

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Pin-Prick Policy

THE Roodepoort-Maraisburg Town Council at its meeting last week, decided to refuse in future to register any Asiatic in the municipal area as an ice-cream vendor. The decision was made on the report of the Medical Officer of Health, who was instructed to ascertain the best method of control, and to state whether the existing by-laws governing the sale of ice-cream were sufficient to exercise control. "This matter was discussed by several Medical Officers of Health," states his report, "and the opinion is that registration is sufficient, provided that there is an adequate staff to see that the by-laws are carried out. The new by-laws, which are expected to come into operation in the near future, provide for a nominal licence fee in cases where ice cream is retailed by a reputable firm, and a much larger licence fee in the case where it is manufactured on the premises. This will have the object of eliminating the small manufacturers, who, in any case, will have the greatest difficulty in complying with the conditions under which ice-cream may be manufactured. Further authority is also sought to prevent Asiatics from retailing ice-cream from bulk supplies. That is to say, they shall be allowed to retail it in seal packets, as obtained from a recognised firm of manufacturers."

Pray what is the object of this control over the sale of ice-cream? One would have expected it to be to supply clean and wholesome stuff to the consumers, which would have been quite a legitimate thing to do. But here the main object seems to be to kill the competition felt by some White traders. It is the old pin-prick policy to kill the Asiatic by segregating him, or depriving him of the right to trade or humiliating him or by any other methods that the local authorities may deem, according to their whim, fit and proper.

### Training Of Midwives In Durban

Dr. K. McNeill, medical officer in charge of the Child Welfare section of the Durban Health Department, has submitted a report against the training of European midwives at the non-European hospital, for which the Provincial

Administration applied to the Corporation for a subsidy. "It seems to me," she says, "that the question to be decided is whether the Durban Municipality approves of such training." She then refers to the Indian and native childbirth customs, including the Indian custom of slowly burning the placenta in the room where the mother is confined "to keep away evil spirits" "It is difficult enough for an experienced European midwife to work in these circumstances; for a probationer midwife it would be almost impossible," she says. She adds that in Durban there is only one certified midwife, and she concludes: "Training of Indian midwives is urgently needed. It is only by training their own people that we can hope to break down these unsatisfactory customs."

In Johannesburg there is a move to have only non-European staff nurses in non-European hospitals as European staff nurses are disinclined to take up the job. There was a time when there was no question of colour bar in attending to the sick. The present trend of events goes to prove that colour prejudice, far from being on the wane, is increasing by leaps and bounds. Those that are willing to be treated in the hospital are not particular about observing crude customs, and those that are particular about them do not care to call European midwives. This is only in reply to the objection raised on the pretext of crude customs of Indians. It is, however, essential in our own interest that there should be qualified Indian midwives and nurses. If some of our educated ladies would take up nursing and midwifery it would certainly be a step in the right direction.

### Dean's Tribute To Mahatma Gandhi

At a prayer recently conducted at St. Mary's Cathedral for Mahatma Gandhi's health the Dean of Johannesburg, the Very Rev. W. A. Palmer in a short address said he had been deeply touched when he was approached by his communion, and by many more not of his communion, to hold such a simple service of prayer and remembrance in the Cathedral. "I am also very touched by the great sight

I see in front of me this afternoon," he said. "Mr. Gandhi is personally not known to me, but I do not feel that he is a stranger to me at all, for we have a wonderful friend in common—the Rev. Charles Andrews, who has spoken to me of the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi again and again. Almost every day in the Eucharist in the church these words are read concerning Jesus, 'That was the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.' Whenever I hear those words or read them, perhaps I think of Mr. Gandhi more than any other man, for he has been so truly lightened by the truth, and has shown the Christian people some of the spirit of the Master."

### Agent-General At Kimberley

Sir Syed Raza Ali, Agent-General for India, speaking at a civic luncheon in Kimberley on December 7, touched on the question of Indian enfranchisement in the Union and appealed to the citizens of Kimberley to use every means in their power to give enfranchisement to the Indians in Natal and to get it for them in the Transvaal where, hitherto, it had been denied. "At this moment South Africa should be forging chains of steel whereas it was only forging ropes of sand," he said. "If they made friends and brought into their country the coloured races and peoples of India they would strengthen the population with a section which would stand shoulder to shoulder with them in any crisis that might occur."

### Blending Of European Races

Speaking on Dec. 4 at Rouxville, O.F.S., the constituency of the Prime Minister, for whom he deputised owing to the latter's indisposition, General Smuts is reported to have said that, speaking as one looking to the future, he felt the South African nation would be stronger and nobler for being composed of various nations—Dutch, French, English and German—welded into one. History had proved that in respect of other great nations,

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 1937

### Seth Govind Das And His Mission

**S**ETH GOVIND DAS, a Congress member of the Indian Legislative Assembly, who is on a tour of East and South Africa to acquire first hand knowledge of the conditions of Indians domiciled in those parts, is expected to land at Lourenco Marques on the 13th and to arrive in Johannesburg on the 14th of this month. We extend to him a very hearty welcome. The Congress members in the Legislative Assembly have always been keeping alive the question of Indians overseas and the visit of Seth Govind Das is to enable them to tackle the subject with some authority. We understand Seth Govind Das intends spending only about a fortnight in the Union. We regret that the time he has spared for us is all too short. We are, however, not unmindful of the multifarious other responsibilities over his shoulders and it is up to us, therefore, to arrange his programme in such a way as to enable him to complete his task with the least possible delay. We are glad Seth Govind Das has chosen to visit the Transvaal first. If he has studied the conditions in the Transvaal he will have studied almost everything, for the conditions in that Province are perhaps the worst and the way things are being shaped there is every reason to believe that there will be a uniform condition of Indians throughout the Union based on the standard existing in the Transvaal.

In the Transvaal Seth Govind Das will find that Indians have no right to acquire ownership of land. The properties that they own are not in their own name but either in the name of some European or some company. The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act has all but put a stop to the acquisition of land by Indians either in their own name or in the name of any company. Under the same Act Indians will only be allowed in future to trade and reside in areas

set apart for them. It will be well for Seth Govind Das to pay a visit to the Asiatic locations and Bazaars, especially in Johannesburg, Newclare, Germiston, Boksburg, Benoni, Springs and Pretoria. He should also visit Claremont where it is proposed by the Johannesburg Municipality to house Indians. Seth Govind Das will also find that the only means of livelihood Indians have in the Transvaal is trade and it is extremely difficult for an Indian to procure a new trading licence. Under the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance even old licences are not safe. Trading licences are being refused even in segregated areas. The Industrial Conciliation Act and the Wage Act, though of general application, operate against Indians detrimentally. Although Indians have not the same training and qualification as the Europeans, Indians are compelled to pay the same wages to Indians as the Europeans and while Europeans have the advantage of employing European women at a lower wage Indians have not that advantage. There are hardly any Indian women trained to supply the needs of their brethren. European women, on the other hand, would not be suitable as saleswomen, for instance, in Indian stores, and even if they are, not a considerable number would be found inclined to work for Indians. Moreover Indians are precluded from engaging them owing to anti-Asiatic propaganda which almost resulted in legislation prohibiting Indians from employing White women. It was, however, shelved on an assurance being given by the Congress officials that they would see to it that Indians by voluntary action ceased to employ such women wherever objection was taken against them. This placed the Indians, under the Industrial Act, in an awkward position, for they would have to pay the standard

wage to their employees although the conditions of work were not equal to those governing Europeans. The ultimate result must be the annihilation of the Indian from all trades to which the Industrial and the Wage Act applied. Seth Govind Das must also see how the Slums Act is being worked. He will find a vast difference between slum clearance among Europeans and among Indians. He will find that where Indians have been residing for over a quarter or half a century without receiving any services worth the name from the Health and Sanitary Departments they are thrown out from their existing quarters and removed to areas set apart for them while model residential quarters are erected in the same areas for Europeans. Thus the Slums Act is worked not with the object of clearing slums but of clearing the dwellers.

Seth Govind Das will perhaps have special accommodation provided for him on the railways by the Authorities. But to get a proper idea of the humiliations Indians have to undergo in travelling on the railways, he should travel under disguise by the "reserved" coach. He will then be able to see that even if he pays a first class fare the accommodation he will get will, in respect of cleanliness and comfort, be almost worse than a European would get in a third class which is reserved for him.

He will find very similar conditions existing in Natal though here Indians can still acquire ownership of land.

But with the Industrial, the Wage and the Slums Acts, and the Licensing laws working as they are, there is bound to be a vast change in the situation within a few years.

In the Cape where the Indian population is the smallest, numbering about ten thousand, and where the colour bar was hardly ever felt, the position in recent years has been getting bad. The operation of the licensing laws is as bad there as in other Provinces and the colour

prejudice is beginning to be felt keenly almost everywhere.

There is nothing to be said about the Orange Free State as the doors of that Province are entirely closed to Indians. There are a few Indians there only as domestic servants and hotel employees.

While these are just a few of our complaints against the Authorities things are not as they should be in regard to ourselves. Faced, as we

are, with the danger of being wiped out from this country, there is still no solidarity in the community and there is not a single body which can be said to be properly organised or which can be trusted to look after the interests of the community as a whole. Communalism, provincialism, sectarianism are the ruling elements which are dragging the whole community in the mire of disunity. A considerable

amount of degeneration has set in and the policy of segregation is plating Indians in such undesirable environments that there is a great danger of their merging, in course of time, with the coloured population and losing entirely their own identity as Indians. This is the gloomy picture that we are able to visualise. If we are mistaken in this no one will be more pleased than we.

## WORLD PEACE

By L. W. RITCH

"The attainment of real world peace is impossible without greater scientific precision, greater travail of the soul, greater patience and greater resources than are required for the invention and consolidation of the means of mutual slaughter. It cannot be attained by a mere monster roll, signed by millions of mankind desiring peace. But it can be attained if there is a science of peace, as I hold there is, by a few devoting themselves to the discovery of the means. Their effort being from within will not be showy. But then it will not need a single farthing."

—MAHATMA GANDHI.

ONCE again Gandhiji is right in both his premises and his deductions; and the doctrine he propounds is as applicable to the individual or the Indian community of South Africa, as it is to any of the larger units we call a nation or a race.

The truth is that the problem of war or peace is a psychological one, as, indeed, most human problems are, and the farther truth is that unhappily the world lacks the courage to be honest with itself.

Just as what may appear to be "in-action" is really "action," and *vice versa*, so may there exist all the factors that constitute actual warfare beneath a superficial appearance of peace.

We are accustomed to identify war only with the picture of opposing armies, lethal weapons, bombings and other spectacular manifestations of concerted brute force in conflict in its crudest and most obvious expression. These, however, merely represent its culminating point, its bursting point. It is like a volcanic eruption. The destructive forces that eventually break through the earth's crust and emerge as flame and lava have, unobserved, been at work long before reaching the final eruptive stage.

It is the same with us humans. We fool ourselves with the deception that peace prevails (because we prefer untruth to truth) the while we are busy waging war against each other, with

forces the more effective, by reason of their subtlety.

For, the emotions of hate, envy, avarice; the antagonisms and rivalries born of egotism, pride and lust of power and possessions are vital and dynamic forces, and both individually and collectively we are actively generating and adding to them day by day. Naturally, they accumulate until an intensity is reached that must find, and inevitably does find, vent in a minor outburst or a major cataclysm. When in due course the explosion occurs, we call it a quarrel, a vendetta, a sectional or communal dispute, a feud, a class war, a war of nations, a war of ideologies, a racial conflict. And, then confronted with the spectre of our own begetting, we shrink at the hideousness of this Dr. Hyde—the beast in us let loose.

As Gandhijee points out, the things that really count are done in the darkness, since the unseen is vastly more real than the seen. As Arnold so beautifully puts it:

"The silence and the Darkness knew

"So is man's fate born

"He cometh reaper of the things he sowed....."

If, as is doubtless the case, the effort towards the attainment of peace must proceed from within—is a matter of "conversion" in the truest sense—it is certainly equally necessary to recognise that outward strife is merely the culmination of strife, discord, disease, that had been operating subterraneously long before it came to the surface.

Health is, of course, only possible when the system has been purged of the evils responsible for the "ill-th," and as Gandhijee points out "the attainment of real world peace is impossible without greater scientific precision." I venture the opinion that in the case under consideration "scientific precision" should be taken to mean real Knowledge, (to 'know' to 'ken', is 'to become') true recognition of the underlying unity of all mankind, of their interdependence

the same way that the well-being of all its members, appreciation of the truth that each of us is his brother's keeper, and that unkindness towards another if only in wish or thought, is a poisonous influence that creates disorders in the body of which the individual responsible is himself part. To put it more concisely, it must be made a fact of our consciousness, a scientific fact, a truth realised, that injury of another is injury to ourselves. Until and unless such realisation is achieved by "greater travail of the soul," we cannot know peace. Until men accept "As ye sow, so shall ye reap"—and adopt it—as a law of life, so long must unkindness cease to die, and the fool pursue this folly under the delusion that "he can get away with it."

This lesson of Gandhijee is pregnant with meaning for us all. "The leaden world," enveloped by the 'tamas' of its egotism, still pursues the will of the wisp of exploitation, "blind to the true light kept for him who false puts by." Nor, to come nearer home, do our own particular people appear to have taken to heart the words of their own particular guide and counsellor. Who claims to be dealt with righteously should himself be righteous. Who takes a hand at beggar-my-neighbour has no right to squeal if his neighbour beggars him. The exploited is often no better than the would-be exploiter denied the opportunity or "out of luck."

Not what is wanted is a complete change of outlook, and that will become possible only after a thoroughly honest and searching in look. To the self-satisfied all this will, of course, be wholly uninteresting if not meaningless; such will continue to travel the road of their choice puffed with pride, deluded by a passion for domination, clinging to baubles that must sooner or later be let go by hands no longer able to grasp them. Some day, somewhere, such must themselves eat of the bitter fruit of knowledge of the evil they are content to feed to others. Truly, harmony within is an indispensable precursor of Peace, and that harmony comes only when the same Self is perceived as the Common Denominator unifying all selves.

# STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

**I**N view of the present anti-semitic movement in the Union, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies has made a public statement in the course of which the Board states, "The said Board is entirely a non-political organisation, and its object is to safeguard that Jews shall not suffer any disability by reason of their being Jews."

"The Jewish population does not act and never has acted as a political unit. Jews, as Jews, have no distinctive party affiliations. As individuals they have always followed their own political preferences, and have thus been found among the supporters of all political parties.

"It is sometimes asserted that because Jews maintain their identity as Jews, they are, therefore, the less loyal to South Africa. This charge is, of course, utterly untrue. The Jews of South Africa do indeed acknowledge, to a greater or lesser degree, ties of sympathy and kinship (varying to each individual's outlook) with their fellow-Jews in other parts of the world, and with the culture and traditions of the Jewish people. But this has not prevented them from identifying themselves completely with the destiny of the South African people. In this respect they do not differ from those South Africans of say, English, Scots or German descent, who retain interest and pride in the fortunes and cultures of the countries of their origin, but are not, for that reason, any the less good and true South Africans.

## Communism

"An insidious propaganda has lately been set afoot with the object of establishing in the public mind an intimate association between Jewry and Communism. All Jews, the public are led to understand, are Communists, and all or most Communists are Jews.

There is not the slightest vestige of truth in this allegation. It is all the more grotesque when coupled with the equally insidious suggestion that all Jews are capitalists, and all capitalists are Jews. It is a deliberate falsehood to say, or to imply, that the great bulk of the Jewish citizens have the faintest connection with, or view with any approval, the Communistic activities of isolated individuals, to whatever race they may belong. The labelling of Communism as Jewish, it is common knowledge, is part of a calculated propaganda fostered by anti-semitic elements introduced or influenced from outside South Africa.

## Trade Unionism

"Ulterior political motives have been responsible for the statement made in certain quarters that the Trade Unions are controlled by Jewish officials. It is not within the province of the Board to enter into the *pros* and *cons* of trade unionism; it will content itself with saying that on the facts, there is no substance in that statement. According to the annual report of the Labour Department, published this year, there were 104 registered Trade Unions in this country at the end of 1935. The Board has ascertained that of all the officials engaged by these Unions, only nine were Jews. There have been no material changes in these figures since 1935.

## Jews Not Opposed To Any Section Of The People

"For political purposes the mischievous charge has been made that Jews are unfriendly towards one section of the South African people. It needs scarcely be said that this is absolutely untrue and is deeply resented. In the conviction that the destiny of South Africa lies in the co-operation of all elements which make up the nation, Jewish

South Africans have never sought, or had occasion, to identify themselves with any group to the exclusion of another, and still less to identify themselves with one group in antagonism to another. They have lived in equal friendship with the Afrikaans—as with the English-speaking sections of the community; and have no less associated with the cultural aspirations of the former than of the latter. So far from proving that the Jewish community have been antagonistic towards the Afrikaans-speaking community, South African history furnishes abundant evidence of the friendly co-operation that has always existed between them.

"The Board can only express its profoundest regret that men, who in the past have not only shown no ill-will against the Jewish citizens, but have repeatedly manifested the friendliest disposition towards them—not least amongst them the present leader of the Nationalist Party, Dr. Malan—should now be publicly associated with anti-Semitism. Without the slightest cause or justification a "Jewish question" has been artificially created and suddenly forced into the political arena. For the first time in the history of South Africa the Jews find their rights of citizenship challenged. Their economic security and that of their children is being assailed in a land which they have indisputably helped to develop to the full extent of their powers. They are faced with quarrels which they have never sought, and with antagonism they have never instigated or provoked.

The Board appeals to every good South African not to countenance this reckless agitation against men and women who are part and parcel of the nation, and who desire sincerely to contribute to a worthy part in the up-building of South Africa, as they have done in the past."

# THE POET ON CIVIL LIBERTY

The following is the text of the message which was sent by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore to the London Conference on Civil Liberty in India, held on October 17, an extract of which was published in a recent issue of *INDIAN OPINION*:

**L**IBERTY is a privilege which the individual has to defend daily for himself; for even the most democratic Government tends to be oppressive if its tyranny is tempted by the indifference or cowardice of its subjects. Hence the need for a Civil Liberties Union in any system of government,

and hence the need for such Unions to realise that they cannot safeguard liberty for the individual if they do not teach him to defend it for himself by his continual readiness to pay for it by sacrifice. The problem is one, not of external organization so much, as of inducing the appropriate moral qualities in the individual, of creating in him an awareness of his innate worth as an individual. Otherwise, if the individual is made to care for liberty as a means of attaining mere material satisfaction, then the State will easily tempt him to part with it by holding out to

him a bait of better satisfactions; which is what is actually happening in party dictatorships—red, black or brown.

The English people, too, though they are traditionally supposed to cherish liberty for its own sake, have allowed other peoples to be robbed of it without any scruple whatsoever, simply because their greed for material satisfactions has been effectively appeased thereby. Perhaps my English friends will not agree with me there, but when the rivalry for colonial exploitation would

become still more acute, the British citizens will find it necessary to arm their Government at home with extraordinary powers to defend their posses-

sions abroad. Then they will suddenly wake up to find that, without meaning it, they have forfeited their own liberty and drifted into a fascist grip, and,

maybe, then they will realise that liberty has a true foundation only in the moral worth of the individuals who compose the State.

## “MUST BE FREE, OR DIE!”

IN “The Challenge of the North-West Frontier,” by Mr. C. F. Andrews, published two months ago, the author does not confine himself to the problem of the North-West Frontier of India. He ranges over a much wider field and discourses also on the world situation, foreign policy and the League of Nations, the Russian menace, Soviet Russia, the brotherhood of Islam, the Hindu tradition, the Far East, the shock of Abyssinia, and the challenge of Asia. In the chapter on the challenge of Asia he begins by telling the reader:

“India, as the world’s ancient centre of intellectual and spiritual culture in the East, needs to day her full freedom and the command of her foreign relations, if she is to play her part as a peace-maker in Asia. The British rule, which, with all its shortcomings, has encouraged during the past hundred years an education based on freedom, cannot now deny those ideas at a time when educated Indians claim to put them into practice. Mr. Tilak exclaimed, “Freedom is my birthright, and I will have it.” The cry was taken up in every part of the country. We can trace one of its sources back to our own English poets, who gave to all those Indian students who were educated in English literature a new aspect of this high ideal.”

Mr. Andrews then relates an incident in his early career as a professor of English at Delhi:

I remember well at Delhi teaching Wordsworth’s poetry to a group of young, eager Indian students. We came to the greatest of the famous “Sonnets on Liberty”:

“We must be free or die, who speak the tongue

That Shakespeare spake: the faith and morals hold,

Which Milton held.—In everything, we are sprung

Of Earth’s first blood, have titles manifold.”

After explaining its meaning to them, I was asked by one of the group whether Indians could use the same language about *themselves*—when they in their turn had learnt to “speak the tongue that Shakespeare spake.” Without a moment’s hesitation I answered “Yes”; and I am sure the answer was right. For it would have been a refined form of cruelty to have taught these songs of freedom and denied their practice.

Mr. Andrews’ answer was certainly right. But the student who asked him whether Indians could use the same language about *themselves*—when they in turn had learnt to “speak the tongue that Shakespeare spake,” need not or should not have asked that question. For, human liberty all over the world,

including India, and the yearning for it, are older than “the tongue that Shakespeare spake”

Mr. Andrews continues: When I was taking the essay work in the same class, one of my students said to me, “Sir, that line of Wordsworth—‘We must be free or die’—haunts us! That is just what every true Indian feels today. Why does Great Britain keep us in subjection?” It is not easy for us to answer that question, unless we are doing all we possibly can to hasten the day when India will be free indeed—free from without and also from within. For there is an inner subservience which is far harder to overcome than any outward bondage.

### “He Would Be Free Or Not Be At All”

The Delhi students, who asked Mr. Andrews the questions mentioned by him, did not perhaps know that more than a century ago there was an Indian, Rammohun Roy by name, of whom his friend, Mr. Adam wrote, “He Would Be Free or Not Be At All.” Mr. Adam has also left it on record that the freedom which Rammohun Roy claimed for himself he claimed for all men of all races, countries and creeds, and that this freedom was not merely political freedom but intellectual, spiritual and social freedom as well. *Modern Review*.

## Hints On Health.

### AVOID HASTY MEALS

THOUGH eating hastily causes the worst effect on health, many indulge in this bad habit with an excuse of being too busy. The following extract from an article by Leddicott Ried in the “Health & Strength” will be a right answer to them:

There is a saying that the busy man has always time to spare, and although this may be an exaggeration it is usually possible to organise your work so that you can take a meal in a reasonably unhurried manner.

When you experience a “rush” day it is better to eat as lightly as possible until you can spare adequate time for a proper meal. Remember, that although a hurried snack is bad for the digestion a heavy meal eaten in haste is worse.

Cultivate the habit of putting all thought of work out of your mind while you are eating. The process of digestion will be impaired if your mind is in a turmoil and your nerves taut and strained at meal times. It is true to say that the more “cowlike” your mental attitude while you take a meal the better will your digestive organs work.

Do not imagine that there is any miracle about the improvement in health which you experience while on holiday. It is simply a question of good habits, which may be persisted in, at least to some extent, when you are back at work again.

#### Dietary

Explaining how to arrange a proper dietary, the “Health for All,” says:—

If you wish to have a course to follow the protein and vegetable meal, have a simple sweet composed of fruit in one form or another, but do not have puddings made with cereals.

On the rare occasions, when a whole-meal fruit pudding is indulged, take it after a salad meal, and on that occasion cut out the potato or toast or any form of starch usually taken.

There are some authorities who claim that that the average person, not engaged in heavy manual work, does not require more than a very little of the starches and proteins after reaching the age of 45, and for this reason: from childhood until, say 25, definite building is going on, and so more of these two forms of food are required by the body; between the ages of 25 and 45, a certain



amount is required, according to the amount of rebuilding necessary; but, after that, when bodily activity is on the decline, less and less is needed. Thousands and thousands of people, all

over the world, who have taken up dieting on these lines, have kept themselves well, while others have gradually attained good health as a direct result of working on these principles.

In a dietary such as we have outlined there is no room for unnatural foods, therefore, cut out the white bread and cakes, the white sugar and chocolates, the condiments and the tea and coffee.

# Things In General

## General Smuts Opens Native Parliament

GENERAL SMUTS opened the first session of the Natives' Representative Council in the Pretoria City Hall last Monday. "It is an occasion of much significance and will become of great historical importance for both Europeans and natives in this country," said General Smuts. The meeting was presided over by Mr. D. L. Smit, Secretary for Native Affairs. Sir William Clerk, the High Commissioner, was also present. General Smuts said the meeting was to have been opened by General Hertzog, but the latter had had to cancel temporarily all public engagements. His absence was all the more to be regretted because the Native Representative Council was the most important part of the native policy, for which General Hertzog had been mainly responsible. General Smuts outlined the aims of the scheme and the history of events leading up to the native legislation. "It is the earnest wish of us all that through wisdom, moderation and statesmanlike use of the new opportunities, this notable advance may be fully justified and become a landmark in the happier relations between the European and native peoples. The increase of the Native urban population called the attention of the Government to this aspect of the native question, and in legislating for improved and controlled conditions, Parliament did not lose sight of the advantage of securing an avenue for the expression of native opinion. I look forward to your deliberations to justify the highest expectations of the new departure; to set a new standard in the system of native administration, and to contribute materially towards the solution of those problems of racial relations which is South Africa's greatest task, and in which, I trust, our common labours will not be in vain." After outlining the Government expenditure on services for the natives, General Smuts said provision was made on the current year's estimates for £20,000 for allowances to blind natives, while £25,000 had been placed on the estimates for the ensuing year for the same purpose. Mr. D. L. Smit said that the total estimated expenditure on native account for next year was £2,531,194. Of this, £1,000,000 was for the purchase of land. Another £888,300 was for native education, an increase of almost £100,000 compared

with the current year. "The Government is being constantly accused of not making sufficient money available for native education," said Mr. Smit. "But there has been a progressive increase in expenditure under this head since 1926. In that year expenditure was only £446,108."

## Mr. Ramdas Gandhi Interviewed

Mahatma Gandhi has arrived at Bombay and is staying in a bungalow owned by the Congress treasurer. He is still suffering from high blood pressure, according to a Reuter's message dated December 7. Mr. Ramdas Gandhi, his third son, who is now in Johannesburg, (says *The Daily News* correspondent

## Sailing Time Of B.I. Boats

We are informed by the Agents of the B. I. Company that in future the B. I. boats will sail from Durban not on Monday but on Sunday at 1 p.m., and passengers should be on board at 10 o'clock the same morning.

(there), says he is not able to supply any information as to whether or not his father is to act as mediator between the Indian Government and the tribesmen of the north-western frontier. "I know these tribesmen took an active part in the national struggle for independence. Since 1930 my father has been greatly interested in them and wants to study on the spot how far they have imbibed the spirit of non-violence—I mean the non-violent method of fighting, that is, by personal suffering." Mr. Ramdas Gandhi has just returned to the Union. When asked if his father was retiring, he said his father retired from participation in active politics in 1934 but that would not prevent him from visiting the tribesmen of the north-western frontier. Replying to a question, had not his father lost courage, Mr. Ramdas Gandhi said that in his father's opinion a fighter who used the method of non-violence was never defeated because every apparent defeat was a stepping stone to success. He left his father in good health.

## Reconstruction Of Nonoti Government Aided Indian School

The Nonoti Government Aided Indian School was established during the year 1917. The school building, which is a wood and iron structure, was erected by subscriptions raised at that time from local residents who are of very limited means. At present the school accommodates ninety-one children. The Inspector of Schools has recently condemned the building and has threatened to close down the school unless a building to comply with the regulations is erected forthwith. At a meeting of parents held on November 27, it was decided to raise funds from other than the local residents. The progress made so far has only been possible by the generous support received from local residents and they are not in a position to meet the new demand. An appeal is, therefore, made by Mr. Rampotal, the school manager, for subscriptions from the general public for the purpose of defraying the cost of erecting a suitable new school building at a cost of £500 in order to accommodate approximately 175 children. At the close of the meeting the amount of the funds already come in had reached to £86 15s.

## Preparing For Sixth Annual Camp

The first Johannesburg-Doornfontein Indian Boy Scouts Troop, together with the District Commissioner, Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, Scout Masters, A. J. Williams, M. Pillay and Cub Master, D. D. I. Sigamoney, are preparing for a camp at Port Elizabeth during the Xmas holidays. The scheme of scouting designed by the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell, lays emphasis on an open air life in the matter of training the character of the boys as opposed to scholastic training within the four walls of an educational institution, and according to Gilwell, "Camps are best suited for the practice of scouting." The contingent will leave Johannesburg on December 27, and will return on January 15. Since the organisation of scout movement in Johannesburg, several camps were held in Durban, Maritzburg, Dundee and Ladysmith to encourage scouting amongst the Indians in Natal. The results of the visits proved a success and it brought about great enthusiasm amongst Indian youth, and to-day the organisation is proud to say that practically all schools in Natal own a scout troop with the help of the teachers.

Therefore, the main reason for the venue being in Port Elizabeth this year, is to impress the leaders to encourage scouting amongst the Indian youth of Port Elizabeth. The first Johannesburg-Doornfontein Indian Boy Scout Troop, officers and Scout Masters are thankful to Mr. Joesie and the Cape Indian Congress for having made the necessary arrangements.

### St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Annual Picnic

The Roman Catholics of Johannesburg of the Indian and Coloured section will be pleased to learn that the Children of Mary are organising a picnic party on December 27 (Boxing Day). Being the first of its kind the organisers are confident that numerous families and friends will take advantage of this great event which will take place at Crocodile River, between Halfway House and Pretoria. Four double-deck buses from the Johannesburg Municipality have been engaged. The party will be accompanied by a special up-to-date orchestra band which will be in attendance for singers, dancers and lovers of music. Apart from this, other interesting items have been prepared such as sports and indoor games, etc. The buses will leave at 6.30 a.m. from Roy's Cafe, 15th Street, Vrededorp, Davies Street, Doornfontein, and Avenue Road, Fordsburg. Adults 3s. 6d. and children under 12 years half price. Tickets can be obtainable from Miss Gloria Royeppen (secretary), and Miss Alice Francis (president), and also from members of the committee, Children of Mary. The proceeds derived therefrom, are for the Cathedral Fund.

### For The Prevention Of T.B.

Messrs. Hans Magbraj and Co. have presented a Silver Cup as a Floating Trophy, to be competed for by the Indian School children, to the school that gets the largest sale of Xmas stamps. This work is being done for the prevention of T.B. and the fund collected will go towards erecting a new building next year for the purpose.

### Inanda Indian School

Mr. S. R. Maharaj, of Verulam, has generously awarded prizes of very valuable books for the first best essay on "Dipawali", written in each standard. The prize winners were as follows:— Std. I: B. Mathurasingh; Std. II: N. Vadiveloo; Std. III: B. Kesorilall; Std. IV: J. Sampath; Std. VI: S. Sookraj. On behalf of the school children, the headmaster and staff of the Inanda Indian School thanked Mr. S. R. Maharaj very gratefully for the generous gifts.

### Native Journalist Under Arrest

"I am calling, in all, 20 witnesses, including members of Parliament and, I believe, the Prime Minister," stated a native journalist, Cromwell Dladla, aged 24, when he appeared before Mr. A. Eyles in the Johannesburg Magistrate's

Court for remand on two charges of contempt of court (alternatively, incitement to public violence). Dladla said that this would be "a political case," and asked that he be allowed out on his own recognisances so as to arrange his defence, which he would conduct himself. Mr. G. A. Watermere, for the Crown, said that if Dladla wished to subpoena the Prime Minister he could do so, but he thought it advisable that bail should be fixed. The charges were serious, not politically but legally. Bail was allowed in the sum of £25 and Dladla was remanded to December 14.

### New Industrial And Wage Acts

Two proclamations in a *Gazette Extraordinary* issued on December 3, notify that the Industrial Conciliation Act of 1937 and the Wage Act of 1937 will come into operation on December 15. The new regulations in respect of each of these Acts are published in the *Gazette* and the regulations under the previous Acts are rescinded.

### The Late Mr. Chandabhai Miankhan Leaves £14,084

An estate valued at £14,084 was left by Mr. Chandabhai Miankhan, an Indian merchant of Durban, whose will has been filed with the Master of the Supreme Court, Maritzburg. Mr. Miankhan left the whole of his estate, with the exception of £200 to be used for the maintenance, support and education of his grandson, to his daughter. The sum of £12,205 in the estate is comprised of immovable property at Wentworth, Pinetown and Durban. His wife, Amina Miankhan, formerly known as Miss Ivy Goss, was not mentioned in the will.

### "Manchester Guardian" On Kenya Highlands

The *Manchester Guardian* writes:— The Government of Kenya is anxious to reserve for the exclusive occupation of Europeans, who number at present some 18,000 out of a population of over 3,000,000, an area of the highlands covering 16,000 square miles. If its request were granted by the Colonial Office, it would be for ever impossible for any natives or for any Indians, of whom there are 30,000 in Kenya, to obtain land within the pale. The proposal is much resented in India and has been warmly criticised in the British Parliament. Happily, it is not without its critics in Kenya itself. A farm which would, if enclosure took place, be just within the "white highlands" lately came on the market. Its owner was anxious to dispose of it to an Indian. The Government was willing, but referred the matter to the local district council. One member of that body took the realist view that it was to the general interest of the community that the farm should be worked by an Indian rather than remain derelict, and urged that a "dog-in-the-manger" policy in regard to an apparent-

ly unwanted farm in the highlands would prejudice rather than help the European campaign for the demarcation of a special area. His motion, in favour of the transfer was defeated by a vote of seven to four, but his point of view is one that should prevail. It would be economic folly to allow land to go to waste because no European could cultivate it profitably; and it would be an intolerable racial discrimination to say that no Indian, to whatever standard of civilization he might attain, should ever be a landholder in the Kenya highlands.

### £25,000 Fire Damage

#### In Capetown

A disastrous fire occurred on December 3 at the factory of the Union Textile Mills (Pty.) Ltd., of Perth Road, Maitland, Capetown, the damage being estimated at £25,000. As a result of the fire it is expected that about 150 non-Europeans will be out of work.

—:0:—

### In The Magistrate's Court FOR THE DISTRICT OF DURBAN, HELD AT DURBAN.

Case No. 12599/1937.

Between:—BALAKISTAMMA No. 36156/30475/36244/6188/19170, of 120, May Street, Durban, Natal.....Plaintiff, AND

MUNBAMI No. 30255/26478/30257/5117/5118, whose whereabouts and address are unknown to Plaintiff.....Defendant.

To:

MUNBAMI No. 30255/26478/30257/5117/5118, whose whereabouts and address are to Plaintiff unknown.

TAKE NOTICE that a summons has been issued against you in this Court by BALAKISTAMMA No. 36156/30475/36244/6188/19170 of 120, May Street, Durban, for a decree of divorce, and that an Order has been made that the publication of Notice of such Summons once in the INDIAN OPINION, and service of copy of the said Summons on the parents of the said Defendant shall be deemed to be good and sufficient service of Summons on you.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to enter an appearance to the said Summons on or before the 11th day of January 1938, and if you do not do so, judgment may be given against you in your absence.

Dated at Durban, this 2nd day of December 1937.

By Order of the Court.

R. J. BRITS,

Clerk of the Court.

JAS. W. GODFREY,  
Plaintiff's Attorney,  
Madoline Buildings,  
437, Smith Street,  
Durban.

# India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

## Mahatma Gandhi May Go To Frontier Provinces

SINCE the ban on his entry into the North-West Frontier has been removed by the Government, Mahatma Gandhi was contemplating visiting those Provinces and if his health had not suddenly broken down after the meeting of the All India Congress Committee at Calcutta last month, he would probably have been there by now. Now that his health is improving Mahatma Gandhi is again planning shortly to visit those Provinces. Khan Sahib Abdul Gaffar Khan, who has formed the Congress Ministry there, is making elaborate preparations to receive him. Mahatma Gandhi has intended to spend a few months in order to enter into and study the life and the needs and claims of the tribesmen in the Frontier. The little war which the Indian Government is waging on the North-West Frontier has now lasted more than six months and cost a small fortune and many lives. Moreover, the Fakir of Ipi, a notorious rebel leader who directs operations against the Government, is still at large. The Frontier tribesmen have always resented the presence of British troops in their independent tribal land and Gandhiji plans to act as mediator between them and the Indian Government. Mahatma Gandhi is still admired as a hero by the chieftains. What machine-guns have failed to do Mahatma Gandhi is hopeful of accomplishing through non-violence. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the Congress, who recently visited the Frontier, was given an unprecedented welcome reception. Though there is a hundred per cent. Muslim element there it stands wholly by the Congress thus setting a noble example to the communalists in India.

## Fiji Political Deadlock Ends

The *United Press* of India learns that the Indian members of the Fiji Legislative Council have started attending its sessions and the so-called political crisis has been settled. The Government of India are expected to make an official announcement shortly.

## Trade Commissioner In New York

The *Associated Press* understands that sanction has been received for the appointment of Mr. H. S. Malik, I.C.S., as the Indian Trade Commissioner in New York. It is probable that Mr. Malik will take up his new appointment about June next. Until then Mr. Malik

will probably be placed on special duty in the Commerce Department and may visit principal commercial centres in India.

## "How America Can Help India"

It was an idea prevalent among ignorant people, that America was dominated by dollars. She was dominated by ideas, dreams and visions of freedom, declared Mr. Sarojini Naidu, presiding at a lecture on "How America can help India" delivered by the Rev. F. C. Wilmont, an American journalist. The Rev. Mr. F. C. Wilmont said America was made of people of all countries of the earth, yet it was impossible to think of them as one race. What bound them together was their love for liberty.

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## Maharaja Of Travancore's Birthday

In connection with the 26th birthday of H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore, which fell on November 2, the Premier of Madras, Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, in a statement, said:—

"On the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore let us offer praise and worship to God, whose glory sustains all life. One of the great and rare events that will go down to history for all time, it was the privilege of this young ruler to order. The inspired thought was backed by divine and continuing grace which has cleared all scepticism and made all men loyally abide by his proclamation. In the territories of the Maharaja, marked by an unbroken tradition of Hindu orthodoxy, all the temples and sacred waters are now open to all that offer worship to them, without distinction of class or birth. We have in his Highness the Maharaja of Travancore a ruler who has nobly endeavoured and succeeded in removing that blot on Hinduism which tarnished the fair name and glory of our ancient faith and philosophy. The blessings of the founders and seers of the faith and philosophy of India will be showered on the ruler of Travancore; and we may be sure that his

great work will spread its light over the rest of India, and soon we shall see an India free from untouchability. Untouchability is now mostly maintained by the people in the rural areas. In the cities and towns it is not the other people but the leaders of the untouchables who are mostly responsible for the continued life of this dying evil. The remedial measures and privileges accorded to the Harijans, while being very necessary and proper, have the disadvantages of maintaining the evil when these advantages are considered more valuable than the bar sinister is painful to bear. Men desire to be recorded and treated as scheduled classes, because they find more advantage than disadvantage in the classification. This is the great danger of certain kinds of alleviating measures. The psychological element is the root of the evil and the more painful it is to either party the nearer is the salvation. This is the reason why the temple issue becomes the most important. Those who enable and encourage the movement of pilgrims to Travancore temples will be rendering the greatest service to the cause of the removal of untouchability and to the speedy opening of the temples outside Travancore."

## Death Of Sir Abdul Qaiyum

The death has occurred of the Nawab Sir Sahib-Zada Abdul Qaiyum, ex-Premier of the North-West Frontier Province, states Reuter from Peshawar in a message dated December 4.

## Fountain Of Wisdom

Experience of suffering humanises the heart. In the school of affliction, compassion is most thoroughly learned.

Make a sound investment of your life; speculation may result in a crash.

Nothing but the harmony of friendship soothes our sorrow; without its sympathy there is no happiness on earth.

Self-improvement is a duty that you must perform yourself.

Arouse yourself from the apathy that surrounds you, snap that self-satisfied, happy-go-lucky rut you have fallen into.

Life is a game of skill and not a game of chance.

Religion is essential to progress. Nothing else makes a man self-sacrificing and good.



## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

## PHYSICAL CULTURISTS OF DURBAN

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,— I shall be glad if you will allow me, through your paper, to answer A "True Leaguer's" contentions which appeared in a recent issue of your journal, and which concerned me.

I need no introduction, as I have been associated with local physical culture activities for the past ten years.

The complaints against the challengers, are unjust, and in most cases without a word of truth to back the "True Leaguer," whose points are given with my explanations.

1. "That a hand-clasp of fellowship was not extended to the visitor, Mr. C. G. Pillay."

S/G. L.D.O. Gordon Patel, one of the challengers, was the first local lad on the ship to welcome Mr. Pillay on the morning of his arrival, while I presume "True Leaguer" was fast asleep in his bed. At the first opportunity and before the issuing of my challenge, I, with my hand and my heart, invited and booked Mr. Pillay to an "at home"

2. "That the visitor was accorded a shabby treatment by the challengers and so-called physical culturists."

I was instrumental, as one of the assistants, in catching and loading the bar-bells at the demonstrations given at the Hindu Youth Club, and the St.

Aidan's Young Men's Club. At the latter display I was also responsible in getting extra bar-bell plates.

3. "That Mr. Pillay openly stated that he had retired from weight-lifting and that he had come at the instance of one of his friends to Durban to give a demonstration."

If at the instance of a friend a retired weight-lifter can give very good demonstration which was encouraging to the youth, then where is the possibility of my challenge, which was for the furtherance of local weight-lifting and to add impetus to numerous enthusiasts, physical culturists and health seekers, being shameful.

4 "That "True Leaguer" read all the letters displayed in this connection and concluded that the challengers did Mr. Pillay wrong"

Did "True Leaguer," from the above readings, understand that I, as one of the challengers, was entitled to an answer 'Yes' or 'No', instead of stories. To bring to an end the excitement created by the challenge, I arranged a free weight-lifting event, which was given due publicity in the local press, and for which I invited prominent European weight-lifters to participate as well as Mr. Pillay, who, sad to state, after

promising to be present, did not turn up, though he was known to have been in Durban four days after the issuing of my challenge.

5. "That challengers are ignorant as to the meaning of the golden rule of our league"

I did not in any way violate the above pledge, but issued a clean and sporting challenge. Suggestion four of "How to help the League" reads: Promote and arrange for challenges and competitions in various centres.

6 "True Leaguer's" use of the term 'own conscience.'

May I know through your columns as to the state of the person's conscience as to why he or she, whoever, the case may be, did not allow his or her name to be published or is it that the person lacked nerves of steel and muscles of iron possessing the magnificent legs of a minuet dancer and the torso of a Venus with which the person himself or herself supported the League banner, while skating on thin ice.

"True Leaguer's" own conscience did not guide the person as to his duties to his League District Officers by writing as he did.

Yours for 'Health & Strength',

SURESH GUNPATH BADAL

## The Sporting World

### South End Hindu C.C. (Port Elizabeth)

THE above club was at home to Uitenhage in a cup fixture in Port Elizabeth, on November 28. The scores were as follows:—South End, first innings 47, (N. Umley 29; M. B. Kara 8 wickets for 15); Uitenhage, first innings 18, (N. Umley 5 wickets for 4). South End, second innings 44, (N. Umley 17, R. Morar 14; M. B. Kara 6 wickets for 17 and Narsee Morar 3 wickets for 13); Uitenhage, second innings, 18 (N. Umley 4 wickets for 7 and M. Kooverjee 3 wickets for 6). South End thus won the match by 54 runs.

### Cricket In Pretoria

The second league fixture for Naidoo's trophy was played on Sunday, November 29, between the Pretoria Indian C.C. and the Swaraj C.C., in Pretoria. The match was well contested between the two clubs, the former winning on the first innings by 140 runs. Pretoria Indian C.C.'s score was 255 for 8 declared. The main scorers were V. N. Naidoo 114, A. H. Khan 36, V. V. Naidoo 32 and G. Ponesamy 33. Swaraj, first innings 115; main scorer, S. Ernest 89 not out.

By "Rambler"

Bowling, Pretoria Indian C.C., V. Ranganathan 5 for 35; V. V. Naidoo 2 for 30.

### Verulam Temple C.C.

Mr. R. L. Beharee, hon. secretary of the Verulam Temple Cricket Club, wishes to thank the officials and members of the Durban and District African Cricket Union, for the kind hospitality and treatment accorded to his team which visited Durban on Sunday, December 5. The match resulted in favour of the home team on the first innings by 44 runs.

### Boxing Programme

An interesting boxing programme has been arranged by Mr. D. D. Naidoo, the well-known promoter, to be staged on December 15 at the City Hall, Durban. In the main contest Mannie Dixon, the non-European light-weight champion of South Africa, is billed to meet George Frenchman of Capetown, over 12 rounds. Arrangements are in hand for Mannie Dixon to go overseas after this fight. The Capetonian has had several fights in

his home city with credit and distinction, and it will be remembered that when Mottee Kid Singh opened his South African campaign, Frenchman was his first opponent. Mottee Singh, then in his prime, had a hard fight to overcome this boxer. Young Pottier the ex-fly-weight champion, is to meet Kid Vengan in a 10-round encounter. This should be a hard and willing bout, as both boxers can mix it with a will. Pottier is getting on in age, and is about to retire from the ring, and this will be a good try-out for Vengan. Arvie Williams, of Capetown, will be seen in action against Cecil Jonosky, of Johannesburg, in another 10-round contest. Williams, it will be recalled, put up a good fight against Dixon recently, while Jonosky has always given the public a good show each time he has appeared locally. The only preliminary will be between M. G. Moodley and Young Swaraj, a six-round affair.

Sheer idleness, it is the rust that attaches to the most brilliant metals.

—Voltaire.

# The Family: Safeguard...

Remember that the health of every member of your family and their freedom from infectious ailments are dependent upon their own natural powers of resistance. It is therefore of vital importance to build up and maintain this resistance by proper and adequate nourishment.

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