

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Two New Private Bills

THE Transvaal fusionists, General J. J. Pienaar (U.P., Marico) and Mr. J. H. Grobler (U.P., Brits) who are defeated in getting the mixed marriages Bill passed have, after several private meetings and consultations with certain members of the Cabinet, introduced two new Bills. The first of these Bills seeks to empower the Transvaal Provincial Council to refuse trading licences to all non-Europeans who employ white people in their businesses. The second proposes to deny the right of owning property to any white woman who is married to a non-European by amending the Transvaal Asiatic Law of 1885. General Pienaar is responsible for the first Bill and Mr. Grobler for the second. Both the above Bills, which are known respectively as the Provincial Legislature Powers Extension Bill, and the Transvaal Asiatic Land Bill, have been referred to a Select Committee.

### Asiatics In Rhodesia

Much feeling is reported to have been aroused among the Indian community by the recent resolution of the Bulawayo Chamber of Commerce to be submitted to the Congress of Associated Chambers at Gwelo affirming that "the Congress views with great concern the intrusion of Asiatic traders within the European shopping areas of the Colony," and urging the Government to grant to municipalities full power to define areas within which trading rights shall be restricted to Europeans only. The Hindu Society of Salisbury, we learn, has addressed a communication to the Congress protesting against the resolution.

### Asiatic And Native Trading

#### Licences

Eleven out of the 19 applicants for trading licences, who appeared before the Pietersburg Rural Licensing Board on Feb. 15 were Natives writes the correspondent of the *Star*. In the absence of the Magistrate, Mr. J. Lawless and Mr. H. A. Visser constituted the Board, Mr. Lawless presiding. All the applications were granted. The application of a Native, Jack Rampedi, for a certificate for a general dealer's licence on the farm Cyferkuil No. 342, was opposed

by Gani Ahmed on the ground that, as Cyferkuil was owned by Natives, the consent of the Minister of Native Affairs was necessary before the Board was entitled to grant a certificate. Other grounds of opposition were also brought forward. The Board, after reserving its decision, granted the certificate, stating that, in view of the restrictions on European trading in Native areas contained in the Act, it was the policy of the Native Affairs Department not to discourage Natives from obtaining trading licences.

### Mr. O. D. Schreiner Raised To

#### The Bench

Mr. O. D. Schreiner, K.C., a member of the Johannesburg Bar, has been appointed an acting Judge on the bench of the Transvaal Division of the Supreme Court. His appointment has been received in legal circles with intense satisfaction. In September, 1935, Mr. Schreiner was appointed a King's Counsel. Only 46 years of age he will be the youngest member of the Union judiciary. Mr. Schreiner belongs to one of the best known families in South Africa. He is the son of the late Right Hon. W. P. Schreiner, K.C., formerly Prime Minister of the Cape Colony and afterwards High Commissioner of South Africa in London during the Great War, when he rendered sterling services to the Empire. The new acting Judge is also the nephew of Olive Schreiner, the famous South African writer.

### Nationalist Students Against

#### Coronation Celebration

The Bloemfontein correspondent of the *Star* (Johannesburg) states:—

On the grounds that the Coronation celebrations on May 12 are intended to glorify the Empire and are part of the "catch them young" policy of the Imperialists, members of the Afrikaans Nasionale Studentbond of the local Normal College have decided not to take part in the local celebrations, eat Coronation chocolates or wear Coronation medals. They have also resolved to appeal to local Afrikaans schools to encourage their pupils to stay away from the celebrations. The resolution adopted by these students reads: "The Afrikaans Nasionale Studentbond branch

of the Normal College declares herewith that its members will not take part in the Empire Exhibition at the Coronation of the British King on May 12. Even less will its members make use of the Empire chocolates and medals which the Town Council intends distributing in King's Park. Furthermore, it is felt that the English chocolate feast is solely designed to apply the age-old tactics of 'catch em young' through propaganda made to have the schoolchildren present. The branch consequently makes an earnest appeal, especially to the Afrikaans schools in Bloemfontein, to encourage their pupils not to attend the celebrations, but rather to discourage them."

### Hours Of Commercial Workers

An urgent plea for the provision of a 44-hour week for commercial workers in the new Bill which is to be introduced has been made on behalf of the members of the Natal Commercial Employees Association. On Tuesday, Feb. 9, Mr. N. Herd, President of the Association, telegraphed to the Minister of Labour urging him to provide a 44-hour week in his new Bill, or alternatively to await the result of the Wage Board investigation in the conditions of commercial workers which has been asked for. Mr. J. C. Bolton, Secretary of the Association, told the *Natal Mercury* that no meeting had been held to discuss the question, and at present nothing concrete was known about the form the Bill would take. At a recent meeting of the Inter-Provincial Consultative Committee a 48-hour week had been recommended for commercial workers, he said. This has been followed by a telegram from four Durban members of the Natal Provincial Council asking the Minister for a 44-hour week. Some time ago members of the Association had made application to the Secretary for Labour for an investigation by the Wage Board into the conditions of commercial workers in Durban and Maritzburg. The Association had not yet been informed whether the Minister had granted the request, or not.

### Indian Elections

A Reuter's message from Bombay states:—The Unionists, who favour the new Constitution, have already won an absolute majority in the Punjab. The Congress (Independent) Party is leading in the United Provinces with 89 of the 154 seats. In the North West Frontier Province the Congress Party has hitherto won 17 of the 50 seats, the Independent Muslims 20 and the Hindu Nationalists five. A subsequent message from Peshawar reports that the results of the elections in the North-West Frontier Province show that the Congress Party has gained 19 seats. It gained the largest number of seats of any individual Party. The Hindus

gained seven seats and the Moslem Independents two.

### Prospective New Minister

#### Of The Interior

It is understood that owing to ill-health Mr. Stuttaford has taken three months' recuperative leave and Mr. Hofmeyr has been appointed acting Minister of the Interior. If Mr. Stuttaford's holiday will not restore him to health and he finds it necessary to lay down his office his likely successor might be Mr. Sydney Waterson, the member for South Peninsula, who is reported by a Capetown correspondent to be one of the ablest of the younger men in the House, and an outstanding debater.

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## Indian Opinion

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 1937

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### Genuineness Of The European

**T**HE Natal Indian Congress as a body is very hard to please. For many years the attitude and activities of the Congress and its rival body, the Colonial Born Association, have disappointed and disheartened those Europeans who are genuinely anxious to see an amelioration of Indian disabilities in this country. Both bodies have shown a genius for criticism and controversy, but there has been little evidence of constructive co-operation." Thus writes the *Natal Advertiser* in the course of a leading article on the Durban City Council's scheme to solve the Indian housing problem. The *Natal Advertiser*, we must admit, has been more sympathetic than our morning contemporary the *Natal Mercury*, in discussing the Indian and the Native question. But its sympathy is likened to that shown towards the animals in the stable. So long as Indians are treated as such they cannot, if they have any sense of self-respect, be expected to appreciate such

sympathy. If there is little evidence of constructive co-operation on the part of the Indians it is not their fault. If the stable is to be the lot of the Indian he can offer no constructive co-operation, no matter how beautiful the stable might be built.

We know that there are genuine Europeans in this country who truly believe that Indians are not justly treated, but they have not openly expressed their sympathy. There are, others, again like the *Natal Advertiser*, who also feel that Indians are not getting a square deal and we do not doubt their genuineness in helping them. But, perhaps, they fail to see that the outer complexion has nothing whatever to do with one's susceptibilities. A brown or a black man is not, because of the colour of his skin, an inferior animal to the white man. The brown or the black man is possessed with the same susceptibilities as the white man. The latter should, therefore, think of the former as he would of himself and follow the precept

of the Bible by "doing unto others as he would wish that they should do unto him."

The *Natal Advertiser* is, surely intelligent enough to understand that no European would tolerate the treatment that is meted out to Indians under the Slums Act if the same were to be meted out to him. The Slums Act was never opposed by the Indian community. In fact, it was welcomed, and the leaders of the Indian community had offered their whole-hearted co-operation to the authorities in clearing slum conditions. But the way the Act is being operated in regard to Indians, it is, in reality, the Areas Reservation Bill in a disguised form. Now, how can Indians, who have consistently opposed the principle of segregation, be expected to offer their willing co-operation in a scheme, designed to bring the same result in a round-about way, however rosy the scheme may appear to be? Are we, then, justified in wondering at the real genius in the European of coaxing the Indian to submit to his evil scheme or is our contemporary justified in persisting to see false genius in the Indian who is compelled, much to his displeasure, to offer destructive criticism to the authorities.

We, however, fully realise that if Indians themselves have no back-bone in them they can little expect genuine sympathy from Europeans or, for that matter, from anyone.

We wish, once again, to record our protest against those few self-appointed leaders, particularly Mr. A. I. Kajee and Mr. S. M. Nana, who have gone to Capetown to make representations to the Government in regard to the various questions affecting the Indian community. They have no right to commit the community to any

thing. We have stated often enough, and it will bear repetition, that this is a time when things should not be done by caucuses. Public meetings should be held throughout the country and, after the people have been thoroughly informed about the gravity of the situation, representatives should act with the mandate of the people. The present method of working is thoroughly to be condemned. It may perhaps bring some relief to the capitalists, but it will surely ruin the masses. Will those responsible in the community wake up before it is too late?

—oOo—

## Colour Bar In The Marketing Bill

THE Marketing Bill, which is now before Parliament, has drawn a storm of protest from the farming section of our community. Our regret is that the protest from the Indian farmers has not been as emphatic as it should have been. For, the Marketing Bill is a piece of legislation, which, though innocent looking to all intents and purposes, is a deadly weapon that can be used to oust the Indian from the land. We cannot believe that the leaders of our farming section could have made a careful study of the Bill in all its implications. Nor could they have noticed that the Bill is at once a negation of all principles of equity. Nowhere does the Bill recognise the existence of the Indian farming community who form a considerable portion of the Indian population of Natal. The Bill goes further. The Indian farmer, who is a producer and whose ramifications extend through the whole length of the coast of Natal, has no say in the composition of the Producers' Advisory Committee. Nor have the 200,000 Indian consumers any say in the composition of the Consumers' Advisory Committee.

Unlike the European farmer, whose technical knowledge, coupled with the assistance, financial and otherwise, which he receives from the Government, the Indian farmer, by sheer industry,

assisted, alone by his natural aptitude for farming, carries on his operations. He carries on under difficulties sometimes insurmountable. Notwithstanding, the Indian farmer has created, throughout Natal, a network of farmers and petty market gardeners, which contribute largely to Natal being described as a Garden Province.

The Bill aims, *inter alia*, (a) to prohibit or regulate the importation of any product into the Union generally or from any particular country, (b) at the prohibition or the regulation of the exportation of any product from the Union.

The Regulatory Board appointed in terms of the Bill may determine the maximum quantity of product that may be brought into or removed out of any area, the maximum quantity of product which may be sold or offered for sale on any day or during any period fixed by the Board. The Board may impose a special levy upon producers. It will advise the Minister as to the conditions, regarding grades, method of packing and the marking of any such product. The Bill provides for the regulation of the grade, quantity or percentage of any product. These, then, are the salient features of the Bill.

As we have already observed, Indian farmers confine their activities to the coast of Natal. On the South Coast tobacco, mealies and beans are extensively grown by Indian farmers. On the North Coast cane growing is carried on, whilst in and around Durban bananas and vegetables are extensively grown. It would be folly for us to suggest that the grading of any product and the regulating of production is not healthy for the farmers. But the Indian farmers occupy a peculiar position in that they have built up their farms without having acquired any technical education and without having received the smallest assistance from the Government. The banana industry, which at one time was one of the most paying, has been reduced to a state of impoverishment. This is entirely due to the action of the Union Government which concluded the Mozambique Treaty without giving the slightest consideration to the Natal banana growers. What will stop the Regulatory Board from saying to the banana growers: thus far and no fur-

ther? What will stop the Board from saying that the Indian tobacco growers need not grow any further tobacco because Transvaal growers could cope with the needs of South Africa? The recent Sugar Agreement is a case in point. After all, the Bill has been brought forward to satisfy the Platteland. What is there, we ask again, to prevent the Marketing Council from recommending to the Minister that the importation of rice from India shall be prohibited so that the consumption of mealies in this country may be increased? We grant that such a possibility is remote. But the powers are there.

If any of the products grown by the Indian farmer come under the scheme, he could not escape from the payment of the levy. This would be one more instance of taxation without representation.

## The Colour Bar

The most dangerous clause in the Bill is Section 21. This is where the colour bar comes in. This clause provides for the publication of the particulars of any proposed scheme in the *Gazette* and in the newspapers and the convention by the Magistrate of a meeting of producers. The draft resolution approving of the scheme will be put before the meeting, but the persons entitled to vote shall be *none other than Europeans*. It would be obvious, therefore, that if the scheme related to banana growing, the Indian farmers who grow the entire crop of bananas would not be entitled to vote. We cannot imagine a more deadly weapon to oust the Indian farmer than that provided by this clause.

We are happy to note that the Bill is receiving just as much opposition from the Europeans, and nothing would give us more joy than to see that the Bill is prevented from entering the Statutes.

—:o:—

## Fountain of Wisdom

*The domination of one race over another—especially when there is no great disparity between their intellectual endowments or their general civilization—inflicts great injury on the subject race in a thousand ways.—K. G. GOZHALE.*

*It is useless to put your heads together if you cannot put your hearts together.*

—RUSKIN

# MIXED MARRIAGES

THE trouble with most of us is, the things that ought not to matter, do; those that ought to matter, don't. We seem to lack discrimination, discernment, and, most of all, a sense of proportion. As a shrewd observer once remarked, there is far too much of the little ego in our cosmos. We are apt to talk glibly of "principles," in practice these are seemingly ignored and conduct accommodated to the lure of personal and sectional ambitions and the time-honoured gospel of "each for himself and the devil take the hindmost."

Now, in the controversy that has been started regarding mixed marriages, is there involved any really vital principle of general application? It used to be said that marriages are made in Heaven. Few of us to-day accept the proposition; the weight of evidence all points the other way. We used to read and hear much concerning race-purity. We know, now, Hitler and Company notwithstanding, that we were reading and listening to just so much untruth; fusion and interblending over centuries has resulted in an exposure of the old race-purity fiction.

Time was, no doubt, when purity of race, like purity of caste, was a matter of real importance and concern. It is extremely doubtful whether the con-

By

L. W. RITCH

siderations that operated then continue to operate at all to day. After all barriers and enclosures serve but temporary uses, they are erected only that sooner or later they may be broken down. But "sooner" is not the same thing as prematurely.

On the face of it then, and as a general proposition, there would seem to be no sound reason why a man or woman should not mate with any other man or woman; but we have only to introduce certain considerations such, for example, as "the fitness of things" to recognise at once that the proposition so advanced is too general. It is not difficult, for instance, to imagine extreme cases of miscegenation that would arouse general and very proper disgust. Which being so, it is no longer so hard to find justification for the imposition of restraint upon the irresponsibility of the irresponsible. For, irresponsibility it is that almost invariably necessitates the creation of sanctions, an irresponsibility in respect of what is due by the individual to his own particular community firstly, and through that to the

larger community of which his, in turn, forms part. The Indian contribution to the South Africa that is presently in the making will be the more or less valuable and effective according as the Indian ingredient retains or does not retain its own particular characteristics, its uniqueness. It used to be said that the Indian was hated not so much for his vices as for his virtues. Such hate is a compliment; to exchange it for the patronising approval that is the reward of acquiescence is to make a poor bargain. Virtue's pathway is invariably a thorny one, but virtue always compels recognition at last. What is valuable because virtuous in Indian character will best be preserved by the Indian section maintaining its integrity. Every member of the community needs to recognise this fact and the duty of self-restraint such recognition imposes upon him. Moreover, as long as the Indian community continues to labour under the ban of helotage, the importance of maintaining its integrity cannot be over-estimated. The loss of its individuality is precisely what its enemies seek to achieve. In legislating against mixed marriages, the latter may have done better than they knew. More often than not the enemy is unintentionally, of course, but a friend in disguise.

## INDIANS PROTEST AGAINST MARKETING BILL

### MASS MEETING IN MARITZBURG

THE principle of the Marketing Bill is deadly and the Indian grower has no say in the control of production or regulation of prices, and is at the mercy of a board, or boards, elected even by opposing interests," said Mr. A. Christopher, president of the Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association at a mass meeting of Indians held under the auspices of the Maritzburg branch, in the H.Y.M.A. library on Sunday last.

Describing it as a piece of racial legislation in that it would mean the restriction of agricultural production, Mr. Christopher made a strong criticism of the Bill.

He could not conceive of a more deadly measure, he declared, than this Bill, which in its effects would be able to destroy Indian agricultural interests if it was not materially altered.

Even the small Indian grower or the owner of a large block of land did not know how he stood. In some cases he had to obtain permits to grow certain crops. He very often was illiterate and did not even possess any security of tenure. If the Bill was passed he would

go out of existence, which meant more unemployment and its attendant suffering.

"This Bill touched the poor Indian as no other had done, for it affected the man who is already living below the subsistence level," added Mr. Christopher.

The speaker, among other things, referred to the Wage Bill, the Industrial Conciliation Bill, the Mixed Marriages Bill and the Slums Act Amendment Bill, in which Indian interests were attached.

#### Segregation Resolution

Touching on the Maritzburg Council's segregation resolution, Mr. Christopher advised the members of his association not to provoke agitation by going to live in the European areas. While Indians would not accept segregation in principle there was no reason why Indians could not come to a friendly understanding with the City Council so that actually in practice Indians might be prevailed upon to live in their own areas, as most of them were already doing.

Before making an appeal to all Colonial-borns to unite to secure their economic and general improvement, Mr. Christopher regarded the futility of having an Agent-General in South Africa to represent the Union Indians.

Every year, he said, Indian rights were being more and more restricted, despite the declarations made from time to time by the Agent-General that the position of the South African Indians was improving.

Mr. Christopher's contention was further supported by Mr. P. R. Pather and Mr. D. S. Chetty, both of Durban.

Mr. Pather said that while having the Government of India's Agency in South Africa laws were still being passed against Indians. Every public matter which Indians themselves dealt with was being referred to the Agency and they were reduced to the position of natives as being a people without any voice in their own affairs.

"The Agent is asked to do everything for us and since his advent we have not been able to do anything ourselves," said Mr. Pather. "When the Agency was started it was done to support and

not to override the community as is being done to-day. If we do not oppose this course of action we are not men worthy of calling ourselves Indians."

### No Representation

Touching on the Marketing Bill, Mr. Pather felt that while its objects were good it gave no representation to the largest group of growers in Natal, namely, the Indian. There was a possibility that European interests would predominate because of the composition of the various boards, thus relegating Indian matters to the back-ground.

In view of what Indians had done for agriculture in this province, said Mr. Pather, this Bill was the most unkind cut of all, for it would oust the Indian from the land.

The meeting, at which Dr. M. R. Peters presided, passed the following resolutions:—

"That this meeting of the Indian community, held under the auspices of the Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association at Maritzburg, hereby records its emphatic protest against the Marketing Bill now before the Union

Parliament, in that it is a measure based on colour bar, the operation of which will seriously affect the Indian community in general, and the Indian farmers, who form a large percentage of the Indian population of Natal, in particular. The Bill (a) precludes the Indian farmers, who are producers on a large scale in Natal, from having any say in the appointment of the Producers' Advisory Committee; (b) precludes the Indians as consumers from having any say in the appointment of the Consumers' Advisory Committee; (c) restricts the approval or otherwise of a proposed scheme to European producers only, and thereby placing the Indian producers at the mercy of the Europeans; (d) attempts to regulate the production by Indian farmers, which will have the effect of throwing hundreds of them into the throes of unemployment; (e) with a view to increasing the consumption of local produce has powers to prohibit the importation into this country of any staple food of the Indians.

"That this meeting therefore urges that strong representations be made by the

Colonial-born and Settlers' Indian Association to the Minister in charge of this Bill with a view to preventing its being passed in its present form."

"That this mass meeting approves of the principles of the Industrial Conciliation Bill, but urges that while registration of employers is necessary there should be no deregistration of an employer as set out in the Bill with consequent suspension of that employer's business."

"That this mass meeting strongly protests against any form of segregation in Maritzburg and hereby authorises the representatives of the Colonial-born and Settlers Indian Association to explore any means of bringing about an understanding with the City Council on this subject."

"That this mass meeting protests against the principles in the Mixed Marriages Bill in that they inflict a stigma of inferiority on Indians."

"That this mass meeting protests against the extraordinary powers that are being given to municipalities under the proposed amendments to the Slums Act."

# INDIANS AND THE COMMONWEALTH

## MR. SASTRI'S ADDRESS AT MALACCA

THE Rt. Hon. V. S. S. Sastri and Mr. G. S. Bozman were the guests of honour at a tea party held on January 2 at Malacca under the auspices of the Indian Association. The large gathering present included the leading officials and citizens of the Settlement. Mr. D. Devarajah, on behalf of the Indian and Ceylonese communities of Malacca, welcomed the guests of honour.

Mr. Sastri, in replying, said: "On behalf of my colleague, Mr. Bozman, as well as my own self, let me return cordial thanks for the very generous terms in which I have been introduced. Much that has been said is of a kind that it will be ungracious to dismiss but I must say that our friend has used language not always justified by the facts. I am, however, very much impressed by the large and representative gathering before me. I believe Mr. Bozman and myself have every reason to congratulate ourselves that in Malaya we are able to find so many Indians together and learn at first-hand what kind of life they lead here. It is eloquent of the occasion that this gathering should be so representative. You seem here to enjoy an understanding of mutual relationship which fills me with the hope that in India as well as elsewhere similar conditions may be established.

"I have come here, as you know, to enquire into conditions of Indian labour

and make recommendations, to the Government of India on that topic and allied topics. That is naturally a narrow field of opportunities. But it gives me abundant opportunity to find how great and interesting Malaya is. I have one observation to make regarding my relations with the Government of India and I should not have made it if our friend—your spokesman—had not made reference to them. I am a member of the Servants of India Society. Its members are pledged to serve humanity irrespective of caste, creed or colour. Occasionally my work brings me into contact with the Government of India. Not every member of the Society is so privileged as I am. Once the Government of India appointed me as its Agent in South Africa and I have associated myself with them there. But I am not a servant of the Government of India. I only occasionally bear commissions for them. I might explain that in so doing I sometimes cross the path of large sections of Indians. A large portion of them are excited—I might even say exasperated—with the politics of India. For them it is taboo to associate with the Government. But when I am told there is a piece of service that can be done for my people whether in India or outside I am glad of the opportunity of serving the people and I go forward. My belief is, once a man joins the Servants of India Society he has no right to inquire whom he serves, but to serve

the people honourably. In the next place people will say you must decline certain channels of service. Momentary considerations find a place in their calculations.

"Without undue boasting, I might tell you that when a service is suggested I do not pause to ask whether it is beneath my dignity or consistent with it."

Continuing Mr. Sastri said: "I am proud that it is given to me by the blessing of Providence to make first-hand acquaintance with Empire countries in respect of my people there, where exactly they stand among the people of the Commonwealth, how their position may be improved, how we, born in India and settled abroad, can become equal members of this great political institution.

"Well, we are not to-day equal members. There are many points where we are not equal. My firm faith is that within the Commonwealth there is room for steady progress for a loyal and industrious people. The genius of the British constitution, however poorly or unworthily it may be represented here, and there by its agents, does not know of any limitations on the growth of the people. By improving our qualifications and our deserts it is almost certain that we can rise higher than any member of the Commonwealth.

"Many of those in India who read these words in cold print may think I am bold to make these observations. My belief is, and always has been, so far, that a great destiny still awaits the Indian people in the British Commonwealth."



# South African News In Brief

## Police Force Pay

THE Union Government has approved the recommendations relating to the pay of African, Indian and Coloured police, contained in the interim report of the Police Commission. The new scales affect more than 3,050 non-Europeans, and represent a substantial improvement over the pre-1924 and the existing rates. The starting wage for every rank has been increased and the increments will continue steadily.

## Coronation Seats For S.A. Visitors

The Prime Minister's office announces that advice has been received that those intending visitors who made applications to the office of the High Commissioner, London, up to December 1 last for seats to view the Coronation procession, will be allocated seats. The position of seats and the prices have not yet been decided. It is understood that the prices will be reasonable, and, as soon as they are made known, individual applicants will be notified.

## Broadcasts Of The Coronation

Arrangements are being made by the British Broadcasting Corporation for special programmes during the whole of Coronation week. On Coronation day, May 12, the stations will relay the service from Westminster Abbey and the descriptions of outdoor scenes along the procession route. In the evening the King will broadcast a message to the Empire at the end of the programme entitled "The Empire's Homage," which will be on the lines of Christmas relays from different parts of the Empire. It is hoped that by means of special equipment certain parts of the procession will be televised.

## Coloured Students' Hostel

Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, M.P., has made another generous contribution of £500 towards Coloured education in Kimberley. This was revealed by Mr. W. T. MoLoed, Chairman of the African Peoples Organisation Education Fund Committee, who stated that a donation had been made in connection with the establishment of a hostel in Kimberley for Coloured students, the first of its kind in South Africa. The Committee had purchased Devonshire House in York Street for £500 and Sir Ernest Oppenheimer was approached to assist in defraying the cost of the institution, which will be known as the Frank Oppenheimer House in memory of his son. The hostel has been established in response to requests from Coloured parents from all over the Union who wish to send their children to one of the two highest educational institutions in Kimberley, the William Pescod High School and the Perseverance Training School.

## Johannesburg Prepares For Farewell To Governor-General

Arrangements for the farewell garden party which the Johannesburg City Council is giving in honour of Lord and Lady Clarendon in Joubert Park on the afternoon of February 26 have been completed. Three thousand guests have been invited, including the Mayors of the Reef towns and all the other towns of the Transvaal. The Mayor, Mr. D. W. Mackay, will present the city's gift, an inkstand of 40 ounces of solid gold to the Governor-General. The gift to Lady Clarendon will be a silver clock with the figure of a native warrior on one side and of a native washerwoman on the other. This will be presented in the name of the city to Her Excellency by the Mayoress, Mrs. Mackay.

## Glencoe Licensing Board

The value placed on native trade by business men was shown at a meeting of the Glencoe Licensing Board when Mr. P. M. Hansa, one of the chief storekeepers of the town applied for an extra licence to run a native store. Mr. Hansa,

## B. W. CANEY

—Jeweller—

366 West Street, Durban

For best value in Jewellery  
and Watches of all makes.

having converted his store into a modern shop for European trade, found it necessary owing to congestion there, to cater for his native customers in a separate building. "Natives do not like an up-to-date shop front," Mr. Hansa said, "because they fear that the goods in such a shop will be dear, and generally speaking they do not like to patronise a European shop." The licence was granted subject to its being restricted to native trade.

## Payment Of Native Poll Tax

The question of total abolition of Native poll tax was hotly debated at the first meeting of the year of the Kimberley branch of the National Council of Women. The meeting was asked to take a vote on a resolution sent from the Durban branch: "That poll tax be not imposed on Natives under the age of 21 years." A proposal from the local Executive Committee was made that this resolution be extended to all Natives earning less than £18 a year, but the meeting, with a majority of 25 votes to two, added an amendment for the total abolition of the tax.

## Natal Indian Blind Society

The above Society, which has recently been formed in Durban, is anxious to obtain the names and addresses etc., of the blind Indian people of all ages in the Province of Natal, and would be most grateful for information. The society feels the great need of reaching more Indian blind children, as so much can be done to arrest blindness which is so prevalent throughout the Union, chiefly through neglect and ignorance. There is no reason whatsoever why blind or partially sighted children should not enjoy the blessing of education, and be taught to help themselves, and thus become useful members of the community. It is encouraging to know that at the Athlone School for the Blind at Faure, Cape, a blind boy of 15 years of age passed Standard 8 top in the Union, and the blind children are taught various crafts such as basket making, chair canning, mattress making etc., with splendid results. This society wishes to do everything possible for the welfare of blind Indians, and where possible, to arrange for medical treatment and financial assistance. Later, it is hoped to raise funds for the establishment of a home, school and workshop in Natal for the younger blind and partially blind cases. The Secretary, whose address is 345, Vause Road, Durban, should like the following information:—Full name, Address, Age, Nearest Post Office, Name of nearest Magistrate or Clergyman, Whether married or single, Number of children, Children's ages and what means of support one has.

## Petrol Pumps For Motor Traders Only

At a monthly meeting at the Howick Town Board two applications from Messrs. Economic Supply Stores and Amod Mahomed for kerb-side petrol pumps, were refused. The South African Motor Traders' Association asked the board not to allow merchants to have petrol pumps, but to try and confine them to motor traders.

## Motor Vehicles In The Union

Statistics of the new motor vehicles licensed during December, 1936, show the Union's totals as: 3,563 cars, 537 motor buses, lorries, trucks and vans, and 170 motor cycles. Natal's total were: 319 cars, 46 motor buses, etc., and 16 motor cycles. Of these Durban had 150 cars, 21 motor-buses, etc., and five cycles. Statistics of the countries of origin show that 2,920 motor cars came from the United States, 502 from the United Kingdom, and 141 from other countries. America was represented by 492 motor buses, etc., the United Kingdom by 41, and other countries by four. Of the motor cycles the United Kingdom sent 165, the United States four, and other countries one.

*Indian Society For Music And Art*

The entries for the First Indian Eisteddfod, to be held in Durban on March 24, must be sent in to the Joint Hon. Secretaries, c/o 71, Albert Street, Durban, not later than Sunday, February 28. Late entries will be accepted up to March 6, if accompanied by an extra fee of 1/-. All enquiries must be addressed to the Joint Hon. Secretaries, 71, Albert Street, Durban. All intending candidates for the coming Indian Eisteddfod are kindly requested to send in their entries as soon as possible.

*M. K. Gandhi Senthamil Sunday School*

For the last seven years, Mr. Kanabathia Nadasa Pillay, the head-master of the M. K. Gandhi Senthamil Padasalai (Tamil Section) has been diligently working to keep alive the interests of parents and children in religious education. Every Sunday morning the children look forward to this particular class and week by week the number has increased and to-day the Sunday class can boast of about 150-200. In this good work Mr. Pillay is assisted by Messrs. B. A. Pather and V. R. Naidoo. Prayers, lectures and

sacred songs occupy the full period. Each week, parents by turn, volunteer to make some sort of edible distribution which is served to the children at the close of the day's class. Hitherto musical accompaniment to the children's songs was lacking, but thanks to the timely assistance of the Hindu Youth Club in this direction. Mr. Pillay, who is also a member of the English school staff, deserves to be highly commended for his noble services in the field of religious education. It is earnestly hoped that this report will catch the eye of the leaders of other centres and similar institutions will be organised.

# NATAL INDIAN TEACHERS AND THE EISTEDDFOD

ON Saturday, February 6, a meeting was held in the evening at Sastri College under the auspices of the Teachers' Society in connection with the Eisteddfod. The attendance of the teachers was very disappointing indeed. The number of those who attended could not have been more than twenty-four. The meeting was to start at 8 p.m., but owing to the "unpunctuality" of the teachers, business commenced at 8.30 p.m.

One feels dissatisfied, judging from this meeting of the teachers, that the teachers themselves do not "try" to put into practice the value of time and other moral lessons they teach to their pupils. I do not say all teachers, but many of them. Teachers are supposed to be the cultured people or at least interested in general progress and to set "good" example to the pupils, and to the members of our community to some extent. Now, then, if the teachers themselves do not turn up at "their own" meetings—and turn up unpunctually too—how can they expect respect from others. What would be the impression when their pupils see this?

Teachers, whether they are Indians or otherwise, are expected to take some responsibility in advancing their own community, and to-day they have the opportunity of doing so in the form of the Eisteddfod.

It is a well-known fact that schools take the foremost part in all European Eisteddfods, and so similar support is inevitably expected in all Indian primary schools for our Eisteddfod. It is surprising to note that efforts of the Eisteddfod Committee to bring this fact before the teachers, have been in one way or the other kept down deliberately or negligently by various primary school headmasters, so that the assistant teachers in such schools know nothing about the Indian Eisteddfod. Such were the sentiments expressed by Mr. Warriner, the chief speaker of the evening, and

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By OBSERVER  
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who has taken the lead in this movement to foster for Indian advancement in music, arts, elocution etc., for which details one ought to study the Eisteddfod Syllabus which only costs 6d., and should be in the hands of everybody.

Mr. Warriner said that he was amazed at the talent existing among Indians, but so far there had been no chance for those possessing talents to come forward, and this Eisteddfod therefore will be an impetus to such people. Throughout his whole lecture he stressed the beneficial side of the Eisteddfod and what it will mean to the Indian community. From the Syllabus one may observe that it very admirably caters for the whole community including the youngest child at school to the oldest man outside. English and all Vernaculars have been specially treated, so that the Indian community should take advantage of these items.

It remains for the Indian teachers in all schools to do something for the Eisteddfod and not just sit with folded arms. One agrees that there may be financial difficulties forthcoming, but if teachers affected by such, approach the gentlemen of their respective districts, I am sure the obstacles might be successfully combated. But to-day the trouble with the Indian teachers is, to say frankly, that they do very little and on top of that expect recognition and praise, which, unless the teachers prove that they are worthy as teachers, I am afraid they will not get. I do not wish to run down our teachers, but one deeply felt when one heard that Saturday evening, that even the circulars sent out by the Education Department sanctioning the approval of the Eisteddfod, have not in many schools been given attention by the headmasters of such schools. What examples other

than this does one require to find out how the teachers are working! It is really disgusting!

Some—I do not say many—thought that Saturday, February 6, at Sastri College, was a social evening, and so just appeared aimlessly. Mind you, there were some teachers in it too! What a sheer ignorance on the part of such teachers!

In conclusion, one therefore hopes that the teachers will be the "backbone" of the first Eisteddfod that is to be. Let them show their worthiness and ability at this occasion of the Eisteddfod, as well as "prove that they are teachers in the true sense of the word."

## Natal University College Courses For Non-Europeans

Classes leading to the B.A. Degree are to be held at Sastri College, Durban, on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings, beginning on Friday, February 26th, 1937.

Fees per half year	27 10 0
Fees for separate class per half year	2 10 0

The Adviser to Non-European Students will attend at Sastri College to interview and enrol students from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, February 20th, and from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23rd, and on Thursday, February 25th and at other times by appointment.

These classes may also be attended (with the consent of the lecturers) by non-matriculated persons who desire to extend their general education.

It may be possible to arrange tutorial classes for students working for subjects not included in the regular curriculum. These classes can also be taken in preparation for the cultural section of the T.2 examination.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Adviser to Non-European Students: P. O. Box 1525, Durban.

# India Letter

[ FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT ]

## Mrs. Naidu's Message To The People Of Punjab

MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU arrived at Lahore on Jan. 12 after a tour in Jullundur and Amritsar districts and left immediately for Rohtak, Ambala and other places to complete her Punjab tour. In a statement to the Press Mrs. Naidu said: "Now that in a couple of days my tour will come to a close, on the eve of leaving Lahore, I wish to send the people of the Punjab greetings of warm affection and gratitude for their splendid welcome to me and their splendid response to the word of hope, faith and deliverance, that I brought for them in the name of the Indian National Congress. With speed that equalled a whirlwind's I was able, in an incredibly short time, to visit almost all the chief towns of the Punjab and penetrate into the distant villages difficult of access, set in the midst of mustard fields or half buried in the desert dust. Everywhere there were immense crowds of men and women who waited with cheerful patience in the rain, and the heat of the mid-day sun and bitter cold all hours of the night, to listen to the message of freedom that the Congress sent to the Indian people. I am confident that my message has awakened a lasting response in the hearts of the Punjabi people and that when the hour arrives, as it soon will, when they will be called upon to witness their loyalty to the Congress ideals and programme, they will not be found wanting but that they will accord to the men and women nominated by the Congress their suffrages which the Congress seeks at their hands."

## Pandit Jawaharlal To Visit Rangoon

According to Congress circles in Rangoon there is a possibility of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visiting Burma towards April next; his object being to acquaint himself personally with the views of all sections of Burmese political opinion before the Congress comes to a decision regarding Burma after separation. This is the outcome of an interview which Mr. Ganga Singh, M.L.A., President of the Burma Provincial Congress Committee had with the Congress President at Faizpur during the Congress session. Meanwhile the Burma Congress had addressed the A.I.C.C. expressing its desire to organise a federation of Indians overseas with Rangoon as its headquarters, the association to function under the aegis of the Congress. Amendment to the Congress constitution in this connection is

now before the A.I.C.C. It is understood that the amendment will be kept pending till Pandit Nehru returns from his visit to Burma and acquaints the A.I.C.C. with his views on the question.

## Tribute To Pandit Malaviya

In paying a tribute to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya the *Sind Observer* writes: Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is a revered name in India. To the English educated it enshrines all that is great in Indian nationalism. To the unlettered masses it represents the embodiment of all that is good and great in Hindu culture. To the lowly and down-trodden it is the name of a leader who has endeared himself to millions by his great services in the uplift of the submerged classes. To the rising generation Pandit Malaviya is the great guru who has lived a life of dedicated service in the cause of education of the youth of India. To the Princes of India, Malaviyaji is a friend and counsellor who has stood by them in times of anxiety and difficulty. To the British Government in this country Panditji is a tower of strength because he has, during over half a century of public life, acted as the interpreter of India's thoughts and aspirations in the political field.

## India's Trade With Britain

Sir Firoze Khan Noon, High Commissioner for India in London, interviewed by the Associated Press at Karachi, referred to his work in London and said that he had arranged with Mr. Zaman, I.C.S., Officer-in-Charge of International Affairs, High Commissioner's Office, to get in touch with the British Press, with a view to giving publicity to India and things Indian. He felt there was a great genuine desire on the part of British merchants to encourage trade with the Dominions and India. He cited as an example the increased consumption of Indian cotton in Manchester from 60,000 to 500,000 bales. He felt there was a great future for Indian tobacco whose consumption was rapidly increasing in Britain. Sir Firoze flew back to England on February 10.

## The Nizam To Visit Mecca

According to a report in a Hyderabad paper, His Exalted Highness the Nizam is proceeding early next year for a pilgrimage to Mecca and for visits to holy places in Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine. His Exalted Highness, who will be going oversea for the first time in his life, is expected to be absent from the State for six months. It is understood that he will be accompanied by several leading Ulemas.

## Indian Princes And The King's Coronation

It is learnt that no Indian Prince as such has been invited to attend the Coronation Durbar of His Majesty the King-Emperor, which will take place in London in May. The four Indian Princes, who are honorary A.D.C.'s to His Majesty have been invited by virtue of their office, and they will take part in the Coronation accordingly. Other Indian Princes have been informed that, if they choose to attend the Coronation, they must do so at their own expense and they should make their own arrangements for their stay in London. Seats will be reserved for them in Westminster Abbey for the ceremony, if timely intimation is received. It is considered doubtful, if the invitations will be sent to non-official Indians, in view of the letters addressed to Indian Princes. Sir Mahomed Zaffrullah Khan is expected to be in London in April and will represent India at the Coronation.

## The Theosophical Society's Aims

"The Greatness of the Theosophical Society" was the subject of an address given by Mr. Henry Hotchener at the Theosophical Convention held recently at Madras. "For more than sixty years," he said, "the ideal of a brotherhood of man, great enough to reconcile all classes, all castes, all colours, all religions, all sciences and all philosophies, had been the special objective behind the Theosophical Society's unremitting labours." That this ideal could not be quickly attained was recognised by all, but was it not well that there should exist an organisation that would adhere to an ideal even though it be somewhat remote? To study the unity beneath all religions, the lecturer said, was part of the work of the Theosophical Society. The purpose of the Society was to exalt the true virtues of all religions, not to undermine them. Therefore leaders of religions would do well to encourage the study of such source books on Theosophy as Dr. Besant's "The Four Great Religions." Mr. Hotchener said that he found in the course of his travels that Theosophists were now better understood than formerly and were being welcomed by votaries of different religions. Theosophical books were found in large numbers in public libraries. In Western lands such Theosophical conceptions as re-incarnation and karma, were being incorporated into stage and screen plays, not perhaps as religious conceptions, but as ideals with a real dramatic value.



# NATAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## NON-EUROPEAN CLASSES

**A**N interesting experiment by the Natal University College has just completed its first year, the experiment, namely of providing university-teaching for non-European students in Durban. It was brought to the notice of the authorities that a number of non-Europeans were working for their university degrees under circumstances of the greatest difficulty—no teaching save through correspondence, hardly any books, no contact with fellow-students, no access to laboratories for practical work. After some discussion as to the best means for meeting this situation, it was decided to establish special classes for non-Europeans at Sastri College, to be held at week-ends, under the direction and control of the Natal University College. This was actually more convenient to the students than any other proposal for some of them are teachers in institutions at some distance from Durban, and regular attendance during the week would have been impossible. Naturally very little college life can be enjoyed during the hurried week-end sessions, but to supplement these classes, a vacation school was planned at Adams College in July, when there were opportunities for leisurely study, quiet discussions with lecturers and with fellow-students, and some amount of social life.

The first year's working has been successful. Eighteen students completed the year's work and sat for their examinations viz., 10 Indians and 8 natives. Most were working for the first year's subjects of the B.A. degree, but a few advanced students received tuition individually or in small groups in more advanced subjects. Five classes were held in English, Botany, Geography, Zulu and Economics. The bulk of the students are teachers and some come from quite considerable distances each week end, e.g. one came from Maritzburg, one from Inchanga, two from Marriannahill and four from Adams College at Amanzimtoti. These journeys naturally add considerably to the costs of their education. They are urged not to take too many subjects in view of the fact that their position is that of part-time students but some are so ambitious that it is difficult to restrain them. One student had been working alone for years for his matriculation examination and it was found that he was entitled to exemption from the Matric. His satisfaction at finding himself in a group of fellow-students, taught by properly qualified lecturers was almost pathetic to witness.

The vacation school was an occasion of great interest. Arrangements were made to have a certain number of lectures

by distinguished persons, with the object of enlarging the students general outlook. The more interesting ones perhaps were those given by Judge Horwood on Pre-British India and by Father Bernhard Huse on Co-operation. The former was quite a tour-de-force, a conspectus in about an hour and a half of all the factors which had shaped the India to which the English came in the 17th century. It increased the interest felt by the Indian students in their own past, and helped the Native students to a new understanding of their Indian comrades. It was pleasant after the lecture to see the Indians talking to Judge Horwood in their own language.

On the whole then the year's experiment can be regarded as successful. Many difficulties still remain to be surmounted. There will not be a regular supply of Native students until pre-matriculation classes are available for them to a greater extent than at present. Help through bursaries or loans is required for the poorer students, and an adequate library for non-European students is a crying need. But a beginning has been made and from that beginning further developments may be expected in the future.

Inquiries as to arrangements in 1937 should be addressed to the General Adviser, Non-European Classes, P.O. Box 1525, Durban.

## The Sporting World

### South Coast Indian Football Association

**T**HE annual meeting of the South Coast Indian Football Association took place recently at the association's hall, Clairwood, when the elections resulted as follows: Patron, Mr. A. Singh; president, Mr. Pavadai R. Pather; vice-presidents, Messrs. T. L. Nandoo, T. G. Govender, A. C. Govender, M. E. Sigamoney, R. A. Govender, A. R. Ramith and A. M. Pillay; hon. secretary, Mr. N. M. Naidoo; hon. treasurer, Mr. P. M. Harry; record clerk, Mr. P. C. Pather; hon. auditor, Mr. R. Gopaulsingh. Nine senior clubs were affiliated last year, namely, Schools, Star, Rosburgh, South Coast Junction, Springboks, Clairwood Moonlighters, United, Flemings and Bluff Rangers. Through the energies of Mr. P. M. Pillay, a juvenile section was created and nine clubs were affiliated. The association was affiliated to the Natal Association as a unit playing soccer on Sundays. The association has grounds to the value of £1,425, of which £850 has been paid.

### Aryan Cricket Club—Port Elizabeth

The Uitenhage Hindoo Cricket Club travelled to Port Elizabeth on January 31, and played the Aryan Cricket Club. The visitors batted first and were all out for 47 runs. The homesters played well, scoring 71 runs. In the visitors' second innings, the whole side being dismissed for 17 runs. Thus the Aryans won by an innings and 7 runs. As a result of this victory, the Aryan Cricket Club have annexed the "League Cup" for the second year in succession.

### Schools C.C. Vs. Stars C.C.

M. I. Yusuf, the young Rhodesian cricketer has added another achievement to his name when he scored 205 runs in 2 hours last Sunday against the Stars C.C. in the second league match. In his innings, Yusuf hit 15 sixes and 10 fours. This is his second record in the league cricket. Recently he scored 410 runs. The Schools C.C. for whom he is playing, are all school boys, and this young team has already won Mr. Vashee's league cup. The scores were: Schools C.C. first innings, 245 all out; Stars C.C. first

innings, 22 all out. (Follow on) Stars C.C. second innings, 19 for 7. Schools C.C. won on the first innings by 223 runs.

### S.A.R.I.C.C. Vs. Dundee I.C.C.

On Sunday last, an interesting Cricket match was witnessed by all cricket enthusiasts when S.A.R.I.C.C. met Dundee I.C.C. in the second round for Mr. Joseph David's League Cup. Dundee batted first and scored 58 runs, and the S.A.R.I.C.C. replied with 60 runs, to which Willie Narandes was the top scorer. In the second venture the Dundee I.C.C. compiled 74 for 1 wicket and declared. The S.A.R.I.C.C. registered 50 runs for 4 wickets.

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### WEDDING

On Sunday, February 7, a pretty wedding took place at Colenso, the contracting parties being Miss Visalatcheemall, second daughter of the late Mr. M. V. Naidoo and Mrs. Naidoo, and sister of Messrs. V. V. and V. G. Naidoo, of Colenso; and Mr. G. S. Rajarathanam Pillay, brother-in-law of Mr. R. S. O. Pillay of Johannesburg. The married couple left for Johannesburg.



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