

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Britain's New National Government

MR. RAMSAY MACDONALD has resigned and a new Cabinet has been formed with Mr. Stanley Baldwin as Prime Minister. Sir Samuel Hoare who was Secretary for India is the Foreign Secretary in the new Cabinet and Marquess of Zetland who was Governor of Bengal from 1916 to 1922 is Secretary for India. Mr. J. H. Thomas still remains Secretary for Dominions while Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, who is the youngest member of the Cabinet being only 33, is Secretary for Colonies. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is Lord President of the Council. It is said that for the first time in 70 years father and son are both members of the Cabinet. The late Prime Minister's special responsibility will be for the co-ordination of the activities of the Defence Forces and will be chairman of the Sub-committee of Imperial Defence. This change in the British Cabinet brings to India no hope for a better future. In fact there is hardly anything to choose India had great hopes in Mr. Ramsay Macdonald but even his promises disappeared when he came into power. Marquess of Zetland having been moulded in the bureaucratic machinery in India will, we fear, prove a little harder than Sir Samuel Hoare. Thus the new British Cabinet is, if anything, a disadvantage to India.

King Thanks Colonial Born Indians

The President of the Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association has received the following letter from Sir Olive Wigram, Private Secretary to the King:—

"I am commanded by the King to convey to you his Majesty's thanks for the loyal and dutiful message from the Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association on the completion of the 25th year of his Majesty's reign, and to assure you that the King deeply appreciates the sentiments of loyalty and affection to which it gives expression."

Trading Rights Of Indians

An important point was raised by Mr. T. B. Turner, who appeared on behalf of an Indian appellant at a licensing appeal hearing before the Durban Town Council on Monday. His client, who

had already had a licence to sell jewellery and fancy goods, had applied for a general dealer's licence, but this had been refused by the Borough Licensing Officer. Mr. Turner pointed out that his client had originally applied for a general dealer's licence, but the Licensing Officer had granted him a licence with a condition attached to the effect that he could sell only jewellery and fancy goods. The licence form which had been issued by the Government did not, however, bear any condition on it. Mr. Turner, therefore, maintained that his client, had he wished, could have carried on the business of a general dealer. In reply, the Licensing Officer Mr. B. Lagerwall, stated that the question as to whether he was permitted to attach a condition to a general dealer's licence had been questioned on previous occasions. In the opinion of both the Town Solicitors and Standing Counsel he was entitled to take this step. After retiring, the Town Council decided to uphold the Licensing Officer's decision and refuse the general dealer's licence.

No Medical Inspection In Non-European Schools

In the course of an interview with a press representative Mr. F. D. Hugo, the superintendent of Education is reported to have made the alarming statement that there were no medical inspectors for the non-European Schools. There were, he said, 104,000 school children in Natal, 50,000 of these being European children. While the European children did at least receive attention the department at the present time is doing nothing for the other sections of the community.

The Bishop Defends "Negrophilists"

A defence of "negrophilists" was made by the Bishop of Johannesburg, the Right Rev. Geoffrey Clayton, at the recent annual meeting of supporters of the Princess Alice Nursing Home in Sophiatown. The Bishop said in a brief address from the chair that he could not understand why the word "negrophilist" was a term of reproach in South Africa. The Church Catechism, he pointed out, laid down clearly

our duty to love our neighbour. Europeans and Africans in this place are in every sense of the word neighbours. Therefore, if we are to obey the Church Catechism, all Europeans ought to be negrophilists, and all natives, if there is such a word ought to be Europeanophilists. I cannot imagine anybody's not desiring that his neighbour's babies should be healthy."

Disease Knows No Colour Bar

The Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev. W. A. Palmer, in the course of his speech at the same meeting, stated that disease knew no colour bar. If disease should break out in one of the locations with natives going to their work among the white people, nature would make hay of the colour bar.

Nr. Gardee's Gift

Mr. J. E. Gardee of Johannesburg, we understand, has made an offer to the General Hospital of that city of a donation of £3,000 towards the cost of building an Indian ward with the condition that the Provincial Administration or the City Council, or both, provide a similar sum.

Europeans Employing Non-European Drivers

The Government does not consider it necessary to empower Provincial Councils to introduce legislation prohibiting coloured persons, natives and Asiatics from driving the motor vehicles of Europeans. This announcement has been made to the Transvaal Provincial Council in Pretoria following the acceptance by the Council of a motion to that effect recently. In notifying the Council of the Government's attitude in the matter, the Secretary for the Interior (Mr. P. I. Hoogenhout) goes on to state in his letter: "I am to point out that control in connection with the licensing of persons to drive motor vehicles is a matter for Provincial Councils, and there would appear to be nothing to prevent the introduction into the Councils of legislation with a view to ensuring stricter control than is at present exercised over the driving of motor cars by persons, irrespective of colour, who are or might become a source of danger to the community."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH, 1935

SLUM CLEARANCE OR SEGREGATION?

THE question of slum clearance is being tackled by the Durban Town Council in right earnest. A scheme for clearing 19 acres of slums at Mayville bounded by the Durban-Maritzburg Road, Randles Road and Orient Lane has been decided upon. Some time ago, it will be remembered, the Borough Engineer Mr. R. W. Watson had put forward a luxurious scheme to turn the said area into a heaven on earth for the European at a cost of £81,203, which included £8,000 for a swimming bath and a layout for recreation ground. The scheme was supported by the Public Health Committee but it was decided that nothing could be done until a suitable place could be found to house the Indians and Natives that were to be thrown out of their present dwellings. Moreover it was stated by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. H. Gunn, that in the area proposed to be declared there were several premises on which nuisances did not exist, and that in terms of the Slums Act he was precluded from issuing certificates unless nuisances actually existed. The Slums Act, however, provides that if a local authority is satisfied that the removal of a slum within certain specified boundaries can best be done by the declaration of the whole area as a slum regardless of whether there are certain premises on which no nuisance exists, then the local authority can by resolution declare such an area a slum. The Public Health Committee has recommended this action to the Town Council which recommendation the latter has adopted without a single dissident. The recommendation reads as follows:

"That the Town Council declare that it is satisfied

that the removal of nuisances existing on premises situate within an area bounded by the Maritzburg Main Road, Randles Road and Orient Lane at Mayville can be most effectively dealt with under the Slums Act No. 53 of 1934, by treating the premises situate within that area as a single set of premises and that in terms of Section 16 of the Act all the premises situate within that area shall be deemed to constitute a single set of premises, notwithstanding within that area are included premises upon which no nuisance exists."

The Public Health Committee has further recommended that the Cato Manor Estate be reserved for Indian housing together with a portion of the Springfield Estate.

The Borough Engineer has stated in his report that while it would cost the Council £81,203 to put into effect the elaborate scheme of a swimming bath and recreation ground it would cost £15,000 to improve the area without disturbing the present occupants.

The proper course, in our opinion, not only in the present case but in all cases where slum conditions exist, would be not to remove the present occupants to some other localities but to take steps to improve the same localities. This is what is done in the case of Europeans wherever they may be and there is no justification in treating Indians or for that matter any other race differently. While we sincerely desire to be helpful to the authorities in the administration of the Slums Act in so far as the question of public health and sanitation is concerned we cannot

help seeing in the present project of the Durban Town Council an attempt under the cloak of slum clearance, to clear the added areas of Durban of their Indian population—a desire which has existed for years but has remained unfulfilled. In the circumstances the Indian community cannot but protest.

Well Done Transvaal Indians

WE heartily congratulate Mr. Jajbhay, one of the wealthiest merchants of Johannesburg, for the lead he gave by donating £161 at last Sunday's meeting which was called for the purpose of opening a fund for the relief of the distressed in the Quetta earthquake. The Indian community is grateful to Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Minister of the Interior, for having graced the meeting with his presence and for having presided. We are not at all surprised at this kind and generous act of his. These qualities of his are now well known. Whilst it cannot be said that the Indian community is too happy under the present Government it could safely be said that had it not been for an enlightened and a generous Minister of the Interior such as Mr. Hofmeyr is, their position would have perhaps grown very much worse. Last Sunday's meeting has shown worthily its appreciation for the presence of Mr. Hofmeyr, by raising over £1,000 within thirty minutes. Indians have before them appeals from Sir Syed Raza Ali and the S. A. Red Cross Society. But this is surely not an occasion which requires an appeal from anyone. The tragedy is eloquent enough to move the stoniest heart. We trust therefore that no one will indulge merely in lip sympathy and that the lead given by the Transvaal Indians will be taken by Indians throughout South Africa and that they will contribute liberally in this humanitarian cause. It would not be too much if our sporting bodies and other entertainment houses were to give a show in aid of the Quetta earthquake sufferers.

QUETTA EARTHQUAKE

RELIEF FUNDS OPENED

TRANSVAAL INDIANS' MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE

A SUM of £1,020 was collected for the fund to help the sufferers in the Quetta earthquake disaster at a meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress in Johannesburg last Sunday. The meeting was addressed by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Minister of the Interior, and by the Agent of the Government of India, Sir Syed Raza Ali. After a number of speeches, one man jumped on the platform and said this was not the time for flowery speeches—they should come forward with their contributions. He presented 100 guineas to the fund on behalf of Jajhbay Brothers, and afterwards increased this to £161. Men and children came forward with contributions, some with £100 cheques, some with notes and some with pennies. Mr. Jasub Ebrahim Gardee presented £150 and Sir Syed Raza Ali £40.

Lord Mayor's Fund

The Lord Mayor of London has opened a fund towards the relief of the Quetta earthquake sufferers. The King and Queen have promised donations of £500 and £250 respectively. In his appeal, which the Lord Mayor makes on behalf of Sir Samuel Hoare and the Viceroy, he says: "Anything like exact figures are at present impossible, but the fatalities are estimated at over

40,000. Tens of thousands are absolutely destitute and have been evacuated to other districts."

S.A. Red Cross Appeal

A cable from the Comite International de la Croix Rouge, Geneva, and the League of Red Cross Societies, has been received by the president of the South African Red Cross Society, Dr. A. J. Orenstein, C.M.G., stating that the magnitude of the disaster which has overtaken Baluchistan is so appalling that international action by Red Cross Societies in sponsoring an appeal is urgently requested.

The deathroll among the Indian population is nearly 60,000 and among the British residents 100. The damage to the property is estimated at £2,000,000.

All available doctors and nurses, with the co-operation of the Army and a large number of volunteers, are engaged in relief operations.

The Red Cross Society of India is doing its utmost, but funds for the immediate relief of the starving and destitute are urgently required.

The South African Red Cross Society appeals to the people of South Africa, irrespective of colour, creed or race, to help in this great emergency. All donations will be transmitted by cable to

the Indian Red Cross Society without any deductions.

Donations should be sent to the South African Red Cross Society, P.O. Box 3266, Johannesburg; P.O. Box 3197, Capetown; P.O. Box 154, Bloemfontein; 14 permanent Mutual Buildings, Mercury Lane, Durban.

The Agent Expresses Gratefulness

"I am deeply grateful to Dr. Orenstein and his Society for sponsoring this appeal, which I fully endorse," states Sir Syed Raza Ali, Agent of the Government of India in the Union.

"I appeal to my people in general to support the noble efforts of the Red Cross Society with generous donations. I have for many years been connected with the Indian Red Cross Society and am well aware of its humanitarian objects.

"The people affected are desperately poor. Many of them have lost their lives. Their houses have been razed to the ground, their crops have been ruined. Their suffering is more acute than is generally realised.

"The British doctors, nurses and soldiers are working day and night to bring help. Response to the appeal of the South African Red Cross Society will materially help this work of bringing succour to the afflicted."

NEGLECTED AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN INQUIRY COMMITTEE INDIANS GIVE EVIDENCE

THE urgent need for industrial schools or certified institutions and hostels to which destitute Indian children could be sent, was emphasised last week by the Natal Indian Teachers Association and the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society when giving evidence before the Education Departmental Committee of Inquiry concerning neglected and delinquent children.

It was pointed out to the Committee that there existed no institution or industrial school solely for destitute Indian children.

A statement by the Teachers Association said:

"The extreme poverty of Indians in the lower walks of life causes an enormous amount of 'neglect' which might come within the scope of the term 'neglect' in the Children's Protection Act

"The root causes of the evil may be stated as follow:

"There is no free and compulsory education for Indian children with the result that illiteracy and ignorance are very often the legacies passed on from one generation to the next"

"There is very little provision being made for indigent children to be supplied with free meals.

"Indian children do not enjoy the benefits of free medical attention at school, and at home their circumstances are such that they cannot afford to obtain medical attention for even the more serious ailments.

"The committal of children to institutions is only a second best course. Committals to private persons whose qualifications for such a responsibility are satisfactory is preferable."

"The ordinary routine of Court procedure should be abolished when dealing with delinquent children. In the pre-

liminary stages when arrests are made the police should grant bail for all offences in the case of juveniles, and the parent or guardian should be made responsible and warned to produce the child or to the commissioner presiding over the inquiry."

Statements on similar lines were submitted by the Durban Indian Child Welfare Society and the Colonial-born and Settlers Indian Association.

The members of the Teachers Association who appeared before the Committee of Inquiry were Messrs G. V. Naidoo (President), A. D. Lazarus (Secretary), A. Rai and T. M. Naicker.

The members of the Welfare Society were Mrs. G. Christopher, Mrs. F. M. Sundrum and Mrs. S. J. Joseph. The members of the Colonial-born and Settlers Association were Messrs. A. Christopher, S. L. Singh and D. S. Chetty.

USEFULNESS OF THE INDIAN

The Farmer in its issue of May 31, reviewing the progress Natal has made, writes:—

SOUTH AFRICA, a land of many, races, offers the industrialist this supreme advantage, that there is available at all times a large reservoir of native and Indian labour for rough work and routine factory tasks.

This labour is cheap as well as abundant. Its existence has assisted, and is still assisting, in a marked degree the development of the country's mining, agricultural and industrial resources. The prosperous sugar growing industry of Natal, originally established by the help of imported Indian labour, finds its chief mainstay in an Indian army of mill and field-workers drawn from the Asiatic and Bantu races.

Not the least of Durban's attractions for the industrialist is its large force of native and Asiatic labour. Of the present estimated population of 'Greater Durban,' i.e., the municipal area and its surrounding districts, approximately fifty per cent. are of the coloured races. Resulting from the presence of this army of non-European workers, the white man, as a labour unit is restricted in a considerable degree to the more highly-paid lines of the skilled trades or to the work of supervising and controlling the unskilled labourers.

In Durban Borough alone there are over 30,000 working natives, and they are a body that can be reinforced at will from the Natal hinterland, and, if necessary, from further large reserves in the adjoining territories of East Griqualand, Pondoland and the Transkei.

Natives, Asiatics and Europeans are of course employed according to their gifts in an ascending scale of intelligence. While the Native, usually a good, honest worker, cheerful and industrious, is necessarily restricted to the lower and rougher forms of work, the Asiatic is, as a rule, capable of performing duties calling for a far greater measure of skill and intelligence, while the positions of responsibility, entailing duties of supervision and organisation, are naturally allocated to European employees.

One outstanding difference marks the employment of natives and Asiatics. While the native, as a general thing, prefers to fend for himself in the matter of food and drink, the Asiatic is commonly employed on inclusive terms—wages plus rations.

The Durban Corporation provides four large eating-houses for natives, native quarters with dormitory accommodation for 8,000 and a married natives' village of 120 cottages. The native women have a hostel with housing provision for 250 at their disposal and at the Point and Congella there are barracks for toggt boys (natives who work by the day) and for ricksha-pullers. Moreover, a scheme for a new native village and location outside the Borough is being rapidly developed, besides other quarters within the municipal area. The native, a healthy fellow, can show a death-rate lower than that of the European. During the year the death-rate figures per 1,000 of the population were:—

Europeans, 8.42; natives, 6.75; Asiatics, 14.54, and coloureds, 10.25

Since liquor is prohibited to the natives, its sale to them being a criminal offence, the Durban Corporation has established a municipal native brewery where kafir beer, similar to that prepared by the Bantu people in their kraals, is manufactured for the sale at native Eating-houses. It is a healthful, unharmed drink, with an alcoholic content of only 2.28 per cent. and can be described as a nourishing food.

Fairly treated, both natives and Indians make loyal and willing workers. The prevailing rates of pay are approximately as follows: Natives, 2s. 6d. to 3s. per days with living quarters; Indians 1. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per day, plus rations and quarters.

On an entirely different plane is the question of the housing of European employees, since individuals of the white races especially men and women with family responsibilities, naturally prefer to make their own arrangements. Nevertheless a word must be said as to the housing schemes of the Durban Corporation. Fourteen of these schemes have been inaugurated comprising 344 dwelling houses, 268 of them detached and 76 semi-detached. The houses consist of two, three, four and five rooms together with kitchen, pantry, bathroom and outhouses. All have been erected by private contractors on town lands and sales have been effected at cost price plus the value of such land. The average size of each building plot is about 1/9th of an acre.

Apart from these municipal housing schemes the town is rapidly overtaking the shortage of accommodation that became so acute in the years following the European war. Houses of desirable type are being erected in plenty. Numerous large blocks of residential flats have been supplied.

TOLL GATE SLUM PROBLEM

LEGAL DIFFICULTIES OVERCOME

THE Borough Engineer, Mr. R. W. Watson, in another report circulated to town councillor's states that the difference between the cost of effecting improvements in the Orient Lane area and leaving it as presently occupied, and that of carrying out a first class slum clearance and rehousing scheme for Indians and Natives is £56,403.

The net cost of the recommended slum clearance scheme for this area is £81,203, which sum includes £8,000 for a swimming bath and the layout of a recreation ground.

"Should the Council decide not to proceed with this scheme," states Mr. Watson, "it must still be prepared to spend £15,800 on the general improvement of the Orient Lane area and

£9,000 for the purchase of land and construction of a swimming bath for Mayville and Sydenham."

The report points out that actually the total cost of clearing the 19 acres comprising the Orient Lane area and then rehousing the Indian population and the Native population of the whole of Sydenham and Mayville would be £128,678.

This figure includes £30,000 for the acquisition of 400 acres of hilly ground for rehousing the Native population of the whole of Mayville and Sydenham. The cost of rehousing the Natives of the Orient Lane area would only be £1,500 so that from the figure of £128,678, £28,500 and £18,975 (the value of the Orient Lane area) should be deducted.

This leaves the cost of the scheme at £81,203.

Indian Housing

Mr. Watson further reports that a population 2,500 and 3,000 Indians could be comfortably rehoused on a suitable portion of Springfield Estate. They could be provided with school, shopping, market and other facilities. Development should be carried out on simple lines.

The cost of houses built in pairs each containing three rooms, together with the ground would be approximately £280 for each dwelling.

The economic yearly rent would then be £27 15s. and the sub-economic rent £16 11s.—the Government and Corporation each sustaining a loss of £5 12s per dwelling.

Allowing five persons per house the loss each year to the Municipality on each person housed would be approximately £1 2s. 6d. If the whole area included in the layout were utilised for the sub-economic housing of Indians the annual loss when the area is fully built on would be about £3,000.

"It is not suggested that the Council should carry out sub-economic housing schemes for Indians on an extensive scale, but rather that this system of housing should be reserved for the poorest class. A sub-economic scheme will, however, be found necessary if the existing slum areas are to be effectively cleared—unless it is unsuitable for the housing of Indian families.

Orient Lane

It will be remembered that subsequent to the Public Health Committee supporting the Borough Engineer's slum clearance scheme for the Orient Lane area the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. G. H. Gunn, stated that in the area proposed to be declared there were

several premises on which nuisances did not exist, and that in terms of the Slums Act he was precluded from issuing certificates unless nuisances actually existed.

Subsequently the M.O.H reported that nuisances existed on nine sets of dwelling premises in the Orient Lane area. The Public Health Committee thereupon directed that the owners of these premises be called upon to show sufficient cause why their premises should not be condemned. This was not acted upon.

The Town Solicitors have now advised that if the Council wishes to treat the Orient Lane area as a whole for slum clearance purposes it would be necessary for it to pass a resolution in the following form:

"That the Town Council declare that it is satisfied that the removal of nuisances situated within an area bounded by... can be most effectively dealt with under the Slums Act No. 53 of 1934, by treating the premises situated within that area as a single set of premises and that in terms of

Section 16 of the Act all the premises situated within that area shall be deemed to constitute a single set of premises notwithstanding that within that area are included premises upon which no nuisance exists."

In a special memorandum to Councillors the Town Clerk states that the plans of the Orient Lane area reveal that five independent but adjacent sets of premises at the corner of Orient Lane and the Main Road could very conveniently be omitted from the area for Proclamation purposes, and if necessary dealt with later under Section 17 of the Slums Act.

"If it is intended," the Town Clerk adds, "to treat the premises as a whole the Council must pass the above resolution before any action is taken to serve notices upon the owners of those premises where the Medical Officer of Health is satisfied that nuisances exist."

The rateable value of the premises on which nuisances exist amounts to £14,130 and on those properties where there is no nuisance £17,020.

[The above is dealt with in our leading article—Ed. I.O.]

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

COST OF BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY IN INDIA

To the Editor "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—I was interested to read in your issue of 31st May, on page 195 an account of a Lecture by Dr. Roux. In this he is reported to have said that a minimum of 75% of India's Revenue was exhausted in the maintenance of the British Army and Navy in India as well as the pensions that were annually drawn from the same source.

I am afraid that whoever reported the lecture missed the meaning of the lecturer badly, for no one of Dr. Roux' ability would ever publicly make such a false statement.

The facts are easily available in any public library. They are given for the last year before publication on pp. 730 and 731 of Whitaker's Almanac for 1935. They are as follows:—

The Revenue of India consists of two parts:

(A) Central Revenue (net)—8284 lakhs of rupees. (B) Provincial Revenue—8434 lakhs of rupees. Total—16718.

The total net expenditure on Army and Navy in India is 4674 lakhs. The total net expenditure on pensions in India is 852 lakhs. Total—5526.

This shows that the total amount spent on the Army and Navy and Pensions is not "a minimum of 75%" but is less than 33%.

But even this is not on the British Army and Navy in India or on pensions

for British pensioners. It includes the cost of the Indian Army and the pensions paid to Indian pensioners. The exact amount of these is not stated, but as regards these details a calculation can be made as follows:—

The Simon Commission report on page 94 of Volume I gives the comparative numbers of the British and Indian troops and also the comparative cost. From this it appears that the cost of the British troops is less than 24/39 of the whole.

As regards British pensioners compared with Indian pensioners, the number of British pensioners is very much less than the number of Indian pensioners; but their pensions are in the main higher even though some of the Indian pensioners are drawing large pensions such as ex-High Court Judges and others who held high office in various civil services. It is therefore probable that the total amount of pension received by British pensioners is considerably less than the total amount of pensions received by Indian pensioners. But in order to give the anti-British side all possible allowance it would be reasonable to allow the British pensioners to draw half the total though it is probably much less.

Taking these two facts into consideration, the amount spent on the British Army and Navy and British pensioners

works out at under 21%—a very different figure from the 75% suggested in the report of Dr. Roux' lecture.

May I add that the number of British Civil Servants who "a short while prior to their retirement were transferred to the Indian Civil service and, in consequence, drew pensions on retirement from the coffers of the Indian Exchequer" is extremely small? They consist of a very few persons who are needed for very special posts such as the financial member of Viceroy's Council or Governors of Provinces who sometimes (not always) are chosen from outside India. I expect it will be found that even these only draw a proportion of the pensions from India; a proportion equivalent to the valuable services which they have rendered to that country. The total amount of their pensions must be only a tiny part of the whole pensions.

The economic aspect is therefore entirely different to that represented in the report of the Lecture.

I am sure that you would not wish unwittingly to do grave injustice to the Government of India or to any other persons of any race, and therefore I think you will be glad to have the exact figures which are so absolutely different to those given.—Yours etc.,

C. J. Ferguson-Davie (Bishop).
Fort Hare,
7 June 1935.

THE FUTURE OF WHITE CIVILISATION IN AFRICA

By

R. F. ALFRED HOERNLE
In 'The South African Opinion'

The writer, who is the Professor of Philosophy at the Rand University, and who needs no introduction to the public as an authority on native affairs, replies to a recent article contributed by Mr. Pirow to a local weekly.

CAN White, or better, Western, Civilisation maintain itself in Africa? On what conditions does its survival depend? Here in South Africa, more particularly, does its continued existence demand the continued dominance of the White population over the Black population?

These important questions have recently been dealt with by the Hon. Mr. Oswald Pirow, our Minister of Defence and Railway, in an article contributed by him to the *Sunday Express* of April 21st. His reply may be summed up by saying that the survival of Western civilisation, certainly in South Africa, and perhaps in the whole of Africa, depends on the maintenance by the White man of his political, social, economic dominance over the Black man. Destiny, so Mr. Pirow holds, has laid upon the white race what is at once a moral duty and a historic mission, viz., to preserve in a barbarian land, amidst uncivilised or semi-civilised Blacks, the White civilisation which it shares with the White peoples in Europe and America. To this end, it is entitled to use whatever means it may find necessary—colour bars to keep the Native out of skilled jobs; exclusion from the franchise, lest by his numbers he gains political power; social discriminations and disabilities of all sorts lest he rise to social equality; in short, whatever will keep the Native in "his" place, which is the place assigned to him in what Mr. Pirow prettily calls the White Man's "philosophy of life."

Stripped of all disguises, this philosophy is nothing more or less than a philosophy of race-war—no doubt, a war meant to be fought mainly by bloodless weapons, legal, political, economic, but a war none the less. Beautiful phrases concerning the "obligation" of the White man "to help the Native develop and progress on his own lines towards the highest level of civilisation of which he is capable," can disguise the naked truth only from the thoughtless and gullible.

The fundamental question, thus, is: Can Western civilisation be maintained at all by means of a race-war which is in the main bloodless now, but which may one day end, as it began, in the shedding of blood? Mr. Pirow's answer appears to be "Yes." I want to put forward some argument for thinking that the answer should be "No."

(1) Africa is now inescapably in the orbit of Western civilisation. The whole of it, with qualifications affecting only Egypt and Abyssinia, if under the over-

lordship of European powers, or like South Africa, of peoples of European descent. So long as Africa remains in that orbit, Western civilisation will survive, being fed by a constant coming and going, from and to Europe, of administrators, officials, traders, missionaries—a host of men, and women, too, of diverse interests, who, without any desire to settle permanently and found homes for their children and their children's children, yet establish European institutions and spread European civilisation. Even the areas of permanent white settlement still need, and certainly maintain, this vital contact with the fountain-heads of European civilisation in Europe or America. The leaders of Afrikaans Kultuur, in every field of thought and art, have almost, without exception, had a period, more or less prolonged, of overseas study. From this point of view, Western civilisation is safe in Africa as long as it endures in Europe. Nothing can destroy it in Africa except a collapse in Europe which dethrones European nations, through mutual destruction in internecine war, from the leadership of the world. And even the Western civilisation might still survive in Africa, if it survived in America, and if Africa came into the orbit of America as it is now in the orbit of Europe.

So considered, Mr. Pirow's analogies from past history need not disquieten us. He reminds us of the remains of extensive metal-mining in the Northern Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia, the ruins of Zimbabwe, etc., in order to suggest that, just as the high civilisation which worked these mines and erected these structures has vanished from Africa, so Western civilisation may vanish in its turn.

The most recent investigations throw a somewhat different light on the matter. On the one hand, they suggest that this high civilisation reached South Africa at two, if not three, removes. If it had its birthplace, as Frobenius believes, in ancient Sumer, it seems thence to have spread to Southern India, and to have come to South Africa either from

Southern India direct, or via the Malay Archipelago.

And, on the other hand, whilst it is possible that it reached South Africa by this rather tortuous route in a somewhat debased form, yet it is clear that, though its irrigation-practices fell into disuse, its religious ideas and ceremonies survived among the African peoples with considerable vigour. It was their very survival to the present day which enabled Frobenius to discover them. Thus it is certainly not a story of complete disappearance, and should rather lead us to believe that Western civilisation, if freely and generously shared with the Africans, will be retained by them likewise.

In any case, with modern facilities for communication, education, and culture-spread, Western civilisation is over against the African in a far stronger position than its ancient predecessor. Short of a European cataclysm, Western civilisation has come to stay in Africa, even in those parts where there is not now, and is not likely to be ever, any permanent white settlement. Even if European control were to be relaxed in time, contact with Europe would not cease, so long as Africa has raw materials to offer which Europe needs, markets to be exploited, human beings to be converted to Christianity or to be educated. For, Western civilisation, perhaps because of the missionary spirit of Christianity woven into its whole tradition, is incurably proselytising and self-communicating. Western civilisation would be untrue to itself were it to abandon the urge to give itself to others and to mould others to its own pattern.

(2) It is, of course, true that if all Europeans were to withdraw now from Africa, Western civilisation would soon dwindle away or degenerate out of all recognition. For the present, and for a long time to come the survival of Western civilisation is bound up with the presence of white men and women as its carriers. Though individual Natives have adopted Western civilisation in varying degrees, the vast mass of black humanity throughout Africa has not yet been sufficiently touched to be able to preserve and develop even what it has got.

But, as every keen observer notes, Africa is changing fast, and the African with it. They are changing under the many-sided impact of Western civilisation, and in a direction determined by their desire to assimilate and make their own as much of that Christianity as they can, sometimes with a speed and a lack

of discrimination which fills us with misgivings.

Still, this phenomenon which is sweeping like an irresistible tide across the whole continent, suggests at least two remarks.

The first is that civilisation and race, or blood are independent. Those modern anthropologists who believe that every "element" of human culture has been invented or originated once only, and has then spread from this place of its birth by "culture-diffusion" to other peoples and continents, cannot but agree that culture elements are not bound up with race or blood in the biological sense. And, even those who do not accept this theory of a single origin of every culture element, must still admit, in the light both of history and of contemporary experience, that individuals, especially if caught young, are almost indefinitely mouldable to different culture patterns, and that resistance, and especially strong resistance, to culture-change and "progress" in response to the stimulus of foreign example, is always a social phenomenon, reflecting the cohesion and individuality of a given social group.

A white child brought up exclusively in a Bantu kraal, would become in outlook, manners, ideals, a white-skinned Bantu. A black child brought up exclusively in European surroundings would become a black-skinned European. There is nothing in white-skinned human nature which predestines it to civilisation of the Western type; and there is nothing in black-skinned human nature which makes the adoption, or acquisition, of a civilisation of that type in principle impossible.

I am inclined to suspect that Mr. Pirow is of the opposite opinion; that he believes Western civilisation to be the exclusive achievement of whites, if not even merely of Nordics or Aryans, and the South African Natives to be, by reason of some congenital inferiority of mental endowment, incapable of assimilating Western civilisation except in an externally imitative way. At any rate, something like such a belief in the inseparable connection of race and culture, or civilisation, seems to be implied in his remark that he is quite "certain" that the mythological ideas expressed in some of the so-called Bushman paintings did not "originate in the brains of Bushmen." I trust that, from recollections of what he learnt in his school-days, he is equally certain that Christianity did not originate in the brains of his Aryan ancestors in the colder climes of Europe. Or will he, perhaps, explain to Calvinistic-minded Afrikaners that Christianity is not an essential part of "White" civilisation?

Is not the example of Christianity, and for that matter, of other prosely-

tising religions like Buddhism of old, and Mohammedanism, most instructive for our present argument? All these religions have always communicated themselves across all barriers of race or blood, all social fences and political boundaries.

In fact, Race, Civilisation, State, though they often, for historical reasons go together, are none the less in essence distinct. Element of civilisation may spread across the dividing lines of race and citizenship; members of the same racial stock may belong to different states and participate in different cultures; the same state may comprise within itself diverse racial and cultural elements.

The conclusion which I suggest is this. At present, the maintenance of Western civilisation in Africa is bound up with the presence, whether as permanent settlers, or as temporary workers, of men and women brought up in that civilisation, which in practice means men and women brought up in Europe, in America or in those parts of Africa where white settlements have been established. But, this connection of Western civilisation with white-skinned human beings is not, in principle, necessary. In proportion as Western civilisation communicates itself to, and is adopted by, Black Africans—and there is no good evidence of any congenital obstacle to such adoption—it will become independent of its present "White" basis and be carried on by Black men, even as it is at this present day being carried on by many Hindoos and Japanese. **It is perfectly conceivable that the future survival of Western civilisation in Africa should come about through its becoming the dominant element in the future civilisation of black Africans. May one not say that a civilisation lives through the human beings who practise it and express themselves through it; and that the more men own a civilisation, the better its chance of survival. I repeat: Western civilisation is one thing; the White race is another. And the fate of the one is not necessarily the fate of the other.**

(3) Probably, Mr. Pirow will not accept this reasoning. For he argues in his article that, in South Africa at any rate, the future of Western civilisation is dependent on the continued dominance of its white population.

Never, so Mr. Pirow assures, will the white man agree to "forfeit his guardianship over the Native"; never will he "grant the Native social and political

"equality." And to emphasise his point he quotes Dr. G. M. Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, as having said in London that "until human nature has absolutely changed, the white man will not accept the African as an equal socially or politically."

Blessed word—"human nature"! To appeal to it is to found one's argument seemingly on bedrock. Unfortunately, however, human nature, in the fundamental sense apparently intended by Dr. Huggins, has nothing to do with the matter. For we are not dealing here with fundamental congenital qualities, but with acquired group-attitudes, which are historically conditioned, and changeable with a change in the conditions that produce and now maintain them. If fundamental humane nature were involved, how could we explain—to mention only a few examples at random—that on the Gold Coast, white officials meet black judges and doctors on terms of social equality; that the Anglican clergy, white and black, marched and sat side by side at the enthronement of the Bishop of Johannesburg; nay, that white South African sprinters, the best whom we could send, did not disdain to compete against and be beaten by, two American Negroes at the last Olympic Games? Are we to suppose that all these either are not "human," or else that they experienced an "absolute change of human nature" for the occasion? There are countries where whites erect, and insist on, social and political barriers between themselves and non-whites, and there are other countries where they live with non-whites on terms of social equality (which, however, do not necessarily imply miscegenation). "Human nature," as such, does not enter.

In fact, the situation in South Africa is this: the White population insists on maintaining its social, political and economic dominance (politely called "guardianship") over the Native people. To justify its policy, it takes advantage of the admitted fact that, at present, the survival of Western Civilisation in the Sub-Continent requires the presence of a White population. But this plea can hold "for ever" only if either the Natives are constitutionally incapable of acquiring Western Civilisation and maintaining it on their own account; or if, in the interests of continued White dominance, they are deliberately prevented from assimilating Western Civilisation to the best of their ability.

(To be continued)

THINGS IN GENERAL

Rural Dealers Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance

A DEPUTATION of the Natal Indian Congress submitted a memorandum to the Minister of the Interior on the Rural Dealers Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance No 4 of 1935 which was recently passed by the Natal Provincial Council. A copy of the memorandum which has been sent to us for publication has reached us too late to appear in this issue.

Republic Or Our Own King

General Kemp Union Minister of Agriculture was the principal speaker at "Afrikaner Dag" at Brits (Transvaal) on Saturday June 8. He said that South Africa could appoint its own King if it so wished, and could proclaim a republic at any time by constitutional means or by means of weapons. "I shot the enemy in 1914, but to-day I am afraid of the airships," said the Minister. Dealing with the political situation, General Kemp said that the members of the Dominion Party had never made South Africa their home. He expressed surprise that the "purified" Nationalists would not join the United Party.

Teachers Warned About The Danger Of Poisonous Plant

The series of articles on poisonous plants, which has been appearing in "The Natal Mercury" recently was commended to the notice of school teachers by Mr. J. H. Lawlor, Chief Inspector of Schools in Natal. Mr. Lawlor said that he hoped that teachers, particularly those dealing with Nature study, would draw the attention of children to any poisonous plants that might be found in the vicinity of the schools. In view of the fact that the identification of plants might be difficult for those not trained in botany, he suggested that teachers should warn children against eating all berries and leaves during the coming holidays. This would deprive children of very little and would keep on the safe side.

Coloured Peoples' Commission

The commission appointed last year by the Government to study the question of the position of the coloured peoples of South Africa will sit in Kokstad on July 15. Dr. Abdurahman, M. P. C., is a member of the Commission.

Dominion's Right To Abolish Appeals To Privy Council

Judgment was delivered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council upon the question whether, since the passing of the Statute of Westminster,

the Dominions have the power to abolish the right of appeal from their Courts to the King in Council. The effect of two judgments delivered by the Lord Chancellor that Canada has the right to abolish appeals to the King in criminal cases and that the Irish Free State has the power to abolish the right of appeal to the King in Council from the Courts of Southern Ireland.

Welcome To Mr. A. C. Moola

We heartily welcome Mr. A. C. Moola, of the well known firm of Messrs M. M. Amod and Company, of Ladysmith, who having completed his pilgrimage to Mecca and his tour of the Eastern countries has returned by the Kenya last week.

Another S. A. Indian Left For England

Mr. Ahmed A. Rehman, son of Mr. A. R. A. Gani the well known merchant of Western Transvaal and Klerksdorp, who recently passed his Senior Cambridge examination at the Madras University in India, has left for London in Arundale Castle to study for I. O. S. Mr. Rehman was given a farewell party at which leading Indians from Johannesburg, Bloemhof, Wolmaranstad and other towns gathered under the chairmanship of Mr. Mirza, of Johannesburg. Mr. Mirza emphasised in his speech the need for more education among the Indian community, and begged parents to provide funds for starting a temporary school at Klerksdorp. In honour of the occasion Mr. Rehman's father, Mr. A. R. A. Gani, sent the Mayor a present of clothes for the poor and a small sum for the Mohammedan cemetery. Mr. Rehman was the recipient of many congratulatory messages from the different parts of the Union wishing him every success. Mr. A. R. A. Gani wishes to thank all those friends who have shown kindness to his son in Capetown and elsewhere before his departure.

Fruit Displays On Footpaths

At a meeting of the Ladysmith Town Council, held on Thursday June 6 and presided over by the mayor, Mr. O. B. Jones, a letter was tabled by the secretary, Ladysmith Ratepayers' and Burgesses' Association, advising that at the monthly meeting of the association attention was drawn to the practice of Indian fruiterers in the borough displaying quantities of fruit and vegetables on the pavements in front of their premises: in some instances causing obstruction to traffic. His association desired the council to have this practice stopped, and it was also pointed out that as there was a danger of contamination no edible fruit should be allowed within 2ft of the ground. The borough engineer and

health inspector reported that, pending the council arriving at a definite policy in this matter, he had enforced a minimum height of 2ft. above the pavement level. After some discussion, in which councilors generally expressed that they were not in favour of prohibiting fruit displayed in front of fruiterer's shops, it was agreed that the action of the borough engineer be approved.

S. A. Institute of Race Relations

Durban has been selected as the venue of the seventh ordinary meeting of the council of the South African Institute of race relations. The meeting is to take place on Tuesday, July 9, and Wednesday, July 10, in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall. Among the topics to be discussed are:—The report of the commission on the illicit liquor traffic on the Witwatersrand; radio services for non-Europeans; the Native Draft Bills; the report of commission on Indian Land Tenure (if published); and proposals for research. On the evening of July 9, there will be a reception and concert at the Bantu Social Centre; and on the evening of the 10th, a public meeting, at which prominent public men will speak on problems of Race Relations. All ordinary members of the Institute have the right to attend the council meetings, as well as the general public gatherings.

Str. G. Corbett's Appointment In Egypt

A cable to the Statesman India, from its London Correspondent on the authority of the Manchester Guardian states that the vernacular press in Egypt is greatly agitated over the appointment of Sir Geoffrey Corbett, formerly Secretary, Commerce Department, Government of India as technical expert in the Department of Industry in Egypt. Sir Corbett will have direct access to the Minister. It is maintained in Egyptian press that despite denial by the Premier that the appointment concession has been made at the instigation of the British Government and apart from it being a rebuff to Egypt's aspirations for complete independence, it will place Egyptian trade largely in British hands.

Mustapha Kemal To Visit India

It is understood that on an invitation from Japan, Mustapha Kemal Pasha has proposed to tour the Far East. On his way to Japan, he is expected to visit Iraq, Arabia, Afghanistan and India. Three of his ministers may accompany him. It is stated by a prominent merchant from Bucharest that the proposed tour is a friendly one with no political significance attached to it.

WELCOME TO DR. AND MRS. M. R. PETERS

THAT the future of the Indians in South Africa was associated with the advancement of their women-folk was stressed by several of the speakers at the public welcome reception given to Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Peters under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch) at the H. Y. M. A. Hall on Sunday night last. The Hall was filled to its utmost capacity.

In extending greetings to Dr. Peters, the President of the Association, and Mrs. Peters, Mr. Pillay said that they would look upon Mrs. Peters to take a share in the public life of this country,

particularly among the poorer section of the women of their community. He wished and prayed that the future of the couple be crowned with health, wealth and prosperity. He garlanded Dr. Peters and presented a bouquet to Mrs. Peters as well as a cutlery set from the Association.

After Mr. A. Christopher and others had spoken, Dr. Peters expressed on behalf of his wife and himself their deepest thanks for the good wishes and referred to his visit to Dr. Rabindranath Tagore who had sent a message to South Africans to be on friendly terms with the natives of this country. Dr.

Peters also met Sir J. C. Bose, the famous scientist and other prominent statesmen.

At the commencement of the meeting the following resolution was unanimously adopted, while the audience stood up as a mark of respect and offered prayers in silence to God:

"That this meeting, convened under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch) assembled at the H.Y.M.A. Hall on June 9, 1935 records its deepest sympathy with the families of the victims in the recent ghastly earthquake which occurred in Quetta, India."

INDIA

NEW POST FOR RT. HON. SASTRI

THE "United Press" reliably understands that the vice-chancellorship of the Annamalai University has been offered to Right Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri, who is now leading a retired life at the Servants of India Society, Poona. It is further learnt that Mr. Sastri will be expected generally to supervise over the affairs of the University, while the actual working of office routine will be made over to some other officer. It is interesting to recall in this connection that Mr. Sastri was once actually appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University but before he could sign a single paper in this capacity was called to take up duties as Agent of the Government of India in South Africa.

INDIA BILL DEBATE

On the third reading of the India Bill which opened in the House of Commons on Tuesday June 4, is now passed. Sir Samuel Hoare delivered the principal speech. His main points are reported to have been that the Bill had already killed the boycott movement in India, that there was no practicable alternative to it, and that it was impossible to be con-

tent merely with the *status quo*. He was able to assure the House that the non-co operation movement was diminishing in India. He was convinced the Bill could be worked successfully pointing out that the Indians and English in India had co-operated in working the exceedingly difficult Montague-Chelmsford reforms. "The Bill," said Sir Samuel, "enshrines within its four corners the majestic conception of government which is in accordance with the best traditions of Britain in Asia." In his final remarks he claimed that the Bill gave to India organic unity which it had never possessed before, and would act at a difficult time as a bridge between Asia and Europe.

MR. RAJAGOPALACHARI TO TAKE REST

Mr. C Rajagopalachariar, who returned to Madras from Jubbulpore, after a halt at Wardha, was interviewed by a representative of *The Hindu* he stated that he did not wish to anticipate the the Final decision of the Congress President, but it had been decided to give him (Mr. Rajagopalachari) the complete rest from all public activities that he

had asked for and Gandhiji had agreed to the course. Babu Rajendra Prasad would hold further consultations. Mr. Rajagopalachari added he would consult with some of his colleagues on the subject and issue a statement very soon. Whether it is retirement or leave, it seems it has been decided that, for the present, Mr. Rajagopalachari will have a complete holiday to recoup his health.

INDIANS WIN INTERNATIONAL

The "International" football match played on the Calcutta F. C. Ground last month between the Europeans and Indians ended in a convincing victory for the Indians by 3 goals to 1. The match was played in aid of the Jubilee fund. The crowd of 25,000 to 30,000 people who watched the match and many Indian football enthusiasts were treated to some good football and left the maidan in good humour. The Indians were much the better team and included P. Banerjee, S. Dutt, S. Mazumdar, Nassim, N. Ghose and Luxminarayana of the Indian team that toured South Africa last year.

Social And Personal

IN view of the extension of his term of office his Excellency the Governor-General will proceed to England for six months' leave about the middle of August or early in September. He will be accompanied by her Excellency, the Countess of Clarendon. During his Excellency's absence the Chief Justice, Sir John Wessels, will act as Officer Administering the Government.

The Prime Minister (General J. B. M. Hertzog) has arrived from London last Monday.

Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Minister of Interior, Public Health and Education, has returned from South West Africa and will be present at the centenary celebrations at Adams Mission on Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Barnett Potter, who has been editor of the *Natal Witness* from February 1931, is leaving to join the editorial staff of the *Star* Johannesburg. Mr. Potter takes up his new duties at the end of June.

Miss Y. Robertson, who is teaching in the Malvern Government-Aided Indian School has been transferred to St. Anthony's School. Miss Robertson was given a farewell reception by the Headmaster (Mr. G. Munger) and staff.

Natal Indian Congress

The annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress to have been held on Sunday the 9th June, 1935, has been postponed till Sunday the 7th day of July, 1935.

ASHWIN CHOWDEREE

T. N. BROOLA

Joint Hon. Secretaries

ઈન્ડિયન ઓપિનિયન

મહાત્મા ગાંધીજીના હસ્તે
સને ૧૯૦૩માં સ્થપાયું.

પુસ્તક ૩૩ મું. ફીનીક્સ, શુક્રવાર, તારીખ ૧૪ જુન ૧૯૩૫ અંક-૨૪.

નોંધ અને સમાચાર

આંદોલનનું નવું પ્રધાન મંડળ

શ્રી રામના વડા પ્રધાન મી. રેમસે મેકડોનલ્ડ પોતાના પદ પરથી નીવૃત્ત થયા છે. અને મી. રોનલી બેલ્કવીનના પ્રધાનપણા નીચે નવું પ્રધાનમંડળ નીમાયું છે. સર સેમ્યુઅલ હોર જેઓ હાંદી પ્રધાન હતા, તેઓ હવે પરદેશ આતાના પ્રધાન થયા છે અને મારકવેસ ઓફ એટલેન્ડ જેઓ ૧૯૧૬ થી ૧૯૨૨ સુધી બંગાળના ગવર્નર હતા તેઓ હાંદી પ્રધાન બન્યા છે. ડેમીનિયનના પ્રધાન તરીકે મી. જે. એચ. થોમસ હજી કાયમ રહ્યા છે અને મી. રેમસે મેકડોનલ્ડના પુત્ર મી. મેલકમ મેકડોનલ્ડ તાજ ના સરથાનોના પ્રધાન થયા છે. મી. મેલકમ મેકડોનલ્ડની વય માત્ર ૩૩ની હોઇ પ્રધાન મંડળમાં સૌથી નાના સભ્ય છે. માજી વડા પ્રધાન મી. રેમસે મેકડોનલ્ડ લોડ પ્રેસીડન્ટ ઓફ ધી કાઉન્સિલ થયા છે. તેમની જવાબદારી સંરક્ષણ દળોની પ્રવૃત્તિઓ પર દેખરખ રાખવાની અને શાહી સંરક્ષણની સખ-કમીટીના પ્રમુખ તરીકે કામ કરવાની રહેશે. એમ કહેવાય છે કે પીતા અને પુત્ર બન્ને સાથે પ્રધાનમંડળમાં હોવાનો બનાવ બ્રિટીશ પ્રધાનમંડળની ૭૦ વર્ષની તવારીખમાં આ પહેલવહેલો બનેલો છે. બ્રિટીશ પ્રધાનમંડળમાં થએલા આ ફેરફાર થી હાંદુસ્તાનને પોતાનું લાવી સુધારવાની જરાયે નવી આશા આવેલી હોય એવું માનવાને કંઇજ કારણ નથી. બલકે પસંદગી કરવાનો સવાલ તો હવે રહ્યોજ નથી. મી. રેમસે મેકડોનલ્ડ પાસેથી હાંદુસ્તાને કંઇ ઓછી આશાઓ નહોતી રાખેલી, પરંતુ તેઓ પણ ગાંધીએ આવ્યા એટલે પોતાના વચનો સર્વથા ભુલી ગયા છે. વળી મારકવેસ ઓફ એટલેન્ડ તો હાંદુસ્તાનમાં નિકરશાહીના યત્રમાં ઘડાએલા હોઇ સર સેમ્યુઅલ હોરના કરતાં સહેજ વધારે કઠણ હોવાનીજ આશા રાખી શકાય. એટલે નવા પ્રધાનમંડળને અર્થ હાંદુસ્તાનને માટે કંઇજ નથી થતો અને થતો હોય તો લાભને બદલે, ગેરલાભ કરનારો ગણાય.

હાંદીઓના વેપારના હકો

ડરબન ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલ સમક્ષ આવેલી એક હાંદીની વેપારના લાયસેન્સ સંબધી અર્જીઓમાં અર્જી કરનારનાં વકીલ મી. ડી

મી. ટરનરે એક અગલનો મુદ્દો ઉઠાવ્યો હતો. તેનો અસીલ કે જેની પાસે જીવેલરી અને ફેન્સી ગુડ્ઝ વેચવાનું લાયસેન્સ હતું તેણે જનરલ ડીલરના લાયસેન્સ માટે અરજ કરી હતી જે ડરબનના લાયસેન્સીંગ ઓફીસરે નામંજુર કરી હતી. મી. ટરનરે જણાવ્યું કે તેના અસીલે શરૂઆતમાં જનરલ ડીલરના લાયસેન્સ માટે અરજ કરી હતી પરંતુ લાયસેન્સીંગ ઓફીસરે તેનાથી માત્ર જીવેલરી અને ફેન્સી ગુડ્ઝ વેચી શકશે એવી શરત સાથે લાયસેન્સ આપ્યું હતું. સરકાર તરફથી જાપાએલાં લાયસેન્સ ફોર્મમાં એવી કોઇ જાતની શરત નહીં હતી અને તેપરથી મી. ટરનરે એવી દલીલ કરી કે તેના અસીલને જે તેની ઇચ્છા હોત તો જનરલ ડીલરનો વેપાર કરવાનો હક હોતો. જવાબમાં લાયસેન્સીંગ ઓફીસરે મી. મી. લેગ રવોલે જણાવ્યું કે જનરલ ડીલરના લાયસેન્સમાં શરત નાખવાની તેને સત્તા હતી કે નહીં એ પ્રશ્ન પહેલાં ઉઠાવાય ચુક્યો હતો અને બંને ટાઉન સોલિસીટરો અને રોન્ડીંગ કાઉન્સિલનો એવો મત છે કે તેમ કરવાની તેને સત્તા છે ટાઉન કાઉન્સિલે થેટો વખત રીટાયર થયા બાદ લાયસેન્સીંગ ઓફીસરનો ચુકાદો મંજુર રાખી અપીલ રદ કરી હતી.

મી. ગાંધીનું દાન

જેહાનીસબગર્ગના જાણીતા વેપારી મી. જે. ઇ. ગાંધીએ પ્રાંતિક સરકાર અથવા જેહાનીસબગર્ગની સીટી કાઉન્સિલ અથવા બંને તરફથી એટલીજ રકમ આપવામાં આવે એવી શરતે જેહાનીસબગર્ગની જનરલ હોસ્પિટલને હાંદીઓ માટે એક અલગ વોર્ડ બાંધવાને પા. ૩૦૦૦ની રકમ આપવાની ઓધર કરેલી છે.

ઝેરી છાંડવાઓથી ચેતો

નાટાલની સ્કુલોના ચીફ ઇનસ્પેક્ટર મી. જે. એચ. સોલેરે સઘળાં શિક્ષકોને પોતાના વીદ્યાર્થીઓને ઝેરી છાંડવાઓનું યાન આપવાની સુચના કરેલી છે. પરંતુ જે શિક્ષકો વનસ્પતી શાસ્ત્ર નહીં જાણતા હોય તેઓએ સઘળાં વીદ્યાર્થીઓને એટલીજ સુચના કરવાની છે કે તેઓએ જંગલી ગાંડોપર થતા કોઈ ખેંજુ ફળ ખાવાં નહીં. આથી તેઓને મોટી ખેંજુ નહીં થાય અને તે સાથે જંબુમર્યાદી બર્ષ

જશે. માયાપોએ પણ પોતાના બાળકોને આ સુચના આપવાની જરૂર છે.

મી. એચ. એલ. પોલવું મરણ

ડરબનના જુના અને જાણીતા વત્ની મી. એચ. એલ. પોલ ૭૦ વર્ષની વયે મરણ પામ્યા છે. મરહુમ ૧૮૮૧ ના સપ્ટેમ્બરમાં ડરબન ઉતર્યા હતા સરકારી નોકરી કરતાં કરતાં ૧૮૮૬ માં રોંગરની કોર્ટમાં ઇન્ટરપ્રીટર બન્યા હતા ત્યાંથી થોડા વખતમાં તેમની ડરબન કોર્ટમાં બદલી થઇ હતી અને ત્યાં ૧૯૨૪ માં ૩૯ વર્ષની લાગટ નોકરી બાદ નિવૃત્ત થયા હતા. કેળવણીના અને અન્ય જાહેર કાર્યોમાં મરહુમ સારો રસ લેતા હતા. મરહુમની ઇનફીયા રોમન કેથલીક સીમીટીમાં થઇ હતી, જે વખતે હાંદીઓની મોટી સંખ્યા એ હાજરી આપી હતી. મરહુમ પોતાની પાછળ વીધવા અને આઠ સંતાનો અને બહોળું કુટુંબ શેક કરતું મુકી ગયા છે. અમે તેઓ તરફ અતઃકરણથી દિલસોઈ ધરાવીએ છીએ અને મરહુમના રહને શાંતિ મળે એવી પ્રાર્થના કરીએ છીએ.

વીદ્યાય

મેસર્સ ગાંધી એન્ડ કું. ની પેટીના શ્રી. પુરુષોત્તમદાસ દેશાઇ પોતાની પુત્રીની ગંભીર માંજીને લીધે ગઇ સ્ટીમર કેનીયામાં સ્વદેશ જવા વીદાય થયા છે. તેમને સઘળ મંદર ઇચ્છવા બોમ્બે પ્રેસીડન્સી એસોસીએશન જેના તેઓ પ્રમુખ હતા તેની મોટીંગ રવીવારે બપોર શ્રી દેવચંદ હરખચંદ સાનીના પ્રમુખપણા નીચે મળી હતી. તેમને કુલનો તોરા અપણું કરી કુટુંબીઓને મળી સહીસલામત પાછા આવી જાય એવા શુભેચ્છાઓ દર્શાવનારાં ભાપણો થયાં હતાં શ્રી. પુરુષોત્તમદાસ દેશાઇએ ઘટના સંબંધમાં આભાર માન્યો હતો.

ધરતીકંપ

ઇટાલીની દક્ષિણ આવેલા સાઉથ પેરનું ગીયામાં ધરતીકંપના આંચકાએ લાગવાથી બાંગકામ પક્ષી બાંગવાથી કેટલાકને ઇત્ત થઇ હતી ઘણાં ઘોંટા ઝરી જઇ બંધારે તબુઓમાં મુવા લાગ્યા છે અને ઘણા સરકારે ઠોડાવેલી ખાસ ટ્રેનોમાં રોમ અને અન્ય સ્થળે ચાલ્યા ગયા છે.