

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Point Area Slums

SOME 24 families have, for some years, been living in Bell Street. The occupants of the premises are very poor and all work in the Point areas. The condition of their houses is no doubt shocking, but the earning capacity of these people is so low, that it does not permit of them to pay high rent and live under better housing conditions. The Durban City Council has had enough of worry over the application of the Slums Act on Indian properties without making provision for the housing of those who would be de housed. Rather than applying the Slums Act on the Bell Street properties, and receiving a wrap on the knuckles, the City Council adopted a slim method of getting over the difficulty. It purchased the property concerned from Mr. G. Churton Collins and Major G. M. Style, but the sale was not to be conclusive until they had evicted the tenants from the premises. The owners, in terms of the contract, gave the customary notice to the tenants requesting them to vacate the premises at the end of February. This extraordinary action prompted the point Indian Young Men's Association to convene a public meeting and invite the co-operation of the Natal Indian Congress. The action of the City Council brought pointed comments from the Durban Press, so much so that the council has now decided to notify Messrs Collins & Major Style that it does not desire to evict the Indian tenants in accordance with its previous resolution of October 29 last year, under which the Corporation purchased the property, but the owners will see to the evictions of the tenants.

Clairwood Slums

On Saturday last Messrs A. Christopher and P. R. Pather, the President and Joint Secretary respectively of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, together with Messrs N. N. Perumal and N. M. Pillay, the Chairman and Secretary of the South Coast Junction Ratepayers Association, made a tour of the area which Dr. G. H. Gunn has recommended to be declared a slum. The position in this area is that most of the land is owned by the Estate B. H. Wood from whom building plots

have been hired on a yearly tenancy. Here again the tenants are all of the poorest class, and their economic position has made them to live in shacks. A few fine houses have been built along the Jacobs Road, which cannot with any stretch of imagination be called a slum. On this area also stand the Indian School which houses about 800 children and the Coloured School. That Indians should live in better houses, no one would gainsay, but it would certainly be callous for the City Council through its M. O. H., to declare any area a Slum, until ample houses have been built to house those affected. The Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association has taken the matter in hand and strong representations are being made to the Corporation to build sub-economic houses for those who are now living in shacks in the Clairwood area. A determined stand is being taken against any of these houses being built away from the affected area. These Indians are mostly engaged in factories in Jacobs, and it is but necessary that they should stay as closely as possible to their places of employment.

Indian Tobacco Growers

The Indian Tobacco Growers' and Dealers' Association (Natal) has submitted a lengthy Memorandum to the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture on the proposed scheme that has been submitted to him for the regulation and control of the marketing of tobacco. The Memorandum lays emphasis on the fact that the cultivation of tobacco in Natal has been practically in the hands of the Indians for the last 60 years. To a large majority of these tobacco growing is the only means of livelihood. Owing to limited income from tobacco, these farmers still follow the primitive method in tobacco culture, and they are not in a position to purchase farming implements and machinery to develop their cultivation to any great extent. Tobacco in Natal the memorandum goes on to state, is grown chiefly for local consumption, and cultivation thereof is confined to the North and South Coasts. In the constitution

of the Board under the proposed Scheme no right of representation is given to the growers and dealers, nor the rights of the minority producers protected, and therefore an exemption from the operation of the Act is claimed for the Natal dealers and growers. The proposed scheme is objected to on the grounds that the powers sought are drastic wide and arbitrary and it is feared that the interests of the minority will be sacrificed for the larger interests. The operation of the scheme will adversely affect the Indian growers, who are small producers. The scheme will drive the Indians from the tobacco industry, and it overlooks the peculiar conditions that operate in Natal. Section 20 (1) h and i seeks to empower the Board to determine the maximum quantity of tobacco which may during any period fixed by the Board, be brought into or removed out of any area defined by the Board, and to determine the maximum quantity of tobacco that may be sold or offered for sale. This is arbitrary, and since safeguards are mentioned, the Section will act harshly on the small growers in Natal. Section 20 (o) i and ii provides for conditions to be imposed on grading standard of quality and the methods of packing. This section, it is claimed, will create hardship, as the adverse conditions under which the Indian farmers work coupled with their state of poverty, will not afford immediate scope for cultivation of the standard quality of tobacco. "Special powers" are vast and they seek to prohibit the sale of tobacco, excepting through such agency as may be determined by the Boards to prohibit the sale of tobacco except such class, grade, quantity or percentage thereof as the Board has determined. Tobacco can only be sold at the price fixed by the Board. The Memorandum, requests that the Ministers receive a Deputation from the Association so that the representations made may be amplified.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH, 1938

Indian Education

IN our last issue we discussed some of the aspects of Indian Education in the light of the Report of the Provincial Enquiry Commission. We shall now deal with some of the other salient features in the report.

For some years there has been considerable discontent amongst the Indian Teachers on the question of the appointment of teachers. The Commission takes the Education Department to task on the system of appointing teachers, for, the appointment is based upon not so much on the qualification of the teacher as upon the quota for a particular post being filled or not. The system inflicts considerable hardships on the teachers and cares not a button for their qualifications. The inevitable result of such a system would be the deterioration in the efficiency of the teachers. The Commission has rendered a service to the Indian teachers by condemning the past system and recommending appointment on qualifications.

On the question of compulsory education, the Commissioners have treated the matter lightheartedly. We say so deliberately. The Commission suggests, after pointing out that it would take years to find school space for the 20,000 children who are not in schools, that the system of compulsion should be introduced gradually by choice of suitable districts in which a definite age and standard could be prescribed for school attendance. This recommendation negates the very idea of compulsory education, which if instituted without any limitations, would force the

issue and burden the Provincial Council with the responsibility of providing schools for the thousands of our children. The Capetown Agreement recognises the Indian community as an integral part of the population of South Africa and to let them lag behind the other sections of the community of South Africa, would be a blot on the Government of the country. And compulsory and free education is the only means of improving the standard of the Indians.

Dealing with the curriculum in Indian schools, the Commissioners advocate the training of Indian children in agriculture. Indians, the major proportion, are inherently agriculturists. But they still pursue the primitive methods in farming. This is due to the lack of facilities in agricultural training. We feel that simultaneously with the advance that is being made in the general education, a sound education in agriculture should be imparted in all schools, wherever possible, not necessarily in rural areas alone.

Pointed reference is made to the apathy of the Indian parent to the education of girls. As we observed in our last issue, mixed schools will never appeal to the Indian community. The Girls' High School at Dartnell Crescent is situated in a locality which is far from satisfactory. That is the main account for the poor attendance at the school. The Indian parent is anxious to give his girl every opportunity to pursue her studies to the highest point, but the facilities offered to her must be such as to withstand any objection.

We welcome the recommendation to erect hostels for the students attending Sastri College and the girls attending the Dartnell Crescent Girls' High School. Sastri College is the only College of its kind in South Africa. Students from the Northern District of Natal and from other parts of the other Provinces find it difficult to find accommodation at Durban. A hostel for Sastri College will be a distinct boon to the Indian community and the College will attract a considerable number of students from outside Durban.

The subsidy that the Provincial Government receives from the Central Government in respect of Indian education is referred to at some length by the Commissioners. They go on to say that "when the Union Government entered into Capetown agreement with its uplift clause, and in consequence, requested the Provincial Administration to investigate Indian education in Natal, it must have realised that a far greater rate of expenditure would be involved in developing that work if the terms of the agreement were to be implemented. The Commission notes that no increase in the rate of subsidy has been made.

There is no doubt that Indian education is treated very niggardly by the Union Government. The European child receives a subsidy of £16 17s. 6d. as against the subsidy of £5 5s. that is paid for the Indian child. If Indian education is to advance in fulfilment of the Union Government's undertaking in the Capetown agreement, the Commissions point out with considerable emphasis, it would be necessary for the Indian subsidy to be considerably increased.

The Report is an excellent one, but it remains to be seen whether any of the recommendations will be carried out.

GANDHI SHOWS THE WAY

ANY central theme, any cause or purpose which preoccupies one's mind and really fills one's life will always have as many sides to it as there are facets on a well-cut diamond. For example, for some time the question of India and her struggle for freedom, has to a large extent occupied my mind. And in that connection I find myself thinking of such matters as the following:

Mahatma Gandhi and the essential meaning of Christianity. A mental flash tells me that actually this man would appear to be the only practising Christian of any importance, and nominally he is not a Christian at all. What does this tell us about Christianity?

East and West in terms of civilisation. Just what is civilisation? An affair of plumbing, chemistry, even sanitation, or of the mind and soul? I would like to know which is the civilised half of the world. Am I a savage? A civilized being? What is the community in which I live? The daily papers are so confusing on this matter. Advertisements of the most scientific gadgets and products of civilization jostle with accounts of barbarous murders, vile crimes showing degenerate propensities all around us. Then I suddenly think of India.

Millions of people are without not only these scientific gadgets, but also all but the bare necessities of life, and are accepting their lot uncomplainingly, following a leader who demands of them that for a cause they lay down their lives without striking a blow.

I think of those Indians whom I know personally. Men of rare intellectual qualities, and spiritual as few other men are spiritual. Their calm, mature personalities radiate a sense of inner peace which is so remarkable that it is bewildering. Until one knows them very well, one is likely to feel that they are almost inhuman, because they are so much more civilized than their surroundings.

Disarmament Conferences—and Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent non-co-operation compared with the prepare for war in order to maintain peace" attitude of the rest of the world. And right here I am going to stop and try to follow to its logical conclusion one of these flashes of thought that pass through my brain.

This armed neutrality business always seems to me rather like the folly of giving a half-grown boy a real rifle, sending him out for a walk, and saying as he leaves, "Now, be sure not to shoot anything." Why the rifle, if not to shoot? And does not the mere possession of a weapon induce a different state of mind toward anything shootable? But if two such youths go forth,

By
HILDA WEIRUM BOULTE'R
In "Unity" (Chicago)

each armed, who are already suspicious of each other and none too friendly, can one wonder if the bearers of those guns train them on each other?

As opposed to this method of obtaining peace, and it has not even the advantage of ever having worked, we have the attitude of Mahatma Gandhi. He is trying to do more than merely preserve peace. He is actually trying to free his nation from the domination of a military power, which has ruled by conquest and might for two hundred years, without striking one single blow. And he has already accomplished a great deal. He has, to a large extent, united a very mixed population. He has made a nation of individualists begin to think collectively. He has persuaded some of his warlike followers to meekly turn the other cheek. He has—this is the more obvious achievement—actually succeeded in scaring out of the British certain concessions. And has won the first battle. The six provinces that returned Nationalist members to the respective legislatures in the last elections are so many battle flags captured by rational, civilized methods from the foe.

"Ah, yes," you will say, "that's all very fine. Suppose he does by a miracle shake off British rule in this peaceful manner. Then he will have to have as big an army and navy as anyone else, or he will just be snapped up by some other greedy power. So what?" Well, I am not so sure.

Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that India is at least completely free and as unarmed in her freedom as she was during the struggle. How will that freedom have been attained? By non-violent non-co-operation. And it is the latter word which is the joker in Mahatma Gandhi's pack of political cards. There has been so much emphasis on the non-violence that we are inclined to overlook the non-co operation. Just consider the full meaning of this word for a moment.

Government consists of two parties—the governing and the governed. No governing party can continue to function without the co-operation of the governed. It matters not the slightest whether the non-co operation is violent or non-violent (except in the toll of human life!) to the effectiveness of the weapon of no-co operation. Suppose you tried to govern someone who literally would have nothing whatever to do with you or your government?

Someone who would not speak to you, would not buy your goods or sell his goods to you, travel in any government-owned conveyance, or in any way, direct or indirect, contribute to the support of your government. Someone who simply, but peacefully, completely ignored your existence. Your whole governmental system would in time collapse. It would die of starvation.

We have assumed that by this means India is now free. Do you suppose for one moment that the world at large, including every government which might cast a greedy eye upon this new and apparently helpless commonwealth, would not be aware of just exactly why Great Britain had finally retired? Of course that retirement will be spoken of by Great Britain as a noble gesture of some sort. The bitter pill of defeat will be sugar-coated, but no one will be fooled.

Do you suppose for one moment that any other power will be so foolhardy as to undertake a job which proved to be too big for Great Britain? Great Britain, the pioneer in Imperialism, the model of self-government? Great Britain, the professional in this game at which the rest of the world powers are more or less amateurs?

It seems to me that Mahatma Gandhi's programme is the most practical, as well as the most absolutely civilized, that has ever been thought out.

May God grant him many years to lead his people in the way he has chosen, and strength to keep to that way. We may yet see a world which is in very truth a civilized world.

SOVIET RUSSIA

AS SEEN BY A RAND CLERGYMAN

THE Rev. L. H. Pearson returned to Johannesburg some days ago after spending a six months' holiday in England and the Soviet Union. He had some interesting observations to make on Russia and the system of government prevailing there. Mr. Pearson in an interview with the *R. D. Mail* said that he was favourably impressed by the behaviour of holiday crowds in Moscow and found to his delight that the people conducted themselves in a most orderly manner. The absence of litter, after a crowd of 200,000 people had spent the day in the park, was remarkable.

Continuing Mr. Pearson said a visit to the museum of exports revealed the fact that not only was Russia self-sufficient in agricultural machinery, but actually exported several thousands worth to Great Britain every year. "Undoubtedly," said Mr. Pearson, "the achievement of which they are most proud is the Metro, their underground railway, the most picturesque example of modern architecture. The Soviet Union seems to be teaching the world a lesson in some respects and the system of planned production that Russia is carrying on is a thing that must be watched closely by all of us during the years to come."

EDUCATED UNEMPLOYMENT AND LARGE-SCALE FARMING

It has of late been the fashion in India to advise the educated young men to go back to the village and take to the agricultural profession. This is why the policy of giving a rural bias to the existing system of education is at present engaging the attention of the Government in different provinces, and it is quite likely that before long, the whole educational system in, at least, the primary and secondary stages may undergo a thorough overhauling. In the Congress provinces at any rate, the nationalist leaders have already urged the government to undertake a drastic reform of education so as to make it more practical and less literary. The basic idea behind all this talk of reform is that in these days of acute unemployment our boys should receive such education as may fit them for business, or agriculture.

The cry of "Back to the village" is a natural reaction to the growing unemployment in the urban areas, but those who are fond of recommending agriculture as a suitable profession for educated youths forget more often than not that in these days of country-wide agricultural depression there is little prospect of success in small-scale farming. Even the poor, uneducated rural classes whose standard of living is very low are finding it difficult now-a-days to make both ends meet owing to the low prices of agricultural crops. In these circumstances, it is too much to expect that educated young men accustomed to a far higher standard of living in cities will find agriculture a paying proposition. Besides, even if small-scale farming were a profitable profession, it is not likely to appeal to educated young men. An unemployed graduate would prefer to starve in the town rather than go to the village and plough the field with his own hands. This psychological aversion to manual labour or ploughing with one's own hands has got to be reckoned with. These difficulties will not arise, if opportunities for large-scale farming with motor tractor are provided. Tractor farming will not only increase production and thereby enable the gentlemen farmers to earn a tolerably decent livelihood, but will also appeal to their modern tastes. In tractor farming, they will not be obliged to drudge with the plough from morning to evening, but will have to drive the motor tractor for a few hours only, whether it be for sowing, or for harvesting purposes. The quantity as well as the quality of the crops can also be improved by scientific methods applied on a large-scale through tractor farming.

By

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In "Modern Review"

I had recently an opportunity of studying at close quarters the possibilities of tractor farming in an obscure village of Bengal (now in Bihar), where an educated gentleman of a highly respectable family has been carrying on large-

Mecca & Medina

(Reminiscence of El Haj E. M. Aavat)

By

Dr. SULYMAN ISMAIL

Headmaster of Nigel Govt. Indian School.

'Midst the bare barren beauty of the
desert plains,
Where the centuries have left their
bleaching stains
On sands rust-ridden by monotonous
heat,

And the weary pilgrims' blistered feet
Never enjoy a green-spot's coolth,
Or the luxury of a welcome pool,
Like royal gems in setting base
Pregnant with divine rays,
Islam's Holy Cities throne
In the desert all alone.

In the Holy City Medina
Tall minarets five loom,
And from the heights is heard "Azzan"
Across the evergreen tomb.
Here Earth's races meet in prayer,
Peasants humble as Thrones heir
In the Holy City Medina.
Words and thoughts in harmony
With the Territories sanctity,
Pilgrims dressed in Ihram
Stand before the Kaaba;
Kiss the stone that black has turned
Where a million kisses burned;
Copiously sip from Holy Zam-Zam
In Mother of Holy Cities—Mecca.
On Arafat's plains vast, sedate,
Islam's Pilgrims congregate;
From Holy Jabel-ar-Rahma
Descends the final Khutuba.
These are Islam's cities free;
Pearls set in tranquility.

scale farming with motor tractor for some years past in his own zamindari. There is a picturesque village called Hariharpur in the Maubhum District at a distance of about 40 miles from Purulia. The village is owned by Mr. Kakhal Mohan Banerji, a retired Deputy Magistrate of Bengal. His son, Mr. Amiya Kumar Banerji, decided after finishing his

education to settle in this village with the object of starting a farming business of his own. In the course of the last few years he has changed the whole outlook of what had formerly been the abode of semi-primitive foresters. He purchased a motor tractor of his own and started cultivating the extensive forest lands of his zamindari. Being a trained mechanical engineer himself, he could drive the tractor himself, and make the necessary repairs. His prosperous farm at Hariharpur is an example of what an enterprising and ambitious young man can achieve, if he has only the means and facilities at his disposal.

Hariharpur is beautifully situated amidst the Sal forests of the Manbhum District, and the two hours' journey from Purulia is delightful. The road is excellent, and is maintained by the Local District Board of which Mr. Banerji is an elected member. At Hariharpur one feels as if one had come to a rural paradise, such is the idyllic beauty of this sylvan tract. Mr. Banerji's achievements in this out of the way locality would take a volume to describe. I shall, however, make only a brief reference to his activities just to draw the attention of those who are interested in agriculture as a profession.

Mr. Banerji deprecated small-scale farming with the primitive plough, and urged that motor tractors alone can lead to the agricultural development of India. Along with his cousin, Mr. Ajit Kumar Banerji, in whom he has found an energetic collaborator, he owns a big farm of several thousand acres. He has been successfully growing all the usual crops in addition to sugar-cane and lac. Mr. Banerji complained of the low prices available for the crops, but for which fact he would have earned a princely income out of his lands. Even as it is, his income is sufficiently attractive to warrant the assumption that young men would still find farming a paying profession, only if they adopt scientific methods and use modern appliances.

One of the outstanding achievements of Mr. Banerji is a huge lake he has himself made at a heavy cost by damming a jungle stream that flowed through his lands. It is a specimen of engineering enterprise of which any engineer could well be proud. This lake is intended to supply water to Mr. Banerji's fields, and for this purpose a long canal issuing from the lake has already been constructed. Both the lake and the canal are feats which

deserve a special mention. Had Mr. Banerji not been so modest and unassuming as he is, these achievements would have drawn the attention of the news-paper-reading public long ago. Mr. Banerji is also planning a fishery business which the lake and the canal have made it possible. There is a small water-fall below the jungle by the side of the lake, which Mr. Banerji intends to harness for purposes of supplying electricity to his farm and for running a mill of his own.

Mr. Banerji expressed the opinion that there is sufficient scope for large-scale farming in the neighbouring

districts, and he suggested that the Government should settle educated young men in selected areas and advance the cost of motor tractor and other appliances for each such co-operative farm. Those who are inclined to take to agriculture, and require further information on the subject may freely write to Mr. Banerji. He is prepared to advise and assist those who seriously intend to settle as gentlemen farmers. To my query whether he would be willing to give practical training in his own farm to those who might seek it, he replied in the affirmative with pleasure. I wish some

enterprising young men took advantage of such an offer.

It was both a surprise and a pleasure to learn that Mr. Banerji is probably the only educated young man in India who is personally carrying on large-farming as a private enterprise with motor tractor of his own. The pioneer enterprise that I chanced to notice at Hariharpur is many times more creditable than Mr. Banerji modestly considers it to be. To me it was an object lesson of what may be attempted on a much larger scale, if our educated young men had the necessary will and enterprise.

DECLINE OF HUMANITARIANISM

MR. GEOFFREY DENNIS has analysed the causes of the decline of humanitarianism in large parts of the world in the course of an interesting article in a recent issue of *Time and Tide*. One of these is that while the world has grown smaller owing to the annihilation of distance by the marvelous achievements of science, the unit in terms of which men think has become bigger. 'Bigger countries, empires, figures, fortunes, speeds, greeds, movements, disasters, upheavals, wars. Each one man looks smaller, amid all these bigger things: his individual hopes and sufferings look less important.' Another cause is the exaltation of the race, the nation or the state above the individual, as is the case in totalitarian states. This is the result of the false philosophy of life propounded by, among others, Hegel, Spengler and Gobineau. A third cause is the

brutalising effect of the last war. 'For four years killing, and maiming and starving and blackguarding and hating, were the principal and most praised occupations in the world.' Another reason for the humanitarian decline, in Mr. Dennis' opinion, is the success of the policy of ruthless aggression. The result is that 'force, and inhumanity are on the upgrade.' He further observes:

With the massive triumph of force, not only mere physical barbarity is in the ascendant, but almost every humanitarian and liberal conquest of the past two centuries is struck down. Humane criminal law, humaner laws of war; personal freedom, religious freedom, sex freedom; the diminition and milderening of class divisions and natural divisions and racial divisions; freedom of association, freedom of the press, freedom of thought; freedom to think; the higher ethic of the rights

and duties of men, of rulers and states. . . All these, it may be, with the spirit of which they were evidence, are under no merely passing cloud.

The two ideologies, which are more and more dividing mankind are represented by communism and fascism. And both 'vie in inhumanity.' If formerly there was reaction on the one hand, there was a movement towards parliamentary democracy and juster laws and social conditions on the other. But now both in fascist and communist states, 'repression, cruelty and hatred, spying and murder, enmity to every humanity and liberty that the last age believed in' are 'held in at least equal honour.' The writer has failed to point out the root cause of this triumph of the forces of darkness. It is the dethronement of religion and the blind pursuit of materialistic ends.

"SOLID WORK NEEDED"

ADDRESSING a public meeting at Dehra Dun, under the presidentship of Mr. R. G. Singh, President of the District Congress Committee, Mr. Mohanlal Saxena, M.L.A., President of the U. P. Congress Committee, said that it was not the time for speeches but for solid work. Dehra Dun had played its part well in the fight for freedom. They had achieved success in recent elections and Congress Cabinets in seven provinces. But this was not the end of their struggle, it was but a means to achieve their goal. The battle of Swaraj still continued. They needed a larger number of workers and volunteers for doing solid work in the country. Referring to the communal wrangles, Mr. Saxena said that their talk of communal settlement and compromise in respect of distribution of seats and services was nothing but putting the cart before the horse. Their house

was on fire and they were asking for a distribution of the property. Was it foresight, he asked. They had hardly got yet two annas in the rupee and the provision of safeguards and special powers had reduced its worth further. Its distribution could not satisfy anybody. Let them, he said, try to get the remaining fourteen annas.

The Swaraj of the Congress was neither Hindu Raj nor Muslim Raj, the Panchayati Raj, in which everybody would be happy and prosperous. The problem before them was how to provide bread, employment, shelter, education, means for the revival of trade and industry, arts and crafts and commerce for the millions and masses. Solid unity and efficient organization and, above all, strong discipline, were the three main essentials for the success of their noble cause. He reminded them of

the motto of Russia's Youth League that 'I am nothing, we are strength.' The honour and the prestige of the Congress were their own honour and prestige. In concluding he said, Let everybody contribute his or her mite to the great cause.

WANTED

A Teacher at Bank Station, Transvaal, to teach Arabic, Persian and Urdu languages.

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NON-VIOLENT NATIONALISM

AN event which a few years ago would have evoked wide-spread enthusiasm has not created so much as a stir and will perhaps soon be forgotten, because of the utter lack of perspective that governs many of our activities to day. I mean the removal of the Neill statue of the Madras Government. Our memories are so short that we have forgotten the unsuccessful satyagraha and the suffering that was gone through for its removal from a place in Madras, and few people knew who Neill was. His was a Mutiny record only less black perhaps than Cooper's, and marked by brutality which has been described by impartial British historians as fiendish. His orders to his subordinate officers were: To destroy "guilty villages. All sepoys of mutinous regiments not giving a good account of themselves were to be hanged. The town of Futtehpore was to be attacked and the Pathan quarters destroyed with all its inhabitants. If the Deputy Collector is taken, hang him, and have his head cut off, and stuck up in one of the principal (Mahomedan) buildings

By M. D. In "Harijan"
 of the town" (Kaye). Russell says that Neill's burnings and severities could not be justified by the Cawnpore massacre, "because they took place before that diabolical act." Women and children were burnt to death in the villages fired by Neill's column" (Thomson), and Campbell says that *Neill did things almost more than a massacre putting to death with deliberate torture, in a way that has never been proved against the natives.*" Campbell says "he can never forgive Neill for his bloody act, and impartial historians are agreed that this fiendish vengeance was the precursor to Janshi and Cawnpore. It was an insult to the citizens of Madras to have erected a statue to such a person. In any other country where national hatred runs high, a demand would be made for the smashing of such a statue. The demand for sending it to England, or for having it in England, or for giving it away to the local European Club, proceeded not from non-violent nationalism but from violent nationalism. It was to the

innate non-violence of C. R. to have found a way of non-violent nationalism by removing it (and that too by night) to the local Museum. "It is necessary to understand Gandhiji and the philosophy of non-violence," said C. R., in order to see no contradiction in the attitude of the Madras Government when they did not want it as a continuing source of irritation but claim to hold it and intend to preserve it with care."

It was a constitutional triumph to have got the House of Commons to admit that the question of removal of the statue was entirely within the province of the Government of Madras. That triumph was only next in importance to triumph of non-violence, and it makes it eminently easy even for the non-Congress Government of Punjab, if they are so minded, to remove that "notorious statue of Lawrence" (Thomson) with its offensive inscription. It has, to use Thomson's words, "to be guarded from the anger of Indians," and keeps exasperation and bitterness alive.

A REMARKABLE JUDGMENT

THE judgment delivered by Sir Douglas Young, Chief Justice, and Mr. Abdul Rashid of the Punjab High Court, in acquitting an accused who had been sentenced to transportation for life for the murder of a police constable, deserves the widest possible publicity, inasmuch as it lays down the law of self-defence in the most emphatic manner. The facts of the case were briefly these: Kiroo a Chowkidar of a coffee shop in the Military Lines at Rawalpindi, was suspected of having had part in burglary that took place at the shop, and was so mercilessly beaten by the police for several hours that he confessed to the offence, offered to produce the stolen property, and took the investigation parties to a place where he found a knife handy, and stabbed the police constable and the owner of the shop, and later stabbed himself. The police constable succumbed to the injuries, but Kiroo and the owner of the shop recovered. The Session Judge of Rawalpindi found Kiroo guilty of the murder of the constable and of causing grievous hurt to the owner of the shop, and sentenced him to transportation for life and to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment. Luckily for him Kiroo could call as a defence witness Major Pipe Stewart who had witnessed the merciless beating and had got disgusted with it. In spite of this evidence the Session Judge found that no case had been made out either for

By M. D. In "Harijan"
 self-defence or for grave and sudden provocation. The Appellate Court, however, held that

"The facts disclosed give to Kiroo the most perfect reason for relying upon self-defence that we have ever seen... The accused was being mercilessly tortured and beaten, and this was being carried on for a length of time horrible to contemplate. In most cases wretched suspects subjected to treatment of this illegal and despicable character are helpless and hopeless; they have merely to suffer until nature does not permit them further to resist, and a 'confession' or discovery of stolen property false or true is made... Cases are not unknown and are within our own knowledge where persons have died under this type of 'investigation'... The accused was, in our opinion, justified, even to the extent of killing, in endeavouring to stop the grave and dangerous ill-treatment to which he was being subjected... This method of 'investigation' is a disgrace to the police force and a dangerous obstacle to the administration of justice which it brings into open contempt. It can and must be stopped.

Whilst the judgement throws a lurid light on the methods of the police and gives, so to say, a charter of self-de-

fence to the miserable wretches who often become unwilling victims of torture, it is bound to have, or ought to have, repercussions in other directions. The section of the Indian Penal Code about the right of self-defence is very simple: "Nothing is an offence which is done in the exercise of the right of private defence." But the law does not seem to define the cases in which the right of private defence is so obvious. The authors of the Penal Code made it emphatically clear in words which deserve to be better known:

"In this country the danger is on the other side; the people are too little disposed to help themselves, the patience with which they submit to the cruel depredations of gang robbers, and to trespass and mischief committed in the most outrageous manner by hands of ruffians, is one of the most remarkable and at the same time one of the most discouraging symptoms which the state of society in India presents to us. Under these circumstances we are desirous to rouse and encourage a manly spirit of self-defence." (Italics ours).

The Lahore judgement should go a great way in rousing and encouraging a spirit of manliness, not only in the tortured accused, but in every one of those to whose person or honour grave risk is eminent. Ruffians who try to kidnap innocent girls or ravish them

are far worse ruffians than those who commit dacoites; and to every one of those who cannot die in the attempt of saving one's honour, the law gives the right to kill the assailant. The English law, of which the Indian law is an echo, is most explicit on the point: Where a forcible and violent felony is attempted upon the person of another, the party

assaulted or his servant or any other person present, is entitled to repel force by force, and if necessary to kill the aggressor." (Halsbury's Laws of England, Vol. IX). And the case law on the section distinctly says: "A woman is justified in killing a man who is attempting to ravish her."

The law of *ahimsa* is very much mis-

understood. It is often made a plea for cowardice of which it is the exact opposite. A mouse in the clutches of a cat is incapable of *ahimsa*, no matter how he struggles. A woman in the grip of a ruffian has the right, if she has means, i. e. if she has not the courage to die in the act of saving her honour, to kill him.

Things In General

Indian Education

MR. HARRY W. BISTOW says in a letter to the Press:—"I was so pleased that the question of school books' costs has been brought up. Does the European parent realise how lucky he is? He gets Free education and books in the primary school, and it is only when the secondary school stage is reached by the child that the fond parent has to "pay up" for books. What about the injustice of the educational system for the Indian? He is not paid anywhere near the same salary (or wages) as the European, yet the Indian has to pay for his children's education and books from the baby class upwards, and each year the school fees are increased as the child progresses class to class. To keep a child in the baby class costs about 15s. per year and it costs about £5 a year for Standard VI. The reader can judge what it costs for an Indian child to reach the P.S.O.? Let us have more justice for the Indian and then we can consider relief from school book costs for the European parent.

Appeal To Thornville Junction

Indians

Mr. R. Balmukund Panday, resident of Thornville Junction, fervently appeals to the members of the Thornville Junction Government-Aided Indian School to unite together and have the present school running, which is in existence for the last 15 years. The school is erected on an acre of land donated by Mr. Nundkishore Maharaj, one of the oldest and respectable residents of the district. If the committee members do not unite, and continue creating trouble, which has no bearings towards the welfare of the school, I am sure the grant will be ultimately withdrawn by the Education Department, and it will be difficult to restore same again.

Moslem King And Catholic

Countess

The news, current in Vatican circles that a hitch has occurred over the granting of a Papal dispensation for the marriage of King Zog of Albania (who is a Moslem) to the Hungarian Countess Geraldine Apponyi, is confirmed by an article in the "Observatore Romano." The article, which entitled "Mixed Marriages," traces the difficulties of the Church in granting dispensation for such marriages.

The article does not explicitly state, but allows it to be understood, that the negotiations for a dispensation in the case of King Zog are far from being satisfactorily concluded. One version current in Vatican circles is that King Zog has not proved willing to satisfy the Vatican with an undertaking that any children of the marriage shall be brought up as Roman Catholics.

Hunger Marchers In Capetown

"Have you seen Prosperity?" This and a score of other slogans were painted on banners carried through the streets of Capetown to-day by 300 coloured 'hunger marchers,' a procession of unemployed making a demonstration intended to catch the eye of the Government. The procession was organised and led by Mrs. Z. Gool and Mr. Lance Morley-Turner. Just over 300 men took part. They ranged from striplings of about 17 to grey-headed men of probably 70. A number carried collecting boxes and appealed for donations in streets, offices and shops. The response appeared to be small. The 'hunger marchers' went through the city in a most orderly fashion. There was no disturbance of any kind and no policemen were required to keep order. Traffic, however, was disorganised for short spells at corners, and a number of traffic policemen were needed to prevent serious congestion. The procession formed up on the Parade at 10 a.m. They were arranged in column of fours with a squad of about 30 bicyclists bringing up the rear. The men carried banners bearing such legends as, "Life is Hell," "One room, no food, eight kids," "Help us—we are starving men," "We demand unemployment insurance for unskilled workers," "Work is what we want," "We are forgotten." No attempt was made to stop at the Houses of Parliament or at the Government Buildings.

Japanese War Costs!

The total of the special Budget drafted to meet the *China incident* is unofficially estimated at 5,000,000,000 yen—about £300,000,000.

Disaffection In Abyssinia

In reponse to a question in the House of Commons Sir John Simon said that information in possession of the Foreign Office went to show that there had been sporadic outbreaks of disaffection

in Western Abyssinia, but the Italian military were taking steps to deal with them and were generally in control of virtually the whole country.

No More Peaceful

Switzerland, usually noted for its peaceful tendencies, is now making elaborate preparations to protect its inhabitants from air attacks. Special underground shelters which are gas and bomb proof are being constructed 50ft. below ground surface. Each of these "mansions" will hold 200 people. Members of the Swiss Women's Anti Air Raid Brigade are testing the first of these luxury shelters at Zurich.

Nizamia Muslim Society

The treasurer of the Nizamia Muslim Society (Maritzburg), beg to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations: Box No. 1, £2 11s. 3d.; Box No. 2, £1 1s. 3½d.; Sir Abe Bailey, £1 1s.; Mahomed Yusuf, 10s.; Shaik Kader, 5s.

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(Continued from last week)

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India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Right Of Congress Ministers

MR. GANDHI in an interview with a representative of Reuter at Wardha expressed dissatisfaction at the Viceroy's statement that there was no foundation for the suggestion that his (the Viceroy's) actions were determined by a desire to undermine the position of the Congress Ministries, and said that the right of examining the cases of political prisoners belonged to the responsible Ministers. The Governor's duty was to advise the Ministers and then leave the matter free. Nevertheless, Mr. Gandhi said, he was glad the Viceroy had left the door open, and he hoped Congress would leave the Ministers a free hand to judge for themselves if they were satisfied with any assurances they might receive.

Mahatma Gandhi's Attendance

Although suffering from fatigue, and despite his recent setback in health, Mr. Gandhi attended the opening of the plenary session of the Congress Party at the special request of Mr. Subhas Bose. The Mahatma travelled the short distance from his lodgings by car, and was loudly cheered by the crowds when he arrived at the amphitheatre in which the meeting was held.

Reluctance To Extend Present Crisis

When the plenary session of the National Congress ended at Haripura resolutions were adopted rejecting the new constitution and expressing reluctance to extend the present crisis beyond Bihar and the United Provinces, and inviting the Viceroy to reconsider his decision in order that the Governors might be enabled to act constitutionally.

Congress Action Welcomed

The correspondent of the *Times* at Delhi says that the decision of the Congress Working Committee to localise the constitutional deadlock in the provinces where it originated is welcomed everywhere as evidence that the Congress high command does not wish to intensify the crisis. The correspondent of the *Times* in Bombay adds that Haripura is full of rumours of communication between Mr. Gandhi and the Viceroy. A suggested compromise, which is freely discussed, is that a judicial tribunal should examine the case of each political prisoner, and that the verdict should be accepted both by the Governor and the Ministry. It is generally expected that such a resolution will be accepted by the Plenary Session if not unanimously at least by

an overwhelming majority. In a further letter to the *Times*, Lord Lothian reiterates his belief that it is far safer and wiser, except possibly in the case of Bengal, to give effect to the constitutional principle which has worked so well in every part of the British Commonwealth, and leave the responsibility of dealing with political crime to the responsible Indian Ministries, up to the point where manifest failure has begun, rather than cut the growing plant of Indian responsibility.

Release Of Political Prisoners

In connection with the impasse that has arisen on the question of the release of political prisoners in India, Mr. Subhas Bose, President of the All India Congress, in a message from Haripura to the *News Chronicle* said:—Any National Government would have released all the political prisoners within 24 hours, whereas our Minister has waited for seven months. The issue emerging out of this conflict is: Who

not to fritter it away on trivial things. The acceptance of office by the Congress had renewed hopes or increased enthusiasm of the people but Congress Governments could do good only to the extent to which Congressmen were faithful and loyal to Congress ideals of truth and non-violence. Concluding the Premier said that certain journals regretted the absence of opposition to the Congress in the Legislature, but there could not be any opposition to truth and non-violence. The Opposition to-day had far wider opportunities of expression than ever before.

Dr. Rajan, Minister of Public Health, declaring the Conference open said that the new consciousness of freedom and new hope had come to the people after the advent of Congress responsible Ministries. He added that Gandhism indeed had worked complete transformation politically and spiritually in India.

Dr. Tagore To Get Expert Medical Treatment

Poet Rabindranath Tagore, who, it may be remembered, recently recovered from serious illness, arrived at Calcutta from Shantiniketan for a short stay, and will be placed under expert medical treatment. Ever since his last illness the poet has not been able to recover from weakness and has been keeping indifferent health.

Miss Gosh To Represent Calcutta Corporation

It is understood that the Calcutta Corporation has been invited to send a delegate to the Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held at Portsmouth in July this year. Dr. Miss S. Ghosh of the Health Department, who is now in Dublin, may represent the Corporation at the Congress.

Constitutional Crisis Ended

The settlement of the constitutional crisis in the United Provinces, says the Delhi correspondent of the *Times*, once more emphasises Mr. Gandhi's powerful influence on Congress politics, because the agreement reached is largely along the lines he suggested. A similar agreement is certain to be reached in Bihar. Nothing that has happened has permanently disturbed the cordial relations existing between Governors and Ministers on all other subjects. The crisis disclosed an entirely new political mentality throughout the country, and a genuine sense of responsibility on the part of Congress spokesmen.

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is really responsible for law, order and government? Our contention is that it is the Ministries. It is a universally accepted convention that a popular party begins its terms of office with an order for the release of political prisoners. It was absurd for the Governor-General and the Governors to intervene. The reaction in the minds of the Indian people is that the British Government have been looking for an opportunity of provoking a crisis. Congress will face with perfect equanimity any future development. There can be no giving in on this all-important issue. We are fully prepared for eventualities."

Madras Premier's Exhortation To Cherish National Flag

The Premier, Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, hoisted the National Flag at the Rajagopalachariar Chowk, exhorting all to cherish and uphold the flag, common as it was to all Indians. The Premier addressing the Tamil Nad Conference, said that it was the duty of every Congressman to harness the vast enthusiasm flooding the entire country, and

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. SASTRI AND THE VERNACULAR

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—The Rt. Hon'ble V. S. S. Sastri, first Agent-General of the Government of India in South Africa, in an airmail letter addressed to me, replies to the attack made on him by Seth Govind Das, a member of the Indian National Congress Party in the Central Legislative Assembly in India. It will be remembered that during his visit to Natal in December, Seth Govind Das attacked Mr. Sastri for failing to push forward the claims of the vernacular education. Mr. Sastri replying to this attack says, "As to your own vernacular in schools over there, I have read the report of the Seth's speech in INDIAN OPINION. It does not worry me. Who denied that one must cherish one's mother tongue? Surely you will remember that at the lively Kimberley Conference in 1928, when you all reversed the decision which was reached at my instance the question was whether our community should demand State countenance (and State aid) for the inclusion of Tamil, Gujarati, Urdu and

possibly Telugu in the course of study in Indian schools. This, I contended, was inexpedient and certain to be refused. Our own efforts to keep up the Indian tradition and languages I heartily advocated. Recall further that, when soon after this Conference you all had a fine chance of raising this issue before the Education Commission at Pietermaritzburg (1928) you did not do so."

"I am no enemy of Tamil."

In 1928 at the Kimberley-Conference the question of the inclusion of the vernacular education was discussed very heatedly, and almost a split was avoided by allowing a resolution to go through asking that vernacular education be allowed in the curriculum of Indian schools.

The Broome Commission which reported recently upon the system of education in Natal makes reference, as follows, to the question of vernacular education: "There is a multiplicity of Indian vernaculars which prevents

the general use of any of them, and the child has to grow up in an English-speaking or Afrikaans-speaking environment."

It will be recalled that at the opening of the Hindu Tamil Institute in June 1928, so strong was the feeling of the Indian community in Natal that Mr. Sastri was obliged to clarify the attitude he took up at the Kimberley Conference. Addressing the Indian community he said "You send your children to Indian schools where they receive education in the ordinary way but you realise at the same time that their culture as Indians would not be complete unless they received a certain grounding in their own language and literature... This is as it should be, but when you go from this stage of thought to another and ask that the children be taught in Tamil and that other vernacular languages be made part of the curriculum then you must consider whether it is practicable"

Yours etc.,

S. R. NAIDOO.

The Sporting World

Inter-Race Cricket Board

Rev. Sigamoney's Cup Competition

THE second annual general meeting of the Inter-Race Cricket Board was held at the residence of the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, 181 Mosley Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg, recently. The following unions were fully represented: The Transvaal Colonial Cricket Union; The Transvaal Bantu Cricket Union; City and Suburban Coloured Cricket Union; Witwatersrand Indian Cricket Union and the officials Mr. J. J. Baatjes (hon. secretary), and Mr. C. S. Sensone (hon. treasurer). The president, Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney, extended to the delegates a very cordial welcome and congratulated the unions on their keenness and interest in carrying out the fixtures last year. He declared that these inter-race groups will be of great value to the non-European groups for he recognised the differences and prejudices that existed even among non-Europeans, and how can these barriers be broken and prejudices removed unless and until we get to know one another on the field of sport, the greatest unifier of all people. He looked forward to the various leaders of sport in the Transvaal to theme their whole strength in such an organization as the present one which had for its object to draw all men together in one great family. He congratulated the City and

By "Rambler"

Suburban Coloured Cricket Union in having won the cup for two successive seasons. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patron: The Honourable the Minister, J. H. Hofmeyr Esqr.; President: Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney; vice-presidents: Messrs B. D. Pavada, W. Garratt, M. Mashicila and K. Peck; hon. secretary: Mr. J. J. Baatjes; hon. treasurer: Mr. S. G. Senoane.

Shamrocks Football Club

The seventh annual general meeting of the Shamrocks Football Club was held at the residence of Mr. P. Dorasamy, when the following officials were elected for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Messrs. S. Manilal, A. S. Pillay, L. Naidoo and S. N. Pillay; President: Mr. P. Dorasamy, vice-presidents: Messrs. J. S. Naidoo, T. P. James, C. P. Moodley, N. P. Naidoo, C. M. Pillay, G. S. Maharaj, K. S. Manuel, L. A. Padyachee, N. S. Naidoo, N. G. Naidoo, M. G. Naidoo, S. G. Naidoo, I. B. Telhoo and Joe Moodley; hon. life vice-presidents: Messrs. A. P. Pillay, Roop-Bunsee and M. N. Naidoo; hon. secretary: Mr. D. V. Naidoo; hon. assistant secretary: Mr. P. Govender; hon. treasurer: Mr. C. Dorrie; senior captain: Mr. M. Kader; senior vice-captain: Mr.

V. G. Papiah; junior captain: Mr. Mustapha; junior vice-captain: Mr. S. O. Vallen; Manager and trainer: Mr. A. S. Pillay.

Durban Indian Young Men's Club

Mr. V. K. Moodley presiding, a special meeting of the Durban Young Men's Club was held in Durban, on Sunday, February 27, to appoint a secretary and treasurer, the former having retired owing to ill-health. Mr. S. Patchay was appointed as secretary, and Mr. S. Nepaul as treasurer. After speeches by Messrs. P. Dorasamy, S. Patchay, Soobu Rajah S. R. Nair and G. Soobramoney, the meeting terminated, offering a vote of thanks to the chair.

Rand Boxing Board Decision

The Transvaal Board of Control for professional boxing has refused permission for full-blooded Red Indian boxers to fight in Rand tournaments. A big American boxing manager who is mentor to several Red Indian boxers had suggested to the local promoting body that Red Indians would prove a big draw on the Rand but the constitution of the Board prohibits contests between Coloured and White persons or contests between Coloured persons at tournaments at which White boxers appear. The application to import Red Indians was therefore turned down.

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