

# INDIAN OPINION

Founded by  
MAHATMA GANDHI  
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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Death Of Mr. Teague

THE Immigration Department of the Union has suffered a great loss by the death, which took place on the night of Thursday August 5, of Mr. H. R. Teague, Principal Immigration Officer, Durban. The late Mr. Teague, who was 54 years of age, was connected with the Immigration Department since 1901 when he began his career as a junior clerk rising in November 1927, after the retirement of Mr. G. W. Dick, to the post of Principal Immigration Officer. The sporting world too has suffered a great loss as Mr. Teague was a keen cricket player. Mr. Teague had many friends both in the European and the Indian community among whom he was held in high esteem. The funeral, which was attended by prominent Europeans and Indians, took place at noon on Saturday August 7, at the West Street Cemetery, following a short service at St Cyprian's Church, to which he belonged. Mr. Teague was unmarried but leaves brothers and sisters in Natal to mourn their sad loss. We offer to the bereaved our heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. Lawrence Conway, Principal Immigration Officer of Capetown is temporarily in Mr. Teague's place.

### Congress Opposes Proposed

#### Appointment Of Commissions

The South African Indian Congress has made representations to the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Stuttaford, requesting that the Union Cabinet should not agree to the proposed appointment of Commissions to inquire into mixed marriages and occupation of land by Asiatics in the Transvaal.

### No Wonder There Is No Room

#### For Non-Europeans!

Fully £400,000 is reported to have been spent by the Government since April on the acquisition of land for European settlers in the Union, and this land will shortly be open for settlement. Applications will be invited, and the most suitable applicants chosen. It is expected that within a couple of months there will be no fewer than 400 holdings available. Settlers will be allowed to live on their farms for two years for nothing. In the third year they will be responsible for two per cent. interest

on the unpaid capital, and thereafter the interest will be 3½ per cent. until they exercise their option to buy. The purchase price will depend upon what the land originally cost. The size of the holdings will vary according to locality and the nature of the farming carried on. It is not expected, however, that any holdings will be much less than 1,000 morgen in extent. Up to the present the land acquired is all in the Transvaal and the Free State, but negotiations are proceeding for purchases in the other Provinces.

Is there any wonder that there is no room left in the Union for Asiatics and other non-Europeans? This is a sure sign of South Africa becoming a White man's country in time to come.

### £100,000 As Brand Mark

#### Of Inferiority

A civic centre for non-Europeans, which was recently criticised in these columns, will be built on the site of the present Bantu Men's Social Centre in Eloff Street Extension, Johannesburg, it is learnt, if a recommendation of the Non-European Housing Administration and Native Affairs Committee is passed by the General Purposes Committee and the City Council. The land belongs to the Council, but is leased to the Bantu Men's Social Centre. The proposal is to terminate the lease, compensate the centre for the buildings and then construct a block of buildings that will house administrative offices, a town hall, a library and a native art gallery. The scheme will cost about £100,000 and will provide the non-Europeans of the city with a centre for social life. It is considered that the scheme, which will be the first of its kind in the Union, will pay for itself in a few years in direct and indirect benefits.

As we stated before, we do not look to this scheme with any sense of gratification. Non-Europeans are just as much entitled to the use of the City Hall and the Public Library as their European fellow citizens. And this new venture is to deprive them of that right and to brand them permanently as an inferior race. The money proposed to be expended on humiliating non-Europeans could have been put to much better use by increasing hospital

accommodation for them, by giving them unemployment relief, better educational facilities, and in many other ways. But the object of the rulers is not to uplift the non-Europeans but to "keep them in their place."

### Some Practical Cultural Work

#### Among Hindus

There is a sudden awakening among the Hindus, thanks to the presence in their midst of Pandit Rishiram, in regard to their social, moral and spiritual upliftment. Pandit Rishiram's learned lectures on Hindu philosophy and culture seem to have had a salutary effect upon those who have heard them and they are now concentrating, in cooperation with Pandit Rishiram, on taking some practical steps to establish a link between India and South Africa so that the Hindus in particular and the people of South Africa in general would be more acquainted with Indian civilisation and culture. In his lecture before the Vedic Sabha last Tuesday night Pandit Rishiram said Indians had contributed to this land by their physical labour and as merchants. But they are a nation with a great heritage and have a far more important contribution to make to the outside world than as mere labourers and that was the contribution of their culture. The practical step, we have referred to above, is in the form of raising a sum of £4,000 for the purpose of a lecturate. The object is that the Hindu Maha Sabha should be enabled to invite a prominent person from India at least once a year on a lecture tour. Pandit Rishiram made an announcement at the above-mentioned meeting that Mr. M. C. Varman, one of the leading members of the Hindu community in Durban, has donated the sum of 300 guineas to this fund. The Panditji also stated that there were further sums promised but only those which have been paid in will be announced. We very heartily welcome this move as we believe the time has come when Indians in South Africa should pay more attention to their moral and spiritual upliftment. This has been hopelessly neglected in the past and if it continues to be neglected there is no hope of our future improving in this country. We heartily congratulate Mr. Varman for the generous

spirit he has shown. It should be noted here that Mr. Varman has also offered a scholarship for any Hindu student who would desire to take up Sanskrit study at the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College. We sincerely hope there will be many more Hindus in the Union to follow the noble example of Mr.

Varman and that this work will be fully accomplished before Pandit Rishiram leaves these shores. We are pleased to announce that Pandit Rishiram is conducting Bhagavad Gita classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays which are being attended by about twenty-five to thirty students.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 1937

### Agent-General's Warning

THE Agent-General, Sir Syed Raza Ali, sounded a warning note to the Indian community in regard to their future in this country at the Orient Club at Isipingo last Sunday. We are sorry the Agent-General only dwelt upon the material side of the question and gave no advice to his audience on the higher things of life without which their material welfare would avail them nothing. We are sorry too that he referred once again to the assurance given to the Government by the Congress on the employment of European women by Indians. He said "the misconception and misunderstanding made it necessary for those who were a party to their transaction to see that there was no split in the ranks of the community and that it was eventually agreed that the Congress had done nothing derogatory to Indian honour." We are not prepared to accept this without criticism. There has been no misconception about the fact that the Congress officials under the guidance of the Agent-General had committed a first class blunder in giving the assurance as they did to the Government. No one has agreed that the Congress had done nothing derogatory to Indian honour. To make matters worse there has unfortunately been a misconstruing of facts which has created confusion in the minds of some people in South Africa as well as in India. Well informed public opinion in India has not looked with favour the step taken by the Congress in this respect and has condemned it as a policy of progressive surrender. The ignorant people in South Africa have been fed with stories that those who have taken exception to the assurance given by the Congress officials are out to advocate the employment of Europeans in preference to their own countrymen unconcerned about their unemployment ranks being swelled. This is like one of those electioneering tactics

undulged in by the political parties in South Africa and it is as far from truth as the north pole is from the south. The question is one of principle. To allow a legislative ban on Indians employing white women is to accept the position that Indians as a community are so morally depraved that they cannot be trusted to mix socially with white women or have relations with them as between masters and servants. We cannot imagine anything more humiliating than a voluntary imposition of the ban with a sword hanging over our heads threatening to drop the moment we have swerved. Voluntary action there has indeed been in the past but it can never be taken as it has been in the present instance at the expense of our honour and self-respect.

Then the Agent-General continuing the sad tale tells us that hardly a month has passed since that assurance was given when Mr. Pirow announced that the Government contemplated the appointment of two commissions on mixed marriages and Asiatic land tenure in the Transvaal respectively. That the Agent-General had made representations but he was not able to say what the result would be.

With regard to the proposed Commissions we do not see any purpose served in appointing them beyond just making Indians pawns in the political game of Dr. Malan's Nationalist Party and General Hertzog's United Party. "As to mixed marriages," *The Star* (Johannesburg) writes, "the matter is of such small practical dimensions that it cannot honestly be described as 'a question of the greatest importance.' Even Mr. Pirow, whose bias in this matter is known, denounced panic mongering and roundly asserted 'it is completely misleading to say that the matter has suddenly become one of life and death to the existence of the European race.'...In view of the admittedly

small proportions of the problem, surely it would be better to rely on the pressure of public opinion which is, in such matters, virtually unanimous...We doubt if investigation—whether departmental or a commission presided over by a judge—would yield much, if any, more information than that already available. It would be especially imprudent to launch it shortly before the final session of Parliament, thus making its findings available for exploitation by political partisans and the fomenters of race feeling. The issue is not urgent and there is no reason to jeopardise domestic quiet at the behest of a handful of Opposition mischief-makers."

We wholeheartedly endorse the view expressed by our contemporary.

In so far as Asiatic land tenure in the Transvaal is concerned there must be something radically wrong with the Government if the necessity for another commission has arisen so soon when the Feetham Commission's reports have not yet been fully considered and its recommendations not given effect to.

This however is by the way.

Reverting to the Agent-General's remarks, this is what he observed: "I have now stayed two and a half years among you and I have given you my best. But you are still divided, unorganised and like unsuspecting men sitting on the top of a volcano, you laugh, you eat, you drink and do not realise the dangers you are in." In the event of any drastic measure being taken by the Government the Agent-General said that most big Indians who are looked upon as substantial men, will be ruined.

These words of the Agent-General are true and should be taken to heart. The Indian community cannot afford to be disunited and disorganised at a time like this nor is it time for them to merely indulge in eating, drinking and merriment. The serious matter for concern is, however, not the ruination of the few big Indians but of the status of the whole Indian community. The Agent-General is in this country primarily to safeguard the honour of India. If Indians have a heritage of their ancient civilisation and culture and have a contribution to make to South Africa, it is indeed a poor contribution if they are going to be concerned only about their material prosperity and are prepared just for that to surrender their self-respect, the honour of their country and all the higher things in life. "What doth it profit a man who gains the whole world but loseth his own soul."

# MAHATMA GANDHI

## A VIVID DESCRIPTION OF HIS ACTIVITIES

**S**OUTH AFRICANS, I dare say, would like to have first-hand knowledge of Mr. Gandhi, who lived and worked in their midst, no less for the welfare of the South Africans than for his own community, exactly 23 years ago. I had known him intimately then, having had the privilege of working with him for some 12 years, and had always longed for an opportunity of meeting him in his new environments—the environments that he had taken such a prominent part in helping to create during the last 23 years.

And how did I find him? I landed in India on May 20 and took the first train to a seaside resort, Tithal, near Bulsar where he was staying for a brief quiet rest, combined with work.

I found the same Gandhi that I had loved to work with—an embodiment of youthful energy and vivacity, laughing and joking, going through the daily duties of his life with the same careful attention to detail with which we were all familiar in South Africa and facing the problems of his vast country with a determination and will and resourcefulness that amazed General Smuts in South Africa.

The sphere of his work in South Africa was much smaller. Here the sphere is as wide as the country itself, and, though I had heard that he had retired from active politics, here in a place where he had been persuaded to come for rest his diary seemed to be full from 4 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night, busy with a variety of problems that would make the head of any other public man giddy.

He gives an interview on the burning topic of the day to the representatives of the biggest Anglo-Indian paper in India, and the next day that interview is being carefully scanned by the British statesmen in the House of Commons, and the little place—so little known even in India—finds itself mentioned in the pages of the Hansard.

To-day he meets a group of workers in national education; to-morrow he meets workers in the cause of the removal of untouchability—the work of the emancipation of some 60,000,000 of his submerged countrymen whom he has specially made his own—and helps them solve the various difficulties arising in their work from day to day.

### Evening Prayer

His evening open-air prayers find hundreds of people flocking from the countryside, vying with one another in having a glimpse of him, and in placing in front of him their hard-earned coppers and silver for the benefit of these submerged millions.

By  
*Mr. H. KALLENBACH*

If he worked with a shovel and a spade on the Tolstoy Farm and the Phoenix Settlement in South Africa, here he works at the spinning wheel, which he has revived in millions of cottages in order to help solve the stupendous problem of unemployment.

His measures are not heroic like those of President Roosevelt. Only his resolve has the same heroic quality. He moves from cities to a tiny village with about 600 souls, shakes up their lethargy and makes them work with himself in looking after their sanitation, their water supply, their roads, their cattle, their agriculture, their handicrafts, their children and their education.

There in Tithal I saw him in a fairly well furnished bungalow placed at his disposal by the leader of the Congressmen in the Central Legislative Assembly. "But here," he said, "you do not find me in my natural environment. For that you will have to go to Segaoon."

### In Segaoon

And now I have seen him at work in this little village. A millionaire, who accepts his trusteeship theory implicitly, has placed the income of this whole village at his disposal, and he uses it for the welfare of the villagers. He has built here under his supervision two or three mud huts in which he lives with his associates, a number of young men and women, with no furniture save a few village palm-leaf mats, little shelves of split bamboo, and or one two plank and coir beds for those who might need them.

"If I have retired from the Congress," he says, "I have done so in order to fit myself all the better for the service of the Congress, which has no meaning to me until it represents the humblest of its people."

A reading of Ruskin's "Unto This Last" in South Africa made him resolve to retire from a lucrative legal practice and settle on the Tolstoy Farm and Phoenix Settlement. Here he has carried the implications of that gospel to their extreme logical conclusion, and he has now brought his gifts "even unto this last," i.e. the humblest and the poorest of India's 700,000 villages. He has suddenly aroused them from their slumber, and shown them how they can improve their lot.

"Revive your handicrafts," he says to them, "make your huts hum with the music of the spinning wheel and the loom, fill your idle hours with profitable work, turn your waste into wealth.

Here are hundreds of palm trees you don't make use of, except to get drunk with their fermented juice. Turn the juice into life-giving jaggery (molasses) and sugar. He are your streets and lanes defiled with your rubbish and muck and filth. Put it all into its proper place and turn it into golden manure.

"Here is your wretched cow, which instead of being the cow of plenty, it used to be a few generations ago, has become a drain on you. Take proper care of it while it is living and make use of every bit of its carcass after it is dead.

"Save millions of rupees worth of hide that goes out abroad, have tanneries, make your own leather goods out of the dead cattle's hide, use the bones and flesh for manure, turn the entrails into guts."

And so on and so forth. And he has found workers to take up the task with equal zeal. Here in a tannery situated about three miles from the village, I found a Brahman, who would not go within miles of a dead animal 10 years ago, in charge of a tannery which trains a number of village tanners in improved methods of hide-curing, tanning, leather manufacture.

There was another Brahman worker there, a savant himself, in charge of a spinning, carding and weaving depot working on the same terms with the rest. In the town of Wardha itself is the headquarters of the All-India Village Industries Association in charge of two Christian young men, both possessing the highest European degrees. The association has a school for the training of village workers in cottage industries like paper-making, bee-keeping, oil-pressing and so on.

A mere mention of the constructive activities that Mr. Gandhi is handling would occupy several pages of a magazine and I am simply giving here the bare outlines. The Spinners' Association has put 30,000,000 rupees into the pockets of the poor during the last 15 years. The Village Industries Association is engaged in the same process, and the Harijan Sevak Association with its headquarters at Delhi is engaged in the heroic task of purifying Hinduism of its taint of untouchability.

As this is being written I find the President of the Congress and an eminent Muslim leader come to the village for a discussion of the crying problem of Hindu-Muslim unity. Here to this village, in spite of the inclement weather and mud and rain making roads impassable, I find tourists coming from all parts of the world and among these

(Continued on page 387)

# FIRST PRIZE ESSAY ON RACE RELATIONS

By

WYCLIFFE MLUNGISI TSOTSI, B.A.

[We reproduce from the May number of *Race Relations* for the interest of our readers, the following essay on "How can Youth develop Co operative and Harmonious Relations among the Races of the Earth?" of Mr. Tsotsi, of Blythwood Institution, Butterworth, South Africa, which gained the First Prize, of 300 dollars, in the Fifth International Competition of the New History Society, of New York, U.S.A. *Race Relations* publishes the Essay with the following editorial note: "Some of the opinions expressed by Mr. Tsotsi are highly debatable. Many readers, both Black and White, will disagree with them. It should, therefore, be stated here explicitly that Mr. Tsotsi speaks solely for himself, and not for either the Blythwood Institute or the South African Institute of Race Relations."—Ed.]

## I. Racialism

HISTORY may adequately be defined as the story of the adjustment of the relations between man and man. From time immemorial, the gregarious instinct has bound men into a society designed to promote the interests of the group. From the time when primitive men formed the hunting pack to modern intricate social organisations, we see man, as it were, groping in the dark, in his attempt to adjust himself to the rest of his fellows. The way is sodden with blood, and foggy with smoke of cannon, the din of which seems to echo and re-echo through the ages in mournful reverberations. Notwithstanding the material progress which man has made, there still lingers in him something of the spirit which Hobbes attributes to the State of Nature. Mutual fears, mutual suspicion, mutual hatreds—these are the forces which have banded men into hostile groups since the beginning of time. Based on these foundations, since the cannon balls of Napoleon Bonaparte roared at the gates of Madrid, Moscow, Berlin, Vienna and Rome, have emerged the nations of Europe. As might have been expected from the very nature of their foundation, they have developed a parochial spirit, incapable of transcending the barriers of national prejudices into that land wherein the human race is one.

Yet, with all the defects which characterise it, nationalism, or, better still, nationality, has its good points. It has formed a unit around which man has been enabled to express his highest self. Potentially, it is the stepping-stone to internationalism. But there has appeared of late years a veritable Gorgon, a hydra-headed monster, which threatens humanity with utter destruction. Racialism, while it contains all the evils of nationalism, has none of its redeeming features.

Despite the barriers which they erect against one another, the nations of Europe realize their essential oneness and equality. A nation which has more deadly weapons than another is regarded merely as a *primas inter pares*. Not so with races. Nowadays we are told that the greatest trust to civilisation is the

continued domination of the Nordic race "with its capacity for leadership and fighting." By virtue of their innate superiority, the white races must be judge and jury all in one, in the affairs of the yellow races, which are doomed to labour eternally under the stigma of inferiority. Modern scientific knowledge is invoked to establish the fundamental superiority of the white races—biology, anthropology, psychology and the rest of that grim band which seems destined to effect the euthanasia of the human kind.

## II. Causes Of Racial Antagonism

Before we attempt to avert the danger to humanity, we must diagnose its causes:

### 1. ECONOMIC

The initial settlement of the continents of Asia, Africa and America by Europeans was mainly due to economic considerations. These countries being undeveloped afforded vast fields for exploitation. The Europeans fought and annihilated or subjugated the original inhabitants of these countries. Where the aborigines persisted, they were turned into hewers of wood and drawers of water for the white man. Hence arose the anomaly of White capital and Coloured labour which has far-reaching psychological effects. The relation of White and Coloured, became that of master and servant. In South Africa, for instance, there are types of work which are labelled "Kaffir jobs," which it is *infra dig* for any White man to discharge. Laws detrimental to the progress of non-Europeans have been passed to bolster up the economic interests of the White man. The educated non-European stunts and chafes under these restrictions which have for their basis colour, not ability: and is finally turned into an agitator.

The effective Westernisation of Japan has tended to elicit the suspicion of Europe and America, who feel the pinch of economic competition. In several countries economic barriers have been set up against Japan, where goods are produced comparatively cheaply. Consequently a vague sense of impending danger from the Far East, resulting in

hatred for the Japanese as individuals, is preying upon the public mind of the West.

Barriers which meet with public approbation have been set up against Japanese and other Oriental immigration into Anglo-Saxon communities. Similarly, the wholesale expatriation of Jews from Germany, including such a benefactor of humanity as Dr. Einstein, can be traced to economic causes.

### 2. POLITICAL

On the moral principle of trusteeship for their backward neighbours, the conquering and resident European communities generally assumed the sole political direction of the destinies of state in their new homes. But this trusteeship has of late years been interpreted to mean permanent tutelage amounting to servility on the part of the Natives. Modern democracy gives each able and qualified citizen a say in the administration of the state by means of the vote. Its criterion is ability and achievement, not skin pigmentation. But the governing White communities are loath to extend the franchise to deserving Natives. As I write, the South African Government is in a turmoil regarding the advisability of retaining or abrogating the Native vote. Owing to the fear of the "Black Menace" an unnecessary conflict has been created between the principles of democracy and trusteeship.

India is at present making insistent efforts to free herself from the apron-strings of the British Government, and to become mistress in her own house. It seems she will eventually reach the goal of her endeavours. If so, it will be after a hard fight, in which racialism has been rampant.

### 3. SOCIAL

Dominant European communities have created social barriers against their Coloured neighbours. Intercourse between the various groups is assiduously discouraged. In South Africa, for instance, Europeans and non-Europeans cannot dine in the same restaurants, nor can they rub shoulders in trains. Public halls and public libraries are the exclusive monopoly of the Whites. Mis-

(Continued on page 388)

**MAHATMA GANDHI]**

I found to my surprise a member of the personal staff of Hitler, Captain Strunk, come to acquaint himself with the Indian problems at first hand.

**Compelled Attention Of Government**

His intense activity and concentration on village work have compelled the attention of the Government on these problems, and they are now trying to run a race with him in tackling village problems.

"He is no peasant," says President Nehru, "but he is one whom peasants understand. What he has done is to get them straighten their backs and lift their heads. They no longer cringe to anyone." His retirement deceives no one.

The Government in a confidential circular wrote after his retirement: "It is clear that Mr. Gandhi has again shown himself to be an astute political leader; his mental and political rigour is reported to be unabated and the Congress session has resulted in another personal triumph, for he has succeeded in keeping the divergent if not in one organisation, at least under one leadership—his own."

But it is no personal triumph that he claims. All his triumph comes from the triumph of love and truth, his guiding principles, and with which he would solve not only his own national problems but even international problems. He is absorbed in the problems

[Continued from page 385] of his own country and yet he has time to think and offer solutions for the tangled situation in Palestine and in Spain and Europe.

But he has no recondite solutions. Truth and non-violence are his open sesame, his panacea for all evils, and even when he is leading the enemy's camp, as he often does, having had to fight wrong and injustice all his life, even the Government find him an honourable and worthy enemy and they would be the last to do without him.

I count it the rarest privilege of my life to have known him and to have been able to work under him and to do a little for the great work to which he has dedicated his life.

## AGENT-GENERAL'S WARNING TO INDIANS

A SERIOUS note of warning to the Indian community that it was now being faced with the gravest danger to its well-being as never before in its history, was sounded by the Agent-General for India, Sir Syed Raza Ali, at the Orient Club, Isipingo, last Sunday, where he was the principal guest.

The last session of Parliament, he said, was the heaviest legislative programme attempted against the Indian. Many of them knew the nature of the anti-Asiatic or rather the anti-Indian measures.

Two of these Bills were given a decent burial by the statesmanlike attitude of the Prime Minister, General Hertzog.

But their trouble was not ended by General Hertzog's statement, for that statement gave rise to a number of misunderstandings among the Indian community itself.

Some felt that the Congress had gone too far in its assurance on the employment of Europeans by Indians and thus had compromised Indian honour.

The misconception and misunderstanding made it necessary for all those who were a party to that transaction to see that there was no split in the ranks of the Indian community.

It was eventually agreed that the Indian Congress had done nothing derogatory to Indian honour.

Hardly a month had passed, continued the Agent-General, when Mr. O. Pirow, the Minister of Railways and Harbours and Defence, announced that the Government contemplated the appointment of two commissions on mixed marriage and Asiatic land tenure in the Transvaal respectively. He had made representations but there was a policy which revolved in a vicious circle and nobody knew where the beginning was to be found or where the end occurred.

That was one side of the story.

"May I ask," said Sir Raza, "what we are doing to meet the danger which is looming large in the distance? The time has come when Indians settled in the various towns and places in South Africa will have to take steps to safeguard their future.

"I have now stayed two and a half years among you and I have given you of my best. But you are still divided, unorganised and like unsuspecting men sitting on the top of a volcano, you laugh, you eat and you do not realise the dangers that you are in.

"One of the commissions is to inquire into the Asiatic land tenure. If anything is done to disturb the present position, I assure you that most big Indians who are looked upon as substantial men, will be ruined. If once a series of anti-Indian legislation is started it will be impossible to stop it."

In reiterating his words of warning the Agent-General said that Indians must organise so as to combat anti-Indian legislation.

"If Indians are to remain in this country and to acquire such rights which will make you citizens in the course of time," added Sir Raza, "you must set aside a portion of your income to combat any proposed anti-Indian legislation.

"By helping your political organisation, the Congress, you will not be helping the Government or the people of India, but you will be helping yourselves."

Continuing Sir Raza said that any sum of money set aside for this purpose might be regarded as an insurance cover of protection.

"I think that it is a duty of the richer members of the community to come in the forefront and give generous assistance to their political organisation so that the work should be carried out successfully," he observed.

The Agent-General's appeal had, it is learnt, a ready response. A sum of £370 was collected among the members of the Orient Club for the purpose of organisation and protection of the vested interests of the Indian community.

**Special Appeal To Muslims**

That Lady Raza Ali refused to attend a Muslim gathering because she would have found herself as the only woman present, was a fact disclosed by the Agent-General, when drawing attention to the necessity for educating Muslim girls.

While he was not there, he said, to plead for sectional cases, he urged Muslims to do away with the seclusion of the purdah.

"I sincerely and seriously beg of my Mohammedan friends," said Sir Raza, "to remember that if boys' education is very important, girls' education is just as important. You are doing a great injustice in neglecting your girls. Nemesis is sure to overtake you.

"Be what it is in your social customs, there should be no justification for you to deprive your girls of their education.

"I have been visiting schools recently and I have found that Muslim girls were conspicuous by their absence. This is a go-ahead country and if you do not educate your girls you will be left behind."

## FIRST PRIZE ESSAY ON RACE RELATIONS]

[Continued from page 6]

cegenation is strictly forbidden by law. A powerful section of the Europeans advocates territorial segregation. Needless to say, this lack of contact has resulted in a profound ignorance of each other on the part of the racial groups—an ignorance which intensifies racial

ill-feeling.

## 4. PSYCHOLOGICAL

Economic, political and social discriminations have produced a superiority complex in the European, who scorns equality of treatment with the non-European. Hence legislation which re-

presents the non-Europeans as a generally elicits no disapprobation in the White public. Especially is this when scientific knowledge is exploited to prove the inborn cultural and moral superiority of the Europeans.

(To be concluded)

## South African News In Brief

### Retiring Mayor Of Maritzburg

Re-elected

At a special meeting of the Maritzburg City Council attended by a large number of members of the public, Mr. F. J. Lewis, retiring Mayor, and Mr. E. O. Tooth, retiring Deputy-Mayor, were unanimously re-elected for the coming year. Mr. Lewis expressed his great appreciation for the confidence placed in him and, recounting the work that had to be done during the coming year, referred to the housing of Indians which, he said, was still a very serious problem. Some progress had been made, but a great deal still had to be done, he said.

### Welcome To Pandit Rishi Ram

A welcome reception was accorded to Pandit Rishi Ram, Vedic scholar and missionary, by the Arya Sangeeth Mandal on Saturday evening last at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Durban. Mr. M. R. Varma presided. In heartily welcoming the Panditji the chairman said that the community would considerably benefit morally, socially and intellectually by his interesting and instructive lectures. The Panditji delivered a very informative lecture on Sangeeth. Among other speakers were Messrs. V. S. O. Pather, Sorabjee Rustomjee, M. Y. Pather and M. B. Naik. The members of the Sangeeth Mandal provided music and Messrs. R. S. Prasad and Heera Narsi entertained the audience with national songs.

### Pandit Rishi Ram To Visit

Maritzburg

A reception committee has been formed at the instance of the Veda Dharma Sabha, Maritzburg, to accord a welcome to Pandit Rishi Ram who is shortly expected to visit the City.

### Farewell To Postmaster

On Saturday, July 17, a public reception was held at the Gokhale Memorial Hall, Tongaat, by the Indians of Tongaat and District to bid farewell to Mr. P. W. Purcell, Postmaster, who has retired from his service. Mr. A. A. Gandhi, who occupied the chair, spoke of his close association with Mr. Purcell. Other speakers were Messrs. E. J. Choonoo, M. Yusuf, G. V. Naidoo, M. Ramnarain Maharaj and S. T. Naidoo. Mr.

Purcell was garlanded and presented with a fitted travelling case. Mr. Purcell stated that his long association with Tongaat was such that he had decided to make Tongaat his home and all his friends were there. He thanked the members of the Indian community for their kindly gesture in according him the reception and presentation. He donated £1 to the Gokhale Memorial Hall and £1 for the purchase of sweets for distribution among the children. Mr. Dryden, his successor, was welcomed to the district and he suitably replied.

### Andhra Maha Sabha

On Sunday, August 1, the Andhra Maha Sabha of South Africa held its sixth annual celebration and annual general meeting, at the Hindu Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban. The hall was packed to its full capacity including a large number of women. The proceedings opened by prayers conducted by Mr. V. O. Nyanah Raj and Miss M. A. Latchmammah. Children from several Pataasalas, who attended, entertained the audience with various recitals. The president Mr. V. M. Naidoo, in his welcome speech, expressed his pleasure at the keen interest taken by all members of the Andhra community in connection with the activities of the Sabha towards the advancement of the Andhra vernacular education, and said that the packed house before him was ample proof that the community was beginning to appreciate the Sabha's activities in this direction. The president called upon Mrs. Artheelachme Chetty to extend a welcome to Mr. S. N. C. Varadacharyulu, an Andhra teacher who recently arrived from India. Mrs. Chetty in extending a welcome on behalf of the Sabha as representing the Andhra community, announced that Mr. Varadacharyulu was invited to this country by the Samarasa Bodha Andhra Association of Tongaat, at which place he is engaged to teach Telugu. She also expressed the hope that the learned gentleman will strive to bring about more enlightenment in the community in the knowledge of their mother-tongue, Telugu. Mr. Varadacharyulu suitably replied, and thereafter delivered an interesting lecture on the "Progress of the Andhras at Home." The president stressed upon the necessity of the Andhra community having a central hall for holding meetings, con-

ducing Andhra vernacular classes, and explained that the matter had been receiving the attention of the executive for some time, who were now negotiating for the purchase of a property Leopold Street, Durban, for this purpose. Messrs. B. Naidoo, A. P. Naidoo, A. Naidoo, O. R. Naidoo, P. Abboy Naidoo, B. Veerasamy Naidoo, M. Goorasamy Naidoo and others spoke in support of the president. Mr. A. J. Naidoo made a stirring appeal to the wealthy as well as to the poor, to contribute liberally towards the president's building scheme in order to bring the matter to a successful issue. In response to this deserving appeal Mr. R. R. Alfred Chetty (the father of the young Andhra lecturer, Mrs. Artheelachme Chetty) handed in a cheque for £100 which was received amidst hearty applause. Mr. A. B. Naidoo announced that the following gentlemen had consented to contribute to the building fund, namely Messrs. B. Naidoo £200, R. R. Alfred Chetty £100, M. Govindsamy Naidoo (Fruiterer) £100, A. J. Naidoo £50, V. M. Naidoo £50, A. B. Naidoo £25, T. Munsami Reddy £25, Suthiah (West-eille) £25, Highbury Fruit Co. £10 10s., S. M. Naidoo (Peter's Cafe) £10 10s., S. O. Naidoo £25, N. S. Chetty £25. Mr. R. Balram Naidoo made an appeal to the several wealthy men in the community to establish Telugu pataasalas in their respective districts and maintain them themselves by small monthly contributions.

### Annual General Meeting

After light refreshments were served the sixth annual general meeting was held. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year: Patrons: Sir K. V. Reddi, Messrs. B. Naidoo, A. P. Naidoo, R. R. Alfred and M. G. Naidoo; President: Mr. V. M. Naidoo; hon. life vice-presidents: Messrs. V. M. Naidoo, B. Naidoo, A. B. Naidoo, V. O. Nyanah Raj, S. P. Appalsamy Naidoo, S. O. Naidoo, A. J. Naidoo, D. V. Naidoo and L. Kris Naidoo; vice-presidents: Messrs. P. Abboy Naidoo, G. A. Naidoo, T. Munsami Reddy, B. Veerasamy Naidoo, R. Balram Naidoo; joint hon. secretaries: Messrs. D. V. Naidoo and B. S. Naidu; hon. treasurer: Mr. A. J. Naidoo; hon. auditor: Mr. L. Kris Naidoo. The members of the general committee were re-elected *en bloc*. The meeting terminated with Shanti prayers.

# DURBAN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY

## AGENT-GENERAL SPEAKS ON INDIAN QUESTION

**S**PEAKING at the Durban Parliamentary Debating Society last Monday night the Agent-General, Sir Syed Raza Ali said, "the political, economic, industrial and educational restrictions imposed upon Indians since the Act of Union indicate that there is a disposition on the part of the White people to treat Indians as foreigners. The policy underlying this tendency is wholly wrong. Take industry, business, education and you will find that by encouraging and helping Indians they can certainly be made to develop the resources of this country. South Africa is a very large country with a small European population. How is the country to develop if everything is left to European initiative? The plain truth is that by worshipping the fetish of Colour Bar this country is doing incalculable harm to itself. Go to the countryside and you will see that the presence of the Indian trader is appreciated by Europeans living in the neighbourhood. It is through him that the European dweller in the countryside gets easy access to goods at a reasonable price. It is totally wrong to look upon the Indian as a source of danger. The correct policy would be to encourage him to develop both internally and externally the trade of this country."

"The same remarks apply to the employment of Indians as industrial workers. The tendency to eliminate competition is full of danger for the future of this country. After all it is competition that determines the merit of an individual."

Another important consideration, said the Agent-General, was that the attempt to keep down the Indian must inevitably result in bringing the European to the Indian level.

The insanitary conditions in Indian areas were due primarily to poverty caused by absence of equality of opportunity. The earning capacity of the Indian should be raised by treating him with consideration.

If half the energy that had been devoted to enforcing segregation and keeping various races in water-tight compartments were spent on increasing their productive capacity, the conditions in this country would have been appreciably better.

"Indians are the inheritors of one of the oldest civilisations in the world," said Sir Raza. "In their own country they have done exceedingly well in every walk of life."

"Is there any reason to suppose that, given an opportunity, the Indians in

the Union will not do equally well?"

"I have no desire to enter into a political discussion, but I feel it is my duty to make it quite clear that no section of the population can be uplifted to the proper level unless it enjoys political rights."

"The world conditions to-day are unstable and threatening. It is the duty of every country to secure the contentment of all sections of its population. If trouble comes the Indian population is capable of rendering enormous service if properly trained."

"The defence of the country should not be a responsibility of the White population alone. If the confidence of the Indians is won by those who hold political power, there is no reason why Indians should not do all they can to repel aggression in the defence of their country."

The following motion, by Mr. J. P. White, was then adopted:

"The uplift of the Indian, while largely bound up in his economic position in South Africa, will not be successfully accomplished until the Indians have adequate representation in the Union Parliament and elsewhere in South Africa, thus helping them to make their contribution towards the material prosperity of South Africa."

### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

## HINDU YOUTH CLUB AND COMMUNISM

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

**S**IR,—After reading the report by the Hindu Youth Club I feel it my duty to point out the truth to those who dwell in a mental cobweb.

Mr. J. B. Chetty, vice-president of the Hindu Youth Club, speaks of young men who dabbled in Communism and Atheism, expressing his desire that they "should refrain from doing so, for this was unnecessary in this country where they were already beset with so many hardships."

Mr. Chetty talks of Communism being unnecessary in this country; if so I want the readers of the OPINION to infer that education and religion, two of the chief objects of his club, are also unnecessary in this country where they were already beset with so many hardships." But since education and religion is not considered in terms of £ s. d. and politics we should not consider Communism and Atheism in like terms of £ s. d. and politics. Mr. Chetty may do well to remember that dabbling in Communism and Atheism means education in two different branches of study. The readers should

agree with me when I say that every young man and every seeker of truth should be given all freedom and above all, all encouragement in their quest.

Mr. Chetty speaks so confidently about Communism and Atheism that I am made to wonder whether the learned friend knows anything about Communism and Atheism at all.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing

Drink deep or touch not the Pyerian spring."

So I beseech the readers of the OPINION that they carefully weigh all statements and exhortations which are from a superficial source! I would rather be an Atheist and know about Atheism than shamefully call myself an Hindu and know nothing about Hinduism. I would rather be a Communist and serve the needy community than be a capitalist pretending to serve the community all the time exploiting them.

I agree that a capitalist cannot appreciate Communism, and a superficial Hindu, more ignorant than foolish,

cannot appreciate that truly purified Atheism. May I conclude by drawing the attention of Mr. Chetty to the frontispiece of the INDIAN OPINION dated August 6, where, under the title of the "Root Of All Evil" swami Vivekananda quotes:

"All strife and disharmony arise out of the idea of separation... if a very small fractional part of human beings living to-day can put aside the idea of selfishness, narrowness and littleness, this earth will become a paradise tomorrow; but with machines and improvements of material knowledge only; it will never be."

When Mr. Chetty revealed to the public that there are existing young men who dabbled in Communism and Atheism he did so "that these would only increase misery, as oil poured on fire increases the flame all the more."

Yours etc,

GURUPUTH R. VARMA,

# INDIA AND THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

INSTEAD of gaining anything, India has been definitely a loser. Every Indian knows how the Ottawa agreement, an offshoot of the closer union policy within the Empire, has increased further the burden of the Indian people. The interests and rights of India, which have always been in the background, were crushed in these conferences by England in granting concessions to the Dominions in order to win their favour and advantages accruing therefrom. It was at the cost of the life-blood of the Indians, that unity within the Empire has been preserved. This selfish policy of the British Government is thus responsible for the ill-treatment of Indians in the Dominions, who cannot however, enforce reciprocal measures. The subjects of the British Empire, including Dominions, can join the Indian Civil Service, but Indians cannot be allowed to acquire rights of domicile in them and the worst feature of this discriminatory policy is that those who have settled and acquired a right to live there are being driven out by means of most disgraceful measures. In Australia Indians cannot live and in the Union of South Africa, Acts, one after another, are being rushed through the Parliament with the object of driving them out as soon as possible. It is a known fact that at a time when the Goodwill Delegation from South Africa was touring and enjoying parties in India, new Bills were being carefully prepared there to achieve this. Indians who have been victims of Imperialism in so many ways throughout the world, according to Lord Winterton, whom we cannot accuse of having any sympathy with India, have contributed more in the cause of the safety of the British Empire than any of the Dominions. Apart from helping in safeguarding the Empire, it has furthered the imperial designs of England in several other countries by sending her troops to fight for her. Is all this a reward for her magnificent sacrifices? The most distressing feature of this policy of Dominions is that it is being vigorously enforced against those Indians who have directly or indirectly contributed to their growth and present flourishing conditions. They went there to toil hard when they were not worth living in or to make them suitable for human habitation. The existing available land is also not scarce to give the white settlers any ground for apprehension of being ousted by the Indians. What they exactly want is to make them white men's land by turning out Indians.

In the last Delhi session of the Indian Legislative Assembly, the question of better treatment of Indians in the Dominions and other Empire countries was raised and on this vital question of national honour, all politicians of

By  
PREM NARAIN AGRAWAL M.A.  
In "Modern Review"

(Continued from last week)

all shades of opinion were in agreement. Even the European members expressed their resentment at the treatment accorded to Indians in overseas countries. In that very session and also on several other occasions in the past, it was made clear on behalf of the Government, that in this matter Government were doing all that they could to ameliorate their conditions. But it was maintained by the members of the House that the Government had entirely failed to do anything worth the name to bring about any appreciable change in the treatment meted out to them; rather their conditions had deteriorated. It was further pointed out that the Colonial office did not see eye to eye with the Indian Government, and tackled this issue from its Imperial point of

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view. In reply to another question of an European member the Government is reported to have said that the question of overseas Indians would be taken up directly at the forthcoming Imperial conference in London. The question now is whether any useful work can be expected from this conference

On several previous occasions in such conferences, similar questions pertaining to the welfare of Indians in different parts of the Empire were considered. Eminent Indian members of the calibre and ability of the Rt. Hon. Srinivasa astri and the Rt. Hon. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, took great interest in the questions of the status and privileges of the Indian residents in the Dominions, but their eloquence and statesmanship could not secure anything which might materially change their position; otherwise their condition would not have deteriorated to this extent.

According to a rough estimate about thirty lakhs of our Nationals are living in overseas countries, most of them in the Dominions. Their number cannot be said to be insignificant to cause their problems to be overlooked. Owing to

her position as a subject country, India has suffered in many ways, but this racial treatment of her nationals abroad by all sorts of measures, is of an outstanding character. Thought has been agreed at one of the conferences that India could apply same measures to the nationals of the Dominions, which they apply to Indians, the reciprocity has not yet been enforced despite a motion to this effect by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, then deputy leader of the Congress party, in the last Simla session of the Assembly. It is expected that this question of the overseas Indians will be raised in the sessions of the Imperial conference, and we shall await the result with great interest. While waiting for the result, let me make it clear, we cannot conceal the feeling that nothing will be done to bring about any real change for the better in their conditions; the previous conferences bear testimony to this feeling. Apart from the atmosphere, which is practically the same, there appears no change either in the attitude of England or the Dominions. It is probable, on the other hand, that this question may not be taken up at all, and may be postponed for any conference in future or as being the last item on the agenda, may be easily overlooked before a large number of other knotty problems.

The conditions throughout the world have undergone a radical change and another war, probably greater than that of 1914, is expected at any moment. England is making brisk preparations to arm itself. She is anxious for her Empire but the attitude of the Dominions appear to be stiffening every day, in the opposite direction. England wants to retain the sympathy and favour of the Dominions so that if war breaks out, they may remain with her and also participate in her armament programme which the Dominions do not appear to favour.

For India there are only two problems, first of her nationals abroad and the other of taking part in the decisions of the conference, which is likely to give another blow to her already poor finances. In the tug-of-war of their individual gains and ultimate agreement India is likely to be involved as a loser nation. We should, therefore await the results in the shape of some new burdens on the poor resources of India and her semi-starving millions.

(Concluded)



# Things In General

## Soccer.

### Saturday's Soccer Results

THE standard of soccer was not high at Currie's Fountain on Saturday last except in two inter-city divisional teams. A fair crowd gathered to witness the various matches.

**TANDREK'S CUP FINAL:**—In this fixture Star opposed Avondale and the former won by 3-2 goals.

**THAJMOON'S Cup:**—Shamrocks easily won Old Collegians by 6-1 goals.

**JUNIOR NATAL CUP—FINAL:**—Young Natalians of Maritzburg travelled to Durban to meet Victorians for the Natal Cup. Quite a nice game was in progress, but the better understanding among the Victorians gave them the superiority and command in the match, thus winning the trophy by 8-1 goals.

**MOONLIGHTERS' CUP—JUNIORS:**—For this fixture, Sastri "A" met Sastri "B", and Sparks played against All Blacks. In the first match Sastri "A" won by 2-0 goals, whereas in the latter match Sparks overcame All Blacks by 5-2 goals.

**JUVENILE NATAL CUP—FINAL:**—Probably the most exciting and the best match of the afternoon to watch was that between Sastri Juvenile A and Yorks of Maritzburg. At the end of the set time the match was still a draw game, so that extra time had to be given and the game ended in a well-deserved win for Sastri Juvenile A by 1-0. Mr. John, president of the D.D.I.F.A., presented the Junior and Juvenile Natal Cups to the respective winning teams.

### Indians Vs. Coloureds

The largest crowd ever since the All-India matches gathered to witness two well-contested soccer matches at Currie's Fountain on Sunday afternoon. The first match was between Durban Indian XI and Durban Coloured XI. The Indians had many chances which they lost, and so the game ended in favour of Coloureds by 3-1 goals.

The main match in which Natal Indian XI opposed Natal Coloured XI was the one in which the game came up to expectations. Both teams were evenly matched. Throughout the game a high standard of soccer was displayed. The final whistle blew finding the Indians victorious by 3-1 goals.

### Hero Barry's Wrestling Challenge Accepted

The Sporting Editor

Sir,—Re the wrestling challenge issued by Mr. Hero Barry to meet any fly-weight or feather-weight in the ring in your issue of July 30. I wish to accept the same known as Fearless Valantham Chetty. For further particulars apply to the Manager Mr. S. Pillay, 455, 15 Street, Vrededorp, Johannesburg.

### Bantu Social Centre

A special meeting of members of the Bantu Social Centre will be held today (Friday, August 13) at 7-30 p.m. when Mr. Rennie Smith will deliver an address on "Some Racial Aspects Of World Affairs." Mr. Rennie Smith was a member of the British House of Commons from 1924 to 1931, and for some years was Parliamentary Secretary to the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Mr. Smith is paying a very short visit to Durban and this will be a special opportunity of having a recognised authority on international affairs. Members of the Joint Council of Natives, the Indo-European Joint Council and the Coloured and European Joint Council are specially invited to this meeting.

### Wedding

The wedding took place on Monday last of Miss Mary Joseph, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Joseph of Pietermaritzburg and Mr. J. G. Augustine, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Augustine of Estcourt. The marriage was solemnised at the Roman Catholic Church, Estcourt. After the wedding a reception was held at the school hall. The parents of the bridegroom received the guests. The toast of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A. H. Doig. The newly married couple were the recipients of many beautiful gifts and numerous telegrams of congratulations.

### Death Of Babu Parma Singh

The death took place on July 23 at his residence, Clare Estate, after a prolonged illness of nearly six years, of Babu Parma Singh an old and respected resident of Durban. He was born in India in 1869 and arrived in Natal under indenture in the year 1889. After completing his period of indenture he settled in Clare Estate. He was a very highly respected member of the Indian community and his death has meant a severe loss. In 1923 he visited India, where he stayed for two years. His wife predeceased him in January 1932. His remains were cremated at the Clare Estate Hindu Cemetery where there was a large gathering of relatives and friends from all over Natal and the Transvaal. Mr. Singh leaves six sons, five daughters and many grand-children to mourn their loss.

### Mill Strike At Cawnpore

The New Delhi correspondent of the *Daily News* states that 1,000 armed police patrolled the mill area at Cawnpore, where 24,000 textile hands have struck, demanding higher wages. The strikers stoned motor cars passing through the mill area, and a car belonging to a European director of one of the leading mills, whose wife was the sole occupant, was stoned. Employers declare that the strike was begun by Communist agitators.

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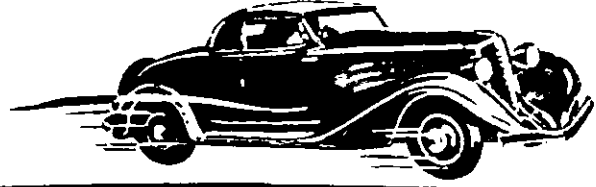
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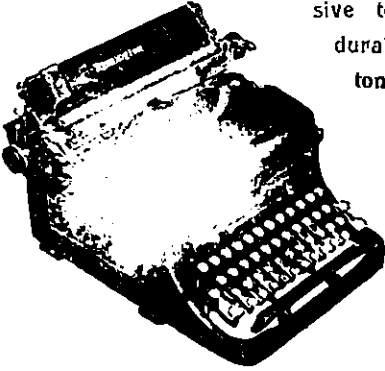
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