

# INDIAN OPINION

Founded by  
MAHATMA GANDHI  
IN 1903.

No. 30.—Vol. XXXVI.

Friday, August 5th, 1938.

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

### That Segregation Draft Ordinance

THE Mayor of Capetown, Mr. W. C. Foster, in opening the Coloured Temperance Convention strongly attacked the Segregation Draft Ordinance, which he said, "was conceived in prejudice." Even if it was passed by the Provincial Council, the Capetown City Council would never adopt it. "I am not supposed to take part in politics," he added, "but this is more than a political issue. It is something which vitally affects the welfare of the Coloured people. "I am pleased to say that practically the whole of the City Council is opposed to the Ordinance."

### Question In Parliament

The Cape Segregation Draft Ordinance which will be debated in the Cape Provincial Council during the session which has opened last Tuesday was the subject of a question put to the Prime Minister, General Hertzog, by Mr. R. J. du Toit (U. N. P., Cape Flats) in the Union House of Assembly. Mr. du Toit asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that such legislation, if passed by the City Council, would be ultra vires inasmuch as it would give local authorities power to interfere with the rights of citizens of the State, he would state what steps the Government intended to take to prevent the carrying into effect of the proposed measure. General Hertzog replied: "Whether such an Ordinance would be ultra vires is a matter for the Courts to decide. As regards the latter part of the question I am not prepared to answer any hypothetical question."

### "An Unwritten Law"

The Durban City Council has got into trouble for allowing under its aegis the production of "Blackbirds of 1938"—a show produced at the Pavilion—in which European and Native actors and actresses took part. The Natives concerned were educated and of a high type, a properly constituted concert party. Councillor H. G. Capell, one of the City Councillors, told the *Natal Mercury* that the decision to permit the two different races to appear on the same stage was one which he deplored. "Allowing Natives to appear on the same stage overrides an unwritten law

in this and many other South African towns that Natives and other non-Europeans are not permitted in public places of entertainment or to attend civic functions. These entertainments and functions have always been reserved exclusively for citizens of European descent." The matter was to have been discussed during the week at a special meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

### Where Refinement Was Lacking?

While the White man's prestige is so wounded at the idea of non-Whites acting with them on the same stage before a purely White audience it is enlightening to read the following appearing in the *Natal Mercury* over the nom de plume "Tandabantu":—

"Sir,—When the question of mixed European and Native entertainments comes before the Town Councillors for decision it is to be hoped that if they decide to allow performances of this nature they will endeavour to see to it that the European portion of the entertainment is of a more refined type than that which was given at the Pavilion on Saturday night, it being strangely at variance with the songs rendered by the Zulu Male Choir. One does not of course expect anything very elevating from a minstrel troupe, but some of the dialogue was of a questionable character even for this class of entertainment, and the sketches given were merely vulgar without the saving grace of being funny, and one at least was unspeakably dull, so much so that most of the audience must have been glad to find it was the last. It will not do Native artists any good to be associated with entertainments of the kind."

### Mixed Marriages Statistics

Mixed Marriages between Europeans and non-Europeans took place in only two of the Union's provinces during 1936, according to the annual review of vital statistics published by the Department of Census and Statistics. It is pointed out that while there is no law in the Transvaal against mixed marriages, there is no legal machinery for affecting such unions. During 1936 the number of mixed marriages contracted in the Cape and Natal was 569,

which represents an increase of 53 as compared with the previous year and of 123 as compared with 1925. In dealing with the period 1925-1936 the Department of Census states that 962 European males took non-European wives and 250 European females took non-European husbands, while 753 of the European husbands married Cape coloured brides and 179 European brides took Cape coloured husbands. Of the 56 legal marriages between Asiatics and natives, 53 were Asiatic brides and only three Asiatic males married natives. "It is impossible to state exactly to what degree miscegenation is taking place in the Union of South Africa," the Department adds in conclusion.

### Malnutrition Not Confined To Europeans Only

Speaking in the Union House of Assembly on the question of malnutrition, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, Minister of Social Welfare, reminded the House that one aspect of the case had not yet been touched upon, namely, that malnutrition was a problem which affected not only the Europeans but also the non-European population. Malnutrition was in fact a very serious question so far as the non-Europeans were concerned, for it was to a great extent the cause of diseases such as tuberculosis, which, when once contracted by the Coloured people, did not remain confined to them only.

Yet it is a question, of course, as to what the Government has done to save the non-Europeans from this. Mrs. V. M. L. Ballinger (representing the Cape Eastern Native circle) took both Mr. Stuttaford and Mr. Hofmeyr to task for enunciating principles which were never put into force, and said she believed all legislation in the Union was designed to destroy the family life of the Native people. Through poverty every year 60,000 Natives went to gaol because they were not able to pay their taxes, and 17,000 Native children approximately were also sent to gaol partly because of the poverty of their parents. One of the reasons why she did not approve of residential segregation was the fact, said Mrs. Ballinger, that it prevented the European from seeing

the extent of the ravages of malnutrition among the Native population. "I hope the Government will

realise that the cure, like the disease, has nothing to do with colour." (Continued on page 282)

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 1938

### Poverty Amid Plenty

THE question of Malnutrition, like that of the national anthem, has occupied quite a good bit of time of the Union House of Assembly. Various members have expressed various views. Some have suggested that the wages of the unskilled labourer should be increased so as to enable him to supply himself and his family with proper nourishment. It has been suggested that the mere supplying of milk and cheese to school children is not sufficient but that the parents should be enabled to properly feed their children. Some have again suggested that increasing the wages of the unskilled labourer alone will not solve the problem but that the prices of commodities should be so cheapened and regulated that the poorest can afford to purchase his needs.

It yet remains to be seen, what practical steps the Government is going to take to remedy the situation.

We are, pleased to note one thing in this discussion, that practically all the speakers stressed the point that this question affects not only the European population, but the non-Europeans as well. "Malnutrition was in fact a very serious question so far as the non-Europeans were concerned," said Mr. Hofmeyr, "for it was to a great extent the cause of diseases such as tuberculosis, which, when once contracted by the coloured people, did not remain confined to them only." Mrs. Ballinger referred to the distressing condition of the Natives and said she believed, "all legislation in the Union was designed to destroy the family life of the Native people." It is all too true when you consider the Government's segregation policy, the Native hut tax, the pass laws, special facilities for liquor consumption for the non-Whites with a view to increasing the revenue of the country for supplying more amenities to the White race with an "unwritten law" that the non-Whites shall not by their presence pollute the precincts of those places affording such amenities to the White race; and these instances could be multiplied *ad nauseum*. In short is not the spirit behind the treatment of the Native and the Indian that the former is "only a nigger" and the latter "only a coolie?"

But now what is the solution to this problem? We are afraid the world is to-day moving entirely on the wrong track. God has forsaken us for we do not want Him nor His Law and we are under the guidance of the demon. Whilst trying to find a way to end war we have increased war and war mindedness; whilst trying to solve the unemployment problem the number of unemployed in the world is daily augmenting; whilst trying to establish a common brotherhood throughout the world, we find there is entire lack of it and greed, jealousy, ambition and animosity are on the increase to such an extent that one shudders to think what it will all lead to.

Now in so far as South Africa is concerned, it must be said that in the midst of trouble raging outside she has been blessed with peace and prosperity all along; undeservedly, perhaps, when we come to think of the behaviour of the people—with the two ruling races fighting among themselves and by unrighteous laws trying to keep downtrodden the vast non-European population whose trustees they are supposed to be and they profess to be. And yet what should be the cause of there being in the midst of plenty so much poverty?

We are inclined to wholeheartedly agree with the following from the *Natal Daily News*:

"One of the craziest things in this crazy world is that while there is a superabundance of food, drink and every kind of luxury, millions of people continually go short of all three. When challenged to explain this paradox economists talk profoundly of the problems of distribution, the importance of maintaining commodity prices, and the relation of wages to purchasing power. All of which sounds utterly unconvincing beside the starkly realistic reports of grain being burnt, coffee being dumped into the sea, sugar cane being left to rot, fresh milk being fed to pigs and fruit (in our own Cape orchards) being buried in the ground, while all around there is hunger and malnutrition. In no country in the world is there to-day such plentitude and prosperity as in South Africa and yet it is a grim fact that among our poor communities men, women and children are literally dying from hunger and privation. The international distribution of surplus commodities has received the ponderous consideration of eminent individual economists, government commissions and world conferences and

the position is still as chaotic as ever. A solution is not easy—even the Marxist experiment in Russia has not so far produced satisfactory results—and we shall have to resign ourselves for years to the prospect of world economic muddle instead of world economic planning. But that is no reason why individual nations should not tackle the problem of absorbing such of their surpluses as they are unable to export at economic prices"

Our contemporary, quoting the American experiment, undertaken by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, whose function is to provide food, clothing and other necessities and distribute them without cost to some 5,000,000 families that are out of employment, suggests: "In South Africa every year there are surplus food and other commodities for which there is no market either here or overseas at the current prices. In South Africa every year there are poor people who urgently need those commodities. Instead of the one being destroyed and the other being allowed to starve, couldn't the wit of our legislators devise some plan on the lines of that outlined above, whereby a dual problem could be eased, even if not solved?"

This suggestion is worth considering as a temporary measure but we are pessimistic as to achieving a permanent solution of the problem unless the whole economic system is entirely changed. The progress that science has made during recent years is marvellous. But we are inclined to believe that it has come only to accelerate the ruination of the people. The robot system, which is on the ascendancy, is the curse that is causing unemployment. The Wage Act in South Africa is good but in its present working it gives plenty to some and throws many out of employment. To feed and clothe the unemployed free of charge is neither good for the Government nor for the people. Employment should be found for all but the wage system prevalent in South Africa does not allow for that. The system is based on the one principle that the White man shall be in employment and the non-White shall for ever remain an unskilled labourer or he shall starve. Unless there is a change in this system and together with it the cheapening of the prices of commodities essential for the needs and nourishment of the people so as to make them approachable to the poorest there is little hope of the lot, at least, of the non-Whites in South Africa ever improving.

# UNION PARLIAMENT

## DEBATE ON NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE following are extracts from the debate on the motion of the Leader of the Republican Nationalist Opposition, Dr. D. F. Malan, to the effect that South Africa must have one purely South African and officially recognised national anthem.

Dr. Malan read out his motion, that "this House declares that no solution of the question of the national anthem will be satisfactory otherwise than on the basis of one single purely South African and officially recognised national anthem, and accordingly requests the Government immediately to take all necessary steps to carry this policy into effect; and further expresses its disapproval of any policy, declaration or action on the part of Ministers which is inconsistent therewith as being a disparagement of South Africa's independent status and affecting South Africa's national honour."

Dr. Malan said his motion incorporated the principle that South Africa, like any other independent and self-respecting nation, should have its own national anthem and that such an anthem should be purely South African.

"My contention is that if a national anthem is to be the symbol of nationhood and national pride then it must be a pure anthem which will breathe the spirit of the nation—the spirit of a national unity. If a nation has any self-respect it can never be satisfied with sharing its national anthem with another country or with adopting that of another country as its own. It must be the exclusive property of one country.

"If we can continue to be satisfied with having as a national anthem the song of another country," continued Dr. Malan, "it means that despite our claims to the contrary the national feeling in this country is either dead or is suppressed by force.

"In urging the adoption of this motion I am not concerned with race. It has nothing to do with race. A motion of this nature can apply equally well to a country like the Argentine, of Spanish descent using the Spanish language, but which ultimately developed into an independent country. The same is true of the United States of America, which are of English descent but which to-day are independent, with their stars and stripes and their own national anthem.

"There are also Canada and Australia, who through constitutional development have become independent countries, with all their symbols of independence.

"I think that if there is one country in the world which requires symbols to represent its nationhood it is South Africa.

### Two Races Not A Calamity

"South Africa has two races and two languages. That I do not regard as a catastrophe. On the contrary I think that this duality may in many cases be an advantage and can add to the wealth and richness of our national life.

"What is a calamity, however, is that while one section of the nation has planted its roots firmly in the country and feels and acts as South Africans should, another section has not yet taken root here and is still in spirit and sentiment attached to the 'Home country.'

"The tragedy is these people, while calling themselves South Africans, are merely the strings of a bow of another country. It is South Africa's tragedy."

For these reasons, Dr. Malan declared, it was essential that steps should now be taken to obtain a common symbol of nationhood for all the sections which formed the South African nation and who declared themselves to be South Africans and to love this country.

"South Africa must have its own national flag and as a necessary complement its own national anthem."

Continuing, Dr. Malan expressed his conviction that in the long run South Africa would have its own purely South African and officially recognised national anthem.

"For years South Africa has had to face strenuous opposition in regard to anything that has a national colour, but South Africa has once and for all set foot on the road of nationalism and nothing will divert us from that course."

It was important, said Dr. Malan, that at this stage the Government should not take any steps to divert the country from its national course or delay its progress. He contended that such a step had already been taken by the Government, or rather by the "groups within the groups within the Government."

"Judging by the statements and further statements that have been made by the leaders of the Government on this question of national anthems I can only say that the Government has made of this most serious question nothing but a hopeless mess and fiasco," he declared.

### Premier's Reply To Dr. Malan

The Prime Minister, in the course of his reply said: "Dr. Malan urges, to put it plainly, that 'God Save the King' must be abolished immediately from South Africa and must no longer be heard as a national anthem, no matter what English-speaking South Africans

might think, and that 'Die Stem' must be the only national anthem of this country.

"May I ask when he was convinced that it was necessary for South Africa to have its own national anthem? I well remember that when the South African Party Congress met in De Aar in 1920 it was urged that South Africa should have its own national anthem, but Dr. Malan, in an interview with a Capetown newspaper, said he did not consider the time had arrived for such a move and that the time would not be ripe until the people themselves had chosen an anthem."

It was necessary to consider the difference in the attitude of the United National Party and the Republican Nationalists, said the Prime Minister. The attitude of the Republican Nationalist was that they were unwilling to co-operate with the English-speaking section if it had to be on an equal footing.

General Hertzog said the cry of the Republican Nationalists was "Down with 'God Save the King'," without taking into consideration the human or Christian side of the question. "And that from a predikant," he added.

"I can only say that I have nothing but the deepest contempt for political predikants," declared the Prime Minister. "This motion, with its disregard of the feelings of almost half the people of South Africa, comes from a person who only a short while ago stood up in the pulpit as one called by God.

"We must understand that we have to do with a section of the people who disagree on certain political issues. For years we have tried to unite this nation. During the past five years we have succeeded in our efforts. We can point to a record of achievement along the national road, and during the recent elections the country approved of our policy.

"If we do not want to make this country a hell of disruption, ill feeling, division and hatred we must strive to work together, to understand each other and to respect each other.

General Hertzog said he failed to see why there should not be two anthems. Dr. Malan had failed to make that clear. The Opposition said the present position of the anthems was not satisfactory. Not satisfactory to whom? The Purified Nationalists, of course, were only concerned with sowing seeds of discontent and hatred.

As far as the suggestion for "a purely South African anthem" was concerned, General Hertzog said he was in entire

agreement with the proposer of the motion.

As far as the recommendation that the anthem should be "officially recognised" was concerned, General Hertzog said that the opposition wanted to force an anthem down the throat of almost half the people of South Africa. That he would never agree to.

General Hertzog then moved the following amendment to Dr. Malan's motion:

"This House approves and accepts the statement issued by the Prime Minister on June 2, 1938, which reads: "As far as the legal and constitutional aspects of the matter are concerned the Cabinet has affirmed the position as stated by the Prime Minister during the last session of Parliament, namely, that there is at present no official national

anthem for the Union. Until such time as the people of South Africa have agreed as to the recognition of an appropriate anthem the Government has decided that as a matter of procedure on all formal occasions under Government auspices when either 'God Save the King' or 'Die Stem van Suid Afrika' is played the other will also be played. In practice such occasions will be limited to those appropriate to the playing of both, having regard to their character as defined by the Prime Minister in his statement above referred to."

General Hertzog was confident that the day would arrive when the people of South Africa would agree as one South African nation that this or that song should be the national anthem of South Africa. No reasonable

person could object to a procedure which involved a little patience.

General Hertzog concluded: Until such time as all are agreed on a national anthem our English-speaking people will have the satisfaction of knowing that "God save the King" will continue to be played as an invocation to the Almighty and the other section will have the privilege of hearing "Die Stem" played as the national anthem of the Afrikaans-speaking section."

After a few others of the Dominion Party had spoken the debate was adjourned till Friday. On Friday Mr. Blackwell made a vigorous speech attacking Dr. Malan's attitude. After a few other speeches the debate was further adjourned till Wednesday when it was finally adjourned, the position remaining as stated above.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF A PEACE BRIGADE

SOME time ago I suggested the formation of a Peace Brigade whose members would risk their lives in dealing with riots, especially communal. The idea was that this Brigade should substitute the police and even the military. This reads ambitious. The achievement may prove impossible. Yet, if the Congress is to succeed in its non-violent struggle, it must develop the power to deal peacefully with such situations. Communal riots are engineered by politically minded men. Many of those who take part in them are under the influence of the latter. Surely it should not be beyond the wit of Congressmen to devise a method or methods of avoiding ugly communal situations by peaceful means. I say this irrespective of whether there is or there is not a communal pact. It cannot be that any party seeks to force a pact by violent means. Even if such a pact were a possibility, it would not be worth the paper on which it might be written. For behind such a pact there will be no common understanding. What is more, even after a pact is arrived at, it would be too much to expect that there would never be any communal riots.

Let us therefore see what qualifications a member of the contemplated Peace Brigade should possess.

(1) He or she must have a living faith in non-violence. This is impossible without a living faith in God. A non-violent man can do nothing save by the power and grace of God. Without it he won't have the courage to die without anger, without fear and without retaliation. Such courage comes from the belief that God sits in the hearts of all and that there should be no fear in the presence of God. The knowledge of the omnipresence of God also means respect for the lives of even those who

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may be called opponents or goondas. This contemplated intervention is a process of stilling the fury of man when the brute in him gets the mastery over him.

(2) This messenger of peace must have equal regard for all the principal religions of the earth. Thus, if he is a Hindu, he will respect the other faiths current in India. He must therefore possess a knowledge of the general principles of the different faiths professed in the country.

(3) Generally speaking this work of peace can only be done by local men in their own localities.

(4) The work can be done singly or in groups. Therefore no one need wait for companions. Nevertheless one would naturally seek companions in one's own locality and from a local brigade.

(5) This messenger of peace will cultivate through personal service contacts with the people in his locality or chosen circle, so that when he appears to deal with ugly situations, he does not descend upon the members of a riotous assembly as an utter stranger liable to be looked upon as a suspect or an unwelcome visitor.

(6) Needless to say, a peace bringer must have a character beyond reproach and must be known for his strict impartiality.

(7) Generally there are previous warnings of coming storms. If these are

known, the peace brigade will not wait till the conflagration breaks out but will try to handle the situation in anticipation.

(8) Whilst, if the movement spreads, it might be well if there are some whole-time workers, it is not absolutely necessary that there should be. The idea is to have as many good and true men and women as possible. These can be had only if volunteers are drawn from those who are engaged in various walks of life but have leisure enough to cultivate friendly relations with the people living in their circle and otherwise possess the qualifications required of a member of the Peace Brigade.

(9) There should be a distinctive dress worn by the members of the contemplated brigade so that in course of time they will be recognized without the slightest difficulty.

These are but general suggestions. Each centre can work out its own constitution on the basis here suggested.

Lest false hopes may be raised, I must warn workers against entertaining the hope that I can play any active part in the formation of Peace Brigades. I have not the health, energy or time for it. I find it hard enough to cope with the tasks I dare not shirk. I can only guide and make suggestions through correspondence or these columns. Therefore let those who appreciate the idea and feel they have the ability, take the initiative themselves. I know that the proposed Brigade has great possibilities and that the idea behind it is quite capable of being worked out in practice.





## NOTES AND NEWS]

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## "Africopa's" Hoax (?)

"Africopa" the news agency for the *Daily Tribune* is responsible for the sensational news that Mahatma Gandhi plans taking rejuvenation treatment and that next month he will leave for a district 20 miles from Delhi, where he will undergo special treatment for two months under Raj Vaidya Anand Swami, a master of Arts at Panjab University, who has built a specially designed hermitage for the purpose. That for 60 days Mahatma Gandhi will live in an underground cell and will not see anyone. His constant companions will be daily newspapers, and his food will consist of orange and lemon juice and that Swami will give

him medicine, consisting of juice of Indian amla fruit and honey from the essence of a secret Himalayan herb. It is true that a few months ago, Pundit Madan Mohan Malviya, the distinguished leader who is 73 years old, had undergone this treatment with a certain amount of success according to his own statement. We, however, do not vouchsafe for there being any truth in the news that Mahatma Gandhi is planning to undergo the same treatment. A suggestion was made to him in lighter vein, but we do not know that he ever took it seriously. No reference to this is contained in a personal letter dated July 19, received direct from Mahatma Gandhi, who is hail and hearty with the exception of a slightly high blood-pressure.

## Heart-burning Over A Tender Given to An Asiatic

Speaking in the House of Assembly, Mr. Hofmeyr referred to Mr. Swanepoel's criticism of the fact that the tender to supply the diggers with food had been given to an Asiatic and not to a European dealer. That had happened, said Mr. Hofmeyr, when the Department of Mines and not Social Welfare was in charge of the diggings, and no fault had been found with the system. The fact was that the Tender Board had accepted the tender of the Asiatic because it was 22½ per cent. lower than the other put in by a Jewish dealer. "Why," asked Mr. Hofmeyr, "is it in any case considered such a grievous sin to give a tender to a non-European?" He personally was not prepared to withhold a tender from a non-European because he was not a European.

# Things In General

## Life Expectation Of Women

THE average white woman's expectation of life at the age of 40 has been increased by 2½ years since 1910, according to the League of Nations Year Book, whereas a man is likely to die sooner. A curious feature is that, though women are longer lived, they suffer more illness in the course of life than men; also, that bachelors and spinsters are liable to die sooner than married people, with the exception of women under 24, where the death-rate, owing to the dangers of child-birth, is higher among married women than spinsters. Fatal accidents, however, are twice as numerous among bachelors than among husbands, and 46 per cent. higher among spinsters than among wives.

## Parliament To Pass Feetham Commission's Recommendations

We understand that resolutions embodying the recommendations of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission will be passed during the present session of Parliament. The Commission was appointed to examine the restrictions imposed on the occupation of land by Asiatics in terms of the Transvaal Gold Law. After long deliberations the Commission recommended a number of exemptions from the restrictions of the Law, and also proposed that in certain areas Asiatics should be allowed to purchase as well as occupy land.

## Do Asiatics Evade Land Laws?

An Asiatic Land Tenure Commission has been appointed by the Government to inquire whether, and if so, to what

extent, the letter and spirit of any law restricting or prohibiting the ownership, use or occupation by Asiatics of land is being evaded and to make recommendations in regard thereto. The foregoing terms will not however apply to proclaimed land under the Transvaal Precious and Base Metals Act of 1908 (the Gold Law) to the extent which it has been dealt with in the report of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. The Commission is under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Murray and the members are Mr. H. Britten, Mr. N. Smit and Mr. B. Bloemsa, with Mr. H. Geake as secretary. The Commission opened its sittings at Pretoria in Committee Room No. 1 in the Raadsaal at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3. It will also hold public sittings at Bethal, Ermelo, Standerton and Heidelberg on August 9, 10, 11 and 12 respectively in the Magistrates' Courts at those places.

## City Council Reverses Licensing Officer's Decision

The Durban City Council reversed two decisions of the Borough Licensing Officer. An Indian, U. U. Naidoo, appealed against the Officer's refusal to grant him a general dealer's licence for his new premises in Booth Road. The licence had been refused on grounds of no necessity. The appeal was upheld. Mr. Leslie Rubin appeared for Mr. Naidoo. Another Indian, G. G. Varma of 187 Umgeni Road, appealed against the Licensing Officer's refusal to grant him a general dealer's licence, also on ground of no necessity, and this appeal was likewise upheld.

## A Protest From The Cape

Mr. D. B. Patel of East London takes strong exception to the statement recently made by Mr. A. Ismail, president of the Cape Indian Congress, to the effect that Indians in the Cape had become Malays or Coloured. "May I say quite unequivocally," states Mr. Patel in the course of a letter to the Editor, "that Mr. Ismail is wrong and that it is not possible for me to allow his statement to pass unchallenged. There are many Indians in the Cape Province,—I venture to assert that these are in a vast majority—who do not fall within the category of those whom Mr. Ismail describes, but who yet continue and will always continue to live as pure-blooded Indian people, and to retain a national status of which they have every reason to be proud."

## Moulvi M. I. Seepye For Maritzburg

The many friends of Moulvi M. I. Seepye, Editor of the *Crescent*, will be pleased to learn that Mr. Seepye has made all arrangements to settle in Maritzburg after an absence of over twenty years; during the first few months he will take up residence with Mr. S. E. Kader. Arrangements are being made to open up an up-to-date Madrasa in the City with a limited number of children which Moulana Seepye will be the Principal. Arabic, Urdu, Gajariti, and English will be taught. All arrangement in connection with the new school are left in the hands of Mr. Shaik Yusuf and S. E. Kader.

### Death Of Transvaal Administrator

Mr. Simon P. Bekker, Administrator of the Transvaal, died suddenly from heart failure on Friday evening, July 29, at Pretoria. Mr. P. I. Hoogenhout, whom the Indian community has known as the Secretary to the Minister of the Interior, is named as one of the possible candidates to succeed the late Mr. Bekker. Among the messages of condolence sent by the Indian community to the bereaved family there was also a message from the Nisamia Muslim Society, Maritzburg.

### Durban Moslem's Sympathy With Arabs

A resolution expressing whole-hearted sympathy with the Palestine Arabs and demanding the immediate termination of the Palestine tragedy was passed by a well attended protest meeting organised in Durban Moslem Institute. The President of the Institute, Mr. E. H. Ismail, said it could not be understood why Britain was so anxious to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine when there were so many uninhabited lands under British control. At one time Arabs trusted Englishmen more than any other Europeans, but to-day they hated them because Britain had broken her pledge to give the Arabs their independence. The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. Dr. C. Hill and the Rev. W. H. Satchell, who said that the Palestine problem was not incapable of

solution. Mr. Satchell added that he felt that the Jews and Arabs should be allowed to settle their dispute without any outside interference. Copies of the resolution are being sent to the Foreign Secretary, the Prime Minister of Egypt, Sultan Ibn Saud, Shah Gazi of Iraq, Zakir Shah of Afghanistan, Kemal Ataturk, the Secretary of the League of Nations, Imam Yehya of Yemen and the Aga Khan.

### The Tec At Tongaat

On Saturday, July 29, a debate on "That in the opinion of this House, Western Civilization has benefitted the South African Indians," was held at the Tec, Tongaat. The motion, which was proposed by Mr. M. Harbans, was carried after a very strong opposition led by Mr. S. N. C. Vardacharyulu of India. Mr. E. J. Ochoonoo presided and among those present were Messrs. Joe Royeppen (Durban), K. R. Naidoo (Gingindhlovu), Kaste Bros. and K. K. Govender.

### Indian School Opened At Lourenco Marques

The acting Governor-General, Dr. Nunes de Oliveira, opened on August 1, an Indian school, Veda Maudir "Temple of Knowledge" in the presence of a crowd numbering about 2,000. The imposing building, which cost £3,500, is the first of its kind in the colony and was subscribed to by Hindus in Portu-

guese East Africa. Swami Bhawani Dayal presided. At the conclusion of his speech Dr. De Oliveira was garlanded. Mr. S. E. Kay, the British Consul General also spoke. Among those present were Lieut.-Colonel Pienaar, Consul General of the Union, and many leading officials.

### Scout Camp

A troop of about 40 scouts of the Natal South Coast Association under the charge of Group Scoutmaster A. P. Pabliney accompanied by Scoutmaster R. R. Maharaj of the 1st Mayville Troop were under canvas at the Ifafa Beach from the 20th to the 27th July. Messrs. Reynolds Bros. Ltd., H. Kisson, G. N. Naidoo, R. Ramasar, L. Singh and other sympathetic gentlemen on the Natal South Coast contributed materially towards the holding of the camp. The scouts had a most enjoyable time.

### Tongaat Evening Classes

Under the direction of the Tongaat evening classes, a study and culture group, a mock court was held recently at the Tongaat Indian Boys' School. Mr. S. Parmansee appeared for the crown and Mr. G. Hurbans for the defence. Mr. K. P. Desai presided. Alfonso (Mr. M. Hurbans) was "charged" with assaulting Joe Louis (Mr. R. Saicho). The "accused" was cautioned and discharged.

# The Sporting World

## Non-European Boxing

OVER 600 people witnessed the non-European professional boxing in the Durban City Hall on Saturday night when the top line bout between Kid Khan and O. Naidu, which did not live up to expectations, ended at the close of the seventh round, Khan's seconds throwing in the towel. The most interesting bout of the evening was the supporting contest between the two local fly-weights, George Maistry and Ebrahim Ally. Maistry making his debut as a professional boxer well to the delight of the crowd, using damaging and heavy punches. His most effective punch was a left hook to the jaw which Ally could not guard against, taking a count in the second round. As it was Ally was able to make up leeway in the last round to clinch the verdict in his favour which met with a mixed reception. In the other preliminaries Cecil Jonosky beat Mashabane; P. M. Pillay beat Dawood Ally (all on points), and Kid Singh drew with D. Barton.

## Verulam Temple Cricket Club

At the annual general meeting of the above club held at the Shri Gopallal Temple, Verulam, on July 31, the fol-

## By "Rambler"

lowing officials were elected for the ensuing season:—Patrons: Messrs. Talawantnugh, Choonilall Raghavjee, Jata Jeewa, G. H. A. Kathrada, T. P. Sam, A. Moonsamy, M. Juggath, L. Rajcoomar, A. Parasuramen, A. Kader and M. G. Juggath; President: Mr. S. R. Maharaj; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. J. Morris, B. Sham, G. Bechoo, N. Jata, S. Shanputh, L. M. Singh and J. R. Singh; captain: Mr. B. Sham; vice-captain: Mr. G. Bechoo; hon. secretary: Mr. R. L. Beharee; asst. secretary: Mr. J. Juggath; hon. treasurer: Mr. E. P. Juggath; hon. coach: Mr. S. J. Morris; hon. audience: Mr. S. S. Maharaj official scorer: Mr. Ramduth.

## Hiking

During the last week-end eight local sportsmen walked to Maritzburg, having left Durban at 2 p.m. on Saturday they reached Maritzburg early the next morning. The hikers were: John Soodyal,

G. and R. Patel, N. D. Naidoo, Nada, R. Kisten, R. Govindoo and S. G. Badal. The walkers' other sporting activities are in tennis, football, surf life-saving, wrestling, boxing, gymnastics, Marathon and running and weight-lifting.

## Tongaat Indian Tennis Club

The annual tournament for the Simadhy Memorial Floating Trophy, was held by the Tongaat Tennis Club, on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31. The semi-finals between M. Hurbans and E. R. Naidoo vs. R. Kandhai and A. C. Naidoo resulted in a win for the latter: 6-4, 8-6. The final is matched between Messrs. S. N. C. Vardacharyulu and V. R. Naidoo vs. R. Kandhai and A. C. Naidoo. The completion of the match has been set down for Sunday, August 7, at 2.30 p.m. Presentation of the trophy will be made immediately after the match.

Everything appearing in this issue of a political nature has been written and edited by Manilal M. Gandhi to express the views of INDIAN OPINION.

# Doings In India

## Tagore's Appeal To Public

**D**R. RABINDRANATH TAGORE has issued the following appeal from Santiniketan:—The growing infirmity of my age compels me at last to appeal to the kindly sense of the public to release me from the responsibility of correspondence and numerous other claims causing constant strain upon my body and mind, when they urgently need rest.

## Peace Brigade To Be Formed

The decision to establish the first Peace Brigade in India in pursuance of Mahatma Gandhi's appeal was taken at a two-hour meeting of the leading citizens convened by the Mayor at the Karachi municipal corporation. The meeting appointed a provincial committee of 24, holding various shades of opinion and including the Rev. Mr. Thompson. The Mayor, as the Chief of the Brigade with three secretaries, namely, Dr. Sachand Lalwani, Maulvi Mohammed Usman and Mr. Bhadrashankar Bhatt, and the speakers including Mr. M. X. Gazdar and Miss Jethi Sipahimalani, M.L.A.s dwelt at length on the horror of a war and communal riots and characterised Gandhiji as the apostle of world peace. The Mayor observed that the idea occurred to him many years ago while he was travelling by sea in a steamer and saw a victim of the Balkan war. He concluded, "Let us form a brigade and settle the disputes between nations and communities." Mr. Hatimalavi, the Mayor of Karachi, received the following telegram from Wardhaganj from Mahatma Gandhi: "Karachi, under your leadership, will show the way to real peace if the brigade with living faith is formed. My prayers are with you.—Gandhi."

## Unity Talks

Asked by the *Associated Press*, if and when he was going to renew the unity talks with Mr. Jinnah, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Congress President, remarked that nothing could be said until the Working Committee had considered Mr. Jinnah's last letter. He added that as Mr. Jinnah's letter had been written in consultation with the Working Committee of the League, the reply likewise would be given by Mr. Bose in consultation with the Working Committee of the Congress.

## Congress Premiers' Conference

It is understood a conference of Congress Premiers may be held in the near future with a view to considering *inter alia* the re-instatement of Government employees, who had been dismissed or who had resigned from their services

during the last Civil Disobedience movement.

## Site For Next Congress Session

The Congress site selection and the construction sub-committees have, after visiting a number of places and considering their respective advantages and disadvantages, selected village Goara-Bheraghat for the site of the next session of the Indian National Congress to be held in Mahakoshal next year. This proposal was to have been submitted before the other members of the Congress sub-committees for their final approval. This selected site is about 13 miles off Jubbulpore and three miles from the nearest railway station, Bheraghat. It is situated on the bank of the river Nerbudda, just in a very close vicinity to the world famous Marble Rocks and the Nerbudda's Waterfall (Dhuan dhar).

## Mass Literacy

"Let every educated man, whether in Government service or in a profession or business, consider it his sacred duty to pay his 'social tax' by undertaking to teach at least 20 illiterates himself or make suitable contributions with a view to conduct this crusade against ignorance and illiteracy to a successful conclusion," said Dr. Syed Mahmud, Minister for Education, Bihar, in the course of an appeal to the people of the province, to support the mass literacy campaign which he inaugurated two months ago. "The torch of knowledge," says Dr. Mahmud, "which was lighted on that memorable day, April 26, 1938, is not only dispelling the darkness of ignorance in villages but has illuminated the prison walls of this province, offering a new hope and higher aspiration to that class of suffering humanity."

## Educational Activities In C.P.

Wardha, the centre of political activity since Mahatma Gandhi has been living in Segaon, is now having a change. It is humming with activity of a non-political character, presaging what in the near future may quite conceivably prove to be a revolution in present-day methods of education in the country. The Wardha Scheme of education evolved by Mahatma Gandhi with the help of educational experts is now being put into operation, under the name of Vidya Mandir Scheme. The Central Provinces Government, who have accepted this scheme, are launching a colossal experiment. 166 schools, based on the Wardha Scheme, are to be opened in eighty three tehsils. The teachers who will be pioneers in this method of education have been selected and are now undergoing a five and

a half months course of instruction at the Vidya Mandir Training School at Wardha.

## Nehru In England

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who recently visited England, addressed two crowded public meetings in London. Pandit Nehru, referring to the situation in Spain, said that there was no difference in principle between the bombing in Spain and on the North-West Frontier of India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at his first public appearance in England found himself confronted by the problem of addressing two public meetings, first at Kingsway Hall where two hundred enthusiasts greeted him, and the second described as an overflow meeting, at St. Pancras Town Hall. The platform in Kingsway Hall included the Indian High Commissioner, Sir Firoz Khan Noon, and Sir Abdul Qadif. Here Labour speakers including Mr. David Grenfell, M.P., Professor Harold Laski and Mr. Palme Dutt, occupied the programme until a late hour, and Pandit Nehru only briefly addressed the meeting, speaking of his experiences in Spain. Separate speeches were delivered at St. Pancras Town Hall. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru met the National Executive of the Labour Party at Transport House, and discussed the international situation, China and the Japanese boycott and Indian Independence. Pandit Nehru made the Congress claims on Independence quite clear. Among those who welcomed Pandit Nehru were the Secretary of the Labour Party, Miss Ellen Wilkinson and Mr. Arthur Greenwood. Later Pandit Nehru had conversations with the Executive of the Abyssinian Association and the Secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties.

## "Pioneer" Editor Returns To India

"Great Britain is too pre-occupied with the European situation at present to give much serious thought to India," declared Mr. Desmond Young, Editor of *The Pioneer*, who returned to India from his recent trip to Europe. "The British people feel," said Mr. Young, "that things are moving smoothly in India and the Congress administration is doing very well. As to Federation, it is felt that there is yet time enough to consider it seriously."