

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

MR. MANILAL GANDHI, who had been on a short visit to India, returned with Mrs. Gandhi and their little daughter by the R.M.S. *Karanja* last Wednesday. Mr. Manilal Gandhi will resume his editorial responsibilities of this journal from next week. During his absence the responsibility was held by Mr. P. K. Desai.

Mr. S. B. MEDH, ex-Secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, after seven months' stay in India, has returned to South Africa by the R.M.S. *Karanja*. He disembarked at Lourenco Marques last Monday and arrived by train at Johannesburg on Tuesday morning. During his visit to India Mr. Medh met many Indian leaders in connection with the situation arisen in the Transvaal as a result of the passing of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act.

THE working of the Asiatic Land Tenure Act in the Transvaal is making slow but sure progress. A municipal staff, it is learnt from a Johannesburg paper, is at present busy taking a census of the Asiatic and coloured residents of Johannesburg. The information thus gained will be forwarded to the commission appointed to report on the matter to the Minister. The object of the commission is to report to the Government which areas in Johannesburg should be exempt under the Act. The City Council has been asked to advise the commission which areas should be exempt and as a preliminary to that advice being forwarded it was considered necessary to take a census of the inhabitants, Asiatic and coloured in occupation in the different districts of Johannesburg. The census is expected to be completed by the end of next month. When it is completed the General Purposes Committee of the City Council will meet to consider what recommendations it is to make to the commission, of which Mr. Justice Feetham is the chairman, and which areas it considers are most suitable for coloured and Asiatic inhabitants. Presumably the Government will then declare the areas exempt accordingly.

WHILE progress is being made in the above direction the white people in the different parts of the Transvaal are alert in taking steps to prevent a single black man entering what they consider their sacred precincts. They are able to do so fearlessly because they have the vote in this country and the black man is voteless. Ratepayers of the North Central Ward, Pretoria, it appears, are protesting against the proposed letting of a house in Boom Street for the purpose of a Chinese club. A deputation waited upon the Mayor. It included several permanent residents of the ward and was headed by Mr. Saul Rulowitz, who is one of the representatives for north central on the Council. Mr. R. van der Merwe, who also represents north central, was present. The Mayor is the third representative for the ward in the Council. The Mayor was fully in sympathy with the aims of the deputation. The difficulty, however, was to ascertain what measures could be taken to prevent such a step. He suggested

that a deputation be sent to the Minister of the Interior to ascertain his views on the matter. The deputation, however, was more in favour of calling a public meeting to test the feeling of the public in general. The Mayor said that there was no doubt that the community as a whole was against the letting of premises in the European residential area to Chinese. It was ultimately decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Mayor for further consideration.

IN order to relieve unemployment of Indians in Natal the Government, it is learnt, has promised to the Durban Corporation a subsidy to the extent of half the wages of Indians employed, up to the number of 600, and has also expressed willingness to grant the same subsidy at Maritzburg. The maximum number is not stated. It has been suggested that a committee should be appointed with a Government representative as chairman, and comprising representatives from the Corporation, the Natal Indian Congress and such trade unions as have Indians as members, to select the men to be employed. The Government is now waiting for a scheme providing for Indian labour from the Durban Corporation without which, it is stated, nothing can be done.

A correspondent writes from Johannesburg:—

Cable news has been received from Dr. Ernest Llewelyn Godfrey, the only son of Dr. Williamson Godfrey, a well-known Johannesburg Indian medical practitioner and leader, and Mrs. Godfrey, a prominent social worker, that he has passed his degree of Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh). The young Dr. Godfrey has had a brilliant and distinctive career though he is only 26 years of age. He was educated at the George Watson College and entered the Edinburgh University in 1924 and qualified for M.B. Ch.B. with distinctions. He was the recipient of the Carlisle Aitken Scholarship in anatomy and Physiology, junior and senior medals in Anatomy, Cunningham medal and prize in anatomy, special prize in botany and midwifery, prize in practical surgery and eyes, ear, nose and throat, Vano-Dunlop Scholarship in anatomy, Scots prize in midwifery and surgical anatomy. After this he took his Diploma in Public Health (D.P.H.) with honours. He has also been appointed as a lecturer and demonstrator at the Edinburgh University and is at present qualifying in radiology. Further he has been raised to the position of Right Worshipful Master of his Masonic Lodge 160 (Roman Eagle) Edinburgh. It will not be an exaggeration when it is said that he is the youngest reigning Master in Great Britain. It is an example well worth following by others. It is noteworthy that he is a possessor of exceptional brain, a hard worker and obedient to his parents. It might be added here that though there is so much talk of the race problems in South Africa and Dr. Godfrey being an Indian, yet he has the widest

practice in Johannesburg especially amongst the Europeans. He is famous for his kindness to the poor and is held in high esteem by all.

A message from London states:—Steps of the gravest importance impending in Egypt were outlined by Sidky Pasha, Prime Minister, to the special correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, Mr. G. Ward Price. Renewed discussions are to take place between the British and Egyptian Governments regarding questions left in abeyance since the 1922 declaration recognising Egypt's independence. Egypt proposes that British troops in Cairo and Alexandria should be withdrawn to the Suez Canal, but the British residents express fears that British lives and interests in Egypt would thereby be jeopardised. The *Daily Mail*, in a leading article, calls for a firm stand by the British Government, and says Great Britain has vital interests in Egypt which the British people cannot for a moment allow to be imperilled by weakness at this critical hour.

The Agent At The Rotary Club

In an address to the Johannesburg Rotary Club on "Some Aspects of the Indian Problem in India and South Africa," Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, Agent-General for India, is reported to have said, "the Indian in this country is not an alien. He is a British subject, and surely has the claim to be treated as such."

"My people," said the Kunwar, "are not entitled to purchase land or hold property. They can only reside in portions of the towns by sufferance. They have been frankly told they are an alien people.

"You, as Rotarians, I humbly suggest, cannot agree with that. I look upon those persons as aliens who have forced their way into the country against your wishes and without your consent. But Indians have been brought here by invitation of your Government."

Continuing, the Kunwar said about 80 per cent. of the Indian population in South Africa were born here. The Indian community formed less than 1½ per cent. of the population of the Transvaal. Some were waiters, some domestic servants. With the exception of trade, however, there were few openings for them. In Natal they could be farmers or artisans, but in the Transvaal no such openings exist. Yet, despite that, the volume of trade in the hands of the Indian in Johannesburg was infinitesimal.

Economic Jealousy

"Economic jealousy is inevitable," the Kunwar said. "But if the Indian was hated you could expel him by boycotting his shops. Hundreds of Englishmen and Dutchmen go to Indian shops. There must be reason. The Indian is courteous and obliging—sometimes too obliging by giving too long credit. If there was any real feeling there would not be any Indian traders in this country.

"The way I ask you to look upon this problem is this: there is no nation in this world of which you can say that the whole of that nation is ahead of every person of another nation. I can't believe that every South African is in advance of every Indian in South Africa.

"I have never heard an Indian say he would like to dominate your policy. All we ask is that we be entitled to the same privileges as you; that you stand up and help us to carry out more speedily that Capetown agreement which was passed and approved by your Government and mine in 1927, and as a result of which the great Mr. Sastri came here.

"Do you know that we have not got a high school in Johannesburg, that we have no separate school for girls. You can help us by teaching public opinion to help us in matters like these.

"The Indian people are a most grateful people. If

they are wrong I should be the first to criticise. But I ask of you to display towards us all reasonable sympathy, justice and toleration; and, believe me, we will render good assistance to the Government and people of this country."

Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh Speaks To Jewish Audience

An appeal to the Jewish community to regard sympathetically the difficulties of the Indians in South Africa was made by the Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, Agent-General for India in the Union, in the course of a most interesting address on "Present and Future India," before the Jewish Guild Literary Society, says the *Star* (Johannesburg.)

"It is enormously to the benefit of both your country and mine that they should be on friendly terms with each other," he said. "I do not think I can honestly say that at the present moment the relations are as cordial as they might or should be—you know the reasons, it is useless to reiterate them. It is my duty to promote goodwill between your people and mine. Some people say it is an impossible task; it is certainly an extremely difficult one. But I am an optimist, and I have seen so many changes that I should never have dreamed of, that I do believe that in time, steadily if slowly, there will be an increasing interest in my country and its problems, and an attempt to appreciate the position of my countrymen here."

The Kunwar appealed to his Jewish audience as having a special affinity with the people of India. For centuries Jews had met with nothing but toleration in India, their religion had much in common; their language, alphabets and customs were allied; and both their civilisations were extremely old.

"Having said all this, I ask you confidently to extend to Indians here a similar tolerance to that shown to Jews in India," he added. "It is with these eyes of sympathy that I want you to regard the Indian problem; if it is a problem, with 18,000 Indians in a province with a population of 1,600,000 people—1½ per cent.! Can 1½ per cent. of the population, even if they are Jews or Indians, create a problem?"

India's Future

The Kunwar gave an account of the situation in India, and expressed the belief that within perhaps 10 or 15 years India would be a self-governing Dominion, having more or less the same status as South Africa.

"If you asked me 20 years ago whether this was possible, I would have said you were mad. But the world has changed enormously and progressed greatly since the Great War, and many schemes which were chimeras 20 years ago are now established facts, or likely to become so."

One of the most interesting struggles in the India of the future would be between the democracy and the provincial governments in British India and the autocracy of the India of the princes. Two systems could not exist side by side for any length of time without influencing each other, and the question was which would win? In spite of the tendency away from democracy in Western countries, he thought that at first, at any rate, the Indian States would tend to conform with the democracy of their neighbours and give greater power to legislative councils.

The Kunwar traced the progress under British rule towards responsible government and said there was not the slightest doubt that great advances would be made in the next year or two. The popularly elected governments in the provinces would have full powers, but the central government was a more difficult problem. There were 500

Indian States in the country, covering a third of India, which were not subject to Britain at all, and the problem was how to deal with them? The princes, sensitive of any diminution of their authority, were the sole survivors of the system of despotism. How was their autocracy to be fitted into the rapidly-advancing democracy of the rest of India? He thought the princes would be allowed complete internal freedom; but certain federal subjects would be dealt with by a central government representative both of the princes and British India—subjects like railways, telegraphs, air services, foreign affairs, coinage and the Army. The rate of Indianisation of the Army would be accelerated, and it was quite possible that the Army would be split into two, one portion for internal defence, controlled by the future Government of India, and the other for external defence, controlled by the British Government.

Curse Of Nationalism

A vote of thanks was proposed by Colonel Deneys Reits, M.P., who, in the course of his remarks, said that nationalism was the curse of the world to-day, and at a time when internationalism should be making progress it had reared its ugly head everywhere. He knew the Agent's path would not be one of roses, but there could be no two views about the necessity for treating with justice the Indians established in South Africa. He assured the Kunwar that there were more sympathisers than he thought.

The motion was seconded by Mr. H. Hillman. Mr. J. H. Barnett, the president of the Jewish Guild, presided.

Lydenburg Nationalists

Cry Against "Asiatic Menace"

Resolutions from the divisional committee of the Nationalist Party at Lydenburg upon the subject of the "Asiatic menace" will be among the matters considered by the executive committee of the Municipal Association of the Transvaal at a meeting to be held in Johannesburg on January 21, says *The Star*, Johannesburg.

The resolutions were forwarded to the association by the town clerk of Lydenburg to whom they had been sent in the first instance, with the following letter from the Nationalist Party committee:—I am enclosing copies of two resolutions passed by the divisional committee of the Nationalist Party with the request that similar resolutions with necessary amendments be passed by your council and forwarded to the Minister of the Interior. The Chamber of Commerce, the South African Party, Vroue Federasie and other public bodies have also been requested to pass similar resolutions. Should your Council agree to this, which undoubtedly they will, I am to request that other municipal councils be asked to come into line. I am of opinion that the Press should not be notified of these resolutions as it would lead to a counter petition on the part of the Asiatics.

The Resolutions

The resolutions mentioned above are as follows:—

"In view of the Asiatic menace in our country and the possibility of the social intercourse between Europeans and Asiatics culminating in degeneration, this constituency of Lydenburg, Transvaal, resolves that the Government be requested at the next session of Parliament to pass legislation whereby the provisions of the Immorality Act No. 5. of 1927, shall be applicable also to Asiatics, and marriages between Europeans and Asiatics shall be illegal and be punishable by law. This constituency further resolves that these representations be forwarded to the Minister of the Interior.

"In view of the serious increase in trading licences issued to Asiatics in the Transvaal province, to the

utter ruination of European business men, and taking into consideration the fact that an Asiatic always has the advantage of an appeal should a trading licence be refused by the local authority concerned, and that in the domain of trade the doors will be closed for good to all youths in the Transvaal if the issue of new trading licences cannot be immediately restricted by law, this committee resolves that the Government be respectfully requested at the next session of Parliament to remove the anomalies in the existing legislation in respect of the issue of trading licences by the deletion of sub-section 2 section 9 of Act No. 85 of 1932, or by bringing the said section into conformity with section 12 (5) of Ordinance No. 3. of 1932, Transvaal."

The Lydenburg Town Council took no resolution on the matter, considering that it could be better considered by the Municipal Association.

Costs Of An Appeal

The association will also be requested to consider whether other municipalities affected should be asked to contribute to the cost of an appeal by the Roodepoort-Maraiburg municipality in the case against the Eastern Properties (Pty.), Ltd., for the ejection of Asiatics and coloured persons from certain stands in Roodepoort. The matter is stated to be of vital importance to many Transvaal municipalities, more especially on the Reef.

Egypt's Tributes To Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhiji was the recipient of two messages from Egypt during his fast. These and his replies are reproduced below from the "Free Press Journal":

Begum Zaghul's Telegram

"To Mahatma Gandhi,
Yervada Prison, Poona.

Mahatmaji,

The Egyptian nation which was watching with keen interest and with deep attachment of love and brotherhood the progress of that movement undertaken by you, the idol of the whole of the East, for the liberation of the country, is to-day watching with perplexed heart and faded face your awful and fierce determination to sacrifice your precious life for the sake of the unity of India.

To the delight of my lamented husband I participated in his successful attempt to settle once for all the communal differences between the Muslims and the Coptics which stood in the way for the liberation of Egypt and which finally resulted in achieving lasting unity and brotherhood among the two warring sections of the people. With sincerity of the heart I earnestly pray that all the different communities of India should immediately unite together so that India may attain salvation, and the life of the greatest and noblest Indian may thus be saved. As your precious life has now become international property not of the East but of the whole world, so that noble life must be saved at any cost."

Mahatma's Reply

Mahatma Gandhi sent the following reply to Begum Zaghul:—

"I am extremely thankful to you for your soul-encouraging and charming telegram. The Will of God be done."

Nahas Pasha's Telegram

Nahas Pasha, an ex-premier of Egypt sent the following cable to Mahatmaji.

"Dear Mahatmaji,

Your sincere and heart-ennobling determination to the effect that for maintaining the Indian solidarity in fact you should sacrifice your valuable life, has captivated the hearts of the Egyptian people. The Egyptian nation

before its present national awakening, passed through the same amount of difficulties and sacrifices through which India is now passing and which has linked the destiny of Egypt with the destiny of India equally.

The Egyptian nation, whose ardent love of the country has united them in settling the communal differences and closing up their ranks, sincerely hopes that to save the priceless life of Mahatmaji the various Indian communities should instantly unite and adjust the communal quarrels. All the Eastern nations which are still fighting for the liberty of their countries fondly hope to see the consummation of that ideal for which Mahatmaji is ready to lay down his life.

O Mahatmaji! On behalf of Egypt and on behalf of the Egyptian nation, I sincerely offer our greetings of love and brotherhood to you in your hour of penance with the hope that your struggle for truth, independence and equality may be crowned with abiding success for which we live and we shall die in the end."

Mahatma's Reply

Mahatma Gandhi sent the following reply to Nahas Pasha:—

"Your telegram has produced much influence upon my heart. I pray to God that my present fast may touch the hearts of all and bless us all, with the wealth of lasting communal unity and peace which I cherish so dearly in my heart. During these days of fast I am using that Egyptian Shawl which was so graciously presented to me as a token of love and affection on the occasion of my last travel on the shores of Egypt. I completely rely and depend upon God, the Most Merciful."

Missions And The Colour Bar

Dean Palmer's Address

Speaking on "Missions" at the fourth meeting of universal prayer week held recently at the Y.M.C.A., the Very Rev. W. A. Palmer, Dean of Johannesburg, said they might indeed give thanks to God for the progress that had been made in missionary work during the past years. An increasing influence was being felt of the work of men and women who gave their lives to this great task. There was a time when missionaries were looked upon as "mischievous meddlers," but their policy and wise force of the past was bearing its influence to-day in this world and others. "There cannot be any church so poor," he said, "that its members cannot look back on those wise master builders who lived and gave in the cause of missions."

But, said the Dean, after living in Johannesburg for nine years, he was made to blush with shame at the poverty of their own Christianity and that which they were settling forth before the heathen in a town like this. He referred to the spectacle of native boys who could read carrying about certain types of placard. When they saw that they knew what was going on in the underworld not very far from that hall.

Speaking on the colour bar, he said it was forcibly brought home to him that night because it was 29 years ago that he spent his first night on St. Helena as a missionary. One could not hold oneself guiltless of the colour bar. Either the colour bar was going to smash the Christian church in this country or the Christian church was going to smash the colour bar. He did not care in what shape the colour bar showed itself the Christian church had to fight it and back up the fight with prayer.

He had noticed a secular drift in their native colleges and schools, which were working with too crowded a curriculum. The consequence was that some of those working in the colleges were not even missionaries in name. Others, he admitted, were

missionaries in every sense of the word. Education without Christianity was about the most harmful thing he knew of. Colleges could either turn out clever men and women or clever devils. He directed their minds upon different forms of prayer.
—*The Star*.

Indians And Hawkers' Licences

An Indian correspondent writes as follows to the *Star* (Johannesburg):—

Sir,—The report published in the *Star* that the Town Council of Springs has refused to renew the hawkers' licences to Indians—while the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission has only started its work—will come as a shock not only to the Indian community, but also to the Government which has suspended the enforcement of the Act until the findings of the Commission are published in 1934.

This action of the Springs Town Council is in contravention of the decision of the Government and is a rude challenge to its authority. The licences have been refused because the applicants are Indians. This is a sheer injustice and it would be the duty of the Government to see that justice is meted out to the victims of the Springs Town Council's unjust attitude. Such unfair and extraordinary actions on the part of the municipalities in the Transvaal have been seriously condemned by eminent judges. In the present case, it was understood that the municipalities had not to refuse the licences as long as each individual case was investigated by the Land Tenure Commission and before its report was published. Consequently, the Government is in duty bound to intimate to the Springs Town Council that it must rescind its decision to refuse to renew the licences of the poor Indian hawkers.

On the other hand, it will be the duty of the Government of India and its Agent in the Union to press for the reversal of the anti-Indian trade policy of the Government, which is not only a breach of the Capetown Agreement of 1927, but is also an insult to the civilisation of India.

The Advance Of Indian Women

Mrs R. M. Gray's paper on the "Women of India" is published in the latest Number of the *Asiatic Review*. In it she says that advance made by Indian women has been remarkable not only in its extent and rapidity but also in the obstacles which it has overcome. "The emergence of Indian women into the open has been far more dramatic and startling," says Mrs. Gray, "than the advance made by Western women during the War." She continues:

"Some women's names have been much bruited on the lips of men, even outside India. Three women took an important part in shaping the new constitution for India at the Round Table Conference. Others have been Congress leaders and presidents of its War Councils. Mrs. Naidu, as poet and politician, is well known in Europe and America. Hundreds of women have gone to prison in pursuit of their nationalist ideals. Thousands have given up *purdah* and emerged from their homes in order to advocate social reforms such as the (Sarda) Child Marriage Restraint Act."

Though the advance has been rapid, yet it has not yet had time to produce many tangible results. What they have at present achieved, is summarised in the words of Mrs. Gray as follows:

"Women have organized in India in order to assert their equality with the men of other lands, not in order to achieve equality with the men of their own country. Since women in India are nearly always married, form in any case a minority of the population and do not

enter the professions or industry in large numbers, there is no economic and therefore no political rivalry between men and women. . . . In England political enfranchisement for women was with great difficulty achieved after sixty years of importunate demand. In India, it was given almost before women had realized that votes were worth having."

Thus the women's movement in India presents marked contrast with the women's movement in the West, purged of course of the latter's evil consequences.—*The Indian Review*.

Mr. Sastri On Constitutional Safeguards

Interviewed by the *Hindu* on the progress of the Round Table discussions, the Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri is reported to have stated:—

I am unable to share the favourable view which our friends in London seem to take of the statement of the British Government's delegation. Perhaps the cabled reports do our friends wrong. No doubt, the statement is couched in conciliatory terms, but the substance requires careful scrutiny.

To make the new constitution acceptable to advanced opinion in this country, it must contain as few subtractions as possible from Dominion Status. Every reservation or safeguard is such a subtraction.

Emphasis is laid on the commonsense and goodwill with which exceptional powers would be used by those in whom they are vested. We are entitled on our side to assume that our future Legislatures and the Ministers responsible to them will have at their command a similar fund of commonsense and goodwill. What these did when they had no ultimate responsibility is no guide to what they will do when they are answerable for their country's welfare and prosperity. When Lord Reading assumes, for the sake of argument, that responsible Ministers may refuse to levy taxation and leave the treasury empty, he is asking us to provide against their taking final leave of commonsense and against a contingency, which is scarcely distinguishable from a breakdown of the constitution.

Certain Fundamental Principles

A safeguard is an arrangement by which the precipitate or unwise action of one arm of the government may be corrected by the action of another arm, or by the requirement that more than an ordinary majority would be necessary, or by a second affirmation after the lapse of a certain period. Expedients like these have the merit that they are strictly within the constitution and do not look to an outside agency for their being put in operation. It would be necessary to institute an extra-constitutional safeguard only if it were made clear that a constitutional one was not feasible. Even in the case of a reserved or excluded subject like the Army, our plea has been that large spheres of activity could be transferred without any risk and that only the more vital aspects like finance, discipline or disposition need be reserved.

If these principles be borne in mind it is possible that the resulting constitution could be described as a close approximation to Dominion status. I will now mention a few particulars which appear to violate one or other of these principles. Let me acknowledge fully that, in most other respects, the

British delegation's statement is actuated by a desire to meet the Indian viewpoint.

The reserved subjects are, Defence, Foreign relations, Paramountcy and Ecclesiastical. The heads under which safeguards are inserted are, Finance, Commercial Discrimination, Minorities, Services, States, Inter-Imperial relations and Emergencies. In each case under the latter category as well as in the former category, special powers are proposed for the Governor-General and Governors. The sum of these powers, in my humble judgment, makes an enormous inroad on Dominion status.

For the safety of Indian credit and financial stability it should be sufficient to require the Finance Minister to be guided generally by the advice of a non-political expert body. Where he was headstrong the Governor-General might be empowered to require him to conform to such advice. In strict constitutional theory every exercise by the Governor-General of his special power is liable to control by the Imperial authorities in London and therefore also to the suspicion that it was actually dictated from Whitehall. To ward off such a suspicion I suggested, (and I have reason to believe that Lord Reading agreed), that the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor-General should contain a clause that it was British policy that every exercise of special power should be in the interests of India, and the interests of India alone.

Commercial Discrimination

Commercial discrimination is a source of difficulty. In 1930—after much negotiation—we hit upon a treaty of reciprocity between Britain and India as the best solution, and it was adopted by the Federal Structure Committee on the recommendation of Lord Reading himself. Next year, however, the European community changed their mind and demanded that their economic interests should be secured by express provisions in the constitution. The idea apparently is that these provisions should be invoked, whenever necessary and exercised by the Governor-General under a special power. I objected to this demand and still object. I would revert to the 1930 proposal. If this be not feasible, I would provide for the British commercial community of having a power of appeal to the Federal Judicial Tribunal. It is in contemplation to endow this tribunal with jurisdiction in disputes arising out of the working of the constitution. That would prevent the intervention of any authority outside India.

The same observation applies to the Minorities. It is dangerous to lead them to expect that a *deus ex machina* will come to their protection every time they fancy themselves oppressed. They will not settle down on terms of amity and contentment so long as such extra-constitutional protection is afforded them.

Next as to the Services. The men now actually employed may have in the future all the privileges that they now enjoy, but all future entrants must be completely under the Government of India. I believe this idea was embodied in the report of the Services Sub-committee of 1930.

Under the heading of States, a curious provision is proposed. When two neighbouring units of Federation molest each other it would appear only the Governor-General can remedy the situation by using his special power. We should like to ask what the Federal Government is for, if it cannot keep the peace within its borders in regular constitutional style. Could it really be contemplated to bring into existence such a *deus ex machina* institution?

Inter-Imperial Relations

I must be allowed a word upon the safeguard proposed under Inter-Imperial relations. I appreciate the anxiety that Sir Samuel Hoare and his colleagues manifest to treat Indian susceptibilities with tenderness. May we hope that in the event no provision will be made which will enable the India Office to address the Government of India in a tone markedly different from the tone which the Colonial Office adopts towards the Dominions and Colonies of the Empire? We cannot any longer have a Viceroy like Lord Hardinge or like Lord Reading called to order. Nor should the Secretary of State interpose his veto as Lord Peel did when the Legislative Assembly tried in 1923, within its limited scope, to resent the policy of the Kenya White Paper. If the India Government is to have a place of honour in the Empire, other Governments should not be encouraged to believe that in the last resort the India Office could be got to stab the Viceroy and put the people of India in their place.

Certification And Ordinance

Nationalist spokesmen of India have, during the discussions of the Round Table Conference, emphatically condemned Government by certification and ordinance. One is taken aback to find that not only are these methods to continue but they are to be extended. Though it is not expressly stated in the summary cabled to India, it is gatherable that Governors are to be empowered in future to issue ordinances for the space of six months—a power which hitherto has only been entrusted to the Governor-General. The word certification does not occur in the summary. But the thing itself is there, and no mistake. Given commonsense and goodwill on the Indian as well as on the British side, I venture to think that it should be sufficient to give the Governor-General and Governors the constitutional veto and the power in defined circumstances of interposing in the executive sphere. When there is a breakdown of the constitution the Governor-General should be placed in an unassailable position, to do all that may be necessary to restore working conditions. Otherwise stronger proof than has been advanced would be necessary for the proposition that the Governor-General and Governors cannot do without actual legislative power. Even the outbreak of civil disobedience should be well within the control of a responsible Government aspiring for early Dominionhood and stabilised by a large infusion of the representatives of the Princely Order.

India Council Must Go

With every wish not to be irrelevant I cannot forbear to add a suggestion which bears intimately on the matters under discussion: The Council of the Secretary of State for India must go. Its continuance, even in an attenuated form, will be a menace to the free play of the federal constitution of India and cannot but be regarded as a hindrance in its march towards its appointed destiny, namely, an equal Dominion in the Commonwealth of Britain.

Garlick—the very best quality garlic at 3½d per lb. Delivery free from Brandfort Station. Apply to G. F. Frind, Platkop, P. O. Brandfort.

Unity Committee Decisions

(Continued from last week)

10 Bengal

1. There shall be joint electorate with reservation of seats.
2. The Muslims will get 51 per cent. of the seats and the Hindus and others included in the general electorate will get 44.7 per cent., including in both cases seats for special constituencies.
3. All reservations of seats and all special constituencies will cease automatically after ten years.
4. A Committee should be appointed to obtain the additional seats and adjust the claims of the Muslims and the Hindus and others in regard to the agreed ratio of their representation in the Bengal Council and to settle any other matter connected therewith, as required in clauses 1 and 2.
5. Joint electorates will be acceptable to the Mussalmans of Bengal only when they get 51 per cent. representation in the whole house.
6. Both the communities will work together for the immediate establishment of full responsible government both at the centre and in the provinces.
7. When reservation of seats ceases there should be adult suffrage.
8. All the above clauses stand together.

11 The Punjab

It is agreed that in the Punjab the following arrangement shall be in force for ten years only from the commencement of its operation:—

1. The ministry of the province shall include at least one Sikh and one Hindu member.
2. The ministry shall be jointly responsible to the legislature.
3. (a) Any legislative measure or administrative policy undertaken by the ministry to which objection is taken in the Council by more than 2 of the members belonging to all the minority communities on the ground that the policy or measure is discriminatory or that it injuriously affects particular interests of any of the minority communities shall, if the ministry accepts the objection as valid, be withdrawn. If the ministry does not admit that the measure or policy is of such a character a reference shall be made by the ministry to a special tribunal appointed for the purpose by the Central Government consisting of three Indian judges, no two of whom shall belong to the same community and one shall belong to the aggrieved community, and their opinion which shall be given within a month of the reference shall decide the question and be binding on the Provincial Government.

In case the ministry refuses to abide by it, it shall be bound to resign.

(b) Any legislative measure of the same character as described above initiated by any non-official member, if objected to as above, shall be subject to the same procedure as above, *mutatis mutandis*.

(c) It is agreed that the safeguard mentioned above shall apply to the U.P., Bihar and Orissa and Bombay.

4. The seats in the Legislative Council including those for special constituencies shall be reserved as follows:—

	per cent.
For Muslims ...	51
For Sikhs ...	20
For Hindus ...	27
For Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans ...	2

It is proposed that the seats for the Council should be raised to 200 (from 175 as fixed in the Premies decision). But whatever the number that may be finally fixed, the percentage of the seats of the different communities shall be maintained as has been stated above.

5. All the above clauses shall be interdependent.

12 Sind

I. It is agreed that Sind be constituted into a separate province enjoying the same measure of autonomy as other major provinces of British India with safeguards for minorities similar to those agreed to in the case of some other provinces, namely,

(1) that the ministry of the province will be jointly responsible to the legislature and shall include at least one Hindu minister;

(2) that measures of the character described in para. 3 of the Punjab formula be subject to the procedure described therein;

(3) (a) There shall be equality of franchise qualifications for both Hindus and Muslims in rural as well as in urban constituencies.

(b) After ten years, consistently with the principle embodied in (1), an effort should be made to reflect the population of the two communities in the electorate as far as possible.

(c) There shall be joint electorates with reservation of 37 per cent. of the total seats (including the special constituencies) for the Hindus in the local legislature:

Provided that after 10 years, if the Hindus so desire, the reservation of seats for the Hindus shall be on the population basis, but they shall have, in addition, the right to contest further seats.

(d) There shall be joint electorates in the local bodies or any representative body constituted by a statute and no reservation in favour of the majority community except as a result of any demand from the minority community for reservation on a population basis, the minority community and the majority community being determined in each local area according to population.

(e) The recruitment to Public Services shall be made by an impartial Public Services Commission, of which at least one-third shall be Hindus and 60 per cent. of the posts shall be filled by open competition on the basis of merit alone, 40 per cent. being reserved for redressing communal inequalities. And in filling up appointments, the Public Services Commission shall give preference to Sindhis and domiciled Sindhis.

(f) There shall be no discriminatory legislation or taxation and none shall be prejudiced merely by reason of his caste, creed or tribe in acquiring or enjoying civic and economic rights, including the right of owning, purchasing or disposing of landed estates in the open market and the freedom of choice of any profession or calling.

This will not affect any existing law in force in Sind.

Sir Shah Nawaz Bhittoo and Prof. H. L. Chahliani be requested to recommend consistently with the principle enunciated above a definition of an agriculturist for any legislation which may be undertaken for the protection of agriculturists and their decision be accepted.

(g) The Judiciary shall be independent of the Executive by separating the Executive from the Judiciary.

(h) There shall be a Chief Court or High Court in Sind.

II. This agreement as to the separation of Sind is an integral part of the communal settlement concerning the whole of India and shall be deemed inoperative in case for any reason the settlement as a whole does not come into operation.

III. It is also agreed that a Conference of leaders of Sind be held before the end of this month to consider the question of appointment of a committee to investigate ways and means for making good the deficit as disclosed in the Brayne Report, and to consider the question of

placing the report of the Committee before the people as suggested by Professor Chahliani.

13 N. W. F. P.

The North West Frontier Province shall have the same form of Government and administration as the other provinces.

14 Baluchistan

This Conference is of opinion that the benefits of a regular constitutional system of administration should be extended to Baluchistan and the method of achieving the object would be considered hereafter.

15 All Parts Interdependent

It is agreed that the various parts of this settlement are interconnected and the entire settlement shall be regarded as one indivisible entity and shall be given effect to as a whole.

A Review

("KAMET CONQUERED" By F. S. SYNTHÉ)

Mountaineering has always had a magnetic attraction for the Englishman whose love and zest for adventure, no doubt, is innate. This is evidenced by the appearance of numerous volumes, annually, treating of attempts, successful or unsuccessful, to scale the loftiest peaks in existence. The story of 'Kamet Conquered,' in particular, is a thrilling and absorbing narrative.

Ten previous attempts at the conquest of Mt. Kamet, dating from 1885, had all met with unsuccess. Kamet, like its sister peak, Mt. Everest, had withstood the approach of man. In 1931, however, an entirely British expedition, under the leadership of F. S. Synthe, set out in a valiant endeavour to reduce obstinate Mt. Kamet to subjection.

Mt. Kamet, 'the seat of the gods,' the source of the holy Ganges, towers 25,446 ft. above sea level. We need only scale 3000 ft. more to be standing on the roof of the world; Mt. Everest is 29,128 ft. high. This alone will give the reader some indication of the magnitude of the task which the party set out to accomplish. It is on account of the magnitude of the task as well as the knowledge of the expedition's previous failure to scale the heights of Kangchenjunga, that aroused so much scepticism as to the party's chances of success. But if the Kangchenjunga experiment was 'a glorious failure' the Kamet expedition may with truth be called a glorious success. Kamet had at last to lie low; to be tread on by the foot of man; never was man so near the gates of heaven.

It is the story of this thrilling venture, which last year evoked so much interest, that the leader of the party, F. S. Synthe, sets out to narrate.

The book, being untrue to type, has also high literary qualities. It is the work of a consummate artist and is executed with as much skill as must have been displayed in the conquest of Kamet itself. The felicity and imagery of the language is comparable only to the beauty and majesty of the snow-capped Himalaya, which the author portrays. Always thrilling and gripping, the story is never for a moment dull and insipid. Some fine plates in photographure add a sense of reality; while interspersed throughout the volume are a host of absorbing little anecdotes, which not without the usual touches of humour, considerably enhance the value of the book.

Ordinarily, a book of this type would prove of little interest to the general reader. 'Kamet Conquered', however, is an exception. The richness of the imagery and the sprightly manner in which it is written are well calculated to give its readers a few hours of intense enjoyment. All who can should read it.

'Kamet Conquered' is obtainable at the M. K. Gandhi Library.

G. SINGH.

Questions And Answers

(Contributed)

Q.—Who is the cultured man in South Africa to-day.

A.—The man that is conscious about the activities in South Africa to-day.

Q.—How does providence classify.

A.—Classification takes place according to career and not colour.

Q.—Do you know eminent coloured people in Bible history.

A.—Yes. The queen of Sheba and the Egyptians who ruled the Israelites.

In The Magistrate's Court

District Of Durban Held At Durban

Case No. 16339 of 1932.

Between RAMRAJA,—Plaintiff and SEWNUNDUN,
—Defendant.

It is ordered that the Defendant restore conjugal rights to the Plaintiff within one month from the date of service of this Order, failing which Plaintiff be at liberty to apply for a decree of divorce, dissolution of community of property and costs of suit.

Service of this Order be effected by publication in one issue of the *Natal Mercury* and one issue of the *Indian Opinion* and by personal service of a true copy thereof upon Defendant's mother Sookia of Springfield, in the District of Durban.

Dated at Durban this 9th day of January, 1933.

(Sgd.) S. MAYNARD PAGE,
Magistrate.

W. T. Clark & Son,
Plaintiff's Attorneys,
Masonic Grove, Durban.

Notice

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