

# Indian Opinion

No. 37—Vol. XXXI.

Friday, September 15th, 1933

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

## NOTES AND NEWS

THE Provincial Council Select Committee on the Durban Corporation's Extended Powers Ordinance, deleted the clause providing that, "on filing of notarial declarations by owners of two or more contiguous land holdings within the Borough, restricting the future transfer of such land to persons of a specified class, thereafter it would be unlawful for such land to be transferred to persons outside the specified class." The *Natal Advertiser* is, advised from an authoritative quarter that the committee did not rule that the restrictive powers sought were undesirable in themselves, but that other means to implement them should be sought than the method proposed under the draft Ordinance clause. Under present conditions, it was pointed out, contiguous owners can achieve the transfer restrictions mooted through registration of anti-Asiatic clauses in individual title deeds. This, however, involves fairly heavy expense, and the suggestion was that the procedure proposed under the Ordinance would cheapen costs. In discussion, however, this conclusion was contested, while the legal point was raised whether the restrictive measures proposed under the draft Ordinance could be made absolutely binding, in default of individual endorsement on title deeds. Other means of giving effect to the restrictions proposed under the Ordinance, are now under consideration, it was stated.

COMMENTING on the mass meeting of Colonial-born Indians held in Durban recently to reject the resolution of the South African Indian Congress to co-operate with the colonisation inquiry committee, the *Bombay Chronicle* writes:—

The decision is not at all surprising. The Colonial born Indians claim the rights of citizenship in the land of their birth and refuse to co-operate with a committee conspiring to exterminate the whole Indian community under the guise of assisted emigration. . . . The Union Government has been attempting for years past to harass the Indian community out of its country in every possible way. But it is up to the community to continue to put up a good fight for its rights. It is true that they can succeed fully only when India is free, but their fight must be kept up till then and it is also the duty of Indians here to assist their countrymen abroad in all possible ways.

In the course of an interview recently Mahatma Gandhi said: he knew only one fetish in life and that was Truth, and he was not sorry for having made of it a fetish. "Prestige came unasked and unsought from right conduct, right speech and right thought." His endeavour ever since he entered public life, said Mahatma Gandhi, was to regulate it by those three golden rules.

If Congress leaders who claim to revere Mahatma Gandhi would only follow these three golden rules they would not only benefit themselves but the community too.

MAHATMA GANDHI states in a recent statement of his:—"The danger of a sudden outburst of violence is always present, so long as the violence of the heart is not eradicated. I am sorry to say there is ample violence in our breasts. We have acted non-violently out of policy, out of helplessness. We would inflict violence if we could do so with effect. I would have India abjure violence even if I had the power to wield it. I would have it appreciate the fact that if the masses are to work out their own independence, they are so numerous that if they achieved anything through violent means, it would not be independence but a fiendish thing, that would devour them and perhaps bring ruination to the whole world. One lesson that the history of the western nation teaches the world in flaming letters is that violence is not the way to peace or happiness."

COMMENTING on the above *The Tribune* (Lahore) writes:—"We know of nothing in contemporary political literature which is more ennobling than this passage. If British statesmen have any real regard for peace, if their oft-repeated solicitude for the maintenance of law and order is not a cloak for the maintenance of their irresponsible authority in India, the last thing they should do is to put a gag into the Mahatma's golden mouth. To leave the Mahatma free to ventilate his views, no matter how unpalatable they may sometimes be to men in authority, is worth more to the cause of peace and order than a hundred thousand men in arms."

SIR John Thompson, speaking at a luncheon in London declared that after extolling democracy for 70 years in India it was impossible now to tell Indians that we were mistaken and that we must see how dictatorship works on the Continent and then say whether it is or it is not the most suitable form of government for India. If we entertained such suggestions the education which we had given India would instantly reject as a betrayal.

THE following message was sent by Dr. Rabindranath Tagore on the centenary of the abolition of slavery, the international celebration of which took place in Hull (England) on July 29:—

"A century has passed since Wilberforce showed noble courage to condemn the thriving business of slave-hunting. It is right that we should remember it with proper ceremony and bring our homage to the memory of a great man. But at the same time this should be the occasion for us to acknowledge with shame that the evil has not died with his own death, that in the dark corners of civilisation slavery still lurks hiding its name and nourishing its spirit. It is there in our plantations, in factories, in business offices and in punitive departments of the Government. A considerable section of men still seems to have innate sympathy for the strong seeking victims in its chase of profit and power. What is worse, there is a terrible movement of benevolent idealism relentlessly smothering freedom in its path of ruthless recruitment. Humanity ever waits for the voice of judgment against uncontrolled cultivation of slavery which invades all parts of the civilised world offering enormous bribes to the conscience of man, spreading callousness to the heart that is ashamed of its hooliganism."

## TRANSVAAL INDIANS

**A** CORRESPONDENT wrote in our Gujarati columns last week drawing our attention to the fact that we had for the last few weeks engaged ourselves almost entirely in discussing the controversy over the co-operation of the Congress with the Colonization Inquiry Committee and reminding us of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, which was still troubling the minds of the Transvaal Indians. Some people are under the misapprehension, the correspondent states, that having filled in the prescribed forms and the Commercial Indian Association having represented their case before the Land Tenure Act Commission they are now free from any hindrance. The secretary of the Commission, the correspondent tells us, is now asking those who have filled in the D.I. 29 form to fill in another similar form.

The Transvaal Indians, we know, are in a hopeless position and none but themselves are responsible for being in that position. The Transvaal Indian Congress is supposed to be the body representing Indians in that Province. That body did not mince words in voicing the community's strong protest against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act when it was first introduced as a Bill and later on, too, when it became law. The South African Indian Congress also did not lag behind in venting its wrath against the legislation. Mr. Rustomjee who presided over the S.A.I.C. Conference held in Johannesburg in August 1932, said in his presidential speech: "The Act has been conceived with the object of getting rid of our people from the Transvaal. If I know my people aright, I say with all the emphasis at my command that we shall not yield to this unjust law. Come what may, we shall not abide by the law." The following resolution was passed at the Conference:

"That the South African Indian Congress in Conference assembled at Johannesburg emphatically condemns the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act which it declares is unacceptable to the Indian community, and further endorses the action of the Transvaal Indian Congress to resist the law as contained in their resolution. This Congress calls upon its affiliated bodies to support the cause of the Indians in every possible way."

Thus did the Transvaal Indian Congress speak on behalf of the community of that Province first and then the S.A.I.C. spoke in no uncertain terms on behalf of the community of the whole of the Union. But was it to any avail? It was claimed that the Government of India recognised no other body but the Congress. It was at the representations of the Congress that the Government of India came to our assistance in our struggle for our just rights in this country, and one would have naturally expected that if the Congress did not want a thing the Government of India would not force it on it. That, however, has not been the case. The Agent who is as the representative of the Government of India in this country is here, evidently, not to serve the people but his masters. He is here to recognise the Congress so long as the Congress goes along the way it is led by his Government. No sooner it

refuses to do so he uses his stick. Thus with the advent of the Agency in this country we are placed in the rather peculiar position of being under two rulers—the Union Government and the Indian Government.

What did the Agent do no sooner did he find the Congress rejecting the Land Tenure Act? He ignored the Congress and helped in creating another organisation that would work with him and recognised it. That is the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association. Against the wishes of the community as represented by the Congress he got those who were satisfied with crumbs to co-operate. The Transvaal Indian Congress and the S.A.I.C. sat watching in the back ground. Once again the ire of the Transvaal Indian Congress was roused and called its Provincial Conference and; once again, the Land Tenure Act and the action of the Indian Commercial Association was condemned. Again no notice was taken. The S.A.I.C. was persuaded to postpone any action against the Act until the results of the Commission were out. So was it done, and in the meantime, we are told; that the Act is being put into force and the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance, which is quite contrary to the Capetown Agreement, and which was passed notwithstanding the protests of both the Indian Government and the Indian people is also put into force. Is the Transvaal Indian Congress at all concerned about it? It does not appear to be, for, only a few weeks ago, the members of that Congress with a very few exceptions, were so over-enthusiastic on the colonisation scheme, which barely affected them, that they whole-heartedly supported the Agent's view on that question and endorsed the action of the S.A.I.C., completely forgetting the injury done to them in regard to the Land Tenure Act and that their own house was on fire. One would think they have compromised their position with the Indian Commercial Association! The S.A.I.C., it would appear, has at least compromised its position to this extent that it allows the recognition of other bodies for specific purposes. Taking the Indian Commercial Association as a criterion, it would follow that if the Congress would have taken the stand that the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association has taken on the question of colonization and *vice versa*, the Congress would again have been the disfavoured one in so far as the colonisation scheme was concerned. At present, however, though the Congress received a slap in the face for its attitude towards the Transvaal Land Tenure Act it is the most favoured. If favouritism is to be the order of the day and if this is how the community's interests are to be allowed to be "safeguarded" then there is not the least bit of doubt that the Congress has well deserved the censure of the community, for from its present attitude it would appear that its speeches and resolutions amount to nothing else but the beating of empty drums and that being satisfied with a few crumbs from *Sirkar Ma Bap* it cherishes no higher ideals in life. There should be a little introspection on the part of the Congress leaders we think, and the Transvaal Indians who evinced so much enthusiasm over the colonisation scheme would be well advised to clear their position with the Agent and to concentrate their energies

on cleaning up their own stables rather than indulging directly or indirectly in any scheme of bartering away the rights of their fellowmen.

## The Folly Of The Foolish

(By L. W. RITCH)

**N**APOLEON is reported to have remarked that "God fights on the side of big battalions." Since, as we are taught, God (Vasudeva) is All; seeing also, that *demon deus inversus est*, the demoniacal is but the obverse of the divine, the cynicism quoted may well contain some small grain of truth.

One's conception of God is determined by one's ideals, and Robert Ingersoll spoke shrewdly when he observed that "a good God was the noblest work of man." The ideal of "the little Corporal" was conquest and domination by means of "big battalions," his god—his "good"—the God of Battles.

Now, just as one's conception of God or "good" will be determined by one's ideals, so our notion of perfection may be said to turn upon the question "Where do we look for our gains?" The self-seeker, he whose chief concern is "me" and "mine," in whom "i-dolatory" is the ruling passion, "whose soul is of the earth, earthy," will be careful to see that he is found on the side of the big battalions. The little ego of him craves for self-preservation at any price. It quakes with terror at the prospect of losing the worldly possessions which go to make up its heaven. It is like the pious editor, no believer in principle, but oh! so very devout a believer in interest.

The devotee of Principle, is the Satyagrahi, the disciple of Truth; not the self-seeker, the little self-idolator, but the seeker of The Self; its votary and would-be servant. Such an one perceives and understands the conflict between the grubby little "i" that plays for safety, and the self-sacrificer who is ever ready to immolate himself on the altar of Principle. To such an one "self-respect" acquires a deep meaning and a real significance, and becomes truly possible only when the personal self of him responds fully and faithfully to the call of the Higher Self of him.

The disciples of Truth, the self-sacrificers to Principle are rarely to be found in the ranks of the big battalions. For they are much concerned with Right for right sake and not at all with the expedients and clevernesses commonly employed to obtain "rights" and to preserve "interests." They have learnt that the fickle god of expediency inevitably betrays and lets down its deluded votaries; that successes so gained are but temporary and seeming; are but the prelude to deeper disappointment and mortification.

The wise in heart, the strong in faith such as Mahatma Gandhi stand, alone if necessary, defying the big battalions of the A-suric forces that would have him barter Right for "rights," Principle for "interests." And, here, too, in South Africa we are witnessing, albeit on a smaller scale, a not dissimilar tragedy; the spectacle of vested interests jettisoning Principle in their frightened rush to seeming safety, deserting and deriding the one or two stalwarts who refuse to betray their ideal.

Must it continue ever thus, that the foolish will abandon their folly, free themselves from enslavement to the horrid self of possessions and ambitions only after the Dead Sea fruit shall have been eaten and its bitterness tasted to the full by the sowers themselves? Oh! the pity of it!

## Fountain Of Wisdom

*—The business leader must beware of surrounding himself with yes-men. If youth he has opposition—and it is good for him. He has to give reasons for his decisions, which ensures that they are reasonable. Flattery of the will sets in if in later life he lets his authority take the place of reason. It is well for him to have among his advisers some who can criticize his decisions. They keep him in form.*

*—An excuse is worse than a lie, for it tries to cover the lie*  
*—Worth in small minds breeds envy, in big minds, emulation.*

## Agent's Report

The following Associated Press of India message dated July 27 is published in the Indian papers:—  
**Assisted Emigration Scheme**

There was a large increase in the number of assisted emigrants from South Africa to India during the calendar year 1932, the exact number being 2,688 as against 1,961 in 1931. This fact is brought out in the report of the Agent to the Government of India in South Africa.

The Agent points out that the increased number of emigrants under the assisted emigration scheme reflects the extent to which economic depression has affected the Indian community in South Africa. The fact that more than half the total sailed in the second half of the year seems to show that so far there has been no improvement in trade conditions generally. Of the number of adults that migrated, Indian-born Indians greatly outweighed Colonial-born Indians.

## Transvaal Laws

A good part of the report is devoted to the reactions to the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act and the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance, both of which were reviewed at the annual conference of the South African Indian Congress. The Agent was present at the conference, and warned the delegates against adopting a passive resistance policy. He emphasised that the Government of India disliked the laws regarding ownership and occupation as much as anybody else. The conference adopted a resolution declaring the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act unacceptable to the Indian community and deciding to resist the law.

## Colonisation

As regards the Colonization scheme, the Congress adopted a resolution agreeing to co-operate with the Government of India and the Union Government, provided co-operation was taken as inspired by patriotic motives.

## Unemployment

The report makes special mention of the unemployment problem amongst Indians in South Africa, and says that the cumulative effect of the trade depression and the White Labour policy, both within and outside the Government and public services, has caused great and widespread distress. In July a free food kitchen was open.

## India Government's Bluff

### 'Leader's' Comment On Agent's Report

Commenting on the Agent's report *The Leader* (Allahabad) writes:—

"The report of the Agent to the Government of India in South Africa for the year 1932 makes distressing reading. Relentless endeavours of the Union Government to force the Indian community by means of unjust racial legislative measures and other methods of harassment to leave the country, and the helplessness and failure of the Government of India to protect the Indians whose distress was further aggravated by economic and financial depression which threw thousands of them out of employment—these are the main features of the year. As many as 2,688 emigrants were 'assisted' to leave South Africa in 1932 as against 1,961 in 1931. It will be remembered that in the Capetown agreement of 1932 it was stated that the possibilities of the assisted emigration scheme were exhausted. But the figures quoted above of repatriates who left South Africa in 1932 and 1931 respectively tell a different tale altogether. The possibilities of the scheme far from being exhausted seem to have increased. The so-called virtual abandonment of the assisted emigration was described by Sir Fazli Husain and Mr. Bajpai in their statements at the time as the greatest achievement of the Indian delegation at the Capetown Conference. What do they think of their achievement in the light of these later events? And what do they propose to do with these returning emigrants who are unable to find suitable employment in this country and wish to go back again to South Africa? During a debate on the subject in the Assembly in September last it was suggested to the Government of India that they should refund the bonus and other monetary assistance received by repatriates from the Union Government and send them back to South Africa. Replying to this Mr. Bajpai said that the Government would consider the suggestion. It appears however from the statement made in the House of Commons by Sir Samuel Hoare in reply to Mr. Rhys Davies's question that the Government of India have decided not to act in the way suggested. More and more settlers continue to be repatriated by the Union Government. And as if these misfortunes were not enough the Union Government will soon be enforcing the Asiatic Land Tenure Act which is bound to add further to the misery of the Indian community. It is altogether a distressing tale which Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh has to relate.

## M. K. Gandhi Library And Parsee Rustomjee Hall

### Twelveth Anniversary

The twelveth anniversary of the M. K. Gandhi Library and Parsee Rustomjee Hall was celebrated on Thursday night September 7, at the Hall.

Mr. O. H. A. Jhaveri presided and was supported, on the platform, by the Agent, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Mr. P. Osborn and Mrs. Osborn, and other Europeans.

Speeches were made referring to the usefulness of the institution and the necessity for increased patronage especially by women. High tributes were paid to the donor the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee and Mahatma Gandhi whose name was attached to the institution; and the day on which the celebration took place being an auspicious day, in that it was the Parsee community's New Year, all the speakers wished the Parsees a happy and prosperous New Year.

Tribute was also paid to the services rendered by the secretary of the library Mr. B. M. Patel.

The secretary in his report for the year ending August 31, said that the attendance of the public at the library was 78,454, an increase of 3,489 on the previous year. The books at the library now numbered 5,808, of which 2,807 were in English, the rest being in the five Indian vernaculars.

The cost of running the institution was £283 3s. 8d. which was paid from the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust.

## The Congress Mass Meeting At Maritzburg

The following letter appears in the *Natal Witness*:—

There has been considerable misunderstanding with regard to the mass meeting of Indians held in the City Hall last week. From your report it would appear that the meeting was upset by the actions of the local Colonial-born Indians in the audience, but this was not the case. The disturbance was caused in the first instance by a number of Indians who had been brought from Durban to act as a "body-guard" for the members of the Indian Congress. The attitude of the chairman, Mr. Rustomjee and the subsequent action of the Congress usher eventually led to the upset of the meeting.

When a prominent member of the local Colonial-born Indian community ascended the platform and asked permission of the chairman to address the audience with a view to quieting the disturbance his request was met with a refusal. The "Hitler-like" attitude of the chairman further upset the local section of the audience, and was directly responsible for the breaking-up of the meeting.

V. KRISTY.

500, Loop Street, Maritzburg.

## Ladysmith Notes

On Sunday last a function was held at the Hindu Temple and a large crowd was entertained to dinner.

A new body which is known as the Ladysmith Indian Welfare Society was formed last Sunday. The meeting was held in the Hindi School, Murchison Street (Amod's buildings). The convenors were Messrs. I. A. Moola, M. Thomas, S. N. Pillay and R. Singh. Mr. I. A. Kharva presided and Mr. Poodhan acted as secretary. The following officials were elected: Patrons: Messrs. A. C. Moola, C. S. Asmal and R. Singh; President Mr. I. A. Moola, Vice-Presidents Messrs. S. N. Pillay, I. A. Kharva, E. M. Asvat, Committee Messrs. R. Singh, I. A. Kharva, V. Lalla, E. M. Asvat, S. N. Pillay, S. Kallichurun, A. C. Asmal, Hon. secretary and treasurer Mr. M. Thomas.

On Monday last a farewell function was accorded to Molvi Ahmed Ismail Panch Bayah by the Young Muslim of Ladysmith in the new Madrassa Hall. The chairman opened the proceedings at 8.30 p.m. A religious prayer was recited by Cassim Vawda before a well packed house. After a few words by Mr. H. S. Badat the garlanding took place by Molvi Abed Mia, and a presentation of a handsome pocket gold watch was made by Mr. C. S. Asmal on behalf of the young Muslims. Sayed Abed Mia paid a tribute to the Imam. Among other speakers were Messrs. M. Thomas, V. Lalla, E. M. Asvat, R. Khan, Essop Chupty and O. S. Khan. The Imam expressed

his thanks for the honour done him and said he hoped to return to Ladysmith soon and once again be amongst them. Refreshments were served and the function terminated at 10 p.m.

A public meeting of the Indian women of Ladysmith will be held at the Parish Hall, on Monday the 18th, at 3 p.m. All women are cordially invited to attend.

The Siege Town Tennis Club are arranging a tournament to be played on the 2nd October.

## Indian Study Group

Following on an introductory address by Mr. V. Sirkari Naidoo at Sastri College on Wednesday 6th inst., on the necessity for Indians in Natal to study their ancient culture with a view to preserving their identity as the descendants from a great and noble race, and developing their true character, a study group was formed, including among its members both students of the Sastri College and others interested in the study of ancient India's achievements and present India's potentialities.

In his address the speaker pointed out that however much the Indian student knew of European literature, art and philosophy, he would still lack the humanising effect that could be produced only by the sympathetic study of all that was best and admirable in his own civilisation and culture. The general impression among Indian students, out of touch with India, was that there was nothing worthy of emulation in anything Indian; and that all that was worthy of a civilised people had been produced by the West. This notion was at the bottom of the inferiority complex from which a large number of Indians were suffering. This dangerous mental state had to be counteracted by a sound knowledge of the contribution India made and continues to make to the world's progress. Nearly two centuries of foreign domination had produced in the normal Indian what almost amounts to a slave mentality; and such a community, bound under stress of conditions to lose self-respect and character, would be least fit to take its legitimate place in South Africa unless they awoke to the danger of blindly following a foreign civilisation. Let not the Indian forget that no amount of Western education or assimilation of European civilisation would make Europeans of them. Their character would only change when their complexions changed!

On Wednesday the 13th, Mr. Brandon Laight M.A., lecturer at Sastri College, in pursuance of the Study Group, delivered a very illuminating study of the great Indian Poet, Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. He introduced the poet first as an interpreter of the East to the West; he compared him with the American poet, Walt Whitman and with the English epic master, Milton. He had no hesitation in saying that Tagore was the greatest lyric poet living in the world. After an outline of Tagore, the teacher and founder of the Shantiniketan Ashram at Bolpur, he analysed in some detail the poet's attitude towards the British, the rulers of India, as contained in his 'Nationalism.'

The lecture was characterised by excellent exposition and outstanding frankness, and greatly interested and impressed the large audience.

### Next Lecture On Mahatma Gandhi

The next address under the auspices of this group

institution, which fills a long felt want, will be delivered by Mr. A. D. Lazarus, B.A., at Sastri College at 7-30 p.m. on Wednesday the 20th inst. The subject is "Mahatma Gandhi." All are cordially invited. Enquiries by those interested in the Study Group, the membership of which is open to all, is welcomed by the organisers, communications to whom must be addressed to Sastri College.

## To Correspondents

Mr. S. GOORDEEN.—No good purpose will be served by publishing your letter. In order to be impartial we have published both the reports.—Ed. I. O.

## The Problem Of Blind Care In South Africa

BY THE ORGANISING SECRETARY  
(S. A. National Council For The Blind)

### Blind Beggars

POLICE PROSECUTION CRITICISED

(Continued from last week)

The National Council for the blind, instituted in 1929, is an attempt by private enterprise to cater more especially for the needs of the adult blind.

It comprises 14 affiliated societies and bodies whose object is to meet the needs of the adult blind in their particular spheres of work. Several societies have established workshops e.g. at Johannesburg, Capetown, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth where the blind adults are trained, where they manufacture their wares and where provision is made for the disposal of the articles by sale. The Capetown society, in addition to its training depot for European blind has also established the first training centre in the Union for non-European blind.

During the short period of its existence the National Council for the blind has annually organised a National appeal throughout the Union and has collected a total sum of just over £12,000. The careful expenditure of this money has greatly eased some of the most pressing needs of the problem of blind care. Considerable arrears remain to be overtaken, however, and without State assistance it is impossible to them adequately. Though the policy of the National Council the independence and autonomy of local affiliated societies is preserved, and the Council refunds to such societies practically the whole of the collection made in the area in which such local society is established.

The objective of blind care is to encourage the blind to contribute as much as possible to their own support and to lead as independent a life as possible. As far as his disability permits it is desirable that blind person should have regular employment not only so that he supports himself as far as possible but also because lack of occupation and interest is the worst consequence of his affliction.

Blind relief should therefore be definitely dissociated from Poor Relief. The blind can be educated and trained with a view to providing wholly or in part (the majority unfortunately only in part) for their maintenance. Without training they are a burden on the State and on the charitable public.

With a view to securing the appointment of a Parliamentary Commission to enquire into Blind Care in the Union, and to secure the institution of legislation to relieve the needs of the blind,

deputation from the National Council for the blind including its Chairman, Adv. R. W. Bowen, M.P., Mrs. Densys Reitz, M.P., Dr. Karl Bremer, M.P., Mr. Stephen Le Roux, M.P., Dr. Hugh Stuyt, and the Organising Secretary had an interview with the Hon. the Minister for the Interior (Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, M.P.)

Adv. Bowen pointed out the need for State recognition of the fact that blind persons have a rightful place in the community and that it is the State's duty to assist voluntary charitable effort to ensure that every blind person is given an opportunity to develop as far as his capabilities, aptitude and general fitness will allow, as well as ensuring that necessitous unemployment, aged and infirm indigent blind persons are suitably cared for.

The Hon. the Minister while not convinced of the need for a Parliamentary Commission as a first step in the investigation asked the National Council for the blind to submit a Memorandum to him embodying details of what is being done in other countries as well as of matters with which it is considered such legislation should deal in South Africa, to provide for the Welfare of the Blind. He undertook to consider the whole matter in the light of the National Council's Memorandum with a view to further investigation, if necessary, to provide for the Welfare of the Blind in South Africa.

This Memorandum is in the course of preparation and will be submitted at an early date. The National Council has also submitted a Memorandum to the Provincial Commission as a preliminary to giving evidence before it on the question of blind care in the Union.

There can be no question that every Nation ought to direct a portion of its resources towards the adoption of wise measures for the relief of the weak and suffering members among its citizens.

The National Council is also doing all it can in the direct of preventing blindness and in saving the sight of partially-sighted children in and out of school. Well-directed effort can greatly reduce the numbers of the blind and there is no doubt that reasonable expenditure of money will materially improve the condition of those whose sight no human ingenuity can restore.

(Concluded)

## Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission

### Mr. Mahomed Jajbhay's Evidence

(Continued from last week)

CHAIRMAN: I take it there will be some witnesses coming forward who can give that answer.

Mr. MACWILLIAM (to witness): Isn't it common knowledge? I will go outside of the Johannesburg area for a moment. Let us take the Indian trader in Zeerust, in Potchefstroom, in Rustenburg; in all these areas he does his trade with the natives and the poor Europeans—I don't say, he has not got some other customers, but in the main is that not the bulk of his trade? Isn't that correct?—I am not acquainted with the district towns so much.

In fact, you would rather not answer the question at all?—If I knew it, I would give the facts.

I just want to get this point from you, Mr. Jajbhay, as regards the question of these islands. The claim that you put forward in support of these islands, is that claim based to all intents and purposes because in those islands individuals are going to show that they are entitled to exemption, or are those islands asked for independent of whether

there are exemptions in a particular island or not?—Independent.

Independent of any question of exemptions?—Yes.

Well now, if that is so, will you tell me please on what principle you have chosen those islands? The principles are that they are predominantly occupied by the small groups, and therefore we have asked for those areas.

Perhaps I should have put my first question to you a little more broadly. I don't want to tie you down. Perhaps you may have in your mind exemption under the 1919 Act. You asked for them by reason of the fact that to all intents and purposes at the present time they are already occupied by Indians?—Yes.

Whether those Indians are exempted or not?—That is so.

That is the principle you followed?—Yes.

CHAIRMAN: You mean whether they are already protected or not—whether the individual occupiers are protected or not?

Mr. MACWILLIAM: Yes, whether they are protected or not. Your lordship, I do not think it is necessary to deal with the question of the Malay location. I do not propose.

CHAIRMAN: Not here. I think I should be glad of some information from you as to the present population of the Malay location.

Mr. MACWILLIAM: That, I may inform your lordship, is being obtained. There may be certain questions that I will have to put to Mr. Jajbhay when the question of the Malay location comes up; but subject to your lordship's permission, I do not propose to deal with that now.

(Conclusion of Mr. MacWilliam's cross-examination.)

CHAIRMAN: Do any of the other parties represented here wish to take this opportunity of asking questions of Mr. Jajbhay on the general questions with which he has dealt? If his evidence is required on particular areas, he can be recalled later.

Mr. O. WALSH: (representing Western District Property Owners' Association): Might I ask a general question? Mr. Jajbhay, as a general question, what would you think would be a fair number of individuals that would occupy a stand?—It is difficult to say a fair number. It depends on the nature of the house.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Walsh, you will have to be more specific; I think, in asking a question of that sort, because it must so much depend on the nature of the building.

Mr. WALSH: Of course, Sir. You have 50 people living on one stand in the Malay location. Mr. Jajbhay tells us he is very familiar with the Malay location. Could you say the average number living on a stand in the Malay location?—(Witness), Sir, is it necessary to reply to that, because it is outside the terms of reference? The question is irrelevant as far as the Malay location is concerned.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know what you mean, "because it is outside the terms of reference." The question of how the Malay location is at present occupied is a question which obviously is relevant to the question of the accommodation available for Asiatics?—(Witness): It is occupied in a similar manner as any other area in the town is occupied.

Mr. WALSH: I did not ask that.

CHAIRMAN: You were asked how many were on the stand?—It is difficult to say. On some properties, five; on some properties, ten; on some properties, fifteen; the most.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Walsh, I do not think you will gain much by pressing this question at this stage.



The City Council has been good enough to get information for us as to how the Malay location is occupied. That will be available to you later.

Mr. WALSH: Very good, Sir. I will probably be going over the same ground as the Municipal Council would be going over, so I won't pursue the matter.

CHAIRMAN: Have you any questions you would like to ask, Mr. Brink?

Mr. J. V. BRINK, K.C.: No further questions, my lord.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jajbhay, that will do for the present.

### Mr. Samuel Edinburg's Evidence.

Mr. BRINK: I am going to lead evidence firstly with regard to the area Sauer Street, west of Sauer Street down to the Native Pass Office. My witnesses will give evidence with regard to the time, the long period of time over which Indians have traded in this vicinity and lived there. The first witness is Mr. Edinburg, who is a director of the firm of John Bell & Co., Ltd., wholesale fruit dealers.

CHAIRMAN: Which map do we want for this evidence?

Mr. BRINK: J.I., my lord, roundabout from Sauer Street down to Diagonal Street. Before I proceed, I do not know whether Mr. Herrmann, an objector in connection with Market Street, is here to-day: I do not know whether he has been informed that we propose also to deal with Market Street towards End Street.

CHAIRMAN: Yes. I will just inquire about that.

SECRETARY: Mr. Herrmann said they were not appearing; that they stood on the petition.

CHAIRMAN: It was a hotel. Yes, I think you may take it that they have appeared.

Mr. BRINK: Mr. Edinburg, you are the managing director of John Bell & Co., Ltd.—Yes.

Your firm are wholesale fruit dealers?—Yes.

I think you claim to be the largest firm of that kind in South Africa?—I think so.

And your business is conducted with whom?—With farmers.

How long have you personally been in Johannesburg?—Since 1909.

And you have been in this wholesale fruit business since then?—All the time.

Where have you conducted it?—It is in President Street.

Near which cross streets?—No. 61, President Street, opposite the Market Square, where it used to be the market at one time, at first, and the down between Sauer and Diagonal Street.

Is that where you are to-day?—Yes.

CHAIRMAN: Fronting on which Street?—President Street.

You are on President Street fronting on the Market Square?—At first; next to Lewis & Marks building.

Mr. BRINK: That was on the east side of Sauer Street?—Yes.

Now you are in a position somewhere between Sauer Street and Diagonal Street—what is the actual number of your stand?—526. It is opposite the Star office.

You are still on President Street?—Yes.

The second block east of Kort Street—that is where you are now?—Yes.

Stand 526, old 340; you are very near Kort Street?—Yes, the next stand after that.

CHAIRMAN: Fronting on Kort Street?

Mr. BRINK: No, my lord, it fronts on President Street, facing north. It is the second stand from Kort Street east of Kort Street.

WITNESS: Opposite the Star Office.

Mr. BRINK: Now the old municipal market, we all recollect, was opposite where Beckett's is now on the Market Square?—Yes.

Throwing your mind back to those days in 1909 when the market was still there, when you came there were there Asiatics in that neighbourhood?—There were a few. One was next to us; he was doing quite a big wholesale business—Vishram Pema.

One was next door to you in President Street doing quite a big wholesale business?—Yes.

Do you remember any other?—There were others there but I don't remember their names.

East of Sauer Street?—Yes.

To-day are there any east of Sauer Street, as far as you know, in that locality round there?—I think there is a tailoring business, an Indian tailoring business, on the east of Sauer Street.

An Indian tailoring business?—A store.

End of Sauer Street?—Yes, in President Street.

And in Sauer Street itself are there Indian businesses?—Yes.

Facing which way?—Facing the Library.

Facing the back of the new Library?—Yes.

Now for the rest, have the Indians, the Asiatics, been pushed westward by the development of Johannesburg?—They have not been pushed back; they have actually congregated between Sauer and Diagonal Street.

They have actually since then congregated between Sauer Street and Diagonal Street?—Yes.

Do you know where Barclay's Bank to-day is—the Market Square branch?—Yes.

That is corner of Sauer and President Streets?—Yes.

Used that to be occupied by an Indian merchant?—Yes.

Long ago—or how long ago was that?—I know in 1912, 1913 and 1914 there was one big merchant by the name of Pillay; he used to get a lot of grapes from the Cape.

CHAIRMAN: Was he trading on that site?

Mr. BRINK: Was he on that corner where the bank is now?—Next to the corner shop.

Have you dealt with Indians in the course of your business?—All the time.

They buy fruit from you?—They do.

You buy from the farmer, and they buy from you?—We don't buy from the farmer. The farmer sends to us on commission.

You sell it on commission, and you sell fruit to the Asiatic dealers?—Yes.

What would you say generally with regard to this area west of Sauer Street, since 1909: has it improved with the Indian occupation? Have conditions improved there; or have they gone back, or have they remained stationary?—Do you refer to property?

Property, yes?—Property has improved largely.

Property has improved largely?—Yes, largely.

Have the Indians played a part in that?—To a great extent, because they have occupied the premises and paid a reasonable rental. I happen to have property there myself.

Have you got Asiatic tenants?—Yes.

Are they good and steady payers of their rentals?—Very good payers.

(To be continued)

## News In Brief

A very interesting lecture on the Indian play "Shakuntala" was given to the Wesley Guild by Mr. Sirkari Naidoo, on Tuesday evening, September 12. There was a fair crowd present. Mr. E. Thomas presided. Mr. Naidoo gave readings from the play and narrated in outline the plot of the story which is by no means uncomplicated. The chief object of his address, Mr. Naidoo said, was not so much to popularise the play as to make an attempt to create in the minds of his audience an interest in the vast field of Indian literature. We cannot be true Indians unless we take an interest in things Indian, nor shall we be able to appreciate fully the literary works of the West unless we have first grasped the rudiments of the East. The lecture was very inspiring, as well as provocative.

The Indian Technical Education Committee has opened a sewing class for Indian women and girls in the Corporation Barracks, Depot Road, Durban. The classes are held weekly, every Wednesday from 3-30 p.m. to 5-30 p.m. and are under the direct supervision of Mrs. A. Christopher. Several other lady teachers are also giving their assistance. At present 57 women and girls have joined the class. A small fee of 1/- is levied. The teachers are giving their services voluntarily.

Also organised for Indian women and girls is a First Aid class. The class is held every Wednesday evening at the Carlisle Street Street School, Durban. Dr. Gabriel has consented to give a series of lectures.

## Sporting News

(BY SPORTSMAN)

### INDIANS PLAYED NATIVES

A tremendously large crowd assembled at Currie's Fountain on Saturday afternoon, September 9, to witness a soccer match between an Native XI and an Indian XI. The Native XI represented the Durban and District African Association while the Indian XI was a team representative of the Durban and District Football Association, (Saturday Division). The weather was ideal. Mr. M. B. Iyaloo officiated as referee.

The match itself was a gruelling one. There was a slight breeze blowing from the Umgini end. The Indians in the opening stages had the benefit of the wind but lack of combination in their forward line and erratic kicking by their halves impeded them from scoring. The interval arrived with no score. The second half was one chiefly of defence, particularly by the Indians who had considerable difficulty in keeping the opposing forwards at bay. The defence line of the Indian XI rose up to the occasion and consequently, after a ding-dong affair the final whistle sounded. There was no score.

The Native keeper was, perhaps, the outstanding player on the field. On more than one occasion and particularly in the first half of the game, he saved his side from what otherwise would have been a definite defeat.

The following were the teams —

The Native XI: W. Ngcobo, I. Mukunya, Z. Moshodi, P. S. Nhlapo (Capt.), L. Mennu, C. Cele, W. Kazinar, P. Marala, L. Cele, Z. Dhladhla, and N. Ntali.

The Indian XI: A. Thomas, George Singh, D. Abrahams, Malan Chetty, C. Pardarath, R. A. Naidoo, C. K. Ismail (Capt.), B. Gengan, G. Ramruthan, S. Narsoo and Lutchie.

There was large number of Europeans also present on the grounds. Immediately after the termination of the match the officials of both Associations as well as the teams were entertained to tea by the Indians Sports Ground Association. Advocate Christopher presided and in addition many felicitous speeches were made.

### JUNIORS: Railways vs. Shamrocks

The final of the Moonlighter's (Junior) Cup, between the Railway and the Shamrocks, this match furnishing a Curtain-raiser to the main match. An extra-half was necessary and during this period the Railway were awarded a penalty on account of a ball being handed in their opponents' goal area, the penalty was scored. The match was not a good display of soccer. There was much wild kicking and combination on both sides was conspicuously absent. The Railway thus annex the Moonlighter's trophy for this season.

The following are the fixtures for Saturday, 16th Sept.

### SENIORS (Thajmoon's Cup) Semi-final:

Pirates vs. Blue Bells.

### JUVEILES (Raman Bros. Cup):

Natal Estates vs. Red Rovers.

Stanger vs. Sastri:—There were two matches of interest on Sunday, at Currie's Fountain. Stanger travelled down to play Sastri College. The Junior match was won by the visitors by 3-2.

The Senior match was considerably marred by a strong gust blowing across the field. Good soccer or combination was thus impossible.

In the evening the visitors were entertained to dinner by the Sastri College Club at Singh's Cafe. Mr. G. Singh, the Sports Master of the College, presided. Those who also spoke were Mr. B. Naidoo of the College, while Messrs. J. Bux and Moodley responded on behalf of the visitors.

The visitors left for Stanger by road the same evening. This is a return tour made in reciprocity to the trip undertaken by the College to Stanger last June.

## Colonial-Born And Settler's Indian Association

A general meeting of the members of the Colonial Born and Settler's Indian Association will be held on Sunday, the 17th, September 1933, at 2-30 p.m. sharp at the Tamil Institute, Cross Street, Durban.

All members and intending members are earnestly requested to attend.

Agenda: Report, Constitution, Election, General.

No person belonging to another political body will be eligible for membership.

A. CHRISTOPHER,  
President.  
M. M. GANDEI,  
Vice-President.

S. L. SINGH,  
A. HAFFEJEE,  
Jt. Hon. Secretaries.

## TAILORS' CUTTING SCHOOL

35 Permanent Buildings, Mercury Lane, Durban.  
Day and Evening Classes—Individual Tuition.  
W. W. CONNOR, Principal  
(Lond. Dep.)