

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 37.—Vol. XXXV.

Friday, September 10th, 1937.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

Policy Of Separation

SPEAKING on slums at a meeting of the Turffontein Ratepayers Association, Mr. Lionel Leveson, chairman of the Public Health Committee of the Johannesburg City Council, is reported to have said, slum conditions generally were produced by the mixture of colours and classes, and the Public Health Committee was going forward with a policy of separation. Indian housing was, he said, the biggest problem. The Indians were a race, part of which had traditions perhaps older than the Europeans, and yet a race, which, in the main, was very difficult to deal with. The Council had agreed to purchase Claremont, had asked the Indians to go there and had offered to ask the Government that the Indians should have freehold tenure there, in the Malay location and later, if necessary, in the whole of the western area.

We are at pains to know in what way Mr. Leveson thinks Indians are difficult to deal with. Distinguished Union statesmen have stated at Imperial Conferences that Indians were a peaceful and law-abiding community. Practically all the police reports before the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission, which dealt exhaustively with the question of Asiatics in the Transvaal, have testified to the fact that Indians were peaceful and law-abiding and the easiest to deal with. Indians, of course, resent the Public Health Committee's policy of separation and if they are found in that respect to be difficult to deal with, well, we can only say, we are sorry.

Indian Passengers On The S. A. R.

We reproduce elsewhere from *The Star* (Johannesburg), a letter by an Indian, regarding the conditions of Indian passengers travelling first and second class on the S. A. Railways. We have reproduced the letter because it reflects a true position as it exists today. The point that we would like to lay stress upon is, that there should be an additional number of second class compartments so that clean and respectable passengers may not be huddled up with unclean passengers irrespective of whatever race they may belong to. Further, that first and second class coaches should be kept

separate so that first class passengers may have the accommodation and the comfort for which they pay. Under the present conditions passengers pay first class fares but, apart from a separate compartment, adjoining the second class compartment, they are positively given no comfort or accommodation for which they are made to pay. These are matters which the Railway Authorities can well look into, and it requires only a little consideration and attention, and not much expense, to make travelling over long journeys more comfortable for non-Europeans who, it should be remembered, pay fares equally with the Europeans.

"An Unfortunate Occurrence"

The Star (Johannesburg), under the above caption, makes the following comment on the recent police raid in the Germiston Asiatic Bazaar, which resulted in the arrest of some coloured women lawfully married to Indians, for having been found there contrary to Bazaar regulations framed by the Municipality, and subsequently in the Magistrate finding those regulations to be *ultra vires* and holding the arrested women to be innocent of any offence and their arrest unjustified:

"The indignation of the Indian community at this summary invasion of the privacy of their homes can well be understood. When Dr. Malan, as Minister of the Interior, was laying before Parliament the terms of the Capetown Agreement of 1927 he said:

"The Union Government recognise that Indians domiciled in the Union, who are prepared to conform to Western standards of life, should be enabled to do so."

This we have understood to be the settled and permanent policy of the Union Government, but it is difficult to reconcile this highly commendable attitude with the action of the police authorities on the occasion in question, and it is easy, therefore, to understand the feelings of the Indian community. This is not the first time the Germiston Bazaar has been raided, but it is to be hoped that the incident will not be repeated."

Whilst we do not wish to cast any reflection on those of our brethren

who have married Coloured women or to discuss here the merits or demerits of such marriages, we would like to warn our brethren generally against being under the misapprehension that conforming to the Western standards of life consists in such mixed marriages. There is always the good and the bad side in both the Western and the Eastern standards of life and our brethren should use their judgment in discerning which is the bad and which is the good and to try always to copy the good and discard the bad.

Advocate Millin K.C., Appointed

Judge

Mr. Phillip Millin, K.C., has been appointed a Judge of the Transvaal Supreme Court. Mr. Millin had become as popular among Indians as was Dr. F. E. T. Krause before he ascended to the Judgeship. He was so well versed in Immigration matters and in matters dealing with the Indian question generally that his absence at the Bar will be much felt by the Indian community. But his loss to the Bar will be a distinct gain to the Bench. We heartily congratulate Mr. Justice Millin and sincerely trust that his record in dealing out justice to the voiceless people of this country will be as good as that of Mr. Justice Krause.

Mr. Justice Krause On India

Mr. Justice F. E. T. Krause, who has returned last week from a trip round the world, gave his impressions to a Press representative at Capetown. Referring to his visit to India Mr. Justice Krause said: "In India the main thing that strikes a visitor from South Africa is the poverty and illiteracy of the lower classes. Although much has been done to better their lot, much will have to be undertaken to uplift them from their present state. Unfortunately my friend, Mr. Gandhi, was absent, but I was able to correspond with him and obtain his views on the political situation."

Government's Policy

Another £5,000,000 will be made available by the Government next year for housing, both in urban and rural areas, said General Hertzog when speaking at a banquet given in his honour by the Town Council of Zastron last week. It was the Government's policy he said, to ensure that every man, woman and child in this country had sufficient to eat and adequate housing, clothing and medical attention.

It is to be hoped that the Government will stick to both the letter and the

spirit of this assurance and not exclude the non-Whites.

New Principal Immigration Officer**For Durban**

Mr. James L. Conway, the Principal Immigration Officer at Capetown, who had been temporarily holding that post in Durban for the last six weeks, returned to Capetown last week. Mr. H. Geakie has been permanently appointed to the post. Mr. Geakie comes from the Pretoria office of the Immigration Department.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1937

Political Rights For Asiatics

ASIATICS in the Union have been crying for political rights all these years but they have been deprived of even what they possessed in a limited scale. For instance in Natal originally they possessed both the Parliamentary as well as the Municipal vote. They were first deprived of the Parliamentary vote and then they lost the Municipal vote. There are a few Asiatics on the Municipal Voters' roll who will gradually die out. In the Transvaal and Orange Free State Asiatics were never given the vote and in the Cape they still possess the vote with certain qualifications.

The Agent-General for India has pleaded for political franchise for Indians and has shown an inclination to accept it however qualified it may be.

In view of the passing of the Representation of Natives Act of 1936 which gave to the Natives of all four Provinces of South Africa a kind of a direct representation in Parliament, *The Star* (Johannesburg), has expressed the opinion that the position of the coloured community of South Africa should not be left undefined. Dealing at length, in the course of a leading article, with the history of the franchise in South Africa, the paper summarises the position as follows:

"Every European male and female of adult age possesses the franchise without the necessity for any further qualification; every male native in some form or other, whether directly or indirectly, is represented either in the House of Assembly or the Senate. No coloured or Indian male or female possesses any political rights whatsoever in the three northern Provinces of the Union; in the

Cape the vote is restricted to coloured (including Indian) males, who must conform to certain requirements before they can be qualified." Our contemporary then goes on to say that "the Government, having settled the question of Native and European representation, should lose no time in the next Parliament in tackling the question of Coloured rights. That an educated and civilised Coloured man or Indian should be entirely without any form of political representation in a country which calls itself a democracy is a state of affairs which no one can pretend to justify."

While we appreciate this sincere gesture of goodwill on the part of our contemporary, we must admit quite frankly that we are adverse to this policy of segregation and this scourge of untouchability which, while it is being fast eradicated in India, it is beginning to take deep root in South Africa. The position of the Indian in South Africa should be judged in the light of progress made in India during recent years. If India and the Indian nation counts as something in the Commonwealth of Nations the nationals of India should at least be given a place in keeping with the dignity and honour of that country. It is that and nothing more nor less that we are fighting for in this country.

As for the qualified franchise just given to Natives we are very doubtful if that will work satisfactorily. It would, however, not be wrong before taking the same step in regard to Indians, to wait and see how the Natives fare under it.

The Next War—Or This War!

AFTER what is happening in China and Spain and now the Mediterranean one can hardly have the heart still to say that there is going to be no war in our time. In this connection we cannot do better than to quote the following Editorial note from *Unity* under the above caption:

"It is becoming tragically apparent that talk about 'the next war' is out of date. For 'the next war' is here, is it not? What more of a war could one ask than the Spanish war, which is a European war in all but name. Spain itself is only the chance battlefield of this war, as Belgium was for a time the chance battlefield of the last war. Locked in this fierce and hideously destructive struggle are Germany, Italy, and Russia actively engaged, with England, France, and Portugal more or less concerned. The one question left in this war pertains to the problem as to whether the fighting can be confined to Spanish territory. As though this struggle were not enough, we now have the war in China, which has brought Japan to the gates of Peiping. This also is a full-fledged international contest of arms, with millions of troops engaged, hundreds of bombing planes, and all the dreadful paraphernalia of modern fighting. If we do not recognize these wars as *war*, or 'the next war,' it is only because no war has been declared, but fighting has just spontaneously broken out, as rain falls from the skies. *But*—wars are not declared any more! This is one of the most important facts for us to note in the world to day. There was a time when nations gave due notice of their intention to resort to arms, as a medieval knight threw down his gauntlet or touched his opponent's shield with the point of his lance. But this was a gesture of chivalry, which is no longer recognized in our more advanced stage of Christian civilization. As every other rule or restriction of so called civilized warfare has in our time gone by the board, so is this formal practice of warning the enemy of your intention to destroy him and thus giving him due opportunity to defend himself. In our day the first warning is the attack itself, made terrible and perhaps decisive by the awful potency of modern weapons. So we need not ask ourselves further the uneasy question as to whether 'the next war' is coming. Already it has come. It is here. The present issue is how long it is to continue, how far it is to range, and how much destruction it is to do."

GANDHI LIBRARY AND RUSTOMJEE HALL

SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

THE celebration of the sixteenth anniversary of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall, and the sixteenth annual general meeting took place on Monday, September 6, at 7-30 p.m. in the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, 140 Queen Street, Durban. The Mayor and Mayoress and the Chief Magistrate were present. Mr. Wm. Doull, Secretary of the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust, which is rendering all the financial aid to this institution, was absent owing to ill-health and was represented by his son young Mr. A. Doull. Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri, who was in the chair, in his opening remarks, thanked the Mayor and Mayoress and the Chief Magistrate for having graced the function with their presence and honoured them with garlands and bouquets. He spoke of the useful purpose the Library and Hall were serving to the Indian community and referred in eulogistic terms to the donor of the institution, the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee. He also congratulated the Parsee community who were celebrating their New Year on that day and wished them every happiness and prosperity.

Secretary's Report

The secretary, Mr. S. J. Randeria, then read the minutes of the last annual general meeting which, having been adopted, he submitted his report for the year ended 31st August 1937. He said, the attendance of the public at the library for the year under review was 76,250, which showed a decrease of 4,174 on that of the previous year, the average attendance being 209 per day as against 219 per day for the previous year. The above total included the attendance of students from the various schools which was 12,883 or an average of 35 per day, which showed a decrease of 66 on that of the previous year.

The library was taken advantage of by Europeans 75, Coloureds 907 and Natives 882. Although this library was established especially for the Indian community, said the secretary, others are made welcome as visitors.

The chairman of the Inter-Departmental Library Committee Mr. Richard B. Young and Messrs. A. C. G. Lloyd, Alexander Reid, Harold Voss and S. J. Kritzing (members), called at this library, on April 2, 1937, accompanied by Mr. Rooke, the City Librarian, and were greatly pleased on hearing that the library is free and conducted by income from the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust through the magnificent gift of the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee.

Several distinguished Indians and Europeans coming to the Union from overseas visited the library during the year.

There were 6,141 books in the library for the use of the public including 2,990 English, 1,725 Gujarati, 755 Hindi, 386 Tamil, 61 Telugu, and 224 Urdu.

An addition of several books suitable for teachers and students had been made and the secretary of the library committee expressed the hope that full advantage of them would be taken.

There were 124 periodicals and newspapers (including dailies, weeklies and monthlies) in the following languages, viz: English 66, Gujarati 36, Hindi 10, Tamil 7, Telugu 2, Urdu 3, and these included papers suitable for teachers, students and physical culturists.

There were 1,659 English, 354 Gujarati, 269 Hindi, 253 Tamil, 30 Telugu and 8 Urdu, making a total of 2,570 books issued for reading in the library during the year, which showed a decrease of 1,221 on those issued during the previous year.

The sum of £283 2s. 4d. had been spent during the year by the library committee which was provided with necessary funds for the upkeep of the library by the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust.

The Parsee Rustomjee Hall was used by public bodies on 49 occasions during the year for meetings, conferences, lectures and receptions.

The committee thanked the various publishers who supplied the library with free copies of their papers during the year.

Mr P. B. Singh, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the fall in number of the attendance in the library and said that, that was probably due to the fact that the library was, as a rule, made use of more during the evenings and people living in the districts usually came into town during the business hours during the day and went to their respective homes in the evening. He, therefore, suggested that the City Council should provide libraries in the various districts for the use of the public and appealed to the Mayor, Mr. Fleming Johnston, to use his good influences in this matter.

Mr. Tootla, in seconding the motion, said the library was serving a very useful purpose to the community, and being a regular visitor to the library, he was treated with equality and no distinction whatever was made between class or creed.

Other Speeches

The Mayor said that he did not attach much importance to the fall in the attendance which may be due not to the lack of interest in the library but to other unknown reasons. He praised

the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee and said his simple and energetic life was not only an example to the Indian community but also to the European community. Referring to Mr. P. B. Singh's suggestion he made a proposal for the consideration of the library committee that they should inaugurate a travelling library for the districts and see what response they would get.

The Chief Magistrate paid a high tribute to the Indian community for possessing such a useful institution donated to them by one of their compatriots. He said the Mayor had thrown out a useful suggestion of having a travelling library, but that involved the question of £. s. d. and it might have been better if the Mayor went a step further and promised to supply free conveyance for the purpose. This was received with loud applause.

Mr. A. I. Kajee, as usual, complained that the library was not made a lending library and ran down the present Trustees and members of the library committee who, he maintained, were all spent force, and suggested that the control should be handed to the younger generation.

Among the other speakers were Messrs. E. H. Ismail, C. T. Poonater, Swami Bhawani Dayal, Sorabjee Rustomjee, Manilal Gandhi, A. H. Kazee, V. Lawrence and others, most of whom expressed their disagreement with Mr. Kajee's views and said that, had it not been for the balance-headed men who were in control of the institution, it would not have seen fifteen years of useful service. This beating of a dead horse had gone on for several years now by Mr. Kajee, said Mr. Rustomjee, but how was it that none of the younger generation had taken the initiative of starting a lending library. Mr. Manilal Gandhi said the institution was the only living institution the community had, and it was the only one of its kind which, though donated by a member of the smallest community in the Union, yet the whole community could call it their own. He said it was most unfortunate that in a population of two hundred thousand they had only one institution to nurture as their pet child. They should have many such institutions and it was time that they tried to emulate the noble example of the late donor than to criticise the work already done and which was being done.

Mr. V. S. C. Pather, in moving a vote of thanks to the European guests, announced that the committee had spent £50 this year in adding new books to

the library. Speaking on the suggestion put by the Mayor of having a travelling library for the benefit of the people in the districts, and the Chief Magistrate's suggestion that the City Council should

provide free conveyance for the purpose, he said that what was really wanted by the people in the outside districts and which would be much appreciated was the provision of better roads and lights.

All the speakers wished the Parsee community every happiness and prosperity in their New Year.

The function terminated at 10 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the chair.

SPAIN'S YEAR OF AGONY

A REVIEW OF THE CIVIL WAR

A YEAR ago, General Franco, with most of the officers caste behind him, rose in rebellion against the Spanish Republic. Three days earlier, a squadron of the Italian airmen received their orders from Mussolini to fly to his assistance.

In retrospect, no one doubts that Franco's rebellion was planned in Rome and Berlin. It is equally certain that it would have been crushed some months ago had not the Fascists Powers supplied him with troops, munitions and a formidable aerial armada.

He has, of course, wholehearted backing from the upper strata of Spanish society—the feudal landed gentry, their younger sons in the army, the Church, and the bankers. But from this upper class no sufficient army can be recruited.

One good source of cannon-fodder he has that is genuinely Spanish—the old-world Carlist Volunteers known as Requetes, who believe in the monarchy, the Church and a set of ideas already old-fashioned in the seventeenth century.

They have fought well and so have his Moors and the mercenaries of his Foreign Legion.

For the rest, it is his German and Italian airmen and tank crews who have won his successes for him.

Franco's Gains

This war moves slowly. The Spanish landscape was not designed for easy conquests. One must have seen those towering sierras, rank upon rank of them, to understand the advantages of the defence.

Spain is not one theatre of war but a dozen, so isolated, so nearly impregnable, that the loss of one of them settles little or nothing in the general problem.

Franco, though few consider him an able soldier, can boast a long series of successes. He swept up with ease from Seville to the suburbs of Madrid. He was able to consolidate his hold on the Southern and Western provinces the richest sources of food.

San Sebastian and Irun, on the Biscay coast, were gallantly defended by half-

armed and untrained volunteers, but all they could do was to delay his advance. The Italians took Malaga for him, an easy conquest.

Bilbao defended its soil mile by mile with obstinate gallantry, but it was crushed, with no means of reply, by mass attack from the air.

The Republic, it may be said, has no comparable successes to show. None

B. W. CANEY

—Jeweller—

366 West Street, Durban

For best value in Jewellery & Watches of all makes. 117b

of its sieges proper. It cannot take Huesca, or the threatening salient that ends at the frowning cliffs of Teruel.

The Austrian miners flung their lives away with reckless gallantry before Oviedo, but its Fascist garrison still holds the key positions.

One spectacular victory the Republic gained when it routed an Italian army at Guadalajara, but even here it made no big advance.

It has won ground in very difficult country in its intermittent advance towards Cordova. Its big achievement has been the superb defence of Madrid: here, painfully and slowly, it is recovering lost ground towards the west.

Saving The Republic

But such a survey gives a mistaken impression of the Republic's growing strength. A year ago it was caught by surprise without an army. Its Liberal Ministry was utterly inadequate to the task that fell to it.

Fighting for its life, first in the mountains round Madrid, and then at

its very doors, the republic has contrived to raise and train a disciplined army, and to construct a Government that represents a People's Front.

The telegrams tell us day by day something about the fighting in the trenches on the Madrid front, or again of an air raid over Valencia. The real news is never printed and cannot be printed.

It would tell us how youngsters from the village are being formed into soldiers, while elsewhere picked volunteers, who fought in the ranks in the early days, are trained as officers.

It would describe the efforts of the workers to make the munition, the lorries and even the aeroplanes that the Republic may not buy abroad. It would recount the long struggle that has ended at last in the creation of a single command.

This army, so painfully formed out of nothing, cannot yet launch a sweeping offensive. But it holds the Eastern half of Spain securely, and it is gaining the cohesion and confidence that mean success at a later date.

Time is on the Republic's side, if this war could be fought out between Spaniards.

New Control Plan

Of that, what chances are there? After a year of sham non-intervention, the British Government has evolved a new scheme that calls for close scrutiny.

The naval patrols will disappear and observers in the Spanish ports will take the place of warships. These ships prevented the arrival neither of arms nor of men for Franco's side. The arms were carried in steamers that flew the flags of States outside the scheme. That will still go on.

For Franco, also, and only for him, military planes flew almost daily from Geneva by way of Majorca. It is a small step in advance that it is proposed, not, indeed, to station observers in Spanish aerodromes, but to examine the possibility of so stationing them.

What chiefly concerns us is, however, that the British Government proposes under certain conditions to recognise Franco's belligerent rights. That is to put him, more openly than before, on a level with the lawful Government.

Apart from the question of principle involved, this proposal promises him a heavy material advantage. It would authorise him to declare a blockade of the Republic's coasts, and this, if we may judge by his conduct while Bilbao was fighting for its life, Mr. Eden would be prompt to recognise.

In that event no British or other foreign ship, however innocent her cargo, could reach a Republican port. This is a device plainly intended to starve out the Republic. It must import petrol, and it must import wheat.

Will Volunteers Go?

Happily, there are conditions. Franco's belligerent rights will be recog-

nised only when substantial progress has been made in the withdrawal of the foreign troops and volunteers.

That is a dangerously vague phrase. Does it mean what it ought to mean—the actual departure of, let us say, two-thirds of the Italian and German troops? For does anyone seriously believe that either Hitler or Mussolini or Franco himself is prepared for such a step?

I suspect a much more sinister meaning. "You have," says Mr. Eden, in effect, to Franco, "one immense advantage over the Republic. You have your German and Italian flying men, tank crews and artillery, with an Italian army of perhaps 80,000 men. I don't ask you to send them all home. Send some of them back."

"The choice lies, of course, with you. Send back the Italian infantry who have not covered themselves with glory.

But you can keep the flying men and the gunners, who do know their job.

"Then, for this slight sacrifice, you shall have another decisive advantage. You shall have the right to starve Madrid of bread, and to deprive your enemy's army of oil."

That, or something like it, may lurk beneath the vague phrases of this "compromise" scheme.

It is just conceivable that Franco may be clever enough to use the opportunity that Mr. Eden offers him. The chances are, however, that this scheme will lead only to talk. There never was in that London Committee the faintest intention of making non-intervention a reality. Its whole purpose was to keep up the farce of more or less amicable discussion while Franco used the resources that the dictators had lavished on him. It will continue to talk.

THE RACIAL PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA

The following letter by Mr. Hy. S. L. Polak, Hon. Secretary, Indian Overseas Association, appears in the Quaker weekly journal, *The Friend*, dated August 20:—

SIR,—Mr. Laurence F. Addis-Smith shows incidentally in his letter in your last issue that among those affected by the prevalent racial prejudice in South Africa is the Indian population, of whom 80 per cent. are South African born.

It was on their disabilities and the perils that constantly threaten them, creating among them a sense of insecurity and inferiority, that Sir Syed Raza Ali, the Agent-General of the Government of India in the Union, recently addressed the Indo-European Joint Council in Durban.

He showed how the South African Indian community has continually to be on guard, not only against anti-Indian legislation deliberately framed with a view to impose fresh disabilities upon them, but also against apparently innocuous measures having for their purpose the improvement of the social and economic condition of the Whites. He pointed out, by reference to no less than nine Bills of this character dealt with in the recent session of the Union Parliament, that further burdens would have been imposed upon the Indians

but for special representations made by him officially and by the Indian leaders. He declared that, "while it is not right on the part of my countrymen to suspect the motives of the Union Government with regard to every legislative measure brought forward by it, the fact remains that owing to the subjection of the Indians to disabilities, straightforward measures.....unfortunately add to their disabilities unless special provision is made for safeguarding their rights."

The Agent-General analysed the situation thus: "The tragedy in this country is that the Government does not rest contented with the subjection of Indians to political disabilities. Efforts are made in every social legislative measure to put various communities in the Union into water-tight compartments on the basis of colour. This may, in the eyes of those who believe in the colour-bar, be justified in the case of political enactments. But life becomes intolerable when these racial disabilities are introduced in the region of social legislation.....Political discrimination has the effect of classifying the South African population into divisions. If to these is added economic discrimination on the basis of colour, the country will be having cross divisions which would make the position hopeless."

Sir Raza Ali did not rest content with denouncing the evil. He pointed out that its economic and social consequences upon the European standards were bound to be serious and that, in fact, there could not, in the long run, be two economic standards, the White superior and the non-White inferior. So far as the Indians were concerned, he suggested the remedy of the franchise which, unlike their countrymen in India, they are denied, both politically and municipally, except for the small number resident in the Cape Province.

In an editorial comment, the *Natal Witness* strongly supported both the views and the solution propounded by the Agent-General. "The political disabilities of the Indians," says the paper, "will be remedied when they become of such serious economic moment for the European community as to threaten the general social structure."—Yours sincerely, HY. S. L. POLAK, Hon. Secretary, Indians Overseas Association, 265, Strand, W.C.2.

Answers To Correspondents

"INDIAN TEACHER."—Your letter is too personal and therefore cannot be published.—Ed. I.O.

INDIANS ON S. A. R.

SOME CONDITIONS DESCRIBED

Above the nom-de-plume, "Ex-student of London University," an Indian writes the following letter in *The Star*, (Johannesburg):—

S R,—I have been keenly following all that has been written in *The Star* regarding second-class travelling on the S.A.R., and while having no desire to join my name in this controversy, I ask that as an Indian you will allow the privilege accorded to all sections of your readers and permit me to describe some of the conditions existing on our railways in regard to the conditions for this class of passengers, and of which the public rarely hears anything. The Indians form a small section of, compared to the Europeans and natives, users of the railways, and as a regular user of the service and travelling extensively by second class, especially between Johannesburg and Durban and vice versa, I can honestly assert from experience that the provisions existing for this class of people on our railways are far from satisfactory. The segrega-

tion coaches, which the Indians along with the natives and coloureds, and all the rest of the nationalities that come under the heading of non-Europeans, are compelled by law to use, are mostly the saloons no longer fit for use for European passengers, and in almost every trip attached next to the engine, so that coal dust, pieces of coal, etc., freely blow inside the compartments.

Apart from being situated in a more advantageous position, the Europeans' saloons are of the latest makes, and covered with glass doors that lead from the outside into the corridors. The segregated compartments contain both first and second-class compartments side by side adjoining each other, and first-class passengers are not only compelled to use the same lavatory basins and towels, which one seldom finds in clean condition, but, unlike European first-class passengers, they have no privacy from second class passengers. Visits from stewards are far and few between, while coloureds of the worst types, evil-

smelling natives direct from their kraals in some cases, Chinese, Malays, are all huddled up in the same compartments with Indians. A fair percentage of the Indians that use the railways are of the better type, and they are certainly entitled to much better treatment than they get from the Administration. A respectable Indian is not allowed to travel in a compartment by himself next to a European, but the authority thinks nothing of putting the same, Indian with evil-smelling natives in side-by-side compartments.

Although I have no complaints against the staff generally, having travelled extensively by train almost the whole world over, I consider that the service existing for the Indian users of the railways in this country is far from satisfactory after all due allowance is made. I have written repeatedly to the department concerned suggesting improvements, but without avail.

India Letter

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

The Women's Fellowship Of Service

THE Women's Fellowship of Service which is under the control and guidance of the Council of the Servants of India Society, celebrated its anniversary when Rani Rajwade delivered an instructive address on the role destined for women in the public life of the country. The Fellowship was started last year at the urgent insistence of Miss Godavari Gokhale and Miss Shantabhai Bhalerao, who decided to dedicate their lives to the service of the country. The Fellowship is modelled on the Servants of India Society pattern. Its members solemnly abjure the pursuit of vocations for personal gain and agree to accept a meagre monthly stipend from the Fellowship. In its general outlook on politics and the social life of the country, the Fellowship is akin to the Servants of India Society. "It is hardly necessary at this time of the day, writes *The Hitavada*, to stress the usefulness of, and the need for an organisation of this kind in our country. Women are, if feminists would permit us to say so, still the unbranded Harijans of the home. They have become conscious of their rights and potentialities only recently but this consciousness touches

only the fringe of the female population. It is only the women dwellers of the city who are vocal. The women on the countryside have still to shake off the cobwebs of superstition and ignorance and the dead hand of time-worn custom." Miss Gokhale and Miss Bhalerao, in the short time they have been working as members of the Fellowship, have applied themselves with a religious earnestness of purpose to the removal of the obstacles in the way of the advancement of women, the former as the Secretary of the Social Service League and the latter as a welfare worker in Bombay.

The Word "Honour"

The Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell, has again been at pains to contradict the infamous statements that have been attributed to him regarding the absence of the word "Honour" in Hindustani vocabulary. His minions in India are busy arguing that Lord Baden-Powell never insinuated anything against the character of Indians when he stated what, according to them, is "a plain fact." Some of the defenders of Lord Baden-Powell point out that it is no discourtesy to people to say that certain words were absent in their vocabulary. A South Indian apologist draws attention to the absence of the words "heart"

and "private" in Tamil vocabulary. "We are afraid, says *The Hitavada*, "that the defence put up by the friends of the Chief Scout does not in any manner extenuate the seriousness of his remarks. If in an academic and literary discussion, the Chief Scout had pointed out that the word "Honour" was absent in the Hindustani vocabulary, his remarks would not have been taken to heart by our countrymen, but his observation coming, as it did, close on the heels of his statement that he found an absence of character in India, has invested his remarks with a malicious meaning."

Mahatma Gandhi And Afridi Trouble

"I never made the statement or entertained opinion that the solution to the Afridi trouble was for the Afridis to come under the yoke of the British Government," replied Mahatma Gandhi to a letter from the Editor of the *Tej*, who invited Mahatma Gandhi's attention to a recent article in a Muslim daily of Lahore in which Mahatma Gandhi was said to have told Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan while at Delhi soon after the Gandhi Irwin pact that the only solution to the Afridi trouble was for the Afridis to come under the yoke of the British Government and wait for Swaraj with the rest of India.

Things In General

Conviction Against Hawker Quashed

RECENTLY the Mossel Bay Magistrate Mr. Hardy, convicted one Mr. Ebrahim Mohamed, a general dealer of Riversdale, for carrying on the business of a hawker within the Municipality of Mossel Bay without having the necessary hawker's licence and failing to be in possession of the badge required under the Municipal regulation, and fined the accused £2. Attorney Miller, who then appeared on behalf of the accused, applied for the discharge of his client on the grounds that it was not proved that the accused carried on the trade or profession of a hawker and that he was, therefore, not obliged to take out the necessary hawker's licence or to wear the badge. An appeal was noted, against the judgment, by the accused through his attorney and the Supreme Court upheld the accused's contention, set aside the Magistrate's judgment and quashed the conviction. Advocate Conway, instructed by Messrs. Millar and Miller, appeared for the appellant.

Hostel For Indian Juvenile Delinquents

The Resident Magistrate, Pinetown, Mr. F. G. Fannin, presided over a representative meeting of Europeans and Indians of the Wyebank district, when the offer of Mr. M. A. Motals of a house and five acres of land, to be held in trust for the founding of a hostel for Indian juvenile delinquents, was accepted. Mr. W. W. Sykes moved as a resolution: "That the lads' hostel should not keep boys over the age of 14." It was carried without opposition. Mr. W. W. Sykes, the Resident Magistrate (Mr. Fannin), Mr. E. F. Wilcocks, Mrs. F. G. Fannin, Mrs. N. Dales, Mrs. E. Butt and a number of Indians were elected to a committee. A start on the preparation of the hostel, it was agreed, should be made at once.

Politics Among Students

By 44 votes to 22 the Witwatersrand University Debating Union, condemned the attitude taken up by the Students' Representative Council which had opposed politics in the University and has refused recognition of political students' societies. A subsidiary motion to the effect that students should demand that political societies be recognised by the Students' Representative Council, provided that their aims were not destructive to university culture by the fostering of racialism, was carried by 44 votes to 12.

Farewell Reception At Stanger

On Monday, September 6, a farewell reception under the auspices of the Islamia Madressa Society of Stanger,

was accorded to Messrs. Hajee Ismail Bulshwaria, Hajee Sabjee Mia, Hajee Cassim Hoosen, and Hajee Abdool Kaker, who are leaving shortly on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Prayers were offered for the late Mr. Noor Mahomed Tayob, late vice-president of the above-mentioned Society, and an old resident of the district, who passed away on August 19. Mr. A. G. Bux, the present energetic and hardworking secretary of the Society, made an eloquent speech wishing the Hajees *bon voyage*. The function was presided over by Hajee Hoosen Moorad. Other speakers were Messrs. R. P. Soni, Maganlal Patel, Hajee Vahed, E. M. Moolla, Syed Amod and several others. The guests suitably replied. The function terminated at 10 p.m. after light refreshment were served.

General Smuts Opens Bulawayo Show

In opening the 30th annual show of the Bulawayo Agriculture Society last Saturday, General Smuts said, "South Africa to-day is first and foremost a mining country; but do not let it remain so. Let us help agriculture and let us foster the progress of European settlement here as much as we can."

Flying Accidents In England

Five Royal Air Force men were killed in flying accidents in England during the week, bringing the total death roll this year to 96, and the number of accidents to 61, compared with 54 accidents and 96 deaths in 1936.

Six Thousand Women Doctors In Britain

According to the British Medical Journal there are now 59,010 registered medical practitioners in Great Britain, of whom 6,000 are women.

Natal Personal Tax

The following notice in regard to Personal Tax in Natal for the year ending 30th June, 1937, under Ordinance 17 of 1928 as amended, appears for general information:—

Every male adult who is not required to render a return under the Union Income Tax Act, must complete a declaration on the prescribed form and pay Personal Tax to the Receiver of Revenue of his district on or before October 7, 1937.

RATE OF PERSONAL TAX:

1. Married persons, or persons widowed or divorced, who support a minor child of their own or a step child, or unmarried persons who are the sole support of a parent:—If income did not exceed £250 per annum, 10/-.

2. All persons other than described above:—£1 if income did not exceed £450; £2 if income exceeded £450.

To facilitate identity, the receipt for the previous year must be produced.

Penalties will be charged at the rate of 10% per month or part of a month on all taxes not paid on due date.

Wedding

The wedding of Miss Savabakiumall, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. N. Pillay, a prominent member of the Indian community in Grahamstown, to Mr. Gaess, second son of Mr. T. Rajoo Govender of Greenwood Park, eldest brother of Mr. T. K. Tandree of Mombasa, took place on Sunday morning, August 22, at 104 Prince Edward Street, the residence of the bridegroom's brother-in-law Mr. T. S. Pillay. There were about 1,000 guests and many prominent members of the Indian community present to grace the function and to shower upon the bride and bridegroom their choicest blessings. The bridal party received many valuable gifts, amongst which was a beautiful bedroom suite from the bride's parents. Many telegrams from all parts of the country congratulating the married couple were received. Pandit Rishiram B.A. the renowned Vedic Missionary, also graced the function with his presence. The guests were treated to a sumptuous repast after the ceremony. Music and songs were rendered by the members of the Young Men's Vedic Orchestra. The bridal party left for Grahamstown by car on August 26 with the bride's parents with the best wishes of all friends and relatives.

Punjab Ministers Out-Congressing Congress

Lobby talks in Simla indicate that the Punjab Government have decided to investigate through a committee of officials and non-officials whether it is financially a sound proposition to place land taxation on the same basis as the Income-Tax or, in other words, exempt all peasants from the payment of Land Revenue whose annual income is below Rs. 2,000. The name of Mr. Darling, Financial Commissioner, is mentioned as Chairman of this Committee.

—:O:—

FOR SALE

NEW PICKLING JARS.

Complete with Screws, Rubber Airtight Ring and Handles. 1 Gallon 4/6, 2 Gallons 7/6, 3 Gallons 10/-. 4 Gallons 12/6. Prices at per each. Rials Durban, Cash With Order.

MOSHAL GEVISSER (PTY.) LTD.
P. O. Box 1183, Durban.

WAGE INCREASES FOR MUNICIPAL INDIAN EMPLOYEES

WAGE increases and additional holidays for Indians in the employment of the Durban City Council may be given effect to shortly if a recommendation of the Sub-Committee on Indian Employees is ratified by the Finance Committee and the City Council.

In addition to the working condition improvements, it has also been recommended that £2,000 should be placed on the 1937-38 estimates to cover the cost of establishing a provident fund for the Indian employees.

As regards wages, it is recommended that all increments should be automatic and that the increment for Class Special "A" Indian employees should be fixed at £12 a year.

The Sub-Committee has also recommended that all grades and wages of Indian employees, excluding all allowances and special increments, should be increased by 10 per cent. This all-round increase will involve an expenditure of £7,027.

With reference to pensions, the Sub-Committee has suggested that Indian employees with 15 years' continuous service who are unable to continue duties owing to infirmity, shall be entitled

to a pension at the rate of 15 per cent. of wages calculated on the average wage, excluding overtime for the past 12 months, plus rations and plus 1 per cent. for each additional year's service beyond 15 years. This pension must not be smaller than £1 a month plus rations.

Pensions.

Indians having between 10 and 15 years' service will be entitled to a pension calculated at the rate of 1-15th of the full pension to which they would have been entitled after 15 years' service completed, plus rations. Indians granted pensions but wishing to proceed to India may be granted a sum *in lieu* of pension, the grant to be calculated at the rate of £1 16s. 10d. for each completed year of service to a maximum of £36, to be paid in India through the Protector, Indian Immigrants.

A further concession is suggested in that a house allowance of 15s. should be granted to those Municipal Indian employees for whom accommodation is not available in the Municipal Barracks.

As regards overtime rates, the Sub-Committee has now suggested that the

rate should be time and a half for the first five hours after normal finishing time and double time for all overtime above that. Previously employees earning over 2s. a day have been paid the ordinary rate plus one penny an hour for actual time. Those earning between 1s. and 2s. a day have received 4d. an hour worked and other employees have received 2d. per hour of overtime.

The new leave conditions suggested provide that Special Class Indian employees with monthly-paid wages shall receive 10 working days after one year's service. Indians in the Police Department are to receive 14 working days' leave a year if they work on public holidays, otherwise they also will receive 10 working days.

Indians engaged as staff messengers, clerks or interpreters are also to be entitled to 10 days after a year's service. All other Indians are to receive six days' annual leave. None of this leave is accumulative. Any Indian who, under the suggested scheme, would receive less leave than he is getting now would not have his leave position changed, the extra days being a "personal" matter.

ASIATIC POPULATION IN RHODESIA

THE Asiatic population of Southern Rhodesia is dealt with in a survey, based on last year's census, appearing in the latest issue of the "Economic and Statistical Bulletin."

It is stated that the Asiatic population consisted mainly of Indians who migrated to Southern Rhodesia from British India, Indians from Goa, a few Indian immigrants from the Union of South Africa, and the children of Indian parents born in the Colony. The remainder comprised a small number of Chinese and other Asiatics of varied origin.

Persons born in British India constituted 444 per thousand, and those born in Southern Rhodesia 433 per thousand, of the total Asiatic population of the Colony. British Indians and Goanese together accounted for 948 per thousand of all the Asiatics enumerated.

Asiatics in 1926 numbered 1,454, in 1931 the total was 1,700, and in 1936 it was 2,180.

The number of males increased from 1,112 in 1926 to 1,390 in 1936, or by 25 per cent, whereas the number of females increased from 342 to 790, or by 131 per cent., during the same period. The pro-

portion of females per thousand Asiatic persons rose from 235 in 1926 to 362 in 1936.

The Children

The number of Asiatic children under school age (i.e., younger than five years of age) increased from 167 in 1926 to 403 in 1936. The number of children over five and under 15 years of age rose from 196 in 1926 to 467 in 1936.

The number of Asiatics in the "working age" group (15-59) totalled 1,231 (865 males and 366 females) in 1936. The majority of females in the group were married women.

By far the greater number of Asiatics aged 60 and over consisted of males. Females only numbered two in 1926 and six in 1936. The number of males in this age group rose from 37 in 1926 to 67 in 1936. There were also six persons of unknown age in 1936.

Where They Live

There were 1,047 males and 621 females in the six municipalities and only 343 males and 169 females in the rest of the Colony.

Of the 650 Asiatics in Bulawayo and suburbs, 269 were under 15 years of age. There were 361 aged from 15 to 59 years,

16 aged 60 and over and four of unknown age.

In Salisbury and suburbs there were 259 Asiatic persons under 15 years, the same proportion to the total as in Bulawayo. Those aged from 15 to 59 years numbered 359, while 15 were aged 60 and over. There was also one person of unknown age.

Of the 158 Asiatics in Umtali, 53 were under 15 years of age, 98 were aged 15 to 59 and seven were 60 and over.

In Gwelo 52 persons were under 15 years, while the number of persons in the age groups 15-59 and 60 and over were 43 and three respectively.

Twenty-seven of the 68 Asiatics in Gatooma were under 15 years and 41 were 15 to 59 years of age.

In Que Que persons under 15 years numbered 23, while there were 35 persons aged from 15 to 59 and two aged 60 and over.

Of the 512 Asiatics outside the municipalities, 90 were situated in Hartley, 43 in Makoni, 47 in Mazoe, 36 in Victoria and 48 in Selukwe. The number of Asiatics in the remaining districts was small.

The Sporting World

Soccer.

Sam China Tournament

In the opening match of the South African Indian soccer Tournament for the Sam China competition played at East London on Saturday, Natal beat Frontier by 8-0.

Further results of the tournament which was continued on Monday were: Natal 10, Western Province 0; Transvaal 5, Frontier 3; Griqualand West scratched in favour of Eastern Province. On Saturday Transvaal beat Western Province, 4-3.

At Curries's Fountain

Despite the soft ground and gloomy weather overcast with dark clouds, the spirit of the various teams was not dampened, and all the fixtures were carried out on Saturday, August 28, at Currie's Fountain, Durban, and it was only at the end of the senior match that rain interfered. For the Raman Bros. Juvenile Cup, Sastri (A) met Avondale on the main ground. The game was not up to the usual standard displayed by these teams. Avondale scored first, but after some hard work, Sastri equalised. At the end of the time, the match was still a drawn game. In the junior division the only match that aroused some enthusiasm and excitement was that between Sastri Junior (A) and Victorians, though there were other two matches besides this one. The above two rival teams played to decide who should meet Shamrocks in the final for the Moonlighter's Cup. Victorians played faultily and were not able to get away because of the better attack and quickness of the College team. When the final whistle blew, Sastri (A) came out victorious by 4-0 goals in spite of some rough incidents in the game. All-Blacks opposed Daffodils, whereas Sparks lined up against Red Rovers, for Scoebel's Cup. In the former match, All-Blacks scored three goals in quick movements, and Daffodils finding it difficult to cope up with their opponents, gave up the match; in the latter match, Sparks playing with a depleted team lost to Red Rovers by 5-1 goals. One would have expected the senior final match for Thajmoon's Cup, played between Daffodils and Shamrocks, to be fast and up to the senior standard, but it proved otherwise. On the whole, Shamrocks had the better of the game, yet with all the chances they had, they could not take advantage of them, and made a poor show in front of the goal. At half-time there was no score on either side. Daffodils definitely lacked the vigour they generally display. The play remained the same even after half-time, and the match resulted in a goalless draw. The rain at this juncture made it difficult for extra time.

By "Rambler"

Cricket.

Verulam Shree Gopallal Temple - C.C.

The third annual general meeting of the Verulam Shree Gopallal Temple Cricket Club was held at Kader's Cafe, Wick Street, Verulam, on Sunday, September 5. Owing to the absence of the previous year's president, Mr. M. Juggath, who is transferred on promotion to Darnall Indian School, Mr. J. R. Talawantsingh was in the chair. Mr. R. L. Beharee, secretary of the club, in his report, mentioned that the club had a very successful season, and also pointed out that within the two past seasons the club had suffered severe blows either owing to sudden death or the unexpected transfer of some of the club's best players. Mr. Vassanjee Jutta, treasurer of the club, in his report stated that financially the club was in a sound condition, he also thanked the officials and supporters for their kind help towards the club. The following new office-bearers were then elected for the ensuing season: Patrons: Messrs. R. Talawantsingh, Choonilall Raghavjee, Jutta Jeewa, G. H. A. Kathrada, T. P. Sam, A. Moonsamy, M. Juggath, L. Rajcoomar, A. Parasuramen, S. R. Maharaj and A. Kader; President: Mr. M. G. Juggath; vice-presidents: Messrs. S. J. Morris, B. Sham, V. Nawrotham, N. Jutta, S. Dhanpath, R. Juggai and L. M. Singh; captain: Mr. J. R. Talawantsingh; vice-captain: Mr. G. H. Bux; hon. secretary: Mr. R. L. Beharee (re-elected); hon. treasurer: Mr. Vassanjee Jutta (re-elected); hon. coach: Mr. S. J. Morris (re-elected); hon. auditor: Mr. S. Krishna Maharaj; official scorer: Mr. R. Ramduth; executive committee: Messrs. E. P. Juggath, Gavin Maistry, N. Jutta and S. Attawarie. The meeting terminated after light refreshments which were provided by Mr. S. R. Maharaj.

Golf.

Dundee And District Indian Golf Club

The hon. secretary D.D.I.G.C., Mr. A. R. Paul, writes:

The Northern Natal open championship for Indians will be held on the Dundee Course on October 3, over 36 holes (medal play). The entrance fee is 2s. and entries close on September 25, with Mr. J. Gokool, assistant secretary, 68 Wilson Street, Dundee. Dundee should be proud of the fine 9 hole course which has been recently laid out near the Indian recreation ground. Although the total length is only 2,161 yards with a bogey of

36, the course is quite difficult. Still more improvements can be made, but this is not by any means possible without the kind help and sympathy of the local sportsmen and well-wishers. It is pleasing to record Mr. S. O. Peer's fine gesture of sportsmanship in presenting a fine trophy for the Northern Natal championship. The club is grateful to him. Mr. S. O. Peer is a patron of the local club. The club also thanks Mr. M. N. Pillay of Dundee, for promising a trophy for the club competition.

Boxing.

Sarron Retains His World Title

Petey Sarron retained his world's feather-weight title in Johannesburg, last Saturday night, when he beat Freddie Miller on points over 15 rounds. It was a fierce, gruelling fight. In a sensation 1 sixth round Miller was put down twice, taking a count of seven, but recovered magnificently. About 18,000 paid £8,000 to see the match, which was held in bitterly cold weather. Both the crowd and the gate were a record for a feather-weight fight anywhere in the world for some years.

Sarron's Next Opponent

Henry Armstrong, who, it is announced from New York, is to fight Petey Sarron, has just won his 26th consecutive knock-out victory by beating Johnny Fabillo in the 10th round at New York. Armstrong is a Californian Negro. The Californian Boxing Association calls him the feather-weight champion of the world. Other people call him "Joe Louis the Second"—because all but one of his recent fights have been won by knock-outs.

Athletic

Marathon Trial For Durban

It has been decided that the trial for the Marathon in connection with the Empire Games shall be held on October 31 in Durban instead of Port Elizabeth. The change has been made because the majority of candidates for the event will come from Natal and Transvaal.

To Club Secretaries

Secretaries are requested to send in their reports for publication to reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

—સરપલસ—

રેકોર્ડોનું ગંભીર સેલ

નંગ ૧ ની શી. ૧-૦.

વહેલો તે પહેલો

જેમાં તમારા માનીતા ગવધયા જેવા કે ખાર કબ્બાલ, કાલુ કબ્બાલ, ફીફ્ટીન આગા ફેઝ, લાઈ છેલા, જનકી ખાઈ, દુલારી, વીગેરેના હિન્દુસ્તાની, ગુજરાતી, નઆતો ગઝલો, ભજનો અને અરબી રેકોર્ડોના સમાવેશ છે.

અમારા ગયા વરસના સેલમાં અમારા માનવંતા ગ્રાહકોમાંનાં ઘણાંઓને નાસીપાસ થવું પડ્યું હતું તેથી કંટીના ગ્રાહકોને ખાસ લલામણ કરીશું કે પોતાનાં ઓઈરો તરતજ મોકલી આપવા ભેગાં. કંટીનો ઓઈર ખાર રેકોર્ડથી ઓછાનો સ્વિકારવામાં આવશે નહિ.

ઠેકાણુ :-

THE ORIENT MUSIC SALOON,

PHONE 21867.

P. O. BOX 1155-

117 FIELD STREET : : DURBAN. 128b

FRUIT GROWERS

Send your consignments of Bananas, Avocada Pears and other fruits to the old established firm:

African Market Agency

Municipal Market, Capetown.

All consignments receive personal attention.
Accounts sales and cheques posted the day goods are sold.

Reference :

Barclay's Bank,
Market Branch.

Telegraphic Address :

"CONSIGN"

Capetown

127b

P. O. BOX
2166.

Phone 21728

Tel. Add.

P. C. KANDER

"TALKANDER."

Wholesale Fruit & Vegetable Exporter

country orders executed at lowest Market prices.
special attention given to all up-country orders.

TRIAL ORDER SOLICITED.

પી. સી. કન્ડર

હોલસેલ ફ્રુટ અને વેજિટેબલ એક્સપોર્ટર

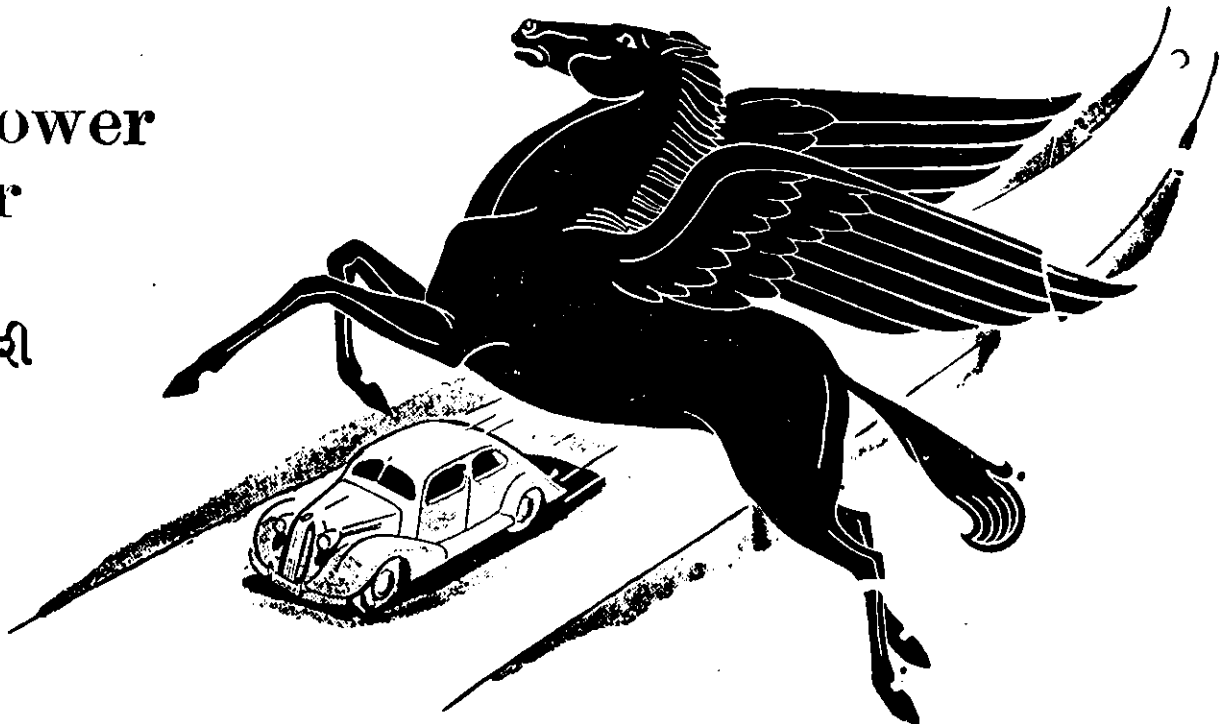
ખંદાર ગામના એરડરો માટે ઓછામાં ઓછો ખર્ચ લાવ આપીએ છીએ અને
ખાસ પ્લાન ઇઈ C.O.D. થી માલ ચલાવીએ છીએ.

96, PRINCE EDWARD STREET, DURBAN. 128a

Are You a subscriber of
'Indian Opinion'? If not, Why not?

Add
horsepower
to your
car

પેગસસ વાપરી
તમારી કાર
ની ગતીમાં
વધારો કરો.



With

PEGASUS

SPIRIT OF MILEAGE AND POWER 213b

VACUUM OIL COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED