

Indian Opinion

No. 9—Vol. XXIII.

Friday, February 27th, 1925.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

LAST week brought the distressing news of the ill-health of his Majesty the King but the bulletins this week have been more gratifying. We need hardly say that his Majesty's Indian subjects in this sub-continent are just as much concerned as are his other subjects and it is their sincere prayer that his Majesty may speedily be restored to his normal health.

In the Union Parliament which opened on the 13th instant, when the Bills were being read for the first time Mr. Alexander (Hanover Street, Capetown) voiced his opposition to the Mines and Works Act Bill. The Bill was, he is reported to have said, of far-reaching importance, and sought to upset a decision of the Transvaal Division of the Supreme Court. Moreover, the Government sought powers enabling them to make regulations restricting the issue of certificates, thereby introducing a distinct colour bar against the Natives and Asiatics applicable throughout the Union. On the motion of the first reading Mr. Alexander called for a division, which resulted in the motion being carried by 84 votes to 27. Several S. A. P. members crossed the floor to vote with the Government, including General Smuts and Colonel Reitz, but only two of them were Cape members, viz the Rev. Wilkinson Rider and Mr. Van Heerden.

While going to Press we notice that a debate on the second reading of the above Bill is proceeding.

In a message dated Feb. 23, Reuter says:—"In the House of Commons Col. Wedgwood (Labour, Newcastle-under-Lyme) asked whether the secretary of State for India, or the Government of India, had made any representations with regard to the proposed colour bar legislation in South Africa, and the possible effects of such legislation upon the amicable relations between the Union and India. Earl Winterton (Under-Secretary for India) replied that Lord Birkenhead had authorised the Government of India to communicate with the Union Government in connection with the matter." The result of this communication will be awaited with interest.

The Ladysmith Town Council sat as a Court to Appeal in Council Chamber recently to hear a licensing appeal. There was no evidence tendered on behalf of either party, but from what could be gathered from the discussion, it would appear, says the *Natal Mercury* correspondent, that an Asiatic, J. E. Tellee, desired to have an annual hawkers licence to hawk clothing within the borough at a fee of £6. The Licensing Officer refused to grant a licence for twelve months for this purpose but the Council agreed with Mr. E. R. Rawlinson, who appeared on behalf of the applicant, that under the law the Licensing Officer could not refuse a licence to hawk any commodity other than South African produce, whether for a month or for a year. The appeal was

upheld on the proposition of Councillor Rev. W. Turnbull, seconded by Councillor P. Andrewa.

The Aryan Benevolent Home established at Mayville near Durban by the Arya Yuvak Sabha a body of enthusiastic young men is the only one institution existing in Durban where destitute Indians are being looked after. We are sorry to learn from Mr. S. L. Singh (hon. secretary) that the institution is not getting the support of the Indian community as it should do. It should be easy enough for Durban and Districts alone with their large population of Indians to support a comparatively small charitable institution. If constant appealing is required for a small matter like this we will never be able to take up bigger responsibilities. We hope that this appeal will not fall on deaf ears and substantial contributions will be sent without delay to the Secretary of this institution at Box 1770, Durban, which will be officially acknowledged.

We cull the following from the *Umteteli Wabantu* :—

At a debate at Volksrust recently on the motion by students from Stellenbosch University. "That segregation is the policy for South Africa" Mr. Pienaar of the local High School and Mr. G. Maasdorp opposed, and on the vote there was a large majority against segregation. The opposers said it would be madness to think of settling 4,000,000 Natives on the best land of South Africa, while it would be unjust to settle them on land where they could not be self-supporting; that for the exploiting of our cotton, sugar and farming industries generally and for the exploiting of our mineral resources, we were fortunate in having the Native labour; and that neither the farmers nor mine-owners who employ the bulk of Native labour have asked for or desire segregation, which would spell ruin to them.

The *Natal Provincial Gazette* of the 19th instant contains the additional Traffic By-law of the Borough of Durban as passed by the Town Council at a meeting held on the 5th December 1924, duly confirmed by the Deputy Administrator. These regulations are designed against the Indian 'Bus system. While prescribing the stands and routes which shall be used by motor vehicles plying for hire, they also provide for the inspection of all the vehicles and the examination of the drivers as to their fitness to drive. The vehicles shall also be subjected to inspection as regards overloading. The By-laws come into effect immediately and the Borough Police are finding it difficult to regulate the traffic as the Indian 'bus drivers are not satisfied with the new By-laws and are therefore disinclined to abide by them. In accordance with these by-laws owners of certain vehicles shall also be required to pay increased licensing fees.

According to a Reuter's message from Delhi the Indian Legislature has adopted a resolution

urging the submission to the League of Nations of the grievances of the Indians in Tanganyika, particularly in connection with the law requiring them to keep their accounts in English. Mr. Rangachariar, as a member of the Colonies Committee, and Sir Siva Swamy Aiyer (India's representative to the League of Nations) supported the resolution. The supporters of the motion uttered a warning that India was likely to abandon the League unless she benefitted from her membership.

BRITISH INDIAN COLONIAL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION

THIS Association was founded in the year 1920 at Bombay and its objects are to safeguard the commercial rights and interests of Indian merchants and secure for them the same rights and privileges as those of other subjects in the Colonies of the British Empire and to protect the civil and political rights of Indians resident in the Colonies. The first annual report of this Association relates the history of events that led to the formation of the body. For some years past the Indian merchants residing and trading in the Colonies and especially in East Africa found themselves confronted with the various disabilities in conducting their business and the events came to such a stage that Indian merchants in East Africa decided to get their grievances redressed by sending a deputation to H.E. the Viceroy of India. This deputation consisted of leading Indians of East Africa. On the deputation returning to Bombay the members felt the necessity of an organisation of Indian merchants representing those trading in or with the Colonies and a general meeting was called for the purpose on the 13th August 1920 of all those interested in the problem and an association was duly formed and named the British Indian Colonial Merchants Association. The President of this association is the Hon'ble Mr. Purshottamdas Thakordas C.I.E., M.B.E., whose active work in the interests of Indians in the Colonies in the Indian Legislative Assembly and otherwise is well known. A perusal of its annual reports gives us an idea of the invaluable services rendered by the Association since its inception to Indians especially in East and South Africa in the shape of protests and representations to the Government on matters affecting their commercial and political interests.

One of the latest acts of the Association is highly philanthropic as will be seen from the following extract of a circular letter addressed to the Editors and Proprietors of the newspapers conducted by Indians in the various parts of the Empire by the President of the Association. The letter is dated 20th January 1925 :—

"Dear Sir,—At the last general meeting of the members of this Association held in my office on the 3rd instant the members of the Association voluntarily raised a subscription in order to send a small sum to various newspapers conducted by Indians in the various parts of the Empire. The idea of this was to communicate to the editors of various papers the approval of this Association in the work they have been doing till now for the betterment of the condition of Indians in the various parts of the Empire. I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a Bank draft for a sum of £50, as a small mark of our appreciation of your work till now and I beg to convey to you the best wishes of my Association for your ultimate success in the cause of Indians you have so well espoused. . . . Any other assistance that this

Association can render to you and to Indians in your area will receive the most careful attention of the Committee of this Association. . . . Assuring you of the keenest interest of the Committee of my Association in your welfare.—Yours Truly,—(Sgd.) PURSHOTTAMDAS THAKORDAS, President, British Indian Colonial Merchants Association."

This practical example of the moral and material help in the cause of their fellow-countrymen outside India redounds greatly to the credit of the Association.

We beg to express our sincere appreciation and our deep sense of gratitude to the President and members of the British Indian Colonial Merchants Association for their kind contribution and for the interest they are taking in our cause, and while heartily thanking the Association for its good wishes we wish to reciprocate the same to the Association.

YET ANOTHER ORDINANCE

IN another column we reproduce from the *Natal Provincial Gazette* a section of the Draft Ordinance to amend the Local Township Law No. 11, 1881, in respect of the qualification of voters, intended to be introduced into the Provincial Council during the next Session. This will be the fourth attempt in the Natal Provincial Council to disfranchise Indians residing in Townships. The first attempt was made in the year 1921 when a Private Draft Ordinance was introduced by Mr. G. H. Hulett M. P. C. The intention of the Ordinance was the same as that of the present one, but the form of the Ordinance was different. In letter and in spirit it was openly racial. It disqualified a person who "not being of European origin was a native or descendant in the male line of Natives of countries which have not, prior to the coming into force of the South Africa Act, 1909, possessed elective representative institutions founded on the Parliamentary franchise." Under the circumstances the Ordinance failed to receive the assent of the Governor-General-in-Council. Mr. Hulett, however was a hard nut and he re-introduced the Ordinance in the same form in the year 1922 and it again failed to receive the assent of the Governor-General-in-Council. Notwithstanding his failure, however, on his re-introducing his Ordinance in the year 1923 for the third time Mr. Hulett had the satisfaction of knowing that his persistency was not entirely fruitless; for, the Provincial Council had on this occasion introduced on its own a Draft Ordinance having the same object as that of Mr. Hulett's but in a greatly improved form in that it was completely shorn of its racial character. This Ordinance, however, had not the very far-reaching effect as did Mr. Hulett's Ordinance for it disqualified only those who were "unable, by reason of deficient education to read and write at least one of the official languages of the Union to the satisfaction of the person preparing the Town Roll." (italics are ours). But this Ordinance as also Mr. Hulett's Private Ordinance were both, however, ill-fated and were rejected. Then last year came the Draft Boroughs Ordinance which was venomous to the extreme and tackled the question of franchise at its very root. That that Ordinance would be assented to by the Governor-General-in-Council was beyond all our expectations. But

to our utter astonishment and keen disappointment the Ordinance was assented to and thus the Indians have been deprived of their municipal franchise. The present Draft Ordinance now is, as were, to merely cut the branches after the root has been entirely disposed of. The Ordinance is drafted on the same lines as the Boroughs Ordinance and there is hardly any doubt that it will pass through the Provincial Council. And as to its being sanctioned, it would be inconsistent on the part of the Governor-General-in-Council not to sanction it having once sanctioned the Natal Boroughs Ordinance. After the passing of the Ordinance into law, to the delight of the Anti-Asiatics their noble task of disfranchising Indians in Natal will have been thoroughly completed.

To formally protest against the Ordinance is the only course left for the Indian community although we are quite certain that it will have no effect. The only one thing Indians have to do is to fight the Natal Boroughs Ordinance. That will be a struggle which will entail hardships and sacrifice the extent of which it is difficult to surmise. The community will, nevertheless, have to prepare for it, else their doom in this country is inevitable.

IN A FOOL'S PARADISE

OUR contemporary the *Natal Mercury* seems to be living in a fool's paradise. A Reuter's message from Delhi that Swarajists voted with the Government in the Indian Assembly in opposing a resolution favouring the establishment of a Supreme Court of India to dispose of appeals now referred to the Privy Council has inspired our contemporary to write a leading note on the subject. In this message our contemporary has found the strongest point in favour of its argument that India can never live without British rule. The very first sentence however, reveals our contemporary's ignorance or the falsity of its belief. "It is seldom indeed," says our contemporary, "that the Swarajist finds anything complimentary to say about British institutions in India or elsewhere." If the Swarajists would have detested British institutions they would have long boycotted them. But they are working in those institutions and they hope to attain their desired goal through those very institutions. What better compliment than that could one pay to any institution! In the opposition of the Swarajists to the establishment of a Supreme Court of Appeal in India the *Natal Mercury* sees the revelation of Swarajists mentality which, it says, "shows exactly how much justice the Hindu or Moslem expects to get from his religious or racial institutions." Apart from being nonsensical this statement is highly mischievous. Religion or racial question does not enter into the subject at all. The position really is that the Swarajists and the Non-co-operators are fighting against the present system of Government in India which is so rotten that while acts such as those of Sir Michael O'Dwyer and Dyer are possible dealing out justice unadulterated is impossible. The present courts of justice in India are a part of that system and several instances have shown clearly that even the judges are not able to use their own judgment but are always guided by the system

which feeds them. Hence it is as difficult in India to get justice as it is for the black man to get justice in this country. The Privy Council, on the other hand, is not under the influence of this system and is an institution away from and unpolluted by any prejudices. Hence the only hope of getting adjusted the wrongs done under the system prevalent in India is to go to the Privy Council. This is why Pundit Motilal Nehru said it was useless to think of establishing a Supreme Court in India without attaining freedom, and this is why the Swarajists expressed the opinion that it was impossible to obtain in (the present) India that healthy atmosphere, free from local prejudice such as was possible in England.

We would remind our contemporary that the Swarajists or the Non-co-operators in India have nothing against the British or the British institutions as such but they are against the perverted system under which those institutions are being run. Moreover, India is fighting for the same freedom as that enjoyed at present by South Africa. Misconstruing of facts by our contemporary is, therefore, either intentional or, as we have said above, our contemporary is living in a fool's paradise. As to the "abysmal state of affairs India would at once return the moment the last transport carrying British soldiers and officials left Bombay," we think that India would prefer that "abysmal state of affairs" to the present system that governs them, for they would at least have the satisfaction that in a fight between two parties there is not a third one under the guise of protection eating out the vitals of both the parties.

AGAIN THAT TOWNSHIP FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

The *Natal Provincial Gazette* dated 19th February, 1925 contains for general information a Draft Ordinance "to amend the Local Township Law No 11, 1881, in respect of the qualification of voters," intended to be introduced into the Provincial Council during the next session. We give below section (1) of the Draft Ordinance dealing with the qualification of voters in townships which affects the Indian community:—

1- The following words appearing in Section 7 of Law No. 11, 1881—

"persons possessing within the township a qualification entitling them to vote for a member of Legislative Council,"

are hereby repealed, and the following shall be substituted therefor:

"every person who, being a British subject of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, is—

(a) The owner of immovable property within the township of the value of £50 or more; or

(b) The renter of immovable property within the township of the yearly value of £10 or more; or

(c) Resident within the township and in receipt of an income, inclusive of allowances, equal to £8 per month, or £96 per annum, and who has made application in the prescribed manner:

Provided always no male person shall be placed on the Town Roll who is not entitled to be placed on the Parliamentary Voters' Roll of the Province of Natal, nor shall a female who (not being of European origin) is a descendant in the male line of a person who is debarred by law from being placed on the Parliamentary Voters' Roll aforesaid, be entitled to be placed on the Town Roll as aforesaid;

Provided also however that no person who at the 1st day of January, 1925, was enrolled as a voter upon the Town Roll of any township shall be disqualified for or disentitled to such enrolment in that township merely by reason of not being a British subject, or for non-compliance with the foregoing provision in regard to parliamentary qualification, or on account of the racial disqualification above mentioned.

MINES AND WORKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

The following Bill "to amend section four of the Mines and Works Act 1911 (Act No. 12 of 1911), so as to enable the grant of certificates of competency under the regulations made under that section to be restricted in certain areas and circumstances to persons other than Natives or Asiatics to enable such regulations to impose duties and responsibilities on persons other than Natives or Asiatics and to apportion work on mines, in works and on machinery between Natives and Asiatics and other persons," to be introduced by the Minister of Mines and Industries, appears in the *Union Gazette Extraordinary* dated January 22.—

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa as follows:—

1. Section four of the Mines and Works Act 1911 (Act No. 12 of 1911), is hereby amended by the addition to the end of sub-section (1) of the following words—

"The regulations under paragraph (n) may provide that in such provinces or areas as may be specified in the regulations, certificates of competency in any occupation referred to in that paragraph shall not be granted to Natives or Asiatics and the regulations under any other paragraph of this sub-section may restrict certain classes of work to, and impose duties and responsibilities on persons other than Natives and Asiatics subject to such persons furnishing such proof of efficiency generally apportion work as between Natives and Asiatics and other persons respectively in respect of mines, works or machinery.

2. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Mines and Works Act Amendment Act, 1925 and shall commence and come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by proclamation in the *Gazette*,

HOW THE BILL WILL AFFECT INDIANS

We take the following explanation of the above Bill from Mr. Leo. R. Gopaul's article in the *African Chronicle*—

Act No. 12 of 1911 consolidates and amends the Laws in force in the Union relating to the operating of Mines, Works and Machinery, and refers to certificates of competency.

Section 4, sub-section (1), para (n) of the Act reads as follows:—

"The grant, cancellation, and suspension of certificates of competency to,

- (1) Mine Managers,
- (2) Mine Overseers,
- (3) Mine Surveyors,
- (4) Mechanical Engineers,
- (5) Engine drivers,
- (6) Miners entitled to blast,
- (7) such other classes of persons employed in, at, or about Mines, works, and machinery as the Governor-General may from time to time deem it expedient to require to be in possession of certificates of competency."

It is evident from the above that in future no Asiatic could be employed in any of the callings

referred to in Nos. 1 to 6. The sub-section goes further and says that no certificate of competency should be given to any Asiatic in future for any other classes of work in the Mines and Industries which the Governor-General-in-Council may earmark for Europeans. It is proposed to give the Governor-General-in-Council, in other words the Minister of Mines, a Carte blanche.

Let us go a little further and carefully examine the interpretation which the Statute places upon the words, "mine" and "works."

"The interpretation clause shall read as follows—

In this Act the word 'mine' shall mean and include all excavations for the purpose of searching for or winning minerals as well as the working of the deposits, whether abandoned or actually being worked on the surface downwards and underground, together with buildings, premises, erections, and appliances belonging or appertaining thereto above and below ground for the purpose of prospecting for or winning metals, minerals, or precious stones by boring, excavating, dredging, or hydraulicing."

The word 'works' shall mean chemical works, metallurgical works, reduction works, oredressing works, petroleum works, salt works, brickmaking works, lime works, pottery works, sugar mills, saw mills, and places where machinery is erected or used [other than works owned or used by the Department of Railways and Harbours], and all dams, reservoirs and other appliances for conserving water or for producing or transmitting energy or for transporting water or material for the same, with the exception of dams or reservoirs which are erected outside proclaimed mines or land proclaimed as public digging and are used solely for agricultural purposes or for the public service."

Briefly the proposed section means.

- (a) That in future no Asiatic could be employed in any of the industries referred to as in the interpretation of the word "works" in any other capacity than that of common labourer.
- (b) That an Indian who owns a sugar mill can be compelled to employ persons other than Asiatics or Natives to do skilled work. Whereas a Jew, a Syrian, or a Russian is qualified for the post an Indian because of his manifest colour and race, and perhaps because of his "British Citizenship" is debarred from legitimately exercising any of the callings referred to above.
- (c) That no industry mechanically propelled can employ an Asiatic in any other capacity than that of a common labourer.
- (d) The Governor-General has the power by a proclamation in the *Gazette* to bring in other industries into the category "works." In its attempt to throttle the Indian human ingenuity will be exhausted.
- (e) The Governor-General has the power to include other callings within the category of section 4, sub-section (1), para (n), by virtue of sub-para 7.
- (f) there are a number of Indians to-day employed in several of the sugar mills owned by Europeans as sugar boilers and these men will be compelled to either leave work and starve or work in a mental capacity for a baer pittance.

"Nothing is so tyrannical as a government which pretends to be paternal; a father's feelings are made for him, they cannot be imposed."

THE KING'S WRIT IN INDIA

The *Natal Mercury* has the following leading note in its issue of the 20th instant:—

It is seldom indeed that the Swarajist finds anything complimentary to say about British institutions in India or elsewhere, but it would appear that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is an exception to this almost universal condemnation. The final court of Empire appeal, which recently aroused considerable discussion in Canada on account of a decision which it gave in a case involving Trade Unionism, has received the blessings of the prominent non-cooperating lawyer and one time colleague of Gandhi, Pundit Motilal Nehru. Moreover, his opinion was endorsed by all his fellow Swarajists who, in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, voted en bloc in opposition to a proposal for the establishment of a Supreme Court of Appeal in India. This is a very interesting revelation of Swarajist mentality since it shows exactly how much justice the Hindu or Moslem expects to get from his religious or racial opponents. The partiality of most Indians towards litigation of every sort and description is sufficiently well known in Natal, but it has remained for one of the bitterest enemies of British rule to make the astonishing admission that without that rule an appellant would be denied access to an impartial tribunal. Such a statement is nothing more nor less than a complete acknowledgment of the failure of Swaraj to assert itself as master in its own house, for, although Mr. Motilal Nehru was careful to cover his tracks by suggesting that under the wise and benevolent rule which he and his friends proposed to give to India, a Supreme Court might be established in that country, the more candid of his colleagues at once discounted the value of this assertion by expressing the opinion that it is impossible to obtain in India that "healthy atmosphere free from local prejudice that is prevalent in England." "Local prejudice" is an elegant way of describing the public morality of a country where, before the advent of the British, the modest sum of one rupee would procure the early decease of an inconvenient adversary. To that abysmal state of affairs, India would at once return the moment the last transport carrying British soldiers and officials left Bombay. The Swarajists know this perfectly well, and for once in a way they have not been afraid to say so.

[We deal with the above in our leading columns—Ed.]

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS

SYSTEM UPHOLD BY SWARAJISTS

Delhi, Feb. 17.—A striking tribute to the respect in which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is held was paid in the Legislative Assembly, when, for the first time since the beginning of the session, the Swarajists voted en bloc with the Government, in opposing a resolution by Sir Hari Singh Gour, a well-known Nagpur lawyer, and first Vice-President of the Delhi University, who recommended the establishment of a Supreme Court of India, to dispose of appeals now referred to the Privy Council in London.

The motion was defeated by 56 votes to 15.

Pundit Motilal Nehru, a prominent non-cooperating lawyer and Swarajist leader, said that inconvenience and expense was not high price to pay for the justice which could be obtained from the Privy Council.

He had known of several instances where the litigants, at reasonable cost, had obtained justice before the Privy Council in cases they had lost from the lowest to the highest Court in India.

The Privy Council laid down important principles of law in cases which were useful here. Moreover, it was impossible to think of establishing a Supreme Court without Swaraj.

Other Swarajists expressed the opinion that it was impossible to obtain in India that healthy atmosphere, free from local prejudice, such as was possible in England.

OUR LONDON LETTER

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

29th January, 1925.

RUDYARD KIPLING

Stranger than fiction it may sound that Rudyard Kipling, who sang that West is West and East is East and never the twain shall meet, was a member of a mixed Lodge in India. In reply to a correspondent last week he thus expressed himself on the subject: "I was Secretary for some years for Lodge Hope and Perseverance No. 782 EC (Lahore English Constitution) which included Brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered by a member of the Brahma Samaj (a Hindu), passed by a Mahomedan, and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course, on the level, and the difference anyone would notice was that at our Banquets some of the Brethren, who were debarred by caste rules from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat over empty plates. I had the good fortune to be able to arrange a series of informal lectures by Brethren of various faiths, on the baptismal ceremonies of their religions." Kipling appears to have been initiated in the Lodge mentioned in the same year that he published "Departmental Ditties" and that was before he had attained his majority.

ST. PAUL'S

Within three weeks of the appeal on behalf of St. Paul's Cathedral, a sum of over £200,000 has been subscribed towards the required amount. The people of England know how to support their national and deserving institutions. Not a day passes without reports in the leading papers of the gifts from the living and the dead to the public institutions in the land. Many of the greatest institutions are dependent to some extent upon such gifts and upon the voluntary subscriptions of the people. This is truly a characteristic worthy of imitation by those, who having in abundance, know not how to give.

JUSTICE DARLING

That great Judge Lord Darling has just retired from the King's Bench and is at present spending his days sketching on the Riviera. For his brilliant wit and scholarship he was known far and wide. In South Africa Sir P. M. Lawrence, a Judge from the Cape Province, who for a time sat on the Natal Bench, was not unlike Lord Darling in scholarship. It is a rare pleasure to listen to such men—theirs is the sovereignty of the intellect.

THE PRINCE

The Prince of Wales will leave England on the Repulse on March 28, will arrive at Bathurst in Gambia on April 4, leaving Bathurst the same day he will reach Freetown, Sierra Leone on April 6th, and will leave on April 7th. The Prince will reach Sekondi, Gold Coast on April 9th and leave Accra on April 13th for Nigeria. He will arrive at Lagos on April 14th and remain in Nigeria till April 22nd. The Repulse is due at Capetown on April 30th and the Prince will tour South Africa till the 22nd July 1925 when he leaves Capetown on his journey via Argentine.

NATHELIA CRANE—THE CHILD POET

From New York comes the news that Mr. John Lane, the London publisher, will bring out the verses of the child poet, Nathelia Crane, who is only eleven years. These verses, under the title of the Janitor's Boy, was published last year by Mr. Thomas Seltzer in New York. Miss Crane, who spends part of her money on things dear to every young girl and then puts the remainder in the Bank will greatly benefit by the publication of her work in England. She began writing verses at the age of 9 and has had nearly 200 poems published in magazines and papers. She is described as a small babbed hair blonde in socks and a short frock who still plays with dolls and loves ice cream soda.

MR. ASQUITH

Mr. Asquith, who has returned from Europe, has accepted the offer of an Earldom and will take the title of "Earl of Oxford" with the sub-title of Viscount Asquith of Morley.

THE INDIAN DEPUTATION

Reports appear here of the deputation of all parties, Indian and European, except the Swarajists, that waited on the Viceroy at Delhi yesterday for the purpose of asking the Indian Government to make an effort to get the South African Government to give an undertaking that no further steps should be taken in regard to Indian interests in South Africa until the whole position has been examined by a non-party conference as was suggested by Mr. J. H. Thomas, when, as Colonial Secretary, he visited South Africa. The suggestions of the deputation are not advanced by Indians for the first time. Mr. Thomas it is true gave expression to the same view. But it was not many months before his arrival in South Africa, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the President of the South African Indian Conference urged at the request of the Indian community the same suggestion—in terms that such a conference should be constituted of representatives of the Union Parliament, the Indian Parliament and of the representatives of the Union Indian community or General Smuts who was then Prime Minister. He promised to give the matter his consideration but nothing more was heard. Whether loss of office—not many weeks after—lost him the opportunity to do something practicable for the adjustment of the question, it is difficult to say. It is for South Africa to do the big thing if it really believes in a British Empire.

The reports give no reason for the non-appearance of the Swarajists in the deputation. It is inconceivable that there could be party reasons for their not rallying to the cause of their brothers and sisters across the seas. Among those constituting the deputation were Sir Dinshaw Petit, Sir Harnam Singh, Sir Arthur Froom, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Colonel Crawford, Mr. Jinnah, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. W. S. J. Wilson and Sir Abdul Qaireem.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA
NEW REGULATIONS FOR DURBAN

The following Government notice appears in the *Union Gazette* dated Feb. 20.—

"Under and by virtue of the powers in him vested by section *thirty-six* of the Public Health Act, No. 36 of 1919, the Minister of Public Health has been pleased, on the request of the Town Council of Durban, under section *one hundred and thirty-eight* of the said Act, to make the following regulations to be in force within the Borough of Durban, with effect from the date hereof.

1. When it appears from the certificate of the medical Officer of health of the local authority that the conditions of any land or premises favour the multiplication or prevalence of mosquitoes, and that the occurrence or spread of malaria is likely to be favoured thereby, the local authority may give written notice to the owner or occupier thereof requiring him to remove or improve any such condition.

2. (a) Every notice under regulation No 1 hereof shall specify the land or premises concerned and the measures required to be carried out.

(b) Such notice may require an owner or occupier to clear bush or other vegetation, canalize spruets, drains, swamps and pools or low-lying areas, regularize or stem water-furrows, and take measures for the destruction of mosquitoes and for preventing their multiplication to the satisfaction of the local authority or its medical officer of health, and may impose a time limit for the completion of the works or the carrying out of the measures therein specified.

3. If any owner or occupier refuses to carry out the measures specified in any notice under these regulations, or fails to do so within the time limit imposed, the local authority may, by persons duly authorized thereto, carry out such measures. The costs incurred in so doing shall be recoverable by the local authority from the person upon whom the notice was served.

4. Any person who fails to carry out or comply with the terms of a notice made under these regulations shall be liable on conviction to the penalties provided in section *forty-one* of the Public Health Act, No. 36 of 1919.

AFRICA FIRST FOR THE AFRICAN
THE BISHOP OF ZANZIBAR AND AN IMPERIAL
PROBLEM

In the October number of the *Empire Review* the Bishop of Zanzibar has a characteristically outspoken article which he calls 'The Truth about East African Problems.'

He is opposed to the federation of the two protectorates, Zanzibar and Uganda, the two colonies, Kenya and Nyasaland, and the mandatory territory Tanganyika, because Kenya with its council of English officials and its large number of English settlers would inevitably impose its will on the low Europeanised parts of the federation. The Bishop is sympathetic to the white settlers, but he declares that the Africans should have first consideration. He says

'Great Britain must legislate with one eye on the future. Her first duty is to plan for Englishmen and Africans to live in the same commercial world on terms that will encourage the African to raise himself to the level of the former. Serfdom is dead. Not many have the ambition, fewer still have the brains, but the State must show them the way and inspire them with the desire to rise.' If Kenya has its way, East Africa will be another India in a hundred years' time. If Kenya does not mind, let Kenya sow its own seed in its own borders. Tanganyika and Zanzibar must be kept apart, and ruled in the light of the latest experience.'

Mr. Weston insists that the treaties with the Sultan of Zanzibar must be faithfully respected. Zanzibar has its own trade and stands to lose a great deal and to gain nothing by federation.

To join Zanzibar with Kenya is to sacrifice the trade of the island kingdom to the interests of the colony, it is to throw over the Arab, and it must mean an outbreak of fresh trouble between the English and the Indians. Of all British subjects the Indian has the best right to consideration in Zanzibar. He has made its commerce, he has financed it, and he cannot be ignored. I know no place on the coast of Africa, and I doubt if there be such a place within the Empire, where the English and Asiatic live on such good terms as in Zanzibar. Not that we have gone very far to solve the problem of race; but we have learned to work together in peace and mutual respect, and the future holds much further good in store for us there. Once let the Kenya spirit dominate Zanzibar, Europeans and Indians, and the whole Empire will suffer loss.'

Tanganyika is held under a mandate from the League of Nations. The British administration is doing good work, and the majority of the natives are content. Federation would mean annexation and the breaking of a national pledge. Discussing the proper policy to be pursued, Dr. Weston writes:—

'Two chief principles must be laid down by the British Government, and taken as guides by the local authorities. The first is, that land must not be alienated to settlers that will ever be needed by the

natives. Nor must more settlers be admitted to any one district than the local labour market can supply. The second is that the white employers of labour must never be given political power over their work-people. The government must remain in the hands of the Imperial Cabinet and, as far as possible, Africans must be trained to fill the subordinate positions. . . .

A wise rule would shut out settlers from any district that could not show a sufficient supply of local labour; while the true imperialist would fill up Canada and Australia before alienating Africans' land to settlers from home. I look forward to the day when Great Britain will tell her sons that, until they have filled up the vacant spaces of our 'white colonies,' there will be adopted in East Africa a policy of restricting settlement.

To the East African settler this will read as sheer heresy. In fact, it is the most straight orthodoxy. For, indeed, it is no good service to the Empire to sacrifice the health and social life of the Africans to a few thousand Englishmen who find land owning cheaper in Africa than in England, and less exhausting than in Canada or Australia. Settlers are needed in Africa; but in small numbers, and of picked character. To open Africa to all comers, irrespective of the needs of the rest of the Empire, is to shorten the Empire's existence. Great Britain is at the bar of judgment. As she treats Zanzibar and Tanganyika so will she be measured by the Arabs and Africans of East Africa.—*The Leader*.

News in Brief

The *Bengalee* writes as follows about the Liberal Party in India :—

One great drawback of the Indian Liberal Party is that it has no programme for work amongst the people. All its energy is wasted in the attempt to influence in favour of certain reforms by means of argument. Mahatma Gandhi and the no-changers have a constructive programme. The Swarrjists, too, appear to have a similar programme of their own, though it has not yet been clearly expounded to the people; but the Liberals do not seem to feel that there is any necessity for work amongst the masses, except through the Government.

In his recent work on "Economic Imperialism," Mr. Leonard Woolf describes how Great Britain wrung railway concessions from China. A Belgian Company obtained concession for constructing a railway from Peking to Hankow in 1897. The British Government believed that French and Russian financiers worked behind the Belgian syndicate. Lord Salisbury practically threatened war and the Chinese Government being aware of the concentration of British fleet "conceded everything." England obtained the right to construct 2,800 miles of railway extending over ten provinces. With reference to the effect of this concession, Mr. Woolf observes: "The revenue is all mortgaged to pay the interest on foreign loans from which the Chinese have derived little or no benefit, and infinite loss; and by a system of mingled fraud and force, foreigners now hold in their hands China's communications and a large part of her mineral wealth."

The American correspondent of the *New India* (Madras) writes :—

The Attorney-General of California has rendered a decision making it impossible for Asiatics to hold valid cropping contracts. Japanese, being excluded from land-ownership and from the right to make contracts for the lease of land, thought that they might be allowed to contract to buy fruit on the spot. They wished that the Japanese might buy a

crop of apples, or peaches, and, with Japanese labour, pick and pack that crop. But no. the Attorney-General decreed, with the aid of some statute, that a crop, still on the trees, was a part of the real estate, was, in fact, reality, which an Asiatic cannot legally have in the U.S.A. Someone with a white or a black, but never a yellow skin, must arrange to get the fruit into portable condition. Once it is severed from its real estate, a Japanese may contract to pack it and cart it away. The attitude of our Japanese residents has altered much since the enactment of the Asiatic Exclusion Law. They were always unobtrusive, but their confidence and contentment and hope were apparent. Now their eyes, formerly so kindly and open, are always averted, sad when they are not smouldering with anger. They seem to feel themselves an alien people in a hostile land.

In an interview which H.H. the Maharaja of Bikanir gave to the Editor of *The Review of Reviews* recently on the eve of his sailing from Europe for India, His Highness is reported to have referred to the Indian movement for freedom in the following terms: "We, the ruling Princes, are Indians, with roots deep down in the soil. We have an immense permanent stake in the country; we cannot, therefore, be indifferent to anything which conduces to the peace, prosperity and contentment of India as a whole. As Indians, we sympathise with the surge towards full National status within the Empire, which is the strongest force in India to-day, and which is the direct product of the British connection." His Highness laid stress on the need for Englishmen of "strong character and broad mind," of "gentlemen who will shrink instinctively from offending Indian feelings."

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivas Sastri has resigned the membership of the Council of State of India in accordance with medical advice.

The following is a translation of a message in Marathi from Mahatma Gandhi appearing in the Maharashtra number of the *Lokmanya* of Bombay:—

"Those who consider me to be the opponent of Lokmanya Tilak do neither remember him nor do they remember me. Necessarily there was a difference in our ideals, but there was never any opposition between us. I had the highest regard for him and he allowed me the privilege of his love. I do not want a division in Maharashtra. I wish to utilise the strength of united Maharashtra to win Swaraj. I constantly pray to God to show me the common way between Maharashtrians and myself."

A "Mahomedan Nationalist writes in the *Hindustan Times* :—"It has often been proclaimed that Swaraj cannot be won without Hindu-Muslim unity. Hence, it is the duty of a true Indian to give up altogether cow slaughter, mass conversions and singing of music before mosques which are not at all of the essence of religion and have always proved the source of friction between us. They have led to serious riots and disturbances and all the attendant sins and crimes. It is for the sake of becoming really religious that we should at once do away with these formalities. Let us remember that so long as we are divided we cannot progress. Zaglul Pasha addressing a mass meeting at Cairo last year asked his audience to be Egyptians first and then Mussalmans and Christians. Turks are out and out Turkish. The Afghans are consolidating their national strength. The Persians are shaping their own destiny. The Arabs are coming to their own. Why should we be different and not

we have risen and to which we shall return and that we should be bound by a strong tie of common citizenship which no fetishism can ever break?"

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the Bombay Municipality's decision to put up an iron fence of ten by six feet round the place where the late Mr. Tilak was cremated on the Chowpatty sands.

India has a sixth Secretary of States in the space of ten years: the Marquis of Crewe, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Edwin Samuel Montagu, Viscount Peel, Lord Olivier and the Earl of Birkenhead.

The Governor of Bombay, while unveiling a memorial tablet to Dr. Turner, the late Health Officer of the City, spoke of the importance of adopting measures for the prevention of diseases. His Excellency said: "It has always struck me as rather strange that while we say that prevention is better than cure, we have been slow even in Europe to recognise the value of preventive medicine. It is only comparatively recently that this branch of medical science has received the attention it deserves."

Chicago holds an unenviable murder record. The *Times'* Chicago correspondent says that official statistics show that in less than six months more murders have been committed than in the whole of 1923. In October, the latest month on which figures are available, murders have been committed at the rate of more than one a day.

The Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, famous the world over as "Ranji" still retains not a little of his old time agility. During the recent panther shoot of His Excellency the Viceroy at Samana, he escaped a narrow accident on account of his pluck and cool wit.

In the South Pacific is an island called Bardoo, which is ruled over by a widow. She went there originally in the hope that missionary work would assuage her grief over the loss of her husband. She is now ruler of the island, which contains only three other white inhabitants.

The Ali Brothers writing in the *Comrade* state.— "The best memorial to Bi-Amman (their late mother) will be if all India's brave sons and daughters sink their petty differences and unite to win freedom for our unhappy land."

In the Indian Assembly, during a discussion on the estimates, Sir Charles Innes, a Commerce member, is reported by Reuter to have said it was not likely that the Government of India would participate officially in the Empire Exhibition during 1925. It is however, learnt by Reuter at London that the Exhibition Authorities have arranged to purchase the India Pavilion, which will be renovated for the purpose of a non-official exhibition, of exclusively Indian exhibits.

Japan, it is said, has one thousand daily newspapers and if monthlies, semi-weeklies and weeklies were to be included the total, it is said, would come to 5000.

The birth place of Napoleon Bonaparte at Ajaccio Corsica, has been presented to the French Government by Prince Victor, the present head of the House of Bonaparte.

BOROUGH OF DURBAN

MAHOMEDAN SECTION — GENERAL CEMETERY

All persons claiming ownership of grave lots in the Mahomedan Section of the General Cemetery situated at Brook Street are requested to produce their receipts or other evidence in support of their claims to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Old Court House, Durban. On production of satisfactory evidence of ownership, the owner's name will be registered in the block book which has been prepared in conjunction with a plan of that portion of the Cemetery.

A. O. JONES,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,

Durban, 15th January, 1925.

دربان شہر

سار्वজনیک کھستاننو مہدیہم ویلاگ.

ہر ایک سٹیڈیاں آویلا سار्वজনیک کھستاننو مہدیہم ویلاگیاں کھراواणी جमीننی مالیکینا دی دایو کرناارا سبھا لیکانے پواتانا آویا دایانا دی دیکانیاں پواتانی پھانچیا اٹھیا انی پوراویا دی ڈرباننی لونی کھرنا مکانیاں آیک سیٹیڈری ڈیٹیکٹور سمکھ رٹی کروانی وینا آیک کروانیاں آویا آ. مالیکینا سبھا کھراوا رٹی ثیاتی کھستاننو آ ویلاگیاں کھاننی ساٹھ تھیار کروانیاں آویا آیک لیکانیاں مالیکینا نام نہاوا آیا آ.

آ. آ. آ. آ.
رٹین کھراوا.

† قبرستان عامہ کا اسلامی حصہ †

تمام لوگوں کو کہ جو قبرستان عامہ واقع بیروک سٹریٹ کے اسلامی حصہ میں قبروں کے ٹکڑوں کے دعویدار ہوں انکو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے اپنے دعوے کے ثبوت کی رسد میں ڈیڑھری شہادتیں "صدر محکمہ صفاہی" (چیف سپرنٹنڈنٹ عدالت کڈہ پارینہ (اولڈ کورٹ ہاؤس) اس پیش کریں

تسکینی شہادت پیش کرے ہر ملکوں کے "ک" میں رجسٹر کئے جائیں گے کہ جو قبرستان کے حصہ کے ساتھ تیار کیا گیا ہے +
"آئی-او-جونس"
تائب شہر—دربان کورپوریشن

لایڈے آپیوار

دکان 399 پاپٹ 212 ماں آ. آ. آ. مہدیہم
لایڈے ویپار کرے آ.
مہدیہم:
آیا: آدیہمی ڈی.
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