

# INDIAN OPINION

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### "The Mercury" On The Mayville Slum Area

ON Morning contemporary the *Natal Mercury*, evidently gloats over the recommendation of the Borough Engineer of Durban to oust the Indians and Natives from the portion of the Mayville district declared under the Slum's Act to be a Slum Area, and to utilise the area for European housing. While expressing its delight at the proposal of the Borough Engineer our contemporary is sorry that the Public Health Committee is not enthusiastic enough for, it says, "while the Committee recommends that the area be declared a slum area, it proposes to take no further steps until the Council has decided where it will provide suitable accommodation for the people who will have to be rehoused." Of course our contemporary who has always advocated separate villages for Indians, little cares where the Natives and Indians are dumped so long as the Borough Engineer's scheme for establishing a heaven for Europeans is worked with the least possible delay.

### European Lives Saved By Indian

THE first instance this year of a railway gatekeeper's presence of mind occurred at Northdene, when a gatekeeper saved the lives of two motor cyclists whose machine had crashed on the line. He pulled them off the line, but died himself—fatally injured by the swinging gate boom. The second instance occurred at Verulam last week when another Indian gatekeeper showed remarkable presence of mind in the face of danger though being injured himself. A European man and his wife were travelling in their open car to Zululand. The railway gates at Wick St were closed to allow the 3.48 train to pass when the car crashed through the boom and knocked the Indian gatekeeper over. The man and his wife in the standing car were directly in the path of the train. The injured gatekeeper however kept shouting and waving his arms which the engine driver very fortunately saw and was able to stop the train just eight feet from the injured gatekeeper thus averting a terrible tragedy.

### Cause Of Unemployment

A STRONG protest against the Government's White labour policy was made at a special meeting of the Indo-European Council held in Maritzburg on Monday Feb. 11. Mrs. Mabel Palmer, of Durban, said that she sympathised with the Indians in their unemployment. They were brought to South Africa by the invitation of the old Natal Government. In many cases they were forced against their will to leave their own land. Unemployment was not caused by the racial problem but was an economical problem. They were not unemployed because they were Indians. She contended that the two main forms of unemployment were technological and cyclical, the former being caused by the machine age which threw millions of men out of work and the latter moving in cycles when every 20 years the unemployment was at its worst. Mrs. Mabel Palmer will, however, admit that the White labour policy is to a great extent responsible for Indian unemployment.

### Intention Of Minimum Wage Bill

THE political correspondent of the *Rand Daily Mail* referring to the Minimum Wage Bill which is shortly to be introduced in the Union Parliament says, the passing of the Bill does not mean the prescription of a minimum wage for any industry.

**The measure is intended as a lever to compel certain employers to do their part in giving jobs to Europeans. There is no intention to apply it wholesale, and it will only be used after careful investigation.**

Among the industries which are likely to be singled out for the enforcement of a minimum wage clause is the sugar industry in Natal, which receives immense protection at the expense of the State and makes big profits, but employs a minimum number of Europeans in its undertakings.

Two years ago the Minister of Labour told the sugar people he expected them to increase their European staff by at least 500 in two years. They have certainly improved, but they are still far short of the Minister's expectations.

This explains how the Government has decided to work its White Labour Policy. The sugar industry in Natal has flourished on the sweat and blood

of Indian labourers. Many of these Indians have now been repatriated with their children born in this country and the future for the remainder not only in the sugar estates but for all those Indians handling machinery does not appear to be too bright in the face of the Government's present policy.

### Justice To A Native

WE call the following from the *Rand Daily Mail*:—

REFERRING to a case in which a native had been fined 5/- in the Magistrate's Court at Pretoria for a trivial offence, Mr. Justice de Wet, in the Supreme Court at Pretoria, addressed the following remarks to Mr. F. P. van Gass, who appeared for the Crown:—

"I would like to know what justification there was for arresting this native as though he were a desperate criminal, for handcuffing him, hauling him along and throwing him into prison for such an offence. A few weeks ago I had occasion to remark on the similar treatment of a native who was arrested for contravening the pass law." Mr. Justice de Wet said he hoped the constable responsible would be promoted to some place where he could do some useful work.

It is indeed a matter of great consolation to find some of the learned judges taking steps to prevent the miscarriage of justice by the lower courts especially where Natives are concerned.

### Charities In The Union

CHARITABLE institutions in the Union last year nearly all spent more than their incomes, the only exception among the provinces in this regard being the Transvaal. It was officially announced that £460,671 was expended on charitable institutions in South Africa during 1933-34. The total income of all institutions amounted to £462,297. Institutions in the Cape had a combined revenue of £206,200, but spent £230,668. In Natal the total income was £42,300, and expenditure £43,590, and the relative figures for the Free State were £42,000 and £44,500. The Transvaal, however, had an income of £171,500, and spent £161,931. There were 11,167 Europeans and 1,326 non-Europeans in the 188 charitable institutions of the Union at the end of 1934, and the only province where not a single non-European was an inmate of an institution was the Free State. The staff employed by all the institutions combined numbered 1,226 Europeans and 577 Natives. It would be very interesting to know among the 1,326 non-Europeans how many were Asiatics and Indians who live on public charity, although they are not even eligible for old age pension

## Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH, 1935

### THE NEW AGENT

"I hope my countrymen realise the supreme need of standing together in a country where they have enormous political and other difficulties to contend against. I consider it my duty to help them all without distinction provided they enable me to do so."

THE above message was given in response to the request of our representative by Sayed Raza Ali, the new Agent of the Government of India, who arrived in Durban by the Indian boat last Wednesday. Sayed Raza Ali comes to us not entirely as a stranger. In 1925 he came as a member of the Paddison deputation and was able to get a good grasp of the Indian question in South Africa. The new Agent has come at a time when his task is beset with grave difficulties. The last Agent has not left things easy for him if he is, as we hope he is (we have no right to prejudge him), one of our countrymen who can understand the feelings and sentiments of his people and is not of the official type, we commonly see in India, who have become wooden in so far as human or patriotic feelings are concerned. We have our political difficulties no doubt but they are, for the present, superseded by internal differences in the community, which if allowed to grow will assuredly bring about the doom of Indians in South Africa. Would that the leaders of our community humbled down, and leaving aside the spirit of arrogance, at least, in the interests of a higher cause, settled their differences. But if they fail to do so we would expect from our distinguished countryman from our Motherland to do a higher duty than his official duties, and that is to show the true leadership in him by using all his influence to bear upon bringing the much needed harmony within the community. He is better able to do it for he comes with an open mind and is not led away by any single group of people. We would earnestly appeal to the new Agent to be strictly impartial and give a patient hearing to all sides not only on the platform but in private too, and we have no doubt, if he keeps his independence to himself for his final judgment he is bound to succeed. We are glad to have the assurance from the Agent that he

considers it his duty to help us all without any distinction provided we enable him to do so. We can assure Sayed Raza Ali that he will not find us wanting in clearing his path so long as he works for the interests of the community as a whole.

It will not be out of place here to quote once again for the enlightenment of our countrymen, and especially the leaders, from Mahatma Gandhi's message to Indians in South Africa when the appointment of the Agent was first made in 1927. To make the best use of the Agent Mahatma Gandhi asked us to fulfill the following conditions:

- (1) You will not expect too much.
- (2) You will not try to seek relief in purely individual cases through him.
- (3) You will not swerve from truth in your dealings with him. To be false to him would be to be false to yourselves.
- (4) You will remain completely united.
- (5) You will put your own house in order and purify yourselves.

"Our countrymen in South Africa," said Mahatma Gandhi, "if they intend to make the Agent's position fairly easy and their own position secure, will not expect him to work wonders. . . . It will be wrong to look forward to a complete transformation of the old position. . . . They must remember that the Agent is not going there as their counsel briefed to attend to every individual grievance.

"To smother him with detailed individual grievances would be to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

"He goes there as a trustee for India's honour. He goes there to safeguard the rights and liberty of the general body of Indian settlers. He will be there to see that no fresh restrictive legislation is embarked upon by the Union Government and that the existing restrictive laws are administered liberally and with due regard to vested rights.

"Any individual grievance therefore that he might be called upon to tackle will have to be in terms of the position I have set forth, that is to say, it will have to be illustrative of some general principle of wide application.

"Unless therefore the Indian community exercises prudential restraint upon themselves in approaching him for redress of their individual grievances, they will make the Agent's position intolerable and even useless for the high purpose for which it is intended.

"Indeed such an ambassador's usefulness lies not so much in work appertaining to his official capacity as to the indirect service he can render by his sociableness, and by his character, which leaves its impress upon anything and anybody that it comes in contact with officially or otherwise."

We need add no more. We heartily welcome Sayed Raza Ali amidst us and sincerely hope and pray that his presence in this country will tend to change the bitter atmosphere prevalent in our ranks so that every section of the community may once again work harmoniously together and in co-operation with the Agent in the interests not of individuals but of the community as a whole.

#### THINGS WE'VE FORGOTTEN.

### Twenty-five Years Ago

INDIAN OPINION.

Jan. 1st, 1910.

From the Editor's Chair:

On Colonial-born Indians depends the future of our race in South Africa. We hope that they will prove themselves worthy of the responsibility.

In the course of an article contributed to *Nord and Sud* on the Race Question in East Africa twenty-five years ago, Mr. Winston Churchill said:—

"ON what are the claims of the Indian based? Have not Indian labour and, Indian money made East Africa what it is to-day? The Indian was on the scene before the British official. Is it possible for any Government to drive the Indian out of a country where he has created in good faith a position for himself? Above all, is such a policy possible for a Government which has 300 millions of Indians as subjects?"

#### Fountain of Wisdom

We believe that the conception of unity can be carried on condition that it preserves to each component part its own individuality. Only thus can it enrich and strengthen the whole.—J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

# INTERDEPENDANCE

What lets? Brothers! The darkness lets!  
 which breeds  
 Ignorance, mazed whereby ye take  
 these shows  
 For true, and thirst to have, and  
 having, cling  
 To lusts which work you woes.  
*Light of Asia, Book the Eighth.*

Thus the Buddha when explaining  
 man's bondage and the ills that inevitably  
 flow from it.

THE Indians of the Union, particularly those of the Transvaal, are needing peace, a stable peace, one that would bring to an end for good and all their present worries and anxieties. The threatened segregation and curtailment of existing trading facilities would, however, appear to be regarded with comparative unconcern by the more opulent and influential section of the community, who, presumably, have reason to anticipate the extension to themselves of specially favourable treatment because of their financial standing and the vested interests with which they are identified. The smaller fry, comprising the great majority, will have no option save to remove from the prohibited areas hitherto occupied by them to such newly appointed locations as may be chosen for them, and there to make most of the remnants of opportunity left to them to earn a livelihood. If this forecast is correct, then once again to them that have is to be given; from them that have not is to be taken away.

Meanwhile, the latter are carrying on in the mood of sheep awaiting the fall of the butcher's knife, sensible that their wealthy fellow countrymen care little or nothing about *their* fate, and uncertain only as to whether the Feetham Commission sentence is to be one of death outright, or merely death by slow starvation. The Commission disclosed a pitiable lack of co-operation on the part of the people generally; an attitude of "Each for himself and the devil take the hindmost;" a tragic unconcern on the part of the stronger and wealthier towards the fate of the weaker and poorer; and little or nothing of the communal "self respect," "honour of the Motherland" and like fine sentiments, which in the long ago when resisting encroachments and claiming more equitable treatment were the most potent of the arguments relied upon.

The flock has rarely, if ever, the wit to choose for itself. It follows the bell-wether, and the guidance of its shepherd. He is a poor shepherd indeed who in time of danger saves his own skin at the sacrifice of his flock. And, not merely a poor shepherd but a poor fool; because whether men perceive it or not there is a Law of Compensation, a Law that repays measure for measure, good for good, evil for evil.

By

L. W. RITCH

There is a saying, nowadays, in America, recognised as a truism. "Three generations from shirtsleeves to shirt sleeves!" Meaning that within that period great fortunes originally acquired by exploitation are dissipated and return to their source, implying that such possessions are insecure and no better than a delusion and a snare to those who, to acquire them, concentrated upon materialistic self seeking the precious years they might have employed to wiser and more generous purpose. From time immemorial sages likewise have made happiness synonymous with peace: unhappiness with fret, restlessness and uncertainty. The teachings of the wise have ever stressed the hopelessness of finding lasting satisfaction in unrealities, in possessions which by their very nature are unstable, impermanent, unlasting. Experience but justifies and endorses the conclusions of the sages; but the evidences the folly of years of fretfulness, anxiety, planning and scheming spent to gain what sooner or later must be lost or parted from.

The lesson of all others that is being impressed upon the world to-day is that of mankind's interdependence. The day when nations, races and individuals could thrive by exploitation is rapidly nearing its close. It is being brought home to peoples that selfishness and prosperity so far from being synonymous are antagonistic. The old jungle ethics of "each for himself" is proving a mockery, the fiction that nations as individuals can be bled and impoverished *ad libitum* is being made self evident. In short, mankind is being confronted with the truth that selfishness pursued to its logical conclusion lands its protagonists exactly where it lands its victims; the age old truth that Man is his brother's keeper, and that only by co-operation, mutual service and concern for the well being of the whole can true progress be made and peace and happiness, individual and collective, be secured.

What is true of the whole is, of course equally true of its parts, and, the moral this truth should convey is no less applicable to the Indian community of the Union than to the nations of the world. The Indian community must, inevitably will, stand or fall, progress or retrogress together. Any such notion as that permanent advantages can be gained by, for instance, the Gujerati section while, say, the Tamil section is left stranded, or that Hindus can make their own position secure at the expense of Mussulmans, or vice versa, is a self-

deception that must inevitably bring about general disaster.

Considerations of expediency are, however, less, far less, than reasons grounded upon principles. What should move those who aspire to lead the destinies of a people is less concern for whether or not "it pays or Doesn't pay" (for selfishness and egoism are still their old selves even though multiplied to the nth degree) but rather the question "Is the thing itself, right?" "Does it conform to the time honoured standards of righteousness?" This, of course, necessitates the subordination of the personal to the impersonal; introduces the factor of sacrifice, elevates the whole tone of the effort made; depicts man as he should be, no longer the preying beast man, of the jungle living merely for himself and his, but the liberated human, sensible of his place in and responsibility towards mankind.

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE

### THE REV. SATCHELL'S LETTER

To the Editor INDIAN OPINION

Sir,—I am greaved to hear that unhappiness has been caused by the statement in my letter published in your issue of Feb. 8th with regard to the Congress being recognised as the official mouth piece of the community.

What I wrote could hardly be misunderstood in so far as it applied to the attitude of the Government of India towards the Congress. It was, however, misleading when applied to the Union. This I had not foreseen. Union, Provincial and Municipal authorities have recognised the Colonial Born & Settlers' Association in the same manner as they have recognised the Congress, by their willingness to consult its officials and enter into negotiation with them.

I am etc,

W. H. SATCHELL.

[We are very grateful to the Rev. Satchell for taking the interest he does in our affairs and for being as keen as ourselves to see unity in the community. We however do not think that praise or condemnation of either party by those who wish to work for unity, will do any good, and to this extent Mr. Satchell's censure of the Congress was perhaps rather unhappy. Even the present statement of Mr Satchell requires correcting, if recognition of either one or the other party is of so very much importance, and that is that even the Government of India did not recognise the Congress as the 'official mouthpiece' of the community for it recognised also the Transvaal Indian Commercial Association which body was formed in opposition to the Congress.—Ed. I. O.]

# COLONIAL BORN AND SETTLERS' INDIAN ASSOCIATION

## MASS MEETING

**A** MASS MEETING under the auspices of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association was held last Sunday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. at the Victoria Picture Palace. Mr. A. Christopher presided and was supported on the platform by delegates from Newcastle, Maritzburg, Greater Durban, North Coast and South Coast districts. There was a crowd of not less than 700 present in spite of the fact that a special general meeting of the Natal Indian Congress was convened at the same hour at the Parsec Rustomjee Hall to appoint delegates to the South African Indian Conference to be held during the week-end in Durban.

Among the Europeans were present Professor Reim, chairman of the Indo-European Council and Mrs. Mabel Palmer.

The chairman in his speech briefly touched upon the resolutions that were to be put before the meeting.

### The Agent

There was one dissentient only to the first resolution condemning the methods employed by the last Agent of the Government of India. Mr. Abdulla Moosa was allowed by the chairman to move an amendment expressing appreciation of the services rendered by the Agent but Mr. Moosa had no seconder. The following resolution was then passed:

"This mass meeting of Colonial-born and Settler Indians held at Durban hereby condemns the method employed by the last Agent of the Government of India, who, instead of confining his duties to the working of the Capetown Agreement as laid down by the first Capetown Conference, has served the interests of a minority and has acted in a spirit of partisanship, regardless of the opposition of the Indian community."

The other resolutions all unanimously adopted were:

### Honours

"This mass meeting of Colonial born and Settler Indians held at Durban hereby records its strong disapproval of the methods of the last Agent of the Government of India, who, despite the resolution of the Union Parliament against the granting of honours to South Africans, has been instrumental in securing for a South African Indian an Indian honour and in recommending his supporters for appointments as Commissioners for Oaths, regardless of necessity.

"This meeting is strongly of the opinion that this method of the last Agent of the Government of India, in thus securing the support of a few individuals, will not only further disintegrate the Indian community but will also encourage a policy of divide and rule, thereby creating a second India in South Africa."

### White Labour Policy

"That this mass meeting of Colonial-born and Settler Indians feels strongly that the White labour policy, as subsidised by the Union Government and as applied in other ways, not as a standard but as a means of displacing Indian labour is increasing unemployment among Indians and causing considerable hardship on them and their dependents.

"That this meeting further appeals to the Minister of Labour not to encourage the use of the White labour policy as a means to displace Indian employment."

### Housing and Slums Clearance

"That this mass meeting feels that the Housing Act in its present form does not assist every Indian who desires to own his own home, and therefore respectfully appeals to the Union Government to amend the Housing Act in the following respect: The Housing Loan to be increased to include the payment of an existing mortgage on the property or on the balance of purchase price."

"That this mass meeting views with alarm the action of the Borough Engineer in recommending the expropriation of a portion of the Mayville area occupied by Indians, and strongly feels that this action of the Borough Engineer is a violation of the spirit and intention of the Slums Act, in that his action is intended to expropriate such Indian-owned land for European use and occupation."

### Relief Workers' Pay

"That this mass meeting appeals to the Union Government and the Durban Corporation to increase the rate of pay to the Indian relief workers, inasmuch as the present rate of pay does not allow of an Indian family to live decently."

### Repatriation

"That this mass meeting of Colonial-born and Settler Indians urges upon the Union Government the repeal of the provision for repatriation in the Indian Relief Act as was eliminated

from the 1926 Capetown Agreement and still is a temptation for workless Indians owing to economic pressure to leave the country with Colonial-born children who thereby lose their birth-right."

### Immigration Laws

"That this mass meeting respectfully appeals to the Minister of the Interior to repeal the provision of the Indian Immigration Laws which provide for the payment of the Medical Tax inasmuch as with the abolition of Indian immigration a quarter of a century ago, the existence of the tax is incongruous.

"The meeting further appeals for the repeal of the whole of the Indian Immigration Laws as the system of indenture for which the laws were passed is now extinct."

### School Books And Fees In Indian Schools

"That this mass meeting of Colonial-born and Settler Indians is very much alarmed, among other things, at: (1) The higher rates of fees exacted by aided schools than are paid in Government Indian Schools; (2) the number of books and yearly changes of class books; and requests the Provincial Executive to standardise fees in aided schools and also standardise and limit the number of class books."

An addition was made to this resolution on the suggestion of a speaker that education in Afrikaans and English should be compulsory.

### Personal Tax

"That this Mass Meeting of the Colonial Born and Settler Indians appeals to the Provincial Executive to exempt all unemployed Indians, Indian Relief Workers and Municipal, Railway, Estate and other Indians earning less than £4 a month from payment of the Poll Tax.

## Social And Personal

Mr. C. S. Ricketts, assistant secretary of the Agent of the Government of India, and Mrs. Ricketts have gone to Capetown for the Parliamentary session, and will spend four months there.

Mr. F. D. Hugo, Superintendent of Education, Natal, paid a visit to Dundre on Feb. 7 from where he went, accompanied by Messrs. P. Fouch and P. J. du Toit, Inspectors of Schools, to Nongoma on official business.

Mr. S. R. Pather, of Durban, has been admitted as an attorney of the Supreme Court of South Africa (Natal Provincial Division). Mr. Pather, who is a barrister-at-law, was admitted to the Transvaal Courts in 1928 as an attorney. He proposes to practise at the Side-Bar in Durban.



# LABOUR LEADER ON INDIA

## A BROADCAST SPEECH

[We are indebted to Mr. R. A. L. Brandon, an ex-chief magistrate, of Durban, for a copy of the following interesting speech on India delivered by the Right Hon. Geo. Lansbury M.P., at the Broadcasting House, London, which was taken down by him at Mayville at midnight on February 2. The copy came into our hands too late to be published in our last week's issue.—Ed. I. O.]

### India Must Have Equal Status

HERE is unanimous disapproval to the new Bill in India. Indians want equal status with us. They have been promised that by the Viceroys. Tens of thousands of young Indians want to work for India with equal status as the rest of the world. The federation proposal cannot succeed unless Indians agree. It is now being imposed on them against their will. The Labour Party cannot agree to this. India must be a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Prime Minister may have changed his mind in this respect, but the Labour Party has not.

Poverty is dreadful in India. Millions die each year. Official figures are:—70% of the house in Bombay are only one room. Whilst 97% of the population live in one room, six to eleven in one room. In Karachi the whole population lives similarly, 6 to 9 in one room. Cawnpore, Calcutta, Madras, some what similar. Death rate was 24 per 1,000 in 1931. Infant mortality 178 per 1,000 in 1931. Expectation of life is 25 years as against 54 years in Great Britain. Infant mortality in Bombay in 1929 was 298 per 1,000, and 300 per 1,000 in Rangoon.

Mr. Mehta declared at Geneva that there are 40 million unemployed in India of which 33 million are agricultural labourers, all in a state of semi-starvation. A Statesman once said that "we are in India to make money." Every penny spent by us in India is paid for

by Indian peasants. Every official from the Viceroy downwards, including his shops and clergy, and their pensions are all paid for by the people of India, who meanwhile are suffering cruel hardships.

### Reward For Their Loyalty

The late Lord Birkenhead said that it was the Indian troops who saved the British and France from disaster in France in the Great War. These poverty-stricken masses have a war debt as the result of £200,000,000. Influenza took toll of more in India than the total losses of all the nations engaged in the Great War. Malnutrition and poverty was the cause. We like Indians as soldiers. The cost imposed on India for defence is 62 per cent of the Revenue. British troops are highly costly. National honour binds us to admit India into the Commonwealth of nations. The Viceroy, Lord Irwin, now the Earl of Halifax, at Delhi at the Great Durbar on November 1st 1921, said on behalf of H. M. the King that he was authorised to say that the national issue was attainment of Dominion Status. The new Bill does not mention equal status or Dominion Status. Some people argue that the Viceroy's statement was not binding since the House of Commons had not agreed. But I say we are in duty bound to embody Dominion Status in the new Constitution. And I speak as the leader of the Labour party and as the Leader of the opposition in the House of Commons.

Provincial Legislature etc will not be much good, since the Viceroy has all the power. I agree with my colleagues that we should continue to organise and repeal all bad laws, whether in India or elsewhere. And we say that India has a right to address us on her aspirations. We have only heard the British side so far. I would like to hear Rao and Joshi address our Trades Union Congresses. We say we believe that we should do unto others as we would be done by. And yet the wealth from the poverty stricken masses of India is poured into Great Britain. There can be no permanency in force or domination. The masses are entitled to control over their own lives. In 1931 the Irwin-Gandhi pact enabled Gandhi to come to London where His Majesty the King in his usual kindly manner received him. Give Indian opportunity to propound a scheme. Don't bother about their disagreements. Let them decide the issue. A year or more delay will not be of much consequence. The present Bill should be withdrawn, and instant help given to the stricken masses of India. Give them back £200,000,000 war debt. If we did this we should prove our religion was the one thing we acted on. The teaching of the Gospel is true. What shall it profit us if our flag flies over India by force? And yet we believe what the Gospel says: "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and loses his own soul." Good Night.

## GENERAL GORDON

By Dr. F. G. CAWSTON

THE recent observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of General Gordon which took place at Khartoum on January 26th 1885 shows there has been a tendency for Britishers in South Africa to forget all that the nation owes to one who may well be described as the greatest of the Victorians.

It was a pity that neither the Indian community nor the natives attended the inspiring commemoration service which was held on Sunday January 27th in the Durban Town Hall, for few have done more to emphasise the need of the depressed classes and in the defeat of African slavery, and Gordon lost his life merely because he refused to desert his coloured troops.



Once in fifty years is too infrequent to recall the life and labours of General Gordon and efforts are being made to keep his memory green. The suggestion has been made that a statue be erected in the Union similar to the Wilberforce Memorial in the Drakenstein valley at the Cape and, as the proposal that the fiftieth anniversary of Gordon's death, was first advanced at Durban, such a memorial might well be erected in Natal.

At all times and everywhere General Gordon gave his strength to the weak his substance to the poor, his sympathy to the suffering and his heart to God. Though his religious character appealed strongly to the adherents of other religious systems, it is important to bear in mind that he remained loyal to the essential truths of the Christian faith and regarded the whole Bible as a trustworthy message for the daily life.

# THINGS IN GENERAL

## New Agent's Utterances

A MOMBASA message states that Syed Raza Ali, the new Agent, in the course of his speech at a welcome reception given in his honour, said, "Whatever is to be your ultimate status here, if you want to make this your adopted country you should endeavour to adopt, as much as possible, Western standards of civilisation and assimilate modern culture. My advice is that you should not live here as foreigners as the Europeans live in India. Believe me when I say that Indians from Africa will be doomed the moment they allow sectional interests and considerations to interfere with the political needs of the Indian community."

## At Lourenco Marques

Syed Raza Ali, the new Agent of the Government of India in South Africa, who was entertained to lunch at Lourenco Marques in the course of his speech said: "What we want everywhere is friendly relations. In Portuguese territory all people are treated alike. May I describe that as a sort of millenium—a country and people without grievances? I have never come across that before. May I come across it many times in future. I heartily congratulate you all."

## S.A.I.C. Conference

The South African Indian Congress Conference will open in Durban on Sunday Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. at the Royal Picture Palace.

## Still They Come

Mr. Vallabh Bhaga Patel of Johannesburg has been appointed a Commissioner of Oaths.

## Natal Furniture Industry

An agreement for the establishment of an Industrial Council for the furniture manufacturing industry in Natal is announced in the current issue of the *Government Gazette*. The agreement, which applies to the municipal areas of Durban and Maritzburg, lays down the wages payable to skilled workmen and other conditions of labour.

## Operating Theatre At Empangeni

The Natal Provincial Administration has agreed to erect a new operating theatre at the Empangeni Native and Indian Hospital. Owing to the general increase of surgical work at this institution, an up-to-date operating theatre has become a real necessity.

## Indian Scouts and Guides

At a special meeting of the Suburban Indian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides' Association recently the following resolutions were passed:—

"This special meeting hereby resolves that in future the association shall be

known under the name of the Natal Indian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides' Association and that the area of jurisdiction of the association shall include and embrace the whole of the Province of Natal. This meeting further resolves that Indian Scout committee or associations within the Province of Natal may upon application to the secretary and upon the approval of the committee of the association affiliate upon undertaking to abide by the rules and regulations of the association." The meeting decided to convene a special rally for Scouts and Guides to be held on April 20 in Durban. The venue has yet to be decided upon.

## Indian Morning Market By-Laws

Following a recent accident which occurred at the Squatters' Enclosure, the Borough Market Master recommended that the By-laws relating to the Early Morning Market be amended to provide that all animal-drawn vehicles must be led in and out of the enclosure and not driven in as at present. In terms of the amended by-law which is yet to receive the approval of the Durban Town Council and the Administrator "Every person in charge of an animal drawn vehicle shall before entering the Market dismount and lead the animals to the stand allotted to him, and when leaving the Market shall lead the animals until they are clear of the exit gate."

## Farewell To Indian Teacher

A large gathering of school children and teachers of Clare Estate Indian School, a farewell reception was accorded to Mr. R. Debba, a senior assistant in the school hall, in honour of his promotion to the post of head teacher at Braemar Government-aided Indian School. The head teacher, Mr. W. Baboolal, presided and paid tribute to Mr. Debba's good qualities and ability as a teacher, and on behalf of the school presented him with a set of gold mounted fountain pen and pencil, accompanied by a beautiful bouquet, at the same time wishing him every success in his new sphere. Other members of the teaching staff spoke in eulogistic terms of their departing colleague. Mr. Debba suitably replied.

## Ankleswar and Mangrol District Mahomedan Association

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Ankleswar and Mangrol District Mahomedan Association held recently at the Tamil Institute, Durban. Hajee M. E. Lakhi presided. The membership of the Association was reported to be 350 and the credit balance in the bank over £600. The election of office-bearers resulted as follows: Patron, Hajee M. E. Lakhi; vice-chairman, M. H. Tootla; hon. secretaries, K. S. Patel and M. M. Manjra; hon. treasurer, M. C. Ameen; trustees, Hajee M. E. Lakhi,

Greytown; C. A. Tootla, New Hanover; K. Essack, Seven Oaks; El Haj E. M. Asvat, Ladysmith; T. A. Moola, Kearney; Hajee A. Mahomed, Abrens Rail; D. E. Bayat, Maritzburg; M. E. Gathoo, Vereeniging; A. M. Koya, Durban; committee, Shakjee, Bobat, Lakha, Onia, Moola, Adam. The head office was appointed in Durban. A unanimous vote of thanks to the following generous donors ended the meeting:—Patron, Hajee M. E. Lakhi, £30; life members, C. A. Tootla, £15; T. A. Molvi £15; C. H. Bhorat £15; M. C. Ameen £15; A. M. Koya £15; Molvi Bayat £15; K. S. Patel £15.

## N.I. Congress (P.M.B. Branch)

The following new office-bearers were elected at an annual general meeting of the above Congress held on Saturday Feb. 9:—President, Mr. R. B. Maharaj; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. D. Chetty, C. Nulliah and Ahmed Ebrahim Moosa; secretary, Mr. S. R. Naidoo; treasurer, Mr. S. I. Rawat; auditor, Mr. A. T. Moodley; committee, Messrs. G. Zachariah, R. A. Moodley, F. G. David, R. N. Moodley, F. Satyapal, Ghela Dayaram, Hoosen Mahomed, T. Ramolowan, V. Kristy, M. Ismail Kojee, R. R. Maharaj, S. M. Ally, B. Maharaj, I. A. Haffjee and Rev A. J. Choonoo. The financial report showed a debit balance of £23.

## Kanamia Mahomedan Association

A farewell reception was given in honour of Messrs. Vully Ebrahim, Ebrahim Mahomed, Adam Moosa Hassan, Ahmed Hassan Ebrahim, Ahmed Moosa and Mahomed Cassim, on the eve of their departure to India by the above Association at the Islamic School, Pretoria. Hajee Moosa Ebrahim was in the chair. Speeches were made eulogising the services of the guests to the Association and wishing them a happy and safe voyage. The guests who were garlanded by Haffjee Ahmed thanked the Association for the honour done them and donated the sum of £1 1s. each to the Association. The function terminated after taking refreshments.

## Grahamstown British Indian Association

The annual meeting of the local branch of the British Indian Association was held on the 27th January 1935 at the Association's Hall. The secretary presented an interesting report of the activities of the Association for the past twelve months, and a statement of the financial position which was satisfactory. The president, Mr. V. N. Pillay, in moving the adoption of the report commented at length on the activities of the association during the past year. The association, he remarked, was progressing favourably in spite of the small Indian community in Grahamstown, and this was no doubt due

to the hearty co-operation, self-sacrifice and goodwill shown by all its members. Mr. D. Morgan seconded the motion and was supported by Mr. F. Dullabh. The election of officials for the ensuing year remitted as follows: President: Mr. V. N. Millay, Vice-President: Mr. F. Dullabh, hon. Jt. secretaries: Messrs. D. A. Naidoo and Gopal Naran, Treasurer: Mr. R. K. Patel. The committee members are Messrs. D. Morgan, (chairman), R. K. Patel, N. H. Chetty, N. G. Naidoo, F. Dullabh, D. Morar, R. C. Naidoo.

#### King's Jubilee

The following statement in connection with the forthcoming King's Jubilee has

been published by the Prime Ministers' Department:—

(1) May 6 is to be proclaimed a public holiday throughout the Union

(2) A salute will be fired at Capetown and Pretoria at noon on May 6.

(3) Official banquets in the four provincial capitals, at which toasts fitting the occasion will be proposed.

(4) Address to His Majesty from official bodies. Such addresses might either be read at local celebrations and then forwarded to the Prime Minister, or sent direct to the latter, who will in either case transmit them to the Governor-General for submission to His Majesty,

(5) The distribution of medals, specially awarded by the King in connection with the jubilee, for faithful and distinguished public services during His Majesty's reign.

(6) The sale of commemorative medals (inquiries to be addressed to the Deputy-Master of the Mint, Pretoria.)

(7) The issue of commemorative stamps by the Union Post Office.

(8) Illuminations of and bunting on the important Government buildings in the four provincial capitals, and other large centres of the Union will be arranged during the week commencing May 6.

(9) The Union Government will not initiate any large military displays or reviews, but will gladly permit members of its armed forces to participate in any functions organised by local authorities.

## STREET TRADING IN PRETORIA COURTS INTERPRETATION OF BY-LAW

RECENTLY an Indian, V. Kristna, was charged before Mr. J. J. van der Westhuizen in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court with selling flowers in a prohibited area, namely, Church Square. After hearing argument by Mr. N. Price, for Kristna, and by Mr. T. Weavind, for the City Council, Mr. van der Westhuizen reserved judgment.

Giving judgment on Feb. 1, Mr. van der Westhuizen said: "The accused is a flower seller who sells from a handcart on Church Square, which place is within the prohibited area as set out in the by-laws. The accused, who pleaded not guilty, admits that he sold flowers on Church Square on December 12."

Mr. van der Westhuizen then dealt with various points raised by Mr. Price. One was that the accused was not a hawker or a pedlar, and could therefore be not convicted under this section of the by-laws, which apply only to hawkers and pedlars; and, secondly, that the municipality had no power to impose such restrictions as the by-laws lay down

prohibiting street trading in flowers in all the central and business areas of the town, so as practically to close down this kind of business, under the enabling clauses relating to street trading.

Mr. Weavind contended, however, that Kristna was a pedlar, and as such was liable under the sections mentioned.

Mr. van der Westhuizen, continuing his judgment, said that from the evidence he found that Kristna carried on business as a vendor of flowers on a fixed spot on Church Square, which was pointed out to him by the municipality, and the accused paid 7/6 a month for the space.

#### Meaning of Word

Kristna sold flowers from a handcart and sold them at no other place. The flower vendor had been excluded from the most important part of the city, and the evidence clearly proved this.

"Outside the prohibited area," said Mr. van der Westhuizen, "it is extremely doubtful whether the flower seller can

make a living. From the evidence would seem that the north side of Market Square, which is outside the prohibited area, is the only place where the flower seller could hope to exist, but this also seems doubtful.

"Mr. Weavind states that the accused has been granted a privilege of carrying on his trade on a particular stand, and that fact does not take him out of the category of pedlar.

"I do not agree with this view," said Mr. van der Westhuizen, "as that would mean that the municipality would have the right to alter the ordinary meaning of the word 'pedlar.' I therefore find that the accused cannot be classified as a hawker or a pedlar, and, that being so, the by-law does not apply to him."

Mr. van der Westhuizen added that under the circumstances it was not necessary for him to decide the second point raised by Mr. Price, namely, that the Municipality did not have power to impose the restrictions.

#### INDIA LETTER.

## HIS MAJESTY'S SILVER JUBILEE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

THE attitude of the National Congress towards the forthcoming jubilee celebrations has been made public by a resolution of the Congress Working Committee. The Congress has and can have nothing but good wishes for the personal welfare of His Majesty. But it cannot ignore the fact that the present rule is associated with the name of His Majesty. The rule has been a positive hindrance to the political and material growth of this country. The proposed constitution if enforced promises to exploit and drain this country still further. The identification of His Majesty's

name with all these has made it impossible for the Working Committee to advise the country's participation in the celebrations. At the same time, having no desire to wound the susceptibilities of Englishmen and others who want to take part in the celebrations, it has decided against hostile demonstrations and has appealed to the country to be satisfied with mere abstention from the events that may be arranged for the celebration. It is hoped that the authorities and responsible Englishmen would appreciate this honest and inevitable attitude.

#### Assembly Presidentship

As was forecast in my previous letter Sir Abdur Rahim has been elected to the Presidentship of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Sherwani who contested the seat on behalf of the Congress was defeated by a narrow margin of eight votes. The Assembly contains more than 40 nominees of the Government. They came to the rescue of Sir Abdur Rahim.

#### Syed Raza Ali

The Agent-Designate's party in honour of the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon

was not attended by Congress members of the Assembly. Gandhiji was also unable to attend.

### Indian Merchants Chamber

Sjt. Manu Subedar has been elected President of the Indian Merchant Chambers of Bombay.

### Kathiawar Ports

It is rumoured that Kathiawar ports except those of Bhavanagar and Portokha will come under the control of the Government of India.

### Gandhi Caps Inside The Assembly Hall

Regulations framed by the Congress Parliamentary Board insist on Congress members in the Assembly wearing Gandhi caps while attending the meetings of the Assembly.

### Zanzibar

The agitation in this end against the Anti-Indian measures in Zanzibar and Kenya seems to have impressed the quarters concerned. The Govt. of India have accepted Mr. Menon's report and have made strong representations to the Colonial secretary and the resident in Zanzibar. The Viceroy has announced that the correspondence with the Resident will be released soon.

### RHODESIA NOTES

#### NEW COLOURED SCHOOL IN QUE QUE

A correspondent from Que Que, (S. Rhodesia) writes:—

A new Coloured school for Indian and Coloured children has been opened at Que Que, S. Rhodesia on the 24th, Jan. 1935. Mr. V. S. Naidoo has been appointed Principal and is now in charge of the school. The school is controlled directly by the Education Department at Salisbury.

Thanks are due to Messrs. L. Naran, Abdo. Mya, and Ali Koshen who by their unceasing efforts have made the opening of the school possible.

The invaluable services rendered by Messrs. G. W. Leppington, M. P. for Que Que, and Dist. and Rev. Fitch of the Free Local Church are also to be appreciated.

Intimation has been received that in the course of a few months a new school building with spacious grounds will be erected.

Que Que is a small mining town situated in the heart of the Midland district of S. Rhodesia and is considered one of the healthiest spots in the Colony.

The chief occupations are Mining and Pastoral Industries, but the Indians are mainly interested in Commerce, Tailoring and Gardening.

### Chief Whip Forced To Resign

The sequel to the defeat of Sir R. K. Shunmukan Chetty, the President of the Indian Legislative Assembly, at the recent Assembly elections was the tendering of his resignation from the post of chief whip of the Madras Council Justice Party by Kumararaja M. A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad, the present mayor of Madras. Sir Shunmukham left his old general constituency which he has been representing continuously for the past ten years in favour of the South Indian Commercial constituency on the assurance of certain friends and in particular of the Kumararaj, whose native place contained a large number of commercial votes. But after his defeat he wrote to the Chief Whip, saying: "Considering what the defeat in this election has meant to me and my career, you will agree with me that my disappointment must indeed be very great." A special meeting of the Madras Council Justice Party was convened for discussing a motion of "no confidence" in the chief whip, but before voting the chief whip resigned his post. All these things attracted a good deal of attention in India.

### German Duke In India

An important German visitor to India is the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Chairman of the German Red Cross Society and a prominent Nazi. The Duke is the grandson of Queen Victoria

and a cousin of the King Emperor. The Duke is now on his return journey after attending the sixteenth International Red Cross Conference at Tokyo. He has visited Ceylon, Madras, Hyderabad (Deccan) and Bombay prior to his departure for Germany. In Germany the Red Cross Society is the sole official relief agency of the country. There are as many as 683 hospitals entirely maintained by it and no fewer than 9,789 nurses are on the rolls of the register of the society.

### Bill Passes Second Reading

The House of Commons, says a Reuters message dated Feb. 12, passed the second reading of the India Bill, after rejecting by 404 votes to 133 a Labour amendment demanding specific recognition of India's right to Dominion Status.

### Council of State's Protest

Dissatisfaction with Sir Samuel Hoare's recent declaration of the ultimate goal of the India reforms was voiced in the Council of State. Mr. Ram Sarandas, Leader of the progressives, Sir Phiroze Setlwa, Mr. Prakash Sapru - Sir Tej Sapru's son - and others declared that unless Dominion Status, as understood in the Commonwealth, was embodied in the Act, it would not satisfy political India and might even encourage a movement for the severance of the British connection.

### WEDDINGS

The marriage took place on Feb. 2, of Kumar Debi Dayal son of Mr. Bandhoo Gangadeen of Springs with Kumari Bindumati eldest daughter of Mr. Mahabeer of Ballengie near Newcastle. There were many friends present to bless the married couple.

The marriage of Mr. K. G. Moodley to Miss Thanabaikum was solemnised at the Brides residence, 15th Street Vrededorp, Johannesburg, on Saturday night Feb 2. Mr. Appasaamy Nayager assisted by Pandit Maharajh officiated the ceremony. There was a large gathering of Indians and Europeans present. The reception was held on Sunday evening presided by the Reverend B. L. E. Sigamoney, there were over 100 guests present. The Bride and Bridegroom were accorded a warm welcome as they arrived in the Marquee tent erected for the occasion. Messrs. V. N. Naidoo and Gopal Naidoo of Durban were responsible for the arrangements and catering in the evening. The Brides mother, Mrs. H. Krishnasamy and her two sons (Naransamy and Thambi) desire to thank all those who sent presents and telegrams on the occasion of Thanabaikum's marriage.

### SPORTS

#### D. D. I. F. A.

At the annual general meeting of the D. D. I. F. A. The following new officers were elected: Patrons, Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu; president, Mr. M. John; hon. life vice-presidents, Messrs. A. Christopher, T. M. Naicker, R. Bughwan, A. Sookdeo, and S. L. Singh; vice-presidents, Messrs. S. N. Moodley, C. M. Pillay, M. B. Iyaloo, K. A. Chin, and C. N. M. Khan; secretary and record clerk, Mr. N. Sullaphen; hon. treasurer, M. J. S. Roonarain; auditor, to be filled by a chartered accountant. The meeting of the committee will be held on the first Tuesday of March, when the election of sub-committees will take place.

### TENNIS.

#### Alfred David Challenge Shield

The final between Central Tennis Club and Spes Bona Tennis Club was played at the Sydenham Tennis Club's Court on Feb. 10, Sunday. The President of the Natal Indian Lawn Tennis Association officiated as Referee. The match was a well contested one and resulted in a win for the Central Tennis Club by 6 sets to 3. The Shield was presented to the winners by the President Mr. D. Ramchurran. The following fixtures for "B" Division for "Ismail's Knock Out Challenge Shield" has been set down for Sunday Feb. 16:— P. M. Burg vs. Spes Bona, Fairbreeze vs. Durban T. C., Derby vs. Moonlighters, Sydenham vs. Moyville, Tongaat vs. Umzinto, Central vs. Greenwood Park. The "A" Division Knock Out Competition for "Manick Memorial Shield" has been set down for the 24th February.