

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 2.—Vol. XXXVI.

Friday, January 21st, 1938.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

Departures To India

AS announced in our issue of January 7, Mr and Mrs. Manilal Gandhi, and family, sailed for India per s. s. *Kenya* last Sunday. On the wharftide, there was quite a good gathering of friends, relatives and the staff of the INDIAN OPINION Press, to bid them farewell. Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi wish to express their hearty thanks to the many friends who came to see them off.

It will be noted with interest that quite a number of Indians, who hail from the Surat district, left for India per s. s. *Kenya* last Sunday to be in time for the Indian National Congress which is to be held at Haripura, a village in the Surat district. Prominent among those who left for India via Lourenco Marques were Messrs. S. B. Mehd, Kantilal Mehta and V. M. Ghelani. We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Mehd for his interest and the help rendered by him to us always, and wish him, Messrs. Kantilal Mehta V. M. Ghelani and all those who sailed by the s. s. *Kenya* to attend the Indian National Congress bon voyage and a happy and safe return home.

Indian Licences At Estcourt

On Tuesday night, January 11, the Estcourt Town Council sat to consider licence applications for the current year and to consider the matter of authorising control certificates of renewal for existing licences. Mr. S. M. Bayat applied for a new licence as baker, fresh produce and mineral water dealer for premises in Harding Street. In reply to Mr. W. L. Howes, of Maritzburg, who appeared on his behalf, Mr. Bayat said that he proposed to invest £200 in the business. A similar application had been made last year, but was refused without any reason. Mr. Bayat said he would not be prepared to deliver to the residents of the town, but would rely on more of a wholesale business. After a short retirement, the Mayor, Mr. J. H. Marshall, announced that application was refused. Mr. M. E. Haffjee applied for the renewal of his general dealer's licence in premises

formerly known as Pinto's Store in Albert Street. The licence was granted previously, subject to a new building being erected and completed by December 31. The conditions have not yet been complied with. Mr. Haffjee, asked by Mr. Howes, who appeared on his behalf, why he did not complete the building by the end of 1937, said that he was guarantor for the Estcourt Mosque and, as there was litigation pending towards the latter end of 1937, this was the reason why the building was not entirely completed as stipulated by the Town Council at a previous meeting. Mr. W. L. Howes, in addressing the Council, said that Mr. Haffjee was finally committed to complete the buildings, as he had already expended £400 in re-building, which was a sufficient guarantee that the conditions would be carried out in the near future. After the Council had retired, the Mayor announced that the application for a renewal of the licence would be granted subject to the new buildings, the plans of which were approved on January 4, being completed by April 30. Should the new buildings be not completed to the satisfaction of the Town Council by the time specified and no just cause shown, the licence would not be renewed.

A Mystery Disease

Durban is suffering from a mysterious disease, which, despite intensive investigations by experienced Doctors, still remains unidentified. Describing the symptoms of a case of a five-year-old boy, Dr. G. H. Gunn, the Durban Medical Officer of Health, stated that the boy had a nasty fall two months ago. Two days afterwards his legs became paralysed and the infection gradually spread to his arms and whole body with the exception of the head. Up to Saturday last, the number of cases brought to the notice of the medical authorities was 32. All the Doctors seem to be mystified about this 'mystery disease' but we are assured that there are "no reasons for alarm of any description." Recovery from the disease is said to be certain, although it may, in some cases, take as long as 4 months.

Boycott Of Japanese Goods

In the course of a leading article, the *Searchlight* (Patna) writes:—

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has done well to issue an appeal for the boycott of Japanese goods and for giving financial assistance for the medical relief of the Chinese victims of Japanese inhumanity. The Indian people have expressed their horror at the reported Japanese atrocities in the Sino-Japanese war now proceeding—a war which is imperialist to the core, on one side, and wholly self-defensive, on the other. But that sympathy has no meaning if we continue to help Japan in increasing her economic competence by the purchase of her goods. The longer one's purse is, the more one is able to invest in armaments and engines of destruction. That Japan has been fully utilising her increased wealth in developing her militarist strength and using the same for her imperialist purposes no one can deny. Those who aid her, therefore, in the maintenance of her economic superiority to China are in reality siding with her in the perpetration of horrors upon the poor, unarmed and ill-equipped Chinese. It is necessary, therefore, to stop our purchase of Japanese goods, cheap though they be. That way alone can we show our active sympathy for China. The measure of our abstention from the purchase of Japanese goods will be the measure of our sympathy for the down trodden Chinese. We hope people will cheerfully respond to Pandit Jawaharlal's appeal and will give up purchasing Japanese goods. We know that this may subject Indian goods to a like treatment in Japan. But that cannot be helped. Those who are fighting against imperialism must help others engaged in a like fight and must be prepared for some sacrifice. Thus only can imperialism be ultimately rooted out and exploitation and oppression of the politically and economically weak by the strong be put an end to.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 1938

The Slums Clearance

It is reported that the Minister of Public Health has agreed to the Durban City Council taking action under the Slums Act by expropriating the 19½ acres in Mayville, just beyond the Toll Gate Tram terminus. The Minister has also agreed to declare portions of Riverside as slum areas. When the Slums Act came into force, we pointed out that the provisions of the law would be used to the detriment of the Indian community. The Act is a menace to our people in this City, and armed with it, the Durban City Council is in a position to force the Indian community to a point of utter despair.

We want to assure the Government and the City Council that we do not countenance slum areas. Far from it. No one would be happier than ourselves to find our people housed in decent dwellings and living under hygienic conditions. The application of the Slums Act on the Mayville and Riverside areas, is, in our opinion, not so much a desire on the part of the City Council to better house the Indians living there, as it is to expropriate such of the lands which can be developed into European Areas. The 19½ acres at Mayville occupy a position of gateway to those who enter from the North. The heights of the Riverside area lend themselves to be developed into a second Berea with the Umgeni River as the play ground, second only to the beach. It would be seen, therefore,

that the City Council is no more solicitous of the poorly housed Indians than the man in the moon.

The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, when acting as the Minister of the Interior, refused to sanction the action of the Durban City Council in declaring the Mayville and Riverside areas as slums until provisions were made for the housing of those Indians who would be displaced from these areas. The present Minister of the Interior, the Hon. R. Stuttaford, has now confirmed the action of the Council, presumably, on the strength of the Indian Housing Schemes at Cato Manor and Springfield. In declaring the Mayville and Riverside areas as slums, a gross injustice has been perpetrated on the Indian community. The Council has the necessary machinery to condemn any dwelling that does not conform to the Health By-laws. It has the power to expropriate land for the purpose of making new roads or widening existing roads. We grant that both in the Mayville and Riverside areas there are houses which should have been condemned years ago by the Health Boards. Within the boundaries of the old Borough, the Health Department is leaving no stone unturned, to condemn all unsuitable dwellings. In these cases opportunity is being given to the owners to demolish the building and erect a new building. A similar opportunity should therefore be given to the owners in the Mayville and Riverside slum areas. The Council would then find that the Indians living in these areas

would not lag behind in the matter of improving their surroundings. We need only point to the hundreds of decent brick buildings erected throughout the added areas since the institutions of the various Health Boards, to show that, given the facilities, the Indian would implicitly conform to the standards set for him.

The Indian is not wholly to be blamed for creating the Mayville area into a slum. Years ago the 19½ acres were level with the road. The Provincial Roads Department raised the road several feet high, and the properties having no drainage system, took in the whole volume of water from the road, with the result that during rainy weather, the lands resembled a lake. If the health Board had spent in this area a small percentage of the huge sums of money that were spent in developing European localities, no excuse could now be found by the City Council to declare it a slum area. The same applies to the Riverside area.

If the declaration of the City Council were to be accepted by the Indian community passively, it would mean that, sooner or later, sooner than later, all such areas as are required of the European community would be expropriated by the City Council as a matter of course. A move is being made to declare the triangular piece facing Warwick Avenue, Acorn and Old Dutch Roads. The move is to make this area into a "all White area" in view of the imminent removal of the Borough Market to Warwick Avenue. This is only the thin end of the wedge. What are the leaders of the community going to do? May we expect the leaders will not fail to take the necessary steps in time?

THE NEXT STEP

WHAT THE CONGRESS SHOULD DO IN REGARD TO THE CENTRE

AS one, who boldly believed and expressed his belief in the programme of "office acceptance," as it is called, by the Congress in the Provinces, where Congressmen were returned in majorities to the Legislature, I venture to say, at the very beginning of this article, that the situation at the Centre is radically different. In the Provinces, the main question was whether Governors use their safeguards to thwart the activities of the Ministers, backed by majorities, in their Legislature, by constant interference. The three months' talk between Mahatma Gandhi, on the one hand, and the British Government through its Secretary of State for India and the Viceroy, on the other, has made things perfectly clear. I am now convinced that Governors will not normally use their safeguards. Hence, the Congress has wisely decided to accept office. The experience of the past three months of their acceptance has convinced me that the safeguards are now as good as dead, and I now look forward with confidence to some years of good, constructive work by Congress Ministries.

The only fly in the ointment is Finance. With the best will in the world, with Governors wholly non-interfering, and with the Legislatures fully supporting them, still the Ministers cannot make much headway in financing the nation-building activities on even the minimum scale, unless large sums of money are forthcoming for help to the Provinces. I quite recognise that there is room for retrenchment, and there is room also for fresh taxation. I agree with Mahatma Gandhi and Sir Otto Niemeyer, that the rich in this country are not taxed as heavily as they ought to be, or, as they are in other countries. Speaking of retrenchment, unless there is going to be the maximum amount of reduction in the salaries of the highly paid officers and also some in those of the lower officers, there is not much money. So far as fresh taxation is concerned, there is bound to be some money in it. But, it will take time to initiate well-considered schemes of fresh taxation. It will also take time for the taxation to yield its fullest results. But, along with this retrenchment and fresh taxation, the commitments of the Congress Governments in the provinces should be taken into account. Congress Governments are pledged to reduction of land revenue. They must do it at least in the case of small land-owners. Yes, Congress Governments will tax agricultural incomes on the basis of income-tax. They are also pledged to revise the permanent

By
MR. S. SATYAJMURTI M.L.A.
In "The Indian Review"

land revenue system. However, it will be fortunate if fresh taxation will yield at least the present income. Besides, Congress Governments are bound to follow the policy of Prohibition in all the provinces. It will mean a loss of some crores to the Provinces, and more than 4 crores for this Province every year. Under those circumstances, if, after all the retrenchment possible and after all the schemes of fresh taxation have been introduced and with these commitments, Governments in the Provinces can retain their present scale of revenue, they should be congratulated. But, the present rate of expenditure is wholly inadequate for the nation-building departments. On a rough calculation, we must spend in the major Provinces 1½ crores to 2 crores of rupees and in the minor 50 to 75 lakhs of rupees per year for about ten years at least, before we can make up the great leeway in the field of elementary education, sanitation, medical relief, village communications, village drinking wells, agricultural improvement, and the building up of minor cottage industries in the various villages. Where is this money to come from?

This leads me on to the problem at the Centre. I am convinced that, if British troops are withdrawn from India, and if Indian troops are substituted in their place, we shall save at least 12 crores a year. That means, that the Government of India must agree to that. Of course, the plea that Local Governments want British troops for internal security purposes can no longer hold. They ought to be satisfied with Indian troops. But, whether they are satisfied or not, the ultimate responsibility rests with the Government of India. That is why we have got to consider the problem at the Centre, not merely from the point of view of the Centre, but also from the point of view of the Provinces. From the point of the Provinces alone, it seems to me that, unless at the Centre we are able to get the power of the purse including control over defence expenditure, the Provinces themselves will not be able to make much headway.

From that point of view, let us examine the constitution at the Centre. The Centre is going to consist of a bicameral Federal Legislature, consisting largely of the nominees of the Indian

Princes and of representatives elected by communal electorates for the Upper House, and by the members of the Provincial Legislatures voting in communal compartments on the principle of proportional representation by the single transferable vote, for the Lower House. It means that five to nine members of the Provincial Legislatures can vote for members of the Federal Legislature. Such pocket boroughs have tended to become rotten-boroughs in the past. At any rate, they are bound to deprive the Federal Lower House of that representative character, which the Provincial Legislatures possess. Moreover, the nominees of the Indian Princes are bound to be a disturbing element in the Federal Legislature. Last, but not least, the Federal Upper House has got co-equal financial powers with the Federal Lower House—a position unprecedented in the history of any democratic Government, and even in the history of Indian Government. The Governor-General's safeguards are even more comprehensive than the Governors. Besides, Diarchy, in a much worse form than was tried and found wanting in the Provinces, is sought to be introduced there. Finance, Foreign, and Ecclesiastical Affairs are to be reserved departments. Railway matters are taken out of the purview of the Indian Legislature by the proposed constitution of the Federal Railway Authority. Currency and Exchange are to be in the hands of the Reserve Bank. Commerce, no doubt, is transferred, but the commercial safeguards in the Government of India Act, 1935, are a bar to any real progress. The retention of the Indian Civil Service, according to the Wheeler Report, is calculated to prevent any genuine democratic development at the Centre.

If that be the case, the position of the Indian National Congress, that this Federation ought to be prevented from coming into existence, becomes irresistible. Speaking for myself, I am not opposed to genuine Federation of the people of India and of the people of the Indian States. Indeed, geographically situated, as we are, and with the historical perspective behind us, I see no escape from such a genuine Federation, and provided that the Federation is based on sound political principles, I look forward to the Indian Federation making history. But, this proposed admixture of democratically governed Provinces with autocratic States cannot do anybody any good. That I recognise is destructive criticism.

But, I have a constructive suggestion to make. I suggest that the eleven self-

governing Provinces should be made into an Indian Federation, and the door should be kept open for confirming Indian States coming into Federation, provided the Federal Legislature agrees to such State or States coming into the Federation. The conditions are, that the States, who want to enter the Federation should accept the elementary canons of the Federal Government, (1) That the Federal Executive must be able to govern and administer directly all Federal subjects in all the Federating Units, including the Indian States. (2) The Federal Law should be extended to all the Federating Units, without any limitations whatever. (3) The writ of the Federal Court should run unhindered throughout the Federating Units. Besides these, powers of taxation vested in the Federation should be unlimited, with respect to the Federating Units. This is, so far as the Federation is concerned. From the point of view of the Federating Units, I am anxious that as in the Indian Provinces, so in the Indian States, the rule of law should prevail, *viz.*, that no man should be deprived of his liberty except after an open trial by a court of law; that all fundamental rights should be guaranteed to the citizens—freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of association, etc. Redress against any breaches of these fundamental rights should be available to all the citizens of the Federation, by an appeal to the Federal Court.

If the Indian States agree to these, they are welcome to come in the Federation. This may make progress longer, but it is well known that the shortest way is not always the best way.

Whether Britain will listen to this counsel or will insist on this Federation going through at any cost, time alone can show. I want the British Government

to ponder and think over the whole matter. This proposed Federation is *ex hypothesi* between the eleven self-governing Provinces and the Federating Indian States. The British Indian Provinces are the chief units of the Federation. If these British Indian Provinces do not voluntarily join the Federation, that is to say, if the responsible governments of the Provinces say, that they do not want Federation, I think the case for the Federation is entirely destroyed. This Federation will then be of autocratic Governors of Provinces trying to speak on behalf of the people of the Provinces, and autocratic Indian Princes trying to speak on behalf of the people of the Indian States. The seven Congress Governments are in principle opposed to this Federation. The four non-Congress Governments are also opposed to this Federation, because the Muslim League is opposed to this Federation. General Muslim opinion is against it. I may mention that even in Sind a resolution rejecting this Federation and asking for a Constituent Assembly was passed *nem con.* Under those circumstances, it is the British Government who want to force this Federation in spite of the Provinces.

On this point, I am afraid that the strength of feeling in the Provinces has not been brought adequately to the notice of the Government of India and of the British Government. Every possible step should be taken by the Provincial Government to bring home to the authorities, that they do not want this Federation, and if it is sought to be forced on them, they have no part or lot with it.

Allied with this, the Premiers of the seven Congress Provinces and the Premiers of the four other Provinces also should address individually all the Indian States, asking them not to join

this Federation, in view of their hostility to it. The Princes, I know, are not over-enthusiastic on this Federation. They are being cajoled and threatened to join the Federation somehow or other. I hope that, if the Provincial Governments, through their Prime Ministers, make it perfectly clear to the Princes, that they do not want the Federation, and will take their act in joining this Federation as a gesture of hostility, many of the Princes may well hesitate.

Last, but not least, let me say, that the world situation is not very much in favour of Britain to-day. The latest news that Japan is taking over the International Settlement in Shanghai must convince Britain that she is no longer the Lord of the World. Britain cannot afford to make a permanent enemy of India. Britain must come to terms with India. This persistence in this unwanted Federation will be treated as an act of the greatest hostility by the people of India. I am, therefore confident that, if all of us pull together this Federation will not come into existence.

Let me state in conclusion, however that if this Federation be sought to be forced on us, in spite of us, we must still carry on the fight against it. As part of the strategy of that fight, I am clearly and unambiguously of the opinion that every seat in the Federal Legislature, open to Indians, should be contested and captured by the Indian National Congress. If we contest those seats, we are bound to capture them. Once we are there, we shall fight the good fight against the Federation as strongly as we can. We have seen bitterly in the past the result of leaving open strategic positions to the enemies of the Congress and of the country. We must not repeat that mistake.

BENEVOLENCE

WHEN one remembers Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda and all the leaders of the Ramakrishna Mission and its centres, there always comes to mind the concept of Benevolence. Benevolence is a powerful word. Both its constituent parts presuppose an accumulation of blissful force. *Bene* means the Good in its entire constructive sense. *Volence*, volition, is the power of thought and will. And when this immense high might is directed towards the upliftment of humanity, it represents the true essence of the Sri Ramakrishna movement. In this movement there is revealed so much of direct self-sacrificing labour. Precisely there is a constant benefaction, untiringly and gloriously penetrating into the hearts.

By
Prof. NICHOLAS De ROERICH
In "Prabuddha Bharata."

All these good words are easily pronounced but for the ordinary person it is not easy to manifest them in life. The very thought, the art of thinking, requires education and training. And only in the process of good-doing does Benevolence receive its vital significance. In the same good-doing is created a better future. This is not a truism. On the contrary, at present all nations should exercise the art of thinking in this direction. Let us beware that somewhere instead of benefaction there should not appear the ugly grimace of malefaction.

People sometimes think about the future; yet very often it does not enter at all into vital deliberations. Indeed, it is not entirely within human forces to determine the future, but each one should strive for it with all his consciousness. And not to a beclouded future should one aspire but to precisely a better future. In this striving will already be the pledge of success.

On days of solemnity prayer is uplifted about the future. No misty abstractions does it affirm. In it are expressed three principles; realization of that which is most lofty, building of world peace, and benevolence as the fundamentals of existence. Without these three bases, construction is impossible; yet they must not be promised abstractly, but in their full and indeferrable reality. It would seem that

the third mentioned principle ought to be the most ordinary feature of everyday life. Only benevolence! Only goodwill and altruism! For whom? Why, for people themselves. For those with whom the task has been set to pass over this field of life.

It is a fact that no deep studies and instructions are needed for benevolence. It would seem that it is already presupposed at each human encounter. Can it be possible to draw near to any human being without fundamental goodwill? How is it possible to meet the neighbour with hatred or suspicion, even with plotted villainy? Where then, in what sort of Covenants, written or unwritten, have malice and suspicion been ordained?

"Man is a wolf to man." Surely this is one of the most malignant aphorisms. For, so much results from auto-suggestion. If one hears from the cradle about good, then it too will surely remain a guiding principle. Even all the confusions of corrupted life will not eradicate the concept of good. Where man has been accustomed to live in good, there he values all the remarkable significance of the word benevolence. Surely this word is very imperative. Volition, formulated will, this is already something accomplished, done.

Volition cannot be only instinctive. It is promoted in full consciousness, in full responsibility. Perhaps each state council ought to be opened with the important question: "Is there benevolence?" And he who remains silent should take no part. It will probably be said that precisely the malicious will themselves cry out about benevolence. And here too an imprint of the human radiations would show the truth.

Heart radiations will show the true feelings, without the mask of insincerity. How mottled will be the radiations of the false, the insincere! The man who has not pondered upon the deep significance of benevolence will often not understand in general what is being spoken about here! Why underline words known to all and which moreover have never improved anything? Of course such monstrous opinions are possible.

Not seldom a vendor cries out something very useful, absolutely without thinking about the meaning of the words uttered by him. Does a scribe often know the contents of what he has copied? Sometimes even one who reads aloud to another thus frees himself, as it were, from understanding of what he reads. In such a manner, often the most valuable and urgent considerations become meaningless words.

Is a better future possible without benevolence, without benevolence in all

its solemnly imperative meaning? What sort of peace will there be on earth without benevolence? And where will be the "glory in the highest" without profound and unceasing desire for good?

For a better future, you must be better to-day than yesterday. If there is no longing for this, then surely that from which is most important and already ordained only a negligible fraction remains. All the great signs may be in readiness. But if there be no desire for the sake of good to follow them, then what part of them will be perceptibly carried out? Who then has the right to vitiate or belittle that which has been composed by great paths? Surely this is no empty dreaming but the responsibility of the messenger.

Even a simple postman, in twilight and in darkness proceeds with caution in order not to stumble, in order that a branch may not lash him in the eye, in order to avoid beasts. Yet, he bears someone else's letter about which he knows nothing. When, then, man thinks

B. W. CANEY
 —Jeweller—
 366 West Street, Durban
 For best value in Jewellery &
 Watches of all makes. 117b

about the future, when he takes into consideration all its conditions and all good wishes, how much more strivingly and carefully does he proceed, ready and alert. He proceeds vigilant and imbued with feeling. He makes haste in order not to pilfer an ordained hour, and in his heart sound glory in the highest, and peace on earth, and benevolence for his neighbour.

Benevolence needs to be taught. Peace needs to be established. With every palpitation of the heart one should be enraptured by glory in the highest!

Examples of the creation of a better future may be drawn from various domains. One of them has remained in memory from early school years.

We were all tremendously impressed by the story of Schliemann—the noted inventor of Troy. We were all entranced by how he from early years set himself to the task of future researches and how he began to prepare himself in all branches of learning. How he tenaciously enriched himself

with knowledge, yet at the same time and just as perseveringly, he amassed a fortune. Of course he maturely thought out all the resources which he would need.

After many years of conscious labour, he brought to science his precious offering, and remained the forefather of many brilliant investigators coming after him. One can imagine how in his time the businessmen shrugged their shoulders at the scholarly tasks of Schliemann. Likewise one can see how other scholars probably not once labelled him as an amateur, and made fun of his undertakings. Yet with originality and persistence he composed his own scientific future.

That which for another would have been attainment was for Schliemann only a means which had an applied relative value. In so many years of conscious labour is a large share of selflessness.

One can find in the history of the world many examples of such self-sacrificing attainments. But why dig in ancient annals, when in our age we have the glorious examples of the lives of Bhagawan Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda. In them is manifested the highest blissful benefaction and a lionine striving into a better future. And in what simple all-penetrating words were expressed their outlines of spiritual unfoldment. May everyone be blessed, who can speak of the Good in simple words. All the heaps of evil thoughts have deviated humanity from simplicity and constructive work. Every day people are accustomed to destructions and murders. It is shocking with what indifference people imbue the abhorrent stories, which altogether do not benefit humanity. With every day these horrors and cruel-heartedness grow. Every place, where the word Benevolence is affirmed, becomes a true shrine and stronghold of a better future.

Thus again let us recall the beautiful word Benevolence. Verily, the conscious creators of a better future are filled with true Benevolence.

"WANTED indentors to collect
 indents for our Atters on commission
 or salary basis or both, all over South
 Rhodesia, Nyasaland, P. E. Africa,
 and Madagascar, jointly or separately."
CHHEDIRAM MOOLCHAND,
 Perfumery Kothi No. 32,
 Kanauj, India.

Things In General

Sir Raza Ali Not Allowed In Lift

SIR SYED RAZA ALI, Agent-General for India, and Lady Ali were refused permission to travel in a lift of a big Johannesburg building on Tuesday, telegraphs a correspondent of the *Daily News*. Sir Syed Ali and Lady Ali arrived to keep a business appointment just as the representative of the firm concerned sent a representative to the vestibule to meet them. The Agent-General for India sought permission to enter a lift, but his way was barred by the lift attendant, who explained that he had orders to permit no coloured people in the European lift. Sir Syed Ali explained that he was the Agent for the Government of India, but the lift attendant was adamant. While Sir Syed Raza Ali was protesting at such treatment an older lift attendant in the next of the row of three lifts recognised him. He intervened and invited Sir Syed Raza Ali and Lady Ali into his lift, where he took them to the firm which they were visiting, together with his firm's representative. The superintendent, who was sent for, apologised. By the time a director of the firm which owns the building had been notified, Sir Syed Raza Ali and Lady Ali had left. The director pointed out that the ban was intended only to natives and not to business men of any colour. A formal apology in writing is to be sent to Sir Syed Raza Ali and Lady Ali.

Bread To Be Dearer

With the price of flour rising there is a likelihood of the price of bread going up. The effect of such an increase on our people will be tremendous. The quantity of bread that is sold at the bread stalls at the Indian Market is very large, and any rise in the price is bound to reduce the sale considerably.

Appointment Of

Assistant Medical Health Officer

A recommendation that Dr. H. Hooper, at present Clinical Medical Officer to the Durban Municipal Public Health Department, should be appointed as an Assistant Medical Officer of Health, was tabled at a meeting of the Public Health Committee. It was decided to appoint Dr. Hooper to the post in a temporary capacity and that, when Dr. G. H. Gunn, Medical Officer of Health, reports that a second Assistant M.O.H. is necessary, the post should be advertised.

R. K. Khan Hospital

And Dispensary Trust

The Trust has opened a free dispensary at the Main South Coast Road, Clairwood, as from January 18. Dr. Beryl Peters will be in attendance daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Hill View School Building Committee

The officials and members of the above committee wish to thank all those well-wishers in Northern Natal and Transvaal, who magnanimously donated towards the erection of a new school building. The support received by the members who toured up country to collect, is very much appreciated.

Mr. De Valera

And Mr. S. C. Bose

A Reuter's message from London states that shortly after midnight on Sunday last, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose called at Mr. De Valera's hotel and had an hour's talk with him. In the course of an interview, Mr. Bose stated that Mr. De Valera and he were old friends, and his visit to him was purely of a friendly character.

Women's Sanatan Ved Dharma

Sabha

On January 3, at Sophiatown, on the grounds where the Hindu Temple is to be built, Pundit Lalbehari Maharaj of Germiston addressed a gathering of Hindustani women on the necessity of a women's social body among our community in Johannesburg. His speech was so effective that the women decided to act there and then and a body was formed and called the Women's Sanatan Ved Dharma Sabha. This is the first time that the Hindustani women in Johannesburg have formed a social body. The following were elected as officials:—Mrs. Nirpath, chairlady; Mrs. Kenejbehari, assist. chairlady; Mrs. L. Dukhie, secretary; Miss R. Singh, assist. secretary; Mrs. L. Behari, treasurer. Finally a silver collection was made and a sum of £3 14s. was realized within a few minutes. The chairlady, having spoken a few words of encouragement and thanksgiving, closed the meeting.

Farewell Reception

A farewell reception, by the Sanatan Ved Dharma Sabha, was given to Pundit Lalbehari Maharaj, the official priest of Transvaal, who left for India to attend the Congress. He was garlanded by the ladies of the sabha and an address was presented to him. Mrs. Baboolal Maharaj of Pretoria, with others, was also present. She was garlanded by ladies. A bhayan was performed on the grounds where the temple and school is to be built by Mrs. Baboolal Maharaj, with Messrs. Ramdial Singh, Seubajan Ajoda and B. Ramlal Singh. There were several speakers, and Mrs. Baboolal Maharaj was thanked for presenting the ground. The erection of the school and temple has commenced.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The following message has been despatched to the private secretary to H.M. King Farouk, by the Nizamia Muslim Society (Maritzburg):—"We, the officials and members of the Nizamia Muslim Society, of Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa, take this unique opportunity to offer your majesty our most sincere congratulations on the occasion of your Majesty's marriage to Mlle Farida Sa-Naaz. We sincerely pray that Allah the Compassionate, the merciful, will abundantly bless your Majesties' continued dependence upon Him and grant a long and happy reign with an evergrowing affection from the whole Muslim world; the reward your Majesties so richly deserve. May the Beneficent Allah long spare you to lead the people along the paths of peace and honour. We further desire to convey, as loyal Muslims, our dutiful homage to the Royal Family."

Springfield Rovers And Scouts

At Camp

The Springfield Rovers Crew were in a training camp at Brighton Beach (South), off the Marine Drive, accompanied by the Springfield Methodist School Scouts as their proteges. They pitched camp on the morning of Monday December 27, 1937 in glorious weather and broke up camp also in fine weather. Considerable progress was made in the development in intelligence, handicraft and skill, health and strength, and also in service, as most of the Rovers are members of the Durban Indian Surf Life Saving Club. Arrangements were made for them to be on duty along the beach during the day. Discipline and obedience were features which assisted towards the success of the camp, for in this department their demeanour was "above par". The success of the training camp was due entirely to the efforts of the Rovers themselves, who raised sufficient funds by organising successful Scout Shows in their own district. Further camps will depend on Scout Shows and the patronising of these instructive shows will certainly flavour enthusiasm. The group held a monster Camp Fire Indaba to see the old year out and to welcome the New Year. The skipper, having delivered a brief but blithesome lecture on the origin of the camp-fire—through the Red Indians—its consecration and solemnity, lit the pyramid pile of logs very successfully. Official Visitors' Day was on New Year's Day. Visitors were treated to a 'tuck-in' of 'camp-grab'. The many visitors who included a few of the Rossburgh Rovers were well entertained. Fresh bread and milk were delivered daily at dawn to the Camp. Practically throughout the whole week, the weather-clerk 'dished-out'

exceptionally good camping weather. Midweek brought rainy weather but the Group just laughed at these little things. It must be mentioned that the Scouts of the Springfield Methodist School had not been out under canvas at any other time, and this first experience was such that the boys, like Oliver Twist, have asked for more. The management of the camp was under the personal supervision of the Group Scout Master, A. P.

Pahlney and the Assist. Rover Scout Leader Narsingh B. Singh. The crew wish to thank the various kind donors for their much appreciated donations.

Wedding

A pretty wedding took place at Pietersburg on Saturday January 1. The two sons of Mr. and Mrs. G. Rasool of Pietersburg were married to the two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Elumdin. There were

about 500 guests in the beautifully decorated pandal. The brides were given away by their father. The guests came from Capetown, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Durban, Ladysmith and Pietermaritzburg. A reception was held at the home of the bridegroom's parents at which many relatives and friends gathered to wish the couples happiness. The married couples received beautiful presents including cheques and telegrams.

The Sporting World

H. Jajbhay Wins Singles And Doubles Championship

THE South African Tennis championships, under the auspices of the South African Tennis Board, were commenced on January 1 at Port Elizabeth, wherein 32 entries were received from Western Province, Eastern Province, Transvaal, Kimberley, Queenstown, Middelburg, etc. Considerable interest prevailed in all the matches played. The winners of the titles were as follows:— Men's singles: H. Jajbhay (Transvaal); Men's doubles: H. Jajbhay and C. Dupreez (Transvaal); Mixed doubles: H. Williams and Miss Theron (Eastern Province); Ladies' doubles: Miss Mathys and Miss Peters (Western Province); Ladies' singles: Miss Mathys (Western Province). H. Jajbhay, the winner of the singles title, is a worthy title holder, and was the most outstanding star of the tournament. He played brilliantly throughout the tournament for four days continuously on and off the courts; he went through a series of matches and met W. Jansen (Eastern Province champion), who defeated G. Golding in the quarter finals, and also

By "Rambler"

played finals against L. Kleinveldt, the well-known champion. Jajbhay played both the matches with great determination and was opposed thoroughly by his opponents, and each game was keenly contested and after some brilliant display, Jajbhay won. Golding and Smith, (holders of the double titles), met Jajbhay and Dupreez in the finals. Smith played wonderfully at mid court whereas Dupreez got off many points on his brilliant net play, and after a gruelling and well contested match, Jajbhay and Dupreez won by 3 sets to 1. Jajbhay played 9 best of 5 set matches and won 27 sets dropping only 3 sets. It is very interesting to note that with a short period of three years and four months, Jajbhay has won 23 championships, which includes Western Province singles and doubles, Transvaal singles, doubles and mixed doubles, Johannesburg singles, doubles and mixed doubles; Bantu Men's S.O. singles and doubles and South African singles and doubles, creating a record no previous champion ever held in South Africa.

South African Coloured Cricket Board Of Control And Affiliated Centres

Mr. Sol. D. Royeppen, secretary of the Transvaal Coloured Cricket Union, who attended the South African Cricket Conference in Durban during New Year's week, reports that several unions have expressed the wish that the new Cricket Board of Control to be formed be entirely Indian. The existing board having suspended activities at headquarters, Kimberley, and failed to stage the Barnato South African Coloured Tournament since 1934, a conference of the various Cricket Unions was held to consider the advisability of organising a new cricket board, as a result of which the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That the South African Coloured Cricket Board of Control be requisitioned to convene a meeting of the Board on January 19, 1938, at Kimberley in terms of Rule 15 of the constitution for the revival of the existing board. Failure to comply with this request may mean the disorganisation of the existing board." The conference was held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Cricket Union, and presided by Dr. Maurice Peters and supported by Advocate A. Christopher, and officials of the Sports Board, Natal.

OBITUARY

Death Of Mrs. M. M. Govender

BY the tragically sudden death after a short illness, of Mrs. Durgama, wife of Mr. M. M. Govender, of Umzinto, on the eve of December 30, a gloom was cast over the Umzinto District, where she lived with her husband and family. She was well devoted to the family and to all relatives and a circle of friends, and was highly esteemed by all who came into contact with her. She was laid to rest in the Umzinto Hindu General Cemetery on December 31 and as a last tribute close on 400 mourners congregated at the grave-side from all parts of the Province. To her husband and family the deepest sympathy is tendered as also to her father, Charlie Ponan Govender of Umzinto.

Death Of Mr. M. V. Lingham

There passed away peacefully at the deceased's residence, on Thursday evening January 6, the late Mr. M. V. Ling-

ham, of 6, John Street, Port Elizabeth, also known as Johnny. The deceased was ill for the past four months and his untimely death removes from his family, wide circle of relatives, friends, and the sporting community a popular person. The remains were interred at the North End Cemetery, Port Elizabeth. The funeral was well attended by friends and relatives, and numerous telegrams and letters conveying deepest sympathy were received from all parts of the Union. The numerous floral tributes sent from all parts of the Union were a testimony of the high esteem in which the deceased was held.

Death Of Mr. Seeboo Ram

The funeral of the late Mr. Seeboo Ram took place on Monday afternoon, January 10, in the family cemetery, amidst a very large gathering of friends and relatives. He died on Sunday evening, at the age of 73 years, after an illness lasting 6 months. The passing of this

grand old man is a great loss to the Indian community, especially of Isipingo and Merebank. He was liked and admired for his good deeds by all, and was connected with the various public bodies of the district. He was chairman for a number of years of Isipingo Indian Society, Patron and Trustee of Merebank Indian Association since its inception. He financed the building of Merebank Indian School and also the first extension. His liberal donations to all public causes will be ever remembered with appreciation. In the early days he visited Transvaal and some years ago also toured India. There were many floral tributes sent and Messrs. Ramsamy Naidoo, S. R. Kanhie, T. Rajoo, Tilak Singh and R. Gopaul Singh paid high tributes at the grave side. The Isipingo Indian Football Association have decided to erect a Tomb Stone in his memory. His wife predeceased him in 1924, and he is survived by one son and three daughters to whom heartfelt sympathy is sincerely extended.

India Letter

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT]

The Next Agent-General

ACCORDING to the *Hindustan Times* the name of Sir Kailash Narayan Haksar of Gwalior, is mentioned as the likely successor to Sir Syed Raza Ali, the Agent-General in South Africa. Some time ago, the name of Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru was mentioned as the likely choice. But, on the Pandit's attention being drawn to the report, he made it plain that it was entirely without foundation. Sir Kailash's great services to the country at the Round Table Conference and after certainly merit recognition, and, as India's Agent-General in South Africa, he will worthily fill the place. Whether he can be persuaded to take on himself such strenuous work at a time when he should be free from the worries of office is the doubt that many will entertain. His erudition, culture and statesmanship fit him for the place as India's representative in a land where the Europeans until lately, looked on Indians as unfit to occupy the same place with themselves. If he can be persuaded to go over, both the Government of India and the Government of South Africa will have reason to be glad. Neither the Maharaja of Gwalior, whom he has served with singular devotion, nor the Maharaja of Bikaner, to whom he has been deputed just at present, will stand in the way of Sir Kailash going to South Africa.

Sir S. Radhakrishnan On India's Cultural Heritage

"Moulds are cracking and further growth in old moulds is not possible; so, as on previous occasions the eyes of the West are turned towards the East." Thus concluded Sir S. Radhakrishnan, presiding at the second session of the Indian Cultural Conference held recently at the Senate Hall, Calcutta. Speaking on the influence of Eastern culture on Western thought, Sir S. Radhakrishnan said, "We cannot speak of India as we do of Syria, Babylonia and Egypt, for its history is still being made, its civilization still functioning. To penetrate into the heart of a civilization, we must study its secret springs of thought, its religious ideals. Religion has been the bearer of human culture and the supreme achievement of man's profound expression. Despite continuous struggle with superstition, India has held fast for centuries to the ideal of the spirit. Not only have we made out of Aryans, Dravidians and Aboriginal tribes, Hindus, but we have given religious education to a large part of the world. After referring to

the industrialisation, which suggested fundamental conceptions of Indian culture, the speaker passed on to Vedic civilization which, he said, had a great deal in common with the Olympian religion of the Greeks. Contact between India and the West, continued the speaker became closer after Alexander's invasion and Asoka's mission. In circles where Christian gospels are formulated, Indian religious ideals are thoroughly familiar and such ideals were well-known to early church followers of the Roman Empire. The German Transcendentalism, the American Idealism, the Irish Renaissance and the writings of contemporaries indicate the deep influence of Indian thought. Tracing the cause of fundamental of spiritual waywardness, Sir Radhakrishnan said it could be found in the realisation of the fact that the civilisations of East—India and China which were built upon passivism, tolerance non-aggression and cultivation of inner life are long-lived, while those based on ambition and adventure, aggression and courage are short-lived. Eastern civilisation had endured centuries of wars, pestilence and human misrule and yet survived. No Western civilization had lived for over thousand years. The modern civilization, built upon such science and reason, was already showing symptoms of decay.

Mrs. Naidu's Address

Opening the Conference, Mrs. Naidu said she believed in India's political and national destiny—every aspect of her national activity and life—wide as life itself. Many nations had contributed to enrich Indian culture and life, and, therefore, they should prove to the world that Indian culture did not merely excel in metaphysical genius and in undying philosophy, but that there was a dynamic force in it, namely, the Gift Islam, which had played an important part in their national life as well.

Enrolment Of Detenus And Ex-Prisoners

As a special case Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress President, is reported to have permitted enrolment as Congress members of the detenus and political prisoners who were released after September 30, which was the last date for preparation of electoral rolls in Bengal. As many detenus and political prisoners as can get themselves enrolled as Congress members have been also permitted by the Congress President to participate in the election of delegates to the Haripura session of the National Congress.

Pandit Nehru On Tour

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru arrived at Sunamganj (Sylhet) on December 7 and was received by a large gathering. Addressing a public meeting, Pandit Nehru said that Congress Ministries had given relief to peasants in seven provinces of India. Swaraj would be neither Hindu-raj nor Muslim-raj; it would be for all, Hindus and Muslims and others.

Sir J. C. Bose's Bequests

Donations amounting to Rs. 3,71,000 have been announced by Lady Abala Bose in accordance with the wishes of her deceased husband Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose. They are as follows:

3½ per cent Government promissory notes to the face value of Rs. 1,00,000 to the Calcutta University, the interest of which will be devoted to promoting physiological research; 3½ per cent. promissory notes to the face value of Rs. 50,000 to the Presidency College; 3½ per cent. Government promissory notes to the face value of Rs. 1,00,000 the interest of which will be devoted towards the promotion of temperance in Bihar (to be paid to Babu Rajendra Prasad and after him, to the President of the All-India Congress Committee), as a token of interprovincial amity and goodwill between Bihar and Bengal; 3½ per cent. Government promissory notes to the face value of Rs. 1,00,000, the interest of which will be devoted to the promotion of primary education in Bengal to be spent for the time being by Nari Siksha Samity; 3½ per cent. Government promissory notes to the face value of Rs. 10,000 for Sadharan Brahma Samaj; 5½ per cent. Government promissory notes to the face value of Rs. 3,000, the interest of which will be spent for research in "Baijnjanik Paribhāsa" (vernacular synonyms of scientific terms) to Sahitya Parishad; 2½ per cent. notes to the face value of Rs. 3,000, the interest of which will be spent for the purchase of books for Ram Mohan Library; and Rs. 5,000 to the Carmichael Medical College for equipment of a laboratory for cardiological research to be named after Sir Niltaran Sircar in grateful remembrance of his life-long friendship.

Prohibition In The U.P.

It is reliably understood that the Government is introducing prohibition in six districts, viz., Etah, Mainpuri, Aligarh, Bijnor, Sultanpur and Bulandshahr; a provision for which will be made in the next budget. About two million will go dry consequent on the Premier's announcement at a party meeting enforcing prohibition as an experimental measure.