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NOTES AND NEWS

Congress Member To Visit Union To Study Local Situation

SETH GOVIND DAS, a Congress member of the Central Assembly, will be visiting South and East Africa and Zanzibar to study the situation affecting the Indian settlers there. He has been invited by the Indian Association of Zanzibar and Tanganyika. Seth Govind Das sailed on November 8. This news appears in the Indian exchanges. We do not know whether an invitation has been sent from the Indians of the Union. Whilst it is no doubt a shameful thing for us that any distinguished leader should come from India to see us at logger-heads with one another when our house is on fire, it would certainly be of immense value both to us in this country as well as to the people in India if some of the leaders were to visit the various countries where Indians have settled and arm themselves with first-hand information. Seth Govind Das, we have no doubt, will be welcomed by his brethren in this country with open arms. He is the son of a big Zamindar of Jubbulpore, C.P. He is a Nationalist and is a member of the Congress and a follower of Mahatma Gandhi in spite of the fact that his grandfather has disinherited him. He took a leading part in the non-co-operation movement in 1924 and returned to the Council of State as a Swarajist in 1923-30. He resigned on the launching of the Civil Disobedience movement in 1930 and suffered imprisonment several times. He returned to the Legislative Assembly in 1935 as a member of the Parliamentary Board candidate.

How South Africa Views Prohibition Movement In India

Commenting on the acceptance by the Provincial Legislatures in India of the principle of prohibition *The Star* (Johannesburg) writes:

"It would be unwise for European onlookers to judge Eastern peoples by Western standards. Behind the vast political changes that are taking place in India to-day there has been at least as great a social and moral urge as a racial or national one. Mr. Gandhi and the Congress members claim to

know at least as well as the white man what is good for the countless millions of India's own folk; and it is only natural that, once political power has come their way, they should try to impose on their people those reforms they believe the people, in the main, desire. India offers evidence that are lacking in many Western countries as to the degree with which various communities can live contentedly without alcohol. If the Indian Congress believes that, along the lines of prohibition, some of India's social regeneration can be achieved, it would be extremely unwise for Western opinion to resist in any degree this experiment; an experiment that only time and the people of India themselves can vindicate or disapprove. Britain's own scutcheon is not yet cleansed of the stain of China's opium traffic. India will have a vaster task than China in her attempt to suppress alcohol. The Indian mind, alert and subtle in its political workings, may suspect other motives than Mr. Gandhi's transparent idealism behind this fresh essay in social regeneration. But the Westerner's main concern should be to discover how far Congress really interprets the inarticulate mind of the people it claims to represent."

Court Warning To Natives

In giving judgement recently in a case in which a young European farmer was charged with having shot a Native through the leg with a rifle, Mr. L. A. S. Lemmer, the Pietersburg Magistrate, took Natives generally severely to task for using force and giving provocation to Europeans with the result that firearms were used. Mr. Lemmer declared that it seemed to him that Natives were listening to the advice of irresponsible persons in acting as they did. Mr. Lemmer found the European farmer, Eben Heymann, not guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm by shooting a Native. With regard to the alternative charge, that Heymann illegally pointed a firearm, the Magistrate accepted the evidence that the injured Native and a companion were threatening Heymann with sticks and axes.

Firstly, we do not know whether Magistrates are justified from the Bench,

where they are supposed to deal with cases on their merits, to generalise in this way and lecture to a whole community. It happens rather often in the case of both Natives and Indians. Secondly we would not wonder if the above judgment gives an impetus to unscrupulous Whites who are used to treating Natives as anything but human-beings, to make a more liberal use of firearms they are privileged to possess as against the Natives.

A Lesson From Rhodesia

Mr. H. Bertin, K.C., M.P., addressing a meeting of the Salisbury Women's Branch of the United Party on Tuesday November 9, made some remarks about the duties of legislators which are well worth emulating by our Union legislators.

One of the important things the ordinary Member of Parliament had to do in regard to Bills, said Mr. Bertin, was to see how the ordinary members of the public were affected, whether there was any injustice likely to be done, and whether the Bill had been sufficiently long before the public to give them time to study it and put their points of view before their representatives. He hoped to see Bills published in the "Government Gazette," and possibly in the newspapers at least three months before they were brought before the House. That was necessary because Members of Parliament could not be expected to be experts on every subject, and they had to rely on the persons who were well informed or carrying on particular business to advise them as to the provisions of the Bills by which they were affected. If a Bill were brought in while Parliament was sitting, the public had very little chance of seeing it and bringing matters to the notice of their Members.

In recent years this rule has never been strictly observed by our legislators in the Union.

A private Member, said Mr. Bertin, had also to be vigilant to see that the liberties of the subject and general freedom were preserved. There was always a tendency for some cur-

tailment to take place. The curtailment was not always intended, but might occur in a Bill with quite another object. Often Bills were phrased in such wide terms that the liberty and freedom of the subject were encroached upon

If this good advice were followed

the legislators would be worthy of the responsibilities placed upon their shoulders and we would have wholesome legislation in the country. But the laws of the Union now-a-days are based on class and colour distinction and not on considerations of the general welfare of the people.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 1937

Agency Has Proved A Failure

WE reproduce from the *Hindustan Times* a series of articles by the Rev. C. F. Andrews in which he gives the history of race prejudice and colour bar which are spreading from South Africa over the whole African coast right up to Kenya making the position of Indians and the non-Europeans generally intolerable. It makes painful reading. The remedy Mr. Andrews has suggested is that an Agent of the Government of India should be appointed wherever there is not one already to look after the interests of the Indian community.

Moreover he says that had such an Agent been appointed earlier the anti-Indian laws in Zanzibar would never have been passed. If South Africa is to be taken as an example in this connection, then facts go against Mr. Andrews' contention. For, in spite of the presence of the Agent of the Government of India and in spite of the "Gentleman's Agreement" between the Governments of India and the Union, there has been a series of anti-Indian legislation passed in complete violation of that Agreement, segregation has come to stay, trade restrictions have grown worse, there has been a deterioration in the general condition of Indians in South Africa rather than an improvement and the presence of the Agent has made our position much weaker than it was ten years ago, because the Agent is more concerned about preserving the friendly relations between the two Governments than safeguarding the rights and interests of the Indian people. When first the Agency was established in South Africa it was contemplated that the Agent would be a man of eminent personality with high educational qualifications who would be able to create healthy public opinion among the Europeans, safeguard the rights and interests of the Indian community by implementing the Capetown Agreement and at the same time be a guide to his own countrymen. Mr. Andrews has also stipulated the same qualifications for an Agent.

The principle is very good indeed but in practice it has proved an

utter failure and in the present circumstances of India it is bound to be so. The reason is quite obvious. Unlike Japan and other countries who have their Agencies wherever the nationals of those countries have settled, India has not her own Government. The Government of India is not of the people; it is foreign to the people. The people have to be ruled by the Government whether they like it or not. They have no power to overthrow it. What influence could an Agent of such a Government wield anywhere?

There is also an impression that while such an Agent might not be able to contribute to the improvement of the position of Indians in the country to which he has been sent he would at least be able to keep his Government informed of the true position. We do not know that even in this respect the Agent has succeeded. He can give a true reflex of the position only if he is able to be wholly impartial and to take no sides while two parties are quarrelling. Our experience in South Africa is that the Agent has not been able to observe strict impartiality and hence the information he has given India while it may be considered authoritative in view of his responsible office is not a true reflex of the position in every case. Ever since the establishment of the Agency of the Government of India in this country things are being done by private cancess. There have been banquets and At Homes frequently but hardly any public meetings or mass meetings or conferences, however, urgent the need for them may have been and our public bodies have been carrying on their work unconstitutionally. Thus the Agency has been a failure in every respect. The Rt. Hon Srinivasa Sastri was the only one eminent personality we had as the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa but he too would have to admit that whatever he was able to achieve in this country was by his own outstanding qualities and not by virtue of the office he held.

We would like to quote here what the *Tanganyika Opinion* dealing with the same subject, says:

"If the Agent chosen happens to be true to his salt and espouses the cause of our nationals in these Territories, his life would be made intolerable and he would have to go back. If, on the other hand, he happens to be one endowed with what, in official parlance, is called "sound common sense," i.e. a goody-goody gentleman who dreams of titles and official patronage, he could do very little to help us. These Agents of the Government of India (whether white or brown) who are detailed to look after the interests of Indians abroad, know very well that they are not expected to take their jobs seriously. They know very well that it is not the intention of the Government of India (their principals) that they should make any serious efforts to improve the civic or political status of overseas Indians. What happens simply is that the Colonial Governments, not relishing the presence of Indians in their respective countries, ill-treat them in various ways. The Indians resent this ill-treatment and start howling for all they are worth and these howls are, in turn, taken up and echoed by the Press and politicians in India. The Government of India finds this howling quite annoying and disagreeable. And so, they say to these agitators—"Please stop that unholy noise. We shall send our Agent to the Colony (or Protectorate) in question to look after the interests of your compatriots." It is just camouflage, the ancient game of eye-wash and make-believe. The Government of India do not mean business and their Agents quite understand them. Some of these Agents are at least honest enough to admit frankly that there is very little they could really do to stem the rising tide of anti-Indian feeling in British Colonies and Protectorates. For instance, speaking recently at a special meeting of the Rotary Club at Johannesburg (It was held to protest against the growing volume of colour prejudice in South Africa), Sir Syed Raza Ali, the Agent-General of the Government of India, said:—"I wish I could speak frankly and strongly on this subject, but unfortunately my lips are more or less sealed."

"Now, why does this gentleman say that his lips are sealed? Who sealed them and why? He says so because he knows that his principals (the Government of India) do not want to embarrass the Government of South Africa. Would an Agent of the Japanese, or in fact any other Government worth the name, have said what Sir Syed has said—that his lips are sealed? Would he at all hesitate to offend the Government of General Hertzog when it becomes necessary to safeguard the honour and prestige of his own nationals in South Africa?"

The whole position then boils down to this, that unless Indians who have settled in countries outside India can stand on their own legs and rely on their own strength no earthly power can help them. We have no right to expect India to be concerned about us if we ourselves have lost our manhood and have accepted material gains as our only God and are prepared to sacrifice even our honour and self-respect for the achievement of those gains. If on the other hand, we consider our national honour and self-respect above everything else then we must be prepared to fight. But that we cannot do when we are distracted and disunited. The *Tanganyika Opinion* heralds to the East African Indians that the immediate work before them is to have the East African Indian National Congress and the various Indian Associations in these territories completely overhauled and manned by honest and efficient executives. We think the same applies to us in South Africa. This is far more important than concentrating on the Agency.

THE COLOUR PROBLEM IN AFRICA

THE eyes of India have been rightly turned to Zanzibar in East Africa, where for three years a great struggle has been carried on to undo the grievous wrong committed by the Resident in 1934 when he forced through his Council (by using his official majority and his arbitrary powers) certain Ordinances whereby the Indian marketing of cloves, which is the chief industry of the Island, was very nearly destroyed.

Racial Discriminations

The Attorney-General himself acknowledged, in introducing these measures, that they were racial in character. He said: "Sir, in regard to the Bill itself, it would be idle to say that it was not drastic and almost revolutionary in its provisions; or that it had not shown itself to be unpopular with a large number of people locally. The Bill, without doubt, affects the rights and privileges of certain members of the community. The Bill has the further disadvantage of discriminating somewhat in respect of race, and that is always open to objection. On the other hand, the Bill is put forward by the Government because, in the opinion of the Government, it should be enacted."

This speech was made in 1934, and for three years the Government of India has struggled with varying success to get this racial measure repealed in favour of one that shall do no injustice to the Indians who were discriminated against in this arbitrary way. The struggle is by no means over; and an embargo on the cloves imported into India had to be hinted at, before any justice could be done at all.

The Colour Bar

In itself, the Zanzibar struggle touches but a small number of Indians, for there are only 15,000 in all, chiefly from Kutch, in Western India. But the ultimate question is a far graver one. It is whether the Indians who cross the Indian Ocean to settle in East Africa shall be driven out altogether, if not by political, then by economic weapons. It also reveals the dangerous growth of the colour bar and the white race prejudice in Africa,—starting from the South and working upwards as far as Kenya in the East.

Indians In Kenya

Nearly twenty years ago, at the conclusion of the World War, the attempt was made by political pressure to drive Indians out of Kenya. Lord Delamere and Major Grogan were the chief offenders in this matter. In 1919, the Economic Commission Report, inspired chiefly by them, proposed that all immigration from India to Kenya should be prohibited by law, because the

By
C. F. ANDREWS

in "The Hindustan Times"

Indians both economically and morally were a menace to the African natives.

A political campaign was started, of a sweeping character, which culminated in threats of violence in 1923. The European settlers threatened to "drive the Indians into the sea." The "Kenya conversations" followed in London, and though the Indians lost severely in other ways they still retained their right of immigration. But the Europeans were by no means content with their partial victory. A boycott was tried on their part in order to carry their victory still further. They were still dissatisfied because they had not the full power to exclude Indians from East Africa altogether.

So they decided to combine together and buy no goods at Indian stores. But this soon broke down because the Europeans found it cheaper to buy from Indians. But the bitter race feeling against the Indians continued to increase. The colour bar attitude of South Africa began to spread to East Africa also, with all its harmful effects. This made things worse again politically.

The Climax

Then, when the big economic slump came in 1930 to 1934, and prices of raw materials deteriorated, a further effort was made on a big scale to cut out the Indian traders by the formation of monopolies which would usually be managed by Europeans. The Indian in East Africa is usually the middleman. Therefore, in this process of new economic planning and marketing, the Indian would get left out in the cold. It was the previous practice of such a monopoly in Kenya that probably brought the idea of doing the same thing with cloves to the mind of the Government in Zanzibar. Strong anti-Indian feeling prevailed in certain quarters and the plan of 'economic marketing' was put into action through the "Clove Growers' Association." The Attorney-General's frank speech, acknowledging racial legislation, was the climax of this effort.

Meagre Concessions

A sudden and welcome change came to the administration of Zanzibar at the beginning of the present year when the Resident's term of office at last expired. The Acting Resident is trusted by all the Indians, just as they distrusted, for good reason, the late Resident. There has also been a change at the Colonial

Office in London. So some concessions have been made to invite the Indians to take part in the monopoly. But the concessions offered are very meagre indeed. They offer only 2 seats on a board of seven members. They give no security so long as Mr. Bartlett remains as Secretary-Manager with the entire business control of the clove industry in his hands. What it would mean is, that the Indians, who for fifty years have had the trade, which they themselves have created, in their own hands, would now have to come into the same trade as subordinate to the Secretary-Manager and to be used by him according to his own discretion.

With a very strong Resident who could control Mr. Bartlett, there might be a chance of fair treatment. But the new Resident, who comes from Palestine, is an entirely unknown quantity. He may take Mr. Bartlett's side as the late Resident did. What then?

Simple Remedy

There then is the whole situation in a brief compass. The Indian community has so far stuck together with remarkable unanimity and refused the terms which the Zanzibar Administration has offered. They have a strong position because India is by far the best clove market in the world. It is true that nearly 40 per cent. of the best quality cloves are imported into India. Cloves are a luxury, not a necessity. If the people of India and the merchants of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta feel that their fellow-countrymen have been badly treated, the remedy is very simple. They can refuse to buy cloves until better treatment is given.

Fair Treatment

But for this to be effective a united effort would have to be made. As far as I can see, there is nothing vindictive in such an argument for an embargo. It is simply a claim that until we are satisfied that fair treatment is being given, we shall not go on importing a luxury; but as soon as ever, fair treatment is given we shall begin to import again.

II \

I have shown in the above article how precarious the Indian position is in East Africa owing to the determined and persistent hostility of the British settlers.

But all has not yet been told. The colour bar is quite definitely spreading all over East Africa coming up from the South.

No Equality

The old Boer Grondwet, or fundamental law, "There shall be no equality

between white and black either in Church or State," is now being openly proclaimed in other parts of Africa also. Thus the policy of the old Boer Republic (so called) has prevailed. They were 'republics' of white men only. The African had no vote at all. In reality they were oligarchies.

Not altogether, however, have they prevailed, for the Christian Churches have definitely repudiated this, and many earnest Christians like the Hon. Jan Hofmeyr, who are members of the Dutch or Boer Church, have repudiated it also as un-Christian.

White Race Policy

But the lamentable fact remains that politically segregation is gaining ground. Mr. Pirow, the Boer Minister in South Africa, who carries most weight in the Cabinet after General Hertzog and General Smuts, repeatedly declares that this policy of race superiority and colour bar, all the way up the line, will soon be the accepted policy of all European settlers from Capetown up to Nairobi, thus forming a solid mass of what is called 'white race' opinion.

He has openly formulated this 'white race' policy in the following manner:—

"It definitely, once and for all time, denies the Negro social and political equality with the European. This doctrine is the accepted policy of the South African Union."

So unchallenged, for the most part, has this terrible statement been (the exception of the Christian Churches has already been noted) that it is beginning to find its way all up the coast. It has infected Portuguese East Africa, as I myself have noticed in recent years. It has badly infected Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia, where some of the newspapers have spoken in high praise of Mr. Pirow and also of the new 'native legislation' recently passed by the South African Union Parliament.

The Cape Franchise

Let us think for a moment, more in detail about the retrograde step which has now finally been taken in the South by the passing of the new Act which has taken away from the Africans, who have education, in the Cape Province, their long-cherished franchise.

More than a hundred years ago, in 1835, the British Parliament at Westminster, during those great days when slavery was abolished and the first Indian charter of racial equality was passed also, declared that no proposal for a colour bar franchise would be entertained in South Africa. Since that time, or rather for the greater part of it, educated Africans in the Cape Province, who had a small amount of property, were given the franchise on exactly equal terms with Europeans. This franchise was very highly valued. It represented what was called by Cecil

Rhodes, "The franchise for every civilized man." No distinction of colour or race was allowed.

This 'Cape' franchise was a clear declaration for all time that no barrier would be set up against an African attaining any position which character and capacity could reach. The Hon. Mr. Schreiner,—himself belonging by race to the Cape Dutch,—when Premier, spoke out vehemently against any idea of tampering with or removing this franchise. "Are we going," he asked, "to say to these people, 'you are on a lower plane than ourselves, and you will never have a chance of rising?'"

When I was in South Africa, in earlier years, I met many educated Africans who were proud of possessing this franchise, which placed them on an equality with the Europeans. They used it well. They never abused it. Yet look what has happened!

Franchise Guaranteed

Let us go one step further. In 1909, when the Act of Union was finally passed and the South African Union was formed (including the two Boer States, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State) a clause was put in the Act itself making this African equal franchise secure and sacrosanct. It was presumed that it would be held for all time and could not be cut out of the Act of Union.

But the Statute of Westminster was passed, giving sovereign rights to South Africa as an independent nation. From the moment that this position was gained one of the first steps taken was to seek, under the new statute, to get rid of this 'safeguarding clause' about the African franchise from the Act of Union.

Doom Sealed

Each time that I have been to South Africa in recent years I have watched this disaster drawing nearer and nearer, and when I have talked with the educated Africans who held the franchise they have told me that if this was taken away from them, their doom was sealed. It would be a sign that, whatever their capacity or ability, they were racially on a lower level and must always continue to be so.

African Resentment

Meanwhile the fear is increasing that beneath the surface African resentment will grow greater. This leads on to policies of panic. Some say that secret societies are spreading everywhere as the Bantu population increases. The dangers ahead are enormous. And yet there are already a very large number

of Europeans in Southern Rhodesia and Kenya, who hold that this segregation policy is the only one suited to Africa!

Indian Question

It is not difficult to understand how all this reacts detrimentally with regard to the Indian question. For the Indians are regarded not merely as belonging to the coloured races of the world, but also as standing in the way of the solution of the African problem which is now being tried out. For it is said everywhere that it is impossible to pass laws excluding Africans from certain privileges (who are the true inhabitants of Africa) and grant these privileges to Indians who are foreigners. The strangest thing of all is this, that the European who lays down the law never regards himself as a 'foreigner,' though he treats the Indian as such. Yet in Southern Rhodesia and Kenya the actual occupation took place hardly more than forty or forty-five years ago. Indeed Kenya was not really opened up till the present century began.

An Agent-General

While, then, the crisis in East Africa draws nearer and nearer and a last attempt may still be made to exclude Indians by some method or other, it is incumbent on Indians to hold fast to the position which they have attained and not to allow it any further to be whittled down.

On the whole, my experience of East Africa has led me now to believe that without an agency acting for the Indian community on the spot, whose headquarters should be Mombasa, the trading Indians, with very little idea of political organization, will be unable to maintain their position. The only way, in the present circumstances, to prevent further encroachment on the meagre rights which Indians have still preserved would be to place an Indian Agent-General, of high standing and intellectual eminence, in East Africa itself. If such a step had been taken long before the year 1934, this disaster in Zanzibar might never have taken place.

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.

ZANZIBAR INDIANS

REV. C. F. ANDREWS SUPPORTS CLOVE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT

The Rev. C. F. Andrews has issued the following statement to the Press on Zanzibar:—

“SINCE the Zanzibar question is an extremely complicated one, with which I have been familiar through constant visits to the Island, I shall try to reduce it to its simplest terms while giving my final opinion. Indian clove traders are on strike, because they have been treated with injustice by the Zanzibar Administration. Owing to pressure from the Government of India, certain concessions were made, but these were not considered satisfactory by the Indians themselves. So the strike began.

“The chief offer of the Zanzibar Government was that two Indians should be appointed by the Chamber of Commerce (which is 90 per cent. Indian) to serve on the Board of Clove Growers' Association. This Association is a semi-Government monopoly under a Secretary-Manager, which has practically ousted Indian merchants from the clove trade and captured trade to itself.

Not Sufficient Security

“Zanzibar Indians say that merely to have two Indians on a Board of seven, while the Secretary-Manager remains all powerful, is not sufficient security to enable them to get a fair deal. The acting Resident, in reply, has promised to do all he can to see that Indian traders receive fair play, but distrust has gone too deep. They point out that the Secretary-Manager and the last Resident had been intensely hostile to them and though the Acting Resident has promised fairplay, he cannot bind the new Resident.

“Meanwhile, the Secretary-Manager remains with every increasing power. Instead of themselves running the clove trade, as they used to do, they would have to be subservient to him and he has never for a moment concealed his hostility towards them. Who knows, they say, whether the new Resident (who comes from Palestine) may not side with the Secretary-Manager, as the last Resident did? In that case things would be just as bad as before, and they would have all their troubles again.

Hostile Attitude

“When I was in Zanzibar I had a long interview with the Secretary-Manager and saw at once his hostile attitude. So I fully appreciate their reluctance to put themselves under him. If I was in their position I certainly would not be satisfied until I could get better terms. Indian clove traders ask for the sympathy of the Indian people and have obtained the support of the Congress. They have also obtained from the Bombay Indian Chamber of Commerce sympathetic boycott of Zanzibar cloves until they come to terms. Cloves, after all, are a luxury and 40 per cent. of the best cloves are sent to Bombay from Zanzibar and get a good price. If the Indian people give up this luxury for a while they will not suffer in health.

“Since the Clove Growers' Association stands to lose the Indian trade, if they are not willing to come to terms with the Indian clove traders, the importance of the sympathetic boycott in India is obvious. As far as I have been able to gather, Calcutta and Madras have fallen in line with Bombay. No one

on this side is likely to attempt to break the strike and the Indian community in Zanzibar has remained firm and united.

Precarious Position

“It is urgently necessary that this strike be settled on just and favourable terms not only on account of the Indian community in Zanzibar but also because of the pronounced hostility towards Indians which is gathering to a head all along the coast. In a recent publication of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, called “Colonial Problem,” which is a standard volume, a grave report has been made by an important body of experts, which states that Indians are leaving Kenya by thousands on account of their precarious political position in British territory. They are crossing the border into the Mandated territory of Tanganyika, where their status is more secure. Already some Indians have left Zanzibar for the same purpose. Facts, like these, are ominous. They tell their own story.

Self-Defence

“Therefore, it is in no retaliatory spirit that Indian clove traders in Zanzibar have asked for a sympathetic boycott but in purely self-defence; for Indians in East Africa have suffered one indignity after another since 1919 and there is real danger of their whole status along the East African Coast being undermined and India to day is not in a mood to allow such humiliation to take place.”

“HOW GOVERNMENT KILLS INDIAN AVIATION”

AN article in *Roy's Weekly*, Delhi, bears the heading, “How Government Kills Indian Aviation,” which non-Indians will think startling. The writer of the article is an Indian aviator. He says the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India was created about 15 years ago, and asks:

What has this Department done during the last 15 years? What are the achievements to its credit?

The answer is to be found perhaps in the following passages in the article:

According to the Indian Aircraft rules, for a person to qualify himself as a commercial pilot, it was stipulated that he should do 50 hours solo flying, which at the cost of Rs. 30 per hour

comes to about Rs. 1,500. Spirited youths came forward to qualify as commercial pilots. Then Government stepped in and prescribed 100 hours compulsory flying for every pilot appearing for a commercial licence. Still plenty of young men were showing their enthusiasm for flying. And then the Government coolly came forward, made 200 hours compulsory flying for every commercial pilot! A flying licence which used to cost a pilot about Rs. 1,500 now costs well over Rs. 6000, whereas in all the foreign countries it is still 50 hours flying for the same qualification!

Scores of our young men, finding a flying career being placed beyond their

reach in their own mother country, went to England, qualified themselves as commercial pilots within a few months and returned home merrily.

“Here we are, fully qualified pilots from England,” they told the Government of India. What did the Government do? It refused to recognise their qualifications! They actually said this was a foreign qualification which the Government of India did not recognise! They must appear in an Indian examination, and it is on official record that nearly 50 per cent. of these fully qualified pilots and ground engineers from England, passed by the Air Ministry, London, failed in the examination set

up by our Directorate of Civil Aviation. There is hardly a branch of knowledge or department in India in which British qualification is not recognised.

This has been going on for some time now and, strange to say, no one has raised a voice against this injustice.

The writer has asked the following

further questions:

Have the Government of India any intention of creating openings in Civil Aviation for our enterprising youths? Or, are all the crores of rupees they are spending, merely to facilitate a smooth passage for the Liners of the Imperial Airways on their way to Australia?

According to the writer there is only one remedy: Make Aviation a Provincial subject, let every Province have its own Directorate of Civil Aviation which will neither sit still nor fly backward, but will open up a vast field of activity beneficial to the province and country as a whole.—*The Modern Review*.

Things In General

An Armistice Day Incident

WHILE the Armistice Day was celebrated at Whitehall on November 11, in the presence of His Majesty the King, the solemnity of the two minutes' silence was broken by a man dashing from the crowd, breaking through the ranks of the naval ratings and proceeding towards the King, shouting, "Down with the war. All this is hypocrisy." The police grappled with the man, who was held to the ground until the conclusion of the silence, when he was removed to the police station. The King stood unmoved during the incident, while the vast crowd stood in silence but subsequently gave vent to their feelings and police reinforcements were necessary to protect the man from their anger. Sir Samuel Hoare informed the House of Commons that the man concerned in the incident had no intention of attacking the King or anyone else. No weapons of any kind were found on him: The man was obviously suffering from delusions and was now under observation.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore laid a wreath at the Cenotaph consisting of plants from the colonies and dependencies.

Another Incident

The Duke of Windsor, who had hoped to attend the Armistice Day Service in St. George's Anglican Church at Paris, abandoned the idea and remained in his room at the hotel following a statement by the Vicar of St. George's, Canon J. L. C. Dart. On his own responsibility Canon Dart said: "I would rather that the Duke did not attend the service. I am glad for all he did in the War. I have a certain respect for his memory and am thankful for the good things he has done in the past. But the attitude of the Church in the matter of divorce and re-marriage is very definite. Marriage only ends before God when it is ended by death. The Duke comes to my church because he is the Duke of Windsor and because he was once on the Throne. I have given him the best seats I can." Canon Dart said he was not raising objections to the Duke's visit and he could not see how he could prevent anyone from attending the service if he desired to do so. Canon Dart's statement was subjected to strong public criticism, which caused him to make an

explanation. After giving an account of the circumstances leading up to his statement, Canon Dart told *The Evening Standard*, "I wish to make it clear that I was willing to give every courtesy to the Duke of Windsor, who is a brother of our King. At the same time, like many other members of the clergy, I hold very definite views on divorce and re-marriage."

Difference Between Treatment Of Blacks in America And S. Africa

Professor D. I. Jabavu, of the Fort Hare Native University, who has just returned from Philadelphia, where he attended a religious conference, in an interview with a press representative in Johannesburg said, "I was pleased to see that the American negroes by the wise use of their vote have actually got a negro representing Chicago and now enjoy many economic privileges and benefits. I noticed that black police arrested both black and white with equal impartiality." While there were many colour bars in South Africa against the black man buying land, he said, the negroes in the States were free to buy anywhere. He further said that while in South Africa natives were being refused trading rights in Kroonstad and Bloemfontein, American blacks were to be found conducting all types of trades and businesses.

"Disease Knows No Colour Bar"

Dr. A. J. W. Wilkins, Medical Officer of Health for Salisbury, at a Rotary Club luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 10, said there was an unusually large proportion of Asiatics, Coloured-people and Natives in the City but he declared that disease had no colour bar. The health of the Europeans depended on the health of the rest of the community. . . . Recently Mr. L. S. Amery had commented on the fact that of all the money spent on health services in the United Kingdom at most 15 per cent. was spent on preventive medicine and the other 85 per cent. on curative services. He thought there was room for a profound re-adjustment of their perspective. They wanted to make the nation health-minded and health-conscious rather than sickness-minded and sickness-conscious. The work of the Public

Health official, said Dr. Wilkins, was not easy here because, in addition to many difficult medical problems, there were added the problems of race. The population included Europeans, Asiatics, Coloureds and Africans with great differences as regards cultural, educational and financial achievements, but in the realm of health these differences, from the point of view of the future, were of little consequence. "It is no use ranting about the expense of your location, health department, native clinics, hospitals, education and social amenities for natives, etc., if you wish the health and happiness of yourselves, your children and your children's children to be safeguarded."

We quote the above words uttered by Dr. Wilkins in Southern Rhodesia as they are equally applicable to the Union.

The "New Outlook"

The second Number of the *New Outlook* is just published in Durban. The first appeared in last April. The reason given for this long interval is that the paper was originally launched by an enterprising young Bantu who, finding himself, after the first issue, in a financial predicament, was reluctantly compelled to give up the idea of publishing the second issue. The publication is stated to be "a non-party magazine catering for the educational needs of teachers, parents, students and men and women of all classes including the man-in-the-street. The present Number is a great improvement on the first one in its get-up and general appearance. It contains interesting articles and information about non-European activities. We welcome the *New Outlook* with our best wishes. If it succeeds in its endeavour to serve the needs of the non-Europeans and in bringing about a better understanding between the Black and the White races, it will have proved worthy of its existence.

Indian Social Service Committee

The tenth anniversary celebration of the Indian Social Service Committee, will take place on Monday, November 22, at 7.30 p.m. at the M. K. Gandhi Library Hall, 140 Queen Street, Durban. The public are invited by the hon. secretary to be present.

New Government Indian School

A new Government Indian school is to be built at Greyville, according to an announcement in the *Provincial Gazette*. The school will have three storeys and accommodate between 500 and 600 pupils. It will serve an urgent need in a thickly populated area, where several hundred children are unable to receive education. According to evidence given before the Education Commission, there were from 35,000 to 37,000 children of school age in Natal, of whom only about 22,000 were on the school rolls. Tenders are being called by Messrs. W. G. Moffat and Hirst, Durban, towards the end of the month.

Indo-European Council

The annual general meeting of the above Council will be held at the Dartnell Crescent Indian Girls' School (formerly Mitchell Crescent), on Tuesday, November 23, at 7.45 p.m. After the completion of the formal business of the annual meeting an informal social will be held at which refreshments will be provided. It is hoped by the secretaries that all members of the Council will make a special effort to attend.

Johannesburg's New Mayor Elected

Mr. J. S. Fotheringham, formerly Deputy-Mayor, was elected Mayor of Johannesburg at a special meeting of the City Council. Mr. J. J. Page, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, was elected Deputy-Mayor. Mr. Fotheringham is the youngest Mayor Johannesburg has had. He was born at Peebles, in Scotland, in 1898.

Meher Baba Arrested

Meher Baba, aged 40, who has been masquerading under the alias of Sir Melsar Baba and who claims to be the founder of a new Buddhist religion, has been arrested at Cannes on the French Riviera. He had induced a number of persons to part with large sums of money; but one of his victims informed the police. In a statement, Baba said he had fled from India owing to the difficulties placed in his way by the British Intelligence. He went to Italy, but was expelled from that country. Baba also claims to be a prophet and predicts that a new world war will break out on December 10, 1938.

Death Of Sir Geoffrey Corbett

The death occurred suddenly on November 2, of Sir Geoffrey Latham Corbett, states a Reuter's message from Cairo. Sir Geoffrey Corbett was the adviser to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Egypt since 1935. In 1920 he was a member of a deputation to South and East Africa. He was a member of the Indian delegation at the last Round Table conferences between the Union and the Indian Governments.

Clairwood Hindu Cemetery

The annual general meeting of the Clairwood Hindu Cemetery was held on November 14. The secretary submitted his report which reflected useful work done during the past year. The report states that, permission to construct a crematorium at the grounds of the present cemetery in Flower Road has been granted by Mr. Campbell, the City and Water Engineer, upon consultation with Dr. G. H. Gunn, the Medical Officer of Health. So far the committee has worked untiringly in the way of raising funds, as about £500 is needed for this important undertaking. The committee has levied the sum of 10s. 6d. on all Hindustani residents who have free-hold properties and 5s. 3d. on all leaseholders. Steps have been taken to inform householders. It is sincerely felt that all residents who have promised donations will make special effort to pay the amount as early as possible, as it has been decided to start work immediately. The financial position, as revealed in the treasurer's report, shows a balance of £15 4s. 4d., plus an amount of £16 17s. 9d. collected in connection with the crematorium, making a total of £32 2s. 1d. The following office-bearers were then elected for the ensuing year:—Chairman: Mr. R. Budree; vice-chairman: Mr. M. Singh; hon. secretary: Mr. S. Gopal; hon. treasurer: Mr. B. R. Maharaj; committee: Messrs. Gobin, K. Harilall, N. Ramperadh, P. R. Panday and Keesor Singh.

Hindu Women's Association

(Salisbury)

A meeting of the Hindu women of Salisbury, convened by Mr. C. C. Patel, was held on November 13, at the Hindu School. Mr. C. C. Patel presided. It was decided to form a Hindu Women's Association, and the following election took place:—President: Mrs. Ichhaben Nagarji Mehta; vice-president: Mrs. Saralaben Chunibhai Patel; secretaries: Mrs. Maniben Haribhai Patel and Mrs. Kashiben Motibhai Patel; treasurer: Mrs. Maniben Narhari Patel. The above five, together with Mrs. Bhikhiben Vallabbhai Patel and Mrs. Maniben Baboolal Patel, formed the executive committee.

Union Condolences On Death Of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald

In the absence of the Union High Commissioner in London the Political Secretary of the Union has communicated the following letter of condolence to the British Government on the death of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald: "I am desired on behalf of the Government and people of the Union of South Africa to express their feelings of deep sorrow at the death of the Right Hon. James Ramsay MacDonald, P.C., M.P., and to convey to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom their condolences on the passing of so distinguished a national figure."

Protests By Non-European Railway Workers

At a mass meeting of the South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (non-European) held in Capetown on Thursday, November 11, unanimous resolutions were passed protesting against their treatment by the Minister of Railways and Harbours and the Railways and Harbours Administration and against what was described as the indifferent attitude adopted by the authorities to requests of their Union supported by the South African Trades and Labour Council. It was demanded that the Minister and Administration should immediately consider increases in wages and improvements in conditions for non-European railways and harbours workers. The Union felt this demand justified in view of the fact that "non-European railway and harbour workers are largely responsible for the high profits made by the Railways and Harbours Administration."

Rand Police Search For Sedan Car

The police are searching for a sedan car involved in the attempted kidnapping of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by Indians on Wednesday, November 10, says Reuter, Johannesburg. The girl told the police that four Indians had pulled her into a car and then, when she struggled, pushed her out again.

Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Prize for literature was awarded to the French writer, Roger Martin Dugard, states a Reuter's message from Stockholm dated November 11.

Social And Personal

MR JALBHOY RUSTOMJEE, chief representative of the New India Assurance Co., after a sojourn of a few months in India, arrived in Durban with his two sons, by the *Kenya* last Wednesday.

Among the notable passengers who have arrived in Durban last Wednesday by the *Kenya* were Mr. Hajee M. M. Moola of Messrs. Mahomed Ismail & Co., of Durban, Mr. Hajee A. M. Shaikh, Mr. Hajee Abdulla E. O. Parekh and Mr. Hajee Ahmed Maiter, well-known merchant of Verulam. The last named is 90 years of age and went for pilgrimage to Mecca for the third time and has returned once again safely to the land of his adoption. His old wife, who had accompanied him, died in India.

Babu Roopsingh, a prominent Indian cane farmer of Chaka's Kraal, has sailed for Calcutta by the *Isipingo*, on Saturday November 13. This is his fourth voyage from Calcutta. Babu Roopsingh intend going on an extensive tour of India, and hopes to return after attending the Indian National Congress.

TRIBUTE TO GANDHIJI

LOVE OF TRUTH AND NON-VIOLENCE

THIS is the 69th anniversary of Gandhiji and it is right that we should celebrate it with great joy all over the country. Most of us do so because we think he is the greatest Indian patriot living and many of us do so for we believe him also to be the most righteous living man of the world. I am sure he loves truth and non-violence as nothing else. But I imagine he values health next only to righteous living. We assume his long life as a matter of course and think he cannot but be with us year after year. We forget that his life has been as much a struggle against evil as a struggle for bodily health. Very often the struggle looks uneven and he seems to fight heavy odds. But ultimately he conquers and lives so that we may have the pleasure of celebrating his birthdays. So many have written and spoken about the mental and spiritual powers of Mahatmaji that most of us forget the bedrock and foundation of that power, —his sound health.

Visible Crucifixion

As all are aware the external appearance of Gandhiji has never been very impressive. He sits straight but you cannot say that when he stands up. He does not like standing long and he seems to walk with legs that work like stilts. The gait is neither easy nor graceful, much less imposing. But it is both firm and quick as many of us younger men know to our cost. The leaders we know of may or may not have a bearing and some are over-bearing. But they can only sit or stand—they cannot walk fast and do not care to run. Few of them attempt to play with their bodies or experiment with them in the interests of truth. Gandhiji's experiments with truth are noble but his experiments with his body for the health of others are the most daring and challenging. It is a visible crucifixion though few seem to reap the good of this vicarious suffering. We are all for Gandhiji's soul force and have only cared for his body so as to take from it the work of a pack animal. If the animal did not kick in time to protect itself we would have killed it long ago. For our ideal of a Mahatma seems to

By

Prof. N. R. MALKANI

In "The Hindustan Times"

be a pure soul disembodied. I believe Gandhiji is the first Indian Mahatma who has considered his body as important and its health as precious, worth preserving. If it were not for the use he makes of his body, Gandhiji would be one of the biggest idol-worshippers in India.

Method In His Madness

Sometimes I have the chance of observing several of our political celebrities at close quarters in the Harijan Colony. It is quite interesting and amusing. It is said that a great man is not the same to his valet as to outsiders and I have had the honour of trying to play the valet to some. And

wear and tear of body and mind go on at a fearful pace. Our forefathers fatigued chiefly their muscles but we seem to exhaust the strength of the nerves as well. So many of our best men are a bundle of nerves. But Gandhiji's nerves are always restful. You have seen him at or after prayers in the morning and evening, so calm and reposeful. But few have seen him after a bath. I think it gives him a pleasure that is physical and almost sensuous. He emerges out of the bathroom with a copper-coloured skin, a springy gait and a radiant smile. The bath is the only place where he is alone and unwatched. In all other places he pursued by public gaze and required to behave as a Mahatma. He becomes human and himself when alone in his tub, he rests or reads or perhaps plays with the water. It washes and cools him.

Line Of Life

We hear again that he requires rest, for his blood-pressure is going up. When you and I feel flabby in our arms and legs or worse still the stomach, we have fears about the state of our brain. When great men have a rising pressure of the blood they get flabby in the brain. Luckily the Mahatma realises in time that high blood pressure is the remorse of an overworked brain and loses no time in regaining the proper balance. Other Mahatmas were great but Mahatma Gandhi has seemed to me also one of the most balanced in his behaviour. My only grouse is that he lets many of us run for recovering our balance after helping us to lose it first. So far as he is concerned he is as astute with Death during sickness as so many Viceroys believe him to be in politics. He tempts both and sometimes is granted an interview. It is believed that the latter grant him one only when they must, and I am of the opinion that even Death is not more willing than the Viceroy of India to visit Gandhiji. It will require any amount of persuasion and trickery to wean the great Mahatma of the love of life. For he has always the support of the Greatest Himself. Like a wise physician he opposes Death by advocating Nature, as like a great Seer he opposes tyranny by presenting Truth.

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once I spoke my mind out to Gandhiji. "Bapu, there is much that is mad about you. Nevertheless there is some method about the mad Mahatma. But so-and-so is mad without a method. You think you work hard but so-and-so works harder than you. You imagine you sleep very little though you never seem to lose a chance to snatch it from nowhere. But so-and-so seems to sleep nowhere. I am feeling a sort of compassion for so-and-so—seeing the way he tramples on his body until it will rise in revolt some day to smite the oppressor." And this so-and-so is not a figment of my brain but you would be surprised to know the number it may include. Why, Mahatma is a regular connoisseur about the needs of the body. Simple and nutritious food, regular walks, open air, pure water, good sleep, light clothes and temperance in all things. He is fully aware of the influence of the mind and spirit on the body. In this railway and aeroplane age the

The Sporting World

Hindu Youth Club

MR. C. G. PILLAY, of Port Elizabeth, was a guest of the Hindu Youth Club (Durban), on Sunday, November 14. Mr. Pillay is the only Indian in South Africa who has gained the unique distinction as the South African Light Weight Lifting Olympic Champion, which honour he has gained at the Olympic games organised by the South African Weight Lifting Federation at Johannesburg in 1933 and 1934. Before a large number of audience, and members of the Youth Club, Mr. Pillay gave a very fine exhibition of weight lifting and quoted some useful hints in the art of weight lifting which was well appreciated by all those who were present. The members of the Hindu Youth Club thanked Mr. Pillay and wished him every success in the future. Mr. Pillay now leaves for Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Dipawali Sports At Chaka's Kraal

The fourth annual tournament for the Roopsingh's Floating Trophy took place at the Indian School ground on Sunday, November 14. Fourteen teams participated in the day's event. Although

By "Rambler"

there were sudden changes in the weather, the tournament ended well. Verulam Indian school team was declared winner and Umhloti school team made the runners-up. In presenting the cup, the donor, Mr. Roopsingh, thanked the various sportsmasters for their kind assistance and co-operation in conducting the games. Mr. P. K. Moodley presided in the absence of the chairman, Mr. John P. Lutchmansingh. He thanked the officials of the Dipawali sports, for bringing the sports to a success and urged that more schools should join in next year. He congratulated the winners on behalf of the organising committee.

Witwatersrand Indian Cricket Union

Under the auspices of the above Union, a match was staged between the Hindus and Vredons Cricket Clubs on Sunday, November 14, on the Johannesburg Indian sports ground. The match was exciting from the beginning, but the termination brought the spectators to their feet. The Hindus, batting first,

scored 61 runs, and the Vredons 60 runs. The only one on the Hindus C.O.'s side to reach double figures, was Jasmat Bhai, 11 runs. For the Vredons, Mithlan Naidoo scored a faultless 33. In the second innings of the Hindus they compiled 85 runs, Magan making 29. The Vredons, with 45 minutes to play, had to score 87 runs to achieve a victory. The opening pair of the Vredons, B. Desmond Sigamoney and George Williams, set about their task in a businesslike fashion. Both batsmen showing great skill and daring in executing their shots and stealing every run possible. The first wicket fell for 81 runs. George Williams with 31 to his credit was run out and B. Desmond Sigamoney scored a faultless 50 not out, and with the assistance of 8 byes, the Vredons achieved a great victory. Analysis of bowling:—Vredons first innings: Mithlan Naidoo 3 wickets for 15 runs, Leonard Williams 4 wickets for 14 runs, Rev. B Sigamoney 3 wickets for 26 runs; Hindus: D. K. D-sai 5 wickets for 26 runs, M. Daya 2 wickets for 31 runs, Narsai 1 wicket for 2 runs. Vredons, second innings: Leonard Williams 4 wickets for 40 runs, B. D. Sigamoney 2 wickets for 22 runs, Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney 1 wicket for 6 runs.

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