

INDIAN OPINION

Founded by
MAHATMA GANDHI
IN 1903

No. 39.—Vol. XXXVII.

Friday, September 29th, 1939.

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

NOTES AND NEWS

S. A. Indian's Outstanding

Achievement

MR. IBRAHIM MAHOMED BAWA, of Greytown, Natal, who left South Africa on August 5, 1938, to study in London, has won the first place in the Barrister-at-law examination at the University of London. Mr. Bawa took his B.A. at the Witwatersrand University and was awarded a bursary of £115. As a result of his success in London, which placed him first among about 3,000 students, he has been awarded a further bursary of £115 by the University of London. Mr. Bawa is the first South African Indian to be awarded a scholarship by the University of London.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Bawa for his outstanding achievement and sincerely hope he will be an asset to the Indian community of South Africa.

Union Food Surpluses

The Union produces enough surplus foodstuffs annually to provide £2,500,000 worth for overseas consumption after all local demands have been fully satisfied. She could continue to supply that amount even if imported foodstuffs were drastically reduced and requirements of local produce rose correspondingly in the country. These facts are revealed in the latest annual Blue-book published by the Government on the trade and shipping of the Union for 1938. Last year Union foodstuffs exported amounted to £7,489,926, while food imports were valued at £4,914,131. The major exports were: Butter valued at £213,581; maize valued at £969,728; maize meal valued at £334,133; sugar valued at £1,898,504; citrus valued at £1,373,346; deciduous fruits valued at £622,314; grapes valued at £655,132; dried and preserved fruits valued at £517,774; cheese valued at £121,277 and eggs valued at £125,413.

With all this surplus of foodstuffs it is not a little surprising that the Natives recently bitterly complained of starvation. The Union economists should account for this before allowing foodstuffs to go out of the Union. The maxim "charity begins at home" should surely not be forgotten.

Maharaja Of Bikaner Donates £100 To Distressed Indians In S.A.

A Bikaner message published in the Indian exchanges states that in response to appeals His Highness the Maharaja has given a donation of £100 in aid of the distressed Indians in South Africa. It is recalled that in 1937 when a similar appeal was received His Highness gave a donation of £100 to the Agent of the Government of India in South Africa.

It is surprising that the public in South Africa has been kept in the dark about this donation from H. H. the Maharaja of Bikaner.

Europe-Bound Students From India Find Themselves On Union Soil

Fifteen Indian students, who were on their way to Europe to continue their studies, were unable to complete the voyage and have sailed back for India last Sunday via Durban. The students told the story of the ship's efforts to reach Europe. It approached the Red Sea several times, but did not receive the "all clear" signal, and finally returned by the African coastal route to Capetown. Having come to Capetown, they did not wish to proceed to Europe in view of the conditions prevailing there and they decided to return back to India. They had the surprise of their life when they were refused to land on the Union soil, being Indians, and were told that they would have to go to Europe. They looked for the Agent-General for India but could find his whereabouts nowhere. After a great deal of anxious time they managed to find some Indian friends who assisted them in meeting the requirements of the Immigration Department and they were able to leave for Durban where they arrived on Saturday morning. They spoke appreciatively of the kind hospitality they received in Capetown from Mr. Cadir and Mr. A. Ismail. They also said they were shocked at the treatment meted out to them as Indians here and would not at all dream of living in a country like this. While in Durban they were entertained by Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee and the officials of the Natal Indian Congress, and were accommodated at the India Lodge. They were taken on a tour of various

educational centres in and around Durban, and on Sunday morning before sailing they paid a hurried visit to Mr. Gandhi's Phoenix Settlement. The students, among whom were several women, come from many parts of India, including Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Madras, Kashmir, Bengal and Punjab. Some were going to London; some to Newcastle, Edinburgh, Paris and other Continental cities. Most of them were studying medicine, engineering or fine arts. A further 16 students, members of the same party, remained in the ship with the intention of going on to Europe as soon as possible.

Is This Pin-prick Policy

Still To Continue?

Motions aimed at putting a stop to Indian penetration into European districts, we understand, will be moved by Mr. S. M. Pettersen at the meeting of the Durban City Council to-day. He will ask that the General Purposes Committee of the Council considers and reports on the advisability of obtaining legislation which will enable the Licensing Officer to refuse a licence to a non European if it is intended to trade within European areas. Mr. Pettersen will also move that the General Purposes Committee reports on the advisability of asking the Union Government or Provincial authorities to introduce legislation preventing Indians and other non-Europeans from purchasing land and property in European localities, except after reference to the Government and local authority concerned.

We wish Mr. Pettersen and his friends would, at least at the present time when the hands of the Government are full with matters dealing with the situation arising out of the present war in Europe, postpone their unholy activities of fanning the fire of race prejudice. In still continuing these activities they will be doing the worst possible disservice not only to the Union Government but to the British Empire to which they owe allegiance. Indians have shown their goodwill and loyalty by putting their grievances aside in order to stand by the State in its hour of trouble and anxiety. And we

would expect the same courtesy extended to us by the anti-Asiatics. We look to the authorities to put their foot down against any attempt to create racial antipathy at this time. It will be a painful surprise to us if Mr. Pettersen's motions will not fall flat at the City Council's meeting.

A Good Advice

A correspondent writing in the *Natal Mercury* above the signature Leslie Rubin, appeals to Councillor Pettersen to refrain in the present circumstances, whatever his views may be, from moving proposals which can only stir up racial discord in this country. The writer goes on to say: "I need hardly remind Mr. Pettersen, I feel sure, of (a) The magnificent stand taken by the Government of India and certain Indian Princes placing their services at the disposal of Great Britain when war was declared; and (b) The anxious concern with which India has watched the progress of those of her people who have made their permanent homes in this country. In my view, quite apart from the merits of the question, if Mr. Pettersen would withdraw the notices of motion standing in his name he would display a praiseworthy sense of proportion and would show an appreciation of the value of complete unity in this country which is, perhaps, in view of the present situation, our greatest need."

Asiatic Question And The Transvaal Nationalists

Mr. B. J. Schoeman, M.P., supported by Senator J. S. E. Pretorius and Dr. G. Vercueil, M.P.C., addressed an open air meeting of his constituents on the Fordsburg Square, on September 27. According to the *Star* report he said that General Smuts, by his war policy, had brought Afrikaners together. This was the best piece of work General Smuts had ever done, and predicted that before long the Afrikaners would again form their own Government. Asked how long the present Government would last, Mr. Schoeman replied that Messrs. Hofmeyr and Blackwell were forced out of the United Party caucus on the Asiatic question. Early in the next session of Parliament he would raise this issue again and this would be the end of Mr. Hofmeyr as a Minister. The meeting showed little interest in the speeches and at Mr. Schoeman's request passed a resolution endorsing his action in supporting General Hertzog's neutrality motion.

What we have said in regard to Mr. Pettersen applies also to Mr. Schoeman. This is about the most inopportune time to fan the fire of racialism whether it is between the Afrikaans speaking section and the English speaking-section or it is between the Whites and Indians or between the Whites and the non-Whites.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1939

Evil Elements At Work

EVERY possible attempt to bring about unity in our ranks both in Natal and in the Transvaal is being made but there are evil elements at work which are always trying to frustrate the good work done. Last Friday Messrs. V. S. O. Pather and S. R. Naidoo, President and Secretary respectively of the South African Indian Congress went to Johannesburg and on Saturday morning the following report of their departure appeared in the *Natal Mercury*:

The officials of the South African Indian Congress, Messrs. V. S. C. Pather (president), A. I. Kajee and S. R. Naidoo (joint secretaries), will act as mediators in the dispute between the Transvaal Indian Congress and its Nationalist Group, led by Dr. Y. M. Dadoo. They left for Johannesburg last night. The trouble had arisen on the question of passive resistance. The Transvaal Indian Congress was opposed to the adoption of passive resistance last August, and it was declared that it would only resort to it as a last resource. It held the view that the doors were still open for further negotiation. On the other hand the Nationalist Group was prepared to start passive resistance against the Transvaal Asiatic Land Laws and it was only on the appeal of Mr. Gandhi for suspension that it had been postponed. Owing to differences arising from these divergent points of view of the two bodies it has necessitated the intervention of the South African Indian Congress officials, who will meet the representatives of the parties concerned at Johannesburg. The Agent-General for India, Sir Rama Rau, will also attend the meeting.

This was wholly an erroneous and misleading report. Mr. V. S. C. Pather on his return from Johannesburg had the following explanation published in the *Natal Mercury* on Thursday which speaks for itself.

"On my return from Johannesburg, I noticed a report in the *Natal Mercury* of September, 23, that, I as president, and Messrs. A. I. Kajee and S. R. Naidoo as joint secretaries of the South African Indian Congress, left for Johannesburg as mediators in the dispute between the Transvaal Indian Congress and its Nationalist group, which had arisen on the question of passive resistance. Our mission was simply to implement the formula agreed upon at a meeting convened by the Agent-General on August 20 to interview the two parties and discuss the draft constitution of the Transvaal Indian Congress agreed upon by its sub-committee, and to arrange for its adoption at a mass meeting. Our work had nothing whatever to do with the question of passive resistance. Mr. Kajee was unable to proceed to Johannesburg owing to circumstance beyond his control."

The mystery is who was responsible for the first report appearing in the *Mercury*. Mr. D. Bramdaw who is the Indian correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* and is at the same time a member of the Congress could surely have effected a correction in the report; and how Mr. A. I. Kajee, who appears in the Press on almost every matter concerning Indians, could have allowed such

a report to appear in the *Mercury* unchallenged and how he could have remained silent when his name had wrongly appeared as one of those who had accompanied Messrs. Pather and Naidoo, is most surprising. It was Mr. Kajee's duty as secretary of the South African Indian Congress not to have waited for Mr. Pather to remove the misapprehension created in the minds of the public.

Mr. Kajee knew very well that the dispute between the officials of the Transvaal Indian Congress and the Nationalist Group was over the constitution which the former had failed to produce notwithstanding repeated requests made both by the Nationalist Group and the Agent-General, Sir Rama Rau, and that it was to settle the issue of the constitutional position of the Transvaal Indian Congress that the officials of that body as well as those of the Nationalist Group and South African Indian Congress had met in conference with the Agent-General. It is a common rule of decency that when negotiations for a settlement of a dispute between two parties are proceeding nothing untoward should be said or done that would hurt the feelings of either of the parties, much less should false statements be allowed to be made.

This much is so for as the Transvaal trouble is concerned.

Coming to Natal everything is not as smooth-sailing as it appears outwardly. Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee, who has taken the responsibility of uniting the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association, finds that he has worn a crown of thorns. Every possible impediment is being placed in his way by some of the disgruntled Congressmen. Mr. Kajee who waxed eloquent at the special general meeting a little over a month ago, when new office-bearers of the Congress were elected, that any price was too small to achieve unity, and previous to that meeting, often pretended that he was all for unity, is doing mighty little to make the path towards unity easier. Although a month has elapsed the new officials of the Congress have not yet been handed all the papers concerning the Congress. The excuse for not doing so is that the election of the new officials was unconstitutional. It will serve no useful purpose here to enter into a discussion whether the election was constitutional or unconstitutional. The all important question is that of unity. To raise side issues at this stage is to deliberately attempt

to frustrate the possibilities of unity. If Mr. Rajee is at all sincere he must make a public statement that he is for unity and must exert all his energies towards achieving it. His

activities to-day seem to be directed entirely in the opposite direction. The old officials of the Congress both in Natal and in the Transvaal seem to be inclined to stick to

their offices at any cost. They are likely to regain the lost sympathy of the people only by willingly renouncing their offices and not by hankering after holding them.

NON-EUROPEAN UNITED FRONT ATTITUDE TO WAR

AT a meeting of the non-European United Front, held on Tuesday, September 19, at the Drill Hall Cape-town, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

The non-European United Front of South Africa, realising the dangers of Fascism and Nazism to the rights and liberties of the non-Europeans of South Africa, re-affirms its determination to fight against Fascism.

It states that the danger of Fascism in South Africa arises primarily from the fact that the majority of the people of South Africa, namely, Africans, Coloured and Indians, are deprived of the elementary rights of free citizenship, and that the only effective way of defeating Fascism in South Africa is by giving the broadest democratic rights, based on equal rights for all, irrespective of race, colour or creed.

It calls upon the Government to withdraw the segregation proposals and colour bar laws, discriminating against all non-Europeans, and asks that immediate steps be taken to protect the people against the rising cost of living, and to prevent profiteering in all foodstuffs and essential articles, and also to safeguard tenants against higher rents.

Councillor Mrs. Z. Gool speaking to an audience of over 740 said the war situation was uppermost in everyone's mind, and although the non-Europeans had not as yet been asked to support the Government's war preparations and activities, many were in a quandary as to what their attitude should be.

During her tour throughout the country in the last few months, Mrs. Gool said that she had been repeatedly asked what line the Non-European Front would adopt on the war situation. At that time no official statement had been issued by the Non-European United Front headquarters. She had pointed out, however, at several meetings, that, in the light of past experience of broken pledges and promises of the different Governments of South Africa, the non-Europeans should think very carefully before they volunteered for active service.

After the Great War, in spite of the fact that thousands of non-Europeans sacrificed their jobs, health and lives to defend democracy and the British Empire, those who returned to South Africa had not seen a further extension of democratic rights to the non-Europeans, in return for their loyalty. They had seen the introduction of further colour bars, the intensification of racial oppression, and a slow de-

terioration of their economic and political status.

She gave a startling picture of the misery, poverty, and unemployment which was rife among the majority of non-Europeans in all parts of the Union. "In every town and district," she said, "the white labour policy of the Government operates. As a result hundreds of thousands of non-Europeans are denied the elementary human right to work and live. They are discriminated against not on the basis of competency and skill, but because of their race and colour, and as a result hundreds and thousands are living on the border line of starvation and in a permanent state of social degradation. In addition to living under these terrible economic conditions, millions of non-Europeans have no political rights whatsoever.

"The Government cannot expect loyalty and patriotism from a people deprived of free citizenship and fundamental rights."

The meeting was presided over by the General Secretary of the National Liberation League, Mr. Booker Lakey, and among those present were Mr. A. E. Watlington, Mr. J. Gomas, Mrs. N. Abdurahman, and Advocate H. Snitcher. National Liberation League branches were well represented.—*The Guardian*

IMPORTANT JUDGMENT REGARDING ASIATIC COMPANIES IN TRANSVAAL

IF the holders of the majority of the shares in a company were unable to exercise control in any way over the assets of the company, they did not have a controlling interest within the meaning of the definition, said Mr. Justice Solomon in a judgment in the Supreme Court, Pretoria on September 20. The judgment, which was given in an ex parte application by the liquidator of Varachia Stores (Pty.), Ltd. (in liquidation) turned on the question of what constituted an "Asiatic company."

Mr. Justice Solomon said that whether or not a company was an Asiatic one for the purposes of the Act depended upon whether a controlling interest in it was held by an Asiatic. It was clear that a company might one day be an Asiatic company and the next day not, according to the nature of the controlling interest. Despite the change in the position

of the company on liquidation, he was unable to say that companies in liquidation could in no circumstances be Asiatic companies for the purposes of the Act.

Now "controlling interest" in relation to any company meant, according to the definition, a majority of the shares; shares representing more than half the share capital; shares of a value in excess of half the aggregate value of all the shares in the company; or shares entitling the holders to a majority or preponderance of votes. It also meant debentures for an amount in excess of half the share capital of the company or the power to exercise any control whatsoever over the activities or assets of the company.

The concluding words, said Mr. Justice Solomon, meant, in his opinion, the power to exercise control in any way over the assets of the company, and

these words gave the clue to the meaning of the whole definition. If the holders of the majority of the shares in a company were unable to exercise control in any way over the assets of that company, he did not think they had a controlling interest within the meaning of the definition.

In the case under consideration, the company was being compulsorily wound up as an insolvent company, and neither the liquidator nor any of the creditors under whose directions he was acting was an Asiatic.

Mr. Justice Solomon was unable to see, therefore, how the Asiatic shareholders had the power to exercise control in any way over the assets of the company in liquidation and, despite the fact that all the shares were held by Asiatics, the company had, he held, ceased to be an Asiatic company.

POLITICS OF AN INDIAN MUSLIM

THEORY of the communal organisation of the Muslims as a remedial measure of their minority grievances is, therefore, based on wrong basis both from theoretical and practical viewpoints. Any attempt towards this direction is, on the one hand, sure to fail to bring all the Muslims into one united camp, for no single communal political theory will ever attract the imagination of each and every one of the eight crores of Mussalmans or even of a great majority of them. The attempt, on the one hand, will make the non-Muslim Indians unnecessarily antipathetic towards the Muslims. As is only normal and natural with all attempts towards communal organisations, unnecessary emphasis will be given upon minor and unimportant details with a view to speedy realisation of communal unity, which will surely result in widening the gulf of communal differences and increasing the sense of communal bitterness. The universally accepted political aphorism, that communal consciousness is always disadvantageous to the minority, will get an additional proof here. Besides the non-Muslim minorities like the Brahmos, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists who are culturally and religiously more akin to the Indian Muslims than to the orthodox Hindus, there are liberal elements in the orthodox Hindu community itself whose sympathies are with the socially revolutionary principles of Islam. These liberal elements would have come a great way to help the growth of more protestantism against Hindu conventionalism and thus served the cause of Islamic culture but for the recent communal cry of the Muslims. The communal organisation of the Muslims has already alienated or is definitely going to alienate the sympathies of these elements. The communal war-cry of the Muslim League is definitely driving them into the camp of the orthodox Hindus against their will.

There are a lot of depressed and oppressed sects within the Hindu community itself who, having been under numerous disabilities, both social and economic, at the hands of the upper class Hindus, were ready to fall in line with the Muslims or any other community in a social and economic revolution which might ultimately result in the political salvation of the Indian as a whole. The communal war-cry of the Muslim League has definitely driven a great majority of them into the camp and under the leadership of the vested interest and consequently there has been a definite setback in the process of social and economic revolution.

It is very interesting to mention here that the arguments by the Hindu Sabha

By
ABUL KANSUR AHMAD
In "The Modern Review"

(Concluded from last week)

and the Muslim League for organising their respective communities in separate camps are amusingly identical. "The Muslims should unite because they are disorganised and weak. Taking advantage of their weakness, the Hindus who are educated, organised and strong, are turning deaf ears to the just and reasonable demands of the Mussalmans," says Mr. Jinnah. "Hindus, unite, you are thoroughly disorganised and extremely weak. Taking advantage of your weakness, the Muslims who are a thoroughly organised and homogeneous community are making all sorts of unjust and unreasonable demands," says Dr. Moonje. Both Mr. Jinnah and Dr. Moonje entirely agree that only the weaker of the two should get strong by organising itself in order to fight the unreasonable attitude of the other, but they thoroughly disagree as to which is the weaker party. Both agree that there cannot be any talk of compromise between the weak and the strong; but they differ as poles asunder in so far as each regards his community to be the weaker one.

Evidently, therefore, both of these two leaders cannot be either serious or correct. Either the Hindus are stronger and that Muslims weaker or vice versa. But how is it that both the Hindu Sabha and the Muslim League, constituted by astute politicians like Dr. Moonje and Mr. Jinnah, are vying with each other to prove to the world that its community is the weaker of the two? Why do they not admit that both communities are weak which is really the truth? Who is there to deny that Indian Muslims, a community of 80 millions of servants of Allah, 97 p.c. of whom are plunged in the darkness of illiteracy, 90 p.c. of whom are serving as superstitious and extortious feudal lords and usurious money-lenders, 97 p.c. of whom are wading through the mire of their miserable existence of want and privation in dilapidated rural areas, ravaged by dangerous epidemics but still tilling the soil and producing crops of which neither this nor that is his property, require organisation? Who, on the other hand, will deny that the Hindu community, a conglomeration of 270 millions of God's children divided into as many groups as you have hairs on your head, 97 p.c. of whom are deeply sunk in illiteracy and superstition, 80 p.c. of whom are victims of inhuman social tyranny and treated as so many beasts or worse than that—as un-

touchables, also badly requires organisation? But what can Mr. Jinnah and Dr. Moonje mean by saying that these down trodden millions cannot be organised on the same platform as against the organised force of social, economic and political tyrants, except that they have presumed that it is the other community which is responsible for all the miseries of his community and that it is the other community alone which has got to be fought against if its community is to get its rights? This, as we have already shown, is a quack's prescription who does not know the disease and therefore its remedy.

Look at the subject from another point. Whom is, after all, this communal cry injuring the most? It is not a bit injuring the foreign imperialist oppression, neither is it shaking the foundation of foreign rule. It is doing absolutely no harm to the indigenous vested interest. It is not touching an hair of the age-worn class rule of the aristocracy. It is, on the contrary, either directly or indirectly strengthening all of them; it is, on the contrary, standing in the way of our intelligentsia meeting on political questions and our masses on economic issues.

What, then, is to be done? If communal organisation will not help us, what will? It is here that the Muslim young man will have to tax his brain most and must find out a path hitherto unbeaten.

Now, if he is to come to a correct conclusion, he has got, at the outset, to disengage his brain from some confusion of ideas which is very common at the present atmosphere of communal suspicion and mud-throwing. He has got to dive below the superficial meaning of several common words like 'communalism' and 'nationalism,' very generally misused and misunderstood in our present day political parlance. Communalism has, by this time, assumed the character of an obnoxious disease of a very private nature. The unfortunate fellow, who is once afflicted with it, of course without his knowledge and against his will, is a sinner, condemned by God and his angels to eternal perdition. The fellow, therefore, must not confess the sin so long as he wishes to remain as a member of the civilised society.

But the young Muslim, who is to find out the correct political front for his community, must raise himself a bit above the ordinary run of young men. He must realise that it is no shame to be a communalist. Indeed, nobody can be a good nationalist, not even a good man, without first being a good communalist. One who does not love his community, a group of human beings, cannot possibly love his nation, a bigger

group of human beings. To be able to sacrifice one's personal pleasure at the altar of those of his family, is the first stage of the development of the human mind. As soon after this first stage as the power of his self effacement increases, his vision broadens over the wider range, his love expands over a bigger circle so as to cover all individuals belonging to his community irrespective of personal friendship and enmity, he becomes a communalist. In the course of his mental development the capacity of his soul enlarges itself and his outlook broadens and he becomes a nationalist. If the natural process is allowed to go, his mental capacity still enlarges and he becomes a lover of human beings as a whole. This is no metaphysics, but normal process of natural development of human mind hitherto unattained in a political sense, but clearly visualised in the future socialistic World State. The difference, therefore, between the breadth of vision of a communalist and a nationalist is only a difference of degree. Nobody is justified, therefore, to condemn either Mr. Jinnah or Dr. Moonje for the ardent love he has got for his own community. Communalism can only be condemned in so far as love for one's own community also connotes hatred for all other communities besides one's own. It will be at once clear on a little bit of examination that this kind of communalism which can be discarded as exclusive communalism leads us to nowhere but to ourselves. It defeats its own object by emphasising the differences only, and by the process of gradual and progressive exclusion it recedes further and further back ultimately into the dark corner of one's own narrow selfishness. An astute politician and a sincere lover of his community Mr. Jinnah cannot possibly advocate a suicidal political theory like this for his great community, normal working and logical conclusion of which will lead the Muslim community into civil strifes between its seventy-two different "Firqas".

Therefore Mr. Jinnah's mind must be dispassionately and sympathetically studied if one is to know the inner working of his motif. To be honestly frank one must admit that Mr. Jinnah represents the average mind of the Indian Muslim intelligentsia. That Mr. Jinnah's communal call, apparently based on wrong hypothesis, is appealing to the minds of the overwhelming majority of the Muslim intelligentsia, itself shows that the idea, though latently, was already there. It is no use abusing Mr. Jinnah for his communal leadership, for it is not his oratorical skill that has created communalism in the mind of the Mussalmans but the feeling was already there. Mr. Jinnah's fault or credit is that he has organised that feeling for whatever purpose he may have thought reasonable.

Now, it will be clear on an examination that Muslim "communalism" as shown and explained in the resolutions and demands of the Muslim League, is based on a sense of grievance against the majority community. It is precisely here that the weakness of communalism lies. It will appear to the average intelligence that communalism is not a political theory but is only an organised expression of grievances of a genuinely aggrieved minority community. This only means another truism. That is: it means that the vested interest in India has not responded to the claims of, and is not sympathetic towards, the down-trodden. This is exactly what it should be and precisely what it is in the other parts of the world. But it is, after all, a question of horizontal division of Indian people and it cannot be remedied by a communal prescription which itself admits a horizontal division. For is not the Muslim community itself a combination of the oppressor and the oppressed? Mr. Jinnah, therefore, has made a wrong prescription. The average Muslim youth is under the impression that Mr. Jinnah may or may not be right in his prescription, but he is certainly right in his diagnosis. The fact, however, is that Mr. Jinnah is right neither in his diagnosis nor in his prescription. Unlike a good physician he has been misled by the shrieks of wailing and suffering patients rather than been led by his own judgment and experience.

But what will the Muslim young man do? What course will he take if he is not to follow the lead of Mr. Jinnah? The answer surely is: to take the wisest and surest course; but what is the wisest and surest course under the present prevailing circumstances, is the question.

To find out a correct answer, an intelligent, young Muslim will at once sit in the cool corner of his hamlet and simply enumerate and classify the grievances that his community is suffering from. Some of them are, no doubt, political, some economic, some social, some cultural and some religious. Now if he analyses them group by group and considers their bearings upon the Indian people as a whole, he will find that in each and everyone of those grievances, the Muslims are in good company, that is they have got co-sufferers in other communities who constitute definitely the majority of the Indian people. If he has thus successfully analysed the grievances and classified them, he will at once come to a correct basis of alignment for the purpose of righting those wrongs. If with the exercise of a little bit of tactics you can convert yourself into the position of a majority in any particular item of grievance, is it not foolish to shout from the house-top that you are in a minority? That is exactly what Mr. Jinnah is asking you to do.

I have already pointed out that there are considerable liberal elements in the

Hindu community itself and their sympathy are with the socially revolutionary principles of Islam. Besides, India is an historic place of legendary extremes and atrocities. On the one hand you have here got the finest monument of wealth and architecture in the world and on the other you have also the poorest and humblest of the cottage on the face of the globe. You have here one of the wealthiest men of the present world on the one hand, and the merest and poorest labourer of the world on the other. You have here on the one hand, the highest of philosophies and the noblest of ideals in the world and the lowliest illiteracy and maddest of superstitions on the other. It is here that you will find the loftiest of doctrinarianism on the one hand and the most atrocious tyranny on the other. The acid test of the special genius of the Muslim young man, enriched by the teachings of his monotheistic and socialistic religion, will be to marshal these atrocities and organise these grievances not from without but from within. If he can successfully do this, he will find that there is absolutely no difference between himself and the liberal elements of the majority community. He will discover to his unexpected satisfaction that he is not a member of any minority community, but that he is the leader of the largest concourse of innumerable suffering human beings. But everything will depend upon the method of approach. If you make any attempt to superiority from outside, you will meet with resistance, but if you approach things from within like a limb of the Indian nation, natural sympathies are with you and the field is yours.

As regards the safeguards of the special minority rights of the Muslims they will naturally and automatically come through day-to-day struggle in the general process of political development. Even if there is no Muslim League, on any vital communal issue on the point of being endangered by the State or the majority community, the Indian Mussalmans will automatically unite and fight it to the successful finish. The Muslim community, or for the matter of that any religious community, being a living organism so far as its religious and cultural rights are concerned, no separate permanent organisation is necessary to fight for those issues. Organisations will naturally grow from time to time on every issue at stake as occasions will arise. It is, therefore, wrong to suggest that the Indian Muslims should have a separate organisation. For political purposes it is not feasible and for religious purposes it is not necessary. For, as we have already shown, as regards political issues all Muslims can never have the same political opinion, and as regards communal issues, the Muslim community is, by itself, an organisation. The word

Muslim, by itself, sufficiently means and implies a body of individuals with identical beliefs and opinions on certain matters, to be regarded as an organisation with the Holy Quran and sacred Hadishes as its creed and constitution, rules and regulations. Any other organisation within that orbit will mean only further narrowing down the circumference and dividing the Muslims on wrong issues into smaller circles. In this view of the matter, the leaders of the Muslim League are well-meaningly and well-intentionedly only misleading the Indian Muslims to a very lugubrious political precipice.

Now, what the Muslim youth should do is to regard himself an Indian with as much right and responsibility towards the country as any other Indian and also regard himself inseparably connected with the material and spiritual future of India, either good, bad or indifferent. If he can once do this by getting rid of the inferiority complex which he is labouring under as a result of the misleading propaganda of his feeble-minded and inferiority-complexed leaders, he will gradually realize that he is not really so helpless as he used to think he was. I am fully alive to the fact that he will, at the first instance, feel uncomfortable and even lonely in all the spheres of activities; not only in the Kishan Sabhas, not

only in literary clubs and reading rooms, but in all the non-communal meeting places like parks and squares, in trains and trams. But that is the normal lot of every new entrant. That should not scare him away, that should not make him lose heart, that should not disconcert him in the least. In the beginning he may feel humiliated and miserable in the Congress or Kishan Sabha or any other national platform, but that should not unseat his judgment, that should not make him lose his balance of mind, just as he would not lose heart on his first entrance into a government office with preponderance of non-Muslim officials. If there is evident Hindu influence and supremacy in the Indian National Congress, in the Kishan Sabha, it is no less so in government or semi-government offices even in places where the Muslims are in a majority. Who is such a fool as to stop a Muslim employment-seeker from entering a government office, where there is dearth of Muslim employees, simply because there is Hindu supremacy there at present? An intelligent Muslim father will far rather advise and assist his young son to seek and secure an employment in a Tata Company even at the risk of throwing his son absolutely at the mercy of the communal tyranny of its non-Muslim Barrah Babu. If this is so in the

matter of services, why will this not be so in the matter of politics where services are made?

In conclusion, my earnest appeal to the young friends of my community therefore, is not only to join the Indian National Congress, the training ground of future administrators of India, in large numbers, but also to penetrate into all nerve centres of body-political and partake in those fields of activities where men are made fit to enter life. If he fails to join any of those training grounds, his community will be the loser to that extent. He should not be afraid of losing his identity. In fact it is the communal leaders of the Muslim League, who have got no identity of their own to lose. If his great revolutionary religion has taught him anything, if it had made a man of himself, he will find that, if, as a Muslim he has got any message to give to the world, it is here in India where he should try it. If he begins to serve the suffering humanity as a true Muslim should do, he will find that he is no the leader of eight crores of Indian Muslims alone, but four times the number of human beings who in their wail of painful bondage of slaveries or innumerable types are seeking his help and co-operation with folded hands and bended knees.

Things In General

The India Lodge

THE India Lodge is a three-storeyed building situated at 69-71, Beatrice Street, Durban. It is built with all modern conveniences and fills a long-felt want of a boarding and lodging place for visitors. The Lodge, we understand, will cater for all visitors, commercial travellers, holiday makers, Sastri College students, for social functions, wedding parties, banquets, receptions, etc. Soon after its opening the coloured team from Capetown, which recently played football with the Indian team, was entertained at the India Lodge, and the students who were proceeding to England from India and decided, owing to war, their boat having touched Capetown, to return to India, were also lodged and entertained there. If the lodge keeps up to the high standard with which it has commenced, we have no doubt it will be well patronised.

Tax On Excess Profits

The Union Government has announced its intention of imposing a tax on excess profits earned during the war, being of the opinion that such profits ought to be used to defray the expenditure caused to the State by the war. The Government will seek powers from Parliament at its next session to impose this tax. The

official statement reads:—"The existence of a state of war almost inevitably leads to the making of excess profits. While the powers given to the Government under the National Emergency Regulations will be used as far as possible to curtail profiteering, the circumstances of war are such that regulations of this kind cannot be completely effective in their application. The Government is of the opinion that such adventitious and unearned benefits resulting from the state of national emergency should be used to defray the additional expenditure in which the State is involved by war. It is therefore notified for general information that it is the intention of the Government to ask Parliament at its next session for powers to impose a tax on excess profits earned during the war. It is intended to apply the tax in such a way that, as far as possible normal developments and expansion will not be hampered. Such tax will be applicable with effect from the commencement of the income tax year 1939-40."

What Passengers Can Take With Them

The Union Treasury has authorised officers of the Department of Customs to permit travellers leaving the Union tem-

porarily or otherwise, whether by road, rail, air or ship, to take with them limited sums of money for the purposes of defraying reasonable travelling and other personal expenses. The emergency finance regulations published on September 9 prohibited the export of bank notes and currency, except under permit, but persons who intend leaving the Union will no longer be required to apply to the Treasury for a permit for sufficient funds to meet their purely personal expenses. Any prospective traveller who is in doubt as to the amount which he or she will be allowed should consult the nearest Collector of Customs. The Durban Collector of Customs has intimated that passengers leaving for India can take with them from £40 to £50 in S.A. Bank Notes. Anything beyond that sum will be liable to be confiscated.

Durban Pavilion Burnt Down

The Pavilion on the Durban Beach, where the Indian community had had the privilege occasionally of holding public meetings and other entertainments and where a meeting was held in honour of Swami Bhawani Dayal last week, was burnt down last Friday night by a fire, the cause of which is unknown. Mr. G. F. Westgate, chairman of the

General Purposes Committee of the Durban City Council, is to propose to the Council that in place of the Pavilion a big amusement centre should be built incorporating a large entertainment hall, a "little" theatre and other amenities incidental to modern entertainment. "While one must deplore the loss of a building with such associations," he told a press representative, "there is no doubt that the Pavilion has served its usefulness and the time had arrived for a new structure. The ground is big enough to provide excellent facilities for the increasing number of visitors to the beach."

Union Air Mail Changes

The Durban Post Office announces the following alterations to the existing air mail time tables became operative from Monday, September 25:—Durban-Rand Route: Depart, 2.45 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Closing time, 12.30 p.m. Arrival, 8.45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Durban-Cape Route: Depart, 9.15 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Plane calls Mossel Bay on Mondays. Closing time, 6 a.m. Arrival, 2.15 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Plane calls Mossel Bay on Fridays.

Play In Aid Of School

On Sunday, September 24, at the Mayville Theatre, Durban, the Thiruvalluwa Nadaga Sabha of Durban pre-

sented "Nallathangal," a most pathetic melodrama, depicting the famine of the sacred City of Benares, in aid of the School Building Fund of the Inanda Tea Estate Indian School. The hall was packed to capacity. Mr. P. Moonsamy, chairman of the Inanda Tea Estate Indian School, stated that his committee had decided to erect a new school building to provide educational facilities for Indian children in the Inanda district, and the approximate cost would be about £1,000. The school had been in existence for about six years and was conducted in a dwelling under very unsatisfactory conditions. At present the school only provided for 70 children, and owing to lack of accommodation, a number of children were left out. The committee appealed for donations and about £400 has been collected, leaving a deficit of £600, and the committee hopes, through the co-operation and support of the Indian community and its European sympathisers, to raise the required amount. He thanked the Thiruvalluwa Nadaga Sabha for staging the Drama on their behalf, and also thanked all who assisted in making the show a success. Miss K. Moonsamy garlanded the Deputy Mayor and presented a bouquet to the Deputy Mayoress on behalf of the Inanda Tea Estate Indian School. Mr. Fyfe, the Deputy Mayor,

congratulated the committee on its effort to devise such ways and means of helping themselves, and stated that for the little while he was in the hall he was greatly impressed with the artistes and complimented them. He also stressed the value and importance of education and wished the show a success. Other speakers were Messrs. K. Soobramoney, A. Thambiran (Ben) president Thiruvalluwa Nadaga Sabha, A. Christopher and S. Ramgobin.

Durban Indian Municipal Employees' Society

On Sunday, October 1, at 4 p.m., at the Magazine Barracks Hall, Magazine Road, Durban, under the auspices of the Durban Indian Municipal Employees' Society, a reception will be accorded to Mr. Walter M. Campbell on the occasion of his retirement as City and Water Engineer of the Durban Municipality.

India's Support To Britain

The Marquess of Zetland, Secretary of State for India, said in the House of Lords on Tuesday that the British Government highly appreciated the support they received from all classes in India. The Viceroy of India, Lord Linlithgow, saw Mahatma Gandhi on Tuesday. The interview lasted for more than three hours.

The Sporting World

Non-European Wrestling And Boxing Tourney

A COMBINED non-European boxing and wrestling match is to be held at the Durban City Hall on Oct. 7. Several Indians well known in the ring are taking part including the South African heavy-weight champion, Puckree Pillay. The bouts have been arranged as follows:—Wrestling: H. Barry v. Rugbeer Maharaj, six ten-minute rounds; Pukree Pillay v. Ahmed Khan, six five-minute rounds; Sonny Moodly v. V. Ohetty. Boxing: P. M. Pillay v. Young Veeran, 12 rounds, bantam-weight. Booking at Peter's Lounge.

Sam China Tournament

The inter-centre soccer tournament for the Sam China Cup was continued at the Rosebank Recreation Ground, Capetown, on September 27. Results were: Transvaal 12, Eastern Province 0; Natal 8, Frontier 1. Transvaal will play Natal on Saturday when at the conclusion of

By "Rambler"

the tournament Mr. B. K. Long, president of the Western Province Football Association, will present the cup.

Tonga O.B.F.C. Vs. Young Aryans F.C.

The Tonga O. B. Football Club met the Young Aryans Football Club in a friendly match at the Tonga Indian Sporting Ground, on September 24. The opening match, which was played between the "B" divisions, resulted in a win for the Aryans by 1 goal to nil. In the second match, played between the "A" divisions, the Tonga team won by 2 goals to 1.

County Indian Cricket Union

The second annual general meeting of the County Indian Cricket Union was held at 9, Palm Grove, Sea View, recently. The annual report of the

secretary was read and after necessary comments the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing season 1939-40:—Patron: Mr. P. D. Naicker; president: Mr. P. S. Reddy; vice-presidents: Messrs. M. K. Naidoo, M. J. S. Naidoo, P. M. Moodley, I. Isurdeen and V. Reddy; hon. secretary and treasurer: Mr. M. K. Naidoo; hon. record clerk: Mr. J. D. Naicker; hon. auditor: Mr. M. J. S. Naidoo. New clubs desirous of affiliating can do so by writing to the secretary, 90, Umhlatuzana Road, Sea View, Natal.

Our Agents

Copies of "INDIAN OPINION" will be obtainable in Durban at the following places:—

PATEL'S VEGETARIAN TEA ROOM,
SUNBRAND TOBACCO WORKS, SINGH'S
CAFE, BURMA HOUSE, Grey Street; and
NARANJI VALLEBH'S TEA ROOM,
Brook Street.

Doings In India

Air France Captain's Insolent Behaviour

FULL details of an insult meted out to Pandit Nehru at the Allahabad aerodrome when he was leaving for China, have been published in the Indian exchanges.

Pandit Nehru issued the following statement before boarding the plane:—"I have travelled by many air lines in India and in Europe, the K. L. M. and Imperial Airways and always the greatest courtesy was shown to passengers as well as others by the Captain and the staff of airline. I had a new experience from Air France where no courtesy at all was shown, and the Captain and others calmly ignored a passenger and the many people who had come to see him off. I am sorry for Air France if it behaves in this way."

Mrs. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit, Minister for Local Self-Government, U.P. issued the following statement to the press:—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru left for Calcutta en route to Chungking (China) by the French air line. A regrettable incident occurred at the air port which has upset the many friends who had come to say "au revoir". The French plane was more than an hour late and people had been in the sun for a very long time. Among those present were several ladies who had never seen an air liner. Pandit Jawaharlal asked the aerodrome officer if it would be possible for a few friends to be shown the inside of the plane. The aerodrome officer thought there would be no difficulty and approached the Captain who was just going in to lunch. It appears, the Captain told him that no person could go inside unless accompanied by an officer who would not be free until lunch was over. Panditji, on hearing this, waited in the verandah for half an hour and then, presuming that the Captain had finished his lunch, again requested the aerodrome officer to inquire whether it was now possible to see the plane. The Captain had by this time finished his meal but was still seated at the table and said he would come out at his convenience. While he was saying this Panditji himself went into the dining room and the Captain curtly informed him that one person only would be allowed inside the plane. Panditji went into the office and dictated a short message to the press. As he was dictating the Captain came in to get his papers and entirely ignoring us collected his papers and walked out, saying as he went that the plane could not wait for anybody. This was entirely unwarranted and Panditji told the aerodrome officer and others who were feeling alarmed that the plane

might leave without him that it would have to await his convenience. He finished dictating his message and then leisurely walked up to the plane and got in. It is to be regretted that a French officer should be so wanting in good manners as to behave in such an uncalled-for and discourteous fashion.

A Great Sensation Caused

A United Press message says: A great sensation was caused at the Bamrauli aerodrome (Allahabad) when the first officer who is the Captain of the Air France 'plane, by which Pandit Jawaharlal left on his China visit, exhibited insolence and over-bearing when he denied Pandit Nehru even the ordinary courtesy shown to a traveller. "It is a great pity and very unfortunate. I have no hand in it and I have to carry

Our Special Annual Number

OUR Special Annual Number will be published this year as usual during the Deepavali festivals. Readers are requested to send articles of interest, poems, topical cartoons, pictures etc., which will be much appreciated. Those who wish to send advertisements for the Special Number are requested to send them before Oct. 15 together with their cheque. The advertisement rates are as follows: Full page £5, half page £2 10s, quarter page £1 5s.

Editor "INDIAN OPINION."

out orders of the Captain," were the words in which the local agent referred to the incident. The aerodrome officer said that he had no control over the officers of the 'planes of private companies beyond providing facilities for landing and oil supply. If it were a Government machine, he could have ventured to intervene in the matter, he added.

Pandit Nehru In Chungking

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was in Chungking on August 24, spent a thrilling and interesting first night in China's war-time capital as a result of an attempted Japanese air-raid which was frustrated by Chinese pursuit planes after a furious air battle. Reuter learns that as soon as the news of the Japanese planes heading for Chungking was received Marshall Chian-Kai Shek personally telephoned to Mr. Chuchiah,

Secretary General of Kuomintang, asking the latter to look after the safety of Pandit Nehru who was accordingly taken to a well constructed dug out. During the raid Pandit Nehru spent two most interesting hours exchanging views on the international questions.

Arrangements For Indian Students Abroad

It is understood certain special arrangements are in contemplation with regard to repatriation of Indian students in England should they desire to return to India in the event of war and also regarding provision of funds to those who remain in England should communications be hampered. The position of Indians in Germany and Italy falls in a different category and no special arrangements can be made by the Government of India. The number of Indian students in Germany and Italy is believed to be fairly small. In the event of an emergency requiring British nationals to leave these countries, they (Indian students) will be duly notified of this by the representative of the British Government. Should Indian students choose to remain despite official warning it would not be possible for the British or Indian Government to arrange funds to be remitted to them.

Mahatma Gandhiji's 71st Birthday

Under The Joint Auspices Of The
Natal Indian Congress And The
Kathiawad Arya Mandal

All are kindly requested to attend the above celebrations at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, 140 Queen Street, Durban, on October 2 at 5.30 p.m. Ladies are also requested to attend.

SORABJEE RUSTOMJEE,
President.

ASHWIN CHOUDHREE,
A. E. SHAIKH,
Jt. hon. Secretaries,
Natal Indian Congress.

P. G. DESAI,
President.

H. A. THAKER,
Hon. Secretary,
Kathiawad Arya Mandal,