

The Dharma Vix

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INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Mrs. Besant's Address as President of the 32nd Indian National Congress is a document full of facts and principles put together in a business-like manner. These facts and principles are by themselves sufficient to compel the careful attention of all concerned to the Indian demand for Home Rule and hence Mrs. Besant has left them to speak for themselves without embellishing them with her wealth of eloquence. She dwelt in the early paragraphs of her address with pre-war military expenditure. Between 1859 and 1904, Indian troops were engaged in 37 wars and expeditions. She gave a list of these, pointing out that most of these were due to Imperial, not to Indian policy, but that the burden of expenditure fell on Indian revenues. She went on:

"The financial burden incurred in consequence of the above conflicts, and of other causes, not to be mentioned, would not have been so much resented if it had been imposed by India on herself, and if her own sons had profited by her being used as a training ground for the Empire. But in this case, as in so many others, she has shared Imperial burdens, while not sharing Imperial freedom and power. Apart from this, the change which made the Army so ruinous a burden on the resources of the country was the system of 'British relief,' the using of India as a training ground for British regiments, and the transfer of the men thus trained, to be replaced by new ones under the short service system,

the cost of the frequent transfers and their connected expenses being charged on the Indian revenues, while the whole advantage was reaped by Great Britain. On the short service system the Simla Army Commission declared:

"The short service system recently introduced into the British army has increased the cost and has materially reduced the efficiency of the British troops in India. We cannot resist the feeling that in the introduction of this system the interest of the Indian tax-payer was entirely left out of consideration."

"The remark was certainly justified for the short service system gave India only five years of the recruits she paid heavily for and trained, all the rest of the benefit going to England. The latter was enabled, as the years went on, to enormously increase her Reserves, so that she has had 400,000 men trained in and at the cost of, India.

In 1863 the Indian army consisted of 140,000 men with 65,000 white officers. Great Changes were made in 1885-1905, including the reorganisation under Lord Kitchener, who became Commander-in-Chief at the end of 1902. Even in this hasty review, I must not omit reference to the fact that Army Stores were drawn from Britain at enormous cost, while they should have been chiefly manufactured here so that India might have profited by the expenditure. Lately under the necessities of War, factories have been turned to the production of munitions, but this should

have been done long ago, so that India might have been enriched instead of exploited. The War has forced an investigation into her mineral resources, that might have been made for her own sake, but Germany was allowed to monopolise the supply of minerals that India could have produced and worked up and would have produced and worked up had she enjoyed Home Rule. India would have been richer, and the Empire safer, had she been a partner instead of a possession. But this side of the question will come under the matters directly affecting merchants, and we may venture to express a hope that the Government help, extended to munition factories in time of War, may be continued to industrial factories in time of Peace. The net result of the various causes above-mentioned was that the expense of the Indian army rose by leaps and bounds, until, before the War India was expending £21,000,000 as against the £28,000,000 expended by the United Kingdom, while the wealthy Dominions of Canada and Australia were spending only 1½ and 1¼ millions respectively. (I am not forgetting that the United Kingdom was expending over £51,000,000 on her navy, while India was free of that burden, save for a contribution of half a million.)"

Mrs. Besant went on to relate how the Congress since 1885 has constantly but vainly protested against the ever-increasing military expenditure. After going into the details of the services in men, money and material rendered by India during the present War, Mrs. Besant said:

"With such a record of deeds as the one I have baldly sketched, it is not necessary to say much in words as to India's support of Great Britain and her Allies."

She has proved up to the hilt her desire to remain within the Empire, to maintain her tie with Great Britain. But if Great Britain is to call successfully on her man-Power, as Lord Chelmsford suggests in his Man-Power Board, then must the man who fights or labours have a man's Rights in his own land. The lesson which spring out of this War is that it is absolutely necessary for future safety of the Empire, that India shall have Home Rule. Had her Man-Power been utilised earlier there would have been no War, for none would have dared to provoke Great Britain and India to a contest. But her Man-Power cannot be utilised while she is a subject Nation. She cannot afford to maintain a large army, if she is to support an English garrison, to pay for their goings and comings, to buy stores in England at exorbitant prices and send them back again when England needs them. She cannot afford to train men for England, and only have their services for five years. She cannot afford to keep huge Gold Reserves in England, and be straitened for cash, while she lend to England out of her Reserves, taken from her over-taxation £27,000,000 for War expenses, and this be it remembered, before the great War Loan. I once said in England: "The condition of India's loyalty is India's freedom. I may now add: "The condition of India's usefulness to Empire is India's freedom."

She will tax herself willingly when her taxes remain in the country and fertilise it, when they educate her people and thus increase their productive power, when they foster her trade and create for her new industries. Great Britain needs India as much as India needs England, for prosperity in Peace as well as for safety in War. Mr. Montagu has wisely said that "for equipment in War a Nation needs freedom in Peace." Therefore

I say that, for both countries alike, the lesson of the war is Home Rule for India."

(To be Continued)

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 1 March 1918.

OUR THIRD YEAR.

On the 26th of February 1918 we concluded the second year of our journalistic career. To-day, we commence our third year under the brightest of auguries.

As with the first year, so with the second, the difficulty of obtaining printing paper and the prevalence of high prices generally have limited the scope of our activities and expansion not a little. Our fearless and outspoken expressions and criticisms have been the cause of alienating many sympathisers and friends, while, at the same time, they were the means also of adding considerably to our numbers. While we regret the loss of so many friends, we feel, we cannot swerve from the policy of giving a free and bold expression to our opinions from time to time on current topics of public interest and welfare. Many were the pressures that were brought upon us to swerve from this duty, but, impervious to all influences, we withstood the severe test as firmly as the hardest rock. In looking back upon our editorial activities, we feel, we have every reason to congratulate ourselves over the the successes that have attended our efforts. In the realm of politics we were successful in having created public interest in the proposed Local Government Ordinance which sought the deprivation of the municipal rights and privileges of

our people; we prosecuted with redoubled energy the movement we initiated last year for the inauguration of one repre-

sentative body for the whole of the Indians in Natal. In this connection, we must say, with deep regret, that some of our countrymen are not playing the game. They approach the question obsessed with personal ambitions and endeavour passively to destroy the movement when the attainment of their ambitions becomes rather remote by the turn events subsequently take. We were, furthermore, the sole cause for the holding of the Great Non-Merchants, Demonstration against profiteering which attracted much attention from the press and Union Government and we hope the question of profiteering would be soon terminated. In the realms of Religion and Social Reform our agitation for the resuscitation of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha was crowned with success after very arduous efforts; we made a few converts from among the Moslems and the Christians; without the least hesitation, we threw in our lot with the European women who approached the Town Council for the removal of the houses of ill-repute; we continued a determined and resolute campaign against polygamy and emerged successfully from the controversy we had on this subject with the "Indian Views"; we defended right royally the unjustifiable and uncalled for attack made upon our race by Mr J. H. Nicholson; we continued our campaign against Hindus participating in Mohurram festivities with much fervour, and last but not least we defended our religion against the foolish attack made upon it by Miss Navalkar and

posed Christianity in its true light; we caused the second session of the South African Hindi Sahitya Sammelan to be convened; we endeavoured to awaken the interest of our people in the spread of education in our midst; in memory of our revered Swami Dayanand Saraswati we published on Deepavali Day our second Rishi Number. This Rishi Number was a considerable improvement upon the first both in subject matter and in illustrations. Though many of our generous readers rendered us assistance in its publication, yet, it entailed upon us considerable personal loss which we willingly bore in view of the importance of the publication. Our second number, like the first, was received with general approval by the press as well as by the people. Elsewhere, in this issue, we publish the reviews by the European Press. Personal appreciations were received from the following gentlemen: Secretary for the Interior, Messrs. Geo. Reyburn, the Acting Librarian for the Borough of Durban, C. W. Cousins, Director of Census and Statistics for the Union of South Africa, J. R. Hartshorne, Registrar of Asiatics, Pretoria, J. W. A. Polkinghorne, Protector of Indian Immigrants, G. T. Plowman, Administrator of Natal and others. Our journal had been run for the last two years under great personal and monetary sacrifices by Messrs. R. G. Bhalla and Meharchand Prabdayal. The services rendered by Messrs. Bhawanidayal S. R. Pather and M. Thunpaveln in making this paper a success cannot be sufficiently appreciated. We regret that our Editor-in-chief was un-

able for the last three months to devote much time to discharge his editorial duties and we still more regret his decision to sever his connection with us for some time. In concluding this article, we feel, we owe it to ourselves to express our gratitude to all those friends who kindly assisted us in our work, either as subscribers or advertisers or otherwise, and we confidently hope that we will merit their patronage during the ensuing year.

Rishi Number

Press Reviews

The "Dharma Vir" has not been established so very long as an Indian periodical, but it has become so important and influential as a magazine of high standard that it is regarded with respect by all who have the Vedic ideals at heart. The November number has been produced synchronously with the great Hindu festival of Deepavali, and especial effort has been made by the editor and staff, so that it shall be a memorable publication. The "Dharma Vir" is published in both Indian and English type, and there is a profusion of photographs of celebrities, living and dead, which are of considerable interest. A picture is given of Mr. Ranchod Jivan, who "saved 250 lives during the recent Umgeni flood." The whole issue reflects credit on the compilers and printers.

Natal Mercury

To-day the Rishi or New Year number of the *Dharma Vir* the well-known Indian weekly published in Durban by R. G. Bhalla and edited by S. R. Pather, has been issued, and is in every way a credit to all concerned in its production. It extends to over 70 pages, and is replete with many beautifully executed pictures of leading personages associated with the Hindoo faith. The letterpress includes

gleanings from Tamil Poetry, an interpretation of Dayanand, by Professor Gajra, the Arya Samaj in South Africa, an open letter to Aryavarta Sarbdeshi Sabha, and a resume of the career of Dharma Vir. The published price of the number is five shillings, and it should find a ready sale among all members of the Hindoo community, not only in Durban but throughout the Union.

Natal Advertiser

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of the Rishi number of the *Dharma Vir*, the well-known Indian paper published in Durban for the benefit of the followers of the Vedic Religion. This publication is excellently produced and reflects the highest credit on all concerned in its compilation and general turn-out. There is a profusion of portraits, including many notable Indian leaders of thought and the reading matter has been well selected, and is printed both in English and Indian type. Mr. S. R. Pather (barrister-at-law) the editor, and those associated with him are deserving of cordial congratulations on the success which they have achieved.

The Imperialist

The "Rishi Number" of the Hindoo publication "*Dharma Vir*," is printed and published at Durban and in 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 Swami Shankeranandji treats of Matter and Mind, while among other literary contributions there are some interesting "Gleanings from Tamil Poetry." A resume of the career of "*Dharma Vir*" shows that the difficulties of running this organ of the Vedic religion have, so far, been successfully overcome. Some excellent illustrations including portraits of the editor, Mr. S. R. 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

Congress Impressions.

It was expected that this year's sessions of the Congress would be the most memorable one in the annals of that institution. The Lucknow Congress had passed a notable resolution embodying a Home Rule Scheme of reforms. Then in August last came the Government announcement somewhat in a line with this resolution—the announcement that 'Responsible Government' was the goal of their policy and that substantial steps would be taken in that direction at an early date. Mr. Montagu next arrived and began discussing the question of Reforms with representative bodies and leading Indians and the whole atmosphere became saturated with the talk of reforms. Then, the President of the year was an erst-while internee and the people whose agitation secured the release of this world-famous internee, Mrs Besant, were very anxious to show the highest honour to that lady martyr. Again Mrs. Besant not being in the good books of some moderates, people were expecting some opposition from the latter in the Congress sessions. All these reasons conspired to send theosophist and non-theosophist Home Rulers in large numbers to the Congress of the year. The delegates numbered 5000 and the enthusiasm shown by these delegates and others was indeed soul-satisfying.

But though this year's Congress was a great success for the New Party, it was a success over a receding opposition and without the usual tough fighting. When the election of Mrs Besant became sure and certain the so-called extreme moderates began their masterful retreat. Men like Mr. Prithwish Chandra Ray were even willing to evacuate the whole field and seek shelter in another camp with the little remnant of their army. Mr. Ray had issued a manifesto to that effect. The Bombay moderates disappointed him. They did not come to

Calcutta. They were busy with interviews and deputations to Mr. Montagu. I am sure that they are not deserters from the Congress camp like Mr. P. C. Rai, and there they are quite willing to remain in a minority, "influencing" the Congress business by the weight of their opinions and personalities. The debates in the Subjects Committee, however, lacked the usual interest owing to the absence of the Bombay moderates.

A successful general always anticipates dangers and is ready for them. And so was Mrs. Besant. She was ready with her vast army for any opposition and therefore was sure of her success. Home Rulers were in an overwhelming majority and this year's session can be safely called a Home Rulers' Congress. Only a sprinkling of moderates was there, and it may be noted that even Mr. P. C. Rai was once seen in the pandal. I hope that this attendance did some good to Mr. Ray.

The Bombay special conveyed Mr. Tilak and his party and when the train steamed in to the Howrah station, Mr. Tilak was received by the Bengali and the Marwari brothers in a right royal manner. He was given a tremendous ovation and the cries of "Mahatma-Tilak-Maharaj-Ki-Jey" rent the air throughout the grand procession held in his honour. His carriage was unhorsed and he was taken in all regal splendour through the streets of Calcutta and royally lodged in the Laxmi Narayan Bangla Dharmshala. The hospitality of the Marwaris knew no bounds and every want of Mr. Tilak was attended to with great promptitude. The Marwaris precluded the Bengali brethren from doing their bit in honour of him, and the Bengalees yielded to their wishes. In fact the

enthusiasm shown by our Marwari brethren was beyond all expectation. I think Mr. Tilak's reception must have cost them thousands of rupees; but they willingly spent them in honouring the deal for which Mr. Tilak has stood in storm and sun shine, and that is certainly a happy augury of the days to come.

To be continued

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF A LICENSE.

To the Licensing Officer for Natal.

I hereby apply for the transfer of a License as follows:

Position of present premises: Cato Manor Durban, Division.

Position of proposed new premises: Main Road to Isipingo, South Coast Junction.

Nature of license: Retail.

Period for which license has to run:

31st Dec 1918.

Abdool Majid Applicant.

Date 26th Feb. 18.

व्यापारियों लिये सुविधा

व्यापारियों तथा अन्य लोगोंके सुविधाके लिये अनुमती बुक क्लिपर जो कि आज तकके हिसाब-किताबको निरक्षण कर सकता है और सब भेद गुप्त रखने का भरोसा दिलाया जाता है। इनवायस बनाना, लाभ और हानिका हिसाब, बेलन्स शिट और मुनिमी तथा एजन्सीका काम बहुत रियायत दर पर किया जाता है। पता:-

जे० एल० होनचीन बोक्स ८९८ दरबन

Important Indian Case.

Medical Fees Question

Immigration Trust Boards Claim.

An important judgment was delivered by Mr. R. L. Brandon in the Durban Second Civil Court on Tuesday, the full text of which is given below. The plaintiffs in the matter were the Indian Immigration Trust Board of Natal, constituted under Law No. 20, 1874, and the defendant, V. Govindasamy, who carries on a laundry business known as the Stamford Hill Laundry, at 74, Umgeni Road, Durban, within the borough of Durban. Plaintiffs were represented by Mr. J. H. Nicholson, and Mr. G. Mackeurtan, with Mr. W. T. Clark, appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiffs claimed the amount of £1 16s. 9d. from the defendant in respect of medical fees of his Indian employees.

The facts, which were agreed to by both sides, were as follow:—

During the quarter ended June 30, 1917, the defendant employed at his laundry certain Indians over 18 years of age, on the following dates: April 16, May 15, and June 18. Of the 16 in April, 10 were Colonial-born, three were Indians who came to Natal under indenture, but were then free Indians holding discharges under Section 106 of Law 25, 1891. Of the 15 in May, 12 were Colonial-born, and three were free in the same position as the aforementioned three in April; and of the 18 in June, 11 were Colonial-born and seven free, as those in April and May referred to above.

All these were monthly servants under verbal contracts of service, working as sweepers, washermen ironers, or drivers. Their hours of labour were from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.; they slept and resided at their employers' homes, some outside, some inside the premises. None of them slept or re-

sided on any premises of the defendant. Some of them were married and had children.

The Colonial-born Indians were all descendants of Indians who came to Natal under indenture, but who subsequently became, prior to April, 1917, free Indians holding discharges under Section 106 of Law 25, 1891.

The plaintiffs, on July 1, 1896, appointed a medical practitioner for the Durban circle, and in February, 1910, fixed 9d. per head per month as the medical fees payable under Section 50, Law 25 of 1891.

The plaintiffs now claimed that all those persons employed by the defendant were Indian immigrants within the meaning of Law 25 of 1891, and that the fees were duly payable in respect of them.

The defendant claimed that the fees were not payable, that the free Indians were excluded from the operation of the Act by virtue of Section 109; that Section 50 did not apply to descendants of Indians coming to Natal under indenture and that the laundry was not an estate or place within the meaning of the section.

Mr. Brandon delivered judgment in the following terms:—

In this case the plaintiffs, by virtue of the powers vested in them by Section 50, Law 25, 1891, claim from defendant, the proprietor of a laundry, the sum of £1 16s. 9d. as medical fees in respect of his Indian employees; some of whom are Colonial-born Indians, whilst the remainder are free, holding discharges under Section 106 of the law.

Defendant claims: (1) That the free Indians are excluded from the operation of the law by virtue of Section 109, but the last sentence of Section 49 controverts this. Moreover, Section 109 simply says that on the expiration of five years after introduction into the Colony, every Indian Immigrant who shall have served his contract of service under indenture, may dispose of his service, when the applicable sections shall apply to such Ind-

ians and their new employers, "as if the applicable sections had been expressly re-enacted in this law". The word "herein" is used, but it can only mean "in this law". The applicable sections would, I comprehend, be substituted for Chapters 10, 11, and 12 of Law 25, 1891. So that I am of opinion that Section 109 only affects the rights and duties of free Indians, and their new masters, but it does not affect the rights and liabilities as between the plaintiffs and such masters.

Law 25 of 1891 still holds good as far as they are concerned.

(2) Defendant claims that Section 50 does not apply to descendants of Indians coming to Natal under indenture. The section refers to Indian immigrants only, and Section 181 says the words "Indians immigrant shall mean and include all Indians introduced from India to Natal under the provisions of the laws regulating such introduction, and these descendants of such Indians who may be resident in Natal."

I must therefore hold that Section 50 does apply to descendants of Indians coming to Natal under indenture, if resident in Natal.

(3) Defendant claims that the laundry in question is not an estate or place within the meaning of Section 50. Now, Section 50 is a re-enactment, with certain modifications and additional words, of Section 3 of the repealed Law No. 12 of 1872. The most important additions, as far as this case is concerned, are that after the word "estate" and in lieu of the words "or estate" in line 3 of Section 3, Law 12 of 1872, the words "or elsewhere" have been added in Section 50 of Law 25, 1891, and lower down the words "or places" have twice been added after the word "estate". And Section 50 now says that plaintiffs may appoint a medical practitioner to attend upon Indian immigrants employed upon any estate or elsewhere.

The plaintiffs have made such an appointment. The section further states that "every employer of Indian immigrant (not being free domestic servants)"—

and the Indians concerned in this case do not come under this category—"on any estate or place for which estate or place the Board may have appointed a medical practitioner as aforesaid, shall pay quarterly," etc.

The wording is imperative, clear, and unambiguous.—In the case of the Inspector of Indian Immigrants v. Corporation of Maritzburg (Natal Law Reports, 125) it was held that the Corporation was not liable to pay these fees under Section 3, Law 12 of 1872, referred to above. The Indians in that case, as in this, were unindentured outdoor servants. Mr. Justice Turnbull dealt fully in his judgment as to his idea regarding the meaning of the word "estate". Sir H. Connor, Chief Justice, disagreed with the majority of the Court, and held that the municipality was liable. The Law 25 of 1891, with the additional words "or elsewhere" and "or place," was passed three years after the decision had been given in that case.

I find that the Indians concerned in this case to-day are employed "elsewhere" and "on a place" within the meaning of Section 50. A laundry is not an "estate", but it is "elsewhere" and it is "a place". This, to my mind, is both a grammatical and a logical interpretation of the wording of the section. The fact that none of the Indians sleep or reside at the laundry is immaterial. The test is whether they are employed upon an estate or elsewhere. They are. They are employed at a laundry, and a laundry is "a place".

The laundry is situated within an area for which a medical practitioner has been appointed. The power thus vested in the plaintiffs by the Legislature seems somewhat peculiar, for if Section 50 is strictly enforced they would accumulate large sums of money, sums far beyond the necessity of their "medical fund".

Mr. Brandon, having found the foregoing to be the strict interpretation of the law, said that his duty was perfectly clear. The following dictum of

Lord Cairns, quoted in Natal Government v. Jubilee Gold Mining Company, 9 N. L. R. 266, was quoted as now being applicable. "As I understand the principle of all fiscal legislation, it is this if the person sought to be taxed, comes within the letter of the law, he must be taxed however great the hardship may appear to the judicial mind to be." On the other hand, if the Crown, seeking to recover a tax, cannot bring the subject within the letter of the law, the subject is free, however apparently within the spirit of the law the case might otherwise appear to be. In other words, if there be admissible in any statute what is called an equitable construction, certainly such a construction is not admissible in a taxing statute, where you can simply adhere to the words of the statute."

Proceeding, Mr. Brandon said, This dictum applied to Section 50 of law 25 of 1891, which is a fiscal clause imposing taxation on a special class, and I find that both the defendant and his Indian employes come within the letter and within the spirit of the law.

The additional words mentioned above were doubtless inserted for the express purpose of dealing with a case such as this, in view of the decision in Inspector of Indian immigrants v. Pietermaritzburg Corporation, quoted above."

Judgment was accordingly entered in favour of plaintiffs for the amount of £1 16s. without costs.

Notice of appeal was given.

INDIAN IMMIGRATION.

In a report on the work of the Natal Indian Immigration Department during 1916, it is stated that no fewer than 5,585 Indians were repatriated during the year, an increase of 1,741 on 1915. Of these, 1,865 were repatriated under the Indian Relief Act, which grants Indian immigrants a free passage to India at any time if they have not the means to pay for it. The Indians on leaving were possessed on the average of about £20 each.

Indians From Native States.

The *Star* (Johannesburg), commenting upon the recent decision of the Natal Supreme Court in deciding that an Indian born in one of the Native States of India was an alien and therefore not entitled to appeal to the Court against the decision of the Immigration Officer who had pronounced him to be a prohibited immigrant, says:—

To us it appears entirely contrary to equity that a man who has been allowed to reside in a British Dominion for close on a quarter of a century, and has built up a business for himself, should be declared an alien on a legal side issue, his vested rights and his domicile alike being disregarded. The Natal Supreme Court has of recent years taken an unfortunate part in creating feeling of apprehension among the Indian people. It is always more easy to foster that feeling than to allay it. The legal technical position may be quite sound. We are, however, not concerned with that special aspect, but with the broader standpoint of National and Imperial policy from which the Judgment appears to be indefensible. It is not beside the point to remember that no colony owes more to the Indians than Natal. She was virtually bankrupt before the Indians were imported to stimulate her flagging industries and was only pulled out of the mire by the free use of Indian labour. To-day her prosperity is to a very large extent based on that labour and it is therefore all the more a matter of regret and reproach that the spirit of Natal policy in late years—as interpreted by the Judges of the Court—should be in such flat violation of the principles of Justice and so completely out of consonance with Imperial interests.

ANCIENT ARYAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE.

The Subjects for discussion at meeting of the Council included even

which affected the interests of the State. In particular, Chanakya mentions subjects namely, the measures to be taken to commence work, the command and things for carrying out, and the appropriate time and place of the precautions to be taken against possible dangers, and the means by which final success is to be achieved. The success of deliberation in Council, according to Somadeva, is, "the attainment of large results at small expense." Meetings of the Council were presided over by the King himself, and in his absence, by the Prime Minister. The procedure adopted at a meeting of the Council was this: First a subject was introduced by the President. Then the opinion of each member in turn was heard. Lastly, a sort of general discussion took place. If the members were unanimous, well and good; but if the decision of the Majority prevailed, Brihaspathi says: "That counsel which is taken unanimously, under the guidance of policy, by wise councillors. Where, at first of divers opinions, they are afterwards unanimous, is middling. Where there is broil and reproach, one being for right, and the other for interest,..... tears on the one side, anger on the other, that is the worst." Ministers were required to observe the strictest secrecy in regard to subjects of discussion as well as the decisions of the Council and every precaution was taken against the disclosure of secrets. Debates in the Council were perhaps sometimes lengthy, but Chanakya expresses himself as opposed to prolonged discussions, and urges that time should be lost in taking action. A decision has been arrived at by the Council.

The Council was the chief administrative authority in the kingdom. The King was supposed not to do anything without the consent of the Council. All ordinances were perhaps issued by the Council. It possessed immense powers, and enjoyed a great deal of independence. In exceptional cases, it had even the power to depose the King.

In treating of this subject, we have confined our attention to North India. But it was not in that part of the country alone that the system of government by assemblies and councils prevailed. In the Kerala State in South India, during the first and second centuries of the Christian Era, there were assemblies, namely, (1) the assembly of the people, which consisted of representatives of the people summoned from various parts of the State, and which acted as a check on the King; (2) the assembly of the Priests, which directed

the religious ceremonies of the State; (3) the Assembly of Physicians, which acted as a sort of Board of Public Health; (4) the Assembly of the Astrologers, which fixed auspicious times for the public ceremonies; and (5) the Assembly of the Ministers, whose chief duties consisted in the collection and disbursement of revenue and the administration of justice.

From the Ceylon inscriptions we learn that in that Island all measures were enacted by the King-in-Council, and all orders were issued by, and under the authority of, the council. In the Veyala-Katiya Inscription of Mahinda IV., for instance, we find the following:—..... Goluggum Raksham Kudasenu, Meykappar Kuburgama Lokohi, Katiri Agboh, and Kundala Arayom; all these lords who sit in the Royal Council, and who have come (together) in accordance with the mandate delivered (by the King-in-Council), have promulgated these regulations." When any grant was made by the State to any individual or body, a Council Warrant of Immunity was issued. In the Madirigiriya Pillar inscriptions of Kassapa V. (98—990 A.D.), we find the following passage: "Whereas it was (so) decreed by the Supreme Council, we, all of us, Officers-of-State, namely,..... (five names)..... have come..... by order and granted this Council Warrant of Immunity to the area....." Sometimes Pillars of Council Warrant were set up to inform people of the privileges granted to religious or other institutions. The appreciations of the Importance of the Council by monarchs is shown by the S'rah Inscription of Queen Lilavati where she says: "By creating a council of wise, brave, and faithful ministers, she has freed her own kingdom from the dangers (arising) from other kingdoms."

Public Administration in Ancient India by P. N. Bannerman—Pages 97—105.

Public Works in the South in time of the Cholas:—

Public works: the Cholas were great builders; builders, not only of cities and temples (sometimes for strategic purposes, sometimes in obedience to the dictates of their vanity), but also of useful irrigation works. These may be divided into major works and minor works. These latter were probably constructed and certainly looked after, by the Public Works Committee of the Sabbas. The former were made and perhaps maintained by the Government. Passing over the ancient Chola Karikala, and his more modern namesake, reputed by tradition to have built the embankments on the Kavery, and to have cut the main channels for irri-

gation respectively, we find works of the kind undertaken by later rulers. The names of most of the main channels of irrigation at present watering the Kavery Delta occur in the inscriptions of this dynasty of rulers. The following two instances should suffice to give us an idea of the importance attached to artificial irrigation works in those days. Driving across the town of Tanjore along the road to Trivadi the first river we pass over is now known as Vadavarn (northern river). This river is called in the inscriptions Virachola Vadavarn. (There is another Viracholan river branching from the Kavery a few miles below the bridge at Kumbakonam.) This was evidently cut out from the Veuniar by Virachola to feed a big irrigation tank in the now pastoral town of vaduvur in the Maunargudi taluk, which has no other feeder channel and which waters a large area, else unfit for cultivation. The other instance is the large artificial reservoir at Gangaikondasolapuram in the Wodiarpalliam taluk of the trichinopoly district. I take the following from Pharaoh's Gazetteer of South India: "It may also be mentioned that in Wodiarpalliam taluk there is an embankment sixteen miles long running north and south provided with several substantial sluices and of great strength, which in former times must have formed one of the largest reservoirs in India..... The tank has been ruined and useless for many years and its bed is now almost wholly overgrown with high and thick jungle. It is said traditionally that its ruin was wilful and the act of an invading army. Near the northern extremity of the bund there is a village now surrounded by a jungle, called Gangaikondapuram; immediately in its vicinity is a pagoda of a very large size, and costly workmanship, and close by, surrounded and overgrown with jungle are some remains of ancient buildings now resembling the mounds or 'heaps' which indicated the site of ancient Babylon, but in which the village elders point out the various parts of an extensive and magnificent palace. When this palace was in existence Gangaikondapuram was the wealthy and flourishing capital of a small monarchy, and the great tank spread fertility and industry over miles and miles of what is now trackless forest.... Speaking of the noble temple of Gangaikondapuram it must not be omitted that when the lower Coleroon Ancient was built, the structure was dismantled of a large part of the splendid granite sculptures which adorned it, and the enclosing

wall was almost wholly destroyed in order to obtain material for the work. This magnificent relic of lost greatness, and a forgotten empire, was the work of the great son of a still greater father who built the temple at Gangaikondapuram, measures 372 feet by 584 feet. The lingam made of a single block of polished granite is thirty feet now unfortunately split in twain by a stroke of lightning. The main tower of the Tanjore temple is about 200 feet high and the single block of granite which forms the minaret is twentyfive and a half feet square, calculated to weigh about eighty tons. It was raised to its present position by an incline, which rested on the ground four miles away from the temple. These structures are believed to be the outcome of absolute tower commanding unlimited labour. There is a tradition current, however, of Karikalachola (it may be either the first or the second of the name, it does not matter for our purpose) that he paid the labourers on the Kavery embankment in depreciated coin (coins of leather it is said) in consequence of which there was a dust-storm which overwhelmed the capital and made him flee for his life.

(To be Continued)

विविध विषय

गत १५ फरवरीको विलायतसे लाया गया है कि भारतके वायसराय लार्ड चेम्सफोर्ड ने देहलीमें बड़ी व्यवस्थापिका का कार्य चालू करते समय कहा कि वाय की खेतीकी उन्नति की गई है और खिलकी कठिणाईयां भी मिट गई हैं। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि लडाईमें भारतका परबढ़ता जाता है और भारतको साम्राज्यके रक्षाके लिये धन और जनसे पूरी मद करनी चाहिये। इसके बाद आपने भारतीय सिपाहियोंके वीरताका बखान कर भारतीय राजवाडोंसे मिलनेवाली सहायकी सूची पढ़कर सुनाया। स्वराज्यके लोभसे लट साहबने कहा कि मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि भारत मंत्री भारतके भावी रा-

जपद्धतिकी ख्यालात साथ ले जायगे और इससे स्वराज्यके विषयमें उन्नति करनेका अच्छा अवसर मिलेगा। इस विषय पर विचार करनेके लिये दरवाजा खोल दिया गया है और इस सम्बन्धमें हमानुदासी तथा सहृदयतासे काम किया जायगा। भारत मंत्रीका प्रशंसा करते हुए लार्ड चेम्सफोर्डने कहा कि यदि भारतके स्थिति के जांच करनेमें कोई कठिणाईयोंका सामना करके सफलता प्राप्त कर सका है तो वह भारत सचिव मि० मटिंग महोदय हैं।

‘विवेकभानू’ के सम्पादक म० सी० वी० पिल्लेपर आक्रमण करनेके अमिचोगमें विगत गुरुवारको एक भारतीय और दो नेटिव दरबानके फौजदारी अपालत में खड़ा किये गये। मजीस्टरने भारतीय अभियुक्तको ५ पौंड जुर्माना किया और न दे सकने पर ३० दिवसके कैदका सजा दिया लेकिन दोनो नेटिव छोड़ दिये गये।

अखिल भारतवर्षीय हिंदी साहित्य सम्मेलनके ओरसे श्रियुत प्रतापनारायणजी हमें सूचित करते हैं कि “सम्मेलनका अष्टम अधिवेशन श्रीमान मोहनदास कर्मचन्द गान्धी महोदयके सभापतित्वमें शुक्र, शनि और रविवार २९, ३० और ३१ मार्च सन १९१८ ई० को इन्दौर नगरमें होगा। इस पत्रके साथ स्थायी समिति के अधिवेशनकी कार्य विवरण आपके सेवामें प्रकाशनार्थ प्रेषित है जिससे सब हाल विदित होगा। हम विस्तृत कार्य विवरण अगामी अंकमें प्रकाशित करेंगे।

गत २४ फरवरीको डेनहौसर हिंदी प्रचारिणी सभाका तृतीय वार्षिकाधिवेशन हुआ जिसमें नविन चुनाव इस प्रकारसे

हुआ—सभापति गुरुदीन चमैधरी। उपसभापति और कोषाध्यक्ष भवानीराम। मंत्री रूप सिंह और उपमंत्री रामसुन्दर पाठक। इसके अलावे १९ अंतरंग सदस्य चुने गये। सभाप्रति तथा सदस्योंने प्रतिज्ञा किया कि हिंदी पाठशाला बनानेमें शीघ्रता की जायगी मंत्री रूप सिंह के प्रस्तावसे २ पौंडसे अधिक मासिक चन्दा भी निश्चित हो गया। आशा है कि अब पाठशाला बनानेमें अधिक बिलम्ब न होगा क्योंकि सर्व सदस्योंका इस ओर ध्यान आकर्षित हुआ है। हार्दिगस्परुटके म० जीवनरामजी, ग्लको जंकशनके कल्लू अहिर और डंडीके म० चोखेलाल महाराज भी पधार थे रामकुमार पाठकके मृत्यु पर शोक प्रकट किया गया और भूतपूर्व सभापति विन्धेश्वरी महाराजको धन्यवाद दिया गया।

मेरीत्सबर्ग वेद धर्म सभाका नविन चुनाव इस प्रकारसे हुआ है—संरक्षक श्रीस्वामी आत्मानन्दजी। प्रधान डी० के० सोनी। उपप्रधान पद्म सिंह और नामदार सिंह। संयुक्त मंत्री आर० एम० सुरगेश और पी० आर० सिंह। कोषाध्यक्ष आर० एन० मुडली। निरक्षक वी० सी० नाथू अंतरंगसभासद विश्राम नरशी, एस० हनुमान, एल० एम० पिल्ले, सुब्रह्मणियम, और आर० जी० मुडली।

विगत मंगलवारको ओवरपोर्टके स्वर्गीय रामधनी शाहके पुत्र म० गणेश प्रसादका विवाह म० भागीरथीके कन्याके साथ हुआ और स्वर्गीय रामधनी शाहके पुत्रीका विवाह ग्लको जंकशनके म० चन्द्रिका शाहके पुत्र म० रामनारायणके साथ उसी दिन हुआ। टांसवाल तथा नेटालके भिन्न भिन्न नगरोंसे बहुत आदमी आये थे हम यही चाहते हैं कि उक्त दोनो दम्पतिका भविष्य मंगल प्रद हो।

A U M. The Dharma Vira

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No. 1

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Having dealt with the War and its lesson, Mrs. Besant turned to the fact of the New Spirit in India regarding which she said:

"Apart from the natural exchange of thought between East and West, the influence of English education, literature and ideals, the effect of travel in Europe, Japan and the United States of America, and other recognised causes for the changed outlook in India, there have been special forces at work during the last few years to arouse a New Spirit in India, and to alter her attitude of mind. These may be summed up as: (a) The Awakening of Asia. (b) Discussions abroad on Alien Rule and Imperial Reconstruction. (c) Loss of Belief in the Superiority of the White Races. (d) The Awakening of the Merchants. (e) The Awakening of the Women to claim their Ancient Position. (f) The Awakening of the Masses."

She then dealt with each of the above sub-heads at some length. We shall content ourselves with the following extracts from this part of her address:—

"The present movement in India will be very poorly understood, if it be regarded only in connection with the movement in the East. The awakening of Asia is part of a world-movement, which has been quickened into marvellous rapidity by the world-war. The world-movement is towards Democracy, and for the West dates from the breaking away of the American Colonies from Great

Britain, consummated in 1776, and its sequel in the French Revolution of 1789. Needless to say that its roots was in the growth of modern science, undermining the fabric of intellectual servitude, in the work of the Encyclopaedists, and in that of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and of Thomas Paine. In the East, the swift changes in Japan, the success of the Japanese Empire against Russia, the downfall of the Manchu dynasty in China and the establishment of a Chinese Republic, the efforts at improvement in Persia, hindered by the interference of Russia and Great Britain, with her growing ambition, and the creation of British and Russian "spheres of influence" depriving her of her just liberty, and now the Russian Revolution, and the probable rise of a Russian Republic in Europe and Asia, have all entirely changed the conditions before existing in India. Across Asia, beyond the Himalayas, stretch free and self-ruling Nations. India no longer sees as her Asian neighbours the huge domains of a Tsar and a Chinese despot, and compares her conditions under British rule with those of their subject populations. British rule profited by the comparison, at least until 1905 when the great period of repression set in. But in future, unless India wins Self-Government, she will look enviously at her self-governing neighbours, and the contrast will intensify her unrest.....

"As the War went on, India slowly and unwillingly came to realise that the hatred of autocracy was confined to

autocracy in the West, and that the degradation was only regarded as intolerable for men of white races; that freedom was lavishly promised to all except to India, that new powers were to be given to the Dominions, but not to India. India was markedly left out of the speeches of statesmen dealing with the future of the Empire, and at last there was plain talk of the White Empire, the Empire of the Five Nations, and the "coloured races" were lumped together as the wards of the White Empire, doomed to an indefinite minority.

"The peril was pressing; the menace unmistakable. The Reconstruction of the Empire was on the anvil; what was to be India's place therein? The Dominions were proclaimed as partners; was India to remain a Dependency? Mr. Bonar Law bade the Dominions strike while the iron was hot; was India to wait till it was cold? India saw her soldiers fighting for freedom in Flanders, in France, in Gallipoli, in Asia Minor, in China, in Africa; was she to have no share of the freedom for which she fought. At last she sprang to her feet and cried, in the words of one of her noblest sons: "Freedom is my birthright, and I want it." The words "Home Rule" became her mantram. She claimed her place in the Empire.

"Thus, while she continued to support, and even to increase, her army abroad, fighting for the Empire, and poured out her treasures as water for Hospital Ships, War Funds, Red Cross

Organisations, and the gigantic War Loan, a dawning fear oppressed her lest, if she did not take order with her own household, success in the War for the Empire might mean decreased liberty for herself.

The first great shock to their belief in white superiority came from the triumph of Japan over Russia, the facing of a huge European Power by a comparatively small eastern Nation, the exposure of the weakness and rottenness of the Russian leaders, and the contrast with their hardly virile opponents, ready to sacrifice everything for their country. The second great shock has come from the Frank brutality of German theories of the State, and their practical carrying out in the treatment of conquered districts and the laying waste of evacuated areas in retreat. The teachings of Bismark and their practical application in France, Flanders, Belgium, Poland and Serbia have destroyed all the glamour of the superiority of Christendom over Asia. But even deeper than the outer tumult of war has pierced the doubt as to the reality of the Ideals of Liberty and Nationality so loudly proclaimed by the foremost western Nations, the doubt of the honesty of their champions. Sir James Meson said truly, a short time ago, that he had never, in his long experience, known Indians in so distrustful and suspicious a mood as that which he met in them to-day. And that is so. For long years Indians have been chafing over the many breaches of promises and pledges to them that remain unredemmed. The maintenance here of a system of political repression of coercive measures increased in number and more harshly applied since 1905, the carrying of the system to a wider extent since the War for the sanctity of treaties and for the protection of Nationalities has been going on, have deepened the mistrust. To these deep causes must be added the comparison between the progressive policy of some of the Indian States in matters which most affect the happiness of the people, and the slow advance made un-

der British administration. The Indian notes that this advance is made under the guidance of rulers and ministers of his own race. When he sees that the suggestions made in the People's Assembly in Mysore are fully considered and, when possible, given effect to he realises that without the forms of power, the members exercise more real power than those in our Legislative Councils. He sees education spreading, new industries fostered, villagers encouraged to manage their own affairs, and take the burden of their own responsibility, and he wonders why Indian incapacity is so much more efficient than British capacity.

Of the many forces that have created New India, the awakening of the Merchant into political life is perhaps the most potent, and the most pregnant with happy possibilities. Sir Dorab Tata, in the Industrial Conference in Bombay, 1915, advocated the yoking together of Politics and Industry. It is now coming about. Hitherto the merchants had remained immersed in their own occupations, but they were awakened by the War to the necessity of taking part in politics by finding that those very occupations were threatened with disaster by the attitude of the Government; as for instance, the refusal to lend a helping hand to industries which had been connected closely with German trade and were menaced with ruin by the War; by the refusal to aid the efforts made to replace necessities, hitherto supplied by Germany, by the founding or financing of factories for their production at home; by the restrictions put on trade under pretext of the War, that prevented the legitimate expansion of promising branches of industry; by the absence of effort to relieve the stringency of the money market, wealthy merchants being unable to obtain cash to meet their liabilities here, because their English debtors could not transmit the money they owed; some were even obliged to sell the depreciated Government paper at heavy loss in order to maintain their credit; in other cases War Bonds were offered

to them in lieu of cash for goods supplied.

Indian merchants have seen the swift expansion of Japanese trade, and know that it is fostered by the Japanese Government both by protection and with bounties. They have to compete with it in their own land. Is it any wonder that they desire an Indian Government? They see Japanese goods underselling them and flooding their own markets. Is it any wonder that they desire a Home Government, that will put duties on these foreign goods and protect their own products?

To be continued

Congress Impressions.

(BY AN EYE-WITNESS)

The Congress sessions opened at the appointed time. Many of the Bombay delegates who went to Calcutta by special train were somewhat late in arriving in the Pandar and were obliged to sit in a corner in the visitors' gallery. They had intimated to the Congress authorities that they would come in a body and therefore they expected that their seats would be reserved. But to their surprise, they (they were 350) found not even one seat vacant in the section reserved for Bombay and they were therefore very much disappointed. Many were away chafing at the supposed mismanagement. But in their indignation they forgot two things: The unexpected rush of delegates, many of them having come without giving an intimation to the Congress authorities, and the usurpation by some of the delegates of the seats reserved for others. The Congress authorities expected 3000 delegates, i. e. a few hundreds more than the number at Lucknow, and had as many seats reserved. But when nearly 5000 delegates rushed in, the arrangements were upset.

One remark about the number of delegates and visitors. Year by year the number is increasing and the Congress is on the verge of being a mass

meeting. The pandal can be made bigger and bigger every year to accommodate all, but the poor voice of the average speakers fails to reach beyond a few rows and the delegates and the visitors beyond that line have only the poor consolation of only seeing the man speak. Even the stentorian voice of Surendranath Bipin Pal was inaudible to many, then that of poor throats like that of Mr. Ghannah or Mr. Rainsamy? The speeches were, as usual, extempore and therefore those delegates and visitors who had the misfortune to occupy the back rows had not even the satisfaction of reading them. I do not see much use in swelling the numbers when no great gain is in sight. Inaudibility necessarily fixes a limit, and I think that the Congress sessions should be held of a fixed number of delegates only. If the delegates are to run every year at an enormous expense to the place of the Congress and hear nothing and do nothing except raise their hands at the time of the election of the Subjects Committee, then, I think, so much money and time and energy are a sheer waste. Only think of the Bombay delegates who went to Calcutta by the special train. Taking on an average Rs. 100 per head, the total amount spent by the 350 persons who travelled there comes to Rs. 35,000! What an enormous cost for raising hands in the Subjects Committee election. Home Rule Leagues and Congress Committees issue appeals after appeals for funds and, even after strenuous and long continued labour, they command only a few thousands. The 5,000 delegates have contributed, as delegation fees, only Rs. 50,000 but the Railway companies and others have gained ten times at least by the trips of these delegates. Were this money obtained by the Congress authorities then much good and solid work could be done. I hope that the Congress authorities will seriously think of this waste. A limit to the number of delegates from each Congress unit is the proper remedy. This will result in another ad-

vantage. If the number is fixed then there will arise some sort of competition between the would-be delegates at the time of election and that will be some sort of training to them. I now come to the memorable sessions itself. It began with a vedic prayer and the national anthem *Bande Mataram*, the choir being led by that sweet songstress Miss Amala Dass, sister to Mr. C. R. Dass. Then the modern Indian sage and poet-laureate, Sir Ravindranath Tagore, in his sweet and penetrating voice, recited his prayer. Many of the delegates were extremely anxious to see this hero of literature, and the hoary sage with his aquiline nose, broad forehead and bright face was greeted with expectant eyes and grateful minds and was applauded with a genuine feeling of reverence when he took his seat.

(To be Continued)

INDIAN WAR EFFORTS

Satisfactory Recruiting.

Generous War Gifts.

London, March 1.—There has been a remarkable growth of interest in the war among the people of India during the past months, says Reuter's Delhi correspondent, accompanied by an increasing effort to assist the Empire and the Allies.

The latest recruiting figures are highly satisfactory. The women of India are increasingly participating in war work, and the Indian princes and rulers continue to make generous war contributions. The latest gifts include an offer by the Rao of Cutch to continue for the duration of the war the annual payment of £36,000 towards the expenses of an Indian infantry regiment and £33,000 given by the Gaekwar of Baroda.

Natal Mercury

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF A LICENSE

I hereby apply for the transfer of a License as follows:

Position of present premises: Cato Manor Durban, Division.

Position of proposed new premises: Main Road to Isipingo, South Coast Junction.

Nature of license: Retail.

Period for which license has to run: 31st Dec. 1918.

Abdool Majid Applicant.

Date 26th Feb. 18.

विज्ञापन

सर्व प्राचिन सदस्योंको; जो १९ फरवरी १९१८ के नवनिर्वाचनसे पूर्वके सदस्य हैं, सादर सूचित किया जाता है कि वेद धर्म सभा का आसाधारण अधिवेशन १७ मार्च १९१८ रविवारके २ बजे मेरी-त्सवर्ग-यॉर्करोड के वैदिक आश्रममें आरम्भ होगा। आशा है कि आप सर्वसज्जन पधार कर कृतार्थ करेंगे। समस्त महाशयोंको हिन्दीमें बात करना होगा। जो महाशय किसी विषय पर बात करना चाहें वे सभापतिको प्रथमहीं लिखित सूचना देंगे। केवल हिन्दी जाननेवाले सदस्य हो सकते हैं कार्य:— हिसाबकी जांच, मंत्रीका विवरण और नविन निर्वाचन।

डी० के० सोनी (सभापति)
पद्म सिंह (उपसभापति)

प्रेरित पत्र।

सम्पादकजी !

हमारे सुननेमें आया है कि आर्य युवक सभाके एक प्रतिष्ठित सभासदका विवाह पौराणिक रीतिसे होनेवाला है। हम समझते हैं कि कोई भी आर्य भाई इस पद्धतिका समर्थन नहीं करेगा। हम तो उस दिनका प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं जब नेटालमें घर घर वैदिक विवाह होने लगे और इस विषयमें आर्य युवक सभाको मार्ग प्रदर्शक बनना चाहिये हम आशा करते हैं कि सभासद महाशय अपने आत्मिक बलका परिचय देकर इस सुअवसरको हाथसे न जाने देंगे।

“आर्य”

128819

The Dharma Vir

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OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

Successful Celebration.

In response to the invitation issued by the proprietor, editors and staff of this journal a number of our readers gathered at our printing press to celebrate the second anniversary of the "Dharma Vir." Among those present were Messrs Parbhoo Makanji, who presided, H. L. Paul, R. N. Moodley, B. A. Meghraj, M. R. P. S. Chetty, S. D. Geriou, G. D. Lalla, B. Purmasur, K. K. Pillay, T. V. Pather, S. R. Pather, Bughwandin, Hanu Prasad, Beethasie Maharaj, A. J. Koobair, Chatter Dharry, Singh, Sookoo, Mahanand Lal M. Thungavelu & others. Messages of congratulations were received from various friends both in Natal and Transvaal.

The Havan Ceremony was performed by Mr. Revshanker Maharaj Meharchand Prabddyal and others under a pandal erected for the occasion.

Mr. Parbhoo Makanji was when taking the chair, garlanded by Mr. R. G. Bhalla, the proprietor amid applause.

Mr. P. Makanji briefly thanked the audience for the honour conferred upon him and called upon Mr. R. G. Bhalla to say a few words.

Mr. Bhalla said that man was born in human form not to do good to himself but to do good to others. He had run the "Dharma Vir" for the last two years under the greatest of difficulties. No community could have a more effective means of expressing its opinion and ideas than a paper. If "Dharma Vir" ceased to exist he felt sure that the Hindu Community in this country would to all intents and purposes cease to exist.

Dharma Vir is the sharp sword of the Hindus. The community is the body and our journal its soul. This journal is out to do work for the public. The individual who does no good to others though born may be considered as not born and as a worthless lump of clay. "Dharma Vir" has been the means of awakening the Hindus. He appealed to the public to do their best endeavours for the journal's success. Messrs. S. R. Pather and M. Thungavelu and others who have rendered assistance in various ways deserve my grateful appreciation.

Mr. R. N. Moodley said he was confident that the "Dharma Vir" infused a new spirit among the Hindus and awakened them to a realization of the merits of their religion. He hoped Hindus and especially the Hindusthanes will support the paper.

Mr. H. L. Paul said that the Dharma Vir has rendered great services to the Indian Community. It is the only Indian paper in this country for which he has the greatest respect. He thanked all those connected with it for the noble work they are doing.

Mr. S. R. Pather said that it was not for him to sing praises with regard to the "Dharma Vir". He left that to the public. The paper has in a short time become an influence in the country. He was sorry he was forced by pressure of time to sever his connection with the paper for some time. He was unable to devote much time during the last three months. Those connected

with the paper were rendering great sacrifices, particularly Mr. Meharchand Prabddyal.

He concluded by saying that Mr. Bhalla scrupulously avoided entering with his editorial duties.

Mr. M. Thungavelu in speaking said that is a matter of congratulation for the Dharma Vir to have entered the third year in the arena of journalism. Unlike other papers this journal had a difficult task in surmounting the many difficulties that it was confronted with from within and without. However through the self-sacrifice of all those concerned, the paper has gained considerable popularity and circulation. It is the duty of all Hindus to look up to this journal as their organ for it is to protect and safeguard their interests and to espouse the cause of Indians is the object of this journal. It is hoped that the day is not far when this journal shall become the official organ of the S. African Hindus. Messrs R. G. Bhalla, S. R. Pather, Meharchand Prabddyal & others connected deserve the thanks of the Community for the consistent and successful manner they have conducted the paper against great odds.

Mr. S. D. Geriou said that some people are offended with the "Dharma Vir" because their articles were not printed. This is a mistake. This journal is very essential. If a paper of this kind were not in existence who would have defended our religion against the attacks of Miss Navalkar or who would

defended our race against the attacks of the mayor. On behalf of the Yuvuc Sabha I thank all those connected with the press.

Messrs. M. Beethasie, Bhawani Dayal R. Pather, B. A. Meghraj, K. K. Pillay, A. J. Koobair, and others also spoke.

The Chairman again said that the Dharma Vir has rendered great services to the community. It was the duty of every Hindu to read this paper. They must look at the example of the Europeans who cannot have their meal without reading the daily paper.

He appealed to those present to donate whatever they thought proper towards upkeep of the paper. He would start by donating £5. 5s. 0d.

The following donations were also received:—Mr. Mandraj Singh £2. 0. 0 R. N. Moodly, £1. 1s. 0d. B. A. Meghraj, £1. 1s. 0d. T. V. Pather £1. 0. 0. Harie Krishan 10s. Ramabhar Nankoo 5s. Hira Varma 5s. Harie Prasad 5s. Sri Sabha Overport £1. 1s. 0d. S. D. Geron 10s. Bughwandin 10s. Garceeb Kusal 10s. K. K. Pillay 5s. K. N. Pather 5s. B. A. Tilakdharee 10s. 6d. B. Purnasari 10s. Mahanandlal 5s. Total £15. 18s. 6d.

The chairman said he hoped those who are not present will also donate whatever they liked. The names and amounts will be published.

Mr. S. R. Pather was garlanded and both Messrs R. G. Eshla and S. R. Pather were presented with a Hindi book by Mr. Bhawani Dayal.

The proceeding terminated with the singing of Arti. Light refreshments were also served.

Town Councils Powers

PROPOSED DRAFT ORDINANCE.

A Comprehensive Measure.

The Durban Town Council has recently had under consideration the drafting of a Provincial Ordinance to

confer further powers on town councils and local boards, the draft of which is now complete, and which it is proposed to introduce into the next session of the Provincial Council. It is hoped, we understand, that the Natal Municipal Association will agree to promote the Ordinance, but if the united municipalities cannot see their way to take up the measure, the Durban Town Council will promote the Ordinance, the necessity for additional powers being urgent, so far as they are concerned.

The first important section is that dealing with the qualification of burgesses, and this provides:—

(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Law 19 of 1872, or any amendment thereof, no persons shall be entitled to be enrolled on the Burgess Roll for the borough nor shall such persons be enrolled on such roll unless he or she be a British subject.

(2) Section 14 of Law 19 of 1872 is hereby amended by the addition of the following further subsection, namely: (c) Aliens who have not been naturalised.

(3) Section 22 of Law 19 of 1872 is hereby amended by the addition of the following further proviso, namely: And provided further that no person not qualified to vote at elections under Law 19 of 1872 or any amendment thereof shall be capable of being elected or continuing to be a councillor."

Section 13 is a very lengthy one, and gives councils powers in respect to a variety of subjects. Amongst the powers sought are to accept trust deeds for charitable or public purposes; to establish bazaars for Asiatics, coloured person, and natives. In regard to tramway matters the Council seek powers, amongst other things, to appoint separate tramcars for Europeans, Asiatics, and natives.

In the proposals regarding places of entertainment, it is proposed to seek powers to prohibit European females being employed in places of entertainment for Asiatics or natives. It is also proposed to obtain powers to prohibit Europeans from dwelling in buildings occu-

pied, by Asiatics or natives.

The colour question again arises in respect of powers asked for by the Council to restrict public baths to Europeans or Asiatics or natives, and it also asks for similar powers with regard to portions of the sea or open pieces of water used for bathing. It also seeks power for regulating the use of public streets or places of entertainment or recreation by Europeans, Asiatics, or natives and for the setting apart of public places or places of entertainment for the exclusive use of one section of the community.

The Council desires to institute a municipal registration of births, compelling parents to register the birth of the children with the Medical Officer of Health, as well as with the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

Various other powers are sought and the Ordinance as a whole apparently seeks to place the Council in a stronger position in regard to various matters in which their powers have been doubtful.

The Natal Mercury

Municipal Ordinance

A Committee Meeting of the Municipal Disenfranchisement Protest Committee was held on Wednesday evening at the Tamil Institute, to consider what steps is to be taken in connection with the New Draft Ordinance of the Durban Corporation. Mr. S. Emamally presided.

The Secretary, Mr. M. Thungavelu, read out the Draft Ordinance as affecting the Indians. Mr. P. S. Aiyar explained the position. A Sub-Committee was appointed to go into the whole matter and to take such action as they deem necessary and they were also authorised to go into the Compulsory Free Education Ordinance.

The Community should not be dormant, but awake to their sense of responsibility and protest their rights which are being threatened.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The furious uprising of the European Associations, ever indifferent to politics which only concern Indian interests, has shown them that their trade rivals dread the transfer of power, because they fear to lose the unfair privileges and advantages which they have always enjoyed. The humble traders of the seveneenth century became the masters of India. They are not accustomed to a struggle on equal terms, and the prospect dismays them. They want privilege, not justice and a fair field. The Indian merchants now realise that in the trade-war after the end of the present War, they will go down unless they have power in their own country. Trade, commerce, industry, organised by the countrymen of the European Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations, mean ruin to the Indian merchants, traders and manufacturers. The favouritisms of Governments and English Banks has spelt hard struggle during the period when organisation was wanting. When it is accompanied by organisation created and ruled by the foreigners it will spell ruin.....

"And during the last few years the hidden fire long burning in their (women's) hearts, fire of love to Bhatnagar, fire of resentment against the aliened influence of the religion which they passionately love, instinctive dislike of the foreigner as ruling in their land, have caused a marvellous awakening. The strength of the Home Rule movement is rendered tenfold greater by the adhesion to it of large numbers of women, who bring to its helping the uncalculating heroism, the endurance, the self-sacrifice, of the feminine nature.....

"Home Rule has touched the railway through his village life, where the present order presses hardly upon him in ways that I shall refer to when dealing with agricultural conditions. He resents the rigid payment of tax in

money instead of the variable tax in kind, the Kings share of the produce. He resents the frequent resettlements, which force him to borrow from the money-lender to meet the higher claim. He wants the old Panchayat back again; he wants that his village should be managed by himself and his fellows, and he wants to get rid of the tyranny of petty officials, who have replaced the old useful communal servants....."

The next question taken up by Mrs. Besant was 'Why India demands Home Rule.' She said that India demands Home Rule for two reasons, one essential and vital, the other less important but weighty. 'First, because Freedom is the Birthright of every Nation; secondly, because, her most important interests are now made subservient to the interests of the British Empire without her consent, and her resources are not utilised for her greatest needs.'

"Self-Government.' Mrs. Besant said, "is necessary to the self-respect and dignity of a people; other Government emasculates a nation, lowers its character and lessens its capacity." "A Nation is a spark of the Divine Fire, a fragment of the Divine Life, outbreathed into the world, and gathering round itself a mass of individuals—men, women and children, whom it binds together into one. Its qualities, its powers, in a word, its type depend on the fragment of the Divine Life embodied in it, the Life which shapes it, evolves it, colours it and makes it one. The magic of Nationality is the feeling of oneness and the use of Nationality is to serve the world in the particular way, for which its type fits it." This is what Mazzini called "its special mission," the duty given to it by God in its birth-honour. Thus India had the duty of spreading the idea of Dharma, Persia that of purity, Egypt that of Science, Greece that of Beauty, Rome that of Law. But to render its full service to Humanity it must develop along its own lines and be Self-determined in its evolution. It must be Itself, and not Another.

The whole world suffers where a Nationality is distorted or suppressed, before its mission to the world is accomplished.

Mrs. Besant went on to describe the stunting process which begins with the education of the child and pursues the Indian throughout his days, a process which has been responsible for the meek submission of the generality of Indians to foreign domination and the deadening in them of "the natural instinct born in all free peoples, the feeling of an inherent right to self-determination, to be themselves." But the reaction has already set in and myriads of Indians already realise that "they are men with a man's right freedom in his own country, a man's right to manage her own affairs." "India is no longer on her knees for boons; she is on her feet for Rights."

Mrs. Besant's passing on to the Secondary reasons for the Home Rule demand reviewed Indian affairs under the following headings:—Education, Sanitation and Medical relief, Agricultural development, Peasant's grievances, Industries, and crafts, Local Self-government, the Indians and the Councils, Indians and the public services. She pointed out how the Indian administration had failed to safeguard and promote the interests of the people in any of the most vital departments of national life and emphasised the necessity of making a radical change in it if the people were to be saved:

"It will be seen that the Secondary Reasons for the demand for Home Rule are of the weightiest nature in themselves, and show the necessity for its grant if India is to escape from a poverty which threatens to lead to National bankruptcy, as it has already led to a short life-period and a high death-rate, to wide spread disease, and to a growing exhaustion of the soil. That some radical change must be brought about in the condition of our masses, if a Revolution of Hunger is to be averted is patent to all students of history, who also know the poverty of the Indian masses to-day. This economic condition

is due to many causes, of which the inevitable lack of understanding by an alien Government is only one. A system of Government suitable to the West was forced on the East, destroying its own democratic and communal institutions, and imposing bureaucratic methods which bewildered and deteriorated a people to whom they were strange and repellent."

She then sketched out her scheme of Local Self-Government in some detail and coming to the Congress-League Scheme of last year, pointed out that it is properly a bridge leading from the present condition to that considered in the third part of last year's Congress Resolution which runs as follows:—"That in the Reconstruction of the Empire India shall be lifted from the position of a Dependency to that of an equal partner in the Empire with self-governing dominion." "That now becomes our objective, we must continue to agitate for the Congress Scheme until it is passed. The final scheme will, of course, include the place of the Indian States under completed Self-Government and of the representation of India in the Central Imperial Council or Parliament or Cabinet questions which were deliberately left out in our transitional Scheme." Mrs Annie Besant next turned to the 'Self-Government by comparisons' which she characterised as verily the giving of a stone for bread.

To be Continued.

WEDDING

Mr R. Beel, Mahabir Singh, son of the late Babu Rajpaul Singh, Sirdar Durban Corporation, was united in the bonds of matrimony to Srimati Jasmāt, daughter of Babu Ramesar Singh of Tongaat.

The marriage was solemnised at the residence of the Bride's parent Emona Place, Tongaat and was officiated by Messrs. Rampersad Pundit and Suchitt Maharaj, on Thursday, 25th, ult.

On Thursday & Friday a large number of guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner.

On Sunday 3rd inst. a special party of Tamil people and other was held at the Bride groom's residence when a large number responded.

The Bride & Bridegroom were the recipients of large number of Congratulatory messages and valuable presents from all over the Union.

The death occurred on Monday, March 4, at Mayville, of Miss C. M. Nayanah, late senior teacher at the Depot Road Government School. Miss Nayanah was the first Indian woman to qualify for senior teacher's certificate in Natal. Just prior to her death she had received an appointment to a more responsible position.

Cost of Living

Indian Foodstuffs Report

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Suggest Government Assistance

Messrs. Pim and Eaton report:—The main question is the supply of rice. So far as could be ascertained there was at Sept. 1 about one month's supply of rice in Natal, but owing to the fact that it was expected that shipments of rice from India would not be obtainable during the next month or so a large amount of speculation had taken, and was taking place. Many merchants having contracts to supply rice, to various estates were caught short, and had to buy at higher prices to fulfil their contracts, and the price of rice was consequently forced up. It would be practically impossible to fix prices for present stocks of rice, as they are widely held and have passed through many hands, so that the prices paid by the present holders are in many cases from 35s. to 40s. per bag. The actual profits made on individual sales are in most instances not large; it is the number of different profits which have caused the rise in price. If future supplies

were assured the prices would drop to normal figures. The shipping situation is the crux of the question. The rice is available in India at a reasonable price, and if shipping facilities can be assured there will be no further trouble. The average monthly requirements of the Union are some 40,000 bags which 24,000 are usually imported via Durban and are mostly for Natal consumption.

It is recommended that the Controller of shipping be approached with a view to securing that space provided for, say, 40,000 bags of rice to be shipped monthly to the Union 25,000 bags to Durban by the —, which leaves Bombay about the —, and if this is accomplished the situation will be temporarily relieved. It will be necessary, however, to publish the fact that this — rice is coming forward, and if it is possible to secure space for future regular supplies, as previously suggested, the announcement publicly of this fact and advice to merchants to place their orders accordingly will possibly meet all requirements. At present prices in India and present rates of freight the landed cost of ration rice cannot be less than 27s. 6d. per bag. There is a difference of 5s. per bag between the rates of freight from Bombay and Calcutta in favour of the former, and consequently rice cannot be imported from Calcutta. Calcutta being the natural port for shipment of rice to the Union, it is suggested that the Controller of shipping might be approached with a view to rectifying this anomaly in securing the same rates of freight from Calcutta as from Bombay.

An addendum by Mr. T. Boydell, M. L. A., states:—I endorse the Committee's memorandum re rice, as I consider it must be essential that the Government should take steps to secure shipping space for rice from India in South Africa. I am of opinion, however, that the proposal of the committee should go much further than the mere recommending that the necessary freights for imports, in this case rice, should be provided.

The amount of imported goods the country requires, and the best way of obtaining them, seems to me to be work which should be done by the Government, through the Customs Department. In the case of rice I hold that not only should adequate supplies be provided for but that the price at which the rice is eventually sold to the consumer should not be unduly inflated either by speculation, intertrading or profiteering.

As only the State can ensure regular shipping, and consequent supplies to the merchants, it seems only right that in return the price at which the merchants should sell to the State (that is the consumers) should be fairly fixed. As a means towards this end, I recommend that all merchants submit their monthly requirements of rice (based on past supplies to the Government and that the Government then (1) purchase the rice in India; (2) provide the necessary freight; (3) hand it over to the merchants in accordance with the quantity and qualities they have respectively ordered, at a price to cover the cost. (4) On the basis of this cost of the wholesale and retail prices should be fixed on similar lines to the policy adopted with regard to sugar.

This, in my opinion, would eliminate the danger of speculation, intertrading, and profiteering, and would, I think, not be objected to by those merchants who only want to get, and give, a square deal in their trading.

As an illustration of how intertrading substantially increases the price, official documents show that in the case of certain traders, not one of them held a bag of rice of which he was the original importer. Further more, it was estimated that each of the bags of rice referred to had changed hands about half a dozen times, and still had not reached the consumer. As the committee have not taken any evidence with regard to the fixing of the price of rice, I am not in a position to go in to any details. I merely outline general principles which I think would be workable.

The details could easily be filled in after the necessary evidence had been taken. I might draw attention, to the fact that, apart from any speculation, intertrading, or profiteering, the increase in the price of rice is largely due to the exorbitant shipping charges. Whereas in 1914 the freight charges on rice from India was 32s. 6d plus 10 per cent., it is at the present time 100s. plus 10 per cent. I would therefore urge that the Government make representations to the Imperial Government to try and bring about a restriction in the charges which are being made by British shipowners whose ships are now entirely under Imperial control.

The Natal Mercury.

INDIANS ON THE RAND.

Acquisition of Property

EUROPEAN ACTION.

JOHANNESBURG, March 3.

The Asiatic invasion of Johannesburg and the suburbs, which has been legalised by the simple process of registering the Asiatics as limited liability companies, has reached such alarming dimensions that various Ratepayers Associations of the town have decided to bring the whole question to a head at the earliest possible date.

Recently a question in Parliament elicited the information that some 200 of these "companies" had been formed for the sole purpose of acquiring fixed property in the Transvaal. Indians have made no secret of their determination to make the fullest use of their right to acquire property in this way, as they quite realise the possibility of the law being amended to take the place of this privilege.

Their method of making certain of the transaction is to offer really good prices, and even certain townships which are opposed to the Asiatic invasion, have done business in view of the tempting offer, but offered, the argument being that if they do not accept the offers other

private individuals will do so.

The most recent case in point is a block of shops at Doornfontein, which recently changed hands at £3,100, and has now been acquired by an Asiatic company at £2,750. The European tenants have been notified that their rents will be increased by a third, and it is assumed that the object of this is to oust the whites with a view to ultimately establishing an Indian bazaar.

It is feared, too, that the Asiatic custom of occupying portions of shop premises for sleeping accommodation, etc., will be introduced into the various suburbs and such cases have already been reported. The law that no Asiatic shall be the owner of fixed property dates from old Republican days. On the other hand, a British Company registered in the Transvaal has that right. The question to be decided is whether a company, which consists entirely of persons who are disqualified, is not also, ipso facto, disqualified? The British House of Lords has held that enemy subjects cannot combine and register as a British company. Such a company, must be treated as an enemy.

On the other hand our Supreme Court has held that Indians are within their rights in forming companies to acquire property; also where the lease contains a clause that no coolie or Chinaman, or any other coloured persons, shall be registered as owner or acknowledged as sub-lessee, nor carry on business thereon that clause would hold good against any individual Asiatic acting as owner etc. That case was not taken to appeal, there being strong feeling among the interested parties that the matter should wait till the conclusion of the war.

Fears are being entertained that further action would be misunderstood.

It is now the intention to press for an amendment of the Company Law to the effect that where there is a majority of shareholders disqualified from holding land, then that company should be likewise disqualified. Likewise Ratepayers Associations are not asking for anything new. They are not asking that the status of Indians should be changed. They are endeavouring to prevent Indians from obtaining an entirely new privilege by evading an old constitutional law of the country.

Had the point been raised at the time the Company Law was before the Legislature, the above provision would most assuredly have been inserted. The matter is of such importance from the point of view of business and the depreciation property, that the Chamber of Commerce and the Master Builders Association are at one with the Ratepayers Association in the urgency of reform.

The Dharma Dir.

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No. 3

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

"It breathes the deep distrust of Indian capacity, characteristic of the Bureaucracy, and makes the preposterous claim that India is to remain in leading strings because another Nation claims the right to rule her, and to give her crumbs of freedom from its own well-spread table. It is the negation of every principle which Britain and her Allies have proclaimed in the face of the world. The Congress has asked for a definite scheme of Reforms; it can be satisfied with nothing less than the adoption of their essential principles.

We may ask for more; we cannot ask for less. Nations go forward, not backward, in their struggle for freedom."

Regarding the New Objective Mrs. Annie Besant placed the following suggestions before the Congress:—

"We have to formulate a scheme to carry out the third part of the Congress Resolution; we can do this only so far as British India is concerned:

(i) The place of the Indian States will have to be considered by the United Kingdom, in the light of the treaties existing between the Paramount Power and the Princes. So far as British India is concerned, we have to see that no arrangement is come to affecting it, which admits to any voice in our Council any Prince who retains absolute power within his own State, or who is not ruling on lines similar to those adopted within British India. Nor must any have authority in British India, which is not also possessed over his State by

British India. (ii) With regard to any Central Imperial Authority, whatever it may be, India must have a position commensurate with her importance in the Empire, otherwise she will be ruled by the United Kingdom and the Dominions in all Imperial matters, and may be turned into a plantation, with her industrial development strangled. If, as is suggested, the War Council should evolve into the Central Authority, then its powers should be confined to questions of Imperial Defence. No other question should be introduced without being referred to the Self-Governing Nations composing the Empire, and, if one Nation objects to it, the question must remain excluded. Each such Nation must exercise complete control over its own tariff and fiscus—as indeed the present Dominions now exercise it—subject to a charge for Imperial Defence.

The visit to India of the Chief Secretary of State for India makes it necessary that we should formulate very definitely what we demand. For, it is now clear that legislation is on the anvil and we must take Mr. Bonar Law's advice and strike while the iron is hot.

With regard to our new objective, I suggest that we should ask the British Government to pass a Bill during 1918, establishing self-government in India on the lines resembling those of the Commonwealth of Australia Act to come into force at the date laid down therein, preferably 1923, at the latest 1928, the intermediate five or ten years being occupied with the transference of Government

from British to Indian hands, maintaining the British tie as in the Dominions. Transference may be made in stages beginning with some such scheme as that of the Congress-League with its widened electorate, the essentials being half the executive councils to be elected by the elected members of the legislatures, control of the purse and a substantial majority in the Supreme and Provincial Councils. We asked first for representation which was supposed to give influence. This has proved useless. Now we ask for partnership in the governing of India. Governments have power of dissolution and veto, people have power of the purse. This is the second stage—partnership of equals in co-operation. The third stage will be that of complete "Home Rule" to come automatically in 1923 or 1928. The suggested lines are:

(i) That all Legislative Councils shall be wholly elected.

(ii) That members of the Public Services shall be included in the electorate, but shall not be eligible for election, nor shall they, while holding places of profit under the Crown, take part in political controversies. This rule does not include retired members, even though pensioned.

(iii) The Legislative Bodies, Supreme and Provincial shall be unicameral.

(iv) The Prerogative of the Crown including the appointment of its Privy Counsellors, the Governor General and the Governors, while exercising that right with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, shall also call upon a member of the Legislative Council to form a Ministry, the members of which shall be sworn in as Privy Counsellors but, who shall be removable by a vote of want of confidence passed in the Legislature.

(To be Continued)

Congress Impression

(BY AN EYE-WITNESS)

(concluded)

Continued from 8th March.

The speech of Rai Bahadur Baikunth Nath Sen was good and telling on certain points. The old veteran's voice could not reach beyond the nearest rows and the delegates who had received copies of it were reading it with him. The words breathed force but the voice was feeble, and therefore it did not evoke applause wherever and whenever it was necessary. I will not trouble your readers by quoting extracts from it, but I may note that many delegates were apprehensive about the nature and the tenor of the Rai Bahadur's speech. They were prepared to welcome it if it did not breathe extreme moderation. But they were agreeably surprised. The renowned moderate did not prove as lukewarm as they thought him to be. His remarks on the policy of repression, the etiology of the failure of recruitment, the Conspiracy Committee in Bengal, and the Defence of Indian Act were as pungent as those of any speaker could be. He falsified our expectations about him, and prepared us for Mrs. Besant's speech.

Mrs. Besant was listened to with rapt attention and in pin-drop silence; but, though an orator of high repute, she could not be heard by men on the back rows. The Congress authorities were not able to supply copies of her address and that of R. B. Baikunthnath to all the 5000 delegates, and therefore to many the first day of the sitting was a tedious one. The address was pointed and frank and clear, but cannot be called eloquent except in the peroration. We all expected it to be a masterpiece of her oratorical powers but we were disappointed in that I will not trouble your readers by any quotations—her views on all matters being public property. She has marshalled many facts to prove her case and her address in an uncompromising criticism of Govern-

ment measures. The address provokes the *Englishman* and the *Statesman* and other Anglo-Indian papers to pour out their worst venom in their columns and from this we may safely conclude that the address was of the right kind.

Following the precedent of Lucknow, the election of the Subjects Committee was postponed to the next day. The Home Rulers being in a majority, the Subjects Committee had a majority of Home Rulers elected to it. No sliding-back was therefor expected. On the contrary some advance to our prejudice was feared. Only a few months have elapsed since the whole nation after a full and mature consideration had placed its scheme before the Secretary of State, and any departure from it would have only shown our fickleness of mind. Our Bengali friends were for an advance and they fought their proposals very toughly. But a respectable majority were against them. The last straw to turn the scales was the uncompromising message from the Muslim League. The Bengalees had to yield to the Muslim cry of 'thus far and no further.' Some wondered at the attitude taken by Mr. Tilak in opposing Messrs. Pal and Das. Some went to the length of calling him unstable in his opinions. But these people evidently know him not. Since the Lucknow scheme was framed, Mr. Tilak has stood by it and has mercilessly criticised each and every man who opposed, or departed from, it. The next subject on which opinion was somewhat divided was the recognition of the work of Mr. Baptista by the Congress. Much trash was piled up before the committee by some queer and fantastic heads, oscillating between moderation and nationalism. But solid work could not thus be disposed of and Mr. Baptista was recognised as the representative of the Congress along with Mr. Polak.

On the third day some resolutions were passed, notable among them being that regarding the interned brothers, the Alis. The bleeding but undaunted heart of their old mother was there and the

audience was spell-bound by that heroic figure of the old lady. Her august figure more than the wrathful words of the speakers brought home to the minds of the audience the galling injustice of the Alis' continued internment.

The fourth day dawned with Self-government on the tip of every one's tongue. That day was a momentous one and all sorts of wild rumours and expectations filled the atmosphere at Calcutta. Imagination ran high and in the camps news jumped from mouth to mouth that a break in the Congress party was expected. The dreaded thing—the split in the Congress again! No! Everyone strained his belief to the utmost and told himself that such a mishap was impossible. This state of suspense lasted for some time and then came the glad tidings that the split was a myth and a concoction. Everybody's face beamed with joy and all went to the Congress Pandal in a happy mood. Babu Surendranath's speech on THE RESOLUTION was forceful but only at intervals. His story of Mr. John Burns occupying a ministerial post, although convicted for rioting, evoked much interest. He tried to reply to some of the objections on the Congress-League Scheme but, on the whole, his speech did not stir up the audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. He was followed by Mr. Jinnah whose speech was instinct with his legal acumen and argumentation. Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal succeeded him and, as his mind was itself halting, hesitating and oscillating between the Congress Scheme and the proposed advance, his speech was rather apologetic and unconvincing. He wanted to move an amendment but could not. As his mind was perplexed, his speech lacked his usual fervour and fire. Mr. Tilak came next and his persuasive, terse, epigrammatic sentences convinced the audience of the hollowness of the Curtis scheme and the superiority of C. L. Scheme. If different speakers had chosen different points, then the speeches would have constituted a brilliant symposium elucidating the whole C. L. Scheme. But

Unfortunately this plan, suggested by Mr. Besant, was not followed and, except Mr. Tilak, the speakers spoke on the general nature of the scheme. These speeches, therefore, were rather unstimulating.

The Mahratta.

Lala Lajpat Rai's "Young India."

We have not persued Lala Lajpat Rai's "Young India", but from the notices of it which have appeared in the British Press and from what has been said about it in the House of Commons, it appears to be a wrong description of it to say that it encourages sedition and assassination. Perhaps it contains an eulogy of the cult of the bomb and the revolver. From what knowledge of him we possess we can say that he cannot desire to encourage assassination. As for his being in receipt of German money, no proofs of this accusation have been given. It appears to be like the many other inventions of his enemies which have been nailed to the Counter. That he has neither been interned nor prosecuted in America, though many other Indians have been, is a significant fact. His offence seems to be that he has probably brought the case of India before the American public and President Wilson, and also before an influential section of the British Public through his book. He seems to have said in effect to the Americans: "Your British Allies are fighting for democracy all over the world; please ask them what they definitely want to do for their dependency India." And that is not a convenient question to answer.

As for Commander Wedgwood, they seem to have caught a veritable tartar in him. A few copies of Mr. Lajpat Rai's book was seized in the London Home Rule League office. Commander Wedgwood said in the House of Commons that he had five copies of it in his bag; would they be seized? There were other copies in the possession of other members of the House; would they be seized?

Will Government prosecute him for writing a commendatory preface to the book? The answer, implied or express, always was in the negative. And Commander Wedgwood emphatically says to the face of the Home Secretary that Lajpat Rai is an asset of the Empire, that he ought to be encouraged, that his book is a passionate plea for self-government and for that reason it was necessary to paint the blackest possible picture of the present system of government, and that in Burke's speeches and Morley's recollections there are worse passages (from the official point of view) than those pointed out by the Home Secretary in Lala's book. It has also been brought out by questions in the House of Commons that the book was seized during Mr. Montagu's absence from England and without consulting him.

Only a thousand copies of the book were printed and published in England mainly for distribution among members of parliament. That object has been gained; and the seizure of the book and the questions asked about it in parliament have made it so famous that every copy of it is sure to be in great request and consequently to be read by many persons. That was a result not contemplated by the India Office and the Home Secretary.

India's Finances.

Share of the war Burden.

Contribution and Loans.

London, March 12.—Reuter telegram from Delhi says that Sir William Meyer, in presenting the annual financial statement to the Council of the Governor General, says the present year closes with a surplus of £5,750,000 sterling, due to the favourable monsoon and the record growth of railway receipts, which, however, are counterbalanced by a considerable increase in military charges, amounting to £29,000,000. Agricultural conditions and trade generally have been prosperous, but spe-

cial war problems caused increasing difficulty. The War Loan of 1917 was most successful, amounting to £350,000,000 sterling, and there were also Indian Treasury bill issues, which were expected to yield £30,000,000 sterling by the end of the year.

Sir William Meyer announced that it was proposed to raise another unlimited war loan, probably taking the form of short-term bonds, the proceeds being made over to the Home Government as previously. He said that a proposal for premium bonds had been considered, but it was not proposed to try the experiment.

Sir William Meyer stated that Imperial expenditure was now £10,000,000, sterling higher than in 1913 and 1914, of which £10,000,000 was due to the war, while £6,000,000 represented interest and sinking fund charges in respect of India's war contribution of £100,000,000 sterling. This direct contribution formed only part of the burden which war conditions imposed on India. Since the war began the expenditure for his Majesty's Government involved a net outlay in India of £128,000,000 sterling, and India had lent £67,000,000 to the Home Government, over the £100,000,000 contribution, for which direct responsibility had been taken, and £16,000,000 more would be lent in connection with the further investment of paper currency reserve funds in Home Treasury bills, which was contemplated next year.

In drawing attention to the fact that the war had emphasised India's financial strength remarkably, Sir William Meyer said: "No one could have imagined that, three years ago, we should be able, with a moderate increase of taxation, to offer his Majesty's Government £100,000,000 as a special war contribution, over above the additional charges which the war entailed on our own military budgets, and that we could borrow anything like as much as we have done, raising for example more than one-third of the £100,000,000 war

contribution by direct loan in India during a single year, or that we should have found it possible to meet, as we have done, the enormous demands for war supplies to his Majesty's Government and the immediate outlay these involved.

The Natal Mercury.

ANCIENT ARYAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE.

Continued from 1st March.

Ancient India by S. Krishnaswami Aiyangar, pages 185—188.

Fine arts in Ancient India—It is, of course, true that every nationality, when it seeks to work out its artistic ideals, makes use of any agents, natives or foreign, which happen to be within reach. But the Greeks no more created Indian sculpture and painting than they created Indian philosophy and religion. Their aesthetic ideals were essentially different from those of India, and they never at any time imposed them upon Indian art, which, in its distinctive and essential character, is entirely the product of Indian thought and Indian artistic genius.

It is a well-established tradition among Anglo-Indians to take for granted that there has always been a peculiar intellectual hiatus in the Indian mind, which has, at all times prevented any great development of the fine arts. And whenever any striking example, appealing to popular European sentiment, seems to prove the contrary, the suggestion that it is due to Western influence is sure to be accepted as sufficient and wholly satisfactory. A familiar instance of this is the attribution of Mogal masterpieces; the Taj at Agra, to an Italian adventurer at the Court of Shah Jahan. The evidence on which this story is based is, as I have endeavoured to show absurdly unsubstantial, and utterly unworthy of credence.

It was not until Sir William Jones translated Sakuntala that modern Europe began to give India the credit of any literature worth serious attention, except that of a philosophic or ritualistic character, and as literary interests are far more widespread and influential than those which are purely artistic, it is natural that they should take precedence in the progress of mutual understanding between the East and West. There are also many special reasons why Indian fine art should have remained so long a *terra incognita* to Europeans.

In the first place, Indian artistic expression begins from a starting point far removed from that of the Europeans. Only an infinitesimal number of Europeans, even of those who pass the best

part of their lives in India, make any attempt to understand the philosophic, religious, mythological, and historical ideas of which Indian art is the embodiment; and without some understanding of these even a trained artist will never be a competent or impartial critic of Indian art.

Before we can hope to understand either Indian art or literature we must first of all come down from the pedestal of superiority from which we love to declare that the oriental mind is inscrutable. It is not really so incomprehensible as it seems to be at that elevation, and, as Sir M. Monier-Williams pertinently observes; "Unless we seek to understand the inhabitants, unless we think it worth while to study their ancient literatures, their religious ideas, and their time-honoured institutions, unless we find in them something to admire and respect, we can never look forward hopefully to the time when the present lamentable partition wall which obstructs the free intercourse of social relations between European and Asiatic races will be entirely removed."

Art is, in one sense, a universal language, but the finer inflections of it are so intimately associated with national life and thought that no one can pretend to understand any distinctly national phase of it who stands entirely aloof from its national environment.

Art, moreover, in Europe is made a subject of special study and exegesis by writers of the first rank. Every school of sculpture and painting, and every great artist, have their biographers and interpreters. Magnificent collections, both public and private, are open to students of works of art, so that it is easy for any educated person to have at least a superficial acquaintance with European art-history, and an intelligent understanding of artistic thought and expression. The profession of an artist is an honourable one, and there are organised associations of artists which can, and do to some extent, influence and direct public opinion in art matters.

To be continued

Freight From India.

PRETORIA, Tuesday.—Reuter is officially informed by the Controller of Imports and Exports, Pretoria, that application for freight from India by importers in this country should no longer be made to his office. In place of the system which has hitherto been in vogue the Government will recommend to the representative of the Controller of Shipping in India the maximum monthly tonnages for essential imports from India shippers in India will make their own

arrangements for securing shipping space. The balance of the space, if any, will be available for ordinary importation.—Star.

To the Editor,

The "Dharma Vir"—Sir, I would esteem a great favour if you will kindly publish in your valuable journal, the following:—

OBITUARY

We regret to have to place on record the death of S. Lutchman, which took place at Escombe on Thursday the 7th instant, at 6 p. m. For some months the deceased has not been in vigorous health, suffering from chest complaints. But it was lately that his wonderful constitution really failed, at an early age of twenty years. His untimely end removes one who was dearly loved by all with whom he came in contact. A few years back, he was employed at the Govt. Aided Indian School, Malvern, as an assistant teacher, here he made a host of friends showing full signs of future promises. We had the pleasure, only a year ago, to participate in his marriage ceremony, which took place at Umgeni. He was a devoted son, and a faithful friend. His belief in Vedic Religion was very strong. The funeral took place the following afternoon at 5 o'clock. There was a large circle of relatives and friends present at the grave side. The Staff and fifty scholars of the school were also present to pay their last respect, and the school being closed at mid-day. Deepest sympathy is extended to his sorrowing widow, and parents in their irreparable loss.

G. Munger.

The Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Aryan Benevolent Society will be held at the Benevolent Society, York Road, Maritzburg, on Sunday the 24th March at 2 p. m. precisely.

All officials, members, committeemen and intending members and others are kindly requested to attend.

Intending members are kindly requested to make application to the Secretary before hand.

The reports and account books etc will be laid open for public inspection, at the Benevolent Home, on 21st, 22nd and 23rd instant.

Business:—

1. To read and confirm minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
2. Secretary's, Treasures and Supervisor's reports.
3. Revisions of Rules.
4. Election.
5. General.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION FOR INDIA.

National Education Week.

(April 8th to April 15th.)

[The following is taken from Mr. G. S. Arundale's letters in the *New India*]

The Society for the Promotion of National Education has decided to hold a National campaign from April 8th to April 15th (both days included). The idea of the National Education Week is partly to focus public attention upon the need for National Education, partly to provide funds for the activities of the Society for the Promotion of National Education and partly to encourage districts, towns and villages to raise funds for the establishment in their own areas of National Schools. *Every district, town and village should have a National Education Week Committee, to make plans for the Week.* The first thing to do is to establish a representative Committee composed both of elders and of the young. Hindus, Musalmans, Parsis and Christians should, where possible, be represented on every local Committee. National Education not only means a practical education suited to the needs of the country and calculated to give every youth a reasonable chance of earning a decent livelihood. It also means that every child must be taught his own faith. So the Committee must be fully representative. One or more merchants should be on it, lawyers should be on it, doctors should be on it, priests

should be on it, landholders should be on it, raiyats should be on it. However divergent our views may be in politics, let us be united for National Education and let every town and village throughout the country show its unity by establishing a National Education Week Committee fully representative of the life of the locality. One of the younger, and therefore more energetic members should be the Secretary, and the Committee should get to work at once along some of the lines suggested below.

IDEAS FOR THE COMMITTEE.

1. Divide your locality into streets and organise from now a band of volunteers to collect from house to house during National Education Week, excepting the houses of the well-to-do who should be specially approached. Students of the higher classes of schools and of colleges might help in this work. 2. Organise a special deputation of merchants to visit each shop during the week to ask for subscriptions and donations. From now, the Secretary of the local Committee should write to every merchant in the locality, asking that during the National Education Week one pie out of every rupee earned during the week should be given to the National Society's fund. 3. From now, ask the ladies to prepare cardboard collection boxes to be placed in every house and in every shop during National Education Week. Or have the boxes made, but start now. Also, have printed subscription lists ready to be in charge of trusted collectors. On every cardboard

box have written the words: "Help National Education" in the vernacular of your district. 4. Arrange for a big public lecture on National Education during the week. Get the best Chairman you can, and the best speakers. *Everything in the mother-tongue*, as far as possible. Make collections before and after the meeting and during an interval, but not during the speeches. 5. Have decorated motor cars and carriages going round every day, and make collections through them. "Help National Education," "Home Rule and National Education," "Support Swadeshi Education," "National Education makes good Citizens," "National Education is India's birthright and she wants it," "What are you doing to help National Education Week?" are some of the phrases you might use for posters round the cars and carriages, and also for general display on the walls, in shop windows, in fact, everywhere. Get a poster fund and begin now with a number of posters; "National Education Week is coming." Repeat this in the middle of March. Then in the beginning of April have "National Education Week—April 8th to April 15th." 6. Send a deputation round the for gifts for a National Education Week Bazaar. Ask every one to give some valuable object or at least something saleable, for sale at the bazaar which you will organise in some commodious hall. If possible, keep the bazaar open for three or four days, and get it opened by a personage every day. 7. Organise from now theatrical

cal entertainments, concert parties, etc., for National Education Week in aid of the funds of the National Society. In-
 duce well-known entertainers and speakers to help you by paying a visit to your town during the week; giving benefit nights, etc. 8. Approach Temples and Mosques for subscriptions and donations, and try to organise a procession at least once during the week. 9. Ask the local press to give you free advertisements for your various activities, and prominent paragraphs in leading pages drawing attention to the National Education Week and how it is to be celebrated locally. 10. Gather together a band of people each pledged to go without something during the week, and to give the savings to the Society. Form Self-Denial Bands and make the National Education Week a self-Denial Week. 11. Organise the ladies of the locality into a Ladies Committee and ask them to arrange all kinds of ways of helping the Society. Why not a purdah bazaar, and a ladies deputation? Other ways of helping may occur to our friends, and Headquarters will gladly communicate with the Secretary, National Education week, in any locality. Do not begin work individually but get a Representative Committee together of the leading men and women of the place. Remember that each pupil in a National School will be taught the principle of his own faith, so all denominations should be represented on the Committee. Now please get to work at once, for there is no time to lose. First, the Committee and then organise the band for April 8th to April 15th. When you are once well started, write to the Registrar, Society for the Promotion of National Education, P. O. Box 904, Adyar, Madras, S.

N. B.—Congress Committees, and Home Rule League Branches, etc., might, where convenient, constitute themselves into National Education Week Committees.

The Society for the Promotion of National Education

[Sir Rash Behari Ghose is the President of this Society and Mrs. Annie Besant, Chairman of the Executive Committee. Sir Ravindra Nath Tagore is the Chancellor of the National University and Sir Subramania Iyer, the Pro-Chancellor. Lok. Tilak, Mrs. Sorojini Naidu and many of the leading Members of the Supreme and local Legislative Councils are among its Governing Body. Mr. G. S. Arundale is the Registrar of the Society.]

ORGANISATION:—There are four classes of Members: (1) Class A: Members who on payment of not less than Rs. 1,000 shall become life members of the Society and shall receive free all the publications of the Society (2) Class B: Members who pay an entrance Fee of Rs. 100 and an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 25. Members of this class shall be entitled to receive all the publications of the Society at half price (3) Class C: Members who pay an Entrance Fee of Rs. 5 and an annual subscription of not less than Rs. 15 (4) class D: Members paying one-anna a week & upwards.

Indian National Congress Presidential Address

(v) The Indian Army and Navy, for Indian Defence, shall be under the control of the Viceroy as the representative of the Crown, and shall be supported out of the revenues of India. The contribution of India to Imperial Defence shall be adjusted between the Government of India and the War Council.

(vi) The formation, regulation, and encouragement of the Mercantile Marine shall vest in the Government of India, subject to such international regulations as may be agreed upon after the War.

With regard to iii, iv, and v. I may add: (iii) Much discussion will arise on this proposal, but it is submitted that the great variety of interest of opinions

in India of themselves render hasty legislation—the checking of which is supposed to be the function of a second Chamber—unlikely. The power of the Governor to dissolve the Council, inherent in the prerogative, with the power of veto, give sufficient check in a country so conservative as India. (iv) In the United Kingdom, the Cabinet has no statutory basis. The King in Council theoretically rules, i. e., the King and his Privy Councillors. But the ignorance of George II of the English language caused him to retire from the presidency of the Council, and the Cabinet grew up. Every member to the Cabinet is sworn in as a Privy Councillors, and when the Cabinet falls, its members remain Privy Councillors but only attend when summoned on great State occasions. We have to respect the rights of the Crown, while, at the same time, we create the responsibility of Ministers to the Legislature. (v) "Indian Army" means an Army composed of Indians and officered by Indians, and does not include the British soldiers now employed here. Thus the country will be relieved of the relatively huge cost now incurred for the short service system, transport, depots and recruiting in England, and the like. The Indian Army will be composed of Territorials and large Reserves."

A Deputation will, of course, have to be sent to England to discuss the actual Statute which will have to be passed in Parliament to give effect to the Congress-League Scheme. Mrs. Besant proposed that it would be well to give a mandate to this Deputations to stand unflinchingly by the essential principles of the Scheme, the substantial elective majority in Supreme and Provincial Legislative Councils and the power of the purse. "If these are not granted, further discussion is useless; if they are, then we can discuss subsidiary matters." She also emphasised the necessity of a steady and strong agitation in India in support of the Deputation.

"It is said that the battle of India

be fought, in Britain. In the sense we must put our demands clearly. In Britain, that is true. But the real must be fought here, for Britain naturally limit her legislation to that which India strongly demands. The Labour party will help us with votes, but we must show, by our attitude here, that we are determined to win Freedom.

Mahratta

(concluded)

ANCIENT ARYAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE.

All these facilities and advantages wanting in India. There is not yet a single Museum in the world in which Indian art can be properly appreciated and understood. An Indian Museum, well organised on artistic, in stead of archaeological or commercial lines, would be astonishing a revelation to artistic taste as the discovery of the Hindu drama was to European literati. But Great Britain seems quite content to have the discoverer of Indian fine art in France, or Germany, or to American millionaires. The British Museum shows the stolid British-indifference to the artistic ideals of our Empire in the East. The Museums in India, generally speaking, are equally unconcerned with them. Even Kensington hardly recognises Indian art, except in its commercial and industrial aspects. Standard books on Indian mythology, like Moor's "India and the Mahabharata," and typical collections, like that of the Indian Institute at Oxford, give one the impression that all Indian sculpture is barbarous, obsolete, or trivial, and that painting as a fine art is almost unknown in India. This is also the impression which the great majority of Anglo-Indians bring back with them to Europe.

France shows a more intelligent and artistic appreciation of Indian aesthetic culture. In Germany many distinguished savants are keenly exploiting

the artistic treasures of the East, with the active support and personal interest of the German Emperor. Berlin is now only centre where the early schools of Asiatic painting from which modern Chinese and Japanese painting were derived, can be studied. At Haarlem and Leyden one can gather some idea of the wonderful sculpture wrought by Indian artist in Java. But no collection exists which will give to an art-student a tolerably adequate conception of the masterpieces of Indian painting and sculpture or of those higher ideals towards which the whole art of Asia has been for ever striving.

It has hardly ever occurred to Indians of former times that the National art, which was the outward and visible expression of national culture and sentiment, required any written exegesis or history. Nor indeed, does a truly national art require the aid of literature, for it is in itself a history and an explanation. In the present day what we call education in India stands so far aloof from all artistic culture that no Indian has ever come forward to expound the philosophy of Indian art, or to assert its rightful place by the side of the great aesthetic schools of the world. The name of the Borobudur, where the story of the Light of Asia is told in one of the grandest epics man ever carved in stone, conveys no more meaning to an English-educated Indian than Athens or Rome would to an intelligent Eskimo or Laplander.

Vedic Magazine

(concluded)

Hindi Sahitya Sammelan

The 8th session of the All-Indian Hindi Sahitya Sammelan will be held at Indore on the 29th, 30th and 31st March 1918, under the presidency of Mahatma Gandhi. All lovers of Hindi language are cordially invited to grace the occasion by their presence. Visitors desiring the Reception Committee to

make arrangements for their board and lodging may kindly communicate with the General Secretary of the Reception Committee before the 7th March. The Reception Committee will also hold an exhibition of rare manuscripts in Hindi, printed books on all subjects, both old and recent, of periodicals and magazines.

Those who may wish to assist the Exhibition Committee by lending their valuable writings and books will kindly do so.

Asiatics and land owning.

Proposed Amendment of Company Law

Johannesburg, March 21 (Reuter).—The Executive of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce has approved of the motion to be proposed in the Assembly by Mr. Blackwell, M.L.A., asking that the Company Law be so amended as to prevent its being used as a means of evading the laws prohibiting Asiatics from holding land.

Asiatic Trading in the Transvaal Movement to stop Further Progress

The following telegrams for the *Natal Advertiser's* Johannesburg correspondent will show that a determined effort is being made to stir up feeling against Indians protecting themselves in the only way possible, namely, by forming limited liability companies:—

March 3.

The Asiatic invasion of Johannesburg and the suburbs, which has been legalised by the simple process of registering the Asiatics as limited liability companies, has reached such alarming dimensions that various Ratepayer's Associations of the town have decided to bring the whole question to a head at the earliest possible date.

Recently a question in Parliament elicited the information that some 200 of these "companies" had been formed for the sole purpose of acquiring fixed

property in the Transvaal. Indians have made no secret of their determination to make the fullest use of their right to acquire property in this way, as they quite realise the possibility of the law being amended to take the place of this privilege.

Their method of making certain of the transactions is to offer really good prices, and even certain townships which are opposed to the Asiatic invasion have done business in view of the tempting bait offered, the argument being that if they do not accept the offers other private individuals will do so.

The most recent case in point is a block of shops at Doornfontein, which recently changed hands at £3,100, and has now been acquired by an Asiatic company at £2,750. The European tenants have been notified that their rents will be increased by a third, and it is assumed that the object of this is to oust the whites with a view to ultimately establishing an Indian bazaar.

It is feared, too, that the Asiatic custom of occupying portions of shop premises for sleeping accommodation, etc., will be introduced into the various suburbs and such cases have already been reported. The law that no Asiatic shall be the owner of fixed property dates from old Republican days. On the other hand a British Company registered in the Transvaal has that right. The question to be decided is whether a company, which consists entirely of persons who are disqualified, is not also, ipso facto disqualified? The British House of Lords has held that enemy subjects cannot combine and register as a British company. Such a company must be treated as an enemy.

On the other hand, our Supreme Court has held that Indians are within their rights in forming companies to acquire property; also where the lease contains a clause that no coolie or Chinaman, or any other coloured persons, shall be registered as owner or acknowledged as sub-lessee, nor carry on business thereon, that clause would hold good a-

gainst any individual Asiatic acting as owner, etc. That case was not taken to appeal, there being strong feeling among the interested parties that the matter should wait till the conclusion of the war.

Fears are being entertained that their action would be misunderstood. It is now the intention to press for an amendment of the Company Law to the effect that where there is a majority of shareholders disqualified from holding land, then that company should be likewise disqualified. Likewise Ratepayers' Associations are not asking for anything new. They are not asking that the status of Indians should be changed. They are endeavouring to prevent Indians from obtaining an entirely new privilege by evading an old constitutional law of the country.

Had the point been raised at the time the Company Law was before the Legislature, the above provision would most assuredly have been inserted. The matter is of such importance from the point of view of business and the depreciation of property, that the Chamber of Commerce and the Master Builders' Association are at one with the Ratepayers' Association on the urgency of reform.

March 5.

The question of stopping Asiatic traders from gaining further ground in Johannesburg was discussed at a meeting of the Federation of Ratepayers' Associations, held last evening.

Mr. Wertheim (the chairman read a letter from Mr. Leslie Blackwell, M. L. A., who is introducing a motion in the House of Assembly during the course of the next few days,

Mr. Blackwell said he had received various warnings from different parts of the House as to the danger of stirring

Indian unrest. However, he had decided to go on with the matter, and he hoped the Rand would stand by him, even to the extent of holding public meetings and testing the public feeling. He feared that he would have a hard job in the House, as the majority of the members knew nothing about the subject and probably do not care about it.

The Chairman added that so far the Federation had received 22 replies from the bodies approached with a view to their supporting the Federation's attitude on the Asiatic trading question. All the 22 replies were in favour of the Federation's idea of the situation. (Applause.)

The replies were from various public associations, townships, companies, etc. The Federation had also canvassed for support from the 14 Rand members of Parliament.

Mr. Laschinger said it had come to his knowledge that many Boers were going to support the Indian trader, because they could get things a little cheaper at his store than at a white man's. It was stated that the Nationalists could not support the Asiatics, as the Free State had already prohibited Asiatic trading without special permission.

Mr. P. W. L. Lourens said the South African Party, at its recent Congress, had decided to support the curbing of Asiatic trading in the Transvaal.

Other speakers urged the need of enlisting the aid of all parties in the House. It was declared that the Asiatics every day were increasing their grip on the trading, with a view to ousting the white trader.