

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 12.—Vol. XXXVI.

Friday, April 1st, 1938.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

Gandhiji And The Communal Riots

SOME comments with pain have been made by Gandhiji in the *Harijan*, on the communal riots in the United Provinces. The fact that the Congress Ministries have had to resort to the police and military forces to suppress the riots, is sufficient evidence, he maintains, of the incapability of Congress to be substituted for British Authority. "It is best to face this naked truth," he writes. "No congressman would seriously doubt that Congress is not at present capable of 'delivering the goods.'" It is necessary for Congressmen to examine the quality of their non-violence. If it does not come out of real strength, it would be best and more honest for Congress to make such a declaration and make the necessary changes in its behaviour. Congress should be able to put forth a non-violent army of volunteers numbering hundreds of thousands.

"Such an army, in order to still the frenzy of the mobs, should risk their lives in sufficient numbers for the purpose. A few hundred, perhaps a few thousand, such deaths would once and for all put an end to communal plots.

A few hundred men and women giving themselves deliberately to mob fury would be a cheaper and braver method of dealing with such madness than the use of the police and military. To the extent that the Congress Ministers have been delighted to make use of the police and the military we must admit our failure."

It is quite evident that it is with a very sore heart that he penned the above lines. The curse of India is communal riots. Although disturbances in European countries might be much more serious than the communal riots that take place in India, yet the European press make capital of these riots. The blame is not so much on the European press as it is on us, for, we must face the naked truth, as Gandhiji very aptly puts it. So long as the communal riots take place, Purana Swaraj will be slow of attainment.

The Wife Of The New Agent-General For India

Before very long South Africa will be welcoming Mr. Rama Rau, who succeeds Sir Syed Raza Ali as Agent-General to the Government of India in the Union. Mr. Rama Rau will arrive in Natal with Mrs. Rama Rau in May and will make Durban his headquarters. Only two Agents-General in the Union have had their wives with them. The Kunwarani Lady Singh was the first to accompany her husband to South Africa. The niche she made for herself in the affections of people throughout the Union, and the value of the work she did for the Indo-European Women's Association in Johannesburg proved how important is the position of the wife of the Indian Government's representative. Mrs. Rama Rau is a gracious, good-looking and very charming woman. She is deeply interested in the Indian women's movement and represents in London the Women's Indian Association and the All-India Women's Conference. She is widely known as a competent speaker on all questions affecting women's rights, education, and general uplift in India. Her interest is something that has grown with her; as soon as she graduated from the Madras University with an M.A. degree, Mrs. Rama Rau taught English at Queen Mary's School in Madras. She gave up teaching on her marriage, but never lost touch with educational matters, and some years ago helped to start the Lady Irwin School in Simla. Some idea of the progress that has been made by Indian women within the past few years can be gauged from the fact that there are 54 women in the Indian Provincial Parliaments and one of them is a Cabinet Minister. Mr. and Mrs. Rama Rau have two daughters who have been at school at St. Paul's, London, for some years. They will not accompany their parents to South Africa, but Mrs. Rama Rau is hoping that they will visit the Union at least for a holiday. She, herself, is anxious to return to London at the end of the year for a short time, to see how they are getting on. Mr. Rama Rau has been Deputy High Commissioner for India in London since the end of 1934. He left London by air

recently for India to consult with his Government before sailing for South Africa. Mrs. Rama Rau will remain for a month in London and proceed direct to South Africa.

The Natal Bantu And Indian Blind Society

Mrs. Gordon Cawston, the President of the Natal Bantu and Indian Blind Society, is to be warmly congratulated for her interest in the Society which is rendering excellent services to Bantu and Indian blind. The annual report presented at the First Annual General Meeting held on the 16th March makes interesting reading. Since 1936, the report states, 784 Bantu and 70 Indian blind cases have been investigated in Natal, and of these 24 were under the age of 18 years. Several eye cases at the King Edward VIII, St. Aidans, The Indian Immigration and McCord Hospitals were visited. Mr. Cawston attended the 4th Biennial meeting of the S. A. National Council for the Blind at Port Elizabeth in November 1937. Her resolutions requesting the Department of Native Affairs to give sympathetic consideration to the need for an increase in the amount payable to destitute blind natives, which stands at 6s 8d. and 10s. per month to £7 per month, and the Department for the Interior for the increase in the pensions for the totally blind Indians who have young families to 15s. per month, were adopted.

Colonial Born And Settlers Indian Association (P. M. B. Branch)

The fifth annual general meeting of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association (Pietermaritzburg Branch) was held recently at the H.Y.M.A. Library, Maritzburg. The meeting was presided over by Dr. M. R. Peters, and was supported by the following officials representing headquarters at Durban, namely, Messrs. A. Christopher, P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh and Pavadai R. Pather (Clairwood). After formal business was disposed of, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"That this meeting feels very strongly that the present subsidy of £5 5s. which the Union Government gives for Indian education in Natal is totally

inadequate and does not permit of any expansion being made; this meeting therefore respectfully requests the Union Government to substantially increase its subsidy so that Indian education in Natal may not lag behind the education of the other sections of the community."

"This meeting draws the attention of the Natal Education Department to the tendency amongst the members of the Indian community to educate their girls to the highest degree possible, and requests that adequate provision should be made for the primary and higher education of the girls."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST, 1938

Call To Youth

SOME three years ago a movement to bring about together our youth of the country was set afoot, but events have shown that the movement has not progressed as we had expected. The difficulty, so far as we can see, has been the splitting up of the movement into several groups, each striving to serve its own section. We uttered a note of warning at the time, for we felt, then and we still hold the same view, that what we needed was one national youth movement, serving every section of our community instead of several youth organisations.

We have a weakness to have as many organisations as possible, none of which is capable of rendering the service that is demanded of it, and we are afraid our youths are subject to the same weakness. If youth is to progress and have a say in the well being of our community in this country, it is necessary that youth should be shorn of this weakness and all the frivolities that now claim his attention. We want to make ourselves clear on one point. We do not deny the right of any section of our community to have its own youth organisation to serve its religious needs. What we do object to is the creation by the youth of the community, of tin pot organisations which claim to serve the Indian youths as a whole, whereas, in reality these organisations are created to serve the interests of a

few who are at the head. This is to be deeply regretted, for youth should begin his public career with the rotarian motto "service before self."

South Africa needs every youth capable of serving our community conscientiously. The youth of to-day will be the elder of to-morrow. It therefore behoves youth to prepare himself to take the place of his elder to-morrow. South Africa is a peculiar country, in that the European population possesses a superiority complex, and to maintain that superiority the non-Europeans are always subjected to restrictive laws. The Indian in the Natal and Transvaal Provinces has not the franchise—that bulwark of all democratic countries—and he must need therefore to be always on the alert. The Indian labours under tremendous difficulties both in Natal and Transvaal. Employment is difficult to obtain. The Natal Railway System which at one time employed several thousands of Indians and which owes a great deal to them for its development, now employs only a few hundred. The White Labour Policy is driving our men to the streets. Notwithstanding the prosperity that South Africa is now enjoying, the economic condition of our people has not changed for the better. "Equal pay for equal work" a clause which beautifies the Capetown Agreement, is not worth the paper that it is written on. The State which

should set an example by paying the Indian an economic wage is, constantly in breach of the formula. The wages that are being paid to the Indian employees in the Railways and Harbours, will send any civilised country to shame. Our Teachers who are in the employ of the Natal Education Department, are paid niggardly. Our graduates at the Sastri College who put in as much work as the European staff, are paid much lower than their European confreres. These are naked truths that our youth must face. What is going to happen to the hundreds that the Sastri College turns out every year. Is the Indian youth going to sit with folded arms and Micawberlike, wait until something turns up? That would be extremely dangerous.

Those who, in our community dabble in politics are not politicians, in that sense that every one of them is versed in political science. Circumstanced, as we are, in South Africa, we have, perforce, to enter politics to safeguard the remnants of our rights. With University education within easy grasp of the Indian youth, we are happy to find that political science is a subject that is being taken up by Indian students. Political Science and Economics are subjects which would help the Indian youth to serve his community.

Will present day youth serve his community as the youth of yesterday? If the progress that the youth movements are making, is any indication, then we must state in all seriousness that there is something lacking in the present day youth. He lacks sincerity of purpose which is an essential to all public men. Our columns will be open for discussion on this matter and we invite correspondence thereon.

For the moment we would content ourselves by saying that our community issues a clarion call to the Indian youth of South Africa. Serve your community and serve it well.

SUBHAS BOSE, THE SOLDIER SANYASI

SRIJUT SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE is the 5th son of the late lamented Janakinath Bose, well-known in Orissa as Janaki Babu. Janaki Babu came from the district of 24 Parganas in Bengal to prosecute his studies in Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. He settled down as a lawyer and lived there till a few months before his death. Janaki Babu was a lawyer of reputation, but he was more known as a public man of courage and conviction. The affection of the people for him was deep and they elected him as Chairman of the Cuttack Municipality for a number of years.

Subhas Chandra Bose, the President-elect of the Haripura Congress, was born in his residence in Oriya Bazar, Cuttack, in the month of January in 1897. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth, the boy Subhas received his early education in the European school at Cuttack. He was then admitted to the Ravenshaw Collegiate School from where he passed his Matriculation with distinction securing the second place in the Calcutta University which had at that time jurisdiction over the provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam. Even from his very young days Subhas had a taste for self-sacrificing social service. He and his friends would form bands to nurse sick people and carry the dead bodies of helpless and destitute persons to the cremation ground.

So much was he sometimes moved when employed thus that he would in the course of his morning walks give up his wrappers to the helpless sufferers. Be it said to the credit of the parents that they did all they could to encourage and develop these great qualities in the young man.

Prof. Oatten

He was sent to the Presidency College to prosecute his studies. Professor Oatten, of the Indian Education Service, had earned in those days a notoriety, known to few educationists, for insulting his Indian students. The surging wave of Indian Nationalism caught the imagination of the younger generation. Some young men wanted to avenge insults by an assault on this unfortunate professor. Young Subhas was spotted out by the college authorities as one who knew of their intentions. He, however, refused to part with any information about his friends and was as a result rusticated. Sir Asutosh Mukerjee, himself a man of courage, could not but appreciate the courage and conviction in Subhas and it was through his efforts that Subhas Babu was allowed to prosecute his studies in the Scottish Churches College from where he passed his B.A. (Hons.) examination in Philosophy standing first in the University.

By
THE HON'BLE BISWANATH DAS
(Prime Minister Of Orissa)
In The "Hindustan Times"

England

In 1919 Subhas Babu joined Cambridge as a non-collegiate student, sat in the competitive examination and was admitted to the Civil Service in 1920. Probationers had to stay for two years in England. While he was a probationer, he brought the displeasure of the authorities on himself by insisting that a circular cast certain aspersions on poor India syces. He protested and finally the circular had to be changed. Hardly a year had passed when the Indian National Congress decided to non-co-operate against the Montford Reforms and Subhas resigned his post and returned to his country to share in the woes and sufferings of his people. From that day his life was one of suffering and confinement.

Jail

1921 is, therefore, the turning period of his life. Here is a young Indian who resigns his Civil Service and returns to his country to share the rewards kept for Indians for their patriotism. His life hereafter is one of suffering. In 1921 he got his first conviction for six months. Jail in India, however sad it might be, could not damp his feelings. He gradually became a force in Calcutta under the guidance of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan. When Deshbandhu was elected as Mayor of the Corporation of Calcutta, he selected Subhas Babu as his lieutenant to act as his Executive Officer. As a young man of 24, he demonstrated his administrative genius and organising capacity fully justifying the selection of Deshbandhu. It did not take long for the Congress and the country to appreciate Subhas and the genius in him.

Mayor

He was elected along with Pandit Jawaharlal as Secretary of the Working Committee of the Indian National session in 1924. His work and his devotion had made the Congress dearer to the hearts of the people in Bengal. The Government of Bengal found in him a great force to be reckoned with, and in 1924 he was again interned in various jails in Alipur, Mandalay and Insein, till May, 1927. He was returned to the Bengal Legislative Council from the North Calcutta constituency defeating the Liberal leader Mr. J. N. Basu, by a thumping majority of votes. While Subhas Babu was in jail his sufferings and sacrifices had made him dear to

the people and Calcutta, the premier city of India, offered him the highest place open to her by electing Subhas Babu as Mayor in 1931.

He had again to pay the penalty of his patriotism along with his elder brother, that renowned lawyer of Calcutta, Srijut Sarat Chandra Bose, when both the brothers were interned in the beginning of 1932. Subhas Babu was released in April, 1937. This, in short, is the history of his sufferings which includes within it his great hunger-strike of 41 days in Mandalay Jail as a protest against the decision of the Government not to allow prisoners to celebrate *Durga Puja*.

A Rebel

Subhas Babu is an iconoclast and a rebel. Born in a rich family with all the luxuries of life he always prefers to sleep even without a bed. He feels as happy in social service as he is in a political fight. As a young man he wanted to renounce the world and take to *Sanyas*. This made him give up his studies for some time. He was in search of a *guru* and went round the United Provinces to return disappointed for he could not get a *guru* to his liking. He always believed in truth and frank and bold expression of truth. Few people have suffered like him for such frank expression of truth. His training in the Indian Defence Force has made him a disciplined soldier. A bold and courageous fighter against British Imperialism, he would stand for hours under the heat of the sun to obey the orders of the Captain of the Indian Defence Force because it is done in the name of discipline. Subhas Babu thus combines in himself the qualities of a social worker, a recluse and a disciplined soldier of the nation, and has rightly earned the confidence of the nation to lead it in its fight for freedom.

Sacrifice

It will thus be seen that Subhas Babu's life is one of suffering and sacrifice. From his early youth he set himself against marriage and hated match-makers more than marriage itself. Poor living and high thinking is the ideal he has always set for himself. His culture is oriental. Neither his English education nor his foreign travels brought him nearer to luxurious habits. He is one of the few public men who are well versed in a number of Indian and European languages; he is a deep scholar in Sanskrit and oriental philosophy.

His practice of *yoga* is probably responsible for his health in spite of his

variety of engagements and irregular hours of meal and sleep. The writer has known him dining after 12 midnight during the A.I.C.C. sittings at Calcutta to the greatest inconvenience of the members of the family and to the utmost anxiety of his old mother.

The Mantle Of Life

Continued prison life, detention and lathi charge never depressed him. Like Prahlad his devotion to the motherland became more intense. He ever realises that human life is, as the Gita lays down, a change of one's

clothing. His training in social service from his boyhood, as also his training in the Indian Defence Force, have made him a firm believer in discipline. Subhas Babu is, therefore, a trained and disciplined soldier, pledged to the service of the nation.

KRIPALANI'S REPLY TO LOTHIAN

NO BRITON TRAVELLING ABROAD CAN MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE EMPIRE

MR. J. B. KRIPALANI, General Secretary of the Congress has issued a statement in the course of which he says:—

Lord Lothian has spoken at last. His audience, the graduates, the undergraduates of the Muslim University and the assembled guests at the convocation, must have felt delighted and flattered at the rosy picture that he drew of the Indian Universities, their numbers, the learning and scholarship of teachers and professors, their contribution to learning and scientific research and their civilising influence.

We were scarcely conscious that the young population of our universities, 100,000 of aspiring souls, were fully double the number that receive higher education in Great Britain. We have always considered this vast population as not big enough. May it not be said that we concentrate too much attention on the relative strength of the population of India which is eight times over that of the native isles of our honoured guest? And perhaps we live in too close a touch with our university professors to be impressed with the high equality of their scholarship as we are impressed with the high figures of their salary in a country where the earning of a villager steeped in utter ignorance ranges that from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per month?

Lord Lothian speaking in the same vein further said, "In India as in other democratic countries the universities are the principal agency behind modern civilization freedom of thought and scientific research." We are accustomed to think that our universities instead of producing any modern civilization reproduce a third degree imitation of European civilization. The copy of course lacks the vitality and the creative capacity of the original. As it is a foreign importation it refuses to take root in the soil.

About freedom of thought our ideas must be different from Lord Lothian's or is it that the Briton has one set of ideas of freedom for home consumption and another for export specially to the colonial countries?

We have all along thought that our learned people in the university exercise their free thought and to come to identical conclusions as would ensure their disproportionate salaries and as disproportionately high periodical promotions.

B. W. CANEY

—Jeweller—

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As for the scientific research, we have heard it said that India lags far behind Europe, America and some parts of Asia. But one lives and learns specially from one's foreign masters. We had also yet to learn that India is a democratic country. We thought that we had still to make large sacrifices to attain to that happy state. Our leaders, specially the President, have all been reminding us that we have still to work and to suffer and not to slacken our efforts for the goal is yet far away. Have we been misinformed and I misguided? Who knows? All light to-day comes from the West.

Britain's Attitude

Again how unfortunate we Indians are that we are not obliged to live in the Totalitarian State either of the right or of the left, where truth is smothered by propaganda we only live under foreign domination of the freedom loving Britons, who disdain to smother

truth by propaganda but keep a standing army of occupation 200,000 strong to prevent us from running at each other's throat to throttle truth.

This about our universities and education. The Convocation address makes some excusable excursions in the political field. Here the picture of India drawn in contrast to Europe is equally flattering and comforting. Europe has the same basic cultural unity as India and yet because it cannot evolve institutional unity it is in a bad way, India is fortunate enough to have unity, peace, security and the reign of law. All this of course the gifts of the foreign domination, which due to the excessive politeness of our guest, we were not reminded of.

Federation Propaganda

Now that so much has been accomplished all that India needs and which Europe has not an institutional unity provided for by the scheme of Federation. May be, this Federal scheme has some defects. Lord Lothian has his own quarrel with it yet we must not reject the Federal scheme lest we reject the very form of Federation.

If we do so we are assured that we shall fail to keep the precarious unity of different races, provinces, languages, religions and cultures. We have accomplished this unity under the British sword. This sword may be removed at any time and then our only refuge will be the new gift of the Federal leaders to some purpose.

But Imperialist propaganda has got to be done even by those who may not be official emissaries. No patriotic Briton travelling abroad can miss the opportunity to serve the Empire. Whoever told Lord Lothian that that anybody in India was against a Genuine Democratic Federation? What India, however, objects to is this synthetic hybrid product miscalled Federation.

INDEPENDENCE THAT WILL EMANCIPATE MASSES FROM GRINDING POVERTY

INDIANS residing in London observed the "Independence Day" by holding a well-attended meeting on January 26, where all those present pledged themselves anew to the vow of Complete Independence.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru sent a cable stating that "Our problem could never be solved, unless India won complete freedom."

Sir Stafford Cripps sent a message that such complete independence as will enable Indians to develop their own lives and culture, unfettered by imperialist shackles, is the only goal that can satisfy those, who really, believe in freedom and democracy.

Mr. Middleton supporting the Indian demand for freedom asserted that repression would always be met by

reiterated demand for freedom. He protested vehemently against colour bar existing in England and emphasised that there cannot be peace in the world unless racial equality was granted to all people.

Prof. Harold Laski said that the British rule in India was as autocratic and high-handed as Hitler's in Germany and Mussolini's in Italy. He added that when Englishmen protested against the bombing of Madrid, Canton and Abyssinia, they forgot that their hands were not absolutely clean, that their own armies went bombing the defenceless people of North West Frontier Province that thousands of Indians were detained without trial and put in concentration camps.

Prof. Laski hoped the Indians were fighting against the British imperialism

with a view to emancipate Indian masses from grinding poverty. He declared that the Government of India Act of 1935 was not a voluntary gift of the British imperialism, but the fact was that the British governing class realised the strength of the Indian people under the leadership of the Congress and was forced to make the concession though small and insignificant.

In asking British working class to support Indian demands Mr. Strauss declared that Liberty Freedom and Democracy were not national creeds but were the international creeds for which the British Labour movement whole-heartedly stood.

The meeting concluded amidst cries of "Vande Mataram" and "Inquilab Zindabad."

THE PROBLEM OF MASS EDUCATION IN INDIA

II

THE sad spectacle of a giant race dying of starvation in its village homes, vegetating in the filthy atmosphere of a caste ridden society, clinging to a myraid superstitions born of ignorance, and sinking rapidly into a life of hopeless inactivity, cannot but evoke a sympathetic response in every patriotic soul. Prompt educational measures must be adopted to equip the people with adequate means to earn their living and to fight the dark forces that are eating into their vitals. But the education the country needs is not the type of education which is being imparted to the Indians to-day under the British Imperialism. The English education as now given is for the Indian mind 'a kind of food which contains only one particular ingredient and even that not fresh, but dried and packed in tins.' "The Education," says Swami Vivekananda, "which does not help the common masses of people to equip themselves for the struggle of life, which does not bring out strength of character, a spirit of philanthropy, and the courage of a lion, is it worth the name? Real education is that which enables one to stand on one's legs. The education that you are receiving in schools and colleges is only making you a race of dispeptics. You are working like machines merely, and living a jelly-fish existence" No truer words have been so boldly uttered. Indeed the present system of education is not only

By THE EDITOR

"Prabuddha Bharata."

(Continued from last week)

making us mere automations but is sweeping us off from the moorings of our cultural life. To quote Sir George Birdwood, "It has destroyed in Indians the love of their own literature, their delight in their own arts, and worst of all, their repose in their own traditional and national religion. It has disgusted them with their own homes, their parents, and their sisters, their very wives, and brought discontent into every family so far as its baneful influences have reached. It has destroyed their faculties of artistic imagination which in ancient days unfolded to their vision the glimpses of the Unseen Beauty in the image of which the artist would mould his thoughts." In fact the Indian mind has been fed from the beginning on foreign knowledge and ideas and has become exactly like a waif brought up in the house of a stranger.

The education of the people has therefore to be not only national but also man-making. It must hold up India ideals of devotion, wisdom, and morality, and must be permeated by the Indian religious spirit, so that it may meet the national temperament at every point and develop a balanced national character. Education, it must

be remembered, should not aim at a mere passive awareness of dead facts but at an activity directed towards the world that our efforts are to create. It must open our eyes to the shining vision of the society that is to be, of the triumphs that our thoughts will achieve in the time to come. In fact in every scheme of education there should be adequate facilities for stimulating the spiritual instincts of the boys and girls. Sister Nivedita strikes the keynote of an ideal national education when she says, "If all the people talk the same language, learn to express themselves in the same way, to feed their realization upon the same ideas, if all are trained and equipped to respond in the same way to the same forces, then our unity will stand self-demonstrated, unflinching, and then we shall have acquired national solidarity and power of prompt and intelligent action." The benefit accruing from such an education based on the bed-rock of national idealism can hardly be over-estimated. To-day one cannot read without emotion and pride the inspiring lines in the *Le Petrie*, a text book of France, where it has been boldly proclaimed that 'the thirty-million inhabitants of France constitute the French family. They have the same history, the same joys, the same hopes. They sorrow over the humiliation of their common fatherland and take pride in her prosperity; they share her fortune, good or bad.' Indeed there is nothing more powerful

than a national and man-making education.

Mahatma Gandhi also opines that unless the development of the mind and the body goes hand in hand with a corresponding awakening of the soul, the former alone would prove to be a poor lopsided affair. The baneful effects of the absence of proper co-ordination and harmony among the various faculties of body, mind and soul are obvious. As religion is the very breath of India's national being, the training to be rendered effective

must appeal to the spiritual instincts of the people. They must be made to think that they are potentially as great as the most powerful in the world and that an infinite capacity for action is lying dormant in them. Besides, the eternal grand idea of the spiritual oneness of all must be brought home to their minds, for this is the only principle that would enable them to get over the deadening psychology of inferiority complex, and this is the dominant idea that must stand as the background of all our teachings and schemes for imparting education to the masses. Swami Vivekananda exhorted

his disciples to go over from village to village, from one part of the country to another, and preach the inspiring message of fearlessness to all, from the Brahmin to the Chandal, and to teach each and all that infinite power resides in them, that they are sharers of Immortal Bliss. He wanted heroic bands of youngmen to go out from village to village with the message of love and toleration, equality and brotherhood and implant in the minds of the people an unshakable conviction of the greatness of their life and culture and awaken them to the consciousness of their glorious destiny.

Things In General

Gandhiji's Breakdown In Health

GCANDEJI'S health has had a fairly bad breakdown, according to a doctor's bulletin issued at conclusion of the conference to discuss village education and rural uplift attended by Gandhiji at Orissa. Gandhiji, who was due to return to Calcutta on April 1, will nevertheless resume discussions with the Government of Bengal for the release of terrorist prisoners. This is the third breakdown in Gandhiji's health in three months. On each occasion it has been occasioned by the strain of important conferences.

Andhra Maha Sabha

The Andhra Maha Sabha of South Africa desires to notify the members of the Andhra community that the Andhra New Year falls on April 1, when under the auspices of the above Sabha, a prayer meeting will be held in the committee room, Mr. B. Naidoo's Buildings, 145, Prince Edward Street, Durban, at 5.30 to which, all are cordially invited to attend.

The Feelings Of An Andhra

Desastha

To-day, amid pompous festivity, deep sunken in the traditions of a glamorous orient, the Andhras will welcome their New Year—The Bahudhani—one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-one years after the famous Salivahana dynasty of Andhra kings. The present era, one more like the many that have passed, dating from the puissant line of kings has been one of the grandest in the annals of Telugu literature. The seventeenth monarch of this noted dynasty has immortalised his rule in the "Salivahana Sapt Sati," later rendered into finer language by Srinatha, the greatest of bygone Andhra poets. With this renaissance of the Andhras in South Africa, we hope to see the glories of an ancient culture brought into being, and the addition of a new chapter in history and literature which can worthily com-

pare with the "glories of the Kavitraya and the grandeur of the Asthadiggajas" of old.

We wish our Andhra friends a happy and bright New Year.

South African Youth Movement (Durban Indian Branch)

At a well attended meeting of the above branch, Mr. G. Ponnann, enthusiastic member of the Youth Movement and a keen student of the South African Labour Problems, delivered an inspiring and interesting lecture on

NOTICE

It has come to my knowledge that certain people are wrongfully and maliciously spreading the rumour that I was convicted of theft. This is false and untrue. Any person found to be persisting in spreading this rumour or making unfounded allegations against me will be prosecuted.

DAVI PRASAD MAHARAJ
also known as

(Westville). S. D. SHARMA.

"Trade Unionism," at the branch's headquarters, 175, Grey Street, Durban. Mr. Ponnann revealed to the house the importance and necessity of organised labour. He described the growth and success of labour movements in the various parts of the world. At the conclusion of his lecture he appealed to all wage-earners to interest themselves in some form of practical organisation, whereby their future interests and security might be maintained. Other speakers participating in the discussion included Messrs. G. Singh, B.A., H. A. Naidoo, S. S. Chetty, J. R. Harry, S. Coopen, B.A., G. Badal and M. P. Naidoo. Mr. Ramlugan moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. R. Mistry, B.A.

Indian Girl Guides' Association

The executive council of the Indian Girl Guides' Association under the presidency of Mrs. C. Banks (wife of Inspector Mr. R. A. Banks), was the recipient of a handsome shield, on March 26, for competition among the Guide companies. The shield is known as the "Subagi Mahabeer's Memorial Shield," presented by Messrs. Mahabeer Bros., of Saxon Printing Press, Oakleigh Drive, Durban, in memory of their beloved mother, who, before her dying days, was always anxious and interested in the future welfare of Indian Girls, and hence the expression of their mother's desire in the presentation of the shield. The competition is to be held annually under the direction of the Durban and District Girl Guides' Association, and to be awarded to the company which shows an all-round good work during the year of competition. Mrs. Banks, on behalf of the executive, thanked the donors very heartily and expressed that it was exceedingly kind of them to display such interest in the movement.

Shree Gopallal Hindu Temple

The annual Shree Ramnavmee Festival will be celebrated at the above Temple on April 8, at 12 o'clock noon sharp. All Hindu brethren are most kindly invited, by the secretary, to attend.

Cape Indian Congress

At a meeting of the members and supporters of the Cape Indian Congress, held in the Indian Moslem School, Muir Street, Capetown, on Sunday, February 27, to elect officials for the ensuing year. Mr. Ahmed Ismail was re-elected president. The undermentioned are the other nominations made:—General secretaries: Messrs. C. O. Palsania and M. M. Safeda; organising secretaries: Messrs. Sayed Ahmed and Ahmed Booby; treasurers: Messrs. Essa Allie and E. I. Patel. Mr. Adam Ebrahim Baksumia was elected committee chairman. The following executive committee was elected

and vice-presidents with powers to fully represent all sections of the Indian community, they are:—Messrs. H. K. Gool, Y. Hawa, E. Parker, Taukey, A. Kadir, Y. M. Pillay, A. M. Patel, H. Gajjar, A. Malik, Peerbhai, Ali Ebrahim, Adam Ebrahim, Dada Mamon, Lal Khan, Shaik Ahmed, A. Gani, S. J. Mahomed, B. Singn, A. A. Kajee, P. S. Chovda, M. L. Khan, Devchand Parsotam, Kalanbhai Dewa, M. D. Barmania, S. R. Barmania, S. R. Barmania, S. R. Palsania, Hoosen Rafoogger, Malek Hoosien, Ismail Pansari and Abdul Hamid. The meeting further resolved that the secretary of the South African Indian Congress should be approached with a view to call a general conference of the South African Indian Congress, and also decided to build a suitable hall in Capetown, for the use of the Indian community. The meeting was very orderly and conducted by Mr. Yusuf Hawa, a past stalwart of the Cape Indian Congress, and a vote of thanks to the chair was unanimously adopted by the meeting.

The Muslim Institute

The second annual general meeting of the above institute will be held at the Muslim Institute Hall, on Sunday, April 3, at 7 30 p.m.

Festival At Mount Edgecombe

The 48th anniversary festival of Shree Emperuman Temple will be celebrated at Mount Edgecombe, on the 8th and 9th April. All are welcome.

Causes Of Crime In Natives

Oppression of the natives in South Africa was the true cause of increasing crime among them, stated Mr. Victor Kent recently at a quarterly meeting of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce. The matter was raised in the report of the executive committee, which stated that an organisation styled "The Merchants' Protection Service" had been formed to deal with thefts in stores and shops. Continuing Mr. Kent said, "The native is not a bad citizen, he has no criminal tendencies. He is honest and industrious. What is perverting him and turning him into what he is to-day? There is only one conclusion and that is that the native to-day is oppressed. He is not even given a fair wage; he is over-taxed and underpaid; and all these things tend to drive him to criminal tendencies. He is being forced into what he is to-day by the white people of this country, and when I say the white people, I say it is the Government. In the case of

our own servants, we know that we trust them and place our confidence in them; and they respect that trust and confidence. I do think that what is done by private individuals, and the feeling that is fostered among private individuals, can be done so far as the State is concerned. We are very fond of saying that we have the very finest labour supply in the world in this country, and what do we do to encourage it? We oppress it in every way. I do think that the time has come when we should very seriously consider this question and see whether the lot of the natives cannot be improved."

Hill View Government-Aided Indian School Building Fund
(Continued from last week)

WASCHBANK: Messrs. Mall (Pty) Ltd, 10s. 6d.; B. R. Singh, £1 1s; and E. I. Ameen, 2s 6d. DUNDEE: Messrs. Moosa Ayob, £1 1s.; L. S. Tommy, 5s.; Nathoo V. Morar, £2 2s.; V. G. Naidoo, £1 1s.; C. M. Bob, 10s. 6d.; M. Amod, 10s 6d.; V. M. Naidoo, 2s. 6d.; Mahomed Hassim, 5s.; D. O. Soni, 2s 6d.; Yusuf Khaki, 2s. 6d. and K. M. Joseph, 5s. NEWCASTLE: Messrs. S. E. Vawda, £1 1s.; J. A. Jadwat, 10s. 6d.; E. I. Lockhat, 10s. 6d.; A. R. Chetty, 10s. 6d.; A. D. Moola, 10s 6d. and J. A. Singh, £1 1s.—To be continued.

BIHAR MINISTER'S EXAMPLE

HOW TO END CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC SERVICE

WHAT a popular Minister can do to prevent bribery and corruption in the Police Department is made clear from a story published in the *Saraswati* a Hindi monthly magazine of Allahabad.

The hero of the story is the Hon. Mr. Jaglal Chowdhri, Minister of Excise, Bihar, who having received numerous bad reports about a certain Sub-Inspector of police conceived a brilliant idea of teaching him a lesson.

Dressed in ordinary clothes the Minister went to the police station one day. Bowing low, Mr. Jaglal Chowdhri stood with folded hands before the Sub-Inspector.

The Sub-Inspector shouted: "What's the matter?"

Mr. Jaglal: "Sir, I have to make a report."

Sub-Inspector: "What report?"

Mr. Jaglal: Your honour. I have lost a calf."

Sub-Inspector: (curtly) "Go away. It must have gone to graze somewhere. Go—run away."

Mr. Jaglal (with all humility): "No Sir, I have made a desperate search for it."

Sub-Inspector (harshly): "We should write a report of your calf; then go about searching for it as if we are your servants!

Mr. Jaglal: "Your honour, the calf was very fat and young. Have pity on me."

Sub-Inspector: "It is a police station and not a Congress Ashram. Dust thou understand? If thou canst make some offering good, otherwise run away."

On this Mr. Jaglal gave two rupees to the Sub-Inspector. The Sub-Inspector threw them away saying "as though we want charity from thee." One more rupee was then given to him, but he was not satisfied. Matters were then settled at Rs. 4. The Sub-Inspector put the money in his pocket and began to write Mr. Jaglal's report.

Sub-Inspector: "What's your name."

Mr. Jaglal: "Sir, Jaglal Chowdhri."

Sub-Inspector: "What's your caste?"

Mr. Jaglal: "Parsi."

Sub-Inspector: "Occupation?"

Mr. Jaglal: "Your honour, occupation.....Ministry."

Sub-Inspector: "What did you say....."Mistri?"

Mr. Jaglal: "No Sir, Ministry."

Sub-Inspector (bewildered): "What Ministry?"

Mr. Jaglal: "Sir, Minister of Excise."

Sub-Inspector: (terrified): "Er... ..What's the meaning?"

Mr. Jaglal (in firm tone): "No meaning. I am the Minister of Excise, My calf.....!"

Sub-Inspector (standing up): "You... Your Honour...Sir...Hon'ble...Minister Jaglal Chowdhri."

Mr. Jaglal; "Yes, the same!"

Finding the Sub-Inspector very much perplexed and in a sad plight the Minister pardoned him and warned him for the future.

Natal Indian Cane Growers' Association

(Registered under the Companies Act of 1926)

NOTICE

The second annual general meeting of the Association will be held at Gokhale Hall, Tongaat, on Sunday the 10th of April 1938 at 12 o'clock noon. All are kindly requested to attend.

Agenda:—1. Minutes; 2. Balance sheet and Auditor's report; 3. Budget; 4. Resolutions; 5. Remuneration to Officials; 6. Presidential Address; 7. Secretary's Report; 8. Elections; 9. General.

P. LUKH, Secretary.



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India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Sir Prabhashankar Pattani

THE sudden death of Sir Prabhashankar Pattani of heart failure is a great loss especially at this juncture in the constitutional reorganisation of the Indian Government into a Federation. Sir Prabhashankar has played a large part in the growth of the movement during the last ten years. A wise and courageous councillor of the Princes, he thoroughly understood the British Indian point of view and strove all along to bring about a close approximation between the two. His services to Bhavnagar were of an enduring character. He was the first Indian administrator to introduce Prohibition in a State and as such will have a distinct place in the history of social reform. He died full of years and honours and had the satisfaction of seeing his son whom he had specially trained for it, occupying the Dewanship of Bhavnagar which he had filled so long.

Mr. Manilal Gandhi Interviewed

Mr. Manilal Gandhi when questioned by a representative of the *Bombay Chronicle* about the conditions of Indians in Africa answered "It is worse than ever before. The anti-Asiatic feeling is daily increasing. The conditions have grown from bad to worse." Asked what part the Agency of India in Africa played in looking after Indians he said that it had not improved matters in the least. "In fact it has made matters worse."

Lord Nuffield's Munificence And Prevention Of Human Suffering

Lord Nuffield's munificence and his both-handed gifts to educational and medical institutions for the public good raise hopes about the future of mankind at a time when the sinful tendencies of men and women make one wonder if our headlong fall into the hell of sufferings and miseries is not near. People in ordinary affluent circumstances even, not to say of the millionaires, think only of satisfying the insatiable desires of their body and mind. All their energy, physical and mental, and their riches are thus wasted in only ruining themselves, and in ruining others, who come under their lustful eyes. That there are still men like Lord Nuffield, who, with all their wealth to swell their heads and to sway their judgment, think of noble deeds, of allaying the sufferings of ailing people, of promoting the cause of education, and of otherwise rendering

service to humanity, is indeed, a very good omen for the future.

Bombay Congress Ministry

In view evidently of the the Haripura Congress Session, the Bombay Government had issued a synopsis of their activities during the past six months that they have been in office. The very number and variety of subjects which have engaged their attention should impress everyone who sees this brochure. Release of prisoners, restoration of press securities and confiscated lands to their owners who joined the Civil Disobedience movement, lifting of the ban on numerous proscribed books and pictures, figure prominently in this catalogue. The Congress Cabinet adopted several measures to give relief to the

NOTICE.

Candidates for the N.T.C. Examinations conducted in June by the Union Dept. of Education are reminded that Entries close at 12 noon, 2nd April.

Particulars from:

G. M. TITLESTAD,
Local Secretary.
(non-European)

c/o Sastri College,
Durban.

village population and the peasantry such as remissions of outstanding arrears of land revenue, abolition of grazing fees and, most important of all, the allotment of ten lakhs of rupees to sinking wells for drinking water in rural areas. The Ministers themselves set an example to the services by accepting considerably reduced salaries. Several useful measures of legislation were introduced and passed, many of them with the support of non-Congress as well as Congress members of the Legislature. We have left Prohibition to the last as the policy of Government in this important question seems to be a bit wobbly. On the whole the Kher Ministry has a record of which it has good reason to be proud. It has won the confidence and respect of all classes and communities by its evident sincerity and freedom from communal prejudice.

Bihar Chief Secretary Withdraws

In the course of a circular addressed to district magistrates and other authorities, Mr. Brett, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bihar, has withdrawn his previous instructions in regard to the relation between them and the provincial Cabinet. It will be re-

membered that the Chief Secretary had circulated the district authorities not to take orders direct from the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretaries unless counter signed by the Permanent Secretariat.

Amazing Ignorance

Replying to Mr. Abdul Qaiyum Sir G. S. Bajpai stated that the Government of India were not aware that the Governor of Kenya had issued an Order-in-Council closing the Kenya highlands to Indians for ever. It is amazing that the Government of India should be lacking in this important information.

Land Revenue Remissions

The Bombay Government deserve to be congratulated on their decision to continue this year (1937-1938), the concessions of land revenue remission, granted last year on account of the slump in prices of agricultural produce.

President-elect Warns Britain

My term of office as the Congress President will be devoted to resist this unwanted federal scheme with all its undemocratic and anti-national features, with all the peaceful and legitimate powers, including non-violent non-cooperation, if necessary, and to strengthen the country's determination to resist this scheme," declared Mr. Subhas Bose, President-elect of the Haripura Congress talking to journalists at Wardhaganj.

Congress Lacks Power

"The communal riots at Allahabad, necessitating the summoning of assistance of the police and military, show that the Congress is not yet fitted to be the substitute of British authority. It is best to face this naked truth, however, unpleasant it may be," writes Mahatma Gandhi in his weekly paper *Hartjan*. He adds: "Not until the Congress makes good its claim to represent the whole of India shall we be in a position to displace the British Government and function as an independent nation."

Down Razors

Barbers of the town of Madura, numbering about 3,500, observed hartal on February 16 by suspending work and closing their shops. They protest against the refusal to give them equal rights along with other castes in coffee hotels. They held a meeting and resolved to resort to Satyagraha if their grievances are not remedied.

NOTICE No. 205 of 1938

CITY OF DURBAN

Umgeni River Water Scheme

Pursuant to the provisions of "The Durban Waterworks (Private) Act 1937," No. 20 of 1937, and the directions as to service of notices made by the itinerant Water Court Judge at Durban on the first day of July, 1937, notice is hereby given to all riparian owners, as defined in Act No. 8 of 1912 as amended by Act No. 46 of 1934, who may be affected by the matter to be determined by the Ordinary Water Court specially constituted in terms of Section 27 of Act No. 8 of 1912, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 (1) of Act No. 20 of 1937, that such Court will sit in the Law Courts, Durban, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of June, 1938, at the hour of 10 in the forenoon, when any such riparian owner may appear to be heard upon the matter to be determined.

The matter to be determined by the said Water Court is what quantity of water shall be passed each day through the City Council's storage works, i.e. the dam and all works connected therewith, for the use of riparian owners between the dam and sea in terms of Section 7 of Act No. 20 of 1937.

If any riparian owner as aforesaid do not attend, either in person or by his agent, attorney or counsel, at the time and place abovementioned, such order will be made and proceedings taken as the Court may think just and expedient.

Any such riparian owner who desires to be heard before the Court is hereby required to signify to the undersigned in writing, not later than seven days before the date fixed for the sitting of the Court, his or her objections.

O. C. U. KAYS,
Registrar of Water Courts (North).
25th March, 1938.

NOTICE No. 206 of 1938

CITY OF DURBAN

Umgeni River Water Scheme

It is notified in terms of Section 28 (3) of Act No. 8 of 1912 and the Regulations that the following Assessor has been selected to sit as member of the Water Court, along with the Judge and an Engineer nominated by the Minister:—

WILLIAM PEARCE, of Lower Illovo, Natal.

Any person concerned is required, in case he objects to the said Assessor, to give notice thereof in writing to the Registrar of this Court on or before the second day of May, 1938, failing which notice he will be held to waive all right of objection.

His objection must state the cause for which he objects which may be one or more of the following:—

- (1) Consanguinity or affinity within the fourth degree to any of the parties or to any person who has a personal interest in the result of the application.
- (2) Having directly or indirectly an interest in the result of the application.
- (3) For having previously deliberately expressed an opinion as to the merits of the application.
- (4) Personal enmity between any party and the Assessor.

It is further notified that within four and twenty hours after the lodging of his objection he, or some agent by him authorized in writing, shall lodge with the said Registrar an affidavit setting out the facts in support of his objection, failing which his objection will be disallowed.

O. C. U. KAYS,
Registrar of the Water Courts (North).

Office of Water Court,
Palace of Justice, Pretoria.
25th March, 1938.

Books for sale.

NOTE.—Remittance should accompany order V.P. ORDERS will not receive attention. Postal Orders to be made to "Indian Opinion" at Phoenix. Postage Free on all books.

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