

THE PHARMA VIL

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No. 31

NOTES ON HASAN IMAM'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. Hasan Imam's presidential address delivered at the special session of the Indian National Congress held at Bombay is not an "extremist" pronouncement. Even some well-known "moderates" have gone much further than he both in criticism of Reform Scheme and in constructive proposals, of which there are not very many in his speech.

Appreciation and Compliments.

In speaking of the authors of the Report, whom throughout his speech he calls "illustrious," he is not niggardly in appreciation and compliments, as the following extract will show:—

"Our task is burdensome, for we have to discuss the proposed constitutional reforms as emanating from a Secretary of State and a Viceroy who, at least in their declarations, have not been wanting in a spirit of sympathy towards Indian demands. Their frank acknowledgment of the Justice of our claim to equal civic rights with the rest of the British Empire lends to their proposals sincerity; which it is difficult to question. But in a matter so grave as the laying of the foundation of our constitutional structure, the duty of analysing and sifting the proposals outweighs all considerations of mere courtliness or thanksgiving. While acknowledging the high purpose of the British Cabinet in directing an investigation into the present Indian situation and in desiring to find a solution thereof and while rendering the fullest tribute of praise to Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford for the singlemindedness with which they have collaborated in formulating their proposals, we, as the persons most affected, yet have to example the proposals on their merits. Reading their joint Report it will strike any observer that in the first portion of it—which I regard as a historical survey of events leading to the present situation—the illustrious authors have by their declarations, furnished strength to our demand for that charter of liberty for which we have

been fighting for the third of a century through the Congress, in spite of much discouragement, at times attended with unseemly and indecent ridicule."

The proposals and the cause of their Deficiencies.

Even when speaking of the defects of the proposals the speaker is charitable enough not to blame the authors. He says:—

"The Report is full of generous acknowledgments of our claim and if acknowledgments alone could not merely gratify but satisfy us, the need for us to meet in this Congress would not exist. It is when come to the proposals themselves that disappointment meet us. The Secretary of State and the Viceroy, it has to be admitted, have made their proposals with genuine desire to ultimately secure for us the right of governing ourselves and determining our own future, but the proposals in themselves seem to be afraid of themselves and do not comprise any such real measure of reform as we had a right to expect. We realize the difficulty of their delicate task, placed as they have been between conflicting bureaucratic and Indian interests. The deficiencies of the proposals appear to me to be due not to any intention on their part to withhold from us what we should have, but to a spirit of compromise to secure the support of the bureaucrats. It, therefore, behoves us to consider the proposals in a spirit of sympathy and not of mere carping criticism."

It will therefore be conceded that Mr. Hasan Imam has not been guilty of the heinous and unpardonable crime of being "irreconcilable". Our opinion is that to be irreconcilable to whatever does not make for India's full freedom is a rare virtue.

Rejection and Acceptance.

That his attitude or position is that of a peace-maker and unifier will appear from his views on the question of rejection or acceptance of the proposals embodied in the report.

"Now our criterion is the Congress-League Scheme and, if the proposals lack the essentials of that, we should with all the emphasis that we can command, make our protest; but we must guard against a hasty rejection of the proposals. Opinion in the country is more or less divided on the subject of the acceptance or the rejection of the proposals. There is a small section of political thinkers that advocates a rejection of the proposals. I treat their views with respect, for the attitude of mind is based upon the political sagacity of not allowing a consent decree to be passed against them and upon the political philosophy that national rights have to be won and not merely to be received as gifts. Underlying their principle of rejection is the desire to continue the struggle for freedom and every one will admit that the severer the struggle the greater the vigor of the race. On the other hand there is another class of our political thinkers that stands for the acceptance of the proposals with the proviso that we must go on asking for more. The country, however, is agreed that the proposals, as they stand, certainly do not embody the essentials of our demand and are not calculated to satisfy our just aspirations. If you will permit me to point out, there seems to me no material difference between those that advocate rejection and those that advise acceptance, for the common feature of both is to continue the struggle till our rights are won. In politics as in war, not combat but victory is the object to be pursued and where ground is yielded, not to take it would be to abandon what you have won. The Secretary of State and the Viceroy in their Report have earnestly exhorted us to put our heads together in constructive statesmanship and I have no doubt that at this crucial juncture in our political history we shall preserve that deliberative calm which is necessary for the building of a great project."

To be continued.

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 4 October 1918

ARYA SAMAJ, NAIROBI.

In our last issue, we published a report of the opening ceremony of the new church and anniversary of the Arya Samaj at Nairobi. This new church was built at an approximate cost of one lakh of rupees and stands to-day majestic to the credit of the Arya Samajists of British East Africa. The leading individuals of this movement deserve every praise and congratulation from the followers of the Vedic religion for conducting the Samaj Movement so successfully away from our beloved motherland. The Nairobi Arya Samaj has not only established the new church but is conducting a school for both boys and girls where the educational needs of the Indian children are being attended to in a very able manner. Hindus in this country may well learn a much needed lesson of practical work from their co-religionists of British East Africa. Life is very short, indeed, for futile squabbles. Yet, we continue in our usual way notwithstanding the great strides of progress made by other people who have been in a similar position to ourselves and who had subsequently learnt the benefits of unity, public spirit and patriotism. We hope leading Hindus in this country will yet awaken to a sense of their great responsibilities.

Colour Effusion

The recent decision of the High Court to go over the heads of the local authorities and grant trading licences to Indians strikes a deadly blow at the descendants of the Dutch and English who settled in this country. If South Africa is to have any future it must be kept white. We saw recently on the mines what a lot of trouble a little amorphous coloured organisation created, and now there is talk of Native Co-operative Stores and God knows what else. If a local municipality refuses to grant licence it must be presumed to have good reasons for doing so, and its reasons should be respected. The law must be altered to prevent Negrophiles on the bench from destroying the rights of the white people to restrict coolie trading through their municipalities. Enough sing-song has been made about the loyalty of India to the Empire during the present war, and the consequent obligations upon us to reward their subjects with licences to keep on our sugar and rice. When somebody years ago made the remark

to Lord Milner that the Boers were loyal, he replied scornfully: 'Of course they are loyal—it would be monstrous if they were not loyal!'

Well, we say the same about the Indians. Either they owe loyalty to the Empire or they do not. If they do let them give it. There is no obligation upon the people of this country to-day to stand the things which they would not, and which Australia would not stand before the war. If once this no-licensing permits unrestricted coloured trading it's end is in sight. Go into any of the outer towns of the Transvaal to-day and see the enormous growth of the "Sammy". He undersells the whiteman every time, and he grows rich and powerful while doing so. In Johannesburg to-day Indians hold some of the largest stocks of goods, and they are buying more and more. The native trade especially seems by nature to have been designed for the man of the Indian. He cuts deeper and deeper into it daily. If legislation, which no judge can override, is not speedily introduced to restrict coolie trading, the end of white South Africa is in sight.

. Life, Sport and Drama.

Notes and News.

On Saturday, 21, October, 1918, Messrs. Waller, K. R. Nayanah, B. A. Megrajh and S. R. Pather motored round the suburbs of Durban addressing Indians on the typhus fever at several places, notably at Sea View, Bellair, Mayville, Sydenham, Overport etc.

Mr. P. M. Naicker assisted at Sea View; Messrs. M. P. Pillay and Dorasamy Chettiar assisted at Sydenham.

Messrs Bhawani Dayal and M. P. Pillay also addressed a crowd of 400 women at the Sports Ground, Overport.

A general meeting of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha will be held in the H. Y. M. A. Hall, Church Street, P. M. Burg, on the 13th of October, 1918, at 3 p.m. Agenda includes, free education, legal recognition of Hindu marriage rituals, child labour, third session Hindu Conference, registration of Maha Sabha and other matters.

Messrs V. S. C. Pather, N. R. Chetty and others have recently returned from India. Mr. Chetty states that the non-Brahmin Opposition Movement is gaining in strength and force in South India, and has brought the caste question to the fore in an acute form.

A council meeting of the South

African Hindu Maha Sabha was held in the Hindu Tamil Institute, Durban, on 21, September, 1918, at 2.30 p.m. Mr. R. G. Bhalla was in the chair. Among those present were Messrs Makan Singh, A. M. Padiacbee, Meharchand Prabdyal, S. D. Gerio, G. Merhoye, Naynah Rajh, M. Thungavelu, Bhawani Dayal, S. R. Pather and others.

Letters of regret were received from Messrs Charlie Nalliah, R. N. Moodley, Raghunath Singh, Mandraj Singh, M. H. Desai, T. V. Pather, S. R. Naidoo and others.

After prayers, minutes of previous meeting were confirmed and the Council resolved that the question of 3rd session of Hindu Conference be left over for the general meeting of the Maha Sabha, that Mr. M. Thungavelu be responsible to the Maha Sabha for purchasing the library of the late V. R. R. Moodley which Mr. Thungavelu undertook to do by being responsible for the collection of the necessary funds, that the secretaries convene the general meeting of the Maha Sabha, in Maritzburg, on 13th October, 1918, that the Executive prepare the agenda for that meeting.

Correspondence from the Superintendent of Education, Natal, were also read.

Mr. Cephas Bernard Moonsamy, the assistant Master of the Greytown Government Aided Indian School having tendered his resignation, leaves at the end of the present month. He intends taking up business in the district. The headmaster as well as the children regret his leaving and in token of the love and esteem in which he was held, the children of the above school presented him with a valuable fountain pen.

Protest meetings against any rise in the price of rice and other Indian food-stuffs were held in Maritzburg, Sea View, Malvern and other places. A deputation also, we understand, waited upon Mr. Howard Pim recently who promised to see that the price of existing stocks of rice was not raised.

We have held over the contribution entitled Tea Room Gossip until the remaining portion is completed and sent to us for publication in one issue.

The South African Indian Conference has been adjourned till 17, October 1918.

The Maritzburg Hindu Young Men's Association will be celebrating its anniversary on October, 13th, 1918, at its hall in Church Street, P. M. Burg.

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NATAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION

MAHATMA GANDHI'S FAST.

PRAYER MEETING

A MASS MEETING

OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE

Natal Indian Association

WILL BE HELD AT THE

DURBAN CITY HALL,

ON

SUNDAY, 21st FEB., 1943,

AT 2 P.M.

TO OFFER PRAYERS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE LIFE OF

MAHATMA GANDHI

AND

**TO APPEAL TO THE INDIA GOVERNMENT
FOR HIS RELEASE.**

Prayers will be offered in all religions.

A. M. M. Lokhat,

President.

P. R. Pathe & J. W. Godfrey,

Joint Hon. Secretaries.

Universal Printing Works, 9 Bond St., Durban.

Higher Education and Jack Moodley.

The Editor, Dharma Vir.

Sir,—Recently there has been so much said and written about the so-called High School, College and Boarding Institution and so much praise lavishly showered upon persons who were never known in the past in connection with educational work that I cannot refrain from expressing my views in connection therewith, especially so, as they have included my name in the list of honours for doing little or nothing.

It is alleged that I have assisted Mr. Suchith Maharaj in collecting boys for the high school. To commence with I must say frankly there is no truth in it. I did not assist Mr. Suchith Maharaj to collect boys for a high school. What I did do was, being a former student of the Higher Grade School and it being common knowledge from my boyhood that this institution was intended for higher education and that the foundation for higher education was then laid as the name of the institution, staff and other circumstances surrounding same indicate, I thought it my duty to inform the members of our community the fact of the Government's decision to add another class for higher education in the same institution. Whether I went alone as I did in many instances, on this mission or went in company with Mr. Suchith Maharaj, or any one else went with Mr. Suchith Maharaj, or any one else went in company with me at the time, is not a criterion, because what little we did is like only a drop in the ocean compared with what Mr. H. L. Paul has done for years past for our children's education. I cannot with any honesty claim credit or fame for such a trivial act although I may say that Mr. V. S. C. Pathe and I lost no time on labour to get pupils to attend the new class. In fact, we were not the only persons going round on this mission, because I was informed in several places that Mr. Paul who introduced Higher Education years ago and has laboured almost all his life time in the cause of education was already on the field with others in continuation of his original scheme.

The higher education question has not cropped up today but was settled when the Government established the Higher Grade School and this fact was always kept before our people by Mr. Paul. Apart from what has been written from time to time by other papers, Mr. Gandhi, who watched the progress of Indian education was much impressed with Mr. Paul's activity generally and not only spoke in very laudable terms but wrote

in his paper to say that Mr. Paul has made the question of Indian Education all his own.

Apart from the Higher Grade School which stands as a living monument to Mr. Paul's persistent labour take, for example, the establishment of the Indian Educational Institute where the children of our community received higher education and came out creditably in the Cape University examination and is it not true that this fact was forcibly put forward by Mr. Paul as a strong point in favour of his contention that Indian children were urgently in need of higher education at the time when the deputation of Indians, met the representatives of the Government—Mr. Loram and Mr. Inspector Balance—who contended that from their long experience as Inspectors of Schools, they knew that Indian children did not require higher education. Now let us be candid. Is it not almost an herculean task to found an institute for higher education and employ professional men with high academical qualifications and carry on same successfully for several years as Mr. Paul did without capital or even remuneration.

Is this not a labour of love? It must be remembered that this is not like a person coming on the scene now and writing a letter or letters to the Government to obtain education for his son, and pose as a public benefactor.

It must not be lost sight of that the additional class in only a continuation of the Government's original policy and in keeping with their repeated promises and not a High School come into existence by the action, as it were, of a Primum Mobile, as is alleged by some persons so as to throw dust in the eyes of the ignorant people to gain their own ends. To be true to myself as a former student of the Higher Grade School where I received my early education, just the same as some of our present day, so-called leaders, I cannot be unmindful or ungrateful for the life long service rendered by Mr. Paul, who is a recognised worker in the noble cause of education. He holds a position unique and unassailable and for some persons to bop up at every trifling act and beg for credit sounds hollow.

In order to educate his own son, Mr. Suchith Maharaj wanted the Government to create a high school, college, and a boarding and lodging institution and a suggestion was even made to transform the present Higher Grade School where thousands of children have received education higher than those provided in other Indian schools, to a High School. All this failed, but Mr. Paul, who has handled this question all along and has

gained much experience in educational work, suggested that as the Higher Grade School was intended for higher education a class should be added in the same institution. This suggestion was accepted. There is no doubt this is the thin end of the wedge. It is no use trying to throw dust in the eyes of the people by saying that a High School has been newly established because Mr. Suchith Maharaj or anyone else applied for it. This is not true. The establishment of a high school for Indians is only a myth.

Mr. Paul can well afford to ignore criticism from certain quarters. His self sacrifice, love of labour and patriotism is well known to every one and we hope Mr. Paul will continue with his praiseworthy work quietly and undauntedly.

I am etc.

10 Sept. 1918.

T. C. Moodley

OBITUARY

The funeral of the late Udith Narain Rajakumar, eldest son of Mr A. R. Rajakumar of the office of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Durban, took place on Tuesday last.

The late Udith Narain, 16 years of age, was a very studious and promising young lad. He was the first boy to join the higher education class. He had a bright future before him. His sudden death was no doubt a severe blow not only to his parents but to his numerous colleagues. He was a lad who was able to read and write the Tamil language beside his mother tongue-Hindi. He was of assistance to the Durban Hindi Parchathi Evening School in that he used to take the classes in the absence of the teacher in charge whenever there was necessity.

In the sporting line, he was good at football and cricket, and his favourite hobby was angling. His manners were admired by his elders. He was a good natured and kind hearted youth. He now rests in peace after serving as a true son. He leaves behind his parents including a large number of relatives to mourn their loss.

Contributed

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No. 32

NOTES ON HASAN IMAM'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

He has clearly and unequivocally expressed the opinion that "the proposals have placed us under a great disappointment, for though the essentials of our demand are acknowledged in theory, they have not been conceded in substance." He observes incidentally, and, we think, rightly: "*We know no extremists and we know no moderates, names that have been devised by our enemies to divide us.*"

The Legislative Assembly and the Council of State.

Mr. Hasan Imam rightly observes that though "the Legislative Assembly is to have an elected majority of two-thirds of its total strength," it "is to have no power and must remain content with exercising that shadowy stuff, 'Influence.' To render that ineffectual a Council of State has been designed." He points out the mischief of the proposal to constitute a Council of State, in the following passage:—

"Apart from the objection that the people's representatives in the Legislative Assembly will be over-ridden by a body of men not representative of the people the mischief of the proposal is accentuated by according to the members of the Council of State the status of a class by themselves. I see in that the danger of a division of our people, the formation of a new caste. This will no doubt further strengthen the already existing arbitrary powers of the Government of India and, considering that it is proposed that British control over the Government of India should be relaxed, the danger of reckless irresponsibility in the Central Government will be enhanced. Our demand is for the availability of Provincial and Central Governments alike to the people's wishes, but instead we are being given a Central Government more autocratic than ever. The joint Report admits that the bureaucratic system that has prevailed hitherto is no more suited to our needs, but the second Chamber that is proposed and which is to have the decisive voice is to consist of bureaucrats and their nominees with a

powerless minority of elected members. It would be, to my mind, the perpetuation of the bureaucratic rule that we have been striving to remove. We cannot give our willing assent to a packed second Chamber created to render inoperative what the people's representatives decide. The proposal is reactionary in its character and by no manner of means can it be described as a reform intended to increase popular control. The creation of such a Second Chamber is a confession of the distrust of the people—a distrust that is visible in the proposals as a whole."

In his opinion the legislative procedure described in the report makes the nervousness of the authors manifest.

The Central Government must be Saved from Popular Tyranny!

There is quiet humour, perhaps unconscious, in the sentence in which Mr. Hasan Imam says that, "reading the proposals contained in Chapter IX of the Report dealing with the so-called reforms in the Government of India, the impression is left on the mind of the reader, that the Central Government had been in the past the object of much tyranny and oppression by the people and special measures were needed to protect that Government." He goes on to observe: "It is difficult to estimate the political reasons that have induced the illustrious authors of the Report to treat the Government of India and the people of India as two combatants constantly pulling in opposite directions—the Governments of India being always right and the people of India always wrong."

The popular ideal has been correctly stated.

"The ideal that we have always set before us is that the Government of India should be so constituted that that Government should be the Government for the people. So long as these extraordinary safeguards are devised and exist, it would be but natural for us to feel that those that carry on the Government are removed from us and as human beings,

subject to human failings, will subordinate the people's interest to theirs. No one can conceal the fact that the interests of the bureaucrat, whatever his services may have been, have been widely different from the interests of the people and if the same bureaucrat is to shape the destinies of India, even at this juncture, the reason for the special safeguard is obvious. The cardinal principle of our demand is that Indian interests are not any more to be subservient to the interests of others and if the proposed reforms are intended to restore to us what we have lost then the reformation of the Government of India should not be and must not be on the lines of the proposal but on those that would secure to the people at least an effective voice in the governance of the country. The Congress League Scheme has been discarded as unworkable in practice. It may not be artistic in its features, it may have the defects of inexperience of actual administration, it may even appear to be crude in form. But we do not attach ourselves to the externals of the scheme but to the true spirit of it. We insist on the essentials being left untouched, we demand their incorporation in the reforms that may hereafter be ultimately decided on."

The Council of State and the Ruling Princes.

The speaker has voiced a not unfounded fear that the proposed association of the ruling princes with the Council of State bodes no good.

The proposal that in the Council of State the Ruling Princes should be associated with the Government of India for the purpose of deliberation on matters of what have been vaguely described 'common concern,' is neither happy for us nor happy for them. By the very nature of their relations with the Suzerain Power the Princes are in a state of subordination to the Governor-General as representing the King-Emperor. Their task in their own principalities is difficult

enough and it will only add to their burden to be invited to take part in the Council of State in British India. Then again there may be complications here, after if the pledge of full responsible Government to us comes to be fulfilled, as we hope and trust it will be in the near future. The Council of State with its present proposed constitution spells to me the dread that the Government of India will at no time entertain a popular Assembly whose voice will be listened to, for if that were to be so the introduction of the Princes into the Council of State would be incompatible with their sovereign rights. Supposing that at a future date the Council of State becomes a representative body of British Indians, would it suit the Princes to descend from their high state to seats in a people's assembly and would it suit us to have them in our midst? What is the special need of the presence of the Princes in the Council of State? Is not that Council, if established, strong enough, even without them, to protect the Government of India against the people?

To be continued.

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 11 October 1918

S. A. INDIANS AND PEACE.

After a prolonged conflict there is every possibility of peace being concluded between the belligerents in the very near future. The battle is being waged by the allies, we are told, for the freedom of the world and for civilisation. This being the case and there being every probability of an early termination of the war, should not the Indian community of South Africa draw up a statement of its grievances which require urgent redress for presentation to the Allies? Our European fellow subjects in this country treat us in a scandalous manner, drunk by the insolence of power and forgetting that they will have to account for their evil deeds one day before a Power superior to theirs. We have time and again brought our troubles and our humiliations to their cognisance though it was unnecessary, since they are well aware of their own high handed and tyrannical actions. We have stood loyally by the empire in the hour of its crisis and surely we are justified in bringing the wilful and wanton treatment of a revolting nature meted out to us in this country to the notice of the Allies? Will South African Indians respond? Indians, seize your opportunity!

S. A. INDIAN CONFERENCE

The date of the South African Indian Conference has been adjourned to 17, November, 1918, on account of the influenza epidemic in Cape Town and also on account of the approaching national festivities of the Hindus and Moslems. The disavowal of this movement, by some leading Indians of the Cape, which was published in the columns of "Indian Opinion" is a regrettable incident arising out of reasons which are far from approvable. We venture to think it to be the outcome of the fulminations of our Phoenix contemporary against this movement. The "Indian Opinion" has earned for itself the unique distinction of being the only organ to oppose the movement. The *Indian Views*, the *African Chronicle* and the *Viveka Bhanoo* applaud the idea of holding the conference in their respective columns and from messages arriving from various sources, we infer that the movement has the wide spread support of Indians in this country. We hope, representatives will be delegated from various parts of South Africa to attend the conference and thus ensure its success.

MARITZBURG H. Y. M. A.

The thirteenth anniversary of the Hindu Young Men's Association, of Maritzburg, will be celebrated on Sunday, 13, October, 1918. It is now full fourteen years since this Sabha was established by Professor Bhai Parmanand, and, in this interval, the Association has rendered great service in generally ameliorating the condition of the City Hindu community. The two gentlemen who stand prominent, among a number of others, in this uphill work are Messrs R. N. Moodley and S. R. Naidoo, who well deserve the hearty approbation and sincere congratulations of the Hindu community of South Africa. It will be remembered by our readers, that the South African Hindu Maha Sabha was resuscitated mainly owing to the energies of the Maritzburg H. Y. M. A. led by such able leaders as Messrs R. N. Moodley and S. R. Naidoo. Not only is the city institution attending to the general well being of the city Hindus in a general manner, as far as it possibly can, but it has and is specially devoting much of its resources and energies in conducting a vernacular school. We hope delegates and others will attend the anniversary from various parts of the province and appreciate and encourage the worker's in this cause.

MOHURRUM

The annual Mohurrum festival of the Mohammedans will take place early next week. We hope our Hindu brothers will take the necessary steps to induce such Hindus as are still participating in this festival to refrain from same.

Notes and News.

We regret to place on record the demise of the late Mr. Cachalia, chairman of the Transvaal British Indian Association, which took place in Johannesburg on Sunday last. The death of this ardent patriot has removed from our midst a man who could have been of considerable assistance to the Indian community in the struggles it will have to wage to assert the rights to which it is entitled under divine and human law. The late Mr. Cachalia was one of those few who place communal wellbeing and honour before personal gain and selfish ambition. He sacrificed his all for the people's good and suffered for the people's cause. It is the office of those who are not directly affected to offer condolences but in this case the sorrow is of the community's and the community far from being in a position to offer its sympathy is in need of all the sympathy it can get.

A meeting of Indians, resident in Malvern and its neighbourhood, was held in the Malvern Aided School recently, to consider the advisability of establishing a vernacular school. Mr. S. R. Pather was especially invited. Among those present were Messrs M. C. Naidoo, M. L. Sultan, A. B. Naidoo, Mungar, Govindasamy Pillay, S. R. Pather, Joseph Hoover and others.

Mr. M. C. Naidoo occupied the chair and Mr. A. B. Naidoo was appointed secretary. After considerable discussion it was eventually resolved to establish a vernacular school and a committee consisting of Messrs M. C. Naidoo, S. R. Pather, M. L. Sultan and A. B. Naidoo was appointed. All the leading farmers and others promised monthly contributions in varying sums towards the maintenance of the school.

Mr. B. L. E. Sigamoney, assistant teacher at Sydenham College, was recently given into custody for refusing to remove from his seat on a tram. Mr. Sigamoney, who was released immediately on his own recognisance, alleges that the conductor punched his ticket and permitted him to occupy the seat in question in the first instance. A little later, on the instigation of a fellow European passenger the conductor fought

his removal to another seat and on his firm and dignified refusal forcibly ejected him.

We refrain from commenting on the above as the matter is *sub judice* but we hope Mr. Sigamoney will fight the matter out to the bitter end.

We are informed by Mr. D. S. Chetty that the appeal of Govindasamy in the matter of the nine pence imposition will be heard before the Appellate Court at Bloemfontein on November 1st, 1918.

THE LATE MR. CACHALIA

MEMORIAL MEETING IN DURBAN

A representative meeting of Durban Indians met at Rawat's Hall, Victoria Street, Monday afternoon, to express public sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. A. M. Cachalia, chairman of the Transvaal British Indian Association. In the absence through illness of Mr. Haji Dawad Mahomed, Mr. E. M. Paruk was voted to the chair.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman referred to the great work the late Mr. Cachalia had done for the Indian community, and dwelt upon his noble, self-sacrificing character.

Mr. B. L. E. Sigamoney proposed the following resolution:—"This mass meeting of the Indian community of Durban expresses deepest sympathy with the family of the late, Mr. A. M. Cachalia, whose loss to the community is irreparable and by whose death Indians of South Africa lose a great friend and staunch supporter."

Mr. Osman Ahmed seconded, and it was supported by Messrs. M. C. Anglia, Ambaram Mahraj, Roobmoodin, S. M. Panji, V. Lawrence, S. Eumamally, A. H. West, M. Beebhasee, G. D. Hansraj, I. Gopal, A. Christopher, and Parsee Anstomjee. The resolution was then carried, the audience standing in silence.

The second resolution, authorising the chairman to forward the above resolution of sympathy to the relatives of the late Mr. Cachalia, was proposed by Mr. R. Choonoo, seconded by Mr. Mahomed Abed, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and to Mr. Rawat for kindly lending the use of the hall brought the proceedings to a close.

Home Rule In India

SPEECH OF SENATOR REID.

Senator Reid (Queensland) delivered the following speech in the Australian Senate:—"My main purpose in rising is to refer to one question in which I take

a very deep interest. Several speakers have referred in warning tones to the Eastern menace, and some honourable senators spoke of Japan in anything but respectful language. Even one honorable senator on this side of the chamber said that the bazaars of the East were filled with whippers about this large, desirable and unpopulated country of Australia, and he warned us that if something were not done to increase our population the consequence might be serious. I have never been one of those who feared the Asiatic bogey. Australia has every reason to be proud of and gratified with the honourable way in which Japan has, during this War, kept her compact with the Mother Country. If Japan had broken her treaty with Great Britain as the Germans broke the treaty regarding the neutrality of Belgium, Australia would have been at her mercy. I think we ought to recognise Japan's strict observance of her treaty obligations. I take the view that the safety of Australia lies in its being an integral part of the Empire, and that, from my knowledge of the Australian people I do not think there is any likelihood of our breaking the existing ties with the Old Land. There is not that extent of disloyalty which some people seem to think. Honourable senators opposite vent a great deal of their enmity and bitterness upon the Prime Minister, but one great thing I admire about him is his Imperial outlook. Many of the big things he has done have been lost sight of owing to small mistakes he has made, and his short-sighted opponents see only the mistakes and ignore the greater things. To me, Mr. Hughes stands as the representative of Imperial thought in Australia.

EMPIRES MISSION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EAST.

I regard the Empire as having a mission, not only to the people of Australia, but also to the people of the East, and from my point of view by becoming a live part in the Empire and doing our best in this War, we shall be assuring our own safety and future against Japan or any other menace that may arise in the East. If Britain, in her wisdom, will recognise the grievances of India, there will be no danger to Australia in future, because India is a part of the Empire that we cannot do without, and that cannot do without us. Despite all the mistakes that have been made, British rule has been for India's benefit. There are 317,000,000 Indian subjects of the British Empire and at the present time their leaders are asking in very earnest tones for Self-Government. I am anxious that when the War is over Australia shall be represented at the Imperial Conference that must necessarily

follow to devise a policy for the future development and consolidation of the Empire, and I think that a man with the knowledge that Mr. Hughes possesses would ably represent the Commonwealth.

To be Continued

The Nationalists and England

Johannesburg, Oct. 5 (Reuter).—According to a Potchefstroom Nationalist paper, Mr. C. G. Fichardt has made another "remarkable" speech in the Lichtenburg district.

He advised the Nationalists to be careful regarding rebellion. They should not rebel, but take constitutional steps rather than the Mause. They should be proud of their rebels. He did not agree with the rebellion, but he would not condemn it because out of that they could to-day talk about a republic. They were not going to desist before South Africa was free under its own flag.

He denied that they were free. It was only the freedom to do what "the baas" said, and in this connection he cited the appointment of officials against their language and rights. They could have no love for the present flag which was a symbol of the conqueror and of misery. Proceeding, he asked: "Had the ten Millions which we gave to Italy to steal more ground from Austria made us any happier?" Were they getting better prices for their mealies and wool, or more schools for their children? He said nothing against the man who was forced economically to wear this uniform of the conqueror, but no Afrikaner with any self-respect would do so. They had either to be water-carriers and slaves or ask for a republic. He claimed that Canada under the British flag had not progressed as had free America, while the same divisions existed here as in Canada, India, and Ireland. Under the British flag there was murder, rebellion, and incivism. General Botha's policy was to go hat in hand to England to ask for a republic. He (Mr. Fichardt) did not want any favours from England. He relied upon President Wilson's speech and demanded a republic as a holy right. They could not kiss the hand of the conqueror. The policy of the Englishman was to bring South Africa and the Afrikaner to ruin and destruction. What could not be done with the bayonet they were trying to do politically. But there was even a greater danger than the Englishmen. What Britain could not do with its might and power General Botha had done in the name of friendship. The people were divided, and that was the policy of the Englishman.

(See page 7)

THE DHARMA VIK

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN ENGLISH AND HINDI

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NOTES ON HASAN IMAM'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Executive Council

The President of the special congress holds that "the distrust of the people is further made manifest when the introduction of the Indian element into the Executive Council of the Governor-General is limited to but two. Our demand has been that at least half the number of the Executive Councilors should be Indians." Reasons for this demand are given.

"Our claim to a larger increase in the Indian element of the Executive Council is based not merely on our just rights but also on the efficient and loyal performance by the Indian Members of their duties. I appreciate that the numerical strength of the Executive Council under the new constitution has not been diminished and it may be that the existing number may, with changed conditions, be reduced, in which event the two Indian members, as proposed, will constitute a much larger proportion of the Indian element in the Executive Council than is the one Indian member in a Council of eight as at present. Judged by comparison even an illiberal increase of the Indian element in the Executive Council will mark a stage in India's political development. But is that enough? We want a declaration of the proportion and that proportion to be half, as that will give us in some degree an assurance of the intentions of the Government regarding the establishment of responsible Government in this country. We are now no more content with promises. The illustrious authors of the Report themselves remark that there is a belief abroad that assurances given in public pronouncements of policy are sometimes not fulfilled." I would say, not "sometimes" but "seldom" fulfilled.

Fine Phrases and Promises.

The speaker is under no delusion as to the value of fine phrases and promises.

The Morley-Minto Reforms, were hailed by the whole country as ushering in a new era of political progress, but

when they were brought into actual operation the bureaucratic framers of the rules and regulations succeeded in nullifying the liberal policy of Lords Morley and Minto. After our sad experience of the Refrains of 1909 our faith in promises and pledges stands much shaken to-day. Just as we are told to realize that India's political future is not to be won merely by fine phrases, so we ought to make it clear to Government that a whole fifth of the human race cannot be kept loyal to foreign rule by mere promises. The days of fine phrases and hollow promises have equally passed and if we are to be kept within the great British Empire, our confidence must be won, our affection must be secured. To the Secretary of State and the Viceroy we are grateful for the genuine desire their Report demonstrates for the political progress of our country, but to be perfectly frank, we are not without just apprehensions that in much of their work their good intention will be frustrated by those to whom the carrying out of the policy will be entrusted in this country and it is for this reason that our demand for the Indian element in the Governor-General's Executive Council must be insistent on being half of the total strength.

The Grand Committee.

Coming to the consideration of the Provincial governments, Mr. Hasan Imam observes that "the procedure laid down for the passage of a certified Bill is through the Grand Committee, and it seems to me that the Legislative Council has but a nominal place in it. Here again is the same spirit of distrust of the people as in the constitution of the Central government, though it has to be acknowledged that it is not so manifest."

Journey to Provincial Self-government Sure

In spite of all that he has said against the bureaucracy, Mr. Hasan Imam is sanguine enough to say: "I am alive to this that in the provincial administration a considerable advance upon the existing

system is proposed, and I believe that if the proposals are carried into effect the journey to self-government in provincial matters will be sure, though long." He seems to forget that the proposals give power to the Government of India not merely to transfer subjects from the reserved to the transferred list but also "to re-transfer subjects from the transferred to the reserved list or to place restrictions for the future on the minister's powers in respect of certain transferred subjects." (Para 260 of Report.) Similar powers have been given to the periodic parliamentary commissions. Mr. Hasan Imam like many other public men, has taken no notice of this power of retransfer. There is a tendency among some persons to take it for granted that these powers are meant to remain, or will in effect remain, a dead letter. But when so definite a prophecy is ventured that the journey to provincial self-government will be sure, a cautious and wise statesman ought at least to exclaim why he ignores the existence of the frustrative powers referred to above;—particularly when it is remembered that bureaucracies are generally very tenacious of power and privilege, being loth to part with them, and that the bureaucracy in India in particular have abused the provisions of the press acts and the Defence of India Act. They have often taken upon themselves powers which the law, rightly interpreted, has not given them; and it is therefore unwarranted to take it for granted that they will not make use of powers which it is proposed that the law should give them. Our opinion is, and we have given expression to it in our last number, that the "journey to self-government in provincial matters will be sure, though long," only "if the proposals are carried into effect" in a thoroughly just and liberal spirit.

To be Continued

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 18 October 1918

THE TRAMWAY
QUESTION.

Our readers are well aware that for some years past certain sections of the local European community led by the "Natal Mercury," have been agitating for the application of the principle of segregation with regard to the tramway traffic. This agitation, we shrewdly suspect, is to be now revived with the greatest energy and vigour. Respectable Indians are being handed over to the police for manfully declining to put up with the unspeakable insolence of conductors and fellow European passengers and inspired letters of a revolting and disgraceful nature, swarming with deliberate falsehoods, sufficient to consign one to the unspeakable regions, are daily appearing in the European press. To crown all this, our contemporary which enjoys the unenviable and unique distinction of being the foremost leader of this most abominable and irrational movement, now comes forth fulminating with the cry of segregation and falls foul of the Town Councillors for not applying for the necessary powers. Europeans never do things in halves as their insistent demand in this matter will show, and, they generally succeed by their perseverance. We hope our people will learn this much needed lesson and awake from their sleep and start working at once. There is national humiliation ahead, and let us prepare ourselves now and immediately to put up a fight for our God-given rights, if, an ounce of self respect or a grain of dignity is left in us. Charity begins at home, Europeans say, and therefore let our resources and our energies be first devoted solely to our needs before assisting others to our detriment.

Mr. Mandraj Singh
Visits Us.

—0—

Mr. Mandraj Singh, of Weenen, kindly paid us a visit yesterday and was shown over the press. The visitor was much interested in our work and donated £2 assist to same.

SOUTH AFRICAN HINDU MAHA
SABHA.
GENERAL MEETING

A general meeting of the South African Hindu Maha Sabha was held in the H. Y. M. A. Hall, Church Street, Maritzburg, on Sunday last, at 3 p. m. The agenda included over fourteen subjects and it was generally felt they could not be completed that day but the meeting being very orderly, as usual, the programme was gone through satisfactorily within four hours.

Mr. R. G. Bhalla was in the chair and among those present were: Messrs R. N. Moodley, Charlie Nulliah, Mandraj Singh, S. D. Geriou, S. R. Naidoo, D. K. Soni, V. Soni, Somchand Vather, Meharchand Prabdyal, M. P. Pillay, Bhawani Dayal, M. S. Pillay, P. S. Naicker and others. A large number of spectators also occupied seats in the rear of the hall and displayed keen interest in the discussion. Messrs S. R. Pather and M. Thungavelu, joint secretary and treasurer respectively, were unavoidably absent.

The proceedings commenced with the chanting of the Vedic Prayer—Gayatri mantram—followed by the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting which were confirmed. After confirmation, the chairman, before proceeding with further business, moved the following resolution which was passed members standing.

"That this general meeting of the African Hindu Maha Sabha assembled in Pietermaritzburg on Sunday, 13, October 1918, desires to place upon record its deepest sympathy with Mr. Raghunath Singh, of Lady Smith, and family in the loss sustained by them in the death of Mrs. Raghunath Singh."

The secretaries, then, reported inter-alia, that eighteen institutions had affiliated with the Maha Sabha since its resuscitation and others were now considering the advisability of so doing, that in compliance with the Sabha's decision of last meeting a prepaid cablegram was dispatched to Shri Swami Shankeranand inviting him to this country and that the Swami informed he was unable to come till after the war, that two council meetings were held in which important questions were discussed and decided upon that they (the secretaries) were in correspondence with the Superintendent of Education, Natal, with reference to the teaching of the vernaculars in the schools of the Province.

Upon the proposition of Mr. Mandraj Singh, of Weenen, the secretaries re-

port was adopted and the treasurer's report not having come in and the treasurer not being present on account of illness, it was resolved that the secretaries be directed to request the treasurer to produce his accounts duly audited within a month.

The meeting, thereafter proceeded to deal with the following resolutions which after being warmly discussed were passed unanimously:—

(1) "That this meeting is of opinion that the third session of the South African Hindu Conference should be convened in Durban during May 1919."

(2) "This meeting feeling, as it does, that an invidious distinction is being made, by the Provincial Council of Natal, in providing facilities for free and compulsory education for European children alone, without, at the same time making some provision for children of Indian parentage, requests the Provincial Executive, most respectfully, to take steps to extend similar facilities for free education to Indian children."

(3) "This meeting, viewing as it does with deep concern, the future of those Indian children of school-going age who are employed in the various factories and workshops of this country, ventures, respectfully, to draw the attention of the Union Government to the urgent necessity of compelling, by legislation, employers of such children to any number exceeding fifteen to provide facilities for their education."

(4) "This meeting hereby thanks most gratefully both the European and Indian press for kindly publishing matters relating to the South African Hindu Maha Sabha."

In addition to these it was also resolved to thank Messrs A. S. Pather and Iyaloo for assisting the officials, and the Maritzburg H. Y. M. A. for kindly letting the use of its hall. Resolution dealing with the legal non-recognition of Hindu marriage rites was held over for further consideration as was the question of the registration of the Maha Sabha.

The meeting terminated with the singing of "Aarti."

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

We are asked by Dr. Park Esq. Active Assistant M. O. H. for the

Union, to draw the attention of the Indian public to the following:—

Recommendations to employers of coloured labour

(1) Ascertain each morning if any employee or member of his family is sick.

(2) The following symptoms should be enquired after:—

(a) Headache

(b) Pain in trunk and limbs.

(c) Nausea or vomiting

(d) Fever.

(3) The sick person should be excused duty, instructed to take a purge and lie down, precautions be taken that he does not run the risk of chill or damp;

(4) All clothing, blankets and other material from his room should be taken outside and exposed to the sun and the other inmates of such room should spend most of their time out-of-doors.

(5) Rooms should be disinfected if possible.

(6) Throat gargles should be used by everyone. It will be most convenient to make weak solution of permanganate of potash or other non-irritating gargle give instructions that a quantity is to be placed in a cup, taken in through the nose and expectorated. This should be done two or three times morning and evening.

(7) Directions for treatment of cases will be given by the Medical Officer in charge of employees.

(8) The first case or cases in a barracks should be isolated; vigilant attention given to the cleansing of the noses, and throats and clothing of all those who have been in contact. Should the disease become general isolation will be impracticable.

(9) It must be noted that collapse or terminal pneumonia are the usual causes of deaths in this disease. Severe exertion or chill is very dangerous, therefore.

(10) Natives must be prevented if possible from trying to go home on turning ill. This practice, which has been encouraged by certain employers, is reprehensible and dangerous, not only to the sick person, but to the community.

Railway Zoolum.

Mr. S. R. Pather Shabbily Treated.

We regret to learn that our Mr. S. R. Pather was subjected to a most humiliating and disgraceful treatment last Monday afternoon at the Berea Road Station. Mr. Pather on receiving an urgent message from home endeavoured to board at the aforesaid station the 2.20 p. m. train. When the train steamed in, Mr. Pather walked from one end of the train to the other and failed to find a 1st class 'Reserved' compartment. Before anything further could be done the signal was given for the train to proceed and Mr. Pather entered a 1st. Class compartment occupied by a solitary European. No sooner than he did this, the European passenger loudly remonstrated with the conductor and threatened to wire to Sir William Hoy. The conductor unceremoniously requested Mr. Pather to leave the compartment. Mr. Pather undertook to do this provided he was provided with first class accommodation and the train did not start on her journey until this was done. By this time the train was on the move and the guard jumped into the van and stopped her. Mr. Pather alighted; and the conductor instead of fulfilling his duty ordered the train to proceed leaving Mr. Pather behind although the urgency of his journey was brought to the notice of the guard.

To add insult to injury a ticket examiner who was standing by and whom Mr. Pather asked to bear witness declined in a savage manner and walked away. Mr. Pather intending to report the matter to the Station Master knocked at the latter's office five times before the bulky looking booking clerk turned with a "What do you want? Mr. Pather asked to see the Station Master and was curtly told he was out. The ticket examiner then appeared on the scene bawling "What do you want? Being asked for his number he replied "Nought nought, that is my number" and pointing the road

with his finger "Go on". said Mr. Pather again knocked at the door and the booking clerk appearing said "You have heard me ask the ticket examiner for his number and you have heard his reply. I want you to bear witness to the fact please". This official simply said did you" and went away.

Mr. Pather insulted, humiliated and injured in this most scandalous manner repaired at once to the Divisional Superintendent and placed his grievance before him. After giving courteous hearing to the whole affair the Divisional Superintendent apologised for the indignity done and promised to use his own words "We will fix them all up."

Apart from the apology given, we will like to mention that this is not a solitary instance of such illtreatment. Indian passengers are very seldom shown the attention and consideration they are entitled to by the inferior officials of the Railway Administration. These officials seem to be under the impression that their pale skin is a warrant empowering them to commit all manner of irregularities. Over and over, countless illtreatments of this nature have been brought to our notice, particularly, at the Berea Road Station. Even recently, an innocent Indian was roughly handled and assaulted at this notorious station by a native porter in the presence and with the tacit approval of a European official. Incidents of this nature and their frequent occurrence leads us to the irresistible conclusion that the superior officials do not inflict cognate punishment to the malefactors. Divisional Superintendent promised the Indian deputation which waited upon him some time ago that special instructions will be given to these tiny tin pot kaisers to show the same respect and consideration to Indian passengers as they would to Europeans. Are we then enabled by these unfortunate incidents to conclude that this promise has been faithfully kept and fulfilled? We hear so much of the culture and brutality of the Hun but we are more than certain that they are preferable to the brutalities perpetrated on the railways of these country.

THE PHARMAHIC

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No. 34

NOTES ON HASAN IMAM'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The passage upon which we have commented above is followed a few lines below by a passage in which Mr. Hasan Imam himself gives expression to the apprehension that in the scheme there are weapons which a "strong man" may use "for the destruction of the reforms themselves." Says he:

After all, our past does not justify so many safeguards in the reforms. These same safeguards in the hand of a "strong man" may be turned into effective weapons for the destruction of the reforms themselves. It is true that periodic Commissions are suggested for the purpose of re-surveying the political situation in India and of readjusting the machinery to the new requirements from time to time and no doubt would be within the province of the Commission to investigate into the course of constitutional development in the country and a "strong man" will have the fear of his acts being examined and judges ment passed thereon by a Commission that would derive its authority from Parliament itself. But it has to be borne in mind that these Commissions will be at distant intervals, and however much credit one may be disposed to give to them for their anxiety to make a thorough investigation, the lapses of the "strong man" are bound to escape scrutiny when time has dulled the directness of perception. Without referring to any particular "strong man," we naturally get apprehensive when we find an administrator of a province indulging in wholesale denunciation of the politically-minded Indians, as men engaged in sowing distrust and in propagating vile propaganda. The latest pronouncement of one such "strong man" is that such of us, as ask why this restrictions, safeguards, this machinery for saving the reservations authority of the Government, and why this distrust, are those that spend their time in spreading sinister influence over the people and he explains that it is not the mistrust of the people, but the distrust of the sinister influence of those whom he calls the extremists that

renders it necessary to include in the new constitution safeguards, restrictions and reservations. Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford may well piteously cry: "Save us from our friends." Throughout the Report on the reforms on such suggestion for the distrust has been expressed by its illustrious authors and whatever distrust that is noticeable could be ascribed to cautious steps being warranted by the want of experience of the Indian people in matters administrative; but this commentator on the Report, if his exposition be correct, rouses us to a just resentment. This same "strong man" talks of an unbridled and defamatory press when he of all persons ought to know that the press legislation in India, of all measures, has been the most destructive of legitimate public criticism and has secured for the "strong man" as also even for the milder bureaucrat, an unimpeded passage to the fulfilment of his arbitrary will. It is such "strong men"—and this unfortunate land has many of this breed—against whom we, the people, require special measures of protections.

(To be Continued)

Precautions Against Influenza.

The Influenza which has caused so much mortality in certain Districts of the Union, is dangerous chiefly because of its liability to cause heart failure and collapse, or to develop into pneumonia.

The onset of Influenza is characterized by:-

- Headache
- Pain in Trunk and Limbs
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fever.

and it depends to a great extent upon the patient as to whether serious complications ensue or not.

Anyone affected with it should at once lie down, take a purge and guard against chill or dampness.

Directions for treatment will be given by Medical Attendant.

The source of infection is the nose and back of throat, and these parts should be cleansed at least twice daily by everyone—whether ill or not. The easiest way to do this is to make up a weak clayey coloured solution of permanganate of potash or even salt and water, fill a cup with it, imbibe it through the nose and expectorate two or three times.

Persons should spend as much time in the open air as possible, and crowded or ill ventilated rooms should be avoided. When this is impossible, the throat and nose treatment outlined above should be carried out several times daily with the utmost thoroughness.

G. A. PARK ROSS

M. D. D. P. H.

Acting Assistant M. O. H. For The Union Natal.

INDIAN GATHERINGS DEPRECATED

During the prevalence of the influenza epidemic, it is essential that public gatherings should be restricted as far as possible, and this applies with equal force to Indians and Europeans. The position with regard to the former appears to be, that in the suburban districts of Durban where sanitation and water are not so well controlled as in the borough, Indian and other coloured residents are more liable to contract the disease and, unless proper precautions are taken by the authorities, to report it into the town. It was with this possibility in view that the Acting Chief Magistrate of Durban, and Park Ross, the Acting Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the Union, after a meeting with the leaders of the Indian community decided to prohibit the holding of the annual Mohammedan festival, known as the Mohurram, outside the borough and in the Inanda district. It was a wise decision, and one in which the whole

Indian community should have coincided without any quibbling. Some comment has been made on a letter from an Indian correspondent, appearing in this paper on Wednesday last, in which the suggestion is made that the Acting Chief Magistrate had consulted, on the advice of his interpreter, a trio of Hindus, who are alleged to be bitter opponents of the Mahomedans. It need hardly be pointed out that the Acting Chief Magistrate had no ulterior motive in consulting the gentlemen referred to. He was actuated solely by a desire to carry out the health regulations, and to protect the Indian people from any danger of spreading infection.

(Natal Advertiser)

THE DHARMA VIR.

Friday, 25 October 1918

TRAMWAY QUESTION

The seriousness of the tramway question is decidedly on the increase and the situation is very delicate. Colour prejudice of a most irrational and virulent order is abroad, and, we feel, almost certain that an organised attempt is now being made to settle this question to the liking of the Europeans. Indians of respectability and status are being shamefully treated by motormen, conductors and members of the European public. Deliberate and wanton assaults are on the increase under a belief, doubtless, of being immune from punishment, for transgressing the laws of the land. It, however, remains to be seen, what endeavours will be made by the authorities responsible for peace and good government within the Borough, to see, that the citizens, whether Europeans or otherwise, did not take the law into their own hands. We can assure the Town Council that Indians have no desire to forego their rights, and, that when the proper time comes, they will be found prepared and ready to assert their rights in a dignified, constitutional and legal manner. The tramway question is not of local importance only, but, it assuredly is of first rate imperial importance. The question involves a decision of a larger issue, viz, the status of Indians within the Empire. It would be a serious mistake to suppose that the matter could be settled, just as the Europeans of Durban wish India will have her say as an important partner in the British Empire, or else her representation at the Imperial Conference will be nothing but a

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

Spanish Influenza, which is yet prevalent all over South Africa, is taking its toll of life, and, the outbreak is world wide. This disease is no respecter of persons. It visits all alike and is European in origin. Notwithstanding these facts, we regret to find our European fellow subjects raising a hue and cry against our people, as if, we have been the cause for the introduction of this plague. Indians had been made scape goats for many things in the past, but, we feel, doubtful, whether any of those incidents would surpass the present attempt in ridiculousness and absurdity. We must confess our absolute inability to divine the psychology of the local European mind. They seem to harbour some notion that their troubles, of whatever nature, are due to the presence of Indians here. Such a quixotic belief is entertained, not only by the less intelligent Europeans, but, also, by the intelligent members of the European community, not excluding the editors of our local European contemporaries, who emit fire, blood and thunder to restrict or deprive Indians of their liberty of movement and action. That such is the case surely to be regretted. We venture to remind our European friends that the unjustifiable and illogical hue and cry they are raising, based, as they are, on the flimsiest of grounds, do not raise them in the estimation of Indians. If any body ought to reasonably grumble, in this matter, more than another, it is, surely, the coloured population of this country, who, have not only suffered by contracting this dreadful malady, but, have lost many of their near and dear once. We do hope that our European fellow citizens, will look at things from a reasonable frame of mind and not permit their colour prejudice to warp their judgement.

MR. JACK MOODLEY'S LETTER

Recently we published in our columns a letter from Mr. Jack Moodley, on the question of Higher Education. In that letter, Mr. Moodley gives Mr. H. L. Paul all the credit he deserves, for having made the question of Indian education all his own, as Mr. M. K. Gandhi once so nicely said. Now, this letter from the pen of Mr. Moodley is of considerable importance since it emanates from one who took a great part with others in interviewing Provincial Councillors with reference to higher education for Indians. As our readers are aware, this is not the only question in which Mr. Moodley has been

to do his bit in many matters of vital interest to our community. The letter, therefore, constituted a through exposure of the claims of certain obscure individuals for undeserved notoriety and fame and we are not surprised that an attempt was made to induce Mr. Moodley to withdraw same by persons affected and their friends. We shall, if occasion demand, publish the names of the persons who repaired to Mr. Moodley and shed crocodile tears. Suffice it to say for the present that they absolutely failed to hoodwink him. Mr. Moodley firmly declined to entertain such a proposal as any public man who possessed a grain of self respect would. This indicates but too clearly how our self constituted leaders work behind the veil. They will rather see a public tell a deliberate falsehood than express an unpleasant truth. As the letter in question is pregnant with information which throw much light on the recent scandalous education squabbles, we hope, our readers will peruse that letter carefully and get at the real state of affairs.

Influenza and Coloured People.

The following letter appeared in the "Natal Advertiser" of recent date:—

Sir,—What a remarkably vile piece of humanity T. Manson must be, and what a through thrashing he deserves. If I remember rightly, Mr. Editor, King Alfonso of Spain was one of the Spanish influenza victims, and he, I presume, did not ride on cars that carried coloured people. Again, other important people have suffered from this same scourge, persons who occupy well kept homes, and who have clean servants at their beck and call. It is therefore not surprising that an apology like T. Manson should also suffer.

I ask you, Mr. Editor, in the name of justice can the coloured people be held responsible for this world-wide epidemic? A thousand times "No."

Spanish flu, knows neither white nor black, rich nor poor, so what coloured people have to do with it I fail to see. As far as I can ascertain, few coloured people, i. e. Mauritians and St. Helenas have been affected. Indians (those of the very inferior classes) and Natives, cannot battle against the disease. The money they earn is insufficient for decent food hence the difficulty of taking precautionary measures as a preventive of this scourge.

Does all this colour prejudice and injustice meet with God's approval? Surely it is plain enough, Mr. Editor, that His anger is upon us.

The Mayor and Mayoress, and the

held a concert on Saturday night in the Music Hall, packed with coloured people. The Mayor was the recipient of a beautiful bouquet.

It would be interesting to know whether they have since been effected with British flu. All Europeans are not clean. They are decidedly dirty. Of course, the British is always offensive, so T. Mansun has liberty to wear away until he feels quite relieved.

I have yet to learn that European T. Mansun's is in any way more valuable than that of the coloured.

Yours, etc.,
L. S. FKANCOIS.

Notes and News.

After a protracted illness lasting over some months Mr. Percy Binns K. C. resumed his duties as the Chief Magistrate on Wednesday last. On behalf of the Indian community we have much pleasure in congratulating him on his recovery and on his return to office.

The seriousness of the Tramway question reached another phase recently when it was advertised that the trains will pick up passengers only to the extent of the seating accommodation on the trains. This decision was arrived at, we understand, on account of the prevalence of Spanish influenza. Though the provision is of a general nature, we regret to discover, that it is being abused where members of the Indian community are concerned. In many cases, though ample seating accommodation existed Indian passengers were being left behind. It is as well that this matter should be brought to the notice of the Town Council.

A meeting of the South Coast Junction Hindus was held recently for the purpose of considering the best way of celebrating Deepavali in that district in the National School. After some discussion it was unanimously resolved to hold sports and the following committee was elected: Chairman, S. R. Pather; Secretary, C. K. Naidoo; Treasurer, C. K. Naidoo, committee Messrs S. D. Pillay, J. M. Perumall, M. C. John, A. Singh, S. A. Pillay, A. N. Naicker, Mr. Sidney Naidoo, P. M. Naicker, P. S. Moodley, V. N. Naidoo and C. G. Naidoo.

Yet another meeting was held in the same place the same day, convened by Mr. Sidney Naidoo for the purpose of establishing a mutual benefit society. Mr. S. R. Pather presided, Mr. Sidney Naidoo briefly explained the nature and objects of a benefit society. The following committee was elected *pro tem*: chairman, Mr.

P. M. Naicker; secretary, Mr. V. V. S. Naidoo (Sidney) Assistant secretary, Mr. S. A. Pillay; Treasurer, Mr. C. K. Naidoo; committee Messrs S. R. Pather, M. C. John, S. D. Pillay, J. N. Perumall, A. M. Chinna Naidoo A. Singh and S. N. Richards.

It was resolved that the name of the society should be the Colonial Indian Benefit Fund."

On Tuesday last, representative members of the Indian community, consisting of Messrs M. C. Anglin, M. A. Jewara, R. K. Naidoo, M. L. Sulthan, Jack Moodley, R. S. G. Pather, 1st-mail Bhyatt, B. A. Megrajh and S. R. Pather, thanked Mr. Walker Wilson, the then Acting Chief Magistrate, for the kindness, Courtesy and consideration he had shown to the Indian community during his short tenure of office. A full report will appear next week.

Influenza Epidemic

Indian Relief Committee Formed.

As the result of an interview between Dr. Park-Ross, Assistant Health Officer for the Union, Dr. J. M. Ross, of South Coast Junction, and representative Indians, a meeting of the South Coast Junction Indian community was held in the National school, on Saturday last, at 3 p.m., to form a relief committee to assist deserving cases in connection with the prevailing influenza epidemic.

Among those present in addition to Dr. J. M. Ross were:—Messrs M. A. Karim, Essop M. Paruk, Thanoo Maharaj, S. D. Omar, A. Royeppen, A. Moodaliar Mahommed Essack, R. Bhawani, Ali-Backus, Eli Backus, Bodha, S. R. Pather and others.

Dr. Ross said, inter alia, that he was aware of the conditions of Indians on the flats of South Coast Junction and Clairwood. He considered that if the Indian community formed a relief committee to assist deserving cases by providing persons afflicted with influenza mixture free of charge, a large number of individuals and families who are or might be effected, might be saved. He generously promised to assist the Committee and place his services at its disposal in very severe and dangerous cases.

The chairman, Mr. M. A. Karim thanked Dr. Ross for his presence and said he very much appreciated the humanitarian feelings which impelled him. Personally, he never took part in public affairs, but as this was a humanitarian work he was prepared to put his hearts and soul into it. He thanked Dr. Ross from the bottom of his heart,

on behalf of the community for the interest evinced by the learned doctor in its welfare.

The meeting then proceeded to election which resulted as follows:—Parton, Dr. J. M. Ross; chairman and treasurer, Mr. M. A. Karim; secretary, Mr. S. R. Pather; committee, Messrs Essop M. Paruk, Thanoo Maharaj, S. D. Omar, A. Royeppen, A. Modaliar, R. Bhawani.

A subscription list was opened and donations promised amount to £36-19s. The following amounts have been received:—M. A. Karim £5 5s; Essop M. Paruk £2 2s; S. D. Omar £2 2s; Thanoo Maharaj £1 1s; John 10s 6d; L. Singh, D. C. M., £1 1s; S. P. Paul 10s 6d; A. N. Naicker 7s 6d; H. S. Done 5s; C. K. Naidoo 5s; Sulieman Essop 5s; Kalianji Kathad 10s. 6d.—Total £14 5s.

Passengers on Tramcars

Not the least of the important questions before the Town Council at present is the matter of the regulation of tram traffic. It is not so much the provision of special or extra cars at certain times of the day, as the problem of the people using the trams. The question is a hardy annual; it has been discussed in the press for years, but the Town Council seems to have shown a curious indifference. Notably, the subject is surrounded by colour prejudice and inter-Imperial influence, but the outbreak of influenza has brought the matter to a head. Attention may be called to a letter appearing elsewhere over the signature of "Oak." This demonstrates that some new regulations are urgent, because such "accidents and regrettable incidents" will cause the disease to spread virulently all over the town and suburbs. Every time that one suggests some salutation of the colour puzzle one is confronted by the outcry of class legislation; but no European wishes to impose any yoke upon the Asiatic or the Native races. All he wishes is that in public affairs and public conveyances the same rule should be imposed which he carries on in his daily life. The Asiatic, and to a smaller extent the Native, demands the same distinctions. No Asiatic would allow a European to walk through his household, or to associate with his family; then there can be no logical reason why separate cars should not be introduced, or why they should associate in public. Certain cars might be labelled "for non-Europeans only." If we must sort up the rolling stock into distinct divisions, for the welfare of the whole community, then it should be done, even though it cost

There are special classes on the tram, then why not on the trams? The tram could be reserved for the better classes of Indians or Natives, as the case may be, and the upper deck for the others. In the Council state, it is understood, that the tram have not the statutory powers. Then in all these years since the question of the tram has been almost burning one, have they not acquired or sought to acquire the power of extensions of train to outlying suburbs? Is it less important than a proper settlement of the traffic problem. The chief difficulty at the present moment is from the Asiatics and Natives who live just outside the boundaries of the borough, do not pay rates, yet fill up the trams at the expense of the rates. A special meeting of the Town Council should be convened to go into the tram problem; to discover what powers the Council possess; to see what remedies for an immediate danger can be applied, and to consider such legislation as will meet the emergency of the situation. The burgesses of Durban are weary of the procrastination of the Council has attended this vital subject.

(Natal Mercury.)

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अन्य बहुतसी चीजें मिल सकती हैं ।

जी० पी० रघुवीर वर्मा
३७, ३८ और ३९ इन्डिया मार्केट-दरबन ।

दी सयाजी रेस्टोरेंट ।

धर्मवीरके प्रेमी ध्यान दें ।

यह भोजनालय बहुत समयसे महान प्रसिद्धि
पा चुका है । शहरमें काम करनेवाले तथा बाहर के
हिन्दी तथा आर्य भाईयोंके भोजनके लिये उत्तम प्रबन्ध
किया गया है । हमारे दुकानके पोरबन्दरके घी का बना
हुआ मिठाई दक्षिण अफ्रिकामें प्रसिद्ध है । विशेषकर
बनस्पतियोंका बना हुआ पाक अत्यन्तही बलवर्द्धक
है । स्वच्छता और पवित्रताका बहुत ध्यान रखा
जाता है और समस्त पदार्थ उचित भावसे दिया
जाता है ।

के० जीवन; १८६ ग्रेसट्रीट दरबन