

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

Another Anti-Indian Measure Under Contemplation

A DEPUTATION, headed by Mr. J. M. van H. Brink, M.E.C., presented to the Minister of the Interior, the Hon. R. Stuttaford, on December 7, the views and resolutions of the recent Conference of the Pretoria Federation of Ratepayers' Association. The Conference in a unanimous resolution had urged that the terms of reference of the Murray Commission be extended to cover the question of Asiatic hire as well as ownership of property. The Minister informed the deputation that it was now too late to do this because the Commission was already engaged in drawing up its report. Nor could he see his way clear to appoint a new commission to undertake a wider investigation.

Mr. Stuttaford announced to the deputation, however, that he had under consideration a different scheme which he thought would serve the same purpose as that of the deputation. He would propose to the Government that legislation be introduced providing that, in cases where 60 per cent. or more of the owners of property desired it, servitudes in respect of such properties be registered free of charge to prohibit the sale to or hire of such properties by Indians.

The deputation inquired whether the Minister would be able to introduce this legislation next session. Mr. Stuttaford promised that he would discuss the matter with the Cabinet shortly.

Move For Cleaner S. A. Politics! (?)

A comprehensive agreement designed to introduce a better spirit in the relations of the two leading political parties in South Africa was signed jointly on December 9 by the Prime Minister, General the Hon. J. B. M. Hertzog, and Dr. D. F. Malan, leader of the Nationalist Party. The agreement, which is issued in the form of a manifesto, sets out ten principles which, in the words of the Hon. E. G. Jansen, may lead to negotiations later on between the parties. Points 7 and 9 are of particular interest and have been

accepted with some comment by Dr. Malan. They are as follows:

7—The recognition of the right of every independent State to apply whatever form of government it may choose, and of the necessity, in this time of international strain, to avoid everything by word and deed that might damage the good relations between State and State;

9—The recognition in our efforts to gain our political ends of the presence of the less civilised Native races in our country, and the acceptance of responsible guardianship and leadership of these races, and the avoidance of everything that might shock the confidence of these races in such guardianship and leadership of the European races.

As regards the two points Dr. Malan states, the Nationalist, certainly, will wish to see his right reserved, at all times, to fully express his views (uit te lewe) with regard to our freedom without it being considered as offensive or detrimental to any other country. The same, he states, may be said of point No. 9, where the National Party will certainly expect that its well known policy with regard to colour questions will not be regarded as furnishing good ground for want of confidence in the guardianship of the European race.

The last of the 10 points read:

10—Generally and finally, the recognition of the positive necessity that all who hold responsible positions in our national life should consciously strive at all times, under all circumstances and in every way, to raise the whole moral standard of our national thought and action to place it on a Christian basis.

European View On The Indian

Question

The *Natal Daily News* in the course of a leading article writes:

"The Indian people in South Africa are peaceful and law-abiding to a degree and have been notably backward in political agitation. That is no argument for ignoring the difficulties they present or for refusing to them the elementary rights to which they are entitled but which have not

been accorded. At the basis of all lies the refusal of direct representation on the municipalities, the Provincial Council or in Parliament. In refusing such representation we are flagrantly ignoring one of the first principles of democracy, which is that there shall be no taxation without representation. Until some scheme can be devised, linking the Indian population with the municipal, provincial and national governments, we shall patently have failed in our duty to this community. The difficulties are, of course, apparent: Adult suffrage would hand over certain towns and areas to Indian control, a measure which is utterly impracticable. Between adult suffrage, however, and some degree of representation, there is a great gulf, and we refuse to believe that something at least could not be done. While we deprive the Indian people of this outlet for their communal spirit, it is doubly important that we should discharge our liabilities to them in a manner which is above criticism or reproach. Alas, we cannot make that claim.... Whether we like or not, the Indian is an integral part of the South African people, notably in Natal. It lies in our power to take steps now which would raise his standard and improve the contribution economic, physical and spiritual, that he could make to the common life. The Indian has been asset to Natal in the past, and a wise understanding of his problems today would go far to cement him into the structure of the country."

The *Star* (Johannesburg) writes:

"At a largely attended open-air meeting at Rustenburg, the chief speaker, Mr. de Wit, asked for 'a mandate to press for segregation of Indians,' and this was approved of. Actually there is a large measure of voluntary segregation in existence at the present time. ... The Indians constitute so very small a proportion of the total population of the Transvaal that it is difficult to understand the reason for the alarmist views prevailing in some quarters and the racial antagonism which occasionally crops up in country towns."

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 1938

Government's Inconsistencies

MR. STUTTAFORD, the Minister of the Interior, who, speaking at a meeting of the Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association, stated that, "it is necessary for every man to have a pride in his own race—provided he does not express that pride by intolerance and injury to the other races who are themselves entitled to have their own ideals and pride in their race," that "lately there seems to have been an unreasoning wish to damage people of other races in South Africa," and that "the only way we are going to live in this country is by tolerance of each other," has announced to the deputation of the Federation of the Ratepayers' Association at Pretoria which waited on him recently, that he would propose to the Government that legislation be introduced providing that, "in cases where 60 per cent. or more of the owners of property desired it, servitudes in respect of such properties be registered free of charge to prohibit the sale to or hire of such properties by Indians."

How this announcement by the Minister of the Interior, is consistent with his statement at a public meeting we have quoted above passes our comprehension. This is not eliminating unreasonableness and intolerance. It is really encouraging it. And where was the justification for such legislation when the Transvaal Asiatic Land Laws Commission has not yet published its report and when evidence given by responsible witnesses on behalf of the town councils of the various towns of the Transvaal before the Commission have agreed that the Indians have, on a voluntary basis, remained within their own areas, and that they were in the majority

of cases occupying the same part of the town which they occupied 15, 20, or 30 years ago." The town clerk of Pretoria, when asked to quote specific instances of penetration by Indians into European areas in Pretoria, we are told, could give as an only instance, land occupied by Asiatics in Prinsloo Street for close on half a century. Pressed further, the town clerk agreed that "there was not much of an intrusion by Indians into other parts of Pretoria."

It is indeed surprising that while the recommendations of the Feetham Commission which spent so much time and money on investigating in its minutest detail the conditions of ownership and occupation of land by Indians in the Transvaal have not been given effect to, and while the Murray Commission is still to report its findings, fresh legislation against Indians should be under contemplation by the Government without the slightest consideration of the susceptibilities of the parties concerned.

But even more surprising is the fact that the Agent-General for India should be completely unaware of these fresh fetters contemplated to be forged for the Indian community whose interests he has been appointed to safeguard in this country.

Is it not a slur on India when even the Agent-General should be kept in the dark in such a matter? And we would once again ask what worth is the presence of the Agent-General in South Africa and what worth is the Capetown agreement if its terms can be violated at the will of the Union Government? It seems all farcical to us.

How strange it is that this should happen just when the Prime Minister is trying to work for cleaner politics in South Africa and lays it down as one of the principles, "the recognition of

positive necessity that all who hold responsible positions in our national life should consciously strive at all times, under all circumstances and in every way, to raise the whole moral standard of our national thought and action and to place it on a Christian basis."

In so far as the treatment of those sections of the Union population who have no voice in the Government of the country is concerned the moral standard of the national thought and action on the part of the rulers does not seem to be very high nor is it placed on a Christian basis.

The only hopeful feature in this gloomy picture we find is in the comments made by the *The Natal Daily News* and *The Star* (Johannesburg), wherein a truly Christian spirit is certainly found. The former, which speaks for Natal, where there is the bulk of the Indian population, states that while the Indian population has been deprived of the vote

"it is doubly important that we should discharge our liabilities to them in a manner which is above criticism or reproach. Alas, we cannot make that claim... Whether we like it or not, the Indian is an integral part of the South African people, notably in Natal. It lies in our power to take steps which would raise his standard and improve the contribution economic, physical and spiritual, that he could make to the common life. The Indian has been an asset to Natal in the past, and a wise understanding of his problems would go far to cement him into the structure of the country."

The Star (Johannesburg) states:

"The Indians constitute so very small a proportion of the total population of the Transvaal that it is difficult to understand the reason for the alarmist views prevailing in some quarters and the racial antagonism which occasionally crops up in country towns."

One cannot expect a better testimony and we do certainly lay claim for better treatment at the hands of the Government at least. But we are also conscious of the fact that our treatment by the European public as well as the Government will be in accordance with our consciousness of our national honour and our self-respect and our strength and readiness to stand up for it.

MR. BURNSIDE ON INDIANS' STANDARD OF LIVING

IN his speech at the opening in Durban of the first conference of the Natal Indian Congress on Saturday December 10, Mr. Duncan Burnside, M.P., expressed the view that colour prejudice had been carried to ridiculous and, unfortunately, to physically damaging extremes in South Africa. Colour prejudice, he said, clouded reason and had now reached the stage when in its indulgence it was doing a portion of the European population itself a considerable amount of economic harm.

"The Indian in the days of cheap labour was an economic asset of considerable value in Natal," continued Mr. Burnside. To-day when we hope, sometimes unfortunately in vain, that era of cheap labour has passed, he is still an economic asset and has all the potentialities of becoming a first-rate asset, if only the European will allow him that freedom of development which is the inalienable right of all human beings whatever may be the colour of their skins.

"A great figure of history once said that if you wanted to keep a man in the gutter you must stay there with him yourself, and the force of that dictum can be seen so clearly in South Africa, where the continued depression of non-European living standards has been the chief cause of the remarkable and tragic spread of poor whiteism throughout South Africa in the last 20 years or so.

Consuming Power

"In a highly productive world, it is foolish to think we can carry on satisfactorily with a low consuming power. With a deplorably low standard of living, forced upon them in the main by the European community, the In-

dians are low consumers. They can be developed to that real live economic asset by having their consuming power considerably increased, which is the same thing as saying by having their standard of living raised.

"I stress this, what is to me an essential aspect of the Indian problem, as it has to be recognised that a great deal of the colour prejudice and anti-Asiatic feeling existing in South Africa arises not from any inherent predisposition towards being unjust, but because of economic fear.

"It is a fear which originates from the impact of a high wage civilisation on a low wage civilisation, and recognising this any realistic analysis of your problem must suggest as the main line of approach to a solution of your difficulties a determined effort to raise considerably the general standard of living of your community.

"I am aware that such is probably easier said than done. I am acutely conscious of the very many difficulties of an economic, legislative and even social character which impede daily your progress towards such a goal, but I am not altogether sure that, as a community, you have in the past had such a goal clearly in your minds.

"There has, in fact, been a tendency in past years to endeavour to maintain your position by the accepting of a lower standard of living, by being prepared to work for lower wages, by extreme price cutting in commerce and industry. That is, of course, the line of least resistance, but along that path lies ultimate disaster."

Economic Struggle

To the Indian community nothing was to be gained by intensifying the

antagonism between Europeans and themselves by making the economic struggle more intense. He had found generally that the economic case for the Indian community evoked in most thoughtful people a considerable amount of sympathy.

It was still true, too true, that one half of the world did not know how the other half lived, and he was more than convinced that if the conditions of life and the difficulties were brought continuously to the notice of the European section of the population a great deal of very useful assistance would be rendered.

The Indians' salvation, however, lay primarily in their own hands, and once having made up their minds that a vastly higher standard of living must be achieved he was confident that their efforts must be crowned with success.

Indians paid Union and Provincial taxes on the same basis as Europeans, but it had to be admitted that they had little in return in the line of public services.

Education

There were 102 schools in the Province, 85 of which were Government-aided, built by the community. The total number of children of school-going age was 40,000, only 50 per cent. of whom are at school. Every Indian school child had to pay school fees from kindergarten upwards. The bulk of the children only went to Standard I, and there were only 923 children out of over 20,000 who were in Standard VI.

The Provincial Council, as a matter of fact, made a profit out of Indian school children, a profit which was used to further European education in the Province. If this was generally known he did not think the European population would feel too proud about it.

THE AGENT-GENERAL ON THE INDIAN PROBLEM

THE Agent-General, Mr. B. Rama Rau, speaking at the Conference of the Natal Indian Congress last Saturday said, the last general election resulted in very little change in the position of the respective political Parties in the Union. The Nationalist Party persevered in its violent anti-Asiatic policy, although it was led by a statesman who, as a Minister of the Interior, played an important part in the negotiations that culminated in the Capetown agreement, and who was always regarded as a sympathetic friend. The United Party had been

rather non-committal on some important matters affecting the Indian community, but thanks were due to the Government Ministers and heads of department, who had always been ready to give a sympathetic hearing to any requests made on behalf of the Indian community, either by the Agent-General or by the Congress.

"It is fortunate for us that we have at the head of the Government veteran leaders such as General Hertzog and General Smuts, who have a world-wide reputation for political sagacity and breadth of vision, and who have been

ranked among the great elder statesmen of the British Commonwealth. Our thanks are also due to those liberal-minded members of Parliament and senators who have spoken on behalf of our community whenever any issue adversely affecting it has been raised in Parliament. During the last few years there has also been an increase in the sympathy and goodwill shown by the more intelligent sections of the European community, many members of which have interested themselves personally in social work amongst our community.

Conditions Improved

"In the field of industry generally the Industrial Conciliation Act and Wage Act have improved the conditions of service and the wages of Indian employees, but this has been accompanied, unfortunately, by a decrease in the percentage of Indians employed in industry. This is a matter of great importance to the community, because so many avenues of employment are al-

ready closed and the general tendency seems to be to confine the Indian community more and more to retail trade—a thing which is not good for the Indian community itself nor for South Africa.

"The position has been aggravated by a serious drift of population from rural areas to towns during the last 15 years, which has resulted in severe unemployment, particularly in Durban. It is for this conference to devise ways

and means for stopping that drift and for enabling Indian unemployed to follow agricultural pursuits once more. A further need to which I should like to draw attention is for Indian labour in industry to organise itself: firstly, to secure the legitimate rights to which labour is entitled, and, secondly, to protect itself from subversive and undesirable influences."

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

THE following resolutions were passed by the Provincial Conference of the Natal Indian Congress held last Saturday and Sunday in Durban:

Industrial Legislation

"This conference deplores the results of the operation of the 'civilised labour policy' of the Government. Although the Government has declared that Indians are included in the term 'civilised labour,' in practice the policy is being used to exclude Indians from employment to make room for 'Poor Whites' and others on the Railways and elsewhere. This conference therefore appeals to the Government to investigate thoroughly the position resulting from the above policy and to see that the Indian gets the position in industry which is his due and right as a civilised member of the population.

"This conference deplores the fact that Government has failed to give effect to the recommendation of the Industrial Legislative Commission 1934, that in the interest of South Africa as a whole all barriers to trade based on racial discrimination should be removed and urges the Government to take immediate steps to remove those barriers.

"This conference deplores the fact that no facilities have been provided to enable Indians to enter trade as apprentices, and draws the Government's attention to the fact that the provision of such facilities is a first essential to the uplift of the Indian community.

"This conference directs the executive committee to take steps for the organisation of Indian labour.

"This conference draws public attention to the wide gulf separating 'skilled' wages from 'unskilled' wages, and records its emphatic opinion that the future well being of South Africa lies in raising the wages of 'unskilled' workers.

"This conference directs its executive committee to take steps to secure representation of Indian interests on Industrial Councils.

"This conference directs its executive committee to make representations to

Government to ensure that there is no racial discrimination adversely affecting the Indian community in the Bills at present under the consideration of the Government.

Condemnation of the token system used on the Natal coal mines was expressed by Congress.

Holiday Home For Poor Children

MR. S. J. SMITH M.P.C., announced at the Provincial Conference of the Natal Indian Congress that an anonymous European sympathiser had offered £250 to start a fund for a holiday home for poor Indian children on condition that another £750 should be subscribed by those present at the Conference there and then. There was a prompt response and £1,000 now stands for this home which is to be called the "Sidney Smith and Indian Congress Holiday Home."

Trustees are to be appointed to administer the fund, which is expected to be greatly increased.

Social Welfare

Resolutions passed dealing with social welfare urged that the pension of 10s. a month under the aged and indigent Indian pension scheme be increased and the age limit for women be reduced; that the Government be requested to establish labour exchanges in populous centres in order to gauge the extent of unemployment and to enable the unemployed, who were increasing in numbers, to find work; that every possible step be taken to prevent the undesirable drift from rural areas by the opening of agricultural schools; that ways and means be devised for the training of suitable Indian students in social welfare work.

Education

Resolutions urging the Provincial Administration to press on with all speed in the provision of facilities for the education of the 20,000 children not at present at school were passed. This could best be carried out by the expansion of the aided school system. It was deplored that the Province was not spending on Indian education the full amount of the subsidy received on the basis of attendance in Indian schools.

Trade

The following resolutions dealing with trade were passed:—

"This conference deplores the administration of the Provincial licensing system. Although the law makes no racial discrimination, the authorities have introduced racial discrimination in dealing with applications of Indians for licences and by restricting the grant of licences to predominantly Indian areas, thus segregating Indian trade. This conference therefore urges the Union Government to take up immediately the question of uniformity of the licensing system throughout the Union and implement the licence clause in the Capetown Agreement namely:—

"The grounds on which a licence may be refused should be laid down by statute.

"The reasons for which a licence is refused should be recorded.

"There should be a right of appeal in the cases of first application and transfers, as well as in cases of renewals, to the Courts or to some other impartial tribunal."

Efforts are to be made by the Natal Indian Congress to secure proper representation of Indian planters on the S.A. Sugar Association, "in view of the important part which Indian planters and Indian labour play in the industry as a whole."

Further resolutions on the Sugar Agreement deprecated the attitude of the non-European Mill Group Board in failing to establish an equalisation fund for non-European growers in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.

Congress directed its executive to take steps to establish such a fund so that the Indian might get the same benefit from the sugar agreement as the European. The conference directed its executive to investigate the possibilities of giving relief to the Indian small growers.

Farmers

The Government was urged to see that the Indian farmer got a reasonable return for his produce so that he could continue in his business.

It was also resolved to urge that the Government should extend the services of the Land Bank to the Indian farming community and also grant assistance for water conservancy.

Abolition of the special medical tax on Indian workers on the grounds that it was an anachronism was urged.

The conference expressed the opinion that the Indian Immigration Bureau hospital run by the Government should be closed and that concrete proposals should be made for the disposal of the Immigration Bureau Funds in the best interests of the Indian community.

So much money had been collected, it was said, that the Minister was able to use £50,000 of it for repatriation.

Tuberculosis

A proposal that the King George V. Hospital for tuberculosis at Springfield should be used exclusively for Europeans, and that Indian sufferers should be accommodated at Congella was condemned on the grounds that the Indian community subscribed generously to the Silver Jubilee Fund and was entitled to its full benefits.

Token System

The token system on the coal mines of Natal was deplored as being commonly associated with the "inferior races" and constituting a stigma on the Indian community.

The Executive was directed to make the strongest possible representations to secure the abolition of the system. Congress branches in areas where Indian miners live were instructed to move towards the betterment of living conditions and hospital arrangements.

Firearms

A more liberal policy in the granting of licences for firearms to Indians was urged, in order to give protection to people living at a distance from police posts; also for the protection of

crops and the destruction of pests and for sporting purposes.

"No Penetration"

"This conference expresses its most emphatic opinion that the Indian community has not been guilty of penetration of European areas," states a resolution which was adopted by the conference.

"This conference observes with regret the recrudescence of the cry of penetration. There has taken place a gradual expansion of Indian areas, necessitated by the increase in the Indian population.

"But Congress has arrived at a working agreement with the Natal Municipal Association whereby individual Indians are deterred from purchasing residential sites in European areas, and this conference has pleasure in recording that this arrangement has worked most satisfactorily."

The conference called upon the Provincial and local authorities to carry out the wishes of the Department of the Interior that as far as possible Indians should be given reasonable opportunities for acquiring adequate residential sites.

RELIGION THE WORLD NEEDS

III

BUT religion—specially the objective of religion—has been viewed differently by different leaders of thought. Immanuel Kant defines religion as 'recognizing all our duties as divine command,' Comte finds it in 'the worship of humanity,' Huxley in 'reverence and love for the Ethical Idea, and the desire to realise that ideal in life,' Mill in 'the strong and earnest direction of the emotions and desires towards an ideal object recognised as of the highest excellence and as rightly paramount over all selfish objects of desire,' Edward Caird in 'the expression of his (man's) ultimate attitude to the universe, 'the summed-up meaning and purport of his whole consciousness of things,' and Dr. Martineau in 'a belief in an everlasting God, that is a, Divine mind and will, ruling the universe and holding moral relations with mankind.' Besides, there are other thinkers such as Seneca, Alexander Bain, Ruskin, Matthew Arnold, Froude, Carlyle and the like, who have made similar attempts to define religion in their own way. But none has been bold enough to proclaim (as Vedanta has done) that religion is the realization of the identity of the individual soul with the Absolute, —the realization of the oneness of all being the grandest philosophical thought which has become the practical spirituality of the Indian people. Man, says Swami Vivekananda, is nothing but an infinite circle whose circumference is

By THE EDITOR

"Prabuddha Bharata."

(Continued from last week)

nowhere, but whose centre is located in one spot, and God is an infinite circle whose circumference is nowhere but whose centre is everywhere. Man can become like God and acquire control over the whole universe if he multiplies infinitely his centre of self consciousness. Religion of man is therefore being and becoming: it is realization. It is the infinite expansion of the human ego or individuality until it merges in the Absolute, the Supreme Reality pervading the entire cosmos. India, nay, the whole world stands in need of such a Universal Religion which can satisfy all types of minds and meet the multiple demands of humanity in its gradual ascent from the lowest stage of religious consciousness to the apogee of spiritual realization.

The Religion of Vedanta, as already pointed out, possesses elements which can legitimately claim to be the Universal Religion the world needs to-day. Vedantism, unlike other systems of thought, does not depend for its validity upon the life and teachings of any particular prophet or a seer. It is in fact the embodiment of eternal principles that transcend all spatio-temporal relations and changes; whereas the fabric of other

faiths is more or less built on the historicity of the life of an individual spiritual genius. When the historicity of such a founder is questioned or undermentioned through a process of investigation, the entire edifice, however grand and sublime, is shaken to its foundation, and eventually crumbles to pieces. There is no gainsaying the fact that it is through universal principles alone, and not through such a personality, that a greater portion of humanity can be united. The God of Vedanta is moreover an impersonal God; but it has a personal God as well, and provides infinite scope for the play of the manifold ideas and emotions of mankind. No other religion in the world furnishes such a brilliant galaxy of incarnations, prophets and seers, and waits for infinitely more, and provides unto every individual such latitude and freedom in the choice of his ideal for his spiritual growth and unfoldment according to the predilection he has for the path either of work, devotion, meditation of knowledge. This universality as reflected in all the varied aspects of the Vedantic thought is the *raison d'être* of all religious toleration in India. This is indeed the reason why sympathy and catholicity have secured a permanent foothold in the citadel of action in this country. That is why the Hindus build mosques for the Mohammedans and churches for the Christians, and that is why in India

religion did never want armies to march before its path and clear its way; for true wisdom and philosophy do not march upon bleeding human bodies but fall like gentle dews silently on the lacerated hearts of mankind to soothe and comfort them. To crown all, even the latest findings of Science are in complete agreement with the rational Gospel of the Vedanta. "The modern researches of the West," says Swami Vivekananda, "have demonstrated through physical means the one-

ness and solidarity of the whole universe how physically speaking, you and I, the sun, moon and stars, are but little wavelets in the midst of an infinite ocean of matter; how Indian psychology demonstrate ages ago that, similarly, both body and mind are but mere names or little wavelets in the ocean of matter, the Samashthi, and how, going one step further, it is also shown in the Vedanta that behind that idea of the unity of the whole show, the real soul is one. There is but one soul

throughout the universe, all is but one existence." Thus from the highest spiritual flight of the Vedanta philosophy, of which the latest scientific discoveries seem like echoes, to the lowest ideas of idolatry and agnosticism, ceremonial worship and atheism, each and all have a place in the religion of Vedanta. The humanity is seeking this new impulse of thought as the universal spiritual pabulum to satisfy the hunger of its soul.

(To be continued)

American Notes

(BY H. STEFAN SANTESSON)

Yusuf Meherally's Visit—A Retroprospect

YUSUF MEHERALLY, Secretary of the All India Congress Socialist Party, was in this country during August through October, coming to the U. S. as the head of the India Delegation to the World Youth Congress.

The closing of the Congress in late August, found Meherally enroute—almost immediately—to Mexico, where he represented India at a number of significant conferences convened in Mexico City,—notably the Latin American Trade Union Congress. The representative of one of the most significant trends in political action in the world, Meherally—as the representative of India—was repeatedly honoured by the Mexican people and by the Mexican Government, the hosts to the Conferences.

Between September 25 and October 19 the period during which he was once more on the East Coast, Meherally addressed a great number of meetings and met scores of people, leaders of America's liberal thought, writers, editors, labor and political leaders. In terms of political values Meherally's work during those 16 hour days was of immense significance—for all recognized that here was the most important Nationalist to come out of India since 1932 and the late Sjt. Vithalbai J. Patel. Conferences were held with the Editors of *Asia*, *New Republic*, *Nation*, *New York Times*, *Daily Worker*, *Socialist Appeal*—to mention but a few of his appointments.

The highlights to us was his meetings with the members of the Indian community—the workers—which he often declared to be the most personally important part of his programme. The first meeting held by any group in his honour was that of the India Welfare League, on September 25 where Sirdar J. J. Singh of the India Chamber of Commerce, Mubark Ali Khan, President of the India Welfare League, former Justice Jean H. Norris, H. S. Santesson,

and others spoke. The following Sunday there was the annual Gandhi Dinner, arranged jointly, this year, by the American League for India's Freedom and by the India Political Council, Roger Baldwin, head of the American Civil Liberties Union, friend of Nehru, presided. Other speakers included Ramlal Bajpai, Abdul Ghafoor Khan, Haridas Muzumdar, Kedarnath Das Gupta, Mubark Ali Khan, H. S. Santesson, and Norman Thomas, Socialist Candidate for Governor in this month's elections. Mr. Thomas had three other meetings that day—and still come to honour Socialist India in the person of Mr. Meherally.

Other meetings of importance to the community was the meeting of October 1, in Brooklyn under the auspices of the Eastern Moslems Association where the audience was predominantly Afghan and from the North West. On October 2, Mr. Meherally spoke under the auspices of the All World Gandhi Fellowship, and on October 9, under the auspices of the India League of America. American organizations before whom Mr. Meherally spoke, included The Friends of the Chinese People, the League for Industrial Democracy and the Socialist Party, the League for American Writers, numerous groups in Boston, Institute of Pacific Relations, etc.

Meherally sailed on October 19 for Europe—leaving behind him not only many new personal friends, but hundreds of important new friends of India as well. Mr. H. Stefan Santesson as Secretary of the Council, was concerned with many aspects of those two months events.

India Welfare League Inc.

Mr. H. S. Santesson of the India Political Council, once more Secretary of the League, presided on November 3—a meeting at which Committee Chairmen were elected, and a brief address made by Sherman Stanley, a Socialist Workers Party writer on India. The Committee Chairman are as follows:—

Executive Board—President: Mubark Ali Khan; Vice-President: Abdul Tahid; Secretary: H. Stefan Santesson; Treasurer: J. Hassan; Chairman, ExCom.: Ramlal Bajpai; Executive Committee—Chairman: Ramlal Bajpai; Medical Aid: Dr. R. Appell; Burial: T. Allamon; Membership: Mohamed Ali; House: E. Philip; Relief: Frederic Vencatakrishniah; Legal Aid: H. Stefan Santesson; Trustees: Abdul Barek, Ali Khan, J. Abdullah; Ex Officio: Mubark Ali, Abdul Tahid, J. Hassan, Hassan Ali. Mr. Frederic Vencatakrishniah presided on October 22, the first anniversary meeting of the League. Mr. Mubark Ali Khan spoke briefly on the history of the League; Mr. Santesson read the text of the Constitution which was accepted; Mr. Ibrahim Choudhry of the Young India Social Club, and Mr. Nibahon Kam Checker, of the India League of America, likewise spoke.

India League Of America

The hitherto conservative India League of America met on October 9, at a meeting honouring Yusuf Meherally. Prominent speakers included the Hon. Mrs. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, Mr. N. R. Checker, Dr. Haridas Muzumdar and Dr. Anup Singh. The League had held a dinner on Gandhiji's birthday, October 2, as described in our last letter.

India Political Council

The anniversary of Sjt. Vithalbai J. Patel's death was observed privately on October 23. During October, in addition to holding the Gandhi dinner and working with Meherally throughout his stay, members of the Council have participated actively in meetings of the India Welfare League, Young Peoples Socialist League, etc.

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COLONIAL BORN AND SETTLERS' INDIAN ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING AT MARITZBURG

THE Library of the H.Y.M.A, Church Street, Maritzburg, was filled to capacity, and great enthusiasm was evinced by members present, when the Maritzburg Branch of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association held its sixth annual general meeting last Sunday afternoon.

Messrs. A. Christopher, S. L. Singh, P. R. Pather, P. B. Singh, S. Patchay were present as representing Headquarters. Puntan's Hill Branch was also represented.

Good wishes for a successful meeting were sent by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, M.P., Mr. F. N. Broome, K.C., M.P., Mr. A. Goldberg, M.P., Mr. E. C. Hooper, M.P., Hon. W. A. Deane, M.P., and Councillor Mr. R. S. Williamson.

The joint hon. secretaries submitted a lengthy report which revealed a tremendous amount of work put in by the Association. The Association not only

interested itself in politics, but also in the social uplift of the Indian community in Maritzburg.

Advocate Mr. A. Christopher, President of Headquarters, Durban, was the principal speaker. He stressed upon the necessity of colonial-born Indians working their own salvation. It was a pleasure to see everywhere a tendency amongst colonial born Indians to unite. He was pleased to see the number of members present at the meeting, which was an indication that the awakening of the people had at last arrived. He pointed out that it was absolutely necessary that colonial born Indians should help one another. He hoped that the association would grow from strength to strength. Messrs. P. R. Pather, S. L. Singh, P. B. Singh, S. Patchay and S. Ram Naidoo were the other speakers.

The election resulted as follows:—

Patron: Mr. C. Hardew Singh; President: Mr. J. M. David; Vice-Presidents: Dr. M. R. Peters, Messrs. A. T. Moodley, B. R. Naidoo, S. Rathanam and R. R. Gopaul; Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. K. Soobramoney and T. Ramkelawan; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. Naidoo; Auditor: Mr. S. Rathanam; Organising Secretary: Mr. R. R. Maharaj; Committee: Messrs. B. Poodhan, V. C. Dayanand, G. K. Naidoo, R. Govindasamy, G. Anthony, K. M. Naidoo, P. M. Govender, S. R. Pillay, M. Kooposamy, T. Sinthal, M. N. Naidoo, Omar Singh, M. S. Govender, M. R. Naidoo (jnr.), F. Martin, P. N. R. Naidoo, S. G. Padayachee, P. S. Pillay, G. S. Maharaj, C. Dorasamy, R. G. Naidoo, V. Pukree, T. Dhurman, F. S. David, T. Gouder, V. G. Naidoo, S. S. Naidoo, T. Moonsamy and S. Ramlugan.

JOHANNESBURG INDIAN SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

A WARNING that South Africa was heading for disaster if it persisted in racial antagonisms was given by Mr. Richard Stuttaford, Minister of the Interior, at a meeting of the Johannesburg Indian Social Welfare Association in the Patidar Hall at Newtown on Wednesday, November 30.

"I have been distressed at the present mentality of some people in this country," he said. "It is necessary for every man to have a pride in his own race—provided he does not express that pride by intolerance and injury to the other races who are themselves entitled to have their own ideals and pride in their race.

"Lately there seems to have been an unreasoning wish to damage people of other races in South Africa. We have to remember that the only way we are going to live in this country is by tolerance of each other.

"One of my main jobs is to try to reduce friction and chances of friction. There is no one who needs the co-operation of men of goodwill as does the Minister of the Interior. Recent tendencies have not helped my task.

"This new mentality which seems to have come over people is strange. They seem to want to quarrel with each

other. We must calm such people down so that chances of friction are greatly decreased.

"Let us consider the practical aspects of the matter. The several races have to stay here, and the only reasonable thing to do so is to keep out of each other's way when they are going to quarrel. When people disagree you don't invite them together to your house. You keep them apart and eliminate the causes of friction.

"Many of the causes of friction are trivial, but they grow enormous in the imagination of people who have no balance. Unless we can find a way to live in harmony we are heading for disaster, and we or our children will rue our shortsightedness."

Mr. Stuttaford admired the unusual scope of the activities of the Indian Social Welfare Association, which range from tennis courts to the need for clinics. "I believe that we should have many more clinics throughout the towns, and that they should deal not only with Europeans, but with non-Europeans as well.

"I have seen something of the slum conditions in which the non-European lives. The Government and the Johannesburg Municipality are co-operating

to arrange financial for the elimination of slums.

The Johannesburg City Council has made up its mind that slums must go, and I want the Indian community to help in its efforts. While I am Minister of Public Health I shall do whatever I can to eliminate these horrible conditions which we find in all the big cities."

Dealing with pensions for aged Indians, he remarked that an advance had been made in the conditions governing these pensions.

[Note: Mr. Stuttaford presumably referred to the £5,000 sanctioned by Parliament to be distributed among indigent Indians. The Indian community's request that Indians should be afforded the benefit of the common law regarding old age pensions was refused by the Government and the amount was thrown in their hats.—Ed. I.O.]

WANTED

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Doings In India

Gandhiji Pleads For Communal Unity

"IF Khudai Khidmatgars, who claim to be non-violent, have altogether rooted out violence from their hearts and fully trained themselves in the use of the all-powerful weapon of non violence, solution can be found to many of the troubles and an end can be put finally to our ills and strifes. But this great work cannot be done unless you all pray with me in God's court, for without his benign help success is impossible." Thus observed Gandhiji in the course of a brief 15-minute speech in Hindustani, giving his message of non-violence to about 25,000 men and women assembled at Baisakhi Grounds, Dehra Ismail Khan, during his recent tour to the N.W. Frontier. Gandhiji said his purpose in coming to the Frontier was not to address meetings, but to meet the Khudai Khidmatgars. Gandhiji's voice almost dropped to a low whisper as he, with great pathos, pleaded for communal unity. He said unless the hearts of Hindus, Muslims and Christians beat in unison and abiding harmony, India's freedom was impossible to achieve. Their unity was essential. Gandhiji stressed the need of the *charkha* cult and of uprooting untouchability from amongst Hindus. He said that through *khadi* they would be serving countless poor homes, stricken by the dread of hunger, by providing them with a morsel of bread and at the same time they would also be stopping the outflow of many crores of India's money to foreign lands. Speaking on foreign domination he said history would record the fact as to what had been done in India and what had been left undone in order to keep her in subjugation. He declared that the Britishers were being put to the greatest test in the Frontier. There, in the Frontier, could one closely study their whole policy minutely.

Gandhiji To Visit Frontier Again

Mahatma Gandhi will pay another visit to the Frontier Province in next March to perform the opening ceremony of the proposed training centre and workers' home for Red Shirts at Marwandi about 2 miles from Utmanzai, understands the Associated Press. It may be recalled that in the course of his stay at Utmanzai Mahatma Gandhi

inspected two sites, one at Marwandi and the other at Kaimatang for the proposed training centre and eventually Mahatma Gandhi approved the former.

One India, One Nation, And One Destiny

"The British Government preach that the problems of India, if any, are solved by the new constitution, but I emphasise that the new Act not only fails to solve India's problems but also retards her progress. That is why the Congress is determined to fight Federation tooth and nail," observed Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Congress President, addressing a huge public meeting held at Gauhati, Assam, when addresses were presented to him by the public and a number of organisations. Mr. Bose dwelt at length on the growth of Congress strength during the last 18 years. He urged the people to take advantage of the world situation and strive for their freedom. The President appealed to the people to organise and strengthen the masses in a disciplined manner, utilising the benefit of the eight Congress provinces and be prepared for the greater struggle ahead. He wanted all to preach the Congress message among the masses in terms of "one India, one nation and one destiny" confronted with the problems of illiteracy, disease, unemployment and poverty among the peasantry.

Rajendra Babu's Advice To The Youth

"Youths should combine into one indomitable force and raise the status of India which is to-day the object of the world's compassion," said Babu Rajendra Prasad, addressing a students gathering, when an address of welcome was presented to him by the Digba Chhatra Sangha, Patna. This was Dr. Rajendra Prasad's first public speech since his return to Bihar after an absence of about seven months. Stressing the need for character building, Babu Rajendra Prasad said that India to-day need men with sturdy character to guide the nation to its destiny. Education must be acquired but one should not fail to build up an exemplary character. Stereotyped education would not lead India to independence.

Pt Kunzru Elected Commissioner Of Hindustan Scouts

The first session of the National Council of the Hindustan Scout Association was held at Nagpur with Mr. S. P. Andrews Dube in the chair. Representatives from all over India attended the meeting. The meeting discussed ways and means for the expansion of the scout movement in India. Pandit

Hridayanath Kunzru was elected National Commissioner and Pandit Shriram Bajpai National Organising Commissioner for the Hindustan Scout Association. The national headquarters of the Association will be at Allahabad. The meeting also appointed a committee for the purpose of constituting a girl scout section of the movement in the country on national lines. A committee was also formed consisting of 21 members representing various provinces to take steps to organise a training camp for all provincial organisers.

Gandhi Seva Sangh Anniversary

A special railway station and a Post and Telegraph Office form part of the preparations in connection with Gandhiji's forthcoming visit to Brindaban, Champaran District, in March next on the occasion of the twentysixth session of the All-India Gandhi Seva Sangh.

A Great Mathematician In Lahore

Prof. Bhagwan Das Puri who claims to be the inventor of the world-patented calendar-watch has returned to Lahore. He says he can tell the day of the date of any month of any year orally and instantaneously. He was awarded a gold medal in Paris Exhibition.

Jobs For Jews In Bihar

The Bihar Government have decided to pay between Rs. 250 and Rs. 500 per mensem to each of four expelled Czechoslovakian Jews who are proposed to be appointed in the Industries Department in response to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's request. One of the Jews will be in charge of the scheme for controlling floods in rivers of Bihar. The second will be an expert in electricity and agriculture. The third will be an industrial organiser while the fourth will be an industrial chemist.

NOTICE

MADRESSA ANJUMAN ISLAMIA OF KHOLVAD

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the above institution and other institutions relating to above, will be held at the Patidar Hall, Terrace Road, Fordsburg, Johannesburg, on the 25th December, 1938. Commencing at 11 a.m. sharp. All Kholvadians are requested to attend.

Agenda:—(1) Accounts and Balance Sheets; (2) New Election; (3) General, etc., etc.

ISMAIL SULIMAN SALOOJEE,
MOOSA EBRAHIM BHAYAT,
Hon. Joint-Secretaries.

South African News In Brief

Mayavant Hindu Association

MR. B. RAMA RAU the Agent-General for India, laid the foundation stone of the Shri Mayavant Hindu Association's building at 58, Victoria Street, last Wednesday, December 14. In the course of his speech the Agent-General said: "Since my arrival in this country, and accustomed as I am to many various religious associations, I have found these associations divided into a great number of sections. I am sorry about this. I hoped to see one association, at least among the Hindus, working for the uplift of the poorer Indians. I was disappointed and before I leave this country, I wish to see this hope realised. If there cannot be one general organisation for the political and social uplift of the poorer Indians, let us have at least one such organisation in every community. This association has done very good work among the less fortunate Indians, having collected a large sum of money for their education. And I wish them every success in their very laudable effort." Mr. Rama Rau was thanked by prominent members of the Indian community. The trowel was presented to Mr. Rama Rau.

Agent-General's Tribute To Hertzog And Smuts

Striking references to General Hertzog and General Smuts were made by Mr. B. Rama Rau, Agent-General for India in the Union, when he addressed the first Natal Indian Congress conference at the M. K. Gandhi Library, Durban, last Saturday. "It is fortunate for us," he said, "that we have at the head of the Government veteran leaders such as General Hertzog and General Smuts, who have a world-wide reputation for political sagacity and breadth of vision and who have been ranked among the great elder statesmen of the British Commonwealth."

Agent-General's "At Home"

Mr. B. Rama Rau, the Agent-General for India, gave an At Home at the Marine Hotel on Saturday afternoon, December 10. There were about 300 people present, including members of the European and Indian community. A happy feature of the afternoon's entertainment was the singing by Miss Thelma Whitcutt and Mr. Keppoch MacDonald of songs by the great Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore, to the accompaniment of Dr. Kithine. These were much appreciated.

The Rustenburg Case

Further defence evidence was led on Friday December 9 by Mr. McCarthy in the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court in the case in which 24 Indians are appearing before Mr. V. R. Verster, acting Magistrate, on a charge of public violence, alternatively assault with intent to do

grievous bodily harm. Originally 31 Indians were charged, but the case against nine of them was dismissed at the end of the Crown case. Two of the accused Indians gave evidence that after the special festival at the mosque on the night of November 19 they left for Kroondal. They left before the fight took place and when they returned to Rustenburg the fight had ended. There were still many Indians in the street when they returned. Evidence was also led to establish an alibi in regard to another of the Indians charged. He said that after coming out of the mosque he left for Marikana with other Indians. Mr. McCarthy at 12.15 said he had been asked to inform the Court that an Indian church service was due to start at 12.30 and that the accused and various Indian witnesses in Court wished to attend. After further evidence designed to establish alibis the hearing was adjourned until December 21.

Shop Closing Hour On Fridays

The Durban City Council's decision to close all shops at 7 o'clock on Friday nights instead of at 9 o'clock as at present, will come before the Provincial Executive on December 20. If the Provincial Executive agrees to the change it will, be left to the City Council to decide when the

new closing time is to come into operation. The Mayor gave an assurance at the last meeting of the Council that the new closing time will not come into force before Christmas.

Dundee Indians Meet Mr. Hofmeyr

On Thursday, December 8, Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, M.P. was interviewed at the residence of Mr. H. S. K. Simpson, J.P., by a deputation of Dundee Indians consisting of Messrs. Nathoo V. Morar, M. Amod, E. Hansa, K. M. Joseph and Nagin V. Morar. Amongst the matters discussed were secondary education, mothers' and widows' grant, parliamentary and municipal franchise and various other matters of interest to the community.

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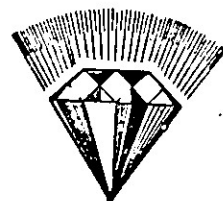
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