

Indian Opinion

No. 36—Vol. XXXI.

Friday, September 8th, 1933

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

MARITZBURG INDIANS MEET

UNANIMOUSLY VOICE NO CONFIDENCE IN CONGRESS

MR. S. MUTHRAY is the man of the moment in Maritzburg to-day. Ever since the Congress decided to co-operate with the Colonization Inquiry Committee, in the teeth of the very strong opposition of the Indian community, whom they professed to represent, Mr. S. Muthray has been active. He was instrumental in holding the first protest meeting in the City after the Durban Indians had held theirs in the Victoria Picture Palace. The meeting was held under the auspices of the local Indian Debating Society of which Mr. Muthray is the chairman. It was attended by 500 Indians and unanimously protested against any co-operation by the Congress on the colonization committee. The meeting was belittled by the leaders of the Congress as being one of ignorant youths. Maritzburg Indians had contemplated holding another meeting after the Congress held its emergency conference in Johannesburg with a view to re-iterating their protest and refuting the representative character of the delegates appointed on the conference to represent Maritzburg. But they were a little behind time, for the higher powers had moved in the meantime and booked the City Hall for the Congress meeting ahead of them. They had, therefore, to satisfy themselves by holding their meeting at the H.Y.M.A. Hall at a later date as the City Hall was not available.

Mr. S. Muthray was the convener of the meeting who had acted in response to the following requisition signed by 57 members:—

"We the undersigned do hereby resolve that a mass meeting of Indians of Maritzburg be convened on Thursday evening, August 31, 1933, at the City Hall, to record our protest against any co-operation by the Indian community with the committee of enquiry of the colonization scheme. We hereby authorise Mr. S. Muthray to do the needful in this matter."

Efforts To Wreck The Move

Mysterious agencies were set afoot to wreck the above move by getting signatories to the requisition to withdraw. We understand eleven had withdrawn out of whom seven had retracted. The following letter addressed to the *Natal Witness* by Mr. S. Muthray, as convener of the mass meeting, in this connection, will be enlightening to the reader:—

Sir,—Referring to your news appearing in Saturday's issue of the *Natal Witness* under the heading "Names Withdrawn—Indians and a Protest Meeting," in my capacity as convener of the above meeting I approached the signatories on the subject, and the following letter, addressed to me, was the result:—

Pietermaritzburg,
1st September, 1933.

Mr. S. Muthray,
Convener Mass Meeting,
Pietermaritzburg.

Dear Sir,—We the undersigned signatories to a letter addressed to you dated 1st September 1931, wherein we state that you obtained our signatures under misrepresentation, do hereby retract all statements contained in that letter. We emphasise the fact that we were not fully conversant with the statements contained therein. The letter in question was brought to us for our signatures by Mr. R. B. Maharaj, President of the Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch).—(Signed) B. Bhugwandeem, D. P. Padayachee, A. V. Moodley, Shaik Ahmed, A. K. Padayachee (Jr.), David Sigamoney, and K. G. Naidoo."

In further support of the above letter the following will be more interesting to your readers, covering the whole subject:

To Mr. S. Muthray,
Convener Mass Meeting,
Pietermaritzburg.

"Dear Sir,—We the undersigned signatories to a requisition dated the 28th day of August 1933, instructing you to convene a mass meeting of Maritzburg Indians to record our protest against any co-operation by the Indian community with the Committee of Enquiry of the Colonisation Scheme, do hereby refute in the most emphatic manner any allegation that you obtained our signatures under misrepresentation. We are fully aware of the context of the requisition we signed. We hereby re-iterate our complete confidence in you.—Signed by Dr. Maurice R. Peters and others."

Hall Packed To Capacity

This is how the meeting is described by the *Natal Witness*, the local European paper:—

"Though the H.Y.M.A. hall, Lower Church Street, only holds 350 people, 600 Indians were packed into it on Sunday night (September 3), to hear the Colonial-born Indians and settlers' reply to the Indian Congress, whose action was condemned particularly in co-operating in the Indian colonisation inquiry."

The *Natal Mercury* report estimated the audience at 700. The fact was that every inch of space was occupied.

Mishap To Durban Crowd

Among the Durban representatives present at the meeting were Messrs. A. Christopher, P. G. Naioker, Manilal Gandhi, P. R. Pather, Ajam Haffeejee and M. B. Lazarus. A party of about thirty, among whom were Messrs. S. L. Singh, M. Thajmoon, O. N. M. Khan, Fakir Yusuf, K. K. Pillay, S. D. Moodley, D. S. Chetty and others, was following in a bus but, as ill-luck would have it, the bus went out of order on reaching the Kloof, just a few miles out of Durban, and the party was not able to reach Maritzburg to attend the meeting.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. M. R. Peters, a well-known local resident.

Mr. Muthray read the following telegram received from Johannesburg from Mr. C. K. T. Naidoo, president of the Transvaal Indian Congress:—"Wishing Colonial Born Indians and Settlers every success in their protest against South African Indian Congress resolutions and pray that the Almighty's blessings be with you."

The chairman, in his opening remarks, expressed his regret at the high-handed action of the Congress on the question of colonisation and asked the audience to listen patiently to what Mr. A. Christopher and others had to say.

Mr. Muthray, as convenor, explained the object of the meeting and protested strongly against the attitude of the Congress.

Mr. A. Christopher

Mr. Christopher then spoke for over an hour and explained how the question of colonization had come about at the last Round Table Conference, how they came to agree to co-operate with the Government of India in her mission to explore outlets for India's increasing population and how the appointment of a local inquiry Committee into the possibilities of a colonization scheme for settling South African Indians and the extent to which Indians would participate in such a scheme was a distinct departure from the original understanding, and how it was wrong, on the part of the Congress, to co-operate in an inquiry with an openly declared object of reducing the Indian population. Mr. Christopher explained how those to leave South Africa under such a scheme, if per chance it ever saw the light of day, would be the poorer class, which would mean the bartering away of the birthrights of the poorer section for the advantage of those placed in better circumstances. The Congress had blundered in the past, said the speaker, in not consulting the people in matters affecting them and it should not repeat that blunder.

Mr. Manilal Gandhi

Mr. Manilal Gandhi said he did not wish to repeat what Mr. Christopher had already said, but had a few observations to make. He said it did not give him any pleasure to dissociate himself from the Congress with which he had worked for so many years but he had to do so as he believed the Congress to be entirely in the wrong. In taking the present stand he had done so fully realizing his responsibility as the son of Mahatma Gandhi in this country. The speaker quoted his father's words not to agree to any scheme which had the object of bartering away the rights of the poor labouring Indian population for doubtful concessions to the other Indian settlers, and said that the underlying motive of their participation in the present inquiry amounted to nothing else. Neither the Government nor the Press had made a secret of the fact that Indians must be reduced from this country before their claim for any rights could be considered.

The attitude of the Congress, said Mr. Gandhi, was wholly inconsistent with what they professed, for they had openly and emphatically declared that they did not advocate a single Indian being sent out of this country and that they were not in favour of any colonisation or any colonization scheme, and yet they were co-operating in investigating the possibilities of such a scheme.

Mr. Gandhi expressed his regret at the attitude of the European Press who, it seemed, was out to advocate the hypocrisy of the Congress and to run down those who stood for truth. Those who were opposed to the Congress, he said, wished to be true to themselves and to the European public.

Referring to the formation of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association, Mr. Gandhi said he felt the time had come when Colonial born Indians, who formed 80 per cent of the Indian

population, had a strong organization of their own for their uplift in this country. In Mr. Christopher they had a strong and sincere leader and they should follow him faithfully. They were good sportsmen and the way they conducted their sporting organisations was admirable. They should evince as much, if not more, interest in their future in this country.

Among other speakers were Messrs. C. R. Naidoo, R. P. Naidoo, I. A. Haffjee and M. R. Naidoo.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"That this mass meeting of Indians assembled in the H.Y.M.A. Hall, Maritzburg, hereby records its strong protest against any co-operation by the Indian Congress with the Committee of Enquiry set up to investigate into the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling Indians from South Africa in other countries, and to ascertain to what extent they would be prepared to leave the country under such a scheme."

"That this meeting further emphatically refutes any representation at the Emergency Conference of the South African Indian Congress held in Johannesburg on the 19th and 20th day of August 1933, as representing the voice of Maritzburg Indians, and hereby dissociates itself from any resolutions passed at such Conference to co-operate in the colonisation scheme or any enquiry connected therewith."

"That this mass meeting of Indians assembled in the H.Y.M.A. Hall Maritzburg, hereby records its love for Mahatma Gandhi, and prays the Almighty that he may be speedily restored to health, so that he may continue his noble work for the uplift of the depressed classes in India."

The meeting, though overcrowded, was enthusiastic to the end, having lasted from 7-30 p.m. to 11 p.m. and though there was a rowdy element present it rather humoured the crowd than being objectionable.

Meeting At Clairwood

A mass meeting called by the Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association was held at the Indian Sports Grounds, Clairwood, last Sunday afternoon, when nearly 2,000 people were present.

The speakers were Messrs. Albert Christopher, M. Gandhi, D. S. Chetty, E. L. Nana and Sheik Amod. They dealt with the proposed colonisation scheme and Mr. S. L. Singh spoke on the unemployment now prevailing among the Indian community.

The meeting passed a resolution in favour of forming a branch to be known as the Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association (Clairwood and District Branch). Officials for the branch were elected provisionally.

A resolution was also passed unanimously opposing the Congress co-operating in the colonisation inquiry and declaring "That this mass meeting of Indians held at Clairwood has no confidence in the South African and Natal Indian Congress."

Kimberley Indians Misreported

A Reuter's message from Kimberley dated Thursday, August 31, stated that "at a crowded meeting of the Indian Political Association held at the Indian school hall, presided over by Mr. P. M. Dawson, Mr. A. Ismail, provincial secretary of the Cape Indian Congress, addressed local Indians on the proposed colonisation scheme and justified the action of the South African Indian Congress in re-affirming its decision at the recent emergency conference held at Johannesburg to co-operate with the commission appointed by the Union Government, Mr. Ismail

dwell exhaustively on the question. The meeting approved the action of the Indian Congress in the light of the explanation given.²³

In connection with the above report we have received a message from Messrs. Dawson and Pillay, respectively president and secretary of the Kimberley Indian Political Association, stating that it was the minority that approved of the decision of the Congress and that the original decision of the Association opposing the participation of the Congress in the colonization inquiry committee remains unchanged.

Notes and News

SPEAKING at a civic luncheon at Ladysmith a few days ago, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh is reported to have said that "some of the Indians were definitely bad, but there were others who were good; and he hoped the day would come when there would be a spirit of amity between the good Indians and the Europeans." Although there are good and bad in every community we do not think the Agent was justified in making the above rather unhappy statement. It remains to be proved how some of the Indians are definitely bad. The Department of Justice has always proved that there are less crimes committed among Indians than any other community. Union Ministers have declared at the Imperial Conferences that Indians in South Africa are a peaceful and law-abiding community. Our Agent has now discovered that some of the Indians are definitely bad. Well, if he is able to prove that, the question of reducing the Indian population is almost solved for there will be no need for investigating the possibilities of a colonization scheme. The Agent can just recommend the deportation of the bad Indians and there will be a substantial reduction without any expense to the Government!

THE Agent and Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh are leaving Durban on Friday, September 8, for Johannesburg. They will be absent from Durban for the next seven or eight months. Their address in Johannesburg will be 26, St. Andrews Road, Parktown.

FOR the last two and half years Estcourt Indians have been knocking at the door of the Provincial Council for an Indian school. Some differences of opinion existed in the Indian community of Estcourt as to the site of the school, some favouring the site practically in the centre of the town whilst others, a little further away from the town. At a meeting of the Indians held some two years ago Messrs. A. Christopher, S. Rustomjee, S. R. Naidoo and P. R. Pather managed to cement the differences. Subsequently a deputation consisting of Messrs. A. Christopher, S. Rustomjee, S. R. Naidoo and P. R. Pather awaited on the Provincial Secretary and pressed the claims of the Estcourt Indians for a new school. They were heard sympathetically and towards the middle of 1931, Estcourt Indians learned that the building of the school was placed on the Estimates, but that financial stringency prevented the Provincial Council from proceeding with the building. We are now happy to learn that through the good offices of Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh the school is now to be proceeded with.

FOR many years there has been only one Indian school in Johannesburg situated at the corner of Bree and Malherbe Streets, known as the Johannesburg Indian Government School. The building was put up by public subscriptions. The Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney in 1928 canvassed the district of Doornfontein and, through his efforts, a school has been in

existence in 24 Lower Ross Street, Doornfontein, since July 1928, known as the Doornfontein Indian and Coloured School with an attendance of 800 children. More could be admitted but the accommodation only allows for that number. The Rev. Sigamoney is keen that more Indian schools should be started in various parts of Johannesburg because it will make for greater efficiency and it will make the Indian realize that he, as an Indian, will have to play his part. He influenced the Transvaal Hindu Samaj to consider the advisability of starting a school in Ferrairas Town, commonly known as "Malay Camp." With his help and the valuable help of Messrs. K. H. Desai, Z. V. Parkeh and R. V. Patel the whole district was canvassed. The Rev. Sigamoney then led a deputation to the Witwatersrand Indian School Board and was able to convince the Board of the necessity of a new school. The school was opened this term, Aug. 9, 1933, with a temporary staff of an European Principal and two other assistants. The Indian community should be congratulated on the starting of these schools and more especially all those who started and assisted in the completion of the work.

MR. RUSTOMJEE'S CHALLENGE

WE are against the bartering away of the rights of a single brother of ours. That is the Congress stand and this Congress will still stand by that policy. I challenge anybody to say that we have departed from it." This is what Mr. Rustomjee is reported to have said in Dannhauser. The Congress, it might be remembered, was party to the assisted emigration scheme knowing full well that the object of the scheme was to reduce the Indian population to its irreducible minimum so that the remaining settlers may live under better conditions. After being party to the scheme for five years Mr. Rustomjee, from the presidential chair of the Emergency Conference of 1931, declared: "I have no hesitation in condemning the scheme and to state that the Congress will not be party to the bartering away of the rights of the poor for the benefit of the rich."

Mr. Rustomjee did not tell his compatriots for five solid years that the scheme was meant to barter away the rights of the poor for the promised concessions to the other settlers. He allowed 14,000 to leave the country and then let out the secret.

However we give credit to Mr. Rustomjee and to the Congress for having woke up even at such a very late hour and for having taken up a firm stand against the scheme before the Government of India Delegation, and for stating in the most emphatic terms that "we desire to emphasise that the Congress has decided not to countenance any scheme which has for its object the sending away of the members of our community.... The Congress firmly believes in the principle that the granting of rights and privileges to the Indian community of South Africa must be made with no spirit of bargaining."

Then we had the note of warning struck by Mahatma Gandhi just at that very time, who wrote in *Young India*, in noticing the report of Pandit Benaridas Chaturvedi and Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi on the evil effects of the scheme, that: "It is no use crying over spilt milk. The labours of the

framers of the report will not have been vain, if at the time of the revision of the Capetown Agreement, the rights of the poor labouring Indian population are not bartered away for doubtful concessions to the other Indian settlers. The position taken up by the latter is unassailable, and should depend on its own merits. The settlers themselves should therefore refuse to be party to any bargain, which would compromise the rights of the less favourably situated brethren. South Africa can easily absorb and accommodate the existing Indian population."

And now what is the present inquiry for? It is said that it is only a preliminary inquiry, that neither we nor the Government of India are bound by the results of it. Agreed that it is so, but what is it all for? We will let Mr. Rustomjee reply: "What is your position in this country if the Indian Government did not fight for you. If they had not come in the time of the Class Areas Bill we would now have been living in segregation. That Bill was killed by the Government of India. As long as you have no vote you are voiceless and cannot send a representative to Parliament. You can do nothing and must rely on the assistance of the Government of India." Mr. Rustomjee has admitted by being party to the statement submitted to the Government of India Delegation that, "the rights and privileges of a section of the Indian community were sacrificed in order that the remainder of the Indian community may not suffer the indignities that the Bill (Class Areas Bill) offered." And now he refers to the question of the vote, the voice and a representative to Parliament. The inference from Mr. Rustomjee's statement is that we must co-operate with the colonization committee in order to save ourselves from another Class Areas Bill and to get the above concessions. The *Natal Mercury* supports this by suggesting that our population should be reduced by half before we can entertain any hope of getting any concessions.

Does the mere suggestion of a colonisation scheme for settling South African Indians in other countries not imply anything? Is not our concern about finding outlets for the 350 millions in India a mere pious platitude? India is surely not wanting in qualified and able men to look after her needs! Are we in such a hopelessly desperate plight that we cannot face the European public in this country in an upright way and plead our just cause on its own merits that we must resort to such back door methods, and do and yet deny that we are doing and look and yet pretend not to be looking?

We are sure we will not be accused of exaggerating when we say that Mr. L. W. Ritch is perhaps the only one European in South Africa who can be said to be an authority on the Indian question. He was associated with Mahatma Gandhi from 1903 to 1914 and his advice cannot be discarded as being worthless. We were pleased to publish an article by his pen on colonization in our last week's issue wherein he aptly described the co-operation between the Union Government and the Government of India for exploring outlets for Indian colonisation in other lands, as an "unholy alliance."

"The Union Government's concern for

the welfare of India's millions can best be described by a cypher," says Mr. Ritch. "The only Indian emigration that does interest the Union Government is emigration that will result in an appreciable reduction and, if possible, complete exhaustion, of its Indian population. Which being the case, why should the Congress play with fire? Why, if its professed convictions are sound and sincere, should it concern itself with the scheme at all? Can the Congress not see its action is exposing it to, let us hope unwarranted, but nevertheless grave suspicions, to doubts and questions as to whether it may not be ready to barter the liberties of its poorer and more ignorant brothers for material concessions in favour of its richer and more influential?... The proper business of the Congress is to labour increasingly towards the readjustment of the disturbed equilibrium; to never rest until the scales are no longer weighted against its people by prejudice, racialism and jealousy. Any couquetting with the idea of sacrificing the poorer and more helpless for possible advantages to the more powerful and wealthy will inevitably prove a boomerang and result in its own undoing."

We heartily commend the above to the Congress leaders.

Bishop Karney's Message

THE Right Reverend A. B. L. Karney, Bishop of Johannesburg, who will shortly be sailing for England, has written a beautiful letter in *The Watchman*. Some portions are worth reading and re-reading by every individual. We cull the following from it referring to the Native question for the benefit of our readers:—

"There is just one note of criticism I wish to anticipate. Has a man any right to come to this country for ten or twelve years, speak out plainly on the native question and then depart? I feel I must face up to this. There are those who say, "No more men from overseas." We are producing an ever increasing number of young South Africans for the ministry—there are six in training now from this Diocese. While I hope the proportion of men from England and elsewhere will decrease steadily, the time is not yet when we can do without outside help. There is gain in having men who have had experience of church work in other countries and can shed fresh light on old problems. People talk of the great open spaces and so on but we all know it is possible to become very insular, parochial, and suburban in outlook, when living in a Dorp or a farm.

I am sure the feeling that South Africa is inside a fence and can supply itself with first-rate men in Church and state, and needs no help from outside, has to be combated. It is due to a false and very dangerous patriotism (I won't use the word Nationalism, because that has a special meaning here). When I think how England has gained by influx of people from outside all through her history, I am certain that every country, South Africa especially, stands to gain too. No one in England objects if people from overseas, after years of studying her problems, offer advice and help, and then depart.

May I apply these remarks to myself and the native problem? Before I came to South Africa, the greater part of my ministry had been spent outside England, outside the Empire. It had fallen to me to work among sailors in different parts of the world. During that time, I was forced to realise how much oppression there was of seilormen, especially in the sailing ship days, largely because they were, owing to their peculiar calling, practically unrepresented and unable to combine. Both in San Francisco and in Buenos Aires I had to fight their battles, and in San Francisco a strenuous fight it was.

I claim that this outside experience is a help and not a hindrance in tackling the native question here. The question of how to treat people of colour is not a South African question. It is a world question. It requires close study. A large number of people here, who are very vocal on the subject, have given no study to it at all, nor any concentrated thought. They know they want cheap labour, submissive servants, and to keep the native in such a position that he will not be able to rival the white man. They do not stop to consider that if you are going to keep a man down in a ditch, you will keep yourself down, by holding him there. Our poor white problem and our poor black problem are intimately connected. I am, therefore, quite unrepentant at having spoken out on the native question, because I have given it hours of thought and study and prayer. I have tried to tap other people's brains on the subject. I have lost no opportunity of hearing the views of leaders of opinion on both sides—and, if after that I am not fit to speak out, well, I should not have been elected Bishop.

Am I right in thinking that my last two letters may carry special weight? I hope so. Then I beg you to consider what follows, I beg our young men and women to read this, I beg parents and clergy to put these words before our young people. You are called to follow Christ, and, following Christ, you will have to face up to a really difficult, interesting and adventurous life. One thing you will have to do, is to risk being unpopular. All advance has been made by people prepared to be unpopular. ~~It is~~

Christ's sake. And the young South African may have to face unpopularity over the native question.

And to you, I say, cultivate a sense of justice. Justice at all costs. *Ruat eorum, fiat Justicia*. Even if the heavens crash upon us, justice must be done. At present, justice is not done, and we must fight for it. Learn to hate injustice, and fight for justice and truth, you young people, and all will be well in South Africa. A repressive state will not prosper. Righteousness exalteth a Nation."

Congress Meets Defeat In City

The Natal Indian Congress had called a mass meeting of Indians in the City Hall, Maritzburg, last Monday night to explain the Congress attitude on colonization. The City correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* states that the unruly meeting of the Congress in the Durban Town Hall on August 24 was repeated in Maritzburg when about 1,500 Indians gathered in the City Hall.

There was rowdyism throughout the meeting. Only Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, the chairman, was given any sort of a hearing. Mr. T. M. Bhoola attempted to address the meeting in Gujarati but was shouted down. Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi was next and commenced addressing the meeting in Hindustani when "speak in English" was shouted from the Hall. "We don't understand Hindustani."

The speaker made another attempt to continue in Hindustani but was shouted down. The Sanyasi stood his ground quietly remarking that he was prepared to stand till midnight. He tried to speak again, but again was interrupted. "Speak in English," was echoed from many sides.

At this stage, it is reported, two leaders of the opposition Messrs. S. Muthray and Dr. Peters, came on the platform and asked the chairman to allow them to address the audience with a view to quietening them. The chairman, however, refused to allow them to speak declaring that he was the chairman and would conduct the meeting.

The chairman, having failed to bring about order then declared the meeting closed. There were free fights and the police took charge and had the hall vacated in ten minutes.

Support Claimed For Congress

It is claimed by the Natal Indian Congress that three Natal towns Glencoe, Dannhauser and Newcastle, by an overwhelming majority, have decided to support the Congress attitude in regard to colonisation. At meetings held in these places last Sunday the voting at Glencoe and Newcastle, it is stated, was unanimous, while at Dannhauser there were five dissentients in a hall containing 300 Indians.

A Counter Report

We have before us another report from Dannhauser of the Congress meeting stating that most of the audience of the Congress consisted of the Congress supporters who were brought from Ladysmith, Glencoe Junction, and Newcastle. From Dundee they had none to support them. The chairman, Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi, spoke in Hindustani. Messrs. D. Lazarus, Shaikh Ameer and other leading ~~and responsible men of the Natal Indian Congress~~

questions but they were not answered. The chairman refused Mr. Lazarus to address and after some noisy scuffle he was allowed five minutes. The Congress resolution was then put and out of the 300 present about 35 including the Congress supporters from other towns put up their hands the large majority not voting either for or against the Congress.

The Problem Of Blind Care In South Africa

BY THE ORGANISING SECRETARY
(S. A. National Council For The Blind)

Blind Beggars

POLICE PROSECUTION CRITICISED

(Continued from last week.)

Begging and importuning are enjoying as big a vogue in South Africa to-day as elsewhere. Even with the genuine beggar, blind or otherwise, it is sometimes difficult to decide whether he is exploiting the public or being exploited by someone at home. As far as possible, therefore, help given to the genuine blind indigent should take the form of food and clothes rather than money.

It is realised, of course, that when all the blind who are capable of benefiting have been provided with education, training, and employment there will always remain a large majority who are unemployable. In Great Britain where the blind have been carefully classified, two out of every three blind persons are classified as unemployable, so that there are twice as many blind to be cared for who cannot be usefully trained or employed as those who can. It has been found also that the great majority of the unemployable blind are over 50 years of age, the age beyond which blind persons are usually found to be unable to learn a trade or to undertake remunerative employment. There is no reason to believe that the relative number of unemployable blind persons in Great Britain is exceptional as statistics of other countries generally show at least as high a proportion of blind persons over 50. From a numerical standpoint, therefore, the problem of the unemployable blind is everywhere the greatest of all.

In every country the number of unemployable blind persons who can maintain themselves on means of their own is relatively small and additional assistance in some form or other is almost always necessary. Such assistance may be given by the State or by the local authority or by all three combined. Generally speaking the needs of the blind are greater and more sustained than those of ordinary sighted members of the community and for that reason special measures for the relief of the blind have been framed in many countries. It may be of interest to state a few specific cases:

In Australia and in Denmark a scheme of general State pensions to the disabled, whether blind or not, as distinct from old-age pensions, is in operation. In Australia the pension of 20/- per week is granted to all persons over 16 years of age who are totally incapacitated from earning their living if they are in indigent circumstances, and the permanently disabled blind receive this pension on account of their blindness.

Normally the pension is granted to most blind persons even though they may be employed and earning wages.

In Denmark under the Disabled Insurance Law

of 1921 all disabled persons, including the blind, whose productive capacity is reduced to one-third of the normal or less, become entitled to an annual grant. Very few of the blind in Denmark are not in receipt of a disablement annuity.

In New Zealand a special State pension of 17/6 per week is paid to blind persons as such who are over 20 years of age. One condition of the pension is that the applicants must have been born in New Zealand or have become blind while permanently resident there or have been permanently resident in New Zealand for at least 10 years before October 29th 1924 of twenty-five years before the date of applying for the pension.

An additional pension equal to 25% of earnings is granted where the total income and pension do not exceed £3. 12s. 6d. per week. This "subsidy on earnings" is a novel feature in the scheme.

In Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State, financial provision for the blind by the State takes the form of the payment of non-contributory old-age pensions to blind persons on attaining the age of 50 years instead of 70 years as in the case of the ordinary sighted population.

Some twenty States in the United States of America have blind relief laws though there is considerable divergence, in the system of relief adopted in the various States.

The maximum relief granted varies from 150 dollars per annum in New Hampshire and 180 dollars per annum in California to 600 dollars in certain cases in Kansas. Normally the amount appears to be 300 dollars a year.

The position in South Africa is that whilst the State has realised its responsibility towards the education of blind children, the assistance which it extends towards adult blind is very limited and, it is submitted, entirely incommensurate with the needs of the adult blind.

Provision for the care of the blind in South Africa dates back some 50 years when the Dutch Reformed Church established the School for European blind children at Worcester. For the greater part of its existence this school carried out its useful work without state assistance. In recent years it received financial aid from the Provincial Administration and in 1925 was transferred to Union Control since when the State has paid full salaries of teachers and instructors and 50% of other approved expenditure.

For non-European blind children a private Committee established with financial assistance from the Union Education Department the Athlone School at Faure in 1925.

(To Be Continued.)

Notice

INDIAN UNEMPLOYMENT

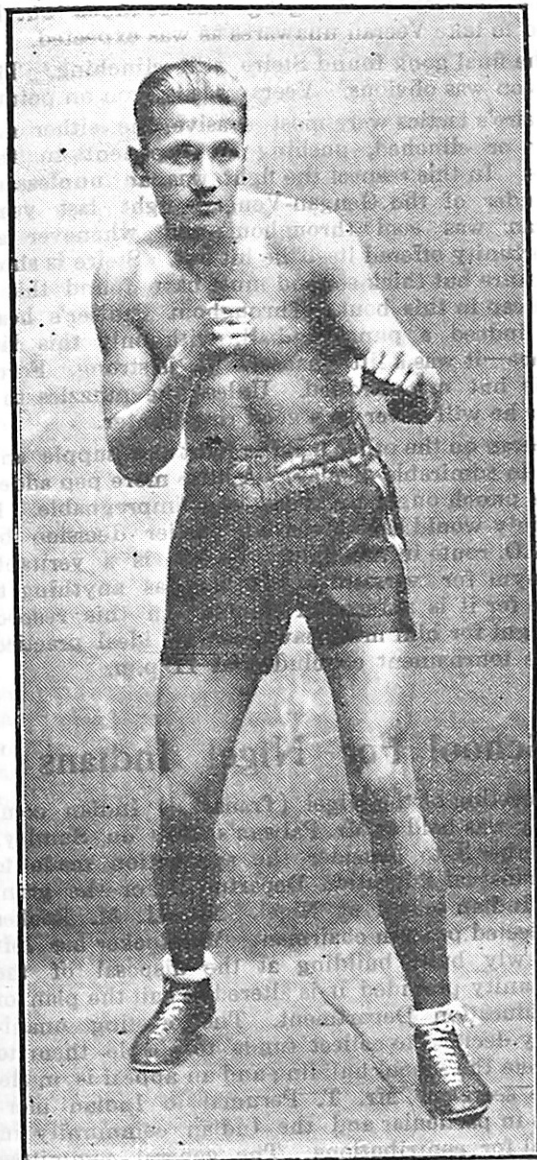
Will employers of Indian labour kindly notify the undersigned of any vacancies in their establishment.

WRITE: Hon. Secretary, Sir Kurma Reddi, Unemployment Relief Committee, 175 Grey Street, Durban, or Phone Central 3506.

Sporting News

(BY SPORTSMAN)

Big Boxing Tournament Kid Singh's Easy Win



**Kid (Mottee) Singh,
of British Guiana, the U.S.A. and England.**

The boxing fever which had taken a firm hold over Durban in recent weeks, despite the colonisation controversy, reached its highest pitch on Saturday night, 2nd September, when an overwhelmingly large crowd of boxing enthusiasts made the Urban Town Hall the centre of all attraction. Disappointments were many for long before 8 p.m. the seating accommodation was taxed to its utmost limits. The tournament was indeed one of the biggest and most successful non-European shows hitherto staged in South Africa. Among those present were the Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, Agent-General for the Government of India, Advocate A. Christopher, Dr. Seedat and many other well-known per-

sonalities. The following is a detailed report of the tournament:—

MIDGET CHIN vs. YOUNG JOHN

The first bout of the evening was one of 6-3 min. rounds between Young John (7st. 3lbs) and Midget Chin (7st. 9lbs.) Both are local pugilists.

R 1 had a hectic opening; both contestants apparently endeavoured to win by a K.O., but with little success. The blows were in consequence erratic and wild and seldom found their mark. This round came to an end with Midget Chin on the ropes.

R 2 was equally erratic. The fight was marred by clinching particularly after missed blows which were quite frequent.

In the opening stages of R. 3 Young John landed a number of hard blows, Chin merely accepting without the slightest attempt at retaliation. It looked like Young John's fight when suddenly Midget Chin awoke from his lethargy, used both hands prolifically and soon had his opponent groggy. Young John was on the ropes of ten and twice was on the floor. This definitely was Midget Chin's round.

R 4 came with Chin attacking fiercely. He seemed impregnable and with John's defence weakening considerably a K.O. was in sight. At this stage the referee, Mr. Laythen, awarded Midget Chin the bout on a technical K.O.

This fight was quite destitute of any art or system but was, nevertheless, a hard-hitting one. Both boxers have much to learn and if Midget Chin is to meet L. Veeran for the Fly-Weight title, he will have to improve considerably. The inability to last the 3 minute rounds, too, was a feature of this fight.

BENNIE SINGH vs. MANIE DIXON

The next bout was one of 10-2 min. rounds between Bennie Singh (9st. 8½lbs) and Manie Dixon (9st. 7½lbs.), both of Durban.

R 1 opened with the usual glamour and vigour, both contestants being content to take things easily in view of the duration of the bout. In R 2 there was more open hitting. If it was anybody's round it was Dixon's by a small margin. R 3 resembled the previous one except that Bennie Singh landed two well-timed left jabs. In the opening of R. 4 Manie Dixon used his left to advantage. R 5 was Dixon's but in R 6 Bennie opened aggressively, sending out some fine left jabs which found their mark. Manie Dixon also rose to the occasion towards the end of this round. R 7 also opened vigorously, but Dixon scored with a number of lefts but these were without force. R 1 was even, despite the vigour displayed by both contestants. Clinching especially towards the end of this round prevented an open fight. R 9 was Dixon's. Bennie did not take the initiative but Dixon's skilful manoeuvring and left jabs to Bennie's face gave him the advantage. R 10 came and it was obvious that if Bennie was to defend his reputation as Natal's Idol he would have to fight extremely well. Nevertheless, Dixon continued to score. This was Dixon's round.

The final gong sounded bringing Bennie the doubtful victory on points. Despite the fact that Bennie Singh is Natal's Idol this was not a very popular win, the decision being greeted with lukewarm and half-hearted applause. And, moreover, the fact that the decision was given after a reconsultation with one of the judges, is enough testimony to show that the decision was given with some measure of doubt. A win for Dixon on points, failing which a draw, would indubitably have been received with less comment. However, a return, which we hope

to see in the near future, might reveal the better boxer.

In this fight Bennie was not at his best. He was looking a little flabby. Both fighters evidently had taken things easily for they were looking calm and fresh at the conclusion. Dixon is young and no doubt has boxing talent. A good master and continuous training ought to see him far.

KID MOTTEE SINGH VS. SONNY THOMAS

After the interval the star-bout of the evening of 12-3 min. rounds was announced between Kid (Mottes) Singh (9st. 5½lbs) of British Guiana, the U.S.A. and England and Sonny Thomas (9st. 7½lbs) of Capetown.

R 1 opened fiercely Sonny being the more aggressive. For a time it seemed he had Kid Singh dazed. He had Kid in tight corners on quite a number of occasions. This definitely was Sonny's round. In the opening stages of R 2 Sonny Thomas was warned for a low punch. Kid stooped low as if hurt but actually no blow had been delivered. Thenceafter there was some good boxing. Kid excelled in the infighting but in the open Sonny Thomas held his own. R 3 came and Kid opened vigorously. In the infights he landed a quick succession of canon blows which found an easy target in Sonny's stomach. Sonny was becoming shaky; Kid took advantage of this and once had him on the ropes. Sonny was expectorating blood. The gong rang in time. It saved Sonny from an actual K.O.

At this juncture the crowd which *en bloc* were decidedly supporting the imported champion rocked the hall with applause. This, too, must have had its psychological effect on the Capetonian. The gong was sounded for R 4 but Sonny threw up the sponge. The inevitable decision for Kid on a technical K.O. followed. It pleased the hall for Kid was given a thunderous ovation on his exit from the ring.

Sonny apparently was winded and unfortunately, was booted as he was carried out of the ring. He was, nevertheless, quite conscious and the characteristic smile on his face showed that he was not entirely flattened out. Sonny is a plucky fighter.

Kid Singh is a prolific and sometimes merciless hitter. His infighting is unassailable and is no doubt the result of years of experience. His arms move like pistons in the infights. Clinching with him must be an impossibility. This win on Saturday now definitely stamps him as the best non-European pugilist yet seen in South Africa.

L. VEERAN VS. STEIRE PAULSER

The last contest of the evening was between L. Veeran (7st. 8lbs) of Durban and Steire Paulser (7st. 12½lbs) of Capetown.

R 1 was marked by fierce hitting. Steire took the initiative but Veeran remained quite cool. Following up once he landed a well-timed left jab which did not fail to reach the Capetonian's jaw. In R 2 Veeran's left was used to splendid advantage but clinching on the part of Steire gave Veeran no open mark for his left. Excessive clinching was the paramount feature of this round. The referee, Mr. Peens, issued timely warnings which, however, were of no avail.

R 3 was decidedly an interesting one. Paulser was clinching openly and constantly employed the method of pushing his opponent to the ropes to avoid an open fight. In tight an embarrassing situations, diminutive Steire twice in this round voluntarily stooped on the floor for counts of 6 in order to recover ground. The crowd was annoyed. They began to bow the visitor.

R 4 was also marred by clinching. This prevented Veeran from using his length to advantage. In the open fighting Steire was receiving an endless shower of blows. At this stage a slight skin abrasion on Veeran's left temple revealed what evidently must have taken place in one of the infights.

Rounds 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 were marred by Steire's holding. In the last two rounds he showed more determination to win by a K.O. but he found Veeran no easy prey. Once he rushed to Veeran's corner, as soon as the gong was sounded but he failed to take Veeran unawares as was expected.

The final gong found Steire still clinching. The decision was obvious. Veeran easily won on points.

Steire's tactics were most evasive; he either ran away or clinched, pushing his opponent to the ropes. In this respect the fight was an unpleasant reminder of the Gengan-Vengan fight last year. Veeran was cool throughout and whenever an opportunity offered itself he hit out. Steire is short of stature but thick-set and must have found this a handicap in this bout. Throughout Paulser's head was indeed a punching-ball, with only this difference—it was a little harder. He is strong. Force is his but uncontrolled. Unless he muzzles this factor he will never be a good ring fighter.

Veeran on the other hand is light and supple and gave an admirable display. A little more pep added to his punch ought to make him impregnable. It certainly would have given an earlier decision by the K.O. route in this fight. Veeran is a veritable synonym for versatility. If he has anything to aspire for it is a forceful punch. In this respect this fight for him must have been an ideal practice.

The tournament concluded at 11 p.m.

School For Nigel Indians

A meeting of the Nigel (Transvaal) Indian community was held at Mr. Palwan's Hall on Sunday, September 3, to consider the application made to the Transvaal Education Department for the grant of an Indian school at Nigel. Mr. H. M. Roker was elected pro tem chairman. Mr. Roker has left his newly built building at the disposal of the community provided it is altered to suit the plan of the Education Department. The meeting unanimously decided to collect funds to enable them to complete the school building and an appeal is made by the secretary Mr. T. Perumal to Indian merchants in particular and the Indian community in general for contributions. The general committee consists of Messrs. Hoosen Khan, Tommy Pillay, E. Dada, R. Vangtas, H. Ebrahim, S. D. Naidoo and Frank Doorsamy with Mr. A. I. Jeena as treasurer. The executive consists of Messrs. V. N. Freddie Ebrahim Khota, Gani Ahmed, Jamna Das and M. S. Dangor. Among those present at the meeting were Messrs. A. S. Willie, Nalapa Govender, Ismail Hajat, Mahomed Jassat, Carrim Ahmed, Ismail Mangara, Kaloo Janoo, Omar Ebrahim, Thomas Pillay, Moon-samy Naidoo, Sunny Changelrayan, Hoosen Latha, Abdool Mahomed Pailwan and Krishnaswamy Govender. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Mr. V. N. Freddie.

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