

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Mahatma Gandhi's Health Causes Universal Anxiety

THE following Reuter's message from New Delhi causing grave anxiety was received on Saturday morning November 20:

"Mr. Gandhi's blood pressure is bordering on dangerous levels, according to a statement issued by his doctors, who state that his condition has never before been at such a low ebb."

After keeping the outer world in suspense for the whole of Saturday, Sunday and Monday Reuter from Wardha favoured us with the following more hopeful message on Tuesday which appeared in Durban in *The Daily News* in the afternoon:

"Gandhi's condition shows a distinct improvement. His blood pressure came down appreciably overnight, but complete rest is still essential."

Prayer services were held by the Jewish, the Christian and the Indian communities in Johannesburg. The Very Rev. W. A. Palmer, the Dean of Johannesburg conducted the service at the Cathedral, assisted by the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney. The Hindu Seva Samaj held a prayer meeting at the Trades Hall and the Patidar Society held a meeting at the Patidar Hall. Prayer meetings were also held in the Cape and Natal. May God bless him with the restoration of his health and long life is our fervent prayer.

### Death Of Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose

The God of Death has plucked yet another great man of India. India has produced men who have made great contributions to the world. One among them was Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose whose death at the age of 79 was reported by Reuter on Tuesday. Sir Jagadis has contributed to the scientific world what no person has yet done. The most amazing of his discoveries was that even the mute things of the world such as plants and trees had life and sensitiveness in them as the living creatures. "Never beat a woman even with a flower, for who knows which of the two suffers most." These words are

quoted from the writings of Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose. Can there be a stronger appeal for non-violence than this? His scientific research in this respect has made a great contribution in India at least in engendering the spirit of non-violence. Not only India but the world will miss Sir Jagadis's physical presence but in spirit he will for ever be with us through his great works.

### Indians And Johannesburg Trams And Buses

Because the leader of the deputation from the 'Skakelkomitee van Afrikaanse Verenigings' to the Tramways and Lighting Committee of the Johannesburg City Council declined to make the deputation's representations in English, on the ground that he could express himself better in Afrikaans on November 12, the interview had to be postponed until next month in order that arrangements could be made for the deputation's views to be recorded in Afrikaans. The Skakelkomitee is opposed to Indians and Coloured-people travelling on the same trams and buses as Europeans. There are at present three proposals before the committee, which will be considered by the Council-in-committee next month. They are that the upstairs front seats in trams and buses be reserved for non-Europeans, that the whole of the upper deck be so reserved, that trams and buses be allotted for the exclusive use of non-Europeans.

Indians in Johannesburg had taken strong objection when the first attempt was made to segregate them on trams. It was after one Indian life was lost as a result of his being thrown out by an anti-Indian while the tram was running that Indians were left in peace. For years they have been travelling freely by the ordinary tram cars taking their seats anywhere on the upper deck. If now they are prohibited from so doing it is a sure sign of their status being not improved but lowered.

### Ventersdorp Chamber Of Commerce

The question whether Indians could be permitted to join the Ventersdorp Chamber of Commerce was discussed at the annual general meeting, a letter having been received from the secretary of the Indian community making this request. In the letter it was pointed out that the interests of the Indian traders were the same as those of the Europeans, and that the Indians had always adhered to the rulings of the Ventersdorp Chamber. The letter further stated that at Louis Trichardt Indians had recently been admitted to membership of the Chamber of Commerce, and that two of them were on the executive. It was decided to reply that the Chamber did not see its way clear to admit them at present. Members said that they did not see the necessity for admitting Indians to the body. If they had any grievances, they might put them in writing, or alternatively the Chamber might meet a deputation. One member considered that they ought to be given representation. Indians were provided every opportunity for making money, he declared, but none of spending it.

### Anti-Asiatic Resolutions To Come Before United Party Congress

Among the important resolutions appearing on the agenda drawn up for the second national congress of the United Party to be held at Bloemfontein on December 2 and 3, there are some conflicting ones on the question of legislation against mixed marriages. Hottentots Holland and Somerset East, while disapproving of mixed marriages will ask congress to express itself definitely against the introduction of legislation to prohibit such marriages. Frankfort, too, will ask for support for the Government's policy to have the whole question investigated by a commission. On the other hand, Delarey will propose that marriages between Europeans and non-Europeans be prohibited by law, and Wolmaranstaad will propose legislation against marriages between Europeans and Asiatics, against Asiatics employing Europeans, and against any Asiatic being allowed to trade within six miles of any area in which he had been refused a licence.

### Indians In Fiji

Mr. C. F. Andrews last month issued the following statement to the Press with regard to the political crisis in Fiji owing to the Governor's ordering three elected Indian members to vacate their seats on the Legislative Council:—

On September 24, three elected members Vishnu Deo Chatter Singh and Tula Ram did not attend the first session of the Legislative Council to which they had been duly elected by their constituencies as a mark of disapproval because the Governor had given precedence to a nominated member over those who had been directly chosen by the Indian community. At the session of the Council on September 28, the three Indian elected members attended but were not sworn-in and the Governor ordered them to vacate their seats. They are now out of the Council and have asked the Government of India and the Indian National Congress to protest against this arbitrary action. If the Governor, as appears to me probable, has exceeded his powers, the strongest protest ought to be made. For in that case he would not only have over-riden the rights of the Indian members of the Legislative Council but also the rights of the Indian constituencies which elected them and the matter should be taken up at once with the Colonial Office.

The *Hindustan Times* supporting Mr. Andrews writes:—"There would be universal agreement with his suggestion that the matter should be taken up at once with the Colonial Office. We wonder if the Department of the Government of India dealing with Indians overseas has been aware of the new development or has chosen to move in the matter. Their experience of the Colonial Office over the Zanzibar Clove Legislation has not been of a sort that would tempt them to make representations. But the case of Fiji Indians should not be allowed to go by default."

### Board To Test Court Interpreters

The Department of Justice announces that, in order to ensure that all persons appointed as interpreters in Magistrate's Courts are efficient, a scheme of examining boards has been evolved. In Natal a central board of examiners has been constituted which will sit as, and when required, at Maritzburg for examination of candidates seeking appointments in the department as interpreters in Courts in Natal. The members of this board are: Mr. C. S. Williams (chairman), Mr. C. A. N. Faye, Magistrate of Verulam, and Mr. J. D. Dafel, interpreter clerk on the staff of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Maritzburg. The board will only test applicants for Natal or applicants desiring appointments in Natal.

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 1937

### Freedom Of The Press

THE whole of the South African Press is seething with indignation at an apology which the Union Government through the Department of External Affairs has tendered to the Italian Government and people for the publication of two news articles which appeared in *The Natal Mercury* a few days ago dealing with the family life of Signor Mussolini. One of these articles was based upon facts related by a British news magazine with a worldwide circulation. The other was supplied by a responsible British news agency. The Union Government's apology is worded as follows:

"The attention of the Union Government has recently been drawn by the Italian Charge d'Affaires to the contents of two articles which appeared in *The Natal Mercury* on November 9 and 15 respectively dealing with the family life of Signor Mussolini, the head of the Italian Government. The Union Government has expressed its sincerest regrets to the Italian Government for the extreme bad taste and utter lack of consideration for the feelings of the Italian people displayed in those articles and has offered to the Italian Government and people its sincerest apologies."

We Indians who are a people suppressed and oppressed both by the Government as well as by the freedom-loving people of this country can still appreciate the righteous indignation felt by the Press and the people over this amazing step on the part of the Department of External Affairs of the Union Government. Little did we think that the South African Government with its much vaunted Sovereign independence would allow itself to be thus swayed by the Italian Dictator. We do not know if the Union Government feels the self-satisfaction of having performed a chivalrous act by tendering this apology to Signor Mussolini and the Italian people. Sensible public opinion, however, holds quite a different view. It is at a loss to know whether the display of "etreme bad taste" was in the publication of facts by *The Natal Mercury* about a much criticised world figure or whether it is in the apology which depicts not only utter slavishness on the part of the Union Government but

is void of even the elementary rules of courtesy and fairness and justice.

We are not concerned much about the subject matter of the articles in question, but if the statements in them were incorrect or amounted to slander the proper course would have been for the Italian representatives in this country to take exception to them and the newspaper concerned would no doubt have willingly given the fullest publicity to the denial, or, if it failed to do so, the law of libel could have been applied. The proper course for the Department of External Affairs would have been to inform the Italian Government that the Government of this country was not responsible for what appeared in the Press which enjoyed absolute freedom and to pass on the complaint to the newspaper concerned.

We are accustomed in India to the ban on the Press. But there the Press is muzzled in order that it may not criticise the Government of the country; not out of fear of an invasion of a foreign Dictator. Whether it be cowardice or the growing inclination to welcome the muzzling of the South African Press that has prompted this utterly foolish action on the part of the Union Government, a reply to both has been given in unequivocal terms by the Press and the public of South Africa.

It has condemned the former and has expressed a firm determination not to tolerate the latter.

To introduce legislation to restrict in any way the liberties of the Press, says *The Natal Mercury*, "would be a move which would be resisted to the utmost by every newspaper in this country. A free and unafraid Press is the greatest bulwark of democratic freedom, and to place in the hands of the government of a country which claims to have democratic institutions the power to muzzle the Press would be fashioning a dangerous weapon for the eventual destruction of those institutions, for the temptation to use it in order to repress the expression of inconvenient or embarrassingly critical opinions might become irresistible to any government determined upon power." This is exactly what is being done in India and it will never for a moment be tolerated by the freedom-loving people of South Africa.

# DURBAN BOROUGH EXTENSION AND LOAN ORDINANCE

## AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION FOR RATING

The following has been sent to land owners in Durban and Greater Durban by the City Valuator and Estates Manager:—

**A**S an outcome of the report of the Commission appointed in 1935 to enquire into the operation of the Durban Borough Extension and Loan Ordinance No. 16 of 1931, certain alterations to the provisions of that Ordinance affecting agricultural rating were considered necessary and consequently Ordinance No. 9 of 1937 was promulgated.

"I attach hereto the relevant extract from the Ordinance dealing with the amended agricultural classification.

"You will appreciate that the records in my possession do not provide the information necessary to enable me to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance in that the majority of the detailed inspections of the land were carried out some considerable time ago, and that routine inspections alone, in order to observe the use of the property, have since been undertaken.

"In order that I may endeavour to interpret correctly the provisions of this Ordinance, legal advice has been obtained, and as a result, all land less than 5 acres in extent is to be deleted from Agricultural Classification in the new Valuation Roll; with properties of 5 acres and over the same procedure has been followed where I am not satisfied that *bona fide* and exclusive use is being made according to the provisions of the new ordinance.

"In order that you might assist me to classify your property correctly there is sent herewith, for your completion and return to me, an application form. I would stress the fact that the desired information should be supplied before I can give consideration to your application.

"In order that you will be caused as little inconvenience as possible, the procedure to be followed in connection with your application is briefly outlined as under:—

(i) After completion, the application form, together with any lease, should be returned to me as soon as possible, but not later than 21 days from date hereof.

(ii) The property will then be inspected and your claim examined.

(iii) You will then be advised whether I am prepared to recommend the classification of your property or any portion of it as agricultural or not.

(iv) In the event of a favourable advice from me, no further action by you will be necessary.

(v) If, however, you are not prepared to accept my decision, then your claim will have to be settled by the Valuation Appeal Board at a time and in a place not yet fixed, but of which due notice will be given.

"By pursuing this course I shall no doubt be accused of harsh treatment, but the late promulgation of this Ordinance really did not leave me any other alternative; the Ordinance was assented to by the Governor-General-in-Council on the 8th July, 1937, and operates from 1st August, 1937.

"If you return the attached form complete in all detail to me within 21 days from the date hereof it will suffice as an appeal which can either be settled by mutual agreement between us or placed before the Valuation Appeal Board in due course.

"If you do not return the attached form complete in all detail to me within 21 days from date hereof, it will be necessary for you to lodge a formal appeal within one month from publication of the Valuation Roll on 18th November, 1937, as prescribed by Law.

"With thanks in anticipation of your prompt and kindly assistance."

### Extract From Ordinance No. 9 Of 1937

#### AMENDMENT OF SECTION 14 OF ORDINANCE 16 OF 1931:

#### RATES ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

3. Section 14 of the Durban Borough Extension and Loan Ordinance, 1931, is hereby amended with effect from the first day of August, 1937:—

(1) by the repeal of sub-section (3) and the substitution therefor of the following new sub-section:—

(3) The expression "agricultural land" as herein used means any land not less than five acres in extent and

any buildings thereon used by the owner or occupier thereof *bona fide* and exclusively for:—

(a) the pasturing, running or herding of animals in connection with a licensed or registered dairy;

(b) a tree plantation;

(c) market or nursery gardening;

(d) farming operations of any kind, including poultry farming;

and also any land less than five acres in extent and any building thereon used as aforesaid for purpose (c) above where market or nursery gardening is, in the opinion of the City Valuator, the sole or one of the principal means of livelihood of such owner or occupier, but shall not include:—

(i) any building used or intended for use as a human habitation, together with the land occupied by such building, provided that where the land so occupied is less in extent than one quarter of an acre such building shall be deemed to occupy one-quarter of an acre;

(ii) any land or building used for purposes (a) or (b) above where that use is auxiliary or incidental to the occupation of a dwelling house;

(iii) any land or building used for purpose (a) above where the animals are used or intended for use in commercial vehicles;

(iv) leased land where the owner or a lessor derives, by way of gross rental, a sum greater than 10 per cent. per annum upon the value of such land as fixed by the Borough Valuator or on appeal.

(2) by the addition thereto after sub-section (4) of the following new sub-section:—

(5) Where two or more adjoining pieces or sub-divisions of land, any of which is less than five acres in extent, are owned or occupied by one person and comprise together an area of not less than five acres in extent, the whole area so comprised shall, for the purpose of this section, be deemed to constitute a single piece of land and shall be valued accordingly, and section 90 of the Boroughs Ordinance, 1924, shall, in so far as is necessary, be deemed to be amended by this sub-section.

# PANDIT NEHRU SURVEYS WORLD EVENTS

**PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU** delivered an interesting address at a huge mass meeting held in Gandhi Park, Delhi, last month. He referred to the present condition in India and dealt at considerable length with the events taking place in other parts of the world.

The peace of the world, he said, was menaced and preparations for war were going on in Europe and other countries at a feverish pace.

Factories manufacturing war materials had been working day and night for the last two years and men engaged in the production of war materials enjoyed not even the Christmas.

Although such was the pace at which production of war materials was going on, no country in the world wanted war. Nations trembled at the devastating nature of the next war. But war was inevitable. It would come. In fact, it was already on them.

## Sino-Jap War: Spain And Palestine

Japan was waging an undeclared war on the Chinese, and the civilian population, including women and children, were bombed. War had been going on for a considerable time now in Spain and trouble had broken out in Palestine also, where martial law had been declared and so many institutions had been declared unlawful.

Newspapers had been banned. British imperialism was trying to crush the brave Arabs.

Disaster would follow from the next war and there would be utter ruination on all sides. They were already reading about horrible happenings in places where war was being waged.

## Effect On India

The events happening in other parts of the world would have their effect on India and the British Empire. He could not say how the British Empire would fare in the next war, whether it would survive it or "go under." Nobody could foresee about that but he could say this much, that within the next 10 or 15 years the British Empire would be profoundly affected and it was possible that it might break up.

He would not be sorry if that happened for the British Empire had been the cause of much unhappiness to subject nations.

## Two Parties In Next War

There would be only two forces working in the next war, namely, the one

which struggled for freedom of their respective countries and the other trying to keep the nations in slavery.

The events taking place in Spain profoundly moved them. They could not send their men to fight for the Spanish Government but they could send an ambulance corps.

One hundred Indian volunteers were fighting on the side of the Spanish Government forces.

Continuing, Panditji said that they should follow world events keenly and must be ready for war when it came. They must be in a position to defend themselves for which the primary need was organization.

They could not afford to fight over petty things, over some communal questions when weightier issues were before them seeking solution.

There were so many dangers before them but the Congress was the only organization in the country which could fight British imperialism. They should

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forget small quarrels and concentrate on the achievement of freedom for the country.

"For," asked Panditji fervently, "who lives if India dies?"

Proceeding, Panditji said that they should forget their differences and unite to fight their common enemy.

India's condition seemed perplexing to him at times. He was a professional politician. As president of the Congress, he had tremendous responsibilities on his shoulders. He had no escape but to face them. At times, they were very tiring. Those responsibilities had been on his shoulders for a long time now but he had never shirked them. The fate of several crores of people were given in his hands. Faced with certain difficult situations, it was not easy for him to say which course to follow and which not to follow.

He had to feel the pulse of the country and see whether the country was going backward or forward. He always had to keep an eye to see that the forward step was maintained.

## Threshold Of Freedom

He could see that they were on the threshold of freedom for the Motherland. But they could not shut their eyes to the many difficulties besetting their path.

The shouting of "Inqilab Zindabad" would not bring them freedom. India could not achieve freedom through these slogans. They should consider seriously the questions facing the country and the world. They could not say how far Indians had understood those problems and their implications. The achievement of freedom was not an end in itself. There were questions like unemployment, poverty, etc., which they would have to face courageously and solve. But those questions were not easy of solution. Mass consciousness would have to be created about their rights and duties and a feeling of self-confidence must be brought about in their outlook. If there was no consciousness among the masses, there would be a downfall even if they achieved their freedom. They had to realize their own strength. If they did that there was no nation on earth which could keep them down.

The Civil Disobedience movement showed them their strength. They should cease praising their leaders too much. A handful of persons would deceive them and they would be in a sorry plight.

## Work Of Ministries

Referring to the work of the Ministries, Panditji said that the Congress Government had been established in seven provinces. But they should not run away with the idea that Swaraj had dawned on them in those provinces. The British were still there and it was wrong to think that Swaraj had come to them. The Congress had accepted office after nearly two years of discussion. They had accepted office not on any petty consideration but to make themselves strong. If they had the power, they would help the peasants and labourers and improve their condition. But it was a known fact that they had no power to help them.

## Country Mortgaged To I.C.S.

They could not help the peasants because the country was, so to say, mortgaged to the I.C.S. They could not bring about the necessary reforms, economic and otherwise, in the country. It was for that reason that they hesitated at first to accept office but ultimately they agreed to take office. Conditions, however, remained practically the same. The poor peasants felt

that there had been no change. They could only breathe a little more freely under the Congress ministries. That was all. They could now go to their ministers and complain if there was any misbehaviour on the part of the police or other officials. But if they knew the real position they would be puzzled. They should not think that they had got all power and that their enemies were weak. It was dangerous to go about with such illusions. They had to make themselves strong.

### This Picture And That

Panditji referred to the work of the U.P. Ministry and how they had decided to release all political prisoners. While on the one hand, the Congress ministries were releasing prisoners in the Punjab and in Bengal, more arrests had been made on political grounds.

### Federation Condemned

Regarding Federation, Panditji said that there could be no agreement on that question. If Federation was introduced that would serve as a check on their move for freedom. They would be tied

down along with the States and their march forward would be hampered.

A reference in a poem sung in praise of Panditji at the commencement of the meeting and in which the hope was expressed how coins with the figure of Panditji on them would become currency in the country, was made the occasion for roundly attacking the practice of imprinting the figures of kings and their heads on coins and the system of monarchy.

He admitted that there were good kings but the sum total of their rule had been much misery to the people.

# SUPPRESSION OF CIVIL LIBERTY IN INDIA

## PROTEST AT LONDON CONFERENCE

**E**ARL LISTOWEL presided at the conference convened by the National Council of the Civil Liberties in India League last month in London to protest "against the suppression of civil liberty in India."

The senders of messages of goodwill included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. M. N. Roy, Sir Stafford Cripps and Prof. Norman Ansel.

Lord Listowel described the Viceroy's special powers as the greatest blot on the new constitution and opined that it should have been possible to apply the Statute of Westminster under the new constitution so that India could enjoy Dominion status.

Prof. Laski said that India herself will have to fight for her liberties, but it was also necessary that Englishmen fight therefor for there was every danger of England losing her civil liberty if India's liberties were not secured.

The Conference passed a resolution condemning the enforcement by the Government of India of repressive laws and administrative orders, wholly inconsistent with democracy and deploring the "policy of the Punjab and Bengal Governments in maintaining the rigour of the old regime."

### Pandit Nehru's Message

After narrating the circumstances under which the Government of India Act was enforced and the Congress accepted offices, Pandit Nehru observed in his message:—"The ac-

ceptance of ministerial offices by Congressmen in seven provinces brought a rapid and marked change in all these provinces. The change was especially noticeable with regard to civil liberties

"Bans imposed by the Government on hundreds of organisations were removed, a large number of political prisoners released, securities taken from newspapers returned. The continuous shadowing of public workers became less obvious. Public meetings were not interfered with. The people felt, to some extent, that they had awakened from a nightmare."

Pandit Nehru added that much remained to be done but the restrictions in the provincial autonomy scheme were terrible. Referring to non-Congress provinces Pandit Nehru said:—

"Bengal, as in the past so to-day, keeps the lead in repression and suppression of civil liberties. It takes one's breath away to learn that in Chittagong alone 3,000 persons are interned and restricted by Government orders.

"Large numbers of detenus are still in Bengal untried, unconvicted, but kept in concentration camps for years.

"The Punjab is no better. The full weight of the British Raj continues to be felt by the unhappy people of Bengal and the Punjab."

### Poet On Britain's Greed For Material Gain

"English people though they are traditionally supposed to cherish liberty for its own sake, allowed other people

to be robbed of it without any scruple howsoever simple, because their greed for material satisfactions has been effectively appeased thereby. Perhaps my English friends will not agree with me there, but when rivalry for colonial exploitation would become still more acute, British citizens will find it necessary to arm their Government at home with extraordinary powers to defend their possessions abroad. Then they will suddenly wake up to find that they have forfeited their own liberty and drifted into the Fascist grip, and then they will realise that liberty has true foundation only in moral worth of individuals who compose the State."

Thus observed Dr Rabindranath Tagore, President of the All-India Civil Liberties Union in the course of a message to the London conference on civil liberty in India. Dr. Tagore further said that the privilege of liberty which each individual had to defend daily for himself for even the most democratic form of Government tended to be oppressive if its tyranny was tempted by indifference or cowardice of its subjects.

### 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.

# LECTURESHIP FUND

IN response to the appeal made by Pandit Rishiram on behalf of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha for the Lectureship Fund, the following cash contributions are thankfully acknowledged. These amounts have been deposited in a Trust Account:—

M. C. Varman £315, B. M. Patel £105, Pandit Rishiram £51 10s., R. B. Chetty (£51) 1st Instalment £31, B. Purmasir & Sons £51, Tom Murugan Bros £51, Dhun Sorabjee Rustomjee £51, Choonilal Bros. £51, A. Moonsamy Bros. £51, V. S. C. Pather £25, Bhagat & Co. £25, Govan Mani £25, Raghavjee Ragnath & Sons £25, Parshotam Vallabh & Co. (£25) 1st Instalment £12 10s., Hari Jogia & Son £25, R. D. Chowthee £25, A. M. Padayachee £25, Mrs. Muthosamy Govender £25, R. Talawantsingh (£51) 1st Instalment £25, C. N. Rana £25, S. Ramtahal Kauri (£25) 1st Instalment £12 10s., H. A. Thaker (£51) 1st Instalment £12 10s.  
—Total: £1,045.

## Pandit Rishiram's Statement

Pandit Rishiram has made the following public statement:—"It is a

matter of sincere gratification that the condition of One Thousand Pounds (£1,000) to be collected by the 15th of November, 1937, imposed on me by my co-workers and the public, has been fulfilled. In this connection I heartily congratulate Mr. M. C. Varman for his splendid response to the appeal by contributing £315 to the Fund. He is not a rich man in the ordinary sense, but he has set a remarkable example to the rich brethren of our community. I now request the public to set aside all doubts about the success of the scheme and all should come forward to help the scheme to the completion as early as possible. If we have committed any mistakes in the past, let us benefit by that experience and organise our public activities on a better and sounder basis in the future. One thing is clear, that all appreciate the potentialities of the scheme for the good, not only of the Hindus, but of the whole public. I do

feel that my own responsibility in the undertaking and to the best of my ability I shall see that the whole scheme is put on a sound foundation. I may not be always in South Africa; but I shall be always available to help in the working of the scheme from India. A meeting of the donors will be held on November 28 to consider further steps about the formation of the scheme and the establishment of a Trust. All sympathisers who can give any help and constructive suggestion about the scheme are welcome to help us by their advice which will be given full consideration. Voluntary contributions sent to me or to the Secretaries of the Hindu Maha Sabha, will be much appreciated and thankfully acknowledged in the press. There are so many Hindu organisations in the Province and it is up to them to move in their circle and send contributions on behalf of their societies.

# INDIA LOSES WORLD FAMOUS SCIENTIST

A REUTER message from Calcutta on Tuesday, November 23, announced the death of Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, the eminent scientist who discovered the heart beat in trees, and was the founder and director of the Bose Institute of Research, Calcutta. Sir Jagadis was 79 years of age.

By the death of Jagadis Bose, writes the *Natal Mercury*, the world has lost a scientist whose work was so revolutionary and so startling that it appeared to leave the world of reality and to enter the realms of fantasy.

Among the discoveries that Sir Jagadis made were that:

Trees "shudder" when given a shock;

They have regular heart beats;

Carrots can be intoxicated with alcohol; and

Certain Indian plants can provide heart stimulants stronger than any previously known.

The famous scientist was born in 1858 and, after studying at St. Xavier's College at Calcutta, went to Cambridge, where he graduated with high honours. In 1885 he was appointed Professor of Physics at the Presidency College at Calcutta.

He was a man of amazingly diversified abilities, and his research was by no means confined to one subject. His first research work was carried out in electricity and in 1896 he demonstrated to the British Association an apparatus for studying the properties of electric waves which bore a strong resemblance to the coherers used later for wireless.

Sir Jagadis then conducted research in which the methods of the physicist were applied to the animal and vegetable kingdoms, with startling results. He was convinced that the study of plants would help to solve the problems of animal life, and he established by his researches the great generalisation of the identical nature of the physiological mechanism in all life, both animal and vegetable.

He found that the tree is a colony of innumerable living units. To ascertain whether the cells in the interior perceived a shock given from the outside, Sir Jagadis invented his "infinitesimal contraction recorder," by which the cellular contraction under mechanical shock was shown.

One of his experiments proved how plants struggle against death. He sent gradually increasing shocks through a piece of living stem and by means of his magnifying recorder showed on a screen the twitch given under a weak shock. When a high tension current was used the shuddering convulsions were terrible to behold, but they diminished until the plant was dead.

Sir Bose discovered that plants possess hearts similar to those of animals. He refuted the common theory that the sap rises from the root upwards, demonstrating that it is sent out from the heart. His plant sphygmograph showed on the screen the actual process of the distribution of the sap.

He also exhibited by his recording instruments the effects on plants of imbibing water containing ether and of poisoning them with bromide or

cyanide. Sir Bose actually made a canary drunk and showed on a slide its erratic behaviour under the influence of alcohol. When given water the plant recorded regular heart beats, but when dipped in bromide it gave slower and slower taps as death approached. When the plant was placed in caffeine life reasserted itself and the taps gradually returned to regularity.

These tests led to valuable discoveries of extracts from Indian plants which had been found effective in the botanical experiments. They were tried on frogs and brought them back to life after the heart had stopped. Their efficacy is far greater than that of any hitherto used and the investigation will lead to a new pharmacopoeia for the relief of humanity and the establishment of a vast industry for the utilisation in medicine of indigenous Indian plants. One of Bose's drugs employed in hospitals is a cardiac stimulant of unequalled power.

He also chronicled the hours of sleep and wakefulness of plants and the effects on them of being tired, ill or wounded. He showed the reactions of their nerves, which react like those of animals.

In 1915 Sir Jagadis founded the Bose Research Institute. He was Knighted two years later and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1920, being the first Indian so honoured for other than mathematical work.

A practical result of his work has been the demonstration that it is possible to accelerate or retard the growth of a plant so as to baffle noxious insects. The boll-weevil attains maturity when

the cotton plant flowers. But Bose demonstrated that if the flowering was advanced or delayed by a few days, the weevil would arrive and find nothing to attack. It would, he said, take

many years for the maturity of the weevil and the flowering of the cotton to synchronise again.

The Bose Institute became an international centre of science and a number

of famous men visited it from time to time.

Sir Jagadis wrote a number of remarkable books and received many academic honours.

# Things In General

## Notice Regarding Outstanding Rates In City Of Durban

IN accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Ordinance No. 19 of 1924, a list of arrears of rates payable with interest in respect thereof upon rateable properties, is published in the *Natal Provincial Gazette* dated November 18, and notice is given that the owners or reputed owners of the said properties named in the list, and the mortgage or mortgages (if any), are required to make payment of such arrears within six months from the publication of this notice. In default thereof, application at the expiration of such six months will be made to the Supreme Court to order such properties to be sold by public auction in satisfaction of all rates, interest and expenses which shall be due in respect of such properties up to and at the time of such application, and of all rates that accrue between the date of such application and such sale by public auction. The said list contains many Indian names.

## Springfield Indians' Protest

Durban's Springfield Flat Indian market gardeners who are affected by the proposed lease of 150 acres of land by the City Council to the Durban Turf Club for use as a training track for race-horses, have registered a protest with the Town Clerk against a proposal by the Turf Club to hold a meeting between a representative of the Club and the tenants. The market gardeners have confirmed in writing their offer to purchase their holdings in freehold at £100 an acre subject to the payment being made over five years and that a servitude be registered against the freehold title limiting the use of the land to market gardening and farming pursuits. In their letter of protest the market gardeners state that they have been approached by the sirdar of the Corporation Estates Department, who intimated that they must assemble on Wednesday next to meet the Club representative. In view of their offer to purchase the land at £25 an acre higher than the price asked by the Council of the Turf Club, the gardeners ask that the proposed meeting should be abandoned "as we are not prepared to deal with anybody than our landlords—the City Council." The tenants claim that since they have paid their rates totalling £17,000 since the Council acquired Springfield they should be allowed

this privilege and no third party should intervene.

## Nuffield Gift To The Union —Care Of Cripples

Professor Girdlestone, professor of orthopaedical surgery at Oxford University, and Miss I. M. Nangle, secretary of the Central Council for the Care of Cripples, are coming to South Africa next month at the request of Lord Nuffield, who gave £100,000 to the Union for the care of indigent cripples. Miss Nangle will arrive in Durban by air on December 13. A local committee has been formed to investigate and collate information about all child and adult cripples of all races in Natal. The committee appeals to all interested persons to submit to it the names, ages, addresses and any other details of indigent cripples, irrespective of race or colour. This information is required by the middle of next month, and should be sent to Mr. A. Elsbury, Town Hall Basement, Durban.

## Durban's Slum Clearance Activities

The Durban City Council, on Monday, November 22, accepted tenders for the construction of 500 houses under State-aided sub-economic housing schemes at a total cost of £105,550. This includes the Indian sub-economic housing scheme of 50 houses at Cato Manor at a cost of £8,609.

## Trading Licence Refused

### In Estcourt

The Estcourt Town Council sat for three hours on Friday, November 19, considering an application for transfer of a trading licence from premises in one street to premises in another. The applicant was Mr. M. E. Haffeejee. Mr. W. L. Howes, of Maritzburg, appeared for applicant. Mr. J. M. K. Chadwick appeared for certain objectors. The applicant originally obtained his licence in July, 1936, after appealing from the decision of the licencing officer, who had refused it. When Mr. M. E. Haffeejee applied for renewal on December 31, 1936, the application was again refused by the licencing officer on the ground that conditions imposed by the Town Council had not been complied with. Once more the Town Council over-rode the licencing officer's decision and granted the application, this time imposing further conditions with which the applicant promised to comply by July, 1937. The objectors

in the present case claimed that even now not one of the conditions which the applicant had promised to fulfil has been carried out. They were considered to have proved their point, and the application for transfer was refused.

## Shree Gopallal Hindu Temple (Verulam)

A committee meeting of the above Temple was held on October 31, at the Temple Hall. The president pointed out that a banking account had been opened at the Barclay's Bank, Verulam, and all cheques will be signed by the president and the treasurer. The important matter of the day was to open a collection list for the erection of a new hall, in which vernacular will be taught. A sanskrit teacher, for the purpose, will be arriving soon from India. The new hall will cost about £600, and the present hall which was built in 1912, is about to collapse. Babu Talawantsingh then opened the list by making a princely gift of £100, and was followed by a magnificent gift of £100 by Mrs. Raghunandan. It was unanimously decided that photos of persons donating a sum of £25 and upwards be hung in the new hall when ready, and that a marble stone bust, of Mahatma Gandhi, be placed in the middle of the hall. The new hall will be built on a very modern structure, and the committee has permanently decided to bring the corporation water to the temple.

## Arya Samaj (Cator Manor)

The above Samaj thankfully acknowledges monthly contributions as set out hereunder from generous residents of the districts, through whose help a vernacular school is maintained. At present about 150 boys and girls are being taught the mother tongue free, under the guidance of a paid tutor: Messrs. C. N. Rana and K. Bajnath, 10s. each; S. Prawlall and R. Rughoo, 7s. 6d. each; Est. Dabha Naran and S. Sewnatain, 5s. each; Gangadas Maharaj and M. U. Varman, 2s. 6d. each.—Total, £2 10s. per month.

## Madressa Anjuman Islamia Of Kholvad

The annual general meeting of the above institution and all the branch estates of the same, will be held on December 25 and 26, at 27 Market Street, Johannesburg, at 11 a.m. All Kholvadians are requested to attend. Should it

(Continued on page 555)

# India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

## Congress Membership

It is reported that Congress membership this year has trebled upon last year. The total strength is expected to exceed the two million mark. It may be remembered that Congress membership is composed completely of individual members; there are no affiliated or associate organisations. The next annual conference of the Congress will be held in the village of Haripura, Gujerat, about the middle of February and election of delegates and the President will have been held in December.

## Muslim League

The Muslim League met in its annual conference at Lucknow. The presidential address was almost entirely devoted to an attack on the Indian National Congress and its supposedly Hindu character. No suggestions were made in respect of the vital problems of the country, its poverty, imperialist domination and general backwardness. There was only one cry and that was to organise the Muslims of the entire country into a separate isolationist bloc. The Bengal Premier made an astounding speech. He talked of a Muslim raj and retaliation on Bengal Hindus. Nevertheless, it is a sign of approaching times that the Muslim League also changed its creed to that of complete independence for the country.

## Congress President In Frontier Provinces

While communalism was consolidating itself under the false banners of religion, the Muslims of the Frontier Province were acclaiming the national leader, President Jawaharlal Nehru. Scores of thousands thronged to listen to him and wide open spaces of the Frontier would reverberate with a deep, dignified and militant hum of assent as the speaker pledged the country to the fight for freedom and against poverty. The President returns to the Frontier in December and there is an unconfirmed report of Mahatma Gandhi settling in a Frontier village for three months. President Nehru has contrasted the "quiet dignity" of the Frontier Muslims with the "mad hysteria" of the Muslim League.

## Sir Wazir Hasan's Indictment Of Muslim League

The Hon'ble Mr. Yaqub Hasan, Minister, Madras, Sir Wazir Hasan, Dr. Syed Hussain and Acharya Narendra Deo addressed a public meeting recently in the Amin-ud-Dowla Park, Lucknow.

Mr. Yaqub Hasan said that division was most detrimental to the interests of both Hindus and Muslims. India was a slave country and both the communities were slaves. The first task of Indians was to remove slavery and then they could fight among themselves for their rights and safeguards. "When the nation was fighting for independence it was most unwise to hamper its progress by putting all kinds of obstacles in its way. The Muslim League today is an institution which wants to perpetuate the slavery of India," declared Sir Wazir Hasan. Continuing Sir Wazir Hasan said that the rights and safeguards which the League was trying to obtain were the most "foolish" obstacles in the country's progress. He, however, was optimistic that the League would find out that there was not one man throughout India to support them because slavery cannot be tolerated.

## Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru On The Red Flag

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Congress President, has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Mill Employees Union in the course of which he states, "There is no question of insulting the Red Flag, as I respect it and do not want anyone to insult it. It is an international symbol of great significance and has behind it the love and respect of vast numbers of people in the world. It represents the solidarity of the working class and the hope of international socialism. As a Socialist I must respect the Red Flag. It is indeed owing to my desire to avoid conflicts between the Red Flag and the National Flag that I have repeatedly made statements on this question. In India to-day the dominant flag in our struggle for independence must necessarily be the National Flag which represents it. Anyone who lessens the significance of this does a disservice to the cause of independence. The sentiment for the National Flag is rightly deep and widespread and any opposition to it leads to resentment which is likely to lessen the respect for the Red Flag and bring about hostility between them which will ultimately injure the Red Flag. This fact must be borne in mind. It is because of this that I have deprecated all aggressive uses of the National Flag. At the same time I think it is undesirable for any person to run down the Red Flag, or to show any disrespect to it."

## Mr. C. F. Andrews Writing Book In Reply To 'Mother India'

The *Visvabharati News* for October publishes the following letter which Dr. Tagore received from the Rev. C. F. Andrews:—"The joy and thankfulness at your recovery still remain uppermost in my mind and have greatly helped to give me back my own health again. I am busy at a book, which I am dedicating to you. For many years past, ever since that outrageous attack of 'Mother India,' there has been a constant stream of books of a similar kind and along with them there have been missionary publications always emphasising the darker side, so that it almost becomes stereotyped in the minds of western readers, that the whole of India is a land of "untouchables" and of "Hindu-Muslim" riots. The present is a good occasion to do something to dissipate those impressions without in any way condoning what is wrong in India and it seemed possible for me to do it. For a very long time, I have been troubled and distressed at all these attacks and now an opportunity has come to say something positive. Ten years ago, when 'Mother India' first appeared, Mahatmaji asked me to go direct to England and sit down and answer that book, but I did not see its importance or realise his practical wisdom."

## India's Public Health

Compiled on the basis of the 1935 Report of the Public Health Commissioner to the Government of India and other League of Nations publications is the following table in regard to India's public health:—

Birth-rate, Infant Mortality and Death-rate for each 1,000 of the population respectively, in United Kingdom: 15.2, 60, 12; U. S. A. 16.9, 56, 10.9; Japan 31.6, 107, 16.8; New Zealand 16.5, 32, 0; Holland 20.2, 0, 8.7; India 34.9, 164, 23.6; Expenditure on Public Health, United Kingdom, Rs. 286 Mill.; India, Rs. 55 Mill. (1:32 ratio on population basis); Food consumption in a year per head of the population, United Kingdom 2400lbs., India 400 to 500lbs; Milk consumption per head of the population in a day, U.S.A., over 32 oz., India 7 to 8 oz.

Behind these premature deaths lies the low vitality of the people, their miserable under-consumption of food and milk, the low state expenditure on public health, the general social backwardness resulting in a high birth rate, all, in essence, the inevitable accompaniments of an imperialist economy.



## THINGS IN GENERAL

[Continued from page 553]

be considered necessary to change the place of the meeting. A written notice will be exhibited on the doors of the Club Hall, at the above address, at 10 a.m. on the date of meeting. Agenda: 1. Annual accounts; 2. Annual general elections of the board of management; 3. General & etc.—Ismail Suliman Saloojee and Moosa Ebrahim Bhyat, joint hon. secretaries.

**Attorneys' Duty To Justice**

The following resolution was passed unanimously at a recent meeting of members of the Johannesburg Bar: "The members of the Johannesburg Bar view with grave concern the attempts which have recently been made to deter legal practitioners from undertaking the defence of persons who have been charged with serious offences. Every accused person who is brought before the courts has the right to the services of an attorney or counsel in the presentation of his defence. It is the duty of every attorney and of every advocate to whom the privilege of practising in courts of law is afforded to undertake the defence of an accused person who requires his services without fear and without regard to race and colour. Any action which is designed to interfere with the performance of this duty is interference with the course of justice. The Johannesburg Bar expresses its ap-

proval of the action of those attorneys who have refused to be deflected from the path of duty and who have upheld the honour of their profession."

**London To Cape Town  
In 45 Hours**

Forty-five hours after they took off from Croydon Airport, Flying Officer Clouston and Mrs. Kirby-Green swooped down on Wingfield Aerodrome, Cape Town, at 8.58 p.m. on Friday, November 19, in their Comet monoplane. The previous London-Cape record, set up by Miss Amy Johnson, was three days and six hours.

**Health Congress To Be On Rand  
In February**

The South African Health Congress for 1938 will be held in Johannesburg from February 14 to 19, and notifications embodying invitations to appoint delegates to the congress, health inspectors, councillors or members of health boards, have been sent to all town clerks and the secretaries of all South African local authorities, in addition to other bodies and persons interested in public health work. The following subjects will be considered from the administrative and executive points of view: Midwifery and the control of nursing homes, slum clearance and sub economic housing; analysis of

the workings of health department; health and physical education; disease and accident prevention. Those interested are asked to communicate with the hon. secretary, P.O. Box 4623, Johannesburg, from whom further particulars can be obtained.

**Wedding In Durban**

The marriage ceremony between Miss Uthrammal Naidu, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Naidu of Tongaat, and Mr. D. L. Naidoo of Greenwood Park, took place on Sunday, November 14, at the Umgeni Road Temple. There was a large gathering and the wedded couple were the recipients of many valuable gifts.

**Obituary**

The death took place on Saturday, Nov. 13, of Mr. Rajagopal Kasaval Reddy, known as Davies, at Mr. and Mrs. Justin's residence, 43, Charlotte Street, Port Elizabeth, after a long illness. The funeral took place the following day at the North End Cemetery. Deceased who was 33 years of age, was a keen sportsman. He was born in Durban and educated in St. Aidan's College. He came out to Port Elizabeth in 1933. He leaves behind a sister and five brothers to mourn their loss.

**The Sporting World****Natal Win Currie Cup Match**

NATAL won their first Currie Cup cricket match of the season on Monday last, beating Griqualand West at Maritzburg by nine wickets. Griquas were all out for 302 at lunch and for the loss of one wicket Natal just scored the 38 runs required for victory five minutes before a storm broke over the ground.

**Verulam Temple Cricket Club**

On Sunday, November 21, the Verulam Temple C.C. entertained the Durban and District African Cricket XI, in a friendly fixture on the Verulam Indian sports ground. The visitors, on winning the toss, decided to bat on a batsmen's wicket. The local bowlers were in for a gruelling time, but they gave stack-together task, and were rewarded by dismissing the visitors for 102 runs. S. Sivasa 39, G. H. B. Brown 5 wickets for 19 runs, E. P. J. MacCormick 4 for 32. The local team went in to bat, and lost 2 wickets for 39 runs. The resumption saw exciting cricket, and there were many thrills for the fairly good crowd that had assembled. After doing 94 for 4, the local batsmen were all out for 105 runs. B. Sham 36, Gavin Maistry 31, K. Govindasamy 13, S. Krishna Maharaj 11. Makaluza 4 for 12 including a hat-trick. The visitors, in their second in-

nings, declared at 94 for 8 wickets. E. P. J. MacCormick 7 for 32, thus leaving the local team to make 82 runs in just over an hour and a half, with determined efforts the local batsmen won for the score of 87 for the loss of 7 wickets. Thus winning by 2 wickets and 6 runs. K. Govindasamy 29, B. Sham 16, S. J. Morris 11 and S. Attawarie 11 not out. In the evening the visitors were entertained to tea by the local team and Mr. S. M. S. Pasha, an influential sportsman on the visitors' side, paid glowing tributes to the home team. Mr. B. Sham, in replying, touched upon the wonderful sporting and social spirit of the Bantu team.

**Table Tennis Tournament**

Under the aegis of the Tongaat Indian Tennis Club, a table tennis tournament was held on Sunday, November 21, at the Gokhale Memorial Hall, for Mr. A. V. Naidoo's Dipawali Trophy. The keen competitors were: Messrs. Madan, Sitharam, R. Sancho, N. Hurbans, V. R. Naidoo, M. Hurbans and Varadayiah. After a full day's good game, Mr. Madan was victorious. The competition was played on the league system. Mr. Sitharam met Mr. Madan in the finals and the scores were: 6-0 6-3. Mr. R. Sancho, the captain of the club, had the honour of presenting the trophy. The winner suitably replied.

**Pretoria Indian C.C.**

A cricket club has been formed among the Indians in Pretoria by the untiring efforts of Mr. G. Soboo. The following officials were elected:—Patron: Mr. G. Krishnan; vice-patron: Mr. Govind Bhana; president: Mr. G. Soboo; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. M. Pillay, S. A. Pillay, Chagan Jivan, C. Bhana, M. Khan, A. V. Keshavjee and Varthu Naidoo; joint secretaries: Messrs. Varthu Moodley and V. Krishnan; treasurer: Mr. Jasmet; record clerk: Mr. B. Ramelan. An opening official match for Naidoo's League Trophy was played on Sunday, November 14, between the Pretoria Indian C.C. and the Azid C.C. The former won by 82 runs. Pretorians: first innings, 86; second innings, 72 for 5 declared. The main scorers were: V. V. Naidoo 20, G. Gopal 22, A. H. Khan 38 and P. Sivaram 20. Bowling: V. V. Naidoo 5 for 12 and G. Gopal 4 for 10. Azids: first innings, 26 all out; second innings, 72. The main scorers were: Soma 30 and Bhana 24. Bowling: B. Ramelan 4 for 44, and Runtly 3 for 34.

**WANTED**

Priest-Caretaker at Durban Hindu Temple. Apply stating qualifications and salary required.

Secretary,  
Box 580,  
Durban.



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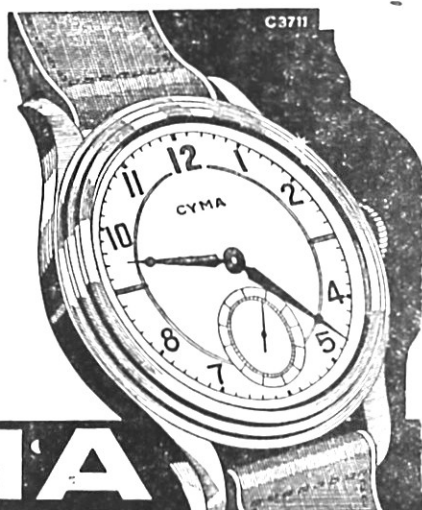
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