

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 21.—Vol. XXXVI.

Friday, June 3rd, 1938.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

South African Repatriates.

THE *Hindu* reports that an agricultural colony for the benefit of the South African Repatriates is proposed to be formed in Kolar near Ponneri. Mr. P. N. Damodara Mudaliar, the Protector of Immigrants at Madras was to have inspected the site, in mail week and formulated the Scheme.

This is a case of bolting the doors of the Stable after the horse had escaped. The tragedy of the South African Indian Repatriates in India—finds no parallel in the history of the Indian community in South Africa. Mr. P. B. Singh who was deputed by the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association to visit the Repatriates and report, told a harrowing tale of their conditions. How many of them have perished through starvation, and how many are still wandering the streets of the larger towns without any homes to go to, will for obvious reasons, remain a secret. The repatriation of Indians from South Africa will ever be a blot on our history in this country. Nothing will atone for the creation of this tragedy. However, belated it may be, we welcome the establishment of the agricultural colony. It would at least settle the remnants of the Repatriates on the land.

Deputation To City Council

A mass meeting of the Indian community of Clairwood and District was held on Sunday morning at the Krishna Theatre, Clairwood. There were about 200 persons present and the meeting was presided over by Mr. N. P. Naidoo. Messrs. A. Christopher, P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh and P. B. Singh, representatives of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association were present. The annual general meeting of the South Coast Junction Area Indian Ratepayers Association preceded the mass meeting. After the election had taken place, Mr. Christopher addressed the meeting. He said that the joint deputation of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association and the South Coast Junction Area Indian Ratepayers Associa-

tion met the Slums Committee of the City Council. The deputation was sympathetically received and he assured the meeting that the City Council would not treat the affected people harshly. He warned them that that it was useless to expect all that was asked for. It was a case of half a loaf is better than nothing. What he really wanted to see was that the poorer people should leave under ideal conditions. Their housing must definitely improve. Messrs. P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh and P. B. Singh also spoke. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. N. M. Pillay, in submitting his annual report, said that under the revised constitution a large number of residents enrolled as members and there is still every prospect of the membership increasing. He proceeded to review the activities of the Association during the past 12 months.

Jews And Christians.

We have been favoured with the Quarterly Report of the Society of Jews and Christians. South Africa will no doubt welcome the Society, for, its primary object is to instil in the Jew and the Christian, a spirit of tolerance and goodwill towards each other. The Society has, as its members, a formidable array of the most prominent Jews and Christians at Johannesburg, with the Rev. Fr. C. H. S. Renege, C.R. as the president. The Report states that the membership of the Society is 465, of whom 57 per cent are Jews and 43 per cent non-Jews. The Society issues publications which throw light on subjects concerning the Jews, which will dispel much of the existing misunderstanding. Addresses are delivered by members of the Society and, in short, there is a sincere desire on the part of the members of the Society to bring about a better understanding between the Jew and the Gentile.

The work that is being done by the Society will be an eye-opener to the

Indo-European Councils. If the European members of these Councils are as much alert as the Gentile members of the Society of Jews and Christians, we should have been spared to read the vituperations of Mr. Pirow against the Indians.

The Indian Women's Movement

Apropos the movement of Indian women which is being lead by Dr. Goonam, we reproduce a portion of the broadcast address that the Hon Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit, Minister for Local Self-Government, U.P., delivered recently at the Lucknow Radio Station. "Woman in India is the Goddess of the Home; She is loved and protected from birth and guarded like a sacred treasure by her man. In spite of all this care and comfort, woman has decided to break away from it," she said. "At the present stage of history civilisation is largely masculine and woman has left her place in the kitchen in many instances only to become a decorative member of Society. But she cannot be kept back for good in the region of the mere decorative. She is as necessary to civilisation as man. She fights to-day not only man's monopoly of making a living, but also man's monopoly of civilisation, for there can be no civilisation in which man and woman are not equal partners. There can be no nation which has not been built up by their joint efforts. And there can be no freedom unless man and woman march forward to achieve it."

Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Pandit is the sister of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The emancipation of women in India is growing rapidly. Recently Mrs. Soobrayan wife of Dr. Soobrayan, a minister of the Madras Legislative Assembly, has been elected to the Central Legislature at Delhi. Dr. Goonam and those who are associated with her, therefore deserve of our warmest congratulations in their effort to earn recognition for our womankind.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, JUNE 3RD, 1938

Much Ado About Nothing

GREAT capital has been made by the Joint statement that was issued by the presidents of the Pietermaritzburg branches of the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association. What with the statement and the disclaimer coming one after the other, one does feel a little confused over the matter. For one thing, it is strange that the pact between the branches should have been arrived at without any consultation with the headquarters of the organisations.

From reports received, it would appear that considerable consternation was caused amongst members of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association at Maritzburg, so much so, that the spirit of forbearance which was much in evidence of late, has vanished in thin air, and in its place a spirit of hostility prevades. This is much to be regretted, for, the method employed in bringing about reconciliation between the parties, is not one that would meet with the approval of all right thinking people. We wish to make our attitude perfectly clear in this matter. We have time and again appealed for a united Indian community, but that unity could only be achieved if the parties concerned were honest and sincere in their endeavours. Two voices, diametrically opposed to each other, one appealing for unity and the other disclaiming any semblance of disunity, both on the same platform, would by no means achieve unity. On the

contrary they would tend to put back the clock another decade.

At the welcome reception at the City Hall, given in honour of the Agent-General, Mr. A. I. Kajee, the secretary of the Natal Indian Congress, is reported to have said that there were a dozen disgruntled persons who had broken away from the Congress because they were not given official positions, six of whom had already returned to the folds of the Congress. Now, that was a most irresponsible statement made, and it at once reflected Mr. Kajee's gross ignorance of the state of affairs in the Indian community. No person with any responsibility would have made such a rash statement. To describe men who have, for decades past, been giving of their best in the cause of our community, as disgruntled persons, was the height of folly. We can do no more than characterise the statement as having been made in sheer bravado. But the fact remains that statements such as that made by Mr. Kajee, help to fan the fire, as it were, and further disintegrate the community.

We are degressing. The incident at Pietermaritzburg serves to shew that the community is totally against any attempt to bamboozle them, if we may be permitted to make use of a slang term. That was not the spirit with which the question of the amalgamation of the two political bodies, should have been approached. Those who have been responsible for the joint statement, have rendered a distinct disservice to the com-

munity. It was the most unwise thing to rush to the press with statement which did not have the approval of the members. Peace there must be. But that peace must be restored not by patchwork, but by the parties going into the differences which are fundamental, and signing a Peace Treaty which would be a lasting one, and stand the test of time.

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"Panacea For All Our Ills"

NAWABZADA MAHMUDALI nephew of Sir Sikaddar Hayat Khan, Premier of Punjab and son of Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan, member of the Punjab Assembly and Ex-Revenue member of the Punjab Government, Has joined the Congress.

He declared his change of creed when he appeared in Khadi clothes and a white Gandhi cap for the first time at the District Political Conference held in a village in Ferozpur District.

Among shouts of Congress Zindabad and "Inquilab Zindabad" the Nawabzada addressing the Conference said:—

I have only to say that I have joined the Congress under no excitement but after a most thoughtful consideration. I have joined the Congress because, I have come to believe that the Congress represents all that is true, right and noble in the country, I have joined the Congress because, it aims at the service of the poor and downtrodden and liberation of our beloved Motherland. My heart aches to find the poor being oppressed by the rich and the real producers of the wealth of our country being exploited by the imperialists, more especially by the British imperialism.

I have joined the Congress because I have come to believe that the Congress is the panacea for all our ills.

Nawabzada Mahmudali at the conclusion of his speech made a fervent appeal to all those present, among whom there were a large number of Muslims to join the Congress, and thus strengthen the ranks of fighters of freedom.

It may be mentioned that the Nawabzada was making preparations for appearing in the I.C.S. examination.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE INDIAN TEACHERS' SOCIETY

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION."

SIR,—The duties of a society are fulfilled when that society works its aims and objects. When a society deviates from its principles then many factors are at work bringing about this state of affairs. These factors may be of various kind namely, a few members working in their own interests at the expense of the society, bribery and corruption, inefficient working of organisation due to lack of initiative and incompetence, dissatisfaction among officials and members.

Not that I adduce all these causes to the precarious working of the Indian Teachers' Society yet there are manifest reasons that make one feel that this institution is not working in the interest of one community particularly in view of the fact that the older members are grudging the progress of budding teachers with higher qualifications. It is an incontrovertible fact that the society is working autocratically at high speed in the interest of officials only. The younger members have little say in matters that concern them for their opinions are received with apathetic detachment.

The institution is probably admired by those who are not conversant with its *modus operandi* not by those who are cognisant of facts that by their very nature are *insusceptible* of proof.

Since its inauguration how much has the society done for the Indian teachers in the country? Are they satisfied with the present salary system? No. The reasons are manifold. At the society helm are men who have been quite long in the teaching profession. They have learnt by practice to work in a manner that elicits praise from the Education Department, not from the public. An appreciable element of the public being solicitous of the welfare of the members of the teaching profession as a whole condemns the action of a society that lacks 100% membership—a society that works in collision with the Education Department to the detriment of the Indian teachers.

The executive members of the society still feel that the Indian teachers are not equal to the European who have the same qualifications and teach the same subject in schools which are inspected by Provincial Inspectors. The meanness of the society finds eloquent expression in a "memorandum" in which officials equalize the two different certificates for the receiving of a higher salary. The standard of one certificate is definitely higher than the other.

The primary move on the part of the society should be to have full membership. The society should work democratically so that the interest of the majority are not sacrificed to the weal of private individuals. Full membership in other words, means the formation of a solid and unassailable phalanx.

Secondly, the discrimination in the salary of the white and black should be boldly opposed. A vigorous and clear-sighted policy *must* be pursued. Salary should definitely be based on qualification and not the pigmentation of the skin.

Thirdly teachers with higher qualifications should be given a better status and salary than at present.

Fourthly, to cope with the pressure of newly qualified teachers a readjustment of the profession should be commenced—the standard of minimum qualification should be definitely raised.

Fifthly, the responsible members of the society should be men who possess Fidelity, Prudence and Foresight, through whose industry and ability the work of the organisation could be efficiently discharged.

The present state of affairs are susceptible of improvement. It is of deeply momentous import that active steps should be taken to bring about reconstruction by the liquidation of the present evils.

Yours etc,

B. ATHMANAND MAHARAJ.

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Messrs. Panday And Kajee

SIR, At the general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress held recently, I was proposed a Vice-President and seconded. Mr. A. I. Kajee objected to my nomination on the grounds that I had not attended any of the meetings of Congress during the term of office. I challenged Mr. Kajee to prove this statement of his, which was not true, but to my astonishment, the audience would not give me a hearing.

At the last committee meeting of the Congress held at the Congress office, I again asked Mr. Kajee to verify the statement he made about me at the general meeting, or correct himself. The sole reason for my asking Mr. Kajee to prove or otherwise withdraw his statement is to clear the mind of the public of any misunderstanding that may have been formed about me owing to this mis-statement of Mr. Kajee.

I am glad to say that Mr. Kajee has apologised for what he had said and withdrew the wrong statement he had made at the general meeting.

So now all doubts have been cleared, and I desire it to be known by the public that Mr. Kajee's statement was incorrect and made without any foundation.

Yours etc., LUTCHMAN PANDAY.

[In an interview with a representative of this paper, Mr. Kajee said that the reason that prompted him to oppose Mr. Panday's election was that most of the Committee members, of whom Mr. Panday was one, attended very few meetings during the last two years. For the sake of peace, he withdrew the offending statements and expressed regret to Mr. Panday at the committee meeting, but that did not mean that he withdrew the statement that Mr. Panday failed to attend the meetings.]

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Natal Indian Farmers' Union

SIR,—I am directed by my executive to bring to your notice that you have erred by publishing in your Editorial columns of May 13, that there are two bodies, namely, the Natal Indian Farmers' Association and the Natal Indian Farmers' Union, claiming to represent the Indian farming community. We repudiate this statement for, as far as our knowledge goes, ours is the only existing body working for the upliftment of the Indian farming community.

In view of the above facts my Union will be obliged if you will rectify and clear the misunderstanding by publishing this letter.

Yours etc.,

R. K. PERSADH,

Hon. Secretary.

[The Natal Indian Farmers' Association, of which Messrs. T. M. Naicker and A. B. Naidoo are president and hon. secretary respectively is, we are informed still in existence. Our correspondent cannot dispute the fact that both these gentlemen as representing the association have done a great deal for the farming community. Mr. Persadh has evidently overlooked the fact that the object in our leading article was to issue a clarion call to the Indian farmers to consolidate their members. Ed. I.O.]

WHY MR. KAMATH RESIGNED

"I.C.S. IS A PROCRUSTEAN BED"

"SEVEN years ago I joined the Indian Civil Service hoping that it would open up avenues before me for genuine national service. To-day those hopes lie in the dust," declared Mr. H. V. Kamath in an exclusive interview about the reasons that led him to resign from the I.C.S. and join the Congress.

"The Indian Civil Service is a Procrustean bed, Whosoever, being in it refuses to be moulded to its dull and drab pattern, will find his path beset with thorns. That soulless uniformity is all pervasive: in its ubiquity it imperiously demands that speech, manners, action and even raiment shall conform to the grand design."

"I accordingly decided to resign the Indian Civil Service for the service of the Nation. In the fitness of things I finally made up my mind and intimated to the Secretary of State on "Independence Day."

I felt that it would be appropriately a symbolic act.

"The specious argument was advanced that as Congress itself was now in office there was no point in my resignation. I would have most happily served in the Congress regime if only I could do so fully and unreservedly. But I had two masters to serve and the circumstances undivided allegiance to Congress *raj* was impossible.

Privileged Position Of Europeans

Adding, Mr. Kamath remarked: "The European in service is comparatively in a privileged position. He can behave more or less like a chartered libertine. He can commit grave misdemeanours with impunity. Not so his Indian confrere who is chastised for even venial faults. But a white skin covereth a multitude of sins. To cite only one instance, I know of a European officer who about three years ago removed some silverware from the nazarat where it was being disposed of as unclaimed property. My knowledge of law is not profound but I am not sure that ordinarily such conduct would not have amounted to misappropriation or theft. But so exalted is the moral code of the Service that the scot (?) has so far gone scot-free. Even when the matter was reported to a superior officer, unfortunately a European, he ordered that the property should be struck off the register. I cannot help recalling Laski's trenchant criticism of the rule of law: "What is called misappropriation in a poor bank clerk goes by the name of high finance in a millionaire."

The mental attitude of European officers towards their Indian colleagues was correctly reflected in a semi-public utterance of a Deputy Commissioner

about two years ago, to the following effect:—"Let me be proud of my own race and say that unless you (the Indian people) have more European officers at the rate I am being paid it will be difficult to control corruption among Indians in the lower services." The officer concerned was subsequently compelled to apologise for this shameless fanfaronade but that does not take away the sting from the remark. One European officer launches a tirade against corruption while another nonchalantly packs up Government property along with his personal effects! Ye gods!!

"Nor is this all. While this state of affairs is in itself sufficiently galling, it becomes intolerable when at the same time opportunities for real service of the nation are few and far between. It was said by them of old time that the Indian Civil Service was neither Indian, nor Civil nor Service. Admittedly there has been some improvement in recent times but, with a few honourable exceptions, that incisive comment is still fundamentally sound. This is true of not only the "heaven-born" Service but of other "Imperial Service" as well.

All That An Indian Officer Can Do

"An Indian officer is at liberty to do such constructive work as opening a primary school here and boring a tube well there. But when his activities transgress certain recognised and innocuous limits pat comes the strong hand down on his pate, frustrating all his plans. I shall content myself by quoting only one example illustrative of a host of others. In an over-assessed tract of this province, crops were seriously damaged by frost. I suspended on every case being referred to him and would not trust my judgment, recovery of *takavi* until such time as crop experiments could be performed and the damage ascertained. The superior European officers, however, would have none of it and the fiat went forth that *takavi* should be recovered 'vigorously'. Why? Because it was a question of revenue and the pocket of the Britisher was touched! India's poverty is Britain's prosperity. Even as recently as three months ago when I wanted to stay sales for recovery of *takavi* 'in cases' where there was genuine hardship, the Deputy Commissioner insisted.

"Pound Of Flesh"

I recommended in the case of a tenant with a holding of almost "microscopic" proportion that some paltry *takavi* arrears should be written off as irrecoverable stuff and nonsense! The British Government could not be baulked

of its pound of flesh! The Empire would collapse and the heavens would fall!! Promptly came the order that the *takavi* be recovered in small annual instalments from a destitute peasant to whom the problem of mere being was more fundamental than well-being.

"Other activities there be that an Indian officer indulges in at his peril. When I resigned from the Baden Powell Scout movement about a year ago, the Chief Secretary, a European, made careful inquiries about the circumstances of my resignation. This was not in the least surprising. But my mind was filled with consternation when a senior Indian civilian remarked that inasmuch as the B. P. Scout movement was an Imperial organization my action was not consistent with my being a member of an Imperial service and was liable to be construed as an anti-Imperialist move. Another still more senior Indian civilian told me plainly that I was not well advised in making things too hot for myself and that if my convictions were so strong I should choose between being a Government servant and a private citizen. I said: "When it becomes too hot for me I will go," but at the same time felt that, so far as these two high and mighty worthies were concerned, the fetters of gold had done their work. Perhaps like Boninvar, the Prisoner of Chillon, they exclaim: "My very chains and I grew friends so much a long communion tends. To make us what we are..." I silently prayed that I might be saved from such petrification of mind and slavery of soul.

Fight While Serving

I have heard it hinted in certain quarters that I resigned because of differences with my European superiors on trifles such as the question of calling on the Superintendent of Police etc. Nothing could be more ridiculous. It is true enough that I had to fight in these matters, but that only made an otherwise dull existence worthwhile. It was such occasions as these that added zest to life. I at times even felt that I should continue in service, if only to give battle to such spiritual wickedness in high places.

These feelings were however outweighed by other considerations. They paled into insignificance when I realized that I could better utilise my time in fighting for a cause and for an ideal outside the service than wasting it on mere trifles inside, where the scope for real national service—such service as yields mental and spiritual satisfaction—is extremely meagre. One feels "Cabin'd, Cribb'd and Coop'd in". Most of the work is idle futile routine. Major

Yeats Brown is quite right in his observations that "We scribble away our birthright amidst mountainous files and lose all touch with the people." I accordingly decided to resign the Indian Civil Service for the Indian Nation. In the fitness of things I finally made up my mind and intimated to the Secretary of State on "Independence Day."

Concluding, Mr. Kamath observed that "There can be neither justice nor liberty for the Indian, be he officer or commoner, patrician or plebeian, so long as British rule endures. To the task of destruction of that domination each one of us must address himself to the best of his ability. All else is vanity; all else is folly."

The resignation of Mr. Kamath has been accepted by the Secretary of State, and he is freed from all the responsibilities of the service from April 19th 1938.

Mr. Kamath has further also decided to return the King's Silver Jubilee Medal, presented to him some time back by the Government.

FUTURE LIFE

By

SIR S. RADHAKRISHNAN

In "Prabudha Bharata"

(Continued from last week)

IN other words, we are making out that men are not fit either for heaven or for hell at the time they die. Is there one man in this world who is free from fault or devoid of good qualities? There is none. No body is perfect. That is the situation. The trouble with the purgatory state, so far as Christian statement is concerned, is that it would be too great a coincidence to imagine that all of us will be purified on the day of resurrection. People die at different stages at different moments in different moments in different conditions. It will be too much to think, whatever our imperfections be, that on the day of resurrection we will all be purified altogether. The other trouble is why should you imagine that there will be a change of plane at death, and that we are not likely to have perpetuation or morals. Nature is always operating slowly. There is no catastrophic change taking place. If there is future life awaiting us, and if it is the process by which we cleanse ourselves, it must be relevant to the conditions which we experience here. There is no sudden change of plane. To say that the purgatory state is something totally different in character from the kind of life which we have led in this world is more or less to build a good deal upon our imagination. Now, I have given you the eternal punishment, conception. There is the other thing which is becoming more and more popular at the present moment. It is what is called "conditional immortality." It makes out that human individuals are all candidates for eternal life. They are all attempting to the best of their ability to find out how to win eternal life. When they win it, they become absolutely free so far as this universe is concerned and they will be saved. If they miss, we cannot help it. There are people who talk about some way of interpreting the subordinate doctrine of conditional immortality. There are certain difficulties with regard to this conception so far as this life is concerned; it is only very few people that win the prize of eternal life. We are all candidates for that prize, but only few people are awarded the prize; but when we miss the goal, are we not at least to have other opportunities to try again? Is it merely a question of giving only

one chance only to be dismissed if we fail? Is that a rational way to look upon? Then again your spiritual life is an evolution, it is a growth. If it is going to be a growth, that has been yours. When exactly does that point arise when we win immortality and escape from the hell fire or the doom of annihilation? What is that particular moment or line which may be said to mark the birth of immortality? Is there a point to which you may refer and say here and at this particular point we obtain immortality?

If this doctrine of conditional immortality is to be accepted by us, does it not follow that we have no hopes of eternal life? Does it not come to a real frustration of the purpose of God so far as this universe is concerned? So we have to say that we cannot admit that this particular theory is satisfactory. And yet it has got certain valuable points. Now, this is so far as the eternal punishment conception is concerned. It is right in telling us that only a few attain eternal life, but it is wrong in saying that those who do not attain eternal life have no hopes at all, have no improvement regarding their future. Conditional immortality is right again in saying that only very few people are able to attain their goal but wrong in saying about annihilation. Purgatory is right in saying that there are other opportunities for us where we may work out our destiny, but it is wrong in saying that it is completely different from the nature of life we have had. If we put together all these different conceptions, the soul that does not succeed is not annihilated; it has some kind of future life. It must be worked out more or less on the lines of this present life. You will then discover that some hypothesis like that of rebirth lends itself to us and we know that this is peculiarly Oriental. It is not merely a theory of the Hindus and Buddhists but of

others also. It appealed to Plato and others. Spinoza had sympathy with it. Many others wrote about it. Victor writes in the *Destiny of Man*, "That which mortals call death is nothing but reappearance of another phase of life." Huxley affirms the doctrine of evolution. Rebirth has its roots in the world of reality. It is not merely the ancient thinkers and philosophers who proclaimed this hypothesis. The other day James accepted the hypothesis. I am talking now about the Christian theologians who are alive. The latest book is by a Christian theologian, Dr. Spencer under the title *Future Life*, in which he gives a new interpretation of Christian doctrine. The theory of future life that declares that human beings have numerous lives, is no more contrary to the Christian doctrine than the theories of Darwin and Lyall. Moreover it enables us to relate salvation and spiritual development of humanity with the lives of the individuals of which humanity is composed. He points out that it need not be taken as opposed to the doctrine of Christianity. As a matter of fact it gives us a more satisfactory solution of the Christian problems themselves and there is nothing in that doctrine which may be regarded so inconsistent with the fundamentals of Christian philosophy. The present attitude of most of the Western thinkers is this. Many regard life after death as certain and as a possibility which deserves discussion.

The explanation is that modern Western thought and its belief in immortality has been of Christian origin. There is nothing in pre-existence theory incompatible with any of the dogmas which are generally accepted as the fundamentals of Christianity. Whenever Christian theologians are pressed to conclusion, they always say that the hypothesis of rebirth is something which has had historical support and may be revived. I anticipate a great revival of the pre-existence doctrine.

CONGRESSMEN AND CREED OF NON-VIOLENCE

"GANDHIJI ON MARTIAL Vs. MORAL

IF non-violence, with all its implications, is the Congress policy let every Congressman examine himself and reconstruct himself accordingly. Let him not wait for instructions from the Working Committee. After all, the Working Committee can act only in so far as it interprets the public mind. And non-violence is not a quality to be evolved or expressed to order. It is an inward growth depending for sustenance upon an intense individual growth," writes Gandhiji in *Harjan* under the caption, "Martial versus Moral."

Concluding he says, "It is often forgotten that the Congress has only a moral authority to back it. The ruling power is martial, though it often dilutes martial with moral. This vital difference has come to the force since the assumption of office by the Congressmen in the seven provinces. This

office-holding is either a step towards greater prestige or it is a total loss. It is not to be a total loss. Ministers and Legislators have to be watchful of their own personal and public conduct. They have to be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion in everything. They may not make private gains either for themselves or for their relatives or friends. If relatives or friends get any appointment it must be only because they are best among the candidates and their market value is always greater than what they get under the Government. The Ministers and Legislators on the Congress ticket have been fearless in the performance of their duty. They must always be ready to risk the loss of their seats and offices. Offices and seats in Legislature have no merit outside their ability to raise the prestige and power of the Congress. And since both depend wholly upon the possession

of morals, both public and private, any moral lapse means a blow to the Congress. This is a necessary implication of non-violence. If the Congress non-violence is merely confined to abstention from causing physical hurt to British officials and their dependants such non-violence can never bring us independence."

Referring to the letters which he has received from various persons offering themselves for enrolment as volunteers ready to immolate themselves at time of rioting, Mahatma Gandhi suggests that they should enlist co-workers themselves from local corps and begin training in accordance with the suggestion he has made.

He adds: "Let them not confine themselves merely to a preparedness for emergencies, but for daily walk of life in all its departments, personal, domestic, social, political and religious.

CRITICAL TIMES AHEAD FOR INDIANS IN AFRICA

IF in the next ten years the Indians in East Africa did not obtain the support of the people and press of India, all the ground covered by the efforts of the Indians there was likely to be undermined, and once the position was lost it would not be possible to retrieve it or advance further. This warning was given by Mr. Amin of the East African Delegation, who addressed a meeting of the students of Lucknow.

Tracing the history of relations between India and Africa, the speaker remarked that even before the beginning of the Christian era, Indians were engaged in trade with Africa and it was after the fall of the Mogul Empire that difficulties began to arise. The speaker referred to Mahatma Gandhi's political work in Africa.

Referring to the standard of living of the natives in East Africa he said that natives were helpless, could not even build up their own homes at present and though something in the way of education was being done they could not stand on their own legs. If Indians did not fight for their betterment not only would they betray their own cause but also that of the natives, who were not strong enough to safeguard their own interests. Continuing Mr. Amin

said that the natives were not elected to the Kenya Legislative Council but were represented by two Europeans.

Indians, who numbered 40,000 had only 11 seats. Their existence was hardly recognised except in the case of difference between the Europeans and the Government when Indian opinion was valued.

Economic Policy

Dwelling at length on the economic policy, he said that steps were contemplated that would drive all Indians out of profitable trade. The Transfer Control Bill, the Dairy Control Bill and similar other measures were likely to be introduced which would be detrimental to the interests of the Indians. The chief object of the policy of the Government was to make life more expensive for the Indians.

He referred to retail trade which, he said, had been mainly in the hands of Indians so far. But a Marketing Bill was now being introduced by which Indians would be forbidden to purchase goods from natives direct. This would

ultimately place the natives at the mercy of the Europeans.

Concluding Mr. Amin remarked that patience, perseverance and force of character had made it possible for Indians to achieve whatever progress they had made, and they must continue their effort if that progress was not to be checked.

Mr. Mehta, another member of the delegation spoke on the Highland problem. He said that in 1903 Europeans launched a move to secure all cool and fertile lands for themselves. And it was after a very strong opposition put up by the Indians that an assurance was given to them that nothing of the kind would be done.

But that pledge was broken in 1906. No Indian was allowed to purchase land from Europeans.

Concluding Mr. Mehta remarked that it was the duty of Indians to see that the native population of Africa was not exploited by Europeans, and if Indians rose to power care should be taken that they in their turn did not exploit the natives.

Things In General

Agent-General In Pretoria

"I AM very much encouraged by the kindness I have received, particularly from the European section in South Africa," said the Agent-General for India, Mr. Rama Rau, on his arrival in Pretoria from Durban on Tuesday May 30. He had naturally expected a warm welcome from his own people, he said, the Europeans had been most kind too. The Agent-General's visit to Pretoria is a brief one. He called on the Governor-General the same day and on the Prime Minister on Thursday, and has returned to Durban on Thursday. A representative gathering of prominent members of European and Indian communities met the Agent-General on his arrival at Pretoria railway station.

Riverside Slum Area

Riverside's slum Indians have been granted a "reprieve" from the order to demolish their slum shacks—provided the Durban City Council ratifies a recommendation of the General Purpose Committee taken recently. As previously reported in the *Mercury*, the Special Committee regarding Housing had recommended to the General Purpose Committee that the order of demolition should be stayed pending the provision of alternative housing accommodation. This view was accepted by the senior Committee. The General Purpose Committee also passed the plans for eight housing schemes for Indians, Coloureds and Europeans at a total cost of nearly £150,000.

Hindu Weddings

Two pretty weddings were celebrated on Saturday last at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Mohanlal of Ashburton when Miss Surjpathee and Miss Parvathee the first and second daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Mohanlal were married to Mr. Manone the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Sookdew of Sydenham and Mr. Pooran the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Ramchuran of Clare Estate, Durban. A large number of guests from all parts of Natal including many prominent Europeans assembled in the pandal. The ceremonies were performed by Pandit Maharaj of Oato Ridge and Pandit of Durban according to Hindu rites. After the marriage Mr. E. G. David presided over the function and on behalf of the host and hostess welcomed the guest and wished the bridal pairs happiness and prosperity in their new sphere of life. The following speakers also associated themselves with the remarks of the chairman. Messrs B. Sewpal, G. R. Singh, G. Bechoo, S. E. Kader, and many others. On behalf of the Europeans Mr. Moreland wished the bridal pair a happy and prosperous future and presented them with a hefty,

South Coast Indian

Railway Passengers' Union

The 10th annual meeting of the South Coast Indian Railway Passengers' Union was held on Sunday last in the Indian school room, Isipingo, with Mr. B. Mahabeer in the chair. There was an enthusiastic attendance of members. In reviewing the union's activities during the past years, the chairman observed that its members had every reason to be proud of the good work on behalf of South Coast Indian passengers. He saw no reason why the union should not progress in the near future, especially in view of its recent success in almost every direction. The meeting passed a resolution expressing its grateful and sincere thanks to the Railway Administration in Durban, especially to the System Manager and his staff. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patrons: Messrs. R. B. Richard and M. A. Jadwat; President: Mr. B. Mahabeer; vice-presidents: Messrs. R. Gopaulsingh and J. Verdan; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. T. Subramany; committee: Messrs. Muthoo George, D. Raguvan, S. Gokul and D. S. Cassim; hon. auditor: Mr. S. M. Pillay.

Isipingo Indian Society

The 20th annual general meeting of Isipingo Indian Society was held last Sunday afternoon in the Indian school room before a fair attendance with Mr. M. A. Jadwat in the chair. The President, Pandit Bhawani Dayal, and the joint secretary, Mr. A. I. Kajee of the Natal Indian Congress, graced the meeting with their presence. The balance sheet reflected a balance of £390 after paying £140 for the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre school land. Other assets include land donated with school building by Mr. R. D. Chowthee at Sawoti, and cemetery at Isipingo to the value of £400. Plans have been passed for the erection of a new school building at a cost of £1,200. At a meeting it was decided to collect funds for the purpose from members and the general public, and the sum of £160 was promised, £15 15s. of which was promised by Mr. Kajee. The society sincerely appeals to the many residents of the district and other well wishers to liberally subscribe towards this very worthy cause as the present school has been commented upon very unfavourably by the Inspector of Schools and if urgent steps are not taken the present school may close down, when our position will be doomed. Both the Panditjee and Mr. Kajee spoke advising the community to be united in its affairs and the meeting unanimously decided to affiliate to the Natal Indian Congress. Other speakers

were, Messrs. R. D. Chowthee, S. Gopaul, L. S. Persad, B. Mahabeer, A. Doolarkhan and S. Powys.

Newlands Government-Aided

Indian School Board

The foundation stone of the proposed extension of the Newlands Government-Aided School was laid by Mr. S. Manilal, on Sunday May 22, at 10.30 a.m., before a gathering of about 300 people. Following the Hawan ceremony, Mr. Manilal and Mrs. Parmashwer were garlanded by Miss M. N. Govender, a pupil of the school. Mr. T. M. Naicker, the chairman, sketched the history of the school briefly and praised the members of the board who had almost collected one-third of the £300 needed to provide accommodation for over 90 additional children. He urged upon the necessity of parents providing their children with both vernacular and English education to cope up with competition in every sphere of modern life. Letters from Messrs. J. Macleod, J. E. Davlin, Geo. H. Hindson and K. P. Peter, regretting their inability to attend were read by the secretary Mr. J. Jagroo, who outlined the activities of the School Board, and while thanking the Indian brethren for their help, paid a glowing tribute to the generosity of Mr. K. P. Peter, a staunch supporter of the school. Mr. G. Baijnath, the head teacher, expressed his sympathy towards the children who are receiving tuition in the open-air, and hoped that some provision be made for these unfortunate ones as early as possible. He expressed his appreciation towards the enthusiastic efforts of the School Board, and warmly thanked Mr. S. Manilal for his keen interest in the school as well as transport of children to school gratis. Mr. S. Manilal, before laying the foundation stone, spoke upon the urgent necessity for the extension, and pressed upon the united effort being made to see this noble work crowned with glory and success. He thanked the members of the board, especially Mr. J. Jagroo, who sacrificed his time for the benefit of the children. Mr. Manilal assured the members and officials, and those present, that his service will be at the School Board's disposal and voluntarily promised to assist financially or otherwise in the interest of the school. Other speakers included Messrs. G. Bechoo head teacher of the Mount Edgecombe Government Indian School, B. Bechoo, M. K. Singh and R. Mahabeer, all of whom expressed sympathy for the children. The function terminated with a vote of thanks to the presiding chairman and guests moved by Mr. N. Gopaul Naidoo. Refreshments were served.

India Letter

(NEWS CULLED FROM INDIAN PAPERS)

Army In India

A PRESS communique states:—The Government of India have decided that the conditions of service for all future entrants to the Army in India Reserve of Officers shall include a liability to be called to military service in the event of the Government of India considering that a state of emergency has arisen or is imminent. Officers who already hold commissions in the Army in India Reserve of Officers are unaffected by this decision. Such officers, however, may accept this liability voluntarily. In announcing this decision the Government of India wish to assure potential candidates for commissions in the Army in India Reserve of Officers and their employers that it is the intention to enforce this liability only in cases of grave emergency, necessitating measures similar to those of general mobilization.

Hindu-Muslim Unity Board's Meeting

The Hindu-Muslim Board which was formed in Allahabad on account of the recent communal disturbances met again recently. The Board had decided at its previous meeting to form a corps of Hindu and Muslim volunteers to work in mohallas in connection with the unity efforts. It adopted the report of the Volunteers Corps Sub-Committee. Applications will now be invited in connection with the enrolment of volunteers and the board appointed a Selection Committee in this connection. It is said that the badge for the volunteers will be of deep blue surface with deep red border and with the name "Ittihad Board" displayed on it. The Board advised its members to accompany all the chehlum processions which were organised on April 22.

Women's Fellowship

Miss Shanta Bhalerao of the Women's Fellowship Service, started under the auspices of the Servants of India Society, was a guest of Mr. D. D. Thacker at Jharia. She visited Ranchi, Darbhanga and Jamshedpur, where she has organized branches of the All India Women's Conference. Her object in visiting this place is to study the condition of women's labour in coalfields and the unemployment problem among women caused by the recent legislation prohibiting them from working underground. Miss Bhalerao has visited the child welfare and maternity centres run by the Jharia Mines Board of Health and has seen for herself actual coal-cutting operations and underground mining conditions in company with her host,

India's Right To Discriminate Essential

The Committee of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, in a statement says that in its opinion the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress has rendered a distinct service to the nation by clarifying the whole position by reiterating India's right to discriminate against non-national interests whenever necessary to do so in her own interests and everyone must really be grateful to it. It is to be seen, the statement proceeds, that the Working Committee notes with concern the rapid increase in the number of companies controlled and managed by foreign nationals trying to pass for genuine Indian concerns and naturally claiming the benefits or advantages which accrue from the policy of discriminating protection pursued by the Government of this country for over a decade now. The committee of the chamber would like to state that this clear reiteration of the position by the Working Committee is timely and follows the lines of Gandhiji's clear analysis of the question of swadeshi industries in a recent issue of *Hartjan*. The resolution of the Working Committee states that no concern can be called swadeshi unless its "direction, control and management are in Indian hands." The use of non-Indian capital, if found necessary, is understandable, it adds, provided there is Indian control and management.

Gandhiji On Possible Changes In India Act

Question: "Will the Congress accept Federation if changes are brought about in the Government of India Act?"

Mahatma Gandhi: "I cannot say what the Congress will do."

Question: "What will you recommend to the Congress in case modifications are made?"

Mahatma Gandhi: "Let us see what is there."

These significant replies were made by Mahatma Gandhi to the question of a Press representative at Cawnpore while on his way to Delhi.

Making Motor Cars

Interviewed on the proposed automobile industry scheme, Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister of Labour and Industries, who returned to Madras from a tour, said that he was in close touch with Sir M. Visweswarayya, who had made a close study of the subject. He added that he was in communication with the various Congress Governments on the subject and was expecting their views on it

very soon. It is understood that the scheme relates to the proposal to start a motor manufacturing factory in India to produce cheap cars.

Victory For Congress

The results of the Local Boards' elections in Jubbulpore district have been announced. Congress had an outstanding [victory. In Katni Merwara it captured 15 out of 16 seats, 14 out of 16 in Sehora, 12 out of 12 in Patan and 14 out of 14 in Jubbulpore Tehsils. Three seats in all were captured by independents.

Great 'Kumbh' Tragedy

More than two hundred huts and tents, occupied by Kumbh 'mela' pilgrims and their families near the railway station were reduced to ashes by a serious fire which broke out on April 17. Strong winds set the whole colony ablaze and property worth Rs. 20,000 was destroyed. It appears that while a woman was preparing meals a hut caught fire which, before anything could be done, enveloped the whole colony in flames. All was over before the fire engine could arrive.

Andhra's Great Leader

The following telegram has been received from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the death of Mr. K. Nageswar Rao:

"Deeply grieved death of Andhra's great leader and patriot, whose memory will remain our precious possession."

Sir Raza Ali To Enter Politics

A section of Muslim Leaguers are requesting Sir Raza Ali but it is believed in nationalist circles that Sir Raza Ali will stand on the Congress ticket.

Governors From I.C.S.

"The decision of the British Government to promote Divisional Commissioners and other officials of the I.C.S. as Governors over the heads of responsible Ministries has been causing considerable resentment in Congress circles," declared Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram, a member of the Congress Working Committee, in an interview. He added: "The limit has been reached in the case of Orissa where a subordinate of the Ministers has been imposed upon them as Governor. This has raised a serious issue. Sind is almost on a par with Orissa. The appointment of a Divisional Commissioner of the Bombay Presidency as Governor of this province has been disliked in Congress circles. If there is to be a Governor the appointment of an Indian non-official Governor with nominal powers is the only solution consistent with the existence of provincial Ministers responsible to public opinion."

The Sporting World

Natal Estates Football Club

LAST Sunday afternoon, the Natal Estates F. C. "A" and "B" met the Central Factory F. C. "A" and "B" in a friendly match, at the latter's football ground. The "A" teams took the field first and the match was more a ding-dong affair between them. Both teams played scrappy soccer, and there was little to choose between either team from the point of view of combination or ball-control. The fine combination of the Natal Estates team managed to secure for them a victory of 2-0. When the "B" teams took the field, they showed the usual opening-of-the-season stiffness, and the play was at times dull and marred by erroneous kicking. The game resulted in a win for the Natal Estates team by 2-1.

Mayville District Indian Football Association

The following are the fixtures for the Sunornah Shield to be played at Mayville Sports Ground, First River, Cato Manor: June 5: Pirates vs. Mayville, 2 p.m.; Manning Rangers vs. Manor United, 3.30 p.m. June 12: Westerners vs. Cato Stars, 2 p.m.; Standards vs. Stella Hill, 3.30 p.m.

Temple Football Club

The above club was founded in 1928 by Messrs. C. R. Dwarika, P. George, C. R. Komal, G. M. A. Moolr, R. K. Maharaj and B. A. Ramsuran. Since its formation it has had very successful seasons, and apart from participating in friendly matches, it has entered in all the tournaments organised by private clubs and has won outright 36 trophies and shields up to the end of 1937. On May 8, the club opened its season by playing against the Coronation F.C. and won over the seniors by 4-2 and the juniors 4-1. The following are the officials elected for the ensuing season:— Patron: Messrs. G. C. Moodley, G. S. Moodley, Mahomed Akonjee and Goocho; President: Mr. G. M. Nair; vice-presidents: Messrs. C. R. Dwarika, N. Luken, Junghee Singh, A. Dawood and B. A. Ramsuran; hon. secretary: Mr. R. N. Maharaj; hon. treasurer: Mr. O. P. Moodley; senior captain: Mr. P. George; senior vice-captain: Mr. C. Eddie; junior captain: Mr. A. Moodheen; junior vice-captain: Mr. Jugna. The address of the secretary is, c/o Messrs. British Agencies, 214, Smith Street, Durban, and will be pleased to accept challenges from clubs desiring to play friendly matches on Sunday.

Singles Tournament At Stanger

For the first time a Singles Tennis Tournament organised by the Stanger Indian School Tennis Club was held at Stanger on Empire and Ascension day holidays. Though the number of com-

By "Rambler"

petitors was only 16, the competition proved to be a very keenly contested one. The final was played on Ascension day between R. P. Soni and Sam. As expected, this was a very interesting game since both contestants were well matched. R. P. Soni emerged winner after a strenuous game, the score being 6-1, 6-4, 6-1. The trophy, in the absence of the donor, was presented to the successful Stanger and district Singles champion, by Mr. V. Thomas who commented on the standard of play which was highly satisfactory throughout the tournament.

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Indian Soccer Meetings

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

SIR,—One of the evils that is made a practice in certain associations is the offer of an honorarium which is regarded by some as a form of bribe. I do not envy any official who expects a small token in recognition of his services to his association, but when an official actually suggests a certain figure to cover the cost of an article to meet his request, I say the practice is a bad one. I may be little too hasty in my remarks, but I have my own opinion that an honest and sincere worker never looks forward for such recognition. Apart from this, delegates attending council meetings find it uncomfortable at times to co-operate with the views of officials, and the result is neither are any better when they loose control. A shocking behaviour of two very prominent officials at a certain important meeting held recently in Johannesburg was brought to my notice. It is not very pleasing to give publicity to incidents of this nature through the press, but out of sympathy for the clubs which suffer very great inconvenience I am obliged to disclose same without giving details. Personally, I detest any organisation which forms a clique just as one would hate an hooligan element. If you allow your council meetings to be

dominated by hooliganism, there must be some defects somewhere that your association is not doing justice to certain clubs, or that your meetings are not properly conducted. Let me anticipate this as a warning for any future occurrence. Please refrain from free use of common language and your personal remarks, if you wish your meetings conducted in a dignified manner. I regret to learn that this particular meeting ultimately resulted in the resignation of a much important official.—Yours etc., DISGUSTED.

—O—

Obituary

Death Of Indian Interpreter

A tragic gloom was cast over the whole Indian community at Newcastle at the untimely death of Mr. N. P. Naidoo, the local Indian interpreter. This young man of only 26 years met his death by an accident which occurred in the early part of the morning of May 27. Born in Pietermaritzburg in the year 1912, he accompanied his parents to Estcourt, where his late father was interpreter. He received his early education in Pietermaritzburg and Estcourt. On the death of his father he entered the service, and acted as Indian interpreter at Estcourt until he was transferred to Newcastle. The funeral took place at Newcastle, and the number of people who attended the funeral signified the popularity which he enjoyed. All sections of the community were represented. During his lifetime he was secretary of the Newcastle Indian Tennis Club; president of the Newcastle Football Association; a staunch member of the Hindu Young Men's Association; and chairman of the Temple Committee. His interests were divided amongst all sections of the Indian community. He was also a law student under Professor Burchell. The Chief Magistrate of Newcastle, while expressing his sympathy on behalf of his staff, he himself spoke in eulogistic terms of the deceased, and of his happy and pleasant disposition. Mr. Patak and Mr. Christopher also spoke of the esteem and respect the Indian community had for Mr. Naidoo, and conveyed to members of the large family the sympathy of the whole community. Numerous letters and telegrams from all parts of the country were received. A large number of wreaths were sent.

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 to be held at Capetown. 2. To consider new Draft Constitution.

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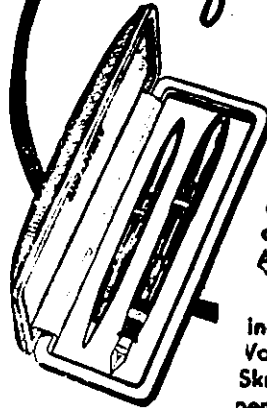
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