

# Indian Opinion

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## Notes and News

### Government Must Define Its Attitude

After discussing the proposed colonisation scheme and the attitude of the Congress towards it *The Star* (Johannesburg) concludes its leading article of Jan. 16 in the following words:—

"It will be realised that the position—as regards future relations between India and the Union of South Africa—is delicate and may easily become precarious. The Union Government, instead of continuing a policy of drift, varied by acts or threatened acts of coercion and repression, must make up its mind what it means to do in the future. It must clearly define its attitude towards the Indian population in the light of the declaration of 1927. That declaration either means something or nothing, and the resident Indians, 80 per cent. of whom are South African born, are entitled to know just what it means. In this connection we would recall Sir Maharaj Singh's recent appeal to the younger generation of South Africans to take a "broader view" of the subject. "It is partly a matter of ignorance and partly a matter of prejudice," said the Agent for India. "There is no more immigration into South Africa, and surely you can let the Indians that are in this country—only 2½ per cent. of the total population—remain in peace. This is the only country in the whole world—I have travelled in thirty countries and I know—where the Indian is treated as he is. Remember that the enmity of 330,000,000—and add to that the 450,000,000 of China—is bad for you, so that for the sake of a population which in the Union numbers only a very small proportion, you are bound to lose valuable markets." Where other considerations fail to influence local public opinion, the economic argument may prove not ineffective."

### Newcastle Town Council Up In Arms

THE Town Council of Newcastle has received definite information from the Education Department, says Reuter, that the premises of the boys hostel, situated in the European residential area, are to be altered and converted into an Indian school. The hostel in question is now disused owing to the erection of new premises. A petition to the Administrator is now in circulation locally, protesting against this proposal, and at a recent Council's meet-

ing, the Council, in passing a resolution of opposition to the project, resolved to remind the Director of Education of his promise made at an interview with the Council, but what that promise was is not stated. The Council is very much up in arms about the matter, and one member suggested that, if the Provincial Executive persisted in going on with the proposed Indian school in that quarter, the Council should refuse to render services to the premises, seeing that they are not rateable.

Not long ago the Agent of the Government of India Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, when he paid his official visit to Newcastle, paid a very high tribute to Europeans of Newcastle for being broadminded. There is certainly not much of that spirit in the present instance where the Council grudges giving a worn-out building of the white boys for the use of Indians.

### Indian Paper On Mr. Qureshi's Incident

*The Hindu* (Madras) writes:—"The treatment accorded in South Africa to Mr. A. I. Qureshi, a research scholar deputed by the University Bureau of the Empire to study rural credit and marketing, is revealing. It is doubtless an everyday experience of the Indian community in South Africa, but Mr. Qureshi's case serves to focus public attention on the magnitude of the wrong daily being done to Indians. Mr. Qureshi went there, not as an adventurer out for a career, but as a respected student of the Empire deputed by a well-known Empire organisation. If such a person could be subjected to indignities and insults of the kind of which Mr. Qureshi complains, one can imagine to what lengths the whites might not go in treating those resident in the country. Surely, it is time that South Africa was told that she could not long persist in her policy and yet claim to be reckoned as a fair-minded community. When will the white people of South Africa learn that righteousness alone exalteth a nation?"

### Gold Bangles For Gandhiji's Autograph

MAHATMA GANDHI who is at present touring India in pursuance of his campaign to emancipate the untouchables of India is being welcomed by hundreds of thousands of people wherever he goes and financial support in the shape of cash and jewellery is pouring in. There are untoward incidents of orthodox Hindus trying to adopt obstructive methods by lying in front of Mahatma Gandhi's car and greeting him with black flags but they are insignificant in comparison to the wholehearted support he is getting from the nation. Recently in Madras he was welcomed at the station by no less than a hundred-thousand people. Here is just one of the very many instances of the affection for Mahatma Gandhi:—

"Gandhiji on his way to Madras was presented with a welcome address at some wayside station. The Taluk Board of Sularpet presented an address and purse of Ra. 119 at Sularpet Station. At Ponneri a lady offered Gandhiji a gold ring and four rupees and requested for his autograph. Gandhiji signed his name on the paper in Hindi, gave it to her and said he would sign in Tamil if her gold bangles were forthcoming. She immediately removed the bangles and gave them to Gandhiji."

## FUTURE OF THE INDIAN

A WARNING note has already been struck by the *Natal Mercury* that the Capetown Agreement is in danger. The Agreement when arrived at as a result of the first Round Table Conference in 1926 was described as the Gentleman's Agreement having no bargaining spirit behind it and so on, and yet it was never bound by the silken cord of love as one was made to believe at the time. It was a bargain pure and simple and, that too, not a fair one. In return for postponing legislative action—the Areas Reservation and the Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill was threatening at the time—a very substantial reduction in the Union's Indian population was asked for and was given, 'without the implication of any stigma of racial inferiority,' as Dr. Malan tried to explain to the Parliament. "The chief and most satisfactory method of dealing with the problem," Dr. Malan said, "was found in an approved scheme of assisted emigration to be initiated by the the Union Government with increased facilities and inducements, and with proper safeguards against possible abuse." The consoling feature of this scheme however was that it was supposed to be purely voluntary in addition o of there werer other hopeful features in the Agreement such as the upliftment clause. Side by side with the working of the assisted emigration scheme it was hoped that every opportunity would be given the Indians to enable them to conform to the western standards of life.

It was however found that the upliftment clause in the Agreement was there only as an ornament. Though the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill was supposed to have been postponed, ere the ink had dried on the Agreement, the Immigration Bill of 1927, which formed part of that Bill was passed and promulgated in the very presence of Mr. Sastri in this country as the first Agent of the Government of India. A little later another part of the same Bill referring to "Registration" was rushed into Parliament without the knowledge of anybody and was passed as the Immigration Act of 1931, depriving holders of Registration Certificates in the Transvaal of a right which they had earned after paying a heavy price for it. Even General Smuts described it as an unjust measure.

Sir Kurma Reddi, the second Agent, was able to afford no relief, in fact, he was also kept in the dark. Then within the period of five years of the working of the Agreement we were faced with the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance and the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill, the object of which was to segregate Indians in the Transvaal and deprive them of even the meagre rights they enjoyed of owning and occupying land and to restrict their trading rights, thus aiming at bringing about their ruination and consequent total extinction. The second Agent protested against these measures as being against the very spirit and the letter of the Agreement, until the time came to revise the Agreement.

This is what Indians received within the course of five years in return for the supposed postponement of the Areas Reservation and Immigration and Registration (Further Provision) Bill part of which

as we have already pointed out had already been passed; and the additional price we had to pay was the compromising of the birthrights of over 13,000 of our brethren who are undergoing untold miseries in India.

When the Agreement came under revision at the Round Table Conference in January 1933 the delegation from India was found to be representing a very weak Government. Before its members could raise a voice against the assisted emigration scheme the Union Government told them in plain words that the Scheme had not proved effective enough and unless they were prepared to put forward another scheme which would be more attractive to the Indians and would go to bring about a further reduction in their population they, the Union Government, were not prepared to discuss the Indian question with them. The outcome was the suggestion of exploring the possibilities of a Colonisation Scheme for settling South African Indians in other countries. When this was agreed to the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill was the only subject that came under discussion and with slight modification the Bill was allowed to pass. This ended the matter and further discussion on the Agreement was postponed until after the exploration of the possibilities of a colonisation scheme.

It is too true that the Indian community in South Africa was very reluctant to co-operate in this exploration and it offered its co-operation only on the ground that the Government of India was going on a mission to find outlets for its own population and that the representatives of the Indian community of South Africa would merely go to see if there were any good prospects for their brethren in such countries. They were not at all interested in the Government's policy of reducing the Indian population of the Union and did not wish for the second time to enter into a policy which meant the bartering away of the rights of a section for doubtful possessions for another. Unfortunately the Congress did not realise the strength of public opinion and out of fear of their rights being in jeopardy they went out of their way to co-operate with the Government in exploring the possibilities of such a scheme. But their attitude, as we have stated often enough, has been utterly inconsistent. We entirely agree with our contemporary that "the real issue has been obscured under a great outpouring of grievances," and that "there has been no genuine attempt on the part of responsible leaders to explore the possibilities of the above mentioned scheme." The Congress had stated from public platforms and made it clear even to the Government of India delegation that they were no longer going to countenance any scheme which had for its object the sending away of South African Indians to other countries and their attitude in trying to camouflage the issue has resulted in unpopolarising that body.

The issue before us now is quite clear. If the Indian community has lost its manhood entirely it will certainly submit to any humiliations for the sake of material gain. Those who have vested interests in this country will be tempted to surrender the rights of their less favourably situated

brethren to safeguard their own interests. It would be an unpatriotic act on their part to do so. Any condemnation of such an act would not be too strong. On the other hand we would urge upon the ruling race in this country to view the question dispassionately and with a little broad mindedness. The door to further Indian immigration to this country is entirely closed. There is therefore no fear on the score of the country being flooded by Indians. Further it has been pointed out over and over again by the Agent of the Government of India, that the Indian population of the Union is only two and a half per cent of the total population. Public Commissions and responsible Ministers of the Union have openly declared that the Indian population of the Union is a peaceful and law-abiding community. They have proved their worth in the past when they were introduced to this country as labourers. If they are given the opportunity they will surely be an asset to this country. Is there not room enough in this vast land for a comparatively handful of people whose ancestors have given their life-blood in the development of it? Must they be perpetually threatened with measures of segregation and the deprivation of their elementary rights as human beings? It certainly does not behove any civilised Government nor any people who claim themselves to be civilised to so act.

### Fountain Of Wisdom

*What stronger breast-plate than a heart untaught?  
Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just,  
And he but naked, though locked up in steel,  
Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.*

—SHAKESPEARE.

## Discrimination In Post Offices

### Question In Indian Assembly

Dr. Ziauddin was informed by Mr. Bajpai, in the Assembly, that the Government were aware of the recent judgment of the Supreme Court of South Africa which held that the Postmaster-General had the right to direct that Indians be not served at Post Office counters where Europeans are served, but the judgment merely recognised the legality of the existing practice which fortunately was not universal. The Agent to the Government of India in South Africa had already made representations to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs. So far as the Government were aware, such discrimination was not practised in other Dominions.

Replying to a question whether the Government were prepared to take effective measures to retaliate, Mr. Bajpai said that the Government think the policy they were now following deserved further trial, but the Government were prepared to examine any other practicable policy.

## A Qualified Nurse

Sister J. B. Robertson who is an English registered nurse and whose training was completed in the City of London Hospital is willing to nurse Indian patients daily. She has had considerable experience not only in England but in South Africa as well. A message can be left for her at 38 Moore Road, care of Mrs. Horn.

## Threat Of Retaliatory Measures

### Unless Indians Display More Vision

### Agreement Purely A Compromise

The Parliamentary correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* in a message from Capetown dated January 17, states:—

Serious misgivings as to the future trend of Indian affairs in the Union are held in certain responsible quarters and appear to be fully justified.

The Department Commission appointed by the Government last June to undertake a preliminary investigation scheme for settling Indians from India and South Africa in other countries has completed taking evidence and is busy framing its report.

### Further Commission

This report will be sent to the Government of India, supposedly to be used by them as the basis for the work of a further joint Commission agreed upon by the two Governments in terms of the report of the 1932 Capetown Round Table Conference.

The work of the present Union Departmental Commission appointed by Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr has, unfortunately, been nullified to some extent by several factors, and I am doubtful whether it will lead to any practical results.

In the first place the Indian community has seized upon the Commission as a means of spreading propaganda, and many of the real issues have been hidden and distorted under a great outpouring of grievances.

Temporary concessions have been misrepresented as inviolable rights, and there is real danger of the position being misunderstood by the community as a whole.

In Natal, at the close of the Great War, Indian competition had become so acute that a Commission was appointed by the Government which, in 1921, recommended the encouragement of voluntary repatriation of Indians and the segregation of Asiatics.

A Bill was introduced to Parliament which failed to become law owing to various circumstances, and, shortly after the Nationalist Government assumed power, another Bill, known as the Glass Areas Reservation Bill, was drafted. This measure was actively fought by the Indian community and resulted in the intervention of the Government of India.

### "Purely A Compromise"

Ultimately it was agreed to hold the Round Table Conference in Capetown which ended in the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1926.

What the Indian community in South Africa refuses to face at the present time is that the Agreement was purely a compromise and that the Union Government merely undertook to hold its legislative programme in abeyance while the experiment—that of assisted repatriation—was tried out as an alternative.

There were features of the 1926 compromise which were obnoxious to the European community. Nevertheless, the people of South Africa loyally abided by that arrangement until the close of 1931, when it was realised that the assisted repatriation scheme had definitely failed. There was then nothing to prevent the Union Government from allowing the Agreement to lapse and going ahead with its legislative proposals, including the Glass Areas Reservation Bill with modifications.

An influential school of opinion did, in fact, urge that this course should be adopted. However, it was decided to hold another conference, at which the suggestion was made by the Indian delegation that a way out might be found by means of a joint colonisation scheme. The Union Government agreed to carry on the 1926 Agreement while the prospects of such a scheme were investigated,

### Interest Lost

A delay then occurred and both Governments appeared to have lost all interest. As a concession to public pressure expressed in Parliament, Mr. Hofmeyr appointed his present Departmental Commission last June, and a further delay has since taken place while the Commission has been at work.

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 delay.

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 1926.

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.

### Better Treatment For South African Indians

#### Strong Plea By The Agent

In the course of a lecture on Modern India to von Bradis Branch of the Junior South African Party Club, recently the Agent of the Government of India Kunwar Sir Mahraj Singh after dwelling on the present situation in India spoke of the condition of Indians in South Africa.

"I have often heard it said," he stated, "that it was impossible to accord better treatment to Indians without raising difficulties for the other sections of the non-European population, how was it possible to give the municipal vote to Indians or free the Indians from the many restrictions from which they are suffering in this country.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it is not for me to give the answer to this question. You know perfectly well that if a thing is right it has to be done. Do you really think that a country with 335 millions of people is going to sit silent for all time?

"Are we not a country with a great civilisation behind us. Can we not be differentiated from the natives of South Africa, who have only recently emerged from barbarism? It is always difficult for me to take that argument seriously—that we, the people of India, should be treated in the same manner as the natives of South Africa.

"Are you really going to deprive us of our rights in South Africa?"

"Please remember that 80 per cent. of the Indians in South Africa were born here, and that number is going to increase year by year. The number in the Transvaal is three per cent. of the European population. Is that a menace?"

As for trade, the Kunwar continued, the volume of Indian trade, wholesale and retail in Johannesburg was only about five per cent. And in crime, in spite of the general lack of facilities for education, the proportion was less than among the Europeans.

"Magistrate after magistrate has told me that if anything our community is too law-abiding," he said.

If the facts were studied and the Indians given a chance to develop, his countrymen would prove an increasing asset to this country, he concluded.

The Kunwar was introduced by Mr. J. W. Higgerty M.P. A vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Mr. A. Mendelow. Mr. B. Reid was in the chair.

### Visit Of H. R. H. Prince George

#### Indian Celebrations

#### Gulf Widens In Indian Community

#### Durban Mayor And Mr. Christopher Interviewed

On the 6th January the *Natal Advertiser* reported that on representations made by the Agent of the Government of India, Mr. Farrel, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister and Manager of the Royal Tour, wrote to the Durban Town Council to include in its programme, if possible, an "At Home" for the Indian community where its leaders may meet His Royal Highness. On the same day the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association wrote to the Town Clerk and advised him of its intention to arrange a huge gathering where Indian farmers, workers, returned soldiers and others would meet the Prince. In this connection the Association stated that the Natal Indian Teachers' Society was co-operating with it.

Last week the Town Council's programme of the Royal visit to Durban was published, and in it an item "Indian Celebrations at Albert Park" appeared. On enquiry the Association learned that the control of both the "At Home" and the "Indian celebrations" had been given to the Natal Indian Congress.

Interviewed by our representative on Thursday the Mayor of Durban, who was accompanied by his private secretary Mr. Burne, stated that the Committee had decided to hand the control of both the functions to the Congress. "By suggestions that had been made from time to time by people in authority," said the Mayor, "it was his intention in view of these suggestions to recognise the Natal Indian Congress. It has been definitely given to me as correct that the Natal Indian Congress represents all sections of the Indian community in Natal. There is no purpose in negotiating with any other body. If it could be proved that they were not represented by the Congress, I should be obliged to ask the Committee to reconsider their decision."

The Mayor appeared to be too busy and uncommunicative. When asked what authority he was guided by the Mayor refused to mention any names. He was not able to give much time but asked our representative to see his private secretary.

It was learnt from the interview that the application of the Association was dated the 6th January whilst that of the Congress the 9th January, Mr. Burne maintaining however, that prior to the official application of the Congress, Messrs. Sorabjee Rustomjee and A. L. Kajee who were at Capetown at the time, were in constant telegraphic communication with the Town Council with regard to the celebrations. Neither of them was of course an official of the Natal Indian Congress.

#### Mr. Christopher's Version

Mr. A. Christopher, President of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association interviewed

stated that his Association made the application on the 6th January. On that date the only item that the Kunwar, on behalf of the Congress, had asked was an "At Home" for "the leaders" of the Indian community. So far as he was aware there was no application by the Congress for a general celebration for the people. Immediately the full programme arranged by the Town Council was published, he, accompanied by Mr. P. B. Pather, interviewed the Mayor and Mr. Burne, with a view to ascertaining whether the Council had decided to grant the application of his Association. The Mayor told him that he had been bound down by Mr. Farrel's letter, which he claimed, indicated that he (the Mayor) should communicate with the Congress in connection with both the "At Home" and the "India" celebrations. Mr. Christopher stated, however, that Mr. Farrel's letter to the Town Clerk refers to nothing but the "At Home" and his instruction to communicate with the Congress was in respect of that particular item. No reference to the Indian celebrations is made in his letter.

Continuing, Mr. Christopher stated that in his interview with the Mayor, he laid emphasis on the fact that on the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness, his Association desired no split in the community, and he submitted that the action of the Council in handing over of the Indian celebrations to the Congress notwithstanding the prior application of the Association, tended to divide the Indian community. He maintained that the Mayor, having regard to the fact that there existed two organisations should be impartial and suggested that the Council should give the control of the "At Home" to the Congress and the Indian Celebrations to his Association.

The Mayor asked Mr. Christopher to immediately address the Prime Minister on the matter, who, he said had the final say on the arrangement of the programme. If the Prime Minister wished to accede to the request of the Association, he, personally would have no objection to hand the control of the Albert Park Celebrations to the Association.

Mr. Christopher immediately sent a lengthy telegram to General Hertzog informing him that Mr. Farrel's letter to the Town Clerk was being taken by the Mayor as an instruction to recognize the Congress only and that the Association had the support of the majority of the Indian community including the Farmers, Teachers, workers and sportsmen. The telegram made a request to hand the Albert Park Celebrations to the Association.

The Prime Minister immediately replied that the arrangement of the Programme was in the hands of the Town Council and that the Mayor had full discretion to decide. The Association immediately wrote to the Mayor enclosing a copy of its telegram to the Prime Minister and copy of his reply.

Mr. Christopher said that indirectly he had heard that the Mayor now states that the Sub-Committee in charge of the arrangement of the Programme had decided to hand the control of both the functions to the Congress. But strangely enough the Council has not as yet replied to the Association in writing.

## Asiatic Licences In Lichtenburg Town Council Discussions

Lichtenburg's (Transvaal) Asiatic problem formed the subject of a full dress debate at the first meeting of the Town Council this year. So much public feeling has been aroused that the council chamber was crowded, and the Council spent some time hearing deputations from the chamber of commerce the Handhawers Bond, and the local vigilance association, all of whom had come armed with credentials from the bodies they represented opposing any granting of new licences to Asiatics, or the transfer of existing ones. The Mayor (Mr. J. P. J. Conradie) presided and the other Councillors present were Messrs. P. J. Huyser, I. Olen, C. J. Grove, A. I. Ludick, O. B. Maartens and O. de Klerk.

The matter arose as a result of seven applications (six from Asiatics) for new licences, all of which had been previously rejected by the health and building committee. Of these, those to which chief exception were taken were one by Mr. E. A. Kaka (Hadjee Bros.) for a new licence on the market square in a building still to be erected by Mrs. A. Delarey Morkel, and an application in respect of the premises known as London House, by Mr. M. Mooea. The building committee approved of the plan of the building for Mrs. Delarey Morkel, but intimated that there would be no guarantee that the licence would be granted.

The commercial viewpoint was set out in a letter from the chamber of commerce referring to a general meeting of members at which a resolution had been passed strongly protesting against the granting of new trading licences to Asiatics, "because not only are the number of Asiatic licenses entirely out of proportion to the European licenses, but also because the general effect of Asiatic trading tends to lower the standard of living of the white population which, in this country, is a matter of vital importance."

The chamber, proceeded the letter, objected most strongly to the granting of new licences or the transfer of others to Asiatics in respect of premises abutting on the market square, and, generally, "because it is not in the best interests of the town to permit more Asiatics to have business premises in the centre of the town." The secretary said various members of the chamber were considerable property owners and they naturally viewed with a deep concern any possibility of their property reflecting a decline in value.

Members of a deputation from the chamber made it clear that they did not wish to see Indians established in stores in the centre of the town, and pointed out that the Council was not legally entitled to consider any application until the building sought to be licensed had been completed. The secretary, Mr. J. Berman, said as a general principle that the chamber was not in agreement with the granting of further licences to Asiatics, applications from whom were out of all proportion to those made by Europeans.

If the Council continued to grant these applications, the European storekeepers would close up one by one. If the Council allowed an Indian in the centre of the town, then they would be compelled to let others follow them and consequently the whole of that portion would soon be occupied by Asiatic storekeepers.

Opposition from the Handhawers Bond was detailed in a speech by Mr. G. J. du Plessis, who congratulated those members of the Council who were taking a firm stand on the Asiatic question. At

present, seventy per cent. of the local business went to the Asiatics.

The Council also heard Mr. J. A. Wagner, in support of the application of Hajee Bros. and Mr. B. L. Levi, on behalf of Mr. Moosa. Mr. Wagner said the Council should not be swayed by sentiment, but should treat the applications in a judicial manner. "You must consider whether the applicant is a fit and proper person in the eyes of the law, and not whether he is a Jew, Indian or Asiatic." Mr. Lavi addressed the Council at length and maintained that it was unfair of the Council now to refuse the licence to Mr. Moosa, after it had been granted to his predecessor, (since deceased), for whom Mr. Moosa had managed the business.

The applications were not debated at any length. The Mayor ruled that the application of Hajee Bros. could not be considered as the law required the building to be completed first. The applications of Messrs. Lala Beha. E. Gebbard and M. J. Anthony (fresh produce dealers), and of Mr. Mohamed Kahn (general dealer), were all refused, despite a protest from Mr. Huyser who considered that the application of Mr. Lala Beha (which was really a transfer) should be granted. Mr. Maartens asked why the application had been refused, and said that he considered that if nothing were known against the applicant and the medical report was in order, the licence should be granted. He wished to support Mr. Huyser, but found that the matter had been disposed of.

#### Trouble Over Administrator's Letter

A letter from the Administrator to the town clerk, in connection with the application made by Mr. Moosa, and a reply sent on December 28, in the absence of the majority of the councillors led to a heated debate. The Mayor said that although the town clerk had sent the reply he would take full responsibility for it. He explained that the letter, marked "Very urgent," had arrived during the Christmas vacation, and the Administrator asked whether, in refusing Mr. Moosa's application, the Council had done so solely on the grounds of overtrading. The town clerk had replied that from the debates it appeared that the Council had been actuated by motives of principle, and that in any case the Administrator would grant the licence if he so wished.

A spirited protest at the terms of the letter was made by Mr. Ludick. He asked whether the Mayor considered he was entitled to answer it in that strain, and asked why no mention had been made of his (the speaker's) reference to overtrading. He maintained that it was wrong to have put forward only one point of view. Dr. Olen said the whole matter was "the greatest bluff that had ever taken place in the history of the Council." He suggested that a reply should be sent to the Administrator, that the letter was not official and did not represent the attitude of the Council. Replying to an interjection from Mr. Huyser that the Council would probably be faced with legal actions for refusing the applications, Dr. Olen described the suggestion as laughable and suggested that counsel's opinion should be obtained as to the Council's standing in the matter.

The suggestion was made by Mr. Martens that as the letter had been sent to the Administrator, no further action should be taken until they received his reply. Mr. Grove said that the Mayor had certain powers, and he did not think he had exceeded these in his reply, because no one was committed in any way. He considered, however, that the Council should send a further reply to the effect that the Council had not refused the application

solely on the grounds of overtrading. Eventually the suggestion of Mr. Maartens that no further action be taken for the present was adopted by four votes to two, and no further decision was reached in regard to the London House application. At a previous meeting it was refused.—*The Star*.

## Natal Indian Teachers' Bi-annual Conference and Fellowship Week

The H. Y. M. A. Hall, Church Street, Pietermaritzburg was the venue of the Bi-annual Conference and Fellowship Week organised by the Pietermaritzburg Branch of the Natal Indian Teachers' Society.

The opening proceedings took place on Friday. Officials from the Headquarters and a large number of delegates attended both from the Coast and the Northern Districts. Mr. T. M. Naicker (President of the Society) presided supported by Mr. Simon David, Chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Branch, Messrs. R. Regnath, Hon. General Secretary, V. S. Naidoo Hon. Assistant Secretary, K. R. Nair, Hon. Treasurer, Isaac Anthony Hon. Secretary of the Branch and amongst others present were Mr. A. H. Allsopp B. A. M. Ed. Vice-Principal of the Natal Teachers' Training College, Mr. W. A. Lewitt Headmaster York Road Govt. Indian School, Messrs. E. J. Choonoo, E. Thomas, W. S. Seethal, H. S. Done, Rev. Milbourne M.A. Miss E. Peters, and Mrs. K. R. Nair (Hon. Treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary).

After the chairman declaring the proceedings open, Mr. Simon David the chairman of the Pietermaritzburg Branch extended a very warm welcome to all those present. He was followed by the President, who delivered an address on the objects of the Fellowship Week and exhorted the teachers to draw some inspiration from the gathering so that they may play an important part in the service of the community.

Rev. Milbourne M.A., Mr. W. B. Lewitt, Mr. E. Thomas, Mr. E. J. Choonoo, Mr. H. S. Done were amongst other speakers.

After Tea which was provided by the Branch Mr. A. H. Allsopp B.A.M Ed. delivered a very interesting lecture on the "Unconscious Mind" at which Mr. Simon David occupied the chair.

During the evening a joint meeting of the Headquarters and the Branch was held presided over by Mr. T. M. Naicker, when problems of mutual interest were discussed. The Secretary submitted a report of the Branch and the other questions included, Secondary Education, Demarcation of the boundary of the Branch, Finance, need of a Govt. Girl School, staffing in Indian Schools and Teachers' Examinations.

On Saturday morning Mr. W. L. Anderson B. Sc. Headmaster of Camperdown Govt. School read a very instructive paper on "the teacher as a guide and not as a task-master." Mr. Simon David occupied the chair and the paper was listened to very attentively and an interesting discussion ensued. Mr. G. Vasuthaven commented on same and moved a vote of thanks.

In the afternoon there was an Inter-city Debates at which Mr. A. H. Allsopp B.A.M. Ed. presided. The motion was "the larger Govt. Aided Indian Schools in thickly and permanently populated centres be converted to Govt. status immediately."

The Maritzburg Team comprised Messrs.—R. Dockur, P. M. Seethal, Simon David, Visvanathan Muthoo, and G. Vasuthaven, who were for the motion. The Durban Team opposed the motion and comprised Messrs.—E. J. Choonoo, H. S. Done, T. M. Naicker, K. R. Nair and R. Regnath. After a very spirited discussion, the house carried the motion by a large majority.

During the day, a party of Delegates went to the Howick falls.

Later the Pietermaritzburg Branch entertained the visitors to a musical evening, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

On the morning of Sunday, the City Council placed two Municipal buses at the disposal of the delegates and the various beauty spots and historical places were visited. It was both of immense pleasure and educational value and the Society is greatly indebted to the City Council for their kind consideration.

The visitors were then entertained to a luncheon at Mr. G. Vanthoven's residence, which concluded a very successful week. This is the first time the City Teachers had the opportunity of holding the Bi-annual Conference which proved a huge success.

## Indians' Reply To Springs Council

### Trade Record During Last 15 Years

The Springs Indian Commercial Association has submitted a memorandum to the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act Commission.

The memorandum is a reply to criticism levelled at Asiatic traders by the Springs Town Council, Ratepayers' Association and Chamber of Commerce.

The Association refutes emphatically that any congestion of traffic exists through native loiterers around shops tenanted by its members, and points out that loitering on the footpaths by pedestrians whether of white or black colour is under the control of the South African Police in virtue of traffic by-laws in force in Springs.

"In so far as the trading methods of the members of this Association are concerned," states the memorandum, "the records of the local court will serve to refute that charge. No prosecution and no conviction of an Asiatic in Springs for contravening any law or any ordinance governing the conduct of his trade has been brought before the court in the last 15 years.

"There is no 'general belief' that the assistants of the Asiatics are underpaid and that this creates an unfair trading advantage in the competition of traders carrying out the term of the law. The members of the association conform to the requirement of the Wage Act and its relevant wage determination. There has been no prosecution and there has been no conviction of any member of this association for contravening the Wages Act.

"The Town Council of Springs suggests that members of this Association are guilty of lawlessness, thus rendering them as a 'general rule' undesirable traders in the eyes of the law-abiding traders. There is no record of any prosecution or conviction in the courts of any member of this Association for lawlessness.

"The Town Council of Springs asserts that it is 'generally recognised' that the Asiatic has developed a sense of resistance to and evasion of the law. This Association replies and states that there is no such general recognition and that the Asiatics in this municipality neither resist nor evade the law.

"The Association admits that Springs is a growing town and with the opening of the new mines it is progressing and developing rapidly. This progress and sure development is for ever closed to the members of this Association by reason of title restriction coupled with the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act. The Association being comprised of citizens who are law-abiding, accept the position as they are compelled to do."

## Current Topics

COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS  
(BY BHUSSMASOOR)

### The Prince's Visit

According to newspaper reports Congress will celebrate the occasion at the Albert Park, and there will be an "At Home" in the Town Hall. It would appear that the Agent made representations to the Prime Minister who in turn has asked the Mayor of Durban to get in touch with the Congress. For the Agent to go out of his way to ask for recognition for the Congress and to ignore the existence of another body which commands the confidence of a large section of the community is not helping to cement the unfortunate differences in the community.

I hope the Agent who would only be a few years with us, is not to be blamed for all this, but what I do regret is to find that he is not doing anything to bridge the gulf as did the first Agent. Here is work for him and there is still ample time. Will he bell the cat?

### The Mayor's Dilemma

I have no doubt, judging from past experience, that the Mayor of Durban must be in a quandary over the Prince's visit. He as the chief citizen of our town has to see that all sections of the community are given equal opportunities to pay their homage to the member of the Royal family. He on such occasions generally has a free hand to arrange matters and I presume he would be wisely guided by favouring no particular section but satisfying the community generally.

### Congress Tamasha

The Congress is booked to give an "At Home" in the Town Hall. Everyone would like to express their loyalty in some form or other. The rich and the poor, the worker and the workless may not all show in the same manner, but they all in one breath would give him a most hearty cheer when he passes over streets. The Mayor on behalf of the town might present him with an address and the children will wave their little flags as he passes them with his smiling face. It is but natural that these things happen on such occasions, but the Congress, with thousands on the unemployment lists and thousands starving in the streets, hundreds on the relief works and many waiting for the boats to be sent away to India, are going to give an At Home, where money in these times would be spent to entertain the upper ten. What bravado is this?

### The Trio

My readers would excuse me if I, to be brief, summarise the views of the Congress, Agent, and the *Natal Mercury* on the colonisation inquiry:

1. The Congress in their statement instead of coming to grips on the points at issue went in a round about manner declaring again and again the usefulness of the Indian immigrants and how they made this the Garden Colony and saved it from becoming insolvent.

It is true that the above are facts but were they the points at issue?

(2) The Agent said this was not the time when India would spend any money in colonising any country. His report of 1925 on such a scheme was shelved on the same grounds.

All this might be correct but were they the points at issue?

(3) The *Mercury* in its leader of last Friday states that both the Congress and the Agent are off the rails and that the dusty volume of the Class Areas Bill might once again see the light of day.

The above might be a good threat but was that the point at issue?

Need I say that the O. B. and S. I. Association from the very commencement took up the attitude, "no people would go, no need for inquiry, solution is at the door." I cannot for the life of me understand why the Congress took such a long time and had to go a thousand miles away from the scene to express the same sentiments which of course were wholly inconsistent with its attitude.

### Mr. Naidoo's Position

I can only offer my sympathy to Mr. S. R. Naidoo, the Congress nominee on the Inquiry Committee for being placed in such an awkward position. He was placed there like the other true men to enquire into the possibilities of planting some or the whole of the Indian community of South Africa in some other suitable country. He has now either to say that there is no such country, which will not be true, or find one and thereby go against the declared wishes of the Congress whose nominee he is on the Committee, I hope when the report is out they (the Committee) would not sidetrack the issues. The point with them as far as the Government is concerned is whether there is a country to send the Indians away from South Africa, and not whether the South African Nationals like it or not.

### News In Brief

THE ordination ceremony to the Priesthood of Rev. Deacon Claudius Joseph Vincent Lawrence, O.M.I., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Lawrence was performed on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 9 a.m. in the Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban. The Cathedral was packed with people of all races. Bishop Delalle O.M.I., conducted the ordination assisted by the members of the Order. This is the first ordination in the Roman Catholic Church in Natal. We offer our heartiest congratulations to Rev. V. Lawrence on his achievement and wish him a very successful future career.

Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh Agent of the Government of India, left Transvaal on Jan. 23 and is now in Capetown. His residence during his stay at Cape Town is at Wynburg House.

The death has occurred of Mr. Kalicherran Sahai, a well-known Indian resident who came to Johannesburg 45 years ago. In November he donated a property to the Transvaal Hindoo Seva Samaj. Latterly he was blind. His funeral was attended by a representative gathering of Indians and many Europeans. He leaves a wife, three sons and two daughters.

It will be regretted by Indians generally that the Indian airman, Manmohan Singh, who left Croydon at 4-25 on Saturday morning last for Brindisi on the first stage of his flight to Capetown had an accident at Montmaris, near Paris where his machine crashed owing to engine trouble, and Manmohan Singh was taken to hospital with a broken leg.

Mr. F. P. Hawksley M.A., who was history Master at the Sastri College during 1933 has been transferred to Port Shepstone where he is now stationed as Acting-Headmaster. Mr. Richardson, formerly of Dundee has been appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by Mr. Hawksley's transfer.

## Sporting News

(BY SPORTSMAN)

### Amateur Boxing

#### Last Week's Show

There was a fair crowd assembled in the star hall, in Prince Edward Street, Durban, on Saturday 20th January, to witness the amateur display arranged by the promoter, Young Ramlagan. The programme commenced at 7-30 p.m. but later in the evening the crowd swelled till eventually all possible standing room was occupied.

The programme was a long-winded one in that there were 14 bouts. It was thought at first the show would close well after midnight. Fortunately there was little delay between the bouts with the result that the programme wound up at 10-30 p.m. Mr. Peens, assisted by Messrs. Puttock and Connolly were in charge of the fights.

The following are the results of the various fights:—

1. Ebrahim Kid Moola beat N. Chin on points; 2. Young Balla beat Kid Sam on points; 3. Ramohander beat R. Mudhan; 4. Chimjithiray beat J. Bunsee walk over; 5. S. S. Maharaj beat Montana Kid on points; 6. Young Harry beat V. Govindasamy on points; 7. Tommy Coopsamy beat Harry Singh on points; 8. Ganrah Moodley beat Kid Ranjit Singh on points; 9. R. Singb beat Sunny Ramiah on points; 10. M. Rampersadh beat M. L. Naidoo on points; 11. Young Goolam beat Abbaï, the second on points; 12. Jimmy Sookdeo beat N. G. Naidoo on points; 13. B. S. Singh beat N. Ramia on points; 14. A. S. Johnny beat Young Joseph on points.

The main bout was to have taken place between Indian Carnera, from Newcastle, and M. A. Harry of Durban. Carnera, however, did not put in an appearance. The promoter later arranged an exhibition bout between M. A. Harry and M. Pookree Pillay, over a distance of 2 rounds. No decision was given. The latter who is a wrestler of repute holds the welter weight as well as the heavy weight wrestling titles of S. Africa. But despite the lack of training and his marked proficiency in wrestling, he put up a very commendable show against Harry with the gloves.

Prior to the conclusion of the programme, the M.C., Mr. G. Singh, B.A. expressed the promoter's gratitude to Mr. Peens and the other officials who were present for their patronage. Mottee Kid Singh, and his manager, Mr. V. M. Maistry were also present. Kid Singh assisted as referee in a number of bouts.

Mottee Kid Singh, who began serious training a little while ago in preparation for his fight with Cupido on February 10th, is now being assisted by the well-known trainer, Jack Leyland. Kid, who is looking trained in most resolute on victory and is apparently taking no chance. He appears to be optimistic, too, and means to leave S. Africa with a clean sheet. It is also rumoured that after his fight with Cupido Kid Singh will be matched against the Port Elizabeth boxer, Reggie Kay, who at a recent tournament beat Bud Gangan by the K.O. route in the first round.