

Indian Opinion

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NOTES AND NEWS

OVER 800 signatures have been appended to a petition asking the Minister of Justice, General J. C. Smuts, not to issue a deportation order against Mrs. Jane Keenan, of Darban, who was recently convicted and fined £35 for forgery, uttering and theft. A number of influential people are among those who have signed the petition. Many people, on being approached to sign the petition, expressed great surprise and indignation that the extremely drastic step of deportation was contemplated by the authorities, having regard to the fact that Mrs. Keenan is a British subject and that she has lived in South Africa—where she has close family attachments—for over 35 years. It is understood that a Natal Parliamentarian is interesting himself in the case.

THE above news appears in a local contemporary. We felt indignant when the deportation clause first appeared in the Immigration Act and strongly protested against it. But no one took any notice of a protest from Indians. So many Indians have been already deported for being convicted for paltry crimes. But the community has been helpless—not even the Agent of the Government of India has been able to help. We now find heaven and earth being moved to get the deportation order against Mrs. Jane Keenan withdrawn, "having regard to the fact that Mrs. Keenan is a British subject and that she has lived in South Africa—where she has close family attachments—for over 35 years." Does not the same argument apply in the case of Indians? Mrs. Keenan has our fullest sympathy and we will be as happy to see the order against her withdrawn as those who are working for her will be. But so long as there is legislation empowering the authorities to take such drastic action there will be other cases occurring like the present one. The wise course, therefore, for those interested in the withdrawal of the deportation order against Mrs. Keenan, we think, would be to move for the amendment of the legislation to prevent other such cases occurring in the future. And if Brits feel the pang let them realise how their British Indian subjects also must be feeling it.

At the Cape Municipal Congress which met last week in Port Elizabeth there were several matters dealt with which affected non-Europeans.

The Walmer Council, having found that it was debarred by law from labelling wayside seats "for Europeans only," moved that the Administrator be asked to provide legislation empowering local authorities to frame regulations restricting the use of public conveniences to Europeans alone and to non-Europeans alone. Considerable discussion followed, but in the end the motion was carried with only four dissentient votes. Speakers stressed the point that while differentiation was desirable, municipalities should also make adequate provision for the comfort of their non-European residents.

The Cambridge Council moved a request for legislation to prevent persons of non-European descent from purchasing or leasing property within the municipality. In spite of opposition from Mr. Cluver and others, on the score that they were trenching on a very difficult subject and that the resolution would do no good, the motion was agreed to.

The Cape Province has always been credited with having the least element of race prejudice and for her generous treatment of her non-European population. The above reports would, however, show that she is fast taking infection from her neighbour Provinces. The only redeeming feature is that there is a greater percentage of the European public in the Cape which takes a broader view of this question and there is hope for the non-Europeans to be saved by them from any injustice being done them.

At a Sons of England celebration of St. George's Day in Johannesburg last Saturday the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyer, Minister of the Interior, is reported to have declared:—

"You would be very poor South Africans indeed if as the price of that South Africanism you were willing to turn your back upon the glorious heritage of the England from which you come." Nobody had any right, said Mr. Hofmeyer, to expect a man who had made South Africa his home to forget the land from which he sprang. There were people who declared that nationalism was wrong, that all should be citizens of the world. In his view a man could not be a good cosmopolitan unless he had first been a good nationalist."

Though the above advice was given to Sons of England it is equally applicable to sons and daughters of India.

CONVICTED on a charge of the rape of a native woman, Harry Lawrence Loyde, a tall, bearded European, was at the Circuit Court, Port Elizabeth, sentenced to five years' hard labour. The woman told the Court that on the night of December 22 she was accosted by two Europeans in Forest Hill road. One was Loyde and together they dragged her into the nearby bush, where Loyde assaulted her. Loyde pleaded consent and that the woman deceived him into the belief that she was Cape coloured. On his conviction it was shown that Loyde had five previous convictions, one being for rape at Queenstown, when he served a sentence of three and a half years. Acting Judge Gane in sentencing him said it was quite obvious the prisoner was not a safe person to be free among the public.

WILLIAM Maselo, a native labourer, was sentenced by Mr. Justice Maritz at the Rand Criminal Sessions to seven years' hard labour and ten lashes for raping a middle-aged white woman at Germiston on February 27. The complainant said she remembered nothing of the incident. It was also shown in the

evidence that she had been to the house of friends and celebrated a birthday, that she was intoxicated and incapable and lying senseless in a sluit with her clothes irregular. That persons in the neighbourhood saw accused and had him arrested. The jury recommended mercy. Mr. Justice Maritz said he would take all the circumstances into consideration, "but to show you the enormity of your offence I want to tell you that had none of these factors been present you would probably have been sentenced to death."

IN recording the above two instances here it is not our object to protest against the sentence passed on the Native by Mr. Justice Maritz or against the remarks made by him. A very serious view should doubtless be taken of such crimes. But what we do protest against is the racial distinction in protecting the however of women. We think a black woman's however should be protected just as much as that of a white woman. Courts should deal with such cases with impartiality and with equal severity irrespective of race or colour which we very often notice is not done.

PROFESSOR G. F. Dingemans, chairman of the Senate of the University of South Africa who was entertained by Indian merchants at the Orient Club is reported to have said in the course of an eloquent speech that the people of South Africa must learn the art of securing liberty for all, even if it meant the voluntary limitation of self. The European, the Indian and the Bantu all had a separate heritage, and each had its own contribution to make to the national culture of South Africa.

PROFESSOR S. H. Pillisier, Director of Education in the Free State and Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Africa, at the same function said he regarded it a great privilege to meet the Indians, but he had to confess that as a Free Stater they had not given much hospitality to the Indians. He hoped that the Indian community in its many difficulties in South Africa would succeed in getting the hearty co-operation of the European community.

To an inquiry made as to why nothing further has been heard about the £40,000 bequeathed by the late Advocate R. K. Khan for free hospitals and dispensaries in Durban and its environs for the Indian community irrespective of caste or creed, the *Natal Mercury* has been informed that the erection of these hospitals and dispensaries cannot be proceeded with for some years to come. The whole scheme is dependent upon the amount of money the estate will receive in accumulated interests due and payable on the late Advocate Khan's properties in Durban and district. As a sum of about £40,000 would be required for the project, its completion must necessarily be slow. The cash in the estate was not a large amount, the bulk of the securities being properties and bonds which can only be released at maturity. The total value of the assets is £49,539. The executors are Messrs. P. R. Pather and S. Rustomjee, and Mr. W. Doull.

REFERRING to the Coalition agreement at a meeting during his tour of the Rustenburg district, General Smuts, Minister of Justice, said:—"I made a contract with General Hertzog. I signed my name, and General Hertzog signed his, to the real peace treaty of South Africa, a peace in which all races and the whole population could share."

UNLIKE our South African European Press which almost unanimously advised India to accept the proposed new constitution as best fitted for her

in her present circumstances, *The Nation* (New York) has the following comment to offer on it:—

"The proposed constitution for India, as one delegate to the third Round Table Conference has pointed out, is more concerned with safeguards than with self-government. Certainly the published summaries indicate that Great Britain has reserved to itself powers over finance, foreign affairs, defence, and internal political affairs even wider than were contemplated at the first Round Table Conference. It remains to be seen whether the constitution can be worked, even if it is enacted into law—the safeguards, high as they are, are still not high enough for the Tory diehards. Gandhi and the main body of the Congress Party will refuse to co-operate, and the Congress, despite the Government's long and fierce attempt to suppress it, is still the most important political group in India. The Moderates are half-hearted in their support of the new constitution. There remains the not too reliable support of conservative and reactionary minorities such as the Indian princes, the landlords, and the Moslem Old Guard—a sorry basis on which to build a self-governing state. The prospect for amicable British-Indian relations is dark. It will remain so until Great Britain offers a constitution that self-respecting Indians can accept. We hope the offer will not come too late."

REFERENCE to Ruskin's influence on Mahatma Gandhi was made by Dr. Barnes in Birmingham at a dinner of the Ruskin Society recently, the occasion being the 14th anniversary of Ruskin's birth. Dr. Barnes, describing himself as an unrepentant Victorian said, "I admire Victorians in particular, John Ruskin, one of the greatest Victorians of the age, was in happier times than that in which we find ourselves at present. Some 30 years ago, there was in South Africa a young Indian barrister doing remarkably well in his profession. He was about to take a long railway journey. A friend gave him to read 'Unto This Last.' The friend saw him a fortnight later. The barrister said the book was an inspiration. It was a gospel for life. He ceased to practise at the Bar and became a follower of Ruskin. They call him now Mahatma Gandhi. I can assure you that the story is perfectly true." Dr. Barnes added, "at the moment Victorians are regarded with certain indifference, if not contempt. Their era will return and when it does, the world will join with us in the homage to John Ruskin."

DR. Franz Thierfelder, the hon. Secretary of the India Institute of the Deutsche Akademie, the object of which is to promote cultural relations and friendly understanding between Germany and India, writes to us as follows:—

"Members of the Labour Party have been maintaining in the House of Commons that the safety of the Indians pursuing their studies in Germany was compromised by recent political events. This news has also been divulged in the foreign press. India Institute of the Deutsch Akademie, which looks after the interests of a considerable portion of such Indians as study in Germany, assures the public at large that the safety of the Indian students pursuing their scientific work and refraining from politics is guaranteed at present and in future. Indian students who come to this country in order to acquaint them with German things and to promote cultural relations between Germany and India can safely be assured of being now as before welcomed at German Universities. News to the contrary propagated by the foreign press have no foundation whatever in the actual facts."

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

THE annual general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress which met at the end of the year before last a little before the sitting of the Capetown Round Table Conference; and was then adjourned in order to keep the same officials in office to carry on the work during the Conference, as it was felt they would be best fitted for the work in view of their past experience, will be held next Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Parsee Rustomjee Hall. The important work before the meeting will be the passing of the supplementary reports of the joint secretaries and treasurers and the election of new officials. From past experience of such meetings, we can guess there will be considerable excitement but one thing lacking which will possibly be level-headedness. It will be necessary to guard against that. Every person present at the meeting will have to keep one thing in his mind and that will be that he is not there for his own self but that on his action depends the future destiny of the whole community.

There are two sides in everyone of us—the dark and the bright. The devil in the man always leads him to see only the dark side not in himself but in others. Our Congress workers are also human-beings like ourselves and have also the dark and the bright side in them, but let us guard against the devil in us and examine only their bright side which alone has helped the Congress to exist and kept its flag flying all these years. The community's deepest thanks are due to those who had the reins of the Congress in their hands for having served it to the best of their ability and at a considerable personal sacrifice. In this connection one name stands uppermost and that is Mr. Sorabjee Rustomjee who has been the president all these years. Mr. Sorabjee inherited many qualities of his late father. The topmost of them are his generosity and courage. It is no exaggeration to say that it has been due to his extraordinary zeal and courage in whatever responsibility he assumed that the Congress flag was kept flying in the past. Other workers, compared with him, were but weaklings. Not only did they depend on Mr. Sorabjee's enthusiasm but also on his purse which he opened at times far beyond his capacity to keep up the prestige of the Congress. There were a few honourable exceptions among the merchants on whose help he could always depend, but his main source was his indomitable courage. In his performance of his thankless task he has allowed his own affairs to be neglected almost to the point of ruination. No other worker has done that nor should he be expected to do so by the community.

Mr. Sorabjee has now, we understand, long since resigned from the presidentship. Whether he will allow the honour once again to be conferred on him is doubtful. If he can be prevailed upon to do so the community will doubtless have gained. He has had many disappointments, we know, but then he should not forget that after all it is not a bed of roses that he is given but it is veritably a bed of thorns. He can get his inspiration from Herr Hitler in Germany and President Roosevelt in America who, though they have the highest honour conferred on them, have lost all peace and have to remain almost in the very mouth of death and yet they march ahead in the right performance of their duty snapping their finger at everyone and everything. If next Sunday's meeting fails to persuade Mr. Sorabjee to accept the presidentship we fear the community is in for dark days. We cannot think of any other who will fill that very responsible post as ably as he did in the

interests of not any one but all sections of the community. Next Sunday's meeting will find it a hard—almost an impossible—task to prevail upon Mr. Sorabjee to accept the presidentship once again, but it will, nevertheless, be the wisest thing it will have done.

Having said so much about the president, we cannot ignore the joint secretaries Messrs. A. I. Kajea and P. R. Pather who have been the two able hands of Mr. Sorabjee. Their task was no less thankless than that of the president and they have ably performed it. It was with very great difficulty last year both at the Natal Indian Congress election meeting as well as that of the South African Indian Congress that they were persuaded to be re-elected. One of the secretaries, Mr. A. I. Kajea, we understand, is intending shortly to go overseas. Mr. Pather will therefore be alone. The task before the meeting will be to find the right person to fill Mr. Kajea's place, and, should Mr. Pather refuse to continue, his place also who will work disinterestedly and with the same zeal as did the past secretaries. Yet another task will be to elect the other officials and members of the Committee. In this connection we will repeat what we have said in the beginning of this article that each individual present at the meeting should not think of his own person but of the work that is to be done in the interests of the community and concentrate in finding persons not who will merely hold positions but who will not shirk their duty.

Mr. Polak Addresses Indian Students

Mr. H. S. L. Polak, who was editor of this journal and a lieutenant of Mahatma Gandhi when he was in South Africa, and who is now for many years in England closely associated with the Indians Overseas Association, paid a visit to India recently. While in Madras, Mr. Polak addressed a large gathering of students at the "Ganga Mandir" and gave them a few incidents in his life and the lessons they held out to him. He explained the circumstances under which he first came into contact with Mahatma Gandhi, and how they became intimate friends.

The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri presided over the gathering.

Mr. Polak said that in his early boyhood he had been greatly perturbed on reading of the persecution of the Jews, his co-religionists, in Russia. Those incidents he read of made a very deep impression on his sensitive mind and he determined to do his best to relieve their suffering to the extent he could. His desire for service of the Jews arose, he said, not so much because they were Jews but because they were fellowmen who were being oppressed. But his desire to serve his fellowmen found a new field to work in. Thanks to his uncle's offer, he got engaged in his firm in South Africa, with the object of making his fortune and serving, if possible, the natives of South Africa. But on reaching there he was shocked that the problem was not one of race or religion but of colour and that besides there was an Indian problem there. Yet another thing that struck him was that the very Jewish community that was oppressed in Russia, was in the role of oppressors in South Africa!

Some time, after going to South Africa, he continued, he changed over to journalism. In the course of his journalistic work, he one day came across a copy of INDIAN OPINION edited by one Mr. Gandhi. He read the journal and discovered a tremendous amount in life in experience in reading of sufferings that he had never imagined before, and a tremendous amount of wisdom he had never

seen before—the wisdom of the East! The more he studied the INDIAN OPINION the more he became convinced that there was one man he ought to see as soon as possible and that was Mahatma Gandhi “who wrote so convincingly about the Indian disabilities and seemed to enjoy the confidence of his people and also to be able to compel the respect even of the Europeans in South Africa.” Describing how he came into contact with Mahatma Gandhi, he said Mahatma Gandhi was a great vegetarian propagandist in those days, and the landlady of one of the vegetarian restaurants of Johannesburg was responsible for the speaker getting acquainted with Mr. Gandhi. She introduced Mr. Polak to Mr. Gandhi and they immediately got right into the heart of things that interested them both,—the thing that interested them immediately being the book called “Nature Cure Treatment” (laughter). Mr. Polak said he happened to be “the only other person in Johannesburg” who had read that particular book. He became literally a member of Mr. Gandhi’s family, and Mrs. Gandhi, he said, was more than a sister or mother to him. Later when he married and settled, Mr. and Mrs. Gandhi went and lived with him.

One day, he continued, he read in one Johannesburg newspaper that he (Mr. Polak) was looked upon as a traitor to his community because of his associating with Indians. Mr. Polak wrote a sharp retort to the Jews charging them with having “become oppressors from the oppressed.” The lesson he learnt was not to look a long way off for the place where to serve humanity but just around and see who was it that was not getting a square deal. Indeed, he said, he threw himself heart and soul into what little he might have been able to do. He identified himself by day and night with the people he was trying to help, so much so that when he went before the Marriage Registrar to get wedded to the lady, his wife, who had come down from England, the Registrar went to the Chief Magistrate of Johannesburg and said: “I cannot marry these two people; this man Polak is an Indian” (laughter). “He might have refused,” observed Mr. Polak amidst renewed laughter, “but I was able to get married. My very neighbours complained to my landlord about the nuisance of the coloured people next door.”

Things got so bad, continued Mr. Polak, that when he came to India, Mr. Gokhale suggested to him that he might be able to do greater service to the Indian community by going amidst his own people and persuading them to be fair. He found that a very bitter pill to swallow, but when Mr. Gandhi left South Africa, Mr. Polak began more and more to meet the Europeans and was able to bring home to them and make a few to appreciate, the glories of the Indian civilisation, its beauties, its philosophy and its literature. After all that, he came to realise that no one ought to take part in public affairs in that country unless he had first served a term of imprisonment.

There was a strong tendency in almost all of them to be carried away by slogans. But he urged them to think for themselves on all matters. “The truth that is most important of all is never in print, nor is it outside; it is in your own hearts and in those you find around you; in particular in the hearts of the poor and the suffering. Most of the people in this country are poor and suffering, most of them ignorant. It is upon their labours and by reason of their suffering that you all are living and gaining education, and opportunities,—I hope so—of livelihood, of honour, or it may even be, honours. Sir Mirza Ismail of Mysore is one of the best and noblest men I have met in India. He told me that so long as he was in charge of the affairs of the State, all the amenities of life should not be con-

finied to towns but should be afforded to villagers and villages. I was shown as I went from Bangalore to Mysore village after village that was showing the effects of that policy. There was not one of them that I saw that did not have its electric light. If in addition to that physical lamp there also should be in that village a lamp of the life of some student or ex-student who would help the villagers to solve their problems to overcome their difficulties, and would put a light and lamp before their eyes by his conduct, character and capacity to inspire, that indeed would be worthwhile! I would like to leave that thought in your minds now.

Things In General

(BY OBSERVER)

IN a series of weekly notes I hope to give to the readers of INDIAN OPINION a glimpse of what is happening in the world generally, with brief comments thereon. If by chance a little of the humour as well as pathos of life be portrayed so much the better. For we have all need of widening our vision which is so apt to get cramped by looking too closely into one’s own affairs whilst forgetting the troubles of others. The views expressed need not necessarily be strictly in accordance with the editorial viewpoint though they need never be out of harmony with the principles that have governed this journal for the last thirty years.

THAT reminds me of the startling flight of time. It is exactly thirty years since I first met Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, then a practising attorney in Johannesburg. Each day we met at Mr. Ziegler’s Restaurant and ate vegetarian food and discussed the news of the day and other matters not merely news with men and women of the Golden City.

THOSE were what one might term the “early days” when very few women and children were to be seen in the streets, Johannesburg of to-day is an altogether different place. And as times and conditions have changed so have we all. We see things somewhat differently in our maturer years. Let us hope that we have grown really wiser with the grey hairs.

THIRTY years ago the Indian question in South Africa had not become the world problem it afterwards grew to be, culminating in the great Passive Resistance movement with its wealth of sacrifice and public spirit which fired the enthusiasm of millions in India and throughout the wide world.

NO; we were immediately concerned with matters closely affecting us as citizens with perhaps not such a high appreciation of the “claims of Empire” as has been forced upon us since. At times purely domestic affairs, such as the criminal neglect of the Johannesburg Town Council regarding the state of the old Indian Location were uppermost in our minds, and I remember well how some of us felt about the serious obligation the ruling powers had. Unfortunately serious thinkers were few, and a remedy was far to seek.

THE recent incident of the Malay population, protesting against Asiatic encroachment in what is called the Malay Location, appears to me to be an unfortunate effort on their part, involving as it will serious ill-feeling between old friends and even amongst families; for have not Indian Moslems

married Malay wives, and families have grown up to regard the Indian and Malay as a united people in South Africa?

THE Malay Location in the early days was not exactly a paradise but I remember it as being distinctly superior to the old Indian Location which was condemned and burnt to the ground by the Municipality just to show, as it were, that it was anxious to remedy a grave peril to the health and lives of the *European* population! Strange but true.

BUT the Indian people had to pay the penalty of the Municipality's sin in the lives of many who perished in the plague which swept through that terrible place. And more lives would have been lost had it not been for the noble work of a band of Indian volunteer nurses who, under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi, fought the grim spectre and won the battle.

I WONDER whether to-day, in these advanced times, when science and sanitary laws have made such strides, the Malay Location is a safe place to live in. I doubt it. How slowly the powers-that-be move where non-Europeans are concerned! But how much better it would be if Indian and Malay residents of Johannesburg were uniting in a common effort to bring about better conditions without racial distinctions! Then we might hope for a better state of things.

Indian Women's Society In Kimberley

(From a Correspondent)

There was a large gathering of Indian Women in the Indian School Hall, Kimberley, recently for the purpose of discussing the advisability of forming an Indian Women's Association. The conveners were Messrs. P. M. Dawson and T. V. R. Pillay. Among those present were Messrs. P. M. Dawson, T. V. R. Pillay, N. K. Pilly, R. V. Padyachy, K. F. Michael, J. Nordeen and V. V. Naidoo.

Mr. P. M. Dawson, who presided, briefly outlined the object for which the meeting was called and explained the usefulness of forming such a Society. The spare time of the women, he said, could be utilised for the mutual benefit of themselves and the community. For instance relieving the poor and needy, helping the old and feeble and visiting the sick.

The Chairman further said that the meeting should be grateful to Mrs. H. Lazar for bringing about this most laudable movement.

Mr. T. V. R. Pillay in associating himself with Mr. Dawson gave a lengthy account about women's movements in the Indian world and the services they render in their mother-country, and the political part they had played in South Africa and India, and also touched upon the work of the Hindu Women's Society, founded by Mrs. Lazar. A telegram was then read from Mrs. H. Lazar expressing delight at the progress and wishing every success. The following resolution was then unanimously passed:

"That this meeting of Indian women assembled at the Indian School Hall resolves to form themselves into an Indian Women's Society for the purpose of carrying out the social work among the community, the objects of which are (a) to bring about closer unity between the different sections of the community; (b) to make better use of the spare

time; (c) to help and maintain the national education among the community; (d) to form a band of social workers to attend the sick and needy, and to assist those in adverse circumstances; (e) to co-operate with other bodies or institutions whose aims are similar."

The following officers were then elected: Patrons: Kunwarani Lady Maharaj Singh, Mrs. H. Lazar, Mrs. Mariam Ahmed Mohamed. President: Mrs. Amina Ebrahim Mohamed. Vice-President: Mesdames J. Nordeen, N. K. Pillay, S. Abbas, C. Lawrence, K. Paddy and V. Gallant. Honorary Treasurers: Mrs. K. Rajagopal Pillay and Miss Ivy Ahmed Mahomed. Joint Honorary Secretaries: Miss N. Dawson and Mrs. G. Isaacs, and a Committee of 30 members was elected to carry on the work for the ensuing year.

The total number of members enrolled were 75. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the conveners.

Facts About Civil Disobedience In India

Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, ex-president of the Indian National Congress, issued the following statement to the Press:—

The Government communique recently issued, gives what may be called an expurgated account of the Gandhi-Willingdon correspondence, suppressing some very relevant passages. This has led Anglo-Indian papers to say to their readers that the Congress version of the story is a crude falsehood.

Mahatmaji returned from the R.T.O. and landing at Bombay on the 28th December 1931 found the rule of repression and ordinances in the Frontier, U.P. and Bengal when he expected to organise peace and bring about a settlement of the political question. He, therefore, sent at once a telegram to the Viceroy asking for an interview to discuss matters. The Government communique gives Gandhiji's telegram of 29th December, which shows how eager and earnest he was for co-operation. In reply to this the Viceroy intimated that Gandhiji could see him only if he agreed not to discuss ordinances or repressive measures. Gandhiji was told that if he wished to discuss these matters, the Viceroy could not receive him. This peremptory condition precedent to a discussion which he so anxiously sought, was tantamount to refusing the interview. This part of the Viceroy's telegram of the 31st December is suppressed in the Government communique.

Gandhiji wired on 1st January pleading, once more, in the most entreaty terms, the injustice of refusing an opportunity to discuss the repressive measures and ordinances, and complaining that, while he had approached the Viceroy in the friendliest spirit seeking to understand Government version of the very serious and extraordinary measures taken at a time when the truce was in force, His Excellency had rejected his advance and placed an impossible condition for the interview. Gandhiji explained in the telegram, what he had heard fellow-workers with reference to Congress activities in the Frontier and U.P. and added that he was anxious to understand Government side, so that he might tender suitable advice to the Congress. "If it is not yet too late," he said, "I would ask His Excellency to reconsider his decision and see me as friend without imposing any conditions whatsoever as to the scope or subject for discussion, and if on my part can promise I will study with an open mind the facts that His Excellency might put before me. I would unhesitatingly and willingly go to

the respective provinces and with the aid of the authorities study both sides of the question. If I came to the conclusion, after such a study, that people were in the wrong and that the Working Committee was misled and that the Government was right, I should have no hesitation, whatsoever, in making that open confession, and guiding Congress accordingly."

All this is suppressed in the Government's communique. It may be part of the bureaucratic creed that no popular leader may dare question the correctness of Government decision or claim to study both sides on terms of equality, but the world or the public of India cannot accept such a doctrine.

One circumstance may be exploited to cloud the issue. The resolution of the Working Committee in regard to Civil Disobedience was passed, though provisionally, before the reply was received to Gandhiji's renewed request for an interview. To this, however, the answer is that the nature of the Viceroy's first reply and uncontradicted reports led Gandhiji to believe he would have no further opportunity to guide the public or the Working Committee. The resolution was, therefore, tentatively adopted. But it must be perfectly clear to everyone that, if the Viceroy had replied to Gandhiji that he would receive and allow him to discuss the measures Government had taken which were contrary prima facie to the spirit and express terms of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact and therefore were at least legitimate subject-matter for discussion, the resolution would have remained unexecuted and events would have taken a different course.

The public may judge on these facts whether the claim of the Government and the Anglo-Indian papers is right, that the Viceroy was perfectly willing to see Gandhiji on his return from the R.T.C., but the Working Committee's programme made it impossible. We would have no objection to the republication of the entire correspondence. Indeed, we would welcome it. But suppression of just the relevant passages is not fair.

Mahatma Gandhi On World Peace And Disarmament

Bishop Frederick B. Fisher, (long time Bishop in India and now head of a large student's Church, University of Michigan) has published a book on Mahatma Gandhi. He prints a letter received by him from Mahatma Gandhi dated September 29, 1931. The letter reads as follows:—

"Dear friend,—I was deeply touched by your prayerful greetings. My message to American Christians on World Peace and Disarmament are not a matter of reciprocity. When real Peace and Disarmament come they will be initiated by a strong Nation like America—irrespective of the consent and co-operation of other nations.

An individual or a nation must have faith in oneself and in the protective power of God to find peace in the midst of strife, and to shed all arms by reason of feeling the loving power of God and His protective shield, and to hold such peace to be impossible so long as strong nations do not consider it to be sinful to exploit weak nations.—Yours sincerely, M. K. GANDHI."

Mr. Sydney Strong who recommends every Anglo-Saxon to read this book to learn what the "fathers" have sometimes perpetrated in the name of civilisation quotes the above letter and writes thus:—

Here speaks a Christian statesman. These words might well be written in every young man's room, and hung above the door of the Council Chambers of the League of Nations. Can anyone improve on these plain words of the Archbishop of statescraft? They do not need to be referred to a "sub-committee of experts." They sound more Christian than the words of an Archbishop of the Church, who lately

advised the blockade of the ports of a nation unfriendly to that Church, in order to kill infidelity. This suggests a reason why so many unhappily desert religious shrines.

Original Correspondence

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

THE TRANSVAAL COLONIAL BORN INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Sir,—It has more than surprised me at the comments you have levelled at the President (Dr. Wm. Godfrey) of my Association in your leading article of the 27th March. You appear to have forgotten men much more important than the Dr. at that time who have done so much more to harm the community than the Dr. Before giving you a few instances, I may clear the point you have so strongly raised against my President. I admit that the Dr. threw down the forms as stated and spoke at length denouncing the Act, and subsequently changed his views advising his countrymen to send the forms to the Commission and also a letter of his appearing in the local press to the above effect. That has only been done after an interview with the Agent-General, Sir Kurma, and not before. The Dr. and the Agent-General discussed the Act, and the Commission very fully and the result of the discussion was the letter of the Dr. appearing in the press, the Dr. has done so of his own accord and not as head of any Association or an official of any body.

Since the election of my Association held on the 22nd of February this year, it went very fully into the Act and the Commission (in Committee and General.) After such meetings the Dr. changed his views and the resolutions published in your paper are the outcome of same. I say with out fear of contradiction that my Association is sincere in all its resolutions and so is the Dr. the President of my Association and are prepared to back same till the very last, as they cannot go back on their resolutions of the 9th June 1930, an subsequent telegrams to the Minister of Interior and the Agent-General at Capetown.

I presume that as Editor of a widely read paper you have overlooked or have not been brought to your notice the actions of some very important and very prominent men who hold very high position both in the Transvaal Indian Congress and the South African Congress. For instance at the South African Indian Conference held at Capetown in 1929 and 1930 at which I represented the Transvaal on behalf of Pretoria, fiery speeches were made in connection with the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, when same came up for discussion, Messrs. J. E. Gardes and Cassim Adam two of the wealthiest Indians in the Transvaal denounced the Act and assured the Conference of their utmost support. The former was then the President of the Transvaal Indian Congress, and the vice-President of the South African Indian Congress and the latter was the vice-President of the T. I. Congress and the Executive member of the S. A. I. Congress. What has happened since? Mr. Gardes on the advice of the Agent-General has sent his form to the Commission and has also got all his tenants to do likewise. Giving a little further some of the officials of the T. I. Congress went from shop to shop and house to house asking people to fill in the forms and not to follow the advice of the Congress but to ignore them, and thereafter on the advice of the Agent

General formed themselves into Commercial Association, who have submitted a Memorandum to the Commission. The Rev. Sigamoney the secretary of the T. I. Congress at that time advised the public to fill in the forms under protest, forgetting his speeches at the Capetown Conference and the Conference held at Johannesburg, and further speeches at the Congress meetings when he declared that he would rather die in prison than fill in such forms which is a degradation to all Indians and bringing them to the level of animals. I see now that he also has changed his views and has gone so far as to distribute the forms to all children who are attending his school, (of which he is the principal) to be filled in by the parents and returned to him to be forwarded to the Commission, I have in my possession a form given to one of my daughters who is attending his school.

I wonder whether these men who have held such important posts both in the S.A.I. Congress, and the T. I. Congress and in whom the public had so much confidence were sincere in their utterances? All the actions of these men were hushed up, but a mere error committed by an individual not half so important is criticised because he is not liked by some person or persons, because he differs with their views.

Why can we not be sincere in all our workings and honestly expose every one alike, without favour or prejudice. Then only can the public see what is what and who are who amongst the so-called leaders.—Yours etc.

V. M. MOODLEY
Hon. Joint Secretary.
T.C.B.I.A.

[Note—The mere fact that others may have acted like Dr. Godfrey does not exonerate Dr. Godfrey from guilt. We assure the above writer that our criticism of Dr. Godfrey's action was not prompted by any personal motives. We do not blame Dr. Godfrey for having changed his views after his interview with the Agent but we do blame him if he has changed them again as would appear from his acceptance of the presidency of the Colonial Born Indian Association. If what the above writer has said about others including Congress officials is true we certainly think their action deserves to be condemned just as much if not more than Dr. Godfrey's.—Ed. I. O.]

Answers To Correspondents

THE RESIDENTS of MAYVILLE AREA.—Your letter is libellous. We cannot therefore publish it. The proper channel is to report the matter to the C.I.D.

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 30th April, 1933 at 3 p.m.

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

A. I. KAJEE
P. R. PATNER
Joint Hon. Secretaries

“Ranji”

A European Tribute

The *Star*, Johannesburg, pays the following tribute to the late Jamsahab of Nawansagar:—

The British Empire has lost a singularly interesting personality by the death of the Jamsahab of Nawansagar. It knew him mainly as “Ranji”, the cricketer who practically invented a new style, who combined with elasticity of mind and body a courage which enabled him to face every vicissitude of the game and to juggle with “body-line bowling” such as that which caused so much discussion recently. But it recognised him also—though only dimly—as a link between the British public and the far-off millions of India. It would be difficult to estimate the psychological effect which his advent and achievements made upon the more thoughtless majority who do not study history and are best reached through the medium of their games and everyday interests. Indian players have not been rare, but the fact that an Indian should become one of the greatest exponents of the peculiarly British game gave millions of Europeans a different view of India and Indians. They almost forgot at times that Ranjitsinjbi, the Cambridge and Sussex phenomenon, was not an Englishman. They certainly did not stop to ponder upon the relation between his feats at the wicket and the destinies of States and Empires. But they must, subconsciously, have imbibed a new interest in and respect for the country from which he came.

Nawansagar is not one of the great Indian States; in fact, though its area is much larger than its population suggests, the latter is approximately that of the Witwatersrand district—a very small figure in Indian statistics. But it is a notable little community, with its own State railway and locomotive works, its own seaport, manufactures and shipping, and contact between the rulers and the ruled is closer there than in the congested areas. As the head of this Eastern domain in succession to his uncle (who had adopted him as his son), “Ranji” became a less familiar figure to the West. He evolved into a legend, in fact, almost in a few years. His influence remained, and it was not confined to cricket. The subtle effect he produced upon the attitude of the ordinary man in Britain towards Indians has never been lost, and may have had made definite results in the shaping of policy towards India than is generally realised.

Transvaal Indian Congress

Provincial Conference

A Provincial Conference of the Transvaal Indian Congress will be held at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, on the 24th and 25th May, 1933 at 10 a.m.

Affiliated bodies and district organisations are requested to send 3 delegates. The names of the delegates should reach the secretaries not later than 20th May 1933. Agenda—1. Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, 2. Licences, 3. Immigration, 4. Railways, 5. Education, 6. General.

D. M. NURSOO
E. M. MALL
Joint hon. Secretaries

P.O. Box 4111, Johannesburg.

News In Brief

A large gathering of students and others assembled in the M. K. Gandhi Library, on Monday evening (24th inst.) to hear Prof. Dingemans M.A. of Rhodes University College, dilate generally upon Indian education. His address was extremely interesting, and the humour and loquacity so characteristic of him, he throughout held his audience spell-bound. Mr. Narbeth, for a time, and later Advocate A. Christopher, presided. Prof. Dingemans, besides being Chairman of the University of S. A. is also chairman of the South African Native College Council, Fort Hare. Although a Hollander, and despite his 31 years sojourn in S.A., he is apparently very keenly interested in the welfare of the non-European races of this country. He left on Tuesday for Grahams-town where he will once more resume duties at Rhodes.

At the usual monthly meeting of the Indo-European Council, held in the Tamil Institute, on Tuesday 25th inst., Mr. O. K. Winterton, Inspector of Schools, delivered a most illuminating and by no means unprovocative lecture on Indian education. Mr. Winterton, first gave a brief historical account of Indian education in Natal, showing with what rapidity the number of Indian schools have in recent years increased. Later he touched upon defects and suggested remedies. Though in some respects very cutting and caustic, the lecture was certainly interesting. Conspicuous by the cursory manner in which it was treated, was the question of salaries to Indian teachers. Though this subject, at the moment looms large, as far as Indian education is concerned, the matter was dealt with briefly by the lecturer. Members of the audience, however, later made it the paramount topic of discussion. Mr. Maurice Webb presided over the unusually large gathering.

Next month there will be a joint meeting of the Indo-European and Bantu-European Councils, when the question of franchise as it effects the respective races, will be the chief subject of discussion. A large gathering is anticipated.

Mr. Ohunilal Raghavjee of Messrs. Chunilal Bros., Verulam, who sails for India on Monday next, was given a farewell reception last Sunday by the Verulam Football Club. Mr. Shyam, the schoolmaster of the Verulam Indian school, presided. The chairman, in his speech, referred to the enthusiasm shown by Mr. Chunilal in sports and the able manner in which he filled the post as president of the club. Mr. Chunilal was presented, on behalf of the club, with a pocket diary and a fountain pen. Other speeches were also made wishing Mr. Chunilal a pleasant voyage and a safe return. Mr. Manilal Gandhi, who was at the time in Verulam, was also present at the meeting and joined in wishing Mr. Chunilal God-speed. Mr. Chunilal, in thanking the members of the club donated the club the sum of £1.

An opportunity was also taken at the above meeting of welcoming Mr. Maharaj who had just returned after a short but interesting visit to India. Mr. Maharaj also donated to the club £1.

The Agent of the Government of India, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, has returned from Capetown with his staff to Johannesburg.

The Agent visited Roodepoort to interview the Town Council on behalf of Asiatic residents in connection with the Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission.

Last Sunday Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh preached at evensong at St. Luke's Church, Orchards, Johannesburg.

A list has been published of seven Ministers representing the Indian States and 21 representatives of all communities in British India, whom the Parliamentary Joint Committee, which is to consider Indian constitutional reforms as soon as Parliament reassembles, has decided to call into consultation, says a Reuter's message from London.

Sporting News

At a general meeting of the Mayville Indian Youngmen's Society held at 42 Gillat's Road, Mayville, recently with the president Mr. N. C. Naidoo in the chair the Mayville Football Club applied to be taken under the society's wing as its sporting branch.

The president Mr. S. P. Pillay and the secretary Mr. V. S. Vadival of the club explained that on account of the amalgamations between the Natal Provincial Indian Football Association and the Natal Indian Football Association, there will be a certain amount of travelling and administration work to enable the club to take part in the Natal Indian Football Association fixtures, in the various districts. Furthermore the officials of the club are holding the greater position of the club's official posts, therefore the Mayville Football Club will be catered for under the society's control.

After due discussion by members of the society, the affiliation was accepted unanimously. Other speakers were Messrs. M. E. Naidoo, M. E. Devar, M. Moonilal, B. Renben and Perumal.

The officials of the Mayville Football Club for the ensuing season are as follows:—Patron: Mr. R. Naidoo, President: Mr. S. P. Pillay, hon. Secretary: Mr. V. S. Vadival, hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. Moonilal, Captain: Mr. Ganass K. Acharie, vice-Captain: Mr. B. Moonie, Delegates to the Mayville District Indian Football Association: Messrs. M. R. Devar and N. C. Naidoo.

At a meeting of the Nylstroom Indian Sporting Club the following new officials were elected:—Patrons: Messrs. Mustapha Mosam, Hassim Ahmed, A. E. Ravat; President: Mr. Essop Boodhanja; Vice Presidents: Messrs. M. Kaloo, Y. R. Patel, Ismail Ravat, Ahmed Bamjee, M. Saacor; Captain: Mr. Mohamed Mosam, Vice-Captain: Mr. P. Kristnasamy, hon. secretary: Mr. P. Kristnasamy, hon. treasurer: Mr. Seedat Moosam; Committee: Messrs. Abdul Hay Ravat, Abas Kaloo, Saley Adams, Gulab Ameer, A. Adam, M. R. Mistry, D. M. Desai, P. Poorsot, Suliman Essack, A. Kajeer.

The following is the Senior League Log (D.D.I.F.A.):

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Sydenham	4	3	0	1	7
Blue Bells	4	3	1	0	6
Grey Stars	3	2	1	0	4
Pirates	4	2	1	2	4
Avondales	4	2	0	0	4
Daffodils	4	2	1	1	3
Sastri College	3	1	2	0	2
Sydenham College	3	0	3	0	0
Stamford Hill	4	0	4	0	0