

Indian Opinion

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Notes and News

A Threat ?

AN important piece of news has been transmitted by the Parliamentary correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* from Capetown which amounts to a threat to the Indian community. Time does not permit us to reproduce it in full in this issue. We hope to do so in our next week's issue and also to deal with it editorially. Here is a portion of what it says:—

Owing to the attitude adopted by a large section of the Indian community in the Union it might easily be found impossible to undertake the proposed colonisation scheme or even the joint investigation, and the pressure of public opinion in South Africa would then be such as to compel the Government to take legislative steps to tackle the Indian menace without further temporising and delaying. Hence, in raising difficulties before the colonisation scheme, the Indian community is merely hastening the demand by the public for alternate steps, such as the Class Areas Bill, which were held in abeyance in 1928.

That the Indian problem constitutes an increasingly serious menace to the European community becomes more obvious every day to those who are in touch with the situation, and unless leaders of Indian opinion in South Africa display a little more vision they may easily hasten retaliatory measures.

Cry Of Indian Penetration

IN the course of a circular letter to all Ward Associations, Mr. K. J. Clarke, Secretary, has made a suggestion that "the very serious question of Indian penetration" should be discussed by all Ward Associations at the annual meeting of the Combined Ward Association, which will be held this month. "I venture to suggest," says Mr. Clarke, "that the very serious question of Indian penetration could be advantageously discussed by all Associations as this is a problem that is rapidly absorbing Durban, and must be checked. The danger has far-reaching effects. United action is required."

White Labour Policy In Practice

THE following will show how the Government encourages the White Labour policy:—

The Railway Administration has given a contract for scraping and painting Durban railway workshops to a contractor employing all white labour.

GROSSLY MISINFORMED

IN the course of a leading article in its issue of Jan. 11, on the question of the Natal Indian, the *Natal Advertiser*, while deploring the formation of a Colonial-Born and Settlers' Indian Association, suggests that "it was brought into being at the outset because its authors felt that the South African Indian Congress did not reflect vigorously enough the opposition of the Natal-born Indian to the purpose of the Indian Colonisation Inquiry Committee." We must say that our contemporary has been grossly misinformed. The differences with the Congress were for its inconsistency and autocracy. The Congress leaders had let the community down perhaps unintentionally, it might be said, when they agreed to the first Capetown Agreement which was based on the principle of reducing the Indian population of the Union to its irreducible minimum. Much has been spoken of the Assisted Emigration Scheme—how it was an improvement on the original Repatriation Scheme, how it was a purely voluntary scheme and how it was possible for the repatriated Indian to return to the Union again after the expiry of one year and within the period of three years of his departure from the Union. For five years the working of the scheme was watched, the Congress having their hands tied. While the scheme was voluntary in name there were other forces, such as economic pressure brought about by throwing Indians out of employment and the general depression. These worked against the Indian which drove him to take advantage of the inducement of the big bonus and a free passage only to find himself thrown in a country utterly strange to him. The condition of the repatriates in India was investigated into by Congress leaders and both the Governments of the Union and of India were condemned by them for ever bringing such a scheme into being. But while inducements were offered to those who chose to be repatriated in the form of a bonus and free passage, inducements were also offered to those who chose to remain in this country in the form of some promised concessions if they agreed to the assisted emigration scheme, in other words, to sell the birth-rights of their own brethren.

The findings of the Congress leaders of the evils of the assisted emigration scheme were placed before the leaders in India including Mahatma Gandhi who, commenting on their report wrote at the time (June 4, 1931) *inter alia*

"But it is no use crying over spilt milk. The labours of the framers of the report will not have been in vain, if at the time of the revision of the Capetown Agreement the rights of the poor labouring Indian population are not bartered away for doubtful concessions to the other Indian

settlers. The position taken up by the latter is unassailable, and should depend on its own merits. The settlers themselves should therefore refuse to be party to any bargain which would compromise the rights of the less favourably situated brethren. South Africa can easily absorb and accommodate the existing Indian population."

There could be no clearer statement as to the duty of the Congress leaders from one whom they profess to recognise and revere as their great leader.

Notwithstanding that, and notwithstanding the fact that they themselves had thundered from public platforms that they would never countenance the selling of the birthrights of their brethren for a mess of pottage they have persisted in identifying themselves with an Enquiry Committee, whose object is to explore the possibilities of a colonisation scheme for settling South African Indians outside the Union and to find out how many Indians would participate in such a scheme, thus flouting the opinion of those very people who did not wish to be let down again for the second time.

Thus the Congress has been guilty not only of inconsistency but also of flouting public opinion. The Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association owes its existence, therefore, to the high-handed autocracy of the Congress leaders who represent themselves only and a few others who perhaps find it profitable to be with them.

Much as we regret the present split in the community there was no possible way of avoiding it so long as there was a third party in the country to take sides. There is a split even in the Transvaal where there is the Congress as well as the Commercial Association. Until recently the Congress had sulked because the Agent ignored its voice and helped in the creation of and sided with the Commercial Association. A similar situation has arisen in Natal, and in both the cases the Agent has by his artful methods won over the Congress officials to his side and both have taken unto themselves the responsibility of serving the community against its will. The Congress has no right whatsoever to claim to represent South African Indians.

Infections

What surprises us most, however, is that the inconsistency of the Congress should have been so infectious as to have infected even our afternoon contemporary. Not very long ago when we condemned, on principle, any idea of a colonisation scheme, on the ground that the motive underlying it was to reduce the Indian population of the Union, our contemporary took us to task severely, suggesting that we should leave all talk of principle aside and look at the question from a strictly practical and bread and butter point of view and that it was far better to send Indians to some other country where they might find better hospitality rather than seeing them miserably situated in South Africa. We find it now considering the Congress statement, which advances no new arguments, to be "an expression of a quite legitimate point of view" and suggesting to us that far wiser would it have been for us to have trusted "that the Congress at the right time would have

voiced unequivocally general Indian resistance to any colonisation proposals whatsoever!"

But then again the Congress too has been consistently inconsistent. Its statement is full of inconsistencies. In one place it says that "the whole history of our community here warrants the assumption that any such scheme is intended to reduce our numbers." In another it says that "the desire to seek a new country and new homes as in the past are mainly from thickly-populated countries where the struggle to exist has turned men's thoughts in the direction of new outlets. No such desire has ever been evinced by the Indian community in South Africa, nor is it reasonable to expect such a desire to arise in a country that is sparsely populated," and it expresses the strong feeling that the solution of the Indian problem is close to the hand of the Europeans in South Africa. This is certainly not consistent with its co-operation with the Enquiry Committee. It would have been quite legitimate for the Committee, for instance, to have said: "We know all that but we want you to help us in looking for another suitable country where we can settle South African Indians." It would be interesting to know what reply the Congress leaders would have given to such a question. But it has, of course, left a loop hole even for that by saying that "the present was the worst possible time to consider and examine possibilities of colonisation on a large scale." The inference is that it would support it on a smaller scale.

Quite obviously the strong opposition on the part of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association has put the Congress slightly off the hinge.

The Real Solution

There can be only one real solution of the Indian problem in Natal and that is to face it with a sense of fairplay and justice. The Indian was brought to this country and was used to its advantage. It would not be human to throw him away like an orange after having sucked it dry. His descendants must be considered part and parcel of the Union's population and should be afforded every opportunity to become nationals of South Africa in every sense of the term. The Indian has never aspired for dominating South Africa. What he asks is the right to live like self-respecting human beings and the opportunity to eak out a living honourably. This is not asking too much, nor is it difficult to give, if only the ruling race were to evince a little more of the spirit of generosity and less of that false sense of race superiority which in the long run is never going to pay.

Fountain Of Wisdom

—Love, modesty, charity, mercy and Truthfulness are the Pillars of Greatness.

TRIKURBAL

Original Correspondence

TO THE EDITOR "INDIAN OPINION"

Mr. B. M. Narbeth's Protest

Sir,—You have on various occasions honoured me by referring appreciatively to my work in connection with the Indian Technical Education Committee. It is quite true that I am deeply interested in the welfare of the Indian people in South Africa as I am also anxious to see an improvement in the relations between the Indian and the European people in this country, for it is only by mutual goodwill and understanding that real and lasting progress can be made.

For these reasons I have been greatly concerned to see paragraphs appearing in *INDIAN OPINION* which can serve only to alienate European sympathy while serving no good purpose to the Indian community.

In your issue of January 12th there are two entirely misleading paragraphs quoted from another journal but evidently with editorial approval.

One of these paragraphs assigns "The Cause of India's Poverty" to the large salary received by the Viceroy of India. Although I do not think any intelligent Indian or European reader would accept this view of "The Cause of India's Poverty" it may be that many unthinking people will swallow the suggestion without consideration, and it may be desirable therefore to refer further to the matter.

The paragraph concerned compares the salary of the Viceroy with that of the British Prime Minister, the former being about four times as great as the latter. But the Viceroy occupies a very different position and status from that of the Prime Minister. He is there, as his title indicates, in place of the King-Emperor, and his salary should therefore be compared with that of the King and with those of the Indian Princes and rulers. In comparison with the income of many an Indian Prince, the Viceroy's salary is small, and it represents an almost infinitesimal fraction of the wealth of India. Further, the Viceroy's salary is not hoarded up or sent overseas, but spent in the country going into circulation amongst the people and giving employment to many.

A fertile cause of poverty in India is the notorious practice widely adopted there of hoarding gold. It must be admitted, however, there is one sense in which some of the poverty in India is due to British rule. The Government of India has stopped internecine warfare by the peace of good government, it has practically put an end to periodic famines by irrigation and other public works, and it has reduced plague and disease to a minimum by introducing sanitary reforms in urban and rural areas. These three factors, war, famine and disease served formerly to reduce the population of India from time to time by countless millions. Now that those millions are allowed to live the consequent rapid increase in the population of the Indian Continent introduces the gravest problems—problems which cannot be immediately disposed of by a stroke of the pen or even by the best of Governments. The poverty due to excess population is thus in a sense partly due to the measures adopted by the Government to preserve the peace, prevent famine and reduce disease in the land. It must not be forgotten, however, that the wealth and health and population of India have by these same means been increased almost beyond comprehension. The root-causes of poverty in India lie elsewhere—but that is not my subject just now.

I note that you characterise as "sublimely true"

the suggestion that the introduction of the Bible and Christianity into South Africa has robbed the Natives of their lands. I should prefer to describe such an insinuation as a foul libel on our missionaries and on Christian people who sent them. Had it not been for Christianity and the Bible the plight of native Africans would have been a thousand times worse than it is. There has not been enough of the Bible and Christianity in dealing with the Natives.

One is impelled to ask has the Indian community in South Africa not enough grievances of its own without going out of its way to insert fictitious statements from abroad to foment ill-will in this country and so to increase its own troubles?

The countenance given by *INDIAN OPINION* to such deplorable misrepresentations of fact as those I have dealt with makes the task of those Indian and European—who are seeking to improve the lot of the Indian in South Africa and to develop better relations between the races infinitely more difficult, for it serves only to exacerbate where we are seeking to ameliorate those conditions.

I should like to appeal to the leaders of Indian opinion in Natal to seek to terminate this rapidly growing tendency to sow dissension and ill-will and to cultivate better relations both amongst themselves and with the other elements of our South African community.

Yours etc,

B. M. NARBETH,

16 Ridge Road, Durban.

[NOTE.—We fully appreciate Mr. Narbeth's feelings. Any person who is righteous himself will abhor even to believe that there could be any unrighteousness. Mr. Narbeth has taken exception to the Viceroy's large salary as being the cause of India's poverty. Of course it would be wrong to say that it is the only cause. But eminent economists and even Mahatma Gandhi has included that among the most important items that are responsible for India's poverty. India is ruled not by the Viceroy but by Downing Street. We do not therefore see that the Viceroy's position is different to that of the British Prime Minister. But the fact that one has to remember, whatever may be said about the riches of the ruling Princes and of the habit of hoarding, is that India's average income is one-sixteenth of that of Great Britain and yet the Viceroy's salary is almost four times as great as that of the British Prime Minister, and let it not be forgotten that after his five years' term he is entitled to a life-long pension which is also paid by India. It should also be remembered that the Indian Civil Service is the most expensive in the world. What good the British Government has done for the benefit of India is a debatable question and we would not like to enter into a discussion of it here. The next point to which Mr. Narbeth has taken exception to is that Christians have brought the Bible to the Natives and deprived him of his land. Is there is any doubt about it that the present Christian Government is adopting un-Christian methods in dealing with the Native question? Are not Christians advocating the throwing out of employment of Natives to make room for Europeans to solve the employment question. How will it help the Native by snatching away the bread out of his mouth and preaching to him the Gospel? All honour to those true Christians who are fighting for the legitimate rights of the Natives. But they are exceptions to the general rule. It is certainly not our purpose to foment ill-will in this country nor to antagonise the European friends who are working for our good. But truth will never be hidden however much you may try to hide it. It is up to every true Christian not to resent it but to face it courageously and to fight for it.—Ed. I.O.]

Congress Resolution At Capetown

THE EDITOR, INDIAN OPINION

Sir,—I wonder where "the officials of the Congress" and the "delegates from the provinces" saw or heard the "unwarranted and vilifying attack" made upon Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, Agent to the Government of India in South Africa by "a section of the Indians at a meeting in Durban recently." Are the members of the S. A. I. C. justified in construing a reading of facts (which happens to be different from their own predilections) and a resolution passed to that effect by a section of Indians at Durban as an "unwarranted and vilifying attack" upon the Agent? I am also a pro-congress-man but I cannot understand the attitude and justification of the resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the S. A. I. C. at Capetown.

I remember perfectly well that in 1932 both the Annual Conference of the S. A. I. C. held at Johannesburg, and the Conference of its constituent body, T. I. C. strongly and vehemently denounced the A. L. T. Act and passed a resolution without an utterance of a single discordant note, refusing to co-operate with the A. L. T. Act Commission appointed under that Act. What happened then? All the Indians, whether congresswalls or not, witnessed with some amazement, a spectacle of the Agent acting as the guide, philosopher and friend of a new organization (in opposition to congress). That organization is known as the Transvaal Commercial Association to which the Agent gave his blessings and he identified himself with it in order to co-operate with and help the A. L. T. Act Commission in its work of reporting, ear-marking and recommending certain segregated areas where the Indians can have their legal rights to confine themselves in for the purpose of trade as well as residence. It is well-known to everyone what then was the attitude of the S. A. I. C. and its Executive members. But now we are publicly informed by the S. A. I. C. that even that part played by the Agent must be looked upon as an example of "untiring and selfless services in the cause of the uplift of the Indian community." And do not forget that the very same commercial Association is not going to support individual cases of poor people who form a large majority in Transvaal. Now where lies an "unwarranted and vilifying" attack upon the Agent when a section of Indians in Natal express the opinion that the Agent has divided the community and that he has lent his weight to and supported a minority?

No one can mistake which way the popular wind blows especially in Natal. In the prevailing circumstances the officials of the S. A. I. C. (sometimes referred to as unpopular, unleading leaders whom the majority of people do not believe in) cannot but say *Agent Sahab Bohot Achchha Sarakari Amaldar Hai.*

When the Agent can hear such nice sweet words said about himself, why should he take the trouble to go to Natal and personally witness and hear the expression of popular opinions of the majority of the Indian people especially when their very life-and-death-problem-of-colonisation-had-to-be-discussed. Indeed sweeter are the words of those who say without rhyme or reason Yea Yea instead of Nay Nay to whatever the Agent does.

A CONGRESSMAN

[The resolution referred to above was communicated by Renter from Capetown as follows:—

Strong disapproval was expressed by the delegates from the provinces at the "unwarranted and vilifying" attack made upon Kunwar Sir Maharaj

Singh by a section of Indians at a meeting held in Durban recently, and a resolution expressing a deep sense of gratitude to the Agent and the Kunwarani for their untiring and selfless services in the cause of the uplift of the Indian community was moved from the chair.]

Towards A Deadlock

In the course of an editorial headed "The Natal Indian Deadlock" the *Natal Advertiser* writes:

"We have felt for years that the Indian population in South Africa has been moving remorselessly towards a final deadlock; and we dread that deadlock because it will harm South Africa more than it will harm the Indian in our midst. There are solvents to the problem; solvents that, if they are little better than expedients, at least would help to clear the air, reduce the menace of Asiatic numbers in any one part of the Union, and, to this extent, relax the racial tension that makes Natal to-day an area charged with possibilities of very grave inter-Imperial repercussions. But not only is South Africa as a whole not inclined to discuss these expedients. There is no political organisation, nor apparently any notable political leader in the country disposed to pursue any of these partial solvents, or do other than let the matter drift as it has drifted for a score of years. A man might take any one of the Parliamentary groups at random and ask it for a policy on the Indian question in Natal. He would ask in vain. Even if the Colonisation Inquiry Committee represents a policy, it is a policy of despair!

The great majority of South Africans, if asked what should be done about the Indian question in Natal, would doubtless reply, "Let it alone. Let it solve itself. Let Natal and its Asiatics stew in their own juice." Well—suppose in the long run this is the nation's attitude towards the matter; where does a man suppose such a course will end? If the Indian, confined to Natal, is given what every man of any colour is entitled to—education and a reasonable chance of self-expression—then the time is not far distant when he will be a far greater challenge than he is to-day to the European seeking employment in this Province. If, on the other hand, his helotry is intensified; if he is more and more made a child of the ghetto; if he is denied any outlet for his many qualities of mental and physical industry; his numbers and his degradation will increase in parallel ratio. Depressed, he will multiply; therein merely exemplifying a social phenomenon noticed in all the ghettos of the world. Nor is this all, or even the worst. The worse his condition, social, political or economic, is in this country the more is his "cause" likely to be a political issue between a self-governing Indian Dominion that will not be slow to test its prestige in the British Commonwealth by defending its nationals oversea, and a South African Dominion jealous of its own self-governing powers. For the last word in the matter is this word "national". The Indian is either a South African national or else he is a national of India. Some country or other must own him. He cannot be, like Topsy, a creature that just "spect it growed." This aspect of the matter is probably not lost on those who decide our respective Imperial destinies. But it is one towards which public opinion, both in Natal in particular and in South Africa in general, seems at present blankly indifferent!

Colonisation Enquiry

S. A. I. Congress's Statement

That long awaited statement of the S. A. I. Congress was presented to the Colonisation Enquiry Committee, appointed to explore the possibilities of a Colonisation scheme for settling South African Indians outside the Union and to find out to what extent Indians would participate in such a scheme, at Capetown on January 9.

After relating the history of Indian immigration and quoting elaborately from the reports of the India Commission in Natal in the year 1886, and the Clayton Commission of 1907, the Congress directs attention to the obligation that Natal owes to its Indian population and proceeds to refer to the gradual change that has taken place in the attitude of the European population towards the Indians.

"We have been at some pains," it is submitted, "to give the history of our community in this country, as far as we are able, to present a picture of our position to-day, because we think it essential to explain to the committee the back-ground and atmosphere which influences us in the conclusion we draw regarding the possibility of colonisation from South Africa.

"A very large majority—certainly more than 80 per cent.—of the Indians now in South Africa are colonial-born descendants of the immigrant Indians. Their ancestors came to this country not with any spirit of adventure but on account of the adverse economic and social conditions prevailing in the vast country like India, and at the special invitation of the Europeans. The majority of them were drawn from Madras and Bengal Presidencies and among the poorer peasant class. This type of Indian is fast diminishing and in the course of a decade or so will have almost, if not entirely, disappeared.

"The prepondering element to-day, consisting of the colonial-born Indians, are such that to all intents and purposes they are South African-born, both in their character and outlook, having come in contact with Western influence and civilisation. Their national character and aspirations are gradually being lost, the knowledge of their mother tongue is dying out and their mode of dress and living is fast changing toward Western ideas. They are accustomed to the climatic conditions of South Africa, and the tropical climate would have the same disadvantages for them as for a European South African."

The Congress frankly confesses its suspicion in its attitude to the colonisation scheme.

"The whole history of our community here warrants the assumption that any such scheme is intended to reduce our numbers, to get rid of those who would never have been here but for the insistent demands of the European population and without whom Natal could hardly have attained the present state of development and prosperity. But even if we set aside such suspicion we feel that logic compels us to the conclusions that a colonisation scheme of the kind now envisaged cannot be attractive to us."

So, for Indians in India, the Congress conceives of a land settlement scheme, but for Indians to leave their homeland in considerable numbers there must be a real inducement in the nature of a guarantee of profitable land.

"As for South Africa," in the first place there are now about 150,000 male Indians engaged in agricultural pursuits. This number includes Indians of all ages. It is reasonable to assume that normally a man of 35 or more will be unwilling to uproot himself unless very special advantages are expected to accrue. The urge to travel and explore, the spirit of adventure, if, indeed, they existed originally, have by this time vanished. We

should be inclined to put the maximum age for the would-be colonist even lower, but if we set the maximum at 35, that must naturally decrease the numbers theoretically available for such a scheme. In the second place, we, who have been in South Africa and have lived here all our lives, know little or nothing of tropical conditions."

Different Standards

Apart from climatic considerations, there was another consideration of supreme importance. The Indians in South Africa had become accustomed to Western standards of life. On the other hand, a colony for Indians from India must be founded upon different standards from those to which South African Indians were accustomed. It was difficult to see how Indians at present in South Africa could ever fit into such a colony; their habits of mind, their habits of dress, their general outlook were all different. It was, of course, true that in the past few years a number of Indians had left the Union for India, but they were exactly the people who were prepared to live in countries where Western standards did not prevail. The South African-born Indians who had gone would be found to be in a great majority of cases children who were accompanying Indian born parents. In addition there were economic causes at the present time that no country in the world would welcome a large influx of colonists. The present was the worst possible time to consider and examine possibilities of colonisation on a large scale.

"Moreover, so far as we are aware," the statement continues, "the desire to seek a new country and homes as in the past is mainly from thickly populated countries where the struggle to exist has turned men's thoughts in the direction of new outlets. No such desire has ever been evinced by the Indian community in South Africa, nor is it reasonable to expect such a desire to rise in a country that is sparsely populated, has vast tracts of undeveloped land and offers within its boundaries ample opportunity for its whole population. We feel strongly that the solution of the Indian problem, such as it is, lies close to the hand of the Europeans in South Africa. We have already shown that the Indian community must now be regarded as a permanent section of the population, and to fulfil the ideal of the Union of South Africa we urge that the breaking down of the Provincial barriers, with permission to our community to disperse itself over the whole Union, will not only afford a valuable example of the true union of the Provinces, but will also dispel once and for all on account of our small numbers the bogey of Indian invasion and Asiatic menace."

Fort Hare Reunion

Bishop C. J. Ferguson Davis, who is the present warden of the Anglican Hostel at Fort Hare, and successor to Bishop W. E. Smyth has sent out a circular, which, it is hoped, will catch the eye of old members of the hostel.

The Reverend Bishop intends to hold a re-union of the old members of the hostel, at the hostel, Fort Hare, over the week-end beginning Feb. 17, to Monday 19. Old Fort Harians desirous of participating in this re-union and capable of being at Fort Hare during the above dates, are advised to communicate immediately with Bishop C. J. Ferguson Davis.

In the same circular the Reverend Bishop writes:— This will probably be the last time that we shall be able to meet in the old buildings, which must have very happy memories for all, for the plans for two New Hostels are nearing completion and we hope that before the end of 1934 we shall be occupying them and then others will be in the old Anglican Hostel. It would be pleasant therefore if we could have a good gathering on this occasion! —

Current Topics

COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS

S.A.I. Congress Statement

Disappointed might not be the right word for the statement presented to the Indian Colonisation Inquiry Committee, but it was not certainly very encouraging to those who have been born here and also to those who have made this country their home. Indians have most emphatically declared that they are not prepared to uproot themselves on any account, whether now or later on. What they need is equal opportunities to eke out their living. If the avenues of labour are open to them, the provincial barriers removed and trade facilities granted, there is no reason, whatever, why the so-called Asiatic menace would not be clearly forgotten. It would be a thing of the past. The Congress merely advocates the claims of those born in the country, forgetting that there are thousands who have sunk their capital and made this country their home. The Congress also states that at present it is difficult to see how they—the colonists—could fit into such a colony, but surely they do not consider that at some future date they might be suitable to be packed off.

Cat Out Of The Bag!

It would be interesting to know what does the Congress mean when it states that "The present was the worst possible time to consider and examine possibilities of colonisation on a large scale." Does this august body suggest that the time is opportune to consider possibilities on a smaller scale, and thus open the doors for the Indians to gradually leave the shores of Africa. Does it not show that the cat is out of the bag? Then, the Congress has at this eleventh hour, tried to show that the ex-indentured Indians and their descendants are entitled to remain in this country, but failed to mention the claims of our trading classes. It would have been better had they been more emphatic like the C. B. and S. I. Association and the Agent for India, who declared in unmistakable language, that the solution lies close to the hand of the Europeans in South Africa.

The Indian Deadlock

The *Natal Advertiser*, the other day, stated in its leader how it deplors the division in the Indian community. It gives the cause for the birth of the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association as the impotence of the Congress in not opposing vigorously and with shaming the question of colonisation. In other words it considers that to ignore the interests of over eighty per cent. of the population is to commit a blunder of the highest magnitude. Hence the die was cast. But I know that that was not the only reason for the Colonial and Settlers to consolidate their forces. There were other reasons besides the one above referred to. The leaders were getting more and more imbued with the doctrines of the autocrat, and considering self of more importance than service. The result was the formation of the new body. This was inevitable, but the point to be considered is whether the Colonials are too early or too late in forming themselves into an Association. I humbly think,

with due deference to my afternoon contemporary that they have come at the correct moment, and if they are wisely guided they will gain strength as they go along to make themselves felt in the body politic of the Union of South Africa. There is absolutely no fear, as I know from past experience, of a deadlock on matters of principle on the Indian question.

Congress A Spent-Force

It would appear, and there is no doubt, that the Association has just come in time to replenish that strength to the South African Indian's cause which the Congress had lost in recent times. It matters very little to those who have made this their home, whether the Congress is a spent-force or it is struggling for its very existence, when they know that the Association with the fresh vigour and energy has come with a definite purpose to call a halt on the encroachment of their rights, or as the *Natal Advertiser* says, "his resistance is chiefly based on his South African birthright. He was born here." Could there be a better reason given for the birth of the Association. But the Association does not solely rely on those grounds, it goes further in taking under its fold the legitimate settlers, it openly advocates the claims of those who have made this their home to the fruits of their labour. Could they be plainer?

Transvaal Indians

I am glad to find that there is a desire in the Transvaal to form a C. B. and S. I. Association to work conjointly with the Natal body. I think it is up to the Natal President to immediately get in touch with Dr. Godfrey and other leaders there who might be helpful in organising the scattered forces into one homogenous body. It seems, from the information received, that the Congress there is losing ground and is not functioning properly. If this is so, it would be a sad day for the Transvaal Indians to be drifting rudderless in the mid-ocean with doubts and difficulties and with no pilot to guide them to the shores. Their right to live in this land and with thousands at stake make it imperative to consolidate their strength in opposing any influence which might be brought about for their downfall. I hope the Natal and Transvaal leaders would meet together and chalk out their programme for action when the time arrives. Spent-forces will be of no help.

Relief Works

The other day the Town Council decided to reduce the pay of the relief workers to 2/6 from 3/- per day. The chief argument brought forward for this reduction was that they do not wish to make the relief work more attractive than the ordinary work for which they paid about 2/8. I do not wish to go into detail over this as the case was well put by the C. B. and S. I. Association, but what amused me a great deal was when I read the names of some of the Town Councillors whom the Congress had sent voting for the reduction of the 6d. from the poor Indian relief workers' wages. I wonder what will they have to say to the Congress for this brave act and what reply has the Congress to those voters who were asked to vote for Capt. Rennie and his company. How are the mighty fallen!

Indian Technical Committee

Xmas Tree In Barracks

Breaking Up Functions

A Xmas tree was arranged in connection with the needlework classes run for women and girls in the Durban Corporation Barracks. The tree was gaily decorated with toys and gifts and hundreds from the Barracks flocked to the small hall to join the function.

Miss Clara Martin, a teacher, was the principal speaker and told the people how Mrs. A. Christopher, a member of the Technical Committee, had approached her to help in conducting the needlework classes for the benefit of the women and girls of the Barracks. She had readily agreed and had worked with Mrs. Christopher, Mrs. Jack Singh, Miss Lois Oboonoo, Miss Samuels and Miss Juganathan.

There were over 85 women and girls who were attending these classes and had shown progress in their work. That it had been some return to her and her co-workers to notice the interest and pleasure they showed in the classes. It was, she understood, but the beginning of other classes for women and girls by the Technical Committee who had in view their training for domestic service so that they not only may make good house-keepers but be a help to their families the breadwinner of which was in receipt of a bare subsistence wage.

The arrangements were in the hands of the volunteer helpers who spared no pains to make this function—the first of its kind in the Barracks—a happy occasion for those who see so little of it.

The Kunwarani was in Durban at the time these classes were started and collected some material for clothes for these classes. And to her and all donors, as well as to Mr. Du Cass, the Compound Manager, the thanks of the Committee are due.

There was also in the evening a Social arranged by the teachers of the Continuation Classes for adults and boys in the hall of the barracks. These classes are attended by over 110 students, all workers in the Corporation. Mr. V. Vinden is the teacher in charge of these classes and has with him Mr. Mathews and other volunteer teachers. The Technical Committee is endeavouring to provide education for these workers to help them to improve their lot.

Mr. Vinden spoke in happy terms of the teachers who are helping him and of the students who rush to the classes from work no matter how late they knock off their work. The students had done their bit towards getting up the social function and refreshments were served to the music and songs of the students.

Messrs. Christopher, S. L. Singh, P. R. Pather and P. G. Natcher were present.

There was also another social function in the Carlisle Street School where the Technical Committee was also conducting continuation classes. These were the first classes started by volunteer workers in the cause of Indian adult education with Mr. S. M. Moodley and other volunteer teachers. The work has been developing. In addition to the classes at the Barracks, classes for men and boys in technical subjects are being conducted by the Committee in the evenings in the Sastri College premises with Mr. Buss. There is also a class for girls in needlework in the same premises in addition to cookery classes for them in the Albert Street School premises. Arrangements are being made to help Indian farmers by means of a course of lectures by Experts and these will be followed by other classes. These

are among some of the activities of the Committee and it is hoped that during the year there will be definite developments in the work of the Committee of which Mr. B. M. Narbeth is the chairman and Mr. P. R. Pather, hon. secretary.

Boxing

Maistry's Gold Belt Presented To Mottee Singh

Over fifty Indian and European sportsmen and women gathered round the festive board of Mr. V. M. Maistry at his residence in Urabulo Road, Durban, last Saturday to take part in the presentation of his gold belt which was beautifully wrought by Mr. J. P. Nather, an Indian artistic goldsmith.

The Chairman in proposing the toast of Mr. Maistry spoke of his keen interest in the promotion of boxing and the part he had played as a Manager of Kid Mottee Singh. To encourage boxing among the Indians the world over he was presenting the gold belt for the Indian featherweight championship, which was to become the property of the boxer who won it three times in succession.

Mr. Maistry in reply said that it was a pleasure for him to have been associated with Kid Singh. Kid Singh was a colonial-born Indian of British Guiana but had come to South Africa from the British Isles where, as in his home country, he had made a name for himself as a boxer. During his stay he had fulfilled his contract and had won everyone of his fights. He had made an unequalled reputation for himself in South Africa but he had also done more for he had enhanced the reputation of the local Indian community which had already a good name for the colonial-born Indian boxers it had produced in the ring that they were fighters and not quitters. Every man who contributed something to the credit of his community lived not for himself alone and Kid Singh will be so remembered in this country in the years to come.

He was grateful to the European sportsmen who by their presence and interest had shown that sportsmanship knows no race nor colour.

The Chairman at the request of Mr. Maistry presents the gold belt to Kid Singh.

Kid Singh thanked Mr. Maistry for the gold belt and was glad that he was able to uphold his own reputation and the honour of his people. He had completed his contract but on the urgent request of his many friends was about to enter into a short contract. Mr. and Mrs. Maistry had been as father and mother to him and was happy in their home. He would always remember them with gratitude. He also thanked the promoters Messrs. J. M. Panday and Mahomed who were responsible for his coming out to South Africa.

Mr. C. E. Peens proposed the toast to boxing and referred in particular to his happy experiences of Indian boxing which he said was of a very high standard.

Mr. S. L. Singh replying recalled the early days of Indian boxing when Jack Moodley and Peter Sam won recognition for Indian boxing. Jack fought Indians and Europeans with credit to himself. He wishes Mr. Peens success with the twelve boxers with whom he was about to do the world.

Mr. Hogan, as a member of the Boxing Board of Control spoke well of the promoters Messrs. Panday and Mahomed in proposing their toast.

Mr. Panday in reply thanked the proposer.

Rev. B. L. E. Sigamony proposed the toast to the European guests. He was happy to see that now as in the early days when he was a layman and a promoter of fights that European sportsmen were ever ready to help in matters of sports. In the Transvaal they could not

hold boxing tournaments as boxing among non-Europeans was prohibited. They were unfortunate. If Europeans who recognised no racial differentiation in sports would do the same in other walks of life there would be no racial question in South Africa.

Major Irvine Crawford in responding agreed with the Padre. He urged that Indian Amateur Boxing should be encouraged.

A jazz band was in attendance and the catering arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Samuel Joseph.

Amateur Boxing

Boxing enthusiasts will be treated to another fare on Saturday night, January 20, 1934. Young Ramlogan, the local jejune promoter, is promoting his third boxing show. The venue will be the Star Hall at the corner of Prince Edward and Cross Streets, Durban.

The programme arranged is indubitably long-winded and unless a number of K. O's a real feature of the show, the promoter's patrons will see the midnight hour whisk by. In all there are 16 bouts of varying durations. The chief contest of the evening will be for non-European heavy weight Championship of Natal between Indian Carnera and M. A. Harry. Of both little is known but Indian Carnera, we understand, is the local counterpart of the Great Italian Carnera both in regard to vigour and height, being 6ft. 2ins. tall. M. A. Harry on the other hand is the present holder of the title. Carnera hails from Newcastle.

The programme starts at 7 p.m. and the prices are popular, the ring-side seats being 2s. 6d.

Medals, it is authoritatively stated, will be presented to the successful contestants.

The following is an epitome of the programme—

STAR BOUT

Indian Carnera vs. M. A. Harry, A. S. Jonny vs. Young Joseph, P. Ramkelawan vs. N. Rama, Jimmy Sookdew vs. N. G. Naidoo, Young Goolam vs. Abba! the second.

4 ROUNDS CONTEST

M. Rampersadh vs. M. L. Naidoo, Young Harry vs. V. Govindsamy, H. Rampersadh vs. S. George, J. Bunsee vs. Chin Chittray, S. Singh vs. Sunny Ramiab, Kid Rangit Singh vs. Ganesh A. Naidoo, Harry Singh vs. Tommy Coopsamy.

3 ROUNDS CONTEST

R. Mudhan vs. Ramchander, Young Cassim vs. S. Maharaj, Ebrahim Kid moola vs. N. Chin, Kid Sam vs. Young Balla.

News In Brief

The new Indian Squatters' Market in Warwick Avenue it is learnt will probably be opened on Feb. 1. The Durban Town Council has just received advice from the Natal Provincial Administration conveying the approval of the Administrator to the draft by-law and tariff of charges for the Indian Market. The promulgation of these by-laws has been held over in order to synchronise with the opening of the squatters' enclosure.

Our attention has been drawn to an incorrect report published in our last week's issue in the News in Brief column in connection with the transfer of Mr. J. Ramphal to Rhodesia. Mr. Ramphal who has obtained three teachers qualifications has been a teacher in the Government Aided Olare Estate Indian School for the last eight years where he has obtained excellent records. He has now been directly appointed by the Minister of the Interior of Rhodesia through the Education Department of Rhodesia.

India was shaken by one of the severest earthquakes on record last Monday. The whole area

from west of Gujarat to East Bengal and from the Madras Presidency to the Himalayas and the Punjab was affected. The centre of the disturbance appears to have been about 100 miles east of Bombay and 100 miles north-west of Calcutta. The Province of Behar was the worst sufferer.

According to the latest reliable estimates received while writing, about 2,000 have been killed and over 10,000 injured. The town of Muzaffarpur in Behar is thoroughly devastated.

A team of Indian girls, discarding the modest saris, donned flannel "bags," opened-necked shirts and sun helmets and played a team of Indian men cricketers at Ahmedabad. And they won.

Obituary

The Late Mr. Chuni Lal Narotam

In the sad demise of Mr. Chuni Lal Narotam of the firm of Messrs. N. Bhoola & Co. of Sutherlands and Durban on the 18th inst., at his residence, the Indian community has lost one of its outstanding figures. By his amiable nature the late Mr. Chuni Lal had made many friends both amongst Europeans and Indians. His remains were cremated at Bhoola's crematorium at Plessisburg, Swami Bhawan Dayal Sannyasi officiating.

Hundreds of Indians of all denominations attended the funeral among whom were Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee, P. Hargovan, C. N. Rana, P. Daya, Bhana Parsotam, Jeena, Dhupelia, M. L. Bobat, R. B. Maharaj, E. G. David, R. Dookran, P. M. Seethal, R. Maree, Ebrahim Ismail, Rawat, Soni, Bhayat, Ghela Dayaram, B. A. Moodley, M. R. Naidoo, Dhamjee, Vather, Chhina Bazaar A. V. Moodley, S. J. Randeria, G. R. Singh, L. Naoloo, P. Mankanee, K. H. Patel, V. C. Samuel, W. Krishnasamy, J. B. Singh, Gogabeshoon, C. H. Singh, Rambaroo.

Many wreaths and telegrams were received from Capetown and Durban.

The late Mr. Narotam was 83 years of age and leaves behind a widow, two children and a large number of relatives and a circle of friends to mourn their loss.

Late Mrs. P. Naidoo

The sad death of Mrs. Parvathy Naidoo, wife of Mr. Parimal Naidoo and sister of Mr. D. M. Nursoo, took place at her residence in Johannesburg on Jan. 9. Mrs. Naidoo was keenly interested in women's social activities. She was one of those who took a prominent part during Passive Resistance. Her remains were cremated at the Hindu Crematorium when a large number of friends were present. Deceased leaves behind her husband, eight children and three brothers.

Late Mrs. M. Pillay

Yet another prominent Indian lady passed away in the person of Mrs. Minatchiamal Pillay, wife Mr. K. G. Pillay, a leading Transvaal sportsman. Mrs. Pillay had undergone an operation and was ill for some time. She also took an active part in Passive Resistance under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. She was one of the three brave ladies who had been mentioned for their active part at Volksrust.

A large crowd representing every section of the community was present at the funeral. The deceased leaves behind her husband and four children.