

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Parliamentary Delegation's Visit To India

THE Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, interviewed by the correspondent of the *Hindu* (Madras) regarding the Union Government's decision to send a Parliamentary delegation to India, welcomed the move. Referring to a previous delegation from South Africa he said that it resulted in much improvement in the relations between the two countries, and converted several antagonists of the Indian community into friends; the most distinguished of these in Mr. Sastri's opinion was Mr. Patrick Duncan, some time Minister of the Interior and now a Minister of the new Cabinet. Mr. Sastri hoped that Mr. Hofmeyr whom he admired greatly for his courage and magnanimity of will, will head the new delegation. Concluding, Mr. Sastri said if the people of India and important leaders responded to the India Government's request to show honour and hospitality to the distinguished visitor and abstained from bitter discussion of the two peoples, much good may result on this occasion also.

What The "Hindustan Times" Says

The news about the visit of a South African delegation composed of two Ministers and four or five members of the Union Parliament, to this country, is welcome. The contacts which they will establish with Indian leaders and people, must necessarily lead to a realisation by them of the possibilities ahead of both countries in the way of increased trade between them. The visit, says the *communicque* issued by the authorities in this connection, will be solely one of courtesy and goodwill. It is not easy to make out what this means, says the *Hindustan Times*. It cannot be that the Ministers and their Parliamentary associates are just having a holiday tour in India and no more. The Indian Government that has invited them will, we trust, utilise the opportunity to make them realise the strength of feeling in the country against anti-Indian measures in South Africa. Indian public men, we have no doubt, will extend to the guests from South Africa their welcome, show them every courtesy and offer every hospitality. But they cannot keep their mouths shut over legislative and admin-

istrative endeavours that help to make the position of South African Indians one of progressive misery. By the way, has there been any invitation from South Africa for a similar courtesy visit from this country?

Our Own View

Being on the spot and in the mill we are sorry our personal experience does not allow us to share the very optimistic views expressed by the Rt. Hon. Mr. Sastri on the forthcoming visit of the Union Parliamentary delegation to India. But apart from whether the visit will or will not result in improving the lot of our people in this country such a visit, no doubt, has its own value. The visitors will have a first hand knowledge of things in India about which the outside world is given very inaccurate and garbled versions. This, of course, provided the visitors are placed in the right hands. They will also know that India is not composed of "coolies" as is the general impression among Europeans in this country, but that there are people there possessing the same feelings and aspirations as the people in this country and they will perhaps realise the truth in the canon "do unto others as you would that others should do unto you." Unconcerned as to whether our lot in this country improves or not we look upon the visit of the Union Parliamentary delegation to India as a welcome step, and as it is the inherent nature of Indians to show the utmost hospitality to guests coming at their door, we are quite confident that the visitors will be made to feel quite at home by all sections of the people in India.

Government's White Labour Policy

Just as Indians working on the Durban harbour tugs were removed to make room for white labourers and were, after representations were made to the Minister, engaged in other works at the same rate of pay, the Natives are now undergoing the same fate. "Twenty-four of them," says the *Natal Advertiser* "have been warned that they will receive, almost at once, the reward for the faithful and efficient service they have rendered to their masters." These men have given from ten to thirty years'

loyal service and have now been told that the jobs are required for others "owing to the white labour policy of the Administration" which phrase, being put into plain English means that poor whites have got to be employed somehow. Like Indians these Natives have also been notified that they can do shore work at £2 5s. instead of £4 10s. which pay they were getting for tug work. They were originally given 24 hours in which to make up their minds, but thanks to the intervention of the Joint Councils who are doing much to protect the interests of the coloured races their fate has been delayed. The whole matter has been referred back to Pretoria for final decision by the General Manager of Railways and we sincerely hope that the authorities will be as kindly to the Natives as they were to the Indians.

An Englishman's Impressions

About India

Mr. Jeffrey Farnol, the well-known English author who recently paid a five months' visit to India gave his impressions of India and her people to a representative of the *Times of India*. "India," he said, "is the most ununderstandable, the most attractive and the most mysterious country I have ever been in. It always leaves me asking a question, which never seems to be answered. I think there is a sort of wistful tragedy in the eyes of the villagers, who are so patient and gentle. I love the spirit of the Hindu people, for, if you are sincere and respect all they hold dear, they will open their hearts out to you. And the educated Indian, be he Hindu, Parsi or Muslim, has struck me as having the most perfect manners I have ever seen, also possessing extraordinary grace," he added.


How Magistrates Sentence Natives

A sentence of two months' hard labour without the option of a fine was reduced to a fine of 1s. by the Judge-President in the Supreme Court at Pretoria on July 9. The Court reviewed a case in which three natives had been convicted in the Magistrate's Court, at Brakpan, for stealing a bottle of milk. The Judge-President, Mr. Justice de Waal, described the sentences as "monstrous." The convictions were confirmed, but the sentences were reduced in the case of two natives to a fine of 1s., and in the case of the third to a fine of 2s.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JULY 24TH, 1936.

The Land Tenure Act

 OUR readers are by now fully conversant with the terms of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act of 1936, an Act which has been described by the Agent-General for India as epoch-making. We agree with Sir Syed Raza Ali that it is epoch-making but not in the sense he wishes to convey. It is epoch-making in so far as the realisation of a piece of racial legislation affecting Asiatics in the Statute book is concerned. But if the Agent-General feels contented that thereby he or his Government has achieved an enhanced status for Indians in South Africa worth being proud of we must confess we do not agree with him. It is true that the Act contains certain concessions. But they are not in keeping with the honour of India or the Indian nation. We can only liken them to a longer chain with several tickets round the neck of the Indian animal to enable him to enter places to which he has been given access. Some of our friends say that that is much better than not being able to move about at all. We beg to differ from them. It is our sufferings that will attract sympathy for us and bring us the hope of our emancipation some day. If, on the other hand, we feel happy and contented with our lot, however humiliating it may be, with a few crumbs begged of our masters, we can attract no sympathy but contempt, and those of our Transvaal brethren who feel satisfied with their lot will, we have no doubt, be looked down upon with contempt by any self-respecting people.

Coming to the practical side of the question, what appear to be gains in the new Act will in the long run prove harmful. They are undoubtedly gains for a few. And yet

nothing that was not provided for in the Statute book has been given. Law 3 of 1885 provides for declaring certain localities for residence and occupation by Asiatics outside of which they may not acquire ownership of land. The effect of the new Act will be to enforce the above law more extensively. There was a time when that law was considered insulting to Indian sentiment and was included among those which we had asked to be removed from the Statute book. Our whole struggle which terminated in 1914 with the Smuts-Gandhi Settlement was against statutory differentiation against Asiatics. What was stipulated in that settlement was that the existing laws should be administered sympathetically with due regard to vested rights and that public opinion should be so educated as to render possible the removal of all restrictive measures from the Statute book based on race or colour differentiation and to give equal citizenship rights to Asiatics.

The first fruits of the new Act are that several property owners, both European and Indian have increased their rents by a hundred per cent. There is besides an epidemic in Johannesburg among the well-to-do Indians of purchasing properties in areas which they think likely of being declared for residence and occupation by coloured persons. One can well imagine from this who will thrive and what the fate of the poorer sections of the community in the segregated areas will be.

The work of the Agent-General in this country was not to lend his hand to weaklings among the community, who did not see anything beyond their own self-interest, to gain a few minor material ad-

vantages. He had a much higher duty to perform. He had to view the future of Indian nationals in this country from a higher plane. His work was not to side with any body or individuals but to stand independent as the representative of India, a land of ancient culture and civilisation, and to enunciate before the European public and the authorities the higher principles of justice and equality. We are surprised to see, instead, that the Agent-General boasts of his so-called settlement of the Indian question in the Transvaal and that he has now come to effect a similar settlement in Natal. Well, if that is achieved it will only mean the thrusting of the Class Areas Bill upon the Indians in another form, and the Agent-General will win laurels not from the Indian community but perhaps from the European public of the Union, for very ably camouflaging the issue. If that is the purpose of the Agency in this country it were far better if it did not exist.

Fountain of Wisdom

It is quiet endurance, the quiet suffering, and the quiet struggling for the benefit of others and for the country in which we live that constitute the noblest heroism and true greatness. He who ranks himself on the side of right is a hero.—J. B. GOUGH.

There is no God-given right in the white skin to claim authority over all the coloured nations of the world. There is no birthright in the white skin that it shall say that wherever it goes, to any nation, amongst any people, there the people of the country shall give way before it, and those to whom the land belongs shall bow down and become its servants.—ANNIE BESANT.

If the wicked flourish and you suffer, be not discouraged. They are fattened for destruction, you are dieted for health.

—FULLER.

They that deny God destroy man's nobility, for certainly man is kin to the beasts by his body; and if he not of kin to God by his spirit, he is a base and ignoble creature.

—FRANCIS BACON.

FIJI INDIANS AND THEIR FUTURE CONDITIONS THAT MAKE FOR PROGRESS

The following article was contributed by Mr. C. F. Andrews to a newspaper in Fiji says the *Hindustan Times*:

THERE is a mistake, often made in the colonies, that it was only the lowest classes in India who came out under the indenture system in the old days. It is time that this wrong idea was abandoned. I know intimately the condition of the villagers in the United Provinces, who formed the bulk of the early indentured labourers; and I can say without hesitation, that those who came out were the average village classes, with about the same mixture of high and low that we meet in India itself. As I look at the faces of the Indians who have come to Fiji, and also at the faces of their children, I can recognise everywhere this type of what we call in India the "good agricultural classes."

What I Saw In Suva

Each time I come back to Fiji, this fact becomes more clear to me, and already I can verify it on this third visit of mine from what I have seen in Suva and its surroundings. I feel certain that the fact will become still more plain when I go to the north coast and also to Labasa, in Vanua Levu.

Let anyone look at the children, as I saw them in large numbers at Samabula on Friday night, or again on Saturday afternoon at Nausori, and if they know the Indian villages, I am sure they will agree with me that the stock is a good stock, with every hope of continuing good in the future, if only it is not allowed to degenerate through faulty social and moral habits in Fiji which ought to be and can be easily avoided.

I have no wish at all to bring up, while I am in the colony, the old evils of the indentured system, with its unnatural disproportion of men and women and its impossible "home" conditions for the children—but it is necessary at this point to make clear that any community brought out under those unnatural conditions would have gone to pieces. I have only mentioned this and made it clear in order to help to explain my one definite judgment that the Indian community in Fiji, on the whole, comes from a good stock and that it is therefore an immensely valuable asset to the colony.

Restoring The Balance

If this fact about the original stock is true (I have put it to the test in other colonies also) very important results follow for the Administration. The first is this, that as soon as the disproportion of the sexes becomes righted by

natures own law of equalisation, many difficulties will disappear. The last increase of Indian population on a large scale through emigrant ships, took place in 1916. Therefore 20 years have elapsed since the date. In 1916 the proportion of male to female was about 57 per cent. In 1936, the rough estimate is about 72 per cent. So marvellously has nature worked to restore the balance between the sexes.

"Home" life, in the best sense of the word, depends on an equal proportion of the sexes. Marriage then becomes possible for every one who wishes to marry. A very large number of evils that always occur, where the equal sex proportion is destroyed, can then be avoided. Fortunately for the future of Fiji, this equalisation is now rapidly taking place. While the results of the past cannot be wiped out in a day, we have had nature on one side all the while during the last 20 years. We have not been fighting against nature. If these favourable conditions continue to operate and if we assist them we may hope that in ten years time—this whole problem of disproportion will be solved. It will be very interesting to know when the new census is completed whether the estimate I have given is too optimistic. My great hope is that it will be found fairly correct.

Miss Mayo's Thesis

One other result follows. This good agricultural class from India, which is the back-bone of the Indian community in Fiji, had originally high ideas about marriage in India. Some people may have read Miss Mayo's book called "Mother India," and have got an entirely wrong impression from it. Let me say in one word, that Miss Mayo's book is unreliable and sensational. Its documentation is faulty and one-sided. I have lived in close touch with the 90 per cent. of India that is agricultural and can say without any hesitation that among the respectable classes the marriage ideal is very high and the home life is clean; and it is from these classes (as I have written) that the main emigration from India to Fiji came at the first.

Not Patronage But Justice

If, therefore it is a fact that there is a very long inheritance of good traditions about marriage among those who came out to Fiji from India, this good tradition will be recovered rapidly when the equalization of the two sexes takes place. I can already see this going on before my eyes. It only wants encouragement from every good man and woman in Fiji of whatever race or

religion. The Indian community doesn't want either patronage or pity, but it does want justice. It wants a clear recognition that no community in the world, with such an unnatural disproportion between men and women, could be expected to recover quickly. It also wants a clear recognition of the fact that this recovery has already begun. And justice demands that everything should now be done to hasten that recovery and to make it permanent. A golden opportunity has come. As Shakespeare says:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken in the flood, leads on to fortune."

The flood-tide of progress has already set in, let us utilize it to the full! Otherwise, the danger is present that before we complete our action the tide may recede and Shakespeare's sad alternative may be realised, when he writes concerning the neglect of those who fail to catch the tide:

"Omitted, all the voyage of our lives is bound in shallows and in miseries." We must not let that fate happen to us in Fiji!

Indian Medical Degrees

A *communiqué* issued by the Indian Medical Council states:

A telegram has been received from the Registrar General Medical Council, Great Britain, to the effect that Medical qualifications of the universities of Bombay, Lucknow and Madras have been recognised with effect from February 25, 1930 and that the degree of M.B.B.S. of the University of Patna has been recognized when granted on or after May 11, 1935. The qualifications of the three older universities were recognized previously only upto February 24, 1930. The significance of the retrospective effect of this notice is that now there will be no gap in the recognition of these degrees by the G.M.C. In the case of Patna medical qualifications, which are of later establishment and have not previously been registrable in Great Britain, the date of the Government of India notification admitting M.B.B.S. degrees to the first schedule of the Indian Medical Council Act is the date named for their recognition by the G.M.C. The Medical Council of India having considered the reports of its inspectors on these universities recently informed the G.M.C., Great Britain, that it considered their courses of study and examinations to be satisfactory. The medical degrees of the remaining universities of India are still under consideration of the Medical Council of India.

THE ARABS AND JEWS IN PALESTINE

GROSS BETRAYAL OF ARABS BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM

MY expression of sympathy with the Arab national movement and their struggle for freedom has brought me some protests from Jews in India. I venture, therefore, to state a little more fully what my attitude is to this problem of Palestine.

Few people, I imagine, can withhold their deep sympathy from the Jews for the long centuries of the most terrible oppression to which they have been subjected all over Europe. Fewer still can repress their indignation at the barbarities and racial suppression of the Jews which the Nazis have indulged in during the last few years, and which continue to-day. Even outside Germany Jew-baiting has become a favourite pastime of various Fascist groups. This revival in an intense form of racial intolerance and race war is utterly repugnant to me and I have been deeply distressed at the sufferings of vast numbers of people of the Jewish race. Many of these unfortunate exiles, with no country or home to call their own, are known to me, and some I consider it an honour to call my friends.

I approach this question, therefore, with every sympathy for the Jews. So far as I am concerned, the racial or the religious issue does not affect my opinion.

But my reading of war-time and post-war history shows that there was a gross betrayal of the Arabs by British Imperialism. The many promises that were made to them by Colonel Lawrence and others, on behalf of the British Government, and which resulted in the Arabs helping the British and allied powers during the war, were consistently ignored after the war was over. All the Arabs in Syria, Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine, smarted under this betrayal, but the position of the Arabs in Palestine was undoubtedly the worst of all. Having been promised freedom and independence repeatedly from 1915 onwards, suddenly they found themselves converted into a mandatory territory with a new burden added on—the promise of the creation of a national home for the Jews—a burden which almost made it impossible for them to realise independence.

The Jews have a right to look to Jerusalem as their Holy Land and to have free access to them. But the position after the Balfour Declaration was very different. A new State within a State was sought to be created in Palestine, an ever-growing State with the backing of British Imperialism behind it, and the hope was held out that this new Jewish State would, in the near future, become so powerful in numbers

By

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

In "The Searchlight"

and in economic position that it would dominate the whole of Palestine. Zionist policy aimed at this domination and worked for it, though, I believe, some sections of Jewish opinion were opposed to the aggressive attitude. Inevitably, the Zionists opposed the Arabs and looked for protection and support to the British Government.

Such a case as the Zionists had might be called a moral one, their ancient association with their Holy Land and their present reverence for it. One may sympathise with it. But what of the Arabs? For them also it was a Holy Land for the Muslims and the Christian Arabs. For thirteen hundred years or more they had lived there and all their national and racial interests had taken strong roots there. Palestine was not an empty land fit for colonisation by outsiders. It was a well-populated and full land with little room for large numbers of colonists from abroad. Is it any wonder that the Arabs objected to this intrusion? And their objection grew as they realised that the aim of British Imperialism was to make the Arab Jew problem a permanent obstacle to their independence. We in India have sufficient experience of similar obstacles being placed in the way of our freedom by British Imperialism.

It is quite possible that a number of Jews might have found welcome in Palestine and settled down there. But the Zionists came with the avowed object of pushing out the Arabs from all places of importance and of dominating the country, they could hardly be welcomed, and the fact that they have brought much money from outside and started industries and schools and universities, cannot diminish the opposition of the Arabs, who see with dismay the prospect of their becoming permanently a subject race, dominated, politically and economically, by the Zionists and the British Government.

The problem of Palestine is thus essentially a nationalist one—a people struggling for independence against imperialist control and exploitation. It is not a racial or religious one. Perhaps some of our Muslim fellow countrymen extend their sympathy to the Arabs be-

cause of the religious bond. But the Arabs are wiser and they lay stress only on nationalism and independence, and it is well to remember that all Arabs, Christians as well as Muslims, stand together in this struggle against British Imperialism. Indeed, some of the most prominent leaders of the Arabs in this national struggle have been Christians!

If the Jews had been wise they would have thrown in their lot with the Arab struggle for independence. Instead, they have chosen to side British Imperialism and to seek its protection against the people of the country. Ultimately, therefore, the struggle resolves itself into one of nationalism versus imperialism, and all other minor aspects of it, such as the Arab-Jew problem, though important to-day, have little historical significance. In the same way the communal problem, spoilt child of British Imperialism, looms large in India today, but in the wide range of history it loses all importance.

India and Palestine have their national problems and both struggle for independence; they have something in common in that struggle and the opponent is the same. In both cases elsewhere nationalism comes into contact with new social forces and is affected thereby, and gradually it takes shape as an aspect of the world problem, which affects us all alike whether we realise it or not. We must, therefore, understand each other and sympathise with each other.

As we take this long view, the Arab-Jew question fades into insignificance. The Arabs of Palestine will no doubt gain their independence, but this is likely to be a part of the larger unity of Arab peoples for which the countries of western Asia have so long hankered after, and this again will be part of the new order which will emerge out of the present day chaos. The Jews, if they are wise, will accept the teaching of history, and make friends with the Arabs and throw weight on the side of independence of Palestine, and not seek a position of advantage and dominance with the help of the imperialist power.

I trust, therefore, that the people of India will send their warmest greetings and good wishes to the Arabs of Palestine in their brave struggle for freedom against a powerful adversary.

AT THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS

THE TENETS OF ISLAM

AS you are aware, we are celebrating the centenary of the great sage, Ramakrishna, and in view of his teachings and doctrines, one could congratulate the organisers on setting up this Parliament of Religions. The great sage preached that "Truth is one" and it is really interesting to study the different faiths in the light of this doctrine. I propose to put before you the fundamentals of Islam which has over 300 millions of followers in the world and, in establishing its tenets, I will mainly depend upon the Quran.

Before I tell you what Islam is, I will invite your attention to one aspect of the career of its great preacher—Mohammad. He always emphasised the fact that he was a mere human being like any one of us. As a matter of fact, it is a part of the creed of his followers that Mohammad is not only God's messenger but also his *servant*. The human element and ideal of service are the key-notes in the concept of Islam.

Mohammad regarded religion as a straight natural law wherein lies no perplexity or ambiguity. Perhaps he was the first person to discover that "Truth was one and sages call it by different names." He believed that all the children of men would follow the same straight way were it not for the corrupting influences of the environments which set unnatural examples for them to follow. According to him, religion is the natural bent of a free and unbiassed mind, that the principles that he preached stand forth free of all mysteries and dubious articles of faith. To Mohammad, the religion of the former prophets was not a creed-bound dogma but a life of earnest and faithful work; in an endless succession, they were the propagators of the Divine message of wisdom and truth.

With convictions of this nature, Mohammad could preach no new religion and he claims that his work lies only in restoring the primitive faith of the prophets and preachers of the by-gone ages to their original purity and simplicity. It is not for the Moslem to ignore any of the great teachers who have long since done their work and retired from the world. He dare not utter a word of disrespect towards them. Speaking of the prophets of the house of Ishmael, the Quran says—

"Say ye, we believe in God and what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham and Ishmael and Isaac and Jacob and the tribes, and what was given to Moses and Jesus and what was given to other prophets from their Lord; we make no distinction between any of them and to Him we submit."

By

Dr. M. B. REHMAN

And it is not to Moses, Jesus and Mohammed that a Moslem owes allegiance but to all the prophets of all the nations who have appeared in the different ages of the history of mankind. Thus along with a thousand others, Rama, Krishna and Buddha of India, Zarthusstra of Persia and Confucius of China, have alike a place in the hearts of the followers of Islam. This belief links the Moslem with the whole humanity, and leads him to treat his Lord's creation as one vast brotherhood. Islam has thus destroyed all barriers, racial or otherwise, and divisions on grounds of religion are not recognised.

To the Moslem, this wide world presents a vast field for co-operation in the struggle of life. His religion leads him to seek the welfare of humanity in the co-operative spirit as it were rather than in the competitive. He may with a quiet conscience eat and even intermarry with any class of human beings. Mohammad, himself strictly opposed as he was to the religion of idolators, gave three of his daughters, Zainab, Raukayya and Umm Kulthum, in marriage to them and this principle he established in spite of the fact that in the early stormy days of Islam, the experiment proved disastrous. Such is the practical brotherhood of man that knows no colour and no creed and which bade men to meet on the common platform of humanity and humanity alone.

The claim of Mohammad to be a servant of God has made Islam a religion of service. The service of men and seeking the good of humanity constitute pre-eminently the service and worship of God. In this connection I will quote the following two verses:—

"All the creation is the family of God and of all creation, the most beloved of God is one who does good to his family."

"God will not be merciful to one who is not merciful to men."

A self-less life of love is the life of a Moslem and in these words the Quran appeals to humanity to sink the petty differences.

"For every people God has appointed rites and ceremonies which they observe; let them not, therefore, dispute with thee in the matter." The great brotherhood which is the ideal of Islam cannot be achieved without utmost toleration and this is thus preached by the Quran:—

"Say thou—O ye who believe; I worship not what you worship and ye wor-

ship not what I worship, nor will ye worship what I worship. Ye have your religion and I have my religion."

This liberal attitude and the broad-mindedness, nay, the respect for the views and beliefs of others, accounts for the best of relations that the Moslems have always had with their neighbours. They have an open mind to learn and imbibe from all those with whom they may be in contact. The establishment of the academy of sciences (Bait-ul-Hitmat) at Baghdad in the days of Al-Mamun bears witness to this fact. The followers of Islam proved themselves excellent pupils and it was something far above toleration that made them not only the inheritors of the wisdom of the world but also its propagators. Not only their arts and sciences bear a strong and deep impression of the foreign influences, even their religious beliefs accepted such truths as were preached by others. To illustrate my point in the very short span of time allowed, I would direct your attention to the creed of the Sufis. In Sufism, which at one time became the accepted creed of the Islamic people, can be traced the influences of the Vedantic thought of India, the Neo-Platonic philosophy of Greece, the occult sciences of Egypt, the mysticism of Syria and the trasm of Persia. Such were the principles of not only "live and let live" but also of "give and take" that Mohammad preached and these alone are responsible for the immense following that Islam has even to-day. I resume my seat with the hope and wish that the followers of this great religion keep up the spirit which Mohammad rose to inculcate.

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New Vedic Temple For Durban

DURBAN'S Hindu community has decided to build a £7,000 temple in which to study the Vedic religion. The temple will be built on a £2,000 site in Carlisle Street. It will be a three-storeyed building containing two halls, a warehouse and 12 flats. So far only a small percentage of the necessary £9,000 for the building has been collected, but the officials of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, which has sponsored the scheme, feel sure that they will be able to collect enough money for the building. They are making a Union-wide appeal. Once the temple has been built every endeavour will be made to initiate the youth of the Hindu community into the tenets of the Vedic religion, as it is felt that without a knowledge of their national religion they would succumb to the temptations that surround them.

HARILAL GANDHI'S CONVERSION

SANE MUSLIM VIEW

The *Bombay Chronicle*, whose Editor is Syed A. Brelvi, M.A.; L.L.B., a staunch Nationalist Muslim, expresses the following sane view on Harilal Gandhi's conversion to Islam:—

WE have so long deliberately refrained from commenting on the recent conversion to Islam of Mr Harilal, eldest son of Mahatma Gandhi. We did so because we believe that conversions are purely personal affairs, discussions of which in the Press can serve no public purpose. But, as this conversion is sought to be exploited in certain quarters for a purpose wholly antithetic to the spirit of Islam, it is essential that the true Islamic attitude in this matter should be properly understood. Islam is frankly a proselytizing religion and because it is so, it becomes doubly incumbent on Muslims to remember its cardinal teachings that "There is no compulsion in religion"

and that there is no priesthood except the priesthood of Reason—which means that true conversion to Islam can only proceed from a deliberate choice determined by reasoned examination and acceptance of its principles and must, therefore, be entirely free from the elements of force or fraud

For aught we know Harilal's conversion, but the facts about his life, which is not unknown to friends of Mahatma Gandhi's family, and particularly his two recent letters, published in the Press—one of which contained a threat to go over to Christianity or Islam, and the other recalled the former and contained an emphatic declaration of his adherence to his ancestral faith—are such as to induce grave doubt into one's mind about it. The statement of Mahatmajee, than whom few persons can claim to know Harilal better, only strengthens these doubts, and we cannot

help sharing Gandhiji's feeling that "those who are responsible for Harilal's acceptance of Islam did not take the most ordinary precautions they ought to have taken in a case of this kind."

We have no doubt these words of Gandhiji, who believes Islam to be as true a religion as his own, will find a responsive echo in the hearts of many Muslims, who will also feel that Gandhiji is less than just to them when he makes a sweeping assertion that Muslims are reported to have enthused over his son's profession. It is true that a number of Muslims have done so. But it is equally true that the large majority of thinking Muslims are either wholly indifferent to his conversion, regarding it as a matter between Harilal and his Maker, or are waiting for more convincing proofs than have been forthcoming so far before accepting it as a conversion truly in accordance with the spirit of their religion.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

SECTION 64 and 70 of Indian Immigration Law No. 25 of 1891 provide that all Births, Deaths and Marriages must be registered within a month, failing which, a person becomes liable to a fine of not exceeding £5 for each offence, or may be imprisoned for any term, not exceeding one month. When births are not registered within this period, they must be declared before a Commissioner of Oaths, with a 1/- Revenue Stamp. It should be mentioned, with appreciation, that the Protector of Indian Immigrants very seldom takes any drastic steps; he deals very sympathetically with all cases.

In the Area of the City of Durban burials are not permitted without a Burial Order, but outside the Area burials are allowed, upon a Doctor's certificate, of Immigrants and their descendants. Subsequently, the death should be reported to the Protector.

Births and Deaths of Passenger Indians are not dealt with by the Protector, but by the District Registrar, now situated at Smith Street, Durban. Births should be reported within 7 days and deaths before burials. If Births are not reported within this time a fine of 10/- for each offence is imposed, without any warning.

In the year 1935, another Act, No. 8, was passed, relating to Marriage Registration, whereby a girl must be over 16

By R. GOPAULSINGH

Hon. Sec. Of Isipingo Indian Society

years of age and a boy over 18 years. Even then, their parents' consent must be obtained before a registration can go through. If both the boy and girl are 21 years, they can register their own marriage, as they are then classified as majors. If a marriage is not registered, the wife and children have no legal claim over the husband's or father's estate, unless there is a Will. Even so, big Succession duty is payable on inheritance of £100 and over, because they are not taken as legitimate. Further, in the event of the wife dying without the registration of the marriage, the husband also has no legal claim over any children and would have to apply for adoption in terms of Act No. 25 of 1923, although he may be the father of the children. Marriages between Passengers and Immigrants should be registered under the relief Act, No. 22 of 1914, otherwise they are invalid.

When the wife is registered she has a first claim over her husband's estate up to the extent of £600, even if he does not leave a Will, half by virtue of her marriage in Community of Property and half in terms of Act No. 13 of 1934. The balance, if beyond this figure, will

devolve on the children *ab intestato* if there are no children, then it goes to the nearest relatives. A surviving spouse is exempt from Succession Duty, and only pays half Estate Fee, and her children are only liable for 2% if their share amounts to £100 and over. A husband can dispose of his Estate by a Will to any one he likes, but the half share of his registered wife cannot be touched at his death. It can only be forfeited by her if they have previously entered into an Ante-Nuptial or Post-Nuptial Contract, by which one cannot touch the other's estate. The Will then takes effect and the half share is done away with.

From the foregoing it will be observed that it is very necessary for all concerned to have their Marriages and Births registered within the prescribed period, and those who have Estates should have a Will made as a safeguard for their wife and children, as no one knows when they will die. It may be mentioned that Wills which are attested by a Commissioner of oaths should be stamped with a 1/- Revenue Stamp, as per Government Notice No. 1315 of 17th August, 1921, otherwise a penalty of 10/- accrues on each. Any existing Wills that are not stamped can be validated by submitting them, with a 1/- stamp, to the Receiver of Revenue, Durban, and referring to his minute No. R.D. 4/17 of 13th May, 1935.

South African News In Brief

Anti-Asiatics Busy At Pretoria

At a meeting of the Pretoria North Central ratepayers on July 15, the Mayor, referring to Asiatics buying property in that ward, is reported to have said that when the Steel Works were inaugurated it was thought they would be of assistance to commerce. Of late, however, he had heard that Indian storekeepers were opening stores nearby and obtaining licences from the Provincial Administration without the necessary approval of building plans by the municipality. The Asiatic problem was becoming dangerous, and not only effected the north central ward, but the whole city. It should be drastically dealt with, and since legislation was at fault they should interview the responsible Minister. It was decided to appoint a deputation, in consultation with the Federation of Ratepayers' Associations, to make it as representative as possible. It was also decided unanimously that steps should be taken to remove churches, schools and hostels for coloured people and natives from the ward.

Mr. J. M. van H. Brink, M.E.C., said he had a clear conscience as far as the removal of schools for coloured people was concerned. He had always objected strongly to the establishment of a school for Indians and coloured people in the ward, and would continue to do so. When the interests of these communities were in conflict with those of Europeans he would always do his best to prevent the intrusion of Indians. The position to-day was serious, not only in Pretoria, but throughout the Transvaal. Indians were slowly obtaining possession of big properties. It was time the electorate showed the Government that it wanted action and wanted it soon. He had not been aware that the Provincial Council issued licences to these traders. The Executive Committee of the province to his knowledge, had never granted a single licence, as it was opposed to granting licences over the heads of licensing boards. The evasion of the Land Tenure Act by coloured people and Indians had reached serious dimensions, said Mr. S. Rutowitz. It was high time that amending legislation was enacted. He appealed to all ratepayers to join the Ratepayers' Association, and asked for support to ensure that the Land Tenure Act was not evaded.

Mostrms Welcome

Sir Syed Raza And Lady Ali

A welcome reception to the Agent-General and his wife was held by Muslims last Sunday at the Royal Picture Palace. Hajee E. M. Faruk presided. "We look upon your marriage to a lady

of our beloved South Africa as an epoch making event and we wish and pray that both of you and your beloved consort will be long spared to serve the cause of this country," said the chairman. Sir Syed Raza Ali thanked those responsible for the reception accorded to Lady Ali and himself. "I declare from the platform," said the Agent-General, "I have no enemy in this country and when the time comes for me to sail for Bombay I shall leave no enemy behind." "When I landed in Durban on July 5, I told you what my feeling was. If you will permit me to say so I extended on that occasion an olive branch to all sections of the people which go to make up the great Indian community. Let me repeat, though a repetition is unnecessary, that I extend that olive branch once more." It was the duty of the South African Indians to present a united front if they were to get such rights of citizenship as they wanted. He was in South Africa to serve the Indians of this country. His office was being maintained by the taxpayers of India, who were spending a large sum of money to secure the improvements of the conditions of South African Indians. "I am anxious to serve you in the same manner as my distinguished predecessors. Not you in this hall only, but the South African Indians as a whole. It is impossible to serve you if a section of that people do not cooperate with me either wholly or partly. Don't make South Africa as a part of India in introducing communal differences if you want to live honourably. Free yourselves of your dissensions and be true to yourselves."

Mr. Hofmeyr's Plea For Natives

A plea for the "forgotten man" of South Africa—the native—was made by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Hofmeyr, when he opened the new building of the Maritzburg Municipal Public Health Department recently. After praising the health measures taken by the department under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Anning, the Minister said he was more interested in what was being done for non-Europeans in Maritzburg. There could be no colour bar in health matters and he was glad that Maritzburg was tackling this problem with vigour and vision. "The non-European is too often the forgotten man, and we often find him in the urban areas living in condition which cry to Heaven for vengeance, and sometimes that vengeance comes back upon the community as a whole. We forget that the strength of the chain is the strength of its weakest link and the expenditure on better conditions for the non-European is in the best interests of all. "But you are not doing all that you ought to be doing. I see that there are 2,000 Asiatics

living in insanitary dwellings. If the problem of Camp Drift is further delayed Maritzburg will no longer be able to boast it has the lowest proportion of insanitary buildings among the largest towns of the Union."

S. A. Sanctions Ended

The cessation of sanctions applied by the Union Government against Italy took effect in South Africa last Wednesday, July 15.

King Edward Hospital

The King has granted the request that the new non-European Hospital in Durban shall be named the King Edward the Eighth Hospital. The Hospital is to be ready for the reception of patients next month.

Empire Exhibition Visitors

More than 100,000 school children are expected to visit the Empire Exhibition. Plans have been completed for a camp capable of housing 2,000 children a night, so that between 60,000 and 70,000 children from other parts of the country will be able to find accommodation there. In addition, it is expected that there will be at least 40,000 from the Witwatersrand, Pretoria and other neighbouring areas, who will not require accommodation as they will visit the exhibition during the day time and be able to return the same night. Inquiries for the accommodation of parties of school children have been received, not only from South Africa, but also from East Africa and the two Rhodesias, so that the children's camp may have a thoroughly all-African atmosphere.

Mitchell Orphans' Fund

The Mitchell Orphans' Fund, to which Durban contributed £1,221, will be administered by the Master of the Supreme Court. The following letter has been received from the Master by the Mayor, Mr. Fleming Johnston:—"I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. I beg to state that I am prepared to accept deposit in the Guardians' Fund of the monies in question for credit of the three minor children to be expended for their maintenance and education. In terms of Section 91 (1) and Section 93 of Act 24 of 1913, I am applying for Ministerial authority for the acceptance of the money, and the payment of interest thereon." The Mayor stated in his letter that a large sum had been collected by the fund, which had been opened on behalf of the three boys who were orphaned when Mrs. K. E. Mitchell was killed in a motor accident in First Avenue. He formally requested the Master to administer the fund.

India Letter

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

South African Delegation

THE authorities at Simla are convinced that if India treats the South African delegation shortly to visit India in the traditional spirit of her hospitality, there would be such a good impression created on them that it would help to secure advantages to the Indians in South Africa. The personal contact established by such visits between the two countries would go a long way in cementing the ties and improving their relation? In fact, ever since the deputation of Sir George Paddison in 1925, there have been very steady improvement in the social position of the Indians in South Africa. Although, here and there, there have been comments expressed that the economic and political position of Indians in South Africa have deteriorated, the authorities here hold that the case is the contrary. This change in atmosphere is ascribed largely to better understanding created by the work of men like Mr. Sastri in South Africa and by the visit of the deputation of the Union Government to this country in 1926. Hence considerable importance is attached to the visit of the South African delegation to India in the coming autumn. The invitation to South Africa was extended towards the end of April and has now been accepted. In fact the invitation had been extended once or twice before but the South African Government could not accept it then, mainly for the reason that there was general election one year, and again last year there was some important legislation pending in their own Parliament which did not permit the sending of a delegation. Successive agents in South Africa had been impressing the Government of India to renew the invitation, and now a satisfactory timetable could be arranged. The visit of the delegation in Autumn will enable the members to come to Simla when the Assembly will be in session, and thus enable the members of the Union Parliament to get into the closest touch with the members of the Indian Legislature. The tour programme has not been drawn up as yet, but if the itinerary of the previous delegations is examined, it will be found that among the stations which are likely to be visited are Poona, Madras, Calcutta, Jamshedpur, Delhi, Lahore, Peshawar, Agra and Bombay. It may be recalled that almost immediately following the delegation's visit in 1926 and Sir Habibullah's delegation to South Africa after that, there was such good relationship established that the Class Areas Bill was dropped.

Then again the psychological effect of Sir Fazl-i-Hussain's delegation was such that the average parliamentarians in South Africa become much more liberal than before. Perhaps the important issue under discussion with South Africa is the Land Tenure Bill, now before their Parliament, but perhaps long before the delegation starts for India, some satisfactory result might be expected to be reached on this point.

Indian Official To Tour

The question of deputing a special officer to accompany the South African delegation is being considered. It will be remembered a decade ago, Sir Girja Shanker, then Mr. Bajpai, was deputed for the purpose. Mr. Menon having been posted to the Foreign and Political Department, it is doubtful whether the education Department will be able to spare an official. If this is not possible, it is likely the services of an officer from a Provincial Government may be obtained. In any case, the official selected will be Indian and he would go round India with the deputation and assist it in every possible way.

Trade Commissioners For India

It is understood that proposals are maturing for the appointment of two Trade Commissioners for India, one in Japan and another in East Africa. The final decision has not been taken as yet, but every indication points to the proposals getting through without much delay. If these appointments can be sanctioned this year and the diplomatic questions are solved satisfactorily, then the Government of India may be expected to turn their attention next year to the question of appointing Trade Commissioners in the United States of America.

There is no basis, however, for the suggestions made in some quarters, regarding the establishment of an Oversea Trade department. The reason is that the Commerce department is well equipped to handle all the questions and no distinct organisation is necessary for Oversea Trade.

Will Mahatma Gandhi Visit Europe And America?

Mahatma Gandhi had talks with Mr. G. D. Birla about the activities of the Harijan Sevak Sangh at Bangalore. Mahatmajee opened the Harijan Sevak Sangh Workers' Conference and left for Wardah on June 12. Mahatma Gandhi, it is stated, is planning an European tour, which is likely to last about three months. It is stated, he will leave for Europe in September in response to

numerous invitations, which he has been receiving since his illness. After visiting the European countries he will proceed to America in October and, while there, attend the Christian Missionary Conference, which is to be held in New York for which he received an invitation. He will return to India before the next session of the Congress.

Mrs. Bharati Ranga Resigns In Protest

Protesting vigorously against the decision of the Ongeole District Board to congratulate Sir K. V. Reddi and the Hon. Mr. E. Raghavendra Rao on their appointment as Acting Governors of Madras and Central Provinces respectively Mrs. Bharati Ranga (wife of Prof. Ranga, M.L.A.) resigned her membership from the Board.

Morale Intact Despite Physical Suppression

Mr. Bhulabhai Desai was entertained at tea by the Indian Swaraj League, during his recent visit to London, when a purely Indian gathering of over hundred attended. Doctor Mahamadi presided. It is understood Mr. Desai, in a speech surveying the Indian political situation during the past two years declared that the morale in the country was intact despite physical suppression of the people. He claimed that the Congress under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi has brought about psychological revolution among the people which was the greatest contribution in the cause of India's freedom. He exhorted Indians to be patriotic in the real sense of the term, and emphatically denied differences in the Congress camp.

Miss Chakravarty's Brilliant Record

The *United Press* understands that for the second time during the last 70 years one lady student will be the recipient of the Eshan Scholarship of the Calcutta University this year. She is Miss Nalini Chakravarty of Scottish Churches College, who has stood first in the first class in Philosophy at the B.A. examination this year, securing the highest number of marks among the candidates who have passed the B.A. examination with honours in different subjects. The first lady recipient of the Scholarship was Miss Shanti Sudha Gosh who is, it may be recalled, now under detention under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. Prominent among other recipients of the Scholarship were the late Sir Ashurosh Mukerjee and Babu Rajendra Prasad, ex President of the Indian National Congress.

NON-EUROPEAN EDUCATION

"INEQUITY AND INJUSTICE OF 'PRESENT POLICY'"

THE following evidence was given to the Education Commission by the Clerical Society, Archdeaconry of Durban, which was introduced by Archdeacon Heywood Harris. The spokesman was the Rev. W. H. Martin, others being the Rev. W. H. Satchell, representing Indian matters; the Rev. E. H. Steel (Natives), and the Rev. W. E. Robinson (Coloureds).

The Rev. Satchell stretched the hardship to non-European parents of the cost of books and fees. He referred to Indian schools in Durban, and said that out of 1,300 pupils only 300 paid fees and the mission bore the loss on the rest, of whom it would be cruelty to demand fees.

The Society's memorandum stated:

"We desire to draw the attention of your Commission to the inequity and injustice of the present policy of the Government of Natal in that, while providing free primary education for European children, such education in the case of Native and Indian children must be paid for. We regard such differential treatment, whereby the poorer sections of the community are charged for what is free to those in more favourable financial circumstances, as fundamentally wrong.

"Large numbers of parents of non-European children are forced to live

below the subsistence line, the low wages earned by these people are heavily strained to provide the bare necessities of life. Many parents are faced with the desperate alternative of providing their children with sufficient food and clothing and depriving them of the elements of education, or of withholding from them necessary sustenance for healthy life and using the balance of their earnings to pay for education. No section of a civilised community should be forced into so inhumane a dilemma.

"It is true that a certain number of free places are provided in the Government schools, but this provision is utterly inadequate to meet the situation.

"Medical inspection of all non-European schools is greatly to be desired. We believe that such inspection would disclose a very serious state of malnutrition in the case of large numbers of children.

"We are not unaware of the fact that the immediate introduction of universal free education for non-Europeans would involve the Administration in expenditure that, bearing in mind the present resources of the Province, it would be unreasonable to request.

"We therefore urge that reasonable alleviation be granted, in respect of both Government and Government-Aided schools, by a wide extension of the system of supplying free books to poor

children and by the provision of facilities for non-European schools to purchase books from the Provincial Stores.

"Further, we advocate the adoption of some method of gradual progressive introduction of free education that would have, as its ultimate goal, free primary education for all sections of the people."

Mr. Martin suggested alternative methods of introducing free education. One means was by making it free progressively by ages; another was by standards.

Mr. Steel referred to the cost of school books. He outlined a scheme by which books remained the property of the school, with pupils paying an amount of about 6d. a month towards the cost.

Mr. Martin said that about 10,000 Indian girls in Natal were not in schools. Economic reasons led to the boys being considered first, and only about 5,000 of them were not in schools. Again, the incidence of TB was very high in young Indians, and this was largely due to malnutrition. Great numbers of them arrived at school having had nothing but a cup of tea.

In answer to Dr. Sormany, Mr. Satchell said that the factor of economic pressure did not apply to the Indian girls of Mohammedans. The reason that so few of their girls went to school was that the parents were not interested in education.

Things In General

Take The Plough Rather

Than Starve

ADDRESSING the students of Patidar Hostel in Ahmedabad, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel asked them to give up narrow-mindedness and cultivate family brotherhood. He advised them not to lead a luxurious life and to devote their sparetime in educating their illiterate brethren in villages. In conclusion Sardar Patel asked the students not to hanker after jobs after the conclusion of their studies, but to devote their time and energy in reviving the dying village industries of the country. They must go to villages and take the plough in hand rather than starve in cities.

New Member Of India Council

Dewan Bahadur Ramaswamy Mudaliar, lately member of the Tariff Board has been appointed member of India Council in succession to Sir Atul Chatterji, Mr. Mudaliar joins the appointment either in the last week of July or the first week of August.

Assembly Autumn Session

H. E. the Viceroy has fixed August 31 as the date for commencement of the Autumn Session of the Assembly.

Gift Of 8,000 Books From China

Dr. Rabindranath Tagore's institution Viswabharati has received from the headquarters of the Sino Indian Cultural Society Nanking, a consignment weighing hundred maunds consisting of eight thousand publications on philosophy literature Jurisprudences, military, science, agriculture industry, medicine, biology, zoology and also some very authoritative volumes on Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. These books which are the gifts from various literary and cultural institutions in China will form the Chinese Section of the Viswabharathi Library and will be housed in the Chinese Hall to be constructed at a cost of Rs 30,000 contributed by the Sino-Indian Cultural Society. Prof Tanyunshan, the Chief Organiser of the Society will help forward the cause of Sino-Indian cultural friendship.

England's Defences Costing

190 Millions

Great Britain's estimated expenditure on defence will amount to £190,000,000 this year. Supplementary estimates to the total amount of £19,359,000 were issued for the Navy, Army and Air Force. These estimates, when added to the previous naval supplementary estimate and Budget provision for the three services, raise the expenditure to about £190,000,000. The supplementary estimates are made up as follows:—Navy, £1,059,000; Army, £6,600,000; Air Force, £11,700,000. Royal Ordnance Factories £239,700.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The Treasurers of the Nizamia Muslim Society beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations towards the Building Fund:—Mr. Hossen Nankoo Mia £1 1s., Mr. Mestacha Fassin (Joh'burg) £1 1s., Mr. D. S. Jasat £1, Mr. Mahomed Vallibhai Desai (Joh'burg) £1, Mr. Ally Khan 10s. 6d., Mr. A. I. Kajee 10s. 6d., Mr. Shaikh Mahomed 5s. 3d., Mr. A. E. Jasat 5s.

Will Germany Get Land In Africa?

It is learned that Mr. Pirow's statement in which he suggests that there will be no permanent peace with Germany until she is granted a footing in Africa (but not by way of South-West Africa or Tanganyika) has led to quite a storm in Britain. Mr. Amery, who does not believe in a German re-entry into this country, is discussing the matter at once with his followers, and questions will be asked in the House of Commons.

Pretoria Indians Meet

A special meeting of the Transvaal Indian Congress, Pretoria Branch, was held on July 12, to mourn the death of Mr. Abbas Tayobjee and Sir Fazl-i-Husain. Mr. Essop Akoojee presided. Prayers were offered by Moulvi Bashir. After speeches to suit the occasion were made by the chairman and Messrs. Ali-bhai Keshavjee, M. Sedik, Omarjee H. Moosa, G. Manjee, H. N. Keshavjee, M. Obetty, R. Mooloo, Khan, P. M. Joshi and Nanabhai Sita, it was resolved to send messages of condolence to the bereaved families.

Morning Market Hours May Be Changed

A petition has been sent in by the Unlans and District Farmers Association requesting the closing hours of the Indian Market should be put forward from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. to enable farmers to dispose of their produce with less waste and financial loss and to clear away the unsold portion at greater convenience. They point out that the market opens at 3 a.m., but buyers rarely attend before 7 a.m. It is suggested that the opening hour should be advanced one hour as well as the closing hour. Mr. Davidson, City Market Master agrees with the proposal and recommends its adoption.

Mr. Koopie Murrie's Gift

Mrs. H. Gordon Watson, wife of the Administrator of Natal, will open the new annexe to the Hindu Young Men's Association Building at Maritzburg on July 25 at 3 p.m. The annexe was given by Mr. Koopie Murrie, of Maritzburg, in memory of his mother, Meenatchee Ammal, and will be used for educational and charitable purposes. The Hindu Young Men's Association intends to place the new building at the disposal of the Education Department for conducting a domestic science class for the Indian Girls' School.

Census Figures For

Lower Tugela District

The following are the official Census figures for the Lower Tugela (Stanger) district;—

Europeans: 2,568; Natives: 34,718; Asiatics: 18,697; Coloured Persons: 365.

Arya Samaj Hindi School

The parents of the pupils of the Arya Samaj Hindi School were entertained by the officials and members of the Pleenslaer Arya Samaj on Sunday July 19 at Bhoola's Balcony. The children recited religious poems and sang suitable songs which were greatly appreciated by the audience. Messrs. Hardew Singh, F. Satyapal, S. Chedi and L. N. Bhoola congratulated the teacher Mr. Satyabushan. M. S. Dookran, who presided, assured the gathering that their whole-hearted support was absolutely necessary. It was the intention to erect a Samaj Hall, and in this respect aid was required. Whatever had been achieved could still be improved and it was the parents' duty now to give the helping hand.

Vedic Education

The Vedic Educational Society has made arrangements with a number of volunteer teachers to hold classes for teaching of Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Gujrati. There will be no charge for admission to these classes. It has not yet been decided when and where they will be held. The society has also arranged prayer meetings in the Hindu Tamil Institute every Sunday afternoon and to hold lectures on vedic culture from time to time. Letters may be sent to the secretary, 109, Victoria Street, Durban.

Higher Rates In Durban

An increase in the rates of 3d. in the £ on land and 1d. in the £ on buildings is recommended by the Durban City Treasurer, Mr. E. B. Scott, in his annual estimates report. By levying rates of 6½d. on land and 3½d. on buildings he will be able to balance his record budget of nearly £6,000,000 for the municipal year 1936-1937. The present rates of 6d. and 3d. in the £ would produce a deficit of £42,000. The increase will convert this into a surplus of £44. The estimates submitted by the various Borough Fund departments have already been cut by £6,000 by the City Treasurer, who "reduced them as far as possible in an attempt to balance the budget." A loss of £54,000 on the tramways department is the chief factor in making the higher rates necessary. This loss, which does not allow for increased wages, is included in the Borough Fund account for the first time. Previously it has been transferred to the renewals fund of the tramways department.

Lichtenburg District Population

According to the final census figures the total population of Lichtenburg district in the Transvaal is 71,797 of which Europeans are 20,856, Natives are 49,671, Asiatics are 384 and Coloureds are 886. The total population of the town of Lichtenburg is 5,759 of which Europeans are 3,214, Natives are 2,338, Asiatics are 145 and Coloureds are 62. The urban

areas in the district have a total population of 9,398 of whom 5,080 are Europeans, 4,031 are Natives, 183 are Asiatics and 104 Coloureds. The rural townships are populated by 11,546 of whom 3,931 are Europeans, 7,322 are Natives, 84 are Asiatics and 209 are Coloureds. The total population of the rural areas is 50,853 of which 11,845 are Europeans, 38,318 are Natives, 117 are Asiatics and 573 are coloureds

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Social And Personal

General J. C. Smuts will spend August 18 at Maritzburg. It is expected that he will arrive from Pretoria by an early train, and will be entertained at a reception given by the United Party in the City Hall that evening. Proceeding to Durban the next day he will be entertained to dinner by the Durban Chamber of Commerce.

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Dr. Edgar Brookes and Mrs. Brookes, Miss Campbell, the Rev. W. H. Satchell, Mrs. J. S. Moore and Mrs. David Forbes had the honour of luncheon with their Excellencies the Governor-General and the Countess Clarendon at the Kings House on Monday.

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The death occurred at East London on Tuesday morning at his residence, Woodleigh, of Brigadier-General Sir Charles Preston Crewe, K.C.M.G., C.B., V.D., at the age of 78. A distinguished soldier and statesman, he was a prominent member of the old Cape Legislature. He was Colonial Secretary from 1904 to 1907 and Secretary for Agriculture in 1907-08.

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Wedding

Christian—Charlie

The St. Anthony's Church Pietermaritzburg was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Saturday July 18. The contracting parties were Mr. Samuel Christian, youngest son of the Late Mr. Kuppasamy and Mrs. Kuppasamy of Maritzburg, and Miss Mary Christiana Charlie also of Maritzburg. Mr. B. Stanley acted as the Best man while the duties of Bridesmaid was entrusted to Miss Angellus Francis. After the performance of Religious ceremony at which Father Gabriel officiated the large crowd that assembled was entertained at the Bridegroom's residence. The happy couple were the recipients of many presents and messages of good wishes.