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NOTES AND NEWS

The Gun That Misfired

CONSIDERABLE stir was caused at Durban the other day when the *Daily News* published a statement issued jointly by the Natal Indian Congress (Maritzburg Branch) and the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch). The statement, signed by the respective Presidents of the organisations, purported to declare that a full measure of unity in Natal should be arrived at and to mark the arrival in the Union of the new Agent-General for India and taking into consideration the significance of the new parliamentary elections (italics are ours), a reconciliation between the two bodies had been agreed upon, and the basis of the agreement was:

"The name of the body shall be the Natal Indian Congress (with which is amalgamated the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association).

"The basis of reconciliation is subject to the approval of the headquarters of both the bodies.

"The Presidents of respective bodies hereby agree to do their best to bring about a complete reconciliation among the Indian community in Natal on this basis.

"In the event of the headquarters of both the bodies or either of them not agreeing to this basis of reconciliation we agree to bring the whole issue before the Indian public of Maritzburg and advocate amalgamation."

On the following day a disclaimer by the officials of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association (Maritzburg Branch) disclaiming any knowledge of the reconciliation, appeared in the *Daily News*. The paper also reported that the President of one of the organisations had withdrawn from the agreement. In an interview with a representative of *Indian Opinion*, a prominent official of the Association at Maritzburg declared in most emphatic terms that the statement that a reconciliation had been arrived at was untrue. The statement was signed by the President in his individual capacity and was not approved of by the Association. Why the statement was rushed

to the papers before the people concerned were consulted, was one of those strange steps that are often taken by those who should know better. He

THE AGENT-GENERAL'S MESSAGE OF GREETINGS

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings through the medium of *INDIAN OPINION* to the Indian community of South Africa.

Before my arrival in the country I heard a great deal about the difficulties with which I would be faced, difficulties arising not only from the circumstances in which the community finds itself, but from internal dissensions within the community itself.

With regard to the latter, I was very happy to hear on my arrival in the Union that there was a strong movement to merge the existing political organisations, Pietermaritzburg taking the lead which I trust the rest of Natal will follow. Nor am I without hope of considerable improvement in respect of the other difficulties to which I have referred. The international position with the possibility of a World War is bringing the the different sections of the British Commonwealth into a closer union, and there is everywhere a desire to settle old differences. The unity and solidarity of the Commonwealth will not be real if there exists lack of harmony between sections of the population. It is therefore my hope that this will be realised in South Africa, and that there will be a real and determined attempt to remove the causes of friction between the European and Indian sections of the community.

With best wishes for the continued success of "*INDIAN OPINION*."

stated that Maritzburg was solidly behind the Association and nothing would shake their determination. He referred to the statement as a gun that misfired.

India's Communal Differences

Whilst Mahatma Gandhi is endeavouring to end the communal differences in India it must be heartrending to all who have the welfare of India at heart, to read the somewhat irrational speech of Mr. Fazul Huq, the Premier of Bengal which he made at the special Calcutta session of the All-India Moslem League. Mr. Fazul Huq declared: "Only the other day his Excellency (the Viceroy) invited Mr. Gandhi to meet him before he left for Simla. Why did not Lord Linlithgow write to anybody else? Because, the question of federation is trembling in the balance and possibly his Excellency's advisers told him that herein lay the solution. But the solution does not lie there. There are other parties to be consulted. His Excellency might not know it. Let me make it clear that no problem worth the name connected with the administration of India can be solved without reference to the All-India Moslem League. The League may not be properly organised to-day, but even as it is to-day it is worth hundreds of Congresses. We may not be vocal but each and everyone of us is a tiger and each one of us is a lion (applause) ready, ready, to shed the last drop of blood in defence of Islam." Mr. Jinnah, who presided at the session, and who undoubtedly dramatises his speeches but never lets passion run away with him, gave silent endorsement to Mr. Huq's declamations and even added an enigmatic pendant to them. "I may tell my friend, Mr. Huq," said he, "that the time will come when perhaps higher authorities than the Viceroy may have to consult the All-India Moslem League."

We hesitate to think that Mr. Huq's speech represents the opinion of the Moslem world of India. During the few months Muslims in great numbers have been rallying towards the Congress Flag. Speeches such as that delivered by Mr. Huq will do incalculable harm to the solidarity of the Indian nation—more harm than what the Imperial Bureaucracy had hitherto done.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 1938

The Agent-General And The Rift In The Indian Community

LAST week, in extending a warm welcome to the Agent-General, Mr. B. Rama Rau, we expressed the hope that he would endeavour to unite the Indian community in South Africa. Our community stands divided since 1933. The division is so acute that Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh and Sir Raza Ali have referred to it in their annual reports to the Government of India. If the division were not acute the last Agent Sir Raza Ali would not have convened that momentous conference at his office between the representatives of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association and the Natal Indian Congress in the middle of 1935. Moreover the Press in India in dealing with the South African Indian question has always referred to the serious differences that exist in our community, and has, times without number, appealed to the community to unite. That being the case, the broadcast address of the Agent-General came as a complete surprise to us. To use his own words. "During the few days I have been in this country I have gained the impression that the Indian community as a whole is in no way disunited," so says Mr. Rama Rau. It is certainly a surprising statement to make. No one would be happier than ourselves to find the Indian community as a whole in no way disunited. How the Agent-General has gained that impression is beyond our comprehension. He arrived at Durban on Wednesday. Within a day or two of his arrival he interviewed a few representatives of the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association, and we believe,

a number of Indian women. Is it possible for any one, we ask, however, capable and efficient he may be, to gain an impression in so short a time? Mark you, Sir, in Natal alone, there are two hundred thousand Indians. Or is it that the Agent-General was overwhelmed by the 3,000 Indians who gathered at the City Hall on Saturday last to accord him a welcome? The filling of the City Hall does not in any way carry with it an impression that the Indian community stands united. To illustrate our point we need only refer to the meetings that were held, in the City Hall by General Smuts, Mr. Hofmeyr and Mr. Pirow, all of which were overcrowded. The thousands who attended them, did so, not so much to prove the solidarity of the United Party as to hear the Statesmen speak.

It would have been better, we think, if the Agent-General had ascertained the facts with regard to the disension in the community by seeing the people before declaring that the community is in no way disunited. We make no apology for writing in this strain, for it must be admitted by all right thinking people, that in South Africa our leaders should be imbued with one ideal only, and that is that the South African Indian community should have one powerful political organisation. That is the only hope for our community in South Africa. We cannot afford to speak with two voices. Anti-Asiatic Legislations that find

their way to the Central and Provincial Legislatures could only be opposed by a united Indian front. That is only possible by the existence of one organisation. We have had the sad spectacle of seeing the two existing organisations presenting separate memorandas on the same subject. It is a sheer waste of time and energy. The dilatoriness that is being shewn by the Durban City Council in the matter of housing for Indians, is due to the existence of two bodies, The Agency of the Government of India in supporting the Congress finds itself facing a brick wall, for, the City Council invariably insists upon representations from the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association. This tug of war results in the suffering of the poor.

In our last issue we referred to the difficult task that lies ahead of the Agent-General. His path is by no means a bed of roses. He is charged with a great duty to perform. His task however, would be much easier, if only he could take an impartial view of existing conditions in South Africa.

We quote the Agent-General again. He refers to the actual wording of the agreement of 1927 "to secure effective and continuous co-operation between the Government of India and the Union Government." This was most efficiently carried out both in letter and in spirit by the first Agent-General, Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri, and his successor, Sir Kurma Reddi. There is no doubt that they were fortunate in having had to deal with a united Indian community.

We believe that if the present Agent-General works on the lines chalked out by Mr. Sastri, there should be no difficulty in uniting the Indian community.

DURBAN WELCOMES THE NEW AGENT FOR INDIA MR. B. RAMA RAU

A CORDIAL reception at the Durban City Hall was accorded to the fifth Agent-General for India Mr. B. Rama Rau C.I.E., last Saturday evening under the auspices of the Natal Indian Congress and Chairmanship of the mayor Mr. Fleming Johnston. Amongst those present to be noted representing the Indian community were the Patron of the Natal Indian Congress Mr. E. M. Parekh and other distinguished members of the community. Amongst those representing the European community were present Mr. D. Burnside M.P., Mr. Maurice Webb Chairman of the Indo-European Joint Council and the Native people were represented by Dr. John Dube.

The following is a summary of the Agent-General's speech appearing in last Monday's *Mercury*:

"The presence here to-day of the Mayor and other representative Europeans of Durban—a friendly gesture which I deeply appreciate—indicates, I hope, that in my efforts to serve my community and to bring about more friendly relations between Europeans and Indians, I shall have the sympathy of a large number of European friends. I shall certainly need their support and help in this very difficult task of overcoming racial prejudices."

In these words the Agent-General for India, Mr. Rama Rau C.I.E., acknowledged the cordial welcome extended to him at the reception held in his honour.

Pessimism

Referring to the difficulties of his task, Mr. Rau said he had no illusions. During the few weeks of his stay in India he had the opportunity of discussing the problems of South African Indians with political leaders and other public men in India, who had made a life-long study of this question.

He was somewhat disturbed to find a general feeling of pessimism, if not actually of despair, with regard to the position of Indians here.

"Some of you," he went on, "have laboured in this cause for more than 25 years, and I am sure that in the course of your long political experience you have realised that in the sphere of politics, as in that of economics, progress is never in even stages. The history of your struggle in this country during the last 30 years shows that you have had alternating periods of depression and optimism."

Recalling the various stages of Indian progress, alternating movements of gloom and hopes, Mr. Rau said that the relations between the European

and the Indian community were less bitter to-day than what they were many years ago.

Indian requests and representations had generally been considered sympathetically by the Government as well as by the local authorities.

"There are, however, indications," said Mr. Rau, "that a new era has begun within the British Commonwealth. The very serious international situation that has been developing in Europe during the last two years is tending to draw the different races and countries constituting the British Commonwealth into a closer relationship. You see indications of this tendency in Ireland, in India and elsewhere.

Great Chance

"As you all know responsible Government over a very wide field of administration was introduced in all the Provinces of India more than a year ago. One of the most remarkable features of this great constitutional change has been the complete and whole-hearted co-operation between the British members of the Services and the Indian Ministerial chiefs, many of whom belong to the extreme political Party in India. Race prejudice has almost disappeared in India and the social and political relations between Indians and the European community are extremely cordial.

"May we not hope that a similar development will take place in this country and that a serious effort will be made by the European community to foster friendly relations on a lasting basis between South Africa and India?"

"You have to-day in the Government of this country men like General Hertzog and General Smuts, who are classed among the greatest living statesmen of the world. They have an international reputation for courageous and far-sighted statesmanship. They are in a unique position to-day to make a big contribution towards the solution of the Indian problem, which, if not dealt with at this stage, is bound to assume the dimensions of an Imperial problem and become a serious menace to the unity and solidarity of the British Commonwealth. I know the feeling of my own countrymen with regard to this matter. The treatment accorded to Indians abroad has always been deeply resented by the whole of India. India will not rest content until the problem is solved on just and equitable lines.

"I have several times been asked by politicians and journalists in India,

as well as here, whether I had any definite plans in view with regard to my work here. Unlike two of my predecessors who had come on deputation to South Africa before their appointment as Agent-General, I cannot claim to have a first hand knowledge of your problems and difficulties and I do not propose to offer to-day any opinion on the issues which have been the subject of controversy in the recent past.

"My primary duty as Agent-General will be, to quote the wording of the Agreement of 1927: 'To secure effective and continuous co-operation between the Government of India and the Union Government.' But it will, of course, be my endeavour to serve all sections of the Indian community here in every possible way and you may always depend on me for assistance or guidance in any matter that concerns the community.

"There are, however, one or two points in your address on which I should like to make a few observations to-day. I am very glad indeed to see that the Natal Indian Congress has, especially during the last two years, devoted considerable attention to social work among the poorer sections of the community. I understand, however, that these efforts have necessarily been of a spasmodic character and that there has not yet been a sustained and organised effort to raise the standard of living and the social status of these sections of the community. If you are going to exercise any permanent influence on the people concerned, it seems to me that what is necessary is a permanent organisation working continually throughout the year under the guidance or with the support of the Congress. Whether it should be a separate organisation or a body working under the direction of a Committee of the Congress is a matter of detail which should be carefully considered.

"I attach very great importance to the development of this branch of your activity, for, as you are aware, the Indian problem here is not entirely political or racial. If I may put it another way, the raising of the standard of living and social status has definitely a political aspect, for there is no doubt that the outlook of the European community in regard to the Indian question has to some extent been influenced by the low standards of living prevailing among the poorer sections of the Indian community. I can assure you that my wife and I will always be ready to assist you in every possible way in work of this nature.

Sacrifices Demanded

"It is not however an easy problem to deal with for it will demand considerable personal sacrifices on the part of the men and women, who devote themselves to the work. Nor is it easy to sustain the enthusiasm of the workers, for no spectacular results can be achieved in a few years. It will take years. Nevertheless the effort must be made and it will succeed if the work is sponsored by a powerful body

like the Congress.

"I have been reading a great deal during the past two months about the history of the Indian community in this country in the earlier years of the present century. Although a large number of women took an active part in the passive resistance movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, I was somewhat surprised to see that there were practically no women within the Congress fold to-day. I understand that until

recently it was considered doubtful whether under the constitution of the Congress, women could be admitted as members. There are apparently no such constitutional impediments in the way and even if there were, the constitution could, of course, be easily amended.

"But merely opening the doors to women is not sufficient. I consider it your duty not merely to invite them to join the Congress, but to encourage them in every possible way to participate in all your activities."

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ANTLASIATIC ACTIVITIES

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION,"

SIR,—It is reported that at a meeting of the Pretoria North Central Rate-payers' Association held in Pretoria last month it was decided to submit to the proper authority an urgent request "that steps be taken to terminate once for all the acquisition of fixed property by Asiatics and Asiatic companies," and I would be glad if you would be good enough to publish this letter to place before the general public the viewpoint of the Indian.

The resolution is exceptionally harsh, and if carried into effect will only tend to make the solution of the "Asiatic question" in this country much more difficult.

I am an Indian merchant who was born in Pretoria of Indian parents also born here, and all my interests, financial and otherwise are bound up in the future of South Africa, and such being the case why should I be debarred from owning property in the land of my birth, and if it is the policy of the "powers-that-be" to force us out of the country, the country where we were born, what is to become of us. Surely the resolution as outlined above is not only harsh but also absolutely "unjust," and I have always been given to understand that the average South African prides himself upon the absolute "justice and equity" of its laws, not only as they operate amongst themselves, but also in regard to the subject races of this land.

Furthermore our neighbours the Portuguese are doing all they can to encourage the acquisition of property by those resident there, irrespective of race or creed, and the result has proved eminently satisfactory.

I cannot say that I have any great quarrel with the fact that all Asiatic immigration into this country has been stopped, but even here discrimination shown is most unfair, but surely it is not the intention that those who have lived here practically all their lives, and those who were born and bred here, should be taken by the "scruff of the neck" and pitched out.

I cannot think that the authorities will for one moment allow such a resolution as referred to above to carry much weight with them, but it certainly shows the trend of those who will not, or cannot, think for themselves, to allow themselves to be swayed by those who have some axe to grind.

Yours etc,
GOOLAM M. KESHAJEE.

Durban Indian Women's Association

Sir,—In your issue of the 6th instant, under the heading of "Notes and News" and under the title "Indian Women Slighted," there appeared the following remarks: "The present Indian Women's Association, which was formed by Lady Kunwarani Singh is a farce. The mere drinking of tea in one's home will not uplift Indian women."

At the very outset, I make bold to inform you that you are not obviously aware of the activities of our Association. Among other things, we are carrying out such sterling work as paying full school fees and providing books for certain girls studying for the J.C. and Matric, in the Dartnell Crescent Girls' High School, and have paid for books for poor children, attending other schools. We have been assisting such world-wide movements as Girl Guides and Red Cross Society, by providing uniforms, for necessitous girls. Our Association was the prime mover in the Indian Housing Scheme. We have presented a memorandum and given evidence before the Education Commission.

By representations, through the National Council of Women, to whom our Association is affiliated, we have been successful in getting old age pensions for the Indian women. We have been instrumental in getting the City Council to place a constable on duty during school hours on the North Coast Road near the Government School and made

representations about the Indian cad-dies at the Municipal Golf Course, being addicted to the evil habit of smoking dagga.

Our members pay regular monthly visits to the hospital etc. As to the second part of your remark, may I inform you that the best of societies drink tea. This remark, I suppose refers to the Indian Women's Reading Circle which is a branch of our Association, which is held in members's homes, and which alone has brought the best of European cultured women in literature, art from all parts of the world, in contact with our womenfolk, and who have given lectures on various subjects such as the customs and people of different countries including India and Ceylon. Through the chairlady of the Reading Circle, books are lent by the Municipal Library, which has never been done hitherto to our women, which enables them to read good books. Our younger members write poems and articles on different topics and deliver same at the Reading Circle.

Our Association is certainly doing good work and thereby trying to uplift our women and which has made great strides, during the past six years of its existence. Our charitable work includes an annual treat to the inmates of the Aryan Benevolent Home.

If other associations are to be formed with the intention of carrying on similar work, existing societies should not be uncharitably criticised and ridiculed.

I may say that our Association does not touch on any political work as there is too much to do for the social upliftment of our women.

Yours etc.,
MRS. J. LAWRENCE
Hon. Sec. D.I.W.A.

[We gladly publish the above letter. We only regret that we could not do so earlier. Notwithstanding the good work that is done by the Durban Indian Women's Association described our criticism stands good for the simple reason that much is yet to be done in the sphere of social work.—Ed. I.O.]

PROUD RECORD OF CONGRESS

The Hindustan Times in its issue of April 2nd has the following interesting Bombay letter:—

TECHNICALLY one year has elapsed since the inauguration of the new constitution in this as in other Presidencies. But the life of the Congress Ministries is only about nine months. Yet in this short period, Mr. Kher and his team have laid up a store of good work of which they have every reason to be proud. It is invidious to make comparisons between the various Congress Ministries, every one of which is striving as best as it can to implement the Congress programme in conformity with local conditions and requirements. Nevertheless, I cannot resist the temptation to assert that Bombay yields to no other province in its efforts to serve the masses, according to the programme chalked out in the election manifesto of the Congress. With a financial policy whose soundness has been widely recognized, it has planned its activities in a spirit of realism, wherefore which it lacks in the spectacular it makes up in the practical. As Bombay is admittedly the foremost industrial province in the country, it is in the fitness of things that its Ministry should have placed in the forefront a liberal, yet equitable, policy of labour welfare. Bombay Government's labour policy has since become the model for every other province.

Labour Policy

Speaking of labour, it is necessary to record the industrial disturbances which occurred in Ahmedabad and Sholapur in the early part of the Ministry's life. They were the work of irresponsible extremists whose motives were not beyond reproach. Peace and non violence are deliberately excluded from their dictionary. Their creed and policy are violence and strife. Some of them are disgruntled Congressmen, while others are suspected to be the agents of a foreign Government who believe in the violent overthrow of the present order of society and the establishment of a dictatorship of the proletariat. They also include a set of men who honestly believe that the Congress Government meant the rule of the peasant and the worker and would not, therefore, brook a moment's delay. Whatever the causes of the agitation, the trouble in the industrial areas worried the Government a great deal and severely tested their ability to reconcile Congress ideals with their capacity to govern. Those were strenuous days, but Government proved that the name of the Congress was by no means synonymous with inefficiency. With surprising firmness they put down the force of violence which earned for them praise from unexpected quarters.

Having removed violence from the field, they forthwith proceeded to examine the grievances of the workers and set up an expert committee to go into the question of textile labour which constitutes the majority of the labour force in this Presidency. This committee, under the presidency of Sjt. Jairamdas Daulatram has already submitted an interim report recommending an increase in the level of wages which has been accepted by the millowners of Bombay and Ahmedabad.

Government's sympathy for the worker has also been demonstrated in one or two other directions. They have extended to the numerous small factories in the Presidency, the provisions of the Factories Act which imposes on the owners certain liabilities calculated to avoid over-driving the workers and to ensure for them decent conditions of work.

Constructive Programme

As in the field of labour so in that of agriculture, Government have shown great concern for the primary producer. The Premier said on a memorable occasion: "Our constructive programme provides for agrarian reform and the economic uplift of the masses. Measures so far published (here the reference is to the Money-Lenders Bill, the Small Holders Relief Bill, and the Debt Conciliation Bill) form an instalment of a wider scheme of reform. The ultimate welfare of the cultivator lies in increasing his earning capacity which must necessarily grow under healthy surroundings, better education, better roads, better irrigation works, etc." The condition of the vast masses of the agricultural population cannot be transformed overnight; it must needs be a process of years so that the measures adopted by any government should be judged not by the immediate results they produce but by their tendency to bring about an improvement. Viewed from this standpoint, the Bombay Government can claim to have made a sound approach to the agricultural problem in this Presidency.

Joint Electorates

In two other spheres, the Bombay Government has given a lead to the rest of the provinces, namely, in regard to the reform of the local self-government and the question of temple-entry by Harijans. The first of these was exhaustively dealt with in the Bombay letter in January. There is no need, therefore, to cover the same ground except to draw attention to the fact that the Local Boards Reform Act is the first step in removing the canker of communal electorates. Let it, however, be pointed out that the measure is only enabling in character so that it cannot

be said that the Congress Government has, by virtue of its majority in the legislature, trampled on what some of the Muslims consider to be their "rights." Although the Ministry would have been happier, if it could make a clean sweep of the separate electorates in local bodies, it wished to carry the minorities with it, paying due heed to their suspicions. The provisions of the Act only make it possible for such Muslim constituencies, as so desire, to ask the Government to give them joint electorates. The decision is left entirely in the hands of the community concerned. Half a loaf is better than no bread at all, more particularly in the present instance when the representatives of the Muslim League in the Assembly staged a walk-out on the ground that the measure was an infringement of the Communal Award. If the Act had been more liberal in conception, the opposition of these critics might have assumed more disturbing forms. The same Act also abolished nominations to local bodies, but ensured for the minority communities weightage so as to preserve their present measure of representation.

Temple Entry

The temple-entry legislation referred to above is also enabling in character and seeks to facilitate the trustees of private temples to declare the shrines open for worship by Harijans as well as caste Hindus, without fear of legal action either by the original donors or their legal descendants or by the community of worshippers. True, it does not go very far; but the law of trust being what it is, it is recognised that Government could not have gone farther in regard to the thousands of private temples that dot this part of the country.

Education Policy

The above is only a summary of the record of the outstanding achievements of the Ministry in the past nine months. There are others besides, which require to be mentioned to complete the picture. They are quiet but constructive steps taken by the Education Minister, who is also the Premier, to spread primary education and give effect, in slow degrees, to the Wardha Scheme. More than one committee has been appointed to examine the different aspects of the educational problem. Many lakhs of rupees have been set apart in the budget for the spread of education on sound and nation-building lines. Prohibition is also engaging the serious attention of the Bombay Government and, like other provinces, Bombay will start—or has already started—prohibition in selected areas. The famous Bardoli taluka has the honour, in this behalf, and, in urban areas, Ahmedabad is to try it out. Our Health

Minister who has some clear cut ideas on public health measures has introduced a Bill to give recognition to those who practice indigenous medicine, namely, Ayurvedic and Unani.

So much for a general review of the

achievements of the Ministry since it took office in July last. There was nothing outstanding in Bombay during the past week, except for a storm in a teacup in the Assembly. The Opposition, which seems ever ready to read

undesirable motives in everyone of the actions of Government, questioned the equity of the grant of Rs. 73,000 odd in connection with the approach road to Haripura. The Opposition, of course, fell flat.

FUTURE LIFE

THERE are those who tell us that these souls are higher, nobler, superconscious one and that they suddenly fall into the material bodies. The question is: If these souls belong to a celestial realm, why should they at all fall again, and if they fall, why should they fall into such different phases? And if they come here for some process of purification and drop into worldly condition, you cannot argue that these celestial souls which originally were pure, find themselves under the necessity of taking birth in the world; because if they do so, there is no guarantee that they will not fall into the same conditions once again. If you take up all these views, it appears that possibly there is a realm of nature, a realm where nothing appears without some kind of causation, where everything is to be regarded as growth or decay and is not to be regarded as an integration into the physical without any kind of relation whatsoever. There is a law of nature. Everything is a consolidation of the past on the one side and an advance into the future on the other. There is nothing which happens without causation. Every fragmentary causation is a reflection of the past. If the pattern which applies to other things is also to be applied to the way in which human beings happen to be born, you will discover that they can arise only as the resultant of a past series, and you cannot go about saying that it is due to an injection of a super-natural essence. If the souls find themselves under the necessity of incarnating themselves in this world, every soul must have had a past and there must be some kind of relevancy between the past and the present. If that is the nature of the human soul, what is its future? How is it going to appear in his world? There are the naturalists, and again mere materialists, who regard consciousness as a product of the nervous system, and just as a flame goes out as the oil in the lamp is exhausted, even so, when a death occurs, consciousness expires. There is a finality so far as the nature of this human soul is concerned. A wise man dieth even as the unwise man dieth. That sort of theory is not to be regarded as utterly

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By  
SIR S. RADHAKRISHNAN  
In "Prabudha Bharata"

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(Continued from last week)

fruitless. You may always say that people who accept that view are never capable of great tenderness and disinterestedness. Simply because this life is the end of all and so we must enjoy the passing hour, it does not follow that philosophy must go and literature should become less interesting. But the difficulties appear when some kind of crisis overtakes you. If you are loyal to these great ideals and meet with disappointment, then it is that you are bound to ask yourself the question: Are the forces of this universe co-operating with me? Are they friendly to my interests or am I ploughing a lonely furrow? You must have the satisfaction that these ideals are rooted in the nature of reality, it is possible for you to account for the real enthusiasm which morality expects of its votaries. There is the other way,—there is a future, but the future is eternal punishment. It is a theory which has come down to us very much from Christianity. A recent writer in *Catholic Journal* says, "No catholic can deny the reality of hell fire or that there is eternal punishment." Now, how does this theory arise? I may tell you that this theory has got its valuable point. It believes in the horizon of immortality of the human soul. There are two things which are blended in this hypothesis, that is, the Platonic theory that the soul is immortal and that whatever might happen, you cannot destroy it, and the Jewish doctrine of hell fire. These two things got mixed up. If you are told that it is possible for us to enjoy immortal felicity without assuming the other belief, if we say that we are members of one nature, it follows that so long as there are people who are suffering hell, we cannot have any kind of eternal felicity

for some. While the ghastly tragedy of eternal hell is being enacted, then to make out that individuals believe that they themselves are more precious than the other people and ought to be protected, is not possible. Then, a kind of dualistic hypothesis follows,—eternal heaven and eternal hell. If there is to be a God who presides over heaven and a Satan who presides over the eternal hell, the two things are cardinal or fundamental and unless you say God is in all, even in the most unrepentant individual it will not be possible for you to escape the dualistic hypothesis. Then you conceive of God as a vindictive cruel being. The theologians' argument for eternal punishment was that, when we are doing some evil, we are committing an offence against the Infinite Majesty of God, and that offence deserves infinite punishment. The infinite frailty of the human nature has also to be taken into account before any such thing is to be argued out as a satisfactory hypothesis. Of course it was recognized that this sort of hypothesis would not do. So it was argued that there must be a third conception of a purgatory state. Between death and dissolution, you have an intermediate state. It is not a state of heaven or hell. It is a state which goes much further than death until the day of resurrection.

(To be continued)

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Things In General

An Unworthy Act.

WE have received a full report of the meeting that was held last Sunday by the Indian Women's League to protest against and show their keen resentment felt at the ungentlemanly manner in which some officials of the Natal Indian Congress treated the officials and members of the League on the occasion of a reception function held at the point in honour of the Agent-General for India on the day of his arrival. To say the least, the facts given make painful reading. However, for obvious reasons we do not desire to enter into details of both sides but suffice it to say that courtesy should have been shown to the fairer sex and this should have been considered above everything else. The public could have been saved from witnessing an ugly scene like this!

Indians To Discuss

Marketing Scheme

A general meeting had been convened by the Natal Indian Tobacco growers and Dealers Association at Port Shepstone on May 22, to consider matters arising out of the Marketing Scheme, as outlined by the National Marketing Council, and the question of forming a farmers' Co-operative Union.

Warning To Sea Bathers

Several minor surf rescues were effected at the Durban Country Club Beach recently, the spring tides causing the dangerous conditions. None of the rescues was dangerous enough to necessitate the use of the life line.

Zionist Leader's Death In

Concentration Camp

Dr. Jacob Ehrlich, Zionist leader and formerly the only Jewish member of the Vienna Town Council, has died in a concentration camp at Dachau, South Germany.

Johannesburg Rocked By

Earth Tremor

Windows were shattered in Johannesburg recently when an unusually severe earth tremor shook the city. The tremor was felt at its strongest in the western suburbs. Offices at the top of Johannesburg's high buildings were severely shaken, and in many cases, typists, fearing the collapse of the buildings, made hasty exits. The seismograph at the Union Observatory recorded the

shock as "very strong." A heavy fall of rock in No. 13 shaft of the Crown Mines is believed to have caused the tremor. One Native was slightly injured.

Worth Knowing

There is only one non-Christian country in Europe? This is Albania, smallest of Balkan States, and peopled entirely by Mohammedans. The fez is still worn, and in some of the more remote villages men wear traditional Greek costumes with skirts down to the knees instead of trousers. Although there are no railways in Albania, there are good roads, and electric trams run in Tirana, the capital. Public letter writers are still employed in Tirana, though the free education has diminished their business.

The Wesley Revival

At a time when Methodists were celebrating the founding of their church it is fitting that all who value social reform, popular education, the emancipation of slaves and revival of true religion such as was brought about by the Wesleys and their followers should unite in paying respects to the memories of these great scholars and reformers, and all nationalities who use Charles Wesley's familiar hymns will welcome a reminder of what caused him to write them and his brothers and his colleagues to proclaim the gospel throughout the length and breadth of England at the close of the eighteenth century. It was only on May 21st 1738 that Charles Wesley had that experience which converted him from a sincere seeker after truth to a humble receiver of divine grace and guidance. Three days later the Rev. John Wesley had a similar experience. There was nothing new in what they taught, but the country soon observed in them and their fellow enthusiasts at Oxford something which brought new life to those who gave heed to their words and it is not beyond the realms of possibility for a similar revival to break out at the time of the coming Wesley Bicentenary.

Muslim Ladies' Religious Function

The great Muslim festival of Maulood Sharif, was celebrated by the firm of Messrs. Amod Dawood & Co., at Pine Street, Durban, on Saturday night, May 14, in conjunction with the birthday of Hazrath Muhammed, the Great Prophet of Islam. Next day, Sunday, the function of Hadia, and Khath-me-Koran (Function of completing of the thirty chapters of the Holy Koran), took place at the same place, and was attended by co-religionist from Ladysmith, Maritzburg, Durban and elsewhere, and the hall was overpacked. The grand-

daughters of the late Al-Haj D. M. Mall, of Messrs. Amod Dawood & Co., Miss Aishah Bibee M. Mall and Miss Aminah Bibee E. Mall were complimented on their memorable "Hadia" and received valuable presents from the Muslim ladies of Durban. Misses Hawa D. Mall, Mariam D. Mall, Mariam E. Omar, Hawa A. Mall, Fatimah E. Omar and Khadijah I. Varachia delivered a series of lectures and songs. Dinner was served after termination of the function.

Patel's Debating Society

Patel's Debating Society was formed some time ago and the officials elected were:—President: Honourable G. H. M. Patel; vice-presidents: Messrs. A. I. Patel, M. I. Patel, R. C. Read, Nallabhai Khotwal and Joe Patel; Speaker: Mr. A. E. Saley; chairman: Mr. E. Q. Ally; joint hon. secretaries: Messrs. A. Rebaney and Y. M. Hoosain. The first meeting of the above society will be called on Wednesday night June 15. The items on the programme to be debated are the following: 1. The future of the South African Indians; 2. Freedom of choice for Muslim boys and girls; 3. Mixed marriages between Indians and Europeans. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Indian Ocean Conditions

Two cargo steamers in port struck heavy weather in the Indian Ocean on their way from Australia to the United Kingdom. The British India steamer *Peshawar* arrived in port with a heavy list and about 15ft. of her foremast broken off. It was explained that the mast, "which was weak with dry rot," broke off as a result of the heavy rolling of the vessel, and the list was caused by the "heavy withdrawal of bunkers from one side of the ship." When the mast broke off it carried with it the wireless aerial, but this was later connected to the section of the mast below the cross spar. The London freighter *Gemstone*, also experienced bad weather on her maiden voyage. The bridge and a lifeboat were slightly damaged by the heavy seas which pounded on her decks. A member of the ship's company said that the vessel used so much coal battling against the heavy seas that it was found necessary to put into Mauritius to obtain sufficient bunkers to get her to Durban with safety.

Problem To Be Studied

In Britain

It is understood that the Government intends to establish a Departmental Committee to examine the whole question of the evacuation of the civilian population, either in whole or in part, from cities and towns threatened by air raids in case of war.

India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Crisis In Orissa Averted

ACCORDING to a Reuter's message in the *Kenya Daily Mail*, it appears, Sir John Hubback, Governor of Orissa, has cancelled his leave, thus averting the crisis which Congress has threatened on account of the promotion of a Revenue Commissioner to the Acting Governorship during his leave of absence.

Another & Yet Bigger Fight For Freedom

A warning that the Congress might have to launch another struggle for freedom, was given by the Congress President, Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, replying to an address of welcome presented to him at Cossipore and Barnagore (Northern Suburbs). Mr. Bose said, "If the Congress is forced to launch another struggle for independence, of which I think there is considerable likelihood, in the near future, its severity would be a thousand times greater than had been the case in the past. For, the fight will not remain confined within the limits of British India, but spread among the people of Indian India." Mr. Bose said that it would be beyond the power of the Britishers to deal with such a struggle, which would be in the form of a *satyagraha* movement extended over so vast an area.

Zanzibar Clove Question Settled?

According to a report in the *Kenya Daily Mail* of the 11th inst., it appears that with the sustained efforts of the Indian community of Zanzibar and as a result of three weeks negotiations carried on by Mr. G. S. Bozman I.S.C., representing the Government of India, an agreement on the Clove dispute in Zanzibar has reached between the Indian community and Zanzibar Government. The agreement, says the correspondent of the *Kenya Daily Mail* at Zanzibar "is subject to approval of the Secretary of State on the Government side and to the confirmation by the Indian National Congress in India on the Indian side. The agreement, says the same correspondent, has been forwarded by air to the Congress in India for their confirmation. All sections of the Indian community are reported to be satisfied with the terms of agreement.

Frontier Election Discussion

The Frontier election tribunal accepted the petition of Khan Bahadur Mahomed Zaman Khan (Independent) against the election of Mr. Mahomed Sarwar Khan (Democrats),

Deputy President of the Frontier Assembly, as well as a petition of Mr. Mehd Zaman Khan (Congress) against Mr. Mahomed Zaman Khan. The tribunal recommended the sitting member to be unseated and further ordered that both Mr. Mahomed Sarwar Khan and Mr. Mahomed Zaman Khan be disqualified for six years from standing for elections. There will thus be a by-election in the Haripura North (Mahomedan rural) constituency, and Congress circles believe that a full-fledged Congressman will be returned.

Fight Up To Federal Court

Taluqdars and zamindars of the United Provinces are considerably perturbed over the Government proposals relating to agrarian legislation, which will be presented to the Assembly in the form of a bill during the present session. Three prominent lawyers, Sir. Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Sultan Ahmed and Mr. G. Chaudhry Niamtullah, ex-Judge of the Allahabad High Court, are understood to have been called to Lucknow for consultations. Taluqdars on whom *sanads* have been conferred, contend that they have hereditary rights over their property and consequently such rights cannot be given to tenants. This case may have to be referred to the Federal Court. The landlords in the meantime hope that the Upper House will reject the bill by a majority of votes, thus necessitating a joint session. They also hope that the zamindar members of the Congress party may not support the bill. While landlords are much perturbed Congressmen think that the Government's proposals are unsatisfactory and do not go far enough.

Motion For An Enquiry Committee

Sardar Mangal Singh moved a resolution asking for the appointment of a committee with non-official majority and included experts to inquire into the working of the Indian Broadcasting Department and to make representations regarding its future working so as to make it more efficient and popular and also to suggest measures for encouraging the manufacture of radio goods in India with a view to making the country self sufficient. He complained of favouritism and nepotism in the department. Appointments were made arbitrarily, he said. There was neither a selection committee nor was the Public Service Commission's aid taken for the purpose. The discussion on the resolution was not concluded when the House adjourned. The discussion will be resumed during the Simla Session.

Breeze In The Punjab Assembly

The recently announced policy of the Punjab Government to refuse to answer on the floor of the house questions "savouring of communalism," led to yet another breeze in the Punjab Legislative Assembly when the new convention was invoked by a Minister more than one. Dr. Gokal Chand Narang asked on what authority Government were entitled to withhold such information from the House. He alleged that in a province where the majority community was in power the minority was bound to feel that the refusal to give such information amounted to gagging it.

House Adjourned For 'Prevailing Disorders'

The usual serenity of the Punjab Assembly was rudely disturbed by boisterous scenes marked by heated arguments across the floor of the House and occasionally with the Chair culminating in the Speaker suddenly adjourning the House for the day on the grounds of "prevailing disorder," and threatened walk out by the opposition—for which they had actually been picking up their caps preparatory to leave the Chamber, took the form of a stay-in-strike.

Nankanasahiba Satyagraha Ended

All 149 Mazhabi Sikhs arrested in connection with the Satyagraha movement of Nankanasahiba have been released from the local jail following a compromise between the parties. They are proceeding to Nankanasahiba to pay their homage at the Sikh shrine and hold a Durbar there.

Vidya Mandirs

Mr. Ravi Shanker Shukla interviewed Mahatma Gandhi at Segaon, who has agreed to inaugurate the Vidya Mandir Training School, which will impart training to 166 stendary scholars getting seven rupees to ten a month and 34 others selected for filling vacancies. Preparations are afoot for the inauguration ceremony.

No-Tax Campaign

Following the no-tax campaign in Mansa State, peasants in the neighbouring States and Talukdaris are demanding substantial reduction in revenue. The agriculturists of Varsoda State have requested the Durbar to reduce revenue, and they are preparing to start a no-tax campaign if their request is not acceded to.

The Sporting World

All-In Wrestling And Boxing

SHAIK MAHOMED is promoting an all-in wrestling and boxing tourney at the Indian Sports Grounds, Currie's Fountain, on Saturday evening, May 28, at 8 o'clock. The main feature will be the meeting of Hero Barry, the undefeated matman, and Dynamite Benson.

Soccer At Currie's Fountain

On Saturday afternoon the league leaders, Star and Daffodils, received severe frights in their soccer matches with Old Collegians and Shamrocks. Pinetown surprisingly failed to put in an appearance against Avondale on the main ground. Daffodils were extended to the full to beat Shamrocks 2-1. Old Collegians had the Star team all out and it was in the concluding stages that they scored the only goal of the match. Sydenham beat Whipnade by three goals to nil.

JUNIOR GAMES

All Blacks surprised the Municipals by winning by three goals to one. A sterling match was witnessed between Victorians and Sastri College "A," the former winning by one goal to nil. Keen rivalry was exhibited between Warwickshire and Stella, the former winning by the odd goal in three.

Verulam Temple Football Club

On Sunday, May 22, the Verulam Temple F.C. "A" and "B" met the Balles F.C. "A" and "B," of Congella in a friendly match on the Verulam Indian Sports Ground. The "A" teams played first, and in the second half the home team managed to score a goal, and beat their opponents. When both the "B" teams played, the home team again came out victorious by beating their opponents by 6 goals to 1.

Soccer At Schweizer Reneke

A friendly soccer match was played recently between the Schweizer Reneke Indian eleven and the Maquassi Indo-European eleven, at Schweizer Reneke. Although the visitors were leading by 1-0 in the first half, the home team played to defeat the visitors by 2 goals to 1.

Tongaat Indian Tennis Club

The annual general meeting of the Tongaat Indian Tennis Club was held at the Tongaat Indian Boys' School recently, when the following were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. V. P. Desai, G. V. Naidoo and Abdoola Khan; vice-Patron: Mr. A. R. Rajoo; President: Mr. M. Hurbans; vice-presidents: Messrs. R. Sanjho, K. P. Desai, A. V. Naidoo, S. N. C. Varadacharyulu, C. R. Naidoo, R. R. Naidoo and A. P. Naidoo; hon. secretary: Mr. E. V. Naidoo;

By "Rambler"

hon. assistant secretary: Mr. N. Hurbans; treasurer: Mr. G. Hurbans; captain: Mr. S. N. C. Varadacharyulu; vice-captain: Mr. V. R. Naidoo; auditor: Mr. E. J. Choonoo.

Durban District Indian Cricket Union (League Log)

First Division:						
Clubs	P	W	L	D	P	
Greyville	...	5	4	1	—	9
Schools	...	5	4	—	1	9
Muslims	...	5	3	2	—	9
Ottoman	...	5	1	3	1	3
Kismet	...	5	1	3	1	3
Sastri College	...	5	—	4	1	1
Triple Tie:						
Muslims	...	2	1	—	1	4
School	...	2	1	—	1	3
Greyville	...	2	—	2	—	0
Second Division:						
Stars	...	6	6	—	—	16
Bharat	...	6	2	3	1	7
Sparks	...	6	2	4	—	6
Aryans	...	6	1	4	1	4

Marriages At Eastcourt

On Saturday last, Messrs. Jaggernath Singh and Kamtha Singh, sons of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Nair, and the late Mr. Ramchurran, were married to the daughters of Messrs. D. Roopai and S. Roopai, of Greytown and Estcourt, respectively Misses Jagwanthee Devi and Kalawanthe Devi. The ceremony was performed by Pundit Rugunath Maharaj. Both the bridegrooms received many presents. Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Nair wish to thank Messrs. Budhoo & Sons., of Pomrey, for their generosity and many others, who rendered valuable assistance.

A Vedic Wedding In Westville

The wedding of Mawalall, eldest son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Nagaser, to the second daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Baldhaw of Pinetown, took place on Saturday, May 14, at the bridegroom's residence, Westville, according to Vedic rites. The ceremony was most picturesque, being solemnised by Messrs. D. G. Satya Deva and T. Papa. Lectures were delivered on the subject of Vedic marriage by Messrs. D. G. Satya Deva, T. Papa, B. Bachoo and S. Chotay. The wedded couple were the recipients of many valuable gifts from friends and relatives amongst which was a set of

Hindi books from the Arya Samaj, Westville. Mr. Mawalall is an active member of the Arya Samaj, and pays a great interest in the works of the Samaj. The guests were treated to a sumptuous repast after the ceremony.

—o—

Hill View Government-Aided Indian School Building Fund

(Continued from last week)

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Natal Indian Congress

A Special General Meeting of the members of the Natal Indian Congress is hereby convened to be held at the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall, on Sunday, 12th June, 1938 at 3 p.m.

Agenda:—1. Election of Delegates to the forthcoming S.A.I.C. Conference. 2. To consider new Draft Constitution.

A. I. KAJER,
J. W. GODFREY,
Joint Hon. Secretaries.

Natal Indian Congress

(Verulam Branch)

A General meeting of the members of the Natal Indian Congress will be held at the Madressa Hall, Verulam, on Sunday the 29th May, 1938, at 2 p.m. Sharp. Officials from headquarters will be present including the President and the Secretaries.

Agenda:—1. Formation of Verulam Branch, 2. Election of officials, 3. General.

Convenors:—

R. T. SINGH, G. H. KATHRADA,
G. H. MAITER, RAGHAVJEE
RAGNATH, CHOONILALL RAG-
HAVJEE, S. R. MAHARAJ.

Only registered members are entitled to participate in the proceedings.

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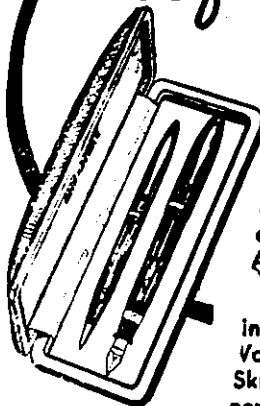
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