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NOTES AND NEWS

Arrival Of The New Agent-General R. RAMA RAU C.I.E., I.C.S., the Agent-General for India, arrived at Durban on Wednesday by the s.s. Tarea. At the wharfside about 400 people were present who accorded him a warm welcome. On behalf of the South African Indian Congress and the Natal Indian Congress, Mr. V. S. C. Pather and Swami Bhawani Dayal respectively welcomed the Agent-General in short speeches. He was garlanded by Swami Bhawani Dayal and by Mrs. Arnold Moodley who garlanded him on behalf of the Indian Women's League. plying to the welcome of the Congress, Mr. Rama Rau said that "this is not the proper occasion for a formal speech, but I do want to assure you that I have come here with the intention of serving the Indian community." Mr. S. Ridley, the Secretary to the Agent General, travelled with Mr. Rau from Lourenco Marques. On board the ship he was welcomed by the Commissioner for Assiatic Affairs Mr. P. F. Kincaid, Mrs. Benson, the Deputy Mayor, Mr. E. B. Scott, the Town Clerk and Mr. C. S. Ricketts. Mr. Rama Rau expects to go to Pretoria at some later date when he will meet the Prime Minister and other members of the Government.

The General Election

On Tuesday last the United Party Press dealt a low blow to the Natal Mercury which has championed the cause of the Dominion Party. That was the eve of the General Election. A report emanating from the Rand Daily Mail of Johannesburg alleged that the Natal Mercury had dealt a devastating blow to the Dominion Party and that it was withdrawing its support. That was immediately taken up by the Natal Daily News. These reports were immediately categorically denied not only by the Editor of the Natal Mercury but also by the Managing Director of that paper. The sweeping victory of the Dominion Party in Durban is retort to the blow that was dealt below the belt. Of the seven seats that the Dominion Party contested in Durban five have been won. We little expected that Leif Egeland would lose Stamford Hill, for he had well merited support. youth of the Division was with him.

The most surprising result was the one at Greyville where Mr. Derbyshire, the Dominionite, beat Mr. Wanless. Mr. Wanless spared no efforts and possessed with the most efficient organisation. Both Col. Stallard and Mr. Coulter the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Domidion Party have been defeated.

The R. K. Khan's Trust

The R. K. Khan Hospital and Dispensary Trust is rendering excellent service to the poor of the country. For 15 months the Trust conducted a Dispensary at 140 Queen Street, Durban, where free medical advice and free medicine were given to indigent Indians. At that Dispensary Drs. Makan Mistry, M. G. Naidoo and Goonam were in attendance. The Dispensary closed immediately the African Clearing Station in Beatrice Street opened, where at a nominal fee of 1/- medical attention and medicine are given. - The Trust has now opened a Dispensary at 545 Main South Coast Road, Clairwood, which has an Indian population of 16000 of whom the majority is poor. The Dispensary was opened on the 15th January 1938 and the fact that during April over 1100 Indians were attended to bears eloquent testimony to the necessity of the Dispensary. Dr. Beryl Peters and Dr. G. Mohanbry Naiker are in attendance at the Clair wood Dispensary. The Trust has also donated a sum of £1100 to the St. Aidan's Indian dospital for the erection of a Ward consisting of 12 beds.

We are pleased to learn that the Trust is carrying out the wishes of the late R. K. Khan who left nearly £45,000 for the establishment of Hospitals and Free Dispensaries.

Clairwood Slums

A joint Deputation of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association and the South Coast Junction Indian Ratepayers Association met the Slums Committee of the Durban City Council on Friday last. The Deputation was headed by Mr. A. Christopher the President of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association, who stressed the fact that the majority of those living in the area affected was working in the Factories at Jacobs. If they were shifted elsewhere considerable hardship would ensue. Mr. Christopher assured the

Committee that his colleagues on the Deputation were just as much anxious to eliminate slums as the City Council was, but he pointed out that it would be extremely unwise to push one section of the community to find place for another. He elaborated on the seven points raised in the joint letter which two associations addressed the City Council on Councillor 1. M. Harris, the Chairman of the Slums Committee, assured the Deputation that the Council. in the matter of eliminating slums at Clairwood, was moving in the direction indicated by Mr. Christopher and that the Council would be the last to see any hardships inflicted on the Indians. The Council had in view the erection of both economic and sub-economic houses on the area affected. Mr. Christopher incidentally brought the question of housing loans for Indians. He suggested that the Municipality instead of being rigid in the observance of the conditions governing housing loans to Indians, should be a little elastic. The Council should take the place of the private lender or the Societies, so that Indians should have the opportunity of building according to their own plans and selecting their own Indian Builders. For, after all, the loans would only be advanced as the buildings progressed. If this suggestion were followed. Mr. Christopher assured the. Committee, more and more indians would take advantage of the housing loans. Mr. Harris assured the Deputation that the suggestion will receive the consideration of the Council.

Haile Selassie's Last Hopes Shattered

Britain, whose refuge the ex-Emperor of Abyssinia, sought after having been vanquished by Italy, has at last forsaken her refugee. It was with a depth of extreme sorrow that the ex-Emperor heard Britain's representative at the League of Nations move for the recognition of the conquest of Abyssinia by Italy. Hailie Selassie's last ray of hope was Britain. That ray of hope has now vanished. Hailie Selasie may have no friends left, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that his country is by no means conquered. Italy by riding roughshod over a defenceless people, has gained a temporary advantage, but if history is to repeat itself, Italy would have to suffer a similar fate. Retribution. has its own methods of dealing with individuals and nations.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH, 1938

A Welcome To The Agent-General

E extend a cordial welcome to Mr. B. Rama Rau, the Agent-General for India in South Africa. Mr. Rau comes to us as a stranger but we feel sure that when he leaves us he will return to India as a friend of the Indian community of South Africa.

Mr. Rau comes with a brilliant career, having served at the Second and Third Round Table Conferences in London and at the Joint Parliamentary Committee. His experience gained at these momentous conferences will, we have no doubt stand him in good stead in his fight for our cause in this country.

. The position that the Agent-General occupies in South Africa is an extremely difficult one, and no one would envy Mr. Rau's office. However, much an Agent-General would like to do for our community, the difficulties that he has to encounter are insuperable, that we have found more than one Agents-General hold up their hands in complete despair. On the one hand the Agent-General has to deal with a Government which is by no means favourable to the Indian community and on the other he has to contend with serious differences within the community. Even at the risk of repitition we would again refer to the difficult position which we found ourselves in. We have held the opinion and we still hold the same opinion that as the Agent-General has not the backing of a powerful Government, he is not able to succeed in all representations that he makes to the Union Government.

The 1926 Capetown Agreement should have brought to an end all future legislative enactments

against the Indian community. That was not to be however. That Agreement, we have all along maintained, was one sided. The Agreement was concluded at the expense of a section of the commiunity, for without an Assisted Emmigration Scheme no Agreement could have been concluded. That Scheme was the means of repatriating thousands of our countrymen, women and children, who found India no place for them. It was because of the havoc that it wrought 'to the poorer Indians, that the Assisted Emmigration was removed from the Second Capetown Agreement.

That was not all. The consummation of the first agreement brought with it a train of anti-Asiatic legislations. Neither the Agreement nor the presence of the Agent-General made any difference to the spate of these legislations. The first blow that the Indian community received immediately after the first Capetown Conference was the Liquor Act sponsored by thé late Tielman Roos. Section 104 of that Act sought to displace over 3,000 Indians employed in licensed premises. That section was the acid test for the first Agent-General the Rt. Hon, V. S. Srinivasa Sastri. That offending section was withdrawn from the Bill after the Indian community had put up a fight ably supported by Mr. Sastri. We merely mention to shew that the presence of Mr. Sastri who was held in the highest esteem by the Europeans of South Africa, did not deter the Government from bringing forward a legislation which was racialistic in character. The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act served another striking instance where the Agent-General was unable to do

anything to prevent the passing of the Law. The South African Indian Congress passed a resolution at one of its Conferences, calling upon the Government of India to recall their Agent-General if the Asiatic Land Tenure Act (then a Bill) was not withdrawn. That resolution and the protestations from the Agent-General had no effect.

The Union Government is well aware that the Government of India is weak kneed. And the Agent-General therefore cannot speak with the same strength as, for instance, the Consul for Japan. The position of the Indian community in South Africa will remain unaltered so long as they are denied the franchise. If Mr. Rama Rau does nothing else but bring home to the Europeans of this country that to keep a section of the population disenfranchised is a blot on civilised South Africa, he will have rendered a distinct service.

In his work in South Africa Mr. Rama Rau should have a united Indian community. have no doubt that he comes with an open mind. It would not take long for him to study local conditions. The next few years, would be the most critical in our history in South Africa: Anti-Asiatic agitation is spreading. A united Indian community is the only answer to this growing agitation .. We feel sure that with the will to serve the community, which Mr, Rama Rau possesses in abundance the bringing of the community together will not be a hard task for the Agent-General.

Mr. Rama Rau will be joined by his wife in June. Mrs. Rau is an accomplished lady. She has rendered considerable service in the social sphere. She will be of much assistance to the Agent-General in his work in this country.

THINKING MAN AND CORRECT

WE have seen that thought is dynamic and is really the creative force; that the conditions amid which individuals and communities find themselves to day are but the creations of a yesterday or yesterdays formatively mirroring what was thought desirable by their authors. Action and reaction are equal and opposite and the operation of the law that makes it so is as certain and unerring as the law of gravitation or that ordains that the product of twice two, shall be four.

We are a little reluctant to admit that any discomfort we may experience from the reactions of our creative thinking are consequences for which we have partially or wholly to thank only ourselves. It is so much easier and more comfortable, to place the responsibility for the ills we suffer.

The discomfort felt should produce a healthy discontent with things as they are, the real nature of the disorder be examined and ascertained, and then corrected in the only way possible viz right thinking on the lines of the better Such right thinking understanding. must inevitably find its expression in action, just as did unright -thinking. The same technique applies to reformation, as to formation. Wish, will, and thought must be made operative to

.Bu L. W. RITCH

counteract the rigidity of the forms to be improved or if necessary destroyed and to replace those with others better adapted to our newer conception of

what is right and fitting.

Muddled thinking, blind thinking, selfish thinking, individual and collective are responsible for the disorder with which mankind is presently confronted. We all, high and low, top-dog and under-dog, have done our-share. We thought that prosperity and happiness could be acquired and enjoyed at somebody else's expense; that superiority in brute strength, in intellect and in cunning were weapons to be used for selfish exploitation. We created and established societies and our politico economic system upon such premises, upon jungle ethics. We entrenched ourselves behind barriers of caste. creed, colour, race and nation-walls of separateness fashioned of the materials of an assumed self superiority. Small wonder, then that this "war of the members has so undermined the health of the organic whole as to cause grave auxiety concerning its survival in the form of our modern civilisation.

The "practical" man of affairs is apt to sneer at such philosophical approach to and treatment of the problem. He is impatient, and calls for some quickly working remedy that shall promptly restore the status quo. He resorts to cheap expedients a plaster here, a patch there. (Roosevelt is doing just this in America.) The "practical" man is usually far too preoccupied in suppressing symptoms to acquaint himself with real nature of the illness they indicate and so the forces of decay and disruption gather strength and volume with the inevitable result.

Universal principles apply equally to small things as to big. Right is synonymous with righteousness. Selfishness, egotism, whether in a race a clan or any lesser unit of the great whole, pinches, contracts and finally destroys. The real law of survival is sacrifice—renunciation of the lesser things for greater; "giving oneself" as Gandhiji used to say. Who inspired by "right desire" in respect of the whole, think creatively for the benefit of the whole, they are the real reformers and creators of a future in which comities, rivalries and unbrotherliness shall have no place.

SEARCH FOR NEW DRUGS HOW BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA HELPS

FROM Sabai to heart disease—this may well describe the range of queries dealt with recently in the industrial section of the Botanical Survey of India:

There were first of all those, apparently interested in paper manufacture, who asked for information regarding the occurrence and extent of Sabai grass plantations in India and conditions suitable for their exploitation in different places and had to be satisfied. Others, perhaps equally interested in the cultivation of paddy, wanted to add to their knowledge about the distribution of the wild species of the paddy plant in India and the possibility of their collection for interbreeding with the cultivated paddy plants of Bengal.

The economic work done by the section ranges from giving specific information regarding sources, supply, and cultivation of plants or plant portions used for medicine, foods textiles, binding materials, fibres, timbers, industrial oils oil seeds, gums, resins, oleo resins, rubber, guttapercha, basketry work, tea, coffee to furnishing details of manufacture of matches, paper and of production of silk and lac.

Vegetable Resources

Rich as India is in its vegetable products, it needs only a discerning eye to detect and tap such of the resources as are likely to be of practical use to man. It is in the systematic exploration of these vegetable resources and discoveries of newer plants of economic value, directing and assisting prospective cultivators of medicinal and other economic plants to select the right species—which, if not done at the outset, is likely to lead to considerable loss of money later—that there lies the importance of the work done in this section.

Finding New Drugs

Practically all inquiries relating to the medicinal as well as to the other economic plants of India are dealt with in the industrial section. The curator in charge supplements his knowledge of the medicinal drugs by personal tours in search of new drugs and by inquiries carried out at the sources where interesting drugs are in use. Information on medicinal and other economic plant is also gathered

by correspondence with persons likely to supply such information, and by reference to current-literature on medicinal drugs.

nal drugs. Apart from being a bureau of information on medicinal plants of India, the section also has done useful work in bringing the consumer and the supplies together. If has also arranged the supply of all sorts of medicinal drugs, food plants, libres, industrial oils, oil-seeds, gums, resins, oleo resins, seeds, rubber and guttapercha.

Assisting The Scientist

In addition plant materials are made available to scientific workers all over the world for research work, the results of which are communicated to the department and incorporated, in its records for use of future workers on these lines.

Opportunities are also provided in the public gallery and the herbarium attached to the section to students from the university colleges and schools and to the commercial public of studying and gaining first-hand knowledge of the different economic plants or parts of plants.

FUTURE LIFE

HE world is best accounted for by being looked upon as a struggle. between the Divine Principle and the principle of objectivity. In other words, the very best explanation we can offer is to look upon the universe as an insistent and continuous' struggle between these two principles, bringing about an unfoldment. How can we reconcile this hypothesis with the distinctionless unconditional Principle? The answer is that it is not possible for us to give any kind of explanation; but we must admit that the world with its distinctions is dependent upon the Absolute, that the nature of the Absolute is not in any manner affected by the chances and changes in the world. If any kind of explanation is to be given, it can be said that it is the nature of the Divine to unfold Itself out of thisendless process. Yet the world on account of its non-self-maintaining character cannot be regarded as ultimate. But non-ultimacy does not mean complete illusion or non existence. Simply because it is not metaphysically real, it does not follow that it is to be reduced to a mere non-being or dreamlike structure. It is what you might call a historical reality, an emperical kind of existence. Human individuals belong to this historical universe,—a universe where everything is perpetual movement and nothing stands still. The question today is: What is the futute of this human individual when the crisis of death happens? From the beginning of the world, people have imagined different kinds of future. It is also said that this very universality may be asserted to indicate the reality of future life, but the agreement vanishes the moment you subject the nature of future life to examination. Different people in different countries have different conceptions of future life. Some imagine that we sing hymns in heaven. There are others who believe that we are tortured in hell and again there are those who hold that we pursue human occupation in another plane. Thus any kind of agreement vanishes as soon as you raise the question about the nature of future life. So you cannot build upon the hypothesis of a general agreement with regard to this particular matter. Once a questionnaire was issued by the Society for Physical Research to a number of distinguished thinkers and students to answer the question what they felt about the fact and desirability of the future life. The answers were very vague. Some believed in future life and so they were happy about it. Others were sceptical about future life and they too were equally glad about it. It is only at the time of crisis that we generally bothor about what happens to us in future.

By
SIR S. RADHAKRISHAN
In "Prabudha Bharata"

Ordinarily we go on as if nothing matters in this world. When you take up this conception of future life, you find there is a pervading ambiguity about it. So far as Hindu thinkers are about it. concerned, they have made a clear distinction between mere survival or duration of continuance, i.e., what you call punarjanma and eternal life, moksha. In all systems of thought, you find it. If you turn to Plato's works, you read about consciousness through which we can escape from the mere esllux of time, but in Plato's Pre-exsistence and Past Existence you find that a distinction is made between awakening with the body and awakening from the body. You find this distinction in Christianity too. In other words, it is not a question ofdying and waiting for the Judgment Day and rising up again. "I am the Resurrector of life. Anyone who believes in me has already passed out of death. There is no question of rising." A distinction therefore is made between eternal life and survival of mere personality even in Christianity. That is the thing which you actually find so far as this theory is concerned.

Then, what is the nature of future life? There are people like Plato who tell us, 'The soul is simple and indestructible. There is an impersonal Reason which is universal and can never die.' Similarly, when we raise the question-What do you mean by 'yourself? Do you mean by 'yourself' that constant universal background or do you mean the body which is perpetually changing, i.e., dissipation of ideas and fading away of memories? What is it that you mean by 'yourself'? Is it the psychological or the logical energy which answers to your name? What do you find in the looking glass or in that which gets elated when praised or gets depressed when criticized?-it is that kind of self in whose future we happen to be interested. There is no denying the fact that the self in whose future you are interested is not that Divine Principle, the Immortal Principle which is there. We are interested in this psychological and logical system, in this imperical self, which has been growing up. What happens to this particular individual, this system of psychological and logical energies, that has been built by relative accidents? What is the future of this particular emperical self? We believe

that this coheres with some kind of physical basis. There is physical individuality. It gives us the illusion of our home, some kind of independence, But you find that even your body is interlinked with the cosmos and is absorbed so much. That is what is happenning even at the physical level. You cannot say that your individuality is that which terminates the moment your interests are satisfied. Our physical frontiers do not enclose our mental personality. There are people who are prepared to give up their lives rather than part with their children. There are others who care so much for position in society that they would rather prefer death of their bodies than to suffer dishonour. In other words, there are mental changes. Still, others are able to extend their interests so as to make them cover the whole universe. interests and effects are worldwide in their character. When you take up this question of the nature of imperical self, you will discover that the phsical basis is that which gives us an individuality so far as this world is concerned. That is the nature of your physical basis which binds you to society, which gives you the illusion of some kind of independence which is not existent. Well, if every soul is an embodied one and the body is regarded as the basis, the question is how does that soul arise. You cannot evade the question by saying that it is due to the natural conditions brought about by parents and that these have given rise to the soul. Now the question is whether there are not fundamental distinctions between the organic body and the consciousness. If-there is a fundamental distinction between the two, what brings about the birth of consciousness? There are others who tell us that on the ocassion of material contact, a kind of supernatural essence is injected into the soul. That is the answer which has been suggested. We . ask here again: Is the relation between the two simply accidental? Possibly the conception that the soul is shadowy has much more to say for it. It points out that there is a natural organic relationship between the body and soul. But why should these souls which are thrust into these material bodies be done so in varying forms? If you raise this question, you will discover that this kind of theory cannot be regarded as really satisfactory.

(To be continued) .

CONGRESS AND DEMOCRACY

WE are in grips with the problem of not how to run the state but how to create it. A parliament can run the machine but it cannot create it. It is like a motor car that will run splendidly over a smooth road; but the road should be there; and the car cannot be used in constructing it. India has decided that the road should be built. The country called for tenders and several came forward; the Congress tender was accepted and the construction has already set in and the people are satisfied that the Congress can do its work well. Those who want to run their automobiles before the road is finished are spoiling their machines and delaying completion of the road. The Congress has received the sanction of the people for their propramme in unequivocal terms. The idea which the Congress stands for and the methods it employs to attain them are understood and approved by the masses. It is often said that a subject nation has no politics. It is an untruth. Only a subject nation striving to shake off its subjection has politics. The issues are simple and easily grasped. Not like the gold standard or the Bank of England rate which not even the greatest financiers of the world profess to understand thoroughly.

The shifting of popular attention and interest from the halo of wealth and officialdom to the interests and aspirations of the masses is another distinctive achievement of the Congress towards democracy. Till the emergence of the Congress as an active force in Indian life the masses were a neglected factor and the problems of the nation had a snobbish hue about them. It was entirely the result of Congress labour that the masses have been roused from their lethargy and self-consciousness instilled into them with marvellous results.

These are some of the more tangible consequences of Congress work. The intangible results will be the more

By - S. RAMASWAMI IYER, M.A.

(Continued from last week)

abiding. A glance over the history of democracy will reveal that where-ever it has been ushered into existence, the path has been uniformly stormy and destructive. The devout catholic, the ardent Puritan, the philosopher and the poet, have all championed the cause of freedom and has taken up cudgels on its behalf; but neither art nor religion have been able to eschew violence or avoid bloodshed in the process. Millenniums have passed ere the world became first aware of the birth of democracy. But every rebirth is attended with a major surgical operation and the instruments employed for this are as crude and primitive, perhaps more destructive, in the present century as they were centuries before the Lord. It is the unique and momentous achievement, of Indian nationalism to forge a new weapon at once humane and staggeringly powerful, non-violence. Gandhiji's discovery and initiation of this new principle, blending religion and politics in the most harmonious. way and keeping constantly in sight the essential unity of life, in all its varied activities, marks a new era in the history of democracy and a revolution in the history of political thought and practice. Passive resistance and non-violence had already been promulgated as rules of public conduct, in different ages of human evolution But during those times, they were no more than hazy dogmas often exciting the cynical indifference of the practical politician and fighter. It was left to Gandhiji to rescue the doctrine of nonviolence from its status of a discarded truism and to make it a Tiving creed, a gregarious habit and an effective instrument for political purposes. cost of the transition which used to be appalling on almost all previous occa-

sions is now absolutely wiped out; and when the cause of Indian nationalism triumphs through non-violence, democracy shall have gained the most enduring and the most wonderful asset it can ever have. Democracy will then be a real mode of living instead of a tragic and efficient mode of dying and perpetual preparation for and against death Bernard Shaw calls democracy "stupidity armed with a gun." "Voting only changes names; revolutions are worked by shooting." The Congress will disprove both. It is striving to show that revolution can be carried through without shooting and democracy need not sustain itself on its guns. In Gandhism in which all the virtues of the Congress political creed can easily be perceived, there is much more of real democracy, real education and real religion than the world cares to understand. It also lays the most solid foundation of democracy not only for India, but for the whole of the world. Democracy cannot exist without liberty and true liberty can only be founded on true religion. William Ebor writes in Hebbert Journal, October 1837:

"If men are te enjoy liberty without imperilling order they must find some centre other than self about which to integrate their lives; and it must be the same for all men; it needs little argument to show that this can be found only in God. Faith in God is an unfailing source of liberty. The man who claims freedom to obey God rather than man cannot proceed to use his freedom in disodedience to God. And God is the father of all men and His Will is the welfare of all His children. Apart from faith in God, freedom cannot survive. Apart from faith in God, it cannot deserve to survive; the causes of freedom and of faith are one."

The Congress ideology is not far removed from the one depicted in these words.

"HEROES, MARTYRS, INSPIRED' MEN"

ONE of China's greatest leaders, Dr. Sun Fo, who is the son of China's famous Nationalist Sun Yat-sen, in an interview given to the London correspondent of The Guardian is reported to have said:—

A short, sturdy figure, Dr. Sun embodies in himself the immense resisting powers of his nation. President of the National Legislative Yuan, he speaks with the highest authority on the views of the Chinese Government.

"By this time next year China will have an army of ten million men in the field," he said. "Her present fighting forces number between two and three million, and another eight-and-a-half million men are training in the provinces.

"Of the million men sent into China by Japan, about 300,000 have already been put out of action by death or wounds. Believe me, China is going to win. The Chinese are fighting as heroes, martyrs, inspired men.

"Because of her fear of intervention on China's behalf by a third party, Japan can afford to mobilise in China only a quarter of her military strenghth. The tide has already turned in our favour, and China will certainly only consider peace terms when all her territory has been evacuated.

"The Chinese, once branded as a coward, is now fighting like a hero. He counts his life a small thing to give to his country. But the Japanese soldier is fighting away from his native land, for a cause he does not understand. He cannot believe that he is really fighting for the safety of his home and country, as the Chinese soldier does.

"No power on earth can conquer a nation of 400 million souls when once its nationhood has been roused."

SETH GOVIND DAS' SCHEME OF COLONISING EAST AFRICA CRITICISED

Way To Solve Problems Of Indian Settlers In Africa

SETH GOVIND DAS M.L.A., (Central), and a member of the All India Congress Committee, who, on his own but after consulting the Congress, officials recently toured East and South Africa to study the problems of Indian settlers there, has sumbitted his report.

Mr. Das, in his report, stresses the need of organizing a colonization society "with sufficient resources of men and money," and of establishing cultural contacts with the Indian settlers in East and South Africa.

The report states: "This is essentially an age of organisation and nothing much can be done in any sphere by individuals however well intentioned they may be, without proper and effective national organisation. I therefore suggest that we should organise a proper colonisation society with sufficient resources of men and money. The acquisition of African Colonies by the British Government is mainly due to the efforts of the British East Africa Company, British South Africa Company, the Rhodesia Company, the Royal Niger Company and other chartered companies. Other European powers also acquired colonies by the same methods not only in Africa but the world over.

"My proposals contemplate the starting of a limited company on co-operative lines in which the future colonists as well as the public in India will take shares. This society will have to select a proper band of workers with a desire to serve their adopted country. Such a plan has the added merit of relieving the problem of unemployment to some extent among the educated. Our colonists must be recruited from among scientific agriculturists, engineers and other trained men and women to develop the vast resources of Africa for the common good of all. Land is very cheap in East Africa and is also very fertile. It is sparsely populated and offers opportunities for a willing worker to ostain a higher standard of living ultimately than is possible in India, with our pressure of population. I am sure a move of this kind will be welcomed by the indian community already living there as it will be to our mutual udvantage. 🕟

"The whole success of the scheme, however, depends on two factors, namely the proper lead given by our leaders in organising, financing and recruiting proper material for this scheme and the willingness of our recruits to adopt, acclimatize and serve the country of their adoption. "I would sug-

gest that a few leaders of our public life may be deputed to East Africa, also Northern Rhodesia and other places to study and examine the details of this scheme and make a report to the nation. This, however, must not be delayed any longer, as we may not be able to accomplish our objective if we delay. I would submit to the proposed com mission of inquiry further details in connection with this scheme. Small beginnings on an experimental scale should be immediately made and I must say the responsibilities of these pioneers will be very great. Their success or failure would largely determine the future of the Indian race both in India and abroad. That is why the selection of the first band should be made by a representative national committee from among true and tried men.

"In the meanwhile till the colonisation scheme matures, we have to fight for our rights in East Africa as elsewhere. Some of the problems affecting us in East Africa such as the segregation to the low lands in Kenya, restrictions on trade as in Zanzibar have to be fought and solved by vigorous action. The problem of franchise is another pressing issue. We should without delay try to secure adequate representation in all spheres of Government in proportion to the number and interest we represent there; as we have a greater stake than any other single community. The present separate electorates are wholly unjustifiable from either the political or economical point of view. A common roll is an urgent necessity and cannot be denied on any ground whatsoever.

"In a nutshell, what, we want and must insist upon is the principle of equality both in the political and economic spheres. I realise, however, that our fight for freedom in India and its achievement is the only solution for our overseas Indian problem. In support of this view, I may mention the fact that the Japanese, though they are Asiatics, are not subjected to all these disabilities which Indians are suffering from.

"Lastly, I would suggest both for East and South Africa the urgent need for cultural contacts. For in my recent visits I discovered to my surprise that many Indians are quite ignorant of Indian history, literature, philosophy, culture and tradition. We are partly responsible for this state of affairs. To remedy this defect we should send cultural missions from time to time consisting of our best statesmen, philosophers, and poets,

The scheme of colonisation of East Africa, formulated by Seth Govind Das, M.L.A., and published in certain newspapers is in no way in conformity with the views of any political or other institutions of Indians in East Africa," says Mr. S. G. Amin, Secretary of the East African Indian National Congress and the Secretary of the Deputation of the East African Indians, that is now touring in India in the course of a statement to the Press.

He adds: "The East African Indian National Congress has not been either directly or indirectly consulted by Seth Govind Das and the deputation that is now touring in India has had no opportunity of studying or discussing the proposals much less approving or disapproving them I am of opinion that the Indian settlement in East Africa would be ill-served by such proposals based on incomplete and ill-digested information obtained in a hurried tour of South and East Africa.

Formation of limited companies for the purpose of colonisation and establishment of large scale industries or even discussion of such schemes will provide in the hands of our opponents in East Africa the most effective weapon with which to condemn us and will endanger the happy relation which exists between the Indians and the Africans throughout East Africa.

If the report in the press is correct Seth Govind Das proposes that Indians in India and East Africa should start imitating the imperialist powers in their policy of exploiting the backward races. I believe that Indians in Africa have a nobler mission to perform than the adoption of this policy. Nothing should be done by the Indians in East Africa by which their relation with the Africans should be strained at any time in the present or the future

Helping in the regeneration of the African race is the destiny which awaits the Indians in Africa. Stooping to schemes of exploiting the Africans politically or industrially can never be justified by the Indians here or in Africa and I am sure that if Seth Govind Das had consulted the Working Committee of the Indian Vational Congress or any prominent Congress leader he would have acted is a different manner. Settlement of Indians in East Africa can be justified only to the extent that it remains harmless to the future progress of the Africans and to the extent that it actively helps such progress.

Things In General

South African Youth Movement

HE third annual meeting of the Durban Indian Branch of the South African Youth Movement was held at 175, Grey Street, Durban, on May 8. The gist of the secretary's report was the need among Indians for unity-Indian youth in particular: unity of action suppressed byunity of thought is alone the true basis of advancement. The presidential report deplored the tendency to discuss abstract and impractical subjects and stressed the need for a practical programme, advocating study and research work. In the absence of the treasurer, Mr. S. S. Chetty deputised, showing a favourable balance of £4 2s, 6d, in his report. The officials for the current year are:-Patron: Mr. O. S. Hampson; President: Mr. P. H. Joshi, vice presidents: Messrs. J. R. Mistry and G. S. Naidoo; hon. secretary: Mr. M. P. Naidoo; assistant hon, secretary: Mr. M. D. Naidoo; hon. treasurer: Mr. S. S. Chetty; hon. auditor: Mr. A. Remgulam.

Cape Indian Congress

Mr. C. C. Palsania, hon, general secretary of the Cape Indian Congress, writes:—"In your issue of April 29, you have a report of the Non-European United Front, and another article in the columns dealing, "Notes And News." I wish it to be cleared on behalf of my organisation as far as the Cape Indian Congress is concerned we have had nothing whatsoever to do with that United Front movement. Although we are not against the principle of United Front, we can assuredly act with initative to the well being of our community and I can sesure the general public that as far as the Cape Province is concerned the Congress has at all times acted in the best spirit of service to our people and we are indeed happy to inform that we are confidently enjoying the privilege of the entire confidence of our community as never before".

Transvaal Tamil Benefit Society

A very important meeting of the Transvaal Benefit Society was held on Thursday, May 5, Mr. N. S. Pillay presiding. Delegates from other parts were present. A few years back a disturbance took place and one of the Transvaal Indian Congress members used some insulting epithets towards the Tamil community. Mr. S. M. Nana, the secretary, and Mr. Z. V. Parekh, one of the vice-presidents of the Congress attended the meeting. Mr. N. S. Pilay called upon Mesers. Nana and Parekh to address the meeting. Both these gentlemen expressed their regret and Mr. Nana, on behalf of the Transvaal Indian Congress, apoligised to the meeting and to the whole Tamil community of Trans-

vaal and South Africa if any insults were . Clairwood Lilerary And hurled at them. He appealed to the Tamil community for the help and cooperation. He said that in the past they stood loyally by Mahatma Gandhi and now when the community was faced with grave crisis he appealed to the Tamilians to come into the Congress. After these two gentlemen had left, the matter was fully discussed till 1.30 a.m. in the morning, and it was felt that the appeal made by Messre. Nana and Parekh should be heeded to favorably. Another unpleasant page in the history of South African Indians has been sealed.

Yuouk Arya Samaj (Clairwood)

The sixth annual general meeting of the Yuvuk Arya Samaj was held on Sunday, May 8, at Clairwood. Mr. R. B. Bhooshun presided. The secretary reviewed the work done by the Samaj during the last twelve months, and laid stress upon the members to accomplish the task they have undertaken of erecting the school building, for which an appeal to the general public for £500 has already been made. The office-bearers for the ensuing year were as follows:-Patrons: Messrs. D. G. Satya Dava and F. Satyapal; President: Mr. R. B. Bhooshun; vice-president; Mr. C. Ramanand; secretary: Mr. S. Lalla; assistant secretary: Mr. R. Mahanano; treasurer: Mr. S. Mungal; committee: Messrs. K. Dutt Parsadh, B. P. Singh, D. Moonilall, M. Sewpersadh, R. B. Lall and H. D. Persadh; hon. auditor; Mr. Mannieduth Kearath.

A Graduate At Sea

Mr. Francis Duncan, able seaman in the American steamer Challenger, is a Harvard University graduate. "Harvard is a place where men are men," said Mr. Duncan, "but the trouble is that it turns out men too perfect for this work-a-day world and they cannot get jobs ashore. That is why I am at sea, and the sea is full of Harvard men. Any way, the sea is a great place. One gets more time to study at sea, and besides, there is nothing like the dignity of honest toil." Mr. Duncan has obtained a number of degrees in literature.

Chinese Refugees From Amoy

Two thousand Chinese refugees from Amoy Island which was occupied by the Japanes: have arrived in Hong Kong and more are expected. Reports obtained from the refugees confirm the accounts of the occupation of the Island, namely, that 3,000 inhabitants of the Island were elaughtered by Japaness soldiers and many buildings in the Chinese parts of the town destroyed, according to Transocean. The Japanese are reported to have bombed a number of coastal towns near Amoy from the air,

Debating Society

The following are the officials elected for the ensuing year, at the fourth annual general meeting of the above society, held on Saturday April 30. Patrons: Messrs. N. P. Naidoo, H. S. Done and Rev. A. J. Choonco; President; Mr. K. M. Moodley; vice-presidents: Messrs. E. V. Naidoo, R. G. Pillay and C. D. Pather; hon. treasurer: Mr. N. M. Pillay; joint hop. secretaries: Messrs. S. K. Moodley and S. Gopal.

A Wedding At Newclare

On Good Friday, a wedding was performed at 65, Crossus Avenue, Newclare, Johannesburg. The contracting parties being Mr. Ranjeeth (Riley), eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Lowton, of 12, 19th Street, Asiatic Bazzar, Benoni, Transvaal, and Kumarie Sathwathi Devi, second daughter of the late Mr./B. Ramdin and Mrs. Ramdin, of 65, Crossus Avenue, Newclare, Johannesburg. A large number of European and Indian guests were present from Natal and Transval, and prominent amongst those were: Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Mostert Serjeant Strydom, Messrs, Van der Merwe & staff, J. Simpson, J. Styer Roper, Mr. and Mrs. Esterhuisen, Messre. Ramlal Mooloo, R. Laganbarthy of Pretoria, Lalbahadur Nanoo, Rassiparsad, Ganess Achary, Lala Seethalparsad, R. Lorick, D. Aneeroodb, Jimmy, Baijnath Madho Ragoonundan. The bridegroom is captain of the Berea Park Football Club, Benoni, and hails from a sporting family. Many speeches in English and Hindustani were delivered by Messre. Ramlal Mooloo, R. Laganbarthy, Lalbahadar Nanco of Durban and others. The ceremony was performed according to Sanathan rites and Pundit Ramparsad Maharaj, of Dandee, Natal, officiated.

A Matrimonial Function At

Over 1,000 guests from all parts of . Natal attended the wedding at the residence of Mr. S. Ramgulam, 208, Kenilworth Road, Sydenham, Durban, when his eldest daughter was married to the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sewdath, of 97, Woodford Grove, Durban, on last Saturday evening. Both families are well-known Indians and respected by both Indians and Europeans throughout Natal and Transvaal. The ceremony was performed by Mr. B. Birjashunker of Darban, according to Sanathan rites. Mr. R. Roopnarain of Durban presided over the function, and on behalf of the bride's father, welcomed the guests. He wished the bridal pair happiness and prosperity in their new sphere of life.

India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Plan To Fight Illiteracy

HE Associated Press understands that Mr. Sampuranand, the new Education Minister, U. P. Government, is contemplating a bold step for fighting illiteracy. According to the proposed scheme each district in U.P. will have forty centres for spreading education among the adult population. In addition to this 4,000 reading rooms with suitable newspapers will be opened at primary schools for literate people and each district will have twelve libraries. Circulating libraries, radio lecture with lantern slides and cinemas will also be used as a means of spreading education, each district Leing provided with two radio aud two lantern lectures centres. Physical training in schools and intermediate colleges and military training the use of firearms in intermediate colleges are proposed to be made compulsory throughout the Province, while vocational education will receive atten-

C. P. Government Prepares For Central Assembly Elections

It is reliably understood that elections to the Indian Legislative Assembly (Central) will come off in November next. So far as the provinces of C. P. and. Berar are concerned Provincial Government is making arrangements for holding general elections. Preliminary step is the publication of electoral rolls of five constituencies allotted to this province.

Fine Art As Optional Subject

Introduction of Fine Arts as an optional subject for the Matriculation examination which the University of Calcutta has decided upon marks a new innovation in its courses of study. The provisions will take effect from 1940. The whole course of teaching has been divided into four groups of subjects, viz., (1) Architecture, (2) oculpture, (3) Painting, and (4) Applied Art, each group being sub divided into four parts, namely, (i) General principles, (ii) Indian Art, (iii) Asiatic Art, and (iv) European Art. · Each sub division is to be covered by two lectures; each of such lecture requiring by way of apparatus, nine examples of pictures, photographs or diagrams. The whole course will be covered by 32 lectures spread over two years-16 lectures for the Preparatory class and 16 lectures for the Matriculation class.

Ex-Deportee Returning To Bumbay

Mr. D. M. Pangarkar, Labour leader who was deported from Bombay in

1929, under the Foreigners' Act, is returning to Bombay, after his ban having been removed by the Congress Ministry by the Flying Ranee at the Bombay Central. After his deportation from Bombay Mr. Pangarkar did remarkable work of labour organisation in the Baroda State and organised the grand Kisan March at the time of the last Haripura Congress.

Baroda To Have Aerodrome

It is learnt that the Baroda State contemplates the construction of an aerodrome and a broadcasting station at Baroda. The State was in correspondence with the Tata Air Service as the result of which the latter is said to have agreed to land its aeroplanes at Baroda if a suitable aerodrome is constructed. The State has thereupon sanctioned a sum of Rs. 21 lakhs for an aerodrome. The State has also sanctioned another sum of Rs. 11 lakhs for constructing a broadcasting station at Baroda, the recurring annual expenditure on which is estimated to be about Rs. 40,000.

Bombay's Talkies' Unique Achievement

The film entitled "Bombay Welcomes Sjt. Subhas Chandra Bose President Indian National Congress 1938" which was shot by the Bombay Talkies with seven cameras on the 24th February and which was shown at a special show at Roxy in the presence of Sjt. Subhas Chandra Bose has now been exclusively acquired by the Minerva Talkies, Rarely has a topical of this high standard been seen on the screen in this City—whether imported from aboard or made locally.

Prohibition In Frontier

The Bill introducing complete prohibition in Dehra Ismail Khan and partial prohibition in other districts of the frontier has been passed by the Frontier Assembly unanimously. Not one member rose to speak in defence of liberty to drink nor did any one oppose the prohibition Bill on economic grounds.

Dictators Of Cantonment

That Municipal administration in Indian Cantonment areas were really carried by 'Military Dictators," that now, official members of Cantonment Boarde were ineffective figure heads and that cantonment tax payers were paying for the comfort and luxury of army officers were views expressed at a largely attended public meeting of the Lahore Cantonment tax-payers' association.

Autonomous University

The New Delhi correspondent of the Hindusthan Standard reliably understands that the Secretary of State for India on the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown has written to the Government of India stating that the Bengal Legislature under the new Government of India Act has no power to legislate with regard to the University of Calcutta.

Muslims In Sind

It is understood that discussions were held between Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Sheikh Abdul Majid, M.L.A., President of the Sind Muslim League, Maulana Shaukat Ali and Sir 'Abdulla Haroon regarding the position of Muslims in Sind vis-a-vis the present political situation there. Sheik Abdul Majid has come to Delhi especially to acquaint Mr. Jinnah with the position in the Province of Sind as it affects Muslims interests. It is gathered that the discussions were held regarding ways and means of organizing Muslims in Sind and establishing district branches of the League in that province.

Voluntary Offer Of Help

The Minister for Co-ordination Sir Thomas Inskip said he was receiving large numbers of letters from people of all classes offering whatever service they could render to their country. Sir Thomas Inskip said that that was a remarkable manifestation of public life which, he hoped, could be used.

Cool Travel On Frontier Mail

The B. B. and C. I. Railway are attempting to extend their present service of air-conditioned compartments on the Frontier Mail.

The Silent Worker

A journalist has been observing silence in Benares for the last 56 days and proposes to continue it for another twelve days. The object of this "tapasya" he explains (silently), is to develop the powers of perception and concentration of mind. Silence is not interfering with his daily work. He attends his office as usual but does not speak. Whenever he has to communicate something to others he writes it out or explains it with gestures.

The Sporting World

Suncrush Marathon Race

ENTRIES for the second Suncrush marathon race, which this year is being run from Toll Gate, Durban, to Maritzburg, on Thursday, May 26, are coming in very nicely. The secretary has received 47 entries. Durban has 21 and Maritzburg 20. Among the entries are the following: M. A. Chetty, V. R. Everton, G. Murugasen (last year's winner), R. Naipaul, V. F. Rajah, R. Pondhoi, Kid Reimley, M. V. Naicker and M. K. Naidoo.

Maritzburg Indian Scouts Association,

The first annual general meeting of the Maritzburg Indian Scouts Association took place at the Methodist Indian School, on May 14. Mr. R. Dookran presided. There were present, Scoutmasters, and representatives of most of the local Indian schools. - The secretary made mention in his report that Maritzburg had 125 Boy Scouts and Cubs in the various schools. The five scoutmasters, who recently had training at Lexden. have been busy in the scout work amongst the boys. The following schools, York Road Intermediate Indian School, St. Paul's Indian School, Methodist Indian School. Howick Indian School and Esther Payne Smith School, had affiliated to the association. It is hoped that other schools, which had not taken the advantage, would do so during the ensuing year. The boys who have taken interest in this movement, will be invested at the Methodist Indian School, on May 24. The following officials were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. J. MacLeod M.A., Inspector of Indian Schools (re-elected) and H. T. Shores (District Scout Master); vice-patrons: Messre. D. Banks, Dr. Peters, I. Anthony, W. Anderson, Rev. J. C. Slatter, A. H. Allsopp and P. M. Seethal; President. Mr. R. Dookran (re-elected); vice-presidents: Mesars. S. Dookran, A. George, V. George, L. B. David, S. David, R. Lutchman and A. Pardesi; sccretary: Mr. S. K. Moodley

By "Rambler"

(re-elected;) assistant secretary: Mr. K. Richards; executive committee: One representative from each troop; general committee: Three representatives from each troop.

Puntan's Hill Youth Club

The first annual meeting of the Puntan's Hill Youth Club was held on Sunday, May 8. The chief aim of the club is for the advancement of music

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among its members. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President: Mr. M. Vadival; secretary: Mr. S. Kanna; assistant secretary: Mr. S. Merrick; treasurer: Mr. D. Narain; assistant treasurer: Mr. P. Veeranah; manager: Mr. C. Eric; music conductor: Mr. G. C. William; committee members: Messrs. P. Ganas, A. V. Veerasamy, K. Veernaidoo and N. E. Appalsamy.

Harden Heights Indian Tennis Club

The above Tennis Club held its annual championship tournament recently which resulted as follows:—Singles: N. Sachida heat P. Moonsamy 6-1, 6-2; Kannilall heat A. P. Jhagroo 7-5, 6-4; A. E. David heat G. Bajoo 6 4, 4-6, 6 3;

B. Gerrib beat Jagassar 6-2, 6-1. Semifinal: Kannilall beat N. Sachida 6 1, 6 4; A. E. David beat B. Gerrib (capt.) 6 4, Final: Kannilall beat A E. 06,63 David 6-3, 7 5. Doubles: Kannilall and A. P. Jhagroo beat N. Sachida and P. Moonsamy 6.4, 6-0; B. Gerrib and Jagassar beat A. P. Jhagroo and Kannilall 6-4, 6-3; B. Gerrib and Jagassar beat A. E. David and G. Bajoo 9 7 6-4; N. Sachida and P. Moonsamy beat A. E. David and G. Bajoo 10-8, 7-5; A. P. Jhagroo and Kannilall beat A. E. David and G. Bajoo 6-2, 6-2. Mr. B. Gerrib, the captain, donated the prizes to the successful winners.

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Natal Indian Congress

A special general meeting of the members of the above Congress will be held at M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall, on Sunday, the 29th May, at 3 p.m. Agenda:—

Election of delegates to the forthcoming South African Indian Congress Conference to be held at Port Elizabeth.

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