

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

The New Agent-General

AS we had predicted last week, Mr. Rama Rau, Deputy High Commissioner for India in London since 1934, has been officially appointed as the Agent-General for India in succession to Sir Syed Raza Ali. As a member of the India Civil Service, Mr. Rau appears to have had a varied and interesting career. He was attached for nearly two years to the Simon Commission, to which he subsequently became the Secretary. To the second and third Round Table Conferences in London, he was really the confidential adviser to the British Indian Delegation. He rendered conspicuous service to the Joint Parliamentary Committee which considered the Government of India Bill in 1934. The communal issue which impeded the progress of the last Round Table Conference was smoothed over by the endeavours of the Agent-General-elect who brought together the diverse Indian elements. Mr. Rau was largely responsible for the presentation of the joint memorandum, signed by all the Indian Delegates including the Aga Khan, which was presented to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on India. As the Deputy High Commissioner for India, he has had many opportunities of establishing contact with the other Dominion High Commissioners in London and of meeting prominent statesmen of England and the continent. He represented India on the governing body of the International Labour office at Geneva on several occasions and also led the Indian Delegation at the Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome. Mr. Rau will be proceeding to India to consult his Government before he comes out to South Africa. Mr. Rau will be following the footsteps of one other Agent-General in that his wife will take up residence in South Africa during his term of office. If the Agent-General cannot stem the steady increase of anti-Indian legislations, he will at least be in the happy position of making a success of his social functions. Mrs Rau will, no doubt, contribute much towards this success. The mantle of the Agent-General has fallen on the shoulders of a Civil Servant. The Civil

Servant of India is always looked upon as a thing apart, although the Indian Civil Service is recognised as the finest in the world. He is not regarded as a part of the people of India. To him all that counts is how best he can serve his *ma bab* at Whitehall. Much depends upon Mr. Rau to refute the suggestion.

New India Assurance Co. Ltd.

As will be seen from the advertisement of the New India Assurance Company appearing in this week's issue, the Company announces having opened a Life Department in South Africa. It gives us abundant pleasure to welcome this new venture, for, nothing would be more gratifying to the Indian community of South Africa than to welcome a purely Indian concern with Indian Capital and with Indian Directorate. Judging from the large amount of business that the Company has hitherto transacted in other classes of Insurance in South Africa, we feel sure that a very bright and successful future awaits the Company in the life business. In South Africa there is a large field for life business, and as the Company has given the utmost satisfaction during the last eight years to all its clients, we are hopeful that in this line also, the New India will be just as successful as it has been in all the other Departments. In this connection the Company has deputed Mr. M. K. Billimoria, who is at present in South Africa, to study the needs of the Indian public of South Africa and to organise the Life Assurance business. The New India Assurance Company enjoys an excellent reputation in as much as it has behind it a huge paid-up Capital and large funds which ensure absolute security to its policy holders. Having at its head, Sir Nowroji Saklatvala, K.B.E., C.I.E., the Head of the Tata Industries in India, the Company can stand the closest scrutiny in regard to its investments which are all of the safest class. The Directorate includes Sir. Phiroze Sethna, a familiar figure to South Africa, Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, and the Hon Sirdar Sir Suleman Cassim Mitha, and in short the array of distinguished Indians on the Directorate is in itself the hall mark of fair dealing to the clients of the Company. Times have

changed considerably. A few years back Life Assurance was looked upon by the Indian with a certain amount of prejudice, but in these days when one is more concerned of one's future, there is a strong tendency with the Indian to insure his life, so that his dependents do not stand unprovided for. Life insurance with the Indian in South Africa, has, therefore, of recent years, risen by leaps and bounds. The New India offers some excellent features in its Life Policies amongst which may be mentioned automatic non-forfeiture, extended assurance, protection against accident and permanent disability benefit. These features, we are sure, will strongly appeal to members of our community. We congratulate Mr. Jalbhoy Rustomjee, the Principal Representative of the Company in South Africa in securing the life business and we extend to him and to his Company our cordial wishes for a successful future.

Hitlerism At Its Worst

Without shedding a drop of blood, Herr Hitler, has occupied Austria. By sheer threat of using force, Hitler has subdued Austria. The Austrian Chancellor, knowing full well the weakness of his country, gave in. He could not have acted otherwise. Nothing in the world can resist brute force, Hitler may think, brute force, as all things has an end. In the course of his speech in Austria, which he triumphantly entered, Hitler, who is of Austrian birth, said "if Providence has taken me out of this city and made me Fuhrer of the German people then it can only have been that I was entrusted with a mission, and this mission can only have been to restore my dear home to the German Reich. I believe that this is the mission for which I have lived and fought. I have now fulfilled it and you are all my witnesses and guarantors for that." In his letter to the Fascist Dictator, Mussolini, the Fuhrer, after explaining that he is determined to re-establish calm and order in his native land, and that the nation must determine its own future, states I ask you to see in this settlement nothing else than an act of legitimate national defence, an act which every man of character would have performed in the same

circumstances. You, yourself, your Excellency, would not have acted otherwise if the fate of Italy were at stake and I as Fuhrer and a National Socialist cannot act differently. Whatever may be the consequences of coming events I have drawn a clearly defined German frontier line as regards France and to-day I draw an equally clear frontier line as regards Italy. That line is the Brenner. This decision is immutable and irrevocable. I have

not waited until 1938 to take it. I took it immediately after the Great war and I have never made a secret about it."

Such is the philosophy of Hitler. Will this philosophy stand the test of time. History abounds with instances of the downfall of greed and power. The World has yet to see a greater Strategist than Napoleon. He went the same way as all the others before him had gone. Does a similar fate await Hitler?

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1938

South Africa Needs A Liberal Outlook

THE 7th Union Parliament sat for the last time on Wednesday last and every member will now rush back to his constituency to prepare for the general election. A keen struggle for supremacy between the United National Party and the Purified Nationalists is expected. There is no gainsaying that General Hertzog, with his powerful influence in the country, will again be able to lead his party to power.

During the elections, it generally happens that the Indian question is taken as the chief plank on the platform of one or other of the parties. Dr. Malan who was the Minister of the Interior in the pre-Fusion days, and who has had much to do with the handling of the Indian question, has already started a campaign against the Indian. Politics is a dirty game. And if it is played by an unscrupulous politician, it can be made intolerable. In South Africa, the Indian who has no say in the administration of the Country, has always been made a pawn in the game of politics. To the average European, the Indian question is a popular one, and readily catches his imagination. Mr. Malan discarded the pulpit for politics, and one would have expected that he would have brought with him all that is good. To him, as the Minister of Religion, all races should be equal. But as we have observed, politics is a dirty game, and the politician, be he from the pulpit or from the highest form of society, has no scruples.

What South Africa needs is a liberal outlook towards the Indian. South Africa cannot afford to be otherwise. The Union Government has just signed a trade agreement with the Indian Government, and India with her millions and with her enormous resources, will in due course be South Africa's best customer. South African gold, coal, fruits and other commodities will find ready sale in India. South Africa cannot find a better market. She cannot, therefore, afford to treat the Indian community in South Africa, her nationals, with absolute indifference.

The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, the Minister of Labour, is the personification of liberalism in this country. Since his coming into the political arena, we have seen a wave of liberalism pass over South Africa. He wields considerable influence in the Cabinet, as is evidenced by the determined stand he took on the question of mixed marriages and the employment of European women in Indian establishments. South Africa needs many more Hofmeyrs before the Indian is given the respite that he so richly deserves. But we have one consolation, and that is Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr is gaining ground in his advocacy for a liberal attitude towards the Indian in this country. The Universities of South Africa are the birth places of the legislators of the future, and it is there that the students should be taught what liberalism is and

what it stands for. If we might throw a hint to the Universities, we would suggest with all seriousness, that the Students Union should not restrict their tours to the continent only. India should be included in its itinerary. We feel that periodical visits to India, whose civilisation and culture are incomparable, will broaden the outlook of young South Africa, and tend to bring about better feelings between the Indian and the European in this country. The Beyers and Hofmeyr Deputations to India have been of tremendous benefit to both India and South Africa, and have been the means of dispelling much of the misunderstanding between the two countries.

Eighty five per cent of the Indians in this country are South African born. They are South Africanised in many ways. Their standard of living conforms to the accepted western standards. Whatever they earn is circulated in South Africa. To them, India is but the land of their fathers and forefathers. South Africa is their home. Is it saying too much, when we say that the Indian community of South Africa should be given every opportunity to rise, so that they do not lag behind the Europeans?

The Capetown Agreement of 1926 recognised the Indians as an integral part of the population of South Africa, and as such, the Government undertook to uplift them. The Union Government has utterly failed to fulfill its obligation under the Agreement. We have not had a year of respite since 1926. Year in and year out, we have been subjected to the most intensive anti-Asiatic legislations. Heaven only knows what is in store for us when the next Parliament sits. It is time that a halt is called. That is only possible when a spirit of liberalism pervades the Union Parliament. Is it too much to expect that?

THE HARIPURA CONGRESS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

THE fifty-first session of the Indian National Congress was held at Haripura, a small village on the banks of the Tapi River in the district of Bardoli. It was a unique session and the first of its kind ever held in the history of the Congress. It was second only to the Faizpur session but it had extra attractive features. It would be almost impossible for those who had seen the Congress sessions eight or ten years back to imagine the extent to which the Congress has since grown. What used to be the open session pandal in those days has now become the Subjects Committee pandal and the open session pandal is almost ten times the size of the Subjects Committee pandal.

The village of Haripura with a permanent population of not more than a thousand souls was turned for a few days into a huge city with a population of five hundred thousand people. The city was lit up with electric lights, water laid out all over, and there was postal, telegraphic and telephonic service not to reach all parts of India only but even overseas. There was also an information bureau and a fully equipped printing plant publishing bulletins about the doings of the day. A quiet village was seething with life with all the conveniences of a large city.

The railway authorities had shown a remarkable spirit of co-operation by providing special train services at cheaper fares from the beginning to the end of the Congress session and also by providing special shelters with every convenience for the passengers at all the important stations.

The Great Procession

One of the outstanding features of the Congress was the great procession of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, the president-elect, which was attended by not less than two hundred thousand people. The President-elect was seated in a chariot which had a history behind it of Mahabharata, drawn by fifty-one bullocks and women volunteers accompanying the procession and singing fifty-one national songs to mark the fifty-first session of the Congress. The picturesque sight had all the glory of the Delhi Darbar but not its pomp and power.

Another unique feature which gave a spiritual fervor to the Congress was the daily evening prayer conducted in the open under the auspices of Gandhiji. These prayers were attended by thirty to forty thousand people and at one time by nearly one hundred thousand people. In order to ensure a calm and peaceful atmosphere and also to enable every person to hear

the prayers loud speakers were installed. This was the time when thousands of people eager to have *darshana* of Gandhiji were able to get a glimpse of him. On one occasion when the loud speaker had gone out of order and rumour spread that Gandhiji was not well the huge concourse gathered on the prayer grounds became frenzy and attempted to rush on to the platform. The volunteers and the leaders failed to control the excited mass gathering. The reader can well imagine what it is to control a mighty gathering of one hundred thousand when it is excited. Any amount of shouting was to no avail. But Gandhiji well versed in mass psychology saw that every effort to calm the huge mass had failed he summoned those around him to begin with *Rama Dhun*. (The humming of the name of Rama). There was an indescribable solemnity in it. It had the effect of a magic wand. Within a few minutes a solemn calm pervaded the atmosphere and the dropping of a pin could be heard and prayers were conducted as usual in all calmness and serenity and the crowd quietly dispersed after its completion.

Great Faith In Prayer

Gandhiji has great faith in the efficacy of prayers and never fails in having them in season or out of season never minding the condition of his health. Spirituality plays the most important part in all his activities, political or otherwise. At Haripura Gandhiji's hut was situated in a secluded spot on the bank of the river far away from the hum drum of the multitude. And while the leaders of the Congress were engaged in discussing vital problems Gandhiji in this calm and heavenly atmosphere in a prayerful mood was also thinking deeply over the whole Indian question.

Resolutions of the Congress some of which were strongly opposed by the so-called socialist party were in the end passed unanimously or with an overwhelming majority were most thoughtfully worded and strength of prayer was behind every word.

Exhibition

The exhibition was the most important feature of the Congress. It was instructive of the vast extent to which the national industries of India were once again coming to life. It was of immense value to the peasants to whom it gave a practical demonstration in regard to the growth and the improvement of their agricultural products, dairying and many other industries which if properly organised and patronized

would bring Swaraj to their very door. Gandhiji attached more importance to this part of the Congress and stated while declaring open the exhibition that he considered the exhibition to be the real Congress. He advised the people to studiously inspect every part of the exhibition and try to profit by it as much as they can.

Sensation Over Ministerial Crisis

The Congress had by no means met in a calm atmosphere. A great deal of sensation was caused by the resignation of the Congress Ministries in the United Province and Behar over the veto power used by the Governors of those Provinces in respect of the order by the Provincial authorities for the release of political prisoners. This action on the part of the said Governors was taken as a sign of the beginning of the rule of the sword once again and the Congress Ministries in the other five Provinces were seriously thinking as to what line of action they were to adopt. This step on the part of the Governors with the authority behind it of the Governor-General was taken as a breach of the promise given to the Congress not to interfere in the day-to-day activities of the Ministers. The internal storm was however suppressed by outward calm and though worded thoughtfully and in a dignified manner yet grave in consequence a resolution was adopted by the Congress requesting from taking any step that might result in precipitating matters and appealing to the Governor-General to reconsider his action. It is indeed gratifying to state that while these lines are being penned the differences between the said Governors and the Ministers have been settled and the Congress Ministries in both the Provinces have once again begun to function in their usual course. It is sincerely hoped that they will be allowed to carry on their constructive programme undisturbed by thoughtless and hasty acts such as mentioned above.

Indians Overseas

There were officially appointed delegates present at the Congress from East Africa, Mauritius, Ceylon and other places but there were none to represent the Indians of South Africa. At the opening session of the Congress the above mentioned delegates were given an opportunity of expressing fraternal greetings which they did before an audience of two hundred thousand. Any such expression from Indians of South Africa was conspicuous by its absence. It was most regrettable especially in view of the conditions of Indians in South Africa being the worst of all. There ought to have been a special resolution referring to the con-

ditions of Indians in South Africa but that too was conspicuous by its absence.

There were messages of greetings from Indians from America, London, Canada, East Africa and other parts of the world. The only message from South Africa was from Indians in Port Elizabeth.

Among the many resolutions moved from the Presidential chair and passed without any discussion, the following was one dealing with Indians overseas:

"This Congress views with alarm the rapidly-growing deterioration of the status, position and rights enjoyed by Indians in South and East Africa, including Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar, and in the islands of Mauritius and Fiji.

"This Congress condemns the new economic policy now being pursued by British Imperialism for intensifying its exploitation of colonies and dependencies, which is exemplified in the formation of the monopolist Clove Growers' Association in Zanzibar, and in such measures as the Tanganyika Native Produce Bill, the East African transport projects, reservation of the Highlands in Kenya for the white population, and the degrading treatment of Indians in Mauritius and Fiji.

"This Congress wholeheartedly associates itself with the struggles of overseas Indians to maintain even their present position and status in territories in which they have settled.

This Congress assures its fellow countrymen overseas of its full sympathy and help, and expresses its readiness to take all action within its power to ameliorate their condition.

"This Congress wishes to assure the original inhabitants of South and East Africa that the demand of the Indian settlers is not conceived in any spirit of hostility towards them, but it is put forward to prevent common exploitation by the British of both African and Indian settlers.

The following resolution was passed referring specially to Kenya:

"The Congress has learnt with regret that the Government of East Africa once again are making aggressive inroads on the rights of Indians settled in Kenya and protests against this policy of continuous injustice to Indians in East Africa. While realizing that full justice and equality of rights and citizenship will not be acquired until India attains complete independence, this Congress protests against the inequitable legislation relating to the reservation of the highlands in Kenya. The Congress trusts that the British Government will recognise even now that it is not too late to call upon the Government Kenya not to embark on such a course of wanton spoliation and

degrading discriminatory legislation and orders by which the rights of Indians are being sacrificed."

The open session of the Congress was held for three days from February 19 to 21 and many important resolutions were passed the most important being the one dealing with the constitutional crisis that had arisen in the United Provinces and Behar and another strongly opposing federation.

It was decided to hold the next session at Mahakoshal in the Central Provinces.

Mahatma Gandhi's Utterances

Gandhiji made two public utterances during the Congress. One while opening the exhibition and the other which was a semi-political speech, was delivered in Hindi on February 16 before a vast concourse in the exhibition grounds.

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The Ministries in the United Provinces and Bihar, he said, had resigned, had been dethroned. "They are coming back to us, as they went from us.

"To-morrow it may be the case with Bombay. The day after tomorrow it may be Madras, and the next day others."

"It may be said it is a matter of only 30 prisoners. But it does not matter whether it is three or 30 prisoners. The Ministers were put in places of authority, not because of their personal merit, but by virtue of the strength of the people behind them. Now, if the Ministers' advice has been spurned, it is because the support behind them has not been sufficiently strong. We have not sufficiently imbibed the spirit of *khadi*."

Message "Of Khadi"

"What is the use of your professing that you care for me if you do not follow and practise the one message which I have been shouting from the housetops for the last 20 years, about which I cry myself hoarse to-day and which I would utter even if I were on my death bed?"

"If you understand what I say and if you believe in it, it is for you to come with me in your millions.

"I don't want any humbug wearer, of *khadi* for political purposes. It is no use merely wearing *khaddar* without believing in the service, sacrifice, truth and non-violence which it symbolises. Unless you catch the spirit of *khadi* and all that it stands for, you may appear to follow me to-day but discard it the moment I die."

Gandhiji swayed the audience to tears when he continued: "You will burn my body and with it your *khaddar*. If you believe in it and follow me—all of you, heart and soul—*swaraj* is yours. Otherwise it will never come to you."

Lord Samuel who was on a two months' tour of India was one of the distinguished visitors at the Congress. In the course of a broadcast speech from the Bombay station on the eve of his departure Lord Samuel said:

"My first impression of India is that this is a very hospitable country. I have met with kindness and courtesy everywhere. My chief feeling is one of gratitude that so much trouble has been taken by so many people to welcome, guide and befriend. My second impression is of great mental activity that prevails. I remember that years ago Europe was accustomed to look upon India as a vast lethargic country placidly asleep in the sun. History passed her by. It has said, "Happy is the nation that has no history." It is happiness of a kind, but a potato enjoys that sort of happiness. Now India is alert and alive—a land of conferences, committees, parties, leagues, movements; interested in industry and economics, science and art, philosophy and religion the affairs of the world and her own politics and politicians.

"I have come to India with no mission confided to me by anyone, but as a British observer keenly interested in a country whose fortunes have been so long and so closely connected with my own country; who has taken some part in the debates in the House of Commons on the new Constitution; and who is anxious to study that Constitution in the working.

Lord Samuel paid a high tribute to the Congress Ministries for the manner in which they were working the new constitution. "The gloomy prophecies of disorder and disaster made in the British Parliament by the group of diehards, of which Mr. Winston Churchill was the leader, have been utterly disproved," he said.

ASIATIC SETTLERS FOR AUSTRALIA

The following interesting correspondence appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*. Mr. C. M. Lakhi is the son of our esteemed friend Mr. M. E. Lakhi, of Greytown.

To the Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*
SIR,—Mr. G. F. Plant's interesting letter in your Thursday's issue, dated January 27, accepts the view that "the White Australia policy must in existing circumstances be regarded as axiomatic." But if that be so, there seems no possibility of any early occupation and cultivation of "the empty spaces of Australia." The fact that half the present population insists on living in the capital cities and restricts the birth-rate calls for a large white immigration. Will Britain supply the needed immigrants from a population which will shortly be reduced in numbers and where agricultural labour is already short? Recent statistics indicate that in every European country, save Soviet Russia, the growth of population is declining and will further decline. Why should any white country assist migration to Australia and why should willing emigrants prefer the lonely life in that distant county to life in Canada, the United States, or South America, so far as these countries will receive them? Most European countries insist on keeping their would-be colonists under their national flag. The growing population of Soviet Russia would be unlikely to flow over into Australia, even if they were acceptable.

It seems evident that, if the huge waste of cultivable land in Australia is not to continue, the cultivators must consist of coloured people, mainly from Japan, China, and India, countries with excessive population and capable of developing the semi-tropical areas where productivity is at present wasted. The White Australia policy is no real justification. Asiatic occupation of these areas need not imply any mixing of white and coloured populations or any injury to the white Federal Government. The present policy is that of a dog in the manger. We will not do the work ourselves and we will not let those who may be willing to do it. The theoretic defence that the occupants of part of a country have the right to determine whether the resources of the rest of the country shall remain undeveloped will not bear examination. On that theory the 900,000 natives (reduced by maltreatment to a few thousands) could have precluded the entry of the Botany Bay criminals and their caretakers and so stopped the growth of any White Australia.

The world is now alive, as never before, to migratory needs, and it is inconceivable that the British Empire as

a whole will lend its strength to the maintenance of the impossible policy of a White Australia.—Yours, &c.,

J. A. HOBSON,
 The Reform Club, London,

To the Editor of the *Manchester Guardian*
SIR,—Mr. J. A. Hobson in his letter advocating Asiatic immigration to cultivate the barren wastes of Australia says "the cultivators must consist of coloured people, mainly from Japan, China and India." He has considered one side of the picture only—namely, the development of the empty spaces. What happens to the coloured population after those empty spaces have been developed is left to one's imagination. Having a first hand knowledge of the existing conditions in South Africa, I can safely say that the white policy in Australia is not justifiable unless certain fundamental issues are settled first. What those issues are the reader will judge from this letter.

South Africa has a large coloured population (excluding the natives) consisting mainly of Indians, Chinese and Japanese. The Indians first went there in 1860. They were brought over for the express purpose of working on the sugar plantations in Natal. They did an immense service by improving the whole of Natal coast and built up the now flourishing sugar industry. Most of the Indians came over with their families and have settled there, seeking new employment in newer fields. Anyone in the Union knows the justice meted out to the Indian. The elementary rights of a citizen are denied to him. He has no vote, and the Government on the whole has done but little to improve his lot. The Indian workers are now eking out an existence in face of a fierce competition from the "poor whites," a small section of the community, which is now displacing the Indians. This is the outcome of the so-called far-sighted white labour policy.

The Indians and the Chinese (who have worked mostly in the mines) are now considered as an "alien body," hampering the true progress of the white population in South Africa. Many schemes have been put forward by the Government to repatriate the Indians, who have lived in South Africa for more than three-quarters of a century and justly claim to have made South Africa their new home. But the powers that be do not consider them as immigrants in the true sense of the word. They do not have the privileges that are given to those who emigrate from Europe and who are considered as colonisers of a new country needing development. No, the Indians, having

given their labour to the development of the country and having made Natal a garden colony—as it is proudly called,—the Government decides that their services are no longer required and they must now return and give way to those who have a right by conquest. Where those repatriated would go and what they would do on their arrival is, of course, not the concern of the Government.

Mr. Hobson says: "Asiatic occupation of these areas need not imply any mixing of any white and coloured populations or any injury to the white Federal Government." Taking the first point, it has been evident in South Africa that the mixing of coloured and the white races has not taken place, though there have been isolated cases. Last year a bill entitled the Asiatic Marriage Bill was put before Parliament to prevent such marriages, with a proviso that the Japanese be excluded because the Union had a trade agreement with that country. The fallacy was, of course, exposed by the bill's opponents, and it was momentarily shelved. There is every probability, however, that it will be again brought forward. It is clear that the Indian and the Chinese, both representing countries of little standing among world Powers, must suffer. Mr. Hobson's second point, that there can be no fear of "any injury to the white Federal Government," does not arise, since the coloured immigrants, in any case, will be debarred from any political activities.

In South Africa the present generation of Indians has had to seek new ways of making a living. The only obvious one was the retail trade. But in trading the Indian is allowed little scope. Strict licensing laws debar him from trading in certain areas which are reserved exclusively for the white settlers. Socially the Indian suffers a great deal. He is insulted in the street, and word "coolie" has come to stay. No discrimination is made. In the eyes of the white population Indians are all the same.

Does Mr. Hobson still advocate Asiatic immigration into Australia after the way the Union of South Africa has treated the Indians who were brought into the country? I would not welcome Asiatic immigration into Australia and I am sure the Indian people would oppose any such scheme.—Yours, &c.,

C. M. LAKHI,
 The University, Edgbaston,
 Birmingham.

INDIAN MEDICAL DEGREES RECIPROCITY PROVISIO

A NUMBER of Indian students who passed their matriculation examination at the end of last year in South Africa are going to India to take their medical degrees at the University of Bombay.

This has been made possible by a recent ruling of the South African Medical Council that the medical degrees of the Universities of Bombay, Lucknow, Madras and Patna will be recognised in South Africa, provided that the Government of India gives recognition to the medical degrees of the Universities of South Africa.

Previously South African Indians who were studying for medical degrees had to proceed to Great Britain for qualification. Even if they had taken

medical degrees in India they had to obtain English or Scottish diplomas before they could practise in South Africa.

Indians are accepted as internal students by the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Capetown, but they can only take the first two years of a medical course in South Africa and must proceed overseas when hospital training begins, as no non-European hospital in this country has a medical school attached to it.

Economy For Students

In a letter to the secretary of the Imperial Citizenship Association in Bombay, the secretary of the South African Indian Congress points out that the average cost to a South African

Indian student in London is about £15 to £20 a month, while in Bombay it will probably cost not more than £4 to £5 a month. This will mean that Indians of moderate means will be able to send their children to India for qualification as doctors.

The shortage of Indian doctors in this country—there are only about a dozen at present—should in a few years' time be eased by the return, as qualified doctors, of the students who are now going to India.

The letter records the thanks of the Indian community of South Africa to the South African Medical Council for this arrangement, which will greatly benefit the Indian community of South Africa.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR.—Kindly allow me space in your widely read paper to draw the attention of the Dutch Reformed Church and in particular the Pretoria Circle of the Dutch Reformed Church, which passed a resolution, expressing their disapproval of the importation of Nurses and alarm at the growing menace of Mohammedanism which was published in the *Natal Witness* on Monday, February 21.

I hereby quote a portion of the publication: "The Circle also expressed alarm over the growing menace of Mohammedanism in this country. It was stated that an institution for the education of Mohammedan children was to be built in the Cape Peninsula at a cost of £6,000. The institution would provide accommodation for 2,000 children.

The fear was expressed that this religion would get a foothold among the Cape coloured people.

A resolution was passed expressing anxiety and alarm that permission had been granted and the building of such an institution was approved of. It was also decided to request the Synodal Commission and the Federal Council to protest strongly to the authorities against the payment of subsidies to this institution because it was not a Christian institution." Is it fair, I ask, that Christianity, which claims to stand on solid foundation and truth for the last one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight years be afraid of Mohammedanism, which has been in existence for one thousand and three hundred years only.

The ideals for which Christianity stands on this earth and when it starts discriminating and lowering the religions of the world then why should Christianity be afraid and worry about Mohammedanism when their so called Christian religion has penetrated the darkest corners of this earth and on its beautiful Ideals Solidarity and Truth.

—Yours etc., S. O. S. C.

WAS IT JUST?

SIR.—With reference to the "Tree-Planting" ceremony that took place at the Sea View Indian Recreation Grounds on Saturday, the 12th inst. under the direction of Councillor Mr. J. M. Harris, who appears to have allowed the privileges to certain members, may we know from the City Council whether Mr. Harris was duly appointed for the purpose and under what qualification or merit have those persons been selected to plant trees.

It surprises us very much that such a function took place without the knowledge of our association which is the paramount sporting body amongst the Indians in that district and it will be admitted, that but for the efforts of such a properly constituted organisation which has contributed largely in the development of sport, it would hardly have justified our position to approach the Council to provide us with suitable recreation grounds. While we are grateful to the Council for acquiring

these grounds, we feel that our association which had been instrumental in initiating such a purpose, had been meted out with gross injustice in not being given a say in a matter of importance, not only to our interests, but to the sporting public in general. The responsibility, however, which should have rested with the Sports Ground Committee in obtaining the acquiescence of all sporting bodies in the area, has undoubtedly failed in this respect.

We appreciate that trees are necessary on this open recreation ground, which ought to have been planted by the Parks and Gardens Department of the City Council as done in other parts of Durban, but the unique opportunity of planting a tree as an honour to someone is usually reserved to persons of high ideals, or to players of outstanding merit who gave a brilliant performance in some art of the game. If every person who had done any little service to sport is allowed such a privilege, then quite a number of persons would lay claim to plant trees. Our association can claim to possess several players who took part in representative matches and also attained Natal and South African honours, also we have officials who have done yeoman service in the welfare of sport. We may take the Kingsmead ground as an example where such privileges are reserved to only certain persons and trees have been planted on that ground by famous sportsmen who have achieved some record-breaking honours in either cricket or soccer and their names will serve for

time immemorial as an inspiration to followers of those respective games.

None of those persons who planted the trees at the Sea View Indian Recreation Ground can claim such distinction and were not enamoured with the

existence of their trees and do not mean of much importance to us. Some of them are not even connected actively with any branch of sport.

Perhaps Mr. Harris is not fully conversant with the procedure of planting

trees at recreation grounds and we would ask him to make a proper study of the necessary facts before lending himself to such an embarrassing and unconstitutional method of directing ceremonies.—Yours etc., J. NAIDOO.

Things In General

Bell Street Indians

A Further Development

MATTERS in regard to the eviction or otherwise of the Bell Street alum Indian tenants are to be brought to a head when a summons will be served on the principal tenant giving notice of his eviction. The owner of the property, Mr. G. Charlton Collins, told *The Natal Mercury* that the City Council had taken certain steps in the matter, when he had issued notices to tenants warning them of possible eviction. Few days ago he wrote to the Town Clerk asking whether the Council wished him to adhere strictly to the terms of the private treaty under which the Council purchased the land and buildings from him for £7,250. One of the terms was that the purchase would be made provided the owners cleared the tenants out. In view of the fact that the Corporation had not replied to his request for information, said Mr. Collins, he had no alternative but to assume that the Council wished him to abide by the treaty terms. When the Indians were given notice to quit by March 1, protest meetings were held and the Council was approached. Mr. Collins decided to suspend action by not issuing the eviction summons. Now, however, the absence of a reply from the Council has caused him to proceed along the lines agreed upon when the private treaty was signed.

Did Hitler Prepare

A Month Ago?

A distinguished military strategist told the *London News-Chronicle* that Hitler probably started preparing his troops for the Austrian invasion nearly a month ago. He pointed out that even if the troops were no more than partly mobilised, the preparations could not have been carried out in an hour, or even in a day or two. He believes that the disputes between Hitler and the army leaders was over this very matter, and says that if his assumption is correct, the new commander had been preparing ever since they took over.

Hitler Interviewed

"To-day's developments will not effect on our side the impending Anglo-German conversations and I hope there will be no effects on the British side," said Herr Hitler in an exclusive interview at Lintz, in upper Austria, with Mr. G. Ward Price, the special correspondent of the

London Daily Mail. "What harm have we done to any foreign country?" asked Herr Hitler. "Whose interests have we hurt in falling in with the will of the overwhelming majority of Austrians that they should become German?" Mr. Ward Price asked: "What is your attitude to the British and French Notes of protests?" "I cannot understand it," Herr Hitler replied. "These people are Germans. A Note of protest from other countries about my actions has no more sense than a Note from the German Government concerning Anglo-Irish relations."

British Cabinet Meets

The British Cabinet met at 11 a.m. on Monday last to discuss the German situation.

Broadbent Over India

An aeroplane flying at a great height, and believed to be that piloted by James Broadbent, who left Lympne recently on an attempted new solo record flight to Australia, passed over Karachi, heading for Allahabad.

Mining Explosion In India

An explosion in the Singareni coal mines near Hyderabad resulted in 47 persons being killed and 40 injured. There were three Europeans among the dead.

Severe Earthquake Feared

Severe earthquake tremors were felt in Bombay on March 14 similar to those in 1934, when the disastrous Bihar earthquake occurred. People were rudely awakened by the shocks.

Ambassador A Spy

Alleged work on behalf of the British Intelligence Service, a meeting in Oxford Street, London, and the mention of names of prominent British personages—these were the bombshells dropped in the Court in Moscow recently by Christian Rakovsky, the white-bearded former ambassador to London, who is now 64 years of age, when he resumed his evidence in the Moscow spy trial. Rakovsky gave circumstantial details of alleged work on behalf of the British Intelligence Service when he was Ambassador to London in 1924, and he mentioned that his contacts included two British naval officers.

Thought "Hands Up" Was A Joke

Two members of the Patriotic Front were wounded when 20 masked men burst at a meeting of the Youth Front organisation in Vienna, shouting "Hands up." Two of those present, thinking it was a joke, did not obey and the intruders fired at them, wounding one seriously and the other slightly. No explanation of the affair has yet been offered and it is presumed that political motives were behind it.

180 Miles An Hour

In one of the most secret engineering shops in Great Britain—an ancient malt-house in Lincolnshire—a small band of craftsmen are working on the fastest racing cars ever produced in Britain. According to the *Daily Mail's* motoring correspondent they are three, two, or two and a half litre E.R.A.'s capable of 180 miles an hour. They are to compete in Germany, Italy, France and Switzerland in Grand Prix races this summer.

Cape Road Crash Shamble

Weeping parents and distraught police took part in distressing scenes in Capetown police Morgue as they tried to identify the victims of the horrifying road smash on last Sunday night on the Malmesbury Road, in which 12 people were killed, 13 so seriously hurt that they are still detained in the Somerset Hospital and four so badly smashed up that they are on the danger list.

Shri Rama's Birthday

The celebration of Shri Ramnavmi in honour of the birthday of Shri Rama will be held at the Shri Vishwaroop Temple, Tongaat on Friday April 8. All Hindu devotees are requested to attend the ceremonial performances.

Hill View Government-Aided

Indian School Building Fund

(Continued from last week)

ESCOMBE: Messrs. S. M. Moodley, £1 1s.; P. D. Govender, 5s.; M. Budram, £1 1s. and Mrs. Santha Saib, £2 2s. KLOOF and WYBANK: Messrs. S. P. Naicker, 10s.; P. Atcharee 2s.; S. Soobramoney, 2s.; P. P. P. Odayar, 1s.; M. Govender, 2s.; R. D. Moodley 2s.; Chinsamy Padyachee £1 1s.; Mrs. Aboo 2s.; Mr. M. Moodley 10s. 6d.; Mudaray Muthu Thavar 5s.; M. C. Hyder Ally 2s. 6d.; R. N. Naicker £2; Moonsamy Govender 2s.; M. K. Doorsamy 2s. 6d.; M. Annugam 2s. 6d.; Peter Moonsamy 5s.; Poonsamy 1s.; D. Singh 5s. HILL CREST: Messrs. Essop & Co. 7s. 6d.; A. Veerasamy 2s. 6d.; Narianna Pillay 10s.; C. Chetty 2s. 6d.—To be continued.

India Letter

(NEWS - COLLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Rousing Reception To Sjt. Subhas Bose

It was one of the grandest Congress Presidential processions which slowly moved through a four-mile route from Haripura to Vithalnagar when Sjt. Subhas Chandra Bose, president of the 51st session of the Congress was ceremoniously welcomed into Vithalnagar. Fifty-one bullocks, richly caparisoned and with painted horns, hauled up the eighty-year old chariot in which Sjt. Bose was seated along with Durbar Gopaldas, Chairman of the Reception Committee.

Alligator-Shaped Chariot

This alligator-shaped four-wheeled vehicle was lent by the Raja of Bansda. It was richly decorated in crimson and gold. The musically tuned bells tinkled with every motion of the chariot. The President's chariot was followed by six other bullock-carts in which were seated Sjt. Vallabhbai Patel and other office-bearers of the Reception Committee. Crowds lined ten deep along the route while at Vithalnagar itself over a lakh of people watched the magnificent spectacle. Passing the Subjects Committee pandal, the chariot turned to the left slowly winding its way through the city of bamboo huts to the Leaders' Camp, which it reached at 7-30 p.m. Sjt. Subhas Bose alighted and was greeted by his colleagues of the Working Committee and other leaders.

Overwhelmed By The Remarkable Reception

"I was overwhelmed by the remarkable reception given to me by the tremendous crowds," declared Sjt. Subhas Bose when interviewed by the *Associated Press* on his emerging out of Gandhiji's hut after one hour's conversation with the latter.

Gandhiji's Affectionate Greeting

Gandhiji, who had delayed the commencement of his silence with a view to welcoming Sjt. Bose, greeted the latter with affection. They talked for an hour, discussing the various problems that would come up for consideration before the Working Committee and the Subjects Committee and Sjt. Bose handed over to Gandhiji a copy of the final draft of his speech which was completed by him only before his leaving Calcutta.

The Lama Drums

The resounding monastic thud of the Lama drums added distinctive spiritual tone to the reception accorded to Sjt.

Subhas Bose at the gates of Vithalnagar. Six Burmese monks, who are on pilgrimage to India and have taken this opportunity to witness the Congress session, took their place, as the procession approached the Nagar, at the entrance and of their own accord commenced playing on their drums, the distinctive note of which was heard all over the Nagar.

Cycled To Haripura Congress

New Delhi.

Six Khudai Khidmadgar Red Shirt volunteers arrived here this afternoon on a cycle tour from Nowshera 'en route' to Haripura. They will leave Delhi day after to-morrow. On the way they are preaching Congress programme to villagers, specially to Mohammedans urging them to join the Congress. They are covering on an average 70 to 80 miles per day and intend to reach Haripura on February 16. They left Nowshera on January 31.

Again General Secretary?

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, retiring President of the Congress, will be requested by the Working Committee unanimously to take up the work of general secretaryship. It is understood that Mahatma Gandhi is anxious that Pandit Jawaharlal should continue his active work in the Congress secretariat and the only way to ensure this is by making him General Secretary which he had been for a long time before he became president of the Lahore Congress.

Over Hauling Of Administration Needed

Speaking at the Bisnupur Province Political Conference Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose said the ideals of Congress had stressed the need for a complete overhaul of the entire system of administration of the country so that they could establish real Swaraj. He said that in no country officials were so highly paid. Swaraj he said could obviate the necessity of the importation of officials. He cited the economic planning of Russia and emphasised that Swaraj was demanded in order to remove all disabilities. Appealing to the country he said that if India demanded Swaraj unitedly England would be forced to concede in view of the present International situation. Once Swaraj was attained India would again be prosperous.

Naval Defence Of India

It was announced during the Budget statement that the British Government had agreed to forego India's annual contribution of approximately £135,000 towards the naval defence of India on condition that India maintained not less than six modern escort vessels which would be free to co-operate with the Royal Navy.

Raja Mahendra Pratap Free

During question hour in the U. P. Council, Dr. Mahmudullah Jung Parliamentary Secretary, informed Mr. Mohanlal Sah that the Government proposed to send an officer to the Central Legislative Department to receive training in the work of that department particularly in drafting Bills and the interpretation of statistics. He would be selected with the consultation of the High Court and the Chief Court. The Parliamentary Secretary further stated that the question of sending an officer for training to London was under consideration of the Government. Dr. Jung replying to another question of Mr. Mohanlal said that there was no ban on the entry of Raja Mahendra Pratad Singh into this province. Should he desire to visit India the Government of India had stated that they would consider the question.

Burma's £1,500,000 For Defence

A million and half pounds, representing 14 per cent. of Burma's ordinary revenue has been earmarked for defence in the budget introduced in the House of Representatives by the Minister of Finance. This is Burma's first budget since the country separated from India on April 1, 1937. It shows an estimated surplus of £288,000. The amount set aside for defence is £195,000 more than has ever been devoted to this purpose before.

Stamp Duty On Cheques

The imposition of stamp duty on cheques is one of the objects of a Government Bill which is due to be introduced on Monday, February 14, in the Central Assembly. Sir James Grigg, Finance Member will introduce it after the Railway Budget is presented. The Bill is "to fix uniform rates for the levy of certain stamp-duties throughout British India, impose for two years a stamp duty on cheques and formulate principles in accordance with which net proceeds of the said duties shall be distributed among the provinces."

The Sporting World

Bad Gengan Vs. Mannie Dixon

BUD GENGAN, the non-European light-weight boxer, is attempting to prove that his last showing against Sonny Thomas at the City Hall was not his true form. He fully realises that he is up against a proposition in Mannie Dixon, but under the able care and tuition of Willie Smith, the ex-feather-weight champion of South Africa, intends demonstrating that he has not lost his past powers. Dixon is in vigorous training at the Bantu Social Centre in preparation for the tournament on March 26 at the City Hall. Benny Singh, the promoter, has a splendid second string to his bow in matching Benny Herbert, of Capetown, against Martin Ebreneich, of Johannesburg. Eddie Pottier will fight Freddie Smith. Both have been wanting to meet each other for months. Two other preliminaries complete the programme.

Tie In Cricket Inter-town

The final of the Durban-Maritzburg inter-town cricket match resulted in a tie on the first innings, each side scoring 176. This is the first occasion in the annals of inter-town cricket that a tie has taken place. Durban, batting first, opened disastrously, the first wicket falling at four, the second at 22, third at 23, fourth at 26 and half the side out for 40, Jack Davidson being responsible for this debacle. Bhorat and Osman Buckus

then became associated and retrieved the position, Buckus eventually being bowled out at 105 for 47. P. Moosa carried on the good work, contributing an invaluable 48. The chief scorers were Moosa 48, O. Buckus 47, Bhorat 23 and G. H. Butler 25. J. Davidson came out with the splendid analysis of seven for 39. Maritzburg lost their first wicket at nine, then the Davidson brothers carried the total to 80 when a separation was effected. T. V. Gopaul and Moothoo were concerned in another good stand, carrying the score to 132 for four. Wickets then began to fall with regularity, the eighth wicket falling at 154 amidst great excitement. Harrinarain made a great attempt to pull the game round, being run out at 174 for 19. With the last pair together and three runs required for victory, Soobiah scored a couple to level matters, and in attempting to make a big hit had his wicket shattered. The principal contributors were Jimmy Davidson 39, Jack Davidson 36, T. V. Gopaul 30, K. Moothoo 25 and Harrinarain 19. B. Pillay was the best of the bowlers with three wickets, Moosa and Kazi claiming two each.

Old Collegians F.C.

The first annual general meeting of the Old Collegians Football Club was held recently at the St. Aidan's Sydenham Indian Boys' School, under the presidency of Mr. J. Nadasen. After the adoption

of the secretary's annual report and the treasurer's financial statement, the following officials were elected:—Patrons: Messrs: Wm. Silas Seethal and J. S. Roppnarain; President: Mr. Jack Nadasen; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. S. Pillay, J. Huber, R. Luckan, R. V. Chetty, H. Jithoo, J. S. Jugnath, G. Raman, Richard Moodley, R. Kisten, S. Chetty and Dr. M. G. Naidoo; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. Charles M. Pillay; manager and trainer: S. Chetty; delegates to D.D.I.F.A. Messrs. J. Raman and Charles M. Pillay; committee: Messrs. S. Chetty, J. Raman, R. Govindoo, R. Kisten, J. Nadasen, R. Luckan and Charles M. Pillay; captain: R. Govindoo.

Natal Indian Congress

The annual general meeting of the above Congress will be held at the M. K. Gandhi Library & Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Durban, on Sunday, April 24, commencing at 3 p.m. sharp. Agenda: (1) Minutes; (2) Joint Hon. Secretary's report; (3) Treasurer's financial statement; (4) Election of Officials; (5) General.

A. E. Shaikh,
Abdoola Moosa

Pro-tem. Joint Hon. Secretaries.

N.B.

Only those members who have paid their subscription prior to the commencement of the meeting will be allowed to participate.

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