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NOTES AND NEWS

Will India Government Take Counsel?

ALL those who are aware of the pitiable conditions of the agriculturists in India, where they are, under the present system of Government, crushed under the heavy weight of taxation irrespective of the severe losses they may have had to suffer by the periodical visitations of drought or other abnormal weather conditions, to them, it will come as a piece of startling news that the value of Government assistance to farmers in the Union of South Africa is estimated at £20,000,000 in two years. "It would be nothing short of a national calamity," says Dr. P. R. Viljoen, Secretary for Agriculture, in his annual report, "were the agricultural industry unable to recover from any severe shock or setback." The Government of India would do well to take counsel in this respect from the Union Government.

Nation Building

In the course of an address on "Nation Building" at the annual congress of the Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Societies held at the Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, Dr. N. Diederichs of Grey University, Bloemfontein is reported to have said:—"Nations were not built like brick and mortar structures. They grew and developed out of their own selves. Nation building was an eternal task. It was a work of God. God had ordained that there should be multiplicity of nations and that every nation should contribute, by remaining true to itself, to the eternal purpose of creation. Nation building was an essential task, for the individual alone was nothing. He became something only in the service of a people. Mankind itself was a mere fiction; the nation alone was the high aim in social existence. Hence "nation service," next to the service of God, was above all service. "To be a 'nation-individual' was not easy. If we wish to co-operate in the task of building our nation," said Dr. Diederichs, "we must cultivate in our people, first, a faith in eternal values, in their high calling and in their ability to attain to the purpose that has been set; then we must cultivate the hope and certainty that their purpose will some day be achieved; and, finally, we must inculcate a love for the principles and values of their nation and love for each other. Faith, hope and love—but the greatest of these is love."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 1934

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

SO THE old order changeth, yielding place to new." In the eternal time we are just on the eve of burying another year. A cursory glance over the events of the year that has passed on the eve of our entering into the new one will not be out of place. Speaking generally of the world we find that the past year has been a comparatively restless one in Europe. With the failure of the disarmament conference and the partial revival of the world trade, there has been more and more talks of war. Charges have been made that the nations in Europe, specially Germany, have secretly been busy in rearming themselves. Speculations have very often been made by leaders, politicians and statesmen about the next world conflagration. In fact, in the sky of Europe many have seen the fragments of war clouds.

Asia has been, as usual, less eventful except that at the beginning of the year, India had suffered an unprecedented wrath of nature in the Bihar earthquake and that the ban on the Indian National Congress, which was penalised two years ago as a seditious organisation, had been removed and the long-deliberated report on Indian constitutional reforms had been published. Thus India is supposed to have opened a new chapter of her political advance.

In China and Japan the year has passed as usual with petty fights and some natural disasters. In the new world, America has been busy with the economic recovery, but the world forces have been such that with the best plans of President Roosevelt, she has not been able to cope with the vast problem of the country.

In South Africa, the least economically affected country in the midst of an unprecedented world depression, the chief events have been the passing of the Status Bills and the formation of the United Party on the basis of fusion, during the year. This has been a matter of great importance, specially to the White population, because the Indians and the other non white races in South Africa are, politically speaking, almost non-existent.

For the Indians in South Africa, the most eventful occurrences have been the publication of the Colonisation Inquiry Committee Report which has, unfortunately, been the direct cause of creating disunity among our community, and the visits to this country of learned men from the East such as Shri Swami Adyanandji of the Rama Krishna Mission, Pandit Mehta Jaimini and Maulana Abdul Aleem whose lectures, in the midst of our materialistic life, have doubtless been of great value to us, in that they have helped, even if it be to a small degree, to direct the minds of our people to their intellectual and spiritual elevation.

While making a retrospect of events of the passing year, it saddens our heart to have to take note of the hopeless dissensions that have existed in our community during the year. As in all things, we see in this, too, the hand of Nature whose ways are inscrutable. But were it not for our own shortcomings we would certainly not be suffering the wrath of Nature. Our future and that of all humanity depends on fellowship, sympathy, and mutual understanding based on truth, love and the spirit of self-sacrifice as against untruth, hatred, jealousy and aggrandizement. This is true both individually and collectively and unless humanity turns its attention to these basic principles where is the possibility of harmony, peace and happiness for all? Neglecting these fundamental truths which are the essence of all religions humanity is facing great difficulties and the weak has been exploited by the strong. We have not, however, lost faith in humanity and we do not wish to strike a pessimistic note. Let our watch word be faith, hope and charity and let us, with courage and determination "ring out the old and ring in the new." With this sincere prayer we wish our readers and sympathisers

A HAPPY AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

THE REVOLT OF THE EAST

With apologies to the

EDITOR OF THE "PRABUDDHA BHARATA"

A RICH man passes as wise simply because of his wealth, though he may not have a grain of intelligence expect what is required for money-making. People fear to call him a fool, so he is known to be wise. Or because of his dazzling success in amassing money, it is taken for granted that he has wisdom with reference to every other thing, under the sun, and his advice is even sought for that. Thus he is permitted to meddle in things about which he has not the least experience; and the impudence of a rich man to talk about religion, education, social reform and what not, is silently tolerated by the world.

The same thing is observed in international affairs. Because the West has flaming success as far as material things of the world are concerned, everything it does or thinks is supposed to be good, or a model for imitation. Or, to be more precise, the West succeeded so much, on account of material power, in stupefying the mind of the East, that everything Western passed, for a time, as enviable and covetable, and many in the East wanted to transplant that into their country.

But falsehood cannot stand long. A counterfeit coin must be detected some day or other. So we find that a tendency has already come to look at the Western philosophy of life with a critical eye at least by some Oriental people. Nowadays, while there is a section of people in the East who are still enamoured of Western things, there are a growing number who are not ready to accept them without due consideration and proper evaluation. Fortunately, the latter class of people are on the increase everywhere in the East. They accept only those things from the West which are necessary for success in the competition for power and struggle for existence—i. e., to meet the West on its own ground and nothing more. The hollowness of the inner life of the West has been severely exposed to these people; a happy disillusionment has come over them, and they are looking to their own strength and the treasures hidden in their own culture and civilisation.

II

There are ups and down in the life of nations as well as of individuals. And in the life of competition we learn as much from our failures as from our successes. Or rather our failures teach us better lessons than our successes: for the former unmistakably put before our eyes our defects and weak points and thus give us an opportunity for correction, while easy success in the struggle of life makes us off our

guard and stops all chance of improvement.

If we look back upon the events that took place in the world two or three centuries ago, we find that at that time while the Western countries were striving their best to solve the material problems of life, the Eastern countries, living in comparative ease and comfort, were too much given to dreaming and philosophizing. While the former were struggling to have more lands for colonization, greater opportunities for the expansion of trade and commerce, and better means of livelihood, the latter were living a life of contentment with what they possessed.

In the past, many of the Eastern countries scored great success even in those fields where the West is still now struggling, but at the time we are speaking of, they seemed to be enjoying the fruits of their past achievement and ceased from all further struggles.

But in a race, even a swift-footed hare, if it sits idle, is defeated by a slow moving tortoise; and in the battle of life whoever will fail to put his best foot foremost will be left behind by others who are always keen and alert. So when the Eastern nations were dreaming, the Western countries took them by surprise, and got mastery over them in various fields. The nations of the West gave ample proof that they had greater military power and organization, more statesmanship and better worldly wisdom; and they began to drain away money from the East and exploit the Eastern people for their selfish purposes. The political history of Turkey and Persia, India and China, Burma and Siam tells the self-same story; the Western powers became seeking an opportunity to expand their commerce and gradually became the dominating factor in political life. It is no use saying that the activities of the Western people in the Eastern countries have been marked by treachery, falsehood and craftiness. To speak in that strain is simply to make a parade of one's follies. In the struggle for political power, people are not actuated by saintly ideas, and those who have not sufficient shrewdness and capacity of organized action, at least in so far as these are necessary for self-protection, must suffer defeat and be left to moan their lot. If the Western nations nowadays rule the political destiny of Eastern countries, it is because the former got an advantage over the latter when they were sitting idle in too much self-complacency.

III

A great benefit of the impact of the Western culture on the civilisation of the

East has been that it has brought about an awakening amongst the Oriental nations. When the Western nations first came to the East they succeeded in impressing upon the minds of many that they were superior people; they struck so much terror into the hearts of many that simply by the influence of that they carried many things through. With regard to the affairs in China of some years back, Mr. Sant Nihal Singh, the well-known journalist, speaks from personal experience, "In China, one sees a single European police officer walking along, holding in his hands the queues of a score or so of Chinese prisoners who, vagabonds and male-factors though they be, make no attempt to wrench themselves free." He further says: "Almost all over the continent the comparatively cultured Oriental is obsequious in his attitude toward even the mediocre Westerner. In fact, the material superiority of the Occidental has gone on unchallenged for so long that to-day, to most Asiatics, white skin has come to be synonymous with superior talents; and the white man, no matter what his status may be amongst the members of his own race, represents to Easterners great strength of mind and body and invincible skill at arms, offensive and defensive." But nowadays perhaps the spirit is to a great extent gone. The Easterners at present are trying to shake off their inferiority complex in every walk and have succeeded in many cases. They are trying to develop such qualities and organize themselves in such a way that they will be the peers of the Westerners in every respect.

The first decade of the twentieth century marks a great epoch in the history of Asia. For it was in this period that in the battle-field of Manohuria, Japan broke for the first time the spell of the superiority of the white races. After that there has come a stir of life throughout many countries in Asia. China is no longer ready to pocket the insult of the white races silently. She has revolutionized her government and is eager to establish her political rights before the nations of the world. India is passing through a great political unrest. Revolutionary changes have come over Turkey and Persia. The Islanders of the Philippines are dreaming of political independence. A love for Western democracy is visible amongst the people of Siam. Japan has conclusively proved that she is equal to the Western nations even in matters of military skill and political diplomacy. And that fact has infused new hopes and aspirations amongst all other people in the East.

(To be continued.)

IMMIGRANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA

WEEKLY IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

THERE were few countries in the world which did not contribute towards South Africa's cosmopolitan population last year when 26,944 Europeans entered the Union and 25,264 left. The great majority of these were British and British naturalised subjects, the total British arrivals being 23,210 and the departures 22,969.

Of the other arrivals Germans were the strongest with a total of 1,161, with Americans next at 511. Hollanders came to a total of 386 and Lithuanians to the number of 289. Other arrivals were 171 Italians, 171 Portuguese, 192 Poles, 137 Norwegians and various other diverse nationalities. Women seem to think the Union a more desirable place than men, for 13,875 of them arrived as compared with 13,009 men. But the women changed their minds more on arrival, for 13,114 women left the country as compared with 12,150 men.

Apart from the 12,255 British women who arrived the largest influx of women from any individual country was from Germany with a total of 491, with American women ranking next with 241.

Occupations

The occupations of the European arrivals from a bewildering list of over four pages of close print in the Statistics of Migration for 1933, just issued by the Government. In all some 400 occupations are listed, varying from professional men and business heads to all types of work-

ers. Heading the list of occupations come Roman Catholic priests, monks and nuns, numbering in all 235. Farmers numbered 69, mechanical engineers 63, diamond cutters 57, proprietors and managers 124, salesmen and shop assistants 97, 33 naval and marine officers and 55 ratings, 49 itinerant preachers, 43 teachers, 99 domestic servants, 22 hair-dressers and 93 clerks.

Of the 26,944 arrivals in the Union, 15,812 were returning after a temporary absence, 1,023 were on business visits, 7,078 on holiday visits and 3031 immigrating. The Cape was the most popular spot, as 11,134 intended taking up residence there. The Transvaal came next with 8,945, then Natal with 4,579 and the Free State with 515. Those who had not made up their minds numbered 1,771.

Asiatics

During 1933 some 2,600 Asiatics arrived in the Union, but 1,895 of these were residents returning. During the same period 184 other non-Europeans arrived. The number of Asiatics who left the country in 1933 was 3,992, with 81 other non-European departures. The non-European arrivals were mostly salesman, hawkers and managers, and the departures labourers, managers, salesmen, hawkers and servants.

Imports And Exports

Imports during the week ending Dec. 22 amounted to 24,536 tons, of which the main items landed were

general cargo 11,889 tons timber 5,657 tons, and petrol 5,000 tons. In the previous week goods landed totalled 31,052 tons. Shipments made from the port also dropped and were nearly 10,000 tons lower than in the previous week, only 21,974 tons being shipped. The principal articles leaving comprised maize products (64,000 bags), hides (2,830 bales), manganese ore (3,771 tons)—the best for some weeks—wattle extract (7,926 bags) and wattle bark (8,752 bales). The highest total for wool shipped during one week this season was reached, when 5,366 bales were loaded. As anticipated there was a slackening off in the amount of coal handled both from the Point and from the coaling appliances. In all 32,249 tons were dealt with, composed of 14,617 tonsunker and 17,632 tons of cargo coal, as compared with the previous week's figures of 10,627 and 30,014 tons. Passenger traffic, in view of the seasonal activity, was heavy, and in all over 1,300 people sailed and landed. A fortnight ago 14 springboks were shipped in the Kenya for the Maharao of Kutch. They are not the first animals of their kind to be shipped to this destination, for the Maharao imported a number of springbok on a previous occasion and these have thriven so well that he had decided to increase the number. Special supplies of food were shipped with the animals, which are in special charge of one of the ship's officers.

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL COMMISSION

THE members of the commission were: Mr. J. de Villiers Roca (Chairman), Mr. F. C. Hollander, Mr. S. H. Pellissier, Dr. A. J. Stals and Mr. F. C. Sturrock, M.P.

The first part of the report is devoted to an elaboration of the terms of reference to the commission and a resume of the findings of previous commissions of inquiry into the financial relations existing between the Union and the provincial governments.

Dealing with the subsidies paid to the councils by the Government, the commissioners state that the basing of the subsidy upon educational statistics had led to a confusion of ideas. It was thought by many that the subsidy was paid to defray the cost of education only. "Another instance," continues the report of the unsoundness of using one of the functions of the provinces, whatever its importance, as the basis of the subsidy, is the fact that during the depression years three provinces were compelled, through

lack of funds, to exclude children under seven years of age from school because no subsidy was paid in respect of them. Such a step was educationally unsound and it raised the average age of school-children, which was already high and compared unfavourably with progressive overseas countries."

Three systems for calculating the subsidy on a population basis instead of educational statistics, were submitted to the commission by the Durban Chamber of Commerce, the executive committee of Cape Province, and the accountant of the Free State province. The commission had decided to recommend the acceptance of the last scheme, which came nearest to solving the difficulty of sparsely populated areas, by the use of inverse ratios of population.

This scheme would give the Cape £646,896 more than at present, Transvaal £624,639, the Free State, £16,327 and Natal, £95,215. Compared with the subsidy as paid at present the

Bloemfontein scheme would cost the Union £1,383,077, where as the present basis of subsidy if extended to include the "under sevens" and calculated on enrolment instead of attendance, would be increased by approximately £600,000 a year.

Dealing with representations made by Indian witnesses the commission finds that the main issues are so closely associated with high politics and constitutional questions which are clearly outside its terms of reference and that these issues cannot be dissociated from the matters which fall within the commission's purview. Under all the circumstances the commission finds it necessary therefore to refer the whole matter of the Indian representations to the Government for favour of consideration on their merits under the agreement of 1927 with the Government of India.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS IN BRIEF

A Correction

IN our leading article under the caption "Distortion of Facts" appearing in the issue of INDIAN OPINION of November 30, a statement was made that "the Agent of the Government of India made a misstatement that H. E. the Governor General had for the first time in the history of South Africa consented to attend an Indian function." Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh has taken exception to this statement and has explained that the reference made by him was only in so far as the present Governor-General (Lord Clarendon) was concerned. We thank the Agent for drawing our attention to the error inadvertently made by us and gladly make this correction.

Commission to Cost State £40,000

The Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission, which was appointed in September, 1932, and which, it is estimated, will cost the Government £40,000, will shortly reach the end of its deliberation and will present the final section of its report to the Government in about six months' time. Only about half-a-dozen witnesses still remain to be heard. It was not until May, 1933, that the first witness was heard, and since then over 500 witnesses of many races have been before the Commission. About 1,700,000 words of evidence have been taken down by the official shorthand reporters, and these cover more than 5,500 foolscap pages. The Commission was appointed to report on the occupation by coloured persons of land held under Gold Law title and consists of Mr. Justice Feetham, Judge-President of the Natal Division of the Supreme Court; Mr. H. Britten, former Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg; Mr. D. J. Stewart, Registrar of Mining Titles; and Mr. J. R. Hartshorne, formerly principal immigration officer in the Transvaal, as secretary.

Press Conference

The list of delegates to the fifth Imperial Press Conference to be held in South Africa early next year and time table of the tour is officially announced and published in nearly all the South African papers. The following will represent India:—Mr. A. A. Hayles, *Madras Mail*, accompanied by Mrs. Hayles; Mr. G. B. Wilson, *Rangoon Gazette*, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson; Mr. Desmond Young, *The Pioneer*, Lucknow, unaccompanied.

Woman Magistrate Recalled to India

From her farm at Plastaja, Eastern Transvaal, Mrs. Hume Stanford, F.R.G.S. who was for six years a magistrate in Madras, India, and is now on her way to the East. Mrs. Hume Stanford has spent

the past four years on her farm and has now been urgently recalled to Madras to help the Government to carry out certain provisions of the suppression of Immorality Act, which she was instrumental in having drafted. The Government of India closed down 158 houses of ill fame during last year, and this June extended the act to South India, having made little or no provision for the women so turned out. Now the Government intends, through the Indian Women's Association to provide funds for the establishment of a very big home for these women. It is to help with this that Mrs. Hume Stanford has been recalled, as well as for certain magisterial work for which a woman magistrate with special training is required. The Right Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, P.C., with her help, started the first Indian Child Welfare Society in South Africa in 1929. She has been round the world twice, having travelled to Australia five times from England on immigration work for the Australian Government; three times to New Zealand; twice she has returned to England via South America, and she has spent a great deal of her time travelling backwards and forwards between India and South Africa.

Esperanza School Sports Prize Distribution

On Saturday, Dec. 15, the Government Aided Indian School, Esperanza, held their annual school sports on their school grounds. An overwhelming crowd gathered to witness the children participating in the various sport items. There was a good gathering of parents and well-wishers of the school. Mr. T. B. Bremner the Manager was unable to attend owing to a previous engagement. The school verandah was very gaily decorated and a large Christmas Tree stood on the centre of the verandah. Mr. O. T. Singh, the headmaster read the school report which was well received. Mr. Singh was appointed the head of the school when the roll was 96 with 3 teachers including the headmaster. To-day the roll is 170, with 5 teachers on the staff including the headmaster. The increase of girls on the roll is very creditable and people seem to realise the necessity of educating their daughters. Mr. R. C. Clark delivered a very interesting speech and briefly outlined the progress of the school. He very strongly stressed the education of girls. Mr. Tinnion also spoke and appealed very strongly to the parents to do their duty in looking after the education of their children. There were many other speakers. Mr. Clark then distributed the prizes to the successful children. Father Christmas distributed the toys. The function came to an end at 5 p.m.

Bishop Opens Hindu Bazaar

"I am not a Hindu, and you hardly expect me to become one. But on the social and educational side of your uplift I am, to quote an American term, 100 per cent in agreement with your effort," said the Bishop of Natal, Dr. Fisher, in opening the bazaar of the Hindu Young Men's Association. "I am glad to be present, partly for the reason that the bazaar is a real co-operative effort on the part of the Indian community directed towards the uplift of the common social life of the community." Dr. Fisher stressed the value of efficiency and character building in their educational programmes. Education was a provision which should be made by the Government and pressure should be continually brought so that their needs might be met. While the Indian community were doing more to help the cause of the Government, they must supplement what was being done towards Indian education. "I am glad to be here in the H.Y.M.A.," said the Bishop in conclusion, "to see something of the work of the society, which is going to encourage the uplift of the social life of the people." Though Hindu, it was an Indian institution, said Mr. S. R. Naidoo, one of the past presidents of the society, in referring to the activities of the institution, which made its usefulness felt in many ways in the life of the Indian community. In thanking those, both European and Indian, who had given financial and other support, Mr. V. K. Pillay, the president of the H.Y.M.A., touched on the chief objects of the society as being the diffusion of education and knowledge and the advancement of the interest of the community spiritually, socially, morally, and the development of an idea of unity. In introducing the Bishop, Mr. Pillay, on behalf of his association, expressed thanks to him for having responded to their invitation and having agreed to open their sixth annual bazaar. The judge was Councillor Mrs. Shirley, and in the art section Mr. W. A. Lewitt, principal of the York Road Government Indian school, adjudicated. Members of the City Indian Musical Club provided a programme of Indian music throughout the day's proceedings.

Lalbahadur's "Nilkanthi"

An Indian drama, "Nilkanthi" is to be staged on Saturday, Jan. 5, 1935, at the Victoria Picture Palace Victoria Street, Durban, by the Mitra Natak Mandal, of Candella Estate, Mayville. The play is written in Hindi by Mr. N. Lalbahadur, of Darban, and abounds in tense situations, exciting moments of thrills and humour; there is also a strong love interest. The cast includes some of the best amateur actors in Darban. The entire proceeds of this production will be devoted to the school building fund of the Hindu Sanghaten, Candella Estate, to erect a commodious school to impart both English and vernacular education to children of Indian parentage. The play will be staged entirely under the personal supervision of the author.

REPORTS OF SCHOOL BREAKING-UP

DOORNFONTEIN INDIAN AND COLOURED SCHOOL

FOURTH ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

THE Doornfontein Indian and Coloured School Hall was crowded to the doors and many were unable to secure a seat. Beside the parents of the children there were many leading Europeans and Indians present. Professor R. F. A. Hoernle and Mrs. Hoernle presented the prizes. This school has gained a reputation for its excellent acting and singing and the scholars fully lived up to their reputation.

For the first time a Christmas tree was put and Father Christmas presented the toys.

The Principal the Rev. B. L. E. Sigamoney will report as follows:—

This school was started in the month of July 1930 by the Transvaal Education Department, and on the first day there was an attendance of 69 children. Some of my Indian friends prophesied a short life for the school, but instead of that the school has gone on from strength to strength, and every year has seen the number increase gradually, and to-day we have 250 children on roll—200 Indian children and 50 coloured children. This year I had to refuse many applications for admission as I cannot accommodate them, and if only a fairy God-Mother would come along and build a school here, that number will not be difficult to double.

The Standard six sat for the departmental examination and we secured 100% passes. We are the first non-European school to take part in the children's procession and the participation in this noble endeavour gives great joy and pleasure to the children.

The school assisted in collecting funds for the General Hospital again. It also has a Savings Bank which teaches the children to cultivate the habit of thrift. In this connection I want to record the valuable services rendered by Mr. H. C. Francis, the Treasurer. Two Government Auditors, who audited the books

state that they have not come across books so well and accurately kept.

I am grateful to the Carnegie Library for the loan of books for the school library.

During the winter season 146 children were passed by the school nurse as deserving winter feeding, and I could safely say that it was a great boon to many a child.

I want to publicly thank all those who gave prizes and all those who subscribed to the subscription list, and to my many friends who so liberally responded to my letters of appeal. In this connection I wish to offer on behalf of myself, the staff and the children our sincerest gratitude to Mrs. V. S. Naicker, Mrs. Vengetary Padayachee, Mrs. P. Moodley, Mr. S. P. Padayachee, and Miss Angelina Padayachee, who went from house to house and collected the sum of £7 11s. It was indeed a noble achievement, and which called for much self-sacrifice on their part.

This year I am giving toys to 161 children and the expense in that connection is considerable.

Dr. A. Rehman has given his services free in the school. He inspects the children every fortnight and sees to their physical health, for which we are grateful.

The girls have had a series of lectures on First Aid work by Dr. E. Rolfe, and the Demonstrator was Mrs. Lawrence.

In this hall we house six classes and the infant class has 61 children on roll with a daily attendance of over 53, so one can just imagine the confusion. At present negotiations are taking place between the School Board and the Rev. M. S. Dube the President of the African Congregational Church. Two more rooms are to be put up, but there is a deadlock because of the rent required by the owners of the property.

In conclusion, I want to thank my staff for their loyalty and co-operation. Al-

though I have lost the valuable services of Mr. A. P. Pahlney, yet I feel highly elated that he has been transferred to help my colleague and friend, Mr. K. L. Duin in his school in Ferreira town.

I thank Professor and Mrs. Hoernle who have so graciously consented to present the prizes this evening. It has been my privilege and pleasure to know these two noble hearted persons ever since I have come to the Transvaal, and anyone who has come into contact with them cannot help admiring them for their selfless work on behalf of the non-Europeans. It is a great source of inspiration to those of us who sometimes feel despondent over inter-racial affairs in South Africa to know that there are gems like Professor and Mrs. Hoernle, who by their illuminating light will help to dispel away the darkness and so enable our children of today who will be men and women of tomorrow to get a chance to make good in this, the land of our birth and adoption. May God bless them and endow them with greater wisdom, life, sympathy and compassion, continued the Rev. Bernard L. E. Sigamoney in concluding the report as the Principal of the school.

A musical programme was submitted as follows:—Opening Chorus of Welcome; a very humorous play entitled "The Sausage" which was ably acted by Harold Joseph and Freda Moonsamy; a song entitled "The City of God;" "Too Much Monkey," a most amusing and interesting sketch in which rejuvenation takes place of the Rector by his friend and Professor. The leading parts were most admirably acted by Sathasivan Pather and Reginald Sigamoney; a song "Love at Home." The last was a Christmas play in which Parvathi Pillay Sathasivan Moodley and Yegambaram excelled in some very good acting.

The Christmas tree was erected in the school yard and Father Christmas was Sombhai Jivan who gave the toys to children of Standard II. and under.

PRIZE-GIVING AT FERREIRA INDIAN SCHOOL

MR. and Mrs. Maurice Freeman, Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg, attended the first annual prize giving of the Ferreira Indian Government Indian school at Pilkington Hall. In his report the principal, Mr. K. L. Desai, said the Transvaal Education Department had established the school in August, 1933, for Indian children of the area. During the first five months there were only 78 pupils, but to-day there were 186 and the school required larger buildings. "I must urge my countrymen to send their children regularly to school,"

said Mr. Desai. He approached parents with a view to collecting money for the school fund and had got an amount of £72 12s. He thanked them for this magnificent response, and expressed the hope that they would continue to stand by him in his work for the school. A part of this fund was spent on 31 needy children in order to provide them with warm and other clothing during the winter, and on the purchasing of sports goods for boys and indoor games for girls. It was the intention of the school to establish a library, and the grant for this purpose was at present under

consideration of the Education Department. During the last eight months the school children had purchased 85 Union Loan Certificates. Thrift was encouraged wherever possible in the institution. Mr. Desai thanked the inspector of the school and the secretary of the School Board for the great help they had given him. His staff, too, had done as much as was possible for any staff to do, and to them, too, he expressed his thanks. The presentation of prizes followed a successful play by the boys, while another, by the girls, was an interesting item on a long but really good programme.

SPORTS

GAMA: THE WORLD-CHAMPION WRESTLER TELLS HIS LIFE STORY

GAMA, the world champion wrestler, in an interview recently in India gave a rather lengthy account of his career as a wrestler.

Food and Training

He began as follows:—

"My name is Ghulam Mohammad alias Gama and I am to-day forty years of age. I am a state wrestler of his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala. Whenever an important bout is to come off his Highness grants me a special allowance of Rs. 100 per day in addition to my regular pay and allowances." He then stated that during the days of his training he is given an essence or extract of pearls, soup of seven fowls, one and a quarter seer of well grounded almonds, five seers of milk, half a seer ghee, gold leaves, cardamum specially prepared and meat as per requirement every day. This food is given him only during the days he is in preparation for some special bout but ordinarily he eats about two and a half seers of bread and meat curry, milk and ghee 3 seers, well grounded almonds ½ seer, 1 seer 'lassi' (i. e. a beverage made in curd and water) and cardamum according to requirement. He further said that his method of training was to perform 5,000 'bathaks' early in the morning and then, wrestle with all his pupils. In the evening he performs 1,500 'dands' (bending and stretching exercise) after which he runs 8 miles. He says that he does not believe in massaging but simply applies oil on the day of a bout. He says he rarely gets ill. (A seer:—about 1lb.)

His Sixteen Famous Bouts

Gama then proceeded to give an account of the 16 famous fights which he had with well-known wrestlers before getting the title of Rustom-i-Hind. His greatest opponent was Rahim Saltani whom he met no less than four times and was beaten only in the last encounter, the previous three resulting in draws. He stated that his first bout was at the age of ten years, the success of which spurred him on to greater attainments. Results of other fights were:— Beat Dhaka Singh in Tikamgarh State. Beat Ghulam Muhi-ud-din in Datia before Maharaja Bhawan Singh. Beat All Sain the famous Kolhapur wrestler in Indore. Beat Gama alias Mali wala, native of Sialkote. Beat Rahim Saltani after drawing thrice. Beat Chanda Singh Jullandhar. Beat Dad of Lahore. Beat Hussain raksh of Multan in Lahore. Beat Haton Khan. Gama's last encounter with Rahim Saltani gave him the title of Rustom-i-Hind. This fight was staged

in the well-known exhibition at Allaha-bad before which Gama had travelled in Europe. Gama's second encounter with Hussain Baksh in Calcutta added to his laurels as the Governor presented him with a silver mace after his victory.

The defeat of Haton Khan also greatly added to the reputation of Gama as it was staged before H. R. H. Prince of Wales in Lahore.

(To be continued)

INDIANS BEAT EUROPEANS CRICKET MATCH AT JOHANNESBURG

AS a result of the visit of the Rev. B.L.E. Sigamoney to the Holy Trinity Church, Turfontein, where he preached on two separate occasions, a cricket match was arranged by him between the Holy Trinity Cricket Club and the Witwatersrand Indian Cricket Union.

Two bats were promised, one by Mr. Kanti and the other by Mr. Jasmat for the highest scorer and the best bowler of either teams. The match took place on Natal Spruit Ground Johannesburg on Diagaan's Day, Monday December 17. It aroused considerable interest and a good motley crowd turned out to witness the game. The Indians won on the first innings by 108 runs and also the promised bats—one going to Mr. B.B. Desai and the other to Rev. Sigamoney. The scores were as follows:—

Holy Trinity Club.—1st innings: McGregor, c and b Rev. Sigamoney, 11; Edmeston lbw, b B. B. Desai, 13; Clack, c and b B. B. Desai, 21; Aldrige, c D. Marrian, b B.B. Desai, 1; Bailey, c and b Rev. Sigamoney, 19; Stalker, c R. Padayachee, b T. Pather, 0; Buckler, b Rev. Sigamoney, 0; Cooper b Rev. Sigamoney, 6; Pearman, not out, 0; Orr, c and b Rev. Sigamoney, 50; Reid, lbw, b Rev. Sigamoney, 0; extras, 15; total 136. Bowling analysis.—Rev. Sigamoney, 10—0—36—6; T. Pather, 6—1—34—1; B. B. Desai, 12—1—34—3. Indians.—1st innings: A. W. Naidoo, b Clack, 33; L. F. Williams, b Edmeston, 0; D. Marrian, b Clack, 10; B. B. Desai, not out, 134; R. Padayachee, c and b Clack, 26; Rev. Sigamoney, b Reid, 4; S. Joseph, b Reid, 0; T. Pather, c Clack, b Reid, 4; E. A. Cachalia, b Reid, 8; D. Pavaday, b Reid, 1; D. K. Desai, b Edmeston, 0; extras, 24; total 244. Bowling.—Edmeston, 14—0—75—2; Clack, 17—0—62—3; Reid, 6—0—29—5. Holy Trinity Club.—2nd innings: McGregor, lbw, b D. K. Desai, 79; Clack, b T. Pather, 16; Edmeston, b T. Pather, 14; Aldrige, run out, 9; Reid, b Rev. Sigamoney, 24; Baily, b D. K. Desai, 5; Buckler, b D. K. Desai, 2; Stalker, lbw, b Rev. Sigamoney, 5; Cooper, not out, 14; Orr, b Rev. Sigamoney, 5; Pearman c R. Padayachee, b Rev. Sigamoney, 0; extras, 11; total, 184. Bowling.—T. Pather, 11—3—40—2 Rev. Sigamoney, 11—0—44—4; D. K. Desai, 9—0—36—3. Indians.—2nd innings: L. Williams, lbw, b Reid, 11; B. B. Desai, runout, 26; A. W. Naidoo, c Reid, b McGregor, 7; extras, 6; total (for two wickets), 51.

WITWATERSRAND INDIAN CRICKET UNION

The Witwatersrand Indian Cricket Union was founded by the Rev. B. I. E. Sigamoney. Its Secretary was Mr. Kryle, Record Clerk Mr. T. N. Naidoo, Treasurer Mr. Bhanoobhai. Many were the jeers that were meted out to the players of the following clubs who were the first to join Moonlighters, Vrededorp, and the Hindus C. C. The Union to-day boasts of six clubs and an application has been received from another Indian Club. The standard of play is improving and every year sees the youngsters making great strides. Every Sunday in the Natal Spruit Ground two matches are played and the interest is very keen indeed. Mr. D. B. Pavaday has been the Secretary of the Union for the last three years and has done yeoman service. There are three trophies for which competition takes place. The first is Ginsberg which is almost won by the Moonlighters. The second is Pather's memorial Shield by Mr. V. L. Pather of Vrededorp and the third the Mayor's Cup.—Contributed.

POET'S CORNER.

THE SALOON BAR

'A Bar to Heaven, a Door to Hell.
Whoever named it, named it well!
A Bar to Manliness and Wealth,
A Door to Want and broken Health;
A Bar to Honor, Pride and Fame,
A Door to Sin and Grief and Shame.
A Bar to Hope, a Bar to Prayer,
A Door to Darkness and Despair;
A Bar to honoured, useful Life,
A Door to brawling, senseless Strife.
A Bar to all that's true and brave,
A Door to every drunkard's grave;
A Bar to Joy that home imparts,
A Door to tears and aching hearts.
A Bar to Heaven, a Door to Hell.
Whoever named it, named it well!'

THE INDUSTRIAL LEGISLATION COMMISSION

CONGRESS MEMORANDUM

(Continued from last week)

WE would now draw attention to sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Wage Act, which enumerates the factors that the Wage Board shall take the consideration in framing its recommendation. These factors include "the cost of living in any area or areas... under consideration." If we are to be relegated to inferior localities, where we cannot hope to attract the best custom, where a comparatively low standard of living is observed, and where we are at a disadvantage as compared with those of our competitors who have access to the best neighbourhoods, we would ask the Wage Board to bear in mind this distinction between localities and to embody a similar distinction in its recommendations. To fix a general minimum is to assume an equality of conditions which does not in fact exist. We feel in short that if there is to be an inferior locality, the rates of wages required to be paid therein should be on a lower scale than in the best localities from which we are excluded. Alternatively, we would ask that the proportion of qualified to unqualified male employees should be reduced. This is not asking for a concession but for acknowledgement of an established distinction, not sought after by but imposed upon Indians; and we suggest that the Wage Act as it stands authorises the Wage Board to take this distinction into consideration.

2. The extent to which wage determinations and agreements under these Acts are evaded and the effects of such evasion (a) on employers acting in accordance with the spirit of such legislation; and (b) on the workers.

The only observation we desire to make under this head is with reference to the statement of the Durban Chamber of Commerce that there has been a great deal of evasion on the part of Indian employers. Possibly this statement arises from the fact that inspection by officials of the Labour Department has been concentrated on Indian concerns. But however that may be, we do not admit that there has been any more evasion by Indians than by others. We deprecate evasion, but, we would ask the commission to remember the unequal conditions under which Indians have to compete because of their relegation to inferior localities. If legislation causes hardship attempts at self-protection are almost inevitable. It is not irrelevant in this connection to point out that applications from Indians for exemption from wage rates under section 10 of the Wage Act have been uniformly refused.

3. The effect (a) of fixing lower wages for women than men; (b) of

laying down ratios between different classes of employees both male and female.

In our opinion the fixation of lower wages for women should be continued because a women's potential value as an employee is less than that of a man. A man morally remains in the same trade or occupation and his value increases as time adds to his experience; but a women's progress in the acquisition of experience is ordinarily limited by marriage. Secondly, a man usually has a wife and children to support, or looks forward to being in that position; whereas this is not generally so with a woman.

We suggest further that in the commercial distributive trade the qualification period for a women should be five years, and for a man seven years; and that the ratio of unqualified to qualified employees should be, in the case of females, one to one, and in the case of males, two to one with power to local inspectors to increase it as circumstances may warrant.

4. The comparative wages fixed determination under the Wage Act for similar classes of work in different occupation.

(a) The effect upon employment of the operation of the Apprenticeship Act, and the extent to which apprentices on completion of their indentures have become absorbed as journeymen.

(b) The desirability of fixing ratios of apprentices to journeymen.

The Apprenticeship Act has conferred no benefit on Indians. The number of Indian apprentices has declined since the Act was passed into law, and the number of Indian journeymen has decreased correspondingly. This is partly because of the lack of educational facilities to which we have referred, and partly because, with a few exceptions in the furniture and printing industries, Indian applicants have been refused. These refusals may have been due to racial prejudice, or to the very absence of educational facilities which we deplore. We are however unable to give details because the Divisional Labour Inspector's Office, Durban refused to supply us with the information for which we asked in the following form;—

- (a) Number of applications.
- (b) Number of refusals.
- (c) Reasons for refusal.

We strongly recommend that there should be a right of appeal to higher authority if an Indian applicant is refused registration as an apprentice, and that adequate provision for Indian technical education should be made.

We have no comment to offer on the desirability of fixing ratios of apprentices to journeymen because the question is without practical significance to us in view of the small number of Indian apprentices.

5. "The adequacy of present wage rates (a) for unskilled labourers (b) for semi-skilled workers; and the desirability of fixing minimum wage rates for such workers"

6. "The disparity between wage levels of skilled workers and those of labourers and persons in semi-skilled occupations."

We propose to deal with these two heads together. We have already indicated, in our remarks under the first term of reference, that in our view the operation of the Wage and Industrial Conciliation Acts has forced up wages at the top, with as a corollary some economy in the employment of skilled labour. This has increased still further the already marked disparity between the wage levels of skilled workers and those of labourers and semi-skilled men. Among Indians in Natal rates of wages are as follows:—

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Labourers; e.g., municipal and railway employees, domestic servants and gardeners. | { 30/- to 50/- per month plus rations (valued at 12/-) & free quarters (valued at 6/-); total, 48/- to 68/- per month. |
| (b) Semi-skilled; e.g. waiters, clerks, laundrymen, bakers' assistants, tea and coffee packers. | |
| (c) Skilled e.g. Printing, journeymen, bakers, bricklayers, carpenters, shop assistants, leatherworkers and tailors. | { From £15 to £25 per month. |

In our view the disparity between skilled and unskilled wages requires correction. We have already indicated our opinion that the possibility of wage regulation at the bottom should be considered, subject to its not being operated to the disadvantage of Indians.

(Concluded)

South African Indian Congress

All constituent Bodies please take notice that the Annual Conference of the South African Indian Congress will be held at Durban on the 19th and 20th days of January 1935.

Agenda—

1. Transvaal Land Tenure Act.
2. Colonisation Enquiry Report.
3. Slums Act-Housing.
4. Entry of Condonees wives and children.
5. Labour Legislation.
6. Election of Officials.
7. General.

A. I. KAJEE & S. R. NAIDOO.
Joint Hon. Secretaries

OUR READERS' VIEWS

EXIT 1934

THE year 1934 will end in a few days. Your readers who were fortunate enough to make hay while its sun shone will regret its departure and its disappearance, with grave foreboding for the coming of 1935. On the other hand the majority of your readers to whom this year was not what they expected it to be, will be happy on its retreat shouting all the curses and wishing that it might never return again. They would most decidedly be on tip-toes to welcome the new year believing that it will bring all that they wish for a period of twelve months Human nature being the same all the world over it is but natural that they should hope for the best. The Indian community during 1934 made no advances forward not because it did not want to, but because an opportunity did not present itself. There were no signs of improvement in their position. It was from the very beginning an unequal fight putting them always on the defence with no openings to establish themselves as citizens of the state they live in. They saw no silver linings in the clouds, nor heard any whispers from the high and mighty for the amelioration of their conditions in the country of their birth and adoption. 1934 indeed was a gloomy year for them. Internally they were divided, externally they were not recognised. Need there be any doubt why they are happy at the exist of 1934. They, like others, wish that the coming year will usher all the good tidings one could wish, for the betterment and general upliftment of the community. I also join in wishing each of them a bright and happy new year.

BHUSSMASOOR

WHO WILL BELL THE CAT?

Having read the contribution by "Bhussmasoor" under the above heading I am entirely in accord with his views that something ought to be done to fortify the position of the Indians in this country. Having been born and lived in this country for nearly 50 years, I feel grieved to note the division which is widening daily to our detriment. I suggest let there be a preliminary chat at a round table between the following with an object of coming to some agreement either for a colition or fusion. Let there be a give and take in their attitude and let them forget their personal "self" for the time being. I suggest the following persons but the leaders of their respective parties could change or substitute any names which they may consider suitable.

Messrs. S. Rustmjee, A. Christopher, B. M. Patel, M. M. Gandhi, V. S. C. Pather, P. R. Pather, B. Daya, S. L. Singh, A. I. Ksjee, C. N. M. Khan, J. W. Godfrey, M. B. Maharaj, S. R. Naidoo,

and Dr. Peters.

I hope "Bhussmasoor" will continue to give his suggestions and not allow the good move to die in despair of who will bell the cat?

A MEMBER OF THE OLD BRIGADE

PANDIT MEHTA JAIMINI ATTACKED

There is an article of over two columns in the Shri Venkateswar Samachar under the name of J. Maganlal, Secretary, Yuvnk Sabha, Sea Cow Lake, Durban. The whole article is an attack on the Panditji and his secretary, Shri Bharati, for publishing reports in the "Arya Mitra" without paying any heed to facts and

figures. Indeed it accuses them for misrepresenting and distorting facts. With what object, it is written may be inferred from the fact that the writer is J. Maganlal but the spirit and language is of some guiding hand behind the purdah. It is in short of bad taste and does not redound to the credit of its author. We wonder what the S. A. H. Maha Sabha will have to say whose guests the Pandit and his secretary were in the Union. Apparently it would seem to appear as if this is a case of two bulls in the same kraal etc. and who do not believe in the policy of live and let live on account of the dazzling maya of this Material world.

SHEIK CHILLIE.

THINGS IN GENERAL

No 1934 Sovereigns Minted

THERE was no gold coinage in 1934 struck by the Royal Mint in London or its branches in South Africa or Australia, according to the report of the Comptroller, for it would cost £1.11s. 8d. to make a sovereign. With the world production of gold for 1933 nearly 25,000,000oz., 16,500,000oz. came from the Empire including 11,000,000oz. from South Africa, 3,000,000 from Canada and 640,000 from Southern Rhodesia. Empire production declined compared with 1932. Russia and the United States produced over 2,000,000oz. each.

How The Powers Prepare

The armament racket goes on apace despite all the warnings and appeals. The last generation before the Great War used to exclaim at the millions allocated each year on supporting armies and navies, but the expenditure of the nations in 1914 was very small compared with the estimates of the big Powers for next year. The figures below compiled from material contained in foreign Office reports are staggering—and all in the name of national security!

	1914	1934
	£	£
Great Britain ...	173,644,000	117,198,000
France	23,091,000	145,229,303
Italy	15,774,300	77,096,600
Japan	11,554,032	56,565,952
Russia	155,510,375	312,378,750
Germany	154,349,196	71,678,964
United States ...	48,920,000	142,300,000
	£479,244,903	922,147,166

First Indian Member Of The London Borough Council

Dr. C. I. Katil (Labour) captured a seat in Finsbury where the Labourites have 37 gains and secured control. It is believed Dr. Katil is the first Indian member of the London Borough Council.

Duke of Kent's Allowance

The Duke of Kent's allowance will be increased from £10,000 a year to £25,000 a year, now that he is married. The increase is made automatically under the Civil List Act. The Act allows each of the King's younger sons £10,000 a year while they remain bachelors and another £15,000 on marriage. Mr. Maxton in the House of Commons in mail week (before the wedding) asked the Prime Minister if he could state when the House would have an opportunity to discuss this increase of allowance to the Duke of Kent. Mr. MacDonald said that as it was authorised by the Civil List Act it would not come up for discussion or approval by the Honor.

USEFUL HINTS

CELERY SEED FOR RHEUMATISM

This old remedy has stood the test of time and the more strenuous test of competition against the thousands of synthetic cures for rheumatism to be obtained now-a-days in the chemists' shops. At one time only the herbalists sold it; now you can obtain it at any chemist's and the seed merchants also stock it. The curative properties of celery are present in the seed in concentrated form so that a decoction of the seed is much better and handier than the fresh vegetable. You would quickly get tired of eating celery twice a day, but you would not mind a tablespoon of juice.

THE DECOCTION

Celery seed is sold in packets sufficient to make one pint of medicine. Empty the contents of the packet into a vessel with one quart of water and boil until it is reduced to a pint. Strain through fine muslin and bottle. Take one tablespoonful in the morning fasting, and another at bedtime, and, if you really want to clear all the acids cut of the system, keep this up for three months.