

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

WE publish in this issue the concluding portion of the case submitted by the Roodepoort-Maraisburg Municipality before the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission. The Municipality has asked the Commission not to grant any exemptions in favour of Asiatics or coloured persons within the Townships of Roodepoort and Maraisburg and has undertaken to establish Asiatic Bazaars outside the Townships. The Municipality further asks that the number of trading licences in such Bazaars should be restricted to the number at present existing within the Townships, and claims that "no hardships that the removal may entail is to be compared with the hardships that have been suffered and are being suffered by the European standholders of Roodepoort and Maraisburg owing to the illegal occupation of stands by Asiatics and coloured persons." The hardship suffered by Asiatics will be in the shape of material loss while that suffered by Europeans is from the mental strain caused by a false pride of race superiority. The Commission will have to judge which of the two is the greater hardship.

SHOULD the Commission, however, recommend that certain stands in the Township be exempted, the alternative suggested by the Roodepoort-Maraisburg Municipality is:

- (1) That the premises and staff employed in such existing businesses shall not be expanded or enlarged.
- (2) That where businesses are being carried on in partnership no change in the personnel of the business shall be permitted except in the case of death of one of the partners, when the surviving partner or partners shall be allowed to carry on the business.
- (3) That no transfers of such businesses or new licences shall be permitted.

In short the Municipality will condescend under pressure to suffer them until they die a natural death. How very generous!

In the course of his recent speech at the Pietersburg branch of the South African Party, Mr. O. Pirow (Minister of Justice) touching on the Native question is reported to have said: "We shall continue to assist and encourage the Natives, but I say this, I don't think any Government in South Africa will ever depart from the principle—white civilisation first." If white civilisation permits brutality towards the black community then it is not much of a civilisation.

A Reuter's message from London states:—

"Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for India, questioned in the House of Commons concerning the proposed alteration to the South African Immigration Laws, said he had seen a copy of the Bill, which apparently did not affect the position of Indians."

The Bill mentioned above was referred to in our issue of February 10. Apart from repealing the sections of the Indian Immigration Law, 1891 (Natal)

referring to the age of contracting parties of the Indian immigrants and their descendants—which is a desirable alteration—the Bill does not in any way affect the position of Indians. But apparently no question was asked the Secretary of States for India when the Immigration Amendment Acts of 1927 and 1931 were passed by the Union Parliament which Acts very vitally affect the rights of domiciled Indians and all the protests on the part of the Indian community have been fruitless. A reply to that from Sir Samuel Hoare would have been interesting.

MR. D. U. Mistry, B.A., Bar-at-Law, who recently arrived in Johannesburg after completing his studies in England and who has just gone through the necessary examinations to qualify him to practise as an advocate in the Transvaal has arrived in Durban and is proceeding on a short visit to India by the Indian boat next Monday. Mr. Mistry who comes for the first time to Durban was accorded a hearty welcome at a function held in his honour by the Surat Hindu Association last Tuesday evening. We heartily join in welcoming Mr. Mistry and in bidding him farewell at the same time we wish him a very pleasant voyage and a safe return.

COLONIAL-BORN INDIANS

IN our last week's issue we published a report of a mass meeting of the Transvaal Colonial-Born Indian Association held in Johannesburg. The Association passed resolutions claiming to represent eighty per cent. of the Indian community in the Transvaal, reiterating their strong protest against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act, disapproving of the action of the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association in connection with the Act and refusing to tender any evidence before the Commission appointed under the Act, as it "would be degrading and insulting to India's ancient culture and civilisation," which we take it to mean that to give evidence before a Commission which is appointed under the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act is to submit to the Act which is an insult to India's ancient culture and civilisation because it lays down the principle of compulsory segregation in law, thus according a status of inferiority to the Indian community. So far so good. But is there any sincerity behind these resolutions, and are the Colonial-born Indians going to be consistent? The president of the Association, we understand, is Dr. W. Godfrey. We have known Dr. Godfrey for many years. In his private capacity we have no axe to grind with him. He is a very sociable and hospitable gentleman. But when he enters into public life we regret to have to disagree with him. We will take only the last instance. When the Transvaal Indian Congress first met in

Johannesburg to protest against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act and to advise the people not to fill in the forms issued under the Act, Dr. Godfrey was reported to have made a vigorous speech denouncing the Act and to have torn up the forms and thrown them on the floor declaring that we can under no circumstances submit to such a humiliating legislation. Later when the South African Indian Congress met in Johannesburg to protest against the measure, while the Congress was still in session, the delegates were surprised to read in one of the local papers an account of an interview Dr. Godfrey had with the Agent of the Government of India. We cannot quote the exact words but the essence of what Dr. Godfrey wrote in a letter to the Press was that his views were changed after the interview with the Agent and that he would do everything in his power to assist the Agent in getting the forms filled in by Indians. We now find the Association of which Dr. Godfrey is the president denouncing once again the obnoxious Act and resolving not to have anything to do with the Act or the Commission appointed under it. Now where is the consistency?

We are not over-anxious to criticise our public workers but there are times when such criticism is inevitable. This criticism is offered in all sincerity and with the best interests of the community at heart.

We feel very seriously that the position of the Indian community in South Africa is growing from bad to worse. Every Indian with the slightest spark of self-respect in him must feel that his life in this country is gradually becoming a life of humiliation. So long as there was European public prejudice against us we felt it would one day die out by educating public opinion. But it is now beginning to take a statutory form and if Indians are going to acquiesce in that then they will have renounced their claim of being a self-respecting community. It is more a serious matter for the Colonial-born Indians than any others. The home-borns although they lacked in education either in their own vernacular or in English have lived for years in this country and materially made good their lives without the imposition of humiliating legislation on them. Future laws will not so much affect them for they are in a position to retire to their home land rather than suffer those humiliations. But what about the eighty per cent. of the Colonial-born Indians? All the future laws are going to affect them. Are they with all their claim of having adopted the western civilisation and of having become completely anglicised going to accept a lower status than their forefathers had notwithstanding the fact that the latter remained Indians to the core and without any education? If their present western mode of living and their English education does not *now* entitle them to a better status do they think it will ever in the future entitle them to it? What other qualifications are still wanting? We cannot think of any other but that of turning their brown complexion into white which they will never be able to do. It is for this reason a very serious problem for the Colonial-born Indians to consider. Mere passing of fiery resolutions will not do. If they really feel that the honour of India is at stake they must have a strong and influential organisation and they must be

prepared to sacrifice their whole beings to uphold that honour. If they have not that courage any other qualifications they may have are worth nothing.

Memorandum By Transvaal Indian Commercial Association

To The Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

Areas Suggested For Exemption

(Continued from last week)

(J.7.) CITY AND SUBURBAN

For convenience this can be divided into two portions:—

- (a) The portion South of Main Street.
- (b) The balance.

RE (A). The area is largely industrial, Engineering works, factories and other undertakings on a large scale predominate, such as warehouses agricultural implement show-rooms, builders yards, saw mills, foundries. There are very few residents in the neighbourhood and of these most are coloured although there a few Asiatics. The Association recommends that the whole of this area, except those Stands which are now occupied by factories, warehouses etc., should be exempted.

RE (b). In regard to the remainder of the Township, the Association requests the Commission to consider the individual cases granting exemption to particular stands where necessary.

(J.8.) JOHANNESBURG

For purposes of convenience this may be divided into three areas.

- (a) West of Sauer Street and the block Fraser, Sauer, Kerk and Pritchard Streets.
- (b) A small portion Harrison St. North of Plein St.
- (c) The balance of the Locality.

RE (A). This is a Locality in which Indians predominate. The dust of Newtown and Kazerne and the Conditions there render the Locality such that is not pleasant to Europeans. The area is not a residential area although there are a number of residents, The most central and important Indian Mosque is in the area and it needs extension to accommodate the worshippers. The Association asks for the exemption of this portion.

RE (B). There are about 10 Indian shops and residences. These face Kazerne and it is doubtful whether Europeans could carry on business in this area. The Association asks that this small portion should be exempted.

RE (C). There are a few individual cases in the balance of the Locality and the Association asks that these should be considered on their merits.

(J.9.) LA ROCHELLE

This is predominantly a European residential centre. It will be observed that the Chinese and Indians are more or less situated on the South side of La Rochelle, namely, in First Street and Johannesburg Road. There is more or less an island at this junction (Stands 1-18), and we ask for the exemption of the portion occupied by the Asiatics in this so-called island, and for individual consideration in individual cases. There are twenty-six Asiatics in the Township of La Rochelle.

(J.10.) OPHIRTON

The Township of Ophirton is composed of approximately 50% Europeans and 50% coloureds. The European population are mostly of the very

poor white type and in some cases it is difficult to determine whether the occupants are Europeans or coloured persons. There are a few European shops in this area and a number of factories. There are a large number of Asiatic traders in the Township employed in various classes of business, namely, draper, grocer, fruit and butcher shops. A few Indians reside in the Township. There are a number of Chinese grocer shops in the Township. It is difficult to mark on the plan exactly which stands are occupied by Europeans or coloured persons. There are a large number of shops which are vacant at the moment and enquiries elicited the fact that they were formerly occupied by Asiatics and that in view of the economic position, these Asiatics were compelled to close down. The area is far too small to carry a very large number of shops having regard to the class of inhabitants. An inspection of the Locality will show that the area is suitable for total exemption and we ask for the area to be exempted.

(J.11.) LAKE VIEW

There are no shops in this area. The population consists of approximately 50% Europeans of the very poor white type and approximately 50% coloured persons. It is adjacent to Ophirton and is served by Ophirton. Almost the same principles will apply to the exemption of this area as apply to Ophirton, and we ask for the exemption of this area.

(J.12.) NORTH DOORNFONTEIN

The population of North Doornfontein computed roughly consists of approximately 80% Coloured persons and 20% Europeans. There are four Indian and Chinese shops and residences. It is mostly a residential quarter and is unsuitable for the better class of trader. For example, traders who are at present in Jeppestown could not trade with the inhabitants of North Doornfontein, as their requirements are totally different. We ask for the exemption of this area and feel sure that an examination will confirm our request.

(J. 13 AND 13A.) JEPPESTOWN

There are in this area approximately 37 Indian shops, 25 Indian residences, 34 Indian shops and residences combined, 4 Chinese shops and residences combined. The majority of the Asiatics are on the west portion of Jeppestown (Blue Print 13) and they occupy the portion below the Railway line and just across the line in Commissioner and Marshall Streets. There are also a few Indian shops between Berg and Boom Streets on the bottom side of the Bark. Coloured persons are scattered on the outskirts of the Township. There are approximately 64 vacant shops in the Township. Should a further number of shops become vacant, the effect on the Township would be most serious. For instance, at the corner of Main and Albrecht Streets there are four shops built some 18 months ago which have not as yet had any occupants.

A request is now made by the Association for the total exemption of the blocks containing Stands 203 to 207 and Stands Nos. 269, 273, 277, 279, 281 and 285. Also Stands Nos. 269, 272, 276 and 284 Jeppes, together with Stands 215 and 218 Fairview. This request is made with a view to further expansion of the community in this portion of Jeppes. The Locality in which these Stands are situate warrant the exemption now requested. There will be very slight encroachment or interference with existing European shops.

Apart from the above, we would ask each application in this area to be considered individually by the Commission and considered sympathetically in view of the large number who are trading and who may not be trading legally and the effect on the European landlords if a further large number of shops is to become vacant

(J.14.) DENVER

For convenience this has been divided into two parts.

- (a) North of the Railway line.
- (b) The portion South of the Railway line.

RE (A). North of the Railway line the locality mostly European. There are five Indian shops and residences in close proximity to one another and situate in the vicinity of Berlin and David Streets. They comprise what might be termed an island, and we ask for the exemption of this island.

RE (B). South of the Railway line the population is predominantly native and coloured. There are a number of Indians and Chinese shops and residences. In view of the nature of the locality, we ask for the exemption of that portion situate below the Railway line.

(J.15.) CLEVELAND

There are no Asiatics in this area. The area is predominantly European with a few Coloured persons scattered near the Railway line. We make no recommendations in regards to this area.

(J.16.) SPES BONA AND WOLHUTER

- (a) Spes Bona.
- (b) Wolhuter.

RE (A.) There are approximately 75% Coloured and Natives in this Township and approximately 25% Europeans. There is one Indian shop and residence.

RE (B.) The population of Wolhuter consists of approximately 50% Coloured and Natives and approximately 50% European. There are three Indian shops and residences and one Chinese shop. The Locality is one in which there is some difficulty in obtaining European tenants and we ask for the exemption of both Spes Bona and Wolhuter.

(J.17.) CLEVEDON

There are no Asiatics in Clevedon. We make no recommendations in regard to this Township.

(J.18.) PAABELLHOOP

The area is largely European but there are about ten Asiatics in the Township. The Types of residences in this area are small cottages and in some cases tin shanties in a very dilapidated state. The Langlaagte Orphanage occupied a very considerable portion of the Township, but with its building and for gardening purposes. There are six stands on which Indians are situate, namely, Stands 52, 63, 47, 100, 106 and 79, and there are two on which there are Chinese shops and residences, namely 8 and 93 and 119. With a few exceptions the Indians have been there for a very considerable time. One has been there for 17 years and the majority of the remainder from 12 to 15 years. The shops are of a small type, and in view of the locality there is not likely to be any increase in the number of shops. We understand that there has been practically no decrease in European shops during the last ten years.

We ask for the exemption of the Stands mentioned in this Township.

(J.19.) BOOYSENS. (J.20.) BOOYSENS RESERVE

There are no Asiatics in these Townships. There are a few Coloured residents in the Township. We make no recommendation.

(J.21.) TURFFONTEIN

The area is essentially a European Residential area with a fair number of the poor type of Europeans who are mostly situate on the borders of Turffontein. There are a number of racing establishments in Turffontein and these house a large contingent of Coloured and Native persons who also deal with the Indian trader. The Indian in Turffontein can be roughly divided into the following sections:—

- (a) Those in Turf Club Street west of President Street.
- (b) Those in and adjoining Hay Street.
- (c) Those in and adjoining High Street.

RE (A.) These are Asiatic shops, some of which have been established for a very considerable time although there may not have been the succession in title required by Act 37 of 1919. We suggest that as far as possible the Asiatic shops in this street be exempted, as there would seem to be no interference with European traders nor any serious objection on the part of the residents.

RE (B.) In Hay Street between Tramway and Forest Streets and adjoining stands particularly stands 1456, 1914, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1932, 2409, 2410 and 2428, there are a number of Indian shops and residences. On Stand 1919 there is a yard populated by Indians. Some of these shops have been established and carried on by Indians for a very lengthy time.

RE (C.) In High Street between Tramway and Forest Streets, there are quite a number of Indian businesses in this area, some of the shops being just off High Street. The same remarks apply to these Asiatics as apply to those mentioned in sub-section (b).

Apart from those mentioned there are isolated Indian and Chinese scattered in Turfontein. They would seem to serve a useful purpose to the inhabitants. We ask that blocks (a) (b) and (c) be exempted as islands in which Indians may carry on business and reside and that the other Asiatics in the Township be considered on their merits,

(Concluded)

Town Council Of Roodepoort- Maraisburg

Statement Of Case Before Commission

(Continued from last week)

History Of Maraisburg

Maraisburg Township is situated on the Farm Paardekraal No. 42, District Krugersdorp, upon Mynpacht No. 376.

The farm was owned by one A. P. Marais and one Haefale, and was proclaimed in 1887, and two Mynpachts Nos. 376 and 431 were issued on it.

The township was laid out on Mynpacht No. 376 by A. P. Marais during the year 1887.

Maraisburg township is therefore a private township laid out on ground held under a right acquired under the Gold Law.

A large number of stands in Maraisburg have been converted into freehold, the Title of which contains a similar restriction regarding occupation and residence by coloured persons and Asiatics as is contained in the Freehold Title of Roodepoort.

The Council contends, therefore, that Maraisburg is in a similar position to Roodepoort, and consequently no coloured persons or Asiatics can occupy or reside in the township, and furthermore, that no protection is granted to British Indians by Act 37 of 1919.

In regard to the mining stands on the farm Paardekraal, these are the usual mining stands granted under Section 92 of 1898 or prior Gold Laws, and in terms of Act No. 35 of 1932, these stands cannot now be occupied by coloured persons.

The policy of the Council is outlined in the following resolution:—

Extract from the 337th ordinary meeting of the Roodepoort-Maraisburg held on the 26th August, 1931:—

ASIATICS ON FREEHOLD STANDS

"In terms of the resolution passed by the Council at its last meeting, the Council's solicitors have furnished this Committee with Counsel's opinion and his addendum thereto.

"In view of this opinion, we recommend that the Council's solicitors be instructed to take action for the ejectment of all Asiatic and coloured occupants of stands in Roodepoort, and also to interdict the owners of such stands from allowing Asiatics or coloured persons from occupying them, and that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign all documents in connection with such action.—Adopted.

Extracts from the Minutes of the 350th ordinary meeting of the Town Council of Roodepoort-Maraisburg, held on 28th September, 1932:—
TRANSVAAL ASIATIC LAND TENURE ACT

"This item was referred to this Committee from the special meeting of the Council held on the 16th instant.

"After the Council's solicitor had explained the position, and the matter had been fully discussed, it was decided that we recommend

"(a) That the Council adhere to its policy of opposing the residence or occupation of stands inside the boundaries of townships within the Roodepoort-Maraisburg Municipality, by coloured persons and Asiatics, but, as the Council recognises that under the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, 1932, the Minister of the Interior, after consultation with the Minister of Mines, has the right to exempt any land from the operation of the provisions of Sections 130 and 131 of Act 35 of 1908, as amended, it will undertake, if necessary, and subject to the Administrator's consent, to establish outside, but as near to the township of Roodepoort as possible, an Asiatic Bazaar for residential and trading purposes and also a coloured township for residential purposes.

"(b) That the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Council's solicitors be appointed to appear before the Commission appointed under the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act to put forward the Council's views and generally to represent the Council's interests.

"We further recommend that a Plan be prepared showing all available land in the area, and that steps be taken to obtain a surface right in respect of a certain site submitted at this meeting.—Adopted."

The Council's contention is therefore:

(1) That there are no coloured persons or Asiatics who are in legal occupation of stands in the townships of Roodepoort and Maraisburg.

(2) (a) In regard to the coloured community, it is most undesirable that they should live in close proximity to Europeans, as illicit liquor trading is carried on by a certain section of the coloured community.

Furthermore, a large number of the coloured residents in this area, are of a very poor type, and their standard of living is such as to create slum areas.

It is further contended that it is not desirable for Asiatics to reside or trade cheek by jowl with Europeans due to their lower standard, thereby, *inter alia*, creating unfair competition with European traders.

2. (b) The period of the main Asiatic and coloured invasion dates from the time when the Roodepoort United Main Reef Gold Mine closed in 1918, when numbers of stores and Kaffir eating houses became vacant and were then occupied by these people. Since that date the occupation by coloured persons has steadily increased.

2 (c) It is further contended that on the population figures as shown, Roodepoort and Maraisburg are essentially European townships.

2 (d) That the wishes of the occupants of Roodepoort and Maraisburg are that no exemption be granted in favour of Asiatics and coloured persons in these townships.

2 (e) It is further contended that the Council's proposal of establishing a coloured township or townships is entirely in their interests as the vast majority of the premises at present occupied by

them are unsuitable. It is therefore impossible to prevent overcrowding and unsatisfactory sanitary conditions arising, thereby endangering the public health. In regard to the Asiatic community, it is contended that should the Council's proposal to establish an Asiatic Township or Bazaar be accepted by the Commission, little or no hardship would be inflicted upon the individual trader, as such township or bazaar in close proximity to Roodepoort township, would still attract the customers upon whose business they rely.

In fact the centralisation of all the businesses in one quarter would tend to attract more business than is the case at present.

No hardship that removal may entail is to be compared with the hardships that have been suffered and are being suffered by the European standholders of Roodepoort and Maraisburg owing to the illegal occupation of stands by Asiatics and coloured persons.

3 (a) The Council further urges that should the Commission favourably consider the proposal regarding the establishment of townships or bazaars, the desirability that the number of trading licences in such townships or bazaars be limited to the number of licences at present in existence in Roodepoort and Maraisburg.

3 (b) Should the Commission, however, recommend that certain stands in the townships be exempted, then it is urged—

- (i) That the premises and staff employed in such existing business shall not be expanded or enlarged.
- (ii) That where businesses are being carried on in partnership no change in the personnel of the business shall be permitted except in the case of death of one of the partners, when the surviving partners shall be allowed to carry on the business.
- (iii) That no transfers of such business or new licences shall be permitted.

Plans of Roodepoort township and mining stands situate on the Farm Paardekraal No. 42, are attached hereto.

(Concluded)

Indian Education In The Union

Need For Expansion

The Johannesburg branch of the South African Association of University Women listened to an interesting address when Miss D. C. Auret spoke on "Indian Education in South Africa."

In 1927, at the conclusion of the Capetown Agreement between the Union Government and the Government of India, all who were keenly interested in the Indians in South Africa were elated by the promise which the "Uplift Clause" of the agreement seemed to embody, she said. The clause stated that the Union Government firmly believed in the principle that it was the duty of every civilised government to take all possible steps for the upliftment of every section of the permanent population, and laid down that educational facilities for Indians should not be allowed to lag behind those for the other sections of the population.

The position of Indian education in South Africa was that in the Free State, which had no real Indian population, Indian children attended the most conveniently situated coloured schools, or native schools; and in the Cape, as in the Transvaal, there was no

shortage of primary schools which the children might attend, though there were comparatively few set aside for Indians.

In Johannesburg there were a number of schools for coloured children, but the Government school for Indians at Newtown was the only primary school for Indians in the city. There were 630 pupils, and the enthusiasm shown by the Indians was most encouraging, for the roll had been doubled within the last six years. The curriculum was the same as in European schools. The children were delightful to teach. They were bright and intelligent.

In secondary education, the Indian was not so well treated. In the Cape he could attend the college at Fort Hare, but in the Transvaal the only facilities were in Krause Street School in Johannesburg, which went as far as Standard VIII. The boys then had to leave, or take the years' course offered for the training of teachers. If he wished to matriculate, he could do so at the Sastri College, Durban, or by private study.

Those who wished to obtain degrees had to do so at Fort Hare. This had caused much bitter feeling among the Indians, who read in this restriction an implication of race inferiority. There were difficulties, too, in the matter of family sentiment and religion.

The Indians were not slow to avail themselves of any opportunity of bettering their conditions. At the suggestion of the school principal, a clinic was instituted about four years ago at the Indian school in Johannesburg. The school received weekly visits from a doctor, a dentist and an eye specialist, who gave their services free. The chemist's bill averaged from £25 to £30 a month. The cost of the initial equipment and the running expenses were met entirely by the Indians.—*Rand Daily Mail*.

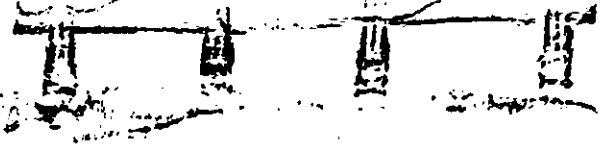
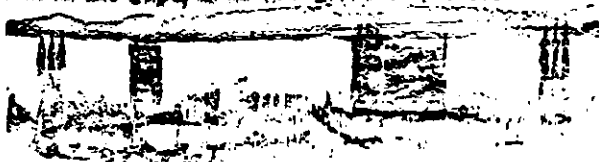
Maritzburg Aryan Benevolent Society New Home Opened

The Mayor of Maritzburg, Mr. P. H. Taylor, M.P. C., officially opened the new home of the Aryan Benevolent Society for aged Indians at 500 Pietermaritz Street, Maritzburg, on March 18. There was a large crowd of Indians present with a sprinkling of Europeans, who included Mrs. P. H. Taylor, Mrs. A. E. Shirley and Messrs. A. G. Lugadin, A. E. Douglas, A. C. D. Johnston, J. Fraser and others.

Congratulating the Aryan Benevolent Society on the consummation of its wishes in the building of the home, Mr. Taylor said he thought the new home would fill a long felt want.

He thought that the representations of the Indian Agent-General to the Maritzburg City Council aiming towards the employment of unempolyed Indians would be sympathetically considered and, if possible, the Council would try to work on the lines suggested by the Indian Agent-general. He forecast that within a few weeks' time the Council would probably be asking for the names of about 50 of the most deserving cases.

Mr. Taylor said he considered the only solution to the European-Indian problem was the full support of the "gentleman's agreement" arrived at in Capetown. Because the Indians had primarily been imported into Natal for the Sugar estates, and the fact that most of the Indians living in Natal to-day were colonial born, he thought that the Europeans had a special duty to perform towards them, and he felt that the "gentleman's agreement" should be utilised to its fullest extent. He impressed upon the gathering



ing that the Indians should not be aggressive in their wishes in this direction, and counselled patience.

He then declared the home open.

How The Home Was Built

Mr. R. Manicium, president of the Aryan Benevolent Society, in thanking Mr. Taylor, told the story of how the home came into being. In 1914 a society known as the Aryan Youths' Progressive Association was formed. At that time an 85-years-old destitute Indian was haled before the city Magistrate, Mr. C. F. W. Hinde, charged with vagrancy. The Magistrate refused to convict the man, and passed a kindly criticism as to the need of a home for aged people among the Indian community. On March 17, 1914, the first Aryan Home had been founded, but it was soon discovered to be too small for the needs of the community.

After a considerable struggle to find funds, the society was assisted by the Maritzburg Corporation, Europeans, and by the gifts of the poor Indians of Maritzburg, and gradually the funds rose to a sum sufficient to enable the society to build a new home.

Indian tradesmen made the construction of the home a labour of love, often spending their leisure hours in building, carpentry, painting and glazing.

The home contains five rooms, a hall, office, clinic room, a large dining room, kitchen and other conveniences.

Mr. S. R. Naidoo, one of the trustees, paid a tribute to Mr. Taylor for his interest in the building of the home.

Regarding the gentleman's agreement, Mr. Naidoo stressed the fact that the Indians, in accepting the "uplift clause" had made a sacrifice. They had decided to adopt Western civilization, and now, in Maritzburg, the Indian mother tongue was dying out. English was being spoken in all the better-class Indian homes, and it was creeping into all the homes.

He made an appeal to the European women for assistance towards the establishment of a clinic at the home. The Indian women were untrained in the work of a clinic and he appealed for the assistance of European women to help make the clinic a success.

Other speakers included Messrs. B. M. Ally, F. Gareeb, R. N. Moodley and Rev. A. J. Choonoo.

At the conclusion of the opening ceremony Mrs. Walea Brown planted an Indian chestnut tree in the front of the home.

Children of the Saraswathi Hanumanthaveni Sangeetha Sabha gave a maypole dance to the accompaniment of Indian music.—*Natal Witness.*

CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNTOUCHABILITY

RECENT INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS

The following books can be had at this office. Remittance to be sent together with the order. C.O.D. orders will not receive attention.—Manager "INDIAN OPINION," Phoenix, Natal.

THE EPIC FAST (By PYARELAL)

An account of Mahatma Gandhi's Fast in September, 1932, and events leading up to the Yeravda Pact, with all relevant documents. 320 Pages. 2s. 6d.

PLIGHTED WORD (By O. RAJAGOPALACHARI)

The case for the two Bills introduced by Mr. Rangas Iyer in the Assembly is explained in full detail with all relevant documents in this book. It is a complete exposition of the history and object of the legislation and meets all the objections raised. 34 Pages. 9d.

"MY SOUL'S AGONY" (By MAHATMA GANDHI)

A carefully revised, authoritative edition of what Mahatma Gandhi has recently said about the Anti-Untouchability Movement in his statements and interviews. The book has been compiled and edited under his immediate direction. 154 Pages. 1s. 6d.

Immigration Appeal Case

Ismail Ranjoomia versus Commissioner For Immigration And Asiatic Affairs

Supreme Court Judgment

The following is the full text of the judgment given by Mr. Justice Solomon in the Supreme Court (Transvaal Provincial Division) in the matter of the appeal of Ismail Ranjoomia against the decision by the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs:—

The principal point in this special case concerns the power of the Immigration Board to declare the appellant to be a prohibited immigrant. To decide this question a review of the complicated legislation which deals with the residence of Asiatics in the Transvaal is unavoidable, although it has often been made by the Courts before. There are two aspects of these laws. First, they contain the conditions which shall constitute lawful residence in the Transvaal for Asiatics; and secondly, they regulate the entry into the Transvaal of newcomers and the expulsion of residents in certain circumstances.

Ever since Law 3 of 1885 came into force Asiatics in the Transvaal have been obliged to have their names entered upon a special register. One of the first measures promulgated after the Transvaal received responsible government repealed the special registration provisions in Law 3 of 1885 and enacted new provisions of a much more elaborate character (Act 2 of 1907). All lawfully resident Asiatics had to be registered; but section 10 provided that "every certificate of registration shall be accepted as conclusive evidence in all places that the lawful holder thereof is entitled to enter and reside in this colony." However irksome the registration machinery may have appeared to Asiatics, the security offered by a certificate of registration thus entrenched, held, no slight compensation. One of the most important features in the history which follows is the gradual undermining of this security by later laws.

Another of the early laws passed by the first Transvaal Parliament was the Immigrants Restriction Act (No. 15 of 1907), by which immigration into the Transvaal was restricted, the removal of prohibited immigrants was provided, and an Immigration Department was established. The term "prohibited immigrant" included any person who was unable to write out and sign in European characters an application for leave to enter the Transvaal, but did not include the wife or minor child of any person who was not a prohibited immigrant nor any Asiatic who was eligible for or had obtained a certificate of registration. Thus registered Asiatics were definitely excluded from the prohibited class, and no barrier was erected against the entry of their wives and minor children. One of the mischiefs which resulted was the introduction of minors into the Transvaal under the pretence that they were the children of persons who held registration certificates when in fact they were not, and it was probably in part owing to irregularities of this kind that the legislature, as will be noted, later on made fundamental changes in regard to certificates of registration. The appellant originally gained entry into the Transvaal by this kind of false representation, and that is the remote origin of his present trouble with the authorities.

Considerable resistance was offered to the Registration Act of 1907, so in 1908 an amending Act was passed which, without repealing the earlier Act, extended the right of registration and otherwise offered relief to Asiatics in the Transvaal, and provided that certificates of registration whether granted under the earlier or under the amending Act should be conclusive evidence of the holder's right to enter and reside (Act 36 of 1908). This Act stood intact until certain of its provisions were repealed by Act 37 of 1927, but the special protection given to holders of registration certificates was not repealed until Act 15 of 1931 became law.

This was the state of the law when the appellant entered the Transvaal in 1912. An Asiatic named Ranjoomia was in February 1912 the holder of a registration certificate. On the 7th February 1912 he applied for permission to bring into the Transvaal his minor son Ismail (the appellant) aged about 13½ years and then at Delagoa Bay. On the 12th February 1912 at Delagoa Bay the appellant signed a declaration that he was the son of Ranjoomia. Permission to introduce the appellant into the Transvaal was refused but in March 1912 Ranjoomia nevertheless brought the appellant into the Transvaal. In April 1912 the appellant was charged in the Resident Magistrate's Court at Barberton with entering the Transvaal as a prohibited immigrant, but was acquitted on the sworn testimony both of himself and of Ranjoomia that he was the minor child of Ranjoomia. The acquittal was followed by an application, dated 7th May 1912, by Ranjoomia as the father and guardian of the appellant supported by an affidavit by Ranjoomia dated 4th June 1912, for the issue of a registration to the appellant on the ground that the appellant was his minor son. The application bore the signature

of the appellant as well as that of Ranjoomia, and it succeeded. On the 31st July 1912 a registration certificate was issued to the appellant, who holds it, and who has ever since his arrival in the Transvaal resided continuously here, except for temporary absences. His registration certificate of course entitled him to re-enter the Transvaal at the conclusion of any temporary absence. It is admitted to-day that the appellant is not the son of Ranjoomia, and thus he obtained entry into the Transvaal and his certificate of registration through the perjury and fraud of Ranjoomia, to which the appellant himself may have been a party although his age at the time the perjury was committed is perhaps in his favour. The validity of a registration certificate, obtained by fraudulent misrepresentation of fact, in due course became the subject of a number of decisions in this Division. The cases decided that if the holder himself was guilty of the fraud he was liable to have his certificate set aside but that only the Supreme Court had the jurisdiction to make such an order. If, however, the fraud was committed, not by the holder but by somebody else acting on his behalf, the validity of the certificate could not be attacked. In the absence of further legislation, then, the appellant's registration certificate was conclusive evidence of his right to enter and reside in the Transvaal, unless he could be proved to have been a party to the fraud although only a child of 13 when it was committed.

The further legislation now becomes material, and I must begin with the important Act which consolidated for all the four Provinces the law which should govern immigration.

The first Immigration Act passed by the Union Parliament (Act 22 of 1913) almost entirely repealed Act 2 of 1907 but did not touch Act 36 of 1908. It is however material to the history. To begin with it established immigration boards (of which the stated case is one) to determine appeals by persons detained as prohibited immigrants. More important to the present case are its lists of prohibited and non-prohibited immigrants. As to the former "any person or class of persons deemed by the Minister on economic grounds or on account of standard or habits of life to be unsuited to the requirements of the Union or any particular Province thereof" shall be prohibited immigrants (sec. 4 (1) (a)), but this sub-section is expressly stated neither to abrogate nor effect any right conferred by Act 36 of 1908 of the Transvaal upon the lawful holder of a certificate of registration (Section 4 (2) (b)). The Minister, therefore, while these subsections stood, could not deem an Asiatic who held a registration certificate unsuited and therefore could not by a "Deeming Order" make such a person a prohibited immigrant. Act 22 of 1913 commenced on the 1st August 1913 and simultaneously the Minister issued a notice deeming "every Asiatic person to be unsuited on economic grounds (1) to the requirements of the Union and (2) to the requirements of every Province of the Union" except those Asiatics whom he had no power to include in the notice. Sub-section 4 (2) (b) has now been repealed by Act 15 of 1931, and this repeal may have an important effect upon the scope of the deeming notice, which has been repeated in the same terms by the present Minister. The appellant holds a registration certificate granted under Act 36 of 1908, and could therefore rely on subsection 4 (2) (b) while it stood upon the statute book. The next material class of prohibited immigrant constituted by Act 22 of 1913 was "any person who is unable... to read and write any European language..."; a requirement not very different from that contained in the first immigration Act No. 15 1907 which was repealed by Act 22 of 1913. It is admitted that the appellant falls within the class of persons unable to read and write a European language.

Turning now to the persons who are not prohibited immigrants under Act 22 of 1913, section 5 mentions two relevant classes, namely, "any person domiciled in any Province" (with immaterial exceptions) and "the wife or the child under the age of sixteen years" of any domiciled person. Section 10 prevented a prohibited immigrant from acquiring a domicile merely because he had been allowed to enter and remain here through oversight or misrepresentation. An important addition to this section will in due course be mentioned. Then section 30 in defining "domicile", required a continuous residence for at least three years within the Union or any Province. An amendment of this definition has also been made.

To return now to the appellant's doings, the next important date is the 22nd December 1925, when the appellant applied for permission to bring his son Ebrahim into the Transvaal. In the application he stated that his father was Ranjoomia, the holder of a Transvaal registration certificate, adding "I do not know his whereabouts. I have not seen him since 1914." He then added a post-script, bearing the same date, in which he said "I now confess that I have lied in respect of my father and mother. My father's name is Mainooddeen Bapoo, deceased. He never came to the Transvaal.... What I said was false". Prima facie this confession refers to the falsehood contained in the application of even date. There is nothing in the words of the confession to justify the meaning "I have lied in what I have said to day about Ranjoomia being my father, and I also lied in 1912 when I said that Ranjoomia was my father." Anyhow the law allowed the holder of a registration certificate to bring his minor child under 16 years old into the Transvaal, and on the 7th January 1926 the Department of the Interior issued to the appellant a certificate to

the effect that he was a lawful resident of the Transvaal and so qualified to bring in his minor son. This document was forwarded to India and the enquiry there made proved that Ebrahim was in truth the appellant's minor son aged 6 years. Before Ebrahim was admitted to the Transvaal, however, the appellant at a further enquiry stated upon oath that his father was "known in India as Mainooddeen Bapoo and in South Africa as Ranjoomia. He is alive and in Johannesburg." The object of the further enquiry was, however, to get at the truth about one of the appellant's brothers, and being satisfied on this point, the Principal Immigration Officer authorised the issue of a permit for the entry of Ebrahim. On the 19th October 1916 a certificate of identity was issued to the appellant by the Department when he was about to visit India, and again on the 26th April 1929 when he was about to visit Lourenco Marques, and at the same time he was authorised to bring his wife and minor daughter into the Transvaal. The Ebrahim episode and the identification certificates are used on behalf of the appellant as establishing the acceptance by the Department of his Transvaal domicile.

Meantime an important Act No. 37 of 1927, had been passed. It added a new sub-section to section of Act 22 of 1913 to meet the ruling of the Courts in regard to registration certificates which had been obtained by fraud. This new sub-section gave to Immigration Boards jurisdiction to cancel such certificates if proved to have been obtained by fraudulent representations. Thus the Supreme Court ceased to be the sole forum in which such issues could be tried. But the subsection went further. Whereas the Courts had held that the fraud must be that of the certificate-holder himself, the new subsection provided that the certificate might be cancelled if the fraudulent representations had been "made by him or on his behalf." Did this provision refer only to future frauds, or did it cover also past frauds, and if so was there a limit to its retro-activity? Purshotam's case (1928 A. D. 435) decided that the provision, being definitely connected up with section 10 of Act 22 of 1913, was retrospective and therefore included the case of a registration certificate issued in 1915 as the result of fraud; but Bhula's case (1931 A.D. 323) decided that the retrospective effect did not go back beyond the 1st August 1913, the date when Act 22 of 1913 commenced, because there is nothing either in the original or the amended section 10 of Act 22 of 1913 which in any way modifies the protection given to the holders of registration certificates by section 4 (2) (b) of that Act. The result of these two cases therefore was that the certificate obtained by fraud, whether committed by the holder or another on his behalf on or after the 1st August 1913 can be cancelled by a Board, but that certificates granted under Act 36 of 1908 prior to the 1st August 1913 can be cancelled only by the Court and then only if the fraud was that of the holder himself. If the holder was innocent of any fraud, his certificate was by Act 36 of 1908 conclusive evidence of his right to reside in the Transvaal.

Before leaving Act 37 of 1927 it should be noted that a new definition of "domicile" replaced the original definition in Act 22 of 1913. The three-years' continuous residence was retained but "a person shall be deemed to have lost his domicile within the Union if he absents himself from the Union and does not re-enter the Union within three years from the date of departure therefrom or from the 5th July 1927 whichever may be the later whether or not he is in possession of a registration certificate..."

Encouraged no doubt by the decision in Purshotam's case, the Immigration Officer on the 23rd June 1930 served the appellant with a notice that he was a prohibited immigrant as defined in sections 4 (1) (a) and (b) and 10 (as amended by Act 37 of 1927) of Act of 1913. The appellant noted an appeal to the Board on the ground that his registration certificate was issued prior to the 1st August 1913. But Bhula's case was pending and the hearing of the appellant's appeal was, at the request of the appellant's attorney, postponed until Bhula's case had been decided. The Commissioner for Immigration was in the meantime making enquiries in India as to the appellant's parentage, and learned (Lut not until August 1931) from the evidence taken there that Mainuddin Bapoo and not Ranjoomia is the father of the appellant. Prior to the receipt of this evidence, however, namely on the 5th of May 1931, the judgment in Bhula's case was delivered, and three days later the appellant's attorney wrote to the Commissioner for Immigration "I shall be glad to know whether in view of the decision of the Appellate Division in the case of Bawa Bhula you will be so kind as to withdraw your prohibition notice." It is urged on behalf of the appellant that the words meant "will you formally allow the appeal to the Board to succeed" and could not mean that the appeal would lapse if the notice were withdrawn. On the 26th May 1931 the Commissioner replied "the prohibition can be regarded as being withdrawn. According to Mr. Millin this letter means only "I admit that Bhula's case decides the appellant's appeal to the Board," and does not affect the existence of the appeal or the right of the appellant to obtain a formal judgment of the board in his favour. Some of the questions of law submitted in the special case are concerned with the fate of the appeal against the 1930 prohibition notice. While the correspondence on the subject was in progress, Act 15 of 1931 had come into operation on the 22nd May, creating new problems for the holders of registration certificates. The important innovations, so far as this appeal is

concerned, are three. First, section 4 (2) (b) of Act 22 of 1913 is deleted. The effect appears to be that any holder of a registration certificate granted under Act 36 of 1908 may be deemed by the Minister for the reasons specified in section 4 (1) (a), to be unsuited for the requirements of the Union or the Transvaal, and so may become a prohibited immigrant. Secondly, a new section 4 (2) (a) is added to Act 22 of 1913 and provides that "the holder of a certificate of registration or a certificate of domicile or any other document issued at any time under any law permitting his entrance into the Union or any province thereof shall not by virtue of such certificate be entitled to enter or reside in the Union or any province thereof." Thirdly, section 11 of Act 36 of 1908 is repealed. The effect of the second and third innovations read together appears to be that a certificate of registration now means no more than that the holder is registered, and ceased to be evidence conclusive or inconclusive of his right to enter and reside in the Transvaal, and confers upon him no right to enter and reside therein irrespective of whether it was fraudulently or honestly obtained. As I have already said the present Minister has issued a "deeming notice" (the date of which is 31st January 1931) worded in exactly the same way as the deeming notice issued by the Minister in 1913. I have also said that the Commissioner in August 1931 received evidence from India that Ranjoomia is not the father of the appellant. On the 16th October 1931, the Immigration Officer served the appellant with a second prohibition notice, informing him that he is a prohibited immigrant because he falls within the class of persons deemed by the Minister under section 4 (1) (a) of Act 22 of 1913 to be unsuited to the Union and Transvaal. An appeal was noted and the appellant once more relied upon his registration certificate, contending that Act 15 of 1931 is not retrospective so as to apply to a certificate issued prior to the 1st August 1931. When the appeal came before the Board on the 13th November 1931, the appellant's counsel contended that the appellant had never been given an opportunity of appearing before an Immigration Officer in accordance with the procedure prescribed by section 19 of Act 22 of 1913. The Immigration Officer representing the Department thereupon offered to hold an enquiry. This offer was accepted by the appellant's counsel and the hearing of the appeal was postponed sine die. On the 9th February 1932 the enquiry was held by the Principal Immigration Officer. "Appellant did not attend the enquiry in person" (I am quoting from paragraph 26 of the special case) "but was represented by his attorney. No evidence was tendered on behalf of appellant to establish that appellant was the son of Ranjoomia, but appellant's attorney submitted certain legal contentions and requested that certain documents should be placed before the Immigration Board at the hearing of the appeal. All the said documents were submitted to the Immigration Board." The failure of the appellant to give evidence at the enquiry of course made it impossible to question him about his knowledge in 1913 as to who his father was, and also about the scope of his admission made on the 22nd December 1925, "I have lied in respect of my father."

The appeal was heard by the Board on the 16th February and the 14th March 1932, and was dismissed on the 10th May 1932. The Board was satisfied that the appellant's registration certificate had been obtained by fraud but does not say whose the fraud was. However suspicious the conduct of the appellant may be, in the absence of an express finding by the Board that he was a party to the fraud, this Court must assume that the Board gave him the benefit of the doubt and attributed the fraud to Ranjoomia. The Principal point of law decided by the Board was that Act 15 of 1931 has retrospective effect beyond the 1st August 1931 and therefore affects registration certificates granted prior to that date.

(To be continued)

Natal Indian Congress

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress will be held at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall, Queen Street, Durban, on Sunday the 29th April, 1933, at 3-30 p.m.

AGENDA:—1. Election of officials,
2. Supplementary financial statement,
3. General.

A. I. KAJEE
P. R. PATHER
Joint hon. Secretaries.

From 'Harijan' Seeking Or Giving?

Mahatma Gandhi writes in *Harijan* :

Several friends have written to me letters asking me in substance the following question:—

"Why is it that you, who have always sworn by non-co-operation with the Government and Legislatures are now carrying on propaganda for the passage of untouchability bills by the present Legislatures, and are thus co-operating with both the Government and the Legislatures?" Newspaper reporters also have been plying me with the same question. I have evaded both by saying that I cannot, consistently with my obligation as a prisoner, deal with this question as fully as I would like to. But I can say this much, that there is no doctrine in the world which admits of the same kind of application under every variety of circumstance. Different circumstances evoke different applications of the same doctrine. Thus, my love for a starving man would require me to feed him. My love for my overfed child would require me to starve him, even though he may be crying for food. I am to-day non-co-operating with Sanatanist friends, but I would like my questioners to analyse my non-co-operation, and they will find that in the very act of non-co-operation I am seeking their co-operation in my campaign. Exactly in the same manner, I may non-co-operate as much as I like with Government or any institution, but I would be a very foolish man, if I did not know that I was non-co-operating in order to secure co-operation from them. Thus, I am now seeking the co-operation of the Government and the Legislature in order to further my purpose, which I hold to be very sacred altogether good. Beyond this I may not go, for the reason I have already stated and which the reader should respect

Southern India Making Progress In Hindi

Mr. Devdas Gandhi, youngest son of Mahatma Gandhi, in a statement to the Press, says:—

"Though most of the time I was in South India was spent in connection with temple-entry, my visit was primarily to preside over the conference of Hindi teachers held in Madras on the 30th and 31st December last. It may sound odd to speak of a conference of Hindi teachers in the Southern country, but the fact is that there are now in South India no less than about 500 enthusiastic men and women engaged in the task of spreading a knowledge of the National language. The Dakshina Barath Hindi Prachar Sabha has for the last few years held annual examinations in Hindi and issued certificates and diplomas at convocations to thousands of South Indians. A regular Training College is maintained at Madras which sends out every year a good number of qualified Hindi teachers who are themselves South Indians. The Sabha has grown from small beginnings into a regular University. It gets no grant from Government but its Hindi publications are approved by the Text Book Committee for use in schools, and teachers diplomaed by the Sabha are employed wherever Hindi teaching is introduced in aided or recognised schools. As a result of the Sabha's successful work and agitation, no less than the widespread interest which the people themselves take in it, Hindi bids fair to find a place as a compulsory subject in the official educational curriculum of the Southern Presidency."

For India's Freedom

The Rev. John Haynes Holmes, one of the greatest friends of India, and chairman of the American League for India's Freedom, has addressed the following letter to the Editors of *The Nation* (New York):—

The Indian independence movement is one which challenges the interest and sympathy of all Americans. This fight for liberty is being sustained by millions of oppressed people through unprecedented methods of non-violence which mark an epoch in history; and the spectacle of India's great leader, Mahatma Gandhi, held in prison without indictment or trial, has caught the sympathy of all the defenders of justice.

Americans have always been quick to lend support to oppressed peoples. The American League for India's Freedom has been organised "to express American support of Indian independence through non-violence." Its chief source of strength is its association with the English friends of India, an organisation of British citizens headed by Laurence Housman. Our league, like the companion group in England, maintains an office for correspondence with India, publishes a monthly bulletin of news not accessible to the daily press, and holds public meetings and study groups.

The American League for India's Freedom invites all friends of India to join its ranks. Our office is at 383 Bible House, New York City; our secretary is Miss Eleanor Metzel; our fee which includes subscription to the Bulletin, is \$1 a year and up. Our membership needs immediate extension if we are not to fail Gandhi and the Indian National Congress in the support we have pledged.

Natives In Kenya

Natives in Kenya owning land in the recently discovered goldfields are to lose their homes and farms without compensation. That is the fact, although it is concealed beneath heaps of rubbish in the form of ordinances and amendments to ordinances and memoranda and proposals by the Colonial Secretary. Basing its comment on early dispatches from Kenya, *The Nation* reported some weeks ago that dispossessed natives were to be compensated by other lands—lands without gold! The Native Land Trust Ordinance, adopted in 1930, provided for such compensation. Adopted at a time of general unrest and apprehension in the native population, after white settlers had gradually usurped their best land, the ordinance guaranteed to the natives permanent possession of the reserves left to them. It also promised that in case of necessary alienation—for public purposes only and after full inquiry—the owner should be paid in land of equal area and if possible of equal value. These guarantees have now been cynically abandoned. The Kenya Legislative Council has opened the country in question—highly cultivated, overcrowded farm country—to a multiplying horde of prospectors who are permitted to seize the land, dig out the gold, and tear down the native huts. The owner of land, meanwhile, continues theoretically to be the owner. But his farm is in the hands of white outsiders who hold it on renewable leases which may run as long as twenty-one years. He receives no compensation; he gets no gold. He is advised merely to move over to some neighbour's land and wait for his own to be turned back at some indefinite time in the future.

Naturally the natives are fearful and angry. A situation which was tense when the Land Trust Ordinance was passed is made doubly dangerous. By law, the minerals are the property of the state. It would seem obvious sense, even from the point of view of enlightened imperialism, to develop these fields under government control with an honest observance of the rights explicitly granted the natives. Only in this way can certain conflict between blacks and whites be avoided, and the remnants of British honour in East Africa be retrieved.—*The Nation*.

India's Economic Salvation

Sir P. C. Ray's Speech At Indore

Traitors To Their Country

(Continued from week before last)

To me Swadeshim has ever been synonymous with patriotism—it has been a part and parcel of my religion and the very breath of my nostrils. A Swadeshi exhibition has no meaning unless and until we take a vow to use articles of indigenous origin, even if they happen to be a little coars or ungaily in sight. Glass chimneys which used to crack readily have decidedly improved and no complaint is now made on that score. Genuine home-made hurricane lamps now greet our eyes. An Indian who simply from his arm-chair indulges in cheap sneers at the feeble efforts of our self-sacrificing men in making such articles as enumerated above is in my estimation a traitor to his country.

It is a very happy sign that exhibitions of indigenous products are being held all over India at frequent intervals. The greatest credit belongs to those public-spirited men who take upon themselves the arduous task of raising funds, gathering exhibits from various places, making an attractive display and inducing a large number of people to attend. I should say that credit is no less due to the visitors. Their main attraction is not *lamasha*, nor an opportunity of bargain. There is no allurements of the gambling booth or of vulgar amusements. Yet I find people coming in thousands, from distant places at considerable personal inconvenience. I have not the least doubt that a growing love for Swadeshi goods and a healthy curiosity for learning what such goods are, account for the keen interest evinced by visitors.

The function of a bazaar or market is to bring the buyer and seller together, and the relation between the two is generally of a transitory nature. The buyer comes to purchase specific articles and to ascertain their price, and goes away after satisfying his immediate need. An exhibition serves a much wider purpose, although the result may not be tangible and the transactions in the stalls may be insignificant compared with those in a regular bazaar. The visitor comes to an exhibition more to see the variety of goods displayed than to buy any goods in particular. But when he goes back, he carries in his mind an impression of things that have interested him, and turns into a prospective buyer. Thus an exhibition is a collective advertisement with a far-reaching effect, and its educative value is immense.

Significance Of Kumbha Mela

Exhibitions are not modern institutions in the country. From time out of mind, India has been holding innumerable Melas (fairs) as regular functions. The great Kumbha Mela is not a mere religious

gathering, but is also a concourse of vendors and buyers. Its origin can be traced back to the periodic congress of eages called by ancient Indian monarchs. The annual Hariharohtra Mela of Bihar is mainly a commercial gathering and is regarded by many as the biggest fair in the world, exceeding even the celebrated Nij-Novogorod fair of Russia. Of modern institutions, the Leipzig spring fair is the largest annual function devoted to the display of engineering goods. A similar fair has been organised in England under the name of Olympia where different groups of manufacturers exhibit their products in turn every year.

The Swadeshi Mela or exhibition is a new idea which has developed to meet a specific need which our people are beginning to feel acutely. It is not a function for the display of ordinary goods. We have no dearth of bazaars and shops. The kerosene depot, the sewing machine agency and the cycle store are now ubiquitous. Dazzling fabrics of artificial silk, Bata's footwear, 'Eveready' torches, dainty wrist watches, elegant spectacles for beautifying the face, and an immense variety of fountain pens of which every self-respecting young man must have half-a-dozen assorted have penetrated the remotest towns. What more do we require?

It gladdens one's heart to see this array of exhibits representing the effort of our own people. Perhaps some of the products are not up to our expectation; perhaps a few chat a little too much. Will it be a bad bargain to prefer these things to those we have been familiar with? I have no hesitation in saying an emphatic 'No.' Buy what you can get, offer criticism if you can, but not in a carping spirit. The more you buy, the greater will be the production and the number of producers. By an inevitable natural process, there will be emulation among producers; they will become more and more skilful and efficient, and at no distant date only the most deserving of them will survive. I have noticed this process leading to highly satisfactory results in the case of several industries in Bengal and other provinces.

A Swadeshi exhibition like the one we are attending creates public enthusiasm and enables us to take stock of our industrial backwardness as well as activities. It is a powerful means of stimulating love for goods produced by our own kith and kin. Let us foster this love in every way and turn it into an instinct which would be proof against the lure of cheapness and dazzle of foreign goods. Such an instinctive love would be a more effective protection than any kind of control artificially imposed by the state.

Incessant Drain Of Wealth

Vigorous propaganda work is necessary to bring home to our people the huge incessant drain of wealth from our land due to importation of foreign commodities. It has been estimated that in 1925-29 four crores of rupees worth of artificial silk was imported with the result that the once-flourishing silk industries of Murshidabad and Malda are threatened with extinction. Some other articles of imported luxuries are given below. Motor cars including taxicabs exceeding 4 crores; cigarettes 2 crores; total of cotton manufactures including twist and yarn 63 crores; drugs and medicines 2 crores; chemicals 2½ crores. The figures from 1930 onwards have not been given as owing to the universal trade depression the purchasing power of the people has been considerably diminished.

When our students go home to their villages they should turn into propagandists of Swadeshi. Above all they must *practise* what they *preach*. To you, our

patriotic young men, should devolve the noble task of being missionaries in this field. Remember in the adoption of Swadeshi lies our economic salvation.

News In Brief

The *Cape Times* in the course of a leading article hails with satisfaction the White Paper on Indian Reforms says:—

"The working of the Constitution, in short, must depend on goodwill on both sides. It is hardly to be expected that imprisoned Congress leaders will express any liking for these proposals just at present. Many Indian critics in the immediate future will probably shriek a crescendo of ill-will. But there are extremists on both sides. There is the Lord Lloyd-Churchill group in Britain which seeks to retard Indian constitutional development as dangerously as the Congress seeks to accelerate it. Between the two extremes stands a solid mass of both Indian and British opinion which desires to see India standing firmly on her own feet as soon as may be. These proposals are a definite advance towards that goal and it is to be hoped that any reactionary attempts to emasculate them will be crushed beneath the weight of public opinion. There is no alternative for Britain in India to going forward along the road to complete self government."

Mr. H. N. Venn who has just retired from the position of Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs in the course of an interview with a representative of the *Cape Argus* expressed his view on the Union's Indian problem. "I think the problem will solve itself," said Mr. Venn. "Sooner or later we must come to regard the Indians as part of the permanent population of the Union. Eighty per cent. of them were born in the Union. There is not a tremendous difference between the number of Indians in Natal to-day and the actual number which came out under indenture from 1860 onwards. "Apart from wives and children of Indians domiciled in the Union, there can be no fresh Indian immigration. At one time a certain amount of smuggling of prohibited Indian immigrants went on along the Portuguese-Transvaal border. That has been almost entirely stopped. The Indian does not like prison; and very few are now willing to take the risk of illegal entry."

While holding the post of Commissioner, Mr. Venn paid an official visit to India. He believes there are great possibilities of trade between India and the Union. The reasons favour the export of South African fruit to India.

Mr. Venn has been appointed to the Cape Board of Film Censors. He is succeeded in the Immigration Department by Mr. P. Kincaid.

Mr. Hugh Bryan one of the candidates for the South African Party nomination for Maritzburg district has declared that he stands for, amongst other things, a liberal and non-repressive policy in regard to the non-Europeans.

Councillors J. O. Fick and J. J. Van Tonder laid special stress on the question of Asiatic traders, and deplored the omission of the suburbs from the Land Tenure Act, at the annual general meeting of the Richmond, Southside, Gotesloes and Braamfontein Warf Ratepayers' and Tenants' Association says the *Star*, Johannesburg.

Sporting News

VERULAM INDIAN LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The second annual general meeting of the Verulam Indian Lawn Tennis Club was held at Verulam on the 21st instant. Mr. S. Sham presided over the meeting, and the secretary Mr. J. L. Joshua read his annual report which reflected that the club had played 14 matches, won 9 and lost 5.

The following officials were elected to bear office for the ensuing year:

Patrons: Messrs. Choonlal, G. H. Maiter, J. S. Joshua, Juditha Jeewa and A. Parasaratnam; President: Mr. S. Sham, Vice-Presidents: Messrs. N. Raghavjee, G. H. A. Kathrada, R. T. Singh, S. R. Maharaj, V. Raghavjee, V. Govindsamy, O. Kistan, S. Veloo, and J. L. Joshua; Secretary: Mr. J. L. Joshua, Assistant Secretary: V. Govindsamy, Treasurer: Mr. M. Juggath, Auditor: V. Raghavjee, Captain: Mr. G. H. A. Kathrada, Vice-Captain: Mr. S. Sham; Executive Committee: Messrs. V. Govindsamy, G. H. A. Kathrada, M. Juggath, V. Raghavjee and O. Kistan; Delegates to the Natal Lawn Tennis Association: Messrs. G. H. A. Kathrada, J. L. Joshua, V. Raghavjee, M. Juggath and V. Govindsamy; Record Clerk: Mr. S. Chin.

MAYVILLE DISTRICT INDIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the above Association was held on the 8th March 1933, at 21 Bond Street, Durban, presided over by the President Mr. A. K. E. Bux.

The Secretary Mr. L. Kris Naidoo in presenting his report stated that the past year 1932 had been a very successful one, and in fact it was one of the best seasons on record in the history of the Mayville Association.

The report further states that never in the history of this Association was there so many clubs affiliated to it as in the past year. There being twenty in all, consisting of 7 Seniors, 5 Juniors and 8 Juveniles.

This was the first time Juvenile competitions had been inaugurated in the Mayville Association, and in order to encourage and foster sports among the children, the fees imposed on these juvenile clubs had been very small indeed, thereby enabling all School children to participate. In fact the juvenile competition are practically all expense on the Association.

This Association was affiliated to the Natal Provincial Indian Football Association (Sunday League) and nearly all the Natal Provincial Trophies had been secured by the Mayville District.

The successful winners being as follows:—

SENIORS	
(a) Inter-District (B. M. Singh)	Mayville District.
(b) "Suncrush Shield" (Natal Challenge)	Cato Stars F.C. M.D.I.F.A.
(c) "Five-a-side Cassim Meer Shield"	Cato Stars F.C. M.D.I.F.A.
JUNIORS	
(a) Natal Provincial Cup (S.N. Naidoo)	Schools F.C. M.D.I.F.A.

In the local competition the following Clubs were the successful winners:—

SENIORS	
(a) Mahomed Ebrahim's League Cup	Overport Rangers F.C.
(b) R. S. C. Singh's Cup	Mayville Football Club
JUNIORS	
(a) J.P. Ramnath's League Cup	Stella Hill F.C.
(b) L. D. Bayat's Cup	Blue Bells F.C.
JUVENILES	
(a) S. Shaik Amud's League Cup	Glenwood Rangers F.C.

The Ground question had always been a difficult one for this Association, but since the Incorporation, the recreation grounds for the future will be suitably provided for, by the Municipal Authorities, who are now making the necessary arrangements.

Touching upon the amalgamation of the Natal Provincial Indian Football Association and the Natal Indian Football Association, two distinctive bodies controlling Sunday and Saturday Soccer respectively, the report states, the 3rd of October 1932, saw the dawn of a new era in the Indian Soccer world. An honourable pact having been entered into between the two Associations, which should be lasting for generations to come. The N.P.I.F.A. amalgamated with the N.I.F.A. on an equal footing, and in future both the Sunday and Saturday Soccer will be controlled by one body namely the Natal Indian Football Association.

The following officials were elected for the ensuing season.

Patrons: Messrs. B. Naidoo, B. M. Singh and B. Barnabas. Hon. Lifevice President: Mr. E. M. Ohin. President: Mr. A. K. E. Bux (re-elected). Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S. M. Nyidu, S. P. Pillay, S. Rajpaul, K. M. Govender, S. R. Peters, C. D. Boulton and R. N. Naidoo. Hon. Secretary: Mr. I. Kris Naidoo (re-elected). Assistant Hon. Secretary: Mr. V. Shunmugam Vadival. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. S. K. Singh. Hon. Record Clerk: Mr. V. S. Naidoo. Hon. Auditor: Mr. S. P. Pillay. Councillors to N.I.F.A.: Messrs. A. K. E. Bux, S. P. Pillay, O. D. Boulton and R. Regnath. Nominee to N.I.F.A. Executive: Mr. S. P. Pillay.

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