

# Indian Opinion

No. 40—Vol. XXII.

Friday, October 10th, 1924.

Registered at the G. P. O. as a Newspaper  
PRICE FOURPENCE

## NOTES AND NEWS

**M**R. Pursee Rustomjee has received the following cable from Delhi dated 9th October:—  
"Fast finished. Health good."—GANDHI.

The following cable of congratulation has been sent to Mahatma Gandhi on his birthday by the Natal Indian Congress:—"Birthday greetings from the Natal Indian community."

Mr. Councillor Cox has given notice of a motion to the effect "that all heads of departments who engage or control labour should as far as possible co-operate with the Repatriation Department of the Union by making good wastage among Indian employees by the engagement of European, Coloured men or Natives."

A Reuter's message from Delhi dated Oct. 2. states:—In addition to agreeing to a number of measures of mutual forbearance, the Hindu-Moslem Unity Conference established a central arbitration board under the chairmanship of Gandhi, comprising representatives of all communities, for the purpose of settling communal disputes.

The Maritzburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes on Oct. 7:—At to-night's meeting of the Town Council, Councillor Cox's motion to the effect that the policy of the Council in future should be to co-operate with the Government by making good the wastage among Indian employees by the engagement of Europeans, coloured men, or Natives was carried. Councillor Taylor's motion to alienate a portion of the Park lands abutting on Alexandra Road was defeated by 14 votes to 2, after a very animated discussion. A motion recording the Council's regret at the demise of the late David Forbes Forsyth, formerly town treasurer and latterly one of the town valuers, was passed in silence, members standing. A motion to loan the Maritzburg Golf Club £3,000 on the security of its assets and revenue was also passed.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes:

The temper of La Rochelle in regard to Asiatics was shown in no uncertain manner at the half-yearly meeting of the La Rochelle Ratepayers' Vigilance Association. The Executive Committee's report referred to the Asiatics' trading as follows:—"We make an urgent appeal to all of you to trade white." The report was read. It described the Asiatics as bloodsuckers, and said that the Union was poorer for their being here. This question, it was urged, would not brook any delay, and should be handled in a firm and resolute manner at once.

Mr. Andries Gustav Erlank Pienaar, magistrate of Louis Trichardt, has been appointed Secretary for the Interior, to succeed Colonel Shaw, who will shortly be retiring, having reached the age limit, (says the Pretoria correspondent of the *Natal Ad-*

*vertiser*.) Mr. Pienaar has had a long and varied experience in the Civil Service which he joined immediately after the Boer War. He began his career in the magistrate's office at Pretoria, became assistant magistrate of Krugersdorp, and has had magisterial positions in Ermelo, Barberton and Germiston. There was a break of two years in Mr. Pienaar's magisterial service, during which he did excellent work as a civil service inspector. It is expected that Mr. Pienaar will assume his position before very long. He will gradually take over the reins of office from Colonel Shaw.

Nylstroom, Oct. 3 (Reuter).—A living baby was found in the arms of a woman who, with her husband, had been struck dead by lightning in a severe storm on Wednesday night. The man (Lewis Peacock) was a labourer on the railway construction and with his wife, baby and two other children was in camp with his wagon near Ombad. At daylight after the storm the neighbours noticed the dead bodies of two dogs lying under the wagon and then discovered the bodies of Peacock and his wife.

The Pretoria correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser* writes:—

The Minister of Finance received Messrs. J. de Waal, M.L.A., and Piet Bergh, who represent the wheat farmers, on the question of the dumping duty. The latter is 3/9 per 100 lbs., and Mr. Havenga, as an experiment, reduced this to 1s. on certain consignments, chiefly to Durban, hoping the price of bread would be influenced favourably to consumers. This not having occurred, the Minister informed the deputation that the figure of 3/9 would be completely restored.

The *Rand Daily Mail* special correspondent at Newcastle wires that the disaster at Milnedale is believed to have been due to the setting of the points, which did not pass the train on to the main track, but diverted it to a loop siding, where it smashed into a goods train. An inquiry will, however, determine whether the points of the pointsman were to blame. The first two coaches were wrecked, and of the 23 passengers therein, four were killed. The second coach lay at an angle across the track, blocking the points. Some of the passengers were hurled from bunk to bunk after the impact. The more seriously injured passengers were sent to Newcastle. The damage is estimated at £20,000. A magisterial inquiry will be held.

One policeman in South Africa has to be responsible for the maintenance of law and order among 713 people scattered over 47 square miles. His cost to those folk during 1923 was £253. Each individual must pay during a year a sum of 7s. 1½d. for the policing of the country. New Zealand manages on 5s. 8½d., Victoria on 6s. 9½d., and Tasmania on 7s. 1½d. On the other hand, New South Wales has to pay 9s. 11½d., Queensland 10s. 9½d., South Aus-

tralia 8s. 2½d., and Western Australia 10s. 4½. The police are "some" travellers. In 1923 the mounted men patrolled 2,119, 773 miles and the foot police 13,028,821 miles.—*Natal Advertiser*.

## INSOLVENCY LAW ABUSES

### AMENDING ACT PROJECTED

#### DRAFT SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MEASURE

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes:—

The draft suggestions which it is hoped will become the nucleus of a measure to be introduced by the Government to put a stop to the abuses practised with impunity under the existing Insolvency Law, are now engaging the attention of a joint sub-committee consisting of representatives of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, the Witwatersrand Commercial Exchange and the Transvaal Chamber of Industries.

The suggestions, of course, as they stand at the moment, are simply a basis for discussion and recommendation, and the ultimate terms agreed upon for the contemplated Bill may take a different form, but the general view is held that commercial opinion will certainly endorse the reform adumbrated in the draft suggestions now under consideration. Indeed, in some quarters it is asserted that sweeping though the changes outlined may be, a case will be made out to the Minister of Justice for even more drastic changes than appear to be in his mind.

As stated in a previous telegram, the appointment of a public trustee to have complete jurisdiction over insolvent estates with a provision for imprisonment without the option of a fine for fraudulent insolvents, is the idea at the base of the intended reform. One is now in a position to state that the actual terms of some of the draft provisions suggested for the contemplated measure to be known as the Public Trustee Bill, are as follows:—

#### SUGGESTED PROVISIONS

(1) On the application of any debtor, creditor or trustee of any insolvent or assigned estate or the creditor or the debtor of or any person beneficially interested in any estate proposed to be assigned, voluntarily surrendered or compulsorily sequestrated, the public trustee may, if it appears from any such application that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that any collusion, fraud or irregularity has taken place or is about to take place investigate the allegations made, and should it appear to the public trustee that the complaint is well founded, he may elect to administer the estate himself in the interests of the party concerned.

(2) Notice of any such application to the public trustee shall forthwith be given in writing by the applicant to every debtor, creditor, or trustee concerned, and from the date of such notice until the investigation is completed and the election of the public trustee is made known by notice in the Gazette, all the assets belonging to the estate concerned, whether vested or contingent, shall vest in the public trustee.

(3) Every payment or other satisfaction in whole or in part of any debt or claim which was due, or the cause of which arose before such application, shall, if made to the insolvent or assignor, be void unless the debtor proves that the same was in good faith, and without knowledge of the application, and it shall be an offence for any person to accept any such payment or other satisfaction.

(4) If the estate has not been sequestrated or assigned at the time the application is made, the public trustee shall, by order in writing, direct the Sheriff to attach all the movable assets of the estate, and thereupon the Sheriff shall act in the manner

provided by Section 18 of Act 32 of 1916, and shall be remunerated in terms of the section.

(5) On receipt of any such application the public trustee shall make an order directing every officer charged with the registration of title to remove property or interest in minerals within the Union which appears to be an asset on the estate concerned, to hold such property to the order of the public trustee and thereupon no transfer, cession, hypothecation or other alienation shall take place except on the order of the public trustee or until the original order has been discharged by notice in writing under the hand of the public trustee.

(6) In cases where such application for investigation has been made to the public trustee any proceedings then pending in respect of the assignment, surrender or compulsory sequestration of the estate concerned shall be suspended until such time as the election of the public trustee may be made known.

(7) For the purpose of his investigation the public trustee may examine the debtor, creditor, assignee, trustee, or any other person invested, and take evidence on oath concerning all matters relating to the estate concerned. The public trustee may call and inspect all books of account, entries, documents, papers or vouchers relating, or believed to relate, to any estate concerned, and may require any person able to give information with respect to the estate under investigation to give that information.

## LAND FOR ASIATICS

### TOWN COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION

#### IMPORTANT MEMORANDUM BY TOWN CLERK

#### QUESTION OF LAND PURCHASES OUTSIDE BOROUGH

At the special meeting on Friday the 26th ult. the Durban Town Council considered an urgency report from the Council-in-Committee setting out its deliberations in connection with the proposed purchase of land at Qator Manor. The whole question of land purchases outside the Borough was reviewed in memorandum by the Town Clerk, which read as follows:—

On Feb. 4, 1922, a public demonstration took place against bids for property in European localities being accepted from Indians. Immediately following this demonstration came a demand from Societies and individuals for action to be taken by the Council in the direction of securing the restriction of ownership of land in the Borough to classes. The Council thereupon instructed the Town Solicitors to prepare the following draft Ordinance, which was adopted by the Council on April 10, 1922:—

"The Town Council of the Borough of Durban, in selling or leasing any immovable property belonging to the said Borough, may, with the consent of the Administrator, make provision in the conditions of sale or lease as to the style, class or value of buildings to be erected thereon, and for restricting the use of such property solely to purposes of residence or business, and for restricting the ownership or occupation thereof or both by persons of European descent, Asiatics or Natives or persons of any one or more of such classes, and may insert in the title deeds or leases of any such property the conditions necessary to give full force and effect to such provisions and, or restricts."

On June 22, 1922, the Secretary of the Interior wrote as follows:—

"The Provincial Administration, under cover of a letter dated the 16th inst. has forwarded for the assent of his Royal Highness the Governor-General, under section 90 of the South Africa Act, an Ordinance introduced into the Provincial Council by Mr. G. H. Hulett, M.P.C., to grant additional powers to the Town Council of the Borough of Durban in res-

pect of the alienation of or other dealing with immovable property belonging to the said Borough.

#### INDIANS' REPRESENTATIONS

"A deputation of the Natal Indian Congress waited upon the Minister of the Interior last week to represent certain views in regard to this and other Ordinances which they contend would operate against the interests of the Indian community in Natal, and they specially referred to the powers sought to be given to the Borough of Durban affecting the conditions re selling or leasing of immovable property as referred to in the Ordinance as passed by the Provincial Council. The Minister of the Interior promised the deputation to communicate with his Worship the Mayor to ascertain the intentions of the Borough in connection with this legislation, which the Indian Congress of Natal feel may operate very harmfully against the Indian community in the Borough of Durban. The Ordinance purports to restrict ownership or occupation, and it is apparently intended to be applicable to any European, Asiatic, or Native, but the deputation held that it might result in seriously affecting the Asiatic population in Durban. The Minister desires me therefore to ascertain from the Mayor exactly what would be the policy of the Borough in the event of the Ordinance receiving the assent of his Royal Highness the Governor-General, and especially as to what provision the Borough proposes to make to protect the interests of the Indians from the residential or business standpoint within the Borough.

"As under the provisions of the South Africa Act notification has to be given to the Provincial Administration at the latest by the 15th proximo, as to whether assent is to be given or withheld to the Ordinance, the Minister desires me to ask that your reply be submitted to reach me if possible at the latest by the 3rd proximo.

#### TOWN CLERK'S REPLY

3. The Town Clerk, on July 3, 1922, wrote in reply as follows:

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant relative to the Ordinance introduced into the Provincial Council by Mr. G. H. Hulett, M.P.C., to grant additional powers to the Town Council of the Borough of Durban in respect of the alienation of or other dealing with immovable property belonging to the said Borough; and it is noted that the Minister desires to ascertain what the policy of this Council would be if the Ordinance receives the required assent of His Royal Highness the Governor-General.

"In reply I have to state that the present policy of the Town Council is to separate the population of European descent so far as possible, from Asiatics and Natives in residential areas—not to segregate any section or class entirely in parts of the Borough—or from areas where at the present time any section has property or interests.

"As a matter of fact, all sales of immovable property belonging to this Borough are subject to the consent of the Administrator, and should the Council impose any condition in any land sale that would seriously affect the interests of the European, Asiatic or Native the persons affected could petition the Administrator to refuse consent until such interests were safeguarded."

4. The Ordinance was promulgated in the *Natal Provincial Gazette* on July 27, 1922.

5. Although no written undertaking was given by the Council to provide an area or areas for disposal to Indians, an understanding was arrived at before the Select Committee of the Provincial Council on the Ordinance that the claims of the Indians in this direction would not be overlooked.

6. On Aug. 13, 1923, the Provincial Secretary, in reply to the Town Clerk's application for the consent of his Honour the Administrator to the alienation of certain town lands for sale in freehold, inquired, in

view of the incorporation of paragraph 5 of the special conditions of sale: "The lot shall be owned and occupied by a person or persons of European descent," whether due opportunity is, or will be, afforded to Indians to acquire land in the Borough, and whether any steps have been taken by the Town Council to set aside areas which could be obtained by Indians for residential purposes, indicating the quarter or quarters within the Borough where the provision has been made.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE'S RESOLUTION

7. On Aug. 24, 1923, the Finance Committee, on consideration of the above letter, resolved:—

"(a) That the Estates Manager be instructed to report as to suitable areas to be set aside for Indian residential purposes, to the sub-Committee re-Indian Village, and that the appointment of this sub-Committee be confirmed, as follows: Councillors Dr. Francois, Mitchell, Reyburn and Kemp.

"(b) That the Administrator be advised, in reply to his inquiry, that the Council has under consideration the question of setting aside areas for Indian residential occupation."

Acting on the above instruction the Estates Manager reported indicating six vacant areas situated within the Borough, but, for the reasons stated in the report, he strongly opposed the setting aside of any such areas for Indian occupation. As an alternative, the Estates Manager suggested that the Council should acquire an area or areas adjacent to the Borough to be utilised for Indian residential purposes.

The Finance Committee on Dec. 18, 1922, on consideration of the above report of the Estates Manager, authorised the Mayor, Councillor Kemp and the Town Clerk to take the matter up with the Administrator on his next visit to Durban, and to inform him that, for the reasons advanced by the Estates Manager in his report, the Finance Committee was unable to recommend any land in the Borough to be alienated for Indians; further, the sub-committee dealing with the question of the Indian Village Settlement outside the Borough had been instructed to go into this matter. At the same meeting the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Dr. Francois) was authorised to go confidentially into the matter of the appropriation of certain lands and report back to the Finance Committee at a later date.

#### CATO MANOR LAND

On Jan. 4, 1924, Dr. Francois reported to the Council-in-Committee that it had come to his knowledge that negotiations were then in progress for the disposal of some 292 acres of land at Cato Manor suiting for the housing of Indians, and that the sale price of such land was £50. The Council-in-Committee then resolved:

"That the Estates Manager be authorised to endeavour to obtain an option of purchase over the land in question."

On Jan. 9, 1924, the Estates Manager submitted the following letter from Messrs. Goodricke & Son: "We are instructed by Messrs. G. W. Gray and G. R. Monzali to offer to sell to the Durban Corporation the following two properties:

(1) The remainder of Sub-division M1 of the farm Cato Manor in the County of Durban, Natal, in extent 74 acres 2 roods 24.178 perches.

(2) The remainder of Sub-division M3 of the said farm Cato Manor in extent 217 acres 1 rood 19.33 perches.

For the sum of £52 10s per acre payable as to £6,680, by the transposition of a bond for that amount due on Dec. 31, 1928, with interest at 6 per cent., and as to the balance in cash. The properties are at present occupied under a lease which can be inspected at our office, and they are offered for sale subject thereto.

Our clients make it a condition that the transfer of the properties and transposition of the bond are

to be prepared by ourselves, and all costs of transfer and of transposition of the above bond including disbursements and provincial duty are to be paid by the Corporation if this offer is accepted.

We are also instructed by our clients to mention that they hold an option over the adjoining property belonging to Mr. Rikargio at a prize of £35 per acre, which option expires on July 31, 1924, in respect of which they have paid a sum of £450, and they are prepared to sell their option to the Corporation at a price to be mutually agreed upon.

The Council-in-Committee on the same date resolved:

(a) That the Estates Manager be instructed to endeavour to obtain an option of purchase of the land in question for a period of three months and to pay therefore a sum not exceeding £100.

(b) That the Borough Engineer be directed to report as to the general layout of this area, and the practicability of providing adequate stormwater drainage etc., thereon in the event of it being utilised for the purchase of an Indian village, and that thereafter the Council visit the site in company with the Estates Manager and Borough Engineer.

#### COUNCIL'S OPTION

On March 21, 1924, the Town Clerk submitted a memo for consideration by the Council-in-Committee on the option held from Messrs. Gray and Monzali and other offers of land when it was resolved:

"That no further action be taken hereon."

On June 13, 1924, Mr. R. Monzali wrote as follows:

"In reference to your inquiry on behalf of the Durban Corporation regarding approximately 281 acres N7B1 and N7B3, Cato Manor, belonging to Mr. G. W. Gray and myself jointly, and to your request for an option over same, I have the pleasure in making you the following offer, viz.—

"I am agreeable to give you for the sum of £100 14 days' option from the 14th inst., over same, such option money to become part of the purchase prize if you exercise the option.

"The price of the land to be £52 10s per acre, plus 6 per cent. dating from the date when it was last offered to you to the date of the purchase."

The above option, on the recommendation of the Council-in-Committee, was taken and exercised by the Town Council on July 4, 1924, in the following resolution:

"That, in terms of the provisions of Section 6 of Law 27 of 1884—Section 1 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1914, and Section 5 of Act 35 of 1920, and subject to the consent of his Honour the Administrator being obtained thereto, the Council acquire by private purchase from Messrs. G. W. Gray and R. Monzali approximately 281 acres of land, being N7B7 and N7B3, Cato Manor, for the sum of £52 10s. per acre."

In reply to the Town Clerk's application of July 21, 1924, to his Honour the Administrator for consent to the acquisition of this land, the Provincial Secretary, on Sept. 3, 1924, wrote as follows:

"With reference to your letter of July 21 in connection with the proposed acquisition by the Town Council of certain land outside the Borough, I have the honour to inform you that at the conference of Public Health Committees recently held in Durban, Mr. Whyte, the Estates Manager of the Durban Corporation attended for the purpose of pointing out on the way and describing the areas which the Corporation proposed to acquire for Indian settlement.

"Mr. Whyte undertook to obtain full details of the scheme, setting forth the proposals of the Corporation in regard to water, light, sanitation and other services, and also as to whether the land would be thrown open for general Indian settlement. As consideration of the application as in abeyance pen-

ding receipt of this information, I should be glad to know if it may be expected at an early date."

#### POLICY OUTLINED

The information asked for in the above letter has now been supplied to the Provincial Administration in the following form:—

"1. The Council is faced with the fact that there is no land within the Borough suitable for Indian occupation.

"2. The life of the Indian community in Durban is such that as the Council cannot segregate them, the Council cannot create a small township or Location within the Borough.

"3. The Council cannot extend the present area occupied by their Indian servants as it will most seriously affect the amenities of the Ocean Beach front.

"4. A large number of Indians are living on the Eastern Vlei, under exceedingly bad conditions, and the Corporation has no suitable land to put them on, as the Eastern Vlei has been condemned by the Medical Officer of Health as being unsuitable, and in any case cannot be considered for the reasons set out in Clause 3.

"The Council cannot properly enforce its public health by-laws until some place has been found to send these people to.

"Under present conditions, they constitute a menace to the public health in the event of an epidemic.

"5. The area to be purchased at Cato Manor is essentially an Indian area as that district carries a population of some hundreds of Indians, and there are no Europeans living in the district.

"6. The distance from the Toll Gate to the site where the village will be established is 2½ miles by the Main Road, and approximately one mile to the nearest point of the Borough boundary; approximately one mile from the nearest house on Manor Garden Estate; 1½ miles from the nearest European house within the Bellair district (and this house is separated by the Umbilo River and by a large block of 600 acres already under Indian occupation); 1½ miles by road from the nearest European residence on Mayville side of the proposed purchase.

"7. The whole area within the distances set out under Section 6 is to-day occupied by Indians.

"8. The local district associations do not seem to have given due consideration to the fact that the establishment of a village under proper control must add materially to their resources for revenue purposes, and it must certainly be to their advantage for the land to be purchased by the Durban Corporation and a proper village established under control, with proper sanitation, water and electric light.

"9. The land, if not purchased by the Durban Corporation will most certainly be bought by others, who will not have the same interest nor the same responsibilities, and the local Public Health Committees cannot prevent the land being cut up and sold to Indians, and that without the same measure of control and proper provision for the amenities of life.

"10. The Council has recently decided that notice to vacate be served on certain people on the Eastern Vlei at the rear of the Pavilion. This notice will expire in about three months' time, and will throw some 200 Indian families into the street. Later on it will be necessary to move the Council's barracks on Brickhill Road, and also clear out a considerable number of Indians on Brickhill Road Extension, beyond Depot Road.

"11. It is the Council's intention to equip the area in question with the usual municipal amenities of light, water, sanitation and transport."

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Kemp has submitted the following notice of motion for to-morrow's meeting: "That in view of the decision of the Finance Committee to invite

the opinion of Mr. Mackenrtan, K.C. the Corporation's standing counsel on the question of the Council's legal powers to acquire the land at Cato Manor, vide the Council's resolution of July 4, 1924, the Town Clerk's letter of Sept. 19, 1924, to the Provincial Secretary be withdrawn pending the receipt of Mr. Mackenrtan's opinion, for the further consideration of the Council."—*Natal Mercury*.

### PROPOSED INDIAN VILLAGE

#### COUNCILLOR JOHNSTONE'S OPPOSITION TO THE SCHEME

By the time the Town Council had discussed the extension of the Borough boundaries and the steps to be taken to foster industrial development, members were not in the mood to debate the subject of purchasing land outside the Borough, and particularly the purchase of the Cato Manor lands. In this connection the Town Clerk had submitted a long memorandum which was published in the *Natal Mercury*. As the Finance Committee had decided to invite the opinion of Mr. Mackenrtan, K.C., on the question of the Council's legal powers to acquire the Cato Manor land, the Council readily agreed, on the motion of Councillor Kemp, to defer discussion until this opinion had been received, the Town Clerk's letter to the Provincial Secretary being withdrawn in the meantime.

Councillor W. F. Johnstone, however, expressed his opposition to the scheme. He said he could not understand the Council committing the ratepayers of Durban to such a large expenditure, particularly as the scheme was of a speculative nature. He doubted if the burgesses really understood what they were being committed to. If the scheme went through it would cost the Borough a very large sum of money. The land referred to was situated 2½ miles by the main road from the Toll Gate. The purchase price of the land was approximately £15,000. The Borough Engineer reported to the Council that the cost of erecting 1,000 two-roomed houses for Indians of the semi-detached type, including sewerage treatment, roads, storm water drainage, and sewerage connections, would cost £340,000. This sum with the cost of the land, meant an expenditure of £355,000. In this estimate no allowance was made for tramways, main road approaches or electric light, which would have to be provided as this district could not be served by the railway.

At present the Council could not lay trams nor run 'buses outside the boundaries of Durban as they had no powers to do so. They, therefore, proposed spending £355,000 to £400,000 on land and houses on a site 2½ miles from the tramway tracks, and without having any power to enable them to provide travelling facilities covering the intervening 2½ miles. If the Council had proposed buying land adjacent to the Borough boundary and if it had power enabling it to compel the Indians to go on to the land provided for them, the position would be different.

The scheme meant an ultimate expenditure of £400,000, to provide 1,000 houses for the Indians, while they had white people living in houses that were not fit for human beings to live in.

The reason given for this extraordinary purchase was that they must have land for the Indians employed by the Council to live on; also for the Indians generally residing in Durban. For the Council's Indians the site was too far away from town, and a considerable part of the day would be taken up in going to and from the town. The amount of money spent on Indian and Native labour by the Council at present was a very large sum, and the Council should use every means to get them to work

rather than a lot a system that was going to add to the cost of the unskilled labour bill. Moreover, he had yet to learn that it was the duty of the burgesses of Durban to find land and houses for any body of Indians who cared to come to reside in Durban. If the Government were prepared to assist on the pound to pound principle to get the Indians out of Durban, then no doubt the burgesses would be prepared to assist, but until that time arrived let them utilise their money in providing suitable housing accommodation for their own white people. Then again were the proposal carried, they could not compel the Indians to go to live on that land. He doubted very much whether they would do so. In any case, to take 1,000 families out of the town would only be like a drop of water into a bucket.

In conclusion, Councillor Johnstone said he knew that his views were not those of the majority of the Council on this matter, and therefore he trusted the burgesses will give some indication of their views so as to guide those members of the Council who were opposed to the scheme in further dealing with the matter when it came before the Council. Personally, he was of the opinion that a site could be found either in the Borough or adjacent to the Borough boundaries, on which suitable barracks could be erected to house the Indians employed by the Municipality.

### INDIAN SCHOOL

#### CROSS STREET PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

The annual prize distribution of the above School was held in their well decorated schoolroom on the afternoon of the 3rd inst., in the presence of a large number of European and Indian friends. Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. T. Wadley), the Revs. J. Metcalf, Hibbert-Ware and Brett, Miss Ellis, and other European friends, Rev. and Mrs. Choonoo, the Misses Godfrey, Mrs. and Misses Christopher, Mr. and Mrs. Somasundaram, and other Indian friends. The scholars entertained the visitors with a long programme of songs, and drills, pianoforte solos, etc.

During the afternoon the Rev. J. Metcalf welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress on behalf of the School, and said it was a matter of great pleasure and gratification of seeing them both present at that function that afternoon. The Mission was engaged in giving education to the Indian children, and as most of those children were born in Natal and hence were here to stay, the least that could be done for them was to give them a fair education. The School with over 260 scholars in attendance, was not satisfactorily situated, having not a yard of playground of its own, the front door opening to Cross Street. A new building was under contemplation, but a building site was needed.

The Mayor, in reply, said that both the Mayoress and himself were pleased to be present with them that afternoon, and from what he was able to see good work was being done by the School. Though he could not speak for the whole Council, and most of them he knew were not anti-Asiatic or anti-Indian, and if the application for a plot of ground for the erection of a new school was brought forward, he was sure the Council would give it their best consideration.

The Mayor was garlanded and the Mayoress presented with a bouquet of flowers. The Mayoress then presented the prizes to the successful scholars. The Mayoress then expressed, in a neat speech, her delight in being present.

The Rev. Mr. Brett also spoke very encouragingly of the work and the great progress he had witnessed. He then performed a very pleasant duty in making

a presentation to the Head Mistress on behalf of an ex-pupil. Miss Porter suitably replied, and the proceedings concluded with the National Anthem.

### News in Brief

The special correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* writes from London on Oct. 4:—

It is interesting to note that the negotiations with Zaghal have completely broken down and that he returns to Egypt shortly. It was stated in London on Friday that this is due to the representation made by Mr. MacDonald that it is useless for him to continue further, as a political crisis was at hand. I believe this is incorrect. Mr. MacDonald refused to give way on any of the serious issues, namely, the Soudan; the Suez Canal; and the removal of the British troops from Cairo. It is known that Mr. MacDonald's main appeal to the electorate will be on his foreign policy; and his determined attitude on Egypt is to be taken as proof that he is working for international solidarity, but that he refuses to compromise essential British subjects.

Writing on Oct. 2 the London correspondent of the *Natal Advertiser* says, so grave is the population question becoming in France that premiums for babies are now offered by the authorities. Every family in the Vosges Department will receive a bounty of £10 for its first new-born child, with £2 for every subsequent baby.

Simla, Oct. 3 (Reuter).—The recent torrential rains have now ceased, but the damage to villages and crops has been enormous. Hundreds of railway passengers are stranded, while communication has been severed between Simla and Mussoorie. In the Dun Valley railway traffic has been dislocated on Oudh Rokilband, North-Western, and Simla-Kalka railways; while all hill roads in the vicinity of Simla, Mussoorie and Mainital are blockaded.

Pest Sadaa, Oct. 5.—The fall of the Hashimite Government and the abdication of Hussein have eased the situation. Negotiations with the enemy are expected shortly. The throne has been offered to Emir Ali; who, however, has declined it.—Reuter.

A Reuter's message from Cairo dated Oct. 6, says that an official telegram announces that King Hussein's eldest son, Emir Ali, has accepted the throne of Hedjaz, but not the Caliphate. The Hedjaz National Committee states that Emir Ali was offered the throne on the condition he conformed with the wishes of the people of Hedjaz.

A very interesting invention has been reported from Germany in connection with the roadside type of petrol pumps. A machine similar to the penny in the slot machine is proposed. Motorists buy a number of metal discs at a garage. Each disc entitles the buyer to a certain measure of petrol. When he wishes to refill his petrol tank he inserts one of these discs in the machine and is automatically supplied with the correct measure of fuel. The idea might become exceedingly helpful to motorists. For instance, it is often hard to find a garage open where he can buy fuel at night or in the evening or on holidays. With the automatic petrol supply all the car-owner has to do is to go to a street petrol pump and insert a disc and get his petrol. In order to make the scheme a success it would be necessary to have it working satisfactorily

between the garages equipped with petrol pumps standing outside the garage but such an agreement could be fairly easily arranged.

The Argentine world-flier, Zanni, has arrived, says a Reuter's message from Shanghai.

### ધો હોંડુ એંગ્લો ગુજરાતી સ્કુલ

આથી સર્વ ગુજરાતી હિંદી ભાષા અને નિવેદન કરવામાં આવે છે કે ગુજરાતી બાળકોને માટે ખાસ કેળવણીના હુકુ ધ્યાનમાં લઈ ઉપરના નામની સ્કુલ પ્રીન્સ એન્ડર્સ સ્ટ્રીટમાં ખોલવામાં આવી છે.

#### કેળવણી

ગુજરાતી બાળપૈથીથી લઈ ઇંગ્લિશ ડયા ધોરણ સુધીના ઠાકરાને આ સ્કુલમાં દાખલ કરવામાં આવશે; શિક્ષણ માતૃભાષા ગુજરાતી દ્વારા ઇંગ્લિશ શીખવવામાં આવશે. તેમજ હિંદુસ્તાનના કેળવણીના ધોરણ પ્રમાણે અહીં પણ અભ્યાસક્રમ રાખવામાં આવશે. ધાર્મિક અને શારીરિક કેળવણી ઉપર ખાસ ધ્યાન આપવામાં આવશે. પ્રાથેના, કંસરત વિગેરે નિયમીત થશે. આ સ્કુલમાં દાખલ થનાર બાળકને બીજા કોઈ સ્કુલમાં જવાની જરૂર રહેશે નહિ.

હાલમાં અમોએ શિક્ષક તરીકે લાંબા વખતના અનુભવી ભાઈશ્રી જીણભાઈ ભીખાભાઈ નાયકને રોક્યા છે અને ભવિષ્યમાં હિંદુસ્તાનથી ખાસ શિક્ષકો ખોલાવવાની ગાઠવણ કરવામાં આવી છે.

અમો આશા રાખીએ છીએ કે કેળવણીની અભિલાષા ધરાવનાર દરેક શુભસ્થ પોતામાં આજકાલ સંસ્કરણ સંસ્થામાં સત્વર મોકલી આવી કેળવણીનો લાભ ઉઠાવશે.

લી. સેવડા,

મોરારજી હરીભાઈ દેસાઈ, પ્રમુખ  
મોરારજી ભીખાભાઈ નાયક, સેક્રેટરી  
વધુ વિગત માટે મગો: ૧૫૪ વીક્ટોરીયા સ્ટ્રીટ, ડરબન.

#### વેચવાની છે

હારીકમાં એક સારા વેચાણ વાળી ચોકુ દુકાન વેચવાની છે. માલ ખોરાને હંબર પાઉન્ડનો થશે.  
વધુ વિગત માટે પુછો:

આમોલ હાઉસી મુ.

૩૭૩ પાઇન સ્ટ્રીટ, ડરબન.

" INDIAN OPINION "			
Subscription Rates.			
WITHIN THE UNION :	Yearly ... ..	15	0
	Half-Yearly ... ..	7	6
OUTSIDE THE UNION AND OVERSEAS :	Yearly ... ..	15	6
	Half-Yearly ... ..	8	0