

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

An Important Point

A CORRESPONDENT in the Gujaraticolumns writes that from the recent discussion in the papers on the new Immigration Amendment Act one gathers that the interminable birth-right given under paragraph (e) of Section 5 of the Immigration Act of 1913 to a person born outside the Union of parents domiciled in the Union at the time of his birth has now been restricted and that in future a person so born will only be able to establish that right if he enters or is brought into the Union within three years from the date of his birth. The correspondent further points out that notwithstanding the fact that this interminable right did exist in law—for there would have been no occasion for the Government to restrict it had it not—our present leaders and the Agent-General tell the community that such a right never existed and that if it did, it was never intended by the Government to grant such a right and that if it is a "right" the Indian community has never exercised it and hence if it has been taken away it has caused no loss to the community. In view of this fact the correspondent raises an important point, that by the amendment affected in the Immigration Act the community now understands the Act to mean that under paragraph (e) if a person born *outside the Union* of parents domiciled in the Union at the time of his birth is brought into the Union within three years from the date of his birth will have the same right as a person born *in the Union* of parents domiciled in the Union at the time of his birth and that if such a person fails to enter the Union within three years from the date of his birth he will still be able to enter the Union under paragraph (g) at any time before he is sixteen years of age as the minor child of his father domiciled in the Union. The correspondent states that the leaders as well as the Agent-General should get this reading of the Act confirmed by the Government so that they may not again turn round after a few years and tell their "stupid" brethren that that was not what was intended by the Government.

Zanzibar Indians

The standing Emigration Committee of the Government of India met recently with Sir Jagadish Prasad in the chair to discuss the serious position created in Zanzibar owing to the proposed new legislation to restrict the property rights and the clove trade held by Indians. The Committee, it is understood, came to the unanimous decision to adopt retaliatory measures against Zanzibar in the event of other methods of representation failing.

Coloured People And Liquor

Widely divergent views on the tot system and the use of liquor were expressed at a conference comprising representatives of 37 Dutch Reformed Church congregations from the Western Province, which was held in Cape-town. The Rev. M. Breedts, of Stellenbosch, said that at least two-thirds of the coloured people who had the liquor habit either were or were sure to become drunkards. But Mr. Cillie, an elder of Stellenbosch, denied that alcohol was bad, except if taken in excess. Alcohol was an essential ingredient of the human body and it seemed to him that it was foolish to suggest that moderate use of alcohol could adversely affect the human constitution. Mr. Jordaan, of Caledon, said that it seemed to him that the meeting was much more concerned about the wine industry than about the souls of coloured people. We wholeheartedly support Mr. Jordaan.

Gen. Kemp On Mixed Marriages

At a public meeting at Walmaranstad General Kemp is reported to have said, the Nationalists, by dividing the Afrikaners, were killing all hope of obtaining a republic along constitutional lines. President Kruger and Andries Pretorius had both issued solemn warnings against division among the Afrikaner people. To-day the Nationalists were dividing them merely to catch votes. The Nationalists had now started two hares—the Asiatic question and the question of mixed marriages. Dr. Malan was in the Cabinet for nine years, yet he did not raise the question of mixed marriages. The present Government had considered the matter very carefully and Mr. Pirow and he were convinced

that legislation must come, but they were conscious of the difficulties. The matter was not one of burning urgency. It required careful investigation, and it was the Government's intention to have such an investigation to see how far the legislation of the Cape and Natal could be brought into line with that of the Transvaal and Free State.

Delusion About Native Education

Addressing a well-attended social gathering in East London, the Rev. A. A. Wellington, president of the Methodist Conference, dealt with the question of Native education. Mr. Wellington, for the last twelve years, has been principal of Healdtown, the largest of all native educational institutions in Africa. Mr. Wellington said there were those who said that native education was being overdone, but that was absurd. Out of every 400 children only 100 went to school at all, and 60 of the remainder left at standard 1. Of the remainder only two ever reached standard 6. In Johannesburg there were 70,000 children running wild because there were insufficient schools. The natives were hungering for education and were ready to make great sacrifices to obtain it. At Healdtown they paid £15,000 a year in school fees. A typical case was that of a washerwoman in East London who sent an amount to Healdtown equivalent to her total wages to pay for her son's education. When that boy had passed out and secured a post as a teacher the first thing he would do would be to support his mother and make it unnecessary for her to work any longer. Then he would pay the school fees of his next brother, and he in turn would pay for his younger brothers and sisters till they were educated. A popular delusion that needed correction was the idea that the White people of this country were contributing anything at all towards the cost of native education. The only education the White people were giving to the native was what they learnt in the kitchen, the store or on the farm. Healdtown, for instance, cost a total of £28,500 last year and every penny of that, including his own salary came from the natives themselves.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JUNE 18TH, 1937

Trusteeship Of Natives

LORD NOEL BUXTON (Labour) is to be congratulated for awakening the House of Lords to the responsibilities of the British people as trustees of the native race. His motion "that this House, in view of the divergencies of native policy now developing in different parts of the Dominions and dependencies, believes that the time has arrived for the Imperial Conference to formulate such a policy in broad outline with a view to protecting the rights and promoting the advancement of all races of the Empire—whatever their religion or colour—and such policy should be based on the principle of trusteeship," was, in our opinion, not at all ill-conceived; as Lord Dufferin (Colonial Under Secretary) described it, stating that the Imperial Conference was not designed for the task of formulating a policy on such a matter, but to deal with questions of common interest. If such august bodies as the Imperial Conference and the League of Nations were not going to deal with questions of such vital importance, as the fair and just treatment of millions of voiceless and neglected souls—slaves of the modern age—then these bodies have no meaning at all. If the "Trustees" do not wake up in time the fate of these people, we fear, will be the same as the Abyssinians' fate has been under Mussolini. It will then be too late for the "Trustees" to shed crocodile tears. Lord Noel Buxton very rightly said that "the relation of advanced people to backward people was one of the problems of the future, and that the experimental stage should now be drawing to a close and it should be possible to draw some general idea from the unrivalled experience the Empire had of this problem." Lord Buxton declared there were two ideologies competing for predominance: one idea was the trusteeship, the other the colour bar. He recognised that each Dominion had absolute independence, but the citizens of Britain ought to view with the greatest apprehension a claim against the relative liberal policy, which the Colonial Office adopted. Lord Noel Buxton said that if Whitehall allowed itself to accept the repression policy, they could say good-bye to the ideal expressed by Queen Victoria to the Natives of Africa: "In their contentment shall be our security."

The Archbishop of Canterbury contrasted the policies of West Africa, where the native was given every encouragement, and of South Africa, where the native was always reminded of his inferiority. He declared that

South Africa wished it to be known that for all time the native would be debarred from being associated in the government of his country. The Archbishop said he was told one must live in South Africa before one could fully understand the position, but he felt it difficult to see in the Union's policy anything resembling the spirit and intention of the doctrine of trusteeship to which Britain was committed. The Archbishop considered it essential that at the present time the British Government should reiterate that it still holds the policy of the principle of trusteeship—in other words, the white man was in Africa for the ultimate benefit of the native rather than the other way about. He deplored signs that the South African spirit was spreading to Southern Rhodesia, where the pass legislation should not be allowed without protest from the British Government.

Lord Dufferin, however, poured cold water over the interesting debate by quoting the report of a committee of a hundred years ago, which stated that "the object of our policy was the government of indigenous races with a view to their elevation in the scale of civilisation." That, he said, was still the guiding policy of the British Government. While their methods and administration were not always perfect, Lord Dufferin maintained that they had come to greater understanding of the best method whereby the territories could be governed.

Lord Buxton, thereupon, expressed gratification at the confirmation of the traditional policy of the Colonial Office and withdrew his motion.

Natives of South Africa may well be thoroughly disappointed at this result of the debate in the House of Lords on the question of their future and view with the greatest apprehension the present policy of the Union Government. They have reason to feel that sweet words uttered by their so-called Trustees thousands of miles away will butter no parsnips for them. It has been made abundantly clear from the recent utterances of responsible statesmen of the Union that the object of the present legislation affecting natives is to relegate them to the land that will be purchased for them to live there as tenants and either to starve or to work, under conditions worse than slavery, for white farmers whose acts of cruelty have so often come to light. Mr. Pirow has not minced words in declaring the native policy he would like not only the Union Government but the whole of Africa to adopt in order to safeguard

white supremacy. While the archbishop of Canterbury deploras signs that the South African spirit was spreading to Southern Rhodesia, Mr. Pirow delights over it and wishes it would still spread throughout the north!

It would be worth-while quoting Mr. P. Grobler, the Union Minister of Native affairs. He is propounding a new theory of trusteeship. In a speech at Verena he said that he thought Lord Noel Buxton had strange ideas about the meaning of trusteeship. If the trustee had no more rights than the person for whom he acted, then there would be no need for him. "Fortunately," he said, "they in South Africa did not have to worry any longer about what was said in Whitehall or Exeter Hall as they used to in the past. The people there had no more say in South African affairs, and it was a good thing that Lord Lothian had indicated that no attempts would be made to meddle in South African domestic matters. Lord Noel Buxton appeared to forget, he said, that the Union was the only white sovereign independent State in Africa. White people had planted Western civilisation in this part of Africa and it was in the interests of the whites as well as the natives that the trusteeship of the Europeans over the natives should be carried out in a spirit of justice and Christian fairness."

So this is the notion the South African White has about the Trusteeship of the native. We have only for the first time learnt from Mr. Grobler that even trustees had any "rights." What we knew about trusteeship was that the trustees were supposed to safeguard the interests of those who were placed under their trust in a spirit of justice and Christian fairness. But Mr. Grobler has strange ideas about the meaning of Christian fairness. The Whites are the masters, and what trusteeship do the masters require? We think Mr. Grobler not only does not know the meaning of trusteeship but confuses the term with robbery.

In conclusion it will suffice to quote Mr. Percy F. Trotter, who has in his reply to Mr. Grobler in the *Rand Daily Mail* stated in a nutshell the real position of the native and the manner in which the "trustees" are carrying out their trust. This is what he says:

Mr. Grobler tells us what the Union has done for the education and uplifting of the natives, but he omits to mention the fact that the colour bar in every branch of human activity, effectively prevents the native from enjoying any advantage or reward to which his education may entitle him. Mr. Grobler asserts that Lord Noel Buxton's statement about repressions and exploitation is pure nonsense. Well, we in this country know that it is not nonsense, but only too true; and the native lives a dog's life from the cradle to the grave. Mr. Grobler refers to the Union's native

legislation with some self-satisfaction; can he quote one single Act of Parliament passed solely and truly for the benefit of the native? On the contrary, every law referring to the

natives is invariably of a repressive character, curtailing their liberty and freedom for the benefit of the Europeans. The real position in this country is that, owing to the increas-

ing number of poor whites, whose votes are essential, the native, as the unfortunate bedrock of the population, is squeezed out of every decent job, however, low and ill-paid.

INDIA RE-AWAKENING

"Let him regain his Kingdom!
"Let him conquer this
"And sit on ME, intent!
—(Song Celestial)"

THE world (would that it had eyes to see!) is being confronted with an epoch-making spectacle, nothing less than that of a people arising from the slough of an age-long degradation and "regaining its Kingdom."

India is re-awakening to a consciousness of her true 'dharma'—the spiritualisation of life and the practical dedication of lives lived to the ideal of the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Mankind.

Gandhi and Nehru—Bapuji and Punditji—are the privileged channels through whom the forces of regeneration are working. Gandhi is revitalising the soul of the people by the truly sacrificial act of giving himself to them—offering up his self to The Self—and the quickening of his people's potential-

ities with the invigorating strength of his own soul-force. This he is doing in the true spirit of The Gita:—"Make me thy Warrior!" And, that, so effectively as to have already produced startling apparent results. We are thus witnessing nothing less than a renaissance, a spiritual rebirth. India is being reborn.

Punditji's task would appear to be the remoulding of his people's intellectual outlook, the bringing of the mind into consonance with the change of heart, and the application of both to the establishing of a better social and economic order in substitution of the existing disorder in which grab and exploitation are the ruling principles.

Gandhiji recognised that regeneration had to be initiated from within, as

indeed all reforms must be. He perceived that the "below" could only be transmuted by influence from the "above." His war on untouchability may indeed be called "a war to end war," ensouled as it is by the truth of the essential oneness of mankind irrespective of class or creed, race or colour. His dispelling of the traditional misconception concerning the real meaning and significance of "varna"—a superstition imposed and encouraged by and in the selfish interests of the dominant castes—is an equally important step towards the ultimate goal. Gandhiji has thus paved the way for the task that now lies before Punditji, the task of educating the people in the practical application of their conversion to a truer sense of the relationship of each to the other, and the inauguration of a new social and industrial order founded upon Service in place of Exploitation and ruled by the principle of "Each for All and All for Each."

LAND TENURE AMENDMENT ACT

The following Act to amend the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act, 1936, to provide for the appointment of a permanent committee in the place of the commission mentioned in Government Notice No. 1324 of 1932 and to empower the Council of the Municipality of Johannesburg to transfer certain land to Asiatics, passed by the Union Parliament at its last session is reproduced here for the information of our readers from the *Union Gazette Extraordinary* dated May 18:

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa, as follows:—

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 1 OF ACT 87 OF 1919

1. Sub-section (5) of section one of the Asiatic (Land and Trading) Amendment (Transvaal) Act, 1919, as inserted by section seven of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Amendment Act, 1936 (Act No. 30 of 1936), is hereby amended by the substitution of the figures "1939" for the figures "1937": Provided that in relation to residence upon or occupation of land situate within the area known as Prospect Township in the district of Johannesburg, the said sub-section shall apply as if it had not been amended by this section.

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 14 OF ACT 80 OF 1936.

2. Sub-section (3) of section fourteen of the said Act No. 30 of 1936, is hereby amended by the substitution of the words "(c) or (d)" for the words "(c), (d) or (e)."

APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3. (1) After the dissolution of the commission mentioned in Government Notice No. 1324 of 1932, when it has finally reported upon the matters referred to it, the Minister of the Interior may appoint a committee to whom he may refer for investigation any matter arising from the said commission's report or recommendations or any matter in regard to which he may act in terms of sub-section (4) of section one hundred and thirty-one A of the Precious and Base Metals Act, 1908, of Transvaal as substituted by section five of the said Act No. 30 of 1936, only upon the recommendation of the said commission, and any reference in the said Act to the recommendations of the said committee on any matter referred to it by the said Minister.

(2) Each member of the said committee shall hold office for such period and shall be paid such remuneration as may be determined in his appointment.

(3) Whenever the said Minister approves of any recommendation of the

said committee for the amendment of any recommendation of the said commission as expressed in the register mentioned in section thirteen of the said Act No. 30 of 1936, the said Minister shall cause the said register to be amended accordingly, and the provisions of that section shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to any such amendment of the said register.

JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MAY TRANSFER CERTAIN LAND TO ASIATICS

4. (1) When both Houses of Parliament have by resolution approved of the transfer to Asiatics of the land which was granted to the Municipality of Johannesburg by Crown Grants No. 180 of 1907 and No. 338 of 1921, an Asiatic may acquire the ownership of or any interest in any portion of that land and the Council of the Municipality of Johannesburg may alienate and transfer any portion of that land to an Asiatic.

(2) When both Houses of Parliament have passed a resolution mentioned in sub-section (1) the Minister of the Interior shall cause a description of the area in question to be entered in the register mentioned in paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) of section fourteen of the said Act No. 30 of 1936.

5. This Act shall be called the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Further Amendment Act, 1937.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

OMINOUS CLOUDS LOOMING OVERHEAD

ARE WE PREPARED?

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—Those who have intelligently read between the lines of the utterances of responsible South African statesmen published in *INDIAN OPINION* of June 4, must have detected the direction in which the political wind at the moment affecting the Indian community in South Africa is blowing, and it is apparent to them that ominous clouds are gathering in the horizon and that Indians in South Africa are really in for critical times. It appears clear that the Union Government is determinedly forging and fashioning its policy towards non-Europeans in this country not only with the intention of its strict enforcement within the Union, but also with an eye to its eventual adoption by all dominating European people in the whole of the Continent of Africa, and that what was formally regarded as an "Asiatic problem" is now being metamorphosed into an "Indian problem." One could easily see that South Africa had, without giving any consideration, discarded the French policy of "assimilation" which embodied in practice the equitable principle of equal rights for all persons regarded as civilized according to Western standards irrespective of colour or creed. As far as Indians in South Africa are concerned the Union Government thought of, and, to a certain extent, tried, the policy of "extinction" in its modern form of "repatriation" and "colonisation," but realising that it was impracticable under the circumstances in which Indians in South Africa are placed, the Government seems to have decided upon strict enforcement of the policy of absolute and unqualified segregation which was conceived from the very advent of Indians in this country but was, for various reasons, not strictly enforced. One could easily picture before one's own mind's eye the tragic position the Indian community would be in when strict segregation will be enforced.

There Are Writings On The Wall

We know to-day that as a result of the Feetham Commission's Reports the Government is in a convenient position to demark, reserve and set apart for the occupation, trade and residence of the Coloured people certain strictly defined areas wherein the Indians can have their be-all and end-all of their existence. This applies only to places where the Gold Law applies, that is to say, to Reef Towns of the Transvaal

from Springs to Randfontein. But after the arrival of General Hertzog from overseas in the month of July, the terms of reference and personnel of the two Commissions—one to investigate on Mixed Marriages, and the other on the question of acquisition of land by Asiatics (Indians) in the Transvaal—will be announced. It does not require much effort of mind to visualise that as a result of the reports of these two commissions, the Indians now trading and residing in the country-districts of the Transvaal will also be sharing the misfortunes and ill-fates of their Reef-Towns Indian-Brethren-in-Segregation. And let the Indians of the Cape and Natal be not under the mistaken impression that their lot will be happier than that of their brethren in the Trans-

A Purohit And Religious Teacher

Wanted: A qualified Brahmin to conduct services in all Vedic Rites of the Hindoo Religion, as well as to teach children Gujarati language and music. Applicants must furnish references showing several years of training in some well known religious institution. If applicants are married preference will be given to one whose wife has passed the sixth standard in Gujarati. For further particulars, apply with references to the undersigned not later than the 28th day of June 1937.

L. HARRY,
Hon. Secretary,
East London Hindoo Society,
23 Maclean Street,
East London.

vaal, for, what is contemplated to be, and is being, done to-day or to-morrow in the Transvaal will be done the next day in the Cape and Natal as well, and the proof of the correctness of this statement is not lacking even to-day.

Moreover, debarred as the Indians are from being employed in State, Railway or Municipal Services, and prohibited from being employed in industries except in the capacity of menial or unskilled labourers, the Indians' sole means of existence is trade, and the power of granting or refusing trading licences has been unappealably delegated to the arbitrary hands of the local bodies, some of whose members have interests, in opposition to the Indians. It is now in the air that the question of consolidation and uniformity of application of the licensing laws will come up for

Government's consideration in the near future.

Under the Marketing Act the fate of the Indian farmers in Natal has been entrusted to the hands of the European farmers who are to be the guiding spirits of the Marketing Boards and Councils wherein Indians have no right of say whatsoever. How will the Marketing Act be administered?

What, to speak of education of Indian children in this country? The less said the better. The Indians' desire to well-utilise the money earned by the sweat of their brows in furtherance of the higher education of their children is nipped in the bud when they find that some Universities do not admit Indian students and when some Universities have admitted them in limited numbers and for certain faculties only, there is now a hue and cry that European students will be contaminated and that, therefore, there should be strict segregation even in the Holy precincts of the Goddess of Learning.

There are many more things which could be said in substantiation of the heading of this letter. But the vital question for the Indian people is whether they, individually or corporately, realise the precariousness of their imminent position which is in store for them and whether they are prepared for concerted action to meet and face the difficulties that lie ahead in their path of progress and betterment. The Hindu section of the Transvaal is divided upon unimportant trifles and there are no signs of the split being cemented. The Transvaal Indian Congress is functioning quite unconstitutionally and arbitrarily, for the simple reason that its chairman had resigned long ago and has not been replaced, that one of the secretaries had left Transvaal and the other secretary is wielding the petty power as he likes, and that the general election which was falling due in January of this year has been postponed and delayed for want of a chairman and other officials who would be prepared to bear the brunt and burden of office in accordance with the sweet-will of the present secretary. The South African Indian Congress is in a worse position about which let things remain unsaid except that the lone so-called secretary is dictatorially directing affairs in the name of the Indian people in the same ignorantly conceited manner suggested by his giving "assurance" for voluntary dismissal of white women employees by Indian tradesmen who are thereby

impliedly branded as immoral and unfit, and by his handling of the points raised by the new Immigration Act which took away, by a stroke of the pen, the birth-rights of several Indians. The Congressites and the Colonial-borns in Natal are at loggerheads and nothing has evidently been done for composing their differences. No conference, either Provincial or South African, has been held to decide upon the attitude to be taken by Indian people towards questions which ought to be tackled without delay.

If not for any other purpose but that of self-preservation without losing self-honour and self-respect, no time should be lost in bringing about unity among the leaders of the community so as to bring about reconciliation among all sections of the Indian people in South Africa, and, thereafter, in unitedly

deciding, with the approval of the people, the policy to be adopted towards all questions that are before them and particularly towards the aforementioned Commissions. If Indians are to subserviently submit to whatever humiliations that may be imposed upon them, then, their future in this country is sealed; they may remain here as mere dumb-driven cattle and allow their so-called present leaders to barter away their simple souls for a mere mess of pottage. Let the Indian people be roused by the Indian papers to the realisation of the precariousness of their present position and of the shadow of darkness as to their future. The time for petty differences, misunderstanding and personal jealousies is over.

Yours etc.,
OLD CONGRESSMAN.

A CORRECTION

Sir,—In your issue of June 4, wherein you published my article bearing upon the controversy re "Famils and Telugus," an error has occurred which may have been caused by an unintentional elision on my part while transcribing it. The sentence which commences "But because a changed and borrowed idiom had been introduced into a language provincialised through the influence of Sanskrit, the people among whom the same language exists in its pristine purity should read thus: "But because a changed and borrowed idiom had been introduced into a language provincialised through the influence of Sanskrit, the people who speak it cannot deny their germane kinship with the people among whom the same language exists in its pristine purity."

Yours etc.,
A TAMIL NAYUDU.

MR. C. R. SWART, M.P., URGES EXTREME POLICY ON COLOUR

THE colour problem has been tackled by the Nationalist Party, also in the industrial arena. In our programme of principles we have laid down the following:

"In the sphere of industry the party declares itself in favour of segregation between Europeans and non-Europeans."

In the Programme of Action this idea of industrial segregation is developed. The Party stands for "the introduction of an equitable quota system for Europeans and non-Europeans in specified trade," while it also postulates the compulsory provision of separate workshops for those who are white and those who are not, and the prohibition of the employment of Europeans by or under the supervision of Natives, Asiatics or coloureds.

That is the aim of the Nationalists and they have, during the recent session of Parliament, put their principles to the vote on several occasions. They received no support from the Government party or any of its members, nor from any other party. It must be abundantly clear, therefore, that this matter is going to be an apple of discord between the Nationalists on the one hand and all the other parties on the other. This matter will without a doubt be one of the most important questions on which the forthcoming elections will be fought.

Wage Scales

When the new Wage Act was considered recently an amendment was moved on behalf of the Nationalist Opposition in order to make provision for the following matters: discrimination

in wage scales by virtue of colour or race, the fixation of employment quotas for whites and non-whites in industries or sub-divisions of industries, the reservation of certain trades or sub-divisions of trades for Europeans alone and the principle of separate workshops in any industry or its sub-divisions. The Wage Act also proposes to protect our own coloured races from unfair competition in the labour sphere as against any influx of uncivilised labourers from beyond our borders.

The present position will have to be faced fairly and squarely by every South African who feels strongly on the question of drawing a colour line in our national life. We as Nationalists say boldly, clearly and emphatically that we want to draw the line in the spheres of politics, industry and social life between the European population of South Africa on the one hand and the others who are not.

Our programme of principles accepts the Christian guardianship of the European race over the native race and the coloured peoples, but declares the party to be unalterably opposed to any blending of these races with one another. The coloured races must be provided with the opportunity of developing along their own lines in accordance with their natural aptitude and endowments.

The Nationalist Party has also laid down that it stands for the protection of our own coloured races against competition from and immigration of Asiatics. The party as passed, however, makes no provision for any discrimination whatsoever on grounds of colour.

We have been attacked for these views by the so-called Liberals who are to-day coming to the fore within the ranks of the United Party. Perhaps the majority of the rank and file of the governing Party are in accord with us in these matters, but they are dragooned by the minority of Liberals into voting against us on these issues. They seem to be in mortal fear of Mr. Hofmeyr and his followers walking out of the parlour and leaving them at our mercy, and so they toe the line and vote down our proposals while sympathising with us

—Sunday Express.

Muslim Hostel In Standerton

Although there are facilities in Standerton for teaching English, Afrikaans, Gujarati, Urdu and Arabic there was need for a hostel for students coming from other towns.

The local Muslim Educational Institute have now filled that long-felt need by opening from last April 16, a hostel near the Public Park. The hostel is looked after by two experienced supervisors and there is accommodation for boarding and lodging both for Hindu and Muslim students. The fee is £2 per month. For further particulars apply to:

M. S. BHABHA,
Secretary Standerton Muslim
Educational Institute.

P.O. Box 168,
Standerton, Transvaal

MR. HOFMEYR REPLIES TO HIS CRITICS

SPEAKING at a meeting of the Linden branch of the United Party, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, referred to a number of mis-statements concerning himself, which, he said, had been spread throughout the country for the purposes of political propaganda. The Minister said that there had been a great deal of misrepresentation regarding the attitude he had adopted in Parliament concerning the question of mixed marriages. The Bill was introduced not by the Government, but a private party, and was intended to make illegal marriages between Europeans and natives and Europeans and Asiatics. "I spoke against the Bill, and I was one of those who voted for an adjournment of the House," said Mr. Hofmeyr. "The majority voted for an adjournment, as a result of which the Bill was not heard of again. This is where the misrepresentation comes in. Because I voted as I did, it was stated that I was in favour of mixed marriages, although I was as strongly opposed to this as the other members of Parliament..... What is my attitude? Simply this. There are certain social evils which, when dealt with by legislation, simply drives them underground. One instance of that was prohibition in America. I have very strong views on the liquor question, and I would like to see prohibition in this country; but I would

not vote for it because I know that the same would happen as happened in America—you will drive the evil underground. "You cannot solve every social evil by legislation. Some should be tackled in other ways, and happily in the matter of mixed marriages that is what is happening in South Africa. You find that the number of such marriages is going down all the time, because the conscience of the people in South Africa is being affected. The number of such marriages is very small to-day, so that the evil is gradually diminishing. In my opinion you must allow the public conscience to proceed that way to get rid of the evil." Mr. Hofmeyr said that this was also the attitude of General Smuts and General Hertzog.

White Women Employment Bill

Then again, said Mr. Hofmeyr, they had the Bill—also introduced by a private party—regarding the employment of Europeans by Asiatics. That Bill went very far, and it would have had the effect of making it impossible for Asiatics to engage a European doctor, nurse, or attorney. The Bill, moreover, was supported by the wildest sort of mis-statements, giving an exaggerated account of the incidence of employment of Europeans by Asiatics and altogether misrepresenting the evils that resulted from such employment. "The attitude I took up was this," said the Minister.

"Before we were stampeded into legislation such as this we had got to get facts. Surely it is the duty of Parliament to satisfy itself as to the facts before passing legislation. Because of the attitude taken up the Government refused to commit itself until a select committee had investigated the matter. When investigated it was found that instances of such employment were very small and there had been gross exaggeration of the number of Europeans employed by Asiatics. It was found that there was hardly any evil and the Asiatics were quite prepared to put an end to such employment." Mr. Hofmeyr said that his attitude did not mean that he was in favour of Asiatics employing Europeans. On the contrary, he was largely instrumental in getting an assurance from the Asiatics that that employment would cease. "I was not concerned about the interests of the employers in this matter," said Mr. Hofmeyr. "I was concerned about the good name and honour of South Africa and the Parliament of South Africa, and surely it was a matter affecting our good name and honour that we should not be stampeded into such legislation without satisfying ourselves as to the facts. Had this legislation gone through, we would have been the laughing stock of the world. Moreover, we had to be careful not to compromise the good relations between South Africa and India."

Things In General

Transvaal Administrator On

Indian Education

SPEAKING on the question of education in the Transvaal Provincial Council the Administrator, Mr. Bekker, said that the Indian and coloured communities paid the same taxes as the white population and the coloured and Indian children were just as much left in the charge of the Provinces as white children. He found that they hired or schools for the coloured and Indian children and paid £6,000 a year for rent. Some of these hired schools were as good as those used for white children and he could assure them that the Indian and coloured children would get the same chance of receiving a good education as the white children, as far as possible.

The above remarks Mr. Bekker will be received with profound appreciation by the Indian community. We hope the same principle in regard to education would be put into practice in all the Provinces.

Pirow And "Coolies"

The advantages of a uniform native policy for Southern Africa were stressed by the Minister of Railways and Harbours and of Defence, Mr. O Pirow, in the course of a speech at Schweizer Reneke. Mr. Pirow declared that the Union's native policy was so sound that it had to some extent been taken over by Southern Rhodesia, and he prophesied that it would eventually also be adopted by Northern Rhodesia and their other neighbours to the north. If that came about we could be certain that White civilisation in South Africa, and in Southern Africa as a whole, would be absolutely safe, not only in our lifetime, but for generations to come. At question time Mr. Pirow was asked whether he and Mr. Hofmeyr saw eye-to-eye. Mr. Pirow said he and Mr. Hofmeyr disagreed on certain matters in the same way that in the old Nationalist Cabinet Mr. Tielman Roos and Dr. Malan had disagreed on the very important question of independence, and in the same way that he (Mr. Pirow)

had disagreed with Dr. Malan in regard to the "coolies."

A Mosque And School On

Pretoria Road

The monthly meeting of the council of the Federation of Ratepayers' Association was held recently in Johannesburg. A letter was read from the Secretary of the Interior about the establishment of an Indian mosque and school on the Pretoria Road near the Halfway House. It was intimated that a European company had been formed, and land had been purchased for the erection of the buildings. All legal obligations had been complied with. In the circumstances the department could not do anything. The chairman said the letter virtually meant that an Indian community would be established and they were powerless to do anything. Objections were raised by Pretoria and Johannesburg. He had reason to believe that the money for the purchase of the land, £16,000, had been supplied by a wealthy Indian. It was decided to

write to the Department of the Interior on the matter and also the Johannesburg Municipality, asking that the question of occupation be raised.

Minister Of Interior On

Proposed Asiatic Commissions

Mr. R. H. Stuttaford, Minister of the Interior, in the course of a statement to the Press said, the Government had no intention of appointing a commission to investigate the question of the employment of Europeans by Asiatics. This particular question was closed when the Prime Minister announced in Parliament that the Government had decided to accept the assurance of the South African Indian Congress that it would take steps itself to rectify the position. It was probable, he added, that no final decision as to the appointment of two commissions, one to investigate mixed marriages between Europeans and non-Europeans, and the other the ownership of land by Asiatics, would be taken until the return of the Prime Minister from overseas.

'British Subject' Problem

Cleared Up In London

Dr. H. D. J. Bodenstein, Union Secretary for External Affairs, recently handed *Africana* a copy of the memorandum of the Constitutional Committee of the Imperial Conference, which deals with the "British subject" problem. The memorandum states that the term "British subject" "does not mean subject of Great Britain, but denotes generally all subjects of His Majesty to whatever part of Commonwealth they belong. But British subjects have generally also particular connection with one or another member of the British Commonwealth. In the absence of rules for determining the part of the Commonwealth wherewith the particular person has a connection, practical difficulties arise or might arise in future in the matter of immigration, deportation, diplomatic action, extra-territorial legislation and treaty rights and obligations. The suggestion that the difficulties be overcome by each member of the Commonwealth passing a law defining its nationals or citizens proved unacceptable. Wide differences between a large number of territories, their legal jurisdiction and the races for which the United Kingdom is responsible render it particularly impracticable for her to adopt any single classification which would in any real sense be analagous to that expressed by the term 'nationals' or 'citizens' or 'member of the community' of any other member."

Hitler Honours Mussolini

Herr Hitler has conferred the Grand Cross Order of the German Eagle on Signor Mussolini and Count Ciano. This is the highest class of order, which was created a month ago and is reserved exclusively for foreigners who have deserved well at Germany. Il Duce and Count Ciano are apparently the first recipients.

£500,000 Mental Hospital

A new mental hospital is to be erected near Krugersdorp at a cost of £500,000. The Government has purchased 350 morgen of ground at Sterkfontein at a cost of £5,500, the ground being transferred to the Government free of cost. Here some 2,000 patients will be accommodated. A feature of the new mental hospital is that unlike other institutions, it will probably be built as a settlement to avoid giving the inmates the impression that they are being confined.

Hill View Indian School

A meeting of the residents of Clare Estate (New Germany area) was held recently under the auspices of the Hill View Government-aided Indian School Society in the school hall to discuss the erection of a new school building. Mr. S. Kannappa Reddy presided. It was unanimously decided to erect a new building to replace the existing one, which is in a dilapidated condition. A committee of 32 members was formed, with the following officials at the head: President, Mr. M. Murugappa Reddy; hon. secretary: Mr. R. Mathai; treasurer: Mr. S. Muthusamy Moodley; auditor:

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£1,000,000 Airport Opened

At Singapore

A vital inter-Empire life line was established at Singapore with the inauguration of the new £1,000,000 civil airport which is of extreme significance to the Empire. Singapore is the focal point between the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the jumping off place for Australia and New Zealand, guarding an immense region wherein Empire interests predominate. The new airport was built on the one-time swampy and unhealthy mud flats, two miles from the centre of the town. British engineers started work seven years ago.

Sir Auckland On Gold Currency

In a speech in London, Sir Auckland Geddes said gold did not possess all the merits formerly claimed for it. "It is plainly no longer stable in value. Inside 20 years its sterling value has moved from 84/- to 140/-. As a background for internal currency gold is no longer required and there seems no reason why people should not have as much confidence in paper as gold currency."

Proposed Scale For Shop Assistants In Durban

A new scale of wages for shop assistants in Natal, involving the principle of equal pay for men and women was approved at a meeting of the National Union of Distributive Workers (Durban branch) held in the Town Hall Basement on June 9. The new scale, which will be submitted to the national conference of the Union to be held at Johannesburg in December next, is as follows:—First year, first half, £5 a month, second half £6; second year, first half £7, second half £8; third year, first half £9 10s., second half £11; fourth year, first half £12 10s., second half £14; fifth year, first half £16, second half £18. Thereafter £20 a month, rising up to £30 to be determined by ratios of one at £20 to one apprentice. At present the rates are £5 a month for an unqualified assistant, £9 10s. for a qualified female, and £18 for a qualified male. It was also agreed that no assistant be employed for more than five hours without a break of one hour or be employed for more than six days in one week or on a public holiday, and that the maximum for one day be no more than eight hours. Another agreement reached was that all licences should be restricted to the general shopping hours with the exception of tea rooms. The meeting also decided to support the principle of affiliation to the Trades and Labour Council as a rational organisation. The question of equal pay for men and women provoked some discussion. One speaker said that it cost just as much for a woman to live as it did a man. Another speaker pointed out that if women received the same pay as men employers would not engage so many women. Mr. Wanless, Secretary of the Union, said a fundamental principle was involved in the idea of equal pay.

Stanger Hindu Youth Club

The annual general meeting of the above club was held recently at the Sabha Hall, Stanger. The President, Mr. C. V. Naidoo, opened the meeting to a full house and his address, together with the secretary's and treasurer's reports, gave a very creditable account of the club since its inception in March 1936. 40 meetings were held throughout the year which included debates, lectures and socials, which were enjoyed both by the members of the club, and others who attended. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. R. Padiachy, M. M. Moodley, S. Soobramoney Moodley, A. P. Naidoo and N. Bodasingh; President: Mr. Vadivalu Thomas; vice-presidents: Messrs. T. Vadivalu and V. A. Padiachy; joint hon. secretaries: Messrs. S. A. Pather and S. Moodley; treasurer: Mr. S. M. Govender; auditor: Mr. S. M. Pillay; committees: Messrs. N. S. Moodley, D. Ramiah, Nadas Pillay, E. P.

(Continued on page 295)

India Letter

(EXTRACTS FROM A. I. C. O. FOREIGN LETTERS)

Islam Tolerates No Slavery

ADDRESSING a gathering of Muslims at Kurla, a suburb in Bombay, Mr. S. A. Brelvi, a Nationalist Muslim leader, said that it was regrettable that Muslims had not joined the Congress in as large a number as was desired. And here he traced this regrettable result to the wrong lead given by the leaders of the Muslim League like Mr. Jinnah and to the failure of Congressmen themselves to carry the Congress message to the doors of the Muslims, and explain the aims of the Congress and the work that it had been doing. He assured his co-religionists that Congress was the only non-sectarian political body in the country and as such was working for the political emancipation of the Motherland and not for the good of one community against the other. In fact the democratic spirit of Islam demanded of his Muslim brothers active participation in the Congress fight for the removal of political slavery. For Islam did not tolerate political slavery and it and political slavery were incompatible. He was not surprised to find that the move of the Congress President to establish more intimate contact with Muslims as with non-Muslim masses had perturbed the communalist leaders who were frightened that the days of their "leadership" were passing away and they were indulging in futile warning that if the Congress tried to approach the Muslim masses without coming to a settlement with the "leaders who count," there would be dire disasters. The warning was futile because the Congress had taken the right course. So far as the Nationalist Hindus and Muslims were concerned a settlement could be reached within half an hour. But their experience of all past Unity Conferences was that Communal leaders, both Hindu and Muslim, obstructed a settlement. A lasting settlement could only be arrived at by a direct approach to the masses who were more vitally interested in democratic Swaraj Congress wanted to establish. He asked his co-religionists to believe that Congress did not stand for any one community or party. The Swaraj that Congress was fighting for was the Swaraj for all communities and all classes, and especially for the worker and the peasant, and the poor generally. The attitude of the Congress towards the minorities was grossly misrepresented. The Congress did not interfere in religious matters and it promised complete religious liberty and it had pledged itself to protect the culture, language and script of all minorities. It had signally proved

its non-sectarian outlook in so far as it championed the Khilafat cause, when the present league leaders like Mr. Jinnah and Sir Dehlavi were conspicuous by their absence. It was Congress and its leader Mahatma Gandhi who led the Khilafat agitation and stood by Islam in its hour of real need. He hoped they would not be misled by false leadership and asked them to join in making the Congress organisation living.

Not A Dictator

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has issued the following statement with reference to certain observations which Mr. Jinnah is reported to have made in connection with Panditji's recent move to increase the Muslim element in the Congress: "I am sorry that anything that I have said or done, should lead Mr. Jinnah to think that I want to function as a dictator. Far from dictating to others I cannot even dictate to myself. I am a servant and worker of the Congress carrying out its directions. Personally I find it difficult to think of any question on communal lines. I think on political and economic lines. But I should like to assure Mr. Jinnah and others that the Congress attaches the greatest importance to the building up of united India and of removing the differences and suspicions which unfortunately separate sometimes various religious groups. To that end the Congress will co-operate with all others but inevitably that unity must have an enduring political basis. It cannot be unity of subjection."

Outwitted The British

Mr. Mardy Jones, ex-M.P. was entertained at a tea party by Mr. Kunj Beharilal Shivni, local Congress President at Jhansi, to which many prominent citizens and journalists were invited. Commenting on the constitutional crisis in India, Mr. Jones said, "Though the Congress has gone out of the jurisdiction of the constitution in demanding an assurance from the Governor, they have undoubtedly shown first class political sagacity inasmuch as in the very first stroke they have shattered the constitution, exposed its hollowness to the world and set Englishmen to think about India. In fact, Indians in this constitutional struggle have out-witted the Britishers. "If the Congress can maintain its present position," continued Mr. Jones, "then they are bound to win the 2nd, 3rd and the 4th round as well, and before long, Federation will become a dead letter. Their refusal of offices, furthermore, has

manifested to the world that they are not enamoured of offices and can renounce them before principles.

Madras European Association

"The resolution of the European Association should make no change in the political situation or on the work of Congressmen," declared Mr. Rajagopalachari in the course of an interview regarding the anti-assurance resolution passed by the Madras city circle of the European Association. He added, "If we had depended upon the European merchants in India for securing our birth-right, we should have to wait till 32nd March or for any other impossible date. They are good men in their own way, but they cannot recognize other people's interests or honour. It may be assumed that in any organization people's views interact one upon another, but everyone is expected ultimately to co-operate in evolving a common policy and be loyal to it. The European Association is not doing well in trying to exaggerate the differences between one another in Congress ranks and hoping for revolt and rebellion. I have influenced other people's views no less and subordinated my views to those of others in my organization no more than Sir William Riggall has influenced others' opinion or subordinated his views to those of other members of his association. Referring to Sir William's speech, Mr. Rajagopalachari said, "Sir William hopes that safeguards should always remain and be effective. What does this mean except that we will be slaves and forget that status and submit to the safeguards as part of our permanent mental make up. I cannot share this view, for it would mean that I must lose my manhood altogether."

Tagore On Office Acceptance

"Office acceptance is only an outward temptation and not a real need. Particularly the Hindus must realise that this is not the time for hankering after offices," says Dr. Rabindranath Tagore in a recent message to Sind. The message adds: "Sind owes a debt to me and I have the claims. We to-day are living in strange circumstances and it is said that Sind is betraying the country. Sind may have Hindu-Muslim frictions but you must realise that you are being duped into glitter that is shown to you. Office is a show to entangle us. We must rise above this. The urgency of time requires that we rise above this. It will be a betrayal of the country if we succumb. Every Indian should be aware of the present political situation in the country so that he may not be duped in to temptation of office and won over. Sind will play into the hands of the powers in as much as every M.L.A. appears to hanker after job. Evidently the right people are not there."

THINGS IN GENERAL]

Pillay, Sivagyanam Moodley, D. P. Sani Frank Naidoo, P. C. Govender and V. D. Padiachy.

New Firearms Law

Stringent regulations regarding the possession of firearms in the Union will come into force on July 1 and will apply to the whole of the Union. At present there are many unregistered firearms in the Union, and these will have to be licensed under the Arms and Ammunitions Act of 1937 before July 1. Six months are being allowed for the taking-out of new licences. After that period it will be an offence to be in possession of a firearm without a licence.

Jack Doyle To Wed Millionairess

Jack Doyle, the Irish heavy-weight boxer is going to America on the French liner *Normandie* to marry a noted American, whose personal fortune, derived from an American tobacco company, amounts to about £2,000,000. Mr. Doyle will not reveal the name of his future wife, but says she is a brunette, 27 years old, and a widow.

Sweeter Sex

Because of a superstition that tea picked by delicate feminine hands will retain its sweet flavour, only women are employed to gather leaves in Keenmu

China's famous black tea producing centre, where the harvest is now in progress. Nevertheless, the manufacture of the black tea was started by a man named Yu, in 1876. He made such handsome profits that others quickly followed his example, and to-day there are 60,000 black-tea producers.

Social And Personal

MR. B. T. CHETTY, the 5th son of Mr. R. B. Chetty, of Durban, sailed by the *Balmoral Castle* on Thursday June 10, proceeding to Edinburgh where he will take up a course in medicine. He was seen off by a large gathering of relatives and friends, and was also the recipient of many presents. We wish young Mr. Chetty every success.

—o—
Mrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, who had been on a short visit to India has returned to Durban by the *Tairea* last Wednesday with her little daughter.

Lewis Retains World Title

John Henry Lewis (12st. 6lb.) retained his world light-heavy-weight championship recently by knocking out Bob Olin (12st. 6½lb.) in the eighth round states a Reuter's message from St. Louis (Missouri). Lewis gained the title from Olin in October, 1935.

[Continued from page 293

Chinese Played Football In 200 B.C.

Chinese soldiers played football as far back as 200 B.C., according to Mr. L. Carrington Goodrich, chairman of the Department of Chinese at Columbia University, who is in Peiping on a tour of further study. Mr. Goodrich reports that there is a stone monument not far from Kaifeng which was carved in 128 B.C. portraying a football match.

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