

INDIAN OPINION

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NOTES AND NEWS

No Colour Bar In Health Education

THE education on health matters should be made available to all races irrespective of colour, was a motion moved by Dr. C. C. Anning, Medical Officer of Health for Maritzburg, at the Natal Debating Society last week. "Apart from any other reason," said Dr. Anning "informed health education is essential if only because of the half-truths and even falsehoods that under the guise of scientific facts are so widely used in business advertisements to day. The commercial advertiser has stolen a march on the salesman of public health and the leeway must be made up. The quack and the faddist have had a long enough innings. It is time that the public health teacher should be put on to bowl a few straight balls of simple hygiene truths. And the more body line balls the better. The death rate of non-Europeans, said Dr Anning, is nearly double that of Europeans in Maritzburg. This is not merely a matter of sickness and death, but also a matter of individual happiness. The most important factor in life, happiness, is built fundamentally on vitality and environment can lift the vitality and happiness of all, be they children or adults, White or Coloured, and education can lead to improved environment. An important side of work was the training of Native and Indian Junior Certificate passers to be qualified health inspectors and to send them out among their fellow men to wage war against disease. One Native and two Indians were admitted to this course this year and it remained to be seen if they passed the examination, and the speaker believed that if they did it would be the beginning of a new era in the elimination of disease among the Indian and Native population of South Africa. The motion was carried.

S. A. Indians Discussed In British Parliament

THE question of the position of Indians in South Africa was raised in the House of Commons in the course of a debate on the committee stage of the Government of India Bill. On a clause providing for reciprocal protection for British subjects domiciled in India and Indians domiciled in the United King-

dom, Col. the Right Hon. J. C. Wedgwood (Labour), with the object of securing reciprocal treatment for Indians domiciled elsewhere in the Empire, moved an amendment to omit the words "domiciled in the United Kingdom." He said the amendment would end the discrimination against Indians in South Africa. Sir Thomas Inskip (Conservative) said the Government was not able to accept the amendment, not because he did not share Col Wedgwood's desire to avoid discrimination between any of His Majesty's subjects but because the relation between India and the Dominions should be regulated by the parties immediately concerned. Mr. Isaac Foot (Labour) also thought the most effective way of ending the unfair treatment of Indians in other parts of the Empire would be to empower the Indian Government to conduct its own negotiations. The amendment was withdrawn.

Neither Here Nor There

It is to be concluded, then, that British Empire has no meaning in so far as His Majesty's Indian subjects are concerned. If Britain can no longer safeguard the interests of her own subjects her power is surely waning. Moreover this makes the position of Indians in other parts of the Empire only more precarious because Britain will not interfere and India, not enjoying the same status as the other Dominions, will not be able to act effectively.

First Indian Girl Passes Her Matric

FRANCESCA Lawrence, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. Lawrence of Gale Street, Durban has passed her Matric. Francesca is the first Indian girl to achieve this distinction in Natal. Francesca who is not yet eighteen was one of the first pupils at Mitchell Crescent and started there in Std. VI. in 1930. She is still at school taking her T3. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence on the brilliant achievement of their daughter.

Badge of British Indians All Over The World Is "Disabilities"

"SEAFARER" writes in the *Hindustan Times*: I wonder how many of your readers know or have heard the name of a country called Ruanda Urundi. I confess when I first heard about it, I

did not know where it was. It is a part of the former German Central Africa and is now a Mandated Territory under Belgium. It is amalgamated with Belgian Congo. There are over 500 Indians in this unheard and remote part of Africa. An Indian resident recently wrote to me that they are residing in such an unknown place that no one seems to care for their existence. Owing to this fact the Government of the country—the League of Nations—have steadfastly neglected them and ignored their interests. The Indian contribution to the State's revenue in the way of taxes, immigration fees, etc., is more than that of any other community but not a penny is spent in improving the sanitation of this locality in which Indians reside and no provision is made for the education of their children. The badge of 'British' Indians all over the world is "disabilities." Indians in Ruanda Urundi have an Association and they often make an effort to safeguard their interests.

Who Has Colour Prejudice In Australia

In the same paper appears an interview the "Seafarer" had with Mr. Abdul Hakim, a very old resident of Sydney. Mr. Abdul Hakim said he did not remember a single incident in his life where he was ill-treated because of his colour. "Australians as a rule, he said, "have no colour prejudice. It is only the Jews or new immigrants from Southern Europe who look down upon Asiatics."

Helplessness of Government of India

"THE Government of India are helpless to do anything for their nationals. That is the tragedy of the whole position," states a writer in *The Sentinel*, Bombay, referring to the various enactments under which Indians are suffering such as, the Transvaal Licences (Control) Ordinance, the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Act, and the like. But the writer in *The Sentinel* need not lose heart. For whatever the condition of the Government of India's nationals may be in this country great care has been taken not to strain the relations between the Union and Indian Governments. What a greater tragedy it would be if their relations were strained!

Super-Race Consciousness

THE appointment of Mr. B. W. Vilakazi, a Native gentleman, as an assistant in Bantu language at the Witwatersrand University, has received rather a hostile reception in some quarters where the White man's sense of race superiority has had the better of him. Is this the settlement of the Native problem? it is asked. It has provoked the following questions in the House of Assembly which were asked the Minister of Education by the Rev. W. M. du Toit:

(1) Whether the announcement in the Press that a certain Native named B. W. Vilakazi had been appointed as an assistant in Bantu Languages at the University of Johannesburg has been brought to his notice?

(2) In what capacity he has been appointed?

(3) Whether the Minister has approved of the appointment? and if so

(3) Whether this means that European students have to be taught by a Native at the said University?

The Minister replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) As a temporary assistant in the Department of Bantu Studies to help in a practical way with the teaching of Zulu, particularly in regard to conversation, composition and pronunciation and to assist the Head of the Department.

(3) No, the post is not that of a professor or lecturer and in terms of the Act does, therefore, not require my approval.

(4) Yes, but not to give lectures in the ordinary sense of the word. As I understand it he will be available to small groups or individual students who will come to him with their practical difficulties.

Asiatic Land Tenure Act

It is generally understood says the political correspondent of the *Natal Mercury* that the report which Mr. Justice Feetham is preparing on the question of Asiatic land tenure in the Transvaal is not likely to be completed before the end of the year. The inquiry is an extremely difficult one involving fine points of law and the report will probably be a very bulky one. It is considered almost certain that legislation will have to be introduced in Parliament as a result of the investigations of Mr Justice Feetham and the present intention is to introduce a comprehensive Bill next Session.

No Amnesty In India

It is announced says a Calcutta message that, contrary to public expectation, the Government of India will not grant an amnesty to political and other prisoners on the occasion of King's Silver Jubilee.

Congress Sends Loyalty Address

The executive committee of the South African Indian Congress has nominated Khan Bahadur Hajee Cassim Adam,

president of the Transvaal Indian Congress, to present to the King on behalf of the Congress a loyal address, which will be inscribed on a silver salver. Since the Department of External Affairs has sanctioned the presentation of

the address, the congress will be directly represented at the King's Jubilee celebrations in London. The Khan Bahadur, accompanied by Mrs Cassim Adam, will sail for London from Capetown on April 12.

Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH, 1935

A MUCH NEGLECTED QUESTION

IF there is one question that is neglected by the leaders of the Indian community, it is the question of the continuous stream of our people leaving this country under the Assisted Emigration Scheme. It is a grave question. It is a moral question. It is a question which reflects on our much boasted of ancient civilisation and culture. It is a matter for deep introspection for our people—we mean the well-to-do—who are able to enjoy some rights and privileges in this country, that they have been able to do so at the sacrifice of their poorer brethren, for whose uplift they have done next to nothing. In the early days when the question of trading rights for Indians arose it was arranged between the then Government of this country and the Government of India that if cheap labour would be supplied freely by India for the development of the industries in this country the local Government would give concessions in regard to trading rights to Indian residents. Thus was the poor labouring class exploited for the benefit of the trading class. But as time went on our disabilities increased. In response to requests made on our behalf for the removal of those disabilities the demand from the Government of this country was that the door must be closed to any fresh immigrants from India. Again this was agreed to. Who were sacrificed again? The poor, of course. For who should think of ploughing the seas for a foreign country but those who are in search for bread? Still the disabilities went on increasing, until they took a very serious form, resulting in a Round Table Conference between the Government of India and the Union of South Africa. The tables were turned this time and the demand in return for a promise to redress our grievances by the Union Government was that the Indian population must be decreased to its lowest possible minimum. This was again agreed to, and to put this into effect, the

Assisted Emigration Scheme was introduced. Once again it was the sacrificing of the poor for those placed in better circumstances. No doubt the scheme was voluntary. But it was made so attractive with its bonus system that any person who found no prospects at all to get on in this country and found himself neglected by the authorities as well as his own people would not but be tempted to take advantage of it.

Well, it is not necessary for us here to go into the history of the scheme. Mahatma Gandhi has been blamed for it. Mr. C. F. Andrews has been blamed for it, Mr. Sastri has been blamed for it. That, however, has not, nor will it, help us in any way. The working of the scheme has proved it to us to the hilt that it is an evil scheme. People who have left this country under the scheme, have fallen, as it were, in a veritable hell. We have had documentary evidence of the heart-rending conditions of our brethren who have gone to India under the scheme.

Mr. P. B. Singh returned from India with harrowing tales about the distressing conditions of the repatriates. Messrs. Chengiah, A. B. Naidoo and other friends only recently returned from India, and they too, repeated the sad tale of woes of the repatriates and an appeal for financial assistance for them appeared in these columns not long ago to which, we are sorry to say, no response has yet been made.

What have the South African Indians done in this connection. They have silently watched their brethren leaving these shores, with the inner satisfaction, perhaps, that their lot will improve if their numbers thus decreased. Can there be anything more ungenerous, unrighteous, uncivilised?

It is true that the Congress has passed resolutions protesting against the scheme; eloquent speeches have been made denouncing the scheme and the Fazli-Husain Delegation, at the last Round Table Conference, was told in plain

words, that the Congress would not countenance any scheme which had for its object the sending away of a single Indian from this country. That it yet participated in an inquiry into the possibilities of a colonization scheme for South African Indians is altogether a different thing. But what practical steps have been taken to see that the working of the scheme has been put a stop to.

Well, we can say much on the subject which might not be palatable to the present Congress workers, but suffice it to say that nothing practical has been done.

Now we have a few practical suggestions to make. We do not know when the time will come to abolish the assisted emigration scheme from the Statute Book. Be that as it may. The gravest wrong perpetrated under the scheme is the writing away of the rights of those who have a birth-right in this country. Our leaders with the assistance of the Agent of the Government of India, ought, at least, to be able to persuade the Union Government to take such steps as to see that the birth-right of any person—minor or adult—is not affected under the scheme. Secondly, the public bodies in India such as the Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, should make it their business to inquire into the conditions of the repatriates and to find out a way whereby at least those who have a birth-right in this country could be sent back to the place of their birth.

The question of refunding the monies such of the repatriates may have received from the Union Government, we think, could easily be waived, in view of the fact that such monies have been given from funds accumulated by amounts left since 1860 by the intestate Indian immigrants; in other words, they were given what virtually belonged to them. In view of the much spoken of friendly relations between the two Governments this concession should not be difficult to achieve.

The others who are already in India and who will persist in going, notwithstanding the persuasions of their brethren not to do so, cannot, of course, expect to find milk and honey conditions. No stone should, however, be left unturned to see that they get employment and get settled down in their own society. They may not expect their conditions to be any better than their other brethren.

This is a matter which, we think, should engage the serious attention of

the leaders of the Indian community and the Agent of the Government of India and the Government and the leaders of India.

"THE LION OF THE NORTH"

MR. TIELMAN ROOS, well-known as the "Lion of the North," is no more. His death has come as a shock to all—friend and foe alike. That his funeral was attended by 50,000 people is ample proof of his popularity. That he should be popular among the White people of South Africa is not at all surprising. For no one was so resolute, so adamant, in seeing that South Africa was All White. But he was popular among all, even among the black and the brown races whom he hated and believed in keeping in their place. He hated, but was he hated? We cannot say that he was actually hated. There was a sort of admiration for him—unperceived perhaps, but it was there nevertheless. It was because of his frankness and openness. Mr. Roos was an open enemy. It is much easier to deal with an open enemy than with one who bears enmity within and makes an outward appearance of friendliness. It is paradoxical that though an arch-enemy of Indians and though he did not want Indian clerks to work for European lawyers, or as messengers of court, or as waiters in hotels, and generally he was opposed to White men having any dealings with Indians he had many an Indian clients when he was practising as a lawyer, for whom he did not mind holding the brief. Mr. Roos was a rabid Nationalist and it is difficult to say that he had much affection for the Englishmen either. Though it was difficult for anyone to agree with Mr. Roos in many things that he did he acted fearlessly with the firm belief that what he was doing was right and in the best interests of his country. Many, we have no doubt, will feel relieved that Tielman Roos is no more. We think it is a mistaken belief. For who knows that there are not many more real Rooses, that there are not wolves in sheepskins who are far more dangerous than was Mr. Tielman Roos. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace.

Twenty-five Years Ago

EXTRACTS FROM "INDIAN OPINION,"

April 2nd, 1910.

Imperial Government And Natal Indians

Reports INDIA'S OPINION:

THE Natal Indian Patriotic Union has received a reply to the petition sent to the Imperial Government in July last, says the *African Chronicle*. The Secretary to the Prime Minister, writing on the 15th March, informs the Union that the Secretary of State, in his dispatch dated the 24th December last,

"desires that the petitioners' attention should be drawn to the amendment of section 147 of the Act of Union leaving the control and administration of matters specially or differentially affecting Asiatics within the Province of the Governor-General in Council. This provision while not repealing certain legislation as desired by petitioners will as His Majesty's Government trust ensure the consideration of questions affecting Indians in a broad and generous spirit.

In regard to the second part of the petition His Majesty's Government "have not felt themselves able to advise the appointment of a Royal Commission, more especially, as by the recent amendment of the Dealers Licences Act, an appeal is now allowed to the Supreme Court in all cases of refusal of licences to existing holders."

Bantu Company Registered

A company formed with the object of carrying on the business of financiers and traders among Bantu races has recently been registered at the Companies Office Pretoria. The Company proposes to lend money on security to individual Bantus for the purpose of buying or improving property or land, the purchase of farm equipment, for any useful purpose approved by the Directors and in general to carry on any industrial, commercial or agricultural business which directly affects the Bantu races. The Company registered under section 76 of Act No. 46, 1926, has a capital of £9,000 divided into 36,000 shares of 5/- each. On the Board of Directors are Chief Archibald Velile Sandile, Chief Silima Makinan, Dr. N. B. Rubusana and others; Mr. E. Shenton is general manager and Mr. James L. Wigley legal adviser. This is the first company of its kind to be registered by Natives which shows they are no longer lagging behind.

AROUSING THE SLEEPER

"Aroused and sane, as is a man wakened from hateful dreams."

(*Light of Asia Book Sixth.*)

By
L. W. RITCH

DEEP-SEATED in every creature's heart lies buried a unit, a seemingly walled-off and separated fraction, of the All-Self, which in Its wholeness and transcendence is Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence; Truth and Beauty and Love.

This All-Self is the Eternal; partless, changless, infinite. Transcending all limitations of Time, Space and Form, this The One, the Unique, the All-Self is the Wholeness of all fraction-hood, the Reality behind all appearances, the Unity behind the pseudo-infinite diversity of the phenomenal universe of name and form; the permanent substratum of all that appears and re-appears, is born and dies. It is the Be-ness of all beings, the Life within all living things, the Consciousness of all "knowing," the Bliss of all joy. The "Gita" speaks of this unconditional Self as "The Undivided One," of Its refractions, as "the divided One." Deep-seated in every creature's heart is such a refracted unit, which alone makes possible the sense of being, of existence, of self-hood or egoism; but for which no consciousness of joy, no knowledge of aught would be possible in any creature.

As is the spark to the flame, as is the seed to its parent tree, so may be regarded this refracted unit of the Self which in man is his warranty for the affirmation "I am." That very assertion, even though made in blank ignorance of his true identity, of *what* he is; even though it be averred in connection with what he is not, his body for instance, is the first vocal expression of the Self within, of that refracted spark of the All-Self, which in the fulfilment of Its destiny is to become, "like unto Its Father," Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence.

The life of every being consists of the gradual unfolding of its Self-hood, the evolving of its involved nature, the urge to Self-expression being instinctual in every creature. Complete self-expression includes full self-realisation, for "knowing" is as much the essential nature of the Self as are "being" and "bliss," and complete self-expression—the unfolding of its latent potentialities involved in it as seed is the fulfilment of the purpose that gave rise to its coming into existence. It has to realise itself in the fulness of its perfectibility. Realisation is synonymous with "becoming."

Beings seek to persist, to know, to enjoy, because "being" and "consciousness" and "bliss" are the essential nature of this "seed-self" in each and experiences are but a seeking after what promises to fulfil the urge towards

self-expression and to satisfy the instinct of the unfolding self to realise its triune nature.

Mahatma Gandhi has told the world of his "Experiments with Truth." He is the exception to the rule. Most of us are busy experimenting with untruth, trying to find that which is not there in the unreal, seeking after stability in the evanescent and constantly changing, joy and satisfaction in what eventually we discover to be but Dead Sea fruit and the bringer of disappointment and disillusionment.

Self-knowledge—other than which all so-styled "knowledge" is ignorance—is still undeveloped in the consciousness of the average man. He knows not himself.

Concerning his own essential nature and the potentialities latent within the mysterious depths of his being the man of the world is inured in the deep sleep of nescience. Having no knowledge of his true self, of his origin, purpose and goal, he drifts with the currents of life or is tossed helplessly on the wave of circumstance. Without compass or rudder or a clearly defined objective, life for him has little if any meaning save the satisfaction of appetites from hour to hour. He is drawn hither and thither by this desire or that, attracted or repelled by the lusts, passions, fears and angers of a false self which "in the midst ye plant and make a world around that seems." Egoism and desire constitute the ruling passions that dominates the life. Lacking knowledge of the substance the man exhausts himself chasing shadows, mistaking appearances for realities, personal ambitions and lordship over others for true self-advancement, worldly possession for achievements and worthy gains, going again and again to drink of the salt-waters of sense-life which but aggravate the thirst they are taken to allay. Oblivious of his own divine self-hood, of the bliss that may be his through self-realisation, he seeks, to find expression of the joy aspect of his nature in outer contacts, in the delights that are contact-born. He becomes the sport of attractions and repulsions, drawn to what promises renewal of such "delight," avoiding only what experience has made him instinctively know to be painful. Desires rule, until controlled through experience of the pain that follows submission to their seductive pull. What began as temptation crystallises into habit, becomes a consuming fever. A false self of appetites,

the acquisitive "i," the "i" of selfishness is set up and becomes the only self known or cared for. The jungle of warring lusts, passions, fears and angers; of competition, of exploitation, of acquisition, of domination, becomes the field of his activities, absorbing his life's energies. He is enveloped in the darkness and blindness of materiality, enmeshed in the web of delusion. He finds himself at war with his kind, immersed in the clash of egotisms that take the form of rivalries, personal, class, national, and racial; in struggles such as we are presently witnessing for place, power and possessions, for so-called "self-survival" really but a euphemism for survival of the grasping, assertive, acquisitive units of egotism and their several aggregations.

Even as this is being written, the "Four Horsemen" of the Apocalypse are making ready to lead mankind to yet another holocaust—inevitable resultant of "societies" and "civilisations" constructed upon an anti-spiritual foundation and lacking recognition of man's own spiritual self-hood.

We perceive that man's power to think, to plan, to create, instead of being consecrated to service of mankind has been perverted to selfish exploitation at the expense of his kind. We observe that the common denominator—the unity underlying all fraction-hood—has been lost sight of; right and righteousness replaced by imaginary conflicting "rights;" duties made subservient to self-interest; truth to considerations of expediency.

Mankind finds itself borne helplessly along by the forces generated by man's own selfishness and his disregard of the truth that each is the other's keeper. The idol he created, vitalised and worshipped is proving to be a monster that threatens to overwhelm and destroy him. Yet 'tis it no other than the embodiment of his own collective thoughts, desires, ambitions and lusts, portraying, for his own edification, the ugly self of his own weaving. For, the simple truth is that what rules is Justice, is The Law that never errs. We find ourselves the creatures we desired to be; conditioned by the conditions we thought desirable. As a man thinks, so he becomes; as he sows, so he reaps. Generation after generation, he is being confronted with object lessons, is being compelled to "eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil." The

harmony he has disturbed he must restore, the wrongs he has done or sought to do, must be righted.

All to what end? Surely, to fulfil "The Law that moves to righteousness" to discover by repeated experiences the unwisdom of "clinging to shadows of doting on dreams;" to encourage the faculty of discrimination and to develop

the power of discernment, to refuse longer to be cheated by the lying promises of unrealities and to insist at all cost upon escape from the bondage they impose to The Real, the eternal Self of him, which being realised within himself shall make him Master as formerly he was slave, liberate as formerly he was bondsman.

The "Seers of the Essence of things," teach that this sense-life in which mankind is presently immersed is no better than the nightmare of a horrid dream, from which it must be aroused to the life of reality.

When the dream becomes unendurably distressing, the sleeper struggles into wakefulness.

LUNCH IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER THE AGENT PAYS HIGH TRIBUTE TO GENERAL HERTZOG

SAYED RAZA ALI, the Agent of the Government of India, gave a luncheon at Mount Nelson Hotel on April 1, in honour of General Hertzog, the Prime Minister. A distinguished gathering included General Smuts, Minister of Justice, Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Evans, Commander-in-Chief of Africa Station, Colonel Deneys Reitz, Minister of Agriculture, Senator C. F. Clarkson, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, and many other prominent personalities.

In proposing the toast of General Hertzog, the Agent said that the luncheon was intended to give the Prime Minister a hearty send-off before he sailed for England to attend the Jubilee celebrations. Referring to the great part General Hertzog had played in improving the relations between India and South Africa, Sayed Raza Ali mentioned that it was the Prime Minister's policy and that of his Government that resulted directly in the effecting of the Capetown Agreement of 1927. It was General Hertzog who had the courage, vision and

imagination to see the necessity of a settlement of the difficult problem. He and his country were most grateful to General Hertzog for what he had done.

"Happy is the country," continued Sayed Raza Ali, "that has at its disposal the services of men like General Hertzog and General Smuts, who have wisdom, who have experience and who have statesmanship. Events in this country have marched very quickly in the last two years and here we find today that the Union Government is the envy of most democratic countries in the world. Having regard to that fact you have every right to congratulate yourselves and your leaders, General Hertzog and General Smuts, for the happy state of affairs that has been brought about." Sayed Raza Ali hoped that the time had now arrived when South Africa should make a big gesture towards India. The Capetown Agreement had led to an improvement of the relations between the two countries; there had been a great improvement all round; there was an attitude of friendli-

ness towards his people, but he hoped that they would find something that would lead to the ultimate solution of the Indian problem. He was sure that the time was now ripe for a step forward to be taken.

General Hertzog briefly thanked Sayed Raza Ali for the honour done him and recalled that he (Mr. Ali) was a *particeps criminis* in bringing about the Capetown Agreement. "I don't know what Mr. Ali may think of it, but as far as I am concerned I look back with pleasure and satisfaction at the work we accomplished at that Conference, when we decided that it was in the interests of both countries that there should be an Indian Agency in this country."

One of the great successes born of that institution was the establishment of a friendly relationship between India and South Africa which could not have been brought about in any other way so effectively. Even if direct objects could not be achieved, General Hertzog said, he was sure that the Indian Agent would continue the good work that had been so well begun.

LADYSMITH LICENSING BOARD A JUDICIAL BODY OR COMEDIANS?

The following report culled from the *Natal Advertiser* speaks for itself:—

Ladysmith, Wednesday.

BECAUSE they were members of the Chamber of Commerce, Town Councillors sitting as a Licensing Appeal Board yesterday (March 26) had to recuse themselves one after the other until only the Mayor and Deputy-Mayor were left.

The position was relieved by the late arrival of another Councillor, Mr. James Corrigan, but the moment he took his place he was challenged by Mr. H. B. Cawood, counsel for the appellant, A. M. Seedat.

Seedat was appealing against the decision of the Licensing Officer who refused his application for a general dealer's licence.

The Councillors, in recusing themselves, gave as their reasons the fact that

they were members of the Chamber of Commerce, and therefore were interested parties, as the Chamber opposed the granting of the licence to Seedat.

In challenging Mr. Corrigan's right to sit, Mr. Cawood stated that Mr. Corrigan was a partner in the firm of J. Richie, grocers, and that one of the other partners was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Corrigan denied that he was a partner in the firm named, and stated his only interest was that of a landlord. The Mayor upheld him and he maintained his right to sit.

Mr. E. R. Rawlinson, who appeared on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, then asked for an indefinite adjournment on the grounds that even with Mr. Corrigan there was not a quorum.

The Mayor in refusing the application said that when the Board first sat there was a quorum, and the fact that members recused themselves after taking their seats did not alter the position. Virtually there was still a quorum.

Mr. Cawood addressed the Board,

Colour Prejudice Suggested

Dealing with the objections lodged by the Chamber of Commerce, he claimed that no properly constituted meeting had ever been called. What had actually happened was that the chairman instructed the secretary to go round and personally interview the members and get their views. The secretary did this and on the strength of it, the chairman lodged an objection.

Mr. Cawood laid stress on colour-bar prejudice and suggested that this had actuated the Licensing Officer in his decision.

Mr. Rawlinson, replying put forward a legal argument asking the Board to uphold the decision of the Licensing Officer.

After a brief adjournment, the board agreed to do this and the appeal was dismissed, no order being given as to costs. It is understood that application will be made to the Supreme Court to appeal against the decision of the board,

MR. HELPS ON S. A. INDIANS SHOULD BE RECOGNISED AS UNION NATIONALS

Writing to the *Natal Advertiser* Mr. Stuart Helps says:—

I WAS very pleased to see that one of our distinguished visitors of the Empire Press Conference called attention to the disabilities of British Indians in South Africa, more particularly in Natal. And he pointed out that when India gets her full Dominion status she may be called to look into the affairs of Indians in the Union of South Africa.

The *Natal Advertiser* has always adopted a fair and liberal attitude towards Natal Indians, and at times tendered them some very sound advice.

I feel, sir, that the time has arrived when some sound and serious advice on the South African Indian question should be tendered to the Union Government. For my part, I have not hesitated to express my opinion freely on this subject in the past, and I feel it my duty to insist that steps be taken by Parliament without any further delay to recognise the British Indian community in South Africa as South African Union nationals. The Nationalist Government took it upon themselves to declare the Malays at the Cape to be fully fledged Union citizens in 1925. I ask why the same privilege should be denied British Indians, 83 per cent. of whom are born in South Africa and

know no other home? They have as much right as any other section of the community to lay claim to Union citizenship. I do not suggest that the whole of our Indian community should be given the franchise, although the franchise was given to the Malays at the Cape. The Indian leaders do not ask for the enfranchisement of their community, but they do ask, what they have every right to ask, that they be recognised as Union nationals, and be accorded some of the privileges of Union nationals, one of the foremost of which is free and unfettered movement within the Union of South Africa.

No Province Barriers

By what right do the Union Government penalise Natal by denying Indians from this Province the privilege of settling in any other Province of the Union? We carry 80 per cent. of the Indian population of South Africa in Natal, and this is creating a very serious economic factor in this Province. It is becoming so serious that Europeans in Natal are beginning to realise that there is "something rotten in the Union."

Unfortunately our representatives in Parliament are dumb on this subject, we never hear a single protest from them about the unfair treatment Natal is getting in this matter.

I am aware, of course, that it is most unfashionable to give voice to the disabilities under which British Indians are groaning in South Africa, in spite of the fact that they have vested interests in this country to the tune of £30,000,000 and have no voice whatever in either municipal, provincial or parliamentary affairs; although in taxation they contribute liberally to the revenue of all these institutions.

It is not pleasant to think that our distinguished visitors have to call attention to a question which should long since have received our attention. And it will be still less pleasant if, when India receives her full Dominion status, equal to our own and to every other Dominion in the Empire, she is compelled to make representations to us that we put an end to the injustices done to her subjects in the Union of South Africa. I want to see something done to relieve the position in Natal. The matter is urgent and demands the attention of the Union Government, and I would like to see your able pen employed in demanding reforms that will make our Indians a happy and contented community. The removal of irksome restrictions that place them in the position of "Uitlanders" as a first step will go a long way towards accomplishing this.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND OLD-AGE PENSION

S. A. I. C. DEPUTATION SEES MINISTERS

THE absence of facilities to enable Indians to acquire a modern knowledge of farming and the lack of encouragement from the State to promote their welfare were the substance of a complaint made to the Minister of Agriculture (Col. Deney's Reitz) by a deputation representing the South African Indian Congress which waited on him on Wednesday March 27.

The deputation emphasised the fact that Indians were by their natural instinct and aptitude an agricultural community and that 21,000 of them were engaged in growing sugar cane, bananas, tobacco, citrus, vegetables and the like—mostly on the coastal belt on Natal. They owned about 100,000 acres of land, which was equivalent to one acre in every 125 in Natal.

It was pointed out that since 1926 the Government had been unable for financial reasons to extend agricultural education facilities to these Indians; but now that

the country was prosperous, it was contended, this should be remedied. It was suggested that demonstrations should be carried out in centres where Indians were situated to give them the benefit of modern methods of farming.

The denial of facilities from the Land and Agricultural Bank had impeded the progress of the Indian agricultural community. Crude methods were still being followed, and the potential resources of the Indian farmer were disregarded as an asset.

The deputation felt strongly that in any policy which was pursued to develop agriculture the part the Indian could play should not be overlooked. He should be given facilities to become a trained agriculturist, for his bent of mind and natural aptitude would enable him to fit himself in any agricultural undertaking.

The economic depression and the unsuccessful efforts of the Indians in farm-

ing had forced a drift from rural into urban areas. Hundreds of Indian youths were leaving school without any prospects, and, owing to the restricted scope of employment in any walk of life, their future was bound to create a problem of its own. The deputation urged that the best solution of this problem would be to attract these youths to the land.

An Agricultural School

The State policy of assisting agriculture should be extended to Indians, and as a first step a Government agricultural farm in the coastlands of Natal, where the majority of Indian agriculturists were to be found, should be established.

An agricultural school might, it was suggested, be opened for students who have passed Standard IV. To give effect to its suggestions; the deputation said, an experiment might be made in a small way by acquiring at least 100 acres of land and building an agricultural school. It was also asked that bursaries and

scholarships should be extended to the school.

Indians formed an integral part of the population and were entitled to expect a fair distribution of State benefits. The deputation complained against a ruling of the Forestry Department that Indian traders in the Eastern Transvaal were not allowed to deliver goods to settlement farmers, although this facility was allowed to European traders.

The Minister promised to consult his colleagues in the Cabinet, as the sug-

gestions made involved matters of policy. He realised fully that the Indian was now part of the permanent population of the country and should be given opportunities of progressing. The requests made to him, he said, were not excessive and would receive his earnest and sympathetic consideration.

Pensions for Indians

The deputation waited on the Minister of Finance, Mr. Havenga on March 29, with the request that he should extend the Old Age Pension scheme to Indians.

The deputation urged the injustice of a scheme which, they said, discriminated between Europeans and Coloured people on the one hand and Indians on the other, and argued that the State owed it to Indians, who had played their part in building up the country and who were now part of the permanent population, to provide for them in their old age.

The Minister held out the hope that relief would be given, but intimated that it would not necessarily be along the lines urged.

THINGS IN GENERAL

Mr. Goolam Rasool Becomes C. O.

MR. GOOLAM RASOOL, a prominent Indian of Pietersburg has been appointed Commissioner of Oaths. He is the first Indian in the Northern Transvaal to receive this appointment.

Indian C. O. In Ermelo

Mr. Esmail Mahomed Dender has been appointed a Commissioner of Oaths for the District of Ermelo.

Telephone Service To India

Reuter has been informed by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs that the India-South African telephone service, which hitherto has been restricted to Capetown, has now been extended to all points in the Union at which normal overseas telephone facilities are available.

Lady Smith Sanatan Dharma Sabha

A General Meeting of the above Sabha was held on March 17, 1935 in the Sabha Hall. The following were elected as officials: Trustees: Messrs. Dabee Singh Mathura, Huteram, S. David and G. Bhagwan. President: S. Huteram. Vice-presidents: Messrs T. Riga and H. R. Singh. Joint Hon. Secretaries: Messrs R. Mathadeen and A. Sarjoo. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Huteram (senior). Members of the Committee: Messrs Ramparsad, M. Huteram, R. Assaram Inderpal Sarjee, P. Ramathaur, B. Ramcharan Ramboo, S. Jhoda, Bharath, T. Charan and Huree.

New Indian School

The Provincial Administration is to build a new Indian school at Greyville. The site selected abuts on Crabbe and Osborne Streets but is too small to accommodate the school building unless it is extended by the inclusion of the portion of Crabbe Street connecting Osborne and Raleigh Streets. This thoroughfare has not yet been hardened and the Govern-

ment has now asked that it be deproclaimed and handed over to the provincial authorities for school purposes. Such deproclamation is favoured by the Estate Manager, who reports that the portion of Crabbe Street referred to is of no real value as a public thoroughfare and does not accommodate any municipal services. The value of the land is approximately £1,000. The application has been referred to the Finance Committee for recommendation.

Oriental Benefit Association

The fourth annual general meeting and election of the Oriental Benefit Association was held at the Municipal Barracks Free School on Friday evening March 22. The president, Mr. M. C. Moodley, opened the meeting with a record attendance. Previous minutes of meetings were read by the Secretary, and adopted. The Secretary's annual report, financial statement, balance sheet, and auditor's report were passed unanimously. During the interval refreshments were served. Mr. M. C. Moodley was re-elected president, and Mr. G. P. Nair, Vice president. Mr. M. N. Pillay was re-elected hon. secretary for the third year and Mr. M. D. Pillay who served as hon. treasurer since the formation of the association in 1931, was also re-elected. The following executive was elected: Messrs M. P. Pillay, M. R. Moodley, G. Murugan, Munien Govender, R. Babla, S. B. Maharaj, P. Nagureamy S. N. Pillay, G. P. Naicker, Kathanda Naidoo, and Muniga. The meeting ended at 10.30 p. m. with expressions of appreciation of the work by the majority of its members.

Pandit Mehta Jaimini Expresses Thanks

We have received the following for publication from Pandit Mehta Jaimini B.A. LL.B. who recently visited the

Union:—Sir, I crave the hospitality of your columns in expressing my grateful thanks to the South Africa Hindu Maha Sabha for the honour that they did me by electing me president of the South African Hindu Mahasabha Conference and for the great hospitality the Mahasabha showed me. I appreciate the work that Messrs Patel, Naicker, Pather and Verman are doing in the Union for the solidarity of the Hindus. During my sojourn in their midst I always felt at home. I have also to thank Messrs R. B. Maharaj, R. Deva Datt, M. Bhikbari, Sorabjee Rustomjee, Amod Jhavari and other public men and societies for the honour they did me at the time of my departure. Lastly I have to thank the press of your country for the wholehearted support they gave me during my mission propaganda stay in the Union. I am rather busy for I have been elected chairman of All India Abans Conference that is being held at Fazailka (Punjab) during the Easter. I regret the delay in doing this duty. Yours truly, (Sgd.) Jaimini, Vedic Missionary.

Shree Sanathan Rastria Samalan

Under the aegis of the above Institution the laying of the Foundation Stone of a School by Naranjee Vallabh Bhai Desai, Esq. of 139 Brook Street, Durban, will take place on Sunday April 7 at 3 p. m. at the School Grounds, 68 Palace Road, Candella Estate. All are cordially invited by the secretary to participate in the celebration.

Held Over

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we are sorry our Rhodesian Notes and other matters have had to be held over this week.

INDIA LETTER

INDIA'S SURPLUS BUDGET

PRINCES DECLINE FEDERATION

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

THE decision of the Chamber of Princes that the proposed Federation scheme is not acceptable to it unless certain vital changes are made in the Bill has caused quite a flutter in England. Sir Samuel Hoare is seriously perturbed. The Princes feel that the present Government of India Bill does not carry out the promises made and the pledges given to Indian States during the various conferences and does not adequately maintain their rights and privileges. It is said that they have reminded His Majesty's Government that they are joining the Federation to obtain central responsibility for Indian Government.

ONE CRORE FOR RURAL UPLIFT

The Finance Member presented his budget for 1935-36 in the Legislative Assembly. The revenue in the year under budget is expected to be Rs 90.19 crores and the expenditure Rs. 88.69 crores, resulting in a surplus of Rs 1.50 crores. Reduction of silver duty by two annas an ounce, abolition of duty on skins and reduction of income-tax surcharge by a third have been provided for. Rs 1 crore will be distributed to the provinces for economic development of rural areas. Political circles regard this as an indirect result of Gandhiji's latest movement.

A FINE CHOICE

The Congress Parliamentary Board have chosen Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmi pati to stand as the Congress candidate for the City seat in the Madras Legislative Council which fell vacant owing to the unfortunate death of Dr. Mallayya. Mrs. Lakshmi pati graduated from the Madras Women's Christian College in 1921. Among women civil resisters, she was the first to go to prison in all India during the Salt Satyagraha campaign of 1930. She was then awarded one year's imprisonment. Again in 1932 she was imprisoned for six months in the second campaign. She has been continuously for many years a member of the Working Committee of the Tamil Nadu Provincial Congress of which she is now one of the secretaries. No better choice could have been made. The poll will take place on 9th April.

RESERVE BANK

The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India discussed the issue of shares and decided that the lists should be opened on 22nd March and closed on 25th March. The minimum dividend

on shares has been fixed at three and a half per cent.

FRONTIER SITUATION

The Faquir of Alingar has raised Lashkars from the Afgan tribes and is giving trouble in the Swat area of the North Western Frontier. The Government forces have forced him to retreat.

BURMA'S FUTURE

The Joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendation for the separation of Burma from India is causing grave concern to the mercantile community in South India. A deputation of Chettiars has gone to England to ventilate grievances. It is however gratifying to note that U. Chit Hlaing, Anti-Separationist leader of Burma has been elected President of the Burmese Legislative Council.

GODREJ—CHRONICLE SUIT

A Settlement was reached in the suit filed by Godrej Soaps Ltd., against the Bombay Chronicle Co., Ltd.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY

The University has decided that the medium of instruction up to the Matriculation standard should be vernacular.

PATIALA—WILLINGDON TALKS

Much significance is attached to the conversation which the Maharajah of Patiala had with the Viceroy before sailing for London. The differences between the Princes and the Government continue. A White Paper giving the texts of the criticism on the India Bill communicated by the Princes to the Viceroy and the comments of the Government thereon will be issued in a few days.

REPRESSIVE POLICY

Mr. Aney's cut motion condemning the excessive repression was passed by the Legislative Assembly.

ARMY EXPENSES

Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhry moved a resolution to protest against the heavy expenditure incurred for Defence and insisted on Indianisation of the Army. The Government sustained a defeat in this respect also.

HINDU DEPUTATION TO LONDON

Pandit Malaviya announces that everything is ready for leading a deputation to England to represent against the communal Award and the Government of India Bill.

BHIKSHU UTTAMA

Bhikshu Uttama has been finally elected to preside over the Cawnpore session of the Hindu Maha Sabha.

RUMANIA'S PAN ON INDIAN GOODS

Rumania has banned imports from India on the ground that the latter does not import Rumanian goods.

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

From the answers given by Sir Craig during question-time in the Assembly there seem to be no early prospects of the Pandit's release.

APPOINTMENT FOR SIR R. K.

SHUNMUGAM

Sir Shanmugam whose significant defeat in the Assembly election is well-known has been appointed Dewan of Cochin State.

MADRAS BYE-ELECTIONS

The Madras Legislative Council has been prolonged beyond its natural term of life. In fact, it is more the Governor's Council than the country's. In the words of Mr. C. R. Reddy who contests the Chittoor seat on behalf of the Congress, the Ministry has lost the Assembly elections wholesale; also every bye-election. The regularity and uniformity with which it loses elections cannot be improved upon. In any independent country, a ministry which has thus lost the support of the country would not have continued in office for a moment even if it had a majority in the Legislature.

A FORMER SUB-JUDGE

Sheikh Abdul Quadir, who was formerly posted as a Sub-Judge at Delhi, was declared a proclaimed offender by the Additional District Magistrate of Delhi. Warrants were issued for his arrest as well as of another person but the police have reported that no trace could be found of the two men. It is alleged that an application filed in Abdul Quadir's court was removed from the record and a forged document substituted in its place. It is said that Abdul Quadir had every thing to do with this.

SIAM RICE

The import duty on foreign rice has been enhanced to afford protection to and save from cut-throat foreign competition the local product.