

# INDIAN OPINION

Founded by  
MAHATMA GANDHI  
- IN 1903 -

Nos. 45-46.—Vol. XXXV.

Friday, November 12th, 1937.

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper,  
Price Fourpence.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### Commission On Mixed Marriages

THE Pretoria representative of *The Star* (Johannesburg) understands that Mt. Stuttaford, Minister of the Interior, is going into the question of appointing a commission to investigate mixed marriages. Following a debate on this question in Parliament there has been constant agitation by some politicians for such a step to be taken. It is expected that the suggested personnel, and terms of reference, will be brought before a Cabinet meeting some time this month.

### Time For Another Round Table

#### Conference

This step on the part of the Minister of the Interior is in response to Mr. Grobler's resolution adopted by the Transvaal United Nationalist Party Conference. The resolution asked for the inclusion in the terms of reference of such a Commission of the revision of laws affecting Indians in respect of possession of properties, the way in which the Capetown Agreement was being worked, and amendments which should be introduced in regard to trading laws affecting Indians. We are of the opinion that the appointment of such a commission is going to serve no good purpose at all. What is really needed is a revision, once again, of the Capetown Agreement by both the Union representatives and the representatives of India in order to decide, once and for all, what status Indians in South Africa are to be given. It must be admitted that neither the Capetown Agreement nor the Agent-General for India, who is here as a result of that Agreement, has been able to improve our lot in this country. If anything it has grown worse. If the anti-Indian agitators have reason to complain against Indians the latter have sounder reasons for complaining against the wholly unjustifiable attitude of the former. If anything is expected of the Agent-General at this juncture it is expected of him to vehemently protest against the appointment of such a Commission and to move for another Round Table Conference between both the Governments with a strong delegation from India.

### The War In Asia

Mr. Sydney Strong, Seattle, Washington, writes the following beautiful letter in the *Unity* (Chicago):

"I am moved to send a few words in reference to the struggle in Asia. Men are thinking and writing much as they did back in 1914-1917. They keep clear of what seems to me to be the real course for Americans to take. They should become more conscious of their own sins.

"E. Stanley Jones, for example, has in *Christian Century* an 'Open Letter to the People of Japan.' He speaks like an evangelist, not like a fellow-sinner, for the Anglo-Saxon has been not only a sinner like Japan, but has led the way from Gibraltar back to Gibraltar for many decades, and is doing it now.

"Repentance should be the great word. And the Anglo-Saxon should be at the head of the procession of the penitent!

"Boycotts and sermons for Japan are not for the Anglo-Saxons to hand out in the name of peace—to avert war.

"The Anglo-Saxon who wishes to help in the Asiatic struggle should read the story of the two men who went up to the Temple, and make careful note of the 'sinner' who was exalted. The boastful Pharisee has no message.

"In our attitude towards Japan, the best thing we can do is openly to admit our sins.

"Efforts to enforce neutrality laws, agitation for boycotts are ineffective even in their technique—besides they increase the war spirit and international anger.

"The only way to cure the 'war-insanity' of Japan is to possess a national penitence and forgiveness. We should take a square look at ourselves—remember our history, our treatment of Japan for the last quarter century, our lynchings, racial intolerance, our superiority complex, our wars of invasion, our civil wars—thus revealing a spirit of humility. There is nothing under the sun that would more quickly melt the heart of a proud people.

"Wherever I go, I am offering this as the best and surest way of curing Japan of her 'war insanity.'

"When ye stand praying, forgive!"  
Not recite your neighbour's faults! Not seek to convert your neighbour! But, mindful of your own sins, FORGIVE! This way of Christ is the only way of peace!"

### Mahatma Gandhi Interviews

#### Governor Of Bombay

On Tuesday, November 9, it was reported by Reuter from Calcutta that Mahatma Gandhi was suffering from high blood pressure and his heart was affected, and that his condition was causing grave anxiety. The same afternoon there was another message stating that Mahatma Gandhi was returning to Wardha after attending the All-India Congress Committee at Calcutta, and while he was at the station, waiting for the train, he fainted. He was immediately taken to the place where he had put up. Thousands of people had gathered round the place and were praying for his recovery. The doctors had prescribed complete rest.

On Wednesday a cable message was received at this office, from Mahatma Gandhi's secretary, Mr. Mahadev Desai, stating that Mahatma Gandhi had a relapse, and that there was no cause for anxiety.

A Reuters message dated November 10 states: "Mahatma Gandhi, who is looking weak but cheerful after his recent recurrence of high blood pressure, had an interview with the Governor, Sir John Anderson, at the Government House, Barrackpore. The Governor received Mahatma Gandhi at a specially erected pavilion. It is understood that the release of political prisoners was the main topic discussed."

### Mahatma Gandhi's Message

#### Of Thanks

Mahatma Gandhi issued the following statement to the Press in reply to the birthday greetings he had received from all over the world:—

It is impossible for me to send individual thanks to the numerous friends

who have sent me telegrams and cables and also letters, from all parts of India and the world. I see that the volume is increasing from year to year. I can only hope that it may be possible

for the innumerable friends throughout the world to be able to say at the end of the last line of the last chapter of my life that I never ceased to strive to deserve their affection.

---

## Indian Opinion

---

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH, 1937

---

### Fund For Lectureship

PANDIT RISHIRAM who is in our midst as the guest of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha for the last three months and who has been giving the Hindus in particular and the rest of the community in general some knowledge in Hindu religion and culture by his numerous learned lectures, has inaugurated a scheme for the establishment of a permanent lectureship in this country. The idea is that a sum of £4,000 should be raised and should either be invested in a rent producing property or placed in fixed deposit and the income therefrom should be utilised in defraying the expenses of inviting once a year a distinguished scholar from India on a lecture tour and of giving him a moderate honorarium. By this means a closer cultural contact would be established between India and the Union. Pandit Rishiram has taken an active interest in putting this scheme into some practical shape and in co-operation with some members of the Council of the Hindu Maha Sabha he has not only gone out collecting funds but has given a number of booklets to be sold so that the proceeds thereof should go towards the fund and he has given away a purse of £51 that was presented to him by the Transvaal Patidar Society and the Hindu Seva Samaj also towards the fund. Thus Pandit Rishiram has made this cause his own but he has been disappointed with the poor response from the community. He felt so distressed at the

feeling that he had taken a step which was much in advance of the strength and zeal of the community and he imposed upon himself in the beginning of the week a fast as a penance for the apathy shown by those who should have known better. The fast lasted for three days but it has had the effect of infusing enthusiasm among the people and every hope is entertained that a sum of £1,000 will be collected within the period proposed by him in his statement which is published elsewhere in this issue.

The scheme itself is no doubt a laudable one and if it fructifies it will be of benefit not only to the Hindus but to the whole community. But much depends on how the matter is handled. We do not wish to put a damper on good work being done, but facts must be stated. The Hindu Maha Sabha is existing in name only, as almost all our public organisations are to-day. With what pomp it was resuscitated after twenty odd years and what great promises were made of a hall being erected and of great work being done. Those who attended the conference then were given the impression that the Maha Sabha would be owning a hall the very next day. But it did not take very long before it went into another long slumber. If then the Maha Sabha is non-existent who is to be in charge of making arrangements for the lecturers to come to this country and who is to decide as to who should come?

One thing is certain that if the right person does not come he will do more harm than good to this country. Then there is the question of funds. If Panditji has found people not too enthusiastic to give donations it is not because they do not consider the scheme to be good, but because they have been giving blindfold whenever they have been approached for funds for public purposes but to their regret, they have found that either the funds have been squandered over unessential things or they are lying idle and the cause for which they have been collected is allowed to suffer. To quote one instance of this we would like Pandit Rishiram to pay a visit to the Hindu crematorium and to see for himself the deplorable condition in which it is lying and to inquire of the powers that be what is being done with the funds collected for the purpose. Another instance is that of the Sastri College. It will perhaps surprise Pandit Rishiram to know that even the architects have not been paid their fees yet and there have been many defaulters who had promised donations and have failed to fulfil their word of honour. We can go on quoting many such instances.

In the present instance it is not that the people have no confidence in Pandit Rishiram. They have implicit faith in him and fully appreciate the sacrifices he has made. But they have not the faith that after his departure the scheme will be worked as it is now proposed to be worked. Though the name of the Hindu Maha Sabha is attached to the scheme, the members of the Maha Sabha have not been informed or consulted. The Hindu Maha Sabha is representative of the Hindus throughout the Union and we feel it is an injustice to the other parts outside Natal not to take them into confidence.

If there is one thing needed in the Hindu community

of the Union it is self-reliance which they are hoplessly lacking in. They are, unlike other sections of the community, accustomed to being spoon-fed and see no humiliation in it but, on the contrary, take pride in it. The Gujarati Hindus are, in this respect, perhaps the worst. One thing that they need to be taught is that in matters in which their own person-

al interests are concerned they should be absolutely self-reliant and should refuse to be spoon-fed by others. This is a quality which should be expected in every section of the community.

We have been moved to give expression to these feelings with no other than the sincere desire of serving the public cause. We heartily congratulate Pandit Rishiram

for what he has done, but in doing so we wish to remind him that the people are giving donations in the cause only out of respect for him and with faith in him. The responsibility therefore lies on his shoulders to see that the present donations do not meet with the same fate as many such have met with in the past.

## AN APPEAL FOR LECTURESHIP FUND

### BY PANDIT RISHIRAM B.A.

**T**HE members of the Hindu community in Natal are well aware by this time that there is a scheme on foot on behalf of the S. A. Hindu Mahasabha to establish a permanent Lectureship in this country under which a distinguished Hindu Scholar could be invited every year to the Union on a lecture tour. A resolution to that effect was passed by the Hindu Mahasabha Council in their meeting of July 29 last, and since then it has been announced by me in almost all public lecture meetings held in Natal and elsewhere. The collection work was started just after the passing of the resolution but on account of certain unavoidable circumstances the work could not be continued without a break.

"After these three months of my lecture tour in different parts of Natal and Transvaal, it has all the more convinced me of the utmost importance of the scheme. At present there are no religious or cultural institutions to administer to the religious needs of the Hindus and they are practically drifting without any sound instruction and guidance in that direction. If nothing is done by the Hindu community in that direction their cultural future in this country is very dark indeed. This Lectureship will establish a permanent cultural contact with India and will benefit not only the Hindus but the entire Indian community and the Union. It will be a good contribution of India's spiritual culture to the life of the whole Union.

"It is estimated that a sum of £4,000 placed in a safe investment (or rent producing property) will bring the necessary income to defray the expenses of passage and some moderate honorarium to the Lecturer.

#### Administration Of The Fund

"It is proposed that when a cash collection of one thousand pounds is made the donors will be invited to select the

Trustees who hold the confidence of the whole community. Meanwhile the money is being deposited in a Building Society in my name in trust for Lectureship. The trust will control the Fund and hand over the annual income to the Hindu Mahasabha for the expenses of the lecturer. The Mahasabha Council will look to all arrangements of inviting the lecturer and arranging his programme etc.

"About the lecturer it is just enough to remark that he will be a distinguished Hindu Scholar who has already rendered services to the cause of Hindu religion and culture by his learning, devotion and sacrifice. He will be well versed in the English language so as to interpret Hindu ideals to English-speaking audiences. His lectures will be constructive and from a wider point of view, bearing on vital problems of life and not from a sectarian point of view or antagonising any section of the community. A lecturer of the above type is bound to help the whole community.

"There is no denying the fact that the Hindu Mahasabha has not been very active in the past but that makes it all the more necessary that the Sabha should have an active programme of work and thus strengthened. There are sectional organisations and institutions among the Hindus who are doing this work in their own limited sphere but the work of the Hindu community as a whole is lacking, and the spirit of larger unity is essential for our welfare. A scheme of a lectureship of the above type can be established and managed by a body representing all the different Hindu sections and the Hindu Mahasabha is constituted by the leading representatives of all such sections.

"Personally I consider this scheme to be of a creative nature bringing new ideas, new life and ideals to the Hindus in South Africa every year. About £550 have been contributed so far and some amount has already been deposited in the Building Society. I myself have not any financial resources but the purse of £51, given to me by the Johannesburg friends, has been contributed to this fund on my behalf. I feel that our people are still hesitating in their support and co-operation to such a noble work and I have decided that if we are able to collect £1,000 in cash by the 15th of this month, I shall stay further to contribute my share in the completion of the scheme, but if it is not possible then I shall have to reconsider my future programme about leaving for India.

"I make this personal appeal to all the well-wishers of the Hindu community to give serious consideration to this matter and to do their utmost to help the scheme. My humble services are at their disposal and, if in spite of that, they fail, it will be a great slur on the whole community and I'm afraid a good opportunity will be lost and no venture will be made in this direction for some years to come. The funds will be in the hands of the permanent Trustees selected by the donors themselves. I know we lack confidence in one another but that is no excuse for postponing the work as the problem will again arise when any such step is taken. We shall take all possible precautions to see that the work goes on smoothly. The next few days will decide the fate of the scheme."

RISHIRAM.

# India Letter

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

## All-India China Day

At the instance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President Indian National Congress, demonstrations and meetings were held on September 26, in all important towns and in far-flung villages to condemn Japanese aggression on China. The resolution accepted at these meetings was on these lines: (1) Japan's war on China is the result of her imperialist policies and drive and she is the aggressor. The present attack is wanton and the sympathy of the Indian people is entirely with the Chinese people. (2) The world faces the immediate danger of a world war and it is evident from the successive attacks of imperialism and fascism on the liberties of Ethiopia, Spain and China. The Indian people must from now prepare to resist the participation of India alongside Britain in such a war. (3) The recent despatch of Indian troops to Hongkong and Shanghai is in furtherance of British imperialist interests in China, alike as the employment of the Indian soldiery to protect the British consulates in normal times is. India cannot be party to such an imperialist use of her sons and, consequently, condemns the India Government's action and demands the recall of Indian troops.

## Pandit Nehru's Advice To Trade Union Leaders

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Congress President, while making a retrospective review of the Trade Union and Labour movements in India recently emphasized two main things for their successful working, viz:—(1) Leaders of the Trade Union movements in no case should preach violence amongst workers as in a violent struggle with the capitalists, the State forces generally side with the capitalists. (2) Leaders of the Trade Union movements should weigh their strength for resorting to strikes on flimsy grounds. They should rather consolidate their victory instead of frittering away their energies in day-to-day strikes as such strikes result in the collapse of Labour movements.

## "Swaraj" That Congress Aims At

Acharya J. B. Kriplani, General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee, during his recent visit to Wardha, addressed the students of the local Nava-Bharat Vidyalaya. In the course of his speech, Acharya Kriplani explained the aims of the Indian National Congress and said, "the Congress does not want the rule of kings and maharajas over India, nor the rule of Mahatma Gandhi or Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru. It wants to establish the rule of the people for the people." "The Congress," he continued, wants to achieve Swaraj not to fill the pockets of a few but to ameliorate the condition of the masses, for they are the backbone of every nation. The masses are the real masters of the country, because they alone produce the wealth of the country. Government servants are meant to serve the masses and not to snatch away a huge portion of their wealth by drawing fat salaries. It is our duty to reduce our indebtedness to the masses

preparations are more in the nature of defence rather than of offence. None of the countries seem anxious to launch an offensive war. In Europe to-day, there are different conflicting ideologies, viz., democracy, dictatorship and socio-communism, which are striving for mastery. It is difficult to say how countries would range themselves in case of a general conflagration. I believe there is no likelihood of immediate war in Europe although rumblings are heard here and there."

## Palestine Question

Dr. Roy dwelt at length on the Palestine question in the light of personal study made on the spot. He opined that from the point of view of sentiment and emotion the claims of the Jews appeared to be overwhelmingly just and proper. The Jewish money and toil, he said, was responsible for converting many a deserted and thinly populated area into healthy and thickly populated territories. But the Arabs claimed that they had lived there for thousands of years and naturally resisted the attempts to make its 66 per cent. majority into a minority by further immigration of the Jews. Dr. Roy expressed the view that instead of merely deciding whether the country should be partitioned and in what manner, the Council of the League of Nations should lay down rules to govern the question of immigration, transfer of land and imposition of taxes and allowing the people of the country to do their own governance without let or hindrance, be it British to-day or Italian to-morrow. He also advocated among the Arabs the creed of non-violence to fight for their independence and impressed upon the Grand Mufti its efficacy.

## "Vande Mataram"

In the House of Assembly in India, the Speaker complying with the request of a European member, placed before the House the following translation of "Vande Mataram," India's National Song, rendered by Sri Aurobindo Ghose.

"I bow to thee, Mother, richly watered, richly fruited, cool with the wind of the South, dark with the crops of the harvests, the Mother. Her strands rejoicing in the glory of the moonlight, her lands clothed beautifully with her trees in flowering bloom, sweet of laughter, sweet of speech, the Mother, giver of boons, giver of bliss."

## G.B.S. ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

MAHATMA GANDHI'S 69th birthday was celebrated throughout India on October 2. The following significant message from that celebrated English author George Bernard Shaw, is contained among the messages sent to the "Gandhi Jayanti" number of *The Hindu* (Karachi): "Is Gandhi only 69? That is much too young for celebrations and special numbers. They did not begin persecuting me in that way until I was 70; and they then nearly killed me with their congratulations.

"If you want to do real service to the Mahatma, ordain throughout India that henceforth nobody shall remind him of his age. He knows only too well that he is no longer 19.

"Show him that you value his time and energy too highly to waste both in an idle fussing over the inevitable march of years."

by serving them to the best of our ability. This is what the Congress people are doing and this is what the Congress expects every Indian to do."

## Dr. Roy's Impressions Of Continental Tour

Dr. B. C. Roy, the Bengal Congress leader, who arrived in Bombay after a continental tour, summing up his impressions of the political horizon in Europe in the course of an interview to the *United Press* said, "Western countries are arming themselves to the teeth but it seems to me that a majority of such

# SCOUT MOVEMENT AMONGST INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE Scout movement amongst Indians in South Africa made history on October 5. On that day delegates from the Transvaal Indian Scout Association and from the Natal Indian Scout Association met in Durban to form the South African Indian Scout Council.

The presence of the Chief Scout, Deputy Commissioner E. H. Clemmans, known as "Square Law" among the scouters was present, representing the European South African Scout Council.

This article is written with the purpose of informing those who may not be conversant as to how the movement originated among Indians.

During the Great War of 1914-1919, the Rev. C. M. C. Bone and his wife came out to South Africa as Missionaries to S. Aidan's Mission of the Anglican Communion from Trichnopoly, South India, where they had done great work.

Rev. Bone, at his house at the corner of Leopold and Cross Streets, started the first Indian Scout Troop, and he had to assist his captain Colin Grace and then Mr. Edgar H. Brookes (now Dr. Edgar H. Brookes M.A., D. Litt.), and myself. The movement began to grow and the Rev. Bone, with his usual enthusiasm, saw great visions of the movement spreading among the Indian youth of South Africa.

The scout authorities of that day were totally against it and officials in very high position in the land persuaded the Rev. C. M. C. Bone to give up the movement for it would offend the Europeans of this country. Rev. C. M. C. Bone, on his being transferred from Durban, gave up the movement. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. J. P. French, an impulsive and generous Irishman. He was quite confident that he would overcome the race prejudice difficulties (this same gentleman served at Byculla, Bombay, India), but he too failed and in its place he started the Church Lads' Brigade, which caught on. The boys went for a camp at Isipingo and while bathing four boys lost their lives, and the Rev. J. R. French, in trying to save them, lost his life as well. The movement had a set back. In the year 1922, just before my departure, the question was discussed amongst three of us, Miss Margaret B. Wilson a missionary in Durban, Mr. Albert Christopher and myself about the starting of the movement. At the end of that year I left for England, and in 1923 Advocate Christopher saw Sir Arthur Pickford, who that year toured South Africa, but his interview produced no results.

By

Rev. B. L. E. SIGAHCONEY

During my stay in England I had to do a lot of deputation work, i.e. to go all over the country, preach in churches and address meetings. At every opportunity I had of bringing before the English public the Colour Bar in the scout movement, people in England could not understand it, and again and again I was told that I was mistaken in my statement. I joined the Rover Movement in my college and became the Rover Scoutmaster. I came out to South Africa in 1927, to start my work in Johannesburg. I wanted to start the movement and I came across a young Englishman, Mr. S. M. Ashton, who had organised the Bantu Pathfinders. He was out of work. I kept him in my house for nearly two years at my expense, and got him to assist me in starting the movement. He was an excellent fellow. I applied for application to the Scout Council and was offered an inferior position. I refused to accept it except on absolute equality.

I was asked to meet the late Mr. Frank Raleigh, the Chief of the European movement, Asst. Commissioner Hodgson and the secretary Mr. Kenneth Fleisher at the Diocesan office in 1928, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. B. L. Karney, the Bishop of Johannesburg. It was a stormy meeting. I held my ground that the scout movement knew no colour line. The three European gentlemen left the office, and before Mr. Frank Raleigh left, I told him that it was because he did not sufficiently practise Christianity, and therefore he was insistent on the colour line.

The Bishop drove me home in his car and told me that he congratulated me on the splendid way I put my case, and that the scout movement had no grounds to bar the Indians and he told me to carry on.

In 1928, that great and revered son of India, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, the first Agent-General of India in South Africa, stood behind and supported the movement and pressed for equality. He said that it would be better for the movement to cease functioning rather than give in on principle. "If you plant another tree," he said, "it will be difficult to up-root it. Rather have one patrol and carry on." He said, "Natal has tue numbers and if I can induce them to start the movement there, then I would have no difficulty in forcing the doors of the European South African Scout Council open." How true

those prophetic words were, subsequent events easily proved it.

Captain Maurice and Major Geddem came out from England on an investigation tour and they met the then officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress: Messrs. C. K. T. Naidoo, Ebrahim Mall, S. B. Mehd, P. K. Desai, Suleman Desai and the officials of the Congress, in plain language told them of the Colour Bar in South Africa.

Sir Arthur Pickford again visited South Africa and he sent for me and he also could not help us in any way.

Then the first Scout Camp was held in July 1928. Mr. S. M. Ashton and myself took fifty boys down to Natal and we camped in the Indian Sports Ground, Durban. Our appearance on the Durban streets brought hundreds of Indians to cheer us on our way to the camp.

We did pioneer work in all the big centres. The movement was now starting in Natal under the aegis of the Natal Indian Teachers' Society. In 1930 another contingent from the Transvaal went down, and this time I took Scout Master Harry Bristow and left him there to organise the work.

At different towns various leaders took up the work, but Mr. Herbert S. Done, assisted by his secretaries Messrs. G. Regnath, V. V. Naidoo, B. Woodith E. Thomas and others, made great strides and placed the movement on a sound footing in Natal, thereby helping the centres. Natal played a great part in solving the problem. The European Council and the Indian Council were now working in complete agreement and then the Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden Powell and Lady Baden-Powell addressed a great rally of Indian Scouts under the chairmanship of Commissioner H. S. Done.

After ten years of perseverance, Indian girls and boys have been accepted into the Guide and Boy Scout movements of South Africa. I am conscious that others have made the success of the movement and it is not possible for me to mention the names of all, or the details.

My dream has been fulfilled and I thank God for helping us to bring about this great movement for the benefit of our boys and girls in this land.

A word of thanks to the many Europeans who loyally stood by us,



# Things In General

## Hindu Young Men's Association (Maritzburg)

PANDIT RISHIRAM B.A., the Vedic Missionary from India, opened the 32nd anniversary celebration of the Hindu Young Men's Association before a large gathering recently. The main hall of the H.Y.M.A. was tastefully decorated, and on the platform were a number of delegates representing various Hindu institutions. In the course of his address, Pandit Rishiram said that it was a privilege to him to open that day's function, as the founder, Professor Bhai Parmanand, was a close associate of his. He detailed the life career of the founder, and said that he dedicated his life to the cause of Hinduism in India. He was glad to note that the activities of the institution in the direction of promoting Tamil education were bearing fruit. There was in this country a scarcity of teachers in the vernacular languages, and also religious preachers. They, as a community, should try to fill these wants. Mr. V. K. Pillay, the president of H.Y.M.A., in his presidential speech reviewed the work of the association for the past year, and said that satisfactory progress was made. He thanked Pandit Rishiram for consenting to open the function, and for the numerous inspiring lectures on the Hindu religion, culture and philosophy he was giving to his countrymen in South Africa. The joint secretaries presented a lengthy report and balance sheet, which disclosed a substantial sum in hand. The delegates, who represented various Hindu institutions in Natal, stressed upon the need to push forward the spread of Tamil education and unity among all sections of the Hindus. During the lunch hour over 800 men, women and children were provided with a sumptuous meal. As an example of keen interest displayed by the Hindu women in social and educational matters, a large number of ladies were present. Many excellent songs were rendered in Tamil, and dialogues and recitations were given by the pupils, both boys and girls of the H.Y.M.A. These were appreciated by the audience. Congratulatory messages were read from the Governor-General, Sir Patrick Duncan, the Honourable Mr. J. E. Hofmeyr and the Honourable Mr. Stuttaford.

## Stanger Government Indian School

The headmaster and staff of the Stanger Government Indian School presented a purse to Mr. G. Bechoo on his promotion as headmaster of the Mt. Edgecombe Government Indian School. Mr. Bechoo, who had started his career as a pupil teacher at this school, had served the school for the past seventeen years.

Mr. Khan the headmaster and the members of the staff spoke in glowing terms about Mr. Bechoo's fine qualities and said that they had always found him to be a perfect gentleman and a very valuable friend.

A farewell reception was accorded by the officials and members of the Stanger United Football Club to Mr. Bechoo, one of the founders of the club. Mr. P. Pillay presided and on behalf of the club presented Mr. Bechoo with a brass tray on a stand with a jardine to match. The chairman stated that in Mr. Bechoo Stanger had had an excellent and keen all-round sportsman who had always endeared himself to the sporting fraternity of the district. He said that his departure would be a great loss to sports in Stanger and the breach made by his transfer on promotion as headmaster of Mt. Edgecombe School would be very hard to fill. He further stated that Stanger's loss would be Mt. Edgecombe's gain, and in conclusion thanked Mr. Bechoo for the services rendered to the club and wished him every success in his new sphere. Mr. Bechoo was connected with many

**B. W. CANEY**

— Jeweller —

366 West Street, Durban

For best value in Jewellery &  
Watches of all makes. 117b

sporting bodies. He was vice-president of the Stanger School Tennis Club and president of the Stanger United Cricket Club.

## Stanger Hindu Youth Club

Under the auspices of the Stanger Hindu Youth Club Mr. R. Sewpaul, a member of the Stanger Indian School staff, gave an interesting lecture on "How we are related to God materially and spiritually" to a large gathering of Indians of Stanger presided by Mr. V. Thomas at the Sabha hall recently. Mr. T. Vadivalu in proposing a vote of thanks congratulated Mr. Sewpaul on his instructive talk. The members then held their customary meeting.

## Arya Samaj (Cato Manor)

Dipawali Day was observed at the Arya Samaj (Cato Manor). Pandit Rishiramji spoke to a packed house on the significance of Dipawali and female education. Songs and recitations were also rendered by the boys and girls of the Hindi School. Music were provided by the members of the Arya Sangit Mandal.

The function was closed after the distribution of sweet-meats provided by the society.

## Dipawali Sports At Springfield

The Nagari Pracharni Sabha of Springfield held its ninth annual Dipawali celebration and sports for its Hindi Government-Aided Indian School children, on Dipawali Day, November 2. After the performance of "Havan" ceremony the children's sports commenced at 10 a.m. on the school ground which were witnessed by a large number of people. In the afternoon the people were assembled in the school hall and entertained with music, songs and a short play (The Diamond Rogue), acted by the School Boy Scouts. Then, the headmaster, Mr. R. Chotai, submitted his ninth annual school report, reviewing the activities of the school during the year. He stated that over a hundred school-going age children were refused admission during the year under review, owing to lack of accommodation. He appealed to the school committee and the school manager to provide the necessary accommodation for the large number of children growing in illiteracy. Light refreshments were served to all those who participated. Prizes were distributed by the president of the Sabha, Mr. O. Beeputh. The function terminated at 5 p.m.

## Clairwood Hindi Pathashala

A school known as the Hindi Pathashala was recently built in Clairwood near Durban to impart Hindi education to Indian children. There are about 300 children attending the school. A correspondent makes a complaint that the conditions under which the children are being taught at this school are none too good. There is insufficient seating accommodation both for the children as well as the teachers and the children are having to sit on the dusty floor. The correspondent points out that fees are collected from the children attending the school and the organisers of the school have a fund, and he states that there is no reason why the local leaders should not take the trouble to inspect the school and see if the funds in hand could not be utilised in providing better facilities both for the pupils and teachers.

## Sanatan Ved Dharam Sabha (Johannesburg)

A committee meeting of the Sanatan Ved Dharam Sabha, Johannesburg, was held recently at Mr. B. Ramial Singh's residence at Martindale. It was reported that Mrs. Baboolal Maharaj had presented

(Continued on page 535)

# THE NATAL BANTU AND INDIAN BLIND SOCIETY

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

[We have received the following useful hints on prevention of blindness from Mr. G. Cawston, president of the Natal Bantu and Indian Blind Society. The main objects of the Society are: To investigate cases of blindness, and defective eyesight in Natal, and to endeavour to obtain medical advice and assistance when necessary, to enlist the sympathy of the Government; to assist in whatever way possible the sick, aged, and needy blind, and in general to look after their interests and welfare; to discourage begging and to instruct the blind in useful occupations or trades. The ultimate aim of the Natal Bantu and Indian Blind Society is to establish a home and workshop where the forced idleness of the blind can be directed into channels of useful employment. After careful and thorough investigation the Society fully realises that their first duty is to provide the immediate needs of the destitute Indian and Bantu blind, many of whom are very old and frail, entirely dependent upon poor relations, who do their best under great hardship. The Society will be glad to receive the names of any blind persons known to our readers. The Society's address is 345 Vause Road, Durban.—Ed.]

### A Word To Parents

Take care of baby's eyes.

Sore eyes may lead to inflammation and eventually to blindness.

Always consult a doctor if possible.

After the birth of a baby, the child's eyes should be wiped carefully with a white cloth, and washed with lukewarm water before any other part of the body is touched.

Never expose a young baby to cold unless the child is well wrapped up, as cold sometimes causes eyes trouble.

The symptoms that indicate bad eyes are:—

Redness.

Swelling of the eyelids.

Yellowish discharge.

Where these signs exist consult a doctor, and always keep the eyes clean, as it is the discharge which causes the mischief.

To save the eyes is only to keep them clean.

### How To Wash The Eyes

Open the eyelids with your fingers, which must be clean, then wash matter away by dropping lukewarm water into the eyes, or by dipping a dry cloth in lukewarm water and squeezing same gently into the eyes.

Always keep the cloth about a fingers length from the eyes, and never use the same piece of rag twice or put it back in the water, as you will in that case infect the other eye.

Always use a white rag for this purpose and burn same after use. Never use any towel, rag, or other linen belonging to baby, for yourself, and for your other children, as eye disease is highly infectious. Smear a little vaseline on the eyelids to prevent them from sticking together.

### Washing

Do not attempt to wash the eyes with tea water or sugar water.

Do not use herbs or fat of any kind.

Most herbs are harmful, and must be avoided.

### Last Hint

Baby's eyes have been formed for some months before birth, but dwelt in darkness.

At first the eyes are therefore very sensitive to light and will only open in the shade.

See then, for the first week of the child's life, that you do not expose the eyes to a bright light or to sunshine.

### Advice To Teachers In Rural Schools

Teachers should be most observant to notice symptoms of defective sight, as follows:—

1. Holding a book too close to the eyes.
2. Scowling or screwing up the face.
3. Red and scaly eyelids.
4. Watery eyes.
5. Tiredness of the eyes.
6. Squint and crossed eyes.
7. Repeated attacks of headache.
8. Backwardness and, or Nervousness.

1. Children with those symptoms should be reported to the Medical Inspector of Schools if possible and, if the

case appears urgent, report to the local Missionary or Magistrate with a view to obtaining medical advice and assistance.

2. It has been found that over 30 per cent. of the non-European children in schools for the Blind have been blinded through neglect, ignorance, or wrong treatment of the disease.

3. It is appalling that for want of knowledge little children should suffer from such a dreadful disability.

### Classroom

Teachers should pay great attention to lighting conditions. Neither teacher nor children should face the light. The light should fall over the left shoulder for right handed children. Place children with defective eyesight in the front row of desks.

## Obituary

### Death Of Mr. V. G. Naidoo

Mr. V. Govindsamy Naidoo, ex-prominent member of the Tamil community, died on September 12 at his residence in Johannesburg through heart failure at the age of 75. The late Mr. Naidoo was one of the founders of the Tamil Benefit Society. He was a staunch supporter of the Passive Resister movement. He also held the presidentship of the Melrose Temple for years. He was the only performer of of wedding and death ceremonies and many Tamil men and youths are thankful to him for their vernacular knowledge. The late Mr. Naidoo leaves behind a widow and a brother-in-law to mourn their sad loss. The Tamil community's heartfelt sympathy goes out to them.

### Death Of Miss Ponamal

The death of Miss Ponamal, youngest sister of Mr. M. Chinaswami of the Durban Club and a sister-in-law to Mr. E. M. Chin, took place on Monday October 25. The deceased who was twenty-three years of age, was a very promising girl. The interment took place at the Essendene Cemetery, Overport,

# The Sporting World

## Transvaal Coloured Cricket Union

SINCE the last South African Coloured Cricket Tournament which took place some few years ago, several letters were addressed to the South African Coloured Cricket Board, as an outcome of which Mr. Sol. D. Royeppen, secretary of the Coloured Cricket Union, had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Bonar Richards, president of the South African Coloured Cricket Board in Johannesburg recently. In a lengthy interview, Mr. Richards gave the impression that the Board was defunct, and therefore, he was not prepared to revive it unless a conference of the leading sportsmen in the Union was arranged when matters might be discussed and reach to a finality. When Mr. Royeppen was in Durban on a short visit recently, the officials of the Natal Indian Cricket Union were interviewed, and the views expressed by Natal were that they were not at all anxious to affiliate with the present Board. An effort will be made by Transvaal with the co-operation of the Western Province to approach the officials of the Coloured Cricket Board during the present Cricket season and it is hoped that all affiliated centres will co-operate and accept the view that the present Board should be put in order.

## Northern Natal Indian Cricket Union

The first annual general meeting of the Northern Natal Indian Cricket Club Union was held in the Indian School Hall, Dannhauser, recently. Owing to the unfortunate absence of Mr. Loganathan, the president, Mr. C. Gopaul, (vice-president), was elected to the chair. Delegates from the following clubs were fully present: Dannhauser, Dannhauser Independents, Schools, Newcastle and Royals, Newcastle. The secretary, Mr. C. R. Naidoo, submitted a report of the activities of the affiliated clubs, which included a tour in the Transvaal. Mr. O. J. Christopher, of Newcastle, presented a splendid Electro-plated trophy for competition, which was gratefully accepted. In his financial report, Mr. C. R. Naidoo, the treasurer, showed a cash balance of £2 7s. which reflected a credit to those who handled the income. The following new officials were then elected:—Patrons: Messrs. J. Ahmed, Shaik Abdool and G. M. A. Vawda; President: Mr. A. M. Ephraim; vice-presidents: Messrs. O. J. Christopher, N. P. Naidoo, N. G. Nulliah, R. Loganathan and C. Gopaul; secretary and treasurer: Mr. N. Puckree Naidoo; hon. auditor: Mr. N. P. Naidoo; record clerk; Mr. B. the sch.

By "Rambler"

## Northern Natal Indian Tennis Union

The Northern Natal Indian Tennis Union held its annual general meeting at Ladysmith recently. The secretary in a lengthy report referred to the excellent work done by the union in the way of encouraging tennis amongst the younger section of the community in the Northern Districts. There are three beautiful trophies for competition. During the last season, teams from Dannhauser, Dundee, Newcastle, Ladysmith and Estcourt affiliated. Considerable interest was shown in all the competitions. Estcourt were, however, fortunate in capturing all the trophies in the district, thus qualifying for the position of the champions of Northern Natal. The election of officials for the season resulted as follows, with Estcourt as headquarters: Patrons: Messrs. J. W. Welsh, S. O. Pear, Shaik Abdool, E. Moola and G. M. A. Vawda; President, Mr. M. Naioker; vice-presidents: Presidents of all affiliated clubs; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. A. K. Beeran; hon. record clerk: Mr. Jas. Augustine; hon. auditor: Mr. C. K. Pillay.

## South End Hindu C.C.

The first match for the League Cup was played between Uitenhage C.C. and South End Hindu C.C. (Port Elizabeth), at Uitenhage on October 17. The scores were as follows: Uitenhage first innings, 30; South End first innings, 54, (T. Makan 23). Uitenhage second innings 81 for 9 wickets, (N. Morar 31); South End second innings, 31. Uitehage won by 26 runs.

The second match for the League Cup was played between Uitenhage C.C. and the South End Hindu C.C. at Port Elizabeth, on October 31. It was the bowlers' day as would appear from the very low scoring: Uitenhage first innings, 11, (U. Umley 6 wickets for 1 run, T. Makan 4 wickets for 10 runs); South End first innings 29, (M. B. Kara 6 wickets for 17 runs, S. Ratanjee 3 wickets for 12 runs). Uitenhage second innings, 12, (N. Umley 5 wickets for 4 runs, T. Makan 5 wickets for 6 runs). The result was that, South End were victorious by an innings and 6 runs.

## Five-a-side Football Tournament

The 4th annual 5-a-side football tournament was held recently under the auspices of the Kynochs Indian Football Club, Umbongontwini, for the Silver Floating Trophy kindly presented by Mr. E. O. Rees. There were 24 teams entered from

all parts of Durban and district, and a commencement was made before a very large gathering including Europeans, Indians and Natives, all of whom enjoyed thoroughly the day's sports. The finalists were Mr. Baker's five under the captainship of Mr. Jimmy Arumcoogam of Kynoch Anglers B resulting in a win for the former, and third came the Isipingo School. In the afternoon Mr. Atkinson made the presentation to the winners with a speech of congratulation. Mr. McLeod, the compound manager, also spoke in a similar strain. The club's sincere thanks are due to Messrs. C. H. Tuckett, Adam Fayers, W. A. Ally and Jack Govender for kindly assisting in refereeing the matches.

## County Indian Football Association

A fairly large gathering witnessed the annual sports held at Sea View on Sunday last, under the aegis of the County Indian Football Association. All the events were keenly contested and the competitors displayed great enthusiasm. Light refreshments were served to nearly a thousand children, ladies and men. Councillor Mr. J. M. Harris addressed the gathering on the various benefits derived from sports and made mention of the sports grounds that were being laid out by the City Council for Indians in that area on which a further sum of £250 had been set aside for further improvements. Other speakers were Messrs. A. Harry (chairman of the Sports Committee), K. Samuels (president of the C.I.F.A.), P. D. Naioker and S. O. George. Prizes were distributed by Mrs. J. M. Harris to the successful competitors. An illuminated address and a canteen of outlery were presented to Mr. A. Harry for his services to the C.I.F. Association as hon. secretary for the last six successive years. The committee desires to convey through the medium of these columns, their sincere thanks to the various friends who have generously contributed their donations for these sports, and also to the First Durban Rover Crew for their assistance.

## WANTED CHIEF AGENCY FOR INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANY

A well-established Indian Insurance Company with large capital and Government Security desires Chief Agency connections in Transvaal, Kenya, Uganda, Zanzibar and other African Territories. Reliable and influential parties should apply stating Bank and other references and terms to INSURANCE ADVERTISEMENT, "Indian Opinion," Phoenix, Natal.



## THINGS IN GENERAL ]

to the Sabha a Stand in Martindale in memory of her late husband for building a temple and school. Messrs. L. B. Maharaj, D. R. Singh, S. Neerpath, B. M. Singh, L. B. Harry and S. Nankoram were elected as life managing committee and Messrs. B. Ramlal Singh of Martindale, Senbajan Ajodha of Newolore, and Ramdial Singh of Vrededorp were elected as trustees.

**Indians' Sad Lot In South Africa**

Speaking at a meeting of the Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association, the Agent-General Sir Syed Raza Ali addressing the Indians, said, "Your position in this country is an extremely difficult and sad one. I really do not know what is in store for you." The Indian community had to realise, he went on, the necessity of modern and thoroughly up-to-date organisation. There were a number of duties which Indians in this country had to carry out. He was glad to be able to remark that the community still believed in their various religions. That was their first duty—to their Creator. The Agent-General warned the Indians against supporting organisations in India at the expense of charitable organisations in South Africa. The first call on them was from their fellows in this land. "In this country," Sir Raza said, "nobody realises better than yourselves that you are here, not because of certain Europeans, but in spite of these Europeans who do not want you to stay. We have a number of honest friends who have made your paths their own, and who are prepared to fight on your behalf—friends who are fighting for people who have very few sympathisers in South Africa. It is your duty, though, to fight out your own battles." Sir Raza said that he was thankful for

the little that the Government had done for his people. Unfortunately, what the Government had done was very small.

**Thanks**

Mr. Ranchhodji Kalubhai wishes to express through these columns, his profound thanks to the many friends and public bodies, who very kindly sent messages of condolence on the recent death of his beloved father, Mr. Kalubhai Fakirbhai Patel.

**Indian Airman Killed**

The Indian airman, Mr. G. P. Nair, who left Croydon on October 28, on an attempt to cross the Atlantic, crashed and was killed near Forges-Les-Eaux, in France. His aeroplane, Spirit of India, was completely wrecked. Mr. Nair, who was flying a Miles Hawk, intended flying from Dakar to Port Natal, and then from Newfoundland to Ireland. His machine was not fitted with wireless. He had hoped to complete the flight within a fortnight. Mr. Nair was 32 years of age.

**Death Of Britain's Ex-Premier**

Mr. James Ramsay MacDonald, who sailed on November 4 from England aboard the liner, *Reina del Pacifica*, on a three months' cruise, died on Wednesday, November 10 while he was on his way to South America. When he embarked for South America, he has reported to have stated, that he was going in search of the most exclusive of all forms of happiness—rest. Little did he know that this was the rest ordained for him. The late Mr. MacDonald was the first Socialist Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the leader of the first National Government.

**Nizamia Muslim Society**

A committee meeting of the above society was held in Maritzburg on Monday, Nov. 1. Mr. S. Madar was in the chair. The secretary brought to the notice of the meeting that the society

[ Continued from page 532

was now registered under Act 46 of 1926. It was decided to open the building fund, which was left over in view of the registration. It was unanimously decided to cater for the poor Muslim families by distribution of hampers and cash from the society's funds.

**Clergyman Leaves £2,100 To Durban Indian**

A Durban Indian and 16 old age pensioners in two parishes in Sussex, England, are among the beneficiaries under the will of Dr. George Frank Graham Rochfort Wade, a retired clergyman, who died in Durban on September 18, aged 66. The main beneficiary is the Indian, Paokree Subba Reddy, of Durban, "my dead and valued friend, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude." To Reddy £2,100, free of death duties has been left out of a total estate of £3,641. This money is to be invested by Reddy and the income used for the maintenance, education and advancement of his four daughters and a son. The son, Frank Selvanathan, is to be allowed to receive medical training, and one daughter, Magalutchmee, that of a nursing sister, out of the income. Dr. Wade's wife predeceased him in 1931. They had no children.

**Population Of Japan More Than 71,000**

The population of Japan has increased by nearly 1,000,000 within one year. According to an announcement made by the Government's statistical office recently, Japan had 71,252,800 inhabitants on October 1 this year—994,600 more than on the same date last year. Men outnumbered women by 166,000. Tokio, Japan's biggest city, has now 6,274,000 inhabitants; next is Osaka, with 3,210,000.

**EARNING POWER SENT TO YOU BY POST**  
You can have a College training in almost any career  
for a few shillings monthly.

**STUDY AT HOME IN YOUR SPARE TIME.**

**HOW TO STUDY**

IN your spare time when it suits YOU. You fix your own time, you do not GO to your studies, the postman brings THEM TO YOU.  
There is nothing that a class-room teacher can show on a blackboard that we cannot show on a white paper. The lesson on a blackboard will be cleaned off, but our lessons are PERMANENT. A class-room teacher cannot give you a private word of encouragement, but a Correspondence tutor can do so whenever your work deserves it. On the other hand, he can where necessary, point out your mistakes PRIVATELY. Distance makes no difference.

**IT IS THE PERSONAL TOUCH WHICH COUNTS IN POSTAL TUITION.**

It costs nothing to inquire about the many courses conducted by us.

**WRITE TO-DAY.** There is a chance.

**THE BENNETT COLLEGE Ltd., (Sheffield).**

Mr. C. J. Peter, F. Com. Sc.A., A.I.B.A. (S.A.), A.B.T. (Eng.)  
is in charge of this section.

232, Grey Street, Durban.

128b

**DIWALI SPECIAL NUMBER**

OF

**"INDIAN OPINION"**

Profusely illustrated and full of interesting  
reading matter for young and old

**PRICE 1s.**

Obtainable in Durban at the following places:

**PATEL'S VEGETARIAN TEA ROOM, Grey Street;**

**SINGH'S CAFE, Grey Street;**

**SUNBRAND TOBACCO WORKS, Grey Street;**

**NARANJI VALEBH'S TEA ROOM, Brook Street;**

**K. R. PILLAY, Alice Street;**

And From:

Manager, "Indian Opinion"  
Phoenix, Natal.

# CYMA

## WATCHES

*on time all the time*



*For a few shillings more  
You can get a CYMA the  
WORLD'S WONDER WATCH*  
OBTAINABLE FROM ALL LEADING JEWELLERS

66 ALICE STREET and 35a LEOPOLD STREET  
DURBAN.  
SPRINGBOK SERVICE  
STATION

*Always At Your Service  
DAY And NIGHT*

for

*Petrol, Oiling, Greasing and Repairs  
and for Parking Your Car.*

**સ્પ્રીંગબોક સર્વીસ સ્ટેશન**

તમારી મોટર વાહન કરવી હોય, પેટ્રોલ ભેરવું  
હોય, ઓઈલીંગ અને ગ્રીસીંગ કરાવવું હોય  
કાઈ પણ જાતનું રીપેરીંગ કરાવવું હોય તે  
અમારે ત્યાં આવજો.

તમારી તહેનાતમાં અમે રાત અને દિવસ  
હાજર રહીએ છીએ.

'PHONE 2-3448 OR 2-0247.

## NEW-PROCESS

# Mobiloil

**GIVES  
LONGER LIFE  
TO YOUR ENGINE**

**The New-Process  
makes this  
possible!**

**ન્યુ-પ્રોસેસ**

**મોબીલોઈલ**

તમારાં એન્જીનને વધારે  
લાંબુ આયુષ્ય  
આપનારું છે.

1231

VACUUM OIL COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED