

ALUM. The Dharmadiv

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND HINDI.

Springfield, Durban, Friday 1 February 1918.

No. 46

VOL 2.

PRESS COMMENT ON RAILWAY REGULATIONS

Restrictions on Railways

The coloured community appear to have just grievances against the Railway Administration's regulations for prohibiting them from travelling by either mail or fast passenger trains. The Indian meeting on Saturday, reported in this issue of "The Advertiser" expressed a strong protest against such unreasonable provisions. In the absence of an official statement giving the Railway Administration's views on the new regulations and the reasons for their adoption, one cannot presume what these reasons may be, but that the restrictions itself is both irksome and illogical is undoubted. The Railway authorities have assumed autocratic functions for themselves which can have no effect other than the creation of bitter resentment. To prevent a coloured man from travelling upon any train if he is prepared to pay for his seat is making a peculiar class distinction for which there is no justification. The coloured community themselves agree with the principle of separate compartments for white people and coloured people. Apparently the power to make exceptions to this prohibitive restriction on the movement of coloured people is vested in the station masters who in this respect are endowed with quasi magisterial authority. That is both an anachronism and an absurdity. The regulations call for immediate and drastic revision. In their present spirit they will win little approval, save that of the Nationalist diehards of the Free State.

The Indian Agitation

The strong protest from Indians throughout South Africa against the new railway regulations, prohibiting them from travelling on the mail and fast trains, indicate that the keenest possible resentment is being felt against this fresh folly of the Government. Apart from anything else, it was most inadvisable for the Government to allow an anti-colour regulation to be promulgated at the present juncture. British interests at this stage do not permit of a racial controversy in South Africa between whites and Indians, and it is not unlikely that that Botha Government will eventually place the Imperial Government in a very embarrassing predicament over these stupid regulations. The political situation in India is at best none too satisfactory, and further difficulties should certainly not have been placed in the way by a South African Government, which, by the way is pledged to assist and not to hinder the Imperial Government during the war. As to the object of the regulations, that remains a mystery.

Ostensibly, the reason is to curtail the number of coaches used on the mail and fast trains, and to make it unnecessary for special compartments to be allocated on these trains for the convenience of Indians and other coloured persons. This can hardly be looked upon as a serious economy because special coaches will have to be reserved on the slow trains which are the

more numerous in this country. In any case, the small saving which may be effected does not justify the creation for another cause of dissatisfaction amongst the Indian population. There may, one suspects, be something underlying the action of the Administration. One fails to see why the principle adopted in this country in the arrangement concerning the two languages could not be applied to the two colours. The expense incurred in carrying out the dual language principle is certainly considerable, but if it makes for harmony taxpayers of this country are apparently agreed that it must be borne. If it is necessary for coloured persons to have separate accommodation, let it be so, but why make obnoxious regulations in order to save a few pounds? If the Government could contrive to apply a little common-sense to their treatment of Indians, the community at large would have peace from these continuous uproars.

The Railway Kaiser

Sir Wm. Hoy, the General Manager of Railways and South Africa's prime autocrat, has been compelled to climb down over the new railway regulations. Mr. Burton has wisely deleted all reference in the regulations restricting coloured persons from travelling in the Royal Mail and other fast passenger trains, which proposal had given rise to the strongest possible feeling of

resentment among the Indian community. If Mr. Burton casts his eye over that portion of the regulation which he has allowed to stand, however, he will discover a clause which, if not immediately withdrawn, will give him a great deal more trouble than the other offending clauses. For a piece of sheer Prussianism it defies improvement. The clause reads: "Any station master, ticket examiner, or guard may remove or order the removal of a passenger from one compartment to another without assigning reasons." If Sir William Hoy thinks that free British people are going to submit to such arbitrary dictation from subordinate officials, he is very much mistaken. The clause gives unrestricted authority to order passengers about as they think fit without being required to offer the slightest explanation for their actions. Sir Wm. Hoy, as he sits in his managerial chair and signs these peremptory mandates, must be firmly under the impression that he is dealing with a rabble of serfs, and that the white people of this country will meekly submit to bullying and herding by a handful of railway officials. He is vastly mistaken. The people simply will not tolerate it. It may be argued that it is unlikely that any official will avail himself to fullest extent of the arbitrary power conferred in this appalling clause, but the point to be remembered is that the General Manager of Railways has placed a power in the hands of his subordinates which it is possible may be abused. For that reason this clause must go, and Hoy after it. If there is to be a tussle between railway officials and white passengers on this point, the great Sir William will have the pleasure of seeing as exciting a scrap as ever took place. The people of South Africa are not going to be ordered about by Hoy, and since this official has had the temerity to threaten the liberties of the public the Government should have no hesitation in relieving him of his duties. Otherwise

there will be serious trouble. While young South Africans are fighting Prussianism in Europe, it is a gross insult to the people of this country that Sir William Hoy should be out against the public with the "nailed fist". What private railway company would dare introduce such a clause? In any case to make it part of the law of the country is an inexcusable piece of terrorism which, emphatically cannot be tolerated. This railway dictation and interference has been allowed to go too far altogether. It must cease.

Racial Regulations.

Mr. Burton has wisely toned down the new Railway Regulations in so far as they dealt with the segregation of passenger of different races. Generally, one recognises the desirability of providing separate accommodation for European and non-European travellers. The majority of non-Europeans, as well as Europeans, will agree on this point. But the Administration has become convinced that it went too far in absolutely forbidding the use of mail trains and fast passenger trains to all coloured persons or natives. This arbitrary ukase was in violation of the spirit of the Natal laws, at all events, which are based upon the principle that no disability shall be imposed solely by reason of colour. The Indian community, especially, took exception to those features of the new regulations which instituted a discrimination of this nature. If it could be said that the offensive regulations were necessary, the Railway Administration chose the worst possible time for promulgating them. The Indian and the native have rendered great service in the war, and we still look to them to swell the manpower of the Empire in the further stages of the conflict. The introduction of laws and regulations that are calculated to irritate our coloured fellow subjects is a blunder which the Govern-

ment, if really anxious to assist the Empire in this crisis would be careful to avoid. The Government have been well advised in retracing the wrong step they took in the subsections which have now been deleted from the Railway Regulations. We hope they will be equally ready to reconsider their attitude towards the Native Administration Bill, a measure which has filled the minds of the natives with suspicions that are hindering the recruiting for the Labour Contingent.

Natal Advertiser.

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 1 February 1918.

RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian followers of the I. W. W. who are by the way a microcosmic portion of the Indian community, are endeavouring to raise in the daily press a meaningless agitation against the appointment of Messrs P. S. Aiyar, R. B. Chetty, and M. C. Anglia as the Indian representatives on the Rice Advisory Committee. There is no gainsaying that Mr. Aiyar is quite a fit and proper person to represent the non-merchant section of the Indian community. He has more than once taken a keen and selfless interest in their cause, and furthermore possesses their entire confidence. As evidence of this, we desire to point out that at the great non-merchants' demonstration certain correspondence, that passed between Mr. Aiyar and the Government, with reference to the high prices of Indian foodstuffs, was read and received with acclamation. To cavil at Messrs. R. B. Chetty's, and M. C. Anglia's, appointment is to say the least preposterous. It indicates the unreasonable frame of mind of the members of the I. W. W. who, while being stentorian in their claim

for representation on the Committee, refuse representation to sections for whom both Mr. R. B. Chetty and Mr. M. C. Anglia have a right to be heard.

Coming to the functions of the Rice Advisory Committee we venture to express the hope that its advisory powers would not be limited to rice as the name of the Committee apparently suggests. Such a limitation would not afford any relief to the poor class Indian since rice is not the only commodity on which he lives. There are many other necessities such as dholl, ghee, oil etc etc and therefore it is but just that these should be included within the advisory jurisdiction of the Committee. While we do not hope much relief for the non-merchant sections from Mr. Anglia we expect Mr. Aiyar to fight hard for the fixing of reasonable prices for our necessities of life. Mr. Dunkerton and Mr. Whitcutt are, as far as we are aware, very fair minded gentlemen of the highest integrity, and will, we are sure, assist Mr. Aiyar considerably if the facts are placed before them in their true perspective. We feel that a profit of five per cent on rice, dholl and other commodities ought to be received with satisfaction on every side. The merchants have amassed considerable wealth since the commencement of the war and therefore there should be no grumbling on their part to this reasonable proposal.

Christian Bigotry

The following articles appeared in last Monday's *Natal Advertiser*

Sir,—I take the liberty to suggest to the Committee now investigating the outstanding grievances between the Natal Indian Congress and other sections of Indians that the just rights the Christian Indian community is entitled must be given. The public know very well that it is the Christian Indian leaders who have all along taken the lead in public affairs while the Hindoos and Mohammedans have only been followers.

As an example, we Christians established the Higher Grade School; we are now endeavouring to get university education; we abolished the £3; we have presided at many functions in the Town Hall; we created the Indian Bearer Corps, and in appreciation of the superiority of the Indian Christian community two of our members have been nominated to the Governor-General's Fund Committee, and the Indian Christian members of the Bearer Corps draw a higher rate of salary on account of their higher standard of living. Therefore I hope that our community will take its right place in the new organisation as a leading factor; failing which I suggest to our Christian

brethren to form an ideal Christian organisation, to which we can admit even non-Christians at our discretion.—Yours, etc.

“CHRISTIAN INDIAN.”

Mayville, January 25.

Sir,—I beg with your permission for a little space in your valuable paper. Many people know that certain Indians in Durban are trying to create a congress, and there is a rumour that Indian Christians are also going to join it. I protest against joining such a body because we Christians will suffer a lot therefrom. Under the leadership of Christian Indians we have done a lot of work in the Natal Indian Association. Why not work that body? Even our great leader, Mr. Joseph Royce, very recently advised us to keep aloof from the home-born Indians, and look to the interests of the Colonial-born Christian Indians in the right direction. Recently the Phoenix journal, Indian Opinion, said that it was no good reviving the Natal Indian Congress. Therefore, I ask our Christian leaders to separate themselves entirely from Hindoos and Mohammedans, and work to safeguard our own interest. We, as a civilised and highly refined community, should not mix with a lot of heathens, and confound ourselves with them.—Yours etc.”

CHRISTIAN.”

Durban, January 26.

The Committee on Rice

CONSUMERS' COMPLAINT

Price To Be Fixed

The Committee on Rice which has been appointed by the C. O. L. Commission consists of the following: E. B. Dunkerton chairman, E. Whitcutt, John Campbell (Parker Wood and Co.) and Dickenson (C. G. Smith and Co.), with the following “representative Indians”: P. S. Aiyar (Editor of the African Chronicle), R. B. Chetty, merchant, and M. C. Anglia (owner of Indian Views) also merchant.

It is understood that the personnel of the Committee was practically selected by the Chamber of Commerce and already it is complained that three “representative Indians” have omitted to be representative of a rather important section of the Indian community, the people who consume the rice. That

section feels that their interests may not be adequately safeguarded by two merchants and an editor. They would like to have a direct representative on the Committee.

It should be understood that the Committee has no executive or administrative power. It is purely advisory to the Commission. But the Committee has met and it is proposing to report the result of its enquiries to the Commission and a recommendation as to the price at which rice should be fixed, in about ten days time.

(The Natal Advertiser.)

Farewell to Mr. G. H. Miankhan

On Monday evening a large number of members and friends met at Emamally's residence, under the aegis of the W. W. I. F. A to bid farewell to Mr. G. H. Miankhan, Patron of the W. W. I. F. A on his impending departure to India.

Amongst those present were Messrs. J. M. Francis, S. Emamally, M. Thungavelu, G. Narrandes, M. A. Jeewa, B. Sigamoney, R. Somasundrum, R. E. Moodley, M. H. Ismail, A. G. Randeree, M. C. Anglia, A. J. Koobair, and A. Singh.

Mr. Miankhan was garlanded in the oriental fashion and presented with a beautiful gold mounted walking stick suitably engraved. Speeches were made in very praiseworthy terms of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Miankhan.

During the proceedings, the announcement of the appointment of Mr. Emamally as manager of the firm of Messrs. G. H. Miankhan & co., was received with great applause.

Mr. Miankhan suitably replied and donated the sum of £6. 6s. to the D. D. I. F. A. and £8. 3s. to the Greyville C. C. who also presented him with a gold pendant. After indulging in light refreshments, the gathering dispersed.

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VOL. 2.

Springfield, Durban, Friday 8 February 1918.

No. 47

INDIANS FROM NATIVE STATES.

Maritzburg, Feb. 4. (Special).—A Supreme Court decision that will have far-reaching effects was given this morning, declaring, in effect, that hundreds of the Indians, living in the Union are not British subjects, but are aliens.

The facts of the case are these:—Essa Jan Mahomed, an Indian, came to Natal in 1896, and at the time of his entry into the province he possessed a domicile certificate, which was substituted in 1911 for the one he received in 1896. He is a storekeeper by calling. He paid three visits to India between 1896 and 1917, but on his return to Natal on the last occasion, in April last his right to come into the Province was questioned. The Immigration Officer ruled that Mahomed and his minor son, whom he brought from India, were prohibited immigrants. Mahomed appealed to the Appeal Board against the decision of the Immigration Officer, but the Board upheld the decision of the Immigration Officer and thereupon Mahomed appealed to the Supreme Court.

Mr. R. J. Harrison moved for a writ of mandamus directing the Board to reserve certain questions of law for the decision of the Supreme Court, in terms of Section 3, sub-Section 2, of the Immigrant's Regulation Act 22 1913.

The Attorney-General, for the Board, raised the objection that the applicant was not a British Subject, but was a subject of the Native State of Mavanaga in India, as was shown by the applicant's passport, which was produced.

The Court decided that this preliminary point should be dealt with first as under sub-section 3 of Section 3 of the above named Act, an alien has no right of appeal against the decision of the Board.

The Attorney-General argued at considerable length, and quoted authorities to show that the subjects of a native State in India, while they had the protection of the British Crown, were not British subjects, and therefore were aliens.

Mr. Harrison contended that the applicant and his son were not aliens, and that they were in a peculiar position seeing that the Princes of the State to which they belonged owed allegiance to the Crown, and therefore he argued the applicant's were British subjects.

In delivering judgment, the Judge-President went into all the authorities quoted, and said that on those authorities the subjects of native States in India, in what was described as native India, as distinguished from British India, were not British subjects, although such States were under the protection of the British Crown. It was clear from the authorities that the applicants were not British subjects, but were aliens, and as such were not entitled to appeal to the Supreme Court against the decision of the Immigrant's Appeal Board. The application must therefore be refused.

Mr. Justice Carter and Mr. Justice Tatham agreed.

The Attorney-General applied for

costs in favour of the Board, but, after argument, the Court decided to make no order as to costs.

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 8 February 1918.

INDIANS OF NATIVE STATES

We publish elsewhere a very important decision delivered by three judges of the Natal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, in the immigration case of Essa Jan Mahomed versus the Immigration Board. In this case, the judges unanimously came to the conclusion, on the authorities cited by the Attorney General, that the applicant was not entitled to appeal against the Board's decision as he was a subject of an Indian State and therefore an alien. While we entirely approve of the portion of this decision which declares the subjects of our Maharajas aliens, we feel, that in view of the great privileges enjoyed by the British Government within the precincts of the Indian states, which she does not enjoy in other foreign lands, and in view of the great assistance she gets in time of war from them which also she does not obtain from other alien countries in the same unconditional manner, that the subjects of Indian states are entitled to preferential treatment as compared with other aliens. It is obvious that the legislature ought to be approach-

ed to make the necessary alterations in the Immigration Regulation Act. We are sure that the decision would arouse, falling any reparation by the Government, serious complications in India. In view of the importance and far reaching effects of this decision, we venture to hope that the community will immediately do the needful to rectify matters.

THE DEVASTHANUM COMMITTEE

The public are aware that the great objects of the Devasthanum Committee are, notwithstanding the many efforts made by that body, yet as far from attainment as they were at the time of the formation of that committee. For various good reasons which are within public cognisance, its activities were left in abeyance with a view to revival at a more favourable opportunity. It is now felt by many prominent individuals that the opportune moment for a keen and sustained display of its energies has decidedly arrived. Let us hope that the Committee in question will now consider in all its aspects the necessity and advisability of renewing its activities. We are sure the public will support them with their usual confidence in any efforts they may deem fit and proper to make for the attainment of the objects before them.

Indian Comforts Committee and Street Collections

Proof of Bona Fides Required.

In a report of the town council proceeding the following appears:—

Applications have been considered for permission to hold street collections on behalf of (a) the Indian Bearer Stretcher Company Comforts Committee; (b) Pearson's Fresh Air Fund; (c) the Blind Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund; and (d) the Blue Cross Fund. The application referred to in (b) raises the question as to whether, in considering

these street collections, permission to hold the same should not be restricted to objects directly connected with the war, or on behalf of local charitable institutions. In view of the multifarious nature of the calls made upon the local public, the Committee was of opinion and recommended that the applications (a), (c), and (d) be granted the sanction in regard to (a) being contingent upon a satisfactory report being secured as to the bona fides of the Committee. It is further recommended that, in regard to applications for permission to hold street collections, the Council lay down the principle of restricting them to the objects directly connected with the war or local charitable institutions.

Imperial War Cabinet

London, Feb. 5. —Reuter learns, that in accordance with the general wish expressed last year, and as the convenience of the Dominion statesmen and the Parliaments will permit, a series of Imperial War Cabinets and Imperial war conferences will be held in London this year in continuation of those held last year, at which representatives of the Dominions will attend to confer with the British Ministers on the war. It is understood that the Imperial Government is now trying to arrange a date, which will as far as possible suit the convenience of all, but nothing definite has yet been settled, either regarding the date or regarding the statesmen who will come to England.

A Reuter telegram from Wellington today has given the first official intimation that subject to the approval of the Dominion Parliament Sir Wm. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward will represent New Zealand at these conferences.

Indian Education in the Vail

The *Natal Advertiser's* Johannesburg correspondent states that a hearty

response has been made to the appeal by the Indian Educational Committee for £10,000 to build a new Indian Government School and boarding hostel, a suitable site having been secured. The donations include the following: Sultan Ismail Mia and Co. £1,025., Patel and Co. £400, Coovadia and sons £250, Mahomed Essop and Co. £200, J. W. Jaggar and Co. £100. Mosenthals, Ltd. £100, Randles, Bro. and Hudson, £100 and Hirsch, Loubser and Co. £100. The arrangements with the Government include the provision of the buildings by the community, and a guarantee for payment of rent and other charges, a staff of a white superintendent and Indian male assistants, and the election of an Indian committee to supervise the School. The present Indian School being the only one in the Transvaal is far too small to meet the needs. It is intended to make the new school the chief of such educational institutions in South Africa, and to draw pupils from all parts of the Union.

Vedic Marriage in Durban.

On Saturday 26th January a beautiful wedding took place at 38, Stratford Road, Durban. The contracting parties being Miss Saraswathi Bughwan, eldest daughter of one of the leading Indian Sportsmen Mr. R. Bughwan of Durban, and Mr. Naipal Singh Rampery of Kingwilliams Town. Mr. Rampery hails from a well known family in the Cape Province and is a Government certified Motor and Marine Engineer. During his short stay here he has made many acquaintances and has earned the name of a thorough gentleman and is a promising young man full of capabilities.

The ceremony commenced at 10. a. m. and was conducted according to the Vedic Rites by Mr. Reva Shanker Maharaj, the officiating priest. The bride

was dressed with- looked had a match looked beauti palms of the and was After of the guests and a receiv A. R. numb of a presen

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was dressed in beautiful oriental style with lovely Indian jewels, in which she looked very picturesque. The bridegroom had a tussore silk suit and a turban to match. The pair matched very well and looked bright and gay. There was a beautiful marquee erected decorated with palms and bunting and a large number of the prominent townspeople were present.

The ceremony was very impressive and the chanting of the sacred citations was listened to with deep reverence. After the completion of the morning part of the ceremony at about 11 a.m. the guests were treated to "Pan Supari" and a sumptuous dinner.

During the evening at 7 p.m. a reception took place at which Capt A. R. Dunning presided and a large number of guests were present.

The happy couple were the recipients of a large number of useful and valuable presents including cash and cheques.

HIGHER EDUCATION

To the Editor of the Dharma Vir

Sir—Will you kindly allow me a space in your widely-read paper to express my opinion on this subject.

I have recently heard people talking about education and how to educate their children. Now Sir, as this is a very important matter I think it would be wise on our part to have a gentleman who understands these matters and a lady who is possessed of some organising faculties to prosecute this subject.

I would suggest a man like Mr R. L. Paul the organiser of High Grade School who I think would agree to assist in the matter.

I am etc.
N. R. DOOBAY

Durban
1st February 1918.

A Review

"The Rishi Number of the Hindu publication 'Dharma Vir,' is printed and published at Durban and in get up and general appearance compares favourably with many of its contemporaries. Among the various articles is one by Professor T. D. Gajra, M. A., on "An Interpretation of Dayanand." Shri Shri Shankaranandji treats of 'Matter and Mind,' while among other literary contributions there are some interesting 'Gleanings from Tamil Poetry.' A review of the career of 'Dharma Vir' says that the difficulties of running an organ of the Vedic religion have, so far, been successfully overcome. Some excellent illustrations including portraits of the editor, Mr. S. B. Pather, Babu

Syam Sunder Das, Pandit Keshav Dev Shastri, Mrs. Annie Besant and Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore make up a number that reflects great credit on those responsible for its production.

The Star.

The Principles of Education WITH A SCHEME APPLYING THEM TO NATIONAL EDUCATION IN INDIA.

(By Annie Besant.)

The Principles of Education.

(The following outline of the Principles of Education and of their application to India has been submitted to the Board of National Education for criticism, amendment and issue after December 30th.)

The principles of Education, its natural bases in the human constitution, are permanent, while their applications must be local, adapted to the conditions of time and place. Hence while the Natural Law of Education must be recognised, there should be freedom in experiment and flexibility in application, so that we may discover the best methods available to us for the moment, and use them until we find better ones. By following the Natural Law, we shall facilitate the evolution of the child into the adult, working with Nature not against her, that is, Education will be recognised as a science, and not a haphazard dragging up of youth, consisting chiefly in forcing into them knowledge from outside, instead of helping them to unfold and utilise the capacities they have brought with them into the world. As happiness increases the life forces and Pain diminishes them, as Love energises and inspires to Right Action, while Fear paralyses faculty and inspires Hate. Happiness and Love should be the atmosphere inbreathed by the young, whether in the home, the School, or the College.

As man is a spiritual being manifesting in the external world as an intelligence, Emotion and activity, the Education of the young must help the inspiring life to unfold itself, and must train the organs, Intelligence, Emotion and Activity, that is, must be religious, mental, moral and physical. Any so-called education which omits any one of these four departments of human nature is imperfect and unscientific, and its outcome will be a human being deficient in one or more of the groups of capacities on the balanced evolution of which the extent of his usefulness to Society depends.

But the introduction of the world "Society" reminds us that Education is not the training of an isolated individual, but of an individual living within a social

order, the happiness of which depends on the recognition by each that he is not an isolated, but an interdependent being. Society is a congeries of interdependent individuals, every one of whom has his place and his functions, and on his due discharge of the latter the right working of the whole depends. Hence Education must consider the youth as the embryonic citizen, with social duties and social responsibilities, must see him in relation to his environment—the Home, the School, the College—and from his earliest years must train him, as boy and girl, to feel themselves as a part of his country, with his duties and responsibilities to the Motherland; that is, he learns to serve the Motherland in the Home, the School, the College, as a foundation of, and as a preparation for not as a part from—the wider and fuller service, as man and woman, in the larger world. We must evoke the sense of duty by showing the pupil that duty is a debt he owes, first to the parents, the brothers and sisters, the servants who have protected him in his helplessness, have surrounded him with affection, and on whom his nature and happiness still depend. We must evoke the sense of responsibility—by showing him how his thoughts, feelings and actions affect his environment, and then react on himself. Needless to say, we do not teach these principles to the child, but they must be understood and practised by parents and teachers, so that they may base their education of the child on knowledge, and vitalise it by example. (To be continued)

NOTICE

A General Meeting of the Veda Dharma Sabha is to be held on Sunday 17th February 1918 at 2-30 P. M. at Vedic Ashram, York Road, P. M. Burg. All the members are respectfully requested to attend.

Business:

- (1) Confirmation of Account,
- (2) Secretary's Report,
- (3) Election,
- (4) General.

Parbhoo Makanji
Hon. Sec.

The Dharma Viree

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND HINDI.

VOL 2.

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No. 48

THE PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION

WITH A SCHEME APPLYING THEM TO NATIONAL EDUCATION IN INDIA.

This duality, the evolving life and its environment, must be borne in mind throughout education, as its subject-matter will be distributed under these two heads.—

The first includes the evolution of the individual *qua* individual, the drawing out of all he has in him, thus raising him in the scale of evolution. The second is that which the old Greeks called Politics, a word which has been narrowed down in a most illegitimate fashion in our modern days to the strifes of political parties, a degradation of a noble word which used to include all the relations of a man to his environment in that older sense we shall use it here, in order that the unity of the relation of man to his environment may be realised—the unfolding consciousness recognising, and therefore becoming related to, a larger and larger environment: the Home, the School, the College, the City, the Province, the State, the Race, Humanity, the world. There is no break in principle: the first three are a preparatory stage for the second three, and this whole six for the remaining three: the infant, the youth, the young man is the embryonic citizen, to be born into the outer world truly, but shaped and nourished in the womb of the mother, himself all through.

Let us first consider the objects of each department of education.

OBJECTS.

Religious Education—The object is to clear away the obstacles which hinder the natural instincts of the unfold Life—Love to God (Life-side) and Service of man (Politics-side). These obstacles are summed up in the idea of separateness, the essence of spirituality being Unity.

Mental Education—The object is to develop and train the powers of Intelligence as an aspect of the evolving Life. On its Life-side it develops and trains those powers, such as observation, memory, co-ordination, reasoning, judgment, the clarity of thought and its lucid ex-

pression. Its Politic-side is a knowledge of the evolution of Society to its present condition, and a clear vision of the next stage of its progress.

Moral Education—The object is to develop and train the powers of Emotion as an aspect of the evolving Life. Morality is "the science of harmonious relations," and on its Life-side it is truth harmony between the smaller and the larger Self in Will Emotion and Action showing itself in the virtues of accuracy and honesty in intellectual matters, and in the effort to realise the ideal intellectually chosen. On its Politics-side, it is Love, and includes all the social virtues, the sense of duty and responsibility.

Physical Education—The object is to develop, train and co-ordinate the nervous muscular and glandular elements into digestives, respiratory, circulatory, reproductive and nervous systems, with their special organs of action as an aspect of the evolving Life. The Life-side is to provide a sound and well-balanced and well controlled body, as the physical basis for religious, mental and moral activities. All of these are conditioned, by the physical body, are distorted, or rendered excessive or deficient, by physical disturbances, malcoordination, excess or deficiency of physical vitality. The Politic-side is the use of this for service in such of the nine stages above mentioned as are embraced in the individual consciousness.

NATURAL FACTS.

The early evolution of the human being falls into three natural periods of seven years each, ending at the ages of 7, 14 and 21. Pupilage and Studentship ought to cover these, and at 21 the young man and woman should be fit to face and profit by the Education of the outer world.

First Period, Birth to 7. Chiefly Physical. The Senses predominate, and passions are stimulated chiefly by the contact of the sense-organs with external objects; hence the Education should train the senses by accurate observation of na-

tural objects and of the happening of definite sequences, leading later to the evolution of the reasoning faculties, for the training of which the brain has not yet developed—but is preparing—the necessary physical basis. The greatest possible freedom should be given to the child, consistent with protection from serious injury to himself or others, so that he may show his natural capacities and they may be drawn out by opportunities provided for them. The passions, hardly yet to be called emotions, must be gently trained. The nutrition of the body is all-important, as serious errors in this vitiate and shorten the whole future life.

Second Period 7 to 14. Chiefly Emotional. The Emotions predominate, and the mental faculties are excessively coloured by them; hence the Education should be directed chiefly to their training and control, so that when the period of puberty arrives, the boys and girls may understand the broad facts of human physiology, and may have gained a mental control of the emotions. The reasoning faculties are germinal and should be developed but not overstrained; the mental education being mainly the accumulation of facts gained by observation and experiment, and the training of the memory by their co-ordination, the acquiring of languages, formulae, and the like—studies which pend largely on memory.

Third Period 14 to 21. Chiefly Mental. The mind accustomed to observe and well-stored with facts, has the materials of knowledge. It is now to work upon them. This is the period for the developing and training of the reasoning faculties of co-ordination, of judgment, passing to the serious study of Logic, Philosophy, Science and Art.

GENERAL SCHEME.

In all schools, the medium of instruction will be the Mother-tongue of the District. English will be taught as a second throughout the Secondary

and Higher Schools. The hours at school should be from 7 A. M. to 6 P. M. Tuition 7 to 10 and 2 to 4. Food, Rest and Games 10 to 2 and 4 to 6. (The hours will vary in different parts of India. The principle is to have rest, not brainwork, after the chief morning meal.)

The day's work should begin and end with a short religious service with singing.

School Education is divided into Primary classes I and II, ages 5-7 Lower Secondary, classes III, IV, and V ages 7-10, Higher secondary, classes VI, VII, and VIII, ages 10-14, High classes IX and X, ages 14-16. The Higher Secondary, will be closed by an examination, and from this point boys entering on crafts and industries should pass into technical schools. The High will also be closed an examination, after which those who enter profession, such as engineering and the higher grades of agriculture, may go on into Technical Colleges. Those who wish to enter Colleges, will pass an additional year in a preparation class, whence they enter a College, taking their degree in three years i. e. at 20 years of age, and entering on post-graduate studies thereafter.

Girls' education will be the same as that of boys in the Primary and Secondary stages, except that needlework, music and cookery will form a part of the Manual Training in the Secondary stages, and in the Higher Secondary, household economy, hygiene, home science and First Aid will take part of the time devoted the literature, history and geography by those who intend to pass into High Schools. So many girls leave school at 12 and 14 years of age that it is necessary at present to make these modifications. Thus we have:—

PERIODS.

1. Birth to end of 7th year (English birthday).—Primary Education.

2. Birth to end of 5th year—Home.

3. Sixth and Seventh years—Primary School.

4. 2nd to end of 14th year (14th birthday).—Secondary Education.

A sound general education without specialisation closed by a certificate examination. The education should be a judicious balance between theoretical and practical instruction.

5. 14th to end of 21st year (21st birthday) or beyond.—Higher Education.

(This branches out into three sub-periods according to the future chosen by or for the student.)

6. 15th to end of 16th year (15th birthday) High Schools, either com-

pleting the School Course, or leading to the University, of various types:

(a) Ordinary High Schools, including a practical department, and offering various alternative subjects according to the career chosen by the student.

(b) Technical High Schools, including Schools of Agriculture, Trade, Business, etc.

Both closed by a school-leaving certificate examination.

Students passing on to the University do not go up for this examination but take a further year with the examination at its close.

(ii) 17th year, in Preparatory class for admission to the University, at the end of which there is an entrance examination.

(iii) 18th to end of 20th year—the University—including business agriculture teaching, science, arts engineering and other departments i. e. Colleges.

Closed by degree examinations, and leading to post-graduate studies.

Criticisms and suggestions, from the public are invited. (concluded.)

Annie Besant

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 15 February 1918.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Nothing has been heard of the work that is being done in connection with the Higher Education Movement since the deputation waited upon Dr. Loram. Members of our community are always found of doing things in a secret and surreptitious manner. Some of them are simply afraid of the public to do things above board. They find it easy to constitute themselves of their own authority as representatives of the community and do things in its name without its knowledge and sanction. We hope that those who are taking up the question of Higher Education, will come to the community and obtain its mandate. Otherwise they will find themselves in deep humiliation by the community repudiating them and appointing representatives to carry on the work.

Resources of East Africa AREAS OF RICH LANDS Task of Development

(Reuter)

NAIROBI, February 3

A movement arising from want of any positive policy respecting the important economic part which this colony might play in the prosecution of the war, and asking for a return of Sir Percy Girouard in the capacity of Military Governor, has found expression throughout the colony in a series of meetings which culminated in an impressive mass meeting of Europeans and Indians held at Nairobi on Tuesday last, when the following resolution was adopted unanimously:—"This colony, in view of the approaching termination of local hostilities to which it has contributed all available men, believes it can still play an active and useful part in the further prosecution of the war by utilising such portions of its population as are not available for further military service to develop its immense potential energies and resources for the production of those commodities which are urgently required. It is evident that a man with special organising capacity and the prestige of past achievements is required, therefore the colony respectfully asks that Sir Percy Girouard be sent out as Military Governor for the period of the war with the requisite powers to organise the colony's efforts in this direction. This resolution to be cabled to the Prime Minister."

The whole serious of meetings has been remarkable for their enthusiasm, intensity of purpose, and complete unanimity. The mass meeting was presided over by the Hon. M. T. Hunter a member of the Legislative Council and President of the Chamber of Commerce, who was attended or supported by every unofficial member of the Legislative and Municipal Council delegates sent from districts meeting by the settlers and citizens, and representatives of all professions, trades, industries, and portions of the colony.

The gist of the argument adduced by Capt. Buxton at Naivasha, Lord Delamere at Nakuru, Major Grogan at Nairobi, and other speakers throughout the country is, as follows:—In respect of the local campaign, the Colony has produced every available male under a drastic application of the Compulsory Service Ordinance, which was demanded by the public at a mass meeting in 1915. No adequate steps have been taken by the local Government to define the economic policy for the production of local requirements or to urge the important part which the Colony could play in the production of the Empire's war materials.

the Government's attitude, in fine, has been a passive neglect of the Colony's obligations to the Empire, modified only by occasional and reluctant yielding to such pressure as has been possible by expressions of public opinion limited by martial law and the absence on active service of the greater part of the male population. Immense areas of rich lands, the huge advantage of double seasons and many millions of Natives in these regions could be rapidly organised by relatively few white supervisors, equipped with the necessary machinery to produce enormous quantities of some of the more vital war needs of the Empire, thus adding to the Empire's war resources without drawing upon the Empire's fighting personnel, while effecting important economies in the Empire's shipping. The task of such development involves no risk and no waste, since the consolidation of production essential to the conduct of the war is also a preparation for economic restoration after the war. Such policy can only be defined and carried out by some leader with absolute powers recognised by the Home Government and acceptable to local people, and for such purpose his recommendations must pass to the centre of power through the direct channel of war control, and not through the tortuous and doubtful channel of obsolete Crown Colonies system. The watchword is, "Our further part in the war and a leader to help us."

Considerable enthusiasm is being displayed in regard to the matter, and is hoped that the presence of General Smuts in England, with his intimate knowledge of African problems, will help the Home Government to understand the significance of the movement, and take the necessary steps to bring the great latent human energies and material resources of this portion of the Empire into the scale in the prosecution of the war.

NATAL'S POPULATION

Startling Growth Among Asiatics.

The startling feature of the Natal statistics this year is, the growth of the Asiatic population, says the report of the Department of Justice for 1916, recently published.

In Verulam the Asiatic births exceeded the Native births by 400, and were 30 times as many as those of the European births. To every thousand of the Asiatic population there were 46 births and 16 deaths, giving an increase of population of 30 per thousand, whereas with the Natives the increase amounted to only 10 per thousand, and Europeans 7 per thousand.

In the Umzinto district the Asiatic birth rate was 56 per thousand, as ag-

ainst the European birth rate of 18 per thousand, and a Native birth rate of 40 per thousand.

The Asiatic birth rate in Port Shepstone was 46 per thousand, the Native rate 23. As regards the Natives generally, the birth rate, so far as the imperfect figures available for Natal allow of any conclusion to be drawn, were between 30 and 40 per thousand.

At Helpmakaar, the magistrate, commenting on the registration of 49 illegitimate births, remarks that while these figures are small, in comparison with the 24,500 Natives in the district, they are of some magnitude when one considers the change in the lives of the present-day Native, and dying out of the old Zulu type, which goes hand-in-hand with the steady annual increase in the birth of illegitimate children.

In population outside Durban, the largest European population in any individual district is found in Maritzburg, with 17,900. The largest Native population is at Ixopo, 57,000. The largest Asiatic population in any one district outside Durban is at Verulam, with 30,000.

Compared with the population of Durban Borough, these are huge figures the European population at the Port being 33,426 Europeans, 20,302, Natives, and 20,438 Indians.

(The Natal Advertiser.)

Durban Indian Market.

Prior to the recent storm an estimate of £355 was given by the Borough Engineer's Department for the necessary repairs to the Indian market roof, and instructions were duly given by the Council to proceed with the works, but the breakdown in the water supply prevented the department from dealing with it at the time. The storm has since done considerable amount of further damage to the roof and the price of materials has also increased, with the result that the cost of the work will now be £850. The amount of £355 previously voted was an excess vote and authority was asked for the expenditure of a further sum of £495 to carry out this work.

It has been recognised for some time past that the conditions at the Indian market would be considerably

improved by the raising of the roof, and having regard to the large amount of expenditure now necessary to put the roof in repair, the Public Works Committee are of opinion that the time is opportune to consider the question of raising the whole of the roof some four feet, and they have accordingly called for a report and plan.

A Verulam Indian young lady named Miss Ivy, Dorothy Joshua, has successfully passed the Sullivan System of Music, and has obtained the diploma, as a Licenciata of the Sullivan Conservatorium, awarded by Professor Henry Sullivan, L. S. C., and Board Examiners at Johannesburg. The successful student obtained 575 marks out of a total 600 and she is now entitled to use the coveted title L. S. C. after her name. She is the first Indian young lady in Natal to gain the title, and is the eldest daughter of Mr. J. S. Joshua, of Verulam.

The annual races, organised by Messrs. Hajee Hoosen, at Nottingham Road, for coloured people took place lately, when there was big gathering of natives and Indians. Some good horseflesh was to be seen on the course, and many of the events were keenly contested.

Shri Sithee Vinayga Tamil School.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Shri Sithee Vinayga Tamil School, Overport, inform us that through the generosity of the Athee Hindu Vithva Balaya Drama Company a dramatic performance was staged for the charitable purpose of aiding the progress of Tamil Education. The total receipts amounted to £40. 17s. 6d. and expenses to £ 7. 17s. 1d. leaving a balance of £33-0s-5d. The School Committee desire to take this opportunity to once again thank the above Dramatic Company.

The Dharma Vrit

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No. 49

ANCIENT ARYAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE.

Town Administration and Corporations in Ancient India.—The municipal administration of Pataliputra under the Maurya emperor Chandra-Gupta at the end of the fourth century B. C. is described by Megasthenes, who resided in it for some time as ambassador of Seleucus Nicator. He relates that it was under the care of a council of thirty officials, who formed six committees of five members each. These committees respectively (1) regulated the conditions of industry and handicrafts, (2) supervised foreigners in the city, attended to their needs, and when they died buried them and restored their property to the heirs, if they presented themselves; (3) registered births and deaths; (4) regulated sales, issued licenses to traders, and endeavoured to make them use just weights and measures; (5) similarly regulated manufactures; and (6) levied one-tenth of the value of goods sold, under penalty of death.

The Kautilya (ii. 36) speaks of each town as being under the administration of a perfect (nagaraka) under whom were gopas in charge of groups of ten to fourteen families. He kept a register of all persons who came in or went out of the town, and a record of the names, professions, income, expenditure, etc., of every inhabitant, and enforced the various municipal regulations, such as the sanitary bye-laws, the place of residence allotted to each class of the population, the times and markets assigned to the various branches of trade,

and the necessary precautions against fire, for which purpose our author recommends that all cooking should be done outside the houses, that five earthenware jars of water should stand in front of every house, and that axes, baskets, etc., should be kept in readiness.

6. *Corporations.*—There were many guilds and commercial corporations, who were often strong enough to bring about "corners" in the markets and otherwise oppress the public, unless checked by the Zabardasti of the king's authority. They carried on manufactures, agriculture, and trade of all kinds, each member contributing a certain amount of capital, and receiving a proportioned share of the profits. The law-books prescribe that in the case of craftsmen the profits shall be divided, between apprentice, journeyman, skilled workman, and master, in the proportion 1:2:3:4 respectively; a master builder, tanner, or ditch-cutter should receive twice, a master musician 1½ times as much as the ordinary share.

Antiquities of India by Barnell, pages 107—130.

Democracy in ancient India, Assemblies and Councils.—The Royal Assembly or the Great Council of the King met every day. The chief business transacted in this Assembly was to receive and consider the petitions of the people in regard to their grievances. It also discharged the functions of the final Court of Appeal in the State. Matters of general policy affecting the well-being of the State were also some-

times considered in this assembly. The members of the Assembly were the Crown Prince, the Ministers and other high officials, the Commander-in-Chief, the King's relatives, the subject rulers, the nobles, and such other persons as were invited to attend. "The Members of the Royal Assembly," says Vishnu, "should be men who are well-born, possessed of capacity and devoted to the King's interest, who can look with an equal eye upon friend and foe, and who cannot be drawn away from the path of duty by desire, anger fear, or greed."

Members (Sabhaparishad, Sabhasadali) had their allotted seats in the Assembly Hall. Great importance was attached to decorous and courteous behaviour on the part of the members. Mutual conversations were forbidden, and no member was allowed to interrupt another in the midst of his speech. As a rule, members spoke only when called upon to do so, but on an emergent occasion or in case of an impending danger to the State, a member was permitted to address the Assembly without a request from the King. "It is the duty of a member of the Assembly," says Chanakya, "to offer the King the best advice. When his opinion is sought, he should express his views boldly and without regard to the opinions of the other members. He should always speak with due regard to the interests of the State, and in conformity with the principles of righteousness and expediency. He should never indulge in statements which are unworthy

of a member of the Assembly, or of which he has no direct knowledge, or which incredible or false." The Sukraniti advises members of the Assembly to use words "which are pleasant (priya), true (sathya), and conducive to the welfare of the State pathya)."

The procedure adopted at meetings of the Royal Assembly seems to have been somewhat different from that at other meetings. No votes were taken, but all matters were decided by the King, with the advice of the Ministers and in accordance with the general sense of the Assembly. On ceremonial occasions, Grand Assemblies were convened. Such a Grand Assembly was held by Yudhishtira on the occasion of his entry into the newlybuilt capital of Khandava-prastha, when all the renowned sages, the great Kings, and the powerful chiefs of India were invited to attend.

Before any important administrative step was taken, the matter was discussed and decided in the Council of Ministers (Mantri-parishat). This Council was composed of the great Officers-of-State and a few other members who held no office. The size of the Council varied according to circumstances. The schools of Brihaspati held that the number of Councillors should be sixteen, Usanas that it should be twenty, while, in the opinion of Manu, twelve, were sufficient. Chanakya was in favour of a fairly large Council but he thought that the actual number of members should depend upon the needs of the State.

The necessity for the meeting of the Council is briefly described by Visalaksha in the words, "the decision of a single mind can never lead to success." Chanakya says: "The work of government relates to three kinds of things,—those that can be perceived, those that cannot be perceived, and those that can be inferred. To know what is not known, to make certain what is known, to clear away doubts regarding what is susceptible of two opinions, and to infer the whole from the part,—for all these pur-

poses, deliberation with Ministers is necessary. Therefore, the king should deliberate with men who are wise."

(To be continued)

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 22 February 1918.

RICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chief Magistrate of Durban advises the public that on the recommendation of the Rice Advisory Committee the wholesale prices of rice has been fixed for the present month at 38/- for No 1 Rice and 36/- for ration rice. We venture to remark that the situation has not been relieved to any appreciable extent. The whole affair appears to be a farce. If the Government is really anxious to ease the sufferings of the poor class Indians it could surely conceive of some means whereby Indians who earn the paltry sum of £1—10s—0d per mensem may get their rice at a reasonable price. The poor class Indians deserve the especial consideration of the Government in view of the smallness of their monthly earnings. Is it very unreasonable to expect the Governments to take some such steps as that of reducing the customs duty on this staple food? The Cost of Living Commission on the Rice Advisory Committee have proved to be worthless institutions so far as securing any relief for the poor people is concerned. Unless the Government tackle the question more seriously than they are doing at present we are afraid that hunger and want will drive people to desperation.

The Thakur Sahib of Rajkot has announced his desire to give Rs 500 annually towards the expenses for the next five years and to give every other facility that the State can afford if the Syndicate of the Bombay University is prepared to continue Rajkot as a matriculation centre.

India's War Burden.

LORD CHELMSFORD'S TRIBUTE

Responsible Government Problem

London, Feb. 15—Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, in opening the Legislative Council at Delhi, announced that the prospects of the tea industry are now materially improved, and the rice difficulty has been overcome.

He paid a tribute to the European Defence Force, and said India's burden was increasing and the Empire must be prepared for still greater efforts and sacrifices and for fuller organisation of its military resources as regards manpower and material. He eulogised the splendid services of the Imperial Service troops in the various theatres of war, and read a long list of further generous gifts from native princes.

He added: "I have every hope that the Secretary of State for India will take Home proposals embodying a sane, sober advance with the steps of future outlines, so that we will be able to make progress towards realisation of responsible government."

Continuing, the Viceroy said the procedure proposed opened a door for the full discussion of proposals, and would represent a sincere, honest attempt to give effect to the terms of reference.

Lord Chelmsford paid a tribute to the manner in which Mr. Montagu (Secretary of State for India) had approached the task. In conclusion, he said that if ever there was a man engaged in a task beset with difficulties who deserved success, that man was the Secretary of State for India. (Applause.)

The Queen of the Belgians has accepted a gift from the Maharaja of Gwalior of thirty thousand Francs in aid of Belgian charities.

The Floods in Natal

Umfolosi and Ladysmith.

NUMBERS OF FAMILIES DESTITUTE.

LATEST DETAILS OF CASUALTIES

Statement by General Botha.

Capetown, Feb. 18 (Reuter).—In the House of Assembly this afternoon, General Botha made the following statement in regard to the floods in Natal; reports have reached the Government of extensive damage resulting from the recent floods. The Magistrate of Ladysmith, Natal, reports that owing to the Kip River overflowing its banks half the town was under water 2ft. to 5ft. Up to 23 houses have already subsided and 15 European families, besides 80 Indians, and 40 native families are wholly destitute. The Government has authorised the Magistrate at Ladysmith to take all necessary measures to relieve the immediate distress resulting from the floods.

The Magistrate at Lower Umfolosi reported on Sunday that extensive damage was done at Umfolosi River settlement owing to the Umfolosi River coming down. He reports practically all buildings at Umfolosi, except the mill, and the hotel on bank, and station were swept away, that 23 of 65 Europeans missing were reported as saved. The river was coming down rapidly, and rescue work proceeding. A boat attempting rescue work capsized with a woman and two children. A hundred natives and Indians of the mill staff are still missing. Several European and Native bodies were recovered.

Continuing, General Botha said: This morning I was informed that 46 Europeans and about 300 natives have been rescued. On further inquiries being

made the following telegram was received a few minutes ago; "Survivors from Umfolosi River and mill site were rescued in boats to-day. Others were rescued from floating buildings miles down the River. Death roll does not, as far as it has been able to ascertain, exceed 20 Europeans, including two women and five children, and about 30 Indians and natives. Some survivors miles down the River towards the mouth, without clothing and little food. Have sent wagons with food and clothing to bring them up to Kwamboñambi. About 20 European survivors and 300 to 400 Indians have been brought to Empangeni where they are being provided for."

"These," said General Botha, "are the latest details available. The Magistrate at Lower Umfolosi has also been authorised to take necessary measures to relieve distress. The Government is also in touch with the Provincial Administration of Natal on the matter. The Government has already expressed its deep sympathy with those who have been rendered homeless and destitute by the ravages of flood, and is doing all in its power to relieve the distress occasioned thereby. I am sure I am but voicing the sentiments of this House when I say our sympathy goes out to those unfortunate survivors, who have not only lost their worldly possessions, but in many cases also mourn the death of members of their families."

Sir THOS. SMARTT said the House had heard with the deepest regret the statement of the Prime Minister. He thought the Prime Minister was echoing the sentiments of every body in this House when he expressed the deep sympathy of the House and the desire that the Government should do everything they possibly could to alleviate the condition of those unfortunate people. (Hear, hear.) They had in the past been extremely free from calamities of this kind, and especially those people who had the opportunity of visiting Zululand, and seeing the great work done in those

sugar plantations, would realise how serious this calamity was. (Hear, hear.)

Notes and News.

H. H. THE Thakur Sahib of Gondal has made female education compulsory among certain classes of his subjects in the villages where there are girls school.

At a special meeting of the Madras Corporation it was resolved to apply to the Government for a loan of Rs. 9 lakhs at interest not exceeding 5½ per cent. per annum for the expenses of "special works" during the coming official year.

A DEPUTATION of twelve ladies connected with women's education in Bengal are at present on a visit to Bombay with the object of seeing the institution for the spread of women's education on that side of India.

Many new schools are being opened in the Madras Presidency. Rs. 1,15,805 was available in the current year's budget for helping local bodies to open new elementary schools or to develop existing schools and district boards and municipalities were invited in May last to formulate proposals. According to the programme 676 new schools are being opened this month, 579 in rural areas and 97 in municipalities. Of these 243 are for girls and rest are for boys and of latter 47 are for Mohammedans, 42 for Panchanias and 62 for "backward classes."