

# Indian Opinion

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## NOTES AND NEWS

NOT even Gandhi or Tilak was ever the centre of such a demonstration as marked the funeral procession of Das on Thursday, says the *Morning Post's* Calcutta correspondent. It is impossible to estimate the crowd, and it can only be said that countless thousands assembled in the vicinity of the station at six o'clock in the morning. They came from the outlying districts, some in expensive motors, others using lorries, bicycles, rickshaws and carts. The arrangements for a procession collapsed immediately the train bringing the coffin arrived. The handful of police and volunteers in attendance were hopelessly swamped, and progress became impossible. Of the scores of aged Indians with whom the correspondent talked, not one failed to remark that he had never seen anything approaching the sight presented by this vast and motley collection of humanity. It had been arranged that the procession should make a seven-mile detour to the burning Ghat, and it was expected that the journey would occupy three hours. But the first two miles occupied an hour each, progress being made by inches. Gandhi came specially to Calcutta, and, wearing only a loincloth, was carried on the shoulders of volunteers immediately behind the bier, on which wreaths were thrown by the hundred. Every vantage point along the route was occupied, windows being crowded while traffic was completely suspended. In the markets most of the shops were closed, indeed the city was in a state of chaos. From all parts of the country reports are coming of hartals and condolence meetings. A most extraordinary atmosphere prevails.

The British Indian Association of Johannesburg presented His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with a magnificent casket a replica of the Taj Mahal in gold as a birthday gift. The Taj Mahal is a huge edifice built of pure white marble in Agra about 1620 and is well known throughout the world as one of the best architectural wonders; 27,000 men were employed daily and took about 17 years to build.

Lord Birkenhead, if he has not yet made his formal statement on the Indian question in the House of Lords, has sufficiently disclosed his policy in his speech on the Civil Services Bill and in speeches to Indian students in London and Glasgow. His Lordship has declared that so long as the British Army remains in India, it is "inconceivable" that there should not be "a certain proportion of civil administrators directed under the Imperial Parliament's policy, upon which the use of that army depended." In simpler language, so long as the Army remains, Britain must have a predominant share in the direction of Indian affairs. And we know the Army will remain for as long a period as one can foresee, India not being a Nation to be able to build up a National Army, according to late Lord Rawlinson. Referring to British recruits for the I.C.S., he said they were not necessarily endowed with innate superiority over Indians, an admission for which we are duly grateful to His Lordship, but they contri-

buted something distinctive." Every Race and Nation has, of course, "something distinctive," but why does not Britain import a proportion of each into her Civil Service?

In connection with the South African Asiatic Policy the *New India* writes:—

The statement by Dr. Malan, Minister of Interior in the Union Government of South Africa, forecasting the introduction of legislation embodying the Government's Asiatic policy at the end of the present session of the South African Parliament will cause no surprise. While the Government of India is flattering itself by thinking that it is engaged in delicate negotiations, the South African Government merrily goes its way with tomahawk in hand. If the proposal for a Round Table Conference had any chance of acceptance, the Union Government would surely have decided to withhold legislation till after the Conference had been held. Is there no limit which a Dominion Government may not overstep with impunity, even in the exercise of its rights in "domestic" matters?

Mr. A. P. Choudree of Durban writes deploring the apathy of Indian community of Durban, particularly mentioning the sad demise of the late Mr. C. R. Das.

### DEATH OF MR DAS

LAST week the news was cabled from Calcutta that our great leader, Mr. C. R. Das, had suddenly passed away. This is a tremendous loss to the Swaraj Movement in India. Mr. Das's sacrifices in the shape of wealth and position on behalf of the great cause he had at heart are well known to our readers who have followed the course of events in recent times. The late Mr. Das was a successful lawyer and sacrificed an income of something like £30,000 per annum in order to devote his time and energies to the public cause. There are on record gifts amounting to £66,000 for public purposes, and he handed over his mansion in Calcutta for the purpose of a Girls' College. In 1924 Mr. Das was elected Lord Mayor of Calcutta, and re-elected this year. His many services to the Municipality of his city and to the great cause of self-government in India are too numerous and extensive for us to dwell upon at length.

It was in 1921, when Mr. Das was the President-Elect of the Indian National Congress, that Lord Reading, the Viceroy, saw fit to arrest this brave man just a few days before the meeting of the Congress, and he was afterwards imprisoned, along with other leaders. Such seems to be the

fate of all who strive to lead our nation into freedom.

We have no doubt that others will be found to take up the work Mr. Das has laid down. Just as we say: "The King is dead, long live the King;" so must we say: "A great leader is dead, long live the leaders." While the nation mourns a great loss, it must look to the next man to take up the burden until we reach the goal.

On behalf of the Indian community of South Africa, we extend to the relatives, friends and co-workers of the late Mr. Das, our heartfelt sympathy, and pray that the same spirit of sacrifice and public service may fill the hearts of those who follow in his footsteps.

### THE LATE MR. C. R. DAS

#### BRIEF SKETCH OF HIS LIFE

From the Congress Diary, 1923, we learn the following interesting facts concerning the life of the late Mr. C. R. Das.—

Chitta Ranjan Das was born at Calcutta on 5th November, 1870. He was the second child of his parents. He was educated first in the London Missionary College, Bhowanipore, whence he matriculated in 1886, and subsequently in the Presidency College Calcutta, whence he took his B.A. degree in 1890. After taking his degree he went to England originally with the idea of competing for the I. C. S. But events happened which saved his being drafted into "the heaven-born service." He took an active part in the electioneering campaign of Dadabhai Naoroji and his speeches attracted attention both in England and India. Later on, when Mr. John Maclean, M. P., in the course of a lecture made certain extremely offensive remarks against the Hindus and the Mussulmans, Chitta Ranjan Das organised a meeting of the Indians in England to protest against Mr. Maclean's conduct and made a powerful speech, as a result of which Mr. Maclean was forced to apologise and resign his seat in Parliament. Soon after he was called upon to make a speech on Indian affairs, under the presidentship of Mr. Gladstone which appears to have cost him his place in the civil service, for "though he came out successful in the open competitive examination, his name was chucked off from the list of probationers." Ultimately he joined the Inner Temple and was called to the Bar.

The profession of law was not to his taste, for his literary talents dictated him to take up the role of a teacher. But the consideration of the heavy liabilities of his father left him no other alternative. Consequently he joined the Calcutta Bar in 1893. In the beginning of his professional life he was seriously handicapped by the insolvency of his father and by his voluntarily sharing with him the responsibility for those debts. But real merit cannot remain unrecognised for long. The celebrated conspiracy case against Mr. Arabindo Ghose and others in 1898 in which he appeared as Counsel for the defence pushed Chitta Ranjan Das into the fore-front. Since the release of Arabindo, he was engaged in many notable cases. After this he took up the defence of the famous Dacca conspiracy case and the boycott cases of Bengal. He appeared for Mr. Vaidya, the then Secretary of the Home-Rule League at Nagpur and got him acquitted on appeal. He successfully defended Dr. Mehta in Burma when he was prosecuted under the Defence

of India Act. He was engaged by the Kutubdia internees at Chittagong. He also appeared for the Dumraon Raj in the protracted litigation relating to that estate. Just before acquitting the profession he was engaged by the Government of India to appear in the Munitions Board Case.

Let it be, here, impressed upon the mind of the reader that Mr. Das had made it a principle to defend all the political prisoners almost without any fees. Over and above this he had to incur a large debt to maintain his family during the long trial of Mr. Arabindo Ghose.

As soon as he found his position secure, Chitta Ranjan's first thought was to remove the stain of insolvency from his father's name and his own and he started to pay off every pie of those old debts. "This is the first time," said Mr. Justice Fletcher, "that a discharged insolvent publicly accepted for a formal discharge of his insolvency." Like his father, he is a man of generous impulses. His donations are often secret. Any student or widow who goes to him for monetary help can always be sure of a liberal donation from him. He has borne all the expenses of the Purulia orphanage started by his sister. He was one of the special donors to the building fund of the Belgachia Medical College. He has spent a great deal in the upkeep of the Bhowanipur Orphanage. Latterly he has thrown all his savings into the national cause. So unlimited was his charity that when he gave up his practice he had no standing income but a debt of about three lacs of rupees. Some time after this one of his friends asked him what would be the fate of his enormous charities. Mr. Das kept quiet for some time and then replied with a deep sigh "What shall I do? I must respond to a greater duty. Those whom I have helped so long will be helped now by God Himself." His sacrifice is so great that it has elicited admiration even from high-souled Englishmen. Sir Michael Sadler, the late President of the Calcutta University Commission, wrote in the *London Times*:—"Chitta Ranjan's wonderful sacrifice (Rs. 60000/- a month) is unparalleled in the history of the world. Indians would do well to follow him."

Chitta Ranjan's entry into Bengali Legislature dates from 1895 when he published a volume of Bengali lyrics called *Malancha*. He started in 1915 a new Bengali monthly 'The Narayana.' He has published *Mala*, *Antaryami*, *Kishore-Kishori* and *Sagar Sangit*. In religious views he is a Vaishnavite of the Chaitanya school. He retains some of his father's views of the Brahmo Samaj.

From his early days of his life Chitta Ranjan took an abated interest in the development of Self-Government in his land and had been an active, though not a vociferous member of the annual gatherings of the Congress and of the provincial organisations. But his real entry into practical politics dates from the internment of Mrs. Annie Besant. He addressed many meetings to protest against the internment of many young men under the Defence of India Act. In response to the Premier's appeal for more recruitment to the army he spoke again and again urging the release of the interned. Henceforward in all his political speeches he emphasised our claims to responsible Government. He is a staunch believer in the immediate fitness of India for Swaraj. Of all the leaders in Bengal Chitta Ranjan was the first to rally round Mahatma Gandhi in preaching the *Satyagraha*. He was a member of the Committee deputed by the Indian National Congress to conduct an independent inquiry of the Punjab disturbances. As Mr. Das was convinced that the new Reforms did

not materially alter the situation, he opposed co-operation with them at the Amritsar Congress though most of the leaders including Mahatma Gandhi were in favour of the Reforms. And in all probability he would have kept back from politics, but another event happened which determined the next stage in his political career. That event was the rise of Non-co-operation movement. In the beginning he was not in favour of withdrawing students from schools and Colleges and boycotting Law Courts. But at Nagpur, a prolonged discussion with Mahatma Gandhi convinced him of the necessity for adopting the whole programme. He was chiefly instrumental in drawing students away from the Calcutta Colleges and the schools in Bengal. He was largely instrumental in collecting the large sum for the Tilak Swarajya Fund. He has completely given up a lucrative practice. He has given away all his earnings to the National College at Calcutta. And for all his work so thoroughly done, he was unanimously elected the President for the Session of 1921. Soon after this the volunteer movement was declared illegal in Bengal. Mr. C. R. Das himself was arrested. The hearing was adjourned from time to time and he was an under-trial prisoner when the Congress met at Ahmedabad. And on the 14th February Deshbandhu was sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment.

Since the incidents related above, Mr. Das was actively engaged in public work. He was elected Lord Mayor of Calcutta in 1924 and re-elected this year. His recent declaration regarding co-operation with the Government of India and Lord Birkenhead's reply opened a new chapter in India's history, and time alone will show how much India's future prosperity will owe to the great work of our departed leader.

#### LOSS OF INDIAN LEADER

##### CONDOLENCE MEETING OF LOCAL INDIANS

The sad news of the sudden demise of the great leader and Lord Mayor of Calcutta, Mr. C. R. Das, cast a gloom over the local Indian community. With the little time at the disposal of the officials of the Natal Indian Congress, a meeting was convened on the 17th inst., at 5.30 at Mr. Rawat's Bio Hall, Victoria Street, to express the community's grief at the death of Mr. Das.

A large number of Indians attended the meeting, amongst whom were Messrs. B. M. Patel, A. Dookan (vice-presidents), Sorabjee Rustomjee, V. S. C. Pather (joint secretaries), P. R. Pather, O. H. A. Jhaveri (joint treasurers), A. I. Kajee, B. A. Magrajh, R. K. Naidoo, Abdoola Moosa, Lutchman Panday, S. N. Richards, M. Thungavelu, Satya Dev, A. Rooknoodeen, H. L. Paul, A. H. Kazi, Mamoojee Moosa, I. M. Haffjee, and R. K. Kapitan. In the unavoidable of the president, Mr. B. M. Patel, the vice-president, presided. After paying a glowing tribute to the patriotic work of the great leader, the following resolution was put by the chair and carried unanimously, the audience standing as a mark of respect:—

"That this meeting of Indians, assembled under the aegis of the Natal Indian Congress, places on record its sense of deep sorrow and concern at the sudden and untimely death of India's patriotic son and leader, Mr. C. R. Das, whose untiring and noble service in the realm of national freedom will ever be an example to all honourable men; and, further, this meeting resolves that a message of the community's heartfelt sympathy be forwarded to the bereaved family and Mahatmaji."

#### CITY INDIANS' TRIBUTE

A Mass Meeting of the Indian community was held in the H.Y.M.A. Hall on Sunday the 21st inst. to pass a resolution of sympathy in connection with the death of the late Mr. C. R. Das.

Mr. R. B. Maharaj, presided and on the platform were noticed Messrs. C. Nullrah, Amod Bayat, M. I. Kajee, G. A. Hama, P. Mankanjet, Sew Narain Panday, R. R. Pillay, Hoosen Mahomed and others.

Prayers appropriate for the occasion were said, and the Chairman in touchingly reviewing the life-work of Mr. Das said:—

Sisters and Brothers,—It is my painful duty this afternoon to refer to the death due to heart failure, of Chithan Ranjan Das, the Swarajist Leader in India. He came from an ancient family, noted for its learning and benevolence.

He was the second son of Rupen Mohan Das, and studied in his early age in a London Missionary School at Bhavani; and afterwards went to the Madras College and took his B.A. degree. Whilst a student in College his touch of humanity was clearly noticeable, for he always loved to help those in poorer circumstances, and even opened night schools to give the poor the benefit of education. His love for the English language forced him to proceed to England where he qualified as a barrister. Whilst in England he came into contact with Dadabhai Naoroji—the grand old man of India and assisted him in his candidature for Finsbury, for which constituency he was eventually returned to the House of Commons.

He was as fond of his mother tongue—Bengali—as he was of the English language, and on his return from England he published a series of books which were admired.

He practised as a barrister at the High Court at Calcutta and left no stone unturned to rise up to the highest rung of the ladder of his profession. Fortune smiled on him and he was engaged in the defence of a series of serious charges laid at the door of Aurobindo Ghose, whom he successfully defended whilst that famous lawyer, Eardley Norton was on the Government side.

His eloquence and his depth of knowledge in the law ushered him on the threshold of fortune, for from this time he became as noted for his leadership of the Calcutta Bar as for his fine quality of head and heart.

His father died a poor man, and left him a legacy of poverty, besides being heavily mulcted in debts. Das has the unique distinction of paying his father's debts in full and thus earned a high reputation among his countrymen.

In 1915 he founded a paper called "Narayana" and edited it with a style of his own. In the same year he supported the dependents of men who had been sent to gaol for opposing and criticising the system and action of Government. He was a great admirer of the late Mr. Tilak who was mis-called "the father of Indian unrest."

In 1919 he actively took part in the deliberations of the Indian National Congress and joined hands with Mahatma Gandhi in the furtherance of the Non-co-operation movement. He also took a leading interest in the Khilafat agitation. By common consent of the Indian nation he was elected in 1921 as the President of the Indian National Congress which met at Ahmedabad—the highest honour which India could bestow on her sons. In 1922 while on the eve of his re-election to the Presidential chair of the Indian National Congress he was arrested and lodged in gaol by the Indian Government; and Mahomed Ali, the right hand lieutenant of Mahatmajee was elected in his place. On his release from gaol he deferred with Mahatma Gandhi on the question of boycotting the Indian Legislative Council; and inaugurated the Swarajist Party and became its leader

The article of faith of this party was to enter the Council, and oppose on the floor of the house all actions of the Government which were deemed to curtail the rights, privileges and powers of the people. The central idea of this Party was to disorganise the system of Government so as to compel it to expedite the grant of a full responsible Government on a Dominion status; and the seat of this constitutional fight was waged in Bengal. The late Mr. Das was offered the Premiership of Bengal, which he refused. He was elected as the Lord Mayor of Calcutta and was re-elected this year to that unique civic post.

Although he deferred from Mahatma Gandhi, he loved and admired him for his sincerity of purpose as also for his matchless patriotism.

Das was a man of iron will and lately he openly condemned acts of anarchism, which raised its head here and there. For his bold condemnation he was praised by Lord Birkenhead the Secretary of State for India.

His death at this time of the political evolution in India is a national loss which will certainly set back the clock of Indian progress. From the position of his wealth with which he was graced, he became by his acts of self-sacrifice and self-devotion to his country's cause a poor man. He gave his all—his position and wealth, his knowledge and learning and above all his own life to the nation in whose services he died a national hero only to be mourned and remembered by his people and posterity.

The following resolution was passed, the audience standing:—

This Mass Meeting of the Indians of Pietermaritzburg, held under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress, deeply deploras the untimely death of C. R. Das, the Swarajist Leader, and desires to convey to his family and to the Indian nation its heartfelt sympathy.

Proposed by Mr. M. I. Kajee.

Seconded by Mr. C. Nulliah.

Supported by Mr. S. R. Naidoo.

#### THE LATE MR. DAS

##### TRANSVAAL INDIANS' TRIBUTE

A Mass Meeting under the auspices of T.B.I.A. was held at the Goldberg Bioscope, Johannesburg, Mr. Asvat presiding. Mr. Asvat addressed the meeting as follows:—

You are aware that we have gathered here this afternoon to pay our humble tribute of affection and esteem to the late Mr. C. R. Das whose services in the cause of our Motherland have made his name immortal. His spirit will always be an exuberant source of inspiration to us all for all time. The sad news of the great soul having left the flesh have brought tears to our eyes and delivered a shocking blow to all hearts. Under such circumstances, Ladies, and Gentlemen, it is impossible to describe fully the great qualities of that great leader and patriot, whose ideal was to sacrifice his all and himself at the altar of service to the Motherland.

Earnest and brave, God-fearing and self-sacrificing he had the magnetic power of attracting all hearts that came within the angle of his incidence. A lawyer of the first rank with a record practice, a born patriot always responsive to India's call, a spirit ever ready like King Hrishchandra of ancient India, to give rather than take, he first came into prominence when he successfully defended Babu Aurobindo Ghose in 1908 at the Calcutta Court, free of charge.

A fine writer, with the book "Songs of the Sea" fitly described as the "Marvel of Poetry" and other books to his credit, he came into the front rank of leaders in 1920, when he paid all the old debts of his father which amounted to over a million rupees.

He abandoned his flourishing practice which exceeded £5000 a month. He disposed of his furniture and properties and devoted all the proceeds to charitable purposes. Born and bred in the lap of fortune, he took the vow of simplicity and became the prince of patriots.

When the call of India for Non-co-operation reached Bengal, he courted imprisonment followed by 30,000 students whose soul he verily was. He became the leader of India in 1921 after Mahatma Gandhi had been sent to prison. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress, at Gaya, the highest honour which Hindustan can confer on her children. He was many times elected President of the Bengal Provincial Congress and was virtually "the uncrowned King" of Bengal. He was the leader of the Swarajists and Lord Mayor of Calcutta. It was he who brought about the deadlock in the Bengal Government. It was he who crippled the diarchy in Bengal, a step which caused unnecessary alarm in England.

At Belgaum, under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, it was his statesmanship that brought about the pact between No-Changers and Swarajists. This great soul is departed, at this most critical moment when he was most needed. But God willed it otherwise, and we must resign to the decree of Providence. In token of respect to the departed, your organisation, the Transvaal British Indian Association, has caused all business in the Transvaal to be closed to-day.

In conclusion, in the name of the Transvaal Indians, I beg to tender the deepest sympathy to Mrs. Das and family and to the Motherland at the irreparable loss sustained by the death of the Dsh-bandhu. I now submit the resolution:—

May God Grant His Soul Eternal Rest.

##### RESOLUTION

This mass meeting of Indians assembled at Goldberg's Bioscope Hall, have learned with profound regret the sad news of the death of Dsh-bandhu, the great leader and patriot who laid down his life in the cause of India's freedom and deeply sympathise with Motherland's irreparable loss, and respectfully tender heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Das and family.

#### THE COLOUR BAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Colour Bar Bill introduced in the Union Parliament by the Nationalist-Labour Government has passed its second reading. The Bill affects mainly the natives of South Africa, and in regard to them it does nothing more than to give legality to regulations which were declared *ultra vires* by the Transvaal Supreme Court, forbidding non-whites to hold certain positions on mines and in works. These regulations were promulgated by the South African Party which is now in Opposition, and therefore the new Bill which is to take the place of the old regulations will encounter no opposition from any of the three parties which represent the differing shades of the white man's politics in South Africa. The Christian Churches all over the country and some politicians from the Cape Colony have no doubt expressed very strong disapproval of the policy of imposing disqualifications on any people on the sole ground of colour and race, but their voice unfortunately falls on deaf ears in South Africa and the progress of the Bill to the Statute Book is not likely to be arrested or even delayed by the expressions of opinion. In a sense we are glad of this Bill, because the disabilities to which non-whites were subjected till now in an indirect way, i.e. under regulations, will hereafter be provided for by legislation of an avowedly discriminatory character. The only differences that have so far arisen between the Pact and the South African Party relate to this point, whether the differential treatment, which it is the cardinal tenet of

all parties in that country is necessary for the preservation of a White South Africa, should be sanctioned by statute or by subsidiary legislation under statute. If a policy of colour discrimination is to be followed, it matters little whether the policy is embodied in law or in mere regulations; but in one respect it is much better to have specific legislation giving sanction to this policy rather than keep up an appearance of equality in the laws of the country and provide for every kind of distinction in regulations, to which public attention is not so easily drawn. Since the best means of obtaining redress of an injustice is to expose it to the scrutiny of the world in all its nakedness, the native of South Africa will, lose nothing but gain something, by having the colour bar inserted in the very laws of the country instead of wrapping it up in regulations. Already the conscience of good Christian men has spoken out very strongly against this idea of keeping out natives from certain occupations merely because they wear black skins, but the idea has nothing new about it; it is being consistently put in effect for several years past. Yet the main point in the denunciation of the Churches is that the measure is "a disastrous innovation," etc. It is new only in the sense that it has attracted attention now in quarters where it had so far escaped notice.

Asiatics too are specifically mentioned in this legislation. They may be excluded just like natives from any of the occupations which the Union Government wish to keep as a preserve for the whites. General Smuts has curiously enough espoused the cause of Indians on this point and has already earned the encomiums of superficial observers. But anyone who carefully reads the speech which General Smuts made on the Bill in the Union Parliament will see that he is not opposed by any means to discriminating against Asiatics if such discrimination is necessary in order to maintain white supremacy in South Africa. All that he objects is that Indians or Asiatics should be mentioned *eo nomine* in the legislation. General Smuts has no doubt consistently avoided a reference to Asiatics as such in all anti-Asiatic legislation that he promoted. The Class Areas Bill, for instance, which was directed against Indians and which was infinitely more drastic in its reaction on them than the present Colour Bar Bill, still did not directly mention Indians. Is it seriously meant that our opposition should be less strong to this Bill which does not mention Indians by name but the very object of which is to drive Indians out of the country by making it impossible for them to trade in important centres than to the Colour Bar Bill, which makes a direct mention of Asiatics but which after all will not be so injurious to Indian interests as the other Bill sponsored by General Smuts? We for our part would much prefer a law which is discriminatory both in form and substance to another law which is non-discriminatory in form and discriminatory in substance, for the reason that one can appeal to the conscience of disinterested persons more successfully against the former than against the latter. General Smuts urged the Hertzog Government repeatedly to avoid wounding the feelings of Indians, as if Indian feelings are hurt only if the disqualifications that are in any case to be imposed upon them are introduced by specific legislation and their feelings are spared if introduced by regulations. What Indians resent is that they should at all be subjected to disqualifications merely by reason of their colour; and if General Smuts is as insistent as General Hertzog and Col. Creswell are on imposing disqualifications, he need not be over-tender to Indians in the selection of the means of applying this racial discrimination policy.

Indians of course have every reason to feel aggrieved at the Colour Bar Bill, but the one thing we cannot put up with is the plea that, in being

bracketed with the natives of South Africa, Indians are being degraded. If that is the sentiment our fellow-countrymen cherish towards natives, if they regard themselves as racially superior to the Negroes, they cannot of course complain if they are not admitted to a position of equality with the whites but are regarded by the latter as racially inferior to themselves. Indians will prove by this argument that they are not such lovers of race equality after all as they try to make out when contending against white domination. It will show that they too believe in race hierarchy as do the whites and that both agree in placing the natives at the bottom, the only difference being as to which of the two, the whites or the browns, should be at the top. Indians will forfeit the sympathy of all just-minded people if it is found that what they are sticking out for is not equal justice for all races but merely an equal share in the spoils won by the stronger party from the weaker in virtue of the main force. This is the impression that is likely to be created by those who make a grievance of the fact that Indians are classed with natives in this Bill. If their inclusion in this Bill will induce Indian settlers in South Africa to make common cause with the natives and fight not merely for justice as between Europeans and Indians but as between Europeans and non-Europeans, i. e. between the oppressors and the oppressed, this Bill will really have served a useful purpose. We cannot believe that the average South African Indian thinks that a slight has been put upon him because he is ranked with the native, but such an impression is apt to be formed by the use of an unwary expression on the part of an over-zealous champion of their cause. At any rate we have no manner of sympathy with this type of advocate. Our attempt in South Africa must always be to wage a combined war on behalf of Indians and natives on white aggrandisement. It will increase our material strength, but, far more important than this, it will add enormously to our moral force, which alone counts in the long run.—*The Servant of India.*

#### OUR LONDON LETTER

[ FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT ]

28th May, 1925.

The Prince of Wales in South Africa is making history bringing together the two white races in the country and giving them as also the subject races the opportunity to behold the future King of the British Empire. And who that has seen him can doubt that he recognises the human side of his people and when among them he is to a large extent one of them. No less can be sad of his august father, His Majesty King George, who slights none that approaches him. A striking instance happened at the Wembley. As their Majesties were walking among the people sightseeing, a big built man holding a boy by the hand made his way through the crowd to King George saying "King—Shake hands with America." His Majesty with a smile did so—shaking both the father and son by the hand and then walked on.

A remarkable book "Sex by Choice" written by Mrs. Monteith Erskine, the wife of Mr. J. M. Erskine, M.P., which was published last month has given rise to a piquant controversy between the author and Professor Julian Huxley, the brilliant young Oxford Scientist. Mrs. Erskine in her book claims to have discovered the secret of sex and declares the parents can decide whether they will have a son or a daughter. Professor Huxley regards these claims as untenable. He is a distinguished biological scientist whose published works include "Essays of a Biologist" and "The Individual in the Animal Kingdom."

Another great figure of the Great War, General French, who for his services was made Earl of Ypres, has passed away after a lingering illness. His remains were cremated in the Crematorium at Golders Green. He was buried with the honour and ceremonial becoming his achievements.

Admiral Sturdee, a great naval hero, has also passed away, to the regret of his people and his country.

Mrs. Baldwin, the mother of the British Prime Minister, died at her home in Worcestershire at the age of 79. Her sister Alice married Mr. Lockwood Kipling and became the mother of the national poet Mr. Rudyard Kipling. Of her other sisters Georgina became Lady Burne Jones, wife of the famous painter and the inspiration for the saintly type of woman which adorned so many of his masterpieces, while Agnes became Lady Poynter, wife of another famous artist. Mrs. Baldwin's literary productions include "Richard Dare," "When Town and Country meet," "The Pedlar's Pack" and "The Shadows on the Blind."

Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge, head of the famous Oxford Street store, who has returned to London after touring Russia accompanied by his daughter, Sibour and Lady Peck gives his impressions in the local press of decaying cities and high prices for poor goods in the Soviet country.

India has extended an invitation to the M.C.C. to send a cricketing team to India this year. It is inexplicable that India which produces such good cricketers has not yet been able to arrange test matches with England on the same conditions under which South Africa and Australia play England.

Captain Amundsen, the Norwegian Explorer, and his champions, in two aeroplanes, set out from Spitzbergen on the 21st May for the North Pole—a distance approximately of 710 miles. Amundsen's intention was to fly to the Pole and return at once to Spitzbergen—doing the both ways in 30 hours. His not having returned is causing anxiety. Had he not given up his wireless installations in order to carry more petrol, the world might have come to know of his whereabouts. There are, however, assurances not wanting that it is too early to be anxious on their account. This is said to be a list of supplies in which the Expedition left Spitzbergen: Clothes, footwear, ski-sledges, boats, sleeping bags, rifles, shotguns, ammunitions, cooking utensils, and provision for six weeks: pemmican, chocolate, desiccated milk and biscuits and petrol for a flight of 1600 air miles.

The Budget Committee of the German Reichstag has provided for an increase of the President's annual salary to £3,000, as well as an increase of the allowance for expenses to £6,000. This means that President Von Hindenburg will draw £9,000 in respect of his office as President of the German Republic. The salary of the President of the United States is £10,000 plus £5,000 for expenses. The President of France receives about 7,000 a year and the same amount for expenses. The salary of Mr. Baldwin as First Lord of Treasury is £5,000.

The island of Malta, which has been in the possession of the British for many years, has now been granted the status of a Crown Colony.

Moslems are being warned in India and in Egypt against making the Pilgrimage this year to Mecca owing to the unsettled state of affairs there and that those who do, do so at their own risk and that their Governments will not in any way be responsible for their safety.

The Sorbonne, the French University strike, excitement, of last month has settled down. The cause of the trouble was that an official of the Herriot Government was appointed by the Minister of Education from a "short list" of two as Professor of International Law. The students who had some precedents for expecting the other candidate to be

successful, went on strike, and for many days there were scenes of disorder, culminating in the suspension of the Dean of the Faculty of Law and a sympathetic strike of University students in Paris and some provincial centres. The Dean has been restored, the unwelcome Professor has resigned, and things now run smoothly.

The announcement was made at the 121st annual meeting of the Bible Society that the Bible wholly or in parts is now issued in 572 languages and that there was a vast increase in the demand for copies of the Bible at home and abroad—which in weight represented 103 tons more in 1924 than in 1923.

Mr. Henry J. Cowell contributes a historical sketch of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to The Education Outlook for April. The possibility of founding a Jewish College in Palestine was first discussed 25 years ago by the Zionist Congress, and when the War broke out in 1914 a site had just been acquired. The Earl of Balfour's famous declaration of sympathy with Zionist aspirations in 1917 encouraged the promoters greatly and before the end of the War a corner stone and twelve foundation stones, symbolical of the twelve tribes of Israel were laid. At the ceremony Dr. Weizman declared that, while the new University was meant to be a unifying centre of Jewry's scattered elements and to form the focus of the rehabilitation of the Jewish consciousness, the institution was conceived in the broadest spirit of catholicity, for it was not only to study the ancient language of Israel and languages and civilisation of the East, but also modern science and the humanities. Though pro-Jewish, indeed, the University is not Anti-Gentile, but will give an affectionate welcome to the members of every race and every creed.

The British Government has its eye on the Communists in the country and there is an indication that delegates from the Continent to the proposed Communist Congress are not likely to receive from the Government facilities to enter the country. But looking at the almost unending May day labour procession along the streets of London, the spectators could not help noticing among the labour union and other banners a good sprinkling of Communists' banners with for instance such a significant name as the Young Communist Party. Mr. Saklatwalla, a Parsee, represents Bittersea in the House of Commons as a Communist.

To the many who remember Revd. S. P. Vedamuthoo, popularly known as Revd. Simon, who was for a long period associated with the late Dr. Booth and his successors in the superintendency of St. Aidan's Mission and its then many schools, the news of the death of Rev. Simon and of his equally well-known wife, Mrs. Simon in Madras will come as a shock. There remains to carry on the good work of his parents, Winfred Simon, born in Durban, who, after graduating as B.A. in Madras, has been at the Warminster Theological College in London qualifying for the Christian Ministry. He is within the next few months leaving for Malaya and thence proceeds to South Africa. He is an enthusiastic hockey player—and his spirit of sportmanship should stand him in good stead in his life's work.

The London Times says that Sir Sankarān Nair has decided to seek election to the Council of State. We are sure that his presence in the Council will greatly add to the strength of the progressive forces in that body, the constitution of which renders it inevitable that it will be heavily weighted with conservative elements. Sir Sankarān has been a member of the Government of India for more than four years, and later a member of the India Council in England. His knowledge of the workings of the inner wheels of the administrative machinery ought to make him a formidable critic of the Government.