

# Indian Opinion

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## INDIA WELCOMES EMERGENT AFRICAN STATES

(Indian Opinion India Service)

**NAIROBI.**—The Commissioner for India, Mr I. J. Bahadur Singh in a message of greetings to Indian nationals in British East and Central Africa on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of India's attainment of independence said that his Government warmly welcomed African States emerging into independence and paid a tribute to the wise policies being pursued to this end by the governments and the people concerned.

THE following is the text of the message:—"On this auspicious day which marks the 13th Anniversary of India's independence, I extend to all Indian nationals and those innumerable friends and well-wishers of India my sincere greetings.

"On this day, thirteen years ago, India emerged from Colonial status as a sovereign independent nation. Ever since then, we have been endeavouring to give some content to our freedom. All our efforts have been directed towards building the country's economy on firm foundations with the object of raising the standards of living of our people. The magnitude and urgency of the task is so great that it called for planned and co-ordinated effort on a national scale.

"Great strides have been made in the economic life of the country under the two Five Year Plans, and the Third Plan is now in the offing. Heartening as the results of these plans have been, the stagnation of centuries cannot be swept away in a decade or two. Let us therefore on this day renew our pledge to continue our efforts even with greater vigour to build the India of our dreams.

"The past twelve months have witnessed events of far reaching importance to the world as a whole, and, to Asia and Africa in particular. India has particularly welcomed the attainment of independence by many of the African countries and the energetic measures taken towards the achievement of that goal in several others. The wise policies pursued in this direction are particularly praiseworthy and we have no doubt that these will pave the way for ultimate peace and stability and a natural equilibrium in this great continent. As a coun-

try striving to put its own economy on a sound footing, we are in no position to render any appreciable economic assistance to the newly emerging nations. But with genuine goodwill for them we have endeavoured to share whatever facilities we have with the peoples of the underdeveloped countries. This has taken the form of co-operation in the field of technical assistance and educational facilities. Over 250 African students from East Africa alone and about 50 from Central Africa have so far benefited from higher education in India under the Government of India's Cultural Scholarship Scheme. It is also to the credit of the Indian community in East Africa that every year they privately finance education overseas of many deserving African students.

"To those of our nationals who are in these territories, may I say how much we appreciate the efforts they have continuously made to uphold the prestige and

good name of our country. Our Indian tradition of functioning on an ethical plane with high ideals, of upholding the right cause irrespective of consequences, our tolerance and understanding have always been a source of strength to us. Let us not lose sight of them but strive without fear, to live up to those values and so make an essential contribution in the solution of the many problems which arise in the areas in which we live and work.

## India—Iraq Radio-Phone Link Opened

(Indian Opinion India Service)

A DIRECT radio-telephone link between India and Iraq was established by the Overseas Communications Service in Bombay when Dr. P. Subbaroyan, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, and Mr. Hasan Talabany, Iraq's Minister for Communications, exchanged messages of greetings. Dr. Subbaroyan, in his message conveyed his good wishes and those of his countrymen to Mr. Talabany and the people of Iraq for their continued progress and happiness, and hoped the new link would help promote better trade and commerce and friendship and understanding between the two countries.

## Boycott Of South African Goods

(Indian Opinion India Service)

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, said in the Rajya Sabha that though the Government did not want to press Commonwealth countries to boycott goods produced in South Africa, "we have kept them informed of our own views and the action we have taken and hopes for the future. It is up to them to take similar action or not." Mr. Nehru was replying to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta who had drawn his attention to the Malayan Prime Minister, Mr. Tengku Abdul Rahman's statement in favour of organising an Asian boycott of goods produced in South Africa in protest against her racial policies.

## Gujarat's Inland Waterways

(Indian Opinion India Service)

GUJARAT should develop its inland waterways, said the noted shipping expert, Mr. S. N. Haji, here in Ahmedabad, on August 10. As a first step in this direction, the Sabarmati river should be linked with Bhavnagar creek. A detailed report on this proposal could be got from old records with the Government he added. Mr. Haji suggested that the Government of Gujarat should urge the Union Government to implement some of the major recommendations of the Inland Waterways Committee. The State Government should insist on the execution of the scheme of linking the Narmada and the Tapi with rivers flowing eastwards into the Bay of Bengal. This would provide an inland waterway, he stated. Mr. Haji, also said that the Third Five-Year Plan target of shipping should be raised from 1.4 million tons to two million tons.

## The Price Of Martyrdom

IN 1931 Gandhiji, while returning from the Second Round Table conference, stayed in Rome for a day. There he was introduced to Mussolini, the Dictator of Italy. He also visited the Vatican. There [he was shown the famous painting of Christ on the Cross, he began gazing at it; and was also much impressed by it.

According to press reports, when he discussed the painting, this is what he said: "I would forsake everything just to get a chance to bow my head in front of the lively painting of Jesus on the Cross at the Vatican. I found it very hard to take off my eyes from this lively scene which is a tragedy in the history of mankind. I at once realized there that there is no other way for the people to build a nation, besides martyrdom. We don't achieve happiness by making others unhappy, but only achieve it by undergoing hardships ourselves."

# Indian Opinion

FRIDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 1960

## Non-Whites On The Durban City Council

THE Durban City Council has never been noted for magnanimity when dealing with the legitimate needs and wants of the Indian people within the area of its control. In fact, it is not incorrect to state that it has always been at the van of any assault on the rights of the Indian people. The Indian people have learnt not to expect much, if anything at all, from the Council. Hot upon the heels of its plans to drive a new road southwards out of the city over Indian homes, schools and places of worship it has, in the most cynical manner referred "without comment" to the Provincial Council a request by the South African Institute of Race Relations for an inquiry into the necessity of the representation of non-White on the Council. The honourable members with some notable exceptions who sit round the horse shoe of the Durban Council Chamber and spend money paid by the non-White people as rates and taxes do not feel themselves competent to express an opinion on whether the people who pay these taxes are entitled to any voice in the expenditure of this money!

One wonders whether cynicism can sink to lower depths, and whether in this age of enlightened thinking and epoch of world shattering events there can be found anywhere in the world a body of people incapable of expressing an opinion on the dictum that "Taxation without Representation is Tyranny." For what else is the present position in the city of Durban, which, at the moment is engaged in a last-ditch struggle against the Nationalist Government to uphold the views of one half of the population (European, of course) of the country? And there is no doubt where the city councillors of Durban stand on the referendum and republic issue. Yet these very people refuse, or fail, to express an opinion on whether the non-White people of the city should have some representation on the Council. The non-White people, particularly the Indians, pay colossal amounts in rates and other direct taxes every year but they have no say whatsoever in the expenditure of this money. Over the years the non-White people as businessmen and ordinary taxpayers and property-holders must have paid some millions of pounds into the coffers of the City Council, but they have not been able to say one word about the manner in which this money should be spent. They are compelled by law to pay and by law they are forced to remain silent. Surely the Durban City Councillors know a modicum of history or have their brains been so effectively brain-washed by the Nationalists that on the question of ordinary justice to the non-Whites within the city they are tongue-tied? Surely at high school these councillors learnt something about the American and French Revolutions? Surely they read the newspapers today and

(Continued on next page)

## Gandhiji On

# POSITION OF WOMEN

I DO not need to be a girl to be wild over man's atrocities towards women. I count the law of inheritance among the least in the list. The Sarda Bill deals with an evil far greater than the one which the law of inheritance connotes. But I am uncompromising in the matter of woman's rights. In my opinion she should labour under no legal disability not suffered by man. I should treat the daughters and sons on a footing of perfect equality. As women begin to realize their strength, as they must in proportion to the education they receive, they will naturally resent the glaring inequalities to which they are subjected.

But to remove legal inequalities will be a mere palliative. The root of the evil lies much deeper than most people realize. It lies in man's greed of power and fame and deeper still in mutual lust. Man has always desired power. Ownership of property gives this power. Man bankers also after posthumous fame based on power. This cannot be had, if property is progressively cut up in pieces as it must be if all the posterity become equal co-sharers. Hence the descent of property for the most part on the eldest male issue. Most women are married. And they are co-sharers, in spite of the law being against them, in their husband's power and privileges. They delight in being ladies this and what not simply for the fact of being the wives of particular lords. Though therefore they may vote for radical reform in academic discussions over inequalities, when it comes to acting up to their vote, they will be found to be unwilling to part with the privileges

Whilst therefore I would always advocate the repeal of all legal disqualifications, I should have the enlightened women of India to deal with the root cause. Woman is the embodiment of sacrifice and suffering, and her advent to public life should therefore result in purifying it, in restraining unbridled ambition and accumulation of property. Let them know that millions of men have no property to transmit to posterity. Let us learn from them that it is better for the few to have no ancestral property at all. The real property that a

is his or her character and educational facilities. Parents should seek to make their sons and daughters self-reliant, well able to earn an honest livelihood by the sweat of their brow. The upbringing of minor children will then naturally devolve upon the major descendants. Much of the present imbecility of the children of the wealthy will go, if the latter could but substitute the worthy ambition of educating their children to become independent for the unworthy ambition of making them slaves of ancestral property, which kills enterprise and feeds the passions which accompany idleness and luxury. The privilege of the awakened women should be to spot and eradicate age-long evils.

That mutual lust too has played an important part in bringing about the disqualifications of the fair sex hardly needs any demonstration. Woman has circumvented man in a variety of ways in her unconsciously subtle ways, as man has vainly and equally unconsciously struggled to thwart woman in gaining ascendancy over him. The result is a stalemate. Thus viewed it is a serious problem the enlightened daughter of Bharata Mata are called upon to solve. They may not ape the manner of the West which may be suited to its environment. They must apply methods suited to the Indian genius and Indian environment. There must be the strong controlling, purifying, steady hand, conserving what is best in our culture and unhesitatingly rejecting what is base and degrading. This is the work of Sitas, Draupadis, Savitris and Damayantis, not of amazons and pruders

—Young India, 17-10-'29.

## SAYINGS OF TOLSTOY

*I believe that the true welfare of man lies only in the fulfilment of the will of God.*

\*  
By "the will of God" I understand the greater and greater increase of love among men.

\*  
By "the Kingdom of God" I understand an order of life where discord, deceit, and violence are replaced by firm agreement, trust, and brotherly love.

# RE-DRAWING OF AFRICAN FRONTIERS INEVITABLE

(Indian Opinion India Service)

**NEW DELHI**—In the course of an assessment made a few days after the independence of the Congo and before the outbreak of troubles there, of sweeping across Africa the Madras daily *The Hindu* made the following observations under the heading, "Changes In Africa":

**THE** wind of change has been particularly active in Africa this week. The Belgian Congo, which will call itself the Republic of the Congo, like (French) Congo, has become independent. Somalia and (British) Somaliland have united to form the Somali Republic. Ghana, which only a few years ago was a British colony, has become an independent Republic, which will continue in the Commonwealth. In the Congo, Mr Lumumba is to be the Prime Minister and Mr. Kasavubu the Head of State. The rivalry between the two leaders is obvious. But at present, neither can get on without the other. It is entirely up to the Congolese to give themselves the kind of Constitution they want; and this, considering personal rivalries and the strong separatist movements in Lower Congo and Katanga, will not be easy. To maintain law and order impartially in atmosphere of inter-tribal tension, the new State has at its disposal a *Force Publique* of 25,000 men, trained and officered by Belgians. According to an agreement reached with Belgium, Belgian military bases in the Congo will continue until further notice. Belgium will assist in the conduct of the new Republic's foreign affairs and the two countries have pledged mutual assistance. Unfortunately, M. Lumumba seems uncertain how to deal with the Belgians. At the inaugural function he launched out a bitter attack on them—and he has also requested them to stay on and help him! He apparently resents pro-Kasavubu sentiments which the Belgian authorities were stated to entertain.

The contrast with what happened in Ghana is striking. There tributes were paid to the departing British Governor General, who heartily reciprocated the sentiments. The new Presidential type of Government has been ushered in peacefully and with public support, though the Opposition party complains bitterly of the high-handedness of Dr. Nkrumah's Convention People's Party. The administrative machinery is working very well indeed and a spirit of modern nationalism is taking over smoothly

ly from the old tribal order. While the Congo's first and great problem would be the maintenance of territorial integrity, Ghana's new Constitution provides for a future where Ghana can enter into federal agreements with other African countries, which have become independent recently.

Perhaps a re-drawing of African frontiers, originally drawn in a most haphazard manner by European imperial Powers, is inevitable. But that stage can be reached only when the new States have settled down to peaceful and effective administration of the territories left to them by the European Powers from whom they have inherited authority. In the case of (Belgian) Congo, there is still some danger of interference from outside. Northern Rhodesia has shown some interest in the Katanga separatist movement. It must be remembered, however, that Northern Rhodesia does not enjoy freedom and that its Government is European-dominated. There are parties in Katanga completely opposed to any move for Union with Rhodesia. It has been shown during the recent voting in the new Congolese legislature that neither Mr. Kasavubu's Abako Party nor Mr. Lumumba's MNC can ignore the opinions and feelings of other groups. There has been much manoeuvring for position and inevitable political horse trading. Most groups are dissatisfied with the manner in which offices have been distributed; but this fact itself has, oddly enough, resulted in the formation of a Government in which both Kasavubu and Lumumba are represented and in which the Conakat Party from Katanga has also taken part. If the moderate groups compel the more powerful parties to work together, Congo can avoid the fate of Indonesia, where democracy has given place just now to a hand-picked legislature. For this, it is essential that tribal loyalties should cease to decide political issues. The administrative machinery has also to be built up quickly enough and Belgian assistance would be of utmost importance in this regard. Western assistance,

if necessary under UN auspices should be forthcoming, if Communist influence is to be checked. The good wishes of India have been sent to the Congo on the occasion of its achievement of independence and this country will watch with the utmost sympathy the manner in which the Congolese put their independence to good use.

## Chambal Project To Be Inaugurated In November

**PRIME MINISTER NEHRU** will inaugurate the Rs. 630 million (£47.25m.) inter-state multi-purpose Chambal Project in November this year.

The Madhya Pradesh Government is contemplating setting up a suitable memorial at Gandhi Sagar to mark the success of the inter-state venture.

The Chambal Project is a joint venture of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states and will have the capacity to irrigate 1.4 million acres of land and generate 210,000 kilowatts of power.

The first trial run of the Chambal turbines was successfully performed at Gandhi Sagar recently in the presence of Mr. Dravid, Madhya Pradesh Minister for the Chambal Project, engineering staff and workers, and the turbines will be kept under observation for some time.

Mr Dravid congratulated engineers and workers on the vibration-free top performance given by these turbines. They have been erected entirely by Indian engineers.

(Continued from previous page)

acquire themselves about what is happening all over Africa? Surely they know what has happened in Asia?

The non-White people of the city are entitled to direct representation on a body which receives and disburses their money. It is because of the absence of this representation that the non-white people have suffered so much at the hands of the Durban City Council. Not only have they suffered, but they continue to suffer steady invasion of their rights.

## Goa Trade Ban To Continue

(Indian Opinion India Service)

**THE** All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation has decided not to revise its decision on the boycott of ships trading with Goa.

The National Executive of the Federation, which concluded a three day special session, also decided to strengthen measures for enforcing this decision, so that the boycott could be made "effective and total."

The boycott of ships trading with Goa was first decided upon by the Port and Dock Workers Federation in August 1957 as part of the national struggle for freedom from the Portuguese colonial rule in Goa. The Federation, however, lifted its embargo in February last year, in consideration of certain factors arising from its decision in this regard. But the boycott was again reimposed in May this year.

Mr. Makhan Chatterjee, General Secretary of the All India Port and Dock Workers' Federation, told pressmen that they proposed to set up a machinery for collecting the necessary data and all information regarding the ships calling at the ports of Portuguese Goa and also the shipping lines and companies, which allowed their ships to trade with Goa for implementing the decision.

M. G. H. Kale, President of the Federation, said, in reply to a question, that they would surely seek help of the Union Government in an informal manner in this matter.

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## BRIGHT LIGHT OF HOPE IN MULTI-RACIAL AFRICA

By DON TAYLOR

WITH all the ugliness and danger of the Congo situation, the Nyasaland Conference was like a bright light of hope in a multi-racial Africa. Nobody who knows the situation pretends that Nyasaland's problems—political, economic and administrative—have been dispelled by some magic formula. The road ahead will have tricky turns and rough patches; but at least the roadblock which held up all progress, has been cleared.

The conference, in brief, was a triumph for commonsense and tolerance. As Mr. Iain Macleod rightly said: "We have shown that men of different races—African, European and Asian—can come together round a table and reach agreement even though they started from widely differing points of view."

For myself, I believe the delegates reached agreement because in their varying ways they saw that in Africa today two things are undeniable. First, that the eventual aim for any land with democratic aspirations must be government by consent, which in itself means steady advance to universal suffrage. Second, that freedom is a mirage unless it rests on a stable government, able administration and a viable economy.

### Real Facts of Life

#### In Africa

I think the details agreed by the delegates prove their recognition of the real facts of life in the Africa of 1960.

The new constitution is to be given "a reasonable period of trial," which may sound somewhat indeterminate. Indeed, the European delegates tried to get a guaranteed term substituted. But in a multi-racial situation trust in one another is the essence of the matter. It is for the politicians of all races, in the interests of Nyasaland, to so operate the constitution as to bring the next step nearer.

Clearly it will be somewhere between six and nine months before the constitution can come into effect, for time is needed to prepare for this first African direct election in Nyasaland.

In looking at the Nyasaland picture one must place it against the whole background of Central Africa, that is to say, against

the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The conference, in effect, was the first of three steps—the next two being the Monckton Commission report and the federal constitution review which will be held next year.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has already stated that African opinions in both Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia will be widely represented at the review.

### Needed—A Strong And Prosperous Federation

Despite criticism and recent troubles I am still in no doubt that Africa and the Commonwealth does need a strong and prosperous federation in the

heart of Africa, based on true partnership and democratic practice, with all races contributing their special part to nation building.

If the spirit of the Nyasaland conference can be paralleled then federation could still prove to be what its sincerest supporters have always wanted it to be—a bastion of democracy and an example of race partnership to all Africa.

In the meantime, as I have already indicated, Nyasaland can now give a valuable lead. The omens are right. The London conference itself ended in a spirit of the most heartening goodwill, with all delegates pledging themselves to work the new constitution.

## UN DECISION IN CONGO ENDORSED

MR. OMER BECU, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, made the following statement on the UN Security Council's decision concerning the Congo:—

"The ICFU expresses its deep satisfaction at the action taken by the UN since the beginning of the crisis in the Congo; first at its resolve to assist in the establishment of order by the prompt dispatch of a United Nations force to that country and now at the Security Council's decision calling upon Belgium to withdraw its troops from Katanga and their replacement by the UN force.

"We fully endorse the two decisions which the world's supreme authority has made with a view to helping this new-born state to come into its own.

"We hope that the constitutional problems, especially those of the relationship between the various parts of the Congo, will be solved on a truly democratic basis, as well as on a sound economic basis.

"We believe that the action of the United Nations will materially aid in reaching our objective which is the welfare of all the people of the Congo. We trust that international aid, economic development and social progress—including, of course, progress in trade union organisation with full safe-

guards of all trade union rights—will form sound foundations for the New Congo."

### Not Enough Support For Community Programmes

NEW DELHI.—There are lights and shades in the picture of the Community Development programme in actual operation. The shades, however, predominate and one gathers the impression of an inadequately co-ordinated endeavour, governmental rather than popular in character, and sustained more by hope than achievement." This is the summing up of the Programme Evaluation Organisation in their Seventh Evaluation Report. "People's attitudes and reactions in most of the Community Development blocs are not yet generally favourable to the success and growth of the Community Development Programme. The majority of the villagers do not regard it as their own programme and seem to rely mainly on the Government for effecting the development of the rural areas. The basic philosophy and approach of the Community Development programme are, therefore, inadequately subscribed to by the people," says the report.

## TEPID RECEPTION IN GUJARAT

THE long awaited decision to locate India's first atomic power station at Tarapore in Maharashtra State had a somewhat tepid reception in Gujarat, where industrial circles had been confident that the new State would soon secure its first public sector project in the shape of the much prized atomic power plant. The proposed appointment of a joint committee of control, parity in the distribution of nuclear power and the Prime Minister's assurances in the Lok Sabha have, no doubt, allayed fears. But there is an element of dissatisfaction over the decision in responsible organised bodies of industry and commerce.

The Minister for Industry and Public Health, Mr. Manabhai Shab, said that nuclear power was expected to cost more than thermal or hydel power. He said Gujarat might have to consider whether it should ask the Centre to subsidise nuclear power for the growing industries of the State. He said that in the last three months applications for 40 major industries and 400 medium ones had been received by the State Government. The Minister observed it could be presumed that the decision taken was in the best interests of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Ever since the proposal for a nuclear power plant was mooted and the Union Government announced it would give priority to industrial centres depending mostly on imported coal, Gujarat, in and Ahmedabad, in particular, had stressed the State's claim.

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## INDIA AMONG FIRST SIX IN ATOMIC FIELD

By B. S. SAXENA

INDIA, almost skipping over the Industrial Revolution, is earnest to pole-vault into the atomic era. Already she ranks among the first six countries of the world in the field of atomic energy.

Being the most advanced country in South Asia in this respect, she has been nominated to the Board of Governors of the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency, for the third year in succession.

Her atomic power station is likely to be set up in 1965. It will have a capacity of 300 megawatts with two units of 150 megawatts each. Provision of a little over Rs. 500 million (£37.5m), has been made for the project in the Third Plan.

To succeed in industrializing on a vast scale, and to achieve a better standard of living for the masses, atomic energy is not just helpful—"it is an absolute necessity" for India.

There are two reasons for this: (1) the quantity of conventional fuels in India is inefficient and will not last long; (2) atomic energy may be cheaper to produce than the customary power.

### Conventional Fuels

The present *per capita* energy consumption in India is about 1/12 of the United Kingdom and 7/23 of the U.S.A. To have the same *per capita* rate of energy consumption in India as in the U.S.A. India would need 3,600 million tons of coal a year to raise it. This would exhaust the entire known coal reserves of the country within 12 years.

Indian hydro-electric potential, estimated at 40 million k.w., is neither plentiful nor uniformly spread. It also requires expensive civil engineering works as rainfall in the country is seasonal.

The oil reserves in India, in spite of some recent finds, can hardly contribute much towards meeting the country's power needs.

### Atomic Fuels

Nature, however, has been bountiful in bestowing on India many of the basic minerals necessary for producing atomic energy. Uranium, thorium, zirconium, beryllium and graphite are some of the metal minerals for the generation of atomic energy and can be said to be in abundance in India.

The India reserves of uranium

*India's second reactor, the Canada-India Reactor, became 'critical' at its site in Trombay, a Bombay suburb, on July 10. "CIR" is described as the biggest in Asia,*

*"Apsara", India's first reactor, has been in operation since 1956. The third reactor, "Zerlina" now being fabricated, is scheduled to go into operation shortly.*

ore exceed 30,000 tons. The reserves of thorium are estimated at about 500,000 tons. Zirconium, which is used for "cooling" nuclear energy because it has the rare property of resisting the bombardment of neutrons, is also available in the ilmenite sands of the Indian coasts. Indian beryllium is said to contain a much higher beryllium content than found in some foreign countries.

The known Indian reserves of uranium and thorium exceed in energy value the equivalent of 30 times the Indian reserves of coal. These are enough to support the annual *per capita* energy consumption in India, equal to that of the industrially more advanced countries, for over 300 years.

The production of energy by atomic fuel is not only competitive, it is cheaper. On the basis of the only large-scale atomic power station in operation at Calder Hall in the United Kingdom, it may be assumed that electricity from atomic energy will be available during the next five years at a cost of not more than 4.5 naya paise per unit. This compares favourably with the cost of electricity generated by conventional thermal like Delhi and Bombay which are remote from coalfields.

A conventional power station of 140 megawatts would need 2,000 tons of coal a day or 750,000 tons a year and its establishment would need a capital investment of about Rs. 30 million (£2.25m.)

Hauling of this huge quantity of coal would look up about 1,700 wagons and 30 locomotives.

An atomic power station of the same magnitude, on the other hand, would require transportation of only 50 to 100 tons of uranium per annum.

The conventional power station would also mean the mining of an additional 750,000 tons of coal a year with the corresponding investment in the coal

mining industry. But 50 to 100 tons of uranium could be obtained from only 150,000 tons of uranium ore. The cost of mining this quantity of uranium which would involve digging operations nearer the surface would be far less than the mining cost of five times as much coal down deep in the bowels of the earth.

Keeping in view the entire picture, including the cost of mining, transportation and burning of the fuels to produce electricity, it is doubtful if atomic power production would involve any greater burden on the economy as a whole. According to Dr. Bhabha, chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission, "it is possible that it may involve less."

It is not unlikely that with further researches in evolving advanced and efficient types of atomic power stations, the costs of atomic energy would be further reduced.

### Symbol Of Hope

The atom, therefore, is the symbol of hope for India. The

country has already made some progress in the development of atomic energy. The Atomic Energy Commission was established in India as far back as 1948. The Department of Atomic Energy was set up in 1954.

"Apsara", the first reactor to go into operation in Asia outside the U.S.S.R., completed 1,000,000 KWH last year (1959) and reached a new peak of 145,000 KWH in November 1959 as against 2,000 KWH in November 1958. The Canada-India Reactor which will be one of the most powerful reactors in the world, went into operation on July 10 this year. "Zerlina"—Zero Energy Reactor for Lattice Investigations and New Assemblies—which will devise new designs for atomic reactors, is expected to start operation in the near future.

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## INFLUENTIAL MADRAS PAPER URGES

## Reassessment Of Ban On Drink

("Indian Opinion" India Service)

NEW DELHI.—The influential Madras daily, "The Hindu," has the following observations to make on "Prohibition and Crime" in a recent issue:

THOUGH the argument over Prohibition is supposed to have been settled once for all, the fact that large areas of the country under Congress Party administration still remain wet shows that there is still much diffidence in the Party devotees about the practicability of its enforcement. There are at present only four States, among which are Madras and Andhra, that have gone completely dry. Some of the evidence tendered before a committee of enquiry into the working of Prohibition in U.P. seems to justify such doubts and also calls for a re-appraisal of policy in this respect. The Yadava Committee of Uttar Pradesh confirms what has been vaguely understood, namely, to that Prohibition has not only been a failure in the matter of strict enforcement but that it has given a big fillip to crime in general. The big profits that go with bootlegging appear to have attracted new votaries to this nefarious trade so that lawlessness and gangsterism thrive under the protection of big money and influential patronage. A disturbing development in Uttar Pradesh, reported by the Committee, is that former Zamindars and representatives of political parties, "with the active assistance of the police and excise department," were engaged in the illicit trade. A similar report spoke of "tycoons of crime," mostly engaged in bootlegging as a big business haunting the Capital of the country, with the police looking on helplessly, because these tycoons had both money and influential political connections. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, this trade is said to have developed wide-spread ramifications, with illicit distillation flourishing as a cottage industry. "During the cane-crushing season," according to the Yadava Committee, "almost every sugarcane pan in a village becomes a potential distillery" and the area of operation is so wide that it was not possible to exercise any control over it.

It looks from all this testimony as if Prohibition has actually proved a godsend to the lawless elements in society, bringing the big profits of illicit

trade to strengthen their other anti-social activities as well. Even in Madras, it is well known that in remote villages, the bootlegger's writ runs unhampered and he terrorises the rural folk and disorganises law and order. The reported state of affairs in Delhi and U.P. would suggest that the forces of gangsterism that invaded the United States of America in the wake of Prohibition are already here and are gaining strength. While crime and criminals get entrenched and win new followers, the forces of law that are the only safeguard for the ordinary citizen seem to get weakened by corruption, impotence against the political protection enjoyed by the offender and the added burden of enforcing the difficult Prohibition laws to the neglect of other crimes. It looks as if it is time we reassessed the impact of this legislation on the country, before seeking to extend it to other wet areas.

### Shipowners Urged To Forge Ahead

THE Union Minister for Transport and Communications, Dr. P. Subbarayan, inaugurating the annual general meeting of Indian National Steamship Owners' Association, Bombay, urged the development of Indian shipping at as rapid a pace as foreign trade.

The Minister pointed out that the Second Plan aimed at a net acquisition of 300,000 g.r.t. and expressed hope that the country would be able to attain the Second Plan target within the Plan period.

Dr Subbarayan also referred to shipping targets in the third Five-Year Plan for acquiring more ships and thereby increasing the gross registered tonnage of the country. He said a provision of Rs. 550 million (£41.25) had been made in the Third Plan for this purpose.

The Minister asked Indian shipowners to acquire as many ships as possible to carry U.S. wheat and rice under the recent Indo-U.S. agreement. He said that out of 17 million tons of foodgrains, American ships would carry half and the other half would have to be lifted by Indian ships.

## Delhi's Strong Protest To China

("Indian Opinion" India Service)

THE Government of India has lodged a strong protest with the Chinese Government against what the Prime Minister called a 'very reprehensible' act of the Chinese soldiers who temporarily intruded into Indian territory in May this year. This was a temporary intrusion and even so it was against the spirit of the understanding reached between two countries on the border question. Shri Nehru added that no other action could be taken by the Indian authorities against those temporary intruders. Are we to chase them into Tibet? he asked. Even then it would be difficult to because we do not know where to chase them and whom to chase, he added.

Earlier, Smt. Lakshmi Menon told Shri Vidya Charan Shukla and others in reply to a question that there had been one case of temporary Chinese intrusion into Indian territory since May this year. On June 3, a Chinese patrol consisting of about 25 soldiers crossed into Indian territory in the Kameng frontier

division and came up to Takasang Monastery which is about four and a half miles within our border. The patrol party withdrew soon afterwards when the attention of the local people was drawn to their presence. Asked whether the Government was aware that the Chinese had large troop concentrations on the other side of the Lachak border and all along the McMahon Line, Shri Nehru said that the Government had no such information. He also recalled his recent tour of the Ladakh border and said that there was no information available to India about troop concentration on the Lachak border.

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August 1910

## FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(From "The Indian Opinion" August 20th, 1910)

GENERAL SMUTS has followed up his remarks on the Asiatic question, quoted by us last week, by further remarks at the Town Hall meeting held in support of his candidature. Though he is more explicit this time, he still remains as enigmatic as ever. He now no longer confines himself to the Transvaal. He now declares that "there must be no Asiatic immigration into South Africa." He prefaces the statement with the declaration that he is not going to insult Asiatics or touch their honour or freedom. If he would be only gracious enough to do that much, Asiatic will have no quarrel with him. But the question is, what is his notion of Asiatic honour or freedom? If he thinks that he does not touch their honour or freedom by depriving parents of their children when they reach the age of majority or by passing legislation aiming at Asiatics as such, he does not know Asiatics or their code of honour. They are not in the habit of driving their sons away when they have completed sixteen years, and they have a habit of bitterly resenting legislation preventing the entry into South Africa of Asiatics *qua* Asiatics.

The most effective and natural method of dealing with the bogey of Asiatic immigration is entirely to stop the introduction of indentured immigration from Asia. Until that question is properly dealt with, all other remedies must be merely patchwork. To further restrict free Asiatic immigration as it is at present under the Cape or Natal Act and to continue to import indentured labourers from India at the rate of nearly 2,000 per year for the industries of Natal, is to strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. The meaning of General Smuts' speech depends upon his meaning of the term "Asiatic immigration". We should much like a voter to ask the General to explain his own speech on this very important topic.

### TRANSCAAL NOTES

Mr Narandas Damania and his companions left on Monday

after practically finishing the buildings (on Tolstoy Farm) and earning the gratitude of the settlers. Mr Kallenbach is of opinion that the carpenters have done their work well.

The following gifts have been received during the week:—A bag of peas from Messrs Amod and Ismail, a piece of calico, two shirts, two pairs of trousers, a pair of boots, two blankets, a length of towelling, two mats, a parcel of sweets and three watering cans from Mr A. E. Chhctabhai, a bag of beans from Mr V. S. Pillay, and the invariable box of fruit from Mr Desai of Germiston. Advice has arrived of a box from Port Elizabeth referred to by me last week and boxes from Tongaat. I am not able to give the contents in the absence of boxes or letters from the senders. (All the foregoing for Tolstoy Farm).

### ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mr Dawad Mahomed has received a cable from his son, Mr Hoosen that he has left Durban by the "S.S. Kenilworth Castle". Mr. Hoosen, we understand, is paying a temporary visit for reasons of health. No young Indian has so well utilized his time in London as young Mr Hoosen has, and we trust that he will receive, on landing, that welcome which his character and attainments deserve.

A Capetown message dated August 15 reads:—The Chamber of Commerce today adopted a strongly worded resolution urging that the Government should prohibit the further immigration of Asiatics in South Africa, and to adopt legislation prohibiting the issue of further trading licences to Asiatics already in the country, and also asking for the appointment of a Government Commission to inquire into the whole question generally.

All political comment in this issue by N. Dayaljee, "Indian Opinion," Private Bag, Durban.

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