

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

CABLE News received by us from New Delhi on the 6th says that Gandhiji's health is quite good.

Riverside For The Whites

Dealing with the slums clearance in our leading columns, some few weeks ago, we predicted that the Riverside Heights will, one day, be taken over by the Europeans, and the Umgeni River will be turned into a play ground second only to the Beach. That we were not wrong in our prediction is exemplified by an interview which Mr. Leo Coughlan, the United Nationalist Party candidate for Greyville, gave to the *Sunday Tribune*. "The Umgeni area, at present a neglected part of Durban's "black belt," can be made into an attractive pleasure resort" is what Mr. Coughlan says. "By June," he said, approximately 600 Natives and Indians will have left one section of the North Bank of the river. With the continuance of this programme of slum clearance there should be a favourable opportunity of the Corporation acquiring the whole of the Riverside sights from above the railway bridge to the sea. Whatever the cost of acquiring this part of the city no sacrifice would be too great." He dreams of turning the Umgeni River into a pleasure resort. House boats, bungalows and riverside properties on improved areas will replace slum dwellings. He suggests an embankment boulevard flanking the municipal golf course; canalisation and reclamatory work raising and straightening the river bank on the North side; dredging of the river bed, an artificial barrier at the estuary and locks further up stream to raise the level of the water, giving facilities for rowing boats and small sailing craft. The acquisition of the properties, he feels, will not be more than £100,000, but the mile and half of river frontage will provide 300 acres of improved land which will fetch £1,000 per acre. We pointed out on several occasions Slums Act will be used by local authorities, not as a means to eliminate slum conditions, but as means to drive the Indians from localities which can be developed for European occupation. The Slums Act purports to be a deadlier weapon than

the Areas Reservation Bill would have been if it had passed through the Assembly. The Slums Act cannot be termed as a class legislation, but in its application it is distinctly a class legislation. Unless our community takes a determined stand against the application of the Act, the fate of the Indian community in South Africa will be sealed. While Rome burned Emperor Nero played the fiddle. A parallel to that is found in our community standing disunited whilst legislations after legislations, all directed against the Indian, are being passed.

Natal Indian Teachers' Society

The Natal Indian Teachers' Society presented a memorandum to His Honour the Administrator of Natal, on the Report of the Education Commission of 1937. The memorandum points out that 19,000 Indian children are growing in illiteracy. A large number leaves the School ever before reaching Standard IV and this is due, it is pointed out, to economic reasons. To remedy this it is suggested that free education should be given up to the age of 16 or up to Standard VI. The Society draws the attention of the Administration to the unsatisfactory state of many of the school buildings, and it feels that where the Indian community is unable to raise funds to construct schools, the Provincial Administration should shoulder the responsibilities. The gradual taking over of all Aided Schools is asked for and it is suggested that all new schools should be State Schools. The Society strongly opposes the changing of the curriculum and that past results do not justify any differentiation in the curriculum. One of the most important points raised is that which deals with the Status of Teachers in Aided Schools. The memorandum proceeds "the Society is agreed that all Indian teachers at present employed in the Aided Schools be taken over by the State as its employers, that is to say, they be brought under the same scale of salaries and be subject to the same condition of service with the equal privileges as their colleagues employed in the Government Schools." On the question of Secondary Schools, it states that "in view of the fact that that a large

number of pupils are refused admission at Sastri College year after year, the Society suggests that selected primary schools be permitted to teach Standards VII and VIII to meet the exigencies of the present situation. The Society feels that the time had arrived for the Provincial Administration to make a contribution towards the development of Indian education until a substantial grant is obtained from the Union Government.

Difficult Task

In a letter to Sir Syed Raza Ali conveying greetings to India and goodwill towards her constitutional development General Smuts very aptly says: "The task of racial co operation and appeasement is to-day nowhere in the wide world an easy one, and in South Africa, too, with our tangle of races and colours and racial colour problem, we have to face a difficult situation in this respect. The work of the conciliator in South Africa is often carried on under grave discouragements which you, too, must have felt now and then during your stay with us. But you have the consciousness of high efforts made and definite success achieved in your task." General Smuts refers to the period of national status and says: "Valuable experience is now being gathered in the working of this great national undertaking, and the peoples and leaders of India have, so to say, a school course in national co-operation and self-discipline which will stand them in good stead in the testing times ahead. Having passed through a similar experience, though on a much smaller scale in South Africa, we watch this great process in India with all the more interest, goodwill and sympathy. When, as we confidently expect, India in the near future takes her full place at the round table conference of the Commonwealth, she will afford yet another justification for our faith in human nature and in the ideals of democratic freedom, which are to-day somewhat under a cloud in the West."

The Indian Eisteddfod

We offer our congratulations to the Indian Society for the advancement of music for the excellent musical festival

that it provided us with. The entries are numerous, and the music that is being heard during the competitions is excellent. On Tuesday last, Miss Fisher who was the adjudicator paid a glowing tribute to the entrants who rendered excellent music. The officials

would be well advised to provide better seating accommodation at the Carlisle Street Indian School. One cannot expect the audience to sit on school benches and desks. Lack of good seating accommodation undoubtedly accounts for the meagre attendance.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, APRIL 8TH, 1938

When Will It End?

THE Natal Municipal Association is once more in the fore. It proposes to institute a campaign to combat the "Asiatic penetration into purely European Areas in Natal Municipalities and urban Areas." It is reported that the Natal local authorities, especially the City Councils of Durban and Maritzburg, will be asked very shortly to give their views upon the matter.

Asiatic penetration, when will this cursed agitation end? Has not Natal Municipal Association any other question to tackle than the question of Asiatic penetration which to the members, appears to be a perennial affair.

What has now prompted the Association to raise this question is beyond us. The present position does not justify the institution of a campaign. It is true that Indians have been purchasing properties in and around Durban, but there is no justification to assert that Indians have penetrated into purely European areas. Those that live in such areas may be counted in one's fingers, but their standard of living is as high as, if not higher than the average European of the Natal Towns. We have, more than once, pointed out that the Indian seeks no social equality with the European of this country. All he needs is an equality of opportunity. It was suggested in years gone by that the Indian was sending all the

money to his country of origin and that he was living by the "smell of his oil rag." That agitation is now dead and the campaign against Asiatic penetration has now taken its place.

We propose here to show that the campaign is not only ill-advised but also the facts do not bear out the contention of the Natal Municipal Association. Durban has a population of over 75,000 Indians. Of these only 16,000 live at Durban, within the precincts of the old Borough boundaries. Nearly 4,000 of this number—we are basing this at a conservative figure—which includes women and children live in the Municipal Barracks. The balance is scattered about in purely Indian localities. Those who live in European areas as we have already pointed out, are very few in number. In the added areas, that is outside the old boundaries but within the boundaries of Greater Durban, Indians confine themselves to their own localities. In other words they have voluntarily segregated themselves. Where then is the Asiatic penetration?

The same state of affairs exist at Pietermaritzburg, the majority of the Indian community, live below Retief Street which is essentially an Indian locality. We shall rule out the other towns of Natal, for, in these towns the

Indian population is very small compared to the European population. We believe that the Natal Municipal Association is concerned not so much with the other towns of Natal as it is with Durban.

It was only a few days ago that Captain Walker, the ex-Town Clerk of Greytown, who until recently was the Secretary of the Association, made a stirring appeal to the members of the Association, to show a sympathetic attitude towards the Indian. That the appeal has fallen on deaf ears is apparent from the move that the Association has now made. The Natal Municipal Association enjoys the reputation of being the hot bed of anti-Indian agitation. And we have often wondered whether the members of the Association have any scruples, Justice—to them is as foreign as it is to the cannibal who believes in devouring and then enquiring.

In our opinion there are only two methods by which this agitation can be killed once for all. One is the immediate granting of franchise to the Indian. The Association dare not institute a campaign against any community which possesses the franchise. The other which is a much simpler method, is for those Europeans who have a liberal outlook, to come forward and frustrate the attempts of the Municipal Association. The Indo-European Council at Durban, has amongst its European members, friends who have always claimed to stand for equal justice for all. The time is most opportune for them to fight against any differentiation.

We warned our community in Natal that they were heading for troublous times. The action of the association is but the beginning.

IF WINTER COMES

"Its 'Coolie' here, and 'Coolie there'
And 'Coolie' get behind,
But, its 'Soldiers of the Empire'
When there's trouble in the wind."

(With apologies to Kipling).

WELL, the wind is blowing and it smacks of "trouble" aplenty. The boomerang of hypocritical professions and broken promises has taken exactly twenty years to complete its outward and return journey and is now back again calling its projectors to account.

For, it be remembered, the slogan that called youth and middle age to the 1914-18 war was "No reparations and no annexations." It was, we are assured, "A war to end war," a war that we were waging "to make the world safe for democracy." Perhaps a typographical error was responsible for the mis-spelling of the last word. It should have read "plutocracy." For that is just how it has worked out.

Poets coined the phrase "dogs of war." Big business turned it to practical account; made the phrase literally a reality. The erstwhile heroes, having served their uses in the military ranks were contemptuously ordered back to pre-war conditions in the industrial ranks. The dogs had brought down their quarry, so "back to your kennels!" None of the quarry—save perhaps the offal—for them. Theirs the lot of the exploited, of money spinners for the greater enrichment of the war-profiteers and war-loan mongers. Their lot to sink back into the vast army of vassalage to a heartless plutocracy that has Mommon of God and Interest for Prophet.

By

L. W. RITCH

"Safe for democracy!" What know they of democracy who only *such* democracy know? South Africa too, is, we are assured, a democracy; a "democracy" whose millions of non-whites are eternally doomed to helotage. "No equality in Church or State between whites and non-whites."

Three quarters of a century ago, India, "the Empire's proudest jewel," was persuaded to encourage a thin stream of her starving peasants to emigrate for the rescue of the Natal sugar industry from extinction. The Garden Colony grew out of their toil and industry. The children and grandchildren of such of them as elected and were permitted to stay constitute a large proportion of Natal's Indian population. In spite of the limited educational facilities afforded, these include a fair proportion of teachers, doctors and lawyers. The Indian youth of Natal excels rather than lags in the matter of sport. Here one would think is material that might be turned to national profit, to excellent account; brain and brawn and a proven capacity for service. But no! Every obstacle that can be devised must be placed across the path of progress in order to "cramp their style," to keep them "where they belong." They must be restrained from poaching on the preserves of the privileged white classes. Thus, is Natal kept safe for "democracy."

Lord Lansdowne's historic denunciation of disabilities imposed on British

Indians in the Transvaal figured prominently in the *casus belli* of the 1899 to 1902 war. His Lordship's righteous indignation over the comparatively unimportant disabilities suffered under the Boer regime makes strange reading, to-day. Like unto Aaron's rod, the Boer whips have changed into Dominion scorpions. There is no place in South African democracy for non-whites.

But, if winter comes? Should this Naboth's vineyard that so proudly and loudly advertises its rich mineral resources become the object of another totalitarian—state adventure, shall we once again discover that the arm that wields the drill, the hand that prepares and serves our food is owned by human being, a unit of man-power, well qualified to help preserve the liberties his kind have never been permitted to share?

On an eminence that overlooks Johannesburg's skyscrapers, is the Indian monument, erected in memory of those Indians who fell in the war out of which, phoenix-like, the Dominion of South Africa arose. Lower, few of the warriors who survived and a number of their children are to be found in the Union—sharing the lot of their brother helots.

If winter comes will the despised "coolie" suddenly acquire a new value? Even the proudest of us are not over-critical of the hand that rescues us from danger, and the drowning man will clutch the outstretched hand without first inspecting its colour. Truly, "the Colonel's lady and Judg O'Grady are sisters under their skins."

"NEARER MY GOD TO THEE"

THIS is written on the morning of a 22nd of February. The date occurred to me as soon as I was awake this morning, for the reason that we are having a sabbath quiet in our town to-day, not even the postman on his round. It is the anniversary of George Washington's birth. But to me the day brings always the remembrance of another birthday, celebrated nowhere so far as I know, not even among Unitarians, although were they as conscious of the importance of world emphasis as against all national memorials they might well acclaim this memorial of a more universal mood than any that Washington, however worthy, can commemorate. I refer to the fact that Sarah Flower Adams, the author of the most universal of all hymns, "Nearer My God to Thee," was born on February 22, 1805.

By

ROBERT WHITAKER

In "Unity"

It ought to interest not only Unitarians in particular, but all liberals, even though of no religious faith, that the father of Sarah Flower Adams, Benjamin Flower, was a man whose liberal views in the political field caused him to be imprisoned for a time in Newgate, London's notorious prison house. While there a young woman by the name of Eliza Gould called upon him, as one who shared his socially heretical views. After his release they were married, and two girls were born to them, the first, Eliza, being named for her mother; the second, the Sarah Flower Adams of the immortal song. The mother died of tuberculosis five

years after this younger daughter was born and the two daughters followed her, by the same disease, a little more than thirty years later. Both girls were rarely gifted, the older one being a musician of some note, the younger one beautiful, brilliant, and vivacious in high degree, gifted in drama and in verse. But for her poor health Sarah would have given herself to the stage, as she felt the drama could be made the vehicle of high moral instruction as truly as the pulpit. As it was, after her marriage, in 1834, to John Brydges Adams, a civil engineer, her home became the centre of a notable circle of friends by reason of her exceptional charm. The longer illness of her sister, who died in December, 1846, and the attendance of Sarah upon her, hastened Sarah's end, her death occurring less than two years later, in August, 1848.

The hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee" was written by Sarah in 1840, and was set to music by her sister. It was published the following year in a book, *Hymns and Anthems*, prepared by her pastor, the Reverend William Johnson Fox, for his Unitarian congregation. The Reverend James Freeman Clarke gave it American publication three years later, in 1844, but it gained little popularity until, in 1856, Lowell Mason wrote for it the fitting tune, "Bethany." Within a few years it had made itself known the world over. American travellers in Palestine in 1871 were amazed and profoundly impressed when they came upon a group of Syrian students, standing in a circle under some trees and singing in their own tongue this hymn, which is peculiarly adapted to be the song of religion for all creeds, all peoples, and all tongues. There is a certain universalism which to my mind belongs to the story of George Washington when it is lifted above the levels of national emphasis and conceit. He it was who led the way in establishing what was in that hour the pioneer of democratic nations, and, beyond this, was the great League of Nations on democratic lines. It was more in fact than a League of Nations, for the American colonies, altogether too individually nationalistic in their self-centered consciousness when the American Union was formed, abdicated at that hour their separate domination of the individual American, and yielded to a citizenship for the inhabitants of every State one and indivisible. By this they established a unity which not

even the conflict over chattel slavery could break, thanks to the guiding hand of Abraham Lincoln, who also saw that the greater citizenship must prevail. It is the failure of all our projected international leagues of to-day to build upon this foundation of the citizenship of the individual in the total rather than the provincial fellowship, which dooms them to futility. Not until some movement greater than the American Revolutionary War, and more enduring than this "indissoluble" union of the states, captures the imagination and the loyalty of mankind, shall we have a world harmony in the field of politics and social life that will bring men, in a world fraternity, to the feet of the "Deity," however He be named, in whom we all "live and move and have our being."

There would be no unfitness, therefore, if those of us who keep Washington's birthday were to make the day a memorial also to the singer of the anthem of the universal soul. It was with this thought in mind that I wrote this morning the lines which are given herewith. But beyond anything that I have said in these simple stanzas, I would fain commend to all who read them this double recognition of the day; on the one hand, that we make it more than a personal remembrance of George Washington, the man,—rather a celebration of that peculiar, pioneer collectivism which the American Union first initiated under the auspices of our First President; and, by way of that pioneering prophetic spirit of which formal religion is too careless, toward

which it is, indeed, too often hostile that we make the day memorial of the world's most universal religious song. We must de-individualize all our hero-worship, if it is not to remain that the heroes of to-day are the hitching posts of to-morrow. Nothing could be more foreign to the real historic significance of George Washington than the insistence of our belated American provincials upon making him the Apostle of Isolationism. Rather was he the Apostle of World Citizenship, when the path-finding work which he did is understood. And to this World Citizenship which is coming on, though it may come by way of many a Newgate Prison experience for the Benjamins of our day and tomorrow, preeminently belongs the hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee," whose author by a sort of divine coincidence shared Washington's natal day.

This day recalls his praise and power
Who nursed our Nation's birth.
Yet was the day her natal hour
Whose song enfolds the Earth.

When Nations shall have ceased to be
The warrior's concern,
The world one world from sea to sea,
Whatever days return;

Her words will live, and yet be sung
Her universal theme;
And men of every race and tongue
Dream her immortal dream.

The Earth one Bethel everywhere,
Whereon the sons of men
Shall lift one fellowship of prayer,
Ond Jacob's Ladder then.

RIGHT TO VOTE WANTED

PETITION FOR RETURN OF MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE

THE Natal Indian Congress has submitted a memorandum to the Natal Provincial Council in connection with the City of Durban Electoral Amendment Ordinance of 1938.

The measure seeks among other matters to amend the law regarding the qualification of burgesses, and Congress submits that section 13 Ordinance 19 of 1924 should be deleted. As it now stands it deprives persons otherwise qualified as owners or occupiers of rateable property in the City of Durban of their right to vote unless they are so entitled to vote at general elections.

"By the Natal Act of 1896," says Congress, "Natal Indians were deprived of their parliamentary franchise because they were natives or descendants in the male line, of countries which have not hitherto (i.e. at the date of the passing of that Act) possessed elective representative institutions founded on

parliamentary franchise.

"Notwithstanding the passing of the aforesaid Act No. 8 of 1896, Indian owners and occupiers of rateable properties in Durban and in the other boroughs and townships of Natal continued to enjoy the privilege of the municipal franchise under the Natal Law 19 of 1872 until the passing of Ordinance No. 19 of 1924.

"The franchise was taken away from Indians on the ground that they did not enjoy this right and privilege in the country of their origin. But the position in India has, since the passing of the India Act of 1935 considerably altered, and now Indians are enfranchised.

"Every Indian who has had the most elementary education, who can read and write, or who even owns a bullock

to carry on farming operations now has the vote.

"The reason which moved the Natal Government to withdraw the franchise in 1896 therefore no longer exists, and consequently we feel that our request is based on the soundest possible grounds."

A Retrogressive Step

The petitioners submit that the Congress representing the Indian community has consistently maintained that the abolition of the municipal franchise was not only a retrogressive step, but was an act of grave injustice.

"According to the census of 1936," states the memorandum, "the total population of Durban was 239,547, being 88,065 Europeans, 80,304 Indians, 63,762 Natives and 7,336 Coloureds.

THE PROBLEM OF MASS EDUCATION IN INDIA

III

BUT along with the unfolding of this spiritual idealism before the people, there must be a consolidated effort to impart secular education to the masses, too. Education must not be limited to the knowledge of the spiritual truths alone, but must be comprehensive enough to embrace all aspects of human culture, secular and spiritual. In the last educational conference held at Wardha under the auspices of the Silver Jubilee of the Marwadi Siksha Mandal, many distinguished educationists assembled from different parts of India and placed their weighty suggestions before the congregation. They lent almost unanimous support to the educational scheme of Mahatma Gandhi, the guiding spirit of the conference, who advocated therein a free and compulsory education for seven years on a nation-wide scale through the mother-tongue. The pregnant words of Mahatmaji deserve more than a passing notice. He pertinently observed that the present system of education does not meet the requirements of the country in any shape or form. English, having been made the medium of instruction in all the higher branches of learning, has created a permanent bar between the highly educated few and the uneducated many. It has prevented knowledge from percolating to the masses. This excessive importance given to English has cast upon the educated class a burden which has maimed them mentally for life and made them strangers in their own land. Absence of vocational training has made the educated class almost unfit for productive work and harmed them physically. For the all-round development of boys and girls all training should, as far as possible, be given through a profit-yielding vocation. In other words, vocations should serve a double purpose—to enable the pupil to pay for his tuition through the products of his labour, and at the same time to develop the whole man or woman in him or her through the vocation learnt at school.

In his opinion a proper and harmonious combination of all the three elements of a man's personality, viz., intellect, body and heart, is required for the making of the whole man and constitutes the true economics of education. Supposing, he says, he is set to some useful occupation like spinning, carpentry, agriculture, etc., for his education and in that connection is given a thorough comprehensive knowledge relating to the theory of the various operations that he is to perform and the use and construction of the tools

By THE EDITOR

"Prabuddha Bharata."

(Continued from last week)

that he would be wielding. He would not only develop a fine, healthy body but also a sound, vigorous intellect that is not merely academic but is firmly rooted in, and is tested from day to day by, experience. His intellectual education would include a knowledge of mathematics and various sciences that are useful for an intelligent and efficient exercise of his avocation. If to this is added literature by way of recreation, it would give him a perfect well-balanced, all-round education in which the intellect, the body and the spirit have all full play and develop together into a natural harmonious whole. Mahatmaji is fully alive to the danger of

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slavish imitation of the Western method of costly education and therefore made the following significant remarks in the Wardha Conference by way of a note of warning, "We have to make them (the boys and girls) true representatives of our culture and civilization, of the true genius of our nation. We cannot do so otherwise than by giving them a course of self-supporting primary education. Europe is no example for us. It plans its programmes in terms of violence because it believes in violence.....If India has resolved to eschew violence, this system of education becomes an integral part of the discipline she has to go through. We are told that England expends millions on education, America also does so, but we forget that all that wealth is obtained through exploitation. They have reduced the art of exploitation to a science, and might well give their boys the costly education they do. We cannot, will not, think in terms of exploitation, and we have no alternative but this plan of education which is based on non-violence."

IV

It must be borne in mind that the purpose of education is not merely to manufacture bands of weavers, carpenters or mechanics. All our high-souled efforts and elaborate schemes for educating the masses will end in fiasco if, along with scientific or technical education, the people are not taught the profound truths of religion and their glorious cultural tradition. That Western science must be pressed into service for the discovery of new avenues to production can hardly be gainsaid; but at the same time the masses must be admitted to the knowledge that has so long been considered to be the monopoly of the higher classes, in order that the people may gain back their lost individuality, stand on their own legs and march forward on the path of progress as a self-conscious unit of our corporate life. "The ideas," says swami Vivekananda, "must be taught in the language of the people; at the same time Sanskrit education must go on along with it, because the very sound of Sanskrit words gives a prestige and a power and a strength to the race...The only way to bring about the levelling of castes is to appropriate the culture, the education which is the strength of the higher castes. That done, you have what you want." Indeed what is needed is to kindle their aspiration for a higher idealism and to fillip their dormant energies into activity through a well-balanced scheme of practical education.

An education to be rendered effective and useful must be imparted in an atmosphere of love and sympathy to all irrespective of caste, creed or colour. Any insidious attempt to communalize the Alma Mater is to be nipped in the bud through the determined and concerted action of those who have really the interests of the country at heart. The communal virus that has of late been injected into the life-blood of the national organism has already begun to produce its demoralizing effect on the collective life of the people. In fact the well-being of the land demands that the sacred sanctuary of learning must ever remain free from all these petty-minded caste or communal considerations. The invidious distinction between the high and the low, the rich and the poor, as is witnessed in the socio-economic life of the people, has alienated a huge section of the Indian population from the higher class and has been responsible in no small measure for their easy conversion to other proselytizing faiths. The educational system of the land must therefore stand far above these sordid considera-

tions and should be governed by a spirit of undying love and sympathy for all, and should open out multiple avenues before the country to enable the rich and the poor, the high and the low to share alike in the immortal blessings of a true man-making education. There is no time to lose. The seething mass of humanity kept under the fetters of ignorance and tyrannized through vast scores of centuries would no longer brook this unseemly and intolerable state of affairs. The only way to properly utilize and guide these powerful forces is to train their intellect and heart and thereby make them fit to take an intelligent interest in every construc-

tive scheme of national improvement. The New India, as Swami Vivekananda has truly prophesied, shall rise not from palaces or mansions, but from the peasant's cottage, grasping the plough, out of the huts of the fisherman, the cobbler and the sweeper, from the grocer's shop, from beside the oven of the fritter-seller, from the factory, from the marts and markets. The New India shall emerge from the groves and forests, from the hills and mountains. Already the signs of a new awakening are discernible on the horizon of Indian life. The purple dawn has cast its lovely hue all over the land. The rays have penetrated into the humble huts, and

cottages of the people and have madened them with the vision of a sunny cloudless sky. It is time that the guardian angels of India broke their hypnotic spell and came out from the hothouse atmosphere of their arrogant exclusivism and suicidal isolation to welcome the rising dawn. What is needed at this psychological hour is not mere pious platitudes or political shibboleths but immediate practical steps to educate the voiceless millions of the land, to stimulate and guide their aspirations and energies to proper channels and thereby to realize the golden dream of a united India clothed in the aureole of her pristine glory.

(Concluded)

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. V. S. PILLAY

ON March 16, 1938, Mr. V. S. Pillay, a pioneer Indian in South Africa, passed away at his home in the presence of his family. Mr. Pillay came to South Africa in the year 1894 and ever since his arrival he has unceasingly laboured on behalf of the Tamil community and in general for the Indian community. He was not a bigoted sectionalist but a man whose heart considered the wants of humanity.

During the Passive Resistance struggle in South Africa he loyally supported Mahatma Gandhi and he and his wife suffered imprisonment. He sacrificed

his business and threw himself heart and soul in the movement which had for its object the emancipation of our people from oppressive laws.

Mr. Pillay was very keen in encouraging the vernacular and he travelled far and near in South Africa to raise sufficient funds for the building of a Tamil school. This he achieved and the building stands as a monument to his unselfish labours. He was also the President of the Pretoria Tamil League. He took a leading part in sports in his youthful days and the time held an official post in the Pretoria District

Indian Football Association. The funeral took place in Pretoria on Wednesday 17th March when over 1,000 people were present.

Telegrams and wreaths were received from the various societies and sporting bodies. The presence of Indians, Natives, Coloureds, Europeans, and people belonging to the Mahomedan religion were also conspicuous by their presence. Speeches were delivered at the graveside by leading members of the Indian community.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NATAL INDIAN TEACHERS

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—I heartily congratulate you on the outspoken article about the Natal Indian Teachers' Society. What you have said is quite true. The fault to-day in Natal is that you have teachers whose outlook on life is very narrow and they cram to pass their set examinations.

They have an entirely wrong idea about the aims and objectives of education. What is a Teachers' Certificate worth? Except as far as these men and women are concerned its value is reckoned by £ s. d. The function of education is not to take us out of the life in which we live, but to equip the student to live efficiently and happily

in it. The teachers in Natal believe in having side lines such as Insurance Agents-ships—Indulging in excessive drinks. In fact the vast majority of teachers rely upon their profession as a livelihood not as a divine calling for the purpose of moulding the character of lives of the students. What examples are some of them setting the children? A teacher arrested for being drunk? What a certificate to have? Can men like these have any other complex but the inferiority complex. Their attitude is one of servility and docility, because they fear the loss of their jobs. If they have nothing to lose they will fear nothing.

Our wants can never be satisfied, not by getting but by giving, giving all the time, and that what we can get out of life depends largely upon what we put into it.

How much have the Indian teachers put into the life of the community? There are a few worthy teachers, but the bulk. God save our children of the future is the cry of many a parent when we see the lives and ambitions of some of our teachers. May your pen, Sir, return to the fight again and again till you make the teachers see the true ideal of their noble calling.

"A TEACHER."

Things In General

What The War Costs!

CYNICS have said that figures are often meaningless because they can be made to mean anything. But the following figures can, especially to-day, be quoted and safely left to speak for themselves.

The cost of the Great War has been reckoned at £80,000,000,000. According to figures quoted by the Carnegie Foundation, this sum would have sufficed to have provided every family in America, Canada, Australia, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany and Russia with a £500 house, £200 worth of furniture and £100 worth of land.

Every town of 20,000 inhabitants in all the above-mentioned countries could have been presented with a library to the value of £1,000,000 and a university to the value of 2,000,000, after which it would still have been possible to buy the whole of France and Belgium, that is, to say, all the land, houses, factories, railways, churches, roads, harbours, etc., in those countries.

Non-European Graduates

The first graduate to be presented, Benedict Wallet Vilakazi, for the conferment of the degree of Master of Arts in Bantu Studies, was given a warm reception. His dissertation was on "The Conception and development of Poetry in Zulu." Two Indians also graduated in the B.A. degree.

Definitions

In his lecture at the university the other night Professor Rufus Jones quoted an epigram which goes one better than the famous definition of a metaphysician—"a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there." A student, said Professor Jones, when asked to define the distinction between science and philosophy, replied: "Science is always getting to know more and more about less and less, until, eventually, it will know everything about nothing. Philosophy is always getting to know less and less about more and more, until eventually it will know nothing about everything."

Mixed Marriages Commission

The mixed Marriages Commission, whose findings and recommendations will probably be of the greatest political and sociological interest all over the Union, held its inaugural meeting on March 31 under the chairmanship of Mr. C. W. de Villiers. The chief business of the meeting, which was held in camera in one of the offices of the Ministry of the Interior, was to determine the Commission's procedure and the nature of the evidence to be called,

and to discuss its itinerary and further meetings. It is unlikely that the Commission will be able to report before the next Session of Parliament.

Transvaal Provincial Council

Decisions

Three outstanding decisions were made in the second session of the ninth Provincial Council of the Transvaal, which ended on the night of March 30. The first concerned the disposal of the Province's £500,000 surplus, the second the new departure in Provincial roads policy, embracing the £1,000,000 Main Reef road scheme, and the third a thorough investigation into the possible introduction of free hospital and medical services for all. Will it be for all?

Desai Gujarati School

The prize distribution of the Desai Gujarati School took place on Sunday at the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall. Mr. S. J. Randeria distributed the prizes. The children rendered songs and gave a fine exhibition of folk dancing. The performances of the children were highly creditable and the Principal of the school is to be congratulated for the tuition.

Death Of Well-Known

Indian Merchant

The death occurred on Saturday of a well-known Indian merchant of Dundee, Hajee Ebrahim Ayob, after a cold which turned to pneumonia, writes the Dundee correspondent of *The Star*. Mr. Ayob had been in business in the town for 40 years. He was born in Kathiawar, in India, and was 56 years of age. He was a trustee of the mosque for many years and took a prominent part in the affairs of the Mohammedan community.

Durban To London In

Two-And-A-Quarter Days

An airmail service between Durban and London operating on a 2½-day schedule is the ultimate aim of Imperial Airways, and it is possible that this will become a reality during 1939. In addition, Australia will be reached in 3½ days, and New Zealand will be only five days' journey from London. The speeding up of the Africa service will commence on April 10, when the first northbound accelerated service will come into operation. The first southbound service will start on April 13. It is hoped that a 4½-day schedule will be in operation by about June of this year. This service was scheduled to commence on May 10, but the speeding up is being

made gradual to obviate unnecessary risks, and it will therefore not be operating fully until a later date.

Christmas "T.B." Stamps Sales Up £3,000

Between November 15 and December 31 last Christmas stamps to the value of £11,337 9s. were sold throughout the Union, an increase of £3,000 over the figures for 1936. The revenue derived from the fund goes to prevent the growth of tuberculosis, among children and adolescents. In the Cape, Western and Northern, and including Capetown, the sales increased by £1,000 on the previous year's figures. A similar increase was shown in the Cape, Eastern and Midlands, which includes the Border provinces and the Transkei. The increase in the Johannesburg and Witwatersrand area amounted to £400; that in Pretoria and district, £200; the rest of the Transvaal showed an increase of £100. In Durban an amount of £1,213 10s. 11d. was received; the total from sales in the general post office was £1,105. The O.F.S. figures were up £300, showing that the demand for the stamps was keen in the country areas. There were only 33 selling days.

Tamil-Play At Briardene

The Coronation Indian Social, Educational and Recreation Society will stage a dramatic play entitled "The Battle of Mayaliravanan" (which is a part of the history of Rama and Seetha) at the Society's Social Hall, Briardene, (near Messrs. K. K. Pillay & Son's Store) on Saturday April 16, commencing at 8 p.m. The actors in this play (of whom some are Natal's most talented actors) will be guided by the pageant actor and tutor, Mr. Maslamoney Moodley. The entire proceeds of this play will be devoted to the Society's School Building Fund for vernacular education to the children of Briardene and District. The official and members of the above institution earnestly appeal to the Indian public to wholeheartedly support this deserving cause, as the management has left no stone unturned to give the public a night's hearty entertainment.

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India Letter

(NEWS COLLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Governors Have Gone Wrong

LORD LOTHIAN in a letter to the *Times* says that it is difficult to believe that the release of a small number of political prisoners in any province except Bengal, which all Indian opinion recognizes to be a special case owing to its history of terrorism, constitutes in itself a "grave menace." Though it may lead in that direction, surely the right course in cases of this kind is for the Governor to formally warn his Ministers about the dangers that he fears and make it clear to them that if their judgment in regard to their own capacity to protect life and property proves wrong and serious trouble occurs or threatens, he will not hesitate to use his powers and publish as his justification his warning to the Ministers in regard to the probable consequences of their action.

Labour Criticism

The *Daily Herald*, in a leader says that the Governor-General has committed a bad error of judgment. A fairly large number of political prisoners has already been released without the smallest sign of any menace to the peace of India and there seems little reason to think that the remaining prisoners would act any differently. Even if they did, it is absurd to suggest that they could not very rapidly be put back to prison, and with Indian approval, for the first to be injured now by an outbreak of terrorism would be the Congress Ministries themselves.

Raja Mahendra Pratap's Pathetic Letter

Raja Mahendra Pratap has recently written a letter to Prof. Krishna Chandra, M.L.A., Chairman, Municipal Board, Brindaban, indicating his anxiety to return to India, during the course of which he says:—"I know that all our desires are not fulfilled just when we want them to be fulfilled. But I also know that no effort is entirely lost. It may take time, however, the mill of time takes time to grind to perfection. There was a time, I left India voluntarily. There was a time when I was approached,—my relations thought they could arrange my return—I declined. Now, for a couple of years I have been trying to get home to spread my message but now the British show their obstinacy. Congress has formed Government in the United Provinces, and six other provinces obey its rule. My friends, like you, can openly hold demonstrations demanding my return....."

It is gratifying to note that the Government of India have recently declared that they would have no objection to Raja Mahendra Pratap coming to India.

Transfer Of Villages

The transfer of certain villages in British Indian territory to the Durbars Udaipur and Jodhpur without consulting the wishes of the people smacks of the proceedings (to compare small things with great) of the Congress of Vienna in 1815 held after the Napoleonic wars by which whole areas were transferred without consulting the wishes of the people. This treatment of human beings as goods and chattels was repudiated at the Peace Conference of Paris after the conclusion of the Great War. In India, it seems, the principle holds good. Though Sir N. N. Sircar for the Government of India agreed that the Assembly should discuss the adjournment motion on the subject, the Governor-General disallowed the motion—and as usual 'Public interest' was given as the ground of disallowance. Who are the public in this case? Answer: The Governor-General of India.

I.C.S. Officer Resigns

With a view to rendering national service with greater freedom, Mr. H. Vishnu Kamath, I.C.S. Sub-Divisional Officer, Jubbulpore, who joined the Civil Service in 1930, has submitted his resignation to the Secretary of State with two months notice, writes the Jubbulpore correspondent of *Indian Express*. Interviewed, Mr. Kamath confirmed the report of his resignation saying that he wanted to devote his services to the country. Pending acceptance of the resignation, he expressed his reluctance to disclose the immediate causes that led to his resignation. He added that his future plans were still in the melting pot. Mr. Kamath was a staunch nationalist from the very start of his executive service. In protest against Lord Baden Powell's remarks he resigned from the Boy Scout's Association, and is joining the Seva Samiti. He presided over the Seva Samiti District Rally on February 1 at Panagar, near Jubbulpore.

Amazing "Kayakalp" Treatment

From all accounts it appears that the Tapsi Baba under whose treatment Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya has placed himself has restored to him physical and mental powers to a considerable degree. Pandit Malaviya can now walk erect and recite the 'shlokas' which he had completely forgotten. The course of treatment is not yet com-

plete. If the health of Pt. Malaviya continues to improve at the rate at which it is improving he may emerge from the closed room in which he has been kept completely rejuvenated. It will be an effective proof of the fact that there are Indian herbs which if used in a scientific manner can obliterate the effects of age on human body and mind. Tapsi Baba should be persuaded to let his knowledge of the 'Kayakalp' system of treatment become public property. India will then be able to organise clinics which may be the envy of the medical world.

Maker Of Modern Bhavnagar

The late Sir Prabha Shanker Dalpatram Pattani, K.C.I.E., the veteran Indian administrator, was 76 years old. Born in 1862, he had his education at Morvi, Rajkot and Bombay and entered the Bhavnagar State Service, at the age of 25. His outstanding abilities soon marked him out for higher things and he was raised to occupy the posts of Private Secretary to the Maharaja of Bhavnagar and Huzur Secretary in succession, during the years 1896-1902. He was created Dewan of the State in 1902, and he administered the affairs of the State for the next ten years, with conspicuous ability as testified to by the fact that the Bhavnagar State is perhaps the only State in India, where the judiciary and executive functions are kept distinct and separate and one of the few Indian principalities to be able to boast of sound finances and a debt-free prosperous peasantry. In 1912, he quitted the Bhavnagar State Service for the larger life of British India, being appointed Member of the Executive Council of the Bombay Government. The next eight years was a crowded period of his life, marked by his entry into the Bombay Legislative Council and the Imperial Legislative Council that functioned before the introduction of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. He was called back in 1920 to be the President of the Minority Administration of the Bhavnagar State, which he continued to be for the next 11 years. He was one of those invited to the Round Table Conferences held in 1930 and 1931 and was also a member of the Joint Parliamentary Select Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms in 1933. He had also been a member of the Indian States Delegation to the League of Nations Assembly in 1932 and was a member of the Council of State, at the time of his death.

GOVERNMENT HOUSING LOANS

AN excellent response is being accorded by the public to the Government's scheme of granting building loans jointly with building societies, and from all parts of the Union applications are being received for assistance under the scheme. In terms of the Additional Housing Act of last year persons may borrow up to £1,350, the building society providing 60 per cent. of the loan out of its own funds and the State advancing another 30 per cent. At one stage some of the building societies appeared to be not very enthusiastic about the scheme, but all difficulties have now been removed and most of the societies have already

signed deeds of agreement with the Government. It is anticipated that shortly all the principal building societies will be functioning in terms of the Act. The scheme benefits principally the low-salary man who cannot afford to put down the normal amount for the building of a house. Under the Act he now applies to a building society for a loan. The Society in turn refers the application to the Central Housing Board in Pretoria, which, after approving the application, recommends the Treasury that the 30 per cent. balance be paid out. This very tangible assistance has come as a godsend to would-be owners of homes in the lower salary scales

and applications are being received by the Housing Board from all parts of the Union. Seven were dealt with on April 4. The Board deals with these applications as it does with all applications under the Housing Act. The plans, specifications, etc., are examined and if considered suitable are passed on to the Treasury with recommendation for payment. If applications continue to come forward as rapidly as they have done hitherto there is no doubt that the scheme will lead to an appreciable stimulation in house buildings throughout the Union, which is the object the Government had in mind.

The Sporting World

By "Rambler"

Indian Intertown Final

THE Intertown Cricket Final between Durban District Indian Cricket Union and the Maritzburg Indian Cricket Union was played at Maritzburg, on Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27. The players represented Durban were:—P. Moosa (capt.), B. M. Pillay, Osman Buckus, G. H. Docrat, E. I. Manjoo, G. Appollis, M. Kisten, S. I. Immamally, H. A. Kharwa, E. I. Bhorat and Harry Singh. Mr. C. N. M. Khan (Manager). Maritzburg won the toss and elected to bat and scored 165 runs in 4½ hours. The main scorers were K. Muthoo 35, C. Rawat 32, and R. G. Naidoo 20. Bowling, Osman Buckus took 3 wickets, Bhorat 3, Docrat 2, Kharwa 1, and Moosa 1. Durban scored 207 runs. The principal scorers being E. I. Bhorat 78 not out, G. H. Docrat 30 and Osman Buckus 24. Bowling, J. Davidson took 5 wickets, B. Minor 2, Rawat 2, and Subba 1. Owing to insufficient time to complete the second innings, the match was decided on the first innings. Durban won by 42 runs. After the match a banquet was arranged by Dr. M. R. Peters in honour of the visiting team. The principal speakers being Dr. M. R. Peters (President), Messrs. C. N. M. Khan, B. M. Ally and the winning, and losing captains.

Hindoo Cricket Club

The Hindoo C.O. concluded their most successful season by playing their last match against Potchefstroom Indian C.O., on Sunday, March 20, at Potchefstroom. The scores were as follows:—Hindoo C.O. first innings 102; Bhowan Ranchhod 23, and Dayal Morar 20 not out, (M. H. Bismila 5 for 25). Potchefstroom first innings 56; Coopoo 19, (Narshi 6 for 19). Hindoo second innings 50 for 5; Bhowan Ranchhod 34 not out, (Coopoo 4 for 15). Hindoo won by 46 runs on the first innings. Mr. Kalidas Chhiba, the hon.

secretary of the Hindoo C.O., wishes to thank the following gentlemen, Messrs. M. H. Bismila, Saleh Cassim and A. M. Cassim, for their kind hospitality shown to his colleagues.

Big Boxing Show (Dixon Vs. Aubeng)

Benny Singh, the well-known local promoter, has booked the Durban City Hall for April 30, when Mannie Dixon, Natal Light-weight champion, will be matched against K.O. Aubeng, of Johannesburg. The latter figured in a recent bout in Durban and knocked his opponent out in the first round. He has a large list of knock-outs to his credit, and Dixon will have to be at his very best if it is his intention to retain the title. Other good and attractive preliminaries are being arranged, including a return bout between Ranjith Singh and P. M. Pillay. Booking will open next week and there seems every possibility of the hall being packed.

Newcastle And Districts Indian Football Association

The 18th annual general meeting of the Newcastle and Districts Indian Football Association was held at Newcastle on Sunday March 20. A lengthy discussion took place in connection with the dismemberment of the association by the Natal Indian Football Association over Press articles. It was decided, in the general interest of sport; to drop any contemplated action against the parent body, and a deputation was appointed to approach the Natal Indian Football Association to settle the matter in an amicable manner consistent with the traditions of Indian soccer in Natal. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. I. S. Vawda, A. M. Ephraim, M. I. Lockhat, Sheik Abdool and Ramlal Singh; Presi-

dent: Mr. O. J. Christopher (re-elected for the 10th year); vice-presidents: Messrs. M. Chetty, G. G. Chetty, S. M. Vawda, G. M. A. Vawda, S. Logarathan, O. Gopaul, P. Pachai, N. G. Nulliah, D. Pachai and S. Nobath; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. N. P. Naidoo; assistant secretary and record clerk: Mr. S. Booderam. Four teams have already affiliated, two from Newcastle and two from Dannhauser, and there are indications of a successful soccer season.

Witwatersrand Indian Football Association

The seventh annual general meeting of the Witwatersrand Indian Football Association was held during March at the Indian School in Korte Street, Johannesburg. There was a full muster of club delegates and great keenness evinced. The following officials were elected:—Patron: Dr. W. Godfrey; President: Mr. B. D. Pavadai; hon. life vice-presidents: Messrs. K. Naransamy, D. M. Nursoo and the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney; vice-presidents: Messrs. J. F. Marrian, K. Thumbi, B. Singh, A. Anthony and D. Ernest; hon. secretary: Mr. L. F. Williams; hon. treasurer: Mr. K. G. Moodley; hon. record clerk: Mr. Thama Samuels; hon. auditor: Mr. S. Royeppen.

Indian Tennis In The Transvaal

A friendly game of tennis was played at the Rangers Courts, Queen's Park, Vrededorp, between the Phoenix Tennis Club (Pretoria), and the Rangers Tennis Club (Johannesburg), on March 20. After the day's match was completed the Johannesburg team had an easy victory of 37 games in the lead. The players were:—Rangers: K. Thambi, Ramsamy, K. Naransamy, K. G. Moodley, Bagus, Prema Patel, Missea Manning and Prince; Phoenix: Sol. Ernest, J. Daniels, M. Anthony, G. Khoja, M. A. Khoja, C. B. Pillay, Mrs. Veldman and Miss Veldman.

NOTICE No. 205 of 1938

CITY OF DURBAN

Umgeni River Water Scheme

Pursuant to the provisions of "The Durban Waterworks (Private) Act 1937," No. 20 of 1937, and the directions as to service of notices made by the itinerant Water Court Judge at Durban on the first day of July, 1937, notice is hereby given to all riparian owners, as defined in Act No. 8 of 1912 as amended by Act No. 46 of 1934, who may be affected by the matter to be determined by the Ordinary Water Court specially constituted in terms of Section 27 of Act No. 8 of 1912, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 (1) of Act No. 20 of 1937, that such Court will sit in the Law Courts, Durban, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of June, 1938, at the hour of 10 in the forenoon, when any such riparian owner may appear to be heard upon the matter to be determined.

The matter to be determined by the said Water Court is what quantity of water shall be passed each day through the City Council's storage works, i.e. the dam and all works connected therewith, for the use of riparian owners between the dam and sea in terms of Section 7 of Act No. 20 of 1937.

If any riparian owner as aforesaid do not attend, either in person or by his agent, attorney or counsel, at the time and place abovementioned, such order will be made and proceedings taken as the Court may think just and expedient.

Any such riparian owner who desires to be heard before the Court is hereby required to signify to the undersigned in writing, not later than seven days before the date fixed for the sitting of the Court, his or her objections.

O. C. U. KAYS,
Registrar of Water Courts (North).
25th March, 1938.

NOTICE No. 206 of 1938

CITY OF DURBAN

Umgeni River Water Scheme

It is notified in terms of Section 28 (3) of Act No. 8 of 1912 and the Regulations that the following Assessor has been selected to sit as member of the Water Court, along with the Judge and an Engineer nominated by the Minister:—

WILLIAM PHAROE, of Lower Illovo, Natal.

Any person concerned is required, in case he objects to the said Assessor, to give notice thereof in writing to the Registrar of this Court on or before the second day of May, 1938, failing which notice he will be held to waive all right of objection.

His objection must state the cause for which he objects which may be one or more of the following:—

- (1) Consanguinity or affinity within the fourth degree to any of the parties or to any person who has a personal interest in the result of the application.
- (2) Having directly or indirectly an interest in the result of the application.
- (3) For having previously deliberately expressed an opinion as to the merits of the application.
- (4) Personal enmity between any party and the Assessor.

It is further notified that within four and twenty hours after the lodging of his objection he, or some agent by him authorized in writing, shall lodge with the said Registrar an affidavit setting out the facts in support of his objection, failing which his objection will be disallowed.

O. C. U. KAYS,
Registrar of the Water Courts (North).
Office of Water Court,
Palace of Justice, Pretoria.
25th March, 1938.

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