

# Indian Opinion

No. 30—Vol. XXIII.

Friday, July 24th, 1925.

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

## TRIBUTES TO DESHBANDHU DAS

### BRITISH LABOUR PARTY'S RENEWED PLEDGE TO CO-OPERATE

**W**E give below some of the tributes paid to the late Mr. C. R. Das by prominent people in India and England:—

Deshbandhu is gone. God's will be done. He alone is great.

GANDHI.

The National Council of the Independent Labour Party has sent a message to Pandit Motilal Nehru expressing great regret at the death of Mr. Das and declaring that Mr. Das was one of the most sincere and able leaders the Indian people ever had and if the British Government had responded to his recent appeal it might have been the means for bridging the gulf between the two nations. "We express our warm sympathy with India in its loss and renew our pledge to co-operate in working for full political and economic liberty of the Indian people."—Reuter.

Sir Hubert Carr, President of the European Association, in an interview with a representative of the *Statesman* says: Standing under the death shadow, opposing and critical thoughts are silenced and all well-wishers of the province and land of Mr. Das will gratefully cherish his memory. Towards the end of a tragically shortened life he made clear signs of substituting for the policy of uncompromising hostility towards those with whom he disagreed the policy of conciliation. I sincerely regret that Mr. Das was not spared to carry it into effect. One may express the hope that all parties may adhere to and develop that policy of goodwill by which alone the dream of Mr. C. R. Das's life will be realised."

I am positively certain that the whole of Muslim India shares with Mrs. C. R. Das the great national sorrow. We have lost the next best man we had after Mahatma Gandhi. But "God's will be done" as the Mahatma says. Mahatma sent me the news from Khulna. His words of consolation would carry conviction and courage to many of his co-workers.

I am proud to think that like another soldier Bi Amma, Deshbandhu Das died in harness. As a humble co-worker of his nothing would please me better than to pass away while working hard for Islam and India. I appeal to both Muslims and Hindus that in view of Deshbandhu Das's death, they ought to see that there be no quarrels during the coming Id. Deshbandhu Das was a staunch believer in and worker for Hindu-Muslim heart to heart unity. Can we not in the loving memory of this dear departed brother of ours show this respect to his memory? Mere words and resolutions would do no good. In deeds and actions we must show to the enemies and opponents of India that we mean business.

By Deshbandhu Das's death India has lost a great leader, and we a dear brother and co-worker. Men like Deshbandhu Das never die. They always live. Only I feel that at a time when the big struggle is to begin soon Deshbandhu Das will not be with us

to lead us to victory and triumph. "God is great." Bengal alone will produce many more men to take up his place. We must not accept defeat. One soldier is gone; God will give us many more. At least let us do our best.

SHAUKAT ALI.

The sudden and untimely death of Mr. C. R. Das is a great loss to India. His death takes away a great personality and a most powerful influence from public life, especially in Bengal. Although—I did not share his views particularly since the Nagpur Congress—I have lost in him a personal friend and India a great patriot who was selflessly devoted to the cause which he tried to serve at a great sacrifice; which commanded the respect and admiration of even those who did not see eye to eye with him. This moment I can only say that all India must feel the shock and deeply mourn the terrible loss and offer their most heartfelt sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

M. A. JINNAH.

The news of the death of Deshbandhu Das came to me as a bolt from the blue. I knew that he was ailing for some time past but I never thought that the end was so near. His death at this juncture of our national struggle creates a void which it is very difficult for a long long time to fill. Deshbandhu Das was a dynamic and organising force in our national activity. When the Non-co-operation movement was on its wane, the Deshbandhu gave a new turn to our national struggle. He was a terror and a nightmare to the bureaucracy. For the last two years he was really the uncrowned king of Bengal. Lord Lytton was nominally the ruler of Bengal but the real ruler of Bengal was Deshbandhu Das. What Lokmanya Tilak was to Moharashtra Deshbandhu was to Bengal. What the Lokmanya was to all India the Deshbandhu was to India of his time. His sacrifice for the cause of freedom was unparalleled. In fine he lived and died for his country.

V. J. PATEL.

The Deshbandhu is dead and with him has disappeared if not the greatest, undoubtedly the most active, inspiring and outstanding political figure of modern India. The shock has come so suddenly and so terribly that we can hardly realise, either the immensity of the loss or the gravity of its effect upon the future political situation in India.

No other leader, except perhaps the Mahatma, had, of late, instilled so much enthusiasm, spirit and healthy vigour in "Young India," as this departed "Ideal of Youth." His glorious career, his undying devotion, his tremendous sacrifices and above all his fearless independence and love of truth had endeared him to his countrymen to such an extent that he was an ever-living and all inspiring example to whole political India. Without the least exaggeration he was 'Indian Nationalism' personified. When he lived he devoted all that he possessed and all that was nearest and dearest to him at the altar of

Freedom, and alas! to the very altar he has ultimately sacrificed his life. His name will rank amongst the foremost of the great generals who have laid down their lives in the field of battle is the very thing of the struggle and the only fitting memorial that the country can raise to perpetuate his undying memory is not by creating here and there a bronze or a marble statue, but by diffusing throughout the country the true Dassist spirit, so that though the hero is physically dead and gone still politically he may live as strong and inspiring as ever, till the goal, for which he fought so heroically and for which he died so valiantly, is finally reached.

KHURSHED F. NARIMAN.

The sudden death of Mr. C. R. Das is a staggering blow to the national cause. His outstanding quality was courage. When he realised that the boycott of Councils was a mistake, he advocated its abandonment in his presidential address to the Gaya Congress, though he knew that it will expose him to misunderstanding and misrepresentation. He threw himself heart and soul into the movement in favour of Council entry and in a short six months, he had brought round the majority of the Congress to his view. His last pronouncement at Faridpur, is a stronger proof of his dauntless spirit. That address has now become his last message to his people. And I for one, think that it is a message full of wise reflection and guidance to us in all the main issues of Indian politics.

K. NATARAJAN.

Interviewed by a representative of the *Hindu* Mr. Yakub Hassan, prominent Moslem Congress leader said the death of Deshbandhu C. R. Das at this particular moment when he had secured that amount of confidence of the entire country that was necessary to back him up in the next move that he was contemplating and especially when the Government was evidently trying to find ways and means of negotiating with him without loss of prestige, was a national calamity of a very great magnitude. Whatever might be the fate of the Swarajya Party and whatever part it might play in the future in the winning of Swaraj, Mr. Das's own brief, alas too brief career, had been of sufficiently galvanizing force and character to ensure for himself a place in the history of India as one of the foremost nation builders.

#### BOMBAY CORPORATION'S TRIBUTE

A meeting of the Municipal Corporation was held on Wednesday, 17th June, Mr. Joseph Baptista presiding.

The President said :

Comrades,—The angel of death has once more stricken us with sorrow. This time he has snatched away from us one who bore the heat and burden of the day as Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation and leader of the Swaraj party. Inscrutable are the ways of Divine Providence. It is impossible for the finite mind of man to fathom the infinite wisdom of God. But one may be permitted to hope that our departed friend's famous gesture for peace with honour, and progress with goodwill will not be buried and cremated with his mortal remains. In this moment of mourning when the heart of India is bleeding a great opportunity affords itself to the British people and the British statesmen to soothe the sorrow of India by some consoling act of high-minded statesmanship and righteousness. May England have the wisdom to seize the opportunity which Providence has given her!

It is superfluous for me to say that Babu Chitta Ranjan Das was one of the brightest stars in the Indian firmament, a morning star in the hour of darkness. He was endowed with great talents, reinforced and sharpened by acquired knowledge, and refined by the culture of a scholar and a lawyer. Two ways lay before him, the way of wealth with honour and all the comforts and joys which wealth can purchase and the way of duty with honour and all the sacrifices which duty demands. It is to his eternal credit that after having tested the secrets of wealth with honour and comfort he forsook them for the vale of tears for he felt that the vale of tears was the only path of duty open to a true and devoted son of India in the state of her subjection. But he tried the vale of tears with courage and fortitude and he sought to clear the path of thorns and obstacles with peaceful weapons as a true apostle of *Ahimsa*. He is gone with work half done, but he will live in our memory as an example of an upright man acting according to the dictates of his conscience and conviction without fear or favour. He is now before the bar of his Creator and there can be little doubt that he will be welcomed in the words of St. Mathew the Apostle "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; Possess you the kingdom prepared far from the foundation of the world."

#### GREATEST POLITICAL LEADER

Mr. V. J. Patel said they had met there under the shadow of a great calamity. Deshbandhu Das, the greatest political leader of India, had gone. He was the Mayor of Calcutta under the new Municipal Constitution and he sacrificed his all in the cause of his country. He was a great soul and it was with a heavy heart that he (Mr. Patel) rose to move the resolution asking the Corporation to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Patel then moved :

1. That the Corporation place on record their sense of the heavy loss sustained by the country in the sad and untimely death on the 16th June 1925 of Deshbandhu Chitta Ranjan Das Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation, whose ardent patriotism, deep and abiding love for the Motherland, selfless devotion to her cause and noble self-sacrifice in her service won for him the esteem and admiration of his countrymen who regard his death at the present juncture as a national calamity.

2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Corporation of Calcutta and to the family of the deceased, with an expression of the Corporation's sympathy in their sad bereavement.

3. That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Corporation do adjourn without proceeding to the transaction of business.

Continuing he said it was impossible for him to express in words his feelings on this occasion and he would content himself merely with moving the resolution.

#### LEADER OF MODERN INDIA

Mr. M. M. H. J. Chotani seconding said Deshbandhu Das had sacrificed his life for the good of the country and he was the foremost leader of the country. Death was common to all; it was the common fate of all. But to work for one's country and to sacrifice for it was the greatest thing. At this juncture it was difficult to lose a man like him who had done so much for Hindu-Muslim unity. Deshbandhu Das was one of the sincerest and greatest leaders of Modern India and they all mourned his loss.

Mrs. Avantikabai Gokhale further supported.

The resolution was put to vote and carried in silence all standing.

The Corporation then adjourned.

## A WELCOME APPOINTMENT

NEWS has been received of the appointment of Pundit Motilal Nehru to the Presidentship of Swaraj Party. We can think of no more popular appointment. Pundit Motilal Nehru is the most popular person in India after Mahatma Gandhi and the late Mr. C. R. Das, as his selection to the Presidentship must be acclaimed with every satisfaction. The destiny of the future of India lies with the Swaraj Party, and it is therefore all the more pleasing to hear that the reins of the Party are in the capable hands of the Pundit.

The Pundit holds a very prominent position in the Indian political world, and his action in sacrificing a huge legal practice for the sake of India is very highly commendable. His foresightedness is beyond reproach, and his matured advice to the rank and file of the Swaraj Party will tend to bring harmony within the folds.

Mahatma Gandhi has advised the Pundit that he intends approaching the All India Congress Committee with a view to placing the whole of the machinery of the Congress at the disposal of the Swaraj Party. The step taken by Mahatma Gandhi is a commendable one, and this will tend to increase the authority of the Swaraj Party.

As Pundit Motilal Nehru has very rightly remarked that despite the late Mr. Das's offer of co-operation, there still appears to be many obstacles placed before us by irresponsible authorities.

Lord Birkenhead's speech has roused the suspicions of the Swaraj Party, and Pundit Motilal Nehru's statement that the Swaraj Party must proceed on the lines already marked, will, we hope have a marked effect on Imperial authorities.

The existence of two parties within the Congress was very keenly felt by all Indians, and co-operation of the Congress Committee with the Swaraj Party will be watched by the Indians throughout South Africa.

Under the guidance and leadership of Pundit Motilal Nehru, we have every hope that the obstacles placed before the Indians in their venture for Swaraj will be easily overcome.

## INDIAN LEADERS AND LORD BIRKENHEAD

## SOME INSOLENT WORDS

Calcutta, July 21.—Recent correspondence between Gandhi and Motilal Nehru, the leader of the Swarajist Party in the Legislative Assembly (in regard to the political situation in India) has been published.

In the course of it, Gandhi absolves the Swaraj Party from all obligations under last year's pact and expresses the opinion that Congress need no longer be a predominantly spinning association. Gandhi recognises that owing to the situation created as a result of Lord Birkenhead's speech, the authority and influence of the Swaraj Party must be increased, and he proposes to ask the All-India Congress Committee to place the whole machinery of Congress at the disposal of Motilal Nehru.

The latter, in his reply, declares that Lord Birkenhead seems to have spurned the honourable co-operation offered by Das, and makes it clear that in

the struggle for freedom they must still face many unnecessary obstacles from ill-informed opponents. Their plain duty, says Nehru, is to proceed upon the lines marked out and prepare the country effectively to challenge irresponsible and insolent authority.—Reuter.

## COUNCIL AND ASIATIC PROBLEM

## TENTATIVE REPLY FROM GOVERNMENT

## SUBJECT RECEIVING ATTENTION

The Town Clerk of Durban has received from the Secretary for the Interior, Capetown, the following reply to the Town Council's telegram of July 7, conveying to the Prime Minister the text of Councillor Kemp's resolution anent a round table conference with Britain and India :—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 7th inst., addressed to the Hon. the Prime Minister, conveying the terms of a resolution passed by the Durban Town Council in regard to solution of the Asiatic question, and to inform you that the subject is receiving the attention of the Government."

This reply, a comparatively prompt one for the present Government in its dealings with Durban, will afford no small satisfaction to the many who think that Councillor Kemp represents at least an honest desire to get down to practical business in regard to the Asiatic problem, and, as such, merits careful consideration.

Further news from Capetown concerning any definite action the Government may contemplate will be awaited with the keenest interest.

## ASIATIC QUESTION

## THE DURBAN COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION

## QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT

Capetown, July 21 (Reuter).—In the House of Assembly to-day Mr. Strachan (Lab., Maritzburg North), asked the Minister of the Interior (Dr. D. F. Malan): (1) Whether the Government has received a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Durban Town Council, held on June 6, 1925, informing the Cabinet "that in the opinion of the Durban Town Council the only true method of solving the Asiatic question in so far as it relates to this country, and particularly to Natal, lies in the direction of a round-table conference between representatives of the Union, Britain, and India; and further, that the Union Government and the Union Parliament be asked to take such steps as may be necessary for convening such a conference in this country without delay"; (2) whether the Government is prepared to accede to the request of the Durban Town Council and call a conference for this purpose; if so (3) where and when such conference will be held; and if not (4) what are the reasons for refusing.

Dr. Malan replied: A copy of the resolution referred to has been received by the Government and, as stated by me in this House on a former occasion, the matter is the subject of communication between this Government and the Government of India.

"Nobody who knows India," says the *Manchester Guardian*, "can suppose that because we have ruled India for 150 years, therefore we can rule her three hundred million people for ever. We rule India not by Englishmen only but chiefly through hosts of Indian civil officers and an army of Indian soldiers. When these men transfer their allegiance from the British Raj to the idea of the Indian nation, then our Raj will be at an end. Among civil officers the process has already far advanced. It must go on and it must manifest itself on the army too."

### "NO NATION CAN LIVE IN ISOLATION"

In order to prove the value of the Dominion status, Mr. Das observes :

It is realised that under modern conditions no nation can live in isolation and the Dominion status while it affords complete protection to each constituent composing the great Commonwealth of Nations called the British Empire, secures to each the right to realise itself, develop itself and fulfil itself, and therefore it expresses and implies all the elements of Swaraj which I have mentioned.

It is true that under modern conditions no nation can live in isolation. But how do the nations (not the subject peoples) of the world actually manage to maintain their individual and separate existence? No doubt by inter-dependence. But the parties to this inter-dependence do not always remain the same. According to circumstances and according to the interests of the different parties, the groups vary in their constituent elements. There was a time when France and England belonged to opposed groups; now they are, externally at least, allies. Once upon a time Britain was an ally of Russia. But there is no alliance between them now. During the earlier years of this century Japan fought Russia and defeated her. Later also, during the world war there was little love lost between them. But now they are allies. From before the war there was an Anglo-Japanese alliance. But in spite of that fact Japan has sought and obtained the friendship of Russia. Examples may be multiplied. What we drive at is that independent nations maintain their existence by choosing their friends according to varying circumstances. Is there the least possibility that India's interest will always coincide with those of Great Britain? It cannot be so, considering that our histories, cultures, racial stocks and geographical positions with all that they imply, are different. So our interests will clash, as they do even now and have ever done so since the beginning of the British connection with India. In consequence of such conflict of interests, is there the least possibility of India as a part of the British Empire ever being free to ally herself, if necessary, with any nation which is inimical to Great Britain? There is none.

Inter-dependence is a great ideal. But it can be truly realised only by independent nations and only so long as they are independent.

### INDIANS AND AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

We have referred on previous occasions to the ignoble decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, revoking the citizenship rights of Indians residing in that country. News now comes of proceedings pending before the United States District Court for the revocation of citizenship rights in the case of Mr. Bisham Singh Mattu and thirty and odd other naturalised Hindus (in America "Hindu" means only "Indian") of California. According to reports in American papers, Mr. Mattu became a naturalised American citizen in 1921. He has acquired property, established a profitable importing business and has married an American woman. He is the president of the Indian Company Inc, 149, California Street. It is reported that, when he talked of the prospect of expatriation that awaits him, "Mattu who is a substantial man of business, known throughout San Francisco's commercial district as a leading oriental importer, was on the verge of tears." Commenting on this the *Hindu* of Madras writes in the course of its leading article on the 15th instant under the heading "Benevolent Dominion".—

The pathetic story of the threatened expatriation of Bisham Singh Mattu, a prominent Hindu naturalised citizen of the United States, is evidently the result of such propaganda as is referred in the above

letter, (the letter received by Mr. C. Andrews which was published in *Young India*), and the racial virus thus injected into the minds of the Americans. We referred in these columns, a few days ago, to the movement started under official auspices to deprive Indians in U.S.A. of the rights of citizenship by a sinister interpretation of the laws under which the rights were originally acquired. This week's mail brings in evidence of the relentless pursuit of the anti-Indian campaign, of which Mattu's instance is but one. Another episode is the reported deportation of 42 Indians gathered at San-Francisco from various parts of the States on the ground that they are 'undesirable aliens' who slipped into the country in defiance of immigration laws. The writer of Mattu's story clearly brings out the blasted hopes of our countryman who was lured to go and settle in America by the vision of liberty raised in his mind while he was a boy by the preachings of an American missionary. The whole history of the white race hegemony, the ways in which the coloured millions were exterminated or subjugated and expropriated of their lands which were distributed among the Colonials, provide ample evidence of the cruelty, injustice and unscrupulous aggrandisement of the early white settlers. The present policy pursued by the whites in Africa towards the natives, the revival of slavery, though in a modified form, in Kenya by the system of conscript labour and the attempted Colour Bar legislation in S. Africa are all but remnants of the old policy of rapacious expansion whose past and present sins are now sought to be covered under the term 'benevolent domination.' The Lords' debate over the system of conscript labour in Kenya was fully extracted in these pages last week. From the British press comments on the debate it would appear that it has served to remove the veil over the hideous episode and set the British people furiously thinking over the pretensions of benevolence that is so easy of adoption by rulers over races who are too weak and backward to look after themselves.

### MAHATMA GANDHI'S AHIMSA

May *Current Thought* contains the story of how in 1896 Mahatma Gandhi was assaulted by a white mob in South Africa in the course of the early struggle for the Indian settlers' rights there and how he refused to prosecute his assailants.

A mob followed us. With every step we advanced, it grew larger and larger. The gathering was very enormous when we reached West Street. A man of powerful build took hold of Mr. Laughton and tore him away from me. He was not therefore in a position to come up with me. The crowd began to abuse me and shower upon me stones and whatever else they could lay their hands on. They threw down my turban. Meanwhile a burly fellow came up to me slapped me in the face and then kicked me. I was about to fall down unconscious when I held on to the railings of a house near by. I took breath for a while and when the fainting was over proceeded on my way. I had almost given up the hope of reaching home alive. But I remember well that even then my heart did not arraign my assailants.

On Mr. Escombe, Attorney-General with the Government of Natal, telling Mr. Gandhi,

"We desire that the offenders should be brought to book. Can you identify any of your assailants?"

I replied: "I might perhaps be able to identify one or two of them. But I must say at once before this conversation proceeds that I have already made up my mind not to prosecute my assailants. I cannot see that they are at fault. What information they had obtained from their leaders. It is too much to expect them to judge whether it was

correct or otherwise. If all that they heard about me was true, it was natural for them to be excited and something in a fit of indignation. I would not blame them for it. Excited crowds have always tried to deal out justice in that manner. If any one is to blame it is the Committee of Whites, you yourself and, therefore, the Government of Natal. Reuter might have cabled any distorted account. But when you knew that I was coming to Natal, it was your duty and the duty of the Committee to question me about the suspicions you entertained with regard to my activities in India, to hear what I had to say and then do what might appear proper in the circumstances. Now I cannot prosecute you or the Committee for the assault. And even if I could, I would not seek redress in a court of law. You took such steps as seemed advisable to you for safeguarding the interests of the whites of Natal. That is a political matter, and it remains for me to fight with you in the political field to convince you and the Whites that the Indians who constitute a large proportion of the population of the British Empire wish to preserve their self-respect and safeguard their rights without injuring the Whites in the least."

#### GANDHI'S MORAL GREATNESS

Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Minister of the Community Church in New York City, recently delivered an address from his pulpit in which he considered the question as to whether Mahatma Gandhi had failed in his great adventure, namely, "to restore his nation to its ancient freedom and native culture by disciplining its people to the technique of non-violent coercion." In the course of the address Mr. Holmes dwelt on the Mahatma's moral greatness in the following words:—

If "he that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city," then Gandhi is indeed the greatest man of our time. During the last three years, he has endured punishment at the hands of his enemies; he has met humiliation and defeat at the hands of his friends. He has seen his movement disrupted and its forces scattered. He has seen his followers refuse to follow. But he has not faltered in patience, nor swerved in courage. He has lost neither hope nor faith. Best of all he has kept sweet his soul from all anger, vindictiveness and hate, and, in his darkest hour, has held all men as his friends. "If I have equal love in me," he cries, "for No-Change, Swarajists, Liberals, Home Rulers, Independents, and for that matter Englishmen, I know that it is well for me and well also for the cause."

#### M. C. C.'s INDIAN TOUR CALCUTTA FIXTURES

In connection with the proposed visit to India by a team to be sent by the M. C. C. in the coming cold weather, the *Englishman* writes:—

At the last meeting of Calcutta C. C. a Committee in whose hands will be the arrangements for Calcutta was formed. It is composed of Mr. R. B. Lagden as President, Mr. M. Robertson Hon. Secretary and Messrs. J. R. Coulthard, C. Robinson (St. Xavier's) P. K. Mukkerjee (Sryans) and K. Haider (Mahomedan Sporting). If expectations are realised the tourists will arrive in Calcutta on December 21, in which case the programme will be as follows:—

December 23rd and 24th with Anglo-Indians.

December 26th and 28th with Europeans.

December 30 and 31 with Indians.

January 2, 3, and 4 with All Bengal.

There is justification in looking forward to an exceptionally important and interesting series of matches and needless to state we join a veritable multitude of enthusiasts in sincerely hoping that nothing will now occur to interfere with the consummation of our hopes.

It is understood that M.C.C. team will be skippered by the Hon. F.S.G. Calthorpe the Old Reptonian who played for Cambridge then for Sussex and latterly Captain Warwickshire.

#### EDUCATE YOUR WOMEN

SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI IYER AT SIVAKASI

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer on arrival at Sivakasi motored to the large and tastefully decorated pandal, where had gathered in strength the local people to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the girls' school. After a short prayer, three addresses were read and presented to the Hon'ble Member, one by the Local Municipal Council read by Mr. P. A. Ramaswami Nadar another by the Managing Board of the girls school which was read by a pupil of the school and the third by the Old Boys' Association of the local Victoria High School all enclosed in silver caskets. The Hon'ble Member then laid the foundation stone of the Girls school, and addressing the gathering, said:—"Three addresses were presented to me. I shall take up first that of the management of the Girls school of which I laid the foundation stone just now. It is a sign of the times that in a community like yours which has had many difficulties to overcome and many difficulties to surmount there has arisen a consciousness that the education of women must take a place as important as that of men. Let me recall an incident from your own past history. You might have read the story of Gargi and Vasishtha. King Janaka who reigned in Mithila summoned a great gathering of Pandits. There came to it men from all quarters to win the coveted prize of a great bull and a cow to the horns of which were tied a 100 gold pieces. Each exhibited his intellectual and spiritual by his dialectic disputation when up rose Vasishtha, that great sage, thy spiritual preceptor of the solar race, and he gave such a great demonstration of his intellectual powers, that the prize was almost assigned to him. In the pride of might and glory there came from him just a word of self-congratulation and vain exultation. Just at this moment, at the end of the Sabah, in a corner stood up an old woman who addressed Vasishtha and asked him to answer some of her questions and then followed one of the greatest dialogues in the religious history of mankind recorded so beautifully in the Aetireya Brahmana—Vasishtha bowing to Gargi. I mention this story to put strongly before you the theory that was embodied in the Hindu consciousness and ingrained in the Hindu mind that the philosophical, intellectual and moral education of women was counted in the past as of equal value and equal moment as the education of men. If they were not given such education our social problems will never be solved and intellectual difficulties will never be overcome. This has been recognised by those responsible for the girls school will have a prosperous career and that it will fulfill the noble ideals of eastern womanhood who will not only preserve and maintain intact our ideals but in addition imbibe those of the West also. I am not a believer in sticking to the old because it is old. We must evolve ourselves from out of our own consciousness taking the best from the old. I congratulate therefore those responsible for the Girls School in their enterprise and venture."

Replying to the address presented by the Municipal Council he pointed out that only the previous day he said in his Presidential address at the Nadar Conference that he yielded to none in his desire that every effort should be made by the several communities to live and let live. Any assumption of patronising condescension or superiority by any community as part of the process of solving social problems was sure to defeat itself. It was only when all of them felt that they were all equal partners in a great world who had been assigned different tasks all of them equally noble, that they could solve their political and social problems. So he observed that he was in sympathy with every community that yearned to be recognised as equal to others in social status and entitled to the same privileges. He would say nothing more on the

subject thereafter, but only wish them well. Sectional and communal aims should not hamper India's onward march towards progress.

Again they asked for certain irrigation facilities to be investigated and explored. Such facilities were essential in an agricultural country as South India and it was the first and foremost duty of the state to increase irrigation facilities. This matter had been sprung on him and he had not thought over what they had suggested in the address nor had he consulted the Executive Engineer about it and its possibilities to say anything definitely on the subject. In the progress of irrigation lay the salvation of the country. There were two directions in which they could work. The first was state-aid and the other was the use of cheap power by availing themselves of the vast water power which existed in that part of the country for industrial progress. Then he dealt with the question of the location of Courts which he said was a contentious one and a matter for administrative scrutiny.

The Hon'ble Member was then entertained at an evening party at the residence of Mr. P. K. S. A. Arunagaswami Nadar, M.L.C. which was well attended. Later in the night he left Sivakasi for Sattur en route to Madras.

#### SIR B. N. SARMA'S SUCCESSOR

##### SPECULATION IN SIMLA CIRCLES

The question of Sir Narasimha Sarma's successor is again being made the subject of speculation. This time Sir Chunnilal Mehta's name is being mentioned freely.

Sir Chunnilal was knighted only a month ago and he seems to be on good terms with the bureaucracy and also not quite unpopular. It is probable that Government may decide to have him because it is determined if it can, to have a Bombayite to save itself from the fury of the viferous Bombay Press.

At one time the name of Mr. S. R. Das Advocate-General, Bengal, was mentioned as the most likely, but the presence of a Bengalee, Sir B.N. Mitra, has hitherto stood in his way. If Sir Chunnilal is appointed, there will again be a reshuffling of portfolios.

Sir Chunnilal is now in Europe and this may help him to smoothen his way to the higher post.

#### BANANA PRODUCTION IN THE EMPIRE

The *Agricultural Journal of India* publishes the following:—

Although many people in the United Kingdom associate the banana particularly with Jamaica and the Canary Islands, not more than two-fifths of the fruit imported into the country comes from those countries, the remainder three-fifths being supplied by Colombia, Costa Rica and the Republic of Honduras.

In 1922, bananas were imported into the United Kingdom to the value of over £5,300,000 of which amount only about £6,000,000 represented produce of British Possessions. In view of the fact that the banana can be grown in most tropical lands where labour is available, it would therefore seem advisable to consider whether a greater share in the banana industry could not be undertaken within the Empire, more particularly in parts of West Africa which are within a comparatively short distance of the home market. The present position of the industry in the various countries of the Empire is indicated in an article on "The Banana and its Cultivation with Special Reference to the Empire," published in the current issue of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute*, which also gives particulars of methods of growing the fruit and the preparation of various products, such as banana flour and dried bananas or "figs." Of the British West India Islands, Jamaica is the only important banana-producing country, and last year exported (largely to the United States) 12½ million bunches. Trinidad,

Barbados and Dominica formerly exported small quantities of fruit but the trade has now almost ceased. British Honduras has an annual output of about half a million bunches, but British Guiana, although producing fruit of excellent flavour, has so far not built up an export trade. In Australia, considerable quantities are grown for local consumption in Queensland and New South Wales, and there is also a large import from Fiji, where banana-growing is one of the staple industries. Other parts of the Empire, such as India, Ceylon, Malaya and East and West Africa at present only grow the fruit for their own use.

## News in Brief

A Reuter's message from Calcutta reports that Mr. Sengupta, President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee of the Swarajist Party, has been elected Mayor of Calcutta in succession to the late Mr. O. R. Das.

The Karachi Municipality passed the following resolution at its recent meeting:—That the Zoological Gardens in Karachi be called "Mahatma Gandhi Garden" provided he has no personal objection. Only four Councilors opposed the resolution.

It is understood that Mr. Gandhi has received an invitation from Mr. Scarth, Chairman of the European Association, Darjeeling Branch to visit his Tea Estate and that the former has accepted it. Mr. Gandhi, is leading rather a quiet life here. He has already addressed a ladies' conference in the public hall and also spoke in an open air gathering on temperance.

The famous Hindu botanist, Sir Jagadiah Chandra Bose, who made a worldwide reputation through his investigation of plant-sensitiveness, has perfected an astonishing new instrument which he calls the 'super-retina.' By means of it he can detect what he calls 'invisible light.' The new light consists of short electric waves which have much the same properties as ordinary light, but can be detected by the eye. Through their means objects which are ordinarily opaque can be made transparent, whereas water becomes opaque.

An amusing account of the early education of King Edward was told at the Conference of Educational Associations at University College by Sir Sydney, the author of *King Edward's Life*. "Every day," said Sir Sydney, "the young Prince had to spend so much time at the piano, and his father, in conjunction with a tutor, mapped out a course of literary education for him. He would have an Italian lecture, and so forth, and in addition to that it was laid down that he must never be without a good book. "His father," said Sidney, "had gone so far as to impress upon the Prince's sister that when he visited her he was to spend a portion of each day there himself reading or listening to a good book being read. At the age of 19 or 20 when these restrictions had been removed his intelligence developed speedily and his memory became acute."

General Clive, Military Attache here, represents King George, and Lord Graham, Assistant Military Attache, represent the Duke of Connaught was present at the ceremony at Pere la Chaise cemetery of the removal of the ashes of the late Maharajah of Gwalior and their transfer to the railway station where they will be entrained for Marseilles. The Secretary of State for India and British Ambassador here will also be represented. The French General attends the ceremony on behalf of the Army. The Maharani and the young Maharajah and suite will leave by the same special train and sail for India on Friday aboard the "Ranpara."—Reuter.