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NOTES AND NEWS

The Black Bill Dropped

AT an important Caucus meeting of the United National Party it was decided, at the suggestion of the Prime Minister, to drop the White Women's Employment Restriction Bill, prohibiting the employment of European women by Asiatics and to accept the assurance of the representatives of the South African Indian Congress, given in the following terms in the report of the Select Committee: "That in order to avoid the application of legislative compulsion with the stigma which this would imply, it is willing to secure by voluntary action the cessation of all employment of the kind to which exception has specially been taken." It is understood that the Prime Minister's address to the caucus conciliated conflicting points of view among the members, and that the decision ultimately taken was a unanimous one.

"Gentlemen's Agreement (?)"

The offer of voluntary action had been expressed to the Select Committee in the following terms by Mr. A. I. Kajee: "I think that I can say with confidence that if it will satisfy those who support this Bill we will endeavour to ask those who employ European female labour to dispense with practically all their European employees." This we are told is the "gentlemen's agreement" arrived at between the Government and Mr. A. I. Kajee and his associates who claimed to have been speaking in the name of the Congress.

The Asiatic Land Bill

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Bill, forbidding the ownership of land by European women married to Asiatics, is still before the Select Committee and it is understood that a departmental inquiry will be conducted, probably during the recess into certain economic aspects of the problem which has generated so much heat in Parliament and that recommendations may eventually be made to the Government regarding the conditions under which trading licences may be issued to Asiatics.

Women's Protest

The National Council of Women has objected to the introduction of the White Women's Employment Restriction Bill. At a meeting of the Capetown branch the following resolution was passed:—"The National Council of Women protests against the Bill entitled the White Women's Employment Restriction Bill because it closes yet another avenue to women. The report of the Select Committee to which the original Bill was referred is not accessible to the public and copies of the Bill are no longer obtainable. The Council suggests at least that it may be deferred until next session when more information will be available." Mrs. J. F. Solly said that the Bill was another attempt to penalise women. The employment of white women by Asiatics, she claimed was small, and the women themselves should be left to make their choice about the matter without legislation. Mrs. Solly wanted to know whether in the event of the Bill becoming law employment will be found for those women who would then be thrown out of work.

The Deadlock In India

A Reuter's message from New Delhi stated that Mahatma Gandhi in an interview suggested the appointment of an arbitration tribunal of three judges to decide whether it was competent for the Governors to give the assurance asked for by the Congress Party as a condition of its office. Mr. Gandhi proposed that one judge should be appointed by Congress, another by the British Government and these should have power to appoint a third. Mr. Gandhi said he was ignorant of the Government of India Act and the select Committee's report. His advice to Congress in regard to the conditional acceptance of office was based on the opinion of Congress lawyers that the Governors could give the required assurance without an infringement of the Act. He would also refer to the question of the legality of the present Ministries to the proposed tribunal of judges. He added that if the Govern-

ment would accept the proposal he would advise Congress to do likewise. He declared that he wanted right to prevail. There was no question of diplomacy with India; it was a question of life or death. Office would be accepted only if progress towards India's goal was accepted.

Indo-European Marriages

In South Africa

We cull the following from the *Indian Social Reformer* :—

"The main issues relating to the position of Indians in South Africa have till now related to their right to own land, to trade freely, to be regarded as an integral part of the population and to have the same measures of economic and educational opportunities, in a word, to have the full right of citizenship. These, to our mind, have no necessary connection with the laws relating to marriage and social relationship between racial groups. The Bill recently introduced prohibiting the marriage of White South Africans with Indians, to our mind, is hardly of the same importance from the Indian point of view as restrictions on landowning and trading. It cannot be said that the existence or well-being of the Indian community will be jeopardised by Indians being prevented from marrying white women. Such legal bans are in the highest degree reprehensible on general principles. They often result in irregular unions which no legislation can prevent. Mr. Hofmeyr's protest against the Bill on general principles is absolutely sound. But we do not think that opinion in India, where such restrictions exist on all sides, can be expected to regard this Bill with very keen resentment. On the other hand, it is possible that the Bill, if passed, might make the relations between whites and Indians easier. **INDIAN OPINION** takes this view and there is some force in it. It observes: "While we have always been fighting for equal rights and equal opportunities and even for social equality with the Europeans, we have never asked for the right of inter-marrying. And, if Europeans have had the one fear in giving social equality to Indians, it has been the fear of inter-marriages resulting from such equality."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH, 1937

Should We Laugh Or Cry?

THIS is perhaps the first time in the history of South Africa that an anti-Asiatic Bill emerging from a Parliamentary Select Committee has been so universally condemned by the European press and people, as has been the case in regard to the White Women's Employment Restriction Bill. It shows that sanity has not altogether disappeared from this country. While we are penning this article we have before us the report of the announcement made by the Prime Minister on Wednesday, April 14, of the Government's intention to drop both the anti-Asiatic Bills and to accept the "gentleman's agreement" with the South African Indian Congress to secure by voluntary action the cessation of all employment of the kind to which exception has specially been taken. The Prime Minister is reported to have added further that acceptance of the agreement would be unconditional. This is in accordance with the decision of the United Party caucus. Thanks are due for this wise decision to the sanity of the press, to Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr and Mr. Derbyshire, who had a very tough fight with their very hostile colleagues in the Select Committee and, above all, to the Prime Minister for taking courage even at the eleventh hour to see that South Africa was not made a laughing stock before the civilised world by the action of a few irreconcilables in and out of Parliament.

Victory On Whose Side?

The victory is on the side of the white people of South Africa, not on the side of Indians or India. As for the latter, we do not know whether they have reason to laugh or to cry. This is but one of the many acts of humiliation from which Indians have been saved, and it is only because it was a very glaring one presented in an ugly form which was rendered uglier and

farcical by the majority decision of the Select Committee, in that it discriminated between Asiatics and Asiatics and that, too, on the basis of economic considerations. And this too was achieved not without its price. And what a price! The price paid is, we think, as humiliating as, if not more than, the passing of the Bill would have been. We refer to the Agent-General as representing India being slighted by the Select Committee and the assurance given by those who have claimed to have been representing the community.

Whose Honour?

The report of the Select Committee on the Bill in question makes very painful reading in so far as it refers to the Agent-General and those who went to represent the Indian community. The Committee's refusal to allow the Agent-General for India and his secretary to attend the sittings of the Committee at which evidence was being taken, its refusal again when the Agent-General asked to be present when the evidence of the Reddingsbond was being heard and its refusal the third time when the Agent-General asked for a copy of the Reddingsbond's evidence to help him in composing his rebuttal, was a downright insult to any man of honour and the Agent-General being the representative of India in South Africa it was an insult to India. In our opinion this was in itself sufficient ground for the Agent-General to break his relations with the Union Government and to retire as a mark of protest. But perhaps the Agent-General was more anxious about the honour and prestige of the Government and the European people of the Union of South Africa than of the Government and the people of India.

Patriots Or Traitors?

And what are we to think of our own friends, the self-styled representatives of the com-

munity as "An Old Congressman" has very rightly put it in his letter appearing elsewhere in this issue. How are we to describe their attitude? They had no mandate to do what they have done. But assuming they had, their attitude would, even then, have been worthy of condemnation, notwithstanding the laurels they have had bestowed upon them from the Agent-General. As self-respecting men, if they had any sense of their responsibility and the honour of their people at heart, they would not have gone before the Select Committee when the Agent-General was slighted in the manner described above. What did they do instead? To put it mildly, they went wagging their tails before the Select Committee and barking at India for help, but they had not the manliness to stake everything to vindicate the honour of India. No, they went even a step further and compromised with the Government on an issue on which there could be no compromise, by entering into a "gentleman's agreement"—what a misnomer!—"to secure by voluntary action the cessation of all employment of the kind to which exception has specially been taken." We wonder if they at all realise what this implies? They have allowed Indians, as a race, to be branded as base and immoral creatures, unfit to be associated with any white woman. If there was a sting in the Bill it was this very sting and Messrs Kajee and Nana have agreed to get the community to submit to it by "voluntary action." Will Messrs Kajee and Nana prevail upon a respectable medical practitioner not to engage a European nurse because of the slur on his race and the sword of Democles in the form of legislative action, hanging over his head? Will they prevail upon a respectable lawyer not to engage a European lady clerk? Will they prevail upon Mr. Sastri, for instance, or some such prominent Indian leader, were he to come to this country in his private capacity, not to engage European women in his employ because of the reason stated above? The compliment they would get, if they ever attempted to do so, would not be that of being returned to Parlia-

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SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT

ON ANTI-ASIATIC BILLS

THE Select Committee, which was appointed on February 22 to consider the two anti-Asiatic Bills, has published its report. The members of the Committee were: Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr (Minister of Mines), Mr. S. Bekker, Mr. W. A. Deane, Mr. J. G. Derbyshire, the Rev. C. W. M. du Toit, Mr. G. J. Fullard, Mr. J. H. Grobler, Mr. J. J. Pienaar, Mr. E. A. Rooth, Mr. J. G. Strydom and Mr. M. J. van den Berg.

Agent-General Slighted

When the Select Committee met for the first time on March 1 it considered a letter from the Agent-General for India to allow him and his secretary to attend all sittings of the committee at which evidence was being heard. This privilege was extended them last year during the sittings of the Select Committee on the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Bill.

Mr. Hofmeyr and Mr. Derbyshire were in favour of granting the request, but the remainder of the committee were not. At the next sitting the Agent-General asked to be present when the evidence of the Reddingsbond was being heard. This request was also refused with Mr. Hofmeyr and Mr. Derbyshire again in the minority.

The voting was similar when the Agent-General asked for a copy of the Reddingsbond's evidence to help him in composing his rebuttal.

Proposals Rejected

The proceedings of the Committee reveal that at nearly all stages the Minister and Mr. Derbyshire voted in a minority of two.

The report shows that Mr. Hofmeyr moved that the committee report that the matter referred to it was not an appropriate one for legislation, and that in any event no legislative action should be taken this year. This motion was rejected by eight votes to two, the minority consisting of Mr. Hofmeyr and Mr. Derbyshire.

The committee rejected by a similar margin the motion by Mr. Strydom that, in view of the evidence submitted, the committee considered it desirable that legislation should be introduced prohibiting the employment of Europeans throughout the Union.

Mr. Strydom and the Rev. Mr. du Toit voted in the minority for the motion.

The committee with the Minister and Mr. Derbyshire voting in the minority, finally adopted Mr. Rooth's motion that, in view of the evidence led and the fact that such evidence related only to Asiatics, legislation to restrict the employment of European females by or under the control of Asiatics, or companies controlled by Asiatics should be introduced in the terms of the Bill drafted by Mr. Pienaar.

Minister's Rejected Report

The Minister's rejected report stated that the select committee, in the light of the evidence submitted to it on the Provincial Legislative Powers Extension Bill, found:

(1) That there is no support for the view that a matter of this kind should be dealt with by provincial legislation.

(2) That there is no substantial objection to the employment by non-Europeans of either European males or European females, where the latter work under the supervision of Europeans and the nature of their employment is not such as to bring them into frequent contact with non-Europeans.

(3) That, while objections have been made on sentimental grounds against the employment of European females by non-Europeans, virtually no concrete evidence has been adduced of any abuses actually resulting from such employment, the position being that no specific allegations of any kind have been made of immoral practices or undue intimacy resulting from such employment, and that in only one case had it been alleged that an Asiatic had married his European female employee, a marriage which apparently took place about 1920.

(4) That the extent of the employment by non-Europeans of European females, other than in the circumstances indicated in (2), was by no means considerable, the total number affected in the Transvaal being about 50, and that it would appear from the evidence given by the Secretary for Labour and Social Welfare that the conditions of such employment, as far as he could ascertain, were in the main satisfactory.

(5) That legislation leading to the displacement of employees in the circumstances indicated would be followed by the demand that the Government should assume responsibility for securing for them other employment, a demand which, as indicated to the committee by the Secretary for Labour, it would be difficult to meet.

(6) That strong exception on both sentimental and economic grounds to the enactment of legislation on the lines proposed had been taken not only by the Consul-General for Japan, the Consul-General for China and the African People's Organisation, but also by the Agent-General for the Government of India and the South African Indian Congress.

"Generally," states the report proposed to be submitted by the Minister "the committee is impressed by the views expressed from time to time by responsible men that this matter is not an appropriate one for legislation, a view put forward by the Prime Minister at Bloemfontein in September, 1935, and by General Smuts as recently as December, 1936, at Standerton, when he stated that legislation to prohibit white girls from working for Indians 'will not be practical legislation—it is

one of the things which must be left to individual and public opinion'.

"It considers that this view should not be departed from unless there is clear evidence of the existence of abuses sufficient to indicate that legislative action is necessary, and regards the evidence actually placed before it as far from sufficient from this point of view.

"Having regard to these facts and considerations, and also the assurance given by the South African Indian Congress, and further, bearing in mind the fact that the evidence laid before it was, in view of the shortness of the time available, possibly incomplete in respect of the numbers employed, and certainly incomplete in respect of the conditions of their employment, the committee resolves that, in its opinion, no legislative action should be taken in this matter this year, but that it should be a recommendation to the Government to go carefully into the whole question during the recess by the appointment of a commission, departmental committee or otherwise, with a view at once to the collection of the necessary further information and the re-examination of the position and thereafter to introduce such legislation as it may find to be necessary."

Japanese Consul

The first witness examined by the committee was Mr. Tomotsune Ohta Consul for Japan, who submitted a memorandum of his views on the Provincial Legislative Powers Extension Bill, in which he pointed out that the Japanese subjects who wished to be admitted into the Union in terms of the agreement of 1930 between the Union and Japan, and who proposed staying for any appreciable length of time and to employ Europeans, were mainly confined to representatives of large wholesale merchants and to reputable buyers of Union produce for export.

"They are," stated the memorandum, "people of some standing who claim to be accorded fair and unbiased treatment both in principle and fact. Moreover, it seems groundless to fear that they may cause any internal difficulties to the Union if they employ Europeans."

"Again, it is not fair from the point of reciprocity to treat Japanese subjects discriminately when people of Union nationality in Japan are free from any discrimination of any sort."

Defying Letter And Spirit Of Agreement

The memorandum emphasised that, unless there was a clear exemption made for Japanese subjects, the Bill was tantamount to defying the letter and spirit of the 1930 agreement, and remarked that it was "inconceivable that the Union has any intention of causing irritating and derogatory difficulties to Japanese in the Union."

In the course of his evidence, Mr. Ohta said that there was no discrimination of races at all in Japan. So far as he knew there were about nine Union nationals living in Japan, mostly in Kobe and Yokohama, and they carried on business there without any discrimination being made against them. If Japanese firms in this country were debarred from employing Europeans, they would have to close down their businesses.

Replying to Mr. S. Bekker, Mr. Ohta said the Japanese wool buyers would be assisted if they were exempted from the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. Ohta was also interrogated regarding the activities of Japanese wool buyers in the Union. Last year, he said, the wool merchants of Japan started buying very heavily in South Africa, and if they could come to a satisfactory trade agreement with the Union Government whereby the Japanese wool buyers were assured of regular business then there was every likelihood of their establishing offices here.

Replying to Mr. Deane, Mr. Ohta remarked that Japan required wool, and it would be for the Japanese merchants to decide whether they would buy in the Union or in Australia. It would be very difficult to staff the Japanese business houses in South Africa with Japanese employees only, and it would be practically impossible for them to carry on business satisfactorily.

In reply to Mr. Derbyshire, Mr. Ohta said he could not tell what attitude the Japanese Government would take up in regard to this matter, but it was certainly not a matter to promote the friendly relations which today existed between the two countries.

"I am definitely of the opinion," he said, "that it will restrict the buying of wool by Japanese merchants, as they will be hampered in their business dealings."

Evidence was given by representatives of the Reddingsbond, who generally expressed their approval of the principle of prohibiting mixed marriages, but stated that they had no returns of the number of European girls employed by Asiatics.

Secretary For Labour

Figures showing the extent of employment of Europeans by Asiatics were given to the select committee by the Secretary for Labour, Mr. Ivan Walker.

He said that in the Transvaal the number of European girls employed by Asiatics was as follows: Pretoria 1, Johannesburg 6, Krugersdorp 9, Vereeniging 20, Pietersburg 2, and Lichtenburg 4, including one woman employed in a laundry. These figures did not include employees of Teikamdas Bros., whose establishment was solely under European management, and was recognised as a European shop, except in respect of ownership.

The totals for the Transvaal were: 36 shops employing 45 European males and 70 European females, including 25 Europeans working for Teikamdas and seven outworkers. He did not know the numbers on the "platteland" as no survey had been made.

Cape And Natal

In Natal the Maritzburg figure was nil; Durban, one Asiatic shop employing two European males and four European females with a European manager.

In Cape Town there were six Asiatic shops employing 16 European males and 10 European females. This included Japanese firms. There was one Asiatic laundry employing four European women at receiving depots. These figures did not cover the whole Peninsula.

In Port Elizabeth one Asiatic shop employed 16 European males and 26 European females, and there was an Asiatic factory owned by Teikamdas, employing seven males and 163 females. Supervisors were European.

In Kimberley one Asiatic shop employed five European females.

"I hold the view," said Mr. Walker, "that in establishments such as shops and factories, where the public is constantly coming and going, there is less danger for European women working under Asiatics than is the case where women work alone in houses in which male native kitchen boys are employed."

The department had been faced with the contention that if the Government took action which would have the effect of depriving people of their present employment, the obligation would rest on the Government to find other suitable work for them. He would not like to have the responsibility of placing in equivalent employment the number affected.

The Department had had few complaints in regard to the treatment meted out to Europeans by Asiatic employers.

Mr. Walker gave the grand total for the Union, so far as his survey went, as follows: 51 Asiatic establishments employing 97 European males and 282 European females. Of this number, 27 males and 250 females were employed by Mr. Teikamdas.

Mr. Teikamdas Gives Evidence

Mr. Ramchand Teikamdas also gave evidence, saying that, except for nine colonial-born Indians holding menial positions, his brother, his nephew and himself were the only Asiatics engaged in the business, the factory excepted. In the factory all the key positions were held by Europeans, and Europeans and non-Europeans were kept strictly apart.

In the course of a year the firm paid £36,000 in salaries and wages to Europeans. It would be impossible for his business to replace Europeans by Indians or coloured people.

He had received letters from his branch managers strongly protesting against the Bills. The staff was greatly perturbed and even considered telegraphing to members of Parliament: "Please protest against European-Asiatic Bill. Means unemployment for me. I am supporting relations."

If the Bill became law he would have to close his business.

Segregation In Natal Advocated

Mr. O. R. Nel, M.P., who took it upon himself to give evidence, was a strong advocate in favour of the employment of European females by Asiatics being prohibited.

He even went so far as to suggest that Natal would welcome with both hands any proposal which aimed at the segregation of the Indians in Natal, and he considered such a scheme within the realm of practical politics.

"My definite opinion," added Mr. Nel, "is that, if steps are not now taken to prevent miscegenation between Europeans and Indians, the future of the white population in this country—particularly in Natal, where the Indian population is practically as great as the European—is in jeopardy."

The evidence given by the Reddingsbond shows that the aim of this organisation is that the Government should take steps to achieve ultimately the total segregation residentially of Indians, the prohibition of mixed marriages, the prohibition of the employment of Europeans by Asiatics, and the total segregation of trade.

To secure this object the Bond suggested that municipalities must be given power to refuse Asiatic trading licences on the ground that the town-folk do not want Asiatic shops, village boards must be empowered to reserve any portion of a township for purely European occupation, even if there are no restrictions in the title deeds of properties, and land tenure by Asiatics must be prohibited.

Agent-General's Evidence

Lengthy evidence against the introduction of the Bills was given by Mr. A. I. Kajee and others who were accompanied by the Agent-General for India, Sir Syed Raza Ali.

The Agent-General also submitted a long memorandum in the course of which he stated that the proposed legislation was bound to have the most serious repercussions in India, since this legislation was diametrically opposed to the policy which for the last 10 years had governed the treatment of the Indian community by the Government.

"We are not aware," he said, "of any immoral relations having resulted on account of the employment of European females by Indians."

"I should be greatly surprised if such relations between the two communities, baving regard to the position of Indians in this country, can exist. My contention is that in view of the small number of marriages between Europeans and Asiatics, and the lack of evidence that the employment of European females by Asiatics results in immoral relations or marriage, the effect of these Bills will be virtually negligible."

"I would like to go a little further, and although I do not want to overstate my case, I know that the desire to remove all possible abuses by legislations sometimes gives rise to greater abuses."

S. A. PRESS COMMENTS ON OBNOXIOUS BILL

Cape Times has the following leading article in its issue of April 7 under the caption "A Sordid Bill":—

IF Parliament seriously proceeds with the Bill which emerged last night from a Select Committee of the House of Assembly, under the title of the White Women's Employment Restriction Bill, it will make itself the laughing-stock of the civilised world. It is readily possible to imagine South Africans being earnestly convinced that it is most desirable that European females should not be permitted to be employed by Asiatics or companies controlled by Asiatics. In such a point of view there is at least some kind of a principle. But the Select Committee's Bill begins with a definition of the term "Asiatic," and the definition contains a proviso. The proviso is to the effect that the restrictions in the Act shall not apply to a "Japanese National while there is in force an agreement between the Government of the Union and the Government of Japan, to facilitate trade between the Union and Japan." In other words, the whole question of principle disappears from this ignoble Bill as soon as any question of pecuniary advantage enters into the discussion. Hitherto it has been assumed in the Union and in the rest of the world that a Japanese National is at least as much an Asiatic as an Asiatic resident of British India.

Legislation against Asiatics as such is in itself regrettable, but when the country which legislates on such lines is asked to make a special exception in case of such and such an Asiatic national because he belongs to a country which is buying quite a lot of our wool or our feathers or our diamonds or whatever it may be, then there is a double discredit attaching to such legislation. All question of honest colour prejudice—and colour prejudice can be quite honest—disappears and is replaced by a tacit admission that if only the Asiatic people against whom legislation is proposed, will be good enough to buy our products to the amount of a certain quantity of shekels, we shall be willing to overlook entirely the fact that they are Asiatics and will be glad to allow them to employ as many European females as they wish, always provided that they are willing to pay a sufficient price for the privilege.

This degrading proposal has emerged from the labours of the Select Committee. How is it to be interpreted? In effect it becomes a Bill to discriminate specially against Indians, but if the measure is really to go forward may we suggest that there be a further proviso which would lay down that whenever any Asiatic country which is the national or ethnological home of Asiatics has entered into an agreement

with the Government of the Union, under which it contracts to buy from the Union at least as much of the Union's goods as Japan, the privilege of being exempted from the effects of this Bill shall be extended to such Nationals on the same basis as in the case of the Japanese? This will be really scientific blackmail, and though it is possible that there are old-fashioned folk who might regard it as being legislation which scarcely conforms with the ideal of Christian nationalism, their objections need not to be too seriously considered. If we are to have a anti-Asiatic legislation of this kind in the Union—and the evidence before the Select Committee, which has not yet been published, may conceivably have proved an overwhelming case for such restriction on the employment of European females by Asiatics—let us at least as a Union be perfectly frank about it, and not degrade a principle into a sordid business transaction on the lines suggested by the Draft Bill which the Select Committee has prepared.

The "Cape Argus"

The *Cape Argus* writes under the caption "When is an Asiatic not an Asiatic":—

It is difficult to know whether to laugh or cry at the Bill produced by the Select Committee to prohibit the employment of European women by Asiatics. The Transvaal, some would have us believe, is alive with alarm and horror at the flooding tide of European-Asiatic marriages. General Pienaar, therefore, conceived the high principle of preventing white women by law from having business relations with Asiatics, in order either to lessen that great evil or to preserve Transvaal constituencies from Nationalist propaganda. Prejudice or ignorance might sincerely hold that such a prohibition is necessary in the sacred name of civilisation. But what has happened to that principle in this Bill? First of all, Japanese employers are exempted "while there is in force an agreement (between the Union and Japan) to facilitate trade." A social scourge is to be treated on commercial lines, and one of South Africa's new Commandments is to be conditional upon profit and loss! A Japanese is not an Asiatic as long as he buys South African wool! Was there ever greater travesty of moral principle or a more discreditable exposure of mercenary compromise? Only perhaps in a subsequent exception for Asiatic companies with European managers. Large Indian employers who can afford that luxury are no longer Asiatics because, were the ban applied to them, hundreds of well-paid workers would be thrown into unemployment. We are scanning the names of the Select

Committee in the hope of finding some shrewd humorist among them capable of having dictated those clauses with his tongue in his cheek.

If seriously intended for Parliamentary discussion, this unlovely Bill will, and should, be taken by Indians here and in their own country as an undeserved slur upon their race. Not even is this friendly and sister people to be ranged with the Japanese. And all this for the sake of about 60 female employees in the Transvaal, not one of whom probably has the slightest ambition to marry her employer even if he wished it. In the whole Union in 1935 only three such marriages took place. And when to that is added the conviction, frequently expressed, not only by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr but also by the Prime Minister, that legislation would be exactly the wrong way to remedy what evil, or danger of evil, exists, then we can only reverse the words of a distinguished Indian spokesman and say, "The whole thing reveals bankruptcy not only of a sense of justice and ordinary humanity but of statesmanship." In a debate on January 22 Mr. Hofmeyr said: "Perhaps we, more than any people in the world in similar circumstances, can claim that we have kept our race pure, and it should be our glory and our pride that we have been able to do that without legislation." Can General Pienaar and Mr. Jan Grobler not see that truth? But perhaps we grow too serious. Laughter, after all, may be more appropriate than shame. And, if that be so, we plead with the Government to give time to the discussion of this fantastic measure if only to increase the gaiety of Parliaments.

The "Natal Mercury"

The *Natal Mercury* writes as follows under the caption "What a Travesty!":

The White Women's Employment Restriction Bill just released from the Select Committee is about the most ridiculous essay in tinpot lawmaking ever to be attempted by the Platteland jurists of this country, and we blush to think that a solemn committee of the Union Parliament could have been guilty of such absurdity.

Perhaps the most blatant piece of cynicism in the measure is the exemption accorded to Japanese nationals because a "trade agreement" happens to exist between the two countries. In other words, business is to be the governing factor of a blatantly racial measure which its promoters have attempted to justify on ethical grounds; buy wool from the Union and a blind eye will be turned to colour prejudice, but if your trade is not worth while she will stigmatise your nationals with the full weight of her discriminatory law—

SHOULD WE LAUGH OR CRY?

(Continued from page 178)

ment, as Sir Syed Raza Ali has put it, but of being looked upon with scorn as traitors to their people and to their country. Enough said. They have no reason to be proud of what they have done. Rather have they reason to hang their heads in shame. As for the Prime Minister's request to the Indian community to ensure that effect be given to this undertaking, we wish respectfully to submit that the community does not consider itself bound by such a dishonourable and humiliating agreement and the party that entered into it had no mandate to do so.

Look Ahead

And now for those who may be inclined to rejoice over the Bills having been dropped. We would ask them to look ahead of them. Apart from the measures that have already been passed, warning bells are being sounded of fresh shackles being forged to restrict our means of existence in this country. In the very report announcing the Government's decision to drop the White Women's Employment Bill the following also appears, that a departmental inquiry may be conducted probably during the recess, into certain economic aspects of the problem which has generated so much heat in Parliament, and that recommendations may eventually be made to the Government regarding the conditions under which trading licences may be issued to Asiatics. Moreover, some of the Natal members are clamouring for a policy of trade and residential segregation of Asiatics in this Province. To this must be added the statement recently publicly made by a responsible Cabinet Minister, namely Col. Denys Reitz, the Minister for Agriculture, that Indians in South Africa will ever be a tragic community because of the temper, and temperament of the people of South Africa, and that the white people of this country have that temper and that temperament, because they are determined to keep this a white man's country. If these are not tantamount to defying the letter and the spirit of the Cape-town Agreement, in terms of which

we have the Agent-General for India in South Africa, we have yet to learn what are.

Assurances An Eye-Wash

Replying to a question in the Council of State in Delhi, Sir Jagadish Prasad gave the House the assurance that the Government will spare no pains to safeguard the self-respect of Indians in South Africa. A similar assurance was recently given by Sir Girjashanker Bajpai in the Legislative Assembly. But do they serve any purpose beyond throwing dust into the eyes of the Indian public? We must woefully admit that the Government of India is weak and that a National Government in its place would have shown more anxiety and taken a firmer stand for its nationals in this country. The self-respect of Indians is being trampled under foot day in and day out and the Agent-General for India is able to do nothing. Far from improving the position of Indians, he is making it worse. The time, we think, is now more than ripe for the Capetown Agreement to be once again reviewed and to find out whether it is really going to be carried out sincerely or whether it should not be terminated and the Agent-General re-called so that Indians may know clearly what their position is to be in this country.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Those Self-styled Leaders

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—The political correspondent of the *Rand Daily Mail* in his report on the Asiatic Bill states that "even the most ardent supporters of the legislation are coming round to Mr. Hofmeyr's point of view that it is desirable to give the South African Indian Congress an opportunity of eliminating the employment of Europeans by Asiatics without the stigma of legal compulsion."

He adds further that they are anxious to have some sort of guarantee that if the Indian Congress fails to carry out its undertaking the Government will remedy the position by legislation.

The Secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress also admitted before its general meeting on Sunday last that an assurance with reference to the matter was given but he had forgotten the exact words in which such an assurance was given.

Now the point that at once strikes to

every intelligent Indian in South Africa is, whether the deputation that gave evidence before the Select Committee had the right and authority to represent the Indian community? For it is obvious even to the blind that there does not exist a properly constituted South African Indian Congress. That bodies duly elected officials had enblock with a few exceptions resigned therefrom, and they have not yet been replaced in accordance with its constitution. Can such a body be said to represent the Indian community? certainly not. It follows then that it was merely on the part of the deputation to give any sort of assurance in the name of the Indian community. And pray, what does such an assurance imply? It implies nothing but an admission and confession on the part of the deputation that the Indian employers of European women are not only immoral but are so depraved as not fit to employ European females. It is undoubtedly a bad reflection, and the deputation has certainly no right to cast a slur on the integrity and fair name of the Indian employers, who, I believe, bear without exception an unimpeachable character.

The Indian public should awake as to what is being done in its name by the self-styled representatives and should at once demand immediate re-organisation, and re-orientation of its recognised body, the South African Indian Congress.

OLD CONGRESSMAN

S.A. PRESS COMMENTS ON OBNOXIOUS BILL

(Continued from page 181)

particularly if you do not happen to possess a powerful army and navy!

It is reported that the Lobby is inclined to treat the Bill with contempt. That may be so, but it must not be forgotten that the Prime Minister was prepared to risk a Cabinet crisis in order to countenance its drafting. Indeed, what becomes increasingly puzzling to the ordinary man is why General Hertzog should have been so solicitous about a measure which was never demanded by the public and has suffered such universal condemnation ever since it appeared?

That the anti-Asiatic agitation in the Transvaal backveld was started purely as a vote-catching manoeuvre has long been apparent. Those centres in South Africa which contain the bulk of the Indian population and might possibly have been roused by the type of campaign conducted on the latteland, have, without exception, disapproved of the Grobler-Piennaar activities.

Had the Prime Minister at the outset put his foot on a proposal which he must have known would make the South African Parliament a laughing-stock in the eyes of the world, the anti-Asiatic campaign would have been strangled at its birth. But General Hertzog has wobbled in a pitiful way between two schools of thought in his own Cabinet, and the result is the emergence of the wholly farcical White Women's Employment Restriction Bill. We hope he is proud of this unlovely legislative offspring.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S ATTITUDE TO CHRISTIANITY AND RELIGION

(Continued from last week)

By

MAHADEV DESAI

In "Harijan"

“WHAT do you say to the attempts to convert? asked Dr. Crane.

“I strongly resent these overtures to utterly ignorant men. I can, perhaps; understand overtures made to me, as indeed they are being made. For they can reason with me and I can reason with them. But I certainly resent the overtures made to Harijans. When a Christian preacher goes and say to a Harijan that Jesus was the only begotten Son of God, he will give him a blank stare. Then he holds out all kinds of inducements which debase Christianity.”

“Would you say a Harijan is not capable of reason?”

“He is. For instance, if you try to take work out of him without payment, he will not give it. He also has a sense of ethical values. But when you ask him to understand theological beliefs and categories he will not understand anything. I could not do so even when I was 17 and had a fair share of education and training. The orthodox Hindus have so horribly neglected the Harijan that it is astonishing how he adheres to the Hindu faith. Now I say it is outrageous for others to shake his faith.”

“What about a man who says he is commanded by God to do violence?”

“There you would not put another God before him. You need not disturb his religion, but you will disturb his reason.”

“But take Hitler. He says he is carrying out God's behest in persecuting the Jews and killing his opponents.”

“You will not pit one word of God against another word of God. But you will have to bear down his reason. For him you will have to produce a miracle which you will do when Christians will learn the art of dying without killing in defence of what they hold dearer than religion. But we can go on arguing like this endlessly. And then I may tell you that you are talking against time.” And with this Gandhiji looked at the watch.

Gandhiji's Religion

“Just one question then. Would you say then that your religion is a synthesis of all religions?”

Yes, if you will. But I would call that synthesis Hinduism, and for you the synthesis will be Christianity. If I did not do so, you would always be patronizing me, as many Christians do now, saying, ‘How nice it would be if Gandhi accepted Christianity,’ and Muslims would be doing the same saying, ‘How nice it would be if Gandhi

accepted Islam!’ That immediately puts a barrier between you and me. Do you see that?”

Caste And Varna

“I do. Just one last question. In your Hinduism do you basically include the caste system?”

“I do not. Hinduism does not believe in caste. I would obliterate it at once. But I believe in *varnadharma* which is the law of life. I believe that some people are born to teach and some to defend and some to engage in trade and agriculture and some to do manual labour, so much so that these occupations become hereditary. The law of *varna* is nothing but the law of conservation of energy. Why should my son not be a scavenger if I am one?”

B. W. CANEY

— Jeweller —

366 West Street, Durban

For best value in Jewellery
and Watches of all makes.

“Indeed? Do you go so far?”

“I do, because I hold a scavenger's profession in no way inferior to a clergyman's.”

“I grant that, but should Lincoln have been a wood-chopper rather than President of the U.S.A.?”

“But why should not a wood-chopper be President of the United States? Gladstone used to chop wood.”

“But he did not accept it as his calling.”

“He would not have been worse off if he had done so. What I mean is, one born a scavenger must earn his livelihood by being a scavenger, and then do whatever else he likes. For a scavenger is as worthy of his hire as a lawyer or your President. That, according to me, is Hinduism. There is no better communism on earth, and I have illustrated it with one verse from the Upanishads which means: God pervades all—animate and inanimate. Therefore renounce all and dedicate it to God and then live. The right of living is thus derived from renunciation. It does not say, ‘When all do their part of the work

I too will do it.” It says, “Don't bother about others, do your job first and leave the rest to him.” *Varnadharma* acts even as the law of gravitation. I cannot cancel it or its working by trying to jump higher and higher day by day till gravitation ceases to work. That effort will be vain. So is the effort to jump over one another. The law of *varna* is the antithesis of competition which kills.”

“I was simply thrilled, and am going away with much inspiration,” said Dr. Crane to me as we returned to Wardha.

“That's because you are a pacifist,” I said half seriously and half in joke. “A hostile attitude is the opposite of pacifism.”

“I had not realized it,” said Dr. Crane. “But you are right, peace has more implications than we know. If I had gone to argue I should have come away without taking anything, but I did not go to argue, I went to discuss.”

But the Bakr-Id scene was haunting him. “Now please explain this thing to me if you can. What would Mr. Gandhi do if he was to witness such a scene?”

“He would stand between the slaughterer and the cow. He does not do so now, as we have not done enough to rise to that pitch of ultimate sacrifice.”

“But he attaches the same value to the life of a cow as to the life of a human being?”

“He does. That is what Hinduism teaches us.”

“But will these slaughters ever cease? Will anyone stand between the cow and the slaughterer?”

“Why not? You know something about Gandhiji's fasts? You know how Telemachus stopped the savage gladiatorial blood-sports in Rome, after they had lasted for seven centuries? But let that be. Do you know that in the year of grace 1921 there were practically no cow-sacrifices, for Mussalman leaders and divines appealed to the Muslim populace to have no such sacrifices?”

“Indeed? Why was that?”

“Then Hindus and Mussalmans were one. A great wave of unity had swept over the land.”

“Why can't it do so to-day?”

“It can. Let us come to our own. There is a third power between us to-day which claims to maintain peace between us. Let it disappear and we will establish peace.”

“That is what I am told will not happen.”

“The proof of the pudding is in the eating. How can I prove it by argument?”

(Concluded)

NEED FOR TOLERANCE

A MUSSALMAN friend has addressed me a long letter of which the following is the gist:

"(1) I turned a vegetarian several years ago, being struck by the iniquitous cruelty of slaughtering God's dumb creatures to provide meat for our tables. Ever since then I have completely abjured the taking of meat though meat-eating is allowed by Islam. But I have not been able to induce my children to abjure meat-eating likewise, with the result that I have still to procure meat for them from the bazaar. Sometimes, however, I am troubled by a doubt whether this is not all wrong. Would I remain a silent witness, if my children took to theft and murder, for instance? Would I not in that case exhaust all efforts to wean them from their career of crime, and if they failed, even to invoke the law against them and hand them over to the authorities? And would I be guilty of violence if I did that? How far, then, is it compatible with right and justice, to cause innocent animals to be slaughtered from day to day in order to cater for my family?"

(2) What I have said with regard to meat also holds good in respect of tea, betel leaf, soda water, lemonade, etc.

(3) I belong to the trader class and as such am quite conversant with the various shadowy tricks and devices that are in vogue among this class, e. g. how to exploit the inexperience and weakness of the buyer in order to palm off upon him goods that are utterly worthless, charging prices not according to what an unwary customer can be made to fork out and so on. For years I have felt an innate repugnance against all this which Mrs. Besant once described as 'white loot'. But I feel utterly helpless. Our people simply don't understand the principle of standard or uniform price. They have reduced salesmanship simply to an art of extracting as much from the customer as his simplicity or gullibility will allow. I call this fraud pure and simple upon the buyer. But if I tried to conduct business according to my principles, I should become a cropper and my business would be all gone. What surprises me most is that even those who hold the position of moral leadership amongst us see nothing wrong in this. According to them so long as you do not actually use false weights and measures or palm off adulterated or damaged goods on the customer it is a fair game. For the rest, if the unwary customer gets mulcted, so much the

By

MAHATMA GANDHI In "Harijan"

worse for him, it is his own fault; let him learn to be more careful in the future. But it seems to me that anything that is calculated to hurt or inflict pecuniary loss or injury on another is of the nature of sin, and the foregoing corrupt commercial practices therefore should be unequivocally condemned.

(4) You regard Mahomed as a Prophet of God and hold him in high regard. You have even publicly spoken of him in the highest terms. I have heard and even seen reports in cold print to the effect that you have studied the Koran itself. All this, I must confess, has puzzled me. I am at a loss to understand how a person like you, with all your passion for truth and justice, who has never failed to glaze over a single fault in Hinduism or to repudiate as unauthentic the numerous corruptions that masquerade under it, can *holus-bolus* accept all that is in the Koran. I am not aware of your ever having called into question or denounced any iniquitous injunction of Islam. Against some of these I learnt to revolt when I was scarcely 18 or 20 years old, and time has since only strengthened that first feeling."

I have tried as far as was possible to retain the language of the original, taking liberty only to soften a few expressions here and there, but have otherwise scrupulously kept the sense intact. To come to the various points mentioned by my correspondent. He deserves to be congratulated on his giving up meat-eating and on the various other disciplines that he has cultivated. But he may not impose the same on his unwilling or half-willing relations or dependants. Let him try to touch their hearts and reason by all the means of persuasion at his command; but anything more than that before the desired conversion has come about, would be compulsion and therefore unjustifiable. It would obviously be too much for him to expect the members of his family, all of a sudden, to break a life long habit that has never been regarded as contrary to Islam, which is almost universal among the Mussalmans to day and till yesterday was followed by the friend in question himself. Let him not forget the long years of strenuous introspection and struggle which he took before he arrived at his decision. To require now his dependants to adopt that decision at a stroke would only betray impatience on his part. The golden rule to be observed always in this connection is that you can never be too

severe in dealing with yourself but you must be deliberately liberal in judging others. For, experience has shown that no matter how severe we may try to be with regard to ourselves, we shall, in the result, still be found to have acted partially towards ourselves, for the simple reason that our unconscious bias always prepossesses us in our favour and seldom allows the test to be carried beyond our capacity for endurance. But in the case of others we do not know their weakness and limitations, which are known only to God and who only can read our hearts. There is, therefore, always a danger, with all our desire to be liberal, of our being betrayed into a hollow harshness and intolerance when we proceed to apply our personal standards to others; and paradoxical though it may sound, the more liberal, the more patient, the more considerate we are in such cases, the quicker the results are to be; they will certainly be more permanent and lasting.

The analogy between meat-eating and theft or murder drawn by the correspondent in question is altogether untenable. Theft and murder, unlike meat-eating, are universally held to be crimes and are heavily punishable under the law. But even so one may not, in the hypothetical case cited above, try to wean dependants and relations from their career of theft and murder through compulsion. My correspondent must, therefore, try to convert members of his household to his view by patient argument alone, tempered by love, and pending their conversion cultivate an attitude of the broadcast tolerance and forbearance towards them.

To proceed to the next question I do not hold dishonest practices in business to be warranted or excusable. The principal of unconditional honesty is as binding in this as in any other field of life, and it is up to the businessman never to compromise his principle no matter what it may cost him. In the end, of course, honesty pays, though that can hardly be a consideration for observing it. One has a perfect right to fix and regulate the scale of prices that he shall charge from a particular set of customers, but it must be done according to a clear fixed principle and not out of mere opportunism or immoral expediency. There should be in it no room for fraud, sharp practice or finesse, to bamboozle the simple, unsuspecting customer.

Now for Islam. I stand by every word I have written in that connection. I have nowhere said that I believe literally in every word of the Koran, or for the matter of that of any scripture in the world. But it is no business of mine to criticize the scriptures of other faiths, or to point out their defects. It

is and should be, however, my privilege to proclaim and practise the truths that there may be in them. I may not, therefore, criticize or condemn things in the Koran or the life of the Prophet that I cannot understand. But I welcome every opportunity to express my admiration for such aspects of his life as I have been able to appreciate and understand. As for things that present difficulties, I am content to see them

through the eyes of devout Mussalman friends, while I try to understand them with the help of the writings of eminent Muslim expounders of Islam. It is only through such a reverential approach to faiths other than mine that I can realize the principle of equality of all religions. But it is both my right and duty to point out the defects in Hinduism in order to purify it and keep it pure. But when non-Hindu critics set

about criticizing Hinduism and cataloguing its faults they only blazon their own ignorance of Hinduism and their incapacity to regard it from the Hindu view-point. It distorts their vision and vitiates their judgment. Thus my own experience of the non-Hindu critics of Hinduism brings home to me my limitations and teaches me to be wary of launching on a criticism of Islam or Christianity and their founders.

South African News In Brief

Separate Secondary Classes

For Girls

A DEPUTATION consisting of Dr. M. R. Peters and Mr. K. Soobramoney, president and joint hon. secretary, respectively, of the O. B. and S. I. Association (Maritzburg Branch), recently interviewed the Chief Inspector of Indian Schools in Natal, Mr. J. Meleod, in connection with the opening of separate secondary classes for Indian girls at the proposed new school. The deputation explained at length the growing need for such classes and stated that Indians were unwilling to send their girls to mixed schools and that definitely accounted for the small number presently taking advantage of such schools. Mr. Meleod gave the deputation a sympathetic hearing and said he was in favour of the principle of having separate secondary classes. He asked the deputation to defer the matter for a while until the new building was erected and in the meantime to see the progress made in the present Girl's School which, from the time of its inception, he said, had done exceptionally well and greater success was expected. Mr. Anderson, the Headmaster of the York Road Government Indian School, was also present and expressed his viewpoint on the matter.

Leaving For Europe

Mr. Hajee Ismail, son of Khan Bahadur Hajee Cassim Adam of Pretoria will leave for England by the Pretoria on April 21. He will attend the Coronation ceremony and will thereafter tour Europe and visit also America and Japan.

S. A. Indian Lady's Success

Miss Serah Tavarina, daughter of Mr. P. J. Tavarina of Johannesburg has passed the National Technical and Commercial examination in Book-keeping senior and N.C.C. with distinction. Miss Serah is the first Indian lady to pass this examination.

Governor-General's Acknowledgment

In reply to the telegram sent by the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch) to the

Governor-General. Sir Patrick Duncan on his arrival at Capetown, on Monday, April 5, welcoming Their Excellencies, the joint hon. secretary of the Association has received the following telegram from the Secretary to the Governor-General:

"His Excellency thanks you for your warm welcome and the good wishes for himself and Her Excellency conveyed in your telegram of yesterday."

South African Youth Movement

The annual general meeting of the Durban Indian branch of the S. A. Youth Movement will take place on April 28 at the St. Aidan's Hall, Short Street, Durban. It is earnestly hoped that as many as possible of the 113 members will turn up. On the 21st there will be an ordinary meeting at the Carlisle Street School Hall. Members are also requested to be present to discuss plans and possible new officials for the Movement's new year. The change of venue for this meeting is necessitated by the use of the St. Aidan's Hall for bioscope purposes.

At a recent session of the Indian Eisteddfod held at Sastri College for Public Speaking, the following were awarded medals: Mr. S. Cooppan B.A. (1st), Mr. S. Gopaul (2nd) and Messrs. Badal Gunpath and Prag Rama (3rd). Both Messrs. Cooppan and Gopaul are active members of the Youth Movement and are to be complimented on their success in the competitions.

Arya Sungeeth Mundal

The eighth annual general meeting of the Arya Sungeeth Mundal, was held on Saturday April 4. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. B. M. Singh, K. Baijnath, R. O. Naidoo and Ohoonilal; Vice-President: Mr. P. H. Narsee; Secretary: Mr. J. D. Yogananda; Asst. Secretary: Mr. D. Deepananda; Treasurer: Mr. R. S. Persadh; Committee: Messrs. D. Seebran, R. Juggernath, S. Rambilas and D. Nath; Manager: D. Seebran.

E.P. Indian Football Association

The Eastern Province Indian Football Association held its annual general meeting on March 15, and the following officials are duly elected for the season 1937-1938:—Patron: Captain Olift; Life Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. G. Moodaliar, D. Jossie, A. E. Sam and J. Samuels; President: Jas. Reddy; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. C. R. Pillay, D. K. Pillay, H. Chinnian, Shaik Ismail, C. S. Pillay, M. C. Kerbelker, G. Doraswami and S. R. Naidoo; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. P. R. Vandayar; Hon. Auditors: Messrs. G. Doraswami and M. C. Kerbelker; Hon. Secretary: Mr. G. Naidoo; Asst. Hon. Secretary and Record Clerk: Mr. D. K. Pillay; Delegates to S.A.I. Football Association: Messrs. Doraswami and M. C. Kerbelker; Fixtures Committee: Messrs. S. R. Naidoo, D. K. Pillay, M. C. Kerbelker, J. Samuels and G. Doraswami; Misconduct Committee: Messrs. C. R. Pillay, A. G. Moodaliar, S. R. Pather, H. Chinnian and J. Samuels; Ground Committee: Messrs. J. Samuels, P. S. Vandayar and G. Doraswami. All communications to be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Naidu, Box 3094, Port Elizabeth.

Natal Provincial Administration

The Indian African Clearing Station and Dispensary, Beatrice Street, is now ready to receive patients.

Hours Of Attendance:

Daily 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

4 p.m.—6 p.m.

Saturdays 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

The fee for consultation and medicine is 1/-, but this fee will not be charged to deserving cases on application.

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नारायण प्रांतिक सरकार

जीयतीस स्त्री (उत्पत्ति) पर आवेदी ईन्दियन आक्रियन स्त्रीयरीय स्टेसन अने किरपे-सरी इवे इस्कीने देवा लक्ष्यार वई मध छे.

शुद्धी रहवाना कलाके:

इमेसां सवारना ११ थी अपोरना १ सुधी

सांजना ४ थी सांजना १ सुधी.

शनीवार सवारना ११ थी अपोरना १ सुधी.

सवाह देवा अने इवा भाटेनी ही थी. १ छे.

परतु मेई पास हेसोने विरो अरुथ वरो तो तेनी भासेथी ही नहि देवाभां आवे

AMERICAN EVENTS

(BY H. STEFAN SANTESSON)

Independence Day Celebrated In New York

THE seventh anniversary of the Indian Declaration of Independence was celebrated in New York by two gatherings. A group of Indians and Americans met together at a banquet in New York City at the Ceylon Inn. Among those present were Dr. Haridas T. Muzumdar, presiding, Mr. Anup Singh and Mrs. Dewis Stuyvesant Chanler.

Another group of American, Chinese and Hindu friends gathered the same evening at the home of H. Stefan Santesson, in an informal celebration of the anniversary. Professor Hu Chow-yuan, representative of the 19th Route Army, was the principal speaker. Among those present were Mrs. Lini D. Allen, Mr. Shou-tse Shen, Mr. R. D. Lee, Mr. U. S. Banerje and Mr. William D. Allen. The following telegram was sent by Mr. Santesson to the other gathering: "Americans, Chinese and Indians, gathered here in similar celebration, greet all present. Regret extremely notices of your gathering came too late for alteration of our plans. We join you in honouring those great souls whose lifework has been the fight of a Free India!"

Dinner For Uday Shan-Kar

The Hindusthan Association of America, following a practice initiated three years ago at the time of Shan-Kar's last visit to this country, arranged a dinner for him and his group at the Ceylon India Inn, on Feb. 5. About a hundred people attended the function. The three speakers, two of whom were connected with dance publications, referred throughout the evening to the sheer joy they had experienced in seeing his supreme artistry, declaring that India's great wisdom and spiritual beauty unfolded in Uday Shan-Kar's dance. Uday Shan-Kar was India's ambassador-at-large for the whole world. Mr. Shan-Kar, replying to the speeches, thanked all who were attending, denied that he was worthy of the praise that the speakers had "lavished" on him, and reiterated that his only desire was to interpret and aid India. He discussed his plans for the All-India Centre for Dance and Music, to be established at Benares following his second American tour in 1938. Teachers from all over India would come to the Centre to teach Mythology, Philosophy, etc. Research work will be undertaken with the aim of perfecting the present Indian musical instruments. Research on costumes and jewellery would likewise be undertaken.

Farewell Dinner For Mr. And Mrs. N. Sen

The Hindusthan Association of America (N.Y. Chapter) arranged a farewell dinner in honour of Mr. and Mrs. N. Sen at International House. Mr. Sen, American representative of the India State Railways, has been recalled to India. The speakers included Dr. Taraknath Das, Mr. J. J. Singh, locally prominent business man, Dr. Gordon Halstead, Dr. G. N. Sufi, Lt. G. Krishnaya and Dr. C. Hauser. Considerable criticism was voiced of the policy of the Government in recalling Mr. Sen at a time when his services would be most valuable to India here (in view of the coming New York World's Fair)—and of the appointment of an Englishman as his successor. Dr. Das likewise stressed the importance of working for Indo American understanding—cultural as well as economic.

American Newspaper Man Discusses Gandhiji

Mr. Negley Farson is the exceedingly American author of "The Way of a Transgressor" (N.Y. Harcourt Brace, 1936). Mr. Farson, who was in India at the time of the Peshawar troubles, wrote about Mahatma Gandhi: "I felt abashed in the presence of such apparent simplicity. It was only as I watched him at work that I began to see with what diabolical cunning such simplicity could be used. I saw the British driven almost frantic by it." (p. 560) "All that I know is that I have never for one moment doubted his absolute sincerity." Mr. Farson says that Lord Irwin's first impression, when he met Gandhiji, was that here was holiness. The second time he met him he discovered legal astuteness. The third time—well—there he refused to talk further. ...Mr. Farson was left to guess that impression...

On page 582 we find a Police Captain declaring that village reforms "by taking the responsibility away from the headmen of a village," had made it hard to control crime. Four headmen (or five) were better.

Rash Behari Bose And Sun Yat Sen

Miles W. Vaughn, in "Covering the Far East," tells on pps. 359-60 how Rash Behari Bose, arriving in Japan in 1915, went to see his friend Dr. Sun, who sent him to Mitsuro Toyana, the King of the Ronin." Toyana protected Bose, sheltering him from the British. Mr. Bose is described as an enthusiastic disciple of Toyana.

U.S. Neutrality And London

A *New York Times* headline on Feb. 28 commented, sarcastically (?)—"Our Neutrality Plan Should Please London." It is pointed out that the projected American policy would place America's war-time Atlantic trade under the control and protection of the British fleet.

One of the neutrality measures now before Congress, will permit trading between the United States and warring nations, on the condition that the purchasers pay on the spot, and assume immediate responsibility for shipping the goods to their destination. American shipping would thus be kept out of troubled waters, since the purchasers would be forced to use their own vessels, and, concurrently, the American Fleet would no longer be needed for convoy duty in these waters. While American neutrality is thus definitely affirmed, the fact remains that, under the provisions of the projected measure, American raw materials or other articles of trade would have to be protected by the sole remaining navy of importance—that of Great Britain.

Chinese Educator Supports Indian Independence Fight

Dr. Tao Hong-Chin, prominent Chinese educator, leader of the Peasant Education Movement in China, is at present in the United States on a lecture tour. Dr. Tao opened a recent address at the Chinese Cultural Centre in this city, with the declaration that he was not only Chinese, he was also Korean, he was also Ethiopian, he was also Indian—he was a native of every country where oppression and aggression reigned. The remark was cheered wildly by his audience.

A Negro Youth On The Supreme Court

A negro youth answered a question on the President's policy towards the Supreme Court, the other day. Seven leaders of the National Youth Congress visited President Roosevelt recently. Mr. Roosevelt asked their opinions about his proposed reform of the Supreme Court—one by one answering—until the President reached the sole Negro youth in the group. His reply was "Well, Mr. President, that all depends on how the Supreme Court decides my case." The President, surprised, asked what business he had with the Court, and "the boy" (to quote the *Times*.) replied "I am Angelo Herndon." Mr. Herndon, a Communist, is appealing from a 20-year sentence under Georgia law. If the Supreme Court decides adversely, Mr. Herndon must serve his sentence on the chaingang.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

TEXT OF CAUCUS RESOLUTION

THE following is the text of the resolution approved by the United Party Caucus in regard to the Anti-Astatic Bills:—

"(1) That no further opportunity will be given by the Government for discussion or for legislation in connection with the Select Committee's report on the above-mentioned Bills;

"(2) That the Government has taken

cognisance of the fact that the South African Indian Congress has given the assurance that in order to avoid the application of legislative compulsion, it is willing to secure by voluntary action the cessation of all employment of the kind to which exception has specially been taken; and that the Government proposes to accept that offer, with a request to the Indian community to en-

sure that effect be given to this undertaking;

(3) "The overnment naturally does not thereby waive its power or authority to have recourse, if it later should appear necessary, to legislation, according as circumstances demand it. Meanwhile, the Government unconditionally accepts the assurance given by the Indian Congress as honourable undertaking to which effect will be given."

The Sporting World

Corbett-Gengan Fight

JUDGING by the large number of seats that have already been booked for the Corbett-Gengan clash this Saturday, April 17, in the Durban City Hall, there should be a packed house, something of the crowds that used to see Mottee Kid Singh in the same hall. Corbett has arrived in Durban last Wednesday with his local manager, Mr. Williams. The latter is confident of victory for his charge. Also down from the Cape is Arvie Williams who is billed to meet Manie Dixon in what promises to be a thrilling and really hard-hitting fight. The stage is all set for the big night and there is no doubt that if Corbett lives up to his reputation and beats Bud Gengan, boxing fans in South Africa can very well look forward to some first-class exhibitions of the fistic art. Corbett is contracted by the local promoters, Messrs. Panday and Mohamed to participate in three fights. He will then proceed to America on an extensive programme. He is also figured in one of the preliminaries to the great Petersen-Harvey fight in England.

Soccer Season Opens

The curtain was rung up for the new soccer season last Saturday when the first matches of the league were contested. The weather was fine and sunshiny save for a fair breeze that sprung up later in the afternoon. For the most part the teams were scrappy and little good soccer was to be seen. The players showed the usual opening-of-the-season stiffness, and play was at times dull and marred by erroneous kicking. In the senior division the Avondales beat the Stars after a good tussle, by 3-2; the Pirates were defeated by the Stella by 4-3. The combination of the youthful Stella team managed to secure for them a victory that was narrow and gained almost at the last moment. On the main ground Shamrocks easily beat the new Collegians by 4-0; while the more evenly contested match between the Daffodils and Sydenham resulted in a win for the Daffodils, by 3-2. It was almost in the minute that Moodie managed to net a very well-timed shot for his

team to win. The junior division matches were also played last Saturday. No juvenile matches took place. The following are the at-a-glance results:— Seniors: Daffodils 3, Sydenham 2; Shamrocks 4, Collegians 0; Stella 4, Pirates 3; Avondales 3, Stars 2. Juniors: Sastri College A, 3, Sparks 0; Sastri College B, 2, All Blacks 7; Stella 3, Shamrocks 0. There will be no matches this week owing to the Motor-Cycle races at Currie's Fountain.

Verulam Temple Football Club

The third annual general meeting of the Verulam Temple Football Club was held recently at the Verulam Tea Room. Mr. S. J. Morris was in the chair. The meeting was well attended by both officials and members of the club. Mr. R. L. Beharie in his report stated that the club had a very successful season. It had, within three months, completed 12 matches of which 5 were won, 4 drawn and 3 lost. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. R. Talawantsingh, G. H. Maiter, G. H. A. Kathrada, T. P. Sam, A. Moon-samy, Choonilall Raghavjee and L. Raj-coomar; President: Mr. M. Juggath; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S. J. Morris, S. Attawarie, and J. R. Talawantsingh; Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. R. L. Beharie and Vassudev Jata; Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. R. K. Pillay and Vassanjee Jata; Captain: Mr. N. Sewduth; Vice-Captain: Mr. Jack Kisten; Selection Committee: Messrs. N. Sewduth, R. K. Pillay and Gavin Maistry.

Table Tennis Tourney

The Hindu Youth Club staged the first table tennis tourney of its kind among South African Indians during the Easter holidays. There were 27 entries for the Natal Singles Championships Cup presented by Mr. V. M. Maistry. In the finals, Mr. Dara Randeria, representing the South African Youth Movement, beat Dr. M. G. Neicker. It was a closely contested match. The matches were held at the M. K. Gandhi Indian School.

Verulam Temple C.C.

Mr. R. L. Beharie, secretary of the Verulam Temple Cricket Club, wishes to thank the officials and members of the Higher Grade Schools Cricket Club, of Pietermaritzburg, for their kind hospita-

lity and treatment accorded to his team which visited Maritzburg during the week-end. He wishes also to thank Dr. M. R. Peters who had taken great trouble in arranging the match.

Port Elizabeth Aryan Cricket Club

The final match between Aryan Cricket Club and Uitenhage Cricket Club for the Nagar's knock-out cup was played on the South End Cricket Ground, on April 4. Uitenhage winning the toss, sent in the Aryans to bat. The Aryans scored 59 runs in the first innings. The Uitenhage went in to bat and were all out for only 29 runs. The Aryans were leading by 30 runs on the first innings. In the second innings the Aryans scored 73 runs; a bright partnership ensued between the last batsmen who added 32 runs. The time was too short for Uitenhage to bat as they had to make 104 runs to win, during the last 15 minutes. Thus the Aryans won the Nagar's knock-out cup on the first innings, by 30 runs. The Aryan Cricket Club has won all three trophies in the Hindu Cricket Union: The League Cup, the Barth's knock-out Cup and the Nagar's knock-out Cup.

Shri Gopal-lall Hindu Temple

Sanatanist Hindu Priest Wanted

Applications are invited by Shri Gopal-lall Hindu Temple, Verulam, for a Sanatanist Brahmin Priest knowing Gujarati and Hindustani languages and possessing Sanskrit knowledge. Applications which must accompany qualifications and testimonials must reach the Secretary not later than 23rd April 1937.

SEWSANKER DHANPATH,
Secretary,
Shri Gopal-lall Hindu Temple.

53, Wick Street,
Verulam.

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