limitations and restrictions on the employment of Indians.

PROVINCIAL BARRIERS

A motion was passed advocating the abolition of the Provincial barriers on the ground that Indians were a part of the permanent population and should not be shut up in watertight compartments. They were Union Nationals, and not Natal Nationals.

INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER

"This conference urges upon the Indian Government to expedite the appointment of an Indian Trade Commissioner in South Africa and also further urges the Union Government for a reciprocal appointment of a Trade Commissioner in India."

FIREARMS AND OLD AGE PENSION

Among the other resolutions were a resolution connected with the issue of firearms for the protection of lives and property of Indian storekeepers urging the Government to extend the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act to Indians in the Union, as it had done to Europeans and coloureds.

VARIOUS RECEPTIONS IN HONOUR OF THE AGENT

HINDU MAHA SABHA

A welcome reception was given to Sayed Raza Ali, Agent of the Government of India, by the Hindu Maha Sabha on Saturday Feb. 16. Mr. B. M. Patel was in the chair. In the course of his speech Sayed Raza Ali said, "This is the first meeting of a denominational character that I have attended, and let me tell you of my own attitude and what my thoughts are. I am opposed to all denominational political movements, whether Muslim or Hindu, Parsee, Sikh or Christian. He had no objection to any institution which promoted the social welfare of its community and did not indulge in politics. Indians overseas, whether in East Africa or here, had a bounden duty in maintaining a solidarity instead of dividing themselves and frittering away their energies."

Visit To Phoenix Settlement

After the Hindu Maha Sabha function Sayed Raza Ali accompanied by Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri and Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee motored to the Phoenix Settlement

where he was the honoured guest of Mr. and Mrs. Manilal Gandhi. Sayed Raza Ali had tea with a number of prominent Indian friends and was pleased to see the historic place of Mahatma Gandhi's activities.

Surat Hindu Association

From Phoenix Sayed Raza Ali returned to Durban to attend a function at 8.30 p.m. of the Surat Hindu Association. The Agent at this meeting advised the wealthy Indians to help their poorer brethren and stressed the need for unity.

Orient Club

On Sunday the Agent-General was welcomed by the members of the Orient Club who gave a lunch in his honour. There were a number of European and Indian guests present. Sayed Raza Ali was made an honorary member of the club.

Muslim Youth League

The Muslim Youth League gave a welcome reception in honour of Sayed Raz

Ali at the Beach Pavilion on Monday evening.

Deputations

The Agent-General received several deputations during his seven days stay in Durban including one from the Colonial-born and Settlers Indian Association.

Left Durban

On Tuesday the Agent-General left for Maritzburg where he had lunch with the Administrator and left by the afternoon train for Johannesburg.

On his arrival at Johannesburg the Agent was welcomed by the Mayor and a large and representative gathering of Indians. Sayed Raza Ali was garlanded by Mr. M. V. Desai on behalf of the Transvaal Indian Congress, by Mr. N. S. Pillay on behalf of the Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society, by Mrs. P. K. Naidoo on behalf of the Transvaal Indian Women's Association, and by representatives of several other Indian associations in the Transvaal. The Agent was to leave for Capetown on Saturday.

INDIAN EDUCATION IN NATAL

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT FOR 1933

THE Report of the Superintendent of Education for the Province of Natal for the year 1933 which is just published contains the following in regard to Indian education:—

1. **SCHOOLS.**—Though the average enrolment of Indian pupils rose from 17,088 in 1932 to 17,718 in 1933, there was no increase in the number of schools. The 13 State, and 72 State-Aided schools in operation in 1932 continued during the ensuing year. At 2 of the 13 State schools, namely Sastri College and Mitchell Crescent, and at 2 State Aided schools, namely St. Xaviers, Oakford, and Sydenham Girls', Durban, there was provision for post-primary education, of which 276 boys and 20 girls took advantage. The support given to the Mitchell Crescent Girls' Schools has been very meagre, but there are now signs of improvement. It is anticipated that the proposed establishment of a domestic Science kitchen there will be help to popularise the school. It was not possible, to give assistance to the ten or twelve private schools referred to in the previous report as having asked for state grants, but there are good prospects of some of them being helped in the new year.

2. **ATTENDANCE.**—With the average enrolment of 17,718 the schools maintained an average attendance of 90.7 per cent. of the roll. This represents a striking improvement of 4.2 per cent. on that of last year, and raises the attendance to .7 per cent above that of 1931. The great improvement is no doubt very largely due to the success of the anti-malaria campaign. Though the proportion of girl pupils has risen slightly, they form only 23.6 per cent of the total enrolment.

3. **TEACHING STAFF.**—An increase of 20 has brought the teaching staff up to 500 for the year. As the whole of the increase has been on the male side, and as some women have been replaced by men, the percentage of men has now increased from 78.8 of the total to 82.5. The reluctance or inability of Indian women to take up teaching is further shown by the fact that, of the 88 women teachers now employed in Indian schools, only 46 are Indians, the remaining 42 being Europeans and Coloureds. This is a very unsatisfactory feature of Indian education because experience has shown that women teachers are more successful than men with younger pupils; and also because certain aspects of the education of girls is better handled by women. The percentage of European teachers in Indian schools is now very small, it being only 6.7 of the total. To this per-

centage, a very considerable contribution is made by European women teaching in State-Aided Mission Schools. Indian teachers are continuing their efforts to become professionally qualified. While last year 70 per cent of the total staff held teachers' certificates, this year 76.6 per cent. hold these. The more highly qualified type of teacher is, however, scarce, there being only 11 University graduates in all in Indian schools and only two of these are Indians.

4. **BUILDINGS.**—It is not possible to provide the buildings referred to in the previous Report at Greytown, Sastri College and Port Shepstone within the year, and in the meantime, other needs have arisen. In the new year, the whole question of buildings, especially those in which Aided Schools are conducted, will be reconsidered, and it is anticipated that considerable improvements will be possible.

5. **EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE.**—Very little could be done during the year to supply equipment and furniture to those Aided schools where it is so badly required, but the prospects are good for the next year. The state schools are on the whole very well equipped, except that the need for library books remain.

Unit Costs

Units, in so far as Indian education is concerned, in Government schools were 3295 and in Grant-Aided schools 12,784, the gross cost being £32,078 and £41,655 respectively. The unit net cost including all charges is £8 15 5 in Government and £3 5 2 in Grant Aided schools, as against £26 8 1 in secondary Government European school and £4 6 11 in secondary European Grant Aided schools and £22 16 5 in other Government European schools and £6 17 5 in other European Grant Aided schools.

Chief Inspector's Report

Mr. J. H. Lawlor, chief Inspector of schools, reports:—

The first examination for the new Teachers' Certificates were completed in 1933. To enable teachers to pass in Art, Music, and Physical Training vacation courses were held in Durban in January. There was a very good attendance, and apart from personal benefit to the teachers the work in the schools considerably improved.

The English in the best Indian schools is undoubtedly weak and the methods now used will have to be drastically overhauled. Although the teachers themselves use English with facility there are counteracting external influences; but much remains to be done

inside the school by methodical attack and constant correction. In subjects such as Geography where new textbooks have been prescribed there is a distinct improvement. Manual work should be more widely practised in the schools of a race of such promising dexterity as that revealed in the exhibition organised by the Indian Teachers Society. Guidance in Needlework is also wanted, and it should be possible so to direct this activity as immediately to benefit the children themselves.

A uniform classification of standard classes has been introduced. Three such classes are now recognised, the first one being devoted mainly to the acquisition of simple English.

European teachers replaced, at Sastri College the six teachers who came from India in 1930. These teachers have been specially selected and are having a definite influence in the development of the College by bringing into its life the best of their occidental traditions.

Extra-curricular activities are appearing; Sastri College, Carlisle Street, and Port Shepstone produce their own magazines. The last school has collected a considerable sum towards a school library.

The elimination of poorly educated teachers is proceeding slowly. The new Teachers' Fifth Class Course at Sastri College has not yet attracted sufficient students, although the course has been made shorter than is really advisable. It will have to be strengthened by insistence on much better work in Standards V. and VI.

No Music In Sastri College

The music organiser, Mr. Cyril Wright reports that music had had no place in the activities of the Sastri College during 1933.

Art

The Art organiser reports that Indian education benefitted by a Vacation Course, held at Sastri College in January and attended by over ninety teachers. The Course was intended as a preparation for Indian teachers' Fourth and Fifth Class Certificates, but also covered the usual branches of Art teaching specially applicable to Indian Schools and included blackboard work. Lectures were given on the teaching of Art appreciation, and practical work was frequently done. The students showed keenness in the subject, and worked enthusiastically.

Number And Classification Of Schools

There are 85 schools for Asiatics in Natal and are classified as follows:—

DURBAN BOROUGH (30 schools) State: 2 boys, 1 mixed; Aided: 2 boys, 2 girls, 21 mixed. Intermediate: State: 1 girls. Secondary, State: 1 boys, making a total of 5 boys, 3 girls, 22 mixed schools for Asiatics in Durban.

P. M. BURG BOROUGH (6 schools) state: 1 mixed. Aided: 5 mixed.

COUNTRY (49 schools) State: 7 mixed. Aided: 1 boys, 1 girls, 40 mixed.

INDIA LETTER.

ASSEMBLY'S VERDICT AGAINST THE NEW TRADE AGREEMENT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

Salem, 2nd February.

THE first session of the Legislative Assembly began with a discussion of the now notorious circular of the Government directing its servants to shadow the activities of the Village Industries Association just started by Mahatma Gandhi. The sense of the House was clearly against the circular. The detention without trial of Sjt. Sarat Bose, the refusal to facilitate his participation in the Assembly's deliberations was viewed by the House as a breach of its privilege. The Government sustained a crushing defeat when the Assembly recorded its verdict against the new Indo-British Trade Agreement the negotiation of which was carried on secretly by the respective governments.

Squeezing Out Indians From Zanzibar

The Government of India have at last released Mr. Menon's report after taking a long time over it. They have been over-zealous to check resentment in India and thereby weakened their own hands. If Mr. Menon's report had been published some months ago, Indian public opinion would have made itself felt so strongly that the representations of Delhi would have weighed more at Whitehall. Now what do the Government propose to do when their own Reporter says that the cumulative effect of the Zanzibar decrees is the squeezing out of the natives of India from regions in which they have established themselves under every security of public faith? In Mr. Menon's words, "armed with powers, privilege and immunities, the Clove Growers' Association, which is really Mr. Bartlett's one-man show, strikes Indian traders as a Levithian, brushing them aside, casting them adrift and trampling upon that freedom of trade which they have enjoyed for generations."

Deputy Presidentship

Mr. Akhila Chandra Dutt, a Congress Nationalist, has bright chances of becoming the Deputy President of the Legislative Assembly.

Independence Day

In accordance with the instructions issued by the Congress Cabinet the whole nation participated in the celebrations connected with Purna Swaraj Day. National flags were to be seen in prominent places. There were huge but silent processions everywhere. There was no clash with the authorities.

Protest Against J. P. C. Report

There being a general demand that a day should be fixed as a day of protest against the J. P. C. Report, Babu Rajendra Prasad, President of the Congress, has fixed Thursday, February 7 for such demonstrations.

Assembly Members Wait On Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi had a talk with members of the Legislative Assembly when he requested them to help his Harijan uplift work. As a result of this the proposal for legislation in respect of the entry of Harijans in Temples will be suspended. But legislation for the removal of other legal difficulties of Harijans based on 'Untouchability' will be vigorously pursued. Gandhiji left for Wardha. A huge gathering cheered him when he left the Delhi station.

Narendra Mandal

His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala has been elected Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. Dholpur's Ruler has become the Pro-Chancellor. The Chamber concluded its session after adopting the policy of 'wait and see' in connection with the proposed Federation.

Boses's New Book Proscribed By Government

Sjt. Subash Bose's new book entitled 'The Indian Struggle 1930-34' has been proscribed by the Government of India.

Arrival of Austrian Businessmen

A party of eleven Austrian businessmen have arrived with a view to exploring the possibilities of improving the trade relations between India and Austria.

Prime Minister of Nepal

Maharaja Juddha Shamsher Jang of Nepal paid a visit to the Viceroy of India. The Viceroy of India received him with due honours. A deputation under the leadership of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya waited on him to pay respects. Nepal is the only independent State in the Continent of India. It has become world-famous by its warlike race the Gurkhas. The Indian Army held their manoeuvres in the unique presence of Maharaja Juddha, Nepal's warrior-statesman.

Indian Tennis

Puonoe and Pallada, two of Yugoslavia's best players were defeated by the Indian pair Krishnaswami and Brooke-Edwards in a keen five set contest held under the auspices of the Oudh Gymkhana.

Ahmedabad Municipality

The centenary of the Ahmedabad Municipality will be celebrated on March 2, 3 and 4, when a children's fair, a public meeting and an art exhibition will be held. Sardar Patel is expected to preside over the meeting. Mrs. Naidu's name is mentioned in connection with the opening of the exhibition.

Indian Academy of Sciences

The sixth scientific meeting of the Academy was held at Bangalore under the presidency of Sir C. V. Raman. 43 papers on scientific matters from scientists all over India, were read. The publications of the Academy have achieved international status. Most of the European and American learned societies have entered into exchange relations in regard to the publications of the Academy.

Fruits Of British Rule In India

There were about 200 candidates including some B.A.'s and M.A.'s for 3 posts of constables in the Jullunder Police. Mr. Garret, Superintendent of Police, told the candidates that he wanted good runners for the posts. A race was accordingly held on the Grand Trunk Road between City and Cantonment (4 miles) and Mr. Garret personally watched it and noted down the names of the fast runners for selection.

Indian Hospitality Praised

A party of 26 Australian schoolboys who left Melbourne on December 18 on an educational tour of India arrived at Madras recently from Colombo. They are staying at the Y. M. C. A. College of Physical Education as the guests of Mr. Buck, Director of the Institute. Their itinerary in India includes Calcutta, Delhi, Benares, Lucknow, Peshawar, Bombay and other places. Rev. W. L. Clarke, Senior Master, Church of England Grammar School, Melbourne, who organised a similar Indian tour for Australian boys in 1927 is accompanying the party. Interviewed by the press, Rev. Clark paid tribute to Indian hospitality. He incidentally referred to Miss Mayo's "Mother India," which he opined gave a true picture of Indian life.

Death of Acharya Gidwani

Achary Gidwani, ex-Principal of the Gujarat Vidyapith died, due to heart-failure, on Jan. 13. He was closely associated with the Congress.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS IN BRIEF

Mr. M. M. Gandhi and the S. A. Indian Congress

Mr. M. M. Gandhi addressed the following letter to the *Natal Mercury* dated Feb. 21:—

SIR,—I crave the indulgence of your columns, to clear statement made in the Indian Congress report which appeared in Tuesday's *Mercury*. My presence, together with the Agent-General, Syed Raza Ali, at the conference, your reporter has stated, "was regarded as a forward step in the direction of bringing about unity in the Indian community."

I must make it quite clear that I accompanied the Agent-General at his invitation to hear his address on unity and it was made quite clear to the assembly by Syed Raza Ali that I was present not as a member of the Congress but merely as a visitor. I must also make it clear that I have not joined the Congress, nor am I likely to do so, until there is peace between the two parties, the Congress and the Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association. Nor am I any longer a member of the Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association. I am independent and as such am trying with other friends to do everything possible to bring about unity which must be achieved without the slightest humiliation or loss of prestige on either side. There can be no unity so long as methods are persistently adopted by either side to humiliate and to crush one another. Both must suffer to recognise in good spirit the existence of one another and with the spirit of tolerance and friendliness alone can there be amalgamation and a lasting and living peace.

S. A. I. C. Election

Several other resolutions passed by the conference of the S.A.I.C. have been held over for next week. The following are the newly elected officials: President Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh; Deputy-President Mr. V. S. O. Pather; Jt. Secretaries Messrs. A. I. Kajee and S. R. Naidoo; Jt. Treasurers Messrs. B. M. Patel and S. M. Parak.

Segregation On Trams

The trolley bus service shortly to be initiated on the Point and Marine Parade routes will have three seats on one side of the upper deck, and two on the other side reserved for non-European passengers; a total of five seats, as compared with six on the trams. No "unreserved" cars are run on the Point route.

Tamil Benefit Fund

A special general meeting of members and intending members of the Tamil Benefit Fund was held at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban, on Sunday, Feb. 17. There was a fairly

large attendance. Mr. V. M. M. Achary who presided, emphasised that one of the objects of the fund was to promote thrift. Members are given an opportunity of subscribing for shares which are payable by easy monthly instalments of five shillings per share. These monies are invested by the Fund on loans to members, on mortgages and in the purchase of freehold properties or otherwise. An assurance was given to the members that their investment will no doubt prove to be lucrative, as will the members of the old Tamil Benefit Fund testify from what benefits they have enjoyed. It is certainly pleasing to note that this fund though now in its infancy, having only resuscitated on the 1st January 1935, its membership is approximately fifty and comprises one hundred and ten shares. The members are rapidly increasing each day and before long it is anticipated that this fund will as formerly, be on a very sound footing.

Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society Welcomes Agent

The Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society sent the following telegram to the Agent for the Government of India:

"Welcome to South Africa from the pioneer settlers. Pray that your term of office will be blessed. Earnestly appeal to you to heal breach created by your predecessor.—N. S. PILLAY, President, Tamil Benefit Society."

The following letter was received by the secretaries of the Tamil Benefit Society from the secretary to the Agent in reply to the above:—

"Dear Sir,—I am desired by the new Agent, Syed Raza Ali, to thank you very much for your telegram welcoming him to South Africa. He wishes you all prosperity and hopes one day to have the pleasure of meeting you."

"Madras Mail" Editor

The Tamil Benefit Society, Transvaal, have arranged a welcome reception in honour of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Hayles, Editor of the *Madras Mail* (India) at the Inchcape Hall, on Friday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. Lord and Lady Astor and other members have consented to be present.

Farewell To Mr. O. K. Winterton

On Friday Feb. 15 in the refectory of the Natal Provincial Council buildings, Maritzburg, the members of the Natal Education Department met at an informal tea to bid farewell to their colleague, Mr. O. K. Winterton, Inspector of Schools. In making the presentation of a cheque, Mr. Hugo, the Superintendent of Education, spoke of the long and efficient services of Mr. Winterton as a teacher and later as an Inspector of Schools. Mr. Winterton was first appointed in December, 1902, as an assistant master at the Boys' Model school, Maritzburg, and

after holding various appointments was made headmaster of the Mansfield road school, Durban, where his influence on the pupils who passed through his hands has had a lasting effect. Mr. Winterton was made Inspector of Schools in December, 1929. The Chief Inspector of Schools, Mr. J. H. Lawlor, and Mr. Hugh Bryan, associated themselves with the remarks of the Superintendent of Education.

Indian Princes to Visit Union

The Agent of the Government of India Syed Raza Ali has made a suggestion to some of the Indian Princes that they should visit the Union during his term of office. Two he had approached in particular were the Maharajah of Bikanir and the Nawab of Bhopal.

WEDDINGS

A Pretty wedding took place at Mr. B. L. David Naidoo's residence Leipinga, on Saturday Feb 9th. The bridegroom Mr. N. T. Pillay of Durban was joined in the bonds of matrimony with Miss. Rajamah Pillay, second daughter of the late Coopusamy Pillay of Edendale. The Durban Barathatic Orchestra provided an excellent musical programme. The nuptial ceremony was conducted by Pundit Sewnarain Panday. In the evening the bridal couple motored to Edendale where a reception was given, followed by a musical entertainment by the T. P. A. Orchestra.

The bride and the bridegroom received numerous useful and valuable gifts.

Monday Feb 18 was the scene of a grand wedding in Woodford Grove, Durban. The contracting parties were Heeralall eldest son of Mr and Mrs Rampotal of Nonoti, Darnall, and the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Sewduth of Durban. Parents of both the bride and bridegroom being prominent members of the Indian community and very popular among all sections were the happy recipients of hearty congratulations from the numerous guests who were present to witness the wedding of the happy couple. The pandal was very tastefully decorated and the arrangements for the guests were superb. There were people from all corners of Natal and there were many presents for the bride and bridegroom. The guests were entertained during the night with excellent fare, music and songs.

Mr Pratap Singh eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jamna Singh of 9, Madras Road was married on Sunday Feb 17 at Redcliffe Verulam, to the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lalbahadur Singh and grand-daughter of Babu Madho Singh of Verulam.

ETERNAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE YOUNG

(From "Prabuddha Bharat")

THE older generation always looks up on the younger generation with suspicion, and the younger people look upon their elders with an attitude of indifference as if the latter were an anachronism, or at least their counsels, however well-meant and sincere, were not applicable with reference to changing times. The older people are very often found to say and feel that they were better people in their younger days, and the younger people will hardly take them at their words—they, on the contrary, feel that they have got the capacity and are on the way to build up a better future. From this arises the eternal conflict between the old and the new, which is visible in every field of life—domestic and social, national and political, literary and scientific.

Persons who, one day, were perhaps the idol of all because of the political lead they gave to the nations, become objects of indifference—sometimes even of contempt and ridicule, in their older days. Perhaps even then they are sincere earnest, zealous for the cause of their country. But they cannot keep pace with the hopes and aspirations of the changing times and circumstances, and hence they suffer. Youth is the age of dreams, and it is dreams that supply the impetus to a new mode of actions, and create a daring spirit to take risks for new achievements. Older people—barring exceptional cases—lose the capacity for dreams. There are persons who can dream new dreams, catch fresh ideas, be in sympathy with changing hopes and aspirations even in their old age, but their number is few, very, very few. The majority of people lack that power. They become victims of the time and old age. They work, perhaps with equal earnestness and assiduity as they did in their younger days, but their dynamo of action lies far distant in time—in their past youthful days. They conceived some ideas in their early age stimulated by the vigour of youth, and it is those ideas which they want to put into action in their decaying age; at best the corollaries and off-shoots of those ideas they try to put into practice. It is only the fortunate few who can keep up their "eternal youth," and till their last day remain the object of worship by all, the old and new. They are admired in their later years, not out of respect for their age or their past achievement but for their action in the living present as also for the inspiration they supply at any time.

Young people start in life with fresh hope and vigour. They think that, in spite of odds, they will score victory in life, that where the old generation has failed, they will succeed. The older people, though they may have met with many failures, want to derive satisfaction

from those actions in which they succeeded. Their whole attention is fixed on them. It is by their own past experience that they seek to guide and control the younger people. The older people forget that the younger generation might be endowed with greater capacities, and have greater possibilities. Who can fully value the infinite power that is within every soul? Who can limit the possibilities of any man? Sometimes how great things are done by the persons from whom they are least expected? But the older people are apt to think in terms of "thus far and no farther." So it is that the younger people have an indifferent

attitude to the counsel of their elders and want to go in their own ways. They seek to free themselves from the tyranny of all protection and guardianship, so that they may fight their battle themselves. This is the reason why the older people are very often found to say, "Youths of these days have gone to dogs;" and the younger people complain that the elders do not understand their view-point. Perhaps the world saw in each period in the past the older people repeating the same thing and the younger people having exactly the similar complaint. If there would be anyone who could live for a few generations as a witness to the repetition of this self—same conflict between the old and the new, how much would he enjoy it.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

COMPULSORY VACCINATION

FOR PASSENGERS EMBARKING AT INDIA FOR SOUTH AFRICA

To the Editor INDIAN OPINION.

SIR,—A correspondent in Bombay has sent me a cutting from the *Times of India* which reports the League of Nations Regional Health Conference held in November, 1934 at Cape Town at which the Government of India was represented. The question of the vaccination of passengers from India sailing to certain African countries was discussed.

It was resolved that facilities should be provided to any passenger arriving from a country affected by smallpox.

(a) If he carries a certificate of vaccination or of re-vaccination from a doctor showing that vaccination has been performed not fewer than twelve days and not more than three years before the date of the departure, or

(b) If he shows scars proving a previous attack of smallpox.

It was stated that great importance is attached by the S. and E. African Govts. to the adoption of some system of official authoritative verification of the certificate of vaccination before embarking in order to ensure that the individual carrying the certificate is in fact the person to whom it relates.

The Government of India have, therefore, decided on rules for port health officers and under these rules certificates of vaccination issued by registered medical practitioners other than civil surgeons port health officers and district or municipal medical officers of health will

require the counter-signature of such an officer. It seems that Indians objecting to vaccination have obtained bogus vaccination certificates or have used vaccination certificates belonging to their friends and this practice is to be stopped.

But a worse rule that is to be adopted by the Government of India under the Indian Ports Act, 1901, is one which will prevent unvaccinated passengers from embarking at all on ships sailing to African ports. As this rule has been prompted by the Governments of South and East Africa, we wonder whether anything could be done by our friends in South Africa to protest against it. I have written to several newspapers published in South Africa and in East Africa pointing out that vaccination is not a protection against smallpox and may itself cause very serious injury, often resulting in death.

Yours sincerely,

L. LOAT.

[In so far as our experience goes there is nothing new in what is stated in the above letter. Every passenger is supposed to get vaccinated at least fifteen days before embarking from Bombay for South or East Africa. It is of course a gross injustice to compel those to be vaccinated who are conscientiously against it and it is to be hoped that the responsible leaders will make the necessary representations.—Ed. I. O.]