

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

THE Indian Mining Federation have made a strong representation to the Government of India on the subject of the recent purchase of 60,000 tons of South African coal for the Sukkur Barrage requirements. The letter says that the action of authorities is fraught with important considerations of public policy and not only constitutes an outrage on the Indian coal industry, but an insult of the Indian Legislature which passed the resolution urging a countervailing duty on South African coal, and is a flagrant violation of the Government's declared intention that nothing would be done to directly stimulate foreign coal gaining additional ground in the Indian market. The letter concludes: "If despite a serious depression in the Indian coal industry, the Stores department would extend its customs to South African coal the dignified mockery of a coal export committee might as well be avoided and with it the prodigious waste of the tax-payer's money." The Federation hoped that the Government of India would still find it possible to rescind the contract.

This is but an example of how absurd it is for India in her present position to put into practice the policy of reciprocity or, in other words, to retaliate against injustices done her. The only remedy for her is to regain her independence first, and the greater the injustice directed against her the greater should be her anxiety and zeal to work for that independence.

We call the following from the *Unteleli Wa Bantu* dated 17th instant —

There is a proposal to present a farm in Zululand to the Prince of Wales. This would cost about £4,000 and it is thought by the promoters of the scheme that the Zulu people would contribute to the fund. We don't think so. It is suggested that the Prince's ownership of ground in Zululand would induce a number of desirable people to settle in the neighbourhood, and we cannot believe that the Zulus would willingly subscribe to any proposal to filch more land from them.

The following paragraph is extracted from the eleventh statement submitted by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines to the Mining Regulations commission. — The Chamber's view is that the only effective industrial colour bar which is of any real value to Europeans in this country is the one which arises naturally out of the difference in the respective abilities of the two races and can be supported by the public sentiment of both sides. To set up in industry, artificial restrictions in the face of economic laws for a number of really redundant men to shelter behind can only tend to undermine their natural advantages, and react ultimately not only to their own detriment, but also to that of the country generally which depends so largely on the prosperity of the Mining industry.

An offer of 200 morgen of land near the Western Native Township has been made to the

Johannesburg Municipality at cost of £24,000 for the creation of a township for Coloured people and Asiatics.

At the end of 1923, there were 1,917,926 more women than men in the United Kingdom, an increase of 20,872 over the previous year, according to the Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales, just issued, which estimates the population of the United Kingdom at the end of last year at 41,747,100, of which 24,932,513 were women. There were 292,408 marriages in England and Wales, 12,413 bridegrooms were bachelors under 21, and one gave his age as 83. The youngest married people were a wife of 15, whose husband was 16; 26 girls of 15 were married during the year, and one to a man of 32, and one girl of 16 married a man of 70. — *Natal advertiser*

Messrs A. Sallie and G. S. Rasdian are duly appointed by the Naseria Moslem School Board (Johannesburg) to collect funds for the School and will be leaving Johannesburg on the 24th of January on a tour of the Western and Eastern Provinces including Griqualand West. Messrs. Hajee Mahomed Buddar and Mahomed Alli Sahib will at a later date tour the Natal Province. It is earnestly hoped by the Board that the above gentlemen will be given the support that the cause deserves.

From January to September, 1924, there were 1,433 insolvencies in the Union, as against 1,669 in the first nine months of 1923. There were decreases in all the Provinces, but in the case of the Cape and Natal there were increases in the number of Asiatic cases.

The occupations of insolvents showed that in the Union, during the period January to September, 1924, there was a decrease in the commercial, professional, agricultural, and miscellaneous groups, and an increase in the industrial and wage-earners groups. The agricultural group showed lower insolvency figures in each of the Provinces, the commercial group showed an increase in Natal and the Orange Free State, and in the wage-earners group a considerable increase in the Transvaal and a slight increase in the Cape.

A meeting of between 4,000 and 5,000 non-Europeans is reported to have been held on the Grand Parade, Capetown, last Sunday. It was addressed by Prof. James Thaele, president of the Cape African National Congress in the Western Province, when resolutions were passed urging the Government to introduce legislation making marriage between white and black people illegal, the same against the introduction of the pass law to unmarried Native women, and urging the Government to introduce a Bill restricting the sale of alcoholic drinks to Natives registered picketing of the

THAT ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

DURING Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's visit to South Africa in the beginning of last year after going into the Indian question fully with the Union Ministers a suggestion was made by her that a Round Table Conference, constituted of representatives of the Union Parliament, representatives of India and of the Indian Government and representatives of the Indian community of South Africa should be called to discuss the whole question. In what light the suggestion was taken by General Smuts who was then at the head of the Government was not quite clear but no note of resentment was sounded by the Government, or the European Press. Since then, however, a sudden change was effected in the Government—which change has so far not been for the better for any section of the community and certainly not for the Indian community who have had bitter experience of it already—and that Government has not considered it advisable to follow any precedents but has had its own way in dealing with questions, as it was so anxious to do even before coming into power. Thus Mrs. Naidu's suggestion of a Round Table Conference had no hope of being considered. But then came Mr. Thomas, the ex-Colonial Secretary in the Imperial Labour Government and in an important speech he made the same suggestion as did Mrs. Naidu, in the following words

"If a solution is to be found, and I am not unmindful of the fact that the British Commonwealth has got over many difficulties in the past—if it is to be solved, place it outside Party politics. The leaders of all parties ought to be brought together to consider. Not only your (South Africa's) leaders, but representatives of India and of the Imperial Government."

It will be remembered that the same suggestion was repeated by Mr. Thomas in a recent speech in London

The above suggestion was heartily supported by the Press practically throughout the Union. But it was just about then that an assurance was given by the Government to the Anti-Asiatics in the Union Parliament that legislation dealing with the Asiatic question would be prepared during the recess and introduced in the coming session. Not a word, of course, was mentioned in connection with the suggested Round Table Conference. Again the latest act of the Union Government in sanctioning the Natal Boroughs Ordinance is ample proof that they are not much concerned nor do they wish to trouble their little heads about such a conference.

Thus the matter stands, and now we are pleased to note that some of the papers in India are stirring this question once again. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu is also reported to have referred to the subject in her speech at the Indian National Congress.

It is to be hoped that this matter will receive the consideration of the Indian National Congress, the Imperial Citizenship Association (Bombay), the Overseas Association (London), and that if a conference is to be held no time will be lost and if not, that it will be definitely

stated so, for leaving the matter in abeyance merely increases the agony which is intense as it is by the present attitude of the Union Government.

NATAL BOROUGHS ORDINANCE

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS OF INDIA

Sury Varman, a well-known Bombay daily has the following leading article under the heading, "From King Log to King Stork" —

When General Hertzog succeeded General Smuts as Prime Minister in South Africa, it was generally acknowledged that the change boded no good to the Indians in the future. This prophesy has been perfectly justified by the latest developments. A cryptic message from Durban informs us that the Governor-General-in-Council has assented to the Natal Boroughs Ordinance. The meaning of this is that "whereas Indians at present on the roll will remain, no further Indians may be added. Consequently in the course of a generation the Indian vote will disappear." This sanction given to the above Ordinance, it does not require much perspicuity to understand, will, with one stroke of the pen, deprive the Indians of their most elementary rights of citizenship. We are perfectly convinced that this final act of lawlessness and injustice is but the culminating point of a long series of acts overtly or covertly put into operation in order to persecute the Indians and thus ultimately to drive them out of the country. With the existence of lawless ordinances in India, the path of enacting like instrument of iniquity was made easy for the authorities in South Africa. It seems as if we were living in an age of ordinances. It seems as if Governments are ashamed to rule the country by the exercise of the common laws of the country, but they are not too ashamed to enact lawless laws to do that which the existing law does not permit them to do. Mr. Henry Polak, who knows South Africa from A to Z in an interview by the Associated Press says: "The news that the Governor-General of South Africa has assented to the Natal Boroughs Ordinance depriving Indians of the Municipal franchise comes as a shock, for it appears to be an indication that the Union Government is indisposed to agree to Mr. Thomas's suggestion for a non-party conference in South Africa with the participation of the Imperial and the Indian Governments to reconsider the Indian question in its imperial aspects." Let us at once confess that though the news comes as a shock to Mr. Polak, to us in India the information is not at all surprising. Not only is the Boer Government of South Africa determined to see the last of Indians in that country, but emboldened by a weak Government in India, they think the present is about just the right moment when they could play ducks and drakes with the legitimate rights of the Indians with a high degree of heartless indifference. As suggested by Mr. Thomas, the ex-Colonial Secretary in the Labour Government, a joint non-party Conference of both the South African and Indian Governments was too big a morsel for South African reactionaries to swallow. They would risk nothing. They would run no chance of any of their past work being undone or their future action hindered by meddling outsiders. These white poachers and exploiters in somebody's country, who believe that they are there under a special charter from Providence and all His angels, are fearfully nervous lest others might emulate their example and thus by competition and co-operation undermine the hold that they have established through mere might and brutal force. Good-natured and well-intentioned Englishmen of the type of Mr. Polak, might feel surprised and shocked at the iniquitous acts of the South African Government, but what avails this chirping of a mere swallow. He believes that "the Union Government has, in the matter of the Natal

Municipal Franchise which was guaranteed to the Indians at the time they were deprived of Parliamentary franchise committed a breach of faith that will result in grave disaster to the Indian population of South Africa mostly local born." Supposing all this is true, and we believe it is true, and nothing but the truth, what of that? What matters it if there is a breach of faith or where Indians are concerned there is a downright breach of all the commandments from the Bible? Indeed, this is not the first instance out of many when the South African Government has openly and in a most shame-faced manner broken faith with the Indians. To all intents and purposes it might be truly said that South African Indian history is a long record of broken promises and a long series of breaches of faith. One more and one less makes no difference whatsoever. Mr. Polak points out that the new measure will degrade the status of Natal Indians by depriving them of civic rights long exercised, whilst it will take all hope from the Transvaal Indians who do not possess this franchise and will arouse the utmost alarm among the Cape Indians who do. The exercise of the Natal Municipal franchise was the only weapon even partially effective to protect Indian trading rights against the municipalities that have been seeking their destruction. All this means that Indians in South Africa will no longer be treated as human beings but as savages and beasts. Deprived long ago of parliamentary franchise and now being deprived of municipal rights, they are rendered absolutely dumb, only fit, to be driven by their domineering masters. The passing of the new Ordinance makes the Indians' position worse than mere words could adequately describe. King Stork who succeeded King Log (indeed, he was anything but a log) has at last shown his own hand. He has struck and struck home. What will the Indians do? But above all what will the Indian Government do? Will the latter eat the humble pie and thus show that it is in reality a subordinate branch of the British Government or will it take up cudgels for the Indians in right earnest and stand up for Indians' rights?

SUGGESTED ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

A recent number of *New India* (Madras) has the following leading article on Indians in South Africa.—

Speaking at the African Society Dinner, Mr. J. H. Thomas, ex-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the Labour Government, stated that when he was in South Africa, he had officially suggested a Round Table Conference of representatives of the Imperial Government, South Africa and India to discuss the Indian question, emphasising that it was impossible to divorce that question from its Imperial aspect. The reference to this wider aspect might evoke the suspicion that Great Britain desired to interfere with the Union Government's decision on a question which was exclusively domestic in character. But it is not to be supposed that Mr. Thomas meant anything of the kind. What he apparently wanted to be understood as saying was that each of the Dominions had an Indian problem, including Great Britain in its Colonies, and that a policy had to be evolved which would enable a peaceful and lasting solution to be arrived at. It is clear from his Bloemfontein speech that he wished this common policy to be based on a just recognition of Indian rights of citizenship. It is some weeks since the suggestion was made, but we have not heard anything about it either in India or from South Africa. It is a pity that members of the Executive Councils do not take the public into their confidence, even on the most urgent problems, with the result that misunderstanding frequently arises between the people and the Government, the former suspecting

that everything that can be done is not being done, and the latter contenting themselves with their own self-satisfaction at their duties well and duly performed. If we had Responsible Government, then members of the Cabinet would be obliged to tell their constituents as to the developments in policies, and they would get to know how the public views the contemplated measures. This advantage is entirely absent under the present system of working in secret. We have no news from South Africa either about the attitude of the Nationalist Government towards the proposal for holding a Round Table Conference. What little we know is to the effect that the authorities intend to bring forward a Bill for further restricting the rights of Indians. India has nothing to lose by such a conference, it possesses already the moral support of the Imperial Conference, and is prepared to argue out her case again before any tribunal. The hesitation of South Africa is due to its unwillingness to discuss the question, but we hope that Sarojini Devi's optimism regarding South Africa will be justified by its agreeing to meet and have a frank, free and full talk. General Smuts, it will be remembered, tried to persuade the last Imperial Conference to cancel the resolution on equality adopted at the session held in 1921. India would be pleased if the present Prime Minister would have the long-standing dispute settled by mutual arrangement and accommodation.

VERENIGING WHITES AT WORK

We have received a leaflet from a correspondent at Vereniging which is printed on one side in the English language and on the other in Africans and is said to be distributed broadcast in that town. The text of the leaflet is as follows —

EIGHT REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SHOP WHITE

1. To make the Union a White Man's Country.
2. To maintain the White Standard and keep intact the prestige of the White Races.
3. Because the European circulates money and is an asset to the Nation, whereas the Indian sends his money to India, and has no permanent interest in S. Africa.
4. The White Store-keeper finds employment for your children at standard rate of pay, whereas the Indian employs only Indians, & pays them the lowest rates of wages.
5. You may think you can talk to an Indian as an inferior, but when you buy from him you treat him as an equal.
6. You don't allow Indians to trade by your side in trades and professions, therefore why support them at the expense of White Traders?
7. If you want a job you don't ask an Indian for it as naturally it is beneath your dignity to work for him. Why not also make it beneath your dignity to buy from him?
8. If Asiatics are supported much longer we shall eventually come down to their level, and a white man cannot live on the same economic standard as an Asiatic.

THINK WHITE ACT WHITE. SHOP WHITE

According to the correspondent picketing of the Indian shops is also threatened.

INDIA AND INDIANS IN THE COLONIES

Svarajya (Madras) writes as follows.—

The position of Indians abroad is one of acute political and social subservience which has not improved with the make-believes of post-war state craft. All agitation for better status in this connection has in India been necessarily handicapped by distance and the accidents of the political situation. Even these, however, could not totally blunt the edge of national resentment at the degrading treatment meted out to Indians abroad. We are familiar with the widespread outbursts of protest and anger which like a conflagration have time and again lighted up the sensibilities of vast masses with rage and humiliation. Such demonstrations have, as was natural, welled up to the surface, in the wake of some perpetrated insult more outrageous and unbearable than its predecessors. About the real tenour of Indian opinion as regards the lot of our fellow-countrymen abroad there has never been any occasion for the slightest pretext of doubt. This sign of helotry wrought in the name of Empire has sunk deep into national consciousness and so intensely painful is its stigma that we can well afford to dispense with both propaganda and demonstration to keep intact the spirit of revolt against wrong. Already, we have an abundance of this spirit. The question is, how, under its inspiration the political consciousness of the people chafing under degrading restraints, can be led into a purposeful programme. The goal is clear; it is install the power of nationhood on a pedestal of such recognised worth that by itself it can protect Indian settlers overseas from insult and outrage in the same manner in which a Frenchman or an American is immune from them. But how have the champions overseas sought so far to relate this goal to the means of achieving it? We have before us for instance a definite suggestion from Mr. Polak. He wants Indians to shoulder the burden of the problem by sending abroad social workers and teachers. The suggestion visualises the urgency for a remedy. It is the proposal of a man whom contact with distress has whipped into a desire to be up and doing. But in political values, intense subjective emotion, although it constitutes the motor power of reform, does not by itself constitute the solution of a national problem, it has, in addition, to be related to the scheme of irksome impediments that forms for the time being, the reality to be faced. Considered in this light, Mr. Polak's suggestion, even if fully acted upon can only fructify into a minor alleviation of a major malady. And after all, the supply of workers that we have is not over-abundant, such as it is being fully absorbed by the demands of the internal national struggle. And the necessity for amelioration in the condition of Indians abroad is immense indeed covering as it does almost the whole of the Empire including Fiji, Malaya, Ceylon, Mauritius, Kenya and South Africa. It might seem superficially a counsel of indifference but the most direct approach to the correction of Indian status abroad is the consolidation of national power in India. Piecemeal constructivity can grapple with local economic derangements. But the Indian problem in the Colonies and the Dominions is not economic, it is racial. Its rectification can come only through an international readjustment of India's political position. That is why self-government is an essential condition precedent to the restoration of national self-respect abroad. Those who feel keenly the pain and ignominy of Indians in other parts of the Empire and the world should throw themselves into the movement for national political autonomy. That is the only way of taking rescue to our fellow countrymen over the seas.

BRITISH JUSTICE AND NATIVE RACES

In an article on British Justice and Native Races, contributed by John H. Harris to *The Contemporary Review*, it is stated—

Most experienced Colonial Administrators agree that there are three main essentials to safeguard in the administration of justice:—

(a) That judicial matters should be settled by judicial officers independent of the executive.

(b) That judicial officers should only be removable with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

(c) That in the administration of justice, penalties imposed for crimes should be inflicted without regard to race, creed or colour.

The writer also states that in the opinion of the native races who are subjects of the British Empire, British justice is the unquestioned benefit which they have received. And so he says,

The general public learns with something of a shock that the African dependencies have witnessed during the last few years grave departures from them, involving the deplorable consequences of an impaired faith in British justice.

It is clear that the time has come for the people of certain territories, with or without the assistance of the Home authorities, to put an end to shocking cases of sheer ruffianism which defame the fair reputation of the British Administration. The procedure cannot be defended under which it is possible to flog natives to death, and then by the process of calling it "Hurt" inflict penalties only applicable to assault—even "simple hurt," instead of murder.

The Nigerian system which denies to prisoners the right to engage Counsel to defend them has now had a fair trial during the five years of its operations, and the House of Commons awakened with somewhat a shock to the fact, first brought to the notice of Members by Mr. Sidney Webb, that under its operations twenty people, including apparently two women, had been sentenced to death and eighteen of them hanged in public without a single of them being either tried by Jury or defended by Counsel.

According to Mr. Thomas the following executions took place in Nigeria, without any of the accused being allowed the assistance of Counsel:—

1920	107
1921	97
1922	87
1923	90

That is, 381 persons were executed in four years not one of whom had professional assistance in preparing any defence, this total of executions among 17 millions of people is, of course, far in excess of executions in the British Isles with a population exceeding 40 millions.

In the most recent case of flogging to death, the victims received lashing far in excess of physical endurance. It will be remembered that under the German Administration of East Africa, not more than twenty-five strokes should be administered in one day. In Nigeria the legislative limit is twelve strokes. Those who have been compelled to witness the flogging of Africans will agree that by the time twenty-five lashes have been given by hide-whips or reins on the bare flesh the victim is, in most cases, unconscious. Mr. Justice Krause, a South African Magistrate, recently refused to allow more than four lashes, because he declared, "the physical pain inflicted by six or eight lashes is as much as the human frame can bear." In the Watts-Betschart case, in Kenya, the flogging was repeatedly administered alternately with "ducking" in the river, until the victim was inert, whether he had actually died before being spread-eagled, or before being burned, appears to be open to some doubt. In this case the two accused were convicted by the judicial process peculiar to Kenya, of "Simple Hurt" only one of the accused being "bound over" and the other

fined 1,000 rupees. The Magistrate declared, "I have never heard of such brutality in all my experience," and both the Governor of the Colony and Lord Milner expressed regret at the result of the trial.

The remarkable manner in which these charges of homicide are reduced to varying degrees of "Hurt" is best illustrated by the most recent case, of which details are now available. The accused was Jaspar Abraham of Molo, and the native flogged to death was named Kitosh. The jury returned a verdict of "Grievous Hurt," and the Judge sentenced the accused to the appropriate penalty of two years' imprisonment. The flogging took place in June, 1923, and the trial only recently concluded. It was alleged that the man Kitosh had ridden a mare in foal, but the Assistant Superintendent of the Police stated that he examined the horse, but found no signs of injury. Kitosh was thrown on the ground and then flogged by Abraham until he was too "flogged" to continue; then he called three natives, one after another, to carry on the flogging. Kitosh was unconscious during the last flogging, but even then his sufferings were not ended, for upon recovering consciousness he was further ill-treated, then bound hand and foot with ropes. He died the following evening.

LETTER FROM MR. PILLAY

Mr. V. A. Pillay of Port Elizabeth who is at present touring India writes from Bombay:—

The R.M.S. *Walmer Castle* left Port Elizabeth on the 20th day of November bound for Natal. A number of Indian passengers from Capetown were also on board proceeding to Natal en route to India. A fair number also boarded the mail steamer from Port Elizabeth to join the R.M.S. *Karapara* which was due to sail from Durban on the 24th November for Bombay. Amongst the passengers on board the *Walmer Castle* were three Indian deportees who it is said had entered the Cape illegally and were being deported by the Immigration authorities at Capetown as prohibited immigrants. Owing to these three deportees, when the mail steamer anchored at East London, all the Indian passengers including those who were domiciled were refused to land!

A wireless telegram was immediately sent to the local Indian Association complaining about the matter but no reply was received and eventually the boat sailed away the Indian passengers having remained imprisoned on the vessel.

When we arrived in Durban on the 22nd of November an examination took place by the Immigration Officer on the boat and the passengers were called to the Immigration Office for further examination and on being set free after the ordeal they had an opportunity of seeing the town before sailing for India per *s.s. Karapara*.

When the steamer arrived at Zanzibar, the passengers had a lively time with the money exchangers who changed their notes and gold for high values. Many of us went ashore to visit the Sultan's land. Zanzibar is a Protectorate now under the protection of the British who have their finger in all matters. The Sultan is merely a figure head and his position is as humiliating as could be imagined.

On arrival in Mombassa and Mozambique, the same class of business was to be seen but there was a decrease in the exchange market for gold and notes.

The total number of passengers up to Mombassa were nearly five hundred, amongst whom were nearly 200 mules travelling with the passengers and there was naturally a fair supply of mosquitos and fleas. The ship also carried a large supply of Bullions, Cotton, Caju nuts etc. to Bombay.

Among the passengers there were four repatriates, one or more from the Transvaal also taken at Delagoa Bay; it was stated that they were given £10 each with document proving forfeiture of their claim in South Africa. One of the repatriates had to suffer semi-starvation and begged food from the fellow-passengers. An enquiry being made it was understood that the company received payment from the Government for only 3 persons at the rate of £2 each for food.

After some trouble by myself and others arrangements were made by the manager of the Hindu Hotel of the steamer and the poor man was fed until his arrival at Bombay. The unfortunate man also fell ill during the voyage and was removed to the ship's hospital in the meantime losing part of his cash obtained from the Government which he had in his possession.

Thus our voyage mixed with pleasure and pain came to an end when we arrived safely at Bombay.

The Indian National Congress session to be held at Belgaum is nearing and all preparations are being made. I approached the Congress Secretary, and have signed the pledges of the Congress and become a member of the executive. I shall in a day or two leave for Belgaum to attend the Congress. The various leaders are here on their way to Belgaum, among whom are Messrs. Polak, Dr. Besant and others.

Mahatma Gandhi arrived here this morning and will leave this afternoon for Belgaum. Prince Arthur of Counaght also arrived to-day on private business. I have had the pleasure of meeting Devi Sarajini Naidu at the Taj Mahal Hotel and had an interview with her on the South African Indian question.

Yours truly,

V. A. PILLAY.

Bombay, 18-12-24.

VERULAM YOUNG MOSLEM SOCIETY

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The seventh annual general meeting of the above society was held in the society's hall, 33, Wick Street, Verulam, on Monday the 12th instant. There were members and many others present.

The Secretary Mr. G. K. Kathrada, and Mr. E. A. Maither, Treasurer, submitted their annual reports which were confirmed.

In the course of his speech Mr. Kathrada said it was a very fortunate thing that the society had now its own hall, and at present they had even a public library opened daily from 5 to 9 p.m. There were books and newspapers for the public such as the 'Natal Mercury', the 'Latest', the 'Natal Advertiser', 'Indian Views', 'Indian Opinion', 'African Chronicle', 'Daily Mirror', (London), 'Islamic Review' (London), 'Bombay Chronicle', 'Gujarati', 'Kalafati', and many English, Gujarati, and Arabic books.

The following members were elected as office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

Mr. G. H. Maither, president; Mr. A. I. Kajee, vice-president; Messrs. I. A. Karodia & G. K. Kathrada, jt. secretaries; Messrs. E. A. Maither & E. A. Kajee, jt. treasurers; and Messrs. E. M. Paruk, I. F. Rawat, I. A. Maither, Amod Haffejee, and Amod Moosa, the managing committee.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and committee members.—Contributed.

In the Siskiyou Mountains of California forest rangers report the discovery of a tribe of Indians who communicate with one another only by whistling and who can talk to birds. says "The Popular Science Monthly."

News in Brief

While performing a gipsy dance at a party, Mrs. Mary Parfett (aged 31), of Relvedale, S.E., fell dead. Her death from heart disease was accelerated by heavy cigarette smoking. It was stated at the inquest at Camberwell that she had been an inveterate cigarette smoker since she was 14. She would smoke seven or eight packets a day.

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A Pantheon of a new kind is in process of formation in the British Museum. Instead of the bodies of the great dead, their voices are treasured.

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A most important meeting of members of the Native Affairs Commission will be held in the Chief Magistrate's Office on Monday, Feb 2, at 10 a.m., for the purpose of hearing any Europeans who are interested in the question of setting aside as Native areas under future legislation those areas suggested by the Natal Local Natives' Land Committee in its report of 1918.

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It is understood that the Australian Government has appointed a special representative, who will be attached to the office of the High Commissioner, for the purpose of carrying out the special duty of maintaining permanent contact with the British Cabinet, Foreign Office and Colonial Office. He will keep his Government informed daily of the principal political developments and will also place the views of the Australian Government before the British Government.

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The Amritsar Municipality rejected by a majority of votes a resolution for presenting an address to Mr. Gandhi during his recent visit to that city.

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During his recent tour in India with the object of studying the contemporary Indian mind Dr. F. A. Ross, Professor of Sociology in the University of Wisconsin (U.S.A.) in the course of an interview with a representative of the Associated Press of India is reported to have stated that he carried with him happy recollections of India and Indians and believed in a great future for India.

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One delightful impression he carried away was the keen interest in the faces of his student audiences and the searching quality of the after-questions. He was much struck with Mr. Gandhi's extreme simplicity and his sincerity of purpose.

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"Another impression," the Professor added, "is the Indian Sari, one of the most beautiful type of women's garbs I have met with in my travels in various parts of the world. I hope Indian women will never yield to the blunders of Western fashions."

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With regard to social conditions in India Professor Ross said that as a sociologist, the thing he most objected to was the early marriage of girls. The Professor felt that the advantages he derived by his tour in India would enable him to get into closer contact with the numerous Indian students in his University.

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